



ACT is a global alliance of churches and related agencies working to save lives and support communities in emergencies worldwide.

ACT members mark second year of tsunami response

For close on two years, members of the global alliance Action by Churches Together (ACT) International have been supporting communities in rebuilding their lives after the tsunami of December 26, 2004.

In India, Indonesia, Somalia and Sri Lanka, the members have worked tirelessly—but never alone. Their efforts have all been mirrored in the efforts of the communities that themselves have taken on the task, with the support of the humanitarian community, to rebuild their lives.

This summary account of the ACT members' response is therefore only a part of the overall picture of recovery and reconstruction in response to the disaster. The numbers cannot, and never will, tell the full story of the often overwhelming odds that communities have tackled head-on, the personal tragedies hundreds of thousands of people have had to overcome, and the sheer determination and spirit with which people have taken on the task of slowly—day by day—rebuilding their lives.

In responding to the disaster, the size of which still defies belief two years later, the ACT members, all locally based except in the case of Somalia, with the support of international members of the alliance, have also met many challenges. Theirs too has been a story of resilience and determination.

They have walked alongside communities, even when other disasters struck, compounding the devastation wrought by the tsunami. They have assisted and reached out to people in compassion and service during times of disaster in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 3:9, working together as God's servants.

This summary is a tribute to the millions of people whose lives were changed forever on December 26, 2004, who have in so many instances welcomed the staff of the ACT members, have worked with them and have undertaken, together, the sometimes deeply painful journey of recovery.

John Nduna
Director, ACT International Coordinating Office

In India, *Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)*, *Lutheran World Service-India (LWSI)* and *The United Evangelical Lutheran Church of India (UELCI)* continue to respond in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Pondicherry.

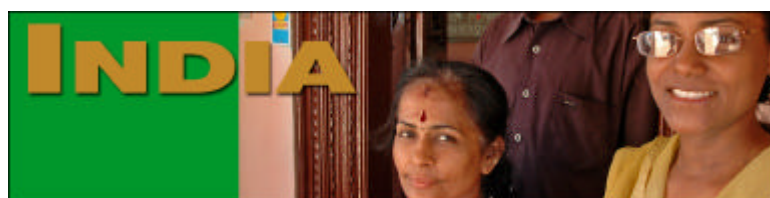
In Indonesia, ACT members *Church World Service-Indonesia (CWS)*, *Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU)*, and *Yayasan Tanggul Bencana Indonesia (YTBI)* are responding in Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Aceh Barat, Nagan Raya, Aceh Utara, Nias, and Aceh Jaya.

In Sri Lanka, ACT member *National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)* is responding in the Wanni region in Killinochchi and Mullaittivu, and in Thirukovil, Ampara, Trincomalee, Muttur, Batticaloa, Galle, Matara, Tangalle, Hambantota, Colombo, Kalutara, Wattala and Negambo. *The Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India (JDCSI)* is responding in Jaffna and Mullaittivu.

In Somalia, ACT member *Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)* is responding in 15 villages in Bender Beyla and Eyl Districts.

A RESPONSE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH SUPPORT OF ACT MEMBERS WORLDWIDE

To date, the ACT tsunami appeal for US\$120,825,513 has received US\$95,450,842 in funding.



Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)

Activity	Number of households/ units	Kind of assistance
Life support	50 000	Feeding program conducted through project partners for 11 days after December 26, 2004.
	50 000	Distributed 50 000 relief kits.
<u>Reconstruction</u>		
Temporary shelters	800	Including repair of temporary shelters.
Permanent shelters	2 653	Excluding the number of houses to be constructed in Nicobar after negotiation with the government.
Multipurpose disaster shelters	24	Construction of 3 shelters started. Land being negotiated for the rest.
Schools	13	Work on 8 schools started.
Health centers/ community centers/tribal co-ops	14	Some under construction in South India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
<u>Support to fisher folk</u>		
Fish vending kits	1 545	Distributed to women fish vendors.
Fishing boats & gear	455	Distribution to families in South India and Andaman Island.
Renewal of life support for Dalit communities	321	Small artisans, traders and small business units being supported.

