

One Year of Post Tsunami Work – What Have We Learnt?



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Introduction

The Seminar was held at a crucial point, at a time when the combined aid efforts gradually shifted its focus from humanitarian assistance to long term reconstruction. Throughout 2005 a multitude of actors were involved in addressing the acute humanitarian needs that the tsunami left in its wake. Parallel to this plans were being drawn and finalised for large scale reconstruction. In 2006 these plans need to be transformed into tangible results in the form of new infrastructure, new housing and sustainable livelihoods for the communities affected by the tsunami. Environmental concerns will need to be addressed in the form of targeted investments and interventions

The seminar pointed out some of the challenges that lie ahead of us. How can we assist in building resilient societies? What can be done to reduce the vulnerability of disaster-prone areas? How can former injustices be addressed and what can be done to further democracy and foster local participation? A recurrent theme during the conference was the need to focus on the people affected – not as hapless victims, but as active cooperating partners, fit and capable of generating development.

The aim of the seminar was to provide a forum that would enable stakeholders to share experiences and lessons from the first year of post-tsunami relief and reconstruction work. The active participation of some 130 representatives from local and Swedish NGOs, the UN, government ministries and agencies, research institutions, private businesses, media and South East and South Asian embassies ensured that this objective was met and that the issues under discussion were covered from a variety of perspectives. Parallel to the main seminar the Church of Sweden Aid, Diakonia, Doctors Without Borders, Interact, Plan Sweden, the Swedish Red Cross, Swedish Save the Children and the Swedish Temperance Organisation IOGT-NTO arranged mini-seminars and exhibitions on selected themes.

The collective knowledge of keynote speakers and participants was impressive and provided many insights of value for the post-tsunami reconstruction work as well as for the design of adequate responses to future natural disasters. We hope that the notes from the seminar that we hereby submit will prove useful to those involved in post-tsunami reconstruction or in similar relief work in the years to come.

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A Call for Efficient Coordination and Enhanced Cooperation

Documentation of the Seminar

The initial tsunami relief efforts were effective – they prevented further suffering and hunger in the aftermath of the disaster. But this does not mean that it was always efficient, well-coordinated or appropriate. These were some of the pre-liminary findings of the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition, TEC, presented at the Sida seminar “One Year of Post-Tsunami Work – What Have We Learnt?”

One striking observation at the seminar was the difference between Sri Lanka and Indonesia. The tsunami tragedy provided a window of opportunity for peace. In Sri Lanka the opportunity was not seized, but in Aceh a peace agreement was realized. Another lesson was that an important factor behind the huge international response to the tsunami was that many people from rich countries had first hand experience, especially from the Thai areas that were affected. “We have to have a situation where we understand and react to the needs without having been there ourselves – people are people everywhere,” said the Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation Carin Jämtin.

Some preliminary findings from the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition were presented by John Cosgrave, Evaluation Advisor and Coordinator. The TEC is a joint evaluation effort by aid agencies set up to improve humanitarian systems by learning from the response to the earthquake and tsunamis of December 26th, 2004. The final synthesis report is due in May 2006.

John Cosgrave noted that the scale of the response to the disaster was unprecedented. A least USD 13.8 billion was raised from international sources, USD 2.5 billion from affected governments and at least USD 190 million dollars from the populations of the affected countries. The funds arrived with unprecedented speed, a higher proportion of pledges were honoured than what has been the case after other large disasters and the money took new paths – as much as half was channelled through NGOs and the Red Cross, he said. Almost all major aid agencies still

have substantial funds earmarked for post tsunami-aid.

The scale of the disaster was however not unprecedented. The Bengal storm surge in 1970 killed more people (300,000 – 500,000), more have been displaced in Afghanistan and more were affected by the floods in Bangladesh in 2004. The USD 13 billion raised for this one disaster should be compared to the average annual funding of only USD 5.4 billion available for all emergencies in the world during the previous five years. “But still, there was not too much money for the tsunami – instead there is too little money for most humanitarian situations,” John Cosgrave said.

The scale of the funding exceeded the capacity of the humanitarian system. “It acted as a giant lens, highlighting many of the existing problems in the humanitarian systems. We thought that most of the problems of humanitarian operations came from lack of funding, but we now know that this is not the case,” said John Cosgrave.

The impression that sufficient funding is available can also lead to specific problems, one of them being that too little attention is given to coordination issues.

“Normally coordination is driven by a lack of money, but now everybody had lots of funds and high pressure to show what they did with the money. There was a competition for clients – if you found a village in need, you did not tell the other organisations, but went there quickly to distribute aid. It made a good story on the website of the organisation,” John Cosgrave commented.

He also expressed a certain disappointment in the way evaluation reports have been treated. Cosgrave took the International Federation of the Red Cross and a British NGO as examples of organisations which had chosen not to publish evaluation reports with critical findings, but rather have taken on an attitude of trying to limit the negative impact on the image of their own organisations.

The tsunami relief efforts have, according to the TEC findings, not succeeded in distributing aid equitably. Proportionately more has gone to the better off, to men, to tsunami-affected as opposed to people affected by conflicts in the same areas. More has also gone to those better organised. “The principle has often been a house for a house. A landlord with six houses got six new houses from the international community, while a family renting their house got nothing.”

The Peace agreement in Aceh gave hope

The differences between the portrayals given at the seminar of the reconstruction process in Sri Lanka and Aceh are striking. Both international and local expertise from Aceh painted a rather positive picture of developments. This concerned not only the peace process, but also the way recovery efforts were carried out. There had been a relatively high degree of consultation with the local population. A special entity – gradually becoming better resourced – was established to lead reconstruction and set high anticorruption standards.

In contrast, the Sri Lankan representatives and the experts who had studied the impact on Sri Lanka stressed the problems encountered in the aftermath of the tsunami. The escalating conflict, the controversies and insecurities surrounding buffer zones, corrupt practises and insufficient influence for the affected population plagued the recovery efforts.

Humam Hamid, professor of sociology at the Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, and Chairman of the Aceh Recovery Forum, noted that the tsunami had not only brought suffering to his country. “Out of disaster came hope,” he said, alluding to the peace process that

led to the peace agreement signed in Helsinki in August 2005. “The peace in Aceh was totally unforeseen and makes the tragedy which we suffered in December of 2004 easier to endure.”

He was one of the key participants in the civil society efforts to secure more local influence over the reconstruction in Aceh, as founder of the Aceh Reconstruction Forum. The Forum successfully lobbied for making the special government entity BRR, formed for the task, responsible for reconstruction.

He also stressed the importance of a sustainable reconstruction of Aceh. “The reconstruction of Aceh must be done in a way that supports our green future,” he said. “The tsunami gives Aceh a possibility to start again, almost from a clean sheet. It gives us a chance to leapfrog older technologies and old practices. We can set a standard that the rest of Indonesia might follow.”

