

Summary of Tsunami and Research Proposal Responses – IDDC

IDDC member agencies involved into actions

1. VSO and Motivation in Sri Lanka
2. Handicap International
3. ADD
4. LCI
5. Basic Needs
6. EDF
7. SightSavers
8. SHIA
9. CBM
10. AIFO
11. SC UK
12. LSN
13. Sphere Handbook – correspondence
14. DSI – Tsunami Newsletter

	Sri Lanka	India	Indonesia	Other
HI	Emergency prg set up with partners in Batticaloa		Team working in Aceh/North Sumatra together with partners from Philippines	Keen to be involved, awaiting more information from field. Will use inclusion experience from Bam/Iran (earthquake) work
LCI	Eastern region partners. Specialist Conflict and Trauma team from London departing for SL soon	Partners in Chennai. Head of Disab in ActionAid		LCC in London. Have gained commitment for research from field partners, and are keen to be centrally involved
SSI	Partners in SL	Partners in India		Focus on mid-term reconstruction rather than emergency work
ADD				Lobbying DEC to include Disabled Children and Adults
CBM	Four partner projects are affected directly and the partners are active providing relief support (Food, shelter, construction, psychological support)	Medical and psychosocial relief and support between Cudallore and Tranqubar along the East coast. Other partners in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also provide drugs, food, bedding and medical help.	Indonesia (possibilities to be assessed and investigated) Envisaged to undertake medium-term rehabilitation measures, reconstruction through partner organisations; post traumatic counselling programme with community-based approaches for survivors,	
AIFO		Andra Pradesh, Cuddalore,	Aceh, Jakarta, Padang and Makassar. Partnership with MOH	Not emergency agency. Will help with reconstruction at later stage

SHIA	Partners in regions but need support from other agencies			Negotiating training to Swedish gov on mainstreaming disab into their emergency response
Basic Needs	Sri Lankan gov invitation to provide mental health support			Field staff overstretched – not sure about participation in research as yet
LFW				Will try to influence Medicin Sans Frontiers to include disability
DSI				Work in Uganda with Nupidu to mainstream disability into the post conflict peace process in northern Uganda

VSO and Motivation in Sri Lanka

Dear all,

Greetings from VSO. My sincere sympathies are with those of you who were directly affected by the tsunami, both as individuals and as organisations.

I was at a meeting on 'the Impact of the Tsunami on People with Disabilities' organised by Motivation in Colombo on 13 January. Many of the participants at the meeting who had been to the tsunami affected areas spoke of the experiences of disabled people in those areas, some of whom were killed and many others who had lost their homes, family members, their livelihoods, their aids and appliances (such as tricycles, crutches and spectacles), faced difficult conditions in welfare centres (e.g. due to inaccessible infrastructure), did not have adequate food or basic requirements, and were missing out on the general relief measures. As an initial step, an assessment form has been devised, which could be incorporated into any assessments being made by organisations (government or NGO) in the welfare centres and affected communities, which can enable local organisations to match the needs of disabled people with available resources or to avail of the resources to meet these needs so that disabled people are included in the relief and rehabilitation process. I am herewith attaching the form. My apologies to those of you who have already received it.

The next meeting organised by Motivation on the same issue will be on Wednesday, 26th January. More details can be obtained from Mr. Cyril Siriwardena, cyril@motivationlk.org for those of you who may be interested in attending or providing input in any other way. The minutes of the previous meeting will also be made available shortly - please do contact Mr. Cyril Siriwardena if you would like a copy.

with best wishes,

Keren

Keren Paul
Programme Manager
Voluntary Service Overseas
P.O. Box 1808, 12/1 Tickell Road,
Colombo 8, Sri Lanka

Phone: +94 11 2695974, 2698455, 2677161
Fax: +94 11 2698800

Handicap International

SRI LANKA

Handicap International was already active in Sri Lanka on the East Coast (Batticaloa) with a physical rehab programme with outreach and 50 identified several partners. The Team has set-up several activities (starting with collecting the bodies of victims in the first days). The team has been strengthened with staff from India and HQ.

