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OCHA-Geneva

UNITED NATIONS

**OFFICE FOR THE
COORDINATION
OF HUMANITARIAN
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Date: 10 March 2005

Ref: OCHA/GVA - 2005/0052

**OCHA Situation Report No. 31
Earthquake and Tsunami
Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand, Seychelles, & Somalia**

Main Highlights

- In Indonesia, UN OCHA offices report good or improving coordination activities.
- In Sri Lanka, the Ministry of Finance and Planning launched the Centre for Non-Governmental Sector.
- In Thailand, several areas in the southern province of Phang Nga are suffering from a severe water shortage.
- In the Maldives, the OCHA Internal Displacement Division completed a one-week consultation.
- In the Seychelles, reconstruction is needed for destroyed bridges, roads, fishing piers, schools, housing, and other basic infrastructure.
- In Somalia, the Tsunami Inter-Agency Assessment Mission presented its report to the Humanitarian Response Group.

Financial Highlights

Out of US\$871 million pledged to the Flash Appeal by official donors on or after 11 January, US\$541 million has been contributed ("paid," "disbursed"). A further US\$194 million has been committed. (541 + 194 = 735, meaning that 84% of official Flash Appeal pledges have been converted into commitments or contributions.) Private donors have contributed an additional US\$69 million, and UN agencies have allocated US\$6 million from their own resources. The rest remain uncommitted official pledges.

On 11 November 2004, the UN Secretary-General launched 14 Consolidated Appeals to address the needs of 26 million people. To date, only 21% of the required US\$ 1.7 billion has been pledged.

REGIONAL

A Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the Flash Appeal is currently underway. OCHA plans to issue the MTR by Thursday 24 March. The MTR will highlight the humanitarian and early recovery achievements during the first three months following the disaster, and will outline the current situation and priority needs until the end of December 2005. It will also describe plans to meet the priority needs, and explain how these plans link to longer-term reconstruction and development.

The International Coordination Meeting for the Development of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean within a Global Framework took place in Paris on 3 to 8 March. Among other things, the meeting recommended that the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Assembly establish an Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the warning system, and that each Member State in the Indian Ocean identify a disaster management focal point.

INDONESIA

I. Situation

On 7 March BAKORNAS reported that 125,736 bodies have been buried, 94,470 people are missing and 400,062 are displaced in 20 districts/cities in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) Province. In North Sumatra Province 19,620 people are displaced, with the largest number present in Medan City (14,731).

The new UN Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Masood Hyder, arrived in Banda Aceh on 2 March. Mr. Hyder has been seconded from WFP for a three-month period.

II. Overview of Activities

UN OCHA offices in Banda Aceh, Meulaboh and Calang conducted a sectoral situation update on 3-4 March. All three offices reported good or improving coordination activities among humanitarian agencies and organisations, as well as with government authorities and the Indonesian Army (TNI). The TNI initially heavily supported government coordination efforts but is now gradually handing over responsibility to civilian authorities. Sectoral working groups are functioning according to a weekly schedule in Banda Aceh. The high turnover of staff within the humanitarian community and among government officials has hampered attempts to develop common strategies and policies. Nevertheless, agencies collaborate well to fill gaps and complement resources.

III. Main Challenges

OCHA has identified the need to increase the flow of information to beneficiaries regarding the activities of the humanitarian community and support available. One solution is for UN agencies and partner organisations to disseminate information to hundreds of thousands of people through the independent Radio News Agency 68H and its 14 partner radio stations located throughout NAD. Public service announcements could be broadcast at regular times, or topical programmes could be created that include phone-ins.

The Government of Indonesia and humanitarian agencies face the challenge of providing adequate transitional shelter alternatives to the tsunami-affected population. As one alternative, IOM plans to provide 11,000 transitional shelters and broke ground on the first of the government-approved sites on 28 February. IOM and the Research Institute for Human Settlements of the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works collaborated to the 36-square-metre cement and wood-framed shelters that are earthquake resistant and meet or exceed SPHERE standards. Using local labour and Indonesian materials, the units can be repeatedly assembled and disassembled for eventual use in permanent shelter construction. Shelter delivery will rapidly accelerate in the coming weeks as additional appropriate locations are identified.

