



Tsunami 6 Months After



Plan
Be a part of it.

Tsunami – 6 Months After

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Foreword

At the end of December 2004, Plan joined people from neighbouring communities, local governmental and voluntary organisations, and the international community to respond to the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster. It seems appropriate now both to reflect on what has happened since the tsunami struck, and to look at the work in the months and years ahead.

The tsunami was an unprecedented disaster, both in terms of its impact and in the scale of local and international responses. Given this, what has Plan been able to achieve or not achieve over the past six months? How did Plan work with people in their struggle to reclaim their normal lives? What children's issues were we in Plan able to address, and what issues remain?

Outsiders tend to see the victims and survivors of disasters as a homogeneous group. In fact, there are as many stories as there are people. Everyone affected by the tsunami had their own unique lives before the calamity, and everyone had their own experiences during and after the great waves. Just as with stories and experiences, survivors' hopes for the future are many and diverse. Aid agencies like Plan must always remember that ultimately we're working with and for thousands of individual children, adults and families, and must build our work around their analysis of their needs and their aspirations.

I have just returned from communities in Aceh and India that I first saw within days of the tsunami. They have regular supplies of food and water, there is health care, and many children attend temporary schools or children's centres. All this reflects the huge efforts made so far by aid agencies such as Plan and governments. But there is still so much to do. Tens of thousands of children and families live in tents or crowded temporary shelters. The adults I spoke with talked of their longing to have proper homes of their own again ("home" means more than just shelter), a healthy environment for their children and a chance to earn their own living. Children themselves want homes and proper schools.

The emergency response and planning stages are coming to an end. Governments, Plan and other NGOs and community leaders are working towards large-scale housing and livelihood schemes which are so badly needed. To date, Plan has spent more than US\$5 million on immediate relief and in laying the foundations for long-term recovery of children and communities. We estimate that the next stage of the recovery program will take at least three years to complete and will concentrate on permanent housing, livelihood and education.

This Report provides a picture of the struggles of individuals and communities in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India to rebuild their lives in the first six months after the tsunami, and a record of Plan's work with them.

Michael J. Diamond

Michael Diamond
Plan Asia Regional Director

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Plan and the Tsunami:

Overview of immediate and medium-term responses



The tsunami destroyed hundreds of thousands of fishing boats and rendered huge areas of agricultural land infertile.

On 26 December 2004, an unprecedented disaster struck coastal communities all round the Indian Ocean. The earthquake off Sumatra and resulting tsunami killed over 177,000 people, left more than a million without homes, and millions more directly or indirectly affected. Livelihoods were destroyed and education and health services disrupted for hundreds of thousands of children.

Plan has worked with poor communities in the worst affected countries for many years – in Indonesia since 1969, Sri Lanka since 1981, India since 1979 and Thailand since 1981 – building up great local knowledge and strong partnerships with local organisations. Since 2000, in Asia alone, Plan has supported major disaster-related operations for Afghan refugees in Pakistan, victims of floods in China, Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, and victims of landslides in Philippines.

Plan supports direct emergency relief, but concentrates on supporting long-term rehabilitation and recovery from disaster, working for months or years ‘after the cameras have gone.’ Plan has used all of this local knowledge and disaster experience to respond to the tsunami.

Plan staff across Asia responded immediately to the disaster. Within hours, Plan Sri Lanka provided US\$200,000 for the local government emergency work in Hambantota District, as well as food for hard-pressed health workers, and sent in generators and water pumps for displaced people’s camps directly. In India, Plan and local partners quickly assessed needs in tsunami-hit communities and provided emergency relief supplies and health care. Plan workers arrived in Aceh shortly after the government allowed access to international aid agencies. Plan staff in Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia and Thailand also moved quickly to plan longer term post-tsunami operations.



Locations of Plan’s post-tsunami relief and rehabilitation operations

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Sri Lanka – Hambantota District
(1 district out of 14 affected)</p> | <p>Indonesia – Aceh Besar, Aceh Barat and Aceh Jaya
(3 districts out of 4 affected)</p> |
| <p>India – Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry (2 states/
territories out of 5 states/territories
affected. Plus support for emergency
relief in Andhra Pradesh during the
initial post-tsunami phase)</p> | <p>Thailand – Phuket and Phang-nga
(2 provinces out of 6 affected)</p> |

Plan’s background

Founded in 1937 to help children orphaned during the Spanish Civil War, Plan now works for and with children, families and communities in 45 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. Plan carries out advocacy, development education and fundraising in 15 countries in the industrialised world. Plan has no religious or political aims or affiliations.

Through direct grass-roots work, Plan supports the efforts of children, communities and local organisations to make a reality of rights to education, health, a safe environment, clean water and sanitation, and secure incomes. Plan works to protect children at special risk – e.g. child labourers – and to ensure all children’s rights are recognised – e.g. through major birth registration programs. By linking people in “the North” and “the South”, Plan strives to build a worldwide community working to defend children’s rights and improve their lives.

Plan’s work for children is funded mainly (more than 75%) by over 1 million individual sponsors and supporters worldwide, through regular monthly or annual donations. Plan also receives generous support from the governments of Australia, Canada, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States, from multilateral bodies such as the European Union and from private foundations and companies.

Plan's Post-Tsunami Assistance

We estimate we will spend at least US\$40 million for post-tsunami work.

Health

- Budget 26 December 2005 - 31 December 2007: US\$3.09 million

Logistical support for health systems, repair of health facilities, distribution of medicine, micronutrients and food items, hygiene promotion, health worker trainings.

Education

- Budget 26 December 2005 - 31 December 2007: US\$10.0 million

Operation of child care centres and activities in temporary shelters, provision of Back-to-School kits, school constructions, repairs, teacher trainings, curriculum adjustment, early childhood care and development.

Habitat

- Budget 26 December 2005 - 31 December 2007: US\$13.62 million

Water distribution, water treatment, permanent shelter construction, legal support for individual house construction, land title, etc., community enhancement, post-disaster community risk reduction.

Livelihood

- Budget 26 December 2005 - 31 December 2007: US\$5.06 million

Support for microfinance institutions to reschedule/cancel outstanding loans among tsunami victims and issue new loans, carpentry tool distribution, boats and nets distribution for fishermen, community livelihood recovery, support to cooperatives and self-help groups, vocational trainings.

Child Protection and Participation

- Budget 26 December 2005 - 31 December 2007: US\$2.09 million

Training on child protection for caregivers, other relief agencies, support for children and young people's initiatives, post tsunami birth registration recovery, children's events, support for media produced by children.

Psychosocial Support

- Budget 26 December 2005 - 31 December 2007: US\$1.68 million

Shock/trauma healing, training of teachers and caregivers, production and distribution of self-learning/self help books and videos for children.

In-Country Program Support

- Budget 26 December 2005 - 31 December 2007: US\$4.90 million

Staff in tsunami-affected communities, monitoring, program management, reporting.