More information can be obtained through the desk officer:
Christian GRAU (cgrau@handicap-international.org) and
Frederic Meunier of OPEX/Special Operations (fmeunier@handicap-international.org) or
Valerie Scherre (vscherrer@handicap-international.org)

INDONESIA

I will myself and three colleagues leave for Aceh/North Sumatra/Indonesia tomorrow to assess needs in the domain of disability (notably prevention, specific physio, and community based activities, referencing, support to hospitals, support to other INGOs or local NGOs in charge of regrouping points or displaced persons camps, in order to back them up on disability aspects and so increase the impact)

HI's Physical Rehab ship (of our HI Philippines programme) will most probably also go towards Sumatra for direct "from sea" access.

If you have any partners in Northern Indonesia (or elsewhere in Indonesia), please feel free to inform us.

More information can be obtained through Anne Grenaudier of OPEX/Special Operations (agrenaudier@handicap-international.org), Valerie Scherrer (vscherrer@handicap-international.org) or myself.

FUNDING

Clearly funding for specific attention to people with disabilities will be necessary and not necessarily easy to obtain as often PWDs-orientated activities are not regarded as "life-saving" by the donors. Any initiative from EDF/IDDC on the Brussels level would be more than helpful.

I also believe that the choice of the ECHO/EC to affect the total of the second envelope (30 million euros) for disaster relief with the UN (no doubt in a move to counteract the american initiative with India/Australia/Japan leavuing the Un out of the picture) and to not have any funding therein for NGOs should be corrected by at least a part directed to european NGOs.

If any of the IDDC members have possibilities to help finance the initiatives of I or any of the other IDDC members (see the project of Basic Needs in S Lanka, for instance), than that would be greatly helpful. Do no hesitate to contact me or my colleagues mentioned above.

Best regards
(and a happy 2005 despite this all),

Nick HEEREN
Director of Programmes
Handicap International
nheeren@handicap-international.org
tel: +00 33 (0)6 60 97 18 19

HI is working in Sri Lanka during this emmergency phase following the tsunami on the 26th December. An emergency programme to help the victims of the natural disaster has been set up. Our work is focusing on displaced people, people with a temporary or permanent disability and vulnerable populations, such as children, pregnant women and elderly people. (More information in our web site www.handicap-international.org)

We have a team also since 2 days in Indonesia.

I am fully ready to influence with you EU actions in Asia. The guidance note on Disability and developpement has to be respected. People with disabilities are particularly stark in emergency situations. Many relief and refugee organisations do not adequately consider the needs of disabled people. Disability issues can be addressed successfully, even in difficult circumstances during the emergency period and after.

Best regards

Philippe CHERVIN
Direction de la Mobilisation et de l'action politique / Secteur "Droits et politiques du handicap"
Mobilisation and political actions Division / "Disability rights and policies" Unit
14 avenue Berthelot - 69361 LYON cedex 07 - France
Tél : 33 (0)4 78 69 79 79 - Fax : 33 (0)4 72 76 12 67
Tél ligne directe : 33 (0)4 72 76 12 58
E-mail : pchervin@handicap-international.org

From Nick Heeron:

Thanks for this. Not a bad result given the very short time we had.

I will contact Valerie and others at HI to put in some working time. However, be aware that both Valerie and myself are on mission in Sri Lanka and Indonesia (which is rather logical given that it is there where we should include disability into emergency!). I sent tis from Medan/Indonesia

We proposed to capitalise on the Iran/Bam inclusion approach of HI. I believe that such is still valuable and usefull, but current activities in Asia by various NGOs and IDDC partners is also going very much in that direction.

I.e. I am currently looking at the possibility to include disability into the agendas of the NGos and other int'l organisation who are going to manage population-regrou^ping points, etc. in Aceh/Sumatra.

