



INDONESIA

A NETWORK OF POOR COMMUNITIES IN 14 CITIES

ACCA in INDONESIA

PROJECT CITIES (total 3)

- Jakarta
- Surabaya
- Makassar (Ujung Pandang)

SMALL PROJECTS

Small projects approved : 10
In number of cities : 2
Total budget approved : \$30,000

BIG PROJECTS

Big projects approved : 2
In number of cities : 2
Total budget approved : \$80,000

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- National survey and mapping in 20 new cities. Budget approved \$10,000.

IMPLEMENTING GROUPS

The ACCA projects in all three Indonesian cities are being implemented by Uplink (a national network of poor community groups, professionals and NGOs in 14 Indonesian cities), in close partnership with the Urban Poor Consortium (a Jakarta-based NGO).

The ACCA projects in Indonesia are being implemented by the national Uplink Network, with support from the Jakarta-based NGO Urban Poor Consortium. UPC was set up in 1997, in the tumult of Indonesia's economic crisis and reform movement, when decades of rigid state control were ending and new spaces for civil society were beginning to open up. The UPC quickly became one of the most important support systems for the growing urban poor community movement in Indonesia, first in Jakarta and gradually in other cities as UPC began reaching out to groups elsewhere, through a growing network of community groups, NGOs, artists and professionals - all working to build a large-scale people's movement.

In 2002, as part of the second "Asian People's Dialogue" meeting that was organized in Indonesia, this national network of poor community groups, activists, artists, professionals and NGOs in 14 Indonesian cities was formalized, and they decided to call themselves Uplink (Urban Poor Linkage). Since then, Uplink has been working to establish strong, independent city-level and national networks of urban poor communities which can develop and promote just and pro-poor alternative social, economic and cultural systems in Indonesian cities. In each of these cities, poor community groups are linking together, saving together and fighting against evictions. But as importantly, these groups are also helping each other between the cities, sharing ideas, visiting each other's projects, joining forces to negotiate with the government for better policies and creating a national pool of ideas and experiences about how to make the country's cities better places for everyone to live in. Through this work, the Uplink Network has become the biggest people's coalition in Indonesia.

In a context where communities have long been oppressed, robbed, compromised, evicted, co-opted, manipulated and turned against each other, during a long, oppressive and corrupt dictatorship, this is no easy task. Even twelve years after that regime was toppled by a populist reform movement, the country is still in a state of enormous flux, and powerful political forces are still undermining efforts to bring the poor together or to boost their participation in decisions which affect their lives.

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR ACCA SUPPORT IN INDONESIA

The Uplink network has been working to move past those forces of division and fragmentation and build a national movement for change - from the ground up - a movement in which communities of the poor, as the main group seeking social justice, own and manage their own development process and become central to its refinement and expansion. If poor people and their supporters can work together to design a range of strategies and options which improve their situation, and then use those options to begin a dialogue with the state, this is a way to influence the choices that cities make. Since the Uplink network was formed, two aspects of its work are of particular importance for the ACCA Program in Indonesia :

1 COMMUNITY SAVINGS : Over the years, teams of Indonesian community leaders and their NGO supporters have visited community-managed savings processes in Thailand, India, Cambodia, Philippines and Nepal, where they saw very poor communities using the simple tool of saving and lending to organize themselves, build their own resources and use the strength which savings built in their communities to deal with serious problems like land, eviction, housing, welfare and access to basic services. Some groups caught on to the idea and started saving back home in Indonesia, but in a scattered way and without much strength.

Then in 2002, the second "Asian People's Dialogue" was organized in Indonesia, with ACHR support, which brought together poor community groups from 13 Asian countries and 2 African countries, to compare notes and bring their regional strength to support Indonesia's poor communities at a time when some very big evictions were happening in Jakarta. At that meeting, the suggestion that came out strongest from all these visitors was "Start saving!" After that, some SDI-supported visits by South African savings leaders helped boost Indonesia's community savings and credit movement. Although savings is still somewhat young and small in scale, in a context where there are strong traditions of old-style protest and anti-state activism, the expansion of this more proactive and negotiation-oriented strategy has been an important step forward for Indonesia's urban poor, and has led to some important breakthroughs in negotiations for land, housing and access to public markets, particularly in the cities of Jakarta, Surabaya and Makassar.

