



South Asia: Relief recipients say life is far from normal as one-year anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami approaches

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On December 26, 2004, a devastating Tsunami struck south Asia. Over 230,000 people perished and millions more were displaced. The countries with the most deaths and largest losses of livelihood were Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India. With this disaster came an outpouring of generosity and assistance from within each country and across the world. Aid groups at the international, regional, national, and local levels sprang into action, as did numerous community-based groups and religious organizations.

In an effort to understand the dynamics of disaster assistance, Fritz Institute undertook a largescale quantitative study in partnership with TNS, a reputed global social science research organization with a local presence in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. The study was executed in two parts. The first part, conducted 60 days after the Tsunami, asked 1,406 aid recipients from 196 villages in India and Sri Lanka about their perceptions of aid effectiveness during the rescue and relief phases. In that first study, we also surveyed the relief managers from 376 local, national and international NGOs. Additional information was also collected from religious organizations, the government, corporations, and the media. The main results of this first study were presented in a report titled Lessons from the Tsunami: Top Line Findings¹.

This report outlines the results of the second part of the study conducted in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India in October 2005, 9 months after the Tsunami. The intent of this study was to assess the perceptions of rehabilitation efforts by governments, international NGOs and local NGOs. In addition, we also leveraged the opportunity to ask the affected families about their recollections 48 hours and 60 days after the tragedy.