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**OCHA Situation Report No. 32
Earthquake and Tsunami
Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives & Somalia**

Main Highlights

- In Indonesia, the Government of Indonesia announced in a media release that it “will extend the transition period to reconstruction past March 26, 2005 for a period of 30-60 days initially.”
- In Sri Lanka, classroom attendance is hampered by a lack of transportation to schools in Ampara District.
- In the Maldives, reports of sexual abuse against children in host and displaced communities have been received.
- In Somalia, a joint UNEP/OCHA Geneva mission is investigating reported hazardous waste and nuclear deposits dumped along the Somalia coastline, which may have been negatively affected by the impact of the tsunami.

Financial Highlights

As of 14 March, out of US\$872 million pledged to the Flash Appeal by official donors on or after 11 January, US\$544 million has been contributed ("paid," "disbursed"). A further US\$196 million has been committed. (544 + 196 = 740, meaning that 85% of official Flash Appeal pledges have been converted into commitments or contributions.) Private donors have contributed an additional US\$353 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 12% of the required US\$ 1.7 billion has been pledged.

REGIONAL

On 18 March in Geneva, the Special Coordinator for the UN Response to the Tsunami-Affected Countries, Margareta Wahlström, and HCs from Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Somalia and India will brief member states during an information meeting on the situation in the tsunami-affected countries.

INDONESIA

I. Situation

On 14 March BAKORNAS reported that 126,296 bodies have been buried, 93,837 people are missing and 400,062 are displaced in 20 districts/cities in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province (NAD), of which some 41,855 have moved into the Temporary Living Centres (TLCs) provided by

the Government. In North Sumatra Province, the numbers of people buried, missing, and displaced remain at 130, 24 and 19,620.

In a media release issued on 17 March, the Government of Indonesia announced that, “[in] order to allow time for maximum participation from all relevant parties and in view of the meaningful contribution that humanitarian organizations have made and will continue to make, the Government of Indonesia will extend the transition period to reconstruction past March 26, 2005 for a period of 30-60 days initially. This time may be extended if necessary to ensure that the transition to reconstruction is carried out effectively and transparently. The Foreign Affairs Department will establish a mechanism for visa application and renewal, with details to be announced after March 20, 2005.”

Special Coordinator Margareta Wahlström, travelled to Indonesia from 10 to 12 March and attended various meetings in Jakarta and Banda Aceh. In these meetings the Government of Indonesia stressed the need to focus on reconstruction programs and the importance of conducting long-term projects.

II. Overview of Activities

Representatives of national and provincial government, local NGOs, international bodies, including the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and UNDP gathered from 11-13 March to develop guidelines for the Master Plan (also referred to as the ‘blueprint’) on rehabilitation and reconstruction for the 2005-2009 period. Participants focused on objectives, policies, strategies, project frameworks, timelines and desired outcomes. The nine-day Public Consultation on the Master Plan, where the public was invited to discuss various issues ranging from security to spatial planning, has now concluded. The Consultation will continue across the province through a series of district-by-district consultations supported by the UNDP’s Governance unit. The Master Plan will be released on 26 March 2005.

III. Main Challenges

In response to the shortage of water, a special task force from the UNICEF-led water and sanitation-working group in Banda Aceh has been established. The Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) and the IFRC are taking a lead role. IFRC reported that as a short-term solution, water production will be increased and tankers will deliver drinking water to the TLCs. This will be complemented by the installation of water tanks to provide sufficient on-site storage. Longer-term options are being sought, and include drilling deeper wells and connecting the sites to the local water distribution system.

Some displaced people, particularly those in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar, have been reluctant to move into the TLCs provided by the Government due to sanitation problems caused by the limited number of latrines and limited desludging capacity. Sanitation needs will be addressed through the construction and upgrading of latrines, the establishment of solid waste collection programs, desludging of tanks, as well as immediate training and deployment of PMI volunteers.

The resumption of waste collection from households and markets has now begun. The rubbish collection infrastructure was almost entirely destroyed, and the problem of disposing of household waste is becoming critical. As of last week, UNDP provided five dump trucks and 25 labourers under the ‘Cash for Work’ programme, although a shortage of labour and equipment remains. UNICEF and WHO have ordered containers to replace those destroyed in the tsunami.

