

THREE - YEAR REPORT



TSUNAMI  
RECOVERY PROGRAM



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*Front Cover:*

A mother and son watch their new house being built. The family is participating in an American Red Cross owner-driven housing initiative in East Sri Lanka.

CREDIT: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

# INTRODUCTION



A Sri Lankan girl smiles as she watches a ceramic water filter presentation.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

The tsunami of December 26, 2004, one of the most devastating natural disasters in recent history, killed more than 200,000 and displaced close to two million people. This disaster affected the lives of millions of people in over 12 countries, with Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Thailand and India being the hardest hit. The American Red Cross was on the ground within days, working in close partnership with local Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in the affected countries to provide emergency food, water and relief items as well as measles and polio vaccinations for more than a million children.

Recognizing the scale of the disaster, the urgent and evolving needs of the affected communities and the significant time that such large-scale recovery would require, the American Red Cross launched its Tsunami Recovery Program (TRP) six months after the tsunami struck. Today, the American Red Cross implements over 70 projects that contribute to restoring survivors' lives. The results of these efforts can be seen everywhere; the progress made is already providing brighter futures for individuals affected by the tsunami. The American Red Cross remains committed to helping tsunami-affected populations achieve an enduring recovery as described in the Tsunami Recovery Program's vision statement. Long-term recovery efforts are estimated to continue through June 2010.

R.S.P. De Silva, an elementary school teacher and mother of two in Sri Lanka, echoes this sentiment on recovery: "Three years on, this is about our recovery, our health and the health of our families."

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this is about our  
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## **Vision**

The American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program envisions an enduring recovery for tsunami-affected people. Communities enjoy rebuilt physical infrastructure, restored social networks, quality health services, vibrant economies and are prepared for future disasters.

## **Mission**

We build on the strengths of communities, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other partners to restore and improve the lives of tsunami-affected people.

# HOW AND WHERE WE WORK

Currently, the American Red Cross has approximately 70 international staff working on its Tsunami Recovery Program in the field and at National Headquarters in Washington D.C. In addition, offices in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Thailand employ over 600 national staff that understand the local culture and language and interact with affected communities on a daily basis.

A strategic plan, developed with local communities and other stakeholders, guides the work of the Tsunami Recovery Program. Drawing upon knowledge and experience gained from past and current American Red Cross operations, the following six key program areas were identified in order to meet the most critical humanitarian needs of tsunami survivors: (1) Water and Sanitation, (2) Psychosocial Support, (3) Shelter, (4) Health, (5) Livelihoods and (6) Disaster Preparedness.

In addition, disease prevention activities such as polio and measles vaccinations are a part of the larger strategy of the American Red Cross International Services Department. Also a part of this mandate are disaster preparedness activities and the Restoring Family Links (tracing) services that TRP supports to assist families who have been separated as a result of natural disaster, conflict or migration.

The Tsunami Recovery Program also maintains an Accountability Framework to help determine whether program activities are achieving the goals set out in the strategic plan. The Accountability Framework is reviewed annually not only to ensure that strategic goals are being met but also that these goals remain relevant to the beneficiaries. When the needs of the populations served change, this change is reflected in the Accountability Framework and the TRP's corresponding work plans.

To date, the American Red Cross has reached more than **3 million people** through its various program areas and **110 million people** through its disease prevention activities.



Ricardo Caivano, American Red Cross Senior Field Representative for Sri Lanka and the Maldives, talks with Aziza Usoof, Deputy Partnerships Coordinator for Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

To help expand the reach and impact of program activities, the American Red Cross works with partners within and outside the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (Movement) in order to efficiently deliver assistance to those most in need. These partnerships provide additional operational skills and capacities that complement the American Red Cross core areas of expertise.



Red Cross volunteers give life vests to fishermen in Thailand.

PHOTO: RCH BUREAU / THAI RED CROSS SOCIETY

The primary partners of the American Red Cross in each tsunami-affected country are the local Red Cross or Red Crescent National Societies, or Host National Societies (HNSs). For example, the American Red Cross collaborates directly with the Indonesian Red Cross, Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI), in implementing an Integrated Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction program. This collaboration taps into pre-existing networks of HNS volunteers which increases the project's reach in local villages and also benefits from the HNS's relationship with the government.

Nearly 100 members of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (International Federation) around the world have provided assistance in tsunami-affected countries. The American Red Cross coordinates and forms operational alliances with these Participating National Societies (PNSs) based on the

technical expertise, established geographic presence and operational capacity of each. For example, the American Red Cross has teamed up with the British and Canadian Red Cross in Indonesia to ensure that houses are built in appropriate places, correct sanitation systems are installed and houses have access to water and proper waste disposal systems.

Finally, by working with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations (IOs) and United Nations (UN) agencies the American Red Cross has been able to increase its programmatic and geographic reach to areas that otherwise might not have been served.

## Making history in the Maldives

Volunteers from the Maldives, one of the few countries without a Red Cross or Red Crescent national society, made history this year when they became the country's first Red Crescent volunteers.

