



## ASIA: EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS

Fact sheet No. 13 – updated 1 July 2005

### Overall perspective

In recent days, the world has paused to commemorate the passing of six-months since the devastating earthquake and tsunami destroyed so many lives. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, galvanized by the courage and steadfastness of those affected, continues to work in ten countries to provide assistance. To date, more than one million people have received aid from the International Federation and its members.

**Disasters**

**Tsunami operation**

On 26 December 2004, an earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale struck the area off the western coast of northern Sumatra, triggering massive tidal waves, or tsunamis, that inundated coastal areas in countries all around the Indian Ocean rim - from Indonesia to Somalia. At least 226,000 people are presumed to have died in the disaster.

Having launched a preliminary appeal on the day of the disaster, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies revised its appeal on 5 May to include a plan of action for the emergency and recovery phase through 2006 totalling CHF 590 million (USD 497 million or € 409 million). More than 1,000,000 people have received assistance from the Federation and its members in the first six months of operations.

The map used does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

**News**

**24/06/2005 - Indonesia Psychological support, a vital step towards recovery for Aceh**  
Psychologists Tritan Dewi Kieumata and Marwan A. Hasbiun's radio programme is a mixture of chat and music. But behind the entertainment lies a more serious purpose: the show is an important element of a Red Cross Red Crescent programme to help the people of Banda Aceh come to terms with the trauma of the tsunami.

**24/06/2005 - Sri Lanka Red Cross Relief distributions - a fine-tuned effort in Eastern Sri Lanka**  
As the sun rises, so begins another day of distributions for the Red Cross relief team on the eastern shore of Sri Lanka. The Red Cross team in Ampara recently began "recovery phase distributions", providing essential items to between 1000 and 1500 families a day.

**Opinion pieces**

**Sustainable, appropriate reconstruction a must for tsunami-affected communities**  
Six months have passed since the tsunami crashed through homes, villages and cities around the Indian Ocean, destroying communities. The urge to see funds spent quickly must not force the recovery process to deliver errors and unsustainable results, argues Johan Schaar, the International Federation's Special Representative for the Tsunami Operation.

**Press releases**

**24/06/2005 - Geneva Six months on: More must be done to protect vulnerable communities from disaster**  
As communities across the globe commemorate six months since the tsunami tragedy, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is stressing the importance of better community preparation when disaster strikes.

**Photo galleries**

Thailand | Indonesia (2) | Sri Lanka | Indonesia | Somalia | Asia Tsunami

**Operations updates and appeals for funds**

- Asia Pacific - Regional documents, appeals, updates and reports
- Red Cross Red Crescent Tsunami response forum, Hong Kong, 3-5 March 2005
- Tsunami - Facts and figures - Updated 17 June 2005

### Launch of new tsunami web section

While work to provide relief and rehabilitate lives, livelihoods and economies continues apace in affected countries, the Federation recognizes the importance of providing practical, user-friendly information to the public, including all of the people who have generously donated to Red Cross and Red Crescent appeals around the globe. Because of this, an ambitious expansion of the information provided on the Internet was launched on 24 June, to coincide with an increase in public interest around the time of the commemoration.

The site is designed to be both informative and interactive. Everybody, from the youngest to the oldest, from people highly familiar with Federation operations to those whose interest has been piqued for the first time can benefit from the broad range of information on offer. From country-by-country statistics; video interviews with Red Cross and Red Crescent delegates; stories from the field; opinion pieces, to Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes and relief parcels 'at a glance' – the new site has something for everyone.

The Federation encourages all people interested in Red Cross and Red Crescent tsunami-related operations to visit and enjoy the site at [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)



## Indonesia

The registration of beneficiaries and distribution of ration cards to each family has been completed. The total number of relief beneficiaries of the Federation and the Indonesian Red Cross ([Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI](#)) now stands at 616,350 in Aceh province.

Relief distributions on Nias Island are also well underway, benefiting an additional 27,870 people affected by the 28 March earthquake. These distributions include tents, tarpaulins, bed sheets, mosquito nets, kitchen and cooking equipment, food, toolkits, hygiene supplies, blankets, jerry cans, and specialized relief parcels for families.

Training sessions have commenced for 22 *Satgana* (rapid deployment disaster response volunteer teams) in eight districts of Aceh province. Each *Satgana* team will be qualified to provide logistical support for relief response reaching 20,000 people, or a combined logistical response capability for up to 440,000 people.

A special distribution was arranged of replacement tents for those damaged by high winds and unseasonably heavy rains in a camp for internally displaced persons in Banda Aceh. Additional mosquito nets were provided to help protect against the impact of an increase in malarial mosquitoes breeding in standing waters not normally present in the dry season.

An estimated 10,000 people in 20 temporary living centres in Aceh province benefited from the launch of a community-based campaign to promote the importance of early warning mechanisms. Activities included a children's educational cartoon show and billboard displays for communicating awareness of disaster preparedness. The billboards also outlined the basics for building earthquake-resistant safe homes and the benefits of planting mangrove trees to act as tsunami wave buffers.

Distributions by the water and sanitation units have increased to 1.58 million litres per day throughout tsunami-affected areas of Indonesia.

## Sri Lanka

The number of health facilities the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement will be reconstructing or rehabilitating in Sri Lanka has increased from 34 to 60. The agreement to undertake this work, worth CHF 100 million, was signed between the Federation, [Sri Lanka Red Cross Society](#) and the Ministry of Health and will improve primary health care facilities, hospitals and other facilities such as training schools and equipment storage buildings.

## Maldives

Virtually all the first phase temporary housing is completed and discussions are now taking place with the Government of Maldives to build additional accommodation blocks to assure SPHERE standards (minimum humanitarian benchmarks in disaster response) are fully met.

Federation delegates joined a United Nations-coordinated consultation meeting with representatives of displaced people on Raa Atoll as part of the process of involving communities in plans for new housing and related community infrastructure.

## Myanmar

Southernmost Kaingthoung Island communities are building makeshift seawalls to protect coastline buildings from erosion and the impact of waves. This building project is supported by Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) through the provision of building materials and assistance with transportation costs.



MRCS is in the process of dispatching 3,500 family sets which include items such as cutlery, crockery, cooking supplies, soap, candles, clothing and plastic sheeting to replace distributed and re-stock warehouses in priority (flood prone) areas.

#### **East Africa**

Extensions to health clinics in the Bari region have been agreed upon by German Red Cross, with the implementation of plans to commence in the near future.

A 3,695 kg consignment of disaster preparedness stocks, from the International Federation arrived in the Seychelles in early June. The relief items include 20 family tents, 10 office tents, 50 blankets, 50 tarpaulins and 50 kitchen sets.

The French Red Cross has assisted the Seychelles Red Cross through the provision of VHF radio communication equipment. Training has also been provided to more than 30 volunteers in radio communication.

***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>***