



Save the Children



Three Years On from the Tsunami

Rebuilding lives – children's road to recovery

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The International Save the Children Alliance is the world's leading independent children's rights organisation, with members in 28 countries and operational programmes in more than 100. We fight for children's rights and deliver lasting improvements to children's lives worldwide.

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Cover picture: A child plays football at District Lhoksemaue in Aceh, Indonesia, where Save the Children has created safe play areas. Photo: Louise Dyring Nielson/Save the Children Denmark

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Foreword

To me, the images of destruction and human loss will always remain vivid – as if the tragedy happened only yesterday. Yet, it has now been three years since the devastating South Asia tsunami of December 2004, and much has been accomplished to assist children and families living in the wake of the disaster.

Thanks to the generosity of people around the world, Save the Children continues to provide support to hundreds of thousands of individuals – the majority of whom are children – in more than 1,000 towns and villages affected by the tsunami. Save the Children remains committed to helping children and families improve their lives and futures in critical areas such as child protection, education, health and livelihoods as part of our five-year response and recovery programme.

This report summarises the great strides that Save the Children has made in response to the largest and most complex humanitarian disaster in the agency's history.

Perhaps our greatest achievement has been the transformation we have seen in the lives of children and their families, and how we have helped keep alive their hopes and dreams for the future. Children are attending schools that have been rebuilt or newly constructed. Families have moved into homes they can call their own. Fishermen have returned to their livelihoods in new boats built with our support. We are also providing training to help teachers, healthcare workers and small business owners do their jobs more effectively. The results are clearly impressive. We have also made a successful transition from emergency relief activities to a focus on longer-term sustainable development, helping families become self-sufficient. And we are working with communities to make sure they are better prepared to manage future emergencies.



Barry Clarke at the inauguration of children's centres on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, November 2007

One of the greatest lessons we have learned from this response is the value of being prepared for emergencies. During the past 12 months, Save the Children has responded to more than a dozen serious disasters across the world, and our responses are faster, more efficient and more effective because of what we learned from our response to the tsunami and because of the advance preparations and emergency training we now have in place. Across the world, Save the Children is both stronger and smarter in the way it responds to emergencies – always putting children first.

Meanwhile, throughout the coastal areas of South Asia, Save the Children remains committed to bringing lasting change to children. We were on the ground in many affected areas long before the tsunami struck, and we will be there long after the rehabilitation and reconstruction are completed. With your support, many thousands of children will benefit from programmes.

With gratitude for your generosity and support,

Barry Clarke
Chair, International Save the Children Alliance

Statistical snapshot

Millions of children's lives were changed by the 2004 earthquake and tsunami. Many thousands of children lost their lives and many surviving children lost one or both parents. Children – especially those living in poverty – are the most vulnerable victims of a disaster and its aftermath. Their families are uprooted and their normal routines are often destroyed.

	Sri Lanka	India	Indonesia	Somalia	Thailand
People directly affected by the Tsunami ¹	546,509	430,000	681,150 ²	44,000	100,000
Children directly affected by Tsunami	245,929	163,000	227,050	25,000	50,000
Children who lost one or both parents	5,000	1,350	5,270	NA	1,480
Lost homes	100,000	110,000	125,000	2,000	19,000
Boats and other assets destroyed or damaged	24,000 boats	83,788 boats, 31,755 livestock, 39,035 ha cropped area damaged	13,828 boats, 1008 marketing and storage facilities, 15531 ha of fishponds	600 boats	5000 boats
Schools destroyed or heavily damaged	165	358	2087	NA	200
Beneficiaries³					
Adult beneficiaries	527,146	605,351	637,438	65,000	3,975 ⁵
Children beneficiaries	434,998	429,745	459,943	85,000	2,385 ⁵
Children benefiting per sector⁴					
Health	NA	99,836	189,750	49,500	NA
Child protection	141,374	134,862	18,524	NA	NA
Education	163,124	94,734	34,173	47,000	NA
Shelter and houses	21,750	4,789	NA	3,500	
Livelihoods	65,250	44,027	28,854	NA	
Disaster Risk Reduction	43,500	50,515	NA	NA	NA

NA = Not available

¹ Figures are estimates, based on a variety of sources and relate to displaced, killed, missing people, lost assets, lost employment, injured, etc. The overall population in the five countries that suffered from the tsunami directly and indirectly runs up into millions.

