



December 2005

# Tsunami

one year on



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## One Year On



***The devastating tsunami in Southeast Asia claimed around 200,000 lives in 12 countries and left over 1.5 million people homeless.***

On 26th December 2004, millions of lives were changed forever. The earthquake and tsunami in Southeast Asia literally shook the earth and touched people the world over. There had been nothing like it in living memory and yet memories are already starting to fade.

One year on, the people of Southeast Asia have come a long way in rebuilding their lives but where so many people were left with so little, the task has not been easy. Every day, in every aspect of their lives, the tsunami lives on.

In this report Islamic Relief gives an overview of the work it has been doing over the past year in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. From rebuilding homes to helping people start up small businesses, Islamic Relief, with the help of its donors, has given thousands of people a new wave of hope.

# One of the first to respond

## Aceh

Islamic Relief was one of the first aid agencies to respond to the disaster in Indonesia, the worst-affected country. Having worked there since 2000, the Islamic Relief team was already familiar with the region and able to meet the urgent needs of survivors almost immediately. The day after the tsunami occurred, Islamic Relief's emergency work was already underway, providing first aid, food, water and life-saving items.

In the province of Aceh, where Islamic Relief's work is concentrated, around 170,000 people lost their lives, a third of the population had their homes damaged or destroyed and 800,000 lost their source of livelihood. The tsunami also damaged 1,000 schools in Aceh, two main hospitals and 100 health clinics.

Islamic Relief's work over the past year has been tailored to meet the changing needs of the affected population. In the immediate aftermath, Islamic Relief focussed on providing the basic necessities including food, clean water, shelter, and basic hygiene and sanitation facilities to prevent the risk of disease. The priority then shifted to providing an income for families whose source of livelihood had been lost as well as meeting the great need for permanent shelter.

A year on, Islamic Relief has been able to restore some sense of normality through reconstructing community facilities like health clinics and schools. It has also helped to rebuild social and economic life in Aceh through supporting livelihoods and helping people to help themselves.



## CASE STUDY

# *A new school for Eva*

Nine-year-old Eva was rescued from the tsunami by her father. She was lucky to survive but she lost her grandmother, her home, all her possessions and her school. More than 150 of the pupils at her school also died.

The headmistress of Eva's school, Mrs Roshni, has been teaching Eva and the other surviving pupils at a temporary school set up by Islamic Relief in Labuy village in Aceh. Meanwhile Islamic Relief has built a

permanent school that opened on 20th December. "The children love the new school so much that they stay here after classes are over!" Mrs Roshni told Islamic Relief. "It is a sign that things are returning to normal."

Eva's father is also being supported by Islamic Relief through its Livelihoods project. A taxi driver by profession, he lost his car in the tsunami and was worried about how he would support his family. Islamic Relief provided him with a motorised rickshaw that has helped him earn a living once again. He is happy to be able to buy Eva the books she needs for school and support her education.



*Our key areas of work are providing shelter and healthcare, supporting livelihoods, providing water and sanitation facilities, caring for orphaned children and restoring education facilities.*

## WATER

The devastation caused by the tsunami left many people without access to water for drinking and cooking. Having lost their homes, people moved into temporary camps that had insufficient supplies of clean water. They also lacked sanitation facilities, which in such situations can result in a fatal outbreak of disease.

Islamic Relief has met the water and sanitation needs of people living in over 40 camps by distributing water, constructing latrines, digging wells, building drainage systems and promoting hygiene awareness. Over the past year, over 65,000 people have benefited from these essential facilities.



*Islamic Relief provides 154,000 litres of water each day to the people of Aceh. That's about 50 million litres over the year - or about 200 million glasses!*

## EDUCATION

The tsunami claimed the lives of thousands of schoolchildren and destroyed over 1,000 schools in Aceh. After the disaster, many children living in temporary camps had no way of continuing their education. Islamic Relief has provided thousands of displaced children with education facilities and weekly food supplements.

Islamic Relief has also helped to rebuild the education infrastructure by constructing new schools, recruiting and training teachers, providing equipment and supporting pupils with essential school materials. Over 20,000 children in 30 locations across Aceh have benefited from this project.



*Islamic Relief has ensured that all the schools it has built and supported give children a better physical learning environment than they had before the tsunami.*



*Islamic Relief meets the needs of 26,000 people in Aceh who no longer have to travel long distances to receive medical care. Having access to local healthcare facilities has benefited pregnant women, young children and the elderly in particular.*

## HEALTH

In the immediate aftermath of the tsunami, one of Islamic Relief's main priorities was to provide emergency first aid through supplying ambulances, mobile clinics and distributing two cargo plane loads of medical and hygiene supplies. The emphasis at this early stage was on ensuring medical facilities were as mobile as possible, reaching those living in camps.