The 11 volunteers received training from the American Red Cross, which helped them organize the community's response to flooding which struck again in May 2007. Volunteers led the community's response so well that affected residents did not require external assistance to meet immediate needs.

Community members have requested additional training so that more people can become Red Crescent volunteers.



A new volunteer in the Maldives tries on her vest.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Through the generosity of its supporters the American Red Cross received about \$581 million in contributions to respond to the tsunami and consequent long term recovery efforts. As of November 30, 2007, more than \$340 million had been expended with the remaining funds supporting long-term recovery efforts.

Often, account balances for long-term recovery projects do not reflect expenditures as quickly as other types of programming. These projects, which include building shelters, constructing water and sanitation systems and rebuilding livelihoods, can take several years to complete and sometimes require adjusted funding schedules. For example, the American Red Cross releases funding in phases for its shelter projects, only after certain benchmarks have been reached. This process ensures that funds are available for the duration of the project.

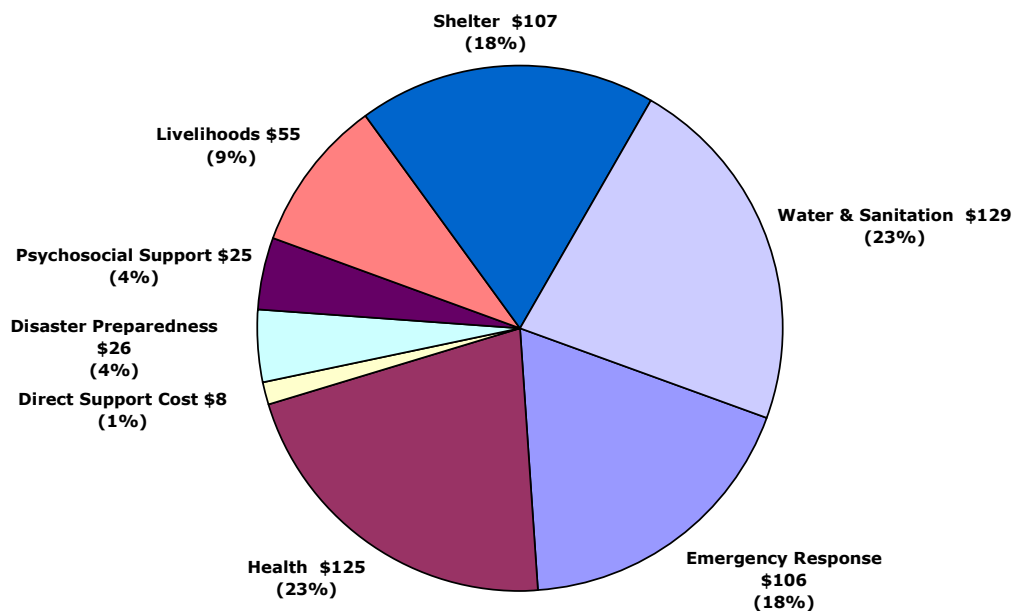
The American Red Cross takes stewardship very seriously. Financial staff members in the field work closely with technical staff to ensure full and accurate financial accounting of our programs. Projects funded through partnerships are closely monitored through adherence to detailed agreements and reporting requirements that help ensure that donor intent is respected.

The following chart displays the sectors in which funds have been allocated over the life of the Tsunami Recovery Program (estimated to conclude in June 2010).

## Tsunami Recovery Program Expenditures and Allocations

as of November 30, 2007 (in millions)

**Total: \$581**



# OUR PROGRAM AREAS

## WATER AND SANITATION



Two Indonesian women get clean water from a water storage tank provided by the American Red Cross.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

### Highlighted accomplishments to date:

- Provided access to new or rehabilitated water sources for about **24,000 people** across tsunami-affected areas.
- Educated more than **26,000 people** in good hygiene practices.
- Provided more than **22,800 people** in Sri Lanka with access to clean drinking water through the distribution of ceramic water filters.

After the tsunami, water was difficult to obtain and often contaminated or insufficient in quantity. The lack of latrines and septic systems continued to pose serious sanitation concerns for communities, including increased vulnerability to cholera and other diarrheal diseases.

Women also faced unique hardships. Their access to latrines could be compromised if latrines were built in locations that were too far away or that lacked privacy. In some areas that lacked facilities altogether, women were restricted to certain hours of the day designated for them to go to the beach or other assigned areas. The water and sanitation activities supported by the American Red Cross have been addressing such problems, while reducing the risk of disease and increasing the amount of time community members can devote to income-generating activities.

### Today we continue to...

#### Prevent disease

Hygiene promotion programs are an important component of American Red Cross water and sanitation projects. These programs reinforce the importance of healthy hygiene practices, such as proper latrine use and maintenance, hand washing, proper handling of food and safe water storage. To date, more than 26,000 beneficiaries in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have been reached with these hygiene promotion messages.

#### Increase time for income generating activities

In Thailand's southern provinces, ten fishing communities now have fresh water during the rainy season, thanks to rainwater harvesting systems which allow them to harvest water during monsoons. These communities no longer have to carry water from nearby streams nor do they need to purchase water. The time and money these communities save by harvesting rainwater has allowed them to divert more time to income generating activities, invest in new capital and meet other pressing financial needs.



