

## Local help key to disaster relief: survey

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A survey of survivors of the Boxing Day tsunami has found that the role played by local communities after the disaster was underestimated.

The research was conducted by the Fritz Institute.

The institute says its findings show that the role played by the local community in the aftermath of such a disaster is bigger than often recognised.

If the impact of disasters is to be reduced, the argument is that there needs to be much more investment in building up capacity at the most local level.

This is not just the more obvious needs, like warehousing, but having trained counsellors on hand too.

Many survivors put their distress over the way the dead were dealt with ahead of other issues, such as food and shelter.