² Figures of affected people in Indonesia only include displaced, killed and missing people.

³ Includes beneficiary overlapping.

⁴ Includes figures for some of the main sectors (the list is not exhaustive).

⁵ Includes 2007 figures only.

Parents and children tell their stories

Indonesia

Fifteen-year-old Mahzan lost his parents and both of his siblings in the tsunami. As the sole survivor of his family, Mahzan made his way – alone – to the temporary relocation barracks in Ujong Batee. Through Save the Children’s Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) network, Mahzan was joyously reunited with his uncle, Jarimin.

As a door-to-door fish seller and father of four, Jarimin’s resources are limited. Raising Mahzan is a further strain on his family’s modest income. To assist with expenses, Save the Children gave Mahzan an education scholarship and Jarimin a small grant to expand his business.

“Now I have a new family. In this house I have renewed energy to find opportunities and, hopefully, graduate from school someday,” said a smiling Mahzan. “Even though my uncle already has four sons, he still cares about me like one of his own children.”

Since the tsunami, the FTR network has reunited 2,800 children like Mahzan with their families.



Mahzan, who lost his parents and siblings in the tsunami, now lives with his uncle’s family



Karthiga, whose family has started up a small business with Save the Children’s help

Sri Lanka

“My husband is a labourer. My family depends on his income. I have three children who are attending school. My daughter Karthiga is 13 years old. She has been suffering from arthritis for the last seven years. She takes tablets daily, and I spend Rs.80 every day for the tablets. After the tsunami it was so difficult, as we found it very hard to live on the little income my husband earned,” says Kamala, Karthiga’s mother.

“Therefore, in order to invest in business of making mixture packets [of food], I obtained Rs.5,000 (\$45). I am now able to buy tablets for my daughter with this new income and that is a big relief,” was what Kamala said after six months of receiving assistance from Save the Children.

Karthiga tells us, “I am getting my regular treatment because my mother can now afford to pay for the

medicine. My health has improved and I am able to go school everyday.”

The family has now started another business, weaving baskets, which gives them a better income. Save the Children was happy to see Kamala’s husband also helping in the business.

India

When Save the Children started building child-friendly disaster-resistant houses for 36 families in Cooks Nagar, Priya and 55 of her friends designed their own houses and monitored the construction process. They must have been the youngest civil engineers in the world!

“We wanted a separate room for us children. Now I share a room with my akka [elder sister], so we don’t have to run out when our mother starts to cook or our father’s friends make a noise. We are able to study peacefully now without any disturbance. And, we are thrilled to have a separate kitchen and cupboards to keep our clothes and books in,” says an excited Priya, on her way to realising her dream to study and become a doctor.



Priya at the handover ceremony for her family’s new permanent home

Thailand

Nutar is a Grade 5 student, aged around 11 years old, living in Ranong Province, Thailand. She was able to escape from the tsunami wave thanks to her mother, who dragged her and her younger brother up to the roof beam of their house. After that, Nutar did not talk about the tsunami to anyone until she joined Save the Children’s child-led Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programme.

Encouraged by the local youth trainer on the DRR programme, Nutar visited the site of her seaside



Nutar (left) is one of the children involved in local Disaster Risk Reduction programmes in Thailand



People from a fishing community in Somalia participating in a cash-for-work programme

school, which had been swept away by the water. She suggested that the DRR trainers create a memorial site within the school garden area, where she and a number of late schoolmates studied and spent many happy days. Nutar and her friends also made signs to warn children and villagers of the possible risk and hazards, and prepared survival bags, provided by Save the Children, for many households. “The sign I produced reads ‘Hazardous area especially for kids if a tsunami comes’,” Nutar said.

