



## **SOUTH/SOUTHEAST ASIA & EAST AFRICA: EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS**

**Fact sheet No. 25 – updated 19 July 2006**

### **Restoring lives and livelihoods**

The vulnerable poor and marginalized are the most affected by natural disasters and have limited resources to recover by their own means. Support to improved land use practices and productivity, to the restoration of inland fishing, and to the re-vitalization of small businesses are vitally important for sustaining rural and coastal livelihoods and economic growth at the household and village level.

In the three main countries of operation – Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives – innovative approaches by the Federation and partner national societies (PNS) are helping to restore the lives and livelihoods of the communities and individuals affected by the tsunami.

### **Revitalizing small businesses in Indonesia**

Many communities along the coastline of Aceh province were reduced to poverty levels as a consequence of the economic disruption caused by the tsunami. In particular, villages relying on agricultural production and fisheries for subsistence and small business were severely affected.

Restoring the livelihoods of the estimated 600,000 people affected by the tsunami, and those impacted by subsequent earthquake in Nias earthquake, is an integral part of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement's recovery activities in Sumatra.

Several PNS active in the Movement Coordination Framework (MCF) for Indonesia have committed their resources to helping rebuild the socio-economic fabric and have dedicated livelihoods projects underway. The MCF programmes include restoring traditional industries such as fishing and farming, fostering entrepreneurial initiatives and, with some plans, integrating employment activities with housing reconstruction programmes.

One of several Red Cross Red Crescent projects restoring customary industries on Sumatra is the Danish Red Cross 'Primary production support programme' in 16 tsunami-affected villages in Teunom district along Aceh's west coast. The project is helping to revitalize the agricultural base through a three-pronged approach encompassing: flood prevention, including river bank protection and dyke reconstruction; rehabilitation of agricultural drainage systems; and local gardening support, including provision of seeds and also training where required. The programme is also complemented by a community-based needs identification process and a community-driven cash component that generates employment for people to carry out the labour-intensive rehabilitation and reconstruction work.



*Animal husbandry is a popular choice of rural Acehnese villagers seeking to restore their economic income with grants provided by the British Red Cross livelihoods project.*

The French Red Cross (FRC) has a pilot project well into implementation that is revitalizing a small part of the *jermai* (inland) fishing industry off the coast of Pidie district. Fishermen are being re-supplied with nets, rope to repair the nets, and inshore boats. Onshore, middlemen “basket holders” are provided with woven baskets to carry the fish catches from the boats to fishmongers. The FRC is completing the economic chain by distributing buckets and ice storage boxes to fishmongers so that the fish can be preserved to reach markets further away, previously beyond accessibility because the catch would rot if transported longer distances. The scale of this project is modest, numbering no more than two dozen beneficiaries in each of the three stages; however all the Acehnese involved in the project are now earning a sustainable living.



*Fish baskets are offloaded for distribution to beneficiaries of the French Red Cross fisheries-restoration livelihoods project.*

The Belgian Red Cross Fr. and Federation consortium to build 17 traditional *labi-labi* longboats reaches back into the long maritime history of Aceh. When completed, these 19-metre deepwater fishing boats will form the basis of a *Panglima Laut* cooperative; an organization with traditions stretching into the past of Aceh's nautical traditions, where all the fishermen on a boat equally share the gains rather than one boat owner with non-secure daily workers. To date, five *labi-labi* are finished and are having their mechanical equipment installed; six are on the water with hulls completed and decks being built; and the rest are in varying stages of construction. Altogether, these 17 deep-sea fishing boats will restore the livelihoods of 289 fishermen, which will, in turn, benefit an additional 1,500 family members.



*A student registers for her new bank account that will make it possible to remain in school, thanks to funds provided by the Irish Red Cross SECAP project*

The British Red Cross Society's (BRCS) livelihoods programme combines entrepreneurial development with the provision of permanent housing. Six thousand households, representing some 15,000 people, are involved in various kinds of small business enterprises, with 2,500 of these families identified as needing new homes – to be built by BRCS as well. Heads of household are given technical assistance to prepare an expenditure plan for their proposed business, and funds are deposited into specially-created bank accounts in three phases, as carefully-monitored milestones are reached. The businesses include typical activities such as fishing and farming, but also ventures like *warung* (road-side stalls and shops) and animal husbandry. *Warung* being set up include coffee shops, food stands, walk-in dinettes and tailors, while buffalos are proving very popular for livestock rearing. Single parents receive an extra stipend and children orphaned by the tsunami and living with surviving relatives receive education payments to stay in school.

