



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

ICA Press Release

Geneva, Switzerland, 3 January 2005 for immediate release -

Global Appeal for the Victims of the Devastating Tsunami

The Tsunami that hit Southeast Asia on Sunday, 26 December has been devastating with a death toll now approaching 150,000. More than 1.8million people in the disaster region need immediate food aid, and an estimated five million have been made homeless. The countries most directly affected include Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Thailand but many other countries have nationals killed or injured.

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.

In Indonesia, the worst hit country we hear reports of whole towns being completely destroyed along with the death of almost all the inhabitants. From Sri Lanka we have received information that one third of all Sri Lankans have been affected and that over 3 million are displaced. They have appealed for the assistance from the co-operative movement. Their needs include dry rations, tents/ huts, clothes and garments, drinking water, medical requirements and financial assistance.

In addition to expressing our deepest sympathy and solidarity with all the victims of this disaster, the ICA 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.

ICA Director-General, Iain Macdonald said, "This is a global disaster. As the peak representative organisation for the international co-operative movement the ICA is well placed to ensure that real assistance reaches the people and co-operatives that need it. The co-operative movement has a long and very proud record of helping each other. We hope that co-operatives throughout the world will be able to assist our colleagues in the countries affected by the Tsunami."

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 itself has set up a global account to facilitate the collection of financial contributions which will then be forwarded to the co-operative organisations in the concerned countries.

The details are:

BANK COOP

6-8, Place Longemalle

CH-1211 GENEVA

Bank a/c nr: 284043.45.00.90-2

Swift: COOPCHBB12A

Swiss Clearing Nr: 8447

IBAN: CH730 844 028 404 345 0090

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 ICA is also aware that some co-operative organisations are