Devastation in Southeast Asia: 6 months on
Saving lives, protecting vulnerable children and rebuilding livelihoods

A week of devastation in Southeast Asia

Just one week in late September/early October 2009 brought an unprecedented number of emergencies in South East Asia - Typhoon Ketsana slammed into the Philippines and Vietnam and a deadly earthquake rocked Western Sumatra. The devastation was widespread and millions of people were affected as homes, schools and hospitals were destroyed:

- In the Philippines over 900 people were killed and hundreds more were injured. Hundreds of thousands of homes were destroyed or damaged and the economic cost of the storms is estimated at approximately $650 million.

- When Typhoon Ketsana hit Vietnam’s central highlands it displaced nearly 200,000 people and claimed 163 lives. Families lost their possessions and many homes were flooded, damaged or destroyed. The most isolated communities did not have access to food, and children were going hungry. Schools were damaged and education materials lost, so children’s access to education was disrupted. The indirect impacts were just as substantial - livelihoods for millions of families in the affected regions will take a long time to recover after crops, seeds, livestock and aquaculture assets were destroyed.

- The death toll in Indonesia following the massive 7.9 magnitude quake reached 1,117 and more than 2,000 people were injured by the disaster. Damage to houses was widespread and 250,000 families were rendered homeless. Complete villages were swept away by mudslides triggered by the earthquake. The Indonesian government has estimated that rehabilitation and reconstruction costs will be $745 million.

Andi, 14 years, looks at a book he has found in the debris of an earthquake damaged classroom in Indonesia.

With your generous support we responded immediately to the destruction in Southeast Asia, saving lives and supporting families to recover from the devastation.

Thank you.
Our response in the Philippines:

In the Philippines with your support, we have reached 326,332 people, of which 195,799 were children with emergency, life-saving aid. We have:

- **Distributed essential non-food items**, including soap, disinfectant, water buckets and water purification tablets to 18,137 families so that they could maintain essential hygiene practices whilst displaced from their homes.
- **Distributed food parcels to over 4,000 families**, providing approximately 20,020 people with life-saving emergency assistance.
- **Constructed 202 latrines, 20 separate hand-washing facilities and 60 bathing cubicles and converted 32 latrines temporary to permanent structures**, providing communities with private, safe spaces to wash.
- **Established and maintained six mobile medical teams who have already conducted 9,045 medical consultations** and distributed a total of 3,630 Newborn Kits, 2,249 Clean Delivery Kits, and 1,679 Female Hygiene kits to affected communities.
- **Hosted breastfeeding support sessions**, reaching 8,180 mother and infant pairs with essential nutrition advice.
- **Established Child Friendly Spaces**, providing over 3,330 children with safe places to learn and play. Through these centres we have hosted youth-led emergency preparedness training sessions to prepare over 1,662 children for future typhoons and emergencies.
- **Distributed education items** to 92,000 children, including schools supplies, first aid kits, library books, day-care centre kits, kindergarten class kits and teaching materials.
- **Established Temporary Learning Spaces** benefitting 3,783 children. We also provided training in psychosocial support, classroom management, emergency preparedness, first aid and special needs for 269 teachers and day care workers.
- **Set-up a Cash for Work programme** which benefited 1,476 community members by providing a source of income in exchange for work including footbridge construction and clean-up duties.

Our response in Vietnam:

In Vietnam, with your generous support, we have reached more than 100,500 people with life-sustaining assistance, 55,000 of whom were children. We are working in Quang Tri, Hue and Phu Yen provinces in Central Vietnam to deliver essential aid and support to vulnerable communities. We have:

- **Distributed food and non-food relief items**, including rice, household kits and hygiene kits to over 15,000 households, reaching 76,000 adults and children.
- **Established a nutrition project**, which is supporting more than 1,400 children under two and 900 pregnant and lactating women with supplementary feeding in remote, vulnerable ethnic minority communities. This project also includes promoting exclusive breastfeeding to 1,700 young mothers and pregnant women.
- **Repaired 16 damaged village water supply systems**, which will restore water supply to almost 5,000 adults and children. We are also improving water and sanitation infrastructure in 12 schools.
• **Supported 14 damaged community health clinics** with a package of basic medical equipment. We are carrying out structural repairs to 4 of these clinics.

• **Trained 130 local health staff in hygiene promotion**, with another 68 soon to be trained. We are delivering key messages and Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials through door-to-door visits and focus groups at village level, and will reach 15,000 households.

• **Distributed education and learning kits to 80 damaged classrooms** in 30 pre-schools, directly helping 2,800 children to resume their education.

• **Supported family livelihoods and food production with distributions of seeds and fertiliser to 5,000 households**, benefiting over 26,000 adults and children. We have also provided technical training in crop management and financial management to supplement these distributions.

• **Distributed an additional food basket to over 2,000 households**, to address persistent food insecurity in the most remote minority communities. This has reached 10,790 adults and children.

• **Provided cash grants for 2,800 households to support income generating activities.** Further livelihoods cash grants will be made over the coming months.

