



Tsunami Indonesia: Three years on





'We visited an area 15 kilometres from the shoreline; it was completely destroyed. The sea had washed away houses, it had carried vessels from the ocean and deposited them on top of buildings and bridges.'

'It carried tractors, coaches, all types of vehicles into the middle of rice fields; it carried dead bodies everywhere. Massive concrete structures and multi-storey buildings were reduced to rubble. Every few hundred yards there were lines of corpses in body bags.'

Dr Hany El-Banna, in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, days after the tsunami.

26 December 2004 was the day that changed the lives of millions of people forever. It was on this day that the tsunami struck 12 countries. Around 230,000 people were killed and over 1.5 million were left homeless. In an instant everything changed and even now, three years on, many millions of people are still struggling to rebuild their shattered lives.

In Aceh, Indonesia, 180,000 people lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of homes, schools, hospitals and shops were completely destroyed. In many cases people were left with nothing.

Islamic Relief was one of the first aid agencies to respond to the disaster in Aceh, and from the first day was on the ground providing emergency aid to those who were affected. We helped those who had lost their homes by providing them with temporary shelters, as well as emergency food, clean water and sanitation facilities and medical care.

However, it was not long before we began to turn our attention to providing for the long-term needs of affected communities. After months spent in temporary accommodation many people

whose homes had been destroyed or damaged were keen to return to their home villages. It was essential for us to provide these people with new houses, as well as healthcare, water and sanitation systems, livelihood opportunities and education for children to ensure the new settlements were sustainable.

The following publication looks back at the work of Islamic Relief over the last three years from the immediate emergency intervention in the first few days and weeks to our rehabilitation and long-term development work. Although our work in Aceh is not yet complete we are working towards a time when we can hand our projects over to the community and when our support will no longer be required.



Aceh: emergency response

- 180,000 people dead
- 500,000 made homeless
- 2,000 schools and 120 health centres destroyed
- 800,000 people with no source of income

Immediately after the tsunami hit Aceh, Islamic Relief was one of the first aid agencies on the ground. After many years working in the region we were able to respond quickly to the disaster and our staff on the ground understood the needs of the local population.

In the first few months of 2005 our work focussed on emergency relief and providing people with their basic needs for food, clean water, temporary shelter and medical care. Gradually we were able to begin longer-term redevelopment by providing education, permanent housing and livelihood support.

In the first few weeks Islamic Relief distributed emergency food and medical supplies to over 20,000 people, and provided temporary shelter for 2,000 people who had lost their homes. Soon we were supplying camps for those displaced by the disaster with clean water and emergency sanitation facilities. We began distributing 48,000 litres of water to over 17,500 people every day.

During the first few months of 2005 we provided health services to 75,000 people by setting up mobile health clinics. And to help protect people against the outbreak of disease we distributed 28,000 hygiene kits, provided hygiene training and immunised over 3,500 children against polio.

Islamic Relief emergency response teams were on the ground in Aceh the day after the tsunami struck. In the first few months we provided vulnerable people with shelter, clean water, medical care and food, helping over 28,000 people.

By the middle of the year we had begun the process of reconstructing the infrastructure of the affected areas. Work had begun on the first permanent houses for those made homeless by the disaster, two damaged schools were repaired, 13 health clinics were constructed and wells were dug providing clean water to 17,000 people in Aceh Besar and Banda Aceh.



Building new homes

One of the most visible impacts of the tsunami on Aceh was the sheer number of people who were made homeless.

Around 500,000 had to leave their houses and move into temporary camps or barracks where they had little access to basic services such as healthcare, clean water or schools.

After the disaster the most vulnerable people were those who did not own their own land and had been renting accommodation or squatting on disused ground. In the aftermath of the tsunami our work has prioritised their needs as well as other vulnerable families such as

female-headed households. To date we have built over 846 permanent homes throughout Aceh.

Our approach towards providing new homes has been participatory and driven by the needs of the community. From planning to construction the local community has been involved in every step of the process; participating in decisions concerning the use of the land, planning of the site and design of the houses. The houses have been built to limit

The provision of new homes for displaced people has been one of our largest projects in Aceh, and now more than 4,500 people are living in new homes constructed by Islamic Relief.

damage if there is another disaster and are all earthquake resistant.

All the new housing settlements have basic amenities such as roads, water sources, waste disposal systems, green spaces and public areas. The construction of new homes has also been integrated with the provision of education, income generation projects and healthcare services, to encourage people to leave their temporary accommodation and to ensure the sustainability of the new settlements.