Buffer zones problem in Sri Lanka

Jeevan Thiagarajah, head of the Consortium for Humanitarian Agencies in Sri Lanka, noted that substantial relief and reconstruction work had been carried out in Sri Lanka. Seventy percent of the affected populations have to some extent revived their livelihood. Tens of thousands of people have been provided with temporary shelter. He also noted that humanitarian agencies had taken on new roles and tasks, possibly because of the unprecedented response to their fund raising. The new situation had turned many of them into national planning partners.

There are still significant problems with permanent shelter, in particular for people relocated because of the buffer zones created along the coast line of Sri Lanka. Mr Thiagarajah said that in his personal opinion, the concept of the zones should be reconsidered. He also noted a series of problems with the operations in Sri Lanka. While the initial response went reasonably well, the bulk of the resources for reconstruction were still off-shore and beneficiaries were not sufficiently empowered and consulted.

“There has not been enough focus on ‘Building Back Better’. And we have a glaring problem of inequality in the distribution of the resources,” he said.

Coordinating NGOs in India

“Coordination was an important problem, especially coordination with the affected communities when short term NGOs flooded the area right after the tsunami.” Kuki Rokhum, Donor Relations Desk Coordinator at the Indian Christian NGO EFICOR, saw herself as a representative of the many small local NGOs that were involved in the response to the tsunami. Their role is crucial, particularly in the earlier stages of the response to disasters. But, as several speakers noted, their importance is often overlooked by media and other observers. Most of the lives saved were saved by local people’s own efforts, or by their families and neighbours.

Coordination between the local and international NGOs can be demanding. “We have tried to advise partners on how to best handle the local situation, but still they often send big teams of foreign experts or in-kind assistance – we just try to politely say that this is not the best way,” Kuki Rokhum said.

EFICOR has been involved in assisting a number of villages in reconstruction work. Several received new fishing boats to replace those destroyed by the tsunami. When the area was flooded again a few months ago, this time by heavy rains, the tsunami-affected people used the boats they had been given by the NGOs to help save the flood victims.

“They said that they in turn wanted to help others. A chain of compassion has been started”, Kuki Rokhum said.

All should benefit from reconstruction

Laila Zulfaqar, District Manager of Save the Children in the Pidie district, Aceh, struck the same rather positive and optimistic note as her fellow countrymen at the seminar. She described the successes of the trauma counselling activities of the organisation. “Children who did not speak or take part in games are now normal, active children going to school, talking and playing,” she said.

She stressed that the relief and reconstruction efforts in Aceh must be directed at the whole region, not just towards the tsunami-affected areas. “The best impact of the tsunami is the peace process. But the reconstruction cannot be limited to the tsunami areas – it must benefit the whole of Aceh – both areas affected by the tsunami and those affected by the conflict. Reconstruction can and must help keeping the peace process alive.”

She noted that in some areas people are back in business already. “In fact, some tsunami-affected areas are better off than before,” she said, indicating that the conflict-affected areas need more help than they initially received.

Risk of reinforcing conflicts

There is always a risk of reinforcing existing conflicts or even creating new ones when rebuilding a society. Camilla Orjuela, PhD in Peace and Development Research and an expert on the conflicts in Sri Lanka, noted that natural disasters often create a window of opportunity for peace – however, this window is not necessarily utilised.

Unlike Aceh, the situation in Sri Lanka is now probably worse than a year ago. But Camilla Orjuela noted that the worsening of the conflict that many predicted for the beginning of 2005 did not happen because of the tsunami.

“The dynamics changed, something else came into focus. All ethnic groups on Sri Lanka were affected by the tsunami and the initial local initiatives helped all, not seldom across old enemy lines. There was a shared interest for the Tamil Tigers (the LTTE guerrilla group) and the government to show that they used the assistance in a good way,” she said.

There were also negotiations between the LTTE and the government on the use of humanitarian assistance, but those did not yield any results.

“The opportunity was not seized – the conflict was not washed away by the tsunami,” said Camilla Orjuela.

She gave three examples of conflict dimensions that were aggravated by the tsunami and, even more, by its aftermath. The Sinhalese domination of Sri Lankan life and politics was reflected in the way much of the assistance was distributed. The buffer zones created along the coast could be seen as a conflict between the poor and business interests. The justification behind the establishment of buffer zones was safety considerations, but they also benefited tourism interests that wanted to clear the beaches. And, as Camilla Orjuela remarked, who should determine the priorities – the people or the tourism industry?

The third conflict dimension noted by Ms Orjuela was the gap between those who did get aid and those who did not – those suffering from the tsunami and those that suffered from the conflict.

Camilla Orjuela noted that despite all previous discussions of the risk of aid efforts reinforcing existing conflicts and inequalities, the pattern of the rescue and reconstruction efforts on Sri Lanka did not change.

“The problem is not a lack of awareness. We have all heard the discussions on ‘conflict sensitivity’, ‘transparency’ and ‘fair distribution’. The problem is the next step: how to do it,” she said.

She noted that the discussions between the LTTE and the government concerning a mechanism for distributing aid came about as a result of donor pressure. “I don’t have an easy solution – but I know that donors matter.”

Lack of environmental considerations

The environment is part of disaster resilience. But there has been relatively little cooperation between those dealing with the environment and those focusing on development. And not much has been done to improve the environmental situation in areas threatened by tsunamis. This troubled Johan Rockström, Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute.

“What we know from science gives us reason to be worried – we might be recreating the vulnerabilities from the 26th of December 2004,” he said. Scientific studies have shown that the initial media reports of mangrove forests protecting villages from the tsunami were correct. Some projects have been carried out to protect or rejuvenate mangrove forests, but the overall efforts have remained limited. Unlike many other speakers, Johan Rockström’s attitude to the coastal protection and zoning measures that are being considered was rather positive. “They are important from an environmental perspective,” he said. But what primarily worries him and many others are the marine ecosystems.

Professor Olle Lindén from CORDIO pointed out that fisheries in the region were severely overexploited and degraded already prior to the tsunami. Capacity in the fisheries sector, particularly in Sri Lanka, has probably increased as a result of post-tsunami assistance; particularly through the distribution of inappropriate nets and boats for fishermen.

Ian Christopolos, a consultant to the TEC, commented that the distribution of fishing boats had been a tangible and visible activity and therefore a very popular reconstruction project. “The agencies felt the pressure to get out of the food aid phase into restoring livelihoods. Those aspirations have resulted in too many boats – donors jumped on any project just to do something,” he continued.

Humam Hamid from Aceh pointed to another environmental hazard in the aftermath of the tsunami. In Aceh, logging of rain forests for construction has increased considerably as a result of the reconstruction efforts. “If the government proceeds with its plans for logging in Aceh, we will have a ‘land tsunami’ with floods and landslides. We need to get timber from overseas or from other parts of Indonesia”, he said, adding that the rain forests in Aceh are still there because of the rebellion.

Johan Rockström expressed concern over the lack of environmental considerations.

“This is setting the region up for another crisis – an ecological and food security crisis. Alternatives to living from fisheries need to be created for a transition to sustainable livelihoods to occur,” he said.

