



SRI LANKA

Impact of 2004 Tsunami

Perished and missing:	35,322
People displaced:	516,150
Houses and buildings destroyed:	119,562
Damage and losses:	USD \$1.5 billion

CARE's Response

People reached:	560,000 with life-saving assistance and long-term recovery programming.
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CARE'S TSUNAMI RESPONSE IN SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka suffered the second-highest number of deaths after Indonesia in the 26 December 2004 tsunami and the highest death and displacement rate as a proportion of its population and size. The worst damage was on Sri Lanka's east and south east coast, which faced the earthquake's Indian Ocean epicenter, however there was significant damage and loss of life on Sri Lanka's western coast as well.

35,322 people died or disappeared and 516,150 were forced from their homes in Sri Lanka as a result of the tsunami. Damage was estimated at USD \$1.5 billion . The tsunami pushed sea water deep inland demolishing buildings, destroying crops in the ground and salting fertile farmland.

CARE spent USD \$43.7 million on relief and recovery projects for the tsunami in Sri Lanka, reaching 110,000 families and directly benefitting more than 560,000 people.

CARE in Sri Lanka

CARE began working in Sri Lanka in 1950 with a focus on food security, maternal and child health. Today CARE delivers lasting change with programs that address the root causes of poverty. CARE Sri Lanka promotes good governance and helps people in poor and marginalized communities build their skills. CARE works mainly with poor, rural communities in Sri Lanka's dry zone, conflict-afflicted people in the north and east, and plantation residents.

CARE'S TSUNAMI RESPONSE

Sri Lanka's eastern coast faced the earthquake's Indian Ocean epicentre, putting it in the direct path of the resulting tsunami. Sri Lanka suffered the second-highest number of deaths after Indonesia, and the highest death rate as a proportion of its population.

Following the Tsunami

CARE has worked in Sri Lanka since 1950. As a result of our experience and deep roots across Sri Lanka, CARE was able to begin responding to the tsunami immediately. CARE staff assisted in the search for survivors, transported people to hospitals, distributed safe drinking water, food and essential supplies and built latrines to help halt the spread of water-borne illnesses. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, CARE provided 75,000 people with food and 175,000 people with lifesaving hygiene kits, clothing and bedding.

Long-term Focus

After the initial emergency response, CARE pivoted to programs focused on long-term recovery and rebuilding. CARE staff helped communities replace public buildings along with the social structures that relied on those buildings. We provided psycho-social support and organized residents to participate in community-rehabilitation projects.

Along with buildings, CARE helped communities replace damaged and destroyed water and sanitation infrastructure, promoted innovative farming and fishing techniques, and encouraged economic development through community-managed savings.

CARE helped more than 5,000 families find temporary and permanent housing and helped 25,000 families get clean water. CARE built toilet facilities that served 7,000 families, protecting even more people from deadly illnesses like cholera than often follow the destruction of sanitation infrastructure.

To help rebuild damaged or destroyed livelihoods, CARE replaced boats, fishing nets, bicycles, seeds and farming tools to 25,000 families in some of Sri Lanka's poorest, hardest-hit communities. CARE also provided cash grants for small businesses.

The tsunami disrupted education in Sri Lanka, destroying not only school buildings, but the contents of the buildings. CARE helped rebuild schools, furnish them with desks, tables, chairs, books and teaching materials. CARE also provided school supplies and playgrounds, as well as vocational training for older students. More than 15,000 children in Sri Lanka benefited.



With CARE's tsunami-related work in Sri Lanka complete, CARE focuses on livelihood programs for communities in Sri Lanka's dry zone, education and empowerment for workers on tea plantations, post-conflict development and further emergency responses.

