

REPORT ON RESPONSE TO TSUNAMI DISASTER

Period: 26th December 2004 – 11th January 2005

SITUATION

The cataclysmic tsunami which struck without warning on December 26th 2004 left over 2,000,000 people homeless and over 35,000 dead in the coastal areas of Sri Lanka. The death toll is based on the number of bodies recovered; thousands are still classified as missing. The East of the country has been the worst affected, with the highest number of deaths reported from the Amparai District – over 10,000. The hardest hit are the fishing community; who lost their homes and boats within minutes. Over 1/3rd of those affected are children.

OUR RESPONSE

Overall plan

1. Emergency Relief

- Food (dry rations), medicines
- Shelter and mobile latrines
- Primary health care, sanitation, clean water

2. Second stage.

Care teams will be sent out to affected areas to deal with psychological needs and trauma counseling. There is a great need in this area dealing with trauma and fear.

3. Third stage.

This will be centred on rehabilitation, reconstruction and re-settlement leading to wholistic development. Livelihood projects for income generation will also be implemented.

ON-GOING ACTIVITIES – 26th December 2004 onwards

Presently we are engaged in activities under the 1st phase **Emergency Relief** _

1) Essential Supplies

A fleet of trucks have been carrying relief supplies including food, medicines, cooking utensils, clothes, medical supplies, bedding / mats, footwear and tents to affected areas in the following Districts -

Batticaloa	- 8 trucks
Amparai (Pottuvil, Kalmunai, Tirukovil, Mandur areas)	- 6 trucks

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Matara	- 2 trucks
Galle	- 5 trucks
Jaffna (Pallai & Thenamarachchi areas)	- 3 trucks
Trincomalee (Thiriyaya)	- 3 trucks
Mullaitivu (uncleared areas)	- 6 trucks
TOTAL	- <u>33 Trucks</u>

(as at 11th January 2005)

The first relief trucks were dispatched on the night of the 26th December 2004 (less than 24 hours after the Tsunami stryck)

Supplies distributed include the following –

Large quantities of food (rice, dhal, flour, sugar, milk powder, tea etc)

Over 25,000 litres of drinking water.

4,600 packs of infant milk food

40,000 packs of cooking utensils

Large quantities of clothes

2,000 pairs of foot wear (slippers)

Medicines (large quantity)

1,400 tents

2,000 special children's packs (which includes Milk Powder, sugar, biscuits, bed sheet, pot for boiling water).

2) Search & recovery of bodies

Volunteer teams were sent to search and recover bodies from rubble and waterways in Batticaloa District.

3) Medical teams

Volunteer medical teams have been sent to Batticaloa, Galle/Matara & Jaffna, to serve in areas including un-cleared LTTE controlled areas.

4) Trauma counseling

Volunteer teams of professional counselors are training local teams to carry out counseling in the affected areas. Ie/ Colombo & Jaffna

EXPENDITURE

26th December 2004 – 10th January 2005 = Total Rs. 27 million (US\$ 285,000).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

On January 10th the schools across the nation will be re-opening. History tends to suggest that the consistency and predictability the school day provides will help the children to overcome around 75% of the trauma they undergo in situations like this. We desire to help with this important transition by providing essential items for the children. We see this occurring in three different phases, and propose to offer several packages to different groups of children in the affected areas.

1) Student's packs

These packs would contain the following items:

1. School bags
2. Pencils
3. Erasers
4. Pens
5. Exercise Books (Specially printed books which include a hope-giving story on the cover)

The cost of the package will be roughly US \$ 10/= per child, and we are hoping to distribute 100,000 packages.

Total Proposed Cost: \$1,000,000

2) Recreational Activity Pack

Packages will be distributed to existing sports clubs and schools in the affected areas. These packages would contain sports and recreational equipment for boys and girls. The cost of each package would be roughly US \$55 and we are hoping to initially distribute 100 such packages.

Total Proposed Cost: \$5,500

3) Children's packs

These packs with special food & nutrition for children will contain the following items -

1. Milk Powder
2. Biscuits
3. Marmite
4. Multi-vitamins
5. Sweets

The cost of the package will be US \$10.00 each, and we are hoping to distribute around 10,000 packs.

Total Proposed Cost: \$100,000

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4) Re –Entry Packages

This is to be given to each family as they go back to their villages. Each pack will contain:

1. Kerosene stove	1
2. Hurricane Lantern	1
3. Cooking utensils	3 pcs
4. Spoons	2
5. Kitchen Knife	1
6. Towels	2
7. Bed sheets	2
8. Sleeping mats	2
9. Sanitary towels	1 pkt

Each pack will cost US\$ 21. We envisage providing 20,000 families with this pack.

5) Water purification systems

For those affected in 7 Districts. The cost per unit is US\$600.

6) Temporary Shelters (Galvanised sheets)

It will cost approximately US\$ 325 per temporary shelter to house a family.

7) Re-construction, housing & Livelihood assistance

We will identify needy villages and invite churches / groups to adopt a village. Each village consists of 75-100 families. This will be a holistic program, supplying them with housing, water and sanitation as well as livelihood assistance.

The cost of construction of a house will be US\$ 2,500.

Livelihood assistance for a micro-income generation project will be US\$ 250 per family.

rw/ 11/ 01/2005