Vocational skill orientation	41 sessions	40 vocational training sessions being given in South India and 1 session in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
Sustainable agriculture & livelihood promotion	500	Farm implements being distributed to agriculture labor in South India.
Subsidiary income generating occupations	318	278 goats distributed to goat-rearing units. 40 cows distributed to dairy-farming units.
Self-help groups	8	Alternative employment opportunities being generated.
Ecological regeneration	50 000 saplings	To be planted in South India Rehabilitation Village sites.
Community-based disaster preparedness	52	Workshops being organized in villages to train youth.
Nutrition	55 000	Dry-ration kits and cash-for-food program.
Psychosocial care	8 000	Psychosocial support provided to 8 000 families.
Education	845	Distributed educational-support materials Excursions & sports/cultural programs.
Infrastructure	22.5 km 24 units	Internal Roads being built in South India. Panchayat Ghar, net-repairing yard, village gats (mutual savings groups) and overhead tanks under construction in South India.

Major issues/constraints:

- Livelihood support continues to be a major concern for most of the fisher folk. With the massive increase in the number of boats engaged in fishing, the frequency of accidents and resulting loss of life and boats have increased. Pressure from over-fishing has led to a reduction in catch sizes in many areas. This situation has led to a need for alternate ways in securing livelihoods developing the necessary mechanisms to cope with the situation amongst the fisher folk.
- The dominance of fish traders has not reduced significantly and much work needs to be done in the long term to counter the influence and control of these power structures.
- The number of issues related to the reconstruction of permanent houses and other infrastructure to relocated sites is great. Resettlement sites allotted by the government were largely located on public waste lands—all of which suffered from a variety of shortcomings, such as topographical limitations, thin or sandy soil, poor drainage and being water logged. Much of the work related to site drainage, sewage disposal and the provision of electricity and water will have to be done by the government for which constant lobbying is required.
- CASA had played an active role in advocating for a people-friendly government policy for the ongoing reconstruction program. Its survey and study had revealed that people who lived within 200 metres of the sea were the poorest (fishing trade laborers). They had constructed their small houses on unauthorized land, which meant that they had no claim to the land and lacked the necessary land and deed documents. This resulted in many of them being excluded from the government's survey list. CASA has assisted many such families, including them in the process of rehabilitation, by facilitating the procurement of land for them by the government or through private purchase by the community at large.
- On the issue of the exclusion of Dalit communities from the rehabilitation package, CASA took a stand to ensure their inclusion in the organization's rehabilitation plans.
- The government's strategy with regard to the early warning system is still not clear. The importance of linking it to existing village governance bodies is well understood, but its

implementation still remains an unfulfilled dream. Most of the warnings are therefore broadcast on radio/TV networks and by the print media. The media influence and media competition very often leads to unnecessary hype being created about low potential disaster warnings and most can cause unnecessary fear within the communities, leading to trauma and confusion. There is also the concern that if too many unfounded warnings are sounded, the community will become disinclined to take subsequent warnings seriously. Ownership of disaster preparedness at the community level is a real need with all associated links in place to help mitigate the effect of possible future disasters.

- Fishing is the most common occupation and tends to overshadow other direct or indirect sources of earning income, such as agriculture and non-farming activities. It is interesting to note that studies have indicated that for every person going out to sea there may be four people employed in related land-based activities. It is a challenge for CASA to ensure that the rights and entitlements of these socially and economically vulnerable sections of society are not neglected, by assisting them in giving them priority in our programs.
- Occupation-related trauma is now visible as people struggle to come to terms with the process of recovery. Many livelihood opportunities are registering declining incomes brought on by fierce competition. Counselling to make people more receptive to change, as well as awareness raising about existing and replicable alternative eco-friendly and sustainable livelihood opportunities, need to be done.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- The construction of houses on the Nicobar Islands suffered initial setbacks as the government insisted that its house design should be erected, rather than the houses jointly designed by CASA and the tribal community. After a recent meeting with the minister of homes, negotiations have been revived with the authorities of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with the aim of constructing 500 houses in two villages of Car Nicobar. CASA is extremely sensitive to the needs of the local people.