Asia Regional Coordination

- Budget 26 December 2005 - 31 December 2007: US\$200,000

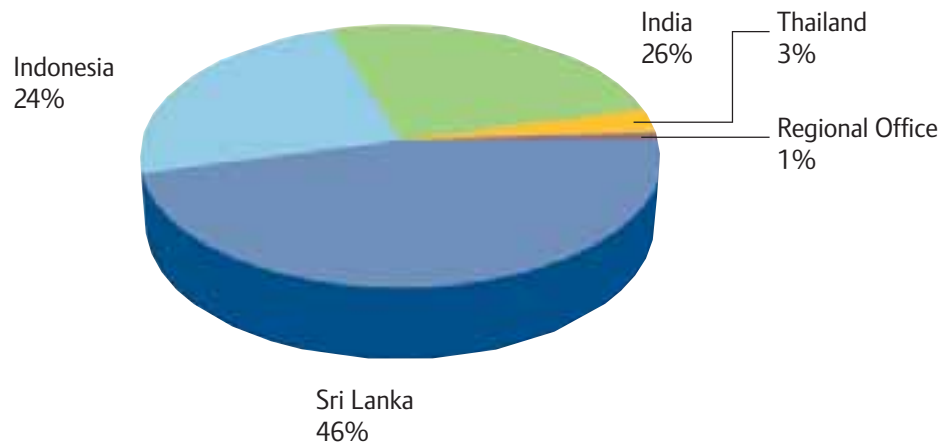
Internal and external tsunami coordination, research, publications, dissemination.

Expenditure to date

Plan's main role post-tsunami is long term: to help rebuild a safe and healthy world for children. So far, we have received US\$33 million in donations or firm pledges. We have already spent more than US\$5 million on emergency work and

preparation for long-term recovery. Emergency activities included health, water and sanitation, back-to-school kits, child care centres at temporary shelters and IDP camps (See *individual Country Snapshots for detail*).

Table 1: Where we spent the funds.



Funding for Plan's tsunami response

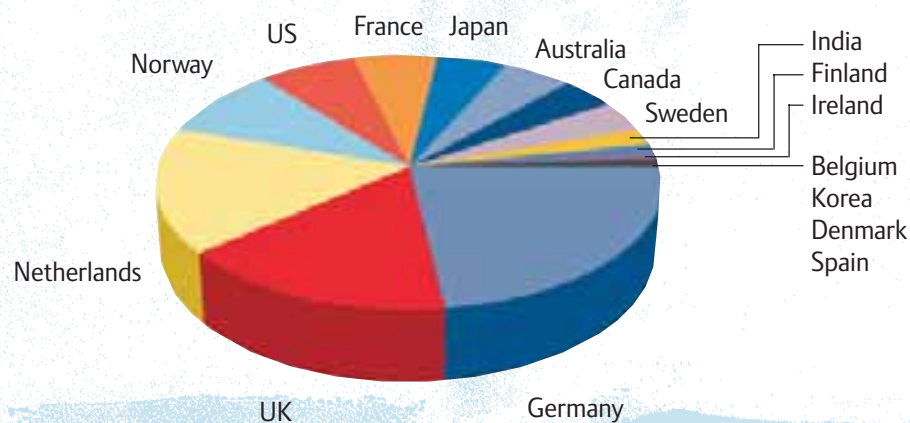
Plan has received funds for the tsunami operation from 17 countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and India.

A total of 71% of the tsunami funds to date has come from individual donors and the private sector (corporations, private foundations, and other groups).

As of 17 June, Plan has received both cash and pledges totalling US\$33 million (see *Table 2 for breakdown*). Plan is still actively seeking funding support around the world for its post-tsunami work, mainly from corporations, private foundations and institutions.

A total of 29% has come from the governments of Ireland (Development Cooperation Ireland), Norway (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Korea (Korea International Cooperation Agency), Netherlands (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), United Kingdom (Department for International Development), Japan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and the European Union (ECHO).

Table 2: Where we raised the funds.



Challenges, problems, risks

Helping children and communities to rebuild their lives after the tsunami presents many challenges and problems.

Land. House construction is of course high priority for people who lost their homes in the tsunami, and for Plan and its partner organisations. But where can the houses be built?

Authorities have decreed that there should be no new construction within 100-1,000 metres of shorelines to reduce the scale of disaster in the case of future tsunamis. This is prudent, and certainly most people want to live at a secure distance from the water's edge.

However, as many people depend on fishing or small-scale tourism for their survival, they cannot move very far inland. Finding suitable land for relocation of whole communities which is both safe and within easy reach of the shore is immensely complicated.

Inter-agency coordination. Many governmental agencies and large numbers of local and international NGOs are involved in post-tsunami reconstruction. Despite the efforts of Plan and some other NGOs to improve coordination, avoiding overlaps and duplication remains a challenge.

Market distortion. External aid agency interventions – e.g. reconstruction of houses and other infrastructure, provision of boats and other equipment, and agency logistical requirements – have created an upsurge of demand in relatively limited markets, increasing prices for things like building materials, skilled labour and rent.

Corruption. The inflow of very large foreign funds creates tempting opportunities for unscrupulous actions. Plan is always very conscious of such risks. (*See the following section on "Accountability and Transparency"*).



A girl sits in reflection amid the ruins of her destroyed neighbourhood in India's Nagapattinam district.

Accountability and Transparency

Plan lays great stress on its accountability to the donors who make our work possible, and to the children and communities we serve.

Plan has internal audit teams or employs audit services in all countries, and has an International Audit Department of 14 auditors reporting separately to the Audit Committee of the International Board.

Plan's international external auditors are PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Plan receives grant funding for various development projects around the world from the development aid and other departments of the governments of Australia, Canada, France, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. Grant funds are subject to external audit and evaluation by these government departments.



Children play cricket as boats are being repaired in Nagapattinam district, India.

Plan is committed to assisting children in developing countries both in the promotion of their rights and addressing their needs. These rights and needs can be threatened in times of disaster and in such circumstances, Plan responds in the most appropriate manner and in line with its skills and capacities.

Plan is committed to its Child Centred Community Development approach in all its responses to disasters.

Human rights and child rights, child centredness, local knowledge and community coping mechanisms, child and community participation, child protection, relationship building, accountability and transparency are what guide Plan in its disaster response.

A mother and child in
a Plan-assisted village
near Banda Aceh.



Indonesia

Country Snapshot: Indonesia

Activities in airy, open Plan centres built in traditional style help lighten the lives of children living in temporary camps as the huge task of reconstruction begins in devastated Aceh.



Huge sections of Banda Aceh are still in ruins.

Tsunami in Indonesia

- Deaths: 128,645
- Missing: 37,087
- IDPs: 513,278 (Aceh)
19,620 (North Sumatra)
- IPs are living in:
 - Temporary shelters (17%)
 - Spontaneous settlements (47%)
 - Host families (36%)

Source: OCHA, April 30

Five months after the disaster struck Aceh, fear has yet to go away.

Tremors originating off the coast of Sumatra are still turning people out of their houses onto the streets – and turning back the clock.

‘It makes you remember what happened in December. You think that it is coming again,’ said Hadi F. Ruisli, a student and Plan volunteer in the devastated capital Banda Aceh, huge sections of which were destroyed.

Recovery – both physical and psychological – is still a long way off in the Indonesian province that felt the brunt of the tsunami’s ferocious power.

In the immediate aftermath, while people searched frantically for missing friends and relatives, an enormous initial effort concentrated on uncovering and burying around 130,000 bodies and providing sufficient emergency relief to avert outbreaks of disease among some half a million homeless survivors.

Some of the survivors went to stay with family and friends in unaffected areas; many thousands more took shelter in tents and temporary government-built buildings known as “barracks”, surrounded by vast empty swathes of rubble-strewn landscape and ruined infrastructure.

Today Aceh is at least moving again. Cleared and reconstructed roads are busy with traffic. Colourful patchwork houses made of “tsunami wood” (planks found in the debris) have begun to dot the landscape. Banda Aceh may be an eerie mix of the broken and the bizarre, but it is, just barely, back in business. People are placing wooden stakes in the rubble adorned with just their names, or sometimes a message like, ‘Still alive. This is my land.’

