



Greetings! We are the **Gunung Mas Community** from **West Aceh**. We are a community formed after the great earthquake and tsunami that struck the coasts of Aceh and caused so much devastation at the end of 2004. Nearly all of us lost family and friends to the deadly wave. Some of us lost many members of our family. A few of us are left with just one or two distant family members. In many ways we are all children of the tsunami.

The great wave left countless people wandering around the country looking for family members who might have survived. We did not all always find our lost relatives but here in Gunung Mas we found a community. It is this spirit of community which gives us support and now we strive to make a new life. With the help of the Almighty we are trying to give life meaning again not only for us but for all Achenese people. Gunung Mas means mountain of gold in our language. Hope is gold.

So here we are in Gunung Mas with **Abu Ibrahim** and **Abu Othman**, who founded the community. Abu Ibrahim is now 106 years old. We are all his family. Many of us still live in tents but it doesn't matter. Little by little we build houses so that we can all live more comfortably with a proper roof over our heads. Sometimes when we have petrol for the chainsaw, we bring trees from a nearby forest, drag them down the stream and then cut them for pillars, floors and walls as we have always done. The women make the roofing out of Sago leaves in the traditional style.



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