A septic truck provided by the American Red Cross benefits populations in the Maldives.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

### **Build local capacity to ensure sustainability**

In Sri Lanka, with equipment and training provided by the American Red Cross, local pottery manufacturing centers and other suppliers have begun producing ceramic water filters for their own communities. The ceramic water filters eliminate 99.88% of disease-carrying organisms, but it is the ongoing training and close follow-up by American Red Cross staff which has guaranteed that families know how to use and maintain the filters and practice safe hygiene at home. To date, the American Red Cross has provided more than 22,800 people in five Sri Lankan districts (Ampara, Matara, Galle, Kalutara and Gampaha) with access to clean drinking water through the distribution of these ceramic water filters.

To ensure the sustainability of water and sanitation programs, the American Red Cross and local HNS staff are partnering with Village Water and Sanitation Committees in the design and construction of new and interim water supplies. The American Red Cross aims to impart technical, organizational and management skills to enable local communities to take responsibility for the long-term care of their water supplies.

In all American Red Cross water and sanitation programs, beneficiary participation is a crucial component. Involving community members in the planning, design and maintenance of programs helps ensure that the new sanitation facilities and drainage systems for schools and homes are appropriate and will be well maintained. Through holding regular meetings, trainings and follow-up visits, the American Red Cross is encouraging and empowering communities to commit to taking care of and maintaining their new water and sanitation systems.



A Sri Lankan woman receives a ceramic water filter kit from a Red Cross worker.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS



## PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

### Highlighted accomplishments to date:

- Implemented psychosocial support programs in **260 communities** in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Maldives resulting in—
  - More than **600,000 community members** receiving psychosocial support.
  - **3,000 teachers** and **community volunteers** in Indonesia and Sri Lanka receiving psychosocial support training.
  - More than **4,200 children** have participated in creative and sporting activities, such as art, dance, drama and soccer, organized by trained community volunteers in Indonesia's Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar and Aceh Jaya districts.

In the wake of such overwhelming loss, the needs of tsunami survivors went beyond food, water and shelter. The grief, shock and despair that survivors experienced after the loss of homes, livelihoods and loved ones have continued even years after the tsunami and for some deep psychological trauma remains.

Since the immediate aftermath of the tsunami, the American Red Cross has provided support to thousands of community members in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives through its various psychosocial support programs. These programs have helped community members, particularly children, overcome the emotional trauma following so much loss.

### Azarhi Returns to the Game He Loves

On December 26, 2004, in the space of a few minutes, Azarhi lost his mother, his father and his dream of playing professional football. His left foot, which had been trapped under heavy debris, was amputated to save him from drowning.

One of Azarhi's teachers who had been trained by the American Red Cross psychosocial support program (PSP) to identify and address psychosocial needs, first recognized Azarhi's reluctance to participate in games with his friends. The teacher noticed that because Azarhi had no access to prosthetics, he would wear a rubber boot to hide his condition and would avoid sports altogether. The teacher worked with Azarhi for months to rebuild his confidence.

"Once he started to regain his confidence, it was up to those around him to help him take that next step," Manan Kotak, a PSP specialist for the American Red Cross says. With the support of friends and family, and by working with the PSP team, Azarhi slowly began to find his confidence again. Eventually, he summoned the courage to do what had seemed unthinkable only months before—return to the game he had always loved.

Today, Azarhi no longer shies away from sports. Using his rubber boot he runs and kicks with the same enthusiasm he displayed before the tsunami changed his life three years ago.



Azarhi kicks a soccer ball as PSP Specialist, Manan Kotak, looks on.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

Many tsunami survivors must work to establish a sense of belonging and self worth. Because they have lost all that is familiar, some tsunami survivors feel an intense sense of isolation in their new villages, which are composed of survivors from many different communities. Three years on, psychosocial needs remain. To meet these needs the American Red Cross psychosocial support program is working to bring people together to help rebuild their communities and to increase preparedness for future disasters.

### **Today we continue to...**

#### **Help build community spirit and resilience**

In Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, the American Red Cross has worked closely with thousands of people to help them rebuild the social fabric of their communities by drawing upon shared values and cultural heritages. Community members with skills to share offer classes in traditional dance and crafts. Older youth with formal dance training help younger community members keep traditions alive through performance arts. Communities across the affected regions are participating in activities based on local traditions, such as theatre, crafts and cooking.

In Indonesia's Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar and Aceh Jaya districts, the American Red Cross psychosocial support program has incorporated the traditional concept of *gotong royong* (public service) into its projects. The community itself identifies needs and mobilizes manpower to carry out the work. *Gotong royong* has been used to conduct activities such as community clean-ups and repairs.