Biology student Hadi F. Ruisli is passionate about the need for Aceh to remake itself. ‘We are at zero now. We have to start again. It is a kind of Muslim principle; start from zero and be good people again. Acehnese are strong, we can start at zero.’



Young girls attend school on the balcony of a temporary shelter. They are still living in tents on high ground within sight of the sea as they wait for new homes.

Hadi and some of his friends from the University of Seyih Qala began part of their own tough new journeys in the company of Plan.

The students' relationship with the organisation began in January, when economics major Suhendra was searching for something positive to do after losing members of his extended family, and his home. 'There was total destruction. I wanted to help, and I thought activity would keep my brain functioning.' Plan's then project manager Amrullah saw that Suhendra and, later on, a network of his friends could fulfill an important role. The students became official volunteers, and a few moved in together to a room in a Plan house.

'We are our own family now,' says Hadi, leaning towards his quiet friend Berry Kurniadi, 21, who lost every member of his family and his girlfriend in December. Berry assists in the busy Plan office with livelihood programs when he is not at university. Hadi mainly works on education projects in around 16 camps for internally displaced people (IDPs).

Providing temporary primary schools and early child care centres has been at the core of Plan's work in Aceh since last January.

In 24 temporary shelter sites up to 20 miles east of the city, young children attend daily classes in regular school subjects and take part in games and activities designed to help restore a sense of normality and vitality to their lives.

They also receive food extras designed to guard against potential nutritional deficiencies at home.



Acehnese university students Berry, Suhendra and Hadi help Plan on a wide variety of projects.

One large Plan-built *ballai* (traditional Acehese covered open-air wooden structure for community events) built near Indra Patra camp east of the city, is large enough to be the site for rambunctious late afternoon running races as well as for more sedate activities like math and religious learning. Volunteer teacher Haidir drolly points out a practical advantage of the sturdy building over the former set-up in a tent and the open air: 'There is no danger of coconuts falling on the children's heads anymore.'

Kamaliya (not her real name), 30, mother of six, says conditions are tough in the nearby shelter where she lives in one room with her out-of-work husband and children. The neighbours are noisy and there is no privacy; but at least, she says, it is good that the children are back at school and attending activities at the *ballai*.

She believes that her youngest, 2 1/2-year-old Epi (not his real name), is still traumatised, probably because as she carried him from the waves, he was facing backwards, staring into the encroaching danger. The mother is very likely suffering deep stress herself. When he cries at night, 'I tell him the waves will come and get him, then he goes quiet.'

Around a quarter of tsunami-affected children in Aceh are likely to have suffered serious psychological stress, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Up to 20% of adults may have mild to moderate mental disorders, the WHO said.

Social interventions such as restoring education and providing child-friendly spaces as well as economic activities for adults, were effective ways of helping victims recover as fast as possible, it said. Community-based psychological "first aid" initiatives rooted in the local culture were also helpful.

Plan is partnering with the Indonesian Psychological Association to run a number of programs that help survivors in IDP camps to deal with their losses and begin to move forward with their lives. Child interventions form an important part of the programs.

In disasters such as the tsunami, children's needs can be in danger of being overlooked. Plan has seen the effects of disasters on children in situations such as earthquakes in El Salvador (lack of space and security) and floods in Vietnam (where children's recovery benefited from involving them in rebuilding the community), and it is bringing such experiences to bear in its post-tsunami work.

To help children and their communities return to basic functionality as soon as possible, Plan assisted in vital relief efforts immediately after the tsunami. With an International NGO, it distributed supplementary nutrients in more than 126 camps in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar. More than 160,000 children and pregnant women were assisted.



A deep well and water tank serve a temporary village outside Banda Aceh.



Before returning home each day after an afternoon of learning and games, children at a Plan child centre receive a nutritious food package.



Smiles at Lam Boro Nejid, where villagers are resettling on the sites of their old homes and trying to start afresh.

Support in the area of water and sanitation was also urgent in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami and continues to be vital today. Plan provides daily delivery of water to some 45 camps with some 40,000 people in partnership with an international NGO. It has also built a 165-metre well, provided temporary shelters with water tankers, and committed to restoring eight kilometres of the main water pipe supply in Masjid Raya district east of the provincial capital.

On health issues, Plan has conducted trainings in child health for volunteer health groups in 20 IDP camps, and provided midwives with equipment such as scales and stationery. In the government-built wooden shelters everyone knows as barracks, lack of privacy and overcrowding can pose particular problems for women and adolescents. Plan has conducted trainings in reproductive health issues for teenage boys and girls, and provided them with basic supplies for hygiene needs.

The scale of the disaster and the urgent need to provide relief in other areas, especially education, meant that Plan was not able to begin livelihood support programs in the first phase.

In June, however, sustainable carpentry training cum boat building programs to boost livelihood options for young people were due to start. Other vocational training programs for women were also in the pipeline.

A March survey conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) showed that survivors' priorities are 1) livelihood restoration 2) housing and 3) health education.

As Aceh slowly begins to move beyond the relief stage, survivors waiting for permanent housing, jobs, or even in some cases sufficient food and health assistance, are becoming increasingly frustrated.

In Glee Jeddah camp about 13 miles west of Banda Aceh, people living in canvas tents feel their distance from the city means they are losing out on aid, said local land-owner and former sawmill operator Agam Patra, 48. He also complained of NGOs making promises they didn't keep, and cash for work programs that were inadequately supervised: 'They just create lazy people.'



Children listen attentively during lessons at a Plan child centre outside Banda Aceh.

The businessman, who claims he has lost 18 billion rupiahs worth of enterprises ('20 years of work, all gone'), said the camp needed programs that would restore livelihoods, such as land reclamation, seeds for planting, and perhaps a small cooperative transport business to get people to the city where they might find work.

'This was a place of no unemployment before, you know; people had houses, cars; they were fishermen, government officials, teachers, taxi drivers, salmon factory employees.'

Tired of waiting in hot and uncomfortable tents or crowded government shelters, an increasing number of people are returning to the sites of their old homes, at least in areas where the devastation was not total and that are not right on the sea.

'We are pioneers!' smiles Mr. Zulkifli, 69, who with his friend Mr. Abdul Razid, 61, returned two months ago to resettle their village, Lam Boro Nejid, nestled under forested hills in Peuken Bada sub district. They arrived to find the settlement which looks out on Banda Aceh had virtually nothing left. Homes, wells, mosque, school, fields, crops and boats were all gone.

But they had land, determination and tsunami wood, and now they have built over 40 basic new homes. A few NGOs have helped out with basic food rations and other items. Plan assists with water and is proposing to build a new school. In May, Plan consulted with village men and women on potential projects to help restore former sources of livelihood like farming, fishing, and embroidery and sewing.

'It is good to be back home,' said Mr. Zulfiki, standing in a wrecked house overlooking the new village cobbled together with junk wood and sweat. 'The tsunami is just a memory now.'

If only that were true.



Children play at the site of an upcoming Plan school in Lam Nga village outside Banda Aceh.



Plan staff member Budi interacting with children from SD 17 primary school in Banda Aceh, where only 41 of 400 students survived the tsunami.

Farawati, 12

In the temporary village of Glee Jeddah, about 15 kilometres south of Banda Aceh, where Plan intends to build a senior high school, young children living in canvas tents now attend daily classes on the narrow balcony of a newly-built barracks (temporary shelter).



Farawati, age 12, responds to questions in an interview at her 'classroom':

Q. How's your school? Is it good?

A. No!

Q. What sort of a school do you need?

A. One that's a big building (laughs).

Q. With what in it?

A. Tables, desks, cupboards for books, blackboards, notebooks, uniforms, bags, pencils, story books, erasers...

Q. How is your tent?

A. I have to accept it! But I have no bed! My bed was taken by the tsunami. The tent is cold in the rain. And it leaks. So the rice gets wet!

