



Oxfam
International

Oxfam International Tsunami Fund

Third Year Report | December 2007





Zubaidah, a member of an Oxfam-supported basket-weaving cooperative in the village of Lamgirek in northwestern Aceh, shows off her handiwork. Oxfam, which is supporting women to get paid work outside the home, provided 80 million rupiah (US\$8,700) to assist the group with materials and workspace, as well as working with handicrafts agency, Yagasu, to provide them with training and marketing advice. (Photo: Jim Holmes/Oxfam)

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About the Fund

In March 2005, the Oxfam International Tsunami Fund was established as an independent company and registered charity in the UK. The Board of Trustees comprises the Executive Directors of 12 Oxfam affiliates* and two non-executive Trustees from outside Oxfam.

Program work is carried out by Oxfam and local partner organizations. To avoid duplication, some affiliates implement programs in affected countries, and others provide funding and support.

The Tsunami Fund Management Team (TFMT) allocates the Fund's resources and ensures that its work is managed, reported and communicated in an effective and transparent manner. A small Secretariat manages the allocation process, coordinates evaluations, operates Fund accounts, consolidates affiliates' reports, arranges external reviews and audits, and communicates results. The Fund maintains its accounts in US dollars, as does Oxfam International.

Cover Photo: A women's livelihoods group in the village of Thandiadi, eastern Sri Lanka, stands in front of the goat house they have built with support from Oxfam partner SWOAD (Social Welfare Organization Ampara District) and the Canadian International Development Agency. After rebuilding 40 houses and 82 toilets in Thandiadi, Oxfam and SWOAD are focusing on boosting the incomes of families living in poverty in tsunami-affected areas by strengthening community organizations, which are then better placed to access markets and link with banks (Photo: Howard Davies/Oxfam)

* Oxfam affiliates are listed at the back of this report. Oxfam France-Agir Ici, which was not a full affiliate when the Tsunami Fund was created, is not represented on the Board.

Foreword

A remarkable amount has been achieved in tsunami-hit countries since the wave smashed its way across the Indian Ocean almost three years ago. The vast amount of money donated by ordinary people around the world has made - and continues to make - a huge difference to the lives of affected communities. Most of the people made homeless in the catastrophe now have a home and are back at work. Three-quarters of the way through our tsunami response, we are proud of what we have achieved.

Oxfam received more money than ever before for a single disaster and we are largely on track to spend it as planned. We said from the outset that it would take time to help rebuild shattered lives, livelihoods and communities. Now Aceh, the Indonesian Province worst hit by the disaster, for example, is a vibrant, thriving community where not so long ago there was grief, fear and resentment.

That is not to say there haven't been problems. Lack of access to areas of northern and eastern Sri Lanka as a result of the conflict has meant that many tsunami-affected people are not receiving the help they need. Oxfam and its local partner organizations in all countries have found it a challenge to scale up our programming and we have had to work hard to ensure that adequate financial management and governance structures are in place to ensure accountability.

People living in poverty, especially women, are disproportionately impacted by disasters, and in all the affected countries poor and marginalized people are at risk of falling through the gaps in the tsunami response. Whilst tsunami-affected villages are benefiting from development, it is important to ensure that adjacent communities are not left behind. Wherever possible, we have been targeting the most vulnerable women and men for assistance to ensure that tsunami aid does not create tensions or exacerbate relative poverty.

We want the tsunami recovery to leave a positive legacy, and for people to be left in a better state than they were in before the tsunami. Oxfam always seeks to involve communities in programming to ensure they have the skills and the confidence to build on what has been achieved after it leaves. We also work closely with national and local governments in affected countries to ensure that gains made during the tsunami recovery - in terms of empowering communities, promoting gender justice and mitigating the impact of future disasters - are not lost.

Throughout the tsunami response, we have striven to improve the quality of our programming. The unprecedented funds at our disposal have allowed us to earmark a large amount for research, monitoring and evaluation compared with other humanitarian responses. This has been crucial for driving improvements not only in our own programs, but also the programs and practices of others, as well as providing evidence to lobby decision-makers for change.

Oxfam has learned two principal lessons from the tsunami: we need to work harder with communities on disaster risk reduction; and we need to step up our work with partners and local government to be prepared for disaster response. Lessons learnt from the tsunami response will be vital as the world faces more frequent and bigger disasters as a result of climate change.



Barbara Stocking

Chair of the Oxfam International Tsunami Fund Board



Barbara Stocking visiting Oxfam tsunami programs in Aceh in 2006

Country	Beneficiaries Dec 04 - Sep 07
Indonesia	839,000
Sri Lanka	581,000
India	776,000
Burma	27,000
Thailand	25,000
Somalia	34,000
Maldives	25,000
Total	2,307,000

Beneficiary numbers provide only a rough indicator of Oxfam's impact. It is never possible to be certain that there is no double counting, as people may benefit from more than one intervention. In addition, a beneficiary might receive something as small as a bucket of relief items, or as large as a permanent home. It has not been possible to disaggregate cumulative beneficiary figures, but where we have done it, we have been pleased that more than half of beneficiaries are women.

Indonesia

In Indonesia, Oxfam's tsunami response program comprises shelter, public health and sustainable livelihoods projects benefiting communities in Aceh and Nias. These core activities are complemented by a vibrant partnership program, which seeks to strengthen local civil society, restore social services and promote sustainable livelihoods.

Oxfam's tsunami response is winding down and it is beginning to look at broader provincial issues. For example, Oxfam is considering how it can reinforce the tsunami aid by addressing development issues created by more than 30 years of conflict.

Even so, the tsunami response program was still benefiting 123,000 people in September 2007. An important trend in Oxfam's work in Aceh is ensuring that marginalized groups, such as women, displaced people, the elderly and orphans, benefit equally from reconstruction.

Oxfam is also increasingly turning its attention to research and policy, with particular focus on poverty eradication and land rights for marginalized groups. It has had a number of successes as a result of advocacy with Indonesian authorities. These include helping to frame the new provincial legislative framework and influencing the decision by the BRR, (the government agency responsible for overseeing the reconstruction of Aceh and Nias), to ensure people who rented and squatted before the tsunami are entitled to a permanent house.

While the tsunami response has focused on coastal areas, Oxfam is

aware that poverty and gender inequality are issues throughout the province. It is vital to ensure that, where possible, Oxfam respects aid equity principles and helps people without creating new social tensions. Ensuring a sustainable exit from tsunami programming means ensuring that people who were not directly affected by the disaster but who have been made comparatively poorer are also helped.

With an eye to phasing out tsunami recovery programs responsibly, work plans, targets and budgets were revised in mid-2007 to ensure commitments were met by the time the program closes. Project offices are drawing on learning from the closure of other offices to develop effective exit strategies. Four of Oxfam's seven offices in Aceh have now closed. Key to ensuring a responsible and accountable exit is the continued involvement of key stakeholders in the process, primarily beneficiaries but also local authorities. Oxfam continues to have excellent working relationships with BRR, the UN system in Aceh and other humanitarian agencies.

Public health

Activities continue in four project sites: Aceh Besar, Calang, Nias and Lhokseumawe, with more than 40,000 people benefiting in the third quarter of 2007. In the first three sites, public health engineering works - chiefly the construction of latrines, water systems and wells - are carried out in tandem with public health educational activities, including the distribution of hygiene kits, training of community health volunteers and child-to-child health awareness activities.

Spend (\$ 000s)		
	Jan-Sep 2007	Dec 04-Sep 07
Public Health	4,203	26,818
Food Security	320	1,919
Livelihoods	3,059	15,126
Social Services	1,223	8,736
Disaster Management	3,503	7,741
Shelter	2,037	15,077
Program Management	4,394	19,558
Total	18,739	94,975

Since the start of the response, the largest expenditure within Indonesia has been in the Public Health sector, which includes water and sanitation. It amounts to 28 per cent of total spend. The bulk of this was spent in the first year of the fund, when it was critical to prevent the spread of diseases. More recently, the spending trend has shifted to more developmental projects: the restoration of livelihoods makes up 16 per cent of the overall expenditure.

Indonesia

In Calang, Oxfam's response has provided 67 per cent of households in project villages with clean water supplies from wells or springs, and 77 per cent of households now have access to latrines with septic tanks. Fifty-seven water and sanitation projects are being implemented in Aceh Besar.