2 THE TSUNAMI IN ACEH : After the devastating Asian tsunami hit the north-western coast of Sumatra on December 26, 2004, the Uplink Network and UPC rushed to Aceh to chip in to the relief operations. Within a week or two, they began working with a group of 25 of the worst-hit coastal villages near Banda Aceh to help them rebuild their ruined villages and lives. This enormous undertaking, which was supported by Misereor, involved building a network of these traumatized survivors who had lost everything, and then helping to organize themselves to take charge of every aspect of their own rehabilitation. The idea was to show an active, people-driven alternative to the government's relocation plans and the development agencies' generic hand-outs, in which the communities who experienced the disaster first hand decided what they need and managed the process of rebuilding their houses and villages.

During the next two years, the *Udeep Beusaree* Network of these 25 villages developed systems for managing the onslaught of external relief aid, built temporary houses and community mosques, planted trees and restored coastal mangrove forests, digitized the complex land ownership records that were lost in the waves, and built new communities and strong, earthquake proof houses for themselves. For Uplink and UPC, the project represented a huge chance to scale up and consolidate many of the community-managed, demand-driven development activities they had been supporting in a scattered way in different cities, and it was a huge learning experience for everyone.



CITY: SURABAYA

East Java Province, Indonesia

The centuries-old port city of Surabaya, Indonesia's second largest city, is justly famous for its path-breaking Kampung Improvement Program (KIP), in which most of the city's informal settlements ("kampung") were upgraded on-site and given secure land tenure, with support from a national and city government program and the local university. But that program is over now, and there are still many informal settlements in the city that KIP hasn't reached - along the railway tracks, on state-owned land, and along the Mas River. Instead of upgrading these settlements *in-situ*, the Indonesian government is now promoting a more conventional "1,000 Towers" housing program for the poor in cities around the country, in which people are evicted from their inner-city settlements and relocated to rental flats in contractor-built 5 story blocks in remote peripheral areas.



RIVERSIDE SLUM NETWORK : The ACCA project in Surabaya is being implemented by a network of squatter communities on the banks of the Mas River, which have been threatened for years with eviction to make way for a large flood-control and riverside conservation project. In 2002, these communities formed a network, which they call "Paguyuban Stren Kali", with support from the Jakarta-based NGO UPC, and the national Uplink Community Network. In 2003, the network conducted a survey of all the settlements along the river, and updated the survey again in 2007. There are a total of 15 communities along the river (with 2,107 households), and five of these communities (with a total of 887 households) are active in the Stren Kali network. Over the past eight years, these active communities and their support partners have staged a long struggle to persuade the city to allow them to stay, to improve their housing and living conditions and to demonstrate that they are not the polluters but the "guardians of the river."

BIG LAND BREAKTHROUGH : The network's long and increasingly productive negotiations with city, provincial and national government agencies finally produced a breakthrough on October 5, 2007, when the city council finally issued a bylaw which grants long-term tenure rights to these river-side communities, with the condition that they do not grow any larger and that they upgrade their settlements within five years. The Municipality has already agreed to help support parts of the upgrading. Other Indonesian cities are reluctant to pass similar bylaws allowing riverside communities (especially poor ones) to stay, so if this project can show a very good development model in this riverside network of communities, the Stren Kali Network will set a precedent, and their community-driven upgrading model can be taken up to national level.

ACCA ADDS TO WORK THAT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE : The ACCA project in Surabaya, which has come quite recently in the network's 8-year struggle, is bringing some additional resources and energy to the upgrading work the communities have already begun - most of it using only their own funds. The ACCA funds in Surabaya are being used to demonstrate a strong, community-driven, on-site settlement upgrading model, as an alternative to the government's "1,000 Towers" relocation strategy. Instead of breaking up communities, impoverishing and isolating them in remote resettlement flats, this project proposes to strengthen those existing community structures, where people are working together and helping each other, into a new housing process. Before the upgrading process began, many of the houses were built over the riverbanks, with their backs facing the river. The people in the 5 communities organized themselves to voluntarily move their houses five meters back from the river and reconstruct them so that they face the river. Then they built an "inspection" walkway along the river, landscaped it, adopted and enforced no-polluting rules and set up innovative water treatment and solid waste composting systems. For the city, this may be an "inspection road" to facilitate dredging of the river, but for the communities, this walkway has become a vital public open space.



BEFORE : It's not hard to imagine how a municipal bureaucrat would look at conditions like these and come to the conclusion that such riverside slum communities were causing problems and polluting the river.



AFTER : This is the Bratang community, after they had pulled the houses back and built a paved and landscaped new riverside walkway, in cooperation with the city's river revitalization plans.