IOM has accepted a National Planning Board (BAPENAS) request to coordinate a province-wide Damage Assessment of Housing and Settlements, a mammoth ground survey of tsunami-affected structures in 12 provinces of NAD. IOM expects to complete the survey and issue the final report

within six weeks. The new survey will supplement the preliminary damage assessment prepared by the Indonesian Government, World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, with important contributions from numerous local and international humanitarian aid organizations. The assessment, completed within three weeks of the disaster, concluded that the tsunami had caused an estimated \$4.5 billion damage in NAD.

The transportation of relief and reconstruction cargo by sea has become more frequent. The port of Belawan (Medan) currently has a backlog of uncleared containers, some 60% of which are humanitarian aid. UNJLC is working with Medan Posko and customs authorities to simplify procedures for humanitarian aid.

The USNS Mercy Hospital ship left on 16 March. The 1000-bed hospital ship had been providing medical services in Aceh since February 2005.

IV. Link Between Emergency Activities and Livelihood Recovery

As of 14 March, the joint ILO and Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration Employment Services have registered 8,024 skilled people and 1,178 unskilled people for ‘Cash for Work’ activities. A special effort was made during the week of International Women’s Day, in which some 1,000 women have registered with the Center (20% of the total number of people registered). ILO is organizing the first series of short courses in sewing, computer skills and furniture making, together with the Provincial Manpower Office in Banda Aceh. The courses provide practical skills for adolescents between the age of 15 – 17 years to enable them to seek employment in non-exploitative and non-hazardous environments. ILO’s infrastructure team is also promoting capacity building for construction craftsmen.

V. 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)

www.unjlc.org

SRI LANKA

I. Situation

A joint mechanism for the distribution of aid in LTTE-controlled areas negotiated by the Government of Norway is still under discussion.

On 10 March the Paris Club, a group of 19 of the world’s richest creditor nations, offered to freeze Sri Lanka’s debt payments until the end of 2005. The Sri Lankan government accepted this offer and indicated that it would lobby the G8 group of nations to also freeze its debt repayments until 2006 or 2007.

II. Overview of Activities

The UN Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) has begun short-term deployments of its staff to the field in order to assist in information management at the district level. Liaison officers are now working in Galle, while deployment to Ampara and Jaffna will take place this week.

The UN Interagency Working Group on Communications is undertaking a survey of a sample population of 2,500 people in nine Sri Lankan provinces to determine their sources of news and information. The goal of the mission is to coordinate and share information with a view to strengthening UN inter-agency collaboration in Sri Lanka.

UNICEF has contributed to the renovation of the children's ward of the Mutthur District Hospital in Trincomalee and the primary health care centre in Vadamarachchi East, the antenatal care and baby clinics at Peripheral Unit Pallai, which provides care for people in area transit camps. Additionally funding has been provided to increase staff capacity at the female ward of the District Hospital in Killinochchi.

Fourteen locally designed transitional accommodations, a community centre and a recreational area have been completed by IOM in Batticaloa, while construction of an additional 116 transitional accommodations has begun. 80 transitional accommodations are complete in Ampara while 19 more are under construction. In the past four weeks IOM has provided 258 lorries to transport relief items for the Government of Sri Lanka, international organizations, NGOs and donors.

III. Main Challenges

FAO cautioned relief organizations to limit the distribution of small canoes for fear that a large number of canoes could lead to the depletion of near-shore fish stocks, ultimately reducing the incomes of fishing communities. While relief agencies indicate a willingness to provide a total of 10,423 canoes, the government estimates that only 6,886 were destroyed on 26 December 2004. FAO therefore urges relief agencies to coordinate their activities more closely with local government fishery departments.

Relief supplies are gradually clearing customs. According to IOM, 522 of its family tents were Released, while 428 family tents are presently held at Colombo Sea Port awaiting clearance. UNICEF reported that 4 gully bowsers, 500 tents and 10 Landcruisers were among those items released from customs last week. A quantity of other goods, including adult hygiene kits, clothing, and household items have also been cleared. Among UNICEF items, still in the seaport, are 124 motorbikes, 5 vans, an ambulance, 11 other vehicles and 1,500 tents.

The management of the airport warehouse for humanitarian commodities was handed over by the John Keels team to the Airport Authority Sri Lanka (AASL). IOM staff will continue to temporarily assist with the registration of cargo as 15 tons of relief items remain to be cleared, in addition to 24 vehicles.