Public health engineering works have been carried out by professional contractors rather than through the community-based approach used in previous years, due to the lack of engineering skills within communities and the need to fulfill a large number of commitments. Oxfam has provided water and sanitation facilities not only for the houses it is building, but also for those constructed by other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), enabling tsunami survivors to move out of overcrowded temporary barracks into previously unoccupied houses. Its drainage program has most often been linked to shelter work, improving site conditions and reducing health risks associated with stagnant water.

During 2007, Oxfam dug 2,211 household and 34 communal wells, installed 989 septic tanks and de-sludged a further 253, far exceeding its

plans. It has provided water storage facilities for almost 10,000 people, installed water systems for 16 villages and distributed more than 13,500 hygiene kits. Public health promotion activities reached more than 41,000 people in the third quarter of 2007 alone.

In Lhokseumawe, Oxfam is working with the Municipal Water Department to build a large-scale water supply system that will deliver water to almost 10,000 people, and is also building local government capacity in water management. Oxfam is also completing work on five smaller water systems and a large number of wells on the island of Pulo Nasi, which, as a result of its remoteness, has been largely neglected by NGOs providing tsunami aid.

In all areas, community committees have been established to ensure ongoing maintenance and continued access to water. Monitoring in areas where Oxfam conducts community health promotion activities has shown that it is working - in Aceh Besar, 90 per cent of public latrines and 92 per cent of bathing areas were found to be clean.

In all areas, community committees have been established to ensure ongoing maintenance and continued access to water



Children in the village of Satelit, in Nias, gather to perform games, sing songs and put into practice the things they have learnt as part of an Oxfam hygiene promotion campaign. The children have written a drama about washing hands to prevent illness. This event took place before a meeting at which Oxfam handed this public health project over to the community. (photo Jim Holmes/Oxfam)

Indonesia

Oxfam turns on the water

Prior to the tsunami, Maryamah didn't have running water in her house. "Before Oxfam came, we were only able to get water from the well," smiles the 39-year-old mother of two as she turns on the kitchen tap to wash the breakfast dishes. "It is easier now to do my daily work."



"We used to take a bath near the well. But now I have a shower like in a hotel"

Photo: Jim Holmes/Oxfam

Maryamah had lived quietly in LhokNga, on Aceh's northwestern coast, for 25 years until the tsunami destroyed her home and family. "The waves came and swept me away. I lost my parents, relatives and property."

In 2006, Maryamah's family moved into a new home, built by the Turkish Red Crescent on the site of their former one. The task of supplying them with clean running water was taken on by Oxfam.

In February 2006, Oxfam started constructing a water gravity system to link the community with a water source, a river in the hills above the village. The system channels water down to LhokNga through a 1.7 km-long water pipe.

It took nearly 18 months at a cost of 1 billion rupiah (\$110,000) to install, but by August 2007, Oxfam, with help from UNICEF which provided 20 km of plastic piping, had connected 715 homes to the water grid.

Meanwhile back at home, Maryamah rinses the morning's last dishes. "It was hard work pulling water from the well by hand. We used to also take a bath near the well. But now I have a shower like in a hotel. I love it!"

Indonesia

Restoration of livelihoods

During 2006, the emphasis of Oxfam's work in this area shifted towards loans that promote development. This credit-based programming builds on the cash already disbursed to communities during earlier stages of the tsunami response. Self-help groups (SHGs) have been formed to promote savings which can eventually be accessed by groups for productive loans to further build their businesses. This approach has continued in 2007, with the SHGs being further developed.

Oxfam still actively supports about 100 SHGs in Nias and Calang, while 13 SHGs in Meulaboh have been handed over to a local NGO. Oxfam increases loans to groups if they meet a set of criteria, which includes undergoing training and maintaining regular savings.

Another priority for Oxfam is helping communities to strengthen agricultural production. Oxfam has formed 39 farmer groups in Calang and 60 in Nias. The groups receive organizational support with the aim of improving knowledge sharing and marketing skills. Construction of the Farmers Service Center in Calang was completed in July 2007, and board member elections are scheduled for November. A planning workshop will then develop a multi-year strategy and business plan to enable the Center to meet the future needs of its members.

In 2008, Oxfam's priority for Calang and Nias will be sustainable agricultural work with women. Increasingly, work in this sector will focus on research and policy development, with services being delivered by local and national partner NGOs.

In Meulaboh Oxfam has forged a donor relationship with local NGO the Sabang Care Foundation (YPS). The aim is to implement a complementary livelihoods program that will increase poor people's access to credit, develop vocational skills and strengthen the economic role of women. With Oxfam's support, seven partners have established a microfinance forum to pool their knowledge on the management of revolving funds.

More than half of the 22,500 people who have received Oxfam livelihoods assistance in 2007 are women both directly and through 20 local partners. A gender analysis of Oxfam's livelihoods program in Nias has revealed a commonly held but mistaken belief that rubber and cocoa farming are male dominated industries. As a result, the Nias livelihoods program has changed its strategy to provide agricultural training for women.

The Green Coast program (see Disaster management section on page 9) seeks to build sustainable livelihoods through the rehabilitation and management of coastal ecosystems.



Ina Wira, aged 27, holds cocoa pods harvested from her garden in the village of Satelit, on Nias island. She extracts the seeds to allow them to dry before selling them to traders. This crop, along with coffee, is the basis of her family's income. Oxfam is working with Ina and other farmers in this area to help them to raise their yields and achieve better market prices. (Photo: Jim Holmes/Oxfam)

Indonesia

Restoration of social services

Oxfam's main activities in this sector are rebuilding schools destroyed in the tsunami and helping to develop strong, accountable civil society organizations in order to empower poor and marginalized people.

In June 2007, the Muslim Consultative Assembly elected four women to become members of the provincial body responsible for giving advice on all new provincial bylaws. This groundbreaking move followed Oxfam's work with partner MiSPI (Friends of Indonesian Women) to promote greater female representation in Aceh's Islamic leadership. MiSPI held a series of workshops on gender equality and the impact of Shari'a law on women, which were attended by government officials.

Following the completion of 28 schools in Aceh by Oxfam partner Education

International (EI), construction of another two schools in Aceh Jaya began in September 2007 following a short delay caused by the collapse of a bridge. In addition to the construction of the schools, EI has trained 1,001 teachers, and 809 teachers and pupils have taken part in a trauma counseling course. It also gives a monthly scholarship to 3,360 children to enable them to attend school.

In all its work in Aceh and Nias, Oxfam is promoting gender justice and combating discrimination against women. While endeavoring to integrate awareness of this issue across all sectors, Oxfam has also undertaken some stand-alone gender activities, including a gender justice road show. It also promotes gender equality internally, providing awareness training for staff and creating a working group to provide a forum for discussion on gender issues.

Oxfam is helping to develop strong, accountable civil society organizations that will empower poor and marginalized people



Members of the cast of a traveling Oxfam gender justice show entertain villagers in Lhokseudu. The 60-minute show, starring Agus PMTOH, one of Aceh's most famous storytellers and his theater company TV ENG ONG, is traveling to 20 locations all over Aceh in an attempt to change attitudes toward women in Acehnese society and improve their status. The central character, Apa Kaoy, is a slothful, dim-witted man who spends all day sitting in coffee shops, grumbling that his wife, exhausted from working in the rice field all day, has not prepared supper, or disapproving of his daughter's ambition to study at university. "The show reminds us that women and men have equal rights," Agus explains. (Photo: Jim Holmes/Oxfam)

Indonesia

Disaster management

A new program to help reduce vulnerability in tsunami-affected areas, carried out in partnership with Dutch development NGO Hivos, began in May 2007. The program has increased the institutional capacity of six civil society organizations, provided training on disaster preparedness and management to these organizations, and established a disaster management forum. Hivos has translated two widely-used disaster risk reduction manuals into Bahasa Indonesia.

The Green Coast program, run by Oxfam partner Wetlands International, aims to restore the livelihoods of tsunami-affected communities and protect them from future disasters through the restoration of coastal ecosystems. After a successful first phase, when 59 separate projects were completed and 638 hectares of coastal areas rehabilitated, Green Coast has now entered a second phase, during which another 16 projects will be implemented. Two of these will focus on advocacy and policy development, and another will develop educational activities. Planting of mangroves as coastal shelterbelts is scheduled for October 2007.

As part of the PRIME program, a disaster preparedness initiative funded by the Tsunami Fund, Oxfam has signed partnership agreements with 15 NGOs from four regions of Indonesia. Partners are receiving technical support from Oxfam consultants to conduct research projects in various aspects of disaster preparedness and mitigation, including the dissemination of knowledge about disaster management.