Lutheran World Service-India (LWSI)

Activities completed up until October 31, 2006

Activity	Number	Kind of assistance
<u>Life support</u>		
Non-food relief kits	3 500 households	Family kits, hygiene kits, utensil kits, student kits and water containers.
Drinking Water	3 500 households	Water containers.
<u>Shelter</u>		
Temporary	204 shelters	Coconut-leaf, bamboo construction, etc.
Permanent	850 shelters	Planned.
	545 shelters	Total house construction started.
	177 shelters	Completed.
Livelihood support	1 180 households	236 fishermen kits (shared among households), which included fiberglass boats, 10-horsepower engines, 2 sets of nets and other accessories like rope, leads, floats, etc.
Water & sanitation group meetings	270 people	18 awareness programs involving groups.
Awareness on water & sanitation	1 321 households	26 programs on the importance and necessity of safe water and proper sanitation.

Environment	313 saplings	Fruit-bearing saplings distributed/planted.
Psychosocial support	122 households	13 programs involving group activities. Trauma counseling conducted and training given to 572 people.
Primary health	727 households	12 awareness programs on HIV/AIDS organized in close cooperation with government health department.
Community-based disaster preparedness (CDBP)	14 programs	Mass awareness of CDBP.
	547 children	Awareness on CDBP in schools.
	90 members	3 orientation programs on CDBP for Panchayat Raj Institutions (local self government).
	682 teams	Disaster management teams formed.

Major issues/constraints:

- The progress of the housing construction was quite slow during the first few months of the year, often due to labor stoppages and demands for increased payment. Attempts were made to meet the contractors' demands, but in spite of increasing payments, construction still lagged. LWSI finally canceled the contract and instead, engaged small labor contractors for the work. Materials were purchased and maintained by LWSI staff. This increased the work pressure, but the overall work progressed faster.
- Government authorities are to provide the land for houses at the site where people have been relocated to—a process that has taken a long time. Although the authorities promised faster clearance of these issues, LWSI is still waiting for land allotments for more than 100 houses.

Advocacy issues

- **Dalit communities** In many instances, non-fishing communities did not receive much attention. LWSI assist in particular these marginalized communities, which had been equally, albeit indirectly, affected by the tsunami.
- **Housing** Allocation of land for people who have been relocated is the responsibility of the Tamil Nadu government—a matter that is taking more time than expected. However, through its persistent efforts and persuasion, LWSI has succeeded in having many of the plots released.

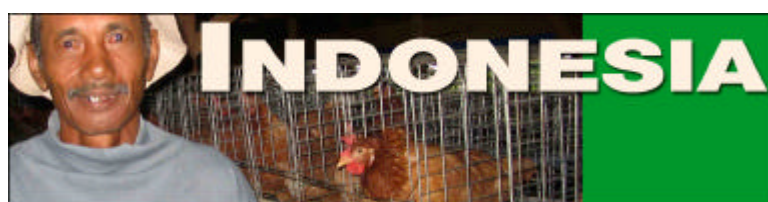
The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India (UELCI)

Activities	Number of beneficiaries	Kind of assistance
Life support:		
Food items	11 397	Rice, dal, oil, salt, etc.
Non-food items	22 960	Men's, women's & children's clothing, household items, school kits, sleeping materials, sanitary kits, etc.
Livelihood support	7 752	Livelihood kits, net packages and boats.
Alternative livelihood support	459	Entrepreneurial development training program, which also includes follow-up.