#### **Build local capacity to meet psychosocial needs**

Building communities' capacities to meet their own psychosocial needs is an important goal of the American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program. To date, the American Red Cross has provided special training for about 3,000 teachers and community volunteers in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. These teachers and volunteers apply skills learned in American Red Cross training to organize art trainings and theatrical performances, which encourage students' creative expression, as well as festivals, clean-ups, awareness campaigns and sporting competitions. In Indonesia, the American Red Cross has boosted local capacity by training over 100 volunteers on assessing psychosocial needs and planning, implementing, evaluating and reporting on local psychosocial programs.



Dra Herawaty sews a traditional Indonesian design as part of an American Red Cross psychosocial support program.

PHOTO: HOTLI SIMANJUNTAK / AMERICAN RED CROSS

## SHELTER

### Highlighted accomplishments to date:

- Supported the construction and repair of more than **4,400 permanent homes**, benefiting more than **22,200 people** in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and the Maldives.
- Together with partners, built more than **4,700 transitional shelters**, benefiting more than **23,900 people** in Indonesia.
- Supported the work of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to maintain and provide adequate water and sanitation for transitional shelters in Sri Lanka, benefiting **21,000 people**.

The stability of a home is a vital step towards recovery. A permanent home provides its residents with greater security and peace of mind. It also enables families to establish a sense of stability for their children as they attend nearby schools and for parents as they are able to focus on establishing livelihoods in their new communities.

However, the challenges of reconstruction in the wake of a major disaster are always considerable. Shortfalls in natural resources and damaged transportation networks in areas with limited infrastructure even before the tsunami make construction exceedingly difficult. Furthermore, although local procurement helps ensure construction materials are appropriate for the location and also helps support the local economy, this must be balanced with an awareness of the effects such demands place on the local environment. Careless large scale construction can place a heavy strain on a community's resources. To address this concern, the American Red Cross has enlisted the help of partners such as the World Wildlife Fund and the World Conservation Union to ensure that reconstruction does not compromise the environmental balance and the future availability of natural resources for tsunami-affected communities.

In addition to these resource constraints, complex land issues were an obstacle to building permanent housing in some tsunami-affected areas. For example, the inability to return to their previous homes due to newly established buffer zones, as well as difficulty securing newly-promised land rights, slowed down construction in some areas. The American Red Cross and its partners have been working to address these diverse challenges and to ensure that survivors receive safe and adequate shelter.

## Partnering with the World Wildlife Fund

The American Red Cross believes that the recovery process must be sustainable, ensuring forestry and marine resources are available for future generations. Projects in tsunami-affected regions also seek to ensure that recovery does not occur in a manner that further exposes populations to disaster risk. A five-year partnership between the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the American Red Cross in Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives has been established to work towards these goals. Other conservation organizations have also participated in some projects, such as the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

The Green Reconstruction Policy Guidelines developed by the World Wildlife Fund provide a guide to help ensure that disaster recovery efforts are as environmentally friendly as possible. In addition to providing these guidelines, the WWF also provides support to the American Red Cross by reviewing project proposals and design, conducting field monitoring and report card tracking and providing environmental training.

## Today we continue to...

### Reconstruct communities

Faced with an unprecedented level of need for temporary shelters and new homes, the American Red Cross continues to work with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other partners to provide shelter to thousands of families.

The American Red Cross and its partners have supported the construction and repair of more than 4,400 permanent homes, benefiting more than 22,200 people in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and the Maldives. The American Red Cross has also supported construction of over 4,700 transitional shelters in Indonesia, and is ensuring transitional shelters receive proper care and maintenance in Sri Lanka. Transitional shelters are an important step in resettlement and can be a valuable asset to tsunami survivors. The shelters, which are extremely sturdy, are often built on a family's own land, enabling the family to make further use of the shelter by converting it into a kitchen or shop when permanent houses are built.

In the Maldives, the American Red Cross is funding International Federation efforts to construct or rebuild 464 homes. On the islands of Maafushi, Guraidhoo and Kuduhuvadhoo, 282 of these American Red Cross supported homes have already been completed.

Another 182 homes are under construction on Dhuvafaaru, a previously uninhabited island on which the residents of the island Kandholhudhoo are being resettled. The tsunami not only destroyed homes on Kandholhudhoo, but left infrastructure badly damaged and corrupted water sources with salt water. It was clear these families needed to rebuild their lives in a new and safer settlement. The National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) conducted an extensive study to locate a suitable island on which to relocate this community, taking into account the preferences of the Kandholhudhoo people as well as geographical characteristics that protect the island from tidal surges.

### Rebuild self-sufficiency

American Red Cross funded owner-driven housing initiatives enable survivors to take an active role in rebuilding their homes and communities, and help to ensure a successful and sustainable recovery. These programs provide homeowners with a combination of cash grants and technical support for the rebuilding of their new homes. Participants use their grants to hire their own contractors and purchase building materials—a process that enables participants to choose a house which best meets their needs and personal taste, while also stimulating the local economy by generating business for other community members.

