



ASIA: EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS

Fact sheet No. 8 – updated 24 March 2005

Latest human toll: over 2.4 million affected, with over 273,000¹ dead and more than 7,200 missing.

Highlights of overall Red Cross and Red Crescent operations

- Plans of action are now being prepared by delegations in the tsunami-affected countries for the emergency and rehabilitation activities through to the end of 2005 with indicative plans for 2006-2010. The compiled document and budget will be completed by mid-April. Future budgets thereafter will be released yearly, through the Federation's annual appeal process.
- Since the beginning of the operation, over 800,000 people affected by the disaster have received some form or combination of assistance coordinated by the International Federation.
- Over 35,000 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

- The relief programme in Indonesia continues to grow from week to week. To date, the relief programme has assisted 46,967 families or 234,835 beneficiaries.
- Distribution of supplementary food parcels and community recovery tool kits is now underway. A system of ration cards is being implemented across the region, proving useful in tracing items being distributed and in verifying the identity of internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Recognizing that recovery from disaster is a longer than anticipated process, the government of Indonesia decided to extend the deadline for foreign agencies working in Aceh past 26 March for a period of 30-60 days. Details regarding visa applications and renewals are awaited.
- The Federation's head of delegation met with the Indonesian minister of foreign affairs on 16 March to discuss extending the scope of the legal status agreement to cover partner national societies (PNSs). A draft addendum to the current agreement was submitted to the government for approval.
- Water and sanitation support continues to expand to meet demand, with an estimated 105,000 beneficiaries now being provided with access to clean water.
- The Federation, ([Palang Merah Indonesia](#)/PMI) and RC emergency response units (ERUs) are working closely to produce and deliver water to the temporary living centres, the surrounding community as well as meeting the needs of specialized agencies and health facilities as required.
- PMI capacity in water and sanitation has increased markedly – most particularly in the areas of procuring, treating and distributing safe and clean water during emergency and rehabilitation phases.
- The population remains mobile and tracking constitutes a major challenge. Nevertheless, the overall health situation is stable, with acute respiratory infections mainly reported.
- The basic health care units (BHCUs), PMI and ICRC/Norwegian RC have together offered health care to over 91,000 beneficiaries since the start of the operation. The main priority continues to be the formulation of exit strategies and hand-over procedures for both of the BHCUs ERUs.
- The second meeting of the health technical working group consortium was held in Banda Aceh on 15 March. The Federation has taken responsibility for coordinating a number of the sub-working groups and held initial meetings with PNSs interested in mobile health clinics, health posts in IDP camps, community-based first aid, provision of medical supplies and rehabilitation of clinics.

¹ 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.



SRI LANKA

- Twenty-eight of the 34 health facilities allocated by the ministry of health to the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement have been allocated to 12 PNSs which are in-country and the remaining six have been allocated to multilateral donors. Discussions will take place with the ministry to determine requirements for hospitals and other medical facilities to ensure that all reconstruction and rehabilitation meets existing health standards.
- The relief team of the American Red Cross, together with [Sri Lanka Red Cross Society](#) (SLRCS), is now on its second round distribution of non-food relief items. So far, approximately 268,000 people in Galle, Matara, Hambantota in the south and Ampara in the east have received relief items from the Red Cross.
- The Federation's pipeline of relief goods has now expanded to territories in the north and east in cooperation with ICRC. Together with SLRCS and the Canadian, Swiss and Austrian Red Cross societies, ICRC is distributing Federation hygiene kits in Killinochchi, Kiran and Valaichenai.
- During the first week of its operation, the second German Red Cross water purification system set up in Kalmunai in the north of Ampara has produced over 450,000 litres of clean drinking water. The first water system continues to produce over 900,000 litres of water every week in Pottuvil in the south of Ampara.
- Two gully bowzers for clearing sewage in Ampara have arrived in country and are on their way to the affected district.
- Issues are arising around the land allocated for relocation of IDPs. Land allocated is not necessarily suitable for the population to be relocated, e.g. it is several kilometres inland and unsuitable for fishermen who need to be near the coast.
- The finance department at the SLRCS is being expanded with support from Spanish Red Cross. At the district level, the Federation has provided equipment for branches and funding for a number of finance staff to help increase their financial reporting capacities. Funding is still required for additional training and support.

MALDIVES

- A memorandum of understanding was signed on 21 March by the delegation with the minister of finance for Federation funding of temporary shelter construction to house over 9,000 people that lost their homes during the disaster.
- The first shipment of 4,000 family hygiene packages arrived in-country to support 20,000 IDPs and host families over a six-month period.
- A four-person assessment team from British Red Cross is reviewing proposals for housing, livelihood and water projects. A representative of the Hong Kong Red Cross is also in country for discussions on project support opportunities.
- A water and sanitation delegate from the Australian Red Cross arrived this week to contribute towards preparation of project proposals.
- The tender for building 50 houses on Dhaalu Atoll has been advertised.

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>