



## Asia & East Africa: EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS

### Hong Kong Forum - Press Kit Fact Sheet Updated 25 February 2005

#### Recent Highlights for Overall Operation:

- Latest human toll: 2.4 million people affected in 13 countries, with estimates of more than 286,000 dead, 7,900 missing and 1.6 million displaced.
- Since the disaster, some 700,000 people have received some form of assistance from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- At least 22,000 Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and 76 medical and relief teams were mobilized in the disaster-affected areas
- Some 40 Red Cross Red Crescent Societies are working on the ground supporting operations of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the affected countries.
- Seventeen of the 18 emergency response units (ERUs) deployed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the Federation) remain active in Indonesia and Sri Lanka providing basic health care, water and sanitation, relief supply distribution and logistics assistance.
- A total of 240 Red Cross/Red Crescent flights to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Myanmar have brought relief goods to the affected areas.
- The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS), the Indonesian Red Cross ([Palang Merah Indonesia](#), or PMI) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have registered and/or provided tracing and family linking services for more than 20,000 people in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. (See ICRC fact sheet or [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org) for more info.)

#### Asia:

##### INDONESIA

###### *Immediate Response (first 14 days):*

- Though volunteers of the Indonesian Red Cross/[Palang Merah Indonesia](#) (PMI) and their families were among the tsunami victims, they provided services to communities completely cut off due to damaged infrastructure (needs assessments, registration of beneficiaries, relief management, camp kitchens, health care, delivery of water, comfort to the grieving)
- Some one thousand wounded persons were evacuated and cared for and relief camp services were set up for at least 13,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- They distributed thousands of tarpaulins and family kits containing cooking and hygiene supplies provided by the ICRC
- In Banda Aceh, within four hours of the Tsunami 40 young, highly trained volunteer disaster response teams (mostly aged 18 to 24) called Satgana, were already recovering bodies, evacuating survivors and caring for the wounded - often with no equipment – within the first 14 days, they recovered some 20,000 corpses and organized burial services .
- By the end of the second week there were 400 Satgana members rotating in from all over the country, their numbers supplemented by teams of university students with basic training in camp construction, kitchen operations, relief, distribution and first aid and Red Cross Youth trained in public health, relief and first aid.

*Current Situation:*

- More than 1,600 volunteers of the PMI have helped retrieve nearly 44,000 bodies.
- 125,000 people have received non-food relief items and 16,750 have been sheltered.
- Some 455,000 beneficiaries are receiving food from PMI, with support from American Red Cross and the WFP. In addition, PMI, with Federation support, is procuring supplementary food parcels to 17,800 families for two months.
- Each day 80,000 people have access to clean water and benefit from sanitation activities of PMI and the Federation ERU teams of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Austria, Germany, Spain, France, Sweden, Macedonia and Malaysia.
- More than 82,500 people have received medicines and care 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.
- To date 100,000 children age 6 to 15 years have received measles vaccinations in Aceh and surrounding districts, supported by the American Red Cross.
- The PMI and ICRC have provided family links or registrations for 18,200 families
- Every other day, PMI is delivering 100-150 units of blood to three PMI blood transfusion units in the affected areas, to supplement depleted blood stocks.
- The Danish Red Cross and the Turkish Red Crescent societies have started psychosocial programmes in association with PMI.

**SRI LANKA***Immediate Response:*

- Two weeks after the tidal wave, 40,000 people were being assisted and housed in 66 Red Cross camps. Sri Lankan Red Cross Society (SLRCS) volunteers also provided support in other relief camps.
- More than 3,000 SLRC volunteers were involved with relief operations in districts affected by the tsunami. An additional 5,000 SLRC volunteers countrywide supported these efforts. Services include first aid; basic health services and awareness; water, well cleaning; cooked meals; distribution of non-food relief items; distribution of tarpaulins, kitchen sets, blankets, etc; needs assessment and family linking services.
- Some 30 volunteers, along with ICRC delegates, visited 142 centres for the displaced in Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Tangalle, Hambantota, Trincomalee, Vanni and the Colombo suburbs, equipped with mobile satellite phones to enable displaced families to contact their relatives regarding their status and the status of missing family members. In addition, SLRCS established a 24 hour call centre service staffed by 15 volunteers to facilitate family tracing and linking services.

