

OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

ASIA: EARTHQUAKE & TSUNAMIS FOCUS ON RELIEF

11 February 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Revised Preliminary Appeal No. 28/2004; Operations Update no. 41; Period covered: 26 December - 11 February 2005; Appeal coverage: 105.6% ([Click here to view the provisional contributions list](#)).

Highlights of the Day:

- As of 6 February, 92,180 beneficiaries have received non-food relief items in Indonesia since the beginning of the emergency operation through coordinated distributions of the Indonesian Red Cross/Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) and the International Federation. Communities currently receiving regular relief distribution include: Lam No, Calang, Teunom, Meulaboh and Simeulue Island. Distribution from pre-positioned stock during the first weeks of the emergency was concentrated primarily on Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar, as well as the outlying areas of Biren, Pidie and Lhok Seumawe.
- Recently made available records from PMI indicate that it provided 345,100 people with food relief during the initial stages of the emergency from its pre-positioned stock and local donations.
- One of the challenges facing the relief effort in Indonesia has been the continuing mobility of the IDP population. People are still moving around - to community shelters, neighbouring villages or away to other areas in Aceh. This has made it difficult for authorities and agencies to accurately count and target the population.
- While the surrounding community has been engaged in supporting survivors, IDPs staying with host families place a particular burden on these individual families and their communities. Entire communities were impacted by disaster. Humanitarian relief assistance needs to be provided to the community in general in tsunami-affected areas, to ensure overall reduction in vulnerabilities.
- In Sri Lanka, the American Red Cross' team working in Pottuvil will start assessing and distributing non-food items further up the coast to Tirrukkovil in coordination with ICRC. Over 120,000 individuals have received support from them in Pottuvil and in the south of the country since the operation began. Netherlands Red Cross is also working in cooperation with the American Red Cross' emergency response unit to distribute non-food items and their beneficiary figures will be included in the next report.
- The next Operations Update providing information about all aspects of the operation will be issued on Wednesday, 16 February.

Appeal history:

- Preliminary appeal launched on 26 December 2004 CHF 7,517,000 (USD 6,658,712 or EUR 4,852,932) for six months to assist 500,000 beneficiaries.
- Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 1,000,000.
- Revised Preliminary Appeal issued on 30 December 2004, for CHF 67,005,000 (USD 59,152,246 or EUR 53,439,988) for two million beneficiaries for six to eight months.
- The Preliminary Appeal was originally launched titled “Bay of Bengal: Earthquake and Tsunamis”. The title was subsequently changed to “Asia: Earthquake and Tsunamis” in the Revised Preliminary Appeal launched on 29 December 2004.
- Operations update No. 16 revised the Revised Preliminary Appeal 28/2004 budget to CHF 183,486,000 (USD 155,286,000 or EUR 118,669,000) with programme extensions for particularly Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Maldives and East Africa.

[Click here for contact details related to this operation](#)

Background

The magnitude 9.0 earthquake that struck the area off the western coast of northern Sumatra on Sunday morning, 26 December 2004, at 7:59 am local time (00:59 GMT) triggered massive tidal waves, or tsunamis, that inundated coastal areas in countries all around the Indian Ocean rim – from Indonesia to Somalia. Sri Lanka, the Indonesian province of Aceh, four states of southern India, the Maldives, and coastal areas of Thailand, Malaysia, and Myanmar were the most severely affected. The earthquake epicentre was located at 3.30 N, 95.78E at a depth of 10 kilometres. The area is historically prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the margins of tectonic plates. However, tidal waves of this magnitude are rare and therefore the level of preparedness was very low.