My colleague, Marie Chuberre, who also designed the Bam programme, is here with me on mission to Indonesia, so we will see if we can come up with something for Monday.

A. At least for our proposal concerning the capitilise the inclusive approach in the Bam programme
B. Posible inclusive approaches in the current Sri Lanka and Indonesia activities set-up or to be set-up.

Hope to get back to you before Monday.
Best regards to all

Nick Heeren
Dir Programmes HI

From Valerie (before Christmas)

Nicolas referred on his friday mails on Stockolm seminar, where we were invited by SHIA and sweden relief organisations to a seminar about disaster and disability.

One of the conclusion of this meeting was that relief organisations need to be "trained" to include disability issue from the beginning, ie assessment mission, in order to define needs, be able to act on prevention of secondary disability and plan appropriate activities including disability specific needs with a focus on coordination to influence inclusion and efficiency .

The idea for HI is to develop a guideline about how to include disability issue in emergency situation and to disseminate it (with training) to mainstream organisations.

As per today we have two types of operation on which we would like to capitalize on, one is on post earthquake project in Iran and the different activities we had such as including universal standard in the reconstruction projects (with UNDP and local authorities), or linkages with the SCI association in Teheran to develop a branch in Bam and build the capacity of the PWD to influence the rehab process and lobby for their rights, etc.

The capitalization on Bam experiences should be built on various steps :

- analysis of the activities undertaken and of an internal evaluation on the pertinence of our answers to the immediate needs of the persons.
- Post ex internal evaluation on the field

Expected outcomes :

- Guideline for emergency relief actors on inclusion of disability issues into their activities --> focus on the importance of the coordination mechanisms and the construction of an effective network.
- Guideline on accessibility issues in reconstruction (universal standard)
- Data base format for the identification and follow up of the disabled persons (to be used to identify the needs of PWDs, their locations and the follow-up of the comprehensive rehabilitation process (including vocational, economic, education, items distributions, etc)

The other one is the experiences in Philippines , two sites, one in Cotabato with refugees and mainstreaming disability issues into all relief activities and the other which is on going following the

typhoon .

The capitalisation would be made on the field, for a few months based on observation and best practices of disability inclusion into mainstream emergency projects.

Expected outcomes :

Guideline on the sensitization of other emergency actors on disability issues and the prioritization of disabled persons in assistance projects

So basically it could be on research of best practices and development of guidelines for mainstreaming disability into emergency responses and this could be linked with DPOs such as SHIA or DPI (but we need first to discuss it with them before to write their name into a proposal).

If you need more info, please don't hesitate to contact me ,

One more question, do you need any kind of budget ?

With Regards,
Valerie

DISASTER APPEAL

Help us to help victims in Sri Lanka

Following the tsunami on the 26th December, Handicap International has been working around the clock to provide emergency relief in Sri Lanka, one of the worst affected countries. An emergency programme to help the victims of the natural disaster has been set up. Our work is focusing on displaced people, people with a temporary or permanent disability and vulnerable populations, such as children, pregnant women and elderly people.

We are currently concentrating our efforts on the districts of Batticaloa and Ampara – south east of Sri Lanka – where at least 13,000 have died and a further 430,000 have been displaced. We have organised **seven emergency teams** to go and support survivors in remote fishing villages. At the same time, six **physiotherapists** specialized in respiratory problems have been sent to various hospitals in the area. They will be able to help the many people now at risk of developing major lung infections from swallowing salty and dirty water, which will almost certainly increase the death toll in the area.

Our emergency programme covers:

- Identifying and taking care of respiratory infections in children
- Taking care of injured people presenting orthopaedic lesions
- Supporting post trauma services in the hospitals of the two districts
- Reinforcing the capacities of our local partners, by giving priority of access to services and support to vulnerable populations (disabled people, pregnant women, elderly, orphans, etc.)
- Setting up a system of identification and follow up of injured people and people with disabilities
- Distributing walking aids, such as wheelchairs and sticks
- Providing psychological support to victims of the tsunami

To carry on helping thousands of victims, Handicap International needs to raise more funds.