Syuhada's story

It was the day of the tsunami and Syuhada and his new wife were enjoying a walk along the beach whilst on honeymoon. Then suddenly they began to feel the ground shake violently beneath them.

'After the earthquake my wife and I decided to go back to Banda Aceh by motorbike to see if there was any damage,' Syuhada said. 'We were worried that buildings may have collapsed.'

Whilst on their way back to Banda Aceh the full scale of the disaster was revealed. People, cars and motorbikes were blocking the roads, buildings had collapsed and everywhere people were panicking.

Syuhada and his wife desperately started to search for his family, but ten days later they could find no trace of his missing relatives. Then came the devastating news that Syuhada's uncle, aunt and cousins had drowned in the disaster. Distressed at the loss, Syuhada made a two-day journey to the village of Meulaboh to search for his father.

In Meulaboh Syuhada found his father and two of his brothers alive but was told that his mother, sister and another brother had died.

With the family home in Meulaboh destroyed, Syuhada and his wife returned to Banda Aceh but had no choice but to live in temporary accommodation in the village of Kajhu Indah. They were still living in this temporary accommodation when in late 2006 Syuhada's wife gave birth to their first child.

In April 2005 Islamic Relief began the construction of more than 150 new homes in Kajhu Indah, a village completely destroyed by the tsunami. The community was actively involved in the process and many villagers also received construction training.

By February 2007, Syuhada and more than 150 other families were able to move into their new homes each with its own clean water source and sanitation facilities. Although it will take time for families to readjust to their new village, gradually Syuhada and the rest of the community are settling into life in their new homes.



Delivering healthcare

In the wake of the tsunami many thousands of people in Aceh were in need of urgent medical care.

However, the disaster almost completely destroyed the health infrastructure which had already been weakened by years of civil unrest and under-funding.

After the tsunami large numbers of people were forced to live in temporary accommodation. The conditions in the camps and barracks were often cramped and unhygienic and access to basic services was limited. In this environment the risk from outbreaks of infectious diseases was very high.

To prevent the spread of disease we promptly distributed medical supplies, first aid kits and hygiene packs to over 28,000 people living in the temporary camps. In addition, we set up mobile clinics that provided 5,000 displaced people with medical care, trained volunteers on hygiene issues and gave four ambulances to District Health Offices giving 1,800 people access to emergency transportation to hospital.

By the end of 2005 our work to reconstruct the clinics and hospitals was well underway and by 2007 we had reconstructed 27 clinics and one hospital. In order to increase the capacity of the healthcare service in the region we also trained around 200 health professionals. To help keep local communities healthy we have run health campaigns on personal hygiene, reproductive health matters and nutrition, reaching more than 6,000 vulnerable people.

Rates of child and maternal mortality in Aceh are high, so we have focused much of our work on providing healthcare for pregnant women and young children. We have constructed community clinics that provide ante-natal and post-natal care, vaccinations, growth monitoring and reproductive health advice, and have also trained 116 midwives.



Seulanga health clinic

40-year-old Mulyani is having a busy day. She is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Seulanga Health Clinic and child care group in the village of Kopelma, Syiah Kuala sub-district. And today she has ten under-fives in her care.

Seulanga clinic is a posyandu, or village health post. Posyandus provide essential medical care to people who may otherwise have to travel long distances to get to a health clinic. They specialise in providing maternal and infant health care.

This posyandu was built by Islamic Relief in December 2005, and is one of 14 similar facilities that we have built throughout Aceh. The centre focuses on providing integrated healthcare for children by meeting their medical needs and encouraging their personal development. Healthcare is integrated with education, providing the children with interaction, stimulation and a safe place to play.

The play group at the clinic helps parents who cannot afford to send their children to nursery school and provides the young children with educational materials and toys. 'We are not only teaching them how to sing and draw,' explained Mulyani, 'but also to grow their creativity and improve their intelligence at an early age.'

Mulyani and five members of staff manage the activities at the centre. They provide pregnant women with ante-natal and post-natal care and are working towards reducing rates of child mortality and malnutrition by providing services such as growth monitoring, immunisations, and sessions on infant nutrition and hygiene.

42-year-old Nuraini explained, 'We were given training, funded by Islamic Relief at the Syiah Kuala Community Health centre. Here doctors and nurses shared their knowledge about how to care for pregnant women and children.'

Mulyani said, 'I am so happy that Islamic Relief built this building. Pregnant mothers need somewhere to check the progress of their pregnancies and children really need this play ground.'



Back to school

The tsunami caused massive damage to the education system in Aceh, destroying over 2,000 schools and damaging thousands more.

