

## The Asian Tsunami Crisis

Muslim Hands in Indonesia . Sri Lanka . India

**A personal account of  
Muslim Hands (UK) Emergency Aid Mission to Aceh, Indonesia  
(December 2004)**

**By A. Shah and S. Bashir**

At 8.30 on the 26th of December 2004, the people of Banda Aceh were shaken from their sleep by a strong earthquake. If they had any idea of what was to come in the next few hours, they would have fled for their lives...but they did not. Most left their homes and stood in the streets, as they usually do during earthquakes, which are frequent in this part of the world.

What came next and so sudden, was a wall of water over nine meters high. The huge wave crashed into the homes along the shore, completely destroying them and anyone inside. Within minutes homes, as far as, three kilometres inland from the shore were three meters under water. The rush of water and waves were so powerful that any buildings left standing soon collapsed.

Three hours later, those that had survived this horror, were searching the debris for loved ones, the air filled with cries of mourning and whimpers for help from the injured survivors. Bodies lay in the streets, many victims lay mangled within the debris, covered in mud.

We now know, that the horror that struck Aceh (Indonesia) was the beginning of the world's worst disaster in living memory - The South East Asia Tsunami Crisis. Over the next few hours hundreds of other towns would be subjected to a similar tragedy, causing over 220,000 to be killed, leaving millions more homeless and in despair. More than

170,000 dead, in Aceh alone...

When we, the Muslim Hands UK Emergency Response Team arrived 5 days later, the death toll was still rising and the streets of Banda Aceh still looked similar. The air now filled with the smell of rotting human flesh, some bodies still lay in the streets. This was and remains a sight of unbearable human suffering.

Muslim Hands South East Asia and our regional partners responded to the emergency within hours. Trucks filled with vital food, water, medicine and clothing left Medan the next day and within one day over 125 volunteers from Muslim Hands South East Asia and our regional partners were on the ground in Aceh. Scores of truck loads of aid continue to be driven into Banda Aceh from Medan on a constant day and night basis.

There were many areas of Aceh, along the West Coast, from Banda Aceh in the north to Melabou in the south, that received "First Contact" after 10 days - i.e. were reached by rescue teams for the first time since the disaster. How these people survived is a testimony to their courage. We have heard first hand reports of people forced into eating raw beef and drinking seawater. Many have died soon after, from 'Secondary Drowning Syndrome' and infections caused by untreated wounds. *(continued. page 2)*



Entire Aceh District Devastated ▷



Trucks of food & water leave for Aceh. Medan ▷



Medical aid flown into Lam-No. Aceh ▷

# Medical Aid for Lam - No, and Banda Aceh (continued from page 2)

The areas of Lam-No, Lhoong, Calang, Teunom and Melabou, all made first contact around a week or more after the disaster, and were facing severe problems. Ideally they needed food, water and medical supplies air-lifted to them, but the facilities were not available.

Lam-No was one such area that received "First Contact" after one week of the disaster. We were fortunate enough to source a helicopter from Malaysia and flew out immediately to Lam No. Frustratingly, our helicopter payload did not allow us to carry bulk items, but desperately needed medicine was delivered to the survivors there. The local doctor showed us all the medicine and



medical supplies he had left - which would fit easily into a single A4 sized box, and told of the fatalities he had witnessed. We wish our donors to know that their support helped MH save lives that day by helping Muslim Hands deliver medicines to Lam No.

MH medical aid is being delivered in partnership with MER-C and The Indonesian Red Crescent. We continue to supply medical supplies to nine medical centres in Aceh (two of them mobile) and will continue to do so as long as necessary with the generosity of our donors.