Shelter

In 2007, the shelter project in Aceh Besar switched from a community-based approach to employing professional contractors to ensure high-quality construction. This recognized the fact that beneficiaries, who had built half-timber semi-permanent houses, did not have the capacity to build durable, full-masonry houses. Using professional builders also made it easier to source materials. The houses were designed with the help of a seismic specialist, and a pilot was constructed to test the design and train staff in monitoring construction.

House construction in Aceh Besar has proceeded in several phases. Some 478 of the 578 semi-permanent houses built in 2005 are now being rebuilt as permanent houses, most by Oxfam-funded partners. Construction projects in Aceh Besar have encountered difficulties such as flooding, difficulty in retaining staff, a scarcity of skilled labor and a failure to build to Oxfam's specifications.

As of September 2007, Oxfam had built a total of 1,443 houses in Aceh. Its shelter commitments have been fulfilled in four of six project sites, with construction continuing in Calang and Aceh Besar. The remaining 427 houses are scheduled for completion by March 2008. By the close of the program, Oxfam will have built 1,870 houses, exceeding its target of 1,620.

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Indonesia

Permaculture takes root

Deep in the hills, a short drive north of Lhoong, wedged between Indonesia's oldest rainforest and a glass-clear river, is Lamsujen. This green field at the end of a pot-holed track used to be the frontline in the independence war between the Indonesian army and Acehnese separatists. Now it is the home of Aceh's only permaculture school.



Photo: Jim Holmes/Oxfam

Since the school opened, 800 tsunami-affected people have completed the nine-day course. Another 200 have trained as teachers

"Where we are standing used to be a battlefield," says Roberto Hutabarat, 36, the former human rights worker who established the GreenHand project in 2005.

Started in the 1970s, permaculture is an alternative to industrial agriculture. But most important of all in Aceh, it's about food security. "Since the tsunami, many people's nutritional levels have fallen," explains Roberto, coordinator for Aceh of the Indonesian Development of Education and Permaculture Foundation (Yayasan IDEP).

Since the school opened, 800 tsunami-affected people have completed the nine-day course. Another 200 have trained as teachers. Students learn how to construct a household water recycling system or produce organic food using local seeds. They are also taught how to rehabilitate the soil, as well as livelihoods skills such as mat-weaving and carpentry.

Each student normally pays 2 million rupiah (\$220) to attend the course. The price is more than some can afford, so, to cover the fees of hundreds more tsunami-affected people, Oxfam awarded GreenHand a four billion rupiah (\$436,500) grant for eight months to March 2008.

Nurbaiti, 24, a graduate of agriculture, couldn't afford the fees. Here on an Oxfam scholarship, she's amazed permaculture was not taught at university. "I'm very happy Oxfam provided me with a scholarship to come here. If there were no GreenHand and Oxfam, I would be trapped in the agrochemical business."

Sri Lanka

As response programs for tsunami-affected people begin to wind down, Oxfam and its partners are seeking ways to address the long-term development needs of poor and vulnerable communities.

Work in tsunami-affected areas of the South has progressed well, but in the East and North it has proved increasingly problematic, given the continuing fighting between government troops, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and its breakaway Karuna faction.

Lack of security, and associated restrictions on movement, have slowed the progress of Oxfam's work in the North and East, especially construction work. Funds that could have been used to improve living conditions and secure the long-term food security of affected communities have had to be spent on meeting the immediate humanitarian needs of those displaced by the conflict, many of whom were also affected by the tsunami. As the year progresses, access has slowly improved but continuing restrictions and the spiraling cost of materials, fuel and labor have all had a negative impact on reconstruction efforts.

Multiple displacements and evidence of discrimination based on gender and poverty have raised important questions about access to land and the right to housing. As a result, Oxfam's

development work has been complemented by a determined advocacy campaign, which places special emphasis on the land and property rights of vulnerable communities. Oxfam has also been promoting greater understanding of the rights of the displaced and calling for better access for humanitarian workers to communities in need.

During the third quarter of 2007, Oxfam conducted several research studies with prominent think tanks and non-governmental organizations, with the aim of promoting a rights-based approach to shelter. Oxfam is a member of the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) taskforce on forced displacement.

Public health

In Batticaloa, Ampara and Hambantota Districts, Oxfam and partners continue to carry out water and sanitation programs to ensure that tsunami-affected communities have easy and sustainable access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation facilities and water for irrigation.

By the third quarter of 2007, 10,000 people were still benefiting from Oxfam public health interventions. Events such as clean-up campaigns have helped create a healthy environment, increased people's awareness of the importance of sanitation, and reduced the risk of dengue and malaria.

Joseph Thanapalasingam inspects his eggplants, just some of the vegetables he grows on his 3-acre smallholding in Kalmunai, Ampara district. He is one of 18 'lead farmers' in Kalmunai who have been trained by Oxfam in alternative agricultural methods so that they in turn can train members of their own producer-groups. His crops were destroyed in the tsunami and his land was contaminated with seawater. "Since I converted to organic methods, my income is the same, but my outgoings are much lower, so my net income is higher," Joseph explains. The project is funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (Photo: Howard Davies/Oxfam)



Spend (\$ 000s)		
	Jan-Sep 2007	Dec 04-Sep 07
Public Health	1,365	12,457
Food Security	358	3,422
Livelihoods	2,176	24,247
Social Services	1,231	5,311
Disaster Management	333	1,256
Shelter	1,113	10,907
Program Management	3,330	13,683
Total	9,906	71,283

Expenditure in Sri Lanka reflects the diverse work done by partner organizations and Oxfam affiliates. Thirty-four per cent of total spend was on the restoration of livelihoods, which was mainly carried out by partners. Public health programs, which are mainly implemented by Oxfam directly, make up another 17 per cent. The conflict in the North and East has had an impact on spending, as many activities have been slowed or halted, though this has been offset by a rise in costs.

Sri Lanka

The delivery of emergency water continues to be an important service: in the third quarter of 2007, two 1,000-liter water storage tanks were installed in displaced people's camps, and more than 56,000 liters of treated water were distributed to displaced and recently resettled people in the East. In the same period, Oxfam and partners built 17 wells and 436 latrines in remote areas, displaced people's camps and resettlement sites.

Oxfam trains beneficiaries to maintain their water and sanitation facilities, and keep their environment clean. It also recruits and trains volunteers to recognize disease, for example in Batticaloa District where some camps are located in high-risk areas for hepatitis. Oxfam regularly tests water sources for contamination. Many of its water and sanitation interventions are conducted in collaboration with local health authorities.

Food security

With a reduced need for immediate food relief, in 2007 Oxfam and partners are focusing on longer-term food security through livelihood support. However, Oxfam continues to deliver emergency food relief to more than 8,500 conflict-affected families in Batticaloa and Vanni districts, many of them living in camps or with host families. It is prioritizing families living in poverty who have fallen through gaps in relief distribution by the government and other NGOs.

Restorations of livelihoods

Oxfam works with a range of partners, from national organizations to community-based groups, to help poor and marginalized communities and vulnerable people, such as the elderly and women, to increase their incomes and, increasingly, to market their products effectively.

Much of Oxfam's livelihoods work is carried out through small self-help groups (SHGs). Members are often given loans and encouraged to contribute regularly to group savings schemes, which they can use as an emergency fund or to expand their businesses. In most cases, the loans are supported with vocational training so that group members can further develop their technical and business management skills.

During the third quarter of 2007, nearly 10,000 people, most of them women, benefited from training, loans, and information about social welfare services, such as government insurance and pension schemes. By targeting women for loans, Oxfam aims not only to raise household incomes, but also to give them stronger voices in the community and in the family.

One of Oxfam's successes has been in the coir industry, which was badly affected by the tsunami. Coir workers, almost 90 per cent of whom are women, are among the poorest people in Sri Lanka. Oxfam has worked with them since the beginning of the response, helping to repair damaged mills, providing spinning wheels and organizing self-help groups. Building on its own research, Oxfam is now facilitating links with the private sector and encouraging coir workers to adopt new marketing methods.

Loans are supported with vocational training so that group members can further develop their technical and business management skills

Sri Lanka

Foundations of a better future

"With the money I have made from making bricks, I have been able to build my own house," says Sumana Ranjani proudly.



(Photo: Howard Davies/Oxfam)

"Before, I could not speak to outsiders. Now I can negotiate with traders"

Sumana walks the short distance from her sturdy one-storey house, where she cares for her mentally disabled husband, to the deep mud pit from which she extracts the reddish-brown mud to make her bricks. She picks up the wooden frames she uses to mould them.