Tragically thousands of teachers and students also lost their lives and many children were left with the prospect of being unable to complete their education.

Schooling is not only crucial for the long-term development of individual children, but is also an important means of helping them deal with trauma and enables them to return to a sense of normality.

As schools, classrooms and teachers have been in short supply since the disaster many children have had to cope with

severe overcrowding, with some schools even teaching in shifts. To tackle this problem and help children affected by the disaster return to school, Islamic Relief has built 23 new schools which are all fully equipped with furniture, playgrounds, sports facilities and libraries.

We have also repaired damage to nine schools and have provided 30 primary schools and nurseries with books, furniture and equipment to help them provide a higher standard of education. To help deal with the loss of so many

In Aceh, schools built or repaired by Islamic Relief mean that over 8,000 children affected by the disaster are able to return to school and a sense of normality.

teachers in Aceh we have also provided 120 teachers with training to help improve their skills.

Although by 2007 many children were able to return to school, the situation was very different for those still living in camps or temporary accommodation. Here access to schools was severely limited so Islamic Relief set up three mobile learning centres that provide children with an informal education. At present over 6,000 displaced children have access to books, educational toys and musical instruments thanks to the mobile learning centres.



Rita's new school

13-year-old Rita is the only girl in her class at Lhok Nga School in Aceh Besar. In fact, so many children were killed by the tsunami in this area that she is one of only four pupils in her class.

The original school in Lhok Nga was completely destroyed by the tsunami and around 300 students were killed. Rita was lucky to survive but lost her mother and her sister. She is now living with her father and step-mother. 'I also lost so many friends,' Rita said. 'I still remember how we were so happy studying and playing at school.'

Before the tsunami the Lhok Nga School was one of the best in the region, with good equipment and well-trained teachers. 'Parents used to compete to send their children to this school,' sixth grade teacher 46-year-old Sulaiman said. 'We are working hard to maintain this achievement by providing quality education day after day.'

The construction of the school was completed in March 2007, and it now has six classrooms, a library, teacher's offices and a large playground.

The classrooms can hold 40 students but it will be many years until they are full again. 'Living by the sea many people in Lhok Nga died in the tsunami', explained Wardaiyati, a fifth grade teacher. 'That is why we have got fewer pupils than previously in each class.' However, parents are keen to send their children to the new school, the first grade now has 28 pupils in it and the teachers hope that the number will increase every year.

As well as building the classrooms and playground, we also provided furniture, books and learning materials. 'The school building is now much better,' Rita said. 'But what I like most is the library, it is very comfortable and has many good books. I love spending my time in there.'

Despite the damage to the education sector in Aceh, new schools I are ensuring that children can access quality education. 'We thank Islamic Relief for building this school,' said Wardiyati. 'Education is important for the redevelopment of Aceh and we hope that this school can answer the challenge.'



Restarting livelihoods

As well as taking lives and damaging homes, roads and bridges, the tsunami also had devastating consequences for the livelihoods of Aceh's population.

Even before the tsunami Aceh had high levels of poverty and unemployment caused by 30 years of civil conflict. This increased after the tsunami when a massive 800,000 people were left with no source of income.

Most of the losses were because fishermen, farmers and small businesses lost their boats, land or shops. While in the immediate aftermath people were more focussed on the need for shelter, food and water, it quickly became important to help people start making a living once more.

In the first few weeks Islamic Relief helped to provide people with an income by starting cash-for-work programmes. In total over 8,500 people were employed to clear rubble and debris, which gave them an immediate source of income.

We also provided 500 market stall tents so people could begin to earn a living by selling fruit, coffee and food. Over the last three years we have helped to rebuild the local economy by building 14 permanent markets where local traders can sell livestock, vegetables and fish.

To build the capacity of affected communities, we have provided over 1,500 people with vocational training in skills such as carpentry, tailoring, computing and electrical installation. In addition 170 community groups have been provided with business support. Individuals have also been supplied with the tools and equipment to set up their own small businesses, such as new rickshaws, fishing boats and nets.

Even now there are still many people who are without a regular source of income. The most vulnerable, those living in remote areas or women who have lost their husbands, have been provided with interest-free loans. So far 2,000 have received this support, allowing them to buy the equipment needed to set up or expand an existing business.



Aisha's sweets

In a small house in the village of Blankrueng, 60-year-old Aisha Hasan is patiently stirring a mixture of boiling oil and sweet syrup. The bubbling mixture that Aisha and four other women are making is karah, a traditional sweet which they will sell at market.

