

**Field Report:** Post Tsunami Animal Survey in Banda Aceh, Sumatra, Indonesia  
**From:** Sherry Grant, Ray Butcher  
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Banda Aceh

Having made inquiries we finally located senior members of the provincial Ministry of Agriculture, which has been relocated to temporary accommodations since the tsunami. We had a meeting with Dr. Syamsuddin Alie, chief of the livestock department and Nanggroe Darussalam. They explained that they have suffered severe losses of facilities, infrastructure and manpower.

Due to the breakdown of communications, it is difficult to get up-to-date information from the districts. Everyone involved has had a loss in the family and they are all going through the grieving process. Despite this they have given us some very helpful information. The number of employees at the office of livestock prior to the tsunami was 760 and the number in the local district office was 146. At the present time they have accounted for 96 of the 146, so sadly they are missing 50 and they are presumed dead. They also have not been able to ascertain the number of deaths among the farmers in their region

Before the emergency there were government livestock officers assigned to each village farming community. In the larger villages the offices were supported by another one to three employees

Once the communications network has been restored, they will have the potential to facilitate and deliver priority intervention measures. They have collated assets which have been lost or damaged and more importantly a wish list of equipment, facilities and drugs which are priorities in order for them to become functional as soon as possible. We can furnish the translation of this list which includes items such as computers, office furniture, lab equipment, drugs, vaccines and vehicles. From our assessment, there is nothing out of line on this list. We intend to discuss this further with central Ministry of Agriculture in Jakarta, but feel it appropriate to put a marker down for these items.

An additional need, which may have political difficulties, is the restoration of the central abattoir that was destroyed. It appears that the tradition here is that all the animals are slaughtered at this site according to halal Muslim tradition. This appears to be a very traditional Muslim region, so they may not be receptive to modern pre-stunning concepts.

Dr. Alie was extremely cooperative during the meeting and expressed his gratitude for our concern and offers of assistance to restructure and re-habilitate

the livestock sector. He gave up additional time to escort us to see affected areas. We asked if there were disease or welfare problems that require immediately assistance. He could identify nothing specific, but said the government was making an assessment at this time and they would be happy to immediately share details when they became available. When we asked what his top priority was, he indicated that they required equipment to allow them to function in a normal productive way.

In our previous report we have said that we have been unable to identify marginal areas between those that were completely destroyed and those that were untouched. Dr. Alie has told us of such an area and we plan to make an assessment of it tomorrow.

However, our initial impression is that there are no major welfare issues requiring immediate rescue or intervention. More tomorrow

- Sherry Grant, Ray Butcher

**Notes:**

1. They were unable to send out the CD of photos yesterday. Therefore we will not get them until tomorrow.
2. I asked Sherry about the dog and cat situation as there was little about this in their reports. She said that there are many many cats, but they seem to have survived satisfactorily and are not in distress. Also the few dogs that they have appear to be healthy.
3. This report was transcribed over a satellite phone and edited by Ken Grant.