He noted, just as Camilla Orjuela had concerning Sri Lanka, that the authorities have favoured the tourism industry. Local elites and tourist resorts have taken advantage of the recovery plan.

“Diversifying livelihoods and creating jobs outside of vulnerable coastal zones is important in order to create future resilience to natural disasters. A natural hazard is not a disaster unless it hits a vulnerable community,” he said.

Disaster risk reduction a necessity

Environmental considerations and disaster risk reduction were also issues raised by Anders Wijkman, Chairman of Plan Sweden and a member of the European Parliament. He says we will repeat the same mistakes over and over again if we do not work with disaster risk reduction.

“Let me be very provocative”, he said. “It’s my absolute conviction that there are many unnecessary disasters. The tsunami, though, could in itself not have been prevented. But with proper preparedness the number of people killed would have been significantly lower.”

According to Wijkman 95-98 % of the people killed in disasters over

the last twenty years have been living in poor countries. For every casualty there are two to three thousand persons severely affected, often losing everything they have. “Decades of development are just swept away,” Wijkman said. “This means that disasters pose a threat to the prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”

Industrial countries spend millions of dollars to reduce the risks of disasters at home, saving many lives. Hurricane Katrina was an exception, however. It would have cost USD 12 billion to strengthen the levees around New Orleans. Now the total cost of the damage is estimated at approximately USD 200 billion.

It’s high time to pay attention to all the studies showing the importance of disaster prevention and focus on risk agendas in low income countries too, Wijkman said. Risk reduction can be integrated into development planning and into all poverty reduction strategies.

“The problem is that humanitarian organisations put all their efforts into emergency relief while organisations dealing with development do not look upon disaster risk reduction as a priority.”

Another problem is that huge disasters attract a lot of media attention, while disaster prevention hardly receives any attention at all. Wijkman quoted Kofi Annan who recently stated: “The disasters that did not happen receive no headlines.” “We have to change the way we view disasters”, Wijkman said. “It is important to bridge the gap between the NGOs that work with humanitarian aid and the development NGOs.”

Ian Christopolos, of the TEC, noted that risk reduction tends to fall between areas of responsibility: “It is divided between conflict and natural disasters, between social sciences and natural sciences and in the UN even between New York and Geneva,” he said.

Disaster risk reduction a marginal UN issue

“Disaster risk reduction and preparedness is possibly the most marginal of all issues in a UN-perspective”, Margareta Wahlström, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, UN-OCHA, said and asked rhetorically:

“Is it because we don’t know enough about it? Not really. Or is it because it’s costly? Yes, it’s costly, but it pays off.”

In the case of the tsunami, governments were unprepared for a large scale emergency and structures designed for crisis response were notably absent, according to Margareta Wahlström. She said that there is a need for an international frame-work that helps governments to establish appropriate structures for humanitarian assistance and disaster response. Wahlström also referred to already existing rules and initiatives like the Agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction that was agreed upon in the Kobe conference in January 2005.

“Political will and leadership have to be developed to reduce the impact of hazards”, Wahlström said. “We need international commitment to support and strengthen the national capacity, but the work has to be nationally led.” Margareta Wahlström also noted that the resources that were made available after the tsunami put heavy pressure on everyone involved.

“But there was not too much money, we were just not used to handling this amount of resources,” she said. “The money given to this emergency response has to become the standard we should aim for. The humanitarian system as such needs to be reviewed. Can we really continue to rely on unpredictable voluntary contributions? It’s worthwhile considering developing more stable systems for funding.”

An important lesson learnt from the tsunami, said Wahlström, is that it does make a difference if there is immediate money available.

“With the support of a number of donors, among them Sweden, we now have established a fund. The fund is supposed to contain USD 500

million and we count on it to be operational from April 2006. This will allow the emergency coordinator to start relief work immediately without first having to launch an appeal and wait for money from donors. However, the fund is not replacing the appeals – an appeal always has to be made.”

Important to listen to the affected people

Johan Schaar, Special Representative for the Tsunami Operation at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, spoke about coordination and harmonization from a different perspective.

“We have to be careful when drawing lessons from the tsunami,” he cautioned. “The weaknesses that we have discussed so far do exist. But the tsunami was unique in terms of the number of countries affected, the number of responding actors and the amount of funds collected.”

What we do know, said Johan Schaar, is that for every disaster we hear about there are at least ten others that go unnoticed. Since every disaster has an impact on peoples’ ability to escape poverty, Johan Schaar stressed the importance of keeping the disaster agenda alive.

He mentioned two severe problems connected to the tsunami recovery process: “There is a tendency that we are more interested in the donors than in the beneficiaries. We must keep both of them informed about the process. Another problem is that NGOs often feel obliged to use up their funds, even if many of them lack the right experience.”

An important issue is to ensure that the governments and populations of affected countries can count on organisations that claim to be able to provide aid actually have the required qualifications.

According to Johan Schaar, the IFRC acts on lessons learnt from its own evaluations. It has become increasingly obvious that there is a need for a much stronger emphasis on the sheltering process as such and not only on providing permanent homes. This includes the needs of internally displaced persons. Partnerships with non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors are another important issue.

“We are piloting a so-called listening project. By speaking to affected persons in the communities we get to know how they value our work and they can guide us to be more relevant to the needs,” Schaar explained.

The IFRC is also engaged in the Global Coalition, an initiative towards coordination by the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery. The Global Coalition consists of UN agencies, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, NGOs, affected governments and donors. Johan Schaar mentioned some results including recognition for improved transitional shelter and endorsement of an initiative to measure impact and outcomes of aid.

“We cannot just count the number of houses constructed,” Schaar said. “We also have to measure what happens to the poverty level and to the health and status of the children. Only then will we be able to appraise whether our work has resulted in significant progress.”

Great risk of corruption after disasters

Another important issue raised during the day was the risk for corruption in the aftermath of the tsunami. J.C. Weliamuna, Executive Director of Transparency International Sri Lanka, stressed a few issues to show how corruption came to be such a problem in Sri Lanka after the tsunami. Poor parliamentary oversight of public finance and a defunct Anti Corruption Agency were part of the problem. “During the last two years there has also been reluctance by the government to work with NGOs. Worst was the introduction of a specific tax on NGOs in 1994, an unthinkable move in a civilised society,” J.C. Weliamuna emphasized. “In addition we have poor capacity to utilize the annual foreign aid pledged.”

According to Mr. Weliamuna the government machinery was inad-

equate and helpless when the tsunami hit. The initial stage could be handled effectively only because of participation of individuals, NGOs, religious organisations and the private sector. Gradually the government started its activities but excluded local government. The government also introduced rules which worsened the plight of the survivors, said Mr. Weliamuna. As an example he mentioned the “buffer zones,” prohibiting construction within 100 to 200 meters from the sea.

“This made the affected people landless after they had become homeless. No land was made available for construction of houses, but evidence was emerging that hotels were being built in some areas, ignoring the buffer zone rule with impunity.”