Sumana's is one of 20 women-headed households in the village of Dambetalawa, Hambantota district, being assisted by Oxfam's partner the Ruhunu Rural Women's Organization (RRWO). In this part of southern Sri Lanka, many women in rural areas live in poverty, and they are far more likely to be unemployed than men.

Alongside the mud pit is a large square structure, approximately four meters square, in which she can dry and store her bricks. Between the pit and the house is a large water tank, from which water is diverted via a drainage channel.

Sumana, 34, can make 200 bricks a day, and the average house requires around 2,000. Unfired, this quantity of bricks would earn her around 6,000 rupees (\$54). "But now I can fire them, I can earn 16,000 rupees (\$144)," she explains.

"It is very hard work. I never received any assistance before. With Oxfam and RRWO's support I have been able to achieve so much more," she says. And it is not only the additional money she speaks of. Now she has greater confidence to take control of her life.

"Before, I could not speak to outsiders, only family. RRWO has helped me to overcome my shyness. Now I can negotiate with traders," Sumana says.

Sri Lanka

Oxfam partners have been conducting livelihoods training for displaced women in Batticaloa. Examples include ornament production and vegetable marketing, which can earn members up to 3,500 rupees (\$35) each per month.

Oxfam partners TCDO (Thirupperunthurai Community Development Organization), SDF (Social Development Foundation), HEO (Human Elevation Organization) and Siharam Social Development Organization have conducted training sessions in Ampara and Batticaloa Districts on vegetable growing, livestock rearing and tailoring. Building relationships between Tamil and Muslim communities is an integral part of Siharam's training program.

To facilitate access to markets for impoverished and conflict-affected communities in Killinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts, Oxfam has renovated 17km of road.

In an attempt to increase women's economic independence, partner NAFSO (National Fisheries Solidarity) granted more than 700 loans to women in six districts to start livelihood ventures such as small shops, fish drying, making sweets and preparing curry powder for retail. Fish driers have been organized into self-help groups to enable them to buy in bulk, bypass intermediaries and increase their profits. NAFSO has assisted fishing communities by providing engines, nets, fish stalls and refrigerated trucks, and is lobbying the authorities on behalf of 17,500 fishing families in Jaffna, who are being prevented by security restrictions from going to sea but have received no compensation.

Restoration of social services

Oxfam partner Education International (EI) is progressing with the construction of eight schools in tsunami-hit areas, all of which are nearing completion. An external evaluation of the EI project said it had "built back better", and praised EI for positive cooperation with government officials and community involvement.

Given the relative lack of trained psychologists in Sri Lanka, Oxfam partner IWTHI (International War Related Trauma and Humanitarian Intervention Trust) has focused on improving trauma counseling provision, training 90 people in Hambantota and 150 in Ampara in basic counseling skills. After training, they work with NGOs, local government, schools and hospitals to identify and assist people experiencing mental health issues, referring the more serious cases.

Oxfam organized workshops and training sessions in several locations for school leavers, partner organizations and community groups to engage them in discussions about the rights of women and children, and specific issues such as girls dropping out of school and marrying early.

In collaboration with the government's Foreign Employment Bureau, HEO organized a workshop for community organizations and families in the East to create awareness of the assistance available for migrant workers.



Widow and mother of eight Ponomma, aged 54, stands proudly inside her new home with two of her daughters, Letcha, 17, and Nishanthini, 13. The house, built by Affected Women's Foundation (AWF) in the village of Navatkadu, Ampara District, will be completed in January 2008. It is one of more than 600 low-cost houses being built by Oxfam partners for people living in extreme poverty indirectly affected by the tsunami. (Photo: Howard Davies/Oxfam)

Sri Lanka

Fruits of her labor

Anoma Sudarshani is proud of her garden in the new community of Uhapitagode, near Hambantota. It is brimming with fruit and vegetables that provide her family with a healthy diet and additional income.



(Photo: Howard Davies/Oxfam)

Green Coast aims to rehabilitate coastal ecosystems while restoring people's livelihoods and protecting them against future disaster

"This produce is good for my son's health and we still manage to sell 75 per cent of what we grow," Anoma explains as she checks on her crops. "When I dig up a manioc plant, I can sell it and meet the family's needs for a week. And I can buy other food and household items with the money I make."

The 25-year-old mother has benefited from Green Coast, an Oxfam-funded program run by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), which aims to rehabilitate coastal ecosystems while restoring people's livelihoods, improving their food security and protecting them against future disaster. To date, 35,000 people in 29 locations have benefited from the Sri Lanka Green Coast program.

Uhapitagode's inhabitants resettled here from coastal communities destroyed by the tsunami. When their houses were built, there was no vegetation. Now, thanks to Green Coast, the community is bursting with greenery and trees laden with fruit.

Anoma's household was one of 80 in Uhapitagode to receive assistance in the form of fencing materials, a drip irrigation system, seedlings, and training in organic techniques and water conservation. Following the program's initial success, a second phase is underway with 79 families receiving support.

Sri Lanka

Disaster management

Oxfam integrates community-based disaster risk reduction into all programs so that people are better able to withstand future emergencies. It builds the capacity of local partners and vulnerable communities through training, and advocates with government agencies to improve infrastructure and disaster response mechanisms.

Oxfam has also sponsored research in this area, including how to build community capacity and empower women as part of disaster preparedness. A key part of its research program exit strategy is to establish a resource center to facilitate learning and promote best practice in disaster risk reduction.

As part of the Oxfam-funded Green Coast program, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) has reached an estimated 60,480 beneficiaries through 29 projects. This unique program aims to combine the restoration of coastal ecosystems with livelihood activities, while protecting vulnerable communities from future disasters. To date, 40 hectares of mangroves and 43 hectares of coastal greenbelt have been planted using more than 250,000 plants. Reed beds and sand dunes have also been rehabilitated, and almost 200 gardens planted with vegetables and fruit to

provide families with improved food security and additional income.

Government conservation departments have adopted IUCN's guidelines for creating coastal greenbelt.

Shelter

Providing permanent shelter has proved one of the most challenging aspects of work in Sri Lanka. Oxfam and partners are currently planning to build 877 permanent houses: 272 for tsunami survivors and 605 for impoverished people indirectly affected by the disaster. This commitment fluctuates as a result of various challenges, including lack of access to certain areas, restrictions on the transportation of building materials, a shortage of skilled labor, inadequate technical supervision by some partners and evolving needs on the ground.

Nevertheless, in the middle of 2007 there was a marked increase in building activity. By the end of the third quarter, partners had completed 32 new houses and finished upgrading 566 transitional shelters. So far, 197 permanent houses have been completed and 281 are under construction. Since the start of the tsunami response, Oxfam has also supplied more than 8,000m³ of plantation timber from sustainable sources to other agencies for the construction and repair of transitional shelters.

Providing permanent shelter has proved one of the most challenging aspects of work in Sri Lanka



Children at the Shariputhra School in Ahangama, near Galle. The school, one of eight being rebuilt by Oxfam partner Educational International, was severely damaged by the tsunami. Until now, the school's 1,340 students have been taught in temporary classrooms, and they are looking forward to having a settled environment in which to learn. (Photo: Howard Davies/Oxfam)

India

During the third year of Oxfam's tsunami program in India, the focus has been to build on previous work, especially in the area of livelihoods. Oxfam has devoted considerable effort to scaling up and sustaining partner organizations' programs, and to strengthening links with local government, to ensure continued development for years to come.

Oxfam is working to improve ongoing programs and promote good practice in humanitarian responses through research. For example, it has identified disparities between the damage assessments and funding strategies of international financial institutions. Oxfam research has also outlined best practice for integrating gender policies within tsunami response programs and identified a significant number of Aravanis (transgender people) who missed out on tsunami assistance.

Oxfam's advocacy work has concentrated on ensuring that government housing takes into account the poorest of the poor, and has pushed for action to help salt industry laborers and to ensure that prawn farms do not continue to encroach on paddy fields.

Oxfam and its local partners have found it a challenge to scale up their programming, and Oxfam has worked hard to ensure that adequate financial management and governance structures are in place to ensure accountability. In some cases relationships with partners have ended prematurely. This was the case with PREPARE after concerns emerged regarding the management of its tsunami aid programs. Nevertheless, PREPARE agreed to complete the 101 houses it committed to build and return any unspent money.