### Medical Aid, Aceh District:

- Emergency and general medicines supplied to Banda Aceh and Lhokseumawe
- Supporting 7 medical clinics
- Supporting 2 mobile medical clinics
- Medicine flown to Lam No
- MH launches orphan sponsorship Scheme in Aceh



Medical aid reaches Lam No. (right)

Medical supplies at MH distribution centre. Medan (Far right)

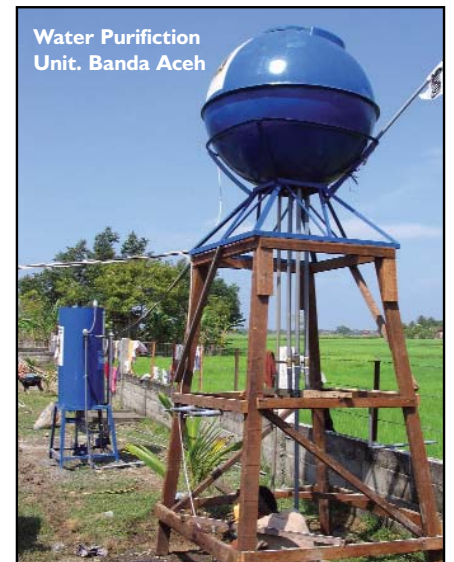


# Food & Water for Refugee Camps

MH SE Asia and Partners have set up the main distribution centres in Banda Aceh and Medan. The tireless efforts of the young men and women who have run these 24 hour centres is most highly commendable.



Medicine and safe drinking water, is by far the most important aid requirement in Aceh. Food and clothing donated by local Indonesians is now ample - but simply cannot be transported fast enough into the regions that need it most. MH has also began constructing Water Purification Units around camps in Aceh district. Five units have been built already and many more are under construction. Each unit supplies pure filtered water to around 500 people daily.



Water Purification Unit. Banda Aceh

### Aid to Refugee Camps:

- MHSE Asia and Partners are helping provide food and water supplies to 30 small to medium sized refugee camps in the Aceh, with a total population of 162,000.



# Orphan Care in Aceh



This crisis has been made much worse by the lack of coordination of the relief efforts.

Every camp and prominent building has photocopies of missing children. For us as parents, reading the descriptions left by their parents or families was heart breaking.

Muslim Hands struggled to identify orphans that need to be removed from camps into family homes. There are many children at the camps, without parents or family with them, who maybe orphans, but we cannot immediately remove them as their families may still be looking for them and they would naturally arrive at these very camps.

## MH Building Six Schools and Orphanages

MH has undertaken the care of identified orphans. Twelve temporary shelters and 6 temporary schools will be ready by February 2005 in Bireuen, Lhokseumawe, Sigli, Langasa (East Aceh), Banda Aceh and Medan. Each location will cater for around 70 orphans and will employ four teachers.

By Summer 2005, a formal school will be established in Northern Aceh District with boarding facilities for around 50 orphans. The remaining orphans will live with local families.

# Food & School Aid in Sri Lanka

A personal account of  
Muslim Hands (UK) Aid Mission to Sri Lanka. By T. Nasir

The whole coastline of North Eastern, Eastern and Southern provinces of Sri Lanka have been obliterated by the Tsunami. Fishing was once a thriving industry in small towns like Kinniya and Muthur, for whom it is the only source of food and livelihood, each and every boat now lies smashed and crippled, some as far as two kilometres inland.

We heard first hand stories of how the Tsunami devastated this region. Imam Nawfal from the town of Kalmunai-Kudi, District Ampara taught Quran to 68 children in his madrassa at the sea front. "In a single swoop, the water killed all of the children" he said, weeping uncontrollably as he told us his story. Everyone we met had lost at least one member of his or her family.

## Relief Camp in Trincomalee

MH is working with refugee camps in the Trincomalee district situated on the North Eastern shores. The two towns most affected in this district were Kinniya and Muthur leaving 12,200 families homeless. Total dead in this area were 1049, but this total was set to rise as there were still hundreds missing.



Another area also identified was Kalmunai-Kudi in the District of Ampara situated at East of Sri Lanka. The community here has lost over 3000 people.

Within two days Muslim Hands began to provide relief work at Kinniya town by distributing essential food aid and kitchen utensils to more than 1000 of the neediest families. More than two thousand young children and babies were provided with nutritional supplements and biscuits.

