



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**  
Emergency Management Australia

## EMA Schools Education

# TSUNAMI INFORMATION



## Tsunami Activity Sheet No. 5

What happens after a Tsunami?

## 5. What happens after a tsunami?

Many thousands of people can be affected by a tsunami – the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004 killed over 275,000 and displaced over 1 million people. Five million people had basic services affected.

There are a number of levels of response or recovery to an emergency such as this. These include

- an emergency response (usually short term and immediate);
- a medium-term recovery (where people are being helped who are experiencing the after effects such as disease, loss of income and livelihood and loss of shelter);
- and a long-term recovery (which may last from a few months to many years and includes reconstruction of buildings and lives).

**Download** the free tsunami education kit from <http://www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au/globaled/page1637.html> or <http://www.worldvision.com.au/resources/teachers/>

There is extensive information about the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, about types of aid and how the poor were more vulnerable. There is also information about how to help children cope with the images they have seen.

1. Draw up a table and list the aid activities that take place during short-, medium-, and long-term responses to a disaster such as the Indian Ocean tsunami.
2. Read the reports from the World Health Organisation about updates of the aid that has occurred in many countries (at [http://w3.who.sea.org/EN/Section23/Section1108/Section1835\\_8140.htm](http://w3.who.sea.org/EN/Section23/Section1108/Section1835_8140.htm))

Imagine you are a journalist visiting one of the devastated countries.

- a. Choose the country from which you are reporting.
  - b. Describe what happened there.
  - c. Now describe what you see, including the work being done by aid workers. How are they helping the local people?
  - d. Describe the challenges involved in such work. What about the rewards?
  - e. Imagine you are interviewing a survivor – what stories might that person have to tell?
  - f. Why are aid workers important in the relief work?
3. Imagine you were involved in a tsunami disaster. Write your own story about what has happened to you and how you are coping.

4. Work in groups of four and **report** on the work being done by two aid organisations. At <http://abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200412/s1273434.htm>  
You may like to present this as a television or radio news report; a poster; a play or a PowerPoint format.
5. **Read** about tourism in the affected region <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/4137633.stm>
  - a. Should affected tourist areas be visited or not? Provide sound reasons for your point of view.
  - b. Divide the class into two groups and conduct a debate: To tour or not to tour?
6. The Australian people donated over \$240 million to various aid organisations for the tsunami victims, which was an unprecedented amount.  
Why do you think people have been so generous in helping in this disaster?
7. Conduct a discussion or debate about the appropriateness or otherwise of diverting aid away from global poverty issues or countries suffering enormous health problems to relieve those affected by the tsunami disaster. You will need to conduct some research to prepare your point of view about these issues.