



ASIA: EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS

Fact sheet No. 5 – updated 25 February 2005

Background: The 9.0 earthquake off the western coast of northern Sumatra on 26 December 2004, depth 10 km, 7.59am local time (00.59 GMT) triggered massive waves or 'tsunamis', inundating coastal areas in countries around the Indian Ocean rim. Sri Lanka, the Indonesian province of Aceh, four states of southern India, the Maldives, coastal areas of Thailand, Malaysia, and Myanmar were the most severely affected.

Latest human toll: over 2.4 million affected, with 286,000* dead and more than 7,800 missing.

Key appeal-related documents:

- **26 December 2004** – [Bay of Bengal: Earthquake and Tsunamis Preliminary Appeal](#) – CHF 7.5 million for 6 months to assist 500,000 beneficiaries. Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 1 million.
- **29 December 2004** – revised to CHF 67 million for 2 million beneficiaries for six to eight months and re-titled as [Asia: Earthquake and Tsunamis \(Revised Preliminary Appeal 28/2004\)](#)
- **12 January 2005** – revision of the Revised Preliminary Appeal 28/2004 budget to CHF 183.5 million with programme extensions for Sri Lanka, Indonesia, the Maldives and East Africa in [Operations update No. 16](#).
- **February 2005** – development of comprehensive operational framework for Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement

Highlights of overall Red Cross and Red Crescent operations

- The number of emergency response units (ERUs) providing basic health care, water and sanitation, relief and logistics assistance in Sri Lanka and Indonesia remained constant at 17. Some of the ERUs have begun preparing exit strategies and subsequent handovers. Others will continue for an extended period as new and increasing needs are emerging from gaps left by departing organizations and foreign military teams.
- Since the beginning of the operation, over 680,000 people affected by the disaster have received some form or combination of assistance coordinated by the International Federation.
- In total, 240 Red Cross/Red Crescent flights to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Myanmar have been coordinated by the Federation to bring relief goods to the affected areas.
- The two partnership meetings held last week in Jakarta and Colombo confirmed mechanisms for coordination and cooperation in Indonesia and Sri Lanka, presented the Recovery Assessment Team findings and provided an exercise to map the potential sectoral and divisional support of partner national societies (PNS).
- The Regional Strategy and Operational Framework document has been drafted for the Red Cross Red Crescent Tsunami Response Forum in Hong Kong on 3-5 March. The result of joint assessments of needs and capacities, it indicates how ongoing relief needs are being addressed by the Movement and gives an overall operational framework with priority programmes and coordination mechanisms to meet the short- and long-term recovery needs of both the tsunami-affected population and the host National Societies through 2010.
- Nearly 20,000 people in Indonesia and Sri Lanka have been able to restore family links and learn whether their family members are still alive with assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

INDONESIA

- 125,000 people in Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Biren, Pidie, Lhokseumawe, Lam No, Calang, Teunom, Meulaboh and Simeulue Island have received non-food relief items from either pre-positioned stocks or resources mobilized through the appeal.
- Procurement has begun for supplementary food parcels to cover 17,800 families for two months. Food parcels will include corned beef, green beans, sugar, iodized salt, dry red chillies, black pepper kernels and black leaf tea and be distributed to communities along the west coast; east coast distributions are also being planned.
- Clean water is being provided on a daily basis to over 80,000 beneficiaries, with additional support to medical facilities and other organizations. Training of [Palang Merah Indonesia](#) (PMI)/Indonesian Red Cross volunteers is proceeding and hand-over plans are well underway. Rehabilitation of wells and municipal water networks is being undertaken as part of the recovery phase of the operations.
- No abnormal disease outbreaks have been reported although health teams are carefully monitoring the rising rates of malaria, particularly around Meulaboh and on Simeulue Island. Basic health care unit ERUs and PMI together have offered basic and specialized health care to an estimated 82,500 people.

In Indonesia and India only, the number of dead includes those listed as missing though this will only be official in Indonesia one year after the disaster's date.



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

- Each second day, PMI is delivering 100-150 units of blood to the three PMI blood transfusion units in the affected areas, to supplement depleted blood stocks in the short-term.

SRI LANKA

- The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) and the American Red Cross' relief ERU continue distributions of non-food relief items from Tirrukkovil to Panama on the east coast and from Bentota to Tissarahamanain in the south.
- Since the operation began, over 177,000 people in Ampara, Galle, Hambantota and Matara have received non-food relief including shelter supplies, essential household items, sleeping mats and mosquito nets. The ERU and SLRCS are discussing a second round of distributions for those most severely and moderately impacted as well as for families who missed the first round of distributions.
- 47,800 persons benefit from water and sanitation activities which include distributions of clean water, cleaning of wells and construction of latrines. SLRCS and ERU activities in this sector remain vital especially as reconstruction of damaged water supply and sanitation systems has not yet begun.
- Basic health care unit ERUs based in Ichichilampattai, Pottuvil and Komari are in the process of handing over to authorities as local health services resume full services. Currently, only the ERU in Pottuvil continues to provide full in-patient services and numbers of patients are steadily declining. ERUs in Ichichilampattai and Komari are open on an emergency only basis, while all other health issues are dealt with at local facilities.
- Local ERU nurses conducted a survey in the Komari I and Komari II camps for internally displaced persons. A similar survey, conducted by the local nurses/midwives, confirmed the finding that the main problems are the lack of latrines and general poor sanitation.

INDIA

- 3,000 volunteers and staff of the [Indian Red Cross Society](#) (IRCS) were involved in the tsunami relief operation during the initial phase and assisted approximately 500,000 people in the four affected states.
- IRCS distributed 300 metric tons of dry rations and food, including 35.5 million litres of milk in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- 100 million litres of bottled drinking water were distributed by IRCS while the five mobile water purification plants in and around Port Blair, capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, continue to provide 1,000 people with purified drinking water each day. IRCS also supplied 10 metric tons of alum for water treatment.
- 130 metric tons of stable bleaching powder were provided to the affected states for disinfectant purposes.

MALDIVES

- 21,208 sheets of corrugated iron roofing were provided for temporary shelter and repairs to damaged houses. In total, 9,174 people on 13 islands have benefited from the Federation-funded temporary housing programme.
- At the request of the Maldives government, the Federation will provide 5,000 mattresses, 10,000 sheets, plus pillows and pillow cases for those who lost all their belongings in the tsunami. The procurement process is underway and delivery is expected in around two weeks.

THAILAND

- [Thai Red Cross Society](#) has recently launched its "Learning-for-Healing" project, run jointly with World Childhood Foundation, in Phang Nga province to help children affected by the tsunami disaster.

EAST AFRICA

Somalia

- 100 volunteers of the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS) helped to mobilize the communities in the six affected coastal districts.
- Sanitation services, including household and water source chlorination, and environmental cleanup campaigns as well as distributions of non-food relief supplies were provided in coordination with UNICEF to 5,000 people in the Hafun area.
- Medical services were provided by SRCS health teams to tsunami-affected communities in Eyl and Jariban districts.

For more details and news stories, photos and all operational updates related to the tsunami:

<http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/response/tsunamis/index.asp>