Q. How do you help your family these days?

A. I wash dishes, sweep the floor, do laundry, mend shoes, collect water!

Q. What do you think about the tsunami now?

A. The tsunami came because people didn't go and pray, women didn't wear the veil, and they wore shorts; they didn't cover themselves with respect. The tsunami got angry!

Q. Are you afraid of the sea?

A. Yes! Afraid!

Q. Where do you play nowadays?

A. There are no play areas anymore! Before, we played on the beach. Now we don't go there. We just play in front of the tent.



Israwati, 12

'I ran to the mountains and people were dying, people lost their mothers and fathers, and then the foreigners came from France and Germany, from Canada and Turkey and Saudi Arabia, America, Malaysia and South Korea and the people were staying in tents, just remembering what happened to them...'

Israwati, a young girl at Glee Jeddah camp, begins to sing the song she wrote with her sister about the tsunami. As she sings, odd things happen. A young man in uniform turns his back. A middle-aged man from Banda Aceh walks off.

Later, the older man confessed, 'Well, I felt very sad to listen. So I moved away. I was afraid people would see me cry.'

Plan Indonesia response

Health and Nutrition

- Supported partner organisation Helen Keller International for distribution of supplementary nutrients (Vitamin A capsules, dispersible Zinc tablets, micronutrient “sprinkles”, fortified soya sauce) for 160,000 children and pregnant women in more than 126 camps of Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar.
- Conducted two training courses in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Provincial PKBI-NAD, local Indonesian Midwives Association (IBI) at provincial levels, and Women NGO network such as Solidaritas Perempuan (Women’s Solidarity), Flower Aceh and Serikat Inong Aceh. The trainings have been provided to a total of 109 health unit cadres in 20 IDP camps.
- Provided 50 health units/village midwives with health equipment such scales, height charts and delivery kits plus stationery.

Education

- Assisted in the establishment of temporary schools and early childhood care and development (ECCD) centres in 24 displaced person’s camps.
- Re-opened temporary primary schools and kindergartens in 24 camps.
- Supplied school tents, school uniforms, equipment, educational tools, interactive games and school feeding for 2,600 children.
- Organised two ECCD and Primary Education training courses and teacher honoraria for 138 volunteer teachers.
- Finished design for re-construction of 2 child-friendly primary schools in three villages in the Masjid Raya sub district.
- Established two additional ECCD centres in the Masjid Raya sub district.
- Constructed school gardens at 5 primary schools, with the participation of about 500 students.
- Installed and managed 1 library for children.
- Trained 70 teachers on child rights and child-centred community development theory and methodology.
- Trained 30 teachers on trauma counselling and early detection of children who have trauma.
- Conducted monthly teacher meetings.



A large and airy traditional Acehese-style village centre built by Plan provides children with an ideal place to learn and play.

Water and Environmental Sanitation

- Provided funding and logistical support to government agency PDAM for the operation of 5 water tankers of 4,000 to 6,000 litres capacity.
- Provided 5 water tankers to local NGO partners including Islamic Relief, which serve 60 IDP camps covering an estimated 55,000 people.
- Supported construction/installation of 4 latrine units, 3 units of public toilets and bathing places, 2 wells and 15 hand pumps benefiting 630 people.
- Cleaned 31 existing units of dug wells benefiting 600 people.
- Constructed a water system – a borehole of 165 meters depth, including tower and reservoir serving 400 people.
- Provided 1,000-litre water tanks and jerry cans to IDP camps and semi-permanent housing “barracks”.
- Provided training to volunteers and IDP camp leaders on water, environment and sanitation management and water quality management involving 100,000 people.



Trucks carry water to scores of temporary villages on a daily basis.

Community development for camp organisation

- Provided child centred community development training in 10 Internally Displaced People’s camps, to enable displaced people to identify their problems, existing resources, and priorities in the camps so that together with Plan, other agencies and local government, they can improve camp organisation and management.



Volunteers prepare to move relief items from Plan offices in Banda Aceh to the camps.

Child Protection

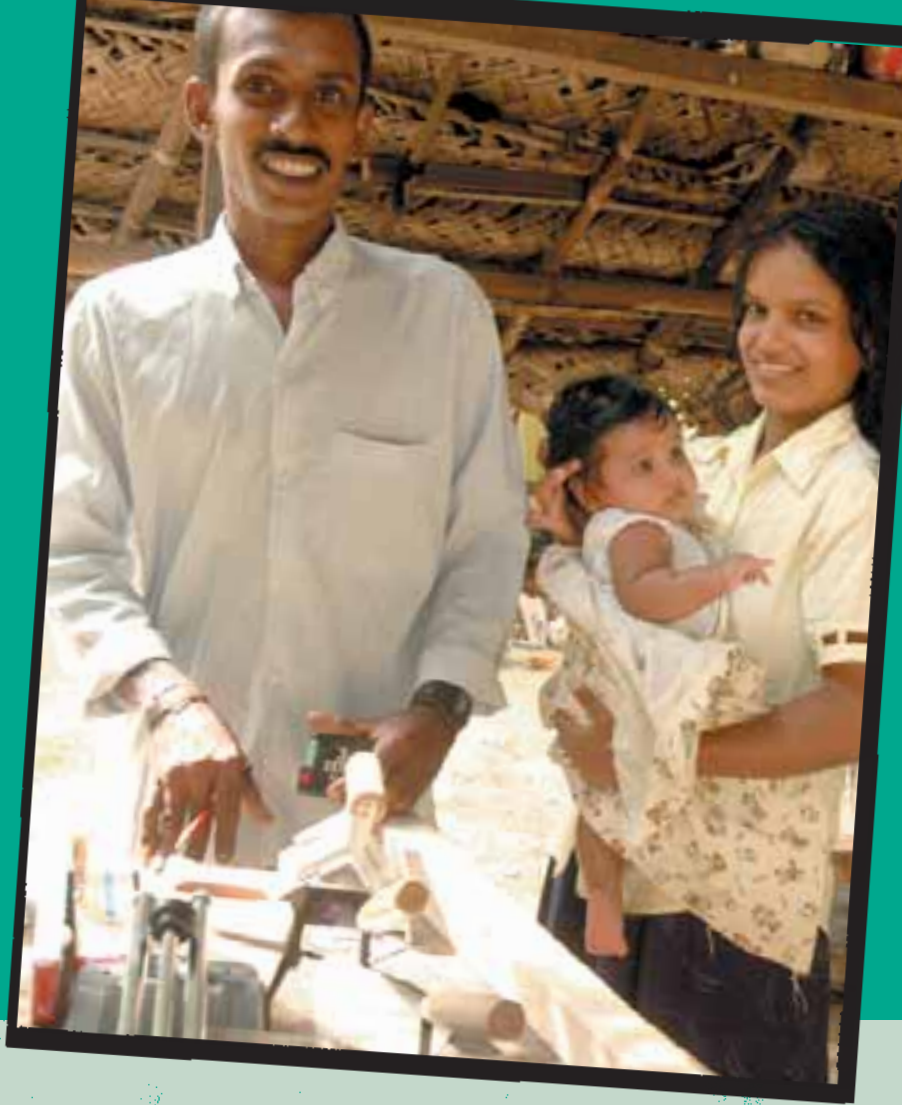
To help children and adults cope with the stresses of the disaster, and to create some sense of security for children, Plan is supporting culturally and religiously appropriate interventions. We have partnered with the Himpunan Psikologi Indonesia (HIMPSI - the Indonesian Psychological Association), which has a pool of trained psychologists with experience in Aceh. Plan has:

- Helped tsunami-affected children in 23 IDP camps.
- Supported specialised training workshop on Trauma Reduction and Counselling for around 40 men and women – ECCD and Primary Education teachers and volunteers, camp coordinators and health unit cadres – some of whom are tsunami survivors themselves.
- Begun planning development of child help line services in Aceh in collaboration with the Directorate of Post and Telecommunications, the Women Empowerment Ministry and the Social Department.
- Begun planning a birth registration campaign, to be implemented in partnership with government agencies and community groups.
- Organised 3-day children's events where 1,500 children competed in dancing, singing, drawing and sports.