The focus then shifted to the long-term healthcare needs and Islamic Relief responded by constructing 7 Healthcare Centres across Aceh, rehabilitating a general hospital and building 4 maternity clinics. Intensive training was provided for over 100 midwives and over 3,500 children were immunised against Polio.

## SHELTER

500,000 people in Aceh lost their homes on 26th December and more homes were destroyed in the subsequent earthquake on 28th March. After both incidents Islamic Relief quickly distributed tents to those who were made homeless in Aceh and Nias.

Islamic Relief has also been constructing over 350 earthquake-resistant houses for widows and the most vulnerable members of society. In Banda Aceh, Islamic Relief has also rebuilt the Public Works Resource Centre that will assist the UN and other NGOs with the massive reconstruction process.



*Islamic Relief's has provided shelter for 5,000 people either by providing tents in the immediate aftermath of the disaster or by building permanent earthquake-resistant homes for them.*

*Islamic Relief, with the help of its donors, is providing long-term support to over 350 orphans, which will continue until they reach the age of eighteen.*



## ORPHAN SUPPORT

An estimated 75,000 children were orphaned in the tsunami, many of whom were traumatised by the events and in need of psychosocial support. Islamic Relief, with many years' expertise in caring for traumatised children, provides this support through arranging art therapy, summer camps and special recreational activities.

Islamic Relief has also put hundreds of tsunami-orphaned children in touch with donors from around the world who sponsor them. Through the One-to-One Orphan Sponsorship programme, all the child's basic needs are met.

## LIVELIHOODS

Before the tsunami, the vast majority of people in Aceh depended on agriculture and fisheries for their

livelihood. These communities have been hit the hardest, with more than 11,000 hectares of land damaged and thousands of fishing boats destroyed. Islamic Relief has replaced many boats and other essential fishing items. It has also helped to start up small businesses by distributing 1,000 trading tents for vendors and 50 motorised rickshaws.

Islamic Relief also promotes small scale enterprise projects in Aceh by providing grants. Women's initiatives have been arranged to support female-headed households and over 6,000 people have been able to earn a living through cash-for-work opportunities. Those who are keen to find skilled employment are offered vocational training in professions such as carpentry and electronics. Acquiring these skills not only increases their chances of finding employment but helps them contribute to the rebuilding of their country.



*Islamic Relief has provided employment to over 21,000 tsunami survivors. It has also helped individuals set up small businesses that provide an essential service to the community and help strengthen the local economy.*

# Indonesia: 2005 at a glance

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## DECEMBER 2004 - MARCH 2005

- Islamic Relief Emergency Teams arrive and provide First Aid
- Life-saving relief aid including food, 30,000 kilograms of medical supplies and 28,000 hygiene kits distributed
- Temporary shelter provided for 2,000 homeless and displaced people
- Clean water supply and emergency sanitation facilities set up
- Reconstruction of Permata Hati Hospital in Banda Aceh completed

## APRIL - JUNE 2005

- Construction work starts on the first 100 homes in Aceh Besar
- Two damaged schools in Meulaboh are rehabilitated
- Water and hygiene kits continue to be distributed to people living in camps
- Latrines built and sanitation facilities constructed for 16,000 displaced people
- Hygiene training provided in 9 locations to prevent outbreak of disease
- Initiatives like cash-for-work are established to help people start earning a living again
- Programmes set up to take care of the long-term needs of over 300 orphans in Aceh

## JULY - SEPTEMBER 2005

- Over 6,000 employed through cash-for-work programmes
- Vocational training is provided and support given to small businesses
- 3,500 children immunised against disease
- More health clinics constructed in Aceh Besar
- Wells dug, water distributed for over 17,000 people in Aceh Besar and Banda Aceh
- 37 buses given to Indonesian government to assist with transportation needs of displaced people

## OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2005

- Over 100 midwives trained to ensure safe pregnancies and deliveries in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar
- Construction of 12 health clinics and 8 schools completed
- First 100 houses completed in Aceh Besar. Over 250 more near completion in Aceh Barat
- More wells dug, water distributed and 214 permanent latrines built
- Markets and community centres are established to help people return to normal life in Aceh Besar and Aceh Barat
- Distribution of food packages to 17,000 families

## DECEMBER 2005 ONWARDS

- Ongoing construction projects to be completed, including homes, schools, clinics, community centres and other infrastructure
- More small businesses will be supported
- A continued focus on providing health and educational services
- The capacity of all development programmes to be expanded.

