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OCHA Situation Report No. 27
Earthquake and Tsunami
Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand, & Somalia

Main Highlights

- In Indonesia, the voluntary movement of displaced populations to government constructed barracks has begun.
- In Sri Lanka, the Head of TAFREN (Task Force to Rebuild the Nation) announced that 60 percent of aid will go to Tamil Tiger controlled areas.
- In Thailand, UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) are in the process of developing an interim tsunami alert system in the Indian Ocean, which will cover the region until a longer-term fully-fledged system is established.

Financial Highlights

Out of 870 million USD pledged to the FA by official donors on or after Jan. 11, 484 million USD has been contributed ("paid," "disbursed"). A further 220 million USD has been committed. (484 + 220 = 704, meaning that 81% of official FA pledges have been converted into commitments or contributions.) Private donors have contributed an additional 59 million USD. The rest remain uncommitted official pledges.

INDONESIA

Situation:

As of 16 February, BAKORNAS reported that 120,514 bodies have been buried. The number of people missing remains at 114,897. The number of displaced people still stands at 403,428, with the largest number in Aceh Besar (98,384), followed by Aceh Barat (71,675).

UNICEF reports that the educational system represented by the Provincial Departments of Education (PDE) and Religious Affairs (responsible for the Madrassah schools) now faces unprecedented devastation. In particular, PDE reported that 176 of its 1,754 staff members have died or are missing (10%).

Overview of Activities:

The government has completed 33% of the planned 418 barracks for displaced persons. The voluntary movement of displaced people to the 139 completed barracks commenced early this week.

Interventions in the education sector have slowly switched to physical reconstruction of schools as well as teacher training preparation. A rapid assessment of learning spaces supported by UNICEF has been conducted in Aceh Besar and Pidie districts with the assessment of 173 schools completed.

A separate general survey is reportedly being conducted by BAKORNAS looking specifically at relocation sites.

Upon the Government's request, starting March 1st WFP will provide food aid to all displaced people in Aceh and North Sumatra. Meanwhile the Government, through the Department of Social Welfare, will provide cash (IDR 3,000/person/day) for limited additional food items. Eligible beneficiaries for this assistance include displaced people who live in barracks, temporary shelters, as well as those who live with host families.

Main Challenges and Response:

The Government is likely to face significant challenges during the deployment of approximately 2,000 teachers to replace those lost in the tsunami. For example, newly recruited teachers will have to adapt to the emergency situation as well as local culture. In anticipation of these challenges, the Departments of Education and Religious Affairs, with the support of UNICEF, Save the Children and other NGOs, will conduct joint teacher training in emergency education.

Link between Emergency Activities and Livelihood Recovery:

Recognizing the need for recovery and reconstruction activities, the rebuilding of schools is a priority for a growing number of organizations and agencies.

Useful websites:

Government:

www.bakornasbp.go.id (National Coordination Board for Natural Disaster Management)

www.depsos.go.id (Department of Social Affairs)

www.depkes.go.id (Department of Health)

www.lin.go.id (National Information Board-Ministry of Information and Communication)

www.info-ri.com (Information-Republic Indonesia)

Other:

www.coe-dmha.org/tsunami.htm (daily chronology of key events)

www.apan-info.net - tsunami page (Pacific Command)

www.humanitarianinfo.org - Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC)

SRI LANKA

Situation

In connection with the launch of a US\$ 1.8 billion tsunami reconstruction plan, the Head of TAFREN (Task Force to Rebuild the Nation) stated on Saturday that approximately 60 percent of the aid will be distributed to Tamil Tiger controlled areas.

The Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics is currently compiling a district-by-district census of tsunami-affected people. Official figures are unchanged from 1 February, awaiting the census report.

A previously unknown group, the Tamil National Force (TNF), has claimed responsibility for the killing of LTTE high-ranking leader E. Kaushalyan on 7 February.

Mr. Hagrup Haukland has been appointed temporary head of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM). Head of Mission, Major General Trond Furuhoide has been on medical leave for treatment since mid-January, and will remain on leave for some months.

Overview of activities

There are no significant changes with regard to food security, health, water and sanitation, education, livelihoods and environment/infrastructure. On shelter: The Government's Transitional Accommodation Project (TAP) Office has opened. Head of TAP, Mr. Tilak Ranavirajah, requests the close cooperation of relevant NGOs with regard to the erection of tents, transitional shelters and permanent shelters. On protection: On 12-13 February, the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, the Legal Aid Commission, the Legal Aid Foundation, police authorities and government departments organized four mobile offices to issue legal documentation assistance to internally displaced persons in the Divisional Secretariats of Tangalle, Ambalantota, Hambantota and Tissamahamera. Between 8,000 and 10,000 displaced persons received assistance in filling in various forms for birth, death, marriage, driving licenses and national ID cards. On coordination/logistics: WFP has leased a helicopter from the Sri Lankan operator Deccan Aviation. The helicopter can carry four passengers and will fly with UN markings.