Children's smiles and high spirits are returning.

Mason Percy, 27, receives a tool kit to enable him to return to work.



Sri Lanka

Country Snapshot: Sri Lanka

After assisting in emergency aid immediately after the disaster struck, Plan moved quickly to help get children back to school and carpenters back to work. Architects began designing housing projects and a school, and a video and a special book were produced to help children cope with life after the tsunami.



A fisherman examines the wreckage of a boat along a section of ruined shoreline near Tangalle town.

Tsunami in Sri Lanka

- Deaths: 31,299
- Missing: 4,093
- Injured: 23,189
- Fishing craft affected: 16,500
- Houses fully damaged: 35,100
- Houses partially damaged: 47,500

Sources: Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Social Welfare as of 5 May 2005 and The Presidential Taskforce for Rebuilding the Nation (TAFREN) as of 15 April 2005

M.R. Perera, wiry and wizened, maneuvers an old bike over scrubland onto an unmarked sandy patch where four months ago, he watched men bury more than a thousand bodies. Fate, by his account, was almost absurdly merciful to himself. 'I saw the wave coming. Climbed a tree. Didn't even get my feet wet.'

A few miles down the coast, L.Y. Devika, 32, is standing around a beachside Buddhist shrine for around 15 wave victims, most of them children. She wants to talk, but the words come out in a sunken monotone. 'I have been like a crazy person. My children and I had just finished putting covers on their school exercise books when the wave came. We ran together, but my blouse got caught in a fence and...I lost hold of them. For two months after, I was running here and there, everywhere, just looking for my girls. Finally, after three months, my relatives told me they might be buried here...I don't know.'

L.Y. Devika has four remaining children between the ages of twelve and three. For them, she says uncertainly, she has resolved to gather herself and carry on.

Months after the disaster that took the lives of 31,299 people along Sri Lanka's coastline, countless stories too painful and inexplicable for individuals to adequately express remain just below the surface of daily life.

At the crowded 19th century district offices on a promontory overlooking the two-thirds ruined town of Hambantota, the hard data is only barely less raw.

District Secretary M.A. Piyasena reels off statistics that lay out the dimensions of the disaster in one of the country's hardest hit districts: 3,068 dead bodies found (a further 1,500 people remain unaccounted for), 56,000 people on government rations, 1,400 fishing boats lost. Three hundred kilometres of roads are in need of repair, 65 government offices and six schools are damaged, and 2,535 homes are damaged or destroyed.



Construction workers break ground for a new Plan housing scheme in Tangalle Division.



R.P. Indika and her son at the ruined site of their old home.

Out of almost 2,000 temporary homes needed, almost 1,200 have been built. About 100 permanent houses have been completed out of more than 5,000 planned, with the help of a variety of organisations.

The Hambantota District secretary's close coordination on tsunami efforts with local and international NGOs began on the day of the disaster, when local staff from Plan and other organisations were immediately on hand to assist officials trying to deal with unbelievable carnage.

Now, the official still works closely with Plan and other NGOs on housing and many other aspects of the reconstruction effort. 'They were with us at the beginning. We know them. They know us. That's why we have been able to respond to things quickly,' said M.R. Piyasena.

In Hambantota, about 1,250 acres of government land has been earmarked for new homes. Plan will build around 400 houses in three different schemes, as well as a further 200 homes on individual owners' land.

For the survivors waiting without jobs in hot and uncomfortable temporary shelters, houses cannot come quickly enough.

R.P. Indika, 30, her ex-soldier husband Nebil and their three children (a fourth is due in June) are due to move into a Plan scheme of houses in Yayawatte Township.



R.P. Indika and her son walk away from a model home at an upcoming Plan township of 200 homes.

The family has been to see a model house whose design is based on traditional Sri Lankan cottage style. Parents and children gave feedback on what they liked and what they might like to change. The children were also asked to draw their ideal imaginary community. This activity is a reflection of Plan's belief in the importance of rebuilding communities that are good and safe for children.

The children's vivid drawings of houses of different shapes and colours, facing in different directions and with shops and schools and hospitals nearby, suggested to Plan that they would like their new environment to have a vibrant village-style character.

At two kilometres from the sea, the upcoming Plan township site feels safe enough for Indika, who had a close escape in December when the water inundated her pleasant shore-side village just outside Tangalle town, killing scores of her neighbours instantly and crushing the small house in which she was born. 'There were bodies everywhere. The water was black. We barely managed to climb a wall and escape.' Indika does not want to live so close to the sea ever again.

One of the toughest things about waiting it out for the new house is the separation of the family. Space considerations in the one-bedroom temporary shelter have resulted in the two elder children being boarded out into nearby schools; close enough for regular visits.

Indika has worked hard with very little to ensure the family has as pleasant an atmosphere as possible in the three-room wooden shelter. Two small shrines decorate one wall in the shelter's small, immaculately kept main room – Indika is Buddhist while Nebil is Christian. A striking cloth picture of green pastures and mountains (rescued from the rubble perfectly intact in a tin box), brightens up another.

A Plan survey of tsunami survivors indicated that after housing, people prioritise their needs clearly in the following order: livelihood, education, and psychosocial support.

Virtually everyone who worked on or near the affected coast had lost their source of income. With the problems of joblessness among fishermen in particular receiving wide attention from many quarters, Plan's team responsible for livelihood projects looked in other directions.

It was soon discovered that many skilled construction workers were out of work after losing their tools, either at their homes or on coastal work sites where they worked.

A thousand toolkits were distributed to enable masons and carpenters like P.H. Jinasena, 40, of Ranna district, to take up the current boom in reconstruction jobs. An added bonus (if not for contractors) is that 'wages have gone up by about 3,000 rupees a month,' said the carpenter, who is working on rebuilding a guesthouse in Madakariya in Tangalle Division.

To help mainly women re-start small businesses, US\$250,000 was given to enable two micro-credit institutions to write off loans, establish new ones, and re-establish village banks.



Indika's son Sagara, 3, shows his sister's drawing of the ideal community – a community which is moving one step closer towards becoming a reality.

As a nation, Sri Lanka prioritised the restoration of education for children very quickly after the tsunami. Most children in affected areas were back in some sort of school by mid-January. Huge efforts were made to try to restore stability to children's school lives, to try and mitigate the devastation many were suffering in makeshift homes.

Plan distributed 20,000 Back-to-School kits and uniforms and helped teachers with training on trauma issues. Many teachers had been bereaved or made homeless themselves.

School conditions are still tough for many children. In Hambantota's Tangalle Division, the education office decided that undamaged schools would temporarily host children from schools that had been destroyed.

Four hundred pupils at Kudawella village's ruined Jayawickrama School, for example, are now jammed into a back section of a nearby larger school of some 900 pupils. Since the newcomers would eventually be moving on, the management of both schools decided to keep the two institutions separate, with Jayawickrama children occupying rooms at the back. The arrangement limits study and play options for both sets of students and teachers, and there has been friction between the two groups.

