

THE
SALVATION
ARMY

On the Scene

AUTUMN 2007 NEWS & STORIES FROM THE SALVATION ARMY AUSTRALIA EASTERN TERRITORY

SPECIAL REPORT • SPECIAL REPORT • SPECIAL REPORT • SPECIAL REPORT • SPECIAL REPORT • SPECIAL REPORT

Two years after the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami in South Asia, The Salvation Army in Australia reports on the use of funds and progress of rehabilitation programs to date.



ABOVE, L TO R: AUSTRALIAN OFFICER, MAJOR DARYL CROWDEN SHARES A HAPPY MOMENT WITH A YOUNG SRI LANKAN GIRL; NEW FISHING BOATS PROVIDED BY THE SALVATION ARMY.

Financial report

Of the \$6.9 million donated by Australians to **The Salvation Army** South Asia Disaster Relief Appeal, \$5.25 million has been disbursed to tsunami-affected areas in Southern India. A further \$920,000 has been committed to the Nagapattinam project (as below) and a child development program in Sri Lanka. Remaining funds (\$730,000) will be used to fund approved tsunami projects as identified by the Tsunami Response Office at The Salvation Army International Headquarters in London.

Achievements

The Salvation Army internationally has been involved in 23 tsunami

rehabilitation projects in the region, with Australia contributing to the funding of three projects in Southern India at:

- Kerala, Karunagapally
- Kanyakumari and Kadiyapatinam, Tamil Nadu
- Nagapattinam, Cuddalore and Pondicherry

All three programs started with emergency relief as their prime focus but quickly switched to rehabilitation and rebuilding of houses and livelihoods once the immediate needs of victims were met. Around 26,300 individuals have been assisted to date (at September 2006) in the following ways:

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- **House reconstruction** – 198 completed, 113 under construction (of a total 419 lots allocated)
- **House repairs** – 543 completed
- **Household items** – eg. gas stove, grinder, vessel stand, fan, cooker, steel cot
- **Clean water** – 19 new borewells
- **Boats** – 665 new boats (fibre, vallum and wood construction), 326 repaired



L TO R: PEOPLE'S LIVES, LIVELIHOODS AND COMMUNITIES ARE SLOWLY RETURNING TO NORMAL.

- **Fishing equipment** – 268 new engines, 215 engine repairs, 935 sets of nets distributed, plus cold boxes, lights
- **Community centre** – rebuilt
- **Nutrition centres** – three constructed
- **Bathrooms** – for government run shelters
- **School uniforms** – for children

These programs are being implemented by specially formed teams of experts in India with assistance from the Tsunami Office of The Salvation Army International Headquarters London plus experienced international staff for periods of time.

Challenges

Some aspects of the projects have been

delayed, the most seriously affected being housing construction. Challenges facing the implementation teams have included:

- Allocation of land by local government for rebuilding
- Unanticipated severe drainage problems on allocated land
- Continuing price rises of housing and construction equipment. ○

Babu provides for his family again

Babu lives in Kadiyapatnam with his wife and their three children. Before the tsunami, he earned a meager Rs.100 a day (less than AU\$3); then the waves came and completely destroyed his house and possessions. He and his family were left with nothing except the clothes they were wearing.



ABOVE: BABU AND HIS WIFE RECEIVE THE KEYS TO THEIR NEW HOME.

Salvation Army workers met the family when they were living in temporary shelter. The Salvation Army was able to provide food rations, medical treatment and some trauma counselling in the early

months, as well as taking care of the children's education. The workers assured Babu they would also support him by replacing the things he had lost in the tsunami waves.

Through the project, a new house was constructed, the necessary household items replaced, and Babu was given new fishing equipment, a vallum boat and engine so he could again provide for his family. ○