

# TSUNAMI

RECOVERY PROGRAM

Five-Year Report



## A Recovery Made Possible

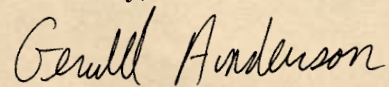
I remember arriving in Indonesia soon after the tsunami and being stunned at the toll of human loss and suffering that confronted me. I heard hundreds of survivor stories from men, women and children who had lost everything. From that point on, I realized that this would be a long and difficult road to recovery.

Despite the overwhelming task, I knew that recovery was possible and that the American Red Cross could help. The American Red Cross and its partners had done it before. What seemed impossible could be accomplished with hard work, committed staff, appropriate interventions and the help of those affected. For this reason, the American Red Cross adopted a long-term, comprehensive recovery strategy that has provided high-impact, quality services to communities across the tsunami-affected region.

Today, what once seemed like an almost insurmountable task has largely been accomplished—thousands of homes have been rebuilt, tens of thousands of people now have access to clean water and sanitation systems, small business owners and vendors have regained their livelihoods, and millions have been immunized against life-threatening diseases.

The American Red Cross has remained true to its commitment to build on the strength of individuals, communities and partners to restore and improve the lives of those affected by the tsunami. On behalf of those we've been able to assist, we thank each donor whose generosity enabled us to be part of an extraordinary recovery effort.

Sincerely,



Gerald Anderson  
Senior Director, Tsunami Recovery Program  
American Red Cross



In Indonesia, the tsunami killed more than 160,000 people and left 500,000 homeless. The American Red Cross responded immediately and has carried out more than 80 recovery projects in the region.

ON THE COVER: Ibnu Abas lost his son and house in the tsunami. The American Red Cross provided an improved water source and sanitation for his new house and is helping him learn to fish more sustainably.

## Introduction

On December 26, 2004, millions of people from Southeast Asia to East Africa experienced one of the worst natural disasters in modern history. In a matter of minutes, the tsunami killed more than 230,000 people, and millions more watched as their homes, shops, boats, places of worship and schools disappeared into an inconceivably powerful wave.

The magnitude of destruction caused by the Indian Ocean Tsunami resulted in an unprecedented outpouring of generosity from donors worldwide. The American Red Cross alone received \$581 million. During the six months after the disaster, these funds helped the American Red Cross provide relief assistance, such as food, supplies and psychological first aid to more than 1.6 million people and emergency vaccinations for more than one million children.

This type of assistance addressed immediate needs, but survivors needed critical intermediate and longer-term support as well. Rebuilding entire communities completely destroyed by the tsunami required complex interventions with significant strategic planning and coordination. In June 2005, the American Red Cross launched the Tsunami Recovery Program (TRP), a five-year recovery program, to address the continuing needs of survivors.

Focusing on six key areas—water and sanitation, psychosocial support, health, shelter, livelihoods and disaster preparedness—the Tsunami Recovery Program has supported more than 80 relief and recovery projects in 10 countries. Because of the generosity of donors, beneficiaries received more than immediate relief—they received resources, services and training that will help them thrive for years to come.

**Today, villages teem with activity, classrooms are full of students, and marketplaces are alive with business. Five years after the tsunami, survivors are embracing a brighter future.**

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A woman sells chilies in Lhoong, Indonesia in a market rebuilt with support from the American Red Cross. The Tsunami Recovery Program has helped more than 4 million people rebuild their lives following the 2004 tsunami.



## Where We Work

The American Red Cross responded immediately to help people affected by the tsunami, joining more than 40 other Red Cross and Red Crescent societies to offer assistance across the region. Since that time, the American Red Cross has continued to deliver vital services, such as restoring access to clean water, providing immunizations against disease and training in disaster preparedness, to millions of people.



Wallasihomany, a tsunami survivor, sells milk from his cows to support his family. The American Red Cross helped him by providing a new house for his family and 114 other families in his community.