Main challenges and response

UN agencies and NGOs are still experiencing significant delays in obtaining customs clearance for items arriving at Colombo International Airport. Authority clearance routines recently underwent several changes resulting in confusion among UN agencies and NGOs. The UN Joint Logistics Centre is assisting agencies and NGOs with information on current clearance procedures and how to follow them.

Useful Website:

<http://www.humanitarian-srilanka.org/Pages/tsunami.htm>

MALDIVES

Situation:

The recently released preliminary Joint Needs Assessment Report of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and United Nations states that Maldives will require 304 million USD to effectively implement a recovery and reconstruction strategy. The assessment estimates the total damages to be about 470 million USD, which is close to 62 percent of the country's GDP. Most of the losses were in the housing and tourism sectors, with the education, fishing, and transport sectors also heavily affected.

The Government announced a planned 30 million USD project to revive economic activity in the tsunami-affected islands. The project focuses on the development of fisheries, agriculture and small business. The Government is also working with the Bank of Maldives to provide long-term low payment loans, which will be funded from the state budget and foreign assistance.

The UN Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Hafiz Pasha, will be visiting Maldives from 20 to 22 February 2005 as part of a two-week official mission to examine the ways and means to move forward with the recovery effort in Asian countries hardest hit by the tsunami.

Overview of Activities:

Community consultations in Muli have been carried out to prepare implementation work of the shelter project in Muli. Repairs to partially damaged houses in Meemu Muli will likely begin during the third week of February.

Under the WFP school feeding programme, biscuits have been distributed to all planned schools. The programme is expected to run until mid-March. WFP also plans to target 42,000 beneficiaries in an upcoming food assistance programme for the most vulnerable groups.

The receipt and installation of rainwater storage tanks at schools is on-going, and will be followed by the permanent installation of 18 reverse osmosis units on selected islands. In addition, UNICEF and the Maldives Water and Sanitation Authority will collaborate to install plastic septic tanks on affected islands.

An expert has arrived upon the request of the Government and UNEP to assist with healthcare and waste management. WHO has secured two boats to act as sea ambulances, and hazardous materials are being collected from tsunami affected islands. A logistics expert from the UNFPA's Country Support Team in Kathmandu was on mission to assist the Ministry of Health in strengthening the logistics.

Link between emergency activities and livelihood recovery:

Now that children are back in school, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF are focusing their attention to longer term initiatives including the rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools.

UNICEF and the Ministry of Gender, Family Affairs and Social Security have undertaken an assessment mission to explore the need for psycho-social counseling. This three day mission will be followed by the development of a longer term action plan that will include capacity building for protective services for women and children.

Main Challenges and Response:

The Ministry of Planning reported that the resettlement process for those evacuated from their homes has been slow because of lack of funds. The Government is presently using its own budget. However in the future a housing finance scheme will be initiated.

Useful Websites:

United Nations Maldives Disaster Relief Taskforce: <http://202.1.199.67>

Maldives National Disaster Management Centre: <http://www.tsunamimaldives.mv>

Other Information :

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OCHA contact Thierry Delbreuve, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UN Building Male'. Mobile: (960) 778 971; email: delbreuve@un.org

THAILAND

Situation:

The focus of the operations in Thailand has rapidly progressed from rescue and relief to clean-up, recovery and reconstruction. Moreover, the Thai Government has reiterated its intent to serve as a regional hub for the delivery of UN disaster relief and humanitarian operations. To this effect, on 28 January 2005, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra publicly welcomed the UN's plan to open a Regional Office of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The latest figures from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Ministry of Interior, Government of Thailand as of 15 February 2005 are: 5,395 dead (1,900 Thai, 1,953 foreigners and 1,542 unidentified) and 2,993 missing (2034 Thai and 959 foreigners).

On early warning, the Prime Minister announced on 1 February 2005 that the first tsunami detection outpost has now been established in the Similan Islands in the Andaman Sea by the Royal Thai Navy. This monitoring device is lined with satellite transmission receivers as part of many steps to develop a comprehensive national tsunami early warning system. Monitoring and warning towers will be built along the coastline in the next six to twelve months.

In the tourism front, passenger and flight movements at Phuket International Airport are reported to have fallen sharply last month. The number of international passengers had particularly decreased, plunging 88.8% year-on-year. This reflects the severe blow that the Dec 26 tsunami dealt to the resort island's key industry.

Overview of Activities:

Agriculture and Fisheries: A joint Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives/FAO mission on technical damage and needs assessment took place in mid-January. Following the mission, several emergency projects were approved, including a project entitled Emergency Assistance to Support the Rehabilitation in Earthquake/Tsunami-Affected Areas.

Early Warning: UNESCO and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) are in the process of developing an interim tsunami alert system in the Indian Ocean, which will cover the region until a longer-term fully-fledged system is established. Separately, a joint UN system mapping exercise for early warning roles was recently conducted in Bangkok at the request of the UN Special Coordinator for the Humanitarian Assistance to the Tsunami.