Funds are provided in stages, with each phase of construction evaluated by professional monitors to ensure that it is technically sound and meets local standards. Participants receive funds first to lay the foundation of their home. Once the foundation is in place and has been approved, participants receive the next stage of funding to



A Sri Lankan family oversees the reconstruction of their home through an American Red Cross owner-driven housing initiative in the town of Kinniya.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS



A Sri Lankan man holds a receipt showing he received a grant for the construction of the next phase of his house.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

complete the walls, followed by the roof. This process allows homeowners to build at their own pace, while maintaining very clear benchmarks. Throughout the process, homeowners receive technical assistance to help with construction if necessary.

Overall, new homeowners have appreciated the freedom to manage their own reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts. "I like my house because it is my design, and it fits my needs," said Thambi Sellaiyah, one of the homeowners in the Trincomalee district of eastern Sri Lanka. Sellaiyah is designing his house to include an area where he can resume selling goods for the first time since his shop was destroyed by the tsunami.



Houses being constructed through an American Red Cross owner-driven housing initiative in Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

Chandrasekaran Vijai agrees: "I prefer working on these houses rather than being given something without my input. I know what I want... so I am happy we have been given the resources to do this."

### **Draw on partnerships**

Providing shelter in these devastated communities has been a highly collaborative effort, not only between community members, but also between partner agencies. The American Red Cross has utilized partnerships to allow communities to gain access to high quality permanent housing.

American Red Cross partnership efforts in permanent housing include—

- The completion of more than 1,600 new permanent homes in Indonesia. These projects are being financed by the American Red Cross, with construction carried out by the IOM.
- In Sri Lanka, close to 10,500 households will be completed through owner-driven housing initiatives. To date 1,950 households have received at least half if not all of their funds from an initiative being carried out in cooperation with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, the International Federation, UN Habitat and the World Bank. An additional 483 homes have been completed through an owner-driven housing project through the Swiss Red Cross.

American Red Cross partnership efforts in transitional shelter and support include—

- More than 4,600 families in the Indonesian districts of Aceh Besar and Aceh Jaya have received transitional homes from the American Red Cross in collaboration with the International Federation.
- An additional 149 transitional shelters funded by the American Red Cross were built by IOM in Indonesia.
- The American Red Cross is funding the work of IOM in eight districts of Sri Lanka to maintain and provide adequate water and sanitation in transitional shelters. To date, 21,000 people have benefited from this initiative.

## HEALTH

### Highlighted accomplishments to date:

- Supported disease prevention campaigns that have reached more than **110 million children** protecting them against diseases such as measles, malaria and polio in Indonesia, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania.
- Assisting the Indonesian Red Cross in the implementation of their avian influenza strategy and increasing knowledge about avian influenza in a total of **46 districts** in Sumatra and Java.
- Funded the provision of nutritional biscuits and noodles for more than **145,600 school children** and **98,000 pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under five** in six Indonesian districts.
- Contributed to the achievement, recently announced by the American Red Cross and its Measles Initiative partners, of a **68% global reduction** in measles mortality.

Although restored water and sanitation services have reduced the risk of disease for tens of thousands of people in tsunami-affected countries, other health risks remain.

In 2007 alone, avian influenza killed 27 people out of 31 newly reported cases among humans in Indonesia. Child and maternal health remains at higher risk in some areas as families continue to work to restore their homes and livelihoods. The threat of diseases such as malaria, measles and polio remains. Also, with some families still in transitional shelters, further health support is essential.

Across its programs, the American Red Cross continues to provide direct support in some areas and has also increased efforts toward boosting the capacity of communities, governments and local Red Cross workers to prevent and respond to health risks.

### Today we continue to...

#### Promote child and maternal health

As reconstruction efforts continue and families seek to re-establish livelihoods, the American Red Cross is supplementing the nutrition of vulnerable mothers and children. With funding from the American Red Cross, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and local Red Cross staff are implementing school-based nutrition programs for mothers and children. To date, the American Red Cross has funded the provision of nutritional biscuits and noodles as well as nutritional education for 145,600 school children and 98,000 pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under five in six Indonesian districts.

#### Sustain the progress of vaccination campaigns

In the early stages of recovery, vaccinations were essential in preventing the spread of measles and polio. Cramped camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), coupled with damaged water and sanitation systems, made conditions ideal for the spread of disease. Fortunately, an outbreak was averted, in part, through vaccination campaigns supported by the American Red Cross and its partners.



A Sri Lankan boy curiously watches a ceramic water filter presentation.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

## Integrating Gender Issues

The American Red Cross Tsunami Recovery Program seeks to ensure gender equity in its activities, meaning that the contributions to and benefits from programs by all relevant stakeholders are respectfully and fairly considered. In particular, special emphasis is given to ensure that women and girls can fully participate in the process of development, including the exercise of decision-making authority and access to knowledge and financial resources. Addressing these aspects helps ensure the success and sustainability of projects.

Hindun Panity, American Red Cross Gender Officer in Indonesia, is responsible for mainstreaming gender throughout the organization's Indonesia programs. The diversity and scope of the programs is one of Hindun's favorite aspects of her position. She appreciates that the American Red Cross "...seeks to integrate gender into all aspects of its many projects."

Hindun's interest in gender issues began while working with communities in her home islands, the Moluccas, a region plagued by religious violence. She was struck by the powerful role women played in facilitating reconciliation and maintaining peace at the community level.