The tsunami destroyed water and septic systems in addition to homes and buildings. With technical and financial assistance from the American Red Cross, Damintha has been able to build a new septic system for his family, which will ensure that they have access to proper sanitation for many years.



In Thailand, Red Cross employees and volunteers provide students and community-members with information on how to protect themselves against dengue fever, chikungunya and the H1N1 virus. Pamphlets are printed in local languages and distributed widely.



Juthamane Khotchasarnmanee (right), an American Red Cross employee, works alongside Thai Red Cross Society staff like Ubol Chaiman (left) and Jirawan Choochamnan (middle) to implement projects in Thailand. The American Red Cross works closely with local Red Cross societies in tsunami-affected countries to deliver services and help build the capacity of sister societies.



The water source pictured here is one of many provided by the Red Cross in coastal areas of Kenya. This project, which benefited 45,000 people, also improved sanitation systems and taught hygiene promotion.



Aishath Noora Mohamed is one of many former American Red Cross staff in the Maldives who helped form the Maldivian Red Crescent Society, which was endorsed by the Maldivian president in May 2009.



The American Red Cross psychosocial support program in the Maldives worked in schools and communities to help 66,000 people cope with the emotional toll of such a devastating disaster.



A community in Indonesia gathers with American Red Cross staff to celebrate the handover of their new homes. The American Red Cross and its partners supported the construction of more than 1,600 houses in Indonesia.



Syarifah "Ipah" Marlina is one of hundreds of locally hired staff employed by the American Red Cross in Indonesia. As Indonesia's Deputy Head of Programs, Ipah helps manage a team of 150 Red Cross staff and helps ensure the quality of projects.



Two Indonesian students show off the soap they received from a hand washing campaign in Aceh Besar. Through programs like this one, the American Red Cross has reached more than 76,100 people with messages on how to improve health and avoid disease through better hygiene practices.

## Tsunami Recovery Program Key Achievements

The American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program has reached more than 4 million people through relief and recovery activities and more than 111 million people through disease prevention activities.

- Supported the construction or rehabilitation of 4,600 homes, benefiting 23,000 people
- Provided clean water sources to 196,000 people and new or improved sanitation facilities to more than 58,000 people
- Provided more than 88,500 people with livelihoods assistance, such as business loans, other resources or training
- Trained more than 14,400 people in community-based healthcare or first aid
- Provided psychosocial support to more than 733,700 people
- Helping prepare more than 580 communities and schools for future disasters through developing local disaster safety plans and forming disaster response teams

# Restoring Health

The tsunami's impact extended well beyond the quarter of a million lives lost. It exacerbated preexisting health conditions and left millions of people, especially children, vulnerable to disease. The tsunami also contaminated water sources with salt water and severely damaged sanitation and sewage treatment infrastructure, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. From first aid training to providing clean water or psychosocial support, the American Red Cross has helped develop long-term solutions to improve and sustain the physical and emotional health of tsunami-affected communities.

American Red Cross projects have focused on improving the physical health of survivors through a variety of services and trainings. To date, the American Red Cross has trained more than 14,400 people in topics such as first aid and community healthcare and thousands more in hygiene promotion. Red Cross employees and volunteers in Indonesia have conducted massive disease prevention campaigns that have reached millions with important messages on how to prevent the spread of avian influenza and the H1N1 virus. Also in Indonesia, more than 60 community health posts have been built or rehabilitated through a partnership with Plan USA. These health posts are now serving an estimated 32,000 people with basic healthcare services.

After helping supply clean water to curb the spread of disease during the early months after the tsunami, the American Red Cross began providing communities with long-term solutions for accessing clean water. These systems have included large-scale, municipal water treatment plants and pipelines, as well as smaller-scale interventions such as wells, rainwater catchment systems and ceramic water filters. Other projects provided latrines and septic systems, which treat household wastewater, giving households practical ways to manage their waste in order to decrease the risk of disease. In total, these projects have provided clean water to 196,000 people and new or improved sanitation facilities to more than 58,000 people.