There were different recipients of the foreign assistance; the central government, NGOs, individuals and political parties. According to Mr. Weliamuna there were no effective mechanisms in place that could provide accurate information on the amount of money received and how it was spent.

A positive development is that a Bribery Commission was created in March 2005. In his interim report the Auditor General pointed out a number of irregularities including corruption in post-tsunami relief operations.

“There is now an overwhelming support for these institutions to enhance their capacity,” Mr. Weliamuna said. To move forward, he said, a genuine political will to minimize corruption is needed.

“Sad to say nepotism is high, and we have to ensure openness in selecting beneficiaries and in appointing key officials handling tsunami reconstruction.”

Lessons learnt

John Clark, World Bank, Advisor to BRR, the Governmental Reconstruction Authority in Aceh, Indonesia, on Donor Coordination, concentrated on six lessons learnt, particularly in Aceh. According to him it is of great importance to manage expectations. After the disaster hundreds of agencies went out to the communities, creating the expectation that reconstruction was just around the corner.

“But a disaster of this scale is a superhuman challenge. That’s why there is a need for good information systems to be put in place. People must understand all that needs to be done before reconstruction can start. Those displaced who lost their livelihoods were extremely disappointed in what they saw as an unduly slow progress,” John Clark said.

Another important lesson is to plan for reconstruction from Day 1. The gap in the middle of 2005 between the relief work and the start of reconstruction gave the impression that the recovery effort was running out of steam. Many communities protested during this period and claimed that the supposed record levels of international and governmental assistance were just empty talk.

And there have also been positive lessons, said John Clark. One is the power of using community leadership in recovery, another is the appropriateness of establishing a special government agency. From the beginning the central government wanted to direct the reconstruction effort. Then they suddenly made a U-turn, Clark said. A special Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR) led by an official with ministerial rank was established.

“What we see in Aceh is the largest example in the world of community driven reconstruction,” Clark said and added that this is the hallmark of the recovery process. “You listen to peoples’ needs and preferences, and they negotiate directly with the NGOs and other donors. But this approach of course takes time, some-times the displaced persons change their minds and very often they make different decisions from those of the external experts.”

In December 2005 reconstruction is evident even if the resources assigned by the government for recovery arrived as late as September. There were also other misjudgments, said Clark. Inappropriate policies often caused unnecessary delays. One such example was the policy to limit the budget for a new house to USD 3,000 – a level that proved to be far too low. This policy was eventually revised, but this meant that persons who had already moved in to very basic homes became extremely frustrated when they saw people in neighboring villages getting modern and better houses.

“For some it was ‘Building Back Better’, for others I would say it meant ‘Building Back Bitter’,” Clark said.

Another tendency to avoid is the emphasis on the speed of reconstruction. As an example Clark mentioned that 60 percent of the coastal boats in Aceh have been replaced, but studies show that they are already leaking since the boat builders were inexperienced. To get things right is, at the end of the day, more important than the speed of the work, Clark underlined.

“We have to ‘rush cautiously’ to leave behind something sustainable. It’s also important to apply a careful approach and gradually hand over the responsibility to the local government.”

This indicates, Clark said, the importance of investing in strategic, multistake-holder coordination. BRR is trying to address this by establishing coordination forums and policy advisory groups so that it can engage with the larger and more innovative agencies as it evolves policies and strategies.

“We must get beyond sentiments of ‘my project and yours’. There is one common recovery endeavour and all agencies share responsibility for ensuring its health.”

Aid funds must be available all year around

The Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation Carin Jämtin has visited the tsunami-affected areas several times and has attended many meetings on the tsunami recovery operation around the world. In her address she highlighted the unprecedented scale of the response from governments, companies and the public to the call for assistance in the wake of the tsunami. “One reason for the quick response from governments and organisations was possibly the time of year: there was a new fiscal year with a fresh budget on the 1st of January only five days after the tsunami. A reason for the slow response to the Pakistani earthquake may have been that the coffers had dried out and the new budget on 1st of January was far away,” she said. “This is not responsible. We must ensure that money is available all year around.”

Another reason for the huge response to the tsunami, is that many people from rich countries had visited in particular the areas of Thailand that were hit. “We have to create a situation where we understand and react to the needs without having been there ourselves – people are people everywhere”, the Swedish minister said.

Carin Jämtin noted that the EU reaction to the tsunami disaster offered a mixed picture. One reason might be administrative details, a subject she plans to discuss at upcoming EU meetings. “They say that the devil is in the detail. If administrative details hinder a quick response, then we have to do something about it,” she said. The question of accountability is also of utmost importance.

“We have seen a fantastic response from the Swedish public. Now people right-fully want to know what happened with their money. And we need to explain why the work takes time. If not, they may be less inclined to donate the next time,” Carin Jämtin said.

She also stressed the importance of linking humanitarian work to development.

“We need to find the bridges between the humanitarian assistance efforts

and the development efforts. Otherwise new crises will happen again and again,” she said. But in the end, the most important issue is financial resources. Without sufficient funding – and the over-whelming response to the tsunami must so far be seen as an exception – nothing can be done.

“If the money is not there, we can not achieve coordination and all the other things we all talk about,” Carin Jämtin said.

In our connected world, the money comes when the disaster hits our TV screens. Kuki Rokhum of EFICOR reflected in her presentation on the importance of remembering the experiences of the tsunami when we move on to the next disaster – and the one after that.

“The tsunami will soon be off our TV screens. But we must not forget the lessons learned,” she said.

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Sida is not responsible for the opinions expressed in this report.



PHOTO: JOHAN RESELE/GLOBAL REPORTING

The tsunami dramatically changed the life for Rusli Mahmod and his daughter Saski, sole survivors of a family of five.

Welcome to Sida on December 20 to share experiences from the post-tsunami work – there are still a few seats available. We are happy to announce several new resource persons that will participate in the seminar: John Clarke, BRR-advisor, Dr. Humam Hamid, Aceh Recovery Forum, Laila Zulfaqar, Save the Children Indonesia and Kuki Rokhum, EFICOR India. We are also preparing a series of mini-seminars together with Swedish NGOs as an integrated part of the event.

The Tsunami Changed Peoples Minds

“I think the tsunami somehow already changed minds. In the aftermath of this tragedy there has been a change of heart in the major protagonists in the war” says Dr Hamid, sociologist and Chairman of the Aceh Recovery Forum.

He views the reconstruction of Aceh in the context of more than twenty years of armed conflict between the GAM secessionists and government troops. Now there is optimistic talk that the decades-long simmering civil war in Indonesia’s Aceh province is about to end.

“Sweden has been very active in providing support systematically for

reconstruction in Aceh, especially as a member of the multi donor trust fund for Aceh and Nias. As the peace accord between the government and the movement is on hold, more help is needed, both in terms of expertise and resources to assure a successful result in both the reconstruction work and the peace process. Swedish influence, together with other parties from the international community will strengthen the ongoing peace process”, he says.