The Irish Red Cross secondary education cash assistance programme (SECAP) focuses specifically on keeping children in school who may otherwise be forced to seek work to bring needed income into families impoverished by the post-tsunami economic disruption. Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI) programme partner volunteers consult with local village leaders to identify the most vulnerable families, and bank employees travel to the communities to set up accounts for the students. The money received is used for a variety of household needs as well as for school costs, plus the grants free up family savings for use on other needs other than to support their children's education. The project is seeing real success. More than

1,500 students are enrolled in SECEP. The project will expand to 5,000 students by the last quarter of 2006, and – importantly – 250 youngsters who were in their final year of schooling when the programme was started have since graduated. It is estimated that the improved employability of these new graduates will have a knock-on effect of contributing to the economic improvement of their home communities and of the Acehese economy overall.

### **Innovative approaches to sustainable livelihoods programming in Sri Lanka**

The Joint Report of the Government of Sri Lanka and development partners estimates that some 150,000 people in Sri Lanka lost their main source of income as a result of the tsunami of December 2004. The tsunami swept away crops, workshops, tools and other equipment, directly affecting the owners of these assets and consequently affecting staff employed by damaged businesses.

In addition to restoring these lost livelihoods, thousands of skilled workers are now needed in the post-tsunami recovery stage for construction of houses and other destroyed or damaged buildings. Communities and individuals who relocated after the tsunami also now need support to establish livelihoods in their new neighborhoods.

The response required is unique in that it needs to address all of the above needs while maintaining a balance and ensuring that it does not cause more damage than good. It is crucial that support provided is structured to reflect pre-tsunami livelihoods activity, to meet the need for assistance in new livelihoods and to maintain a



*Beneficiaries running the block making project in Akkaraipattu Sri Lanka are producing 1,000 blocks each day*

balance between both to ensure products or services offered as part of the new livelihoods activity do not flood the market, bringing down prices and defeating the entire purpose of the recovery operation.

#### *Red Cross Red Crescent response*

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement livelihoods support to communities affected by the tsunami (and in some instances the armed conflict) covers a wide range of activities implemented on a stand alone basis, in support of Red Cross projects in other sectors such as housing and psychosocial support, or even in collaboration with external agencies and organizations. Activities involve refresher vocational training, asset replacement, micro credit, training on how to run a successful business or cottage industry and market products, agriculture, small fisheries, as well as supporting beneficiaries of Red Cross Red Crescent houses to rebuild livelihoods. Several projects are ongoing, while some are set to commence soon.

In addition, short-term cash for work projects such as clearing debris from *coir* (coconut husk) collection pits, canals, lagoons, road development and so on have already been completed as part of an interim livelihoods support project.

Some of the livelihoods projects that are integrated into, or supportive of Red Cross projects in other sectors, include providing widows with handloom machines, rice grinders or poultry as part of the Danish Red Cross psychosocial project in the east, Netherlands Red Cross supporting a *coir* rope making project at the Malta Red Cross housing site in the southern Hambantota district, and grants and support to other communities.

A Canadian Red Cross project with the World University Service of Canada to support vocational training, an Australian Red Cross funding for International Organization for Migration livelihoods project, and an American Red Cross partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature to ensure recovery and reconstruction, will all benefit livelihoods and reduce environmental vulnerabilities and are examples of Red Cross Red Crescent work with other agencies in the livelihoods sector.

Some of the ongoing/completed projects include:

- A Federation funded project in Galle, Matara and Kalutara with the Vocational Training Authority of Sri Lanka has provided 1,325 people already engaged in construction-related work with formal training in five identified vocations as well as the necessary tools. Participants were trained in carpentry, tiling, aluminium partitioning, landscaping and wall painting. A survey of beneficiaries of the project is ongoing.
- Training provided to some 300 small-scale cinnamon farmers in planting, plant maintenance, pest control and the like.
- Korean Red Cross provided bicycles, sewing machines, mobile carts, compressors and paint guns to meet specific livelihoods needs.
- Over 1,400 boats, 1,100 engines and 7,000 fishing nets were distributed to fisher families.
- Mushroom and ornamental plants cultivation training is ongoing in the south of Sri Lanka with support of Spanish Red Cross.
- The German Red Cross conduct training in construction related block-making (for construction of houses) and setting up workshops in the Ampara and Mullaitivu district.
- The Red Cross Red Crescent asset replacement project in the Galle assists 1,000 families in receiving grants of not more than 20,000 LKR (240 CHF) for asset replacement for small businesses, cottage industry, self employment, agriculture and small fisheries
- The Red Cross Red Crescent Micro Business Development programme in the Ampara district helps build up and strengthen small scale entrepreneurs in order to improve and diversify income sources within and among households, and to reduce their vulnerability through entrepreneurial training, marketing support. Emphasis is given to female headed households and most vulnerable families.
- A Community Recovery and Launch of Community Recovery and Reconstruction Partnerships project with 300 houses in Ampara, funded by the Australian Red Cross.

Consultation with beneficiaries, Government and other local administration has been key to formulating the projects. This ensures that the response is both appropriate to the country, region and communities, as well as sustainable without long-term external support.