One livelihoods program implemented through local partner network East

Coast Development Forum (ECDF), which assisted more than 26,000 women, met with mixed results. Due to shortcomings in accountability and governance, some beneficiaries did not receive the support they required to build sustainable livelihoods, and the distribution of some funds was delayed until Oxfam was confident all self-help groups could successfully manage the program. The program has been extensively redesigned following reviews of partners' capacity and Oxfam's own management systems, and an independent audit of ECDF.

Public health

Throughout 2007, Oxfam partners have continued to provide clean water and adequate sanitation to 48,000 people living in temporary shelters and other tsunami-affected communities, and to raise awareness of health and hygiene. These interventions were meant to end in June 2006, but although the need for such services has diminished as more families move to permanent accommodation, in September 2007, more than 2,500 families were still living in temporary shelters. The main public health challenge is to educate people remaining in temporary shelters to use and maintain the toilets.

A community-led evaluation of the effectiveness, reach and accountability of Oxfam's public health projects in temporary settlements and the immediate surroundings was carried out in 2007. The overall findings reflect that Oxfam's public health promotion has largely achieved what it set out to do, including reducing the incidence of disease, particularly diarrhea and malaria. Among Oxfam's successes was advocating for agencies and local government to implement basic minimum standards in the tsunami response.

Spend (\$ 000s)		
	Jan-Sep 2007	Dec 04-Sep 07
Public Health	27	2,805
Food Security	1	1,541
Livelihoods	223	23,197
Social Services	245	1,825
Disaster Management	69	1,455
Shelter	419	6,359
Program Management	611	4,477
Total	1,595	41,659

Spending in India has largely been channeled through well-established local organizations, and coordinated with local government bodies. By far the largest area of expenditure was restoring livelihoods, accounting for 56 per cent. Next was shelter, which made up 15 per cent.

India

Oxfam has integrated awareness of HIV/AIDS into all its programs in South India and has also coordinated awareness programs through partners, training their staff to organize street plays and cultural events. An Oxfam research study of vulnerability to HIV in tsunami-affected communities provided recommendations for integrating HIV risk reduction strategies into future disaster responses.

Restoration of livelihoods

Oxfam's focus is to provide poor and marginalized tsunami-affected people in the fishing and agriculture sectors, especially women, Dalits and tribal groups, with alternate livelihood opportunities and market access. This strengthens their economic autonomy and reduces their vulnerability to poverty and future disasters.

The main thrust of livelihoods work has been to organize self-help groups (SHGs) into federations. Oxfam has helped these federations to create links with banks and supported their access to government schemes. Many livelihoods support structures, such as service centers in coastal fishing villages or farming communities, are being handed over to the federations.

Oxfam provides training in key skills, such as financial management and marketing, to ensure greater sustainability and reduce reliance on

intermediaries, so increasing profits for poor primary producers. Improving business analysis and management by SHGs remains a priority for Oxfam.

Partner Dhan Foundation has organized more than 62,000 tsunami-affected families into 3,559 livelihoods groups based on their activities. This collective approach makes it easier for them to borrow funds from banks, to achieve better prices and to increase their savings.

Partners have been promoting organic farming and these methods have been successfully adopted by over 1,500 farmers cultivating nearly 5,000 acres of land in Karaikal and Nagapattinam districts. They have found that organic methods are 70 per cent cheaper than inorganic farming and they are now able to cultivate more land. Partner TOFarM distributed seeds for green manure cultivation free of cost. Dhan ensures farmers buy and sell in bulk, taking advantage of discounts and selling directly to wholesale dealers.

Partner Center for Environment Education (CEE) has helped to rehabilitate around 500 acres of agricultural land and built a 2km-long embankment in Perunthottam to protect around 300 acres of land from flooding by seawater. CEE has also produced certified seed in Karaikal and Perunthottam to develop a seed bank for local farmers.

Oxfam provides training in financial management and marketing to ensure greater sustainability and reduce reliance on intermediaries, so improving profits for poor primary producers



Ganesan works in the Atelier Shanti weaving unit, run by Oxfam partner Volontariat for cured leprosy patients in Pondicherry. Training and employment have been provided to 30 cured lepers, who produce fine fabrics, which are mostly exported. (Photo: Marie Banu Jawahar/Oxfam)

India

A raft of hope for fishing families

For many months after the tsunami hit, fear kept fisherfolk away from the sea. When they eventually began to fish again, they found their catches were considerably reduced, which meant they could no longer make a viable living.



Photos: Marie Banu Jawahar/Oxfam

The Indian National Institute of Ocean Technology believes catches will increase 30-fold within two years

Oxfam partner Center for Environment Education (CEE) came up with an innovative way to increase the fish population and boost the livelihoods of an estimated 500 families living in four coastal communities near the town of Karaikal.

Fisherfolk in this region traditionally trail pieces of wood in the sea to promote the development of algae, which attracts fish. CEE studied this method and designed Artificial Fish Habitats (AFHs) around which coral reefs form, attracting marine life.

Fifty AFHs, which are manufactured locally, are being deployed. The Indian National Institute of Ocean Technology, which provided technical advice to CEE, believes catches will increase 30-fold within two years.



India

Rural development NGO Myrada has evaluated many of Oxfam's livelihoods programs. It found that Oxfam had succeeded in focusing on the poorest of the poor, and that the activities undertaken were appropriate. It did suggest a need for strengthening exit strategies and the sustainability of initiatives, which will be a core concern for Oxfam in 2008.

Specific examples of livelihoods activities include working with 89 Dalit women who turned their independent coir-making unit into a resource center. The women's previous work as migratory agricultural laborers had adversely affected their children's education. Now, they no longer have to use moneylenders and earn a minimum of 1,400 rupees (\$35) a month each.

Many partners are now winding down their tsunami work. For example, Sruti has completed its program to provide boats and nets to more than 1,000 fishing families in Andhra Pradesh.

Wetlands International is continuing its Oxfam-funded program to restore the livelihoods of coastal communities through the recovery of 50 hectares of coastal ecosystems. More than 55,000 people have benefited from its Green Coast program.

Restoration of social services

Work in this area has dropped markedly during 2007, and the focus is now on improved schooling. PREPARE supplied free uniforms, shoes and bags to 776 school children in Kancheepuram and Nagapattinam Districts, and provided spoken English and grammar coaching to 52 students in Kadapakkam village. Uniforms, note books, school bags and footwear were provided to a further 9,000 students in four districts.

Disaster management

While Oxfam has developed its own contingency plan for future emergencies, it has worked with RedR India to help 30 NGOs to develop rapid emergency response plans and a capacity-building strategy. Dhan has helped to initiate a center for disaster risk reduction, which will carry forward research, policy and capacity building after Oxfam ends its tsunami response. Oxfam also instigated disaster risk management training with the support of three universities, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and World Bank Institute.

CEE has developed disaster contingency plans in 18 villages and is producing signs explaining what to do in the event of an emergency: these will be installed in prominent places. It has organized fire and rescue training for local youth representatives, as well as developing a HAM radio network linking fishermen in 18 coastal villages in Nagapattinam District to act as a rapid disaster alert system. CEE has also planted more than 21 acres of trees to act as protective shelterbelts for seven villages.

A center for disaster risk reduction will carry forward research, policy and capacity building after Oxfam ends its tsunami response

India

Cows bring good fortune

Every afternoon, the cows queue up to get milked at the collection center in Kilaiyur village, near Nagapattinam. They are brought by members of a dairy cooperative set up by Oxfam partner, the Dhan Foundation.