CITY INFORMATION :

URBAN POVERTY IN SURABAYA

Total urban population (2008 gov figures)	781,465 households (3.3 million people)
Urban poor population (2007 gov figures)	126,724 households (532,250 people)
Number of slums	no information
% population in slums	16%
No city-wide slum survey yet	

RIVERSIDE SLUMS IN SURABAYA

Total riverside slums	15 communities 2,107 households (9,094 people)
In the Stren Kali Network	5 communities 887 households (3,592 people)
Latest survey conducted	2007

SAVINGS (only in riverside slums so far)

Date savings started	2003
Savings groups	in 10 communities
Savings members	711 members
Total savings	US\$ 15,000

ACCA BUDGET APPROVED SO FAR :

Small projects (5)	\$ 15,000
Big project	\$ 40,000
City process support	\$ 3,000



Small & Big projects in SURABAYA

How the Stren Kali network is using the ACCA resources to add ammunition to their upgrading process and get secure land . . .

SMALL PROJECTS : Using the ACCA small project funds to continue the upgrading process already begun in the riverside slums, as part of the progress towards secure tenure.

In all the Stren Kali Network communities, the people have divided themselves into small groups of 10 neighboring households (which they call "G-Tens"). These small groups manage their own collective savings and loan repayment, and are the main working unit of the highly-decentralized and participatory upgrading planning and financial management process in the communities. 78 of these "G-Tens" have been set up, and a Kampung Upgrading Committee has been set up in each settlement comprising one representative from each G-Ten. For the upgrading work being supported by the ACCA Program in Stren Kali communities, most of the G-tens get together on Sundays, when people have the day off, and do their construction work together on that day.

The Stren Kali Network members have decided that all the ACCA funds for both small upgrading projects and the big project housing reconstruction and improvements will be given as loans to the communities, not as grants, and all the funds will be repaid to the network's community development fund, according to repayment terms set by each community. Their idea is to allow these limited ACCA funds to revolve and help other communities and other households with their upgrading projects. So far, four small upgrading projects have been finished, and others are still in process.

- **Kebraon (54 households)** Retaining wall construction, leveling and paving of the riverside walkway. Total cost \$6,600 (includes \$3,600 from the community and \$3,000 from ACCA).
- **Gunungsari 2 (258 households)** Community center and toilet rebuilding. Total cost \$5,220 (includes \$2,220 from community and \$3,000 from ACCA).
- **Bratang (433 households)** Road leveling and paving the riverside walkway, with street lighting. Total cost \$6,000 (includes \$3,000 from the community and \$3,000 from ACCA).
- **Semampir (155 households)** Construction of a retaining wall along the road-side frontage of the community. Total cost \$9,800 (includes \$6,800 from the community and \$3,000 from ACCA).

BIG PROJECT : Instead of using the \$40,000 big project funds from ACCA in one community, the network is using the grant as a revolving fund for house reconstruction.

The Stren Kali Network is using the \$40,000 ACCA grant as a revolving community development fund (which is managed by the network) giving loans for housing construction and improvement to community



members who agree to move their houses away from the river and reconstruct them, to make way for the river-side public walkways all the network communities are building along the river, to comply with the city's river-dredging requirements. So far, about 14 households have taken house reconstruction loans from this fund and rebuilt their houses. It is expected that this pilot stage of the upgrading, supported by ACCA, will draw down more resources into the community's own revolving fund and will build a stronger acceptance of the community-driven upgrading model in the city.



CITY:

JAKARTA

West Java Province, Indonesia

For some, Jakarta is a shining model of all that Indonesian cities should be, with its skyscrapers, freeways and oodles of foreign investment. For others, it is a catalogue of all the ways Indonesian urbanization has gone wrong, with its inequities, poverty, corruption, pollution and violence. At least 35% of Jakarta's population lives in poverty, struggling to feed, clothe, shelter and employ themselves in conditions that are unhealthy, insecure and dangerous, in a city that seems often determined to make that struggle as difficult as possible. The city has also seen successive waves of large-scale, brutal evictions.

A NEW WAVE OF EVICTION IN THE CITY : A rough, city-wide community survey that was carried out in 2008 found 160 *kampungs* in Jakarta, most without secure land tenure. The city government has set an admirable goal of increasing Jakarta's public green space from the current 8.4 percent to 14 percent, but over the past two decades, most of the areas reserved for "public green space" in the city development plan have been converted into shopping malls, luxury apartments and gas stations. So in order to replace these lost green areas, the city has moved its target to squatter settlements along rivers, beside railway tracks and freeways, along lakes and under high voltage power lines - and another wave of eviction is rolling over the city.