Building communities

John Clark is a World Bank advisor on donor coordination to BRR, the Governmental Reconstruction Authority in Aceh. What could be the Swedish role in the reconstruction work in Aceh after the tsunami?

“The biggest donors like USA and Japan can take care of the largest infrastructure projects, like the west coast road needed. Donors like Sweden might best concentrate on restoring all the medium-to-large infrastructure needs: coastal protection, drainage for areas that are now flooded because of the tectonic plate shifts, planning the water supplies, sewerage, district roads. Measures like these can make a difference between building slums and building communities.”

Recycling for Reconstruction

Jon Hedenström, Press officer at Sida recently visited Aceh. He reports on a sustainable way to make use of the enormous amount of debris created by the tsunami.

Shattered houses, concrete blocks, torn car wrecks, giant balls of reinforcement bars, ships, children's sandals – the devastation stretches several kilometres from the sea line. The remains are still there, as reminders of the disaster.

"It still might look messy. But we see a great difference compared to a couple of months ago. Now the streets are open and many large premises cleared", says Jamilah Usman at the UNDP.

The workers at the dump wear hats or scarves to protect their heads against the sun. Some detach reinforcement bars from giant concrete blocks. Others carry lumber and planks. Their efforts are an important part of a Sida financed UN-programme to clear up after the devastating tsunami. So far, the project has cleaned up more than 100,000 cubic meters.

"This project has three positive effects. Firstly, to secure that all remains from shattered building and industries are deposited in a way that is environmentally safe. Secondly, the waste that can be recycled is classified to be used in the reconstruction. Thirdly, poor people get an income opportunity", says Johan Brisman, co-ordinator of the Sida tsunami support. From collection sites the junk is then transported to the refuse and classified; wood, bricks and reinforcement bars are piled up, concrete blocks are pulverised.



PHOTO: JOHAN RESELE/GLOBAL REPORTING

All around Aceh, people are striving to build a new life for themselves.

When everything is organised and, relief organisations and individuals to the refuse and carry away what they need to reconstruct houses.

"Our programme employs 700-800 persons each day. Most of them live in camps as they have lost their houses. Besides their income from the project they can earn money to sell the plastics and scrap iron they find", says Muhammad Zaki Jamal, programme associate.

Children's rights

Laila Zulfaqar is District Manager at Save the Children, Pidie, Indonesia. What are the most important issues to discuss at the Sida seminar?

"In my opinion it is whether the support has resulted in a positive impact for women and children. Other important issues are children's rights, access to education, child protection and economic recovery for non-tsunami and conflict zones."

Exhibition on the tsunami

In the exhibition "After the Tsunami", children and youth in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Sweden share their thoughts about the tsunami. Why do disasters happen? What will the future be like? Can I have an influence? The exhibition is a co-operation between Diakonia, Save the Children and a number of Swedish museums and opens on December 26 at the East Asian Museum in Stockholm.

Read more at www.diakonia.se/Ett_ar_after_tsunamin.htm

You are welcome to attend the Sida seminar One Year of post-tsunami work – what have we learnt? on December 20 in Stockholm. It is not too late to register; there are still a few seats available. Twelve guests who are involved in the reconstruction work will participate in the programme and a number of Swedish NGO:s will share their experiences throughout the day. They all seem to agree that it is not enough to rebuild the areas that were devastated – the ambition is to build something better.



Christina Wedekull spends much of her time in Aceh to be able to better assess the needs and priorities.

“The Situation and Circumstances are Constantly Changing”

“The reconstruction work in Aceh has two aspects – to build a better Aceh for the inhabitants in the areas where the tsunami hit, as well as for the victims who were affected by the political conflict. These aspects are closely intertwined and both have to be taken into consideration if we are to succeed”, comments Christina Wedekull, who is sent out by Sida to work with the post-tsunami reconstruction in Aceh, based at the Swedish Embassy in Jakarta. She is also Sweden’s representative at the steering committee of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund, to which Sweden channels the main part of its support. Many important conditions have to be considered if the results of the

reconstruction is to be sustainable. Roads and harbours must be rehabilitated before building materials can be transported, land ownership and titling need to be sorted out, and in many areas flooding is a constant threat as the ground level has changed.

Christina Wedekull spends about one-third of her time in Aceh and she emphasizes how important it is to know about the actual situation on the ground. The situation and circumstances are constantly changing so one needs to be flexible and observant, explains Christina Wedekull, who will participate in the Stockholm conference.

Mini-seminars with Swedish NGO:s

To provide opportunities to discuss in smaller groups and share experiences with Swedish NGO’s, seven different ”stations” will be set up. Coffee and lunch will be served at the different stations.

Organisers and themes for the mini-seminars are:

Save the Children: The importance of the physical environment in the care and protection of children in the tsunami response.

Plan Sweden: How to make Children’s participation possible in the reconstruction process.

Diakonia: Democracy and conflicts.
Swedish Temperance Organisation, IOGT-NTO: Alcohol related problems in the wake of the catastrophe.

InterAct: Rebuilding their lives – difficulties and experiences concerning the reconstruction of permanent housing.

Church of Sweden Aid: Experiences from psychosocial services in humanitarian assistance. The challenges concerning recovery and rehabilitation.

Swedish Red Cross: To be there when it happens.

Doctors Without Borders will provide written information about their work.

A collection of abstracts from the Swedish NGO’s will be distributed prior to the conference.

Fighting Corruption in Sri Lanka

“Corruption is a major problem for Sri Lanka after the tsunami,” says J.C. Weliamuna, head of Transparency International Sri Lanka (TISL). He mentions that money intended for those affected goes for various other purposes and that there is no consistency in rules such as the buffer regulation, that was introduced to prevent constructions on the coastal line – poor people are subjected to the rule while hotel chains are practically exempted.

“It is alleged that one of our public departments received 100 laptop computers. Today nobody knows where they have gone. The department in question did not need computers, but they arrived in Sri Lanka anyway from a benevolent foreign entity.”

A lot of corruption occurs in situations where a country, organisation or authority does not have the capacity to manage all the help received. People suddenly show up who grab what they can for themselves.

“The Auditor General in his interim report dated June 30 pointed out series of irregularities including waste and corruption on post tsunami relief operations”, comments Mr Weliamuna.

The TISL is the national wing of Transparency International (TI) that works worldwide against corruption. The target group on Sri Lanka is civil society along with the government and its departments. TISL strives to influence societal actors to improve their transparency, reliability and good governance. The agenda includes persuading the government to adopt a national anti-corruption plan. “We must have a mechanisms in society that prevent bribery and



Mr Weliamuna will talk about the efforts to mitigate corruption at the Sida-seminar in Stockholm.

people grabbing what they want for themselves,” continues J.C. Weliamuna.

“The TISL attempts to make parliament more effective by persuading political leadership to create a committee with the authority to examine state finances.”

Local participation in government decisions is another issue pursued by J.C. Weliamuna, a subject that is particularly topical after the tsunami:

“If we do not invite those affected to participate in the rebuilding process the aid will never arrive at its final destination,” he concludes.

