Main Highlights

- In **Indonesia**, sanitation, water, and environmental conditions in Temporary Location Centres have been assessed as inadequate.
- In **Sri Lanka**, the Protection/Psycho-social Task Force has raised concern for the number of violent incidents in camps.

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 12% of the required US$ 1.7 billion has been pledged.

**REGIONAL**

Four times more women than men were killed in some of the areas hit by the Indian Ocean tsunami, according to a report recently issued by Oxfam Community Aid Abroad. The report says such losses amongst the female population will create **long-term social problems** for communities. The report suggests that the imbalance in deaths occurred because many men were working inland or fishing offshore when the waves hit, while the women were at home. The report was based on research carried out by Oxfam in local communities devastated by the tsunami in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India.

UNESCO plans to implement a three-month project aimed at reintegration and rehabilitation of **vulnerable indigenous coastal populations** in India, Thailand and Myanmar. The project will principally target the tribes of ‘sea gypsies’ who occupy islands of the Andaman Sea and will aim to develop culturally appropriate interventions aimed at livelihood preservation and community reintegration.

**INDONESIA**

**I. SITUATION**
**Effects on the Population**

On 30 March, BAKORNAS, the national coordination body for natural disasters, reported the total number of dead as 126,602 in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province (NAD) and 130 in North Sumatra. The number of displaced people stands at 514,150 in NAD and 19,620 in North Sumatra. There are concerns about possible duplication of registration of IDPs due to their high mobility.

On 26 March the Government of Indonesia published a **DRAFT Master Plan for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction** in NAD, Nias and North Sumatra. The draft plan followed a local and national consultative process that included public meetings and collaboration with representatives of UN agencies, NGOs and international financial institutions.

Mr. Erskine Bowles, the **UN Secretary-General’s Deputy Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery**, visited Indonesia on 23-25 March to witness firsthand the impact of the tsunami on the population. Mr. Bowles met with Government representatives and members of the affected communities.

### II. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

**Internally Displaced Persons** continue to be highly mobile as they move from IDP camps to Temporary Living Centres (TLCs). In the past 4 weeks more than 100 TLCs have been gradually occupied and these movements will continue in the weeks ahead. The authorities foresee that almost all IDP camps will be closed by late April.

Since December 2004, WFP has **delivered relief food aid** to approximately 600,000 displaced people in the tsunami-affected areas of NAD and Northern Sumatra. Planned distributions have experienced some technical difficulties due to the mobility of the IDPs. The current beneficiary figure is 590,570. To date the agency has dispatched approximately 27,000 MT of food. WFP will initiate a school-feeding programme aimed at providing a significant nutritional boost to some 58,900 children.

A total of 16 community-based counselors will conduct a 10-day outreach programme to provide counseling to IDPs in a number of temporary settlements in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar. In addition, UNFPA and two local NGOs (Fatayat NU and Flower Aceh) are establishing **8 psychosocial centres** in Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Aceh Jaya and Aceh Barat.

UNHCR has delivered more than 6,800 tents and the standard set of non-food items to some 20 tsunami-affected locations along the coast. On 25 March, however, UNHCR ceased its activities in NAD province. UNHCR’s activities will need to be assumed by other UN agencies, NGOs and the local authorities. As an interim measure, UNDP and UN-HABITAT have been asked to temporarily co-chair the shelter Sector Working group.

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UNICEF together with the Department of Social Welfare, the Department of Women’s Empowerment, Pusaka, Mohammedeyah and Child Fund have established 120 child centres in 7 districts, benefiting approximately 23,000 children. Child Fund has also established 94 community child protection committees. Other organizations that have established child centres include World Vision, Save the Children, Enfants Réfugiés du Monde, and Mercy Malaysia.