Summary of the human toll caused by the tsunami as of 11 February

Countries	Dead	Missing	Displaced	Homeless	Sources
Indonesia*	242,347	-	412,438	n/a	Government
Sri Lanka	30,974	4,698	553,287	480,000	Government
India	16,389	-	647,599	20,000	Government
Maldives	82	26	21,663	n/a	Government
Thailand	5,393	3,062	n/a	n/a	Government
Myanmar	61	10	n/a	3,200	Government
Malaysia	68	12	n/a	4,296	Delegation
East Africa	394	158	2,320	n/a	Government
Total	295,708	7,966	>1,656,650	>507,496	

*In Indonesia and India only, the number of dead includes those previously listed as missing though this will only be official in Indonesia one year after the disaster's date.
Note: East Africa covers tsunami-affected countries of Kenya, Madagascar, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania.*

Thousands of staff, relief and medical personnel, and volunteers of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies of the tsunami-affected countries have provided a vital initial response, in search and rescue, clean-up, providing temporary shelter and immediate relief assistance, emergency medical services, psychological first aid and tracing. It is estimated that over 10,000 Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and 76 relief and medical teams have been mobilised in the disaster-affected areas.

The Federation immediately launched a Preliminary Emergency Appeal on the day of the disaster with a focus on Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Maldives. On 3 January 2005, the ICRC launched budget extensions additional to its 2005 Emergency Appeal for Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Along with initial support from the country and regional delegations, the Federation deployed within 24-72 hours three [Field Assessment and Coordination Teams \(FACT\)](#) and 18 [Emergency Response Units \(ERU\)](#) in the sectors of water and sanitation, health care, aid distribution, telecommunications, and logistics/transportation to Sri Lanka, Indonesia and the Maldives.

A total of 147 relief flights have now arrived in the various affected countries and a further 42 flights are in the Federation relief pipeline, making a total of 189 relief flights coordinated through the Federation.

The Federation and the ICRC in Geneva are currently working on an organizational framework for Movement coordination in the tsunami operations. A note has been sent out to national societies and delegations on this today, for consultation. It is expected that the framework, which will set in place strong platforms for coordination, will be finalised shortly, and a final note will be then sent out by the Federation and the ICRC.

Indonesia

Overview

The earthquake and resulting tsunami of 26 December 2004 devastated most towns and villages as well as hundreds of kilometres of coastline along the west and north east coasts of Sumatra, in Indonesia. Latest government estimates put the total number of dead and missing at over 240,000 with an additional 412,000 displaced persons.

Much of the infrastructure in the affected area was decimated – including 450 kilometres of road and scores of bridges. Road access to many villages remains difficult – if not impossible. Aftershocks continue to occur on a regular basis – most recently on 9 February with an estimated magnitude of 5.7, occurring about 80 kilometres southwest of Banda Aceh and panicking the local population.

The provision of food and water to survivors was of immediate concern. In the first weeks, emergency distribution of food was largely assumed by foreign military forces providing humanitarian assistance, as well as by the Indonesian authorities and organizations on the ground – most notably the Indonesian Red Cross/Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) continues to develop its organizational health structure, which distributed food and non-food items to a number of communities from pre-positioned emergency stocks, as well as from local donations.

The nature of the disaster and its destructive impact, the potentially volatile civil conflict on the ground, the constant population movement and psychological impact on the community has made this a challenging operating environment for all components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to reach and provide essential services to the affected population. From a logistics perspective, the obstacles to overcome have been massive – particularly given the scale of the humanitarian response, combined with limited access to transportation hubs and the remote nature of many of the affected communities.

IDP Situation

One of the challenges facing the relief effort is the continuing mobility of the IDP population. People are still moving around to community shelters, neighbouring villages or away to other areas in Aceh making it difficult for authorities and agencies to accurately count and target the population. There are nevertheless indications that IDP populations are making their way towards the larger population centres (e.g. Banda Aceh and Meulaboh).

While the surrounding community has been engaged in supporting survivors, IDPs staying with host families place a particular burden on these individual families and their communities. Family and community resources, including shelter materials, access to water and sanitation, food supplies, and even the psychosocial support for those affected by disaster, are utilized by IDPs. Support from the host family / community to the IDP is reliant on several factors, including: the host's available resources; community "goodwill"; and, opportunities for indirectly benefiting from humanitarian relief operations.