More about TI at:

www.transparency.org.

Big challenge to coordinate donors

Kuki (Lalbiakhlu) Rokhum has been working in the Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR) since 2002. In Stockholm she will stress the importance of cooperation between different stakeholders from around the world: “The most important aspect of my work is to ensure that we are able to support the most needy people. It is equally important that we are able to raise enough funds so that those who are reeling under poverty or have survived disasters are able to come out of that. Coordinating different donors from across the world can be quite a challenging job as it means corresponding with many different people representing various organisations, each with a different system of working”, she says.

Sweden supports UN Fund for Tsunami Warning System

The Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation, Ms Carin Jämtin, visited Indonesia and Thailand in the beginning of December to study the reconstruction work. In Bangkok she signed an agreement that carries with it a Swedish contribution of USD 2.5 Million to the Multi-Donor Voluntary Trust Fund on Tsunami Early Warning Arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia. More details at:

www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/6127/a/54659

On Tuesday, December 20th, it is finally time for the seminar One Year of Post-Tsunami Work – What Have We Learnt? at Sida in Stockholm. In our three newsletters we have presented a number of the participants in the seminar, and maybe their comments have awakened thoughts and reflections. We are hoping for a vivid discussion and an active audience. You are very welcome to the Sida learning seminar! Read more at www.sida.se/tsunami.



PHOTO: JOHAN BERGQVIST/SIDA

Rebuilding has begun in earnest in Banda Aceh. Many families have just moved into new homes built by Oxfam in the completely destroyed areas near the harbour.

TEC to Present First Conclusions at Sida Seminar

The Tsunami Evaluation Coalition, TEC, will present some of its initial findings at the Sida seminar. TEC is comprising over 50 member agencies across the humanitarian sector, that are now working together on five joint thematic evaluations.

“Most of the affected people are satisfied with the assistance they received during the first months, but are less satisfied with the reconstruction. Many feel that they have not been involved in the reconstruction process and that their knowledge has not come to use,” says John Cosgrave, the Evaluation Advisor and Coordinator for TEC.

Mr. Cosgrave points out that this is not the biggest disaster ever, but the best funded disaster ever!

“The problem is that there is not

enough local capacity to use all the resources. Coordination is another problem. There are 200-300 donors present in Aceh only.”

According to Mr. Cosgrave working jointly increases the credibility and the quality of the evaluations. “The creation of the TEC is a significant new initiative. Organisations involved have reduced the number of individual evaluations as a result. The member agencies represent UN agencies, bilateral donors, INGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement.

“But the evaluations take about a month longer than we planned. The final synthesis report will be published in April/May 2006.”

Building slums or building communities

“At the Sida seminar it would be good to convey how a wide collection of agencies can work in the situation of chaos and be able, gradually, to fashion a reconstruction program.”

John Clark is a World Bank advisor on donor coordination to BRR, the Governmental Reconstruction Authority in Aceh. He feels that it is also interesting to concentrate on what lessons the tsunami operation offers the world; what have been the impressive achievements, the important innovations and what hasn't worked well?

“The biggest donors like USA and Japan can take care of the largest infrastructure projects. Donors like Sweden might best concentrate on restoring all the medium-to-large infrastructure needs: coastal protection, drainage for areas that are now flooded, planning the water supplies, sewerage, district roads etc. Measures like these can make a difference between building slums and building communities.”

Politics Determines How Aid is Allocated

Most of the aid to Sri Lanka has gone to the south where the Sinhala live and tourists visit, where there aren't any Tamils or ethnic conflicts. Politics determines how aid is allocated.

On the east coast many more houses have been destroyed because of Sri Lanka's ethnic conflicts than were destroyed by the tsunami. There are victims of the conflicts who have waited years for a new house. Now they see how their neighbour whose home was destroyed in the tsunami receives a new house much quicker. These are unnecessary injustices which could have been avoided if the enormous contributions could be used where they would do the most good, instead of being earmarked just for tsunami victims.

In the village of Palamunai in Sri Lanka the people see the ongoing conflict as at least as great a threat as the risk of a new tsunami. The Swedish-Norwegian aid organisation Forut is building new permanent housing here, but the work has been delayed. The affected people, who have lost everything, impatiently

wait to get on with their lives again.

This part of Sri Lanka's east coast was worst hit by the tsunami. It is also the part of Sri Lanka which so far has received the least help. In the village of Batticaloa, 1469 houses were destroyed, but only 43 have been rebuilt. In Hambantota, farther south, where the president was born, 932 houses were destroyed, but 1548 new ones have been built.

Everyone in Palamunai is still living in temporary housing in camps. The government has established a no-construction buffer zone at various lengths from the water's edge, and the new area for re-housing the inhabitants of this village is quite a distance farther in. But the ground there is low and swampy, so it has to be filled with sand and drained before construction can begin. After that comes infrastructure such as electricity and water. The villagers will have to wait in their temporary housing for at least another year.

It is a hopeless life. Many are afraid. Not just of a new tidal wave,

but also of the conflict between the Tamil Tigers and the government, and the conflict between the Tamils and the Moslems, which is escalating in the area.

"We are always afraid", says the fisherman Atham Lebai. "Nobody really wants to live in the new houses on bad ground, far away from the beach. But nobody would dare to live on the beaches either, even if we were allowed to."

/Agneta Sundgren, Sida

Necessary to strengthen Local institutions

"Sweden has been very active in providing support systematically for reconstruction in Aceh, especially as a member of the Multi Donor Trust Fund for Aceh and Nias.", says Dr. Hamid, an Acehnese sociologist trained at Kansas State University and a teacher at Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh.

"As the peace accord between the government and GAM is on hold, more help is needed, both in terms of expertise and resources to assure a successful result in both the reconstruction work and the peace process. Swedish influence, together with other parties from the international community will strengthen the ongoing peace process."

According to Dr Hamid there are several issues that need to be discussed during the Sida seminar, such as planning and coordination mechanisms among parties in the reconstruction activities and strategies for strengthening local institutions and integration of environmental concerns into all aspects of the reconstruction work.

PHOTO: AGNETA SUNDGREN/SIDA



The ground has to be drained before construction can begin.



Rebuilding – a Tough Challenge

On December 26, 2004 large parts of South and southeast Asia were shaken by an enormous tidal wave – the tsunami. The same day, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) made the decision to provide Swedish support and within a week agreements were signed with UN agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Most analysts agree that despite many problems the initial humanitarian aid was a success. New challenges now await the second phase, that of rebuilding. It's not enough to rebuild the communities that were destroyed. Conditions have fundamentally changed so the focus must now be on achieving something better.

The tsunami hit the coasts of twelve countries around the Indian Ocean. Indonesia and Sri Lanka were the worst hit, but India and Thailand also suffered many deaths and great material damage. At least 226,000 people lost their lives or are reported as missing and more than one million were made homeless.

