



INTERNATIONAL
CO-OPERATIVE
ALLIANCE

Route des Morillons 15
1218 Grand-Saconnex
Geneva
Switzerland

Tel: (41 22) 929 88 88
Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22
E-mail: ica@ica.coop
Website: www.ica.coop

30 December 2004

Appeal for the Victims of the Devastating Tsunami

Dear Co-operators,

The Tsunami or massive tidal wave that hit Southeast Asia on Sunday, 26 December has been devastating with death tolls approaching 100,000. The countries most directly affected included Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand but many other countries have nationals killed or injured in the disaster.

ICA member organisations have already reported that many co-operators in these countries have perished while others and their families have lost their homes and livelihood. The ICA head and regional offices are contacting members in these countries in order to learn about their situation and access the assistance needed. From Sri Lanka we have received information that 1/3 of Sri Lankans have been affected and that over 3 million are displaced. They have asked for the assistance of the Co-operative Movement noting needs including dry rations, tents/ huts, clothes and garments, drinking water, medical requirements and financial assistance. In Malaysia, ANGKASA is collecting information on the scope of the disaster and will be reporting back to us on their possible needs. Information from other movements is also expected.

In addition to expressing our deepest sympathy and solidarity with all the victims of this disaster, we would ask co-operators throughout the world to once again show their solidarity and assist in whatever way possible. Urgent action is needed today, but assistance will continue to be needed long after the crisis disappears from news headlines as the rebuilding process will take time and resources.

Some ICA member organisations in the countries affected have already set up individual accounts for contributions to help address the most pressing problems. The ICA will also establish a bank account to facilitate the collection of financial contributions to benefit the co-operative movements affected and help them reconstruct their co-operatives. All contributions received by the ICA will be forwarded to the concerned co-operative organisations in these countries, specifying the names of the donor organisations. The details of the accounts as well as contacts for each movement will be communicated in the first week of January. We will also be sending updated information on the situation of our co-operative colleagues at that time.

The Co-operative Movement has a long and proud record of helping each other. We hope that you will be able to assist our colleagues in the countries affected by the Tsunami.

With sincere thanks.

Ivano Barberini
President

Iain Macdonald
Director-General