

Humanitarian Emergency Fund

Indonesian Tsunami – September 2018 – Stream 1B Report

Introduction

On 28 September 2018, Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, was struck by a tsunami triggered by a 7.5 magnitude earthquake. A few days later, the BNPB, the Indonesian disaster response coordination body, estimated that well over 2,000 people had died, more than 1,300 were missing, more than 4,000 had major injuries and more than 200,000 people had been displaced.

The tsunami decimated coastal areas and a rare unusual soil liquefaction phenomenon caused whole neighbourhoods to be swallowed by moving ground and mudslides. Tens of thousands of homes were damaged. Whilst the disaster response was led by the Indonesian government, the scale of the disaster meant international support was required to help both with the immediate emergency but also in the longer-term response and recovery programme.

A DEC Appeal was launched on 4th October 2018. This triggered Stream 1 activation of the HEF, with £192,000 released directly to the DEC to distribute amongst its 14 members. A further 48,000 was shared between the HEF's 3 non-DEC members, Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Marcy Corps and SCIAF.

Agency	Response	Budget
MAF	238 flights to deliver medical assistance food and other relief items to remote communities in and around Palu	£16,000
Mercy Corps	More than 3,000 people given construction kits and key household items	£16,000
SCIAF	Contribution to overall response, delivering non food items and cash transfers to 5,600 households	£16,000

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)

Context

Some of the key initial requirements for the population were tents, generators and water treatment equipment. There were also widespread power outages and severe fuel shortages in the first week following the disaster. Telecommunications were generally unreliable, with little to no 3G signal available in many areas

Response

As MAF planes were not able to use the nearest airport in Palu, MAF partnered with Helivida, who had a locally based helicopter to conduct a range of missions during its six weeks of operation, from initial needs assessment as well as delivery of aid, relief supplies and medical teams. MAF also used a fixed wing plane to fly relief supplies and aid workers to and from the nominated staging point for international aid, the city of Balikpapan on neighbouring East Kalimantan.

Working closely with other agencies, through permissions and guidelines set by the Indonesian authorities, MAF used local partners and community contacts to establish the highest priority needs, ensuring delivery decisions were transparent and without favour.

The project activity met vital needs in that humanitarian assistance was offered to suffering people without the expectation or requirement for them to meet the cost of assistance. The local communities receiving the aid and relief were the main project beneficiaries.



Achievements

MAF supported both international and local NGOs to deliver food and other relief items, medical assistance and evacuations (where needed) and relocation of internally displaced people around the Palu area.

While it is too early to clearly point to any likely long-term benefits from MAF's aid and relief delivery, the aid and relief delivered allowed communities to start to recover from the damage sustained. In particular, with helicopter flights aimed to 'reach the unreachable' MAF was also able to help those more at risk from such dislocation such as women, children and those with disabilities for example, expectant mothers with birth complications beyond the ability of local expertise.

With local communications infrastructure badly affected by the tsunami, the MAF team were able to set up a mobile VSAT communications system to enable local internet connectivity for information sharing amongst responding organisations. This was especially useful in the first week following the disaster while local cellular networks and ISP's were off-line.

MAF's emergency response lasted six weeks in total. For the 6 weeks from 1 October until 12 November 2018, the MAF achieved the following.

Measure	Plan	Achieved
Flight hours	157hrs	157hrs
Flights	256	238
Passengers carried	692	683
Aid carried	54 tonnes	45.3 tonnes

Mercy Corps

Context

Mercy Corps response focused on getting essential non-food items to those in most need of support and materials, and then on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs before transitioning at a later phase to support economic recovery.

Response

The main intervention area was the Sigi district to the South of Palu and included the following.

- Cleaning kits: To help families clean shelters and toilets at temporary camps. The kits included dust masks. These were necessary to enable the recipients to clean their houses and latrines
- Construction kits: Including wheelbarrows and buckets to help clear debris and build temporary shelters from the remnants of destroyed homes.
- Family shelter kit: Including mattresses and mosquito nets to provide some comfort and protection.



Achievements

In this response, Mercy Corps distributed a total of 4,000 kits, providing vital support and materials to over 20,000 affected community members that will help them rebuild their lives following the devastation wrought by the earthquake.

It delivered more than 600,000 litres of drinkable water with plans to create 600 temporary latrines for the community as well as a range of other equipment to source and purify water as well as safely dispose of waste.

Specifically, the assistance provided by the Scottish government allowed Mercy Corps to reach a total of 3,116 people (779 families) with vital non-food items in the immediate aftermath of the Central Sulawesi earthquake

Scottish Catholic International Aid Foundation (SCIAF)

Context

SCIAF's Caritas partners in Indonesia, supported by Catholic Relief Services (CRS is the US affiliate of Caritas) followed their immediate response with a joint needs assessment which identified the following key issues

- **Immediate lifesaving assistance:** food, water, shelter and key household items
- **WASH:** Sanitation risks, 90% open defaecation in immediate weeks after the disaster.
- **Shelter:** Increased risks to majority of population in makeshift shelters or tents
- **Disaster Risk Reduction:** Poor construction practices and inadequate preparedness
- **Markets and livelihoods:** The local economy is expected to take years to redevelop.
- **Psychosocial problems:** Many cases of psychosocial stress, particularly children.
- **Protection:** Women, especially girls at greater risk of sexual exploitation, abuse, and trafficking.

Project Plan

CRS procured essential emergency shelter, water storage, and NFI in the immediate weeks after the disaster, with Caritas Karina (Indonesian affiliate) leading distribution to target affected households.

The longer-term plan was finalised at the beginning of November 2018 with the overall objective to help disaster-affected families recover assets and improve community resilience to future disasters. This included providing cash transfers to help 2,300 households meet their basic financial and material needs. Households in 7 communities would also be given support to reduce disaster risk reduction (DRR) to identify and reduce vulnerability to risks and increase access to psychosocial support.



Achievements

Since November 2018, Caritas Karina has delivered non-food items to 2,000 households (8,000 people) and carried out detailed assessments and the identification of households for multi-purpose cash transfers, as well as training and set up of the systems for delivery of cash transfers. With extra funding made available, the number of cash transfers was increased with 3,648 receiving cash transfers by April 2018.

Conclusion

In this second activation of Stream 1B, the three non-DEC members of the HEF panel were able to use Scottish government funding to make additional impact in their overall appeal responses in the crucial early days and weeks after the Indonesian earthquake and tsunami.

While the allocation of money is relatively small in the overall response, it can be clearly demonstrated that the funding made a material difference to thousands of people in desperate humanitarian need following the Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami.