Migrant workers: Two UN joint assessment missions were conducted in January 2005. The second mission, composed of IOM, UNHCR, OHCHR, UNIFEM and the World Bank, was conducted on 20-25 January 2005. The mission assessed the geographical distribution, dislocation and general situation of tsunami affected migrant workers in the Provinces of Krabi, Phuket, Ranong and Phangnga in order to more precisely determine the issues that need to be addressed.

Civil-Military Coordination: OCHA's Civil-Military Coordination Hub in U-Tapao representing the UN System closed down on 12 Feb 2005. The Combined Support Force 536 (CSF 536) ended its operations on the same day. CSF 536 brought together Military Liaison Officers from 13 countries to provide various military assets in support of the tsunami relief effort. At least 35 countries have contributed military assets in the regional effort to assist victims in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

Main Challenges and Response:

Although the Royal Thai Government decided not to appeal for international financial assistance, it will accept foreign technical assistance such as equipment, tools, training, as well as offers to build schools or hospitals for the poor. To this end, UN agencies in Thailand have participated in the Regional Programme of the UN Flash Appeal to facilitate technical assistance activities. To show their support for the region, The Royal Thai Government plans to share half of the material donations for Thai tsunami victims with Sri Lanka and Indonesia. UNDP has established a Tsunami Recovery Open Fund to mobilize resources in support of the medium- to longer-term recovery and rehabilitation efforts in the six provinces of Southern Thailand seriously affected by the tsunami. The Open Fund will finance projects that will provide flexible and responsive support to the Thai Government, local NGOs, and communities in the priority areas of sustainable livelihoods recovery and the rehabilitation of the environment.

Link Between Emergency Activities and Livelihood Recovery:

Small Businesses / Employment: The ILO has offered the Ministry existing Thai-language tools on starting and improving small businesses, labour-based methods for creating maximum local jobs in infrastructure reconstruction projects, and policies and training for newly disabled workers. The ILO is participating in UNCT advocacy and support to help migrant workers re-establish registration documentation and to regain productive employment.

On 30 January, the ILO co-sponsored a workshop in Phuket for labour unions on the “Impact of Tsunami Disaster on Workers in Andaman Coastal Areas of Thailand.”

Tourism: An emergency plan to assist the tourism industries of countries ravaged by the December 26 tsunami was adopted at a special session of the World Tourism Organization Executive Council on 1 February 2005. The main goal of the Phuket Action Plan is to speed up recovery of the tourism sector in the affected destinations, by restoring traveler confidence in the region.

SOMALIA

From 28 January to 9 February, numerous international UN agencies and NGOs, in cooperation with the local authorities, conducted a multi-sector assessment of affected communities in Puntland. Joint UN/NGO teams assessed gaps in the present humanitarian response and identified recovery needs in the sectors of food, nutrition and livelihood security, fisheries, health and nutrition, education, water and sanitation, shelter, infrastructure, and governance.

Draft reports on the findings in each sector of the interagency assessment mission are being finalized. The findings will be shared with the Puntland authorities as well as with the international community. Emergency humanitarian response activities for the tsunami-affected areas are on-going as humanitarian and development aid organizations plan recovery to development initiatives for the affected people.

PLEDGES – CONTRIBUTIONS

Regarding overall funding in response to the tsunami, according to the information available to the United Nations:

Total amount pledged, committed or contributed to all recipients is US\$ 5.7 billion. Of this: 89 Governments have pledged, committed or contributed US \$5.2 billion. Private persons and institutions have contributed at least US\$ 552 million.*

Total amount pledged, committed or contributed to the UN-NGO Flash Appeal is US\$ 934 million. Of this:

- 55 Governments have specifically pledged, committed or contributed US\$ 669 million to 16 UN agencies, and another \$45 million to NGOs and other international organizations.
- Private persons and institutions have contributed US\$ 59 million to 6 UN agencies.**
- The balance (\$164 million) consists of general pledges for the Flash Appeal but not yet assigned or committed to any agency or NGO.

**UN agencies are informing FTS of the private contributions they receive, but not all NGOs are; therefore this figure is known to be understated.*

*** A further \$140 million in private contributions has been reported by UN agencies, but the agencies are re-allocating the funds from Flash Appeal projects to medium-term reconstruction activities.*

Updates on contributions to this disaster may be found on the Financial Tracking Service (<http://www.reliefweb.int/fts>; or, click “Financial Tracking” at the top of the ReliefWeb page for this disaster). Donors are requested to verify this table and inform OCHA Geneva of corrections/additions/values. Donors are encouraged to notify OCHA Geneva of their contributions to this disaster using the OCHA Standardized Contributions Recording Format, available electronically on the above-mentioned FTS website.

Together with further information on other ongoing emergencies, this situation report is also available on the OCHA Internet Website at <http://www.reliefweb.int>.

Aid agencies are encouraged to use the Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) at <http://www.reliefweb.int> to share information on assistance and coordinate activities.

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