



INDONESIA



Impact of 2004 Tsunami

Perished and missing:	165,945
People displaced:	572,926
Houses and buildings destroyed:	179,312
Damage and losses:	USD \$4.5 billion

CARE's Response

People reached:	350,000 with life-saving assistance and long-term recovery programming.
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CARE's Response to the 2004 Tsunami

The tsunami that struck the coast of Aceh, Indonesia on Dec. 26, 2004, was one of the worst natural disasters in history. More than 165,000 people died in Indonesia alone, and over half a million lost their homes, livelihoods and families. Within days, the world mobilized a substantial emergency response effort; foreign governments, private citizens and aid organizations arrived in Aceh to support the Government of Indonesia to distribute food, water and shelter to the survivors.

Through its relief and recovery projects, CARE assisted more than 350,000 people in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar, and on the island of Simeulue, which was struck by a second major earthquake in March 2005. While CARE's immediate response was the delivery of life-saving food, water and supplies, the Tsunami Response Program expanded its focus on a development strategy dedicated to working with the people of Aceh to rebuild their houses, health care systems, water and sanitation facilities, livelihoods, schools and community services.

In coordination with the Aceh and Nias Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR), UN agencies and the local communities and governments, CARE's efforts were dedicated to supporting the Government of Indonesia in transforming the tsunami tragedy into a catalyst for change, leading to poverty alleviation and improving the quality of life for poor communities in affected areas in Aceh.

CARE in Indonesia

CARE has been operating in Indonesia since 1967. Initial program focus included food distribution, small infrastructure projects, health, environmental management, water and sanitation. In the wake of a series of shocks that included the 1997 financial crisis, natural disasters including tsunamis, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions as well as widespread drought, CARE Indonesia redirected its focus. Today, CARE's core activities in Indonesia focus on women and children and include emergency response; disaster risk reduction including climate change mitigation; economic development; natural resource management; and water, sanitation and hygiene.

CARE'S TSUNAMI RESPONSE

The coastline of Indonesia was closest to the epicentre of the earthquake that triggered the tsunami, and more than half of the resulting deaths occurred in Indonesia. Having worked in the country since 1967, CARE was well positioned to respond quickly and effectively.

Following the Tsunami

CARE's immediate response focused on helping tens of thousands of people gain access to clean water, food and health services.

We distributed more than a million bottles of water-purifying solution, provided some 700,000 one-month rations of food and – by rehabilitating and constructing new wells and latrines and delivering clean water – helped more than 100,000 people to protect themselves from waterborne disease.

CARE also constructed 2,765 transitional shelters for families whose homes were destroyed.

After the Emergency Phase

Over the medium term, CARE continued to improve access to water and sanitation resources in tsunami-affected communities.

In addition to rebuilding infrastructure, we educated community members about proper hygiene and trained them to manage and maintain the systems once CARE was gone. CARE rehabilitated 1,026 water systems and constructed 729 sanitation facilities.

We also trained local people, especially women, to advocate for their rights and hold leaders accountable for ensuring equal access to services.

CARE also constructed 1,844 permanent houses and built and rehabilitated four community health centres, two centres for women and youth, and two schools.

To help affected families rebuild their livelihoods, we launched cash-for-work programs that culminated in 60,000 days of paid employment to support more than 1,500 families. CARE also provided cash grants to 4,854 small entrepreneurs to jumpstart local business.

Our health programs focused on meeting the needs of mothers and young children, reducing malnutrition, improving hygiene practices and providing psychosocial care to affected families. This involved the construction of four health clinics and improvements at an additional 25 clinics. Altogether, our health programs reached more than 20,000 women and children.

Monthly health records indicate there was a significant decrease in malnutrition rates in areas where CARE worked. By November 2007, severe malnutrition rates had dropped from 15-30 per cent in 2005 to 0-9 per cent.

Long-term Focus

Over the long-term, CARE's work focused on promoting economic development, ensuring access to health services, completing construction on permanent houses and youth program development. On the hard-hit Simeulue Island, for example, CARE undertook a comprehensive recovery program that involved livelihood rehabilitation, housing, safe water and sanitation construction, disaster risk reduction and health programs aimed at reducing malnutrition and waterborne disease. This program reached more than 80,000 people in total.

In Banda Aceh district, we implemented adolescent health programs to increase access to health information and services and worked with more than 23,000 tsunami-affected people to help them build financial security by providing grants, offering skills and management training, establishing savings and loan groups and expanding access to appropriate technology.

CARE's tsunami-related programming was completed in 2009. Since then, CARE Indonesia 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 Indonesia for its leadership in the response to the emergencies in Aceh and Nias Simeulue. We also thank all of our donors for their vital support in response to the 2004 tsunami, which made a lasting difference in the lives of thousands of people in Indonesia.