Hindun currently focuses on providing gender analysis trainings to American Red Cross staff. Aceh's gender norms and traditions make this a highly complex and sensitive task. "In the beginning, it was a struggle," she admits. "Staff asked, 'Why do we need gender?' But the trainings give them a unique forum to relate gender to their own lives and discuss their thoughts and feelings with one another. Now," she laughs, "I have staff constantly asking when the next training will be!"



Hindun Panity serves as the American Red Cross Gender Officer in Indonesia.

PHOTO: ASHLEY JACKSON / AMERICAN RED CROSS

Follow-up campaigns have been essential to maintaining the benefits achieved by earlier campaigns, by ensuring that these diseases do not resurface and undermine previous progress. A few cases can quickly spread throughout a population. For example, in April 2005, ten years after Indonesia was declared polio-free, the disease reemerged in the country with over 300 confirmed cases by the end of the year.

To date, more than 110 million people have been reached through disease prevention initiatives. Our relationships with Measles Initiative partners (UNICEF, WHO, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the UN Foundation) as well as Rotary International and the International Federation have made this possible. These efforts include measles and polio inoculations, as well as complementary health services that include rubella vaccinations, vitamin A distributions, insecticide-treated bed nets for malaria prevention and medication to eliminate intestinal parasites. Efforts by the Tsunami Recovery Program and its Measles Initiative partners contributed to a 68% global reduction in measles mortality between 2000 and 2006.

### **Train community volunteers for disease prevention**

Boosting the effectiveness of massive health campaigns requires the collaboration of many different actors.

Like any parents around the world, parents in vulnerable communities need to trust the information they are being given before they will agree to allow their children to be vaccinated. The best people to inform them are those they already trust, people from their own communities.

As Wuri, a community volunteer from Indonesia, explains: "This isn't just about the vaccinations. It is about informing the communities."



Wuri, a volunteer with the Indonesian Red Cross Society, conducts house-to-house visits to ensure every child has been vaccinated for measles.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

Local Red Cross volunteers in Indonesia have gradually been trained to educate and mobilize communities and support other agencies during massive public health campaigns. In a crucial step for improving campaign effectiveness, volunteers have also learned techniques and methodologies for monitoring the impact of disease prevention and control campaigns.

Along with the American Red Cross, these volunteers have played a key role in supporting government agencies, local and provincial health officials and UNICEF in public awareness raising events that included polio vaccinations, vitamin A distribution, provision of bed nets and follow-up inspections as part of malaria prevention campaigns, blood donation awareness campaigns, World AIDS Day events and 40 Avian Flu campaigns.

### **Increase community first-aid capacity**

Community members are most likely to be the first to reach and assist their communities. Some of our initiatives to empower local youth and volunteers with first aid skills include—

- In Thailand, more than 7,600 youth in 256 tsunami-affected sub-districts are receiving basic first aid training, about 3,800 of these youth will go on to complete training in advanced first aid.
- Local volunteers in 140 Indonesian villages are receiving basic first aid training and 220 Thai volunteers are training to be first aid trainers who will go on to train new volunteers in their own communities. Between Thailand and Indonesia, these volunteers are expected to help some 203,800 people.
- In Aceh Besar, Indonesia, the American Red Cross funded the reconstruction of five public health buildings (2 midwife centers, *polindes*, and 3 village health centers, *posyandu*,) by Plan International; construction of a further 48 buildings continues. Meanwhile midwives and community health workers are gaining new skills through special training. To date 10 trainings have been conducted.

To help boost communities' long-term capacity to respond to disasters, the American Red Cross is also helping non-formal educational centers and schools to incorporate first aid into their curriculum in Thailand.

### **Train local staff and nurses**

In Indonesia, the American Red Cross supported WFP efforts to train 265 local Red Cross staff members in finance, logistics, warehouse management, hygiene promotion and facilitation in order to help them support public health campaigns and disaster response in the future.

### **Raise Awareness of Avian Influenza**

In Sumatra and Java, 32,000 people have been reached through an American Red Cross project to prevent the spread of avian influenza. The project aims to assist the Indonesian Red Cross in the implementation of their avian influenza strategy and increase knowledge about avian influenza in a total of 46 districts. This program conducts awareness and preparedness activities targeting at-risk populations such as poultry farmers and poultry market workers in tsunami-affected areas and nearby provinces.



## LIVELIHOODS

### Highlighted accomplishments to date:

- Together with partner organizations, provided livelihood assistance for more than **100,000 people** through training, technical assistance and cash grants.
- Supported cash-for-work programs for more than **14,400 people** in Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

The massive scale of devastation which destroyed the livelihoods of 400,000 people in Sri Lanka, doubling the unemployment rate overnight, and thrust a further 600,000 people below the poverty line in Indonesia, created a critical need for investment and creative entrepreneurship. To meet this need the American Red Cross is partnering with organizations such as Christian Children's Fund/ChildFund Indonesia, CHF International, Mercy Corps, Save the Children, Triangle Génération Humanaire and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), to create livelihood opportunities which allow survivors to earn income and meet their economic needs — an essential element of sustainable recovery.