Vice Principal W.A. Chandrasunil of Jayawickrama School believes the combination of living in temporary shelters and attending an overcrowded school is having a noticeable negative impact on his pupils, who range in age from 5 to 17.

'They are suffering from the lack of facilities. And they feel something like discrimination here, in that this is not their own premises. It's difficult for them to get over everything that has happened while their schooling is like this and their homes are so hot. Some don't even have a bed at home. Many don't get a good night's sleep.'

There is frustration on the part of the hosts too. Since the school was not hit by the wave, it is not counted in official statistics as an affected institution. Yet it was used as an evacuation centre for local people immediately after the disaster, which delayed its re-opening by a week.



Children returned to school relatively quickly – but many classrooms are still overcrowded.

Giving up four classrooms has meant that some students now study in a hallway, while others are jammed together in multi-class rooms in an inevitable relative chaos of sounds, furniture and young bodies. One teacher felt her pupils' performances would likely show a drop in upcoming examinations.

Plan is building one school and helping rehabilitate others in nearby Tangalle Division. The foundation stone for Plan's US\$3 million Ruhunu Vijayaba School, which contains generous space for shaded recreation areas and other child-friendly features, was laid in April, with construction expected to start in June.

A variety of other efforts have been initiated to tackle children's continuing shock as a result of the tsunami. School counsellors have been trained on helping children cope with loss and grief, and two special productions are being distributed to children around the country.

A video titled *After the Big Wave* gently explains the science of a tsunami in a way that is designed to ease children's fears concerning why the disaster happened.

A charming picture story book, written in three languages and vividly illustrated by well-known artist Nelun Harasgama Nadarja, is being distributed to a million children in Sri Lanka in June. *Searching for Punchi* follows a small boy and a cat on a beach, explores his feelings of loss and sadness after the tsunami, and points to a better future.

Chanturi, 9

The discomforts of living in a temporary shelter aren't stopping Chanturi, 9, from shining in class in 'practically everything,' says a teacher.

Chanturi was one of many children to receive a Back to School kit, uniform and other items to help them resume their education.

She says she now has 'just a little' fear of the sea. She doesn't think a tsunami will come again.

Still, she prefers to play in the garden rather than by the coast.



Lakmali, 14

'My temporary shelter has one room and a kitchen. There isn't enough space. We made a partition between my brother and my sisters and me. My mother sleeps on the floor.'

'She has no job now after the machines were all damaged in the coconut fibre factory where she worked.'

'What do I miss from my old life? My books, and my soft toys – I made them myself.'

Plan Sri Lanka response

Health and Nutrition (All tsunami-affected areas of the country)

- Provided food to health workers during the first 48 hours of emergency through the Ministry of Health.
- Provided medicines and medical supplies to the divisional health authority for the camps during the relief stage.
- Provided medicines and medical supplies to the Ministry of Health and the State Pharmacy for maintenance medicines for children and adults during the reconstruction stage.

Education (Hambantota District)

- Distributed 24,800 Back-to-School kits and sets of uniforms in Hambantota District.
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Southern Province to construct 1 new school, reconstruct 9 schools and repair 4 schools.
- Finalised the design of the Ruhunu Vijayabha School construction in Tangalle Division and received approval from the Prime Minister's Office.

Habitat, Water and Sanitation (Hambantota District)

- Cleared land for the Yayawatte Township development for 200 houses; land blocking, securing permits, selection of beneficiaries, and bidding for building contractors is ongoing.
- Clearing land and contour surveying of two other townships: Egodabedda (67 houses) and Bata-ata South (127 houses) are in progress. Submitted site plan to the government for approval.
- Selection of families for 200 individual houses to be built outside the townships (on family's own land) is ongoing. In Tangalle, received the list of 100 confirmed families from the district government.
- Provided 5 water pumps to clean wells, 150 water tanks to camps and temporary shelters.
- Provided 14 generators to camps.
- Provided US\$10,000 to the National Cricket Board Appeal for the construction of latrines in camps in Galle District.
- Constructed latrines in 1 school camp.



Smiles of children of Jayawickrama School.

Livelihood (Hambantota District)

- Provided 1,000 tool kits to masons and carpenters.
- Provided US\$250,000 in total to two microfinance institutions (SEEDS and Janashakti Women's Federation) to write off loans, issue new loans and re-establish village banks. Through JWF, 612 clients benefited from this project (502 complete cancellations and 110 partial cancellations of outstanding loans).
- Assisted 100 young people in Hambantota with rapid training as carpenters, masons, electricians, and plumbers.

Psychosocial Support (All tsunami-affected areas of country)

- Expanded the existing counselling program of the National Institute of Education and financed the training of school counsellors on loss and grief.
- Commissioned the Centre for Public Mental Health (CPMH), Faculty of Psychiatry and Neuropsychiatry, University of Maastricht and the Health Net International (HNI)/Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) to conduct a countrywide assessment of the psychosocial and educational needs of children, beginning with Hambantota District.
- Produced an educational video (*After the Big Wave*) on what tsunami is for children and adults to help them understand better what it is and why their homes and schools need to be moved to safer places.
- Produced a book (*Searching for Punchi*) for children to help them cope with loss and grief.
- Financed the review, revision, translation and printing of the *Child Mental Health Book* (50,000 copies), *Joyful Living* (50,000 copies) and *Manual on Stress Reduction* (50,000 copies) to be used by teachers with children affected by the tsunami.

- Distributed 100,000 MEENA life skills booklets (e.g., "How to Deal with Bullies", "How to Wash Hands", "How to Use the Toilet", "How to Count", etc.) to go with the Back-to-School kit.
- Introduced the "Happy/Sad Letter Box" (100 boxes) in 25 school communities in Hambantota District. Children can drop letters about their feelings, for follow-up by school counsellors.

Child Protection (All tsunami-affected areas of country)

- Sent 5 staff and Government officials to India to learn from their Child Helpline experience as a pre-requisite for establishing a Child Helpline in Sri Lanka.
- Conducted a rapid assessment on the extent of loss of birth certificates, national identity cards and other legal documents in the affected areas.

Development Education/Communication (Hambantota District)

- Recorded on video the effects of the tsunami on communities and children.
- Started producing a video and a newsletter on "Tsunami: 100 Days After".
- Conducted consultation meetings with men, women and children for designing the new schools, houses and settlements for Hambantota District.



A boy stops his bicycle beside a new boat sitting near the Plan child centre in Kallar village.



India

Country Snapshot: India

Child centres providing fun and learning activities are helping Indian children rediscover a sense of normality and hope. They're also a vital part of the work towards long-term community recovery that is at the core of Plan's philosophy.



In the cool of dusk, men from Kallar prepare to carry a new boat towards the shore.

Kallar village sits on an outcrop of low land decorated with a topping of coconut trees, surrounded on three sides by the sea. Four months after the wave, its Hindu temple and scattering of pastel-hued, pummelled buildings connect people with the memory of a town now gone – and perhaps to a life that will one day come back.

For now, that day is some ways off. Kallar residents remain camped out in a line of tin-roofed sheds stretching out near the sandy village entrance like a thin grey scar.

They have succeeded in hauling away much of their fishing community's broken timbers and other physical debris; what concerns counsellor Alfred is the wreckage left in people's minds.

Depression and grief are still a "norm" on India's southeastern coastline, Alfred states firmly, as though afraid that people no longer notice the fact.

He sees it, he says, in men who are flailing without their wives; in widows with no support who are vulnerable to predation; in the stressed-out mothers who tell crying children they should have died in the tsunami. There are still individuals who talk endlessly and relentlessly of the calamity, while others go quiet and turn to alcohol.

