



ASIA: EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS

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OVERALL PERSPECTIVE

While the relief phase of the tsunami response was undertaken with vigour and efficiency, some may feel that recovery and reconstruction has commenced more slowly than expected. However, in light of the extensive destruction, governments of the affected countries should be congratulated for developing and finalizing recovery plans and establishing the specific agencies to deal with this enormous task within five months.

Houses may have been destroyed, yet the land on which ruins and foundations remain still belongs to someone. This required clear decisions about land use rights, house design, location and quality to avoid unbalanced or unfair assistance. With most of these issues addressed, pre-construction work, including the choice of suitable

contractors, designs and developing working relationships with concerned authorities, has begun. This ensures reconstruction begins at the right pace, in the right location, at an appropriate standard benefiting the right people.



After consulting with local communities and ensuring that programmes for reconstruction are undertaken in a way that provides the most benefit to tsunami-affected populations, the long process of rebuilding communities, livelihoods and economies begins.

INDONESIA

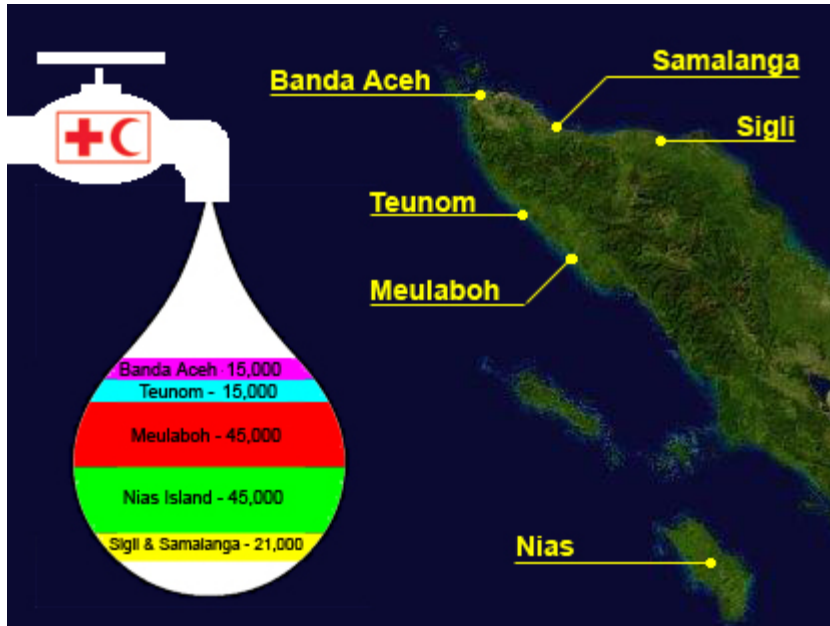
Aceh Province was the region which suffered the most severe devastation on 26 December 2004. As a result a large number of local Red Cross branches were destroyed. Many Indonesian Red Cross ([Palang Merah Indonesia](#)/PMI) volunteers, while providing assistance in the wake of the earthquake which triggered the tsunami also lost their lives when the waves struck. It is critically important that these branches be rebuilt to enable surviving and newly recruited PMI volunteers to assist vulnerable communities. Most branches have now acquired land for rebuilding and are in the process of recruiting new staff.

Land assessments have started in Banda Aceh, Medan, Surabaya and Jakarta for the establishment of regional disaster preparedness warehouses to ensure emergency support capacity for as many as 70,000 disaster victims in Aceh Province and North Sumatra. Relief stocks will include temporary shelters, household and hygiene kits and bottled water. The project is supported through the Federation's appeal with welcome assistance from the Norwegian and Japan Red Cross societies.

On Nias Island, to date some 2,750 families (13,750 beneficiaries) have received relief materials from PMI/Federation, including tents, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, jerry cans, family kits, food packets and water (bottled water and processed water from water and sanitation systems). Meanwhile three PMI/Federation assessment teams have covered 14 of the 22 sub-districts on Nias and identified 25,000 additional families that will benefit from Red Cross Red Crescent assistance. Supplies are being pre-positioned for this expanded distribution programme which will begin in mid-June. The training of PMI volunteers is underway for the ration card registration process on Nias to document ongoing relief and recovery operations for accounting and reporting purposes.