'I make 300 pieces a day which takes me from morning to evening,' Aisha said. 'I sell them in the centre of Banda Aceh to stall holders. I go there every three days on public transport. This is not enough to support us entirely but it helps with the school fees and I'm glad I can do this.'

When the tsunami hit Blankrueng much of the village was flattened and around 300 people died. Amongst the dead was Aisha's husband and three of her children. Her husband's death left Aisha with no source of income and no way to support her other children.

With limited opportunities for education in Aceh, Aisha was not alone in having few skills by which to make a living. However, she did know how to cook. Therefore as part of Islamic Relief's livelihoods work with widows and widowers in Aceh she received a stove and materials to allow her to cook and sell karah. Aisha and the other women cook together and share the profits between them. They use the income to send their children to school and even to support other members of their families.

'I got a house from Islamic Relief and I also got a stove and the ingredients I need,' Aisha said. 'My house was completely destroyed. I only have the skill of cooking and this is the main source of income for me.'



Providing clean water

In the aftermath of the tsunami hundreds of thousands of people were forced from their homes with many ending up in temporary camps or barracks.

Very often these temporary settlements had limited access to clean water and safe sanitation facilities, and the threat of waterborne disease was rife. To make matters worse many hand pumps and wells had either been destroyed or contaminated with sea water during the disaster.

Islamic Relief initially focused on providing clean water to people living in temporary camps and barracks. Later on we expanded our work to rebuilding

the infrastructure by rebuilding wells and sanitation facilities, while also distributing 180,000 litres of clean water to more than 19,000 people. Even now we are still delivering drinking water to over 10,000 people who are without access to a safe source of water.

In order to avoid health and environmental problems in the future it is essential that water and sanitation systems are sustainable and meet communities' long-term needs. This has been achieved

In the first year alone over 66,000 people living in temporary camps received clean water and access to sanitation facilities. We have also helped to provide people with long-term access to clean water by reconstructing 39 wells.

by building 39 new wells and cleaning other water sources contaminated in the disaster. These are now providing more than 30,000 people with safe water.

To prevent the outbreak of disease it has been important for us to carry out hygiene campaigns in local communities, as well as collecting rubbish from 30 villages. In addition we have also built latrines and waste water drainage systems that benefit over 12,000 people.

Islamic Relief integrates water and sanitation facilities into all of our construction work in Aceh, including providing facilities in new schools, health clinics and homes. To encourage people to move into the new homes built by Islamic Relief all new houses have suitable sanitation facilities and their own source of clean, safe water.



Supplying schools with water

Babus Sa'adah Boarding school in Lambaed Village, Juta Baro sub-district is one of the oldest schools in Aceh Besar. The school provides education to around 120 students aged between 12 and 19, around 40 of who also board on the school premises.

Many of the students at the school lost their family and friends in the disaster and it was important to help them continue their education. 16-year-old Jaslim lost his parents and his home in the tsunami, he explained the importance of the school for him, 'I have been boarding at the school since the tsunami. Here I can study and live with my friends, it helps me to survive.'

65-year-old Amin Ishak (above), head master of the school said, 'The people of the village built this school and my family was trusted to run it ever since.' 'My hope is that the school will help victims of the tsunami to get a formal and religious education. They need education for a decent future and I believe that it can also help them with their trauma.'

However, like many other schools, Babus Sa'adah was severely damaged by the tsunami and needed considerable work to ensure it could provide quality education and give the children a decent place to stay. One of the major problems it faced was that it lacked any sanitation facilities. This was not only an inconvenience to students but also a potential health problem.

To help the school function again Islamic Relief provided it with new water and sanitation facilities, including latrines, bathing places and wash stands.

19-year-old Safriadi, a student at the school explained, 'Before Islamic Relief built the latrines we had to use the latrines in villagers' houses. This was far from ideal, especially at night.'

'Now we have our brand new latrines that can be used every day. We're happy because we have no need to bother the villagers again.'

Working for children

Almost 200,000 people died when the tsunami hit Aceh. Tragically this also meant that around 75,000 children were left without one or both of their parents.

Many of these children ended up living in tent camps, temporary barracks or being cared for by their relatives. With resources already severely stretched many extended families found it difficult to care for additional children and were in desperate need of support.

After the tsunami Islamic Relief began a new One-to-one orphan sponsorship programme in Aceh. This project allows individual donors from around the world

to provide vital financial support to vulnerable children helping to provide them with adequate food, medical care, shelter and the opportunity to go to school.

Since the tsunami the number of children supported by Islamic Relief has been growing year on year and we now sponsor over 650 children.

