

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 INDIA

25 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. 45; Period covered: 26 December 2004 – 15 February 2005; Appeal coverage: 113.3% ([Click here to view the provisional contributions list](#)).

Highlights of the Day:

- This report provides a comprehensive overview of initial response activities undertaken directly by the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) and 3,000 of its staff and volunteers on behalf of tsunami survivors in India.
- The IRCS headquarters distributed family packs to 26,000 families in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from its disaster preparedness stocks in the initial emergency phase and branches from non-affected states provided additional relief and food items.
- Water purification units provided to Tamil Nadu and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands provide 100,000 litres of clean water each day for 1,000 people.
- The Indian Red Cross' national headquarters is helping state branch with logistics and financial procedures in relation to the tsunami operation. The Federation's disaster management delegate has also provided advice on procurement procedures and financial systems.
- The first phase relief and rescue operation is virtually complete in India. The state governments/Union Territory administrations have begun rehabilitation activities.

Appeal history:

- Preliminary appeal launched on 26 December 2004 CHF 7,517,000 (USD 6,658,712 or EUR 4,852,932) for 6 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 2 million beneficiaries for 6-8 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.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In Asia:

- India, New Delhi: Bob McKerrow, Head of Regional Delegation, phone: +91.98.1000.1534; Azmat Ulla, Head of Delegation, phone: +91.98.1039.9650.

In Geneva:

- Iain Logan, Head of Tsunami Operations Coordination, Geneva; +41.22.730.4258, email: iain.logan@ifrc.org
- Indonesia: Charles Evans, Southeast Asia Desk, Geneva; phone: +41.22.730.4320; fax:+41.22.733.0395; email: charles.evans@ifrc.org
- Sri Lanka: Suzana Harfield, Desk Officer, Geneva; phone: +41.22.730.4353 ; email: suzana.harfield@ifrc.org
- Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand, Maldives and Somalia: Wilson Wong, Desk Officer, Geneva; phone: +41.22.730.4302; email: wilson.wong@ifrc.org
- India: Jagan Chapagain, Desk Officer, Geneva; phone: +41.22.730.4316; email: jagan.chapagain@ifrc.org
- Media Department, Sian Bowen, phone: + 41.22.730.4428; email: sian.bowen@ifrc.org
- Logistics Department for mobilization of relief items, Erling Brandtzaeg, logistics officer for Indonesia and Myanmar, Geneva; phone: +41.22.730.4269; email: erling.brandtzaeg@ifrc.org, Mauricio Bustamante, logistics officer for Sri Lanka and Maldives, Geneva; phone: +41.22.730.4267; email: mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org and Isabelle Sechaud, general coordination of tsunami operations logistics cell, Geneva; phone: +41.22.730.4367; email: isabelle.sechaud@ifrc.org

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation’s website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