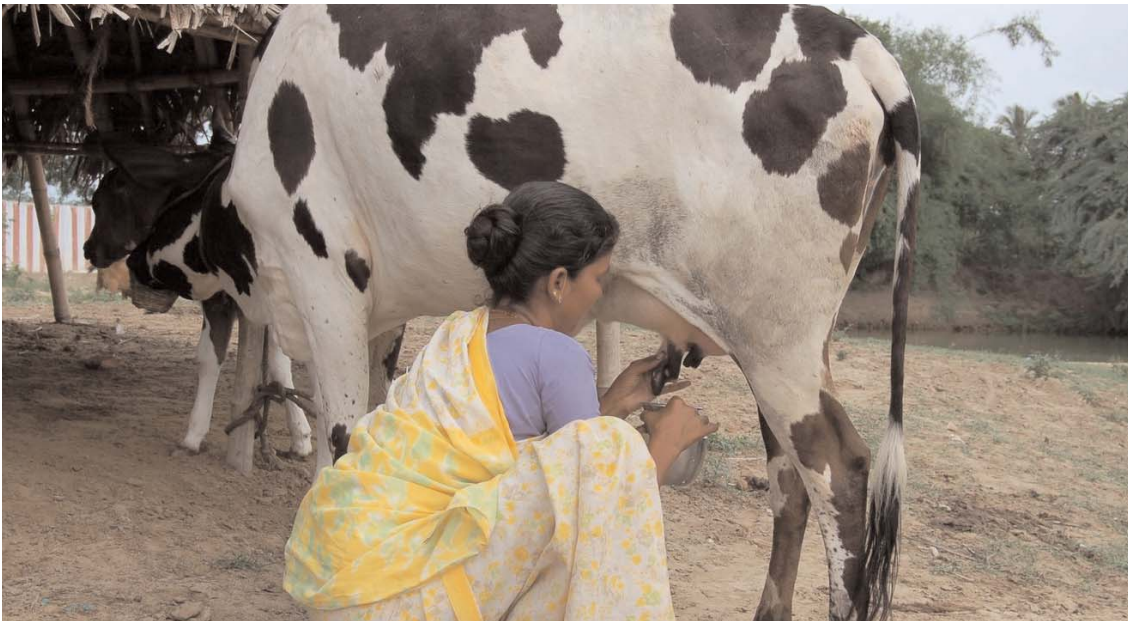


Photo: Marie Banu Jawahar/Oxfam

Being in a self-help group allows the villagers to pool their knowledge, negotiate with the government and market their product more effectively

"I used to be an agriculture laborer and it was difficult to work leaving young children at home," says mother-of-five Abirami. "Now, I have one cow and two calves. I earn around 1,000 rupees (\$25) a month and I can take care of my children well."

Each of the 36 members of the self-help group (SHG) created by Dhan received a cow, and now the fruits of success are beginning to become apparent: the common space to milk the cows was purchased by the community from their own savings, while some of these dairy farmers have diversified by purchasing goats and poultry.

Being in a self-help group allows the villagers to pool their knowledge, buy cattle feed in bulk, negotiate with the government milk distribution society and market their product more effectively.

Kilaiyur was precisely the type of community that Dhan chose to work with: inland farming communities whose livelihoods were decimated by the tsunami, but who nonetheless risked being left behind in the reconstruction efforts.

Dhan promotes alternative livelihood activities in 184 villages near Karaikal and has helped form seven federations consisting of 742 self-help groups with some 11,722 members.

It tries to allow communities to build on activities with which they are already familiar: livestock- or poultry-rearing, land reclamation, fish vending and small-scale trading. The members organize producer and marketing groups, sharing profits equally amongst the group members.

India

Shelter

Of 455 permanent houses to be constructed by Oxfam through its partners, 320 have been completed and handed over to beneficiaries. The remaining houses are scheduled for completion by the end of 2007. As well as building 101 houses for tsunami survivors, partner PREPARE has supported 432 Dalit families to renovate their houses. Beneficiaries are encouraged to supervise construction and in some villages they have taken part in the building.

The main challenges have been ensuring that costs and timings are respected given a big increase in the cost of building materials and demand for skilled labor, combined with a lack of available land for construction. Partner Social Needs Education and Human Awareness has been delayed in its construction work because local

leaders tried to change a beneficiary list that had previously been agreed with community committees.

Oxfam achieved a major advocacy success with an appraisal of temporary shelters: it highlighted poor living conditions and prompted the Tamil Nadu state government to coordinate repairs worth 54.6 million rupees (\$1.4 million). Oxfam has also lobbied for communities to be involved in all stages of shelter programs, using its own programs as an example.

Oxfam continues to monitor progress in shelter construction and is advocating for minimum standards for transitional shelters. Oxfam has worked with authorities to ensure they provide the necessary infrastructure in all the permanent shelter locations where it coordinated construction.

Oxfam has lobbied for communities to be involved in all stages of shelter programs, using its own programs as an example



Janaki Duraisamy, aged 60, works at the Casuarina plantation in the village of Chinoorpettai, near Karaikal. Casuarina saplings are planted in 10 acres of land as part of an eco-restoration program run by Oxfam partner CEE. A nursery has been established containing over 100,000 saplings of casuarinas, mangrove, cashew, neem, tamarind and other tree varieties. "It is easy to plant these saplings as the soil is sandy and water is available just nearby," says Janaki. (Photo: Marie Banu Jawahar/Oxfam)

Burma

The work of Metta Foundation, Oxfam's partner in Burma, has not been affected by recent street protests or the government's response. Almost all project activities have continued as planned, although there have been minor delays caused by procedural changes in obtaining work permits.

Since the start of the tsunami response, Metta has assisted more than 55,000 people and continues to support about 5,000. It has two main projects in four townships of Ayeyarwady Division - post-tsunami rehabilitation and community forestry.

It has now completed the construction and renovation of 34 schools, two more than originally planned, and provided them with furniture, toilets, rainwater collection tanks, solar panels and wind turbines. The schools serve approximately 8,000 children.

In Labutta Township, the school construction committee underwent basic accounting training before they started building work. Metta now plans to hold a workshop for school construction committees with a view to improving the maintenance of schools, for example by planting trees to protect the buildings during cyclones.

Fourteen newly-built pre-school centers have opened and will potentially serve 2,000 children under the age of five. Start-up funds have been provided to 13 of the centers, while 56 teachers from 25 villages have received training.

Pipelines and wells have been installed

to provide clean water for nearly 2,000 people living in two villages in Labutta Township. Two bridges have been constructed in A Sin Chaing Village, enabling people from seven surrounding villages to get to school and market. A hospital in Ngapudaw Township has been provided with a hybrid solar power system, to reinforce its limited energy supply.

Metta has also been working to boost the livelihoods of tsunami-affected people. Four villages in Ngapudaw Township have received training in a range of skills, from stove making to crab rearing. Four self-help groups have been created: fisherfolk, farmers, odd-job workers and a women's group. In mid-2007, Metta conducted group training in accounting and revolving-fund management in Labutta and Ngapudaw Townships.

As part of the community forestry project, a 130-acre Natural Disaster Prevention Forest has been established in three villages, and 14,500 mangrove seedlings planted in designated reforestation sites in five villages in Pyinsalu sub-Township. In addition, 36 acres of land have been cleared and prepared in Ahmat Kyi village, and 18 acres of mangrove have been planted in Ahmat Kyi and Kaing Thaung village. Representatives from 12 villages in Labutta and Ngapudaw Townships have been trained in caring for the mangrove seedlings, and five research plots have been developed to study the suitability of different mangrove species.

Spend (\$ 000s)		
	Jan-Sep 2007	Dec 04-Sep 07
Public Health	31	127
Food Security	0	4
Livelihoods	62	129
Social Services	128	456
Disaster Management	35	124
Shelter	3	10
Program Management	3	38
Total	262	888

Fifty-one per cent of total expenditure in Burma has been spent on the restoration of social services - principally the construction and renovation of schools.

Pre-school children in Kwinn Yarr Village, Pyinsalu Township, enjoying the safe learning environment of one of the 14 pre-school centers built by Metta in tsunami-affected areas. (Photo: Metta)



Thailand

Oxfam's program in Thailand focuses on assisting some of the most marginalized tsunami-affected communities, including Burmese migrants and coastal fishing communities.

An Oxfam's partner's work with migrant communities in Phang Nga and Phuket provinces has been complicated by a government crackdown on migrants, especially those without work permits. Decrees impose curfews on migrants, a ban on gatherings of more than five people and other restrictions, including the use of mobile phones.

Despite the restrictions, the partner has conducted a series of training courses for migrants on issues ranging from HIV awareness to counseling and adolescent reproductive health. A group for HIV-positive migrants has been created to discuss how to improve their lives and livelihoods.

With Oxfam's support, the migrant community is organizing twice-weekly radio broadcasts in Burmese, which reach around 2,000 people. The broadcasts, which have now also started in the Mon language, aim to raise awareness of health issues and migrant rights, as well as advertising local events.

A key element of the partner's activities is to promote understanding of labor rights. It has translated and

distributed a labor protection brochure on migrant rights and collected documentation on the legal mechanisms for labor rights and the formation of trade unions. In the third quarter of 2007, it reached 250 people in 10 locations with its workplace outreach scheme. It also held three meetings, at which over 100 people were able to share information about their working conditions.

Another Oxfam partner, Save Andaman Network (SAN), continues to assist remote fishing communities in five provinces to recover their livelihoods. Initially in the form of seed money to revolving fund groups, this now increasingly takes the form of training. In six pilot sites, SAN has been developing formal and informal village-level tsunami warning systems that combine established disaster preparedness mechanisms, research findings and traditional knowledge.