The catastrophe aroused sympathy and commitment the world over. Public collections and pledges from governments reached record levels and the equivalent of USD 125 million was collected in Sweden alone. Up to December 2005, Sida had approved contributions equivalent to USD 75 million for humanitarian aid and rebuilding.

Reconstruction must be long-term and well planned. Moreover, it should not just aim to make copies of the communities that were devastated but should be based on long-term sustainable principles embracing environmental issues, democracy and participation. In tangible terms, this involves both infrastructural and sanitary standards and improving the democratic influence of poorer groups. Swedish policy priorities include participating in co-ordinated efforts, helping to reduce corruption and helping to create environmentally sustainable communities.

Gender issues and the situation of children in the devastated communities require special consideration. This has

been widely discussed in Sri Lanka and Indonesia, mainly in collaboration with other donors.

Rapid Swedish contribution

The first Swedish support included contributions through UN agencies. Support was also given to the Swedish Rescue Services Agency and international organisations with experience in disaster relief work. Swedish NGOs active in the affected regions and other partner organisations were also crucial with their invaluable knowledge of local conditions. Meetings were held at an early stage with Swedish NGOs regarding humanitarian aid and with the private sector regarding reconstruction.

Local actors and military forces played a crucial role in the acute humanitarian crisis that arose immediately following the disaster. The UN system was also quick to react; joint efforts ensured that those affected were provided with food, clean water, latrines and a temporary roof over their heads. Some damaged health centres and schools could be repaired. No epidemics or widespread famine followed in the wake of the tsunami, a sure sign that the humanitarian aid met the most acute needs.

New challenges now await the second phase, that of rebuilding. One year after the tsunami, thousands of survivors still live in tents and temporary accommodation. Many have no

means of supporting themselves.

Reconstruction is estimated at USD 6 billion for Sri Lanka and Indonesia alone. Significant financial resources have for once been made available, particularly through the large contribution mobilised by the NGOs. The governments concerned, a number of other countries, the UN, development banks and the private sector are also playing a crucial role in financing.

The process of reconstruction requires speed while at the same time ensuring that planning and implementation create long-term sustainable solutions. Housing must also be designed to provide better protection against future natural disasters.

Local ownership is vital

Studies show that sustainability is closely linked to the level of participation by those affected in the planning and implementation. Sweden must ensure that vulnerable people in the countries affected are given the opportunity to participate in building a better future. Reconstruction in Indonesia and Sri Lanka is mainly under the central control of special reconstruction authorities offering few opportunities for those affected to influence the process. In Indonesia the BRR authority has been placed in Banda Aceh, with staff reporting directly to the country's president. The Swedish policy document states that it should be possible



Rebuilding has begun in earnest in Banda Aceh. Many families have just moved into new homes built by Oxfam in the completely destroyed areas near the harbour.

to make decisions at the local level in consultation with those affected, but this has not always been the case. Reconstruction has been delayed, people have not been able to influence planning and they have not received information about the decisions reached, which has caused frustration.

The buffer zones set up by authorities in several of the affected countries pose another problem. Many vulnerable people have a strong urge to move back to the area where they previously lived and worked, despite the fears that remain. Close proximity to the sea is a prerequisite for a fishing community. The buffer zone decision provoked criticism and protests and the authorities are now modifying it to facilitate urgent requirements. General confusion has delayed reconstruction and has also led to bad investments.

Sri Lanka and Indonesia are both suffering from long-standing conflicts

that greatly affect the conditions for reconstruction. The peace agreement signed by the separatist movement GAM and the Indonesian government in August 2005 has improved conditions for rebuilding Aceh.

Lack of coordination

Low capacity within local authorities and the lack of coordination among donors is also delaying reconstruction efforts. In Indonesia alone, hundreds of international organisations as well as various development agencies from donor countries (bilateral donors) are active. This is to a certain extent an asset, but also entails great risks. Different approaches and agendas create cooperation problems. Good opportunities can easily be lost and those most affected by the tsunami have to pay the price. To improve coordination, a Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) was set up to help in

the rebuilding process. By the end of 2005 the fund had 15 donors and a capital of USD 530 million. The largest amount comes from the EU. Sweden has made an initial contribution of USD 10 million, but this is less than a tenth of the money that has been made available for rebuilding Aceh. Most of the money is spread among a large number of actors who all work according to their own agendas.

Sweden is represented on the fund committee and has taken part in drawing up a fund policy statement with measurable indicators for projects. A Sida administrator has been at the Embassy in Jakarta since August 2005 to take part in the committee work on behalf of Sweden.

Self-support

People in the affected countries live off fish and farming. The tsunami swept their livelihoods away by destroying the

boats and nets, washing away the top soil and salinating wells and soil. Even the tourist trade was affected, at least in the short term.

In order to restore livelihoods, a number of employment projects are underway and family business grants have been made available. Most continue with the work they had before the disaster but support for retraining is available. Livelihoods will gradually replace the food rations from the WFP. The focus is on giving people a choice in being able to contribute to building up their communities. In Indonesia, the UN International Labour Office (ILO) is registering employment applicants and arranging vocational training, chiefly within the building sector. This work is supported by Sida.

Contributions in connection with natural disasters risk being exposed to corruption. Large flows of aid, large-scale purchasing and the pressure to deliver rapid results increase the risk. Sida helped fund a special meeting of experts in April 2005 to discuss corruption problems within disaster relief. The meeting was co-arranged by the Indonesian government, the Asian Development Bank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Deve-

lopment (OECD) and Transparency International. To follow up, Sida is now funding work against local corruption in Sri Lanka.

A better society?

The large resources available offer a unique opportunity to improve the situation in a number of ways. Good planning can replace sub-standard infrastructures. Improved garbage disposal, clean water, functioning health-care and schools are prerequisites for reducing poverty.

But this requires huge, long-term contributions, and for international actors, under the leadership of the countries affected, to coordinate their aid. Those affected, along with their governments and institutions, must be allowed to take responsibility for a new future in the tsunami-affected regions. We who come from other countries can contribute with money and expert help. Our ability to coordinate and our will to adapt our support to the needs and conditions that exist will be decisive in the effectiveness of our contributions to their efforts.



For the women in the village of Palamuni in eastern Sri Lanka a house is top of their list of priorities.

PHOTO: FREDRIK WESTERHOLM

Swedish contributions

Sida has allocated the equivalent of SEK 661 million in contributions to the tsunami disaster relief. Sida's support was initially focused on relief work. Since the spring of 2005 this has been supplemented with support to reconstruction efforts.

SUMMARY OF PLEDGES FOLLOWING THE TSUNAMI DISASTER ON DECEMBER 26, 2004

HUMANITARIAN AID

COUNTRY/REGION PLEDGED CONTRIBUTION FOR
2005-2006 BUDGET YEAR

SRI LANKA	31.3
INDONESIA	92.7
INDIA	4.2
THAILAND	0.4
REGIONAL – SOUTHERN AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA	86.7
SOMALIA	4.9

TOTAL 220

RECONSTRUCTION

COUNTRY/REGION PLEDGED CONTRIBUTION FOR
2005-2009 BUDGET YEAR

INDONESIA	151
SRI LANKA	127
THAILAND	6
REGIONAL	157

TOTAL 441

ALL TOTALS IN MSEK

Swedish NGO's

The Swedish people's contributions to the victims of the tsunami reached unprecedented levels.