The Mother and Child health and reproductive health activities conducted by UNICEF are now supporting Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal care in 11 health centres. In partnership with local health authorities, UNICEF is setting up a reproductive health post in Malahayati Camp, Aceh Besar. Some 3,400 midwifery kits have been ordered, which will cover the entire province. A total of 1,700 kits are expected to arrive at the end of March. UNFPA continues to provide assistance in NAD in the form of personal hygiene kits for men and women, reproductive health kits including midwifery kits, clean delivery kits, and contraceptive methods for couples and individuals.

UNICEF has been working with the central and local health authorities to conduct a measles campaign in NAD and North Sumatra. As of 24 March, a total of 641,964 children or 52% of the target population (1,225,078) have been vaccinated.

In the field of logistics, IOM provides transportation services to the Government, UN agencies and NGOs, thanks to which some 20,638 MT of relief supplies have been delivered. A new route between Medan and Sibolga has been established in response to the increased needs following the earthquake of 28 March. WFP recently chartered a new cargo ship with capacity for 2,800 MT.

UNHAS aircrafts (7 helicopters and 1 Twin Otter based in Banda Aceh and 1 Twin Otter based in Medan airport) currently provide daily scheduled cargo and passenger services to locations along the west coast of Aceh, including Meulaboh, Calang and Lamno, and to Lhokseumawe on the northeast coast. The UN is negotiating the extension of the almost free service provided by national airline ‘Garuda Indonesia’ for the movement of humanitarian air cargo to Aceh beyond the original end date of 31 March.

III. MAIN CHALLENGES

The Child Protection Sector Working Group in Banda Aceh has identified a number of protection issues which include the need for freedom of movement for children, insufficient transportation for children, the need for agreed common standards regarding child labour, and an increase of community and domestic violence in IDP camps. Save the Children has recorded some 1,210 separated children and unaccompanied children for inclusion on the Mass-Tracing List. There have been 73 reunifications to date.

In the great majority of the TLCs the water, sanitation and environmental conditions have been assessed as inadequate and below SPHERE standards. Until a more sustainable solution is found drinking water must be delivered by truck. Many of the TLCs constructed in low-lying areas have poor or no drainage. Sanitation is another concern because septic tank provision is inadequate. The Ministry of Public Works and UNICEF are monitoring the situation and assessing all the sites, on the basis of which contractors will be asked to take corrective measures. UNICEF and NGOs have allocated sites amongst themselves, are supplying drinking water and taking measures to improve the sanitation and drainage conditions where necessary.

UNICEF has conducted a nutritional survey in the 13 tsunami-affected districts in close cooperation with the Provincial Health Authorities. The findings will be disseminated on 13 April 2005 and a provincial nutritional workshop will take place in Banda Aceh to discuss the findings and agree on an appropriate strategy for nutrition.
The Medan Aid Centre, OCHA, WFP, and IOM recently conducted a survey of IDPs in the Medan area, North Sumatra, according to which over half of the estimated 12,000 people displaced in Medan as a result of the tsunami have returned to NAD. The number of returns has slowed, but more than 90% of those surveyed have expressed their desire to return to NAD. However, many of them prefer to wait until they have permanent shelter or possibilities for an income.

Many of the conditions facilitating the spread of HIV/AIDS have worsened due to over-stressed health services, increased poverty, powerlessness, and social instability. UNAIDS has been working to promote the application of the IASC Guidelines for AIDS response in emergency settings. The guidelines have been translated into Bahasa Indonesia and copies distributed to UN agencies and partners. Additional public awareness materials have been distributed to North Sumatra and NAD provinces, specifically targeting relief workers and uniformed services. HIV/AIDS has not been a serious problem in NAD province to date.

IV. Link Between Emergency Activities and Livelihood Recovery

Following the publication of the Government’s Master Plan on Reconstruction, UNICEF is assisting the Department of Education to strengthen coordination for the distribution of materials in preparation for the new academic year as part of the planned rehabilitation of the education infrastructure. In addition, WHO has circulated a planning matrix for the reconstruction of health facilities in all sub-districts, on behalf of the Directorate-General of Community Health Services.