Please **act today** and support our Tsunami Appeal by:

- [donating online](#)
- sending a cheque - made payable to Handicap International UK
- donating over the phone

Handicap International UK
Waterman House
101-107 Chertsey Road
Woking, Surrey, GU21 5BW
Tel: 0870 774 3737 or 07966 030 123
www.handicap-international.org.uk

UK Registered charity no. 1082565

Picture: Reuters/Anuruddha Lokuhapuarachchi, courtesy www.alertnet.org

ADD

Happy NY to you too and I hope you had a good break over Christmas. Dreadful news about the Tsunami. We are trying to encourage the DEC members to include disabled children and adults in the emergency response and reconstruction work. Many more people will now be disabled and therefore inclusive development is crucial.

Thanks for the info about the Global Call to Action Against Poverty - I have had a look at the site and registered ADD. Needless to say we also feel that there should be a strong presence of the disability movement on this. Consequently I am copying this email to Mark Harrison who is the Chair of the International Committee of the British Council of Disabled People, to Disabled Peoples International and to all our programmes and partners.

ADD is part of the Making Poverty History, MPH campaign here and Lorraine Wapling from ADD chairs the BOND Disability and Development Group. They are putting together a paper to input into the MPH campaign. (They have already submitted papers on the MDGs that I have sent your way.)

I am also copying this to Sue Stubbs, who co-ordinates a European consortium of international disability and development NGOs, the IDDC, so that she can pass this onto to other members may also want to think about inputting to the campaigns individually and collectively.

Good to hear you met up with Richard - our agencies have worked together quite a bit over the years - I will also have a chat with him about all of this.

Very best wishes and hope to talk soon

Barbara Frost

Leonard Cheshire

LCI is responding to requests from our partners for support in Sri Lanka (eastern Region) and India (Chennai area). Our Regional offices in South and South east Asia have done the first assessments and we are now starting to try to identify funding for what looks as though it will be quite a lengthy process.

You may know that we also have a medical team at University College Hospital that comes under our Department, mainly specialists in war trauma surgery, and they have been asked to go out to help with repair/surgery for those injured.

My feeling is that it would be much more useful if we could put together a proposal for DfID (and indeed other agencies) to do something on a much bigger scale than we can do individually.

If any other organisation would like to do this, or to join us in a proposal, please let me know.

Best wishes
Tanya Barron

Director
Leonard Cheshire International
30 Millbank
London SW1

+44 7884 185 185

Basic Needs

At the invitation of the Sri Lankan Government we are implementing the first phase of an operation to provide a programme of mental health and emotional support in Southern Sri Lanka. As I write the second assessment trip is taking place and the first treatment assignments are taking place. We are very short of funds for this work and are launching a full appeal for it on Tuesday 4th. The programme will be based on 100 community vols that we already have in the country within a substantial development programme.

Your thoughts on financial aid welcome - further programme details can be sent if required. See our web site: www.basicneeds.org.uk

Yours Chris

Chris Underhill
Director
BasicNeeds
158A Parade
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire
CV32 4AE
Tel: +44 1926 330101
Email: chris.underhill@basicneeds.org.uk
Web site: www.basicneeds.org.uk
Ejournal: www.mentalhealthanddevelopment.org
Charity Reg: 1079599

EDF

Dear Barbara,

>

> HAPPY NEW YEAR

> I would like to ask you whether IDDC is planning to join forces to
> support people with disabilities in the areas hit by the tsunami.

>

> We could try to raise some funding through our members' network, as well
> as raise awareness of this dimension with the Eu institutions.

>

> What do you think?

