



ASIA: EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS

Fact sheet No. 7 – updated 18 March 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 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 over 273,000¹ dead and more than 7,200 missing.

Highlights of overall Red Cross and Red Crescent operations

- Since the beginning of the operation, over 758,000 people affected by the disaster have received some form or combination of assistance coordinated by the International Federation.
- Over 32,000 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 Movement Cooperation Task Force will be meeting in Jakarta on 24 March, to review the concrete proposals developed by the technical working groups, following the most recent round of meetings held in Banda Aceh over the past week. Indonesian Red Cross ([Palang Merah Indonesia/PMI](#)) is inviting a representative of each partner national society (PNS) to the meeting.
- The relief programme in Indonesia is in the process of dramatically expanding its coverage to include communities along Aceh province's northeast coast – including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host families. Initial estimates put the expanded distribution at some additional 40,000 families, more than doubling the current relief programme to reach an estimated 77,000² families or over 385,000 beneficiaries. This is a large increase on the original revised relief plan of action, which had targeted 17,800 families along the west coast. Distribution of complementary food parcels and community recovery tool kits is about to get underway.
- Overall, 885,000 litres of clean water are being produced on a daily basis and provided to over 86,400 beneficiaries, with additional support to medical facilities and other organizations. Training of PMI volunteers is proceeding and emergency response unit (ERU) handover plans are well underway.
- PMI and the Federation are in the process of addressing the inadequate water and sanitation situation in six temporary living centres around Banda Aceh with provision of water and placement of water storage facilities. The various water and sanitation teams in Meulaboh, Sigli and Teunom are also entering into agreements with local public utilities to provide adequate water and sanitation services to selected temporary living centres.
- There are no reports of abnormal disease outbreaks. The basic health care units (BHCUs), PMI and ICRC/Norwegian RC have together offered basic and specialized health care to over 88,000 beneficiaries since the start of the operation. The main priority continues to be the formulation of exit strategies and handover procedures for both of the BHCUs ERUs.
- PMI and BHCUs mobile health clinics continue to operate on a regular basis and assessments as to their ongoing effectiveness are being undertaken in order to avoid duplication with other agencies and ensure optimum delivery of health services.

SRI LANKA

- This week, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) and the Federation undertook to reconstruct and rehabilitate 34 health facilities in tsunami-affected areas throughout Sri Lanka. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Ministry of Health on 14 March, outlining the details of a project which includes general, base, district and rural hospitals, peripheral units, central dispensaries and nurse training centres in 11 affected districts.

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.

² This figure encompasses relief distribution to date (including from pre-positioned stock), plus the estimated 40,000 additional families – but excludes all overlap and doublecounting.



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- The Movement platform in Sri Lanka (composed of SLRCS, ICRC and Federation representatives) successfully approved over 100 concept papers which will allow more defined project proposals for recovery and rehabilitation activities across tsunami-affected areas to be submitted and approved without delay.
- Heads of the Federation, ICRC and SLRCS met with the Sri Lankan president on 14 March who expressed her gratitude to the Movement for all its support in the wake of the tsunami. The Federation has already presented a draft action plan of up to USD 450 million for post-tsunami Sri Lanka which includes the reconstruction of 15,000 homes destroyed by the tidal wave.
- The President of Sri Lanka proposed to set up a high-level government/Movement working group to prepare an agreed plan for Red Cross investment in Sri Lanka and has provided a copy of the TAFREN (Sri Lanka Task Force for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction) report. The President specifically requested the support of Red Cross disaster management experts in advising the government on how to set up local and community disaster management networks.
- Sri Lanka's foreign minister met with senior representatives of the Federation in Geneva on 15 March and urged that the people of Sri Lanka must feel they are fully involved in the reconstruction and rebuilding efforts.
- Since the operation began, almost 240,000 people in Ampara, Galle, Hambantota and Matara have received non-food relief including shelter supplies, essential household items, sleeping mats and mosquito nets distributed by the American Red Cross' ERU and SLRCS.
- SLRCS, in cooperation with the Federation and ICRC, continues to provide clean drinking water to over 50,000 people on a daily basis.
- Following discussions with ICRC, the Federation will extend its relief support through distributions in the northern area of Ampara district and provision of hygiene kits for distribution by ICRC and SLRCS (in cooperation with Canadian and Austrian/Swiss Red Cross societies) in other ICRC areas in the north and east.
- SLRCS, Federation and ICRC are in the process of finalizing discussions on the establishment of Federation sub-delegations in the south and for Federation appointed staff to join existing ICRC sub-delegations to provide support in the field of capacity building and other required technical areas.

MALDIVES

- The delegation completed its move to a new office building also housing the offices of the French, American and German Red Cross societies. British Red Cross also signed a lease for an office in the same building.
- Of the 21,208 corrugated iron sheets provided, 8,747 have already been released to 13 sites where work is underway on building temporary housing units. Latest reports indicate that 12 out of the total 85 units have now been completed, with a further 60 underway. The agreement with the government includes funding for not only temporary shelter construction but also associated latrines, kitchens and shower blocks.
- In addition to already announced housing construction commitments in the Maldives, the Federation will reconstruct an additional 50 houses on Kudahuvadhoo Island in Dhalu Atoll, 10 houses on Guraidho Island and 36 houses on Maafushi Island in Kaafu Atoll. Construction is planned to start at the end of April.

MYANMAR

- The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), the Federation and ICRC held a two-day workshop this week to develop curricula for a pilot community-based disaster management programme based on integration of the current community-based disaster preparedness and first aid programmes. Need for this integrated support to MRCS volunteers became even more evident after recent natural disasters (i.e. cyclone, tsunami) in Myanmar.
- MRCS and the delegation initiated the process to seek approval from authorities to purchase or be granted property on which to construct a central warehouse including facilities for vehicle maintenance, a training centre and accommodation.

EAST AFRICA

Seychelles

- All 60 volunteers of the [Red Cross Society of the Seychelles](#) are mobilized and continue to provide assistance to 200 tsunami-affected families.



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- Clean-up activities are nearing completion on Mahé and Cerf Islands.
- 60 additional farmer and fishermen families received livelihood assistance, including equipment.
- An additional 40 volunteer kits to equip volunteers to access affected areas safely will be purchased to supplement the 40 already distributed.

Somalia

- 100 volunteers of the [Somali Red Crescent Society](#) helping communities in six affected coastal districts will return to their inland branches gradually. Training began for newly recruited volunteers from affected areas.
- Sanitation services, including household and water source chlorination, and environmental clean-up campaigns continue in the Hafun area.
- Somali Red Crescent health teams continue to provide medical services to tsunami-affected communities in Eyl and Jariban districts, as well as to conduct health prevention activities.

Tanzania

- The Tanzania Red Cross National Society requested the Federation to organize the 2005 regional disaster response teams' training in Tanzania. The request is supported by Kenya and Uganda Red Cross societies and coincides with the Federation's plans to assist the national society to strengthen its disaster management capabilities.

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>