The Water and Sanitation Working Group in Banda Aceh has strengthened its coordination activities and increased water and sanitation services to the Temporary Living Centres (TLCs) following an assessment visit, which highlighted deteriorating conditions in the centres, such as insufficient water supply or poor water quality. As a short-term solution, drinking water will continue to be delivered by water tankers to the TLCs, while longer-term options include the drilling of deeper wells or connecting the sites to the water distribution system. UNICEF estimates that water tankers are achieving 30 deliveries per day providing 120,000 litres of safe drinking water to some 60,000 people, with 65 percent of the water reaching displaced persons. In addition, hygiene promotion and clean-up activities will concentrate on the TLCs and community health care workers to impart information and facilitate better environmental sanitation conditions, as well as supply refuse containers and aid in the construction of hand washing facilities.

IV. Link Between Emergency Activities and Livelihood Recovery

ILO reports that the preliminary rapid estimates of the effects of the disaster on employment and livelihoods indicate that around 1.8 million people have been affected by job losses. It is projected that the unemployment rate could rise temporarily from 6.8% to 30% or higher. Some 38 percent of the population of NAD and North Sumatra provinces is in danger of falling into poverty or deeper into poverty. However, massive reconstruction programmes could mean that at least half of the jobs could be restored by end 2005, and 85 percent within 24 months.

As of 3 March, the ILO and the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration Employment Services had registered over 7,230 skilled and 880 unskilled people into an employment database. Approximately 132 people have secured either temporary or fixed-term employment, while around 22 registered work seekers have been selected to attend further technical skills training. Due to a relatively low number of women having registered themselves as job seekers, only 8 percent of those registered are women. With the assistance of the ILO Gender Specialist, significant efforts will be directed at increasing women's participation and designing training programmes that will empower women to actively participate in the reconstruction process.

V. Useful Websites

Government:

www.bakornasppb.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

I. Situation

The Ministry of Finance and Planning held a forum on 7 March with the NGO community to mark the launch of its Centre for the Non-Governmental Sector and to discuss issues of NGO involvement in post-tsunami relief and reconstruction. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Head of the Taskforce for the Rebuilding of the Nation, and the Commissioner General of Essential Services and Head of the Task Force for Relief (TAFOR) were among the government representatives present. This was the first major assembly of government officials with NGOs since the closing of the Center for National Operations, the introduction of new customs clearance guidelines, and the requirement that NGOs register and file financial reports with the Finance Ministry.

Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Coordinator for the UN Secretary-General for the Response to the Tsunami-Affected Countries, visited Sri Lanka from 7 to 9 March. As well as meeting with UN, government, and diplomatic representatives in Colombo, she travelled to Batticaloa to inspect tsunami relief and rehabilitation efforts. It is her fourth visit to the tsunami-struck region since late December.

II. Overview of Activities

The Second Phase of the Needs Assessment began this week with field missions comprised of government, international financial institutions, UN, bilateral and civil society representatives.

WFP is working closely with the TAFOR to monitor food movements to affected communities and set up a data management system to collect information on food dispatches, distributions and problems faced.

Sri Lanka is expecting a large rice crop in coming months with better than average harvests foreseen in the tsunami-affected districts of Ampara and Batticaloa in the east and Hambantota in the south, as well as in some districts not affected by the tsunami. The government recently imposed restrictions on the import of rice. WFP, which has no additional rice imports scheduled, has sent food procurement specialists to Ampara and Batticaloa to look into the possibility of purchasing rice locally for its relief operation.

III. Main Challenges

Regarding tents, a government needs assessment conducted by the Transitional Accommodation Project, with the participation of UN agencies and NGOs, is ongoing in tsunami-affected areas. Criteria have been established to identify suitable uses of tents. The categories are: people still living under plastic sheeting; people living in substandard tents, such as igloo tents, who should have them replaced; people who wish to leave temporary accommodation centres and return to their own land outside the buffer zone; people living with friends and relatives who need more living space on a site/at a house which already has water and sanitation facilities; and administrative use, such as a temporary government office where facilities were damaged or destroyed by the tsunami.

UNHCR has to date delivered 1,993 tents to tsunami-affected areas. At present, UNHCR has 2,500 additional tents at the Port of Colombo which have been granted duty free clearance by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and are awaiting clearance for geographical allocation. A further 5,527 tents (also located at the Port of Colombo) are pending both the duty exemption certificates and clearance for geographical allocation. A backlog of approximately 250 cargo containers containing relief and reconstruction materials has still not cleared customs at the Colombo port.