UN agencies, international NGOs, and national NGO counterparts have been working with the local authorities to raise awareness, build capacity, and provide direct assistance to vulnerable displaced women and children as part of a coordinated counter trafficking effort. For example, IOM has launched a livelihood programme in Bireuen District and has similar plans for Pidie and Aceh Besar. More than 140 women attended the initial programme in Bireuen and received work tools, cash grants to start their businesses, and vocational training as needed.

During the past two weeks, FAO has assessed the status of timber supply in NAD in order to assist the Forestry Department develop appropriate policies to facilitate a regular and sufficient supply of legal timber products to meet the demand for reconstruction. A workshop on logging issues and the supply of timber for reconstruction and boat building was held at the Forestry Department in NAD. There was consensus on the necessity to help the Forestry Department recover its capacity to monitor and regulate the sector efficiently, in order to have sustainable forest cover in NAD.

The Agriculture Sector Working Group has made a major breakthrough this week with the provision by the various agriculture departments of detailed distribution needs for each district, with indicative end-users. This will enable FAO to prepare the delivery of the first set of tools, hand tractors (over 500), pumps, threshers, seeds and fertilizers. The delivery is expected within 4 weeks.

Following a full assessment of both the east and west coasts of NAD, the Fishing Sector Working Group devoted the last week to procuring and preparing the delivery plan to address the aquaculture and fisheries needs of fishermen and women.

UNIFEM is helping prepare an Acehnese women’s consultative meeting on 3-5 April in Banda Aceh to discuss the needs and involvement of women in the recovery and long-term reconstruction process. A gender issues checklist for private enterprises to use in executing their projects is also being drafted. In addition, UNIFEM is supporting local NGOs run income-generating activities for 50 women in the sub-district of Meuraxa. The women are provided with training and grants for the home-based production of fish-related products.
UNFPA formulated a work plan to address Gender Based Violence in TLCs and will start training trainers in May. UNFPA is also initiating a multi-sector gender needs assessment in urban and rural environments, in collaboration with the Women’s Study Centre and Oxfam. It will look at protection, livelihoods and demographics in Banda Aceh, Aceh Jaya, Pidie, Biruen and Aceh Barat.

V. USEFUL WEBSITES

Government:
www.bakornaspbp.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

According to the authorities, the tsunami death toll as of 28 March is 31,299 dead. A total of 4,100 people are missing and presumed dead. In addition, 516,130 people are reportedly displaced, of whom 420,306 are living with friends and relatives and 95,824 housed in 262 camps.

The news of the Indonesian earthquake of 28 March triggered a series of warnings in Galle District and Batticaloa. In Galle panic spread amongst the population and many people fled to higher ground. Communication systems deteriorated as the Dialog GSM network and landlines collapsed. In Batticaloa, the cell phone and landline networks broke down around midnight. The authorities deployed police and military personnel to transport people away from coastal areas and provide crowd control.

II. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

WFP assists 915,000 people out of a total of 950,00 people receiving food assistance. On 22 March WFP and World Vision launched a school-feeding programme for students between 5-10 years old. In Galle District, the programme targets 10,000 students in 30 schools. This is a one-time allotment that will provide a two-month take-home ration to students. At IOM’s request, the Department of Health supplied Samaposha, a local nutritional food aid, to the Soodaikudah IDP camp in Trincomalee District. IOM staff distributed it to children under three and pregnant women in Ampara, the local health service is coordinating the distribution of 70,618 insecticide-treated mosquito nets supplied by several agencies. The total mosquito net requirement for the district is 83,802.
IOM has supplied 69 trucks of medical equipment and relief supplies to the Government and relief community. The NGO Merlin has started a pilot project in Kalmunai Division for the treatment of medical waste. This model may be replicated in Batticaloa in the future.

UNICEF has created a form to collect information on water and sanitation activities in Galle District. In Batticaloa District, a bathing area has been completed for a transitional IDP camp in Aarayampathy and two additional bathing facilities are currently under construction.

IOM has constructed 945 temporary shelters and 18 temporary school structures to date.