Tsunami in India

- Deaths: 12,405
- Villages affected: 1,089
- Houses destroyed: 235,000
- Boats destroyed: 83,788
- Agricultural land destroyed (hectares): 39,035

Source: Government of India, June 2005



A boy takes a rest in the side of a destroyed trawler in Nagapattinam district.



Dancing and singing restore smiles to young and old outside the Real-Plan child care centre in Kallar village.

Alfred makes it his business to listen, talk, cajole, and, distract. He encourages people to do things, to work at anything rather than sit around with churning minds. 'Cleaning up, fixing water supplies, for example; such jobs must be done. Working together in groups, especially, relaxes people's minds, helps them get their health back. I say to people, "try to think about now, not about what happened before."'

Alfred has taken a group from Kallar, where some 160 people died, to a neighbouring village near Nagapattinam so they would see how others too are suffering like them; a risky strategy perhaps, but he claims a success. 'They embraced the children of those other places...they said those people were like their brothers and sisters.'

Alfred points to other results: children who early on drew pictures of broken homes and dead bodies now again paint ordinary, unblighted, landscapes. Youngsters who balked at making new connections after losing close friends eventually began to reach out to each other, mainly at organised dance sessions and in a new child club called the Kallar Nethilis.

At dusk in late April outside the Plan child centre, scores of children take turns one evening to perform intricate modern dance steps to the sound of raucous popular music blaring from a loudspeaker. Parents and passers-by stop by to look; many smile.

'It helps people to focus on children, they like to see them play and be happy; it takes their minds away from their own troubles,' says Alfred, who works with local Plan partner, the NGO REAL.

His own attention today is on one silent, impassive audience member who inspired him months ago to work harder for tsunami child victims but who remains a worry. Chandru lost his mother in the wave and was himself assumed dead until discovered, late, clinging high up to a coconut tree near his house. For ten days, the boy didn't speak a word.

His family and aid workers such as Alfred have worked hard since to help the boy. But though Chandru now goes to school, talks a little to his family, and goes to watch events like dancing, he remains apart, eschewing close relationships, locked away in himself. 'We're not there yet,' Alfred says.

The tsunami had a calamitous impact on children. They were an estimated third of India's some 12,000 people who died. Tens of thousands who may now be starting to cope with the loss of parents, friends, teachers, and their homes are unaware of their increased vulnerability to lasting psychological effects, and to their greater potential for future lives marred by poverty.

Partners in India

Plan's partners in the tsunami program in India include the following organisations and networks:

Organisations

Guild of Service (GOS)

CHILDLINE

Don Bosco Anbu Illam Social Service Society

Rejuvenate India Movement (RIM)

Centre for Child Rights and Development (CCRD)

Training and Development Centre (TDC)

REAL Villipuram

Rural Development Society (RDS)

Association for Development through Integration and Cooperation (AICOP)

UNDP

Networks

SOOZHAI, which consists of BLESS, CREED etc.

TReART, which consists of Rural Education and Action for Liberation (REAL) and Centre for Rural Energy and Appropriate Technology Extension (CREATE), Centre for Awareness and Rural Education (CARE).

Tamil Nadu Legal Network, which consists of People's Watch, Tamil Nadu (PW-TN), Human Rights Law Network (HRLN), etc.

Restoration of Tsunami-Affected Communities in Karaikal (ResTACK), which consists of CEDA, Village Reconstruction and Development Project (VRDP), People's Organisation for People Education Trust (POPE).

It is that kind of long-term vulnerability that Plan is particularly concerned to address. Initially of course, efforts had to focus on immediate needs.

Shortly after the disaster struck, Plan International in India moved quickly to open a satellite branch in Chennai, made rapid needs assessments, and began working with local NGOs to distribute food, vitamins and other essential relief items to communities during the chaotic aftermath. Medicines, blankets, mats and hygiene kits were distributed. Syringes were another priority for intermediate overcrowded shelter areas. Tamil Nadu state has the highest documented incidence of HIV/AIDS in India.

Around 3,675 families in Andhra Pradesh were assisted in the first rounds of emergency aid. Around 1,120 emergency shelters were built in Nagapattinam. The local government prohibited the use of natural materials and the shelters made of tin were later modified after local research to reduce the temperature. Plan also provided safe drinking water facilities such as large tanks to shelters and constructed latrine facilities in two areas.

New staff were hired to help deal with the emergency and Plan began partnerships with established local NGOs in the area to work on mitigation of the potential long-term effects of the disaster on children on the devastated coast.

Since then, it has supported the establishment of 35 child care centres in Nagapattinam and 32 centres in Cuddalore district.

The centres, which provide more than 3,500 children with regular care and activities like games, art and dance, play a vital role in helping restore some kind of normality to upturned lives and in promoting resilience.

Children also received food, school equipment and nutritional supplements.

Near the ruins of shoreline villages Pudipettai and Indiranagar in Cuddalore district, hundreds of children attend brick child-care centres run by Plan and the NGO BLESS. The youngsters are alert and energetic, keen to perform dances and songs for visitors – including a song about the tsunami.



Rows of tightly-packed shelters cram this shoreline camp.



Fishermen repair nets in preparation for a return to work.

Village women are being assisted to set up self-help groups for micro businesses like sewing and small shops.

Though many of the child centres are in fishing communities, others are in agricultural areas that were devastated when sea water inundated miles of farmland, killing crops and livestock and rendering land infertile.

One community of 24 families some 20 kilometres south of Nagapattinam lost their homes as well as the livings formerly provided by acres of cashew nut trees and paddy fields. Now they live in well-built and maintained small wooden shelters near their land. Water and sanitary facilities seem well maintained and community spirit appears strong in the lonely spot. But some children find it hard to sleep at night with the sound of the waves. Few in the community want to live so close to the ocean in future, but they wish to continue to work their farms. Plan and partners are now working with the community to reclaim fields and irrigation ponds.

The tsunami did more than rip up the physical infrastructure of coastal southeastern India; it also re-opened fault-lines in the society, with the losers emerging again as the lowest caste group, the Dalits.

In a temporary camp outside Nagapattinam, Dalits have been segregated from the fishing families alongside whom they used to live more or less symbiotically, doing daily support jobs in areas such as rice plants, rickshaw driving, fish sorting and other casual work.

Camp members complain that while the fishing communities get replacement boats and nets, Dalit losses and needs are being overlooked. Their overcrowded, shed-like shelters are too hot for sleep; many people bunk down at night on the field outside with mosquitoes and goats. They are glad the children at least have a small child centre, they say. And they want to introduce a source of pride; Jansirini, 18, their first ever member to attend university. Somehow, impossible as it seems, from this harsh base the shy young woman is maintaining the life of a first-year BSC computer science student.

In another Dalit temporary camp on flood-prone government land 15 kilometres south of Chennai, far from the coast and their old source of livelihoods, conditions are worsening. A large government-built shelter provides children with a safe place to play and learn. But life is otherwise grim; here too the heat and overcrowding force many people to sleep outside on open ground. Latrines built by charity organisations are not used because water from the newly build well contains too much salt and other floating stuff and people don't want to use it for toiletry purposes. Water storage tanks have been unfilled for some time. Flooding blocked access for supply trucks.



Woman sits with her newborn baby in a temporary camp in Chennai district.



An infant waves to a train from outside his home in the ruins of Vedhanayagan Chetti Street in Nagapattinam district.

An entire section of the hundreds of sheds built by international NGOs remains empty after a recent downpour turned rooms and the ground around them to mud. In the panicked rush to reach high ground, Vesanti, 33, broke a hip bone and can now barely walk, a disastrous development for a woman already abandoned by her husband and living on a bare food allotment from a married daughter.