IV. Link Between Emergency Activities and Livelihood Recovery

The Rapid Livelihood Household Survey conducted jointly by ILO and WFP indicates that 80 percent of the tsunami-affected households lost their main source of income, and 90 percent of those households that had productive assets saw them destroyed or damaged.

In a new assessment, FAO estimates total fish production loss due to the tsunami to be 81,000 tonnes, or 28 percent of normal production. It also found that 54 percent of Sri Lanka's fishing fleet of 31,663 boats was affected by the tsunami. Thirty-nine percent, or 12,438 boats, were totally destroyed, while 13 percent were severely damaged. This number is less than previously reported due to initial overestimates from the fishing community.

V. Useful Websites

Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies: <http://www.humanitarian-srilanka.org/Pages/tsunami.htm>

Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC): www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka.

A catalogue of assessments organised by source, date, sector and district is currently available on the HIC website. Any organisation that would like to submit information to the HIC website should contact Soenke Ziesche, HIC Liaison Officer, at Soenke.Ziesche@gmail.com. Organisations that would like to be included in the organisation database should contact Sweeni Jinadasa at jinadasa@un.org, or by telephone at 011 259 1118 / 259 1314-16.

MALDIVES

I. Situation

The Government of the Maldives has so far disbursed US\$ 6.2 million for tsunami relief and recovery efforts. The bulk of expenses, about US\$ 4.7 million, was spent on emergency relief. Approximately US\$ 1.4 million were spent on setting up temporary shelters for 15,000 people. In the tourism sector, a 57 percent increase in tourist arrivals was registered in February compared to January.

II. Overview of Activities

A two-team member from the OCHA Internal Displacement Division completed a one-week consultation in the Maldives with UN agencies, government counterparts and displaced communities on matters related to protection and assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs). The team conducted a rapid assessment of seven affected islands with support from the IDP Unit of the Ministry of Gender, UNICEF and UNFPA. The team reported that overcrowded conditions in the temporary housing units were leading some families with school age children, currently hosted in Buruni, to return to their island of Vilifushi where school facilities and health centres were not functioning.

UNICEF and the Maldives Water and Sanitation Authority have planned training sessions for the desalination units recently installed on two islands.

A representative from UNICEF Canada will visit the Maldives from 15 to 18 March to assess the impact of the tsunami on children.

WHO is tracking the patterns of life-threatening diseases, and establishing an early warning system.

UNFPA has assisted the authorities in restoring hospital services in Meemu Muli by mobilizing private sector support. A generator has been donated to Muli for the hospital and UNFPA is providing two volunteer gynaecologists in M. Muli and in G.Dh Thinadhoo.

A consultative one-day workshop on the proposed UNFPA projects for reproductive health and psychosocial support was conducted with participation from relevant government ministries, UN agencies and the Red Cross. It was decided that a steering committee for the psychosocial support project should be established. This group will meet weekly during the initial planning phase to ensure effective coordination.

With regard to the joint assessment mission conducted in Thaa, Dhaalu and Raa Atolls to assess the situation of IDPs, UNFPA observed that overcrowding in host families has severely strained the capacity of sanitation facilities. Outbreaks of diarrhoea and skin/fungal infections were also observed. UNFPA noted that an increase in respiratory infections since the tsunami might be due to the lighting and ventilation in the temporary shelters. A major cause of anxiety among the displaced communities was the lack of information provided about their status and future. Women in particular were not included in the consultation and decision making process. There are reports of spontaneous interrupted pregnancies that could be related to continued stress, anxiety and/or altered nutritional intake. Although contraception was readily available on all islands visited, the team reported a lack of awareness among the host and displaced populations.

III. Useful Websites

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

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

IV. Other Information

Field office contact: Aishath Jeelaan, Communications Officer, United Nations Resident Coordinator System, Tel: (960) 324501 ext. 227, mob: (960) 787 987.

THAILAND

I. Situation

The Prime Minister has announced that Thailand will have a preliminary early warning system by this April – sooner than the anticipated schedule – while a complete system will be established by next year.

The Executive Director of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) announced on 28 February that the ADPC had completed its design of a US\$50 million early tsunami warning system for the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia and South China seas.

As of 1 March, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation in the Ministry of Interior reported that 5,395 people were dead (1,925 Thai, 1,953 foreigners and 1,517 unidentified) and 2,952 people were missing (2,023 Thai and 929 foreigners). In sum, 58,550 persons from 12,480 households have been affected. A total of 6,824 houses have been damaged, 3,615 of which have been completely destroyed and 3,209 are partially damaged. Of the damaged houses, 4,615 are in Phang-Nga Province.