## Restarting Schools

As the educational authorities and the parents were concerned with the future of their children education, school uniforms and school furniture were requested of Muslim Hands. Nearly 5000



school uniforms were distributed for primary and secondary pupils. School kits that included a school bag, books and pens were given to encourage children to go back to school. 40 classrooms were provided with basic furniture to help restart classes.

## Medical Camp in Kinniya

A medical clinic was established at Kinniya with a team of three doctors. In the first three hours of opening the clinic, more than 115 patients were checked and treated. Uniquely, the clinic also provides counselling and support for traumatised individuals especially the mothers and children.

Muthur is about 45 minutes boat ride from Kinniya. At this location, Muslim Hand distributed food to 1500 families. An engine and pump was provided to a volunteer to clean out the sand and salt water filling the water well along the shore.



## Emergency Aid, Sri Lanka

- MH clinic setup in Kinniya
- MH is working with refugee camps in the Trincomalee region
- Relief camps setup in Kinniya & Muthur
- MH launches orphan sponsorship Scheme in Tsunami hit areas

# MH in Andaman and Nicobar, India

**A personal account of Muslim Hands (UK) Emergency Aid Mission to India.**  
By Dr S. Nasti

MH (UK) Emergency Responce Team was the only overseas Muslim charity that has gained access to help the victims of the tsunami in both the Andaman and Nicobar islands in India. Muslim Hands provided food and medical aid in temporary camps to the displaced people of the area.

## Relief Camp in Chauldari



MH has established a relief camp in Chauldari, 40kms from Port Blair and provided essential food aid to displaced families in the area.

## School in Chauldari

MH has also established a temporary primary school in Chauldari. The school will have a dual purpose, to be used as a school during the day and a shelter for the women at night. We have also provided 100 uniforms, stationary, furniture and salaries for the teachers.

## Medical Camp in Sippi Ghat

MH has provided medical aid to needy families in the Chouldari area. The clinic provides special attention to the maternal and child care and also provided counselling to over 45 traumatised patients.

A smaller relief and medical camp was also established in the area of Sippi Ghat. In addition to basic food and medical care the camp distributed cooking utensils, sheets and buckets.

## Water Aid in Jungli Ghat

In the nearby area of Jungli Ghat, MH provided 40,000 litres of clean water by mobile water tanks.



## How you can help...

Build a <b>new family house</b>	£2000
Buy a <b>fishing boat</b>	£2000
Buy a <b>water well &amp; filtration unit</b>	£1500
Buy a <b>pump</b> (for water well cleaning)	£300
Build a <b>latrine (toilet)</b>	£150
Buy a <b>water storage tank</b>	£60
Buy a <b>school bag kit</b>	£10
<b>Sponsor an orphan</b>	£20 / month
<b>Feed a Family</b>	£45 / parcel



**DIRECT DEBIT GUARANTEE** (This guarantee should be retained by the payer). This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society. If the amount to be paid or the payment dates change Muslim Hands will notify you 5 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If an error is made by Muslim Hands or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of the letter to us.

**Yes! I would like to help Tsunami Victims...**

£50 ■ £100 ■ £500 ■ £1000 ■ Other £

Zakah ■ Sadaqah ■ Lillah ■ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Spend my donation on:

- Emergency Aid
- Medical Care
- Food Distribution
- Education
- Water Projects
- Orphans
- Sanitation
- Where Most Needed**

**Name, Address & Postcode:** (Use BLOCK CAPS. & write your Donor ID on reverse of cheque) Please do not staple cheques & P.O.s to this coupon

**Card Number:**

Valid From:     Expiry Date:

Issue Number: (if any)   Signed \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL EMERGENCY FUND Regular Giving Form



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit:

I wish to donate per month: £3  £5  Other £

Name(s) of account holder(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Bank/Building Society Account No:

Branch Sort Code:

Preferred Collection Date: 6<sup>th</sup>  20<sup>th</sup>

This is additional to  OR replaces my existing DD

Originator's Identification No: **651495**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Gift Aid Declaration:

I am a UK tax payer and I wish Muslim Hands to reclaim tax on all donations I make hereafter until further notice. I understand that I must pay income tax at least equal to the amount reclaimed.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_