Somalia

“My name is Muse Isse Adan, and I am 15 years old. Since my father’s death eight years ago I have been living with my brother. My brother got a job in Save

the Children cash for work projects. With the money he earned he was able to provide us with food and clothing. I attend the Qur’anic school, together with three of my brother’s children. Save the Children’s involvement in our community has enabled my brother to earn a living and take care of us. Now we are eating different kinds of food, there are more schools in the village and a health post. In the past, if someone got sick, they would be taken by car to Qardo or Bosasso for treatment. Now we receive treatment here in the village.

“There is a primary school built by the Save the Children. It is equipped with tables and chairs; we only require teachers, chalks and books to complete the school. I would like to study there when it is ready.”

Indonesia

Three years after the December 2004 earthquake and tsunami devastated Indonesia's Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam Province, Save the Children continues to stand by hundreds of thousands of children and families. We are making tremendous progress in addressing people's physical, emotional, psychosocial and educational needs while continuing to protect and rebuild lives; over 637,000 beneficiaries have received assistance. Recognising that the needs of children in Aceh still require more comprehensive solutions, Save the Children has made a multi-year commitment to help rebuild the physical and social structures destroyed by the disaster and by nearly 30 years of armed conflict.

Milestones for children

Child protection

- Established 66 safe play areas, benefiting more than 8,000 children through the work of over 600 trained personnel.
- Provided structured activities to help preschool children develop their social and motor skills at 51 early childhood development centres.
- Published and distributed *Peuseunang*, a children's monthly magazine, to 10,000 children in four districts.
- Raised awareness about life in institutional homes through the photo project 'A Child's Eye'. Equipped 29 community learning centres with education materials – 530 young people have accessed these centres.
- Protected 676 out-of-school and at-risk children from hazardous labour.



Children in Aceh in front of their new homes, built with Save the Children's support

Economic Recovery Assistance programme

Approximately one-quarter of the working population in Aceh lost their jobs as result of the 2004 earthquake and subsequent tsunami. Save the Children initiated an Economic Recovery Assistance (ERA) programme to provide assets and working capital to help disaster-affected and vulnerable families restore their basic livelihoods.

Since January 2005, the ERA programme has reached 9,613 beneficiaries (3,308 men and 6,305 women) working in industries from agriculture to small trade.

The ERA programme provided capital for Jilian and Yusna, the parents of two young children, to replace their fishing boat on the island of Simeulue. This family of four made the most of their financial assistance. "My wife is a very careful person," reported Jilian. "We've saved the profits from our fish and lobsters and now my wife runs a small coffee shop where she sells homemade cakes." Currently, Yusna is seeking additional business training, hoping to share her business success with other women in her village.



Jilian (left) with his family and fishing boat

Shelter and houses

- Building 1,000 quality houses for tsunami-affected communities in four districts.

Education

- Handed over 18 schools to communities, and supplied 3,550 pieces of furniture to the schools for use in classrooms.
- Distributed 1,518 school kits and 494,894 textbooks, and provided 2,075 students with scholarships.
- Trained 1,242 teachers on active learning methodology and psychosocial skills.

- Trained 180 principals and 125 school management committees.
- Provided our signature emotional support programme to 7,364 students and 470 teachers from 270 schools.

Health

- Piloted a voucher system for food distribution, reaching more than 5,000 people.
- Reached more than 129,000 children under five in a polio immunisation campaign.
- Established the Desa/Gampong SIAGA Village Alert Network in 23 pilot villages.

- Supplied 211 *posyandu* (health posts) with equipment and educational materials.
- Rehabilitated and upgraded three health training centres and currently building 18 health facilities.

