



Mike Dubose/UMNS

UMCOR Slates Long-Term Aid for Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Somalia

“Hope, not destruction, is the final word.”

Bishop Edward W. Paup, UMCOR Board President

SUMMARY

United Methodists have contributed \$32.4 million to South Asia Emergency fund that is providing relief and rehabilitation in the wake of the devastating South Asia tsunami late last year. It is the largest amount ever received by the United Methodist Committee on Relief following a disaster.

UMCOR has detailed a \$19.2 million long-term development package for Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Projects are also under way in India, Thailand, and Somalia. More aid will be designated in the next few months as plans can be created with overseas partners in the stricken countries. Since a few days after the disaster the agency has been delivering emergency relief to the tsunami-hit regions.

“UMCOR gives thanks to God for the outpouring of care and concern offered by United Methodists in response to the incomprehensible loss and destruction caused by the tsunami in South Asia,” said Bishop Paup.

LONG-TERM RECOVERY PLANS as of April 12, 2005

These long-term plans represent only a snapshot. The process of planning for and responding to a multi-centered, complex catastrophe continues to unfold. Additional projects on the drawing board include projects on Nias, where a second earthquake intensified the need for long-term efforts.

INDONESIA

WITH PARTNER:	WITH PARTNER:	WITH PARTNER:	WITH PARTNER:
Methodist Church in Indonesia	Church World Service	Church World Service	International Blue Crescent (IBC)
1,000 families in Sumatra Province to receive initial benefits. First year expenditures of \$5 million will provide new homes, safe water, sanitation facilities, and income generation opportunities	Strategic alliance for recovery projects through 2008.	Support CWS nutritional programs, vaccinations and other health services, and trauma counseling. UMCOR's share in the collaborations will be \$3 million.	Invest \$1.2 million to build permanent and temporary housing in Lamno and Aceh provinces of Sumatra. IBC is a Muslim organization that worked with UMCOR several years ago in rebuilding of homes and schools in Turkey.

After the 2003 Bam, Iran, earthquake IBC acted as UMCOR's chief implementer and provided a strategic interfaith witness on behalf of United Methodists.

SRI LANKA ■ PARTNER | METHODIST CHURCH, SRI LANKA

In Sri Lanka, UMCOR will invest about \$8 million. In collaboration with the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka UMCOR will build houses for 1,000 families and provide fresh water and income generation programs for another 1,000. The shelter program will employ both skilled and unskilled workers. On the east coast, some 16 villages have already organized fishing societies using an UMCOR grant. In both Indonesia and Sri Lanka, portions of the grants will fund psychological health projects.

INDIA ■ PARTNER | CHURCHES AUXILIARY FOR SOCIAL ACTION

PARTNER | CHRISTIAN MEDICAL SOCIETY OF INDIA

In India UMCOR has partnered with Churches Auxiliary for Social Action and Christian Medical Association of India to operate mobile health clinics. To support continued operations of CASA the UMCOR board approved a \$320,000 grant, to be delivered in equal installments over the next four years. UMCOR officials also plan to explore additional aid that CASA identifies on a longer term horizon of two to four years. The Methodist Church of India and UMCOR are in talks now to assess income generation projects in Madras and the Andaman Islands.

SOMALIA ■ PARTNER | CENTER FOR EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

The tsunami also affected the coastal region of Somalia. UMCOR's long-time partner there, Center for Education and Development, has identified 2,750 destitute families whose breadwinners died or were injured in the catastrophe. Food rations, plastic sheeting, and fishing equipment are all part of the Somalia grant.

THAILAND

Vulnerable Burmese families from Myanmar now living in Thailand's coastal region are benefiting from an UMCOR grant. Aid workers there will rebuild schools and childcare centers for 170 Burmese children living with their families.

LONG-TERM RESPONSE: CONCENTRATION FOR YEARS

The special United Nations envoy for tsunami relief, former president Bill Clinton, said rebuilding homes, schools, and hospitals would be far more difficult and staggering than initial emergency relief. "This is a problem that is nowhere near solved and we can't lose our concentration on it," he said.

UMCOR officials say they expect to concentrate on the Indian Ocean region for years to come. "The blessing for UMCOR is the absence of time constraints on delivering a long-term program of aid and development in South Asia," said the Rev. Kristin L. Sachen, head of UMCOR's emergency services. She noted that the operating rules established by many other relief agencies compel them to spend all funds within a predetermined timeframe. "For that reason UMCOR has the added grace to stay until the job is done," she said. "We can cover the gaps other agencies may miss because of their rush to completion."