>

> Carlotta

>

> Carlotta Besozzi

> Director

> European Disability Forum

> Forum européen des personnes handicapées

> rue du Commerce 39-41

> 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

> Tel +32 2 2865181

> Fax +32 2 2824609

> carlotta.besozzi@edf-feph.org

Sight Savers International

A brief note to say that SSI has communicated with our partner organisations and offices in the affected areas where we work (primarily Sri Lanka and India) and have indicated that we will be willing to consider supporting initiatives that they identify as vital. In these early stages – all efforts are focused on finding, identifying and assisting the dead and injured.

As SSI is not a disaster relief organisation and has no particular expertise in this area - we tend to be

more involved in the mid-term reconstruction phase helping to rebuild or reequip eye units, education units or other infrastructure or services which have been affected by the disaster and we are likely to do the same this time.

We are not registered with ECHO and cannot probably add anything to a proposal for early emergency work but will remain interested in hearing about developments in the mid-term.

Wilma Van Berkel
Programme Learning Coordinator
Sight Savers International
Direct Line: +1444 446646

6 January 2005
World Bank Questionnaire:

* Are your organizations participating in needs assessments, reconstruction efforts, aide distribution discussions, other activities? What are you specifically doing?

On 29th December we contacted our representatives and staff for India, Sri Lanka, Kenya and Bangladesh - countries we work in that had been hit by the disaster. Since then of course much information has unfolded and the enormity of the disaster has become terribly apparent to us all. The following message was sent on the 29th December to our country staff and representatives in the affected areas about how SSI can support the relief work. This message still holds good. "SSI will consider positively the provision of financial assistance to any of its partners (NGO or government) or other appropriate organisations who are actively involved in helping in eye care related relief efforts following the tsunami. In the immediate short term eye care related relief efforts should be interpreted as broadly as possible - some examples could be support to visually impaired people with accommodation, food, clothes etc; support to schools/institutions of the blind that have been affected by the flooding, eye related medical services both at base hospitals or outreach. Longer term we can consider the refurbishment and re-equipping of our partner's eye hospitals, education units for VI children, etc that have been affected by the flooding."

* Have you had contact with disability organizations in the region and what are they telling you?

Sri Lanka - to the best of our knowledge and in terms of our own partners we do not think there has been any loss of life or equipment and facilities. However it seems almost certain that some schools for the blind and some health and eye units have been damaged in other parts of the country. 12 blind children were tragically drowned whilst on a school outing to the coast. Our partners have been supporting the relief efforts in the affected communities. Our primary eye care training project and our development of a low vision unit at Galle hospital will certainly be delayed for at least a few weeks. India - The badly affected areas are Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh - to the best of our knowledge and in terms of our own partners we do not think there has been any loss of life or equipment and facilities.

Many of our partners working in this area are very actively helping with the general relief effort. Kenya and Bangladesh - small numbers of people have lost their lives and property in these countries but not in the programme areas SSI works in.

* Are there plans for your organization to focus on this issue in greater detail?

The last few days have confirmed our experience of several other emergency situations - namely that in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, although we are very willing to provide support if we can, there is often little that can SSI can really offer in the way of relief. We are not an disaster and emergency organisation and it is not an area we have expertise in. Usually it is better to leave the emergency response to agencies who have the expertise in this type of work. Well meaning but inappropriate interventions can often get in the way of immediate relief operations. We do also have to be mindful of our mandate as an organisation to work primarily with visually impaired people and this does not always lend itself easily to providing relief to communities as a whole. Where we do come into our own is in the medium to longer term when we can help with reconstruction and meet other needs, once these have been more clearly established. We anticipate that over the next few weeks our representatives and partners in Sri Lanka and India will identify areas where SSI can play a supporting role as outlined in the message above. Our staff in India are in close touch with the partners working in the affected states and no doubts request for assistance will emerge soon. Our

consultant, based in Sri Lanka will actively discuss with our partners there what we can do and the Programme Officer will follow this up during her visit to Sri Lanka in a couple of weeks.

* What are you seeing as some of the major challenges?