In February 2005 the 22 members of the Swedish Fundraising Council and the Swedish Radio Assistance had collected more than USD 125 million. Many companies also gave generously. Thousands of Swedes who don't usually contribute to charity appeals did so this time. Many took advantage of new technologies (SMS, Internet, etc.).

FRII MEMBERS' TOTAL FUNDRAISING FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE TSUNAMI DISASTER

BARNFONDEN	1
CARITAS SWEDEN	10
CHURCH OF SWEDEN AID	67
DIAKONIA	64
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS	33
ECPAT SWEDEN	1
ERIKSHJÄLPEN	16
INTERACT	8
LIONS SWEDEN	10
LÄKARMISSIONEN	6
PLAN SWEDEN	7
PMU INTERLIFE	30
SALVATION ARMY SWEDEN	8
SOS CHILDREN VILLAGES SWEDEN	13
STAR OF HOPE	3
SWEDISH COOPERATIVE CENTRE	16
SWEDISH ORGANISATION OF INDIVIDUAL RELIEF	7
SWEDISH RED CROSS	504
SWEDISH SAVE THE CHILDREN	124
SWEDISH TOLERANCE ORGANISATION IOGT-NTO	11
UNICEF SWEDEN	49
YMCA-YWCA	1

TOTAL 989

ALL TOTALS IN MSEK

THE TOTAL INCLUDES EVENTUAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE SWEDISH RADIO APPEAL
THE FIGURES CONCERN THE SITUATION JUNE 2005
SOURCE: THE SWEDISH FUNDRAISING COUNCIL – FRIL PHONE +46 (0)8-677 30 90

Recycling for the Future

On the large city dump, people are deeply engaged in classifying the garbage. Large amount of junk has been transported to the site, just a few hundred meters away from the sea by Banda Aceh – the town that lost a large part of its population in the tsunami. Shattered houses, concrete blocks, torn car wrecks, giant balls of reinforcement bars, ships, children's sandals are spread all over the city – the devastation stretches several kilometres from the sea line. The remains are still there, as reminders of the disaster, even though much of the junk is now being encircled by the lingering vegetation.

“It still might look messy, with this junk all over the place. But we who live in Banda Aceh see a great difference compared to a couple of months ago. We can hardly understand that the clearing work is moving on so fast. Now the streets are open and many large premises cleared”, says Jamilah Usman at the UNDP.

The workers at the dump wear hats or scarves to protect their heads against the sun. Some detach reinforcement bars from giant concrete blocks. Others carry lumber and planks. Their efforts is an important part of a Sida financed UN-programme to clear up after the devastating tsunami. So far, the project has cleaned up more than 100,000 cubic meters. “This project has three positive effects. Firstly, to secure that all remains from shattered building and industries are deposited in a way that is environmentally safe. Secondly, the waste that can be recycled is classified to be used in the reconstruction. Thirdly, poor people get an income opportunity”, says Johan Brisman, co-ordinator of the Sida tsunami support.

The project is also a way to improve working conditions for all that on their own behalf were searching for something among the junk that could be used or sold. Now they are inoculated against tetanus, they wear protection clothing and have access to medical care if injured.

A large refuse and four other temporary dumps have been set up in Banda Aceh. A parallel venture is taking place in the town of Meulaboh on the west coast and right now a similar project is starting at the island Nias.

The logistic is the same at all places: People clear up on the city premises and dump their waste on specific collection sites. The junk is then transported to the refuse and classified; wood, bricks and reinforcement bars are piled up, concrete blocks are pulverised.

“Our programme employs 700-800 persons each day. Most of them live in camps as they have lost their houses. Besides their income from the project they can earn money to sell the plastics and scrap iron they find”, says Muhammad Zaki Jamal, director of the programme.



PHOTO: JOHAN BERGQVIST/SIDA

Programme for the Seminar

08.00 – 08.30	Registration
08.30 – 08.40	Welcoming Address Ms. Maria Norrfalk, Director General of Sida
08.40 – 09.10	One Year Later: the Current Situation Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah, Consortium for Humanitarian Agencies, Sri Lanka Mr Humam Hamid, Aceh Recovery Forum, Indonesia Ms Kuki Rokhum, Eficor, India
09.10 – 09.30	Presentation of TECs Preliminary Findings: John Cosgrave, Tsunami Evaluation coalition, TEC
09.30 – 10.00	Informal Mini Seminars, coffee provided
10.00 – 11.30	PLENARY SESSION 1 Critical Issues in the Humanitarian Phase and for the Reconstruction • Coordination and Harmonisation Ms Margareta Wahlström, UN-OCHA Mr Johan Schaar, International Federation of the Red Cross • Mitigating Corruption Mr J.C. Weliamuna, Transparency International, Sri Lanka Chapter • Linking Relief and Reconstruction Mr Anders Wijkman, European Parliament
11.30 – 12.30	Lunch and informal Mini Seminars
12.30 – 14.00	PLENARY SESSION 2 How to Build Back Something Better After the Tsunami and What Does this Imply • Improved Socio-Economic Conditions Ms Laila Zulfaqar, Save the Children Fed. Aceh • Defused Conflicts Ms Camilla Orjuela, Padrigu, Gothenburg University • Strengthened Resilience Against Natural Disasters Mr Johan Rockström, Stockholm Environment Institute
14.00 – 14.45	Informal Mini Seminars, coffee provided
14.45 – 16.00	Reflections on What We Have Learnt Mr John Clark, World Bank, BRR Aceh
16.00 – 16.30	Looking Towards the Future Ms. Carin Jämtin, Minister for Development Cooperation
16.30 – 16.45	Closing Remarks
17.00 –	Reception with buffet

Key Note Speakers and Resource Persons

John Clark Advisor to BRR on Donor Coordination

John Cosgrave Evaluation Advisor and Coordinator,
Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (TEC)

Humam Hamid Professor,
Aceh Recovery Forum

Carin Jämtin Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation

Maria Norrfalk Director General,
Swedish International Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Camilla Orjuela Department of Peace and Development Research,
Göteborg University

Johan Rockström Director, Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI

Kuki Rokhum Donor Relations Desk Coordinator EFICOR

Johan Schaar Special Representative for the Tsunami Operation at the
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Jeevan Thiagarajah Executive Director, Consortium for Humanitarian Agencies

Margareta Wahlström Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs
and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator

J.C. Weliamuna Executive Director, Transparency International Sri Lanka

Anders Wijkman Member of the European Parliament

Laila Zulfaqar District Manager, Save the Children, Pidie, Aceh Province

Moderator

Ann Britt Ryd Pettersson News Anchor, Swedish Television

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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