<u>Shelter</u>		
Temporary shelter	449	Includes repair of damaged houses.
Permanent shelter	725	Some of the houses are in the final stage of construction.
Community shelter	2 (304 households covered)	Community hall for tsunami survivors.
Water and sanitation	609	Supply of drinking water, plastic containers, restoring water resources.
Health assistance	16 979	Diagnostic and treatment services, health camps and primary care at the community level. Outreach for health, hygiene and sanitation and action to prevent epidemics, child nutritional screening and supplementation, women and teen health, eyesight promotion (including free cataract surgeries) to the elderly.
Psychosocial	12 979	Setting up community-support centers and establishing community-support networks. Empowering women, forming interaction groups, facilitating children's education, re-establishing community level initiatives.
Capacity building	11 411	Training women in skills-building and in disaster preparedness, training people in disaster preparedness, building capacity in good health practices, training of trainers, raising awareness of environmental issues, compliance with post-tsunami government regulations and awareness of various schemes that are available for development.

Major issues/constraints:

- Delay in land allotments, cost escalation, cyclones, scarcity of construction materials, such as sand, and constraints related to labor, etc. have delayed the process.
- Diversity of the community, the impact of the tsunami on the social fabric of communities, aid dependency, short-term gains perspective, communal tensions and political upheavals.



ACT International Forum members Church World Service-Indonesia; YAKKUM Emergency Unit and Yayasan Tanggul Bencana Indonesia are working closely together to strengthen each other's work and to avoid overlap.

Church World Service-Indonesia (CWS)

Activity	Number	Kind of assistance
Life support	Around 30 000 households (around 150 000 direct and indirect beneficiaries)	Various emergency food and non-food items such as non-food item packages, health kits, hygiene kits, school kits, baby kits and children's kits.

Livelihood support	2 388 beneficiaries	Distribution of seeds and tools and capital assets (bicycle taxis, fishing boats), capacity building.
Shelter	2 496 households 206 households	Family-sized tents. Permanent houses – completed and occupied.
Water and sanitation	43 593 beneficiaries	Water supplies, construction/rehabilitation of latrines, wells, boreholes.
Nutrition	7 456 beneficiaries	Health services, supplementary feeding, distribution of micro-nutrient sprinkles (Vitalita) and fortified soy sauce, health and nutrition education.
Psychosocial care	5 176 beneficiaries	Early childhood development (ECD) and fun and educational activities in tents (FEAT) programs.

Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU)

Activity	Number	Kind of assistance
Livelihood support	1 345 households	Micro-business groups.
Shelter	495 households 59 households	Housing construction. Temporary houses.
Water and sanitation	3 280 households	Built and/or provided latrines, bathrooms, wells, trash bins, water tanks; water-purification training; distributed hygiene kits, etc.
Nutrition	7 066 people	Supplementary feeding.
Psychosocial and education assistance	836 people	Individual and group counseling. Established kindergartens and study clubs.
Health	26 626 patient visits	Health services - mobile and fixed clinics.
Disaster preparedness	431 households in Kuala Bubon, Lhok Puuk, Tanah Anoe and Moawo	Discussion and knowledge-sharing on disaster preparedness.

Yayasan Tanggul Bencana Indonesia (YTBI)

Activity	Number	Kind of assistance
Life support	15 044 IDPs	Distribution of food and non-food items during emergency-relief phase.
Livelihood support	3 501 households	Distribution of seeds and tools, fishing equipment, home-industry support, animal husbandry, support to tailors, fish-raising, casava and coconut raising for food and other products; capacity building through community-based livelihood initiatives.
Education support	1 554 students and 93 pre-school children	Tutoring services, English and computer courses, playgroup activities, library services.
	417 students plus 131 university students	Monthly scholarships.
	5 189 students	Distribution of school bags, shoes, books and writing kits.

Shelter	92 households	Reconstruction of permanent houses through community-based housing reconstruction program.
	319 households	Construction of livelihood, social and cultural activity centers in 12 villages.
Water and sanitation	219 households	Constructed 12 latrines in temporary camps during the emergency-relief phase in addition to latrines constructed by other NGOs.
Psychosocial care	393 households	Community-based psychosocial interventions through economic, social and cultural activities in groups.
Capacity building	3 501 households	Training on finance, group management, savings, etc.