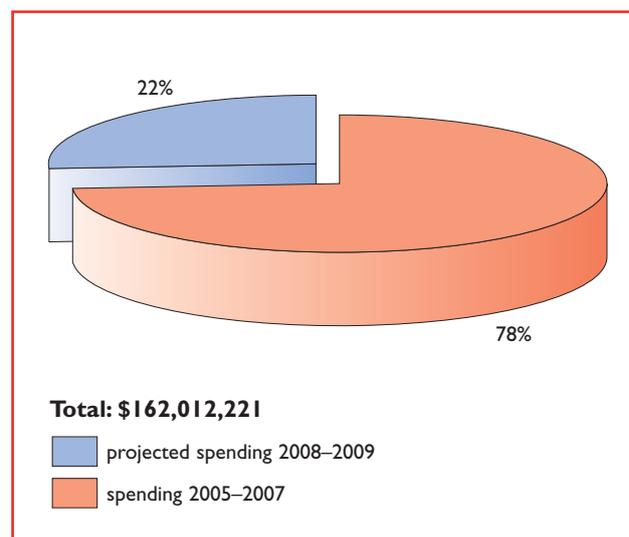
Livelihoods

- Employed 19,700 people, who worked 108,000 working days in 191 sites – providing much-needed income for families.
- Provided business development and skills training to more than 900 people.
- Completed ERA disbursements in June 2007 to 9,613 beneficiaries.
- Partnered with a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) to build local weavers' capacity and business skills; 323 female pandan weavers will increase their household incomes.
- Established 20 local farmer groups engaged in agriculture and livestock activities, in partnership with a local NGO in Nias.

Disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness

- Initiated a two-year child-led Disaster Risk Reduction programme in Lhokseumawe.
- Conducted a risk-mapping activity with 408 children in Nias.
- Provided 342,170 flood and landslide victims with 1,142,000 metric tonnes of food in Aceh Tamiang and Aceh Utara.

Total allocation for tsunami response programme, Indonesia 2005–2009



Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka faced its worst natural disaster in history on 26 December 2004. Save the Children was able to respond to this unprecedented emergency within hours of the disaster by providing relief items for displaced families. The team had been working on several long-term projects relating to child protection, education, livelihoods recovery and construction. But towards the latter part of 2006 they had to face the additional challenges posed by

an escalation of hostilities between warring parties, which led to another large-scale displacement of people in many of the tsunami-affected districts. Three years after the tsunami, Save the Children continues to meet these challenges and is committed to the pledges made to children affected by the tsunami and the conflict to bring about a better quality of life for them.

Cash transfers

After the devastating tsunami, Save the Children's Child Protection team developed a community-based project in Nochimunai, Batticaloa in the Eastern Province. This project included forming and strengthening a children's club, a women's group, a youth group, a child protection committee and cash transfers for affected families.

Mrs Prathapan Sivakala lost her only source of income, a poultry farm, in the tsunami. She says: "After the tsunami, I could not restart poultry farming due to financial difficulties, and my husband's low income alone was not enough for us to live on. I received Rs.5,000 (\$45), which enabled me to start up my business again."

Mrs Sivakala has four children who all attend school. Her third child is a 12-year-old boy named Rajeeth. Rajeeth has learning difficulties and attends a special school at Kallady in Batticaloa.

Almost one year after the tsunami, when we visited her, it was encouraging to see that Sivakala has gone from strength to strength. "I was able to save enough money from my poultry business and buy a sewing machine. Now I have another income sewing dresses for the neighbours," she declared proudly. "My son is doing his studies quite well. I hope he will continue to do so," she added with confidence.



Mrs Prathapan Sivakala with the chicks she bought with a cash grant from Save the Children

Milestones for children

Child protection

- Set up 189 child protection committees, at village level, across the country, reaching around 10,000 children and involving about 45,000 people.
- Trained 400 teachers and other workers to support traumatised children.
- Established children's clubs that are benefiting 1,500 children from Batticaloa and 3,730 children from Jaffna.
- Worked to prevent 212 children from being sent to institutions.

Shelter and houses

- Built more than 1,409 transitional shelters for more than 7,000 displaced people, earning praise from the United Nations for the good quality and low cost of the shelters.

Education

- Provided extra classes and equipment so that more than 11,000 children could catch up with their schooling.
- Distributed approximately 16,000 education kits in early childhood development centres and welfare centres.
- Built and upgraded 85 early childhood development centres, reaching 5,200 children ages three to five.
- Repaired 19 schools, which were used as tsunami camps for the affected, which serve 14,401 children.