# Supporting vulnerable families

## Ampara

The tsunami claimed over 35,000 lives in Sri Lanka, and left at least 500,000 people homeless.

The devastation affected large swathes of the country, destroying homes, schools, hospitals and sources of livelihood. Over half the country's fishing fleet was wiped out and 23,000 acres of agricultural land was damaged. Many of those who survived were left with little means of earning a living.

Islamic Relief arrived in Sri Lanka two days after the tsunami and immediately began its emergency operation, focusing on the badly affected Ampara district. Essential survival items like food and hygiene kits were distributed and transitional shelters were built to house the homeless. Islamic Relief also began clearing debris and provided counselling for women who had recently been widowed.

Since the end of the emergency phase, Islamic Relief's work in Sri Lanka has focused on two crucial areas; providing shelter for vulnerable families and supporting widows and orphans.



*Over 5,000 families benefited from Islamic Relief's emergency projects in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.*

### EMERGENCY RELIEF

Islamic Relief was one of the first aid agencies to respond to the needs of the people of Sri Lanka. In the immediate aftermath, Islamic Relief's work included:

- Distributing hygiene packs to over 400 families
- Providing food for 100 recently widowed women (unable to leave their homes due to observation of Islamic 'iddah' period).
- Ensuring over 800 of the most vulnerable families have essential items including bedding, stoves and kitchen utensils
- The initial construction of 1,000 transitional shelters
- Arranging female Family Support Workers to provide advice and counselling for tsunami widows
- Distributing meat gifts from 1400 'Qurbanis'



*Islamic Relief employed local people to help clean houses and clear debris, giving them a chance to contribute to the relief effort and earn a living again.*

## SHELTER

### *Clearing debris*

Debris and rubbish was removed from houses allowing 2,000 families to safely return to their homes. Land was also cleared to make space for transitional shelters to be constructed. Islamic Relief employed local labourers for this project which meant 600 people who lost their source of livelihoods had the opportunity to receive cash-for-work and start earning a living again.

### *House repair*

Repairs have been carried out on 75 partially damaged homes to allow families living in camps or temporary accommodation to return to their homes. Priority was given to vulnerable families such as female-headed households and the elderly.

### *Transitional shelter*

1,000 shelters were built to ensure families have a secure and stable place to live. The insulated

shelters, mostly consisting of two rooms, provide protection from the elements and ensure inhabitants have adequate access to water and sanitation facilities. Designed to be lived in for up to four years, the shelters have a positive impact on the general wellbeing of inhabitants and help families return to some degree of normal domestic life.

### *New houses*

The need for reconstruction of houses in Ampara is immense and will take many years to complete. Islamic Relief is currently building 200 houses for those who lost their homes. Priority is being given to widows, the elderly and disabled.



## CASE STUDY

### *Selvavani's promise*

Selvavani, a 22-year-old technology student, was woken up by her mother with a kiss on her forehead. It was the 18th of December 2004, Selvavani's birthday, and she hugged her mother promising, "When I get a job I will buy you a sari with my first pay cheque."

A week later, the tsunami happened. Selvavani became separated from her family when they ran for their lives. Eventually she found her brother, but she would never see her mother again. Her brother had already found their mother's dead body and buried her.

Selvavani's family house was completely destroyed and the family had to live in a refugee camp set up by aid agencies. Meanwhile the Islamic Relief team was constructing temporary accommodation for homeless families. Selvavani's family was grateful to move in to the new shelter and go back to living a more normal life.

Selvavani would never be able to buy her mother the promised sari, but she was determined to find a job and help other survivors. She watched Islamic Relief staff at work and wished she could join the team and help serve her community. When the opportunity arose, she applied for a job as technical assistant and started working on Islamic Relief's home repair project.

When Selvavani received her first pay cheque it meant a lot to her. It was her dream to fulfill her promise by buying a sari for a needy woman in place of her mother. Working for Islamic Relief has also helped Selvavani cope with the trauma of the tsunami and the loss of her mother. "The environment in the office helps me forget the tragedy," she said.

## WIDOWS AND ORPHANS SUPPORT

### *Psychosocial support*

After the tsunami, many women who were widowed found they had little or no support as they observed the Islamic 'iddah' period during which they remain in their homes. Islamic Relief provided counselling and support for them and equipped Mental Health Units to enable them to provide proper medical care.