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**Case Study:**

Ho Thi Bach, two years, Ho Van Su Min, four months and their mother Py Bach

Typhoon Ketsana destroyed Py Bach’s house and crops. Growing rice was the main source of income and food for the family; with their livelihood destroyed Py Bach is having difficulty providing shelter and food for her two young children.

Since the typhoon struck we have provided support to help her reconstruct a temporary shelter to live in. Despite this support her family faces on-going food and income shortages. Py Bach has to care for her young children so cannot work; the only source of income now is from her husband who is a seasonal labourer. Py Bach is now part of our health and nutrition project, started after the Typhoon to prevent a decline in the health and nutritional status of young children and their mothers. She is participating in the new exclusive breastfeeding support group which has been established in her village. We provide Py Bach with a daily micronutrient supplement designed to provide nutritional support to lactating mothers. We are also providing Py Bach with fortified nutrition powder to feed to her daughter, Ho Thi Bach, three times per day. We will continue providing Py Bach and vulnerable families like hers with support until at least June 2010, rebuilding their lives as quickly as possible.

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**Our response in Indonesia**

We were well-prepared to respond quickly to the humanitarian needs of the people affected by the earthquake in Indonesia. Before the earthquake, we maintained emergency supplies in Ambon (Maluku), Medan (Sumatra) and Yogyakarta (Java), which were immediately transported to Padang.
Within one week, we had already distributed emergency relief items to approximately 24,000 people, focussing on Agam and Padang Pariaman districts. In the six months following the earthquake we have assisted 158,076 people affected by the earthquake, including 77,736 children, with a holistic humanitarian assistance package including shelter, educational support, child protection initiatives, and health and nutrition programs. We have:

- Helped 29,894 families with emergency shelter and provided an additional 33,996 families with toolkits to repair their homes.
- Distributed 29,999 basic household and hygiene kits to vulnerable families who had lost everything in the quake. The household kits included mosquito nets, cooking and eating utensils, basic clothing articles, flashlights and other essential supplies. The hygiene kits included soap, toiletries, towels and detergent, allowing families to keep their children clean and dry.
- Assisted 750 families with cash transfers so they could build temporary homes and live in a secure environment. In addition we trained communities on safer building practices so they could make their own informed decisions about the materials, labour, and construction techniques they would use to re-build their homes.
- Provided 84 school tents, allowing 7,625 children to return to school. We also trained teachers and school administrators on how to manage classes in such a temporary environment by dividing the tents into two classrooms and holding morning and afternoon shifts.
- Provided basic learning and recreational materials to 286 classrooms in 111 schools, and trained 350 teachers and school principals on how to use these resources to make learning more enjoyable and participatory for children. As a result, 12,786 children benefited from higher quality learning, through more interaction, collaboration, games and songs. We will follow up with teachers who received training to ensure the continuation of quality education, so children can reach their full potential.
- Worked with the regional government and other organisations to develop a disaster risk reduction plan for West Sumatra. In the longer term, we will use the experience from our West Sumatra response to feed into our ongoing work to include disaster risk reduction in the national education curriculum.
- Established 26 Child Friendly Spaces where 2,018 children were able to express themselves, learn, play, interact with each other and gain new basic life skills. These monitored playgrounds served some of the most affected communities offering a large range of activities including early-childhood development, child-led initiatives, and support for individual children facing particular psychological stress. We distributed 52 game boxes - two for each space - and trained 72 volunteers and 12 facilitators to run Child Friendly activities.
- Supported child- and youth-led initiatives in 20 communities affected by the earthquake. These activities helped children and young people to develop their own ideas the reconstruction of their communities. With support from volunteers and external facilitators, children designed and organised events to campaign for various issues that affect their lives.
- Used clinics and hospitals to distribute 1,500 health information booklets to pregnant women and mothers of children under five. The booklet contains information about
• Strengthened the skills and built the capacity of 106 health workers to provide primary services and to promote positive health and nutrition practices. In collaboration with the Department of Health, we trained health workers on how to disseminate messages to the community about immunisation, precautions during pregnancy, treatment of common diseases, and breastfeeding.

• Trained 14 Traditional Birth Attendants to further support midwives and improve maternal health services.

• Run hygiene promotion activities with 120 teachers from 60 schools to keep children healthy and reduce the risk of diseases. The teachers, in turn, passed on these messages and skills to 9,947 children in their schools, using songs and other child-friendly methods. In addition, children received bags with a personal hygiene kit, including soap, a towel, a toothbrush and toothpaste, a nail clipper and two notebooks. In each of the 60 supported schools, we set up hand-washing points with water taps and soap.

• Developed information materials designed for children with messages about the need to wash hands and use clean water to prevent sickness. We distributed 1,740 posters, as well as stickers and flip charts to schools to assist the hygiene promotion activities.

Lea, aged 10 (right) follows the instructions of one of her teachers as she washes her hands using one of the hand-washing points provided by Save the Children in Elementary School 14, Sungai Geringging.

Thank you, from the children of the Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia. Without your generous support we would not have been able to reach them and their families with life-saving aid and support to rebuild their homes, their communities and their lives.