American Red Cross projects have also helped survivors cope with the emotional toll of this devastating disaster. Activities such as establishing cultural centers and organizing community clean-ups have helped restore normalcy and have increased the resiliency of tsunami-affected communities and schools. More than 733,700 people have received psychosocial support from these projects and more than 29,000 people have been trained to offer this type of support to others the next time disaster strikes.



## The Measles Initiative

The Measles Initiative, a partnership led by the American Red Cross, United Nations Foundation, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and World Health Organization, is committed to reducing measles deaths around the world. American Red Cross funds helped the Measles Initiative reach more than 111 million people in seven tsunami-affected countries with measles and polio immunizations, vitamin A supplements, insecticide-treated bed nets and deworming medication. These campaigns have contributed to the overall success of the Measles Initiative, which between 2001 and 2007 has helped reduce global measles deaths by 74 percent.



A child in Bangladesh receives a measles vaccination from the Red Cross. American Red Cross funds helped the Measles Initiative reach more than 111 million people in countries affected by the tsunami.

For more information about the Measles Initiative visit [www.measlesinitiative.org](http://www.measlesinitiative.org).

## Calang Urban Water and Sanitation System Project

Calang, a small town along the coast of northwest Indonesia, lost almost 70 percent of its population when the tsunami hit. Calang's recovery over the past five years has been truly remarkable. In June 2009, the American Red Cross completed a 20-mile pipeline that runs from a spring source in the hills outside Calang directly to 1,500 homes, as well as public buildings and businesses. The American Red Cross and local government have also created a public water utility and trained staff to manage the new water system to help ensure the system's sustainability.



TOP: Boys play in water that has travelled through a 20-mile pipeline built by the American Red Cross in Calang, Indonesia. ABOVE: Kelvin Shingles, an American Red Cross water and sanitation delegate, explains how this pipeline will bring water to thousands of people in Galle, Sri Lanka, where many resettlement houses have been constructed.



A Sri Lankan man builds the roof of his new house. The American Red Cross supported several owner-driven housing projects, which allow the homeowner to steer the design, pace and extent of reconstruction.



The American Red Cross supported the construction of houses, schools, community buildings, a municipal sanitation system and power supply facility on Dhuvaafaru, Maldives.

## Dhuvaafaru Reconstruction Project

In December 2008, more than 3,600 tsunami survivors moved into brand new homes on the previously uninhabited island of Dhuvaafaru in the Maldives. Dhuvaafaru's new residents were forced to evacuate their previous island because of the tsunami. The Red Cross stepped in, working with the government of the Maldives, to transform this 40-hectare island into a fully functioning community. The American Red Cross contributed to this enormous effort—the single largest reconstruction project undertaken by the global Red Cross and Red Crescent network to date—supporting the construction of houses, community buildings, schools, roads, a municipal sanitation system and power supply.

## Rebuilding Communities

Up to five million people lost homes, livelihoods and other property in the tsunami. By providing temporary, transitional and permanent housing solutions, as well as assistance to restore livelihoods, the American Red Cross and its partners have supported survivors every step of the way.

As families waited for permanent shelters, the American Red Cross and its partners helped build and maintain more than 11,600 transitional shelters in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. As reconstruction progressed, the American Red Cross also supported the construction of 4,600 new permanent houses for tsunami-affected families. After receiving permanent housing, many families were able to convert the transitional shelters, designed to be easy to assemble and take apart, into other usable space such as shops or additions to their new permanent homes.

Many of these permanent houses were built through an innovative owner-driven approach, which can be a more feasible and sustainable option than traditional donor-driven approaches. Previous post-disaster reconstruction experiences have shown that allowing homeowners to steer the design, pace and extent of reconstruction

results in higher levels of homeowner satisfaction and helps revive local economies. It also has the intangible benefit of supporting emotional healing by giving survivors control over a key component of the recovery process.