### **Integrated community programmes in the Maldives**

While the Federation does not have any multilateral livelihoods activities, British Red Cross is active in this area and has completed a livelihoods analysis on five islands as well as participatory planning processes on three.

A 15-strong community mobilization team (predominately young Maldivians) has been recruited and trained, and a plan of action for integrated livelihoods and disaster management recovery programming has been devised as a platform for engaging communities and developing partnerships with government ministries and agencies such as the Federation, Care Society, Food and Agricultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme.

Community based recovery plans have been completed on three islands. In June, 41 community groups representing 248 families registered for community grants. Seventy per cent of the members are women and approximately 300,000 MRF (29,200 CHF) has been disbursed so far. It is expected that two-thirds of households on each island will receive a community grant.

Discussions with the Bank of Maldives have been held in order to support the efficiency of the grant process at island level. Presentations of the community plans to stakeholders will be held in August.

## **Operational highlights by country**

### ***Indonesia***

- In June the PMI/Federation relief programme distributed 81 tents, 145 tarpaulins, 5,751 food parcels, 28,121 hygiene kits, 44,944 kerosene stoves, 384 mosquito nets, and 21,954 baby kits.
- Distribution of relief items is now completed in Aceh Besar, Lamno, Teunom, Meulaboh and Pidie; distributions are still ongoing in Calang, Lhokseumawe and on Nias Island.
- Some 14,000 remaining food parcels from this round of distributions are being collected from the field storage facilities for onward shipment to the Yogyakarta earthquake relief operation.
- The transitional shelter programme continues to build momentum as almost all the material (20,000 frames and over 32,000 cubic metres of timber) has now been imported. Over 50 per cent of the targeted 20,000 transitional shelter units have been completed with 10,250 of the galvanized steel frames installed to date, 85 per cent of these clad with wood.
- PMI volunteers in Aceh Barat, Nagan Raya and Aceh Barat Daya working with Federation and PNS water and sanitation staff delivered hygiene promotion awareness programmes in 30 villages across the three districts and are assisting local communities in 17 villages to build water and sanitation facilities.
- Medical equipment procured for the first five of 15 planned health clinics in Aceh Barat and Aceh Barat Daya has arrived and is in storage awaiting construction of the designated buildings.
- The continuing radio operator training for PMI's early warning system development was conducted in June, with participation of 45 staff and volunteers from 14 PMI Aceh branches.
- The PMI/Federation team working at Banda Aceh's municipal water treatment plant (PDAM) produced 8.1 million litres of safe drinking water in June, distributed to residents and nearby IDP settlements.
- In the Meulaboh area, the water sanitation team has constructed an additional eight washing areas and latrines, one additional 'hand dunk' well, and one gravity-spring catchment with concrete storage tank. A further 60 hygiene promoters from 30 villages in the area were trained.
- A Federation commissioned report (*Agriculture and Aquaculture Technology Needs Assessment Program for Nias, Sumatra*) has addressed the increasing incidence of poverty on Nias as a result of low agriculture productivity following the tsunami and earthquake. The report will be distributed to the Movement's livelihood technical working group and other agencies working on similar programmes on the island.

### ***Sri Lanka***

- The Belgium Red Cross - Luxemburg handed over 33 houses in the Kalutara district to beneficiary families.
- Danish Red Cross has launched the schools-based psychosocial manual. The manual has been translated into the three national languages and will be distributed by the Ministry of Education to all schools in the country.
- The launch of the community recovery and reconstruction partnership (CRRP) was announced 13 July. The Federation contributed USD 10 million to Phase 2 of the Government of Sri Lanka's 'Home owner-driven housing programme' (ODHP).
- The Swedish Red Cross Society, having distributed USD10 million, is the principal donor of the US\$ 25 million contribution that the Federation is making to the ODHP
- The Federation has also received AUD 5.5 million from Australian Red Cross to initiate construction of 300 houses in Ampara, and other houses in Jaffna under the Federation's 'top up' programme.

## **Maldives**

- Construction of supplementary water systems was completed on the islands of Kolamaafushi, Maamendhoo and Ghadhoo on Gaafu Alifu Atoll and started on three islands in Raa Atoll Meedhoo, Alifushi and Maduvvari.
- As part of the effort to development community management strategies and ensure the sustainability of the supplementary water supply systems in the Maldives, VCA training was conducted with the island communities of Meedhoo and Maduvvari.
- A pilot project to integrate CBDRM and water sanitation has started in Maduvvaree and Meedhoo and will lead to a water management plan drawn up by the island communities themselves.
- Construction has now begun on Dhuvaafaru Island – foundation concreting has started on two plots (16 houses) and a camp established for staff. Detailed designs for the schools on the island have been produced and will be discussed with the Ministry of Education.
- The first phase of construction on Guraidhoo has been completed. 35 houses have been built and construction of another 11 has already started.

***For more details and news stories, photos and all operational updates related to the tsunami visit:***  
<http://www.ifrc.org/tsunami>