Indonesian men sell fish in a healthy market funded by the American Red Cross.

PHOTO: CHRIS HERINK / AMERICAN RED CROSS

Many of these projects have had to wait until roads have been rehabilitated and reconstructed to allow for construction and trade opportunities. Early in the recovery process, the American Red Cross supported cash-for-work opportunities that helped restore important infrastructure and provided communities temporary work and access to cash. For example, cash-for-work opportunities funded by the American Red Cross and implemented by Mercy Corps in Indonesia resulted in the restoration of 270 hectares of rice paddy, rehabilitation and reconstruction of 16 public buildings for worship and meetings, completion of more than 5,700 meters of drainage and rehabilitation of 1,200 meters of dike areas.

Environmental clean-up, restored infrastructure, appropriate equipment, market research and training are some of the key elements supported by the American Red Cross to create new income generating opportunities.

### Today we continue to...

#### Help survivors gain new skills for the long term

To give communities the opportunity to gain new skills and create new and sustainable income generating opportunities, the American Red Cross is working through partners to provide small loans, technical training and new equipment.

This work includes—

- More than 30,500 people in 27 villages across Hambantota, Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee districts in Sri Lanka are being trained to design and implement income generating activities through Mercy Corps initiatives supported by the American Red Cross. The program is also helping to revitalize local economic activities through the provision of approximately 50 livelihoods sub-grants.

- Through support to livelihood programs implemented by Mercy Corps, the American Red Cross has given 156 women in Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar and Mireuk Lanreudeup materials, skills and support to engage in new income generating activities, including ginger cultivation and organic household gardens. In addition, Mercy Corps has established six microfinance institutions in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar to provide services to more communities through grants and technical assistance.
- More than 70,000 people in 40 communities of Aceh, Indonesia have received livelihood assistance through trainings, technical assistance and cash grants as part of a partnership program with Mercy Corps.
- 750 Indonesian government officials at the national, provincial and local levels, as well as 4,000 people in fishing and farming communities, will be provided with technical support and planning assistance provided by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and funded by the American Red Cross. The project aims to contribute to the rehabilitation and development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the coastal communities affected by the tsunami and is expected to directly and indirectly benefit approximately 770,000 people.
- Through support to CHF International, five healthy markets have been completed in Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar and Pidie, Indonesia. The healthy market projects reconstruct market stalls, distribute grants and provide technical assistance to establish management systems that will benefit 103,000 vendors and buyers in 16 communities.
- Through an initiative to assist the poorest 10% of tsunami-affected people in Trincomalee, Batticola and Ampara, Sri Lanka, the American Red Cross, in partnership with Save the Children, is planning to assist 4,700 individuals with livelihood grants and income-generating activities.

## Weaving Hope in Sri Lanka

In Hambantota, Sri Lanka, 28 women sit on the floor of a converted classroom, learning how to weave long reeds into beautiful, multi-colored, biodegradable bags.

The project, one of many sponsored by the American Red Cross and Mercy Corps, began in May 2007 and has continued to grow over the past few months. The project also teaches these women how to form cooperatives and market the bags.

These women are learning a new trade and also gaining a creative outlet. K.H. Shanthy states, "The freedom, the creativity, everything about the process suits me... now I can take what I am learning and turn it into income for my family and my neighborhood."



These beautiful bags woven by Sri Lankan women are part of an American Red Cross project to restore livelihoods.

PHOTO: ZACH ABRAHAM / AMERICAN RED CROSS

## DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

### Highlighted accomplishments to date:

- Conducted disaster preparedness trainings for community leaders and volunteers in more than **160 communities and schools** in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- In partnership with the Thai Red Cross Society and the International Federation, provided disaster preparedness trainings to **195 community leaders, community representatives and sub-district officers** from tsunami-affected areas.
- Conducted Restoring Family Links training at **all 26 branches** of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society.



Mangrove planting, one of many disaster preparedness activities conducted in Thailand.

PHOTO: RCH BUREAU / THAI RED CROSS SOCIETY

Community and local government appreciation for disaster preparedness initiatives is one of the legacies of the tsunami. Despite juggling many pressing daily needs, communities and local governments have embraced efforts by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its partners to build local capacity to respond to disasters.

### Today we continue to...

#### Help communities prepare for the unknown

Local Red Cross staff members have been trained in the Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction program (CBDRR) which gives communities the knowledge, skills and equipment they need to reduce risk and mitigate the impact of future disasters. The American Red Cross works with local staff members, who train local leaders and volunteers to form rapid response teams, create disaster plans and conduct regular drills.



A community volunteer carries a boy during a disaster simulation activity.

PHOTO: BASAR TAMPUBOLON / AMERICAN RED CROSS

The first step of the program has been to bring community leaders and volunteers together to learn about the range of potential hazards and vulnerabilities and the need for preparedness. Community leaders and volunteers then learn practical skills for preparing for and responding to a disaster, as well as ways to engage their whole community.