With the massive level of humanitarian relief operations currently taking place in Indonesia, there are concerns that the non-displaced community members will begin to feel the inequity of aid being provided solely to IDPs. More importantly, however, is the fact that entire communities were impacted by the tsunami and earthquake, resulting in livelihoods lost and compromised opportunities for remaining economically self-sufficient and secure. Humanitarian relief assistance therefore needs to be provided to the community in general in tsunami-affected areas, to ensure overall reduction in vulnerabilities. It is also estimated that IDPs in host family/community situations are closer to "normalcy" than those in camps; therefore, supporting them to remain in this situation while they work towards recovery supports their psychosocial needs and supports a sustainable relief operations.

Red Cross Red Crescent Response

PMI responded immediately to the disaster, providing health care, assisting in the recovery of bodies and distributing basic emergency food and non-food supplies. Food relief consisted of biscuits, mineral water, noodles and parcels containing rice, sugar and oil were distributed to 345,100 beneficiaries between 26 December and the end of January. Non-food items (including family kits, hygiene kits, blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets and body bags) were distributed to 29,000 beneficiaries during the same period.

The Federation deployed a Field Assessment and Coordination team (FACT) within 72 hours of the disaster, basing itself out of Banda Aceh as soon as logistically feasible. By 3 January, FACT members were conducting aerial and rapid touchdown assessments by helicopter of the districts of Aceh Jaya, Aceh Barat and Simeulue Island. Based on these initial assessments, implementation plans on emergency response unit (ERU) deployments and relief distribution were developed.

From the beginning, the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) strategy was to initiate assessments in towns located farthest from Banda Aceh (i.e. from Lhokseumawe north to Sigli along the east coast and from Meulaboh north to Banda Aceh along the west coast), where the densest pockets of population were located. This proved to be a wise strategy, and enabled RCRC to identify and assist communities not yet reached by other agencies. The Movement was therefore among the first international organizations to reach the outlying areas of Samalanga, Sigli, Teunom, Lam No and Calang.

Assessments have been on-going throughout the operation and relief distribution plans continue to be adjusted accordingly. Over one and a half months after the disaster struck the region, the Federation/ICRC/PMI continue to provide non-food relief items to the affected population in Aceh and procurement is well underway for the provision of food parcels, that will complement basic food distributions of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Based on in-depth and community-by-community assessments conducted by PMI and Federation field delegates, original estimates of IDPs appear to be higher than actually required in some regions. This is primarily due to the movement of beneficiaries throughout the region and the resulting difficulty in obtaining exact numbers of beneficiaries in any given area – a problem encountered by all agencies on the ground.

The situation with IDPs in Aceh Province remains dynamic. In each district, varying situations contribute to the complexity of the relief operation: IDPs established in spontaneous settlements (including those who are attempting to move back onto their original property); IDPs staying with host families and host communities; IDPs staying in institutions (e.g., schools, public buildings); and, IDPs in designated camps. All of these categories of IDPs are currently part of the Federation/PMI distribution programme, as are the host families/communities, as appropriate and necessary. In addition, populations of persons made vulnerable through the loss of their livelihoods (e.g., farmers and fishermen) have been identified - who also require and are receiving assistance, on an as needed basis.

According to the Federation's relief team, the current relief programme meets the needs of all beneficiary categories (as described above). As field-reported IDP numbers do not meet original projections, the number of families covered by the relief programme of the Federation/PMI is currently in revision.

Revised relief projections for the western coast based on field assessment - 2 February 2005

Item	qty / family	Frequency	Lam No	Calang	Teunom	Meulaboh ¹	Totals
Food Parcel	1	1st 2 months	8,400	6,800	6,400	14,000	35,600
Tents	1	Once	4,200	3,400	3,200	7,000	17,800
Tarps	2	Once	8,400	6,800	6,400	14,000	35,600
Mosquito	5	Twice	42,000	34,000	32,000	70,000	178,000
Family kit*	1	Once	4,200	3,400	3,200	7,000	17,800
Hygiene kit	1	Monthly	25,200	20,400	19,200	42,000	106,800
Baby Kit	1	Monthly	25,200	20,400	19,200	42,000	106,800
Jerry cans	3	Once	12,600	10,200	9,600	21,000	53,400
Stoves	1	Once	4,200	3,400	3,200	7,000	17,800

¹ Includes Simeulue Island (2000 families).

