

# Tsunami Response: Six Months Later

A report on tsunami relief activities, December 26, 2004 - June 26, 2005

*Since the tsunami of December 26, 2004, through June 26, 2005, Direct Relief has:*

- **Received over \$12.8 million in cash contributions to aid tsunami victims.** Direct Relief maintains a strict policy of using 100 percent of all tsunami contributions exclusively for direct tsunami expenditures. The organization is absorbing all administrative costs associated with the tsunami response.
- **Provided over \$30 million in direct aid** in the form of donated medical goods and cash grants
- **Shipped over 126 tons (252,000 lbs.)** of specifically requested medicines, supplies, and medical equipment through 42 shipments to Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, and Somalia. These materials contain over **3.2 million full courses of treatment** and have a **wholesale value of \$25.2 million.**
- **Provided over \$5.6 million in cash grants** to 23 tsunami relief and reconstruction projects to address emergency, and on-going, medical needs and to rebuild housing, water systems, and health facilities
- **Distributed 40,000 treated mosquito nets** to prevent malaria transmission in Indonesia and Sri Lanka

On December 26, 2004, the most powerful earthquake in 40 years struck off the coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The earthquake triggered a series of deadly tsunamis that radiated across the Indian Ocean leaving an unprecedented path of death and destruction in 14 countries. Over 225,000 people are estimated to have been killed and millions more lost their homes and livelihoods. Within three days of the disaster, Direct Relief packed and sent two emergency shipments of critically needed pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and equipment—a six-pallet airfreight shipment to India and a hand-carry shipment for emergency room physicians dispatched to Sri Lanka.



PHOTO: Jay Farbman

*Clinic consultation at Ramakrishna Mission Hospital medical camp, Tamil Nadu, India*

With the generous support of corporations, foundations, and individuals, Direct Relief has provided continued medical relief and assistance to tsunami-affected populations in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Somalia. In the six months since the tsunami, Direct Relief has sent 42 emergency shipments containing medical and nutritional products such as antibiotics, analgesics, respiratory agents, oral rehydration salts, nutritional supplements, wound dressings, sutures, surgical instruments, orthopedic soft goods, diagnostic equipment, and personal care products to relief workers, healthcare facilities, and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. This material aid has helped treat tsunami survivors suffering from saltwater aspiration, acute traumatic injuries, dehydration, and bacterial and fungal infections. It has also helped prevent malnutrition and specific micronutrient deficiencies, screen for cardiac and respiratory problems, and improve sanitary conditions.

In addition to providing medical material aid, Direct Relief has issued cash grants to projects and programs working to meet the immediate and on-going medical

needs of tsunami-affected populations and help with the reconstruction and improvement of the healthcare infrastructure of affected countries. Grant making allows Direct Relief to respond to tsunami-related needs that fall outside of the scope of material aid but within the healthcare sphere. In the first six months of Direct Relief's tsunami response, over \$5.6 million in cash support has been dispersed to medical institutions and non-governmental organizations in India, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.



PHOTO: Jay Farbman

*Girl at Madhar Nala Thonda Niruvanam orphanage, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, India*



PHOTO: Jay Farbman

*Hindu Mission Hospital physician discusses treatment regimen with patient at Direct Relief-funded medical camp in Tamil Nadu, India*

## India

The tsunami traveled hundreds of miles to the coast of India, devastating fishing villages and agricultural lands in the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh, and the Union Territories of Pondicherry, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In response, Direct Relief has sent eight emergency shipments of pharmaceuticals, nutritional products, medical supplies, and equipment to partner hospitals and clinics as well as in-country organizations operating mobile medical clinics and relief camps. The shipments, with a combined weight of over 77,200 lbs., have a total wholesale value of more than \$11.8 million. The products provided were adequate to treat an estimated 778,693 tsunami-affected individuals.

Direct Relief has provided over \$2.3 million in cash grant funding to in-country partners working to meet the immediate and on-going medical needs of the affected Indian population. Cash grants have been used to purchase and equip 6 ambulances and mobile medical vehicles, fund the operation of medical camps along the coast of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and construct primary healthcare facilities throughout the affected region. This community-based relief approach has allowed Direct Relief products and funding to reach families and individuals in greatest need.