Each community then forms a Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) to take the lead in reducing their community's vulnerability to disasters. The American Red Cross has supported each CDMC as they identify and document potential hazards and threats in their communities and develop evacuation plans. The committees then

raise community awareness of potential hazards and CDMC plans to manage them. Mobilizing the community, especially teachers and schools, in regular drills and simulations of emergencies is a critical part of the community's preparation.

The American Red Cross is working to expand its programs with local partners in order to prepare thousands of people in a total of 434 communities in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand to be better prepared for potential disasters.

This work includes—

- CBDRR interventions in Thailand have been completed in three communities in Satun province. These interventions included the formation of CDMCs to establish public awareness and the development of community risk reduction and evacuation plans. Disaster preparedness activities in Thailand will expand to 84 communities in six provinces by 2010.
- More than 100 schools and communities in five Sri Lankan districts (Galle, Gampaha, Kalutara, Colombo and Matara) are now participating in training events to help them better prepare for and respond to disasters. Activities will expand to 200 communities by 2010.
- 34 communities in Indonesia have been reached with similar disaster preparedness training. These communities have been able to form Community-Based Action Teams (CBAT) that will help prepare for and respond to risks and disasters. Additionally, teachers in 20 schools in Indonesia are being trained to teach and demonstrate risk reduction measures to their students. Activities will expand to 150 communities by 2010.



Sudian, a volunteer with the Indonesian Red Cross, explains how to play a disaster preparedness game.

PHOTO: HOTLI SIMANJUNTAK / AMERICAN RED CROSS

## Help provide early warning

An early warning system has the potential to save lives. But, how do remote communities with limited financial resources warn others or get emergency lifesaving information?

By equipping local Red Cross chapters and communities with radio networks, and teaching local rapid response teams to use and maintain them, the American Red Cross is supporting early warning systems in vulnerable communities. Last year, the American Red Cross worked in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand with local Red Cross members and communities to strengthen and expand early warning systems. The goal of these programs is to link these community-level systems into regional and national level systems that will ensure communities and local Red Cross members are able to communicate prior to, during and after the onset of a disaster.



A Thai Red Cross staff member leads a community disaster assessment activity in Baan Rawai Nue, Thailand.

PHOTO: RCH BUREAU / THAI RED CROSS SOCIETY

## Restore family links

In the wake of a disaster, the American Red Cross Restoring Family Links (also known as tracing) service is vital for enabling families to locate each other, send communications, and learn of each other's fate after they are separated. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 mandate that all signatory nations provide services that help reconnect and potentially reunite family members separated by armed conflict, natural disasters and complex humanitarian emergencies.

Working through the International Committee of the Red Cross, the American Red Cross is helping the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society strengthen its capacity to provide tracing services. Volunteers from all districts across the country receive basic training on how to handle tracing requests and restore family links. This includes information on setting up criteria for tracing requests, training community volunteers in how to advertise the availability of the service and ensuring the service's confidentiality.

## Quick Action Fund

The TRP Quick Action Fund was established to enable rapid response to the immediate relief needs of tsunami-affected communities. To date, \$385,445 of the \$2.5 million allocated to this fund has been spent on projects in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and, most recently, Bangladesh in response to cyclone Sidr which affected many of the same coastal communities impacted by the tsunami. The fund has enabled TRP to provide supplies such as food, clothing, hygiene kits, mattresses, mosquito nets and kerosene oil to tsunami-affected individuals whose recovery has been further affected by natural disasters and conflict.

## WORKING TOWARDS AN ENDURING RECOVERY

The American Red Cross understands that recovering from a disaster of such magnitude as the Indian Ocean tsunami takes time. Rebuilding physical infrastructure in remote areas facing both natural and technical resource constraints can be a challenging task. Restoring livelihoods and psychosocial health present equally large challenges.

In addition to the challenges caused by the tsunami itself, several American Red Cross recovery operations take place in countries that face political uncertainties and security concerns that can affect the provision of services. For example, in Sri Lanka, ongoing civil war restricts the ability to reach tsunami-affected populations in certain parts of the country.

Despite these challenges, the American Red Cross strives to reach those in need, regardless of political affiliation, ethnicity, language or religion. The work of the American Red Cross upholds the seven principles—humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality—that guide the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



Indonesian children wave American Red Cross flags.

PHOTO: BONNIE GILLESPIE / AMERICAN RED CROSS

In December 2006, at the end of his two-year term as UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, Bill Clinton, urged the humanitarian community to remain committed to and sustain the recovery effort. Today the American Red Cross remains committed to helping tsunami-affected populations achieve an enduring recovery. To help achieve an enduring recovery American Red Cross projects aim not only to restore communities but also to reduce their vulnerability to future disasters and build their resiliency to withstand them. This commitment to our beneficiaries, along with the generous support of our donors, has made it possible for us to continue our programs through 2010. The American Red Cross will be one of the last Red Cross Partner National Societies on the ground in many of the countries in which it currently operates, endeavoring to provide these communities with the resources, skills and training to achieve an enduring recovery from this and future disasters.