Items being procured to be distributed as soon as possible include: baby kits, stoves, and complementary food parcels. The complementary food package is designed to meet immediate needs, and is planned, therefore, only for the next two months (i.e. February and March). This will be reassessed as to need and local market availability to determine if further distributions are necessary. Baby kits include baby soap and shampoo, powder, lotion, towel, blanket, 2 bottles and 12 washable diapers.

The relief programme at this time is targeted for a further five months (i.e. until June 2005). Concurrently, development of the recovery programme is underway, and it is anticipated that distribution of recovery-related items/support will be initiated within this same time period, and then carried on beyond June 2005 (exact duration still being determined). As distributions of recovery items will overlap with distributions of relief items over the next months, it will also be important to ensure that the overall quantity of goods to be delivered is still feasible and within the capacity of the PMI.

Overall Goal: Up to 100,000 internally displaced and otherwise affected families (approximately 500,000 people) in western Aceh receive adequate and timely emergency humanitarian assistance over the next six months.

Objective 1 (emergency relief): Basic supplementary food and non-food needs of the 500,000 IDP (internally displaced persons) and most vulnerable beneficiaries are met so that they can start rebuilding their future.

Progress/Achievements

Relief distribution is on-going along the west coast of Aceh. As of 6 February, it is estimated that a total of 92,180 beneficiaries had been reached for non-food items, both through PMI distributions of pre-positioned stock during the first part of the emergency operation, as well as through on-going PMI/Federation efforts following the appeal. Relief distribution has been increasing steadily now that the relief pipeline, warehousing and some of the onward transport are being put in place. Currently, relief distribution is focusing on the delivery of non-food items, as listed in the tables below.

Communities currently receiving regular relief distribution include: Lam No, Calang, Teunom, Meulaboh and Simeulue Island. Distribution from pre-positioned stock during the first weeks of the emergency was concentrated primarily on Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar, as well as the outlying areas of Biren, Pidie and Lhok Seumawe.

Lam No

Over 4,150 families have been served to date in and around Lam No. Access to the surrounding areas has been difficult due to certain restrictions on the aid community.

Calang

More than 3,000 families have received non-food distributions. PMI and Federation teams have been able to access areas to the north and south of Calang. In the area of Patek, the relief teams have been doing helicopter drops and stocking up for a distribution later this week. PMI continues to assess the surrounding areas.

Teunom

Over 3,000 families have received distributions of non-food items. PMI has to date assessed 28 villages and provided relief distribution.

Meulaboh

Distributions have reached over 2,000 families to date. Additional distribution of family kits began on 7 February, and on 9 February, a total of 800 families were targeted in six communities, during which PMI volunteers divided themselves into two groups, to enable them to cover more ground. Some difficulties have been experienced due to blockages on the narrow road to the north, caused by overturned vehicles.

Simeulue Island

Nearly 500 families have received assistance to date. Plans are underway to supply Simeulue Island with relief supplies by landing craft, as soon as shipments of family kits have been received in the hubs along the west coast.

Relief distribution to date can be summarized as follows:

Relief Distribution of Non-food Items – Total Beneficiaries <i>Up to 6 February 2005</i>		
	Families	Beneficiaries
PMI Pre-positioned Stock		
Banda Aceh & Aceh Besar	4,300	21,500
Biren	500	2,500
Pidie	500	2,500
Lhok Seumawe	500	2,500
Sub-Total	5,800	29,000
Federation Appeal Stock		
Lam No	4,154	20,770
Calang	3,034	15,170
Teunom	3,071	15,355
Meulaboh	2,042	9,710
Simeulue Island	435	2,175
Sub-Total	12,736	63,180
TOTAL	18,536	92,180

Non-food Item Relief Distribution <i>Up to 6 February 2005</i>			
Non-food items	Pre-positioned stock²	Federation Appeal	TOTAL
Tents	-	1,214	1,214
Tarpaulins	3,500	10,472	13,972
Kitchen sets	-	1,206	1,206
Hygiene Kits	2,700	4,831	7,531
Blankets	10,000	24,633	34,633
Jerry Cans	-	18,067	18,067
Family Kits	4,000	1,336	5,336
Baby Kits	-	-	-
Stoves	-	-	-
Mosquito Nets	5,000	250	5,250
Clothes	-	-	-
Body bags	9,000	-	9,000

² From latest available information supplied by PMI.