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 23 February

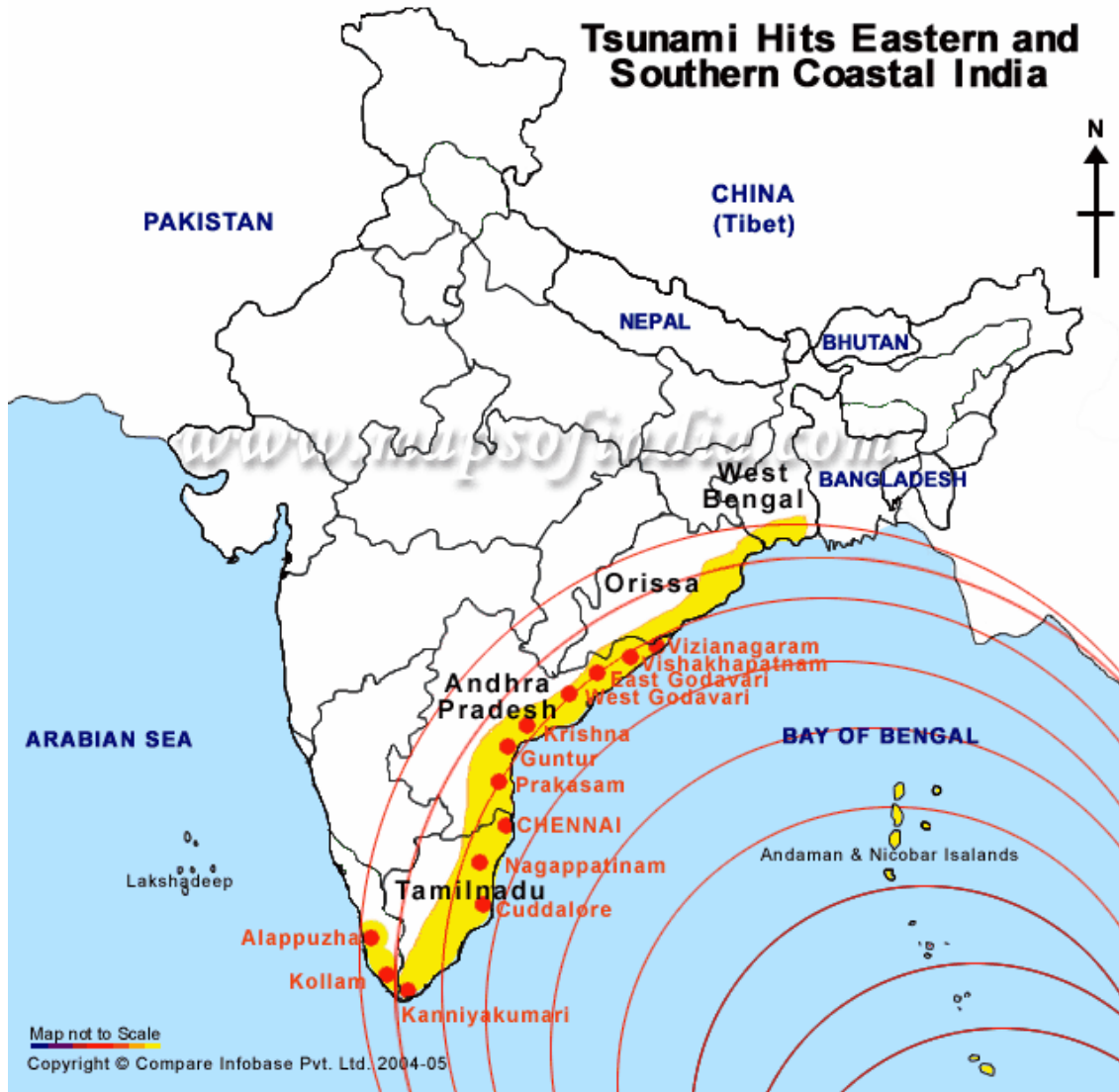
Countries	Dead	Missing	Displaced	Homeless	Sources
Indonesia*	232,732	-	417,000	n/a	Government
Sri Lanka	30,974	4,698	553,287	480,000	Government
India	16,389	-	647,599	20,000	Government
Maldives	82	26	21,663	n/a	Government
Thailand	5,395	2,995	n/a	n/a	Government
Myanmar	90	10	n/a	3,200	Government
Malaysia	68	12	n/a	4,296	Delegation
East Africa	312	158	2,320	n/a	Government
Total	286,042	7,899	>1,641,869	>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.

In India over 10,749 lives were lost and 5,640 missing persons are presumed dead. In addition, thousands of people were left homeless along 2,000 kilometres of coastline including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala states, Pondicherry (Union Territory) and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) at national headquarters along with its branches in the affected states responded effectively by mobilizing local resources (financial and volunteers) to provide food and basic health care to the affected population.

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.



Overview

A three-member assessment team comprised of the secretary general of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), its joint secretary and the Federation's disaster management delegate reached Nagapattinam (Tamil Nadu) on 27 December. The national disaster response team (NDRT) was deployed on 30 December to carry out a comprehensive sectoral and needs assessment of the affected population in Tamil Nadu. The IRCS headquarters provided the following relief to the tsunami affected people during the emergency phase:

- Distribution of non-food items from the existing disaster preparedness (DP) stock in regional warehouses
13,000 family packs - Tamil Nadu
6,000 family packs - Andaman and Nicobar Islands
7,000 family packs - Andhra Pradesh state
- Three water and sanitation units were sent to Tamil Nadu state and five mobile water purification plants were made functional in Dollyganj (Port Blair) which provides 100,000 litres of purified drinking water daily to approximately 1,000 people.
- Psychological support and family link activities carried out by the volunteers at various levels in the affected areas.
- Emergency rations (BP 5 biscuits, water, milk and other food) along with clothing items were also distributed.

Indian Red Cross action



Community kitchen functional in one of the affected districts

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The IRCS distributed 6,000 family packs in Andaman and Nicobar Islands mobilized from the disaster preparedness (DP) stock at the regional warehouse (Salt Lake Warehouse, Calcutta). The distribution of these DP stocks took place in the relief camps of Port Blair and the islands of Little Andaman, Car Nicobar and Nancowri, assisting a total of 32,000 people. This help included milk packets, mineral water bottles, biscuits, and phenol bottles and family kits. (The family kits consisted of one kitchen set, one cotton blanket, one bed sheet, one towel, one sari, one dhoti, one plastic sheet and one plastic bucket).

The logistical support for the transportation of the relief material was taken from the local administration as most of the affected islands are far off and can only be reached by boat.

