

EMPower

The Emerging Markets Foundation

Dear EMPower Friends and Supporters,

Like so many of you, we have been shocked and saddened by the loss of life and devastation wrought by the tsunami. We are glad to report that the staff of our one grantee in the region, Thai AIDS Treatment Action Group, which is based in Bangkok, were not directly affected.

We are heartened to see, and as individuals to contribute to, the substantial emergency relief efforts. As EMPower, we have been considering how best we can help. We share the view of many disaster relief experts that the affected countries and communities will require long-term commitments to development assistance. For this reason, and because EMPower is not a disaster relief organization, we believe that our best contribution is to actively explore needs and potential partners in South and Southeast Asia in the coming months and beyond, to provide grants to highly capable organizations as they work to rebuild their communities once the immediate emergency needs have been met. We will keep you updated on these ideas and plans and welcome your input.

Several of our advisory council partners are involved in disaster relief, should you want to make an immediate contribution through one of them: American Jewish World Service (www.ajws.com); Ashoka (www.ashoka.org, tsunamirelief@ashoka.org); the Global Fund for Children (www.globalfundforchildren); and the United Nations Foundation (www.unfoundation.org). Doctors Without Borders (www.msf.com) estimates that they have received sufficient funds for the first phase of their work with respect to the tsunami disaster and highlight the dire need for support in other impoverished countries around the world.

EMPower will keep you aware of the changing needs of this region.

With best wishes for the new year,

Marta Cabrera
Executive Director

Cynthia Steele
Program Director

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