

Asia Tsunami Update

June 2005

Thank you to our donors

The outpouring of generosity from the general public, governments, and corporations in response to the tsunami disaster has been unprecedented. Thanks to this extraordinary support, UNICEF can look beyond the provision of emergency relief, to the larger task of rebuilding entire communities. Just as we were on the ground in all the affected countries before the disaster, so we will continue our work over the coming months and years. We thank our supporters in the UK who contributed nearly £15 million. Of this total, more than £14 million has already been sent to the affected countries.



Credit: UNICEF/Sri Lanka/Dan Thomas

Funding

UNICEF requested US\$306 million to fund its programmes through to the end of 2005. These needs have been fully met and, as of 3 June 2005, we have received an additional US\$216 million to fund our long-term recovery efforts over a three- to five-year period. These additional resources will allow our assistance to continue uninterrupted throughout the long and difficult transition from relief to reconstruction and recovery. Most of the overall UNICEF aid is going to Indonesia and Sri Lanka, the two countries that bore the brunt of the disaster.

Six months on

It has been six months since the massive earthquake off the coast of Sumatra triggered the worst natural catastrophe in living memory. Within this relatively short period of

time, a great deal has changed: the dead have been buried, the homeless have been given shelter, and the orphaned have received care and protection. Rebuilding has begun even in the hardest-hit areas. Children are once again attending classes, many of them in temporary facilities. Health centres are being rebuilt and their services upgraded.

UNICEF's role in the emergency

UNICEF has led the international response to the tsunami in three key areas: water and sanitation, child protection and education. UNICEF also has acted as a coordinator to ensure that the efforts of the network of UN and NGO partners do not overlap or leave gaps in response.

By early June, we had immunised about 1.2 million children against

measles and provided nearly 850,000 children with Vitamin A supplements. Hundreds of thousands of people now have access to adequate sanitation facilities, and more than a million people per day are being reached with safe drinking water. About 750,000 children have been given school supplies, enabling virtually all of them to return to school within two months of the disaster.

Most significantly, despite early fears of widespread disease, no children have died as a result of preventable diseases attributable to the tsunami crisis. Yet, much remains to be done. Livelihoods must be restored, and homes rebuilt. Permanent schools and health centres need to be constructed and adequate water and sanitation systems must be made available to all.

Information Sheet

Key results for children in Indonesia

- ▶ 200,000 women and children received 100,000 bednets to prevent malaria
- ▶ Almost 1,100,000 children, age 6 months to 15 years, were vaccinated against measles
- ▶ 2.6 million iron tablets were given to 26,000 pregnant women
- ▶ 1 million sachets of oral rehydration salts were distributed to treat 216,800 people
- ▶ Over 53,000 people in displacement camps, hospitals and schools benefited from safe sanitation facilities
- ▶ More than 83,000 families received hygiene kits
- ▶ Nearly 500,000 children received school-in-a-box kits
- ▶ Almost 17,000 children received psychosocial support and care through 21 child centres
- ▶ Over 1,000 separated children and 70 unaccompanied children were registered through child centres

Indonesia

UNICEF is planning to rebuild 300 new schools and equip them with child-friendly facilities such as clean toilets, access for the disabled, a library, and a sports ground. In time for the start of the new school year on 18 July, UNICEF (together with the International Organization for Migration) is setting up 200 temporary schools in Aceh province.

UNICEF will support the Yayasan Dian Desa (YDD) organisation to improve access to safe water and sanitation for at least 80 per cent of the population in selected districts of Aceh and northern Sumatra.

Sri Lanka

In the next two years, UNICEF will seek to meet the needs of the 550,000 tsunami-affected people living in temporary shelters, transit camps, resettlement areas, and in their own communities. The aim is to improve sanitation and hygiene practices for at least 40 per cent of the displaced population; provide basic water and sanitation services for 50,000 families returning to their home areas; and repair water systems and sanitation facilities to serve 200,000 people. As part of its support for children traumatised by the tsunami, UNICEF has been



Boys sit at a drawing class for Grade 1 children at the UNICEF-supported Zahira School. *Credit: UNICEF Indonesia/2005*

Key results for children in Sri Lanka

- ▶ 1.6 million Vitamin A capsules provided to the Government for a campaign in nine districts, targeting children age from six months to five years
- ▶ 100,000 people reached with 15 litres drinking water per day through additional 285 water tanks, 96 water bladders (1,500 litres)
- ▶ 49,000 people provided with 1,150 temporary and permanent toilets
- ▶ 650 wells cleaned and 422 water points installed
- ▶ 3,000 desks and 7,000 chairs, provided to schools, helping to ensure that 90 per cent of school children are attending classes
- ▶ 81,000 children received recreational supplies
- ▶ More than 170 schools cleared of rubble and cleaned, and 97 temporary school shelters completed
- ▶ 43,000 children benefiting from psychosocial activities

lobbying for changes in legislation to protect unaccompanied and separated children.

India

The key activity for UNICEF in India is to help health authorities improve their preparedness for epidemics, focusing on immunisation and disease. To help improve emergency health provision, UNICEF will provide obstetric equipment, vaccines and mosquito nets.

In Andhra Pradesh, UNICEF will be supporting 1,000 schools to improve the quality of education for

the children of fishermen whose livelihoods were destroyed.

Thailand

UNICEF will continue to provide water tanks and purification units for around 6,000 people living in temporary shelters. Over the next two years, UNICEF will be supporting health and nutrition activities aimed at reducing diarrhoea and pneumonia for the most vulnerable communities.

Maldives

UNICEF's primary area of work in the Maldives is the provision of water as the island is very prone to water shortages. Currently, UNICEF is supplying 23 mobile water desalination plants to turn seawater into freshwater. UNICEF will be providing over 2,500 storage tanks to supply water to schools and health centres in the worst-affected areas. In addition, UNICEF plans to rebuild more than 90 schools.

Somalia

UNICEF will be developing 25 new health facilities to improve health and nutrition amongst the affected communities. More children along Somalia's coast are attending school than ever before. UNICEF's support to education has already seen an increase in school enrolment.

For further information, please visit our website at: www.unicef.org.uk/emergency