Livelihoods

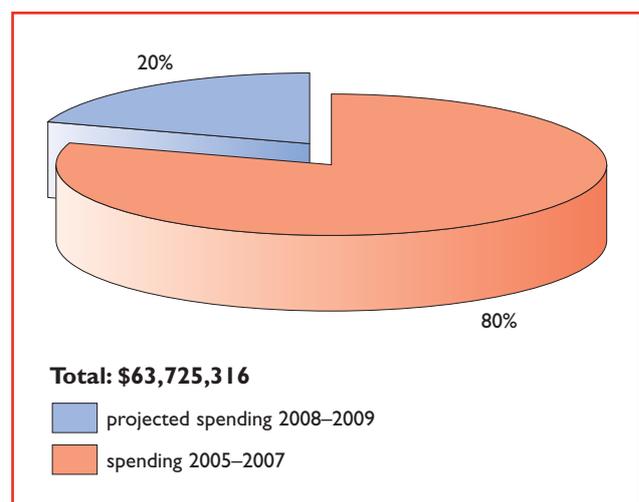
- Delivered 400 boats and fishing gear in Batticaloa district alone and more than 1,000 boats throughout the tsunami-affected areas.

- Supported 6,930 families through cash grants and equipment for small businesses such as brick making, sewing and poultry farming, and pay others for reconstruction work. For many, especially women, it's the first time they've earned steady wages. A total of 20,790 children benefit from this.
- Provided 294 households with business development services.

Disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness

- Conducted 93 emergency preparedness events involving more than 1,300 participants.
- Worked with 556 parents to create community emergency preparedness plans. Hazard-mapping exercises were carried out with 3,718 family members.
- Formed 53 disaster response groups in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and hazard-mapping was done in 68 IDP camps.

Total allocation for tsunami response programme, Sri Lanka 2005–2009



India

Three years after the tsunami brought devastation to islands east of the mainland, as well as to large swaths of mainland India's coastal fringe, Save the Children continues to help children and their families. Although most of the affected population along India's coastal communities in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are on the road towards recovery and normality, the situation in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands remains difficult. The earthquake directly affected 10,000 households and many people are still without permanent shelter. One of the main achievements last year on the islands was the completion of 48 early childhood development centres, which have been constructed in a sustainable, innovative partnership with the government.

Milestones for children

Child protection

- Established 632 children's groups in 306 villages, serving 91,674 children.
- Produced a radio series for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Tamil Nadu to inform children of their rights and about living safely in a disaster-prone area.
- Child protection committees formed in 225 villages to raise, discuss and resolve child protection issues, and train duty-bearers on child rights mapping.
- Life-skills training given to 2,936 adolescents.



Children at one of the many Save the Children-supported early childhood development centres on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Early childhood care and development

Save the Children and the government have constructed 124 early childhood care and development (ECCD) centres in the tsunami-affected areas of India.

Previously, these centres were bamboo shacks with only one room. The children were most often housed in cramped wet places with no room for activity or play. There was no provision of healthcare for children or nursing mothers. Most of these centres were either washed away or damaged beyond repair by the tsunami.

The new centres are child friendly and disaster resistant. They have a separate activity room, a hygienic dining space, a clean and well-equipped kitchen and safe play areas for children. Healthcare and supplementary nutrition is being provided, as well as training for the anganwadi (care givers).



One of the new children's centres, built on stilts to avoid flooding

Convinced by the quality of the centres built by Save the Children and by the impact they have made, the government is planning to construct more such centres following the same model.

Shelters and houses

- Built child-friendly and disaster-resistant permanent houses for 763 families, benefiting over 2,039 children (461 houses completed and 302 handed over)
- Promotion and advocacy of child-friendly design of houses with participation of community and children.

Education

- Trained 326 teachers, with a particular focus on child-friendly education.
- Enrolled 1,259 out-of-school (or never before enrolled) children.
- Established 112 education support centres serving 5,600 children (at risk of dropping out or never enrolled).
- Established seven child-friendly model schools.
- Constructed 124 early childhood care and development centres, benefiting 4,340 children so far and with the capacity to enrol 6,200 children.

Health

- Organised 263 HIV and AIDS awareness-building and sensitisation activities, reaching 12,534 people – including 4,098 children.
- Provided counselling to over 756 people, including adolescents; 82 cases were referred to Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres and 30 for sexually transmitted infection treatment.
- Street theatre groups and cultural groups have been formed to raise awareness in 70 villages.
- Established 25 mother groups to support and counsel children and families living with HIV and AIDS.