We can only hope that the needs of people with disabilities are being met in this emergency relief situation along with all of the others but it is difficult to know for certain that this is the case at that the relief organisations are able to deal with this.

* What role do you believe the GPDD should play in this situation?

In line with the proposal being put together by IDDC, to undertake advocacy work to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are able to be effectively addressed by mainstream disaster relief organisations.

*What type of questions are you being asked? What areas have you been unable to answer?

As noted above, we are reluctant to step into the earliest stages of disaster relief as we are not experienced in these areas and our suggestions to individuals and organisations is to support the coordinated emergency response - in the UK this is the Disasters Emergency Committee.

SHIA

Dear all, After taking part of this I just want to take the opportunity to inform you that we had a follow up meeting with Räddningsverket, here in Stockholm on a seminar on disability and disaster held earlier last year. Räddningsverket which is the governmental emergency authority placed under department of defence, has allocated a budget of 35 000 euro (can be expanded) to develop a special course on disability as a complement to the existing training module. When this initiative is evaluated they are also planning to take a small part of it as a compulsory part of their basic training. They will also actively use the experience and findings from the training in their EU and UN co-ordination contacts.

Seems like we need to co-ordinate different initiatives like this. Concerning the current catastrophe I would very much appreciate if IDDC could take on some co-ordinating role. Our partners in Sri Lanka are slowly grasping the situation and are starting to develop some ideas on how to move on. Sida here in Sweden has also indicated that the disability component will be needed in the giant relief activities they are starting. For us we definitely need support from others with a better infrastructure and experience than we and our partners have. As SHIA is not represented in all countries and regions concerned we would also need to link over to others with experience. As Sweden even as a very small country has been so badly affected by the catastrophe also on a national base the willingness here to act is enormous. I will write to Räddningsverket about the disability component in their ongoing actions and also for the future. I guess they are also getting some control now after being able to return all surviving Swedes from Thailand. I know they are also already operative in Sri Lanka.

All support from the rest of you are very much appreciated

----- Original Message -----

From: "D.P.M.Weerakkody" <dpmw@mail.pdn.ac.lk>
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2005 2:39 AM
Subject: info on tsunami affected pwd's

D.P.M. Weerakkody B.A.(Cey),Ph.D.(Hull)
Professor of Western classics
Department of Classical Languages
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
Tel: Office: 94 81-2388301-5, and 94 18-2388345,
Residence: 94 81-2389163
Fax: 94 81-2388933,
E-Mail: dpmw@pdn.ac.lk

Dear friends,

First of all I wish to thank you most sincerely for your generosity in offering to help persons with disabilities in Sri Lanka who were affected by the recent disaster. I give below the information as I have it at present.

1. Regarding the tragedy involving blind children from the School for the Deaf and Blind Tangalla, I finally managed to contact the school by phone and speak to the founder Mr. W. Rupasinghe Perera. There had been twenty persons in the vehicle which travelled from Tangalla to Colombo on the 26th to attend the Christmas party which had been organized for them. All the 16 children were blind, and were accompanied by one teacher, two assistants and the daughter of one of the assistants, all sighted. Twelve blind children, one teacher, and one assistant died. Four blind children escaped and helped the other assistant and her daughter to get out of the danger. The school plans to set up a fund to assist the surviving children and the families of those who died, these being mostly very poor.

I would suggest, however, that, rather than sending contributions directly to the school, they should be sent to the Sri Lanka Council for the Blind, which is the principal service organization for the blind in the country, stating clearly that they be sent to the school for the fund.

Please contact the Hon. Secretary, Mr. S.L. Hettiarachchy, Sri Lanka Council for the Blind, 74 Church Street, Union Place, Colombo 2, Sri

Lanka; tel. 0094 112 329564, email: <slcb@ewisl.net>. He will report to you on how the funds were utilised..

2. There are isolated reports of various blind and other disabled persons being affected, and the Council plans to help them within the following financial terms, i.e. per individual.