*Current Situation:*

- The SLRCS and the American Red Cross relief ERU continue distributions of non-food relief items. Since the tsunami occurred, more than 177,000 people in Ampara, Galle, Hambantota and Matara have received food and relief items such as shelter supplies, essential household items, sleeping mats and mosquito nets and more than 33,600 have been sheltered.
- Some 42,800 people benefit daily from water and sanitation activities which include the cleaning of wells and construction of latrines. The SLRCS is supported in these activities by the ERUs of the French, German, Spanish and Swedish Red Cross Societies.
- To date, basic health care units of the Finnish, French and Norwegian Red Cross Societies have provided in-patient and mobile health services to approximately 7,000 beneficiaries.
- Danish Red Cross is leading training of SLRCS volunteers in psycho-social work in relief camps in Trincomalee, Ampara and Batticaloa. This effort is also supported by the American and Belgium Red Cross societies.
- Turkish Red Crescent is running a mobile health unit.
- The Sri Lanka Red Cross and ICRC have provided 2,117 family link registrations.

## INDIA

### *Immediate Response:*

- In the two weeks following the disaster, 2000 Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) volunteers assisted 50,000 people. Services included rescue and transportation of injured people to hospital; tracing of missing persons; medical assistance; evacuation of survivors to temporary shelters, provision of drinking water; psychosocial support and distribution of food and other essential items including cooking utensils and hygiene articles.
- The IRCS provided the services of 25 doctors and 15 ambulances in Tamil Nadu relief camps.
- By 4 January, the IRCS had distributed supplies including towels, bed sheets, tarpaulins and kitchen sets to people in the Andaman and Nicobar islands and completed needs assessments.

### *Current Situation:*

- Since the tsunami struck some 3,000 IRCS volunteers have provided hundreds of thousands of people with water, food and non-food relief supplies, tracing services, psychological support, medical and ambulance assistance, and burial services.
- The IRCS has distributed 6,000 family packs in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Some 32,000 people received milk, mineral water, biscuits, kitchen utensils, blanket, bed sheets, towels, clothes, plastic sheeting and a bucket to carry water.
- The IRCS also deployed five mobile water purification plants, donated by the Spanish Red Cross, that supply 50,000 litres of drinking water every day to approximately 1,000 people in Port Blair, capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

## THAILAND

### *Immediate Response:*

The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS) focused its assistance to survivors on food distributions (overall statistics for the initial response by TRCS are not yet available). Its activities in the provinces of Phang Nga, Phuket and Ranong included:

- In Phang Nga province, 200 to 300 volunteers working up to 15 hours a day in three TRCS mobile kitchens provided meals to some 2,500 people. Every day, survivors, rescuers and volunteers in Ban Muang received 5000 packs of food as well as fresh food from a mobile canteen. Tak Kua Pa district, a Red Cross mobile kitchen catered to 2,400 people who had been evacuated to a school and a temporary centre.
- TRCS mobile health teams visited and treated people at emergency camps in 12 locations in Phang Nga, Phuket and Ranong provinces. They also transported injured people to the Phuket hospital or to the Phuket airport for referral to hospitals in Bangkok.
- Sixty Red Cross volunteers worked in warehouses in Phang Nga, packing food, water and hygiene items to be sent to the affected areas.
- The TRCS also distributed fishing nets and sent construction materials and tools such as nails, hammers, saws and crowbars to the two worst-hit provinces of Phang Nga and Satun.

### *Current Situation:*

- More than 11,300 volunteers of the [TRCS](#) have provided more than 35,400 persons in the six provinces affected by the tsunami with food and other relief supplies

## MALDIVES

### *Immediate Response:*

- There is no Red Cross or Red Crescent society in the Maldives. In the days following the disaster, the Federation sent a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) and a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) to conduct needs assessments.
- By 7 January, 11 Federation and staff from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Canada, Great Britain, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan and the United States had arrived in the country to provide assistance, in coordination with government ministries, UN and other actors, including the following:
  - Distribution of relief supplies (including food, tents, blankets, stoves and generators)
  - Distribution of basic health supplies and medicines to complement government services.
  - Provision of water and sanitation services.
  - Psychosocial support training and counseling.
  - Orientation of scouts and volunteers on Red Cross and Red Crescent principles and basic disaster management skills.

