



## ASIA: EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS

### Fact sheet No. 4 – updated 18 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 tidal 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

- 17 emergency response units (ERUs) remain active in Indonesia (10) and Sri Lanka (7) providing basic health care, water and sanitation, relief and logistics assistance.
- Since the beginning of the operation, about 635,000 people affected by the disaster received some form of assistance coordinated by the International Federation.
- In total, 222 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.
- To facilitate coordination of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement activities, service centres are being set up in Banda Aceh, Jakarta and Colombo to provide full human resource, logistics, and visa services for partner national societies (PNSs) working directly in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.
- Nearly 13,000 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

- 1,648 volunteers of the Indonesian Red Cross/[Palang Merah Indonesia](#) (PMI) helped retrieve 43,985 bodies as of 14 February.
- 117,200 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.
- In addition, PMI distributed pre-positioned and locally donated food items to 345,000 people. Supplementary food parcels are being procured, to cover 17,800 families for two months through the Appeal.
- Each day 80,000 people have access to clean water and benefit from sanitation activities of PMI and the Federation's ERU teams from the German, Spanish, French, Austrian, Swedish and Macedonian RC Societies and Malaysian Red Crescent volunteers.
- Over 80,000 people have received medicines, preventive or curative health support through the basic health care unit ERUs of the Japanese and German Red Cross Societies, the ICRC/Norwegian Red Cross hospital and the 15 health posts and 11 mobile health teams managed by PMI.
- The Danish Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent societies have both started psycho-social programmes in association with PMI.

#### SRI LANKA

- Since the operation began, over 141,000 people in Ampara, Galle, Hambantota and Matara have received non-food relief including shelter supplies, essential household items, sleeping mats and mosquito nets.

*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

- 42,800 persons benefit from water and sanitation activities which include distributions of clean water, cleaning of wells and construction of latrines. Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is supported in these activities by the ERUs of the French, German, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross Societies.
- Basic health care units of the Finnish, French and Norwegian Red Cross Societies are providing in-patient and mobile health services to approximately 7,000 beneficiaries.
- Danish Red Cross is managing training of SLRCS volunteers who will carry out psycho-social outreach work in relief camps in Trincomalee, Ampara and Batticaloa. American and Belgium Red Cross are also involved and Turkish Red Crescent is running a mobile health unit and identifying cases for referral.

### INDIA

- The [Indian Red Cross Society](#) (IRCS) has distributed 6,000 family packs in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from its disaster preparedness stocks. In total, 32,000 people received milk packets, mineral water, biscuits and family kits containing kitchen utensils, a cotton blanket, bed sheets, towels, clothes, a plastic sheet and a plastic bucket.
- The IRCS also deployed five mobile water purification plants to Port Blair, capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, donated by the Spanish Red Cross, that provide 100,000 liters of purified drinking water each day to 1,300 families.
- Additional distributions of non-food items by IRCS from its regional warehouses included: 13,000 family packs to Tamil Nadu state and 7,000 to Andhra Pradesh state.

### MALDIVES

- Over 16,000 people have electrical power thanks to 24 generators received so far through the Federation.
- Nearly 3,000 sheets of corrugated iron roofing were provided for temporary shelter requirements.
- In addition to the 500 houses the French Red Cross had already pledged to build, the Federation has made a written commitment to the Maldives government to build 800 new houses.
- 25,550 school children are benefiting from psycho-social support.

### MALAYSIA

- Apart from distribution of donated fruit by the Penang branch of the [Malaysian Red Crescent Society](#), life has returned to a state of normality in Penang and Kedah.
- 2,000 beneficiaries staying in shelters provided by the Malaysian Red Crescent Society still sleep there during the night but have returned to work, with relatives taking care of their welfare.

### MYANMAR

- Federation received replenishment and re-stocking materials from Canadian and German Red Cross Societies and local donors. The disaster preparedness/disaster response division of Myanmar Red Cross is taking care of logistical requirements for these consignments and has rented a larger, temporary warehouse.
- Myanmar Red Cross is beginning detailed assessment of affected families to ensure that the most vulnerable households and individuals are receiving enough support.

### THAILAND

- 11,370 volunteers of the [Thai Red Cross Society](#) provided 35,462 persons in the six provinces affected by the tsunami with food and non-food relief supplies.

### EAST AFRICA

#### *Seychelles*

- All of the national society's 60 volunteers are mobilized and continue to provide assistance to 200 tsunami-affected families. Clean-up activities are ongoing on Mahé and Cerf Islands.
- A further 50 families, many of them farmers and fishermen, have been identified as being in need of assistance. Procurement of equipment for fishermen is underway.
- 40 volunteer kits have been distributed to equip volunteers to access affected areas safely.

**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>