The IRCS also deployed five mobile water purification plants donated by the Spanish Red Cross (SRC). These were accompanied by a three-member water and sanitation team (two technicians and a water and sanitation delegate from the Spanish Red Cross). The team was deployed to install the water and sanitation unit as well as to provide on-the-job training to the local people. These water purification plants supply 100,000 litres of purified drinking water every day to approximately 1,300 families. In addition, 10 metric tons (MT) of bleaching powder and 10 metric tons of alum were also made available by the Indian Red Cross.

Relief material distributed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Items mobilized by the national headquarters
Kitchen sets – 2000
Tarpaulins – 200 rolls
Towels – 2,000
Bed sheets – 2,000
Cotton blankets – 2,000
Female and Male clothing – 4,000 pieces
15 metric tons were sent to Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Another lot of 4,000 family packs was sent to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, out of this 2,500 family packs will be sent to Nicobar islands while 1,500 family packs will be distributed in Little Andaman
Five water purification plants have also been set up in Port Blair which is producing 100,000 litres of water everyday serving some 1,000 people daily.

Tamil Nadu

The national headquarters sent 13,000 family packs (each pack consists of one kitchen set, one tarpaulin sheet, one plastic bucket, one bed sheet, one towel, one sari, one dhoti and one cotton blanket). The family packs were distributed in the affected districts of Nagapattinam (5,000) Kanyakumari (5,000) and Villupuram (1,000). Emergency rations consisting of BP 5 biscuits (1,872 kg) and other food and clothing items were also distributed. 120 MT of bleaching powder donated by DSCL was also sent to the affected areas. The state branch is actively involved in relief operations and is coordinating with other stakeholders present. Local Red Cross volunteers helping the needy were provided with surgical masks and gloves.

A tracing cell has also been set up in Nagapattinam. Disaster Mental Health (DMH) trained volunteers are actively involved in relief work and psychological support at Sirgazhi and Tharangambadi sub-district levels. The branch has mobilized local resources and volunteers by supplying relief material such as (milk powder, protein,

medicines, rice, torches, batteries, biscuits, nutritional drinks, water, utensils, and chappals) to the affected districts of Nagapattinam Cuddalore.

Chennai, Kancheepuram and Kanyakumari

As of 1 February the state branch had sent relief materials worth approximately CHF 972,000 to the affected district branches. The state branches have received total cash receipt of approximately CHF 416,000. At many places the corporate sector was active and carried out relief activities along with the IRCS. Nestle provided cooked food bread and milk/tea in collaboration with Coca Cola which provided 3,500 cases of water (12 litres in each case). Nestle India contributed 2,000 cases (12 x 1,000ml) of milk. They also donated 314 cases of uncooked noodles.

Tetra Pack India, through the Indian Red Cross, donated 6,000 litres of milk to Tamil Nadu. DSCL India has donated 120 tons of bleaching powder for the affected areas in Andaman and Tamil Nadu. Bata donated shoes and sandals and Osho donated 10 cartons of bed sheets.

Relief undertaken by Tamil Nadu state branch

Items contributed by the IRCS national headquarter to Tamil Nadu
Bed sheets – 10,000
Towels - 5000
Assorted clothes
Medicines
Male and female clothing – 2,000 pieces
Food – BP5 biscuits – 1,872
Tarpaulins sheets – 1,000
Buckets – 10,000
Kitchen sets – 10,000
Drinking water
Relief by Tamil Nadu state branch
Cooked food for relief camps along with bread, milk, complan, biscuits, milk powder
Indian Red Cross deputed 25 doctors and 15 ambulances to provide health care in Nagapattinam, one of the worst affected areas
Trained Red Cross volunteers joined relief teams and provided psychological support to the survivors at Sirkazhi, Tharangambadi and Nagapattinam.
Drinking water provided by the tankers in the relief camps
Assorted clothes were provided by state and district branches
Note books and pencils
Blankets
Items contributed by the corporate sector to the Tamil Nadu state branch
Drinking water (Tankers) supplied along with long-term plans for setting up a water salination plant

School kits
Family kits
Medicines
Hygiene kits
Skimmed milk powder, Toned milk and milk powder
Slippers for male, female and children
Disposables syringes
ORS drink and energy drinks (tetra packs)
Bleaching powder
Glucose
Torch lights
Batteries
Disinfectant and soaps
Mobile phones with prepaid connection
Face mask and gloves
Items contributed by other state branches
IRCS, Pune branch – rehabilitation
IRCS, Karnataka-Food materials Organized clinical services were also provided by the Karnataka state branch, organised dispensing of drugs, dressing of wounds, providing Tetanus vaccination, Cleaning of public buildings
IRCS, Gujarat – Food materials, blankets and wheat
Agencies which helped Tamil Nadu state branch with volunteers
State Bank of India – provided volunteers, free transportation
Barath Seva Dal – provided volunteers for cleaning and sorting out old clothes
Students from nursing schools, JRC and YRC and individuals

The Andhra Pradesh state branch sent a truckload of medical supplies to the Tamil Nadu state branch. The Gujarat state branch is supporting the tsunami victims of Tamil Nadu by supplying saris, dhotis, blankets, bed sheets, towels, clothing for children, toothpowder and candles. 950 such family kits have been sent to Tamil Nadu.