Livelihoods

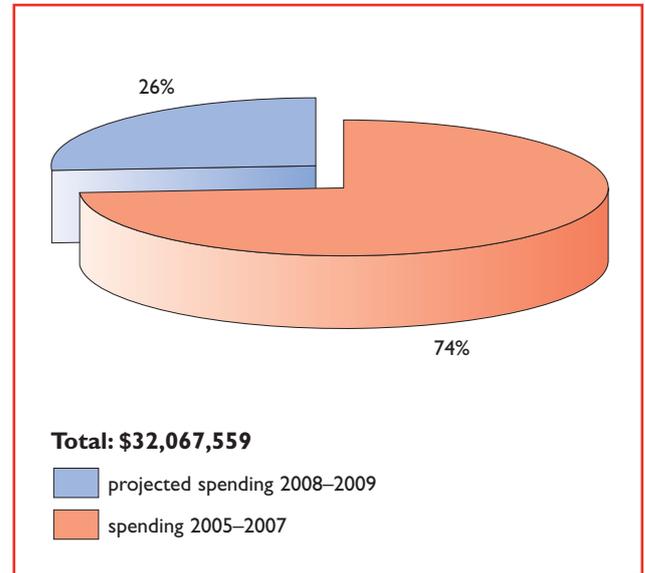
- Cash given to 7,000 families to build shelters and roads, de-silt ponds, restore saltpans, clean wells and repair nets.
- Assisted 7,874 families through distribution of assets such as rickshaws, fishing nets, bicycles, motorboats, milk cows, buffalos and goats.
- 705 adults and adolescents received training for small businesses (bakeries and tea shops and provision of assets, such as goats) for long-term income.

- Capacity-building support in designing and implementing small enterprise development interventions given to 15 local NGOs.

Disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness

- Established 520 child-led task forces in 104 villages and developed contingency plans for risk reduction.
- Trained 8,535 children and young people to develop community-based and child-led disaster risk reduction plans.
- Conducted 208 mock drills in 105 villages.
- Approximately 1,040 teenage children trained as peer educators in DRR.
- Provided training on early warning information dissemination system in 109 villages and linked this with government systems.

Total allocation for tsunami response programme, India 2005–2009



Thailand

In Thailand, the tsunami killed around 8,500 people and affected more 100,000 people in the south of the country. It resulted in devastating consequences; some 1,500 children lost one or both parents, nearly 19,000 families lost their homes, and tens of thousands of people were left without adequate livelihoods. Save the Children was on the scene early and continues to work for affected communities to help restore normality, focusing on livelihoods, child protection and education. To ensure sustainability, we work with local partners, who will continue to deliver effective programmes for children once our activities are completed.

Milestones for children

Child protection

- Successfully managed 62 cases of separated and orphaned children.
- Established a children's care centre in Ban Nai Rai, benefiting all 700 children in the village.
- Provided emotional support activities – including theatre workshops, puppet caravans, children's camps and day trips, for more than 5,500 children.

Education

- Established learning centres for children of Burmese migrants, providing basic education for 435 children.



Migrant Burmese children at a learning centre in Takua Pa District, Thailand

Child-led Disaster Risk Reduction

Inspired by the success of Save the Children's child-led disaster risk reduction project in Cuba, Save the Children piloted and adapted the project to Thailand's tsunami-affected provinces. The project worked with children from 24 schools in four provinces in southern Thailand.

Through disaster risk reduction, communities and children are able to plan what to do if another disaster strikes and how to reduce loss and damages. This will

help them to save lives and properties and feel more in control of their lives.

The project proves that children, with appropriate support and guidance, are able to play a leading role in their communities in order to reduce the risks of disasters. The project also demonstrates that support from adults, especially teachers, community members and project staff, are key to success.

- Created the 'tsunami classroom', a programme in 15 schools for 375 children in which participants express their feelings about the tsunami through art and other activities.
- Organised children's clubs, providing games and information on environmental issues to 300 children.

Health

- Organised HIV and AIDS awareness activities, including plays and workshops, for 10,377 children.
- Trained 50 teachers and 220 health workers on HIV prevention and support.
- Set up a referral system for children experiencing emotional distress.

