

Executive Summary

A. Introduction UNICEF Jakarta commissioned this evaluation report on the Program Pendidikan Damai (Peace Education Program) being implemented in the Province of Aceh, Indonesia. The curriculum was developed in response to concerns about the children of Aceh who are living in a war zone at the current time. It has the following goals.

1. To promote non-violence and conflict resolution among youth and school children in public and private schools through appropriate curricula and dialogue.
2. To socialize the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child through such channels and to provide an entry point for promoting children's active participation in conflict resolution initiatives.

The principal parties to the development of this program were UNICEF, Nonviolence International (Washington, DC), AusAID (UNICEF Australia) and education experts in Aceh. The latter formed the curriculum development team and a team that revised the original curriculum. The director chosen for the project was a native Acehnese, Dr. Asna Husin. Funding was provided for one year (01-02), and UNICEF wanted a report on progress thus far.

The program is provided to sophomores (grade 10) in 96 high schools in Aceh. The curriculum is one semester in length – 27 lessons. The teachers received a seven-day training in the curriculum content and the practice of interactive, facilitative teaching methods. At the time of this report there were 190 teachers of peace education and 22,240 students participating in the classes.

Because there was no pre-post testing done with the participating students, this report is the result of open-ended questions posed in interviews or focus groups conducted by the evaluator. The evaluator visited 31 of these schools meeting with the students of peace education, their teachers and principals. The process yielded rich qualitative data as well as specific evidence of real behavior change in the participants and the teachers implementing the curriculum. The findings indicate that the program was meeting the two goals set forth above.