



Traditional house with bracing for earthquake resistance

On 28 March 2005 the island of Nias was struck by a magnitude 8.7 earthquake which left 839 dead, destroyed 13,000 houses, and damaged hundreds of important buildings and structures. After the initial rescue and relief processes, the BRR (Bureau of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction) focused on introducing mitigation measures as part of an integrated disaster risk reduction programme.

This UNDP-funded project was designed to provide BRR Nias with technical support to enhance its operational capacity. Three Earthquake Advisors were recruited and seconded into the BRR Office in Gunung Sitoli, Nias.

One of these Advisors was a GNS engineering geologist and geotechnical engineer. In this role, the GNS expert provided advice on best practices for reconstruction and worked with local communities to improve their disaster preparedness. More specifically the GNS expert assisted in: evaluating the seismic damage assessment of buildings and bridges in terms of spatial location and construction; recommending a framework for the revision and implementation of building codes according to seismic (and tsunami) hazard of Nias Island; and advising on education and public awareness programs to enhance understanding and build community resilience for future earthquake and tsunami.

Project Description

Project: Technical Support for the Bureau of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Location: Indonesia

Client: UNDP/BRR

Total Project Value: US\$100,000

Start Date: December 2006

End Date: May 2007

Lead Company: GNS Science International

Associated Consultants: None

Key Features:

- Seismic damage assessment on infrastructure
- Building codes reviews
- Education and public awareness of disasters
- Building community resilience and preparedness