The tsunami destroyed livelihoods as well as homes, leaving more than one million people without a means to make a living and causing billions of dollars in economic loss. Recognizing that reliable income is also a crucial part of sustainable recovery, the American Red Cross forged strategic partnerships with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to open new earning opportunities and improve productivity for thousands of people who lost so much in the tsunami.

These projects provide grants and loans, productive resources such as cows for farmers or boats for fisherman, and training. For example, one project in Indonesia is training shrimp farmers in sustainable development practices, which have helped improve the quantity and quality of their shrimp. To date, 88,500 people and their families have benefitted from American Red Cross-supported livelihoods projects.

## Grameen Foundation Partnership

In 2005 the World Bank estimated that almost half of the population of Aceh and Nias, Indonesia, was living below the poverty line, in part, due to the massive social, economic and environmental damage caused by the tsunami. To combat this overwhelming poverty the American Red Cross partnered with the Grameen Foundation to provide small loans to tsunami-affected women in Indonesia. The loans, distributed by a local microfinance institution, help borrowers generate income to meet their families' needs. The Grameen Foundation, a pioneer in microfinance, promotes a model that targets women who often lack access to formal sources of credit but play a key role in supporting their families. To date, this partnership has provided loans to more than 8,000 women who have used the funds to open and expand businesses such as selling food, dressmaking and retail vending.

Asri Nun makes bricks to support her family and provide her community with building materials. Asri is one of more than 8,000 women who have received business loans through the American Red Cross partnership with the Grameen Foundation in Indonesia.



## Strengthening Local Capacities and Partnerships

The American Red Cross was able to respond immediately to the tsunami with funding, people and supplies, because of the strength of the global Red Cross and Red Crescent network. Almost every country in the world has its own Red Cross or Red Crescent society and the partnership between these societies remains one of the most valuable strengths of the Red Cross. It allowed for rapid response to the tsunami by local Red Cross employees and volunteers who were familiar with the context and also allowed them to reach out to the global network of sister societies, including the American Red Cross, when needs exceeded local capacity.

American Red Cross staff and their local counterparts have worked side by side to deliver services to communities through dozens of tsunami recovery projects. Through these partnerships, the American Red Cross has helped sister societies be better prepared to implement similar programs in the future.

Because of the scale of devastation and massive needs caused by the tsunami, the American Red Cross recognized the importance of forging strong partnerships with NGOs, U.N. agencies and local governments. These



Sri Lanka Red Cross Society workers test their new disaster response equipment.

partnerships have offered complementary technical expertise, improved operational capacity and extended geographic coverage. Partnerships with organizations like the Grameen Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and with U.N. agencies like the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization, augmented the American Red Cross response by capitalizing on partner efficiencies and strengths in order to reach a larger number of people with more comprehensive services.



### World Wildlife Fund Partnership

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the American Red Cross have forged a unique and innovative partnership between the humanitarian and conservationist worlds to ensure that the recovery and rebuilding process does not damage local ecosystems or put populations at increased risk to future disasters. WWF works alongside American Red Cross staff in the field to ensure that recovery projects are using environmentally sustainable approaches and avoiding unintentional

effects that may be harmful to the environment. The responsible use of natural resources will not only preserve these resources for future generations but can help reduce communities' vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters.

In Sri Lanka, WWF and the Red Cross are helping families adopt environmentally-friendly waste management practices. This woman uses composted solid waste to fertilize her fruit and vegetable garden, which helps increase household savings and improve nutrition.



Community members in Sri Lanka help build an evacuation route in case of flooding or another tsunami. This project is one of hundreds of disaster mitigation projects supported by the American Red Cross.

### Partnering With Beneficiary Communities

In responding to the tsunami, the American Red Cross committed itself to engaging and consulting with beneficiaries at every step of programming. Project teams have maintained open and transparent communication with communities and engaged them in decision-making. These processes have increased community involvement in and ownership of projects and ensured that the appropriate kind of aid is reaching the right people.

For example, in Matara, Sri Lanka, where the American Red Cross is providing water and sanitation hardware to tsunami-affected households, families receive training on how to operate and monitor the new water and sanitation systems.

