

Empowering rural communities in Indonesia

The Community Empowerment for Rural Development (CERD) project has assisted over 110,000 poor families throughout six rural areas of Indonesia, by strengthening their capacity to plan and manage activities affecting their livelihoods.

The Government of Indonesia recognised a declining reliance on agriculture, mainly rice growing, and emphasised the development of multiple income streams, such as small crops, arts and crafts. It identified 48 models of enterprise in provinces as well as constraints such as lack of access to capital markets and the infrastructure needed to produce products or services.

Part of the CERD's strategy (funded by the Asian Development Bank) was community and individual empowerment, enabling the community to play a substantial role in the design and construction of needed infrastructure, and access to capital through community-based savings and loan organisations.

CERD has three program phases providing:

- Capacity building and institutional development activities including needs analysis, design and management of training programs for communities, local institutions and government workers.
- Education of institutions with the knowledge and skills to support communities.
- Village grants for the pilot implementation of approved activities, was given to each village that successfully completed the empowerment process.

The Project provided demonstration sites across 24 villages to show the full activities and institutions that contribute to community participation including funding and management strategies.

Sustainable community activities were established in 540 villages in 66 sub-districts, across the six provinces.

*International Development Assistance
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Project: Community Empowerment for Rural Development
Clients: Government of Indonesia / Asian Development Bank
Duration: March 2002 – March 2007
Location: The provinces of East, Central and West Kalimantan, and North, Central and South East Sulawesi, Indonesia