A hundred widows also benefited from psychosocial training during a two-day capacity-building workshop that helped rebuild their confidence. Another workshop was also held for children, tailored to meet the specific needs of tsunami-orphans.

### *Education*

Islamic Relief has provided educational support to children psychosocially affected by the tsunami and encouraged many of those who stopped attending to return to school. Orphans are given particular assistance to ensure they do not miss out on an education. School kits and clothing have been distributed to tsunami-orphans and furniture has been provided to schools. In January 2006, a further 1,000 children will receive school bags, stationery and uniforms for the new year.



*Islamic Relief's work with tsunami-widows has helped rebuild their confidence and assisted their integration back into the community.*

### *Income generation*

The loss of livelihood is one of the main concerns of tsunami survivors, particularly for widows who have lost the family's sole breadwinner. Islamic Relief's income generation projects allow people to become self-sufficient by providing skills training, tools, assets and financial support for small scale entrepreneurs. Items such as sewing machines, bicycles, canoes and carpentry tools have been provided for many people, as well as assets to help textile vendors, grocers and others establish small businesses.

## OTHER PROJECTS

- Over 400 public and private toilets have been built for those living in transitional shelters
- Around 50 tube wells have been installed to provide clean piped water to communities in Nintavur and Karaithivu
- Nintavur District Hospital, located near the seafront and heavily damaged by the tsunami, has been rehabilitated
- Communities living in temporary accommodation in coastal areas received training in how to prepare for monsoon floods.
- 3,500 families in Ampara and Galle received food packs to last them the month of Ramadhan
- 1400 'Qurbani' meat distributions took place in 2005, and another 700 are planned for January 2006.
- Internal wiring for electricity was installed in 1,000 shelters
- Computers and office equipment was provided to the Ministry of Health to help co-ordinate better care for mental health patients

## FUTURE PLANS

- Islamic Relief's priorities in Sri Lanka for 2006 are:
- Provision of more permanent shelters
- Livelihood support for more people
- Disaster preparedness training for a wider community
- Micro-credit loans facility to help start up small businesses
- Community capacity building and an emphasis on self-reliance
- Sponsoring tsunami-orphans so that all their basic needs are met.



# Working together

Islamic Relief would like to thank all its donors and partners for their support and contributions towards the tsunami projects over the past year.

Funds for tsunami projects have been received from the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and the Department for International Development, UK (DFID).

On the ground, Islamic Relief has been working closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Plan International who have funded and implemented some of its projects.

## Financial Summary

INCOME FOR TSUNAMI PROJECTS*	TOTAL IN GBP
Funds raised worldwide	£6,536,482.19
Further pledges (to be collected)	£3,126,111.61
EXPENDITURE*	TOTAL IN GBP
Total spent in 2005	£4,768,815.00
Total to be spent in 2006	£9,194,078.00

\*These figures are for the first 9 months only. Amounts are approximate.

IN-KIND DONATIONS	TOTAL IN GBP
Income/Expenditure	£6,380,000.00

## Indonesia



### Princess Anne

HRH Princess Anne, visited Islamic Relief's Peulanggahan Health Clinic in Banda Aceh on 25 September, 2005. She learnt about the vital work Islamic Relief is doing to meet the healthcare needs of the community.



Former US President Bill Clinton with Islamic Relief Aceh staff, Head of Mission Khaled Khalifa (left) and Information Manager Arif Khan (right).

### Bill Clinton

Former US President Bill Clinton toured one of Islamic Relief's health projects in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. Bill Clinton, who is the UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, visited Aceh to monitor progress and pay respects to victims of the tsunami. He commended the progress made by Islamic Relief, the UN, and other NGOs that are working to restore and rebuild Aceh.

## Sri Lanka



### The Prince of Wales

HRH the Prince of Wales visited the Batticaloa region of Sri Lanka on 28 February 2005 to see first-hand the damage caused by the tsunami. He said, "Islamic Relief is a tremendous organisation doing very important work."



### Gareth Thomas, DFID

Islamic Relief hosted a visit by Gareth Thomas, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in the UK's Department for International Development. He was joined by the British High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and other officials. He visited Islamic Relief's projects in Ampara and held extensive discussions about the work of Islamic Relief and other international NGOs in Sri Lanka.



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Islamic Relief is an international relief and development agency dedicated to alleviating the poverty and suffering of the world's poorest people.