A new survey by the Mental Health Department has found that 1,101 children were made orphans – an increase from the 800 orphans reported last month. These orphans will need long-term professional psychological support. The latest figure accounts for over 10 percent of an estimated 8,000 children directly and indirectly affected by the tsunami.

II. Overview of Activities

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) is confident that the government will be able to control possible epidemics in the tsunami-hit region where its officials have been constantly monitoring the situation and urging the public to drink clean water. Several areas in the southern province of Phang Nga, however, are suffering from a severe water shortage and residents rely on donated bottled water. The MoPH plans to set up six clean water distribution centres in the province, three of which have been installed. The Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department recently provided five water trucks and the province plans to make artificial rain to prevent severe drought.

A reference book on disaster management is being prepared by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). About 400 people involved in relief and rescue operations met in Phuket on 23 February to share their experiences and develop strategies to cope with large disasters.

The Public Health Minister announced that counselling services provided to tsunami victims would be extended for one year. Some 14 victims remain hospitalised for trauma, while another 9,174 are in need of counselling and a further 1,000 require prescriptions to overcome depression. Following a two-month evaluation, the Mental Health Department has created a strategic plan for a two-year mental health programme for tsunami-affected children. In Takua Pa District, a mental health care centre has been established to conduct surveillance on children's mental health and to evaluate their psychological conditions.

III. Main Challenges

The Regional Workshop on Rehabilitation of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Coastal Communities of Tsunami Affected Countries in Asia was held from 28 February to 1 March in Bangkok. The objective of the workshop was to consult with impacted countries to guide the development of a regional strategy and a programme framework for rehabilitation, based on regional perspectives and country dimensions.

UNFPA is expanding its support for maternal and child health, family planning services, and HIV prevention. Working with health authorities and NGO partners, UNFPA will offer training, research, supplies and equipment to ensure that newly built communities in Thailand's four hardest hit provinces have adequate reproductive health information, counselling and other services.

UNEP has issued a report entitled, "After the Tsunami – Rapid Environmental Assessment." The report suggests that countries hit by the tsunami should erect natural buffer zones along their coasts and rebuild in less exposed areas to protect against future disasters.

IV. Link Between Emergency Activities and Livelihood Recovery

Fishermen in the six southern coastal provinces devastated by the tsunami have reportedly resumed fishing in an effort to reclaim their livelihoods. Eight boatyards have been built since mid-January in Krabi, Satun and Trang, with 18 more planned for Phang Nga, Phuket and Ranong. According to the Save the Andaman Network Survey, 47 fishing villages were badly damaged and 182 partially damaged. Over 5,400 families were affected, and more than 3,300 of their boats were damaged. To date, about 200 million baht (US\$ 5 million) in assistance have been delivered by the Department of Fisheries to compensate fishermen for their registered boats that were destroyed or damaged by the tsunami.

The Cabinet has reportedly approved a budget of 3.85 billion baht (US\$ 99 million) to revive tourism in the tsunami-affected provinces. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance has proposed establishing a one billion baht (US\$ 26 million) property fund to purchase or lease damaged or destroyed properties, in order to accelerate business rehabilitation.

V. Useful Websites

Past Situation Reports and additional information are available on the Thailand Tsunami Response Website: <http://www.un.or.th/tsunami/index.html>

SEYCHELLES

I. Situation

The tsunami caused considerable damage to infrastructure, primarily on the two main islands of Mahé and Praslin. Heavy rains compounded the impact of the tidal waves. A preliminary assessment undertaken by the National Disaster Committee and released on 31 December estimated the total damage at US\$ 30 million, representing approximately 5 percent of the country's GDP.

Results from an UNDAC mission in early January indicated that bridges, roads, seawalls, and drainage were destroyed or badly damaged. The artisanal fishery sector was severely affected by the loss of boats and fishing gear, and damage to the port in Victoria. Although only 14 houses were destroyed and another 25 damaged, water, sanitation and electrical sub-stations were affected. Two people died in the disaster, and hundreds of families lost their livelihoods. Emergency shelters were created for families who lost their housing.

Clean-up efforts and emergency repairs have now been completed. Efforts now focus on rehabilitation, in particular repairs of roads and bridges. Partners are concerned that sources of income, which are primarily based on tourism, fisheries and agriculture, are inadequate to ensure full recovery from the disaster.