The national headquarters had deployed three water purification units donated by USAID to Tamil Nadu (one each to Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari and Cuddalore districts). The technical support, in terms of personnel and tankers for supplying water, is being provided by Coca Cola India.

Kerala

The Maharashtra state branch sent relief material consisting of food, clothing and medicines to the Kerala state branch. A team of eight doctors, three paramedics, one administrative officer, nurses and 11 volunteers reached Kollam district in Kerala to provide medical assistance and help in relief distribution. They also sent a large consignment of food, water, medicines and clothing. The Bihar state branch sent 1,000 family kits to the Allapuzha district branch consisting of dhotis, saris, tarpaulin sheets, bed sheets, steel glasses, beaten rice, dal, jaggery, candles and matches.

Relief material distributed by Kerala

Items distributed by fellow state branches
Bihar state branch
Steel glass – 2,000
Tarpaulin sheets – 1,000
Bed Sheets – 1000
Male and female clothing – 2000 pieces
Beaten rice – 10,000 kg
Pulses – 1,000 kg
Candles – 6,000
Match box – 2000
Maharastra – Team of volunteers with relief materials sent to Kerala
Items mobilised by the Kerala state and district branches
Tents
Utensils
Medicines
Assorted clothes and new clothes
Food ration, Vegetables
Bottles of mineral water
Doctors on RC panel provided first aid and primary care to the survivors
Bed sheets

Andhra Pradesh

The IRCS national headquarters sent 2,000 kitchen sets and 4,000 cotton blankets to the Andhra Pradesh state branch while the Bihar state branch sent 2,000 family kits to the Andhra Pradesh state branch.

The Gujarat state branch supported the Tsunami victims of Andhra Pradesh by supplying saris, dhotis, blankets, bed sheets, towels, clothing for children, toothpowder and candles. 500 such family kits were sent to Andhra Pradesh.

The Andhra Pradesh state branch also helped the Sri Lankan Red Cross by sending 50–100 litres of milk every day during the initial emergency. They also sent medical supplies to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Relief from Andhra Pradesh state branch in the affected state

Items distributed by state branch from its stocks
Drinking water and also bottled water was supplied in three districts of west Godavari, Krinshna and Guntur.
Biscuits, milk, rice and pulses, tea powder, sugar, dry minced wheat, tamarind, fruits to survivors in relief camps
Tents, relief camps were set up at four places
Bed sheets, blankets and rugs
Assorted clothes
utensils
Health care was arranged for 10 days in Krishna district
Family kits were given in Krishna district
Items from other state branches
Bihar state branch – Family kits – 1,950

Steel glass – 2,000
Tarpaulin sheets – 1,000
Bed sheets – 1,000
Female and male clothing – 2,000 pieces
Beaten rice – 10,000 kg
Pulses – 1,000 kg
Jaggery – 1,000 kgs
Candles – 6,000 pieces
Match box – 2,000
Gujarat state branch –
Female clothing (pieces) – 380
Bed sheets – 500
Male clothing (pieces) – 500
Towels – 500
Sarees – 500
Candles – 708
Tooth powder – 525
Items from national headquarters
Bed sheets -5,000
Utensils – 4,500
Water packets – 11,000
Items locally mobilized by the state branch
Rice – 13,500 kg
Sugar – 47 kg
Milk – 9,000 litres
Pulses – 1,000 kg
Tamarind – 50 kg
Biscuits – 116 packets
Wheat flour – 40 kg
Wheat minced – 725 kg
Ready to eat food – 5 cartons
Gas stoves – 594
Kitchen sets – 345
Medicines – 42 cartons
Hair brushes – 100
Floor mats – 150

Cotton blankets – 1,060
Old clothes

Livelihood & Rehabilitation

The IRCS finalized a Country Strategy and Operational Framework (CSOF) for the short-term recovery (focusing on livelihood) and medium- to long-term phase focusing mainly on rehabilitation and branch development in the affected states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh. The CSOF was finalized after the ‘Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Meeting’ held in Chennai from 27-29 January 2005. The purpose of this meeting was to hold discussions with the affected state and district branches including partner national societies and the International Federation. A consensus was reached that after the short-term recovery phase a detailed in-depth and multi-sectoral technical assessment will follow for the long term recovery phase.

In addition to the short- and long-term needs, the Indian Red Cross prioritized the replenishment of 30,000 (as well as pre-positioning of 20,000) family packs of non-food items along with the procurement of 20,000 family tents for further needs as disaster preparedness stock for future response.

[Click here to view the list of contributions.](#)