



INDIA

Impact of 2004 Tsunami

Perished and missing:	16,279
People displaced:	2.7 million
Houses and buildings destroyed:	157,393
Damage and losses:	USD \$1.2 billion

CARE's Response

People reached:	242,784 with life-saving assistance and long-term recovery programming.
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CARE's Response to the 2004 Tsunami

The tsunami battered the southeast coast of India, killing some 10,000 people and ravaging the lives of 2.7 million survivors. CARE India has been working in 200 villages across eight tsunami affected districts of southern India covering two states and a union territory since 2005. Work started with distribution of relief items to 20,000 families immediately after the disaster. In the second phase CARE India also began work on providing much needed psycho-social care and support to traumatized people, by building local capacities through the training of community level workers.

Over the two phases, 1,200 community members were trained in providing basic psycho-social care and support. Subsequently, CARE India went on to work on 380 short-term projects aimed at stabilizing and restoring livelihoods among the affected communities, using approaches like cash for work, skill up-gradation, provision for micro credit support and creation of livelihood infrastructure. Over 20,000 people benefitted directly and indirectly through these restoration efforts.

CARE in India

CARE has been working in India for over 60 years, focusing on ending poverty through improvement in the lives and livelihoods of women and girls from poor and marginalised communities. We do this through well-planned and comprehensive programmes in health, education, livelihoods and disaster response. We are part of the CARE International network working in 90 countries for the empowerment of women and girls.

CARE'S TSUNAMI RESPONSE

The tsunami hit India's southeast coast along the Bay of Bengal, causing widespread damage in the state of Tamil Nadu. Having worked in India since 1950, CARE was well positioned to respond quickly and effectively.

Following the Tsunami

CARE's immediate response focused on addressing a variety of needs such as shelter, income opportunities, clean water and trauma counseling. CARE improved access to clean water and sanitation conditions for 20,000 families by repairing or constructing latrines and showers, desalinating wells, installing pumps and new water systems, and forming community committees to manage these improvements.

CARE India constructed 500 transitional and 2,000 permanent shelters for tsunami affected people. These houses were constructed across 15 sites in three districts of Tamil Nadu, one district in Pondicherry and in the union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

To help people get back to work, CARE provided training and supplies (such as boats, seeds, agricultural tools and sewing machines) for over 23,000 people. We also established a 'Livelihood Advancement Center' to offer trainings in boat repair, mechanics, seafood production and masonry.

After the Emergency Phase

Over the medium term, CARE helped ensure that the new communities were equipped with electricity, drainage systems, roads, parks, health clinics, schools and community centres. To ensure that future disasters do not have the tsunami's devastating effect, CARE India has partnered with the government on a Disaster Risk Reduction program, which entails organizing disaster drills, stocking emergency rescue and floating kits, training for community members on disaster response, and developing contingency and mitigation plans.

Additionally, CARE has partnered with financial institutions to provide insurance to 5,500 coastal families. Other initiatives include carrying out an extensive training program that equipped 3,000 people including teachers, village health workers and other community members with the skills to provide counselling to traumatized tsunami survivors.

Long-term Focus

CARE India continued to work in these 200 tsunami affected villages in a focused manner, developing and strengthening different livelihood sectors and sub sectors.

Interventions covered five livelihood sectors and sub sectors and reached out to approximately 5,000 people, a majority of these being women.

CARE India has also layered functional literacy on its livelihood interventions to draw more benefits and improve livelihood outcomes. Over 2,000 women have been part of this initiative across three districts.

Other initiatives that have been part of the tsunami response program have been Water and Sanitation (WATSAN) and micro insurance. WATSAN, including both, hardware and software activities has benefited over 25,000 families across the project area.

Micro insurance, which was a later intervention, aims to enable communities to cope with life and livelihood risks through insurance. This intervention implemented with a global insurance company reaches out to over 300,000 poor and vulnerable households - a large majority of whom are women. Livelihoods, micro finance and micro insurance evolved into a development initiative of its own by reaching over 350,000 poor households in Tamil Nadu.

After handing over to local communities, CARE's tsunami-related programming was phased out in 2011. Since then, CARE India has continued to help vulnerable people affected by other natural disasters and worked to support communities to be better prepared for future emergencies.

CARE would like to deeply thank the Government of India and Tamil Nadu for its leadership in the response to the emergency. We also thank all of our donors for their vital support in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, which made a lasting difference in the lives of thousands of people in south India.