UNICEF reports from Thirukkivil IDP camp in Ampara that classroom attendance is hindered by a lack of transport for children to their school, which is more than 5 kilometers away from the camp. The District Secretariat and the government agent are working with UNICEF to provide a bus service for the students. At a "Tsunami-Affected Children's Get Together" event in Colombo on 11 March, the Sri Lankan NGO, Samata Sarana, presented UNICEF school kits to 1,800 children. The children were from 34 schools in the Colombo North Education Zone.

IV. Link between Emergency Activities and Livelihood Recovery

Four heavily damaged locations in Galle District have been selected for repair and reconstruction activities supported by UNHABITAT and UNDP. Some 250 tsunami-affected houses are being reconstructed and livelihood schemes developed. IOM has recently constructed 15 temporary

buildings to be used as schools, 13 in Ampara and 2 in Batticaloa. In Matara district, IOM assisted 100 families to develop their sewing industry through provision of training, sewing machines and raw materials for initial production.

A local NGO, the Arthachrya Foundation, is ensuring the participation of the local community and communication with the local authorities, and UNDP's "Urban Governance Support Project" is assisting with community empowerment aspects, information gathering and capacity building.

V. Useful Websites

Humanitarian Information Centre: www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): www.ochaonline.org

Sri Lankan Department of Census and Statistics: www.statistics.gov.lk/Tsunami/index.htm

Government of Sri Lanka: www.priu.gov.lk

Recoverlanka: www.recoverlanka.net

Geolanka: www.geolanka.net

Sri Lankan Taskforce for Rebuilding the Nation (TAFREN): www.tafren.gov.lk

For access to additional informative web links:

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka/infocentre/links/links.asp>

MALDIVES

I. Situation

The Maldives Development Partners' Meeting for Post-Tsunami Response was held in Manila on 17 March, with the support of UNDP. The meeting was chaired by the Government of Maldives and co-sponsored by the Asian Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank, UNDP and the World Bank. The meeting included discussions on post-tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation, with a view to soliciting the active participation of development partners in the recovery efforts. This meeting was held back-to-back with the High-level Coordination Meeting on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Assistance to Tsunami-Affected Countries on 18 March organized by the Asian Development Bank.

II. Overview of Activities

On 14 March, the Ministry of Health and UNICEF agreed on distribution plans to affected islands for an additional 13 reverse osmosis (desalination) plants. UNICEF is providing 23 desalination units in total. The mobile Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) teams have completed two rounds of vaccination for 18 atolls. Additionally UNICEF has provided vaccines, vaccination and cold chain equipment to facilitate, by early February, the resumption of immunisation activities under the National Immunisation Programme. As a result, immunisation levels for vaccine-preventable diseases should not fall below their pre-crisis level of 95% global coverage.

WFP plans to distribute the complete food basket of rice, sugar, pulses and oil, to the total assessed case load of 42,000 beneficiaries.

III. Main Challenges

"Mump" cases have been reported from the IDP settlements in Meemu Atoll Kolhufushi. Local authorities stated that although there were about 10 cases in the past week, the number of present cases has been reduced to 3, and the situation is now under control. Kolhufushi currently hosts some 1,030 people in temporary shelters.

A UNEP Environmental Assessment conducted across 15 tsunami affected islands revealed that 7 islands have high salinity and levels of nitrate well above 100 mg/l in the ground water, representing a real hazard to infants and pregnant women, with increased exposure to childhood

diabetes, hypertrophy of the thyroid and birth defects. It is speculated that the source of high nitrate levels is an accumulative result dating back to pre-tsunami sanitation and septic situations. Ground water is often used in a number of islands for cooking and other purposes. UNEP has recommended that families with infants under the age of one year be provided with bottled water or with quality (NO₃)-controlled Reverse Osmosis water. WHO has informed the Ministry of Health and the Maldives Water and Sanitation Authority (MWSA) and recommendations will be made for conducting a joint quality surveillance programme with MWSA.

UNFPA and government ministries conducted a mission to Raa Atoll to assess the situation of IDPs with respect to reproductive and psychological issues. Temporary shelters are underway in all three of these islands and are now nearing completion. The assessment identified inadequate sanitation from a persistent lack of clean drinking water overcrowding in temporary shelters. The mission also noted an increase in the number of pregnancies since the tsunami, with women in the focus group discussions reporting that many people were no longer using family planning methods.

