

INDIA FACT SHEET



tsunami response



The tsunami response is an integrated relief, rehabilitation and development programme reaching out to the most excluded communities impacted by the tsunami.

The tsunami waves wrecked havoc along the eastern coast of South India, and on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, killing nearly 10,000 people. In the state of Tamil Nadu, fishing communities who lived facing the Indian Ocean – and who were not sheltered by the island nation of Sri Lanka which bore the brunt of the waves – faced the fury of the waves as they broke on Indian shores. About three million persons were affected, thousands of whom were forced to leave the wreckage of their homes and seek refuge in nearby community centers and places of worship.

Objectives: To provide targeted relief to tsunami-affected families; to restore and promote livelihood opportunities for poor and vulnerable households and secure their assets, to achieve higher and more sustainable standards of living than what existed before the tsunami.

Strategies: Relief and rehabilitation focused on the most excluded communities for long- term and sustainable development.

Outreach: In the first year of its tsunami response, CARE reached over 135,000 people in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and its current work in micro-planning will benefit 158,000 people.

Results: CARE constructed over 2,000 temporary houses; 2,000 permanent houses; distributed non- food survival items to 600 families; conducted water and sanitation activities like building hand pumps and toilets; provided psychosocial care and has begun community development with marginalised communities to ensure their inclusion within long- term development efforts.

CARE immediately deployed emergency personnel to the region to determine how best to help families that survived the disaster. In close co-ordination with other relief agencies operating in the region, CARE provided immediate relief to over 20,000 families in Tamil Nadu. CARE also engaged in a series of rapid assessments, starting in early January, following which it launched water and sanitation, livelihoods, as well as psychosocial care and education related interventions. These efforts are spread across the worst affected states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

CARE's overall rehabilitation and development plan for tsunami affected regions is a holistic one. It focuses on a range of critical interventions that will not only restore normalcy but also bring about an overall improvement in the quality of life for vulnerable communities. The approach has been to ensure that socially and economically vulnerable groups – such as fishing communities, tribal families and women who have long been excluded from mainstream society – can participate fully in the process through micro-planning and social audit processes. To this end, CARE has established relationships with marginalised communities in the region, through a variety of local and community-based organisations.