A dapper 40-something barber, Kasilingam, who lost his equipment and thatched house in the tsunami, reports some good news; he has managed to find day work in a new location. He now needs only a house. So far, he is not among those to whom one has been promised. Government policy on housing is still being finalised.

No one knows what lies ahead for this community, which is also riven by internal leadership battles. A local NGO worker fears its people could easily fall victim to official neglect. As time goes on, they risk losing whatever “status” attaches to being tsunami victims and becoming just another group within India’s millions of destitute poor.

Given the state of the shelters, muddy land and non-functioning latrines, the coming monsoons threaten to bring an outbreak of disease in the camp. There are fears that the conditions could force people to return to living on the pavements where many Chennai Dalits spent the first two months after the tsunami.

Fr. Alphonse of the local NGO Don Bosco is one of many whose work continues unabated since the extraordinarily generous initial local, national and international response to the plight of India’s tsunami victims.



A boy stands near the sea near Kallar village.

Yet the move to the wider phase – the allocation of land for housing and schools, and the provision of schemes for restoration of livelihoods – seems to have stalled in a complex web of indecision, bureaucracy and politics, leaving survivors frustrated and worried.

‘What we really need now is houses,’ said a Kallar community leader, Mr Rathnabel. ‘I am concerned that it’s hard for our children to maintain progress while living in the temporary shelters.’

The government has stated that it will ask selected large NGOs to take charge of all aspects of rehabilitation of allocated villages. In May, Plan India reported that it is waiting for official clearance and clarification before starting on schemes for housing. Meanwhile, it has, with its partners, begun the tender process for boats, nets, and other fishing related equipment such as solar-powered freezers for a number of fishing villages. A newly-recruited livelihood specialist is working with the partners to design employment and other livelihood projects focusing on marginalised groups that may not make it onto government schemes.



A young drama troupe prepares to perform at a cultural event outside the Real-Plan child care centre in Kallar.

Joyce

After losing his mother and sister in the tsunami, Joyce (*right*) drew a troubled painting in March depicting his memories of the terrible event. In April, he drew another painting depicting the arrival of relief aid in his village of Kallar.

Today, Joyce is a member of a young theatre group and likes games such as the frog jump, running races, and, above all, 'Cricket – it's Number 1'!



Chandru

Chandru lost his mother in the tsunami, and was feared dead himself before he was found clinging to a coconut tree. For ten days after his rescue, he didn't speak. Today, he is still quiet and withdrawn, but goes to school and is beginning to take an interest in activities like song and dance.

Plan India response

Health and Nutrition

- Distributed food, clothes, medicines, disposable syringes, hygiene kits, sanitary napkins, blankets, mats in 32 villages in Cuddalore district, 40 villages in Nagapattinam district and 67 relief camps in Andhra Pradesh (about 3,675 families).
- Supported volunteer groups of students, people who were from neighbouring unaffected areas, and youth groups of the affected communities to remove debris and decaying bodies from villages, schools and houses, thus minimising the risk of an epidemic.
- Conducted surveys in all 40 affected villages in Nagapattinam district, to identify emerging health issues.
- Attended 2,998 patients through 33 health camps.
- Assisted 50 patients with hospitalisation and specialised medical care.
- Placed large health and hygiene messages on walls in Velankanni, Kallar and Ariyanattukuppam displaced people's camps.
- Deployed 72 Mobile Medical Teams and 563 Para Medical Teams to provide medical aid to the victims in Andhra Pradesh.
- Provided nutritional supplements like milk, eggs, groundnuts and biscuits in child care centres (see "Education" below).
- Prepared health records of individual children to be maintained with the mothers to make them aware of the importance of nutritional foods for themselves (especially pregnant mothers) as well as their children.
- Provided food for about 500 children in Chennai.

Education

- Constructed and now operating 35 child care centres, covering 33 villages and serving 1,002 children in Nagapattinam district.
- Constructed and now operating 32 child care centres in 32 villages and serving 2,494 children in Cuddalore district.
- Trained 25 care centre workers on early childhood care and development.
- Provided supplementary education for 230 students of grades 1-8 and 160 preschool children through evening classes in Chennai.
- Provided non formal education to 40-50 children per day who have dropped out of school and also conducted "back-to-school" campaign in Chennai.
- Provided school-books, stationery, and uniforms to 979 children in Nagapattinam and Cuddalore.
- Provided play materials to about 300 children in Chennai.



A shy moment at a cultural event at the Real-Plan child centre in Kallar.

Habitat, water and sanitation

- Constructed 1,120 temporary homes for displaced people across Nagapattinam District. (For speed of construction, shelters were mainly made of corrugated fibre or metal. However, these become very hot during the day. Plan partners are now installing plywood ceilings and palm thatch porches, which reduce temperatures by at least 3-4°C).
- Provided safe drinking water facilities for displaced people's camps and tsunami-affected communities: 20 1,000-litre tanks and 20 bore wells to shelters and 21 1,000-litre tanks to child care centres.
- Constructed sanitation facilities (hand-pumps, toilets, bathrooms – especially for women – and washing places) in Nagapattinam and Vedharanyam districts: 12 sanitary complexes, 22 toilet blocks, 4 bathrooms, 4 laundry slabs and 1 leach-pit model septic tank.
- Promoted the usage of toilets and maintenance of hygiene practices.
- Discussions are ongoing with displaced people and with government agencies on reconstruction of permanent homes.

Livelihood

- Established tailoring centre in Thuraipakkam Settlement in Chennai with 10 sewing machines where 15 adolescent girls are being trained.
- Introduced Women Self-Help groups in the project area to support them get loans and acquire income-generating skills.



Women walk among the ruins of Vedhanayagan Chetti Street in Nagapattinam district.

Psychosocial support and child protection

- Conducted training for trainers for 24 partner organisation staff on child rights and participation.
- Organised games, poems, songs, stories, drawings and interactive cultural events for children in child care centres throughout intervention areas to help them address their experiences. 750 children attended the 2 special events organised in Chennai. 80 children attended a week-long summer camp for the same purpose.
- Provided counselling to 421 depressed persons in Nagapattinam.
- 7 CHILDLINE (telephone helpline) centres and 11 sub-centres set up in the affected regions of Nagapattinam, Cuddalore and Pondicherry (19,713 calls have been received in 243 villages so far).
- Organised 2 youth clubs and 1 adolescent club in Olakottaimedu.
- Organised and ran 4 cultural events for children.



Collecting water in a temporary camp.

Regional Activities

The Asia regional office based in Bangkok functions as the coordination body for the entire tsunami operation. It is the liaison office for external and internal communications and fundraising and serves as the technical backstop for the four country programs.

On 28-29 April in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Asia regional office hosted a meeting on the loss and the recovery of civil registrations after the tsunami. The loss of identity documents, including birth registration, had emerged as a serious issue in the tsunami affected areas. Cambodia was chosen as the venue because of the successful mobile civil registration campaign carried out in a multi-sectoral effort there between the country's Ministry of Interior, UNDP, ADB and Plan. The meeting was attended by 22 people from India, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Philippines, ADB, UNICEF Indonesia, GTZ, Indonesia, and Plan International Headquarters. The country participants came from Civil Registry Offices and Plan offices.

The aim of the meeting was to share and learn from the experiences of other countries on measures to recover records, re-establish registers and registry functions, provide legal assistance to individuals and set up systems for future registrations should similar situations arise. A full report is available on request.



Fishermen in Hambantota district, Sri Lanka are gradually returning to sea, getting back to business.

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