This partner also continues to support communities in five provinces in sustainable coastal resource management. It has created aquatic conservation zones, monitored by local volunteers and complemented by education and campaigning on conservation issues.

SAN also seeks to support tsunami-affected communities that have encountered difficulties in accessing land, by strengthening local organizations and ensuring that communities are aware of their rights.

Spend (\$ 000s)		
	Jan-Sep 2007	Dec 04-Sep 07
Public Health	4	133
Food Security	0	66
Livelihoods	103	423
Social Services	0	9
Disaster Management	0	12
Shelter	1	10
Program Management	0	11
Total	108	664

The largest area of expenditure, with 64 per cent of funds spent, is restoring livelihoods of marginalized tsunami-affected groups. The other main area of spending has been public health, with 20 per cent of funds.



A woman sorts squid caught by small-scale fishers at the Khon Khlan community fish market, in Satul province, which has been supported by Oxfam partner, Save Andaman Network (Photo: SAN)

Somalia

While most tsunami-related issues in Somalia have been addressed, people in the affected areas are still struggling to overcome other pressing concerns such as conflict and drought. Oxfam's programs have concentrated on assisting people directly and indirectly affected by the tsunami through projects focusing on education, water and sanitation, environmental rehabilitation, cash injections and restoration of the fishing sector.

The conflict in Somalia intensified in 2007, and many of Oxfam's partners have dedicated resources to the worsening humanitarian crisis in and around Mogadishu. While conflict remains a constant threat, the fighting, and more recent unrest between Puntland and Somaliland, have not had a direct impact on Oxfam's tsunami-related projects. However, insecurity in the capital has held up the delivery of some construction materials.

All but three of Oxfam's tsunami-related programs - an alternative livelihoods project and two major infrastructure projects for the fishing sector - have been completed. The ongoing alternative livelihoods project, run by partner Horn Relief and benefiting almost 7,200 people, aims to improve water infrastructure and give pastoralist families alternative ways of earning a living, including poultry rearing, beekeeping and agriculture. To this end, Horn Relief has provided 420 chickens, 100 poultry sheds and 100 beehives, and distributed 430 seed kits, 2,365 farm tools and 1,624 seedlings, as well as establishing two fruit

nurseries. It has also given relevant livelihoods training. The water management element of the project, 90 per cent of which is complete, has built 17 wells and 2km of canal, and installed 17 water pumps.

These activities have created real change in people's lives. As a result of the water infrastructure activities, access to clean water has increased and the price of water has dropped from \$4 per 200-liter drum to \$1, which has resulted in a marked improvement in quality of life.

The area of useable farmland has increased by 80 per cent, allowing for greater diversification of crop production. Beneficiaries' incomes - especially those of women in local community groups - have increased, with many reporting an ability to earn a monthly profit of \$40 from the small businesses they started with the revolving funds received from the project. As a result, their purchasing power has increased, enabling them to send their children to school and take adult literacy classes.

The planned infrastructure projects for the fishing sector are the construction by Horn Relief of a jetty at Laas Qoray and of a shipyard in Haafun by partner NEDSOM. The projects are currently in the preliminary stages and construction should commence in the first quarter of 2008. The authorities and local fishing associations have been heavily involved in the process.

During the tsunami response, Oxfam has worked with 11 partner organizations and assisted more than 83,000 direct beneficiaries - a figure that will increase when

Spend (\$ 000s)		
	Jan-Sept 2007	Dec 04-Sept 07
Public Health	1	561
Food Security	0	157
Livelihoods	609	4,786
Social Services	1	386
Disaster Management	0	44
Shelter	0	457
Program Management	50	640
Total	661	7,031

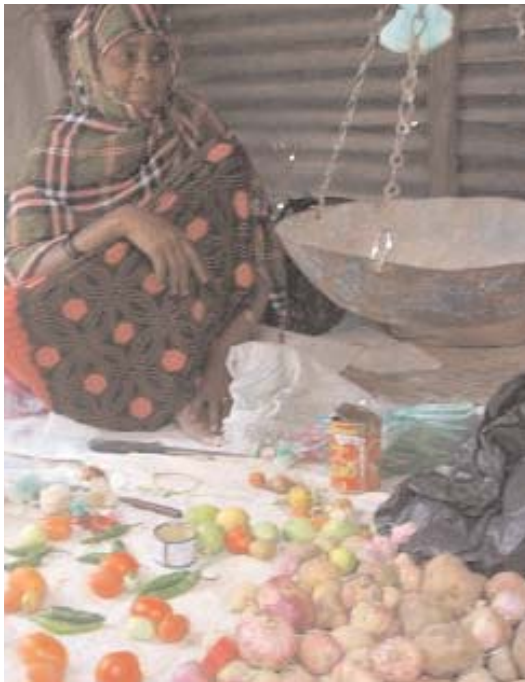
Some 69 per cent of tsunami funds spent by Oxfamin Somalia have contributed to restoring livelihoods, a figure that has risen to 92 per cent in 2007. Other significant areas of spending were public health (eight per cent), shelter (6.5 per cent) and social services (five per cent)

Somalia

outstanding infrastructure projects are completed.

Oxfam's achievements are in line with its original plans. During the response, it has built 60 permanent houses, and rehabilitated 14 schools and 120km of roads. It has built or repaired 214 boats, provided nets and other fishing equipment, and rebuilt a fish market. It has also carried out major water and sanitation work, including building 38 wells, rehabilitating three water systems,

setting up three garbage collection systems, building more than 300 dams, establishing two mangrove nurseries and planting over 1,000 shelterbelt trees. These activities have been accompanied by health and hygiene awareness activities, and advocacy promoting equal educational opportunities for girls.



From poverty to prosperity

"Before the project, I was not able to grow vegetable and cash crops all year round due to a lack of irrigation facilities, even though there is a permanent water source only 360 metres from my plot," says Fatima Saieed Ali Omar, a woman farmer from Kulmiye, one of the villages where Horn Relief is carrying out its alternative livelihoods program.

Fatima, who has a disabled husband and three children, used to grow maize or sorghum in the rainy season, if the seasonal rains were good, earning the equivalent of 70 US cents per day.

"With the increased income, I have started to send two of my children to school"

"Before the beginning of the short rainy season in late 2006, I was given 12 different crop seeds, six different fruit seedlings and farming tools. They also gave me agricultural training and regular advice," she explains. "In addition to this, the new project constructed an irrigation canal which passes next to my farm."

Due to the improved seeds, farm tools, water and technical advice, she got bumper yields of tomatoes, hot peppers, carrots, lettuce and cabbage. Some was consumed by her family and the rest sent to market for sale.

"As a result, my daily income increased from 70 cents to \$8 per day," Fatima says. "With the increased income, I have started to send two of my children to school, I stopped seeking social support and credit and I was able to buy medicines for my family when they were sick."

Research in action

Oxfam's tsunami response action research program is a successful example of research at its liveliest and most productive.

When researchers from the Swasti Health Resource Center traveled to tsunami-affected villages in Southern India, their intention was not simply to gather data about the villagers' risk of contracting HIV. They did not leave until they had reduced the risk of infection by raising awareness and putting participants in touch with relevant services.

Anawim Trust researchers studying good practice among Indian NGOs working to empower women did not settle for documenting what they found: soon the NGOs were implementing new, more women-friendly policies that reflected what they had learned from the Trust.

And long before Sri Lanka's Institute for Policy Studies had published a report on the country's disaster management systems, its researchers had already helped reshape the key national disaster agency.

These are just three of the projects Oxfam has been supporting as part of its tsunami response action research program. The program involves a process known as participatory action research. Its purpose is to interact dynamically with affected communities to get immediate results and not simply studying for the sake of learning.

"The studies we're supporting aren't destined for a dusty shelf somewhere and they're not carried out by academics from faraway places," says Russell Miles, who manages the Oxfam tsunami research program. "We're partnering with local researchers who are dedicated to solving problems in their own countries. Reducing the risk of disaster and developing effective coping mechanisms is a complex process that requires continuous learning. We've found a way to ensure that community members are at the center of that learning process."