Rebuilding home: \$500.00 each.

Wheelchair: \$125.00 each.

crutches/elbow-crutches: \$25.00 each.

Once again, please contact Mr. Hettiarachchy from whom I got the information.

3. In Galle, in the south of the country, there is a private home for children with physical and mental handicaps. It is called Sambodhi. I hear that 50% of the building and the children were washed away. Unfortunately, I do not have any details or the contact information, but the Council for the Blind should be able to help.

4. Although initially there were requests for food, linen and medicine, I believe these are adequately covered by the existing government and other relief operations.

On behalf of the persons with disabilities I thank you once again.

With best wishes
D.P.M. Weerakkody.

CBM Partners

here a brief information of activities of CBM partners:

India:

No partner project was directly affected, but partner organisations are involved in relief actions.

- The National Lutheran Health and Medical Board (NLHMB),
- Christian Medical College, Ludhiana (CMCL),
- Bethesda Hospital, Ambur under IELC,
- ALC Packianahan memorial hospital under ALC
- Josephs Eye Hospital, Trichy, under TELC along with other aid

agencies such as CASA and CBM.

The above partners have formed an action team and undertaken to provide medical and psychosocial relief and support to the Tsunami affected victims and regions between Cudallore and Tranqubar along the East coast. Cudallore was the worst affected region in the east coast after Nagapattinam.

Other partners in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh also provide drugs, food, bedding and medical help.

Sri Lanka

Four partner projects are affected directly and the partners are active providing relief support (Food, shelter, construction, psychological support) in their communities, the partners are Navajeevana in Tangalle Ashram for Human Self Reliance and Meditation, Ampara District YMCA, Batticaloa Deaf Link/ Methodist Church Sri Lanka, Kulmanai area

Presently a team from CBM HO Bensheim and Regional Office is on the ground for assessment and further planning.

Indonesia (possibilities to be assessed and investigated)
Envisaged to undertake medium-term rehabilitation measures, reconstruction through partner organisations; post traumatic counselling programme with community-based approaches for survivors,

With best wishes

Monika

CBM CHRISTOFFEL BLINDENMISSION
CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION e.V.
Monika Brenes
Policy & Consultancy Department
Nibelungenstr. 124 - 64625 Bensheim/Germany
Tel.: +49 -(0)6251-131-251
Fax: +49 - (0)6251-131-165
monika.brenes@cbm-i.org
www.cbmi.org

AIFO

I would like to inform you that AIFO is present in Andhra Pradesh, in the area of Cuddalore and in Aceh Province.

In Aceh we are supporting a CBR project in partnership with Ministry of Health and a lot of people involved passed away or are missing; at the moment we are just in contact with our contact person in Jakarta, Padang and Makassar, but as AIFO is not working in first emergency we are planning to wait until next month and then do an assessment and be present in reconstruction. The situation is changing very quickly and we are daily in contact with Indonesian people for update.

Any further information of contacts you may ask me.
Regards,
Francesca

Save the Children

Marlies is working with SC to ensure disability is incorporated into the SC response. More details later.

Landmine Survivors Network

The Geneva Humanitarian Forum

Tsunami Relief – Overview of Humanitarian Organisations' Response to the Disaster

For an overview of the response of humanitarian organisations to the disaster in Asia, please see our "Tsunami Relief" section:

<http://www.genevahumanitarianforum.org/record.php?type=18>

This section sums up, as it appears, the information put online on their websites by the main organisations involved, in order to provide as comprehensive as possible an overview of the humanitarian community's response to the disaster that struck Asia on December 26. A sub-section on governmental response is underway.

The GHF Team

Sphere Handbook

For those who might not know, there is a handbook that is widely accepted as the standard text on disaster relief and that is used by most agencies involved in such work. It's known as the Sphere Project's Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response handbook. Along with a number of other organisations ADD was involved in the revision of this handbook two years ago so as to ensure that disabled people's needs were fully included. As a result it now points out that disability is an important cross-cutting issue which needs to be addressed by all those involved.