Major issues/constraints:

- Because of poor infrastructure, which was present even before the tsunami, access to some areas is still difficult and is likely to remain so for at least another year or two (particularly along the west coast of Aceh and on the island of Nias).
- Supply bottlenecks for everything from building materials (such as lumber and cement) to skilled labor, as well as continuous increases in the price of building materials.
- Coordination in the field remains a challenge with so many actors: government agencies such as BRR (Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency for Aceh and Nias), local government (provincial, district, sub-district), U.N. agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and contractors.
- Limited capacity and lack of experience of civil-society organizations in Aceh and Nias with relief and development programs.
- Determining land-ownership status for housing construction is time consuming. Further, in Nias, provision of new land often creates jealousy for those who own their own land.
- Low literacy rates in some areas of Nias make it time-consuming to share information via the media.
- A pragmatic approach by several NGOs and INGOs creates difficulties in implementing a participatory approach with communities.
- Because residents of Aceh have been through a long armed conflict, it takes considerable time and effort to encourage them to work together in groups.
- Potential security issues: Although the peace accord between the Aceh Free Movement (GAM) and the Indonesian government has decreased tensions, many of the ex-GAM members are currently unemployed. They often threaten and force the organizations working in Aceh to provide them with a job or income, for example, to appoint them as a housing-material supplier.



National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)

Activity	Number	Kind of assistance
Life support	9 160 households	Distribution of food (prepared and dry), water, clothing, cooking utensils and other household necessities during the emergency-response phase. In the past few months, assistance has been given to tsunami survivors in Jaffna who have been forced to flee the fighting in the current civil conflict.
Livelihood support	9 304 households	Training in income-generating activities; equipment, materials and financial assistance for women (including widows and single-parent households) and men to help them restart their income flow.
Shelter	825 households	200 families supplied with emergency household items in transitional shelters. 494 houses repaired and 161 houses currently under construction or completed.
Water and sanitation	3 164 households	Generators (pumps and drinking water), protection of drinking wells, construction of toilets.
Nutrition	1 345 households	Meals provided for pre-school children and supplementary food for families in transitional camps.
Psychosocial care	3 485 households	Training of trainers; "befrienders" at village level; and counseling programs.
Primary health care	2 447 households	Mobile clinics; provision of medicines and hygienic requirements for women in welfare centers; provision of an ambulance to the eastern part of the country.
Education	6 487	Provision of books, school uniforms, shoes, educational items for school children; conducting seminars; educational support; information-technology centers and supplementary classes.
Disaster preparedness and capacity building	421 people	NCCSL staff and local leadership (mainly clergy) took a short training courses that included community development. A series of animation and communication workshops have been held. NCCSL finance and tsunami-response staff gave 2 workshops to clergy and implementing partners on project reporting requirements.

Major issues/constraints:

- Upsurge in the fighting in the north and east means the tsunami work in these areas and Jaffna has slowed down or stopped. For two months in Jaffna, all work stopped, but supplementary education classes have resumed. In the east, programs are continuing but at a reduced pace in some areas.
- Due to the conflict, some clergy are focusing on emergency assistance to IDPs, most of whom are tsunami survivors.

- The closure of the main supply route to the Jaffna Peninsula since August 11 means that food and essential items are being transported by sea by the government there. However, shortages mean that people are forced to queue for hours to buy what they need. Inflation has also spiraled, with prices rising by over five-fold for some essentials– if they are available at all.
- The original government decision on the buffer zone or the “no-build zone” for housing delayed the construction process.
- Finding suitable and available land to build; spiraling costs for land preparation and construction materials as well as shortages of skilled labor.
- In some areas, the delay in getting early approval of beneficiary lists for permanent shelters from local government officials means the beneficiaries have not been involved in the construction of their houses.
- Identifying bona fide beneficiaries, especially for livelihood and housing projects.
- Difficulty finding qualified staff experienced in rehabilitation work due to an unprecedented influx of INGOs and NGOs; NCCSL finds that it is difficult to compete with the remuneration packages that some INGOs and NGOs offer.