PHOTO: Yonathan Weitzman

*Baby receives medicine in IDP camp, Sri Lanka*

## Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an Indian territory since 1947, were severely affected by the tsunami. The southernmost islands of the 572-island chain are located less than 100 miles from the epicenter of the December 26th earthquake and have experienced multiple aftershocks. The healthcare infrastructure of the Nicobar islands was nearly destroyed, leaving the 40,000 inhabitants of relief camps and temporary housing with scarce access to health services. In collaboration with Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana, an Indian NGO that specializes in construction following natural disasters, Direct Relief is funding the construction of 34 primary healthcare centers and sub-centers to replace those completely destroyed by the tsunami. Construction on these remote islands has already begun and will be completed by the end of the summer. Direct Relief will also equip and stock the clinics with medical equipment, supplies, and pharmaceuticals. The 34 centers and sub-centers will provide a greater level of access to healthcare services than was previously available to island residents.



PHOTO: Jay Farbman

*Susan Fowler, Tsunami Relief Coordinator, visits families living in relief camps to evaluate health needs, Tamil Nadu, India*

In February 2005, Senior Program Officer and Tsunami Relief Coordinator, Susan Fowler, traveled to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to assess need and visit Direct Relief partners. She met with facility and agency health providers and administrators to evaluate their response activities and use of donated medical goods, and to develop both near and long-term plans for assistance. Fowler also toured relief camps and coastal villages and met with local and central government officials.

## Sri Lanka

Working with the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, local Sri Lankan nonprofits, teams of traveling physicians, and colleague U.S.-based organizations, Direct Relief has provided over 50,000 lbs. of critically needed medicines, supplies, and equipment in 17 shipments to Sri Lanka.

Direct Relief partner, Sarvodaya, the largest Sri Lankan nonprofit organization, was quick to respond following the tsunami. Program Officer Kelly Darnell, who traveled to Sri Lanka in early January 2005 reported that, "In the first 72 hours after the disaster, the humanitarian effort was primarily a local one... We visited Sarvodaya's busy

headquarters outside of Colombo, where we met with Executive Director, Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne and his staff. In their newly created disaster operations center, staff and volunteers manned ringing phones, entered donated product into computers, and responded to hundreds of email inquires. Large pieces of paper covered every inch of wall space—each represented one of the 90 Sarvodaya-run IDP camps and listed items needed such as aspirin, cough medicine, bandages, soap, and sanitary napkins.” On December 31, 2004, Direct Relief sent a shipment containing several thousand lbs. of analgesics, first aid supplies, and personal care products to Sarvodaya for use in the camps.

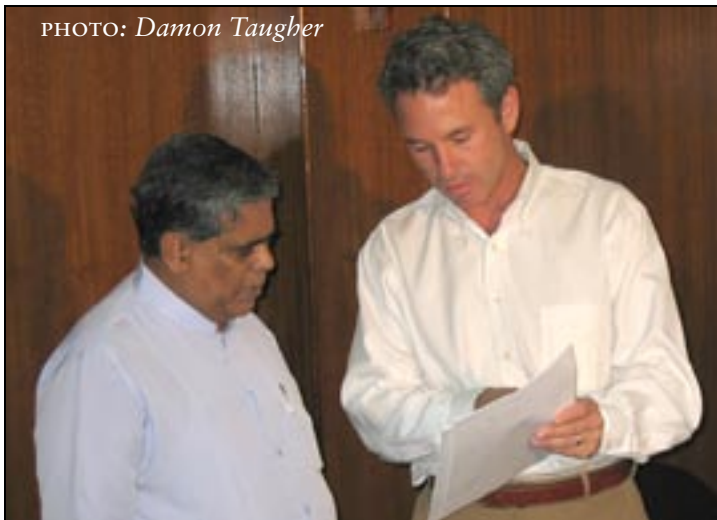


PHOTO: *Damon Taugher*

*Thomas Tighe, Direct Relief President and CEO, with Hon. Nimal Siripala de Silva, Sri Lankan Minister of Health, Colombo*

In addition to providing material aid, Direct Relief has granted over \$1.6 million in cash assistance to partner organizations in Sri Lanka whose in-country or disaster response expertise allows them to identify and fill gaps in relief activities. Direct Relief has funded the purchase of 10 mobile medical units and three ambulances for emergency medical outreach, issued grants for the repair and improvement of water and sanitation facilities, financed clinic reconstruction projects, and covered the costs of medical equipment items such as a CAT scan for the Ampara General Hospital located on the country’s hard-hit eastern coast.

In Galle, a severely affected city on the southern coast of the island, Direct Relief helped to rebuild the homes of hospital staff employed at the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital, the only hospital in the district that did not sustain significant damage. Two grants, totaling \$80,000, were provided to the Galle Medical Association and allocated in small allotments to repair or rebuild damaged homes. Physicians, nurses, and other staff members have been able to return from IDP camps and resume work serving thousands of tsunami survivors in and around Galle.