### *Current Situation:*

- Since the tsunami occurred, 24,400 people have benefited from relief distributions and more than 21,200 have been sheltered.
- As of February 20, more than 16,000 people were supplied with electrical power from 32 generators received through the Federation.
- More than 9,100 people on 13 islands have benefited from the Federation-funded temporary housing programme, with some 21,200 sheets of corrugated iron roofing provided for temporary shelter and repairs to damaged houses.
- In addition to the 500 houses the French Red Cross has pledged to build, the Federation has committed to build 800 new houses.
- Community service groups and teachers who work with more than 25,550 school children have been trained in psychosocial support.
- The American, German and Swedish Red Cross Societies have sent water tanks and equipment for health facilities.

## MALAYSIA

### *Immediate Response:*

- The Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) supplied meals to survivors at government-run relief centres in Kedah.
- The MRCS provided support to the Indonesia Red Cross, specifically in Aceh. It dispatched two medical teams and sent relief goods, as well as medicines and medical equipment. .

### *Current Situation:*

- Apart from distribution of donated fruit by the Penang branch of the MRCS 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.

## MYANMAR

### *Immediate Response:*

- The Myanmar Red Cross (MyRC) response included food and non-food relief supply distribution to 310 families in the Delta area, first aid, temporary shelters and search for missing persons in coastal areas. Relief supplies included rice, household items, cash contributions towards the purchase of housing materials, school exercise equipment and textbooks for children and plastic sheeting for temporary shelter.

*Current Situation:*

- More than 3,000 people have received non-food relief supplies since the disaster and some 150 were sheltered
- Family linking services have been provided with the help of ICRC.
- The Canadian and German Red Cross Societies as well as local donors sent replenishment and re-stocking materials to the Myanmar Red Cross.
- The MyRCS will also install or repair water and sanitation facilities to provide drinking water and latrines, with support from the Federation. , .

**BANGLADESH***Immediate Response:*

Following the earthquake, the Bangladesh Red Cross Society (BDRCS) Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) immediately activated its early warning system in the coastal belt. The CPP, which boasts more than 33,000 volunteers trained in evacuation, rescue, first aid and emergency relief work, covers 11 districts in the coastal area, with a total population of 11 million. Its wireless network is considered as the largest radio network in the South Asia.

Damage assessment of the whole Bangladesh coastal belt through the early warning network was completed in four hours. The earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia sent three aftershocks across Bangladesh, leaving two persons dead and more than 100 injured, causing minor damage to buildings and raising the water levels of rivers and lakes. .

**EAST AFRICA:**

Affected countries in East Africa include Somalia, the Seychelles, Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania. To date, totals for East Africa include 1,000 people receiving relief supplies, 9,000 health beneficiaries and 3,000 people served daily with water and sanitation services. A breakdown of initial and current activities follows:

**SEYCHELLES**

- All of the Seychelles Red Cross 60 volunteers are mobilized and continue to provide assistance to 200 tsunami-affected families.
- Clean up activities continue on Mahé and Cerf islands.
- A further 50 families, many of them those of farmers and fishermen, have been identified as needing assistance and procurement of equipment for fishermen is underway

**SOMALIA**

- In six affected coastal districts 100 volunteers of the Somali Red Crescent Society provided health care as well as sanitation services, including water chlorination, distributed non-food relief supplies and started cleanup campaigns.
- American Red Cross is supporting a measles campaign providing emergency vaccinations for approximately 3 million children, aged nine months to fifteen years of age,.

**KENYA**

- Thanks to an early warning issued by authorities and the Kenya Red Cross major loss of life was prevented. No relief activities were deemed necessary by the Red Cross.

**MADAGASCAR**

- The Red Cross distributed basic relief items in Manakara, the tsunami-affected area of the coastline. No request for assistance was issued to the Federation.

**TANZANIA**

- Ten people were killed by the tsunami. No request for assistance was issued to the Federation.

*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>