The Jaffna Diocese of the Church of South India (JDCSI)

Activity	Number of beneficiaries	Kind of assistance
Life support	7 478	Food and non-food items.
Shelters	420	365 temporary shelters were provided; 2 housing projects providing 55 permanent shelters are on-going.
Primary health care	170	Medicine.
Education	170	Educational materials.

Major issues/constraints:

- Since April 2006, bringing cement and steel bars into the northern areas of the country has been severely restricted or banned, resulting in severe shortages of construction materials and large inflationary increases in remaining stocks.
- Since April 2006, the LTTE (commonly known as the Tamil Tigers) and the government’s military have been in conflict. The Jaffna Peninsula has been cut off, since the army closed the only access road from the south on August 11. Now the only access is by ship.
- Electricity is severely restricted as a result of fuel shortages, preventing or severely restricting e-mail and telephone communications. Mobile phone networks have also been blocked at times.
- Many tsunami survivors have been forced to flee the armed conflict and have become IDPs again.
- Most tsunami-response programs have come to a halt.
- Contact with Mullaitivu in the Wanni is extremely difficult, and many people have abandoned their villages and become IDPs.

SOMALIA

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

Activity	Number	Kind of assistance
Water supply in 15 villages	5 100 households (28 000 people)	Provision of clean and safe water.
Awareness raising on environmental sanitation	5 100 households (28 000 people)	Awareness campaign on hygiene and sanitation education, including the construction of 86 model ventilated pit latrines
Communities' capacity development in the management of water supply	9 committees (each made up of 7 members)	Training given to the 9 committees on the sustainable management of the water supply that NCA had constructed. This included training on the management of waste disposal.

Major constraints:

- Different implementation approach by other agencies in the project area: Cash-for-work approach employed by some other agencies has had a very serious effect on the participatory approach employed by NCA, as communities have thus been made to expect payment for any form of contribution to project implementation.
- Low capacity of contractors to take on tasks with regards to the construction of water-supply projects. As a result, the program has been faced with delays.
- Delay of delivery of some of the imported construction materials and equipment to site due to logistical constraints that included transportation, clearance at the airport, availability of cargo space in the aircraft and bureaucratic custom procedures.
- With the emergence and rise of the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), Somalia is engulfed with political tension and uncertainty. As a result, communication to Puntland, the program area, has been curtailed and thus affecting the progress of the water supply and sanitation project.
- Recurrent drought affecting much of Somalia with 1.4 million people estimated to face acute and emergency humanitarian crisis.
- Somalia has an estimated population of 400,000 internally displaced people. In Puntland, for example, improved water resources were put under considerable pressure owing to the influx of IDPs in the target villages.

TSUNAMI-RESPONSE FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Total target for ACT appeal ASRE51, Revision 2 (final): US\$120,825,513

Country/item	Target (US\$)	Income/pledges (US\$)
India	61,091,087	40,081,224
Indonesia	48,230,294	41,250,483
Sri Lanka	9,434,814	8,885,212
Somalia	1,095,318	1,325,326
Thailand	31,500	31,500
Evaluation	289,500	175,634
ACT coordination and communication	653,000	598,225
Unallocated funds*		3,103,238
TOTAL	120,825,513	95,450,842

Figures as of December 11, 2006

* Funds given toward the tsunami appeal but not marked for a particular ACT member. These funds are currently being held by the ACT Coordinating Office in Geneva. Funding is sent to implementing members upon request, and in a large appeals that are implemented over a number of years, such as the tsunami appeal, ACT members are not able to use all donated funds immediately in the implementation of their responses. These funds are allocated to particular members when there are funding gaps.

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

ACT news updates, feature articles and news releases: www.act-intl.org/act_news_title.html

ACT members' Web sites:

India:

- **CASA:** www.casa-india.org
- **LWSI:** www.lutheranworld.org/What_We_Do/DWS/Country_Programs/DWS-India.html
- **UELCI:** <http://uelci-india.org>

Indonesia:

- **CWS Indonesia:** www.cwsindonesia.or.id/index.php
- **YEU:** www.yeuforaceh.org
- **YTBI:** www.ytbindonesia.org

Somalia:

- **NCA:** www.nca.no

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