PMI Relief Distribution of Food Items – Total Beneficiaries <i>From 26 December 2004 to 31 January 2005³</i>		
	Families	Beneficiaries
PMI Pre-positioned Stock + Local Donations		
Banda Aceh & Aceh Besar	28,000	140,000
Aceh Utara	18,000	90,000
Pidie	7,500	37,500
Lhok Seumawe	2,200	11,000
Bireun	5,500	27,500
Aceh Timur	4,000	20,000
Calang	1,500	7,500
Meulaboh	320	1,600
Niaz	800	4,000
Medan	1,200	6,000
TOTAL	69,020	345,100

Impact

Some 92,180 beneficiaries have received non-food relief items since the beginning of the emergency operation through coordinated PMI/Federation distributions. In addition, PMI records indicate that 345,100 beneficiaries received food relief during the initial stages of the emergency, from pre-positioned stock and local donations. Distribution is currently focusing on Lam No, Calang, Teunom, Meulaboh and Simeulue Island, as well as surrounding communities. Relief distribution has been increasing steadily now that the relief pipeline, warehousing and onward transportation facilities are all in place.

Constraints

The nature and spread of the area of operation make this a challenging task for relief distribution in terms of logistics and a clear area of operation. Given that the population is constantly changing and moving, the planning for stable provisions to the community remains difficult.

Main constraints include:

- The constant movement of the IDP population has made it difficult to get an accurate count of affected persons in any one area. Assessments by PMI are on-going in order to stay abreast of these movements and to be able to accommodate an increase and/or decrease of affected population in the relief distributions.
- Restricted access into surrounding communities, specifically into the interior, away from the coastal areas.
- Logistical problems (road access due to condition of roads, break downs and accidents) which are slowing the distribution flow, particularly in and around Meulaboh.
- PMI currently has various systems in place for beneficiary ration cards; within the next month the Federation will ensure that the full relief programme can be accommodated by the ration card system, and will, furthermore, work with PMI to ensure standardization of the system across the province.
- The regular shift rotations of PMI volunteers has posed some logistical difficulties due to the lack of overlap and continuity in the information collected and familiarity of local area and operation. This is currently being addressed with PMI, and slight overlap between groups has occurred on several occasions.

³ From latest available information supplied by PMI.

- Limited Federation staff has posed some difficulty in the ability to expand to areas outside the western coast of Aceh. Action is being taken to bring in new relief delegates within the coming weeks.
- Ongoing logistical constraints have made it difficult to get relief supplies, in the quantities and time frame desired, to the local population. The Federation/PMI operation is currently using a combination of air, sea and land transportation to move relief supplies. Off-loading of supplies – particularly those delivered by boat – is proving to be labour-intensive and time-consuming due to lack of appropriate landing areas and limited local resources. Furthermore, once goods are delivered to these logistical hubs by air or sea, it is difficult to find land transportation with sufficient capacity to facilitate movement of large quantities of goods. Large trucks are being positioned in these areas to assist with this.

Future Plans

The relief programme at this time is targeted for a further five months (i.e. until June 2005), to cover up to 30,000 families, an amount that is still being revised. Included in this number are populations in Aceh Besar, Calang and the northeast coast, which being revised and discussed with ICRC. Assessments of additional distributions along the northeast coast are currently underway.

Procurement is currently underway for distribution of complementary food parcels to 17,800 families over two months, in coordination with WFP.

