

SOLIDARITY IN SOUTH ASIA THE ROTARY FOUNDATION YEAR IN REVIEW

Shortly after the deadly tsunami struck south Asia on 26 December 2004, The Rotary Foundation established the Solidarity in South Asia fund to assist Rotarians in supporting long-term recovery efforts in affected communities. Contributors from around the world have given nearly \$6 million to this fund. These funds were then divided among the four Rotary affected countries. Based on an analysis of 1) the economic sectors directly affected by the disaster, 2) the percentage of people below poverty line, 3) economic, and 4) social health (per capita income and infant mortality rates), the funds were split in the following manner: Indonesia and Sri Lanka received 35% each of the funds, India received 20% of the funds, and Thailand received 10% of the funds.

Recognizing that each country and community would have different needs, The Rotary Foundation Trustees appointed committees made up of Rotary leaders from each country to manage and administer the funds. The committees have the authority to determine how to use the money.

The Rotary Foundation's efforts are primarily focused on disaster recovery and rebuilding. Each committee submits a spending plan of the proposed projects and estimated costs to not only promote transparency and proper use of funds but also to show the generous contributors that the possibilities of reconstruction are limitless when the entire world is helping.

THAILAND

With over 3,000 homes washed away, mostly in fishing villages, the National Committee in Thailand has used its funds for aquaculture, vocational training, and small business development. These projects include restoring fish pens, donation of fishing tools, vocational training for fish health and management, fish food and seed. The loss of capital for the fishermen has been so severe that many women need to work in the informal sector to help support their families. In addition to assisting the fishing economy, other small business development is geared towards women, such as sewing, cloth batik making, and artificial flower making. Clean drinking water was also contaminated due to the flooding and damage to water systems. Along with providing shelters, Rotarian efforts have also included sanitation and water improvements.

Payments made to Thailand as of 10 March 2006:

1st Installment	\$134,389.00	22-Jun-05
2nd Installment	\$190,642.86	12-Aug-05
3rd Installment	\$195,457.00	02-Sep-05

INDIA

With India's eastern coast spanning almost 2,000 kilometers, the country faced a formidable task of identifying the needs of communities over such a wide geographic span. Recovery projects are taking place from the southern most tip of India all the way to the Andaman and Nicobar islands. The National Committee for India collectively decided that using the funds for school reconstruction and community centers would be the best way to meet the country's needs. As both governmental and non-governmental organizations had committed to shelter reconstruction, the National Committee is supplementing the reconstruction process by focusing its efforts on building the country's foundation by reconstructing schools and providing community centers. The first set of projects will be taking place in southern India.

Many other Rotary Clubs and Districts have taken up impressive efforts on their own. Hundreds of boats, fishing nets and fishing provisions have been purchased and distributed by Rotary clubs around the world that have partnered their efforts with Rotary clubs in India. Additionally, there have been Matching Grants in tsunami affected areas to help with the implementation of clean drinking water.

Payments made to India as of 10 March 2006:

District 2980	\$ 96,240.00	17-Nov-05
District 3230 *	\$ 72,222.22	08-Dec-05
District 3150	\$ 33,666.00	16-Dec-05
District 3230 *	\$165,000.00	03-Jan-06
District 3210	\$120,000.00	26 Jan 06
District 3150*	\$174,000.00	10 Feb 06
District 3290	\$72,222	10 March 06

* These payments have been made from contributions by the General Electric (GE) Foundation earmarked for these geographical areas. The GE Foundation generously matched funds that funds raised by GE employees in India to contribute a total of US \$356,036.

INDONESIA

The Aceh province, on the northern tip of Sumatra Island, was the worse hit area in Indonesia. The destruction has nearly devastated many of the citizen's traditional means of earning a living and destroyed basic community infrastructure such as medical clinics, community gathering places and youth facilities. The recovery and reconstruction of fishing, farming and other vocations are imperative in helping the affected communities recover from this disaster. The National Committee for Indonesia is working on a comprehensive plan that will assist in all areas of recovery. With its first installment of funds, the Committee is establishing a micro-credit and empowerment program in the coastal communities of southwest Aceh, school libraries, uniforms and scholarships, and pre-fabricated buildings. Future installments will be used to construct and operate the Rotary Youth Center as well as construct and support medical facilities for Bumi Sehat, Samatiga, Aceh..

While the National Committee is focusing on large scale projects, the Rotary clubs throughout Indonesia have been instrumental in securing additional funding for boats, fishing provisions and educational supplies. The existing Rotary network is branching out to work with other countries, aid agencies and NGOs to support these projects.

Payments made to Indonesia as of 10 March 2006:

1st Installment	\$395,000.00	24-Oct-05
-----------------	--------------	-----------

SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, almost every citizen was affected by the devastation of the tsunami. The disaster affected 182 schools throughout the country, including 92 that were totally destroyed. A total number of 85,000 students and 3,400 teachers were without schools after the tsunami disaster.

Rotary Sri Lanka was one of the first organizations that offered to rebuild the schools, and the Ministry of Education allocated 25 schools spread across the country for Rotary to rebuild. Initial estimates indicate that a sum of LKR \$997 million (USD 10M) will be required to complete the 25 schools. Every single Rotary Club in the country was assigned a role in the challenging task of rebuilding the schools. All schools will have the following:

- Well-ventilated classrooms with built-in cupboards, blackboards, raised teacher platforms, electric fans and lockable doors and windows.
- Administration facilities, principal offices, an assembly hall, a staff room, a canteen, a library and a medical center.
- Fully equipped science laboratories, gymnasiums, computer rooms and multi-media facilities
- A public address system, permanent sources of water and electricity, or solar panels
- Quarters for principals and staff where necessary
- A suitable playground

The following schools will receive Solidarity in South Asia funds: Kaluthawalai, Mankerny and Puthumugathuwaran Schools in Batticaloa and Pudavakkadu School in Trincomalee.

Payments made to Sri Lanka as of 10 March 2006:

1st Installment	\$900,000.00	16-Dec-05
-----------------	--------------	-----------