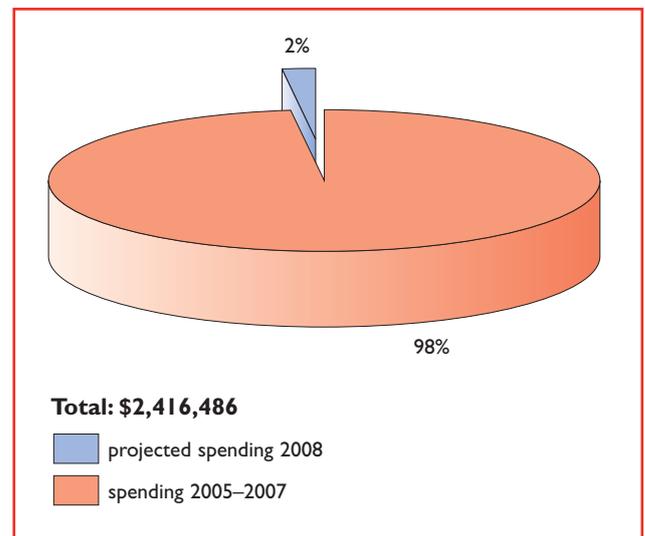
Livelihoods

- Established vocational projects for 26 children and young people, including fish breeding, furniture making and working in mushroom nurseries.
- Provided family-based economic support in the form of interest-free loans to 197 people in nine villages, helping fund fishing boats, engines and equipment.

Disaster risk reduction

- Worked to increase emergency preparedness by providing disaster risk reduction activities in 24 schools for 1,275 children.
- Trained 21 young people to be emergency evaluators and 170 to be researchers.

Total allocation for tsunami response programme, Thailand 2005–2008



Somalia

With images of war-torn cityscapes and inter-clan conflict dominating the headlines from Somalia, it is often forgotten that one of Africa's least developed nations, despite being thousands of miles removed from the earthquake's epicentre suffered significantly as a result of the 2004 tsunami. The

affected populations suffered substantial damage to housing and infrastructure and loss of incomes from damage to the fishing industry, with 600 boats and 75 per cent of fishing equipment lost or damaged beyond repair.

Cash for work

Save the Children supports community-designed and -managed cash-for-work projects in the coastal districts of Bander Beyla and Hafun. These projects generate income for poor families to fulfil their immediate basic food and non-food needs and also create assets and infrastructure which will be of use to the community in general.

In the Bander Beyla district, 196 participants (including 41 women) earned £51,500 through rehabilitating a

four kilometre stretch of road. This resulted in significant improvement in food and nutrition security levels for 128 children under five in 60 families. It opened up access to the main market, and the local fishing economy has revived. As a direct consequence, the use of children as workers in fisheries and for carrying food and non-food items has ceased.



Women making fishing nets as part of a cash-for-work project

Milestones for children

Education and child protection

- Rehabilitation and construction of 16 schools and educational facilities.
- Restored education through teacher training in ten schools.
- Established and trained eight community education committees.
- Supplied various educational materials and instructional aides to ten schools.
- Provided capacity-building and support within the regional education system through educational management training, including child protection and participation.

Shelter and houses

- Erected new homes on higher ground, dug new wells and upgraded water-supply systems.
- Built 60 houses for the inhabitants of a very poor and marginalised village.

Health

- Constructed and repaired ten health facilities.
- Equipped and furnished existing healthcare infrastructure, including supplying two ambulances.
- Provided healthcare management training to the district management staff.
- Increased the coverage of routine immunisation by implementing district and regional cold chain facilities.
- Established school health programmes in primary schools in Bander Beyla.