Informal reports of sexual abuse against children in host and displaced communities are also a cause for concern.

IV. Link Between Emergency Activities and Livelihood Recovery

The UNFPA team noted that while some Island Women Development Committees in the host communities were involved in income generating activities, women belonging to displaced communities were often left with no opportunities to earn small incomes.

UNDP, in collaboration with Banyan Tree Resort, has helped to complete 95% of shelter repair and reconstruction on Naalafushi, one of the most severely affected islands and has initiated additional work on six other islands. An agreement has been reached with the government on a total of 36 islands where UNDP and HABITAT will jointly support shelter restoration in coordination with the IFRC and other key development partners.

UNICEF supported the transport and other costs related to the temporary teacher deployment exercise following the non-return of more than 200 expatriate teachers who were recruited from abroad. The Ministry of Education reported that new expatriate teachers have been recruited and deployed in all islands, reportedly solving the teacher shortage problem.

UNICEF is working with the government to select additional schools for Child-Friendly Learning (in addition to the 22 schools already selected due to their disadvantaged situation). On school rehabilitation, the Ministry of Education will work closely with UNOPS consultant to develop a proposal for repair of damage to schools on all affected islands. UNICEF has already provided support for 39 temporary classrooms in 9 schools.

V. Useful Websites

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

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

OTHER INFORMATION

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

SOMALIA

I. Situation

The Inter-Agency Assessment Mission was distributed on 11 March following the presentation of

findings to the Puntland Authorities. The assessment confirmed that the existing emergency responses in the sectors of health, water, shelter, non-food items and food had largely met the identified humanitarian needs of the 44,000 people in the affected communities. The sectoral committees of the Somali Aid Coordination Body in Nairobi are currently in the process of creating sectoral response plans to address any remaining relief needs and advance the development of recovery plans.

II. Overview of Activities

WFP is providing food assistance to 30,000 of the 40,000 inhabitants in 39 settlements and villages along the Puntland coastline. The second round of food distribution concluded on 13 March with 29,400 beneficiaries receiving 352 metric tonnes of food. The third round will start this week and plans to reach around 30,000 beneficiaries. WFP intends to continue providing food aid through different channels (e.g. general and targeted distribution, Food for Work, Food for Training, Food for Education, and mother & child health programmes) until at least 30 June 2005; a program extension is being considered until 31 December 2005.

FAO will undertake three programmes over the coming 6 months, focusing on (a) damage assessment, (b) the appointment of a fisheries expert to focus on the establishment of community fishing associations, and (c) the provision of boats, engines, spare parts and fishing gear for those in need of livelihood support.

III. Main Challenges

The Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit in Geneva continues to look into reported hazardous waste and nuclear deposits dumped along the Somalia coastline, which may have been negatively affected by the impact of the tsunami. Along with other partners, the Unit is planning an inter-agency field assessment mission to identify the scope and nature of the problem and to determine the follow up actions required. Any efforts would likely be multi-disciplinary given the potential human health, radiological, humanitarian, and environmental impacts.

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 amount: 90 governments and inter-governmental organisations have pledged, committed or contributed US\$5.8 billion. Private persons and institutions have contributed at least US\$ 615 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\$ 674 million to 16 UN agencies, and another US\$53 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\$ 353 million to 9 UN agencies as well as NGOs.**

-- The balance (US\$117 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. This table is re-formatted as of 14 March to reflect private donations to UN agencies in excess of their stated Flash Appeal requirements. The forthcoming Mid-Term Review of the Flash Appeal will clarify the planned use of these additional funds (currently shown on automatic FTS tables as outside the Appeal).*

*** 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.

Telephone: +41-22-917 12 34	Fax: +41-22-917 00 23/06 28	E-mail: ochagva@un.org
In case of emergency only:	Tel. +41-22-917 20 10	
Desk Officers:	Ms. Marie Spaak/Ms. Hannah Entwisle Direct Tel. 41-22-917 1728/1155	
Press contact: (GVA) (N.Y.)	Ms. Elisabeth Byrs Ms. Stephanie Bunker Mr. Brian Grogan	direct Tel. +41-22-917 26 53 direct Tel. +1-917 367 51 26 direct Tel. +1-212-963 11 43