Additional relief activities include the provision of community recovery cleanup kits to communities. The earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia left a wake of debris that included construction/demolition debris (metal, wood, concrete, etc), household materials (furniture, household goods, etc.) trees and plant matter, organic materials, a sea of mud, sand and silt, and many areas of standing water. In some coastal areas of Aceh (e.g., Lhok Ruet), all that remains for several square kilometres is a sea of debris one metre high, without as much as a single standing tree or structure. In other areas (e.g., Meulaboh), many trees, plants and structures survived the earthquake and tsunami, but need to be rescued from the mud and debris that swept through and remained.

Resulting needs vary for each individual, depending on the state of their home and of the surrounding area. Although authorities are carrying on intensive removal of debris, a large part of the clean-up process will also fall to individuals. Most IDPs express desire for an early return to their original homes, to begin the process of recovery. The Federation and PMI are therefore planning a programme of relief support to IDPs and affected persons to provide them with the necessary supplies to assist with clean-up. This will meet an important need and reduce the stress and hazards associated with cleaning up their properties.

Sri Lanka

Overview

According to the latest government figures, published on 1 February, 248,866 Sri Lankan families have been affected by the tsunami. 553,287 people were displaced, 141,985 of whom are staying in welfare centres or camps (315 camps in total). 30,974 people have been reported dead, 23,176 are injured and a further 4,698 people are missing.

The World Bank this week decided to allocate USD 75 million of existing projects for emergency relief and reconstruction activities in Sri Lanka. A needs assessment report published by the World Bank, Japan Bank for International cooperation and Asia Development Bank on 2 February stated that USD 500 million is needed for short-term emergency and reconstruction work, and in the region of USD 1.5 billion is necessary to implement a full recovery and reconstruction strategy.

Foreign troops are scaling down their work and preparing to withdraw from Sri Lanka. Troops from more than a dozen countries have been involved in the relief operation since the tsunami struck on 26 December 2004. Meanwhile, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) continues its relief operations in the country, supported by the Federation and the ICRC. Food and non food items have been distributed to some 26,000 families through the

national society, and seven Federation emergency response units (ERUs) continue to operate in the country, providing drinking water, health support, medical assistance and logistics support.

ICRC will continue to assist people in very isolated areas and is also drawing up a plan of action to cover people's basic needs in the north and the east for the next six months. Furthermore, the ICRC has also extended its presence on crossings between government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)-held areas to facilitate the passage of humanitarian aid and civilians, at the request of the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE.

Planned deployment of soft wall storage halls and trucks is expected to reduce the pressure on existing storage structures in the region.

For maps and reports on the general background of the disaster in Sri Lanka please refer to <http://www.lk.undp.org/ndmc/>

Coordination

There are currently 25 participating national societies (PNS) present in Sri Lanka. More than 200 delegates are working in the country comprising the Federation's country delegation and emergency response units, the ICRC and partner national societies (PNS). Productive discussions continue to be held between the Movement coordinator and PNS based in Sri Lanka, with a move forward to solidify coordination mechanisms between PNS and the Federation. The Federation/SLCRS headquarters in Colombo continue to host weekly coordination meetings for all national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies participating in the post -tsunami operation. The meeting provides a forum for information sharing and discussion of relevant issues.

The British Red Cross' logistics ERU has started the process on integrating into the Federation's delegation. Financial responsibility was handed over this week, with the Federation delegation now paying all running and operational costs. The logistics ERU has been coordinating well with the ICRC's logistics team and plans are underway to share warehouse space in Ratmalana. Discussions continue on other ways in which a joint approach could be mutually beneficial.

SLRCS volunteers are working with all Red Cross ERUs to support the relief operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action - objectives, progress/achievements, impact, constraints

Overall Goal: Up to 40,000 families (about 200,000 people) in the south of the country receive immediate relief, shelter, health and care, and community support over the next six months.

Objective 2 (shelter): Temporary shelter provided to up to 15,000 families (about 75,000 people) whose houses have been destroyed and have no extended family to live with.

Progress/Achievements

Please refer to the table below for full details of tent and tarpaulin distributions by the American Red Cross' ERU operating in Ampara, Galle, Matara and Hambantota. To date, 356 tents were distributed in Gampaha. A further 200 tents have been transferred for distribution by ICRC and SLRCS in Ciyama (eastern province). SLRCS has distributed 200 tents through its branches in tsunami affected areas.