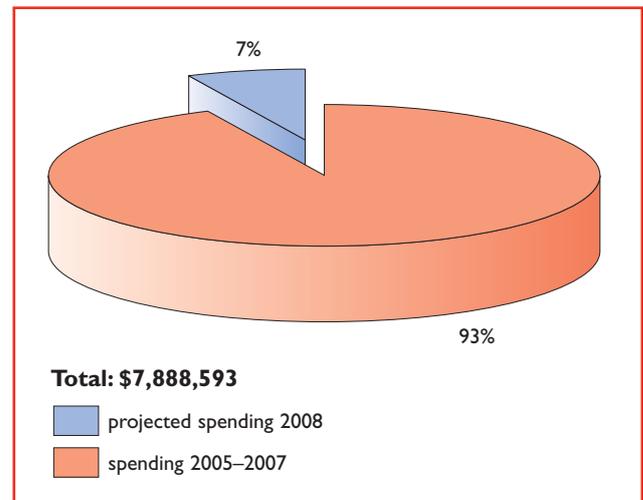
Livelihoods

- Provided 32 fishing boats and equipment to tsunami-affected fishing communities.
- Implemented cash-for-work schemes to generate income among poorer families with projects that develop local infrastructure and benefit the wider community.
- Distributed cash grants to 973 criteria-identified families.

Disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness

- Provided regional-level emergency preparedness items such as blankets, school kits, life jackets, etc and a village-level early warning system.

Total allocation for tsunami response programme, Somalia 2005–2008



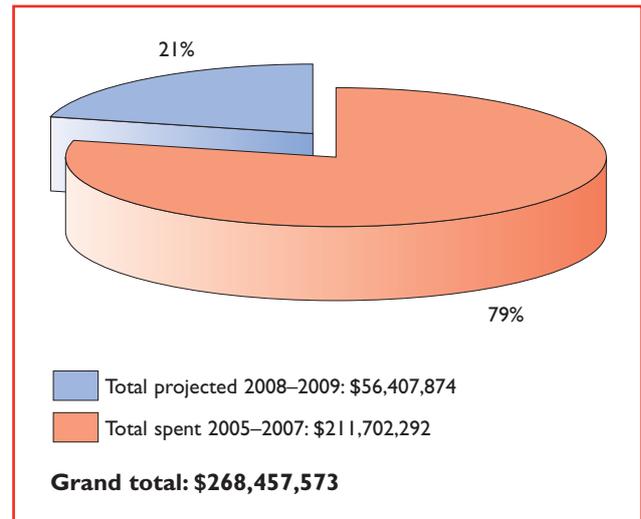
Financial snapshot

Donors throughout the world responded in an unprecedented and enormously generous way after the Asia earthquake and tsunami which affected millions of children and their families along the coastal regions of the Indian Ocean. Contributions to Save the Children's humanitarian response totalled \$268 million.

By the end of 2007 we will have spent \$211,702,292, with the remainder budgeted for 2008 and 2009 in support of rehabilitation and long-term development.

Our goal for the tsunami programme is to ensure that at least 90 per cent of all expenditure goes to programme activities. We are meeting this target.

Total funds allocated for tsunami response



Children first ... today and tomorrow

It is clear that results are very impressive and that Save the Children is helping to bring about significant changes in the life of children and families since the tsunami disaster. Save the Children recognises that we need to continue our efforts to face the many challenges on the road to long-term recovery and development.

Children that have overcome trauma through child protection support must be able to have a bright future ahead. Children who are going back to school should be able to stay there and continue their studies. Mothers and their children who are now in better health must be able to continue to count on sustainable health provision. Families that are re-establishing their social and economic lives must continue with this progress.

Successful models, such as in the areas of early childhood development and child-led disaster risk reduction for example, need to be replicated and scaled-up. In addition, an enabling policy environment directed at long-term child-focused development needs to take shape if children's rights are to be better protected.

Save the Children strives to provide a strong bridge between emergency humanitarian relief and long-term development in order to lay solid foundations for a sustainable future in which children are at the centre.

Relief is about providing basic life-supporting needs: food, water, shelter, medical care and protection. Most of Save the Children's ongoing tsunami work goes way beyond this and provides longer-term support and assistance, while strengthening local organisations and communities. We are building on the opportunities offered by the recovery period for strengthening local institutions in order to provide long-term social, economic, physical and psychological development for children.

While doing so, Save the Children incorporates elements of risk and vulnerability in its longer-term work, and believes that disaster preparedness and risk reduction should be seen as an integral part of development rather than as a separate activity – while always putting children at the centre.