



The Tsunami Disaster and Relief Efforts—A Message from UNA-USA

As we watch from afar, the Asian tsunami disaster appears to be one of the largest natural disasters in modern memory. The international response has been impressive as well and massive relief efforts are underway. At the center of the assistance being provided to the thousands of individuals and families impacted by this tragic event is the United Nations. The UN is coordinating donations flowing in from countries, individuals and nongovernmental organizations as well as administering relief through such UN agencies as the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the

World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and others. The scale and scope of the relief effort is unprecedented, throwing a spotlight on the global network of UN agencies and field representatives that, in many ways, are best positioned to respond to the crisis.

At UNA-USA, we know you want to help. The following information explains how to lend a hand and spread the word.

Donate – and Donate Again: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and others have warned that those countries affected by the tsunami may not recover for a decade. With the death toll expected to surpass 150,000, another 1.8 million individuals are now in desperate need of food, according to UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland. The UN and all relief agencies are concerned at the enormity of the crisis, the anticipated respiratory and water-borne disease expected to abound, and the amount of time it will take to get basic services in afflicted countries up and running.

Donations are needed over the long term. Various UN agencies are accepting donations directly or through their US Committees. Carol Bellamy, executive director of UNICEF, has suggested that donations be made in cash rather than in-kind, and that checks be written without strings attached. A list of UN agencies accepting donations with contact information follows.

Take Notice of the Upcoming Flash Appeal: The UN will launch an emergency appeal to donors on January 6, 2005 to cover emergency needs for the next six months. This is expected to be one of the largest appeals ever for a natural disaster. To date, the UN has received \$2 billion in pledges and cash donations from some 40 countries; this total does not include in-kind contributions or military assistance. Keep tabs through the UN website at www.un.org.

Volunteer: For those interested in volunteering, all UN volunteers for all agencies are coordinated through United Nations Volunteers. Visit the UN Volunteers website at www.unv.org.

We encourage you also to visit our website (www.unausa.org) in the future for updated information about the UN's role in this crisis, and for the latest information on how you can help.

Thank you.

How to Help Victims: UN organizations accepting monetary donations to help victims of the South Asian tsunami include:

▪ **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

Contributions to the UNICEF can be made online at www.unicef.org or www.supportunicef.org, by phone at 1-800-4UNICEF, or mailed to UNICEF, 333 East 38th Street, New York, NY, 10016.

▪ **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)**

Contributions to the WFP can be made online at www.wfp.org or mailed to Friends of WFP, Attn: Tsunami Relief, PO Box 11856, Washington, DC, 20008. Contact Margaret Carrington at 917-367-5431 for more information.

▪ **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

The UN Refugee Agency accepts donations online at www.unrefugees.org or by phone at 1-800-770-1100. Donations by mail should be sent to USA for UNHCR, 1775 K Street, NW, Suite 290, Washington, DC, 20006.

▪ **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**

Donors can contact Geneva Desk Officers: Mr. Erik Haegglund, at haegglund@un.org, or +41-22-917-3299 and Mr. Rudi Müller/Ms. Caroline Péguet, at +41-22-917-3131 or 917-1836. More information about the situation in South Asian tsunami can be found www.reliefweb.int.

▪ **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**

Contributions to UNFPA can be made online at <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/pacific/index.htm> or mailed to UNFPA, 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY, 10017-5880

▪ **World Health Organization (WHO)**

Contributions to WHO can be made online at http://www.who.int/hac/crises/international/asia_tsunami/donate/en/.

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