The SLRCS with support from the Federation and ICRC plans to construct 15,000 houses over the coming years for families affected by the tsunami. In addition, the Maltese Red Cross is also constructing houses for 64 families in the Tangalle area, and Netherlands Red Cross plans to construct 600 houses.

Impact

Since the start of distributions, over 28,000 tarpaulins and tents have been distributed by the Federation/SLRCS providing much needed shelter to affected families. Tarpaulins continue to be a valuable item to the beneficiaries.

Constraints

Distributions are going well, but the lack of stock in the Ampara warehouse has prevented the relief team from distributing more tarpaulins. The issue of standardization of relief items is also still being addressed.

Objective 3 (immediate livelihood restoration): The minimum livelihood requirements provided for up to 40,000 families (about 200,000 people) whose houses have been destroyed and have lost their belongings.

Progress/Achievements

Distribution of non-food items continues in Pottuvil. In coordination with ICRC, the American team working in Pottuvil will start assessing and distributing non-food items further up the coast to Tirrukkovil. The total number of individuals who have received support from the American Red Cross' relief team in Pottuvil since January is 25,774, including 2,886 children under five years of age. Distributions also continue in the south of the country, where a total of 95,633 individuals (22,476 families) have received support since the operation began.

Distribution of non-food items by American Red Cross' ERU operations in Ampara, Galle, Matara and Hambantota, from beginning of operation to 10 February 2005

Non-food item	Ampara	Galle	Matara	Hambantota	Total
Water containers (10 litre)	16,420	6,692	9,725	6,532	49,273
Water containers (20 litre)	combined total	3,273	3,295	3,336	
Tarpaulins	7,434	4,886	9,175	5,198	26,693
Tents	430	0	0	58	488
Kitchen sets	3,115	4,103	6,340	2,968	16,526
Family kits	88	-	-	-	88
Family hygiene kits	6,032	6,031	6,935	6,579	25,577
Blankets	20,602	7,604	19,990	13,079	61,275
Bed sheets	21,004	8,281	12,933	15,830	58,048
Sarees	8,536	5,876	5,450	5,330	25,192
Sarongs	8,536	5,113	4,850	4,994	23,493
Mosquito nets	8,060	85	3,220	2,648	14,013
Kerosene stoves	997	-	-	-	997
Sleeping mats	10,174	4,093	14,400	9,589	38,256
Laundry soap	-	2,640	1,500	1,278	5,418

Note: families receive one or two items depending on the size of the family. The distribution table includes items distributed to schools and other institutions.

Netherlands Red Cross is also working in cooperation with the American Red Cross' ERU to distribute non-food items. The figures quoted above do not reflect those beneficiaries but will be included in the next Operations Update.

Impact

All relief items are needed and continue to be appreciated by the beneficiaries.

Constraints

The recent death of a senior LTTE leader north west of Batticoloa may slow delivery of relief items in the region. The team continues to monitor the situation and coordinate with ICRC.

Capacity of the National Society

Most posts in the British Red Cross' logistics ERU are to be handed over to national staff as soon as possible, but this will require training. With national staff numbers rising (a few now on Federation contract, and more formal recruitment is ongoing) the logistics team now stands at more than 100 people, with about 50 loaders/labourers, 30 truck drivers, nine storekeepers, six drivers, two administrative assistants and eight delegates.

Volunteers in Ampara district have been carrying out very organized distributions with the American Red Cross' ERU; the capacity of this newly formed office of the SLRCS is increasing daily.

Communications – Representation, Advocacy and Public Information

Federation information delegates and the media department of the SLRCS continue to provide media coverage, photo exchange, stories and interviews to the local and international media. Recently, a popular Indian film star visited affected regions in the south of Sri Lanka, including Red Cross relief projects. A full page spread appeared in the daily Sri Lankan newspaper “The Island” this week with praise for the efforts of SLRCS in the relief operation.

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