II. Overview of Activities

Disaster rehabilitation coordination is handled through the National Disaster Committee within the Presidency. Line ministries are responsible for the effective implementation of the rehabilitation effort and will be closely involved in the reconstruction effort. A National Emergency and Disaster

Fund, managed by the NGO sector, has been established to facilitate donations from the private sector. UN support is coordinated by the UN Resident Coordinator for the Seychelles in close cooperation with resident UN agencies (FAO and WHO) and the UN liaison office in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

UN agencies carried out a number of assessments and formulation missions during January and February. In January, FAO conducted an assessment of the impact of the disaster on the fishery, agriculture and environmental sectors. Among other findings, it highlighted that the livelihoods of at least 1,200 families in the fishery sector and 300 families in the agricultural sector were in jeopardy.

UNDP conducted a mission from 3 to 10 February to evaluate infrastructure damage and draw up rehabilitation plans for destroyed bridges, roads, fishing piers, schools, housing, and other basic infrastructure identified in the Flash Appeal. UNEP, FAO and the World Bank have carried out environmental assessments of the tsunami disaster.

III. Main Challenges

In early February, the World Bank and the IMF conducted an assessment of the macro-economic impact of the disaster that highlighted that the macro-economic situation is poor, and that gaps in public finances are likely to impair successful recovery interventions. The assessment projected that the country's growth is likely to decrease due to the impact of the disaster on the tourism and fishery sectors. There is also a concern that an increase in reconstruction imports will negatively affect the country's balance of payments position.

As the capacity of the Seychelles to respond to natural and man-made disaster is limited, there is a strong need to develop and implement a comprehensive disaster management strategy covering the overall disaster management cycle from prevention, preparedness, response and mitigation, including risk assessment. UNDP has formulated a programme to this effect. UNDP/ BCPR and OCHA will initiate support to this programme by conducting a joint mission at the end of March.

IV. Other Information

Roland Alcindor, Focal point UN Resident Coordinator Office: +230-212-3726;

Ms. Claudette Harrisson, UN liaison officer in the Seychelles, Ministry of Foreign Affairs: +248-28 36 00

Mr Michel Vielle, General Director, Risk and Disaster Secretariat.

SOMALIA

On 1 March, the Tsunami Inter-Agency Assessment Mission presented its report to the Humanitarian Response Group (HRG). The HRG endorsed the report and assessment leaders travelled to Puntland this week to share the findings with the local authorities. The report noted that the existing humanitarian response has largely met the identified needs (shelter, water, health, food and non-food items) of the population and that there are no major gaps. Nevertheless, around 50 percent of the tsunami-affected population is in need of sustained resource transfer until the next fishing season in October 2005. Around 5 percent of the population remains in a state of humanitarian emergency and 40 percent of the population is experiencing a livelihood crisis.

The mission team leaders provided recommendations to guide the appropriate use of resources for relief and livelihood recovery. Once the assessment report is shared with the Puntland Authorities, sectoral response plans will be developed and more specific findings of the report will be disseminated to the wider international community. While the report is being finalized for wider distribution, international partners are trying to address the remaining critical needs of the

vulnerable population in the Puntland Region.

OCHA has received three project proposals for funding from the tsunami-established Humanitarian Response Fund. The projects submitted to the fund's advisory board include a water-trucking project in Puntland, the provision of relief aid in Lower Juba and a project responding to the water emergency in Hafun.

PLEDGES – CONTRIBUTIONS

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

The total amount pledged, committed or contributed to all recipients is US\$ 6.4 billion. Of this: 90 governments and inter-governmental organisations have pledged, committed or contributed US\$5.8 billion. Private persons and institutions have contributed at least US\$ 613 million.*

The total amount pledged, committed or contributed to the UN-NGO Flash Appeal is US\$ 946 million. Of this:

-- 55 governments have specifically pledged, committed or contributed US\$ 670 million to 16 UN agencies, and another US\$51 million to NGOs and other international organisations.

--10 governments have channelled US\$29 million through OCHA for onward distribution to implementing agencies.

-- Private persons and institutions have contributed US\$ 69 million to 9 UN agencies as well as NGOs.**

-- The balance (US\$121 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.*

*** More than \$200 million in additional private contributions has been reported by UN agencies, but the agencies are re-allocating an as-yet-undetermined part of those 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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