Islamic Relief supports 650 children who were affected by the tsunami. We help provide them and their families with food, decent shelter, healthcare and the chance to go to school.

As well as providing for their basic needs, our sponsorship programme also gives children additional support, providing them with school equipment, organising social activities and providing them with medical check-ups.

Although we only sponsor children who live within their community we have also supported many children living in orphanages by providing them with nutritional food and by constructing a new boarding school and vocational training centre.



Sayulis' story

Four-year-old Sayulis was only one when the tsunami struck his village in Banda Aceh. Everything changed for Sayulis and his family that day, his house was completely destroyed and tragically his father was killed whilst out fishing.

After the disaster Sayulis, his mother and older brother and sister moved into barracks where they stayed for two years before being given a new house. Their village is being constantly redeveloped and there are now new schools, houses and play grounds. However, life is still difficult for Sayulis' family.

Since the death of her husband in the tsunami, Sayulis' mother, Rubama has had to support the whole family. She takes jobs when and where she can find them and is currently working on a chilli farm. Every day she has to walk for more than an hour up a steep hill to reach the farm and only earns around \$3 dollars every month. The money that she earns is not enough to cover her children's needs and she relies on the sponsorship money from Islamic Relief to get by.

Sayulis was sponsored by Islamic Relief two years ago and Rubama uses the money to buy food and milk for her children and to take them to the health clinic when they are ill.

The house that the family lives in has three rooms but the kitchen and bathroom are outside and are made from woven leaves. This isn't an ideal situation and Rubama hopes that she will be able to save enough of the sponsorship money to build a proper bathroom and kitchen inside the house.

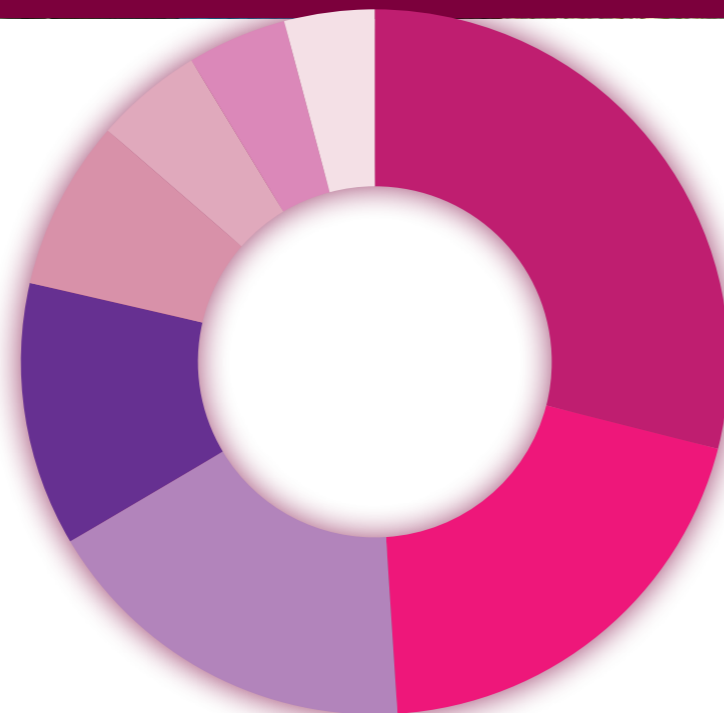
Next year Sayulis will be going to nursery school, and Rubama has managed to save some money to put towards his and his siblings education. Although the family do not have to pay school fees they do have to buy books, uniform and equipment. It is Rubama's hope that with the help of the Sayulis' sponsorship all three of her children will be able to finish school.



Where the money was spent

Institutional donors

Sector	Amount in GBP
Emergency relief	4,106,234
Education	2,841,469
Shelter	2,489,408
Livelihoods	1,709,228
Health	1,104,542
Orphan support	700,191
Water and sanitation	646,185
Seasonal programmes	587,506



TOTAL 14,184,764

Note: all amounts spent include support costs of approximately 15%
 Note: figures include projected expenditure until the end of 2007.

Name of Donor	Country
Al Eslah Society	Bahrain
Americares	USA
Austcare	Australia
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	UK
Charitable Society for Social Welfare	Yemen
Disasters Emergency Committee	UK
Eslamic Association	Bahrain
International Development and Relief Fund	Canada
Islamic Cultural Centre	Panama
Latter-day Saints Charities	USA
Muslim Unity Centre	USA
Plan International	Indonesia
Qatar Red Crescent	Qatar
Spiritualist Movement	UK
Swiss Solidarity	Switzerland
UNDP	Indonesia
Unicef	Indonesia



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