

THE GRAND CHARITY

ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

REGISTERED CHARITY NO 281942

UPDATE ON TSUNAMI RELIEF ACTIVITIES

BY THE GRAND CHARITY

JANUARY 2006



RELIEF CHEST FUNDS

We are pleased to report that as of 13 January 2006 a total of **£832,528.38** has been received into the Relief Chest.

THE MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

The Masonic Service Association of North America has made a generous donation of **\$48,500** to the Relief Chest.

PROJECT MONITORING

In February, Laura Chapman (Chief Executive) and Michael Turnbull (Chair, Appeals and Donations Committee) will **visit India and Sri Lanka** to view the work of Plan and its partner organisations.

WORKING WITH PLAN INTERNATIONAL

The Grand Charity is working with Plan to fund projects to support victims of the Tsunami in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Progress on the implementation and identification of projects is outlined below:

India - Villapuram

The Grand Charity is funding a project to support families living in 10 fishing villages in Villapuram, Tamil Nadu, India. To date, **over £130,000** has been given from the Relief Chest.

Between August – October 2005, over **£30,000** was spent on activities supporting the rebuilding and regeneration of the villages.



- In addition to monitoring the growth and weight of children, the previously established Health Camps are now providing medical assistance to people with minor ailments.

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- Sports and play equipment has been installed in three villages and children have chosen to take responsibility for caring for the gardens they play in.





- The childcare centres and evening tuition classes established in the first part of the project, continue to help hundreds of children aged 3 to 15 years.
 - Staff from local partner, REAL, have received training on financial management, psychosocial care and support and disaster preparedness.
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- 58 boats have been delivered and are benefiting more than 230 people and their families.
 - Approximately 60 families are benefiting from the solar fish dryers purchased during the first part of the project. Women have already started to make a profit as they sell their produce.
 - A further 20 women's self-help groups have been set up, taking the total number of women supported to over 800.
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Sri Lanka - Hambantota

Following receipt of a cash flow estimation, The Grand Charity has agreed support of approximately **£200,000** for a project in Hambantota, Sri Lanka.

In Hambantota, seven schools were destroyed by the Tsunami and four are now too close to the sea to be safe. The project supported by The Grand Charity will assist the community in building a school for **at least 3,000 pupils**.

Formal support for the project commenced in January and The Grand Charity will receive regular progress reports.

For the latest news on the project visit:

www.plan-lanka.lk/html/TsunamiFeature_ruhunuschool.shtml

Indonesia

The Grand Charity has agreed to commit funding of around **£100,000** to projects in the region.

A project centred on the reconstruction of a school in the Aceh Besar district is being assessed.

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF MADRAS

The first progress report on the SCARF project examining the long-term impact of the tsunami on the psychological and social wellbeing of child and adult survivors is due in September.

SUPPORT OF THE MASONIC COMMUNITY

The Grand Charity has received reports from Provincial and individual Lodges regarding their work on behalf of the victims of the tsunami. These are just two examples:

- **Province of Shropshire:** The Indian Ocean Disaster Fund was established to co-ordinate donations from Shropshire Freemasons. Over £19,000 was donated. The money has paid for boats, engines, nets and fuel for five fishermen and their families in Uduthurai, Sri Lanka. A further five boats and engines are currently on order. These will benefit fishermen living in another village in the Jaffna Province.
- **Province of Lincolnshire:** Over £25,000 donated by Lincolnshire Freemasons is helping 50 Sri Lankan orphans. Through a Trust scheme, the money will finance their education, clothing and other needs until they are 18.

You can send details of projects supported by your Lodge to:

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