CITY PROCESS : The ACCA process in Jakarta builds on the UPC's work with a variety of urban poor groups to help them organize themselves, form networks, start saving and other activities and use long-term planning and community preparation to negotiate alternatives to eviction. The UPC has also helped the city's *becak* (pedicab) drivers and street vendors to come together and form their own associations to campaign against laws which ban them from the city streets and to develop programs to improve their welfare. With small equipment grants and technical support from UPC, community-managed radio stations have been set up in several *kampungs*. These radio stations have become popular forums for issues which affect the lives of the city's poor and a powerful organizing tool. In all this work, the UPC has rallied the involvement of a broad and colorful network of artists, musicians, puppeteers, film-makers, journalists, writers and poets who have helped in different ways to make issues public and build public support for the city's growing community movement.

ACCA STARTING IN NORTH JAKARTA : Like other mega-cities where ACCA projects have been launched, the project in Jakarta is starting in a smaller constituency - in this case in the northern area of the city, along the Java Sea, where most of the city's poor are. The ACCA project in Jakarta is being implemented by Jaringan Rakyat Miskin Kota (JRMK), a network of urban poor communities in the northern area of the city which began working with UPC when it was formed in 1997. The network's activities include surveying and mapping of *kampungs*, anti-eviction advocacy, infrastructure improvements, community savings groups, children's education and alternative health programs. In October 2009, with support from ACCA, JRMK formalized itself a bit more by establishing a governing board and setting out a plan of activities.

KAMPUNG SURVEY AND MAPPING IN NORTH JAKARTA : In January 2009, the JRMK network carried out a process of surveying and mapping eight poor communities ("*kampungs*") in North Jakarta. Besides counting houses and getting basic demographic information, the survey looked at economic factors in the settlements, social and power relationships, history and issues of child security. The survey, which was carried out by 14 teams (which included community network members and UPC organizers), brought out a number of concerns which the city's poor communities have in common, including problems of land tenure security, flooding, lack of basic services, sanitation, access roads, garbage and clean water. These concerns were the basis for selecting the first round of ACCA projects. The network plans to extend this survey and mapping process to other parts of Jakarta in the coming year.



CITY INFORMATION :

URBAN POVERTY IN JAKARTA

Total urban population	8.5 million people (2.5 million households)
Urban poor population (UPC estimates)	3 million people (877,195 households)
Number of slums	160 communities
% population urban poor	35%
Latest survey conducted	2008

SAVINGS

Date savings started	June 2002
Savings groups	19 groups
Savings members	314 members
Total savings	US\$ 4,222
CDF started	Not yet

ACCA BUDGET APPROVED SO FAR :

Small projects (5)	\$ 15,000
City process support	\$ 3,000
No big project proposed yet	



Governments often use the excuse that poor settlements are dirty, unsafe or a stain on the city's image to evict them. So one of the most direct ways to counter this argument and consolidate a community's right to stay is for people to begin making small improvements to their environments.

SMALL PROJECTS : By the Jaringan Rakyat Miskin Kota Network in North Jakarta

The ACCA-supported small projects were all identified as priority projects by the JRMK network, and are being used as models to develop horizontal networks and reach out to other poor *kampungs* in other parts of Jakarta so they can join the program. Only one project (Marlina) has been started so far, and the others are still in preparation. All the ACCA funds go to the communities as no-interest loans, to be repaid in 3 - 5 years, into a special network-managed fund, and all the work and some of the materials are provided by the communities, and managed by special committees that have been set up in each community.

- **Kebon Bayem (50 households on railway land)** Communal toilets, tree planting and house improvements (ACCA budget: \$3,000). Still in the planning stage.
- **Kebon Tebu (150 households on public riverbank land)** Improvement to the electricity system and a community center (ACCA budget: \$3,000) Still in the planning stage.
- **Marlina Kebon Tanah (230 households on mixed public/private land)** Rebuilding a community center and paving the community's main 350m road (ACCA budget: \$3,000). The community center is finished and was inaugurated on 29 February 2010, and work on the road paving began in February.
- **Rawa Bengkel (60 households on land owned by the community people)** Community center (ACCA budget: \$3,000) Still in the preparation stage.