III. MAIN CHALLENGES

The Human Right Commission’s Disaster Relief Monitoring Unit convened a Working Group on Relief Monitoring in Trincomalee, which brought together civil society to facilitate more efficient monitoring and sharing of information. The Taskforce for Relief (TAFOR) asked the Unit to develop an options paper on possible systems for recovering and cataloguing photographic and forensic evidence for the identification of unidentified persons in mass graves.

The Protection/Psycho-social Task Force has expressed concern about the number of violent incidents in camps and has recommended that a prevention mechanism be developed, which would include the establishment of women’s groups to address specific concerns. The Women’s Coalition for Disaster Management and UNHCR will follow up on this issue. The Task Force also recommended that house damage assessment teams include women, in order for them to better understand the shelter reconstruction policies.

Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL) has called for a tightening of measures against possible large-scale corruption in connection with post tsunami reconstruction.

IV. LINK BETWEEN EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES AND LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY

The Head of TAFOR, together with a US delegation, visited the Transitional Accommodation Project (TAP) and held meetings with NGOs in Matara and Galle districts to look into business and investment prospects in the affected areas. Seven recent graduates of a training programme run by TAP in Colombo have been assigned to the TAP in Galle District. Two of them will assist the Government Agent’s office with administrative issues and the others will be placed in division offices. Their main duties will be to assess the suitability of land for resettlement and the status of camps.

FAO has delivered 47,650 fishing nets to fishermen who lost their livelihoods. A total of 740 special nets will be distributed through the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

The Tamil Relief Organisation has built 150 houses in the East with support from World Vision and Care International.

All schools in Batticaloa District have reopened and catch-up classes have commenced. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is rehabilitating 10 schools in the same area. The NRC is developing a psycho-social programme for teachers in Batticaloa District.

Alliance Development Trust is distributing 2,000 school kits in cooperation with the zonal Department of education. ‘Adopt Sri Lanka’, a Galle District NGO, is assisting the Ministry of Education and local school authorities by assessing the needs of schools for additional assistance.
UNICEF has distributed over 76,000 lunch boxes, water bottles and pencil cases over the past two weeks for the use of school children in all districts. In Trincomalee, UNICEF has distributed 77 steel cupboards to 38 tsunami-affected and child-friendly schools for the storage of school material.

An FAO international salinisation expert has completed an assessment of the main tsunami-hit areas to determine soil conditions. Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee have all had rain since the tsunami and the soil is ready for cultivation although it may not be possible to obtain a 100% yield.

Vocational training programmes are being conducted in carpentry, masonry, house wiring, welding, plumbing, aluminum fitting, motor rewinding and tailoring in Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee districts. The training targets unemployed youth and women, both pre-tsunami and tsunami-affected IDPs. The courses, which normally run for six to nine months, are being shortened to respond to the immediate demand for skilled trade laborers in the reconstruction process.

V. Useful Websites
Humanitarian Information Centre: www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): www.ochaonline.org
Recoverlanka: www.recoverlanka.net
Geolanka: www.geolanka.net
Sir 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

THAILAND

I. SITUATION
As of 23 March 2005 the latest figures from the Thai Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation for fatalities and casualties resulting from the tsunami are 5,413 dead (1,957 Thai, 1,953 foreigners and 1,503 unidentified) and 2,932 missing (2,023 Thai and 909 foreigners). A total of 58,550 persons from 12,017 households have been affected. A total of 4,806 houses were damaged, of which 3,302 were completely destroyed and 1,504 partially damaged.

Tremors from the 28 March earthquake were felt in Thailand. Residents in southern areas such as Phuket reportedly fled to higher ground. No casualties were reported, but some buildings in the South developed cracks. A tsunami warning was issued, but was withdrawn within a few hours.

II. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES
All schools re-opened in mid January and although children’s attendance was initially low, attendance appears to have returned to pre-tsunami levels in most schools. Temporary disruptions to schooling, particularly in worst hit Phang Nga Province, have been largely overcome.