By reporting any needed repairs to project staff, families play a part in ensuring that the new systems are properly maintained and that any problems are addressed quickly. Involving beneficiaries in monitoring and providing a mechanism to deal with issues improves the effectiveness of the systems and ensures that they can be used for many years to come.

# Preparing for the Future

Disasters often strike with little to no warning; however, numerous studies have shown that investing in early warning and disaster risk reduction programs saves lives and is more cost-effective than recovery work. For this reason, the American Red Cross continues to make disaster risk reduction a key priority and has supported community-based disaster preparedness projects across the tsunami-affected region. Projects in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Kenya, Tanzania and Somalia are training communities to recognize vulnerabilities, such as floods, earthquakes and landslides, and devise strategies for survival.

*“What kills, and what destroys, is the vulnerability of the population.”*

— Margareta Wahlström,  
U.N. Assistant Secretary General  
and Special Representative for  
Disaster Risk Reduction

American Red Cross-supported disaster preparedness programs help schools prepare for future emergencies or disasters by creating safety plans and conducting drills to test readiness.

With the help of the American Red Cross, hundreds of communities now have disaster management committees, contingency plans and teams of responders trained in areas such as disaster response, first aid and evacuation site management. The Red Cross has also helped communities and schools put these plans and training to the test by conducting drills that simulate real-life emergencies. Through these efforts, the Red Cross has built cadres of employees and volunteers who will be able to effectively respond the next time disaster strikes.

In addition, the American Red Cross has supported hundreds of disaster mitigation efforts tailored to community needs, such as clearing debris from drainage pipes to prevent flooding and building evacuation routes to higher ground. The final step in this process is helping connect communities and schools to local and national warning systems, which are vital components of a comprehensive early warning system.

Today, more than 580 communities and schools across Asia and East Africa have identified ways to reduce vulnerabilities to natural and man-made disasters, and are better prepared to respond to future disasters.



This project in Thailand is training thousands of youth in basic and advanced first aid to bolster the Thai Red Cross Society's ability to respond to emergencies.

## First Aid and Youth Project

Initiatives like the First Aid and Youth Project in Thailand are engaging diverse groups in disaster preparedness efforts and encouraging all community members to be prepared for emergencies. Through this project, the American Red Cross and the Thai Red Cross Society are increasing the number of first aid responders in tsunami-affected provinces of Thailand. Targeting young adults aged 18 to 25, the project has trained almost 7,000 people in basic or advanced first aid, bolstering the Thai Red Cross Society's ability to respond to emergencies at a local level while also engaging young people in disaster preparedness efforts and community service. Participating youth have already taken action by offering first aid at public events and organizing first aid trainings for the larger community.

## A Career That Saves Lives

Suranga Amarajeewa was watching television when the tsunami hit his village on the western coast of Sri Lanka. With only a few seconds to react, he began shouting for everyone to run to higher ground. As a member of the local school's Red Cross club, Suranga was able to provide first aid and distribute relief items when the waves subsided. That was the moment he started thinking of a career as an aid worker.

After finishing his education, Suranga continued volunteering with the Red Cross and in 2007 accepted a job as a disaster preparedness field officer for the American Red Cross and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. The project helps communities and schools organize disaster preparedness committees, establish response teams and create contingency plans. Confident of the project's effectiveness, Suranga asserts, "Our project can save thousands of lives... we work to help people prepare and respond not only to future tsunami situations, but also other types of natural hazards like flooding, cyclones, landslides and epidemics."

Suranga Amarajeewa making a presentation at a disaster response team training.