Rather than re-invent the wheel therefore we highly recommend consulting the Sphere Handbook, details of which can be found at www.sphereproject.org rather than considering development of a new "strategy for Disaster Preparedness of Persons with Disabilities".

Best wishes,

Martin Long (ADD)

Dear all,

Of course the Sphere Handbook exist, but there has also been some severe criticism (notably on the first version, which indeed didn't mention disability). It remains, however, a very "standardisation" and quantitative approach to disaster relief. In my (and other NGOs) opinion, that is perhaps adapted for water-quantity issues and such, but not really for more socially embedded issues like disability, social exclusion, etc. which start-off much more from the individual person (rather than a "standard"), his or her life-projects, capacities, a much more qualitative rather than a quantitative approach.

Interestingly, in Banda Aceh (where I find myself today), the SPHERE handbook had been put forward by WHO, and again other NGOs criticised certain aspects. on top of that, the only Bahasa Indonesia version(indonesian) is the first version of Sphere.

I agree, obviously, that there is no point in reinventing wheels. But there is certainly much more to be said about inclusion of disability in disasterand relief action than currently either in Sphere or elsewhere. HI's field-experience after the earthquakes in Turkey, Gujarat and Bam/Iran and more recently in Bangladesh and Indonesia, show that serious capitalisation can help improve disaster respons including disability.

There is room here for even better methodologies.

Yours

Nick Heeren (HI)

Disabled Persons International

From: DPI Mailing List [<mailto:info@dpi.org>]

Sent: 11 January 2005 23:02

DPI special bulletin on the Tsunami / Bulletin électronique de l'OMPH sur le raz-de-marée / Boletín electrónico de la OMPD sobre el tsunami Tuesday, January 11, 2004 / le mardi 11 janvier 2004 / Martes 11 de Enero de 2004

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This week, we're sending out an extra edition of our e-news bulletin to share information about what people can do for those that were affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Asia and in Africa that took place on December 26, 2004. Eleven countries were affected by the disaster: Malaysia, Myanmar, Seychelles, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia, Maldives, Thailand, India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. The disaster's death toll is nearing 160,000 people, and according to one UN official, that total could surpass 200,000 people before long. Kevin Kennedy, the director of the Coordination and Response Division of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, says that the relief effort is making great strides, but the urgent needs of many victims have not yet been met.

How are people with disabilities faring in this crisis? While we have yet to find specific statistics about the effect of the Tsunami disaster on the population of people with disabilities in the affected countries, a few stories are coming out in the news.

Included among the news items that have been posted to DPI's Tsunami Resources page thus far is the story of the Sambodhi Home, a shelter for the physically disabled and mentally ill in Galle, Sri Lanka, where only 41 of its 102 residents survived the roiling water that swept through the one-story building. The home's director, Kumar Deshapriya, is determined to rebuild the shelter.

I also received an article from the New York Times that tells of the physical devastation caused by the lack of medical attention received by Tsunami victims in the first few days after their injuries. Thanks to a lack of access to immediate medical care in Indonesia, many people who started out with minor injuries are now forced to undergo amputations to save their lives.

Not only are people with pre-existing disabilities affected by a lack of access to aid, but more people are becoming disabled because of this disaster. DPI wants to make sure that people with disabilities are considered in all relief efforts. For that reason, DPI's Asia-Pacific Regional Office is accepting cash donations to help people with disabilities in the Tsunami area. Visit http://www.dpi.org/en/resources/current_news/01-11-05_dpitsunami.htm for more information on how you can donate to the relief effort through DPI. We also encourage you to visit our new Tsunami Resources page to find more organizations that are collecting donations, as well as information on how donations are used by the collecting organizations. Visit http://www.dpi.org/en/resources/current_news/01-11-05_tsunami.htm to find out more about the aftermath, and about what you can do to help out during this crisis.