At present, WFP is reaching approximately 11,255 students in 767 schools. Assistance will continue for the full school year. WFP food assistance to vulnerable families provides a basic ration for over three months to more than 3,000 affected families (15,000 people). A higher number of beneficiaries than originally expected has been reached, and it is anticipated that there will be a further increase over the coming two months.
According to the latest figures, 10,000-12,000 patients have been provided with therapy and counselling since the tsunami. Between 300-400 of them continue to require medication to overcome depression and stress. A total of 400 children orphaned by the tsunami, who now live alone or with relatives, require continued counselling.

III. MAIN CHALLENGES

The psychological effects of the tsunami have a negative impact on children’s learning. UNICEF is working to return all children to school and to expand psychosocial recovery programmes. Assessments indicate that the quality of education in the affected districts lags behind when compared to national standards. The early restoration of family livelihoods will be crucial for the well being of children, since inadequate family income significantly increases the risks of child abuse, sexual and labour exploitation and trafficking.

Services for the prevention of HIV/AIDS have been disrupted by the displacement of populations, service providers and resources, but this is considered to be a short-term problem as regular services are being re-established as part of the rehabilitation effort. Risks of transmission amongst residents of temporary shelters, in particular young people, and amongst migrant workers, both domestic and foreign, arriving in connection to the reconstruction effort, have greatly increased.

Immediate priorities are to ensure the availability of condoms and information in temporary camps/shelters and to include people living with HIV/AIDS and their families among recipients of welfare assistance until their livelihoods can be re-established. Prevention activities among incoming migrant workers involved in reconstruction will need to be scaled up.

IV. LINK BETWEEN EMERGENCY ACTIVITIES AND LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY

On 5 March 2005, the Deputy Prime Minister instructed state agencies to complete 33 projects aimed at rebuilding tsunami-affected areas before October, ahead of the peak tourism season. The Commerce Ministry is working closely with the ADB to complete a long-term master plan for the recovery and development of Thailand's six Andaman provinces. In Phuket, a Navy task force has finished constructing housing for the tsunami-affected population, and is scheduled to be handed over to beneficiaries next week, once electricity and necessary household items have been installed.

Thailand’s national Disaster Warning Centre will open early next month in Bangkok, as will a centre for the whole Southeast Asia region. Seven countries, including Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the Philippines and China agreed that upgraded telecommunications systems and hazard mapping are key priorities. The early warning system installed in Phuket in March was perceived to have worked well on 28 March. A coastal evacuation plan has been drafted and is expected to be ready in about two weeks.

Steel-reinforced concrete towers provided by Germany will soon be installed in Phuket to receive radio signals from a command centre in Bangkok. They will contain sirens capable of warning the population in the area and will be ready for use by mid-April. Similar siren systems will be set up at 27 additional sites in the six tsunami-hit provinces using government funds.

High-level representatives from Asian agricultural banks met in Bangkok from 14-18 March to identify strategies to be adopted by rural credit organizations, banks, financial and micro-finance institutions for the long-term rehabilitation of fisheries and aquaculture. In Phang Nga Province, the authorities announced that the distribution of cash compensation to affected fishermen had been completed. The authorities have repaired 60 fishing trawlers to date and a further 400 new trawlers
have been built with foreign donations and local contributions. UNDP is providing emergency assistance to tsunami-affected fishing communities, as well as community-managed micro finance, in order to assist restore self-sufficiency, production and livelihoods.

The conservation of coral reef resources is key to the local tourism and fisheries and the clean-up operations supported by UNDP will minimize long-term damage from debris and pollution. As of 15 March, nearly 30% of the damaged coral reef has been cleaned and/or rehabilitated.

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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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<tr>
<td>Desk Officers:</td>
<td>Ms. Marie Spaak/Ms. Rebecca Richards</td>
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<td>Ms. Elisabeth Byrs direct Tel. +41-22-917 26 53</td>
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