Its purpose is to interact dynamically with affected communities to get immediate results and not simply studying for the sake of learning



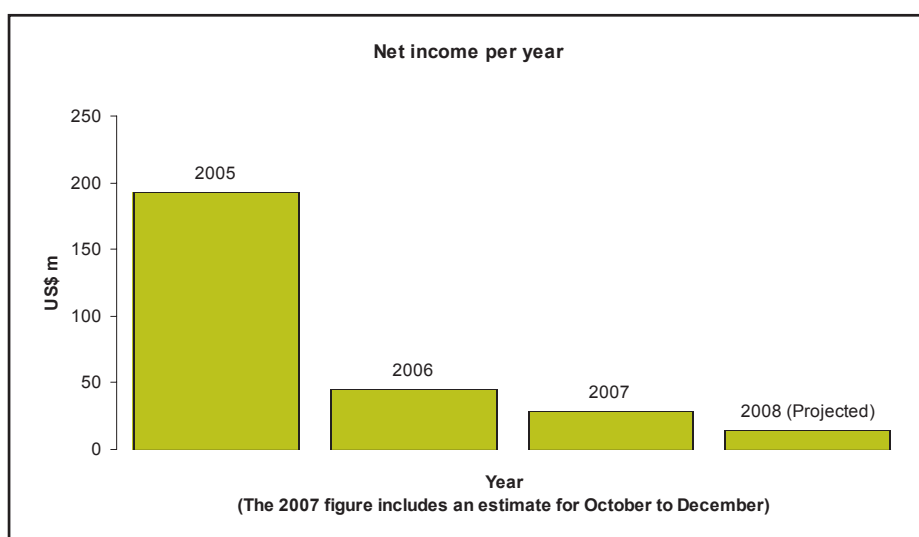
Throughout the HIV project, conducted by the Swasti Health Resource Center, and long afterwards, researcher Manoj T.J. (left) provided information and medical referrals in the communities where he carried out the study. Here, he meets men in the village of Arattapuzha, in Kerala state (Photo: Atul Loke/Panos for Oxfam)

Financial overview

Income

The latest projected figure for total income of the Oxfam International Tsunami Fund is \$294m, of which \$270m (92 per cent) was received to the end of September 2007. This makes the tsunami response by far the largest ever Oxfam relief program.

Two-thirds of the Tsunami Fund's income was received in the first 12 months. Income received since 2006 has usually been tied to a contractual obligation, either with a joint agency or a government, and is not paid until the equivalent sum has been expended by Oxfam. In addition, bank interest on funds is being received throughout the four-year period, and so far amounts to \$6.5 million. The outstanding income of \$24m consists of monies from joint agency appeals, income from governments and bank interest, all of which will be received by December 2008.

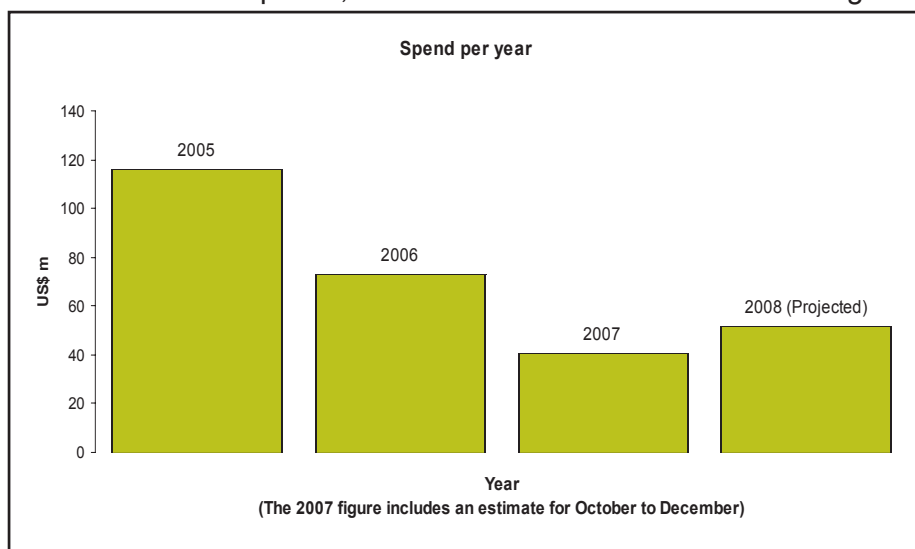


Eighty-seven per cent of the total income so far (\$236m) has come from public and joint agency appeals. This is very different from typical emergency responses when funds from governments and international institutions, such as the United Nations or European Union, make up a much larger percentage. This has allowed Oxfam International greater flexibility to plan its response.

Expenditure

Total program expenditure to September 2007 was \$220m, or 78 per cent of total budget. It is planned that all the remaining funds will be spent or transferred to implementing affiliates by December 2008, when the Fund will formally close.

Expenditure levels fell throughout 2006 and 2007 as programs moved from an emergency relief focus to longer-term development work, and as individual projects were completed. The move to more livelihoods work in 2006 and 2007 has been less cash intensive. Typically, beneficiaries are given loans to start enterprises, so funds 'revolve' and can be used again.

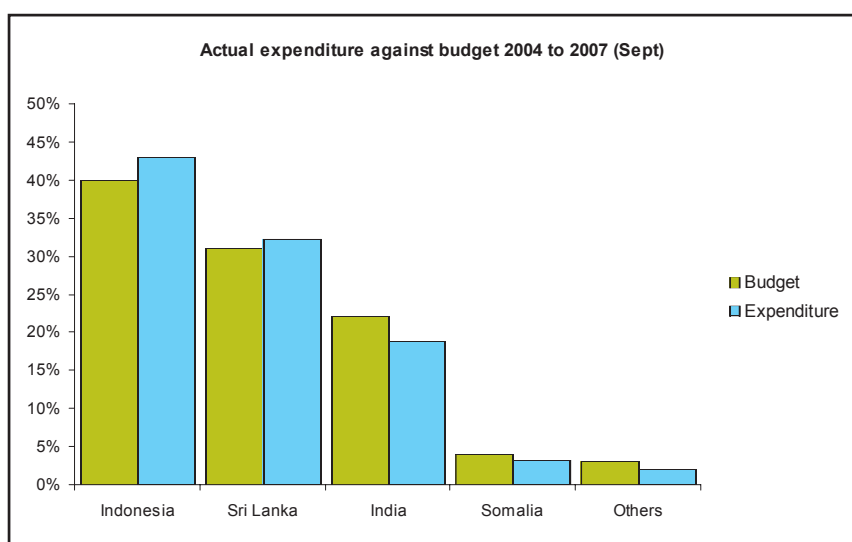


In order to ensure the Fund closes in a responsible and sustainable way, up to \$5 million may be held through into 2009. Monitoring and reporting will continue until all funds are spent. It should also be noted that partner-run microfinance projects will continue to operate after the Tsunami Fund has closed.

Financial overview

Ninety-four per cent of funds have been spent in the three worst affected countries - Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India. There has also been sizeable expenditure in Burma, Somalia, Maldives and Thailand.

The allocation of funds has understandably differed, albeit only slightly, from original plans made in early 2005. More money has been spent in Indonesia than originally anticipated (43 per cent of total spend, compared to 40 per cent budgeted to meet the large-scale need).



In India, actual spend is 17 per cent of the total, against a budget of 22 per cent, reflecting the fast and efficient response of strong local NGOs and government departments, and the return of some funds by partner organizations. Expenditure in Sri Lanka has remained close to budget, with the reduction in spending as a result of the conflict being balanced by the high rate of inflation.

The restoration of livelihoods has consistently been the highest area of expenditure since the start of the Tsunami Fund, accounting for just under one third of overall spending.

The proportion spent on public health has fallen from just over 22 per cent in the first year to approximately 17 per cent in 2007, reflecting the transition from emergency response to longer-term development. Expenditure on disaster management has more than doubled in the same period and now stands at almost 12 per cent.

Around 15 per cent of the Tsunami Fund has been spent on shelter and 7.6 per cent on the restoration of social services, which includes building schools.

Some 15.6 per cent of the fund has been spent on program management, which includes costs of staff not working directly on specific projects. It also includes related costs such as accommodation, travel, equipment rental and maintenance of office space.

When the Fund was set up, a cap of 10 per cent was put on administration and fundraising costs. Oxfam estimates that only 6 per cent will be required, leaving 94 per cent of the total fund to be spent on programs.

To date, Oxfam and partner organizations have assisted more than two million tsunami-affected people in seven countries. The amount of money spent per beneficiary varies from country to country because the nature of the programs and the local contexts are very different. All figures in this report are to the end of September 2007.

Oxfam International is a confederation of thirteen organizations working together in more than 100 countries to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice. Please call or write to any of the agencies for further information, or visit www.oxfam.org

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