## Indonesia

The island of Sumatra, Indonesia suffered the most extensive damage from the earthquake and tsunami. Over 150,000 Indonesians were killed or remain missing as a result of the disaster. Public infrastructure was destroyed and entire villages were washed away. In response, Direct Relief has

provided 16 emergency shipments, with a wholesale value of over \$8.7 million and combined weight of more than 116,400 lbs., to indigenous and U.S.-based nonprofit organizations. The medical supplies provided were used to treat injured survivors at field hospitals, conduct mobile medical outreach programs in villages and relief camps, and restock Indonesian hospitals and clinics with the medicines and supplies needed to treat thousands of affected people in the region.

Working with Acehkita, an Aceh-based nonprofit with deep ties in Banda Aceh, Direct Relief provided funding for the purchase and staffing of three mobile medical vans. A Direct Relief emergency shipment of medical goods was sent to Acehkita to stock their mobile operations and their medical clinic in Banda Aceh. In addition, funds were provided for the in-country purchase of medications not available through our inventory.

In April 2005, Direct Relief President and CEO, Thomas Tighe, and Program Officer Damon Taugher traveled to Aceh Province to visit partner projects and assess further need. Taugher reported, “Acehkita works with a dedicated group of volunteers to distribute food, clothing, and medicines in several provinces. During the initial tsunami aftermath, Acehkita assembled a team of six doctors, 12 nurses, and several mental health workers to address the medical situation. When the Acehkita-run mobile clinics visit affected communities, between 200-300 patients are treated daily.”

Direct Relief has partnered with international and U.S.-based nonprofits working in Indonesia. Shipments, containing specifically requested medical goods for distribution to local NGOs and healthcare facilities, have been sent to International Relief and Development, a U.S.-based nonprofit with staff working in Aceh Province. In addition, Direct Relief provided a cash grant to International Medical Corps, headquartered in Los Angeles with offices in Medan and Banda Aceh, to establish psychological counseling services for tsunami survivors residing in Aceh Province.

## Donations Making a Difference

With your help, millions of tsunami-affected individuals received immediate medical attention and now have continued access to high quality medical goods and healthcare services. Thank you for your support.

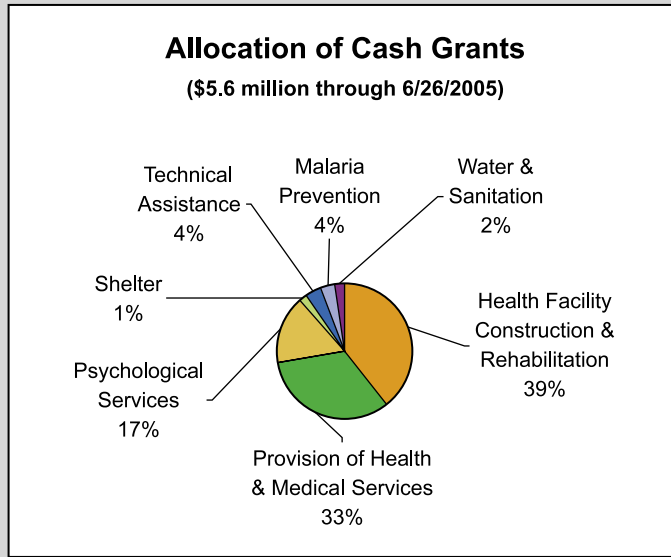


PHOTO: *Damon Taugher*

*The tsunami swept boats and debris miles inland in Banda Aceh, Indonesia*

*Direct Relief's tsunami response efforts, consistent with the organization's overall philosophy, help to strengthen and rebuild the local health infrastructure. During the last six months, Direct Relief's tsunami-response efforts have included:*

- Stocking and equipping 26 partner health facilities with critically needed medicines, supplies, and equipment
- Preventing malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies by supplying nutritional products to hospitals, clinics, and medical outreach programs
- Financing the construction of 34 primary healthcare centers on the tsunami-affected Andaman and Nicobar Islands



- Rebuilding 46 homes for hospital staff members in Galle, Sri Lanka
- Procuring 28 ambulances and mobile medical units for emergency services and medical outreach initiatives
- Treating a range of bacterial and fungal infections by supplying an extensive assortment of antibiotic and antifungal agents

- Repairing 1,200 community water wells in Aceh Province, Indonesia
- Improving sanitary conditions at internally displaced persons camps by providing toothbrushes, soap, baby care products, and sanitary napkins



PHOTO: Ana Fuentes



PHOTO: Jay Farbman

LEFT: Emergency shipments in Direct Relief's warehouse, wrapped and ready to ship

ABOVE: Children of Pulicat Island where a Direct Relief-funded community health center is being constructed, Tamil Nadu, India

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