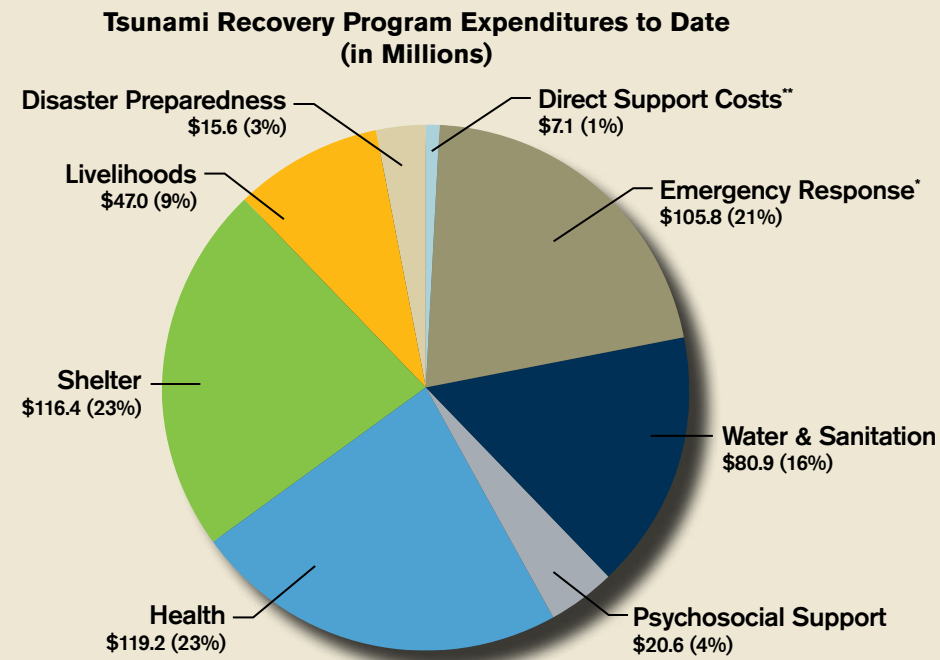


Lakshmi Disanayake/American Red Cross

# Financial Accountability

Thanks to the generosity of donors, the American Red Cross was able to develop an appropriate and comprehensive recovery strategy that provided survivors with both emergency relief and longer-term recovery assistance. The American Red Cross and its partners have worked alongside survivors to rebuild communities, strengthen local economies and increase preparedness

for future disasters. The American Red Cross received \$581 million from donors in response to the tsunami. As of October 31, 2009, \$513 million had been spent in support of relief and recovery activities. The chart below illustrates how the American Red Cross has allocated and spent donor funds during the life of the Tsunami Recovery Program.



\* Emergency Response total of \$105.8 does not include \$4.4 in support costs. These costs are specified in the Direct Support Costs allocation.  
 \*\* Direct Support Costs represent necessary activities such as audit fees, accounting and technology support, communication activities and support for staff.



Marlina plants rice in a field in Aceh Besar, Indonesia. American Red Cross-supported livelihoods projects have provided livelihoods assistance to thousands in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

# How You Can Help

In responding to the Indian Ocean Tsunami, the American Red Cross drew on more than 125 years of experience in domestic and international disaster response. Although the Tsunami Recovery Program will conclude in 2010, the American Red Cross continues to provide similar services around the world year after year. During Fiscal Year 2009 alone, the American Red Cross helped assist vulnerable populations in more than 60 countries—through interventions ranging from disaster preparedness to disease prevention.

To sustain this important work and help sister Red Cross and Red Crescent societies prepare for and respond to floods, earthquakes, cyclones and outbreaks of disease, the American Red Cross needs the continued support of donors.

You can help the victims of countless crises around the world each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, which will provide immediate relief and long-term support through supplies, technical assistance and other support to help those in need. Please visit [www.redcross.org/international](http://www.redcross.org/international) to give.



Red Cross volunteers deliver relief supplies to cyclone survivors in Myanmar.



Red Cross organizations around the world work together to reunite separated loved ones through the Restoring Family Links program.



Alicia and Koachienko/American Red Cross

IFRC





American Red Cross workers and children walk along a street in Omanthaichimadam, Sri Lanka. The American Red Cross supported the construction or rehabilitation of more than 2,400 houses in Sri Lanka.