DAILY RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT WATER DISTRIBUTIONS – ACEH, INDONESIA



As rehabilitation of water supply systems in Aceh continues tsunami-affected populations are still reliant upon Red Cross/Red Crescent water and sanitation teams. Safe water supply to villages, temporary living centres and camps for internally displaced persons across PMI and Federation operational areas have reached 141,000 beneficiaries at an average rate of 1.2 million litres per day with assistance from Austrian, Swedish, French, Spanish and Macedonian Red Cross societies.

SRI LANKA

UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery Bill Clinton, during his visit to Colombo and Kalmunai on 30 and 31 May, highlighted the opportunities offered by the tsunami funding and programming to “change the face of development in Sri Lanka”. He mentioned that effective and transparent implementation of programmes and demonstration of their significant impact to the global public would encourage private donors to support other crises and development challenges in a similar way and open the way to future massive public funding campaigns for other countries and crises.

The Federation’s water and sanitation department held a PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) training course for representatives of the Sri Lanka delegation and partner national societies.

The Federation’s relief team is finalizing the local purchase of 250,500 hygiene kits for distribution to 30,000 families in the South and 25,000 families in the East. Each family will receive one hygiene kit per month for three months.

Throughout Sri Lanka, Red Cross and Red Crescent water purification teams are producing and distributing almost three million litres of clean and safe water every week. Well over 30,000 people benefit from this work weekly.

MALDIVES

Following successful site clearing and plotting on Kudahuvadhoo Island and the selection of a contractor, the construction of 50 houses will commence before the end of June.

Australian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross and the Government of the Maldives have signed an agreement to clear away tsunami debris and waste on 70 islands by the end of 2006. The project will directly benefit about 50,000 people and will cost over 10 million Swiss francs.



On his recent visit to tsunami-affected regions of the Maldives, UN Special Envoy for tsunami recovery Bill Clinton commended Red Cross and Red Crescent representatives for the positive contribution the Movement is making to the alleviation of suffering throughout the country.

MYANMAR

German Red Cross pledged relief materials, including 8,500 kitchen sets, has arrived and is being pre-positioned with locally purchased mosquito nets, tarpaulins and blankets to warehouses in tsunami-stricken areas including Rakhine, Thaninthayi and Irrawaddy. These disaster preparedness stocks will provide vital assistance to these areas, which are also prone to flooding.

INDIA

The [Indian Red Cross Society](#), a national society with a well-developed infrastructure, responded strongly in tsunami-affected communities during the emergency phase of operations. Now, as the focus shifts from relief to reconstruction efforts, International Federation's Secretary General, Markku Niskala, has signed agreements with the Indian Red Cross pledging financial assistance.

EAST AFRICA

Seychelles

The Federation's Special Representative for Tsunami Operations, Johan Schaar, and the head of regional delegation met with Seychelles' vice president, and advocated for authorities to allocate adequate plots of land to enable the national society to build offices and storage space on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue islands.

The impact of the tsunami has highlighted the need for increased disaster preparedness training in a region which has, in recent years, been subjected to an increasing incidence of severe weather events. As well as implementing plans for the training of national society volunteers in disaster preparedness with Federation support, relief items provided by German Red Cross are being pre-positioned in vulnerable locations. With Federation assistance, emergency equipment is being pre-positioned in 23 districts of the Seychelles.

Somalia

The [Somali Red Crescent](#) has mobilized volunteers and community members to provide health education to communities on disease prevention due to health risks triggered by heavy rainfalls in several regions of Somalia.

The devastating impact of the tsunami has required significant cooperation between aid agencies and UN agencies. A good example of the benefit to tsunami-affected populations from this cooperation comes from Somalia where UNICEF has committed its support to the local Red Crescent's health expansion efforts through the provision of essential medicines.

As we approach the six-month commemoration of the devastating earthquakes and tsunamis, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement continues to alleviate human suffering through the mobilization of its unique global network and volunteers and staff. For more details and news stories, photos and all operational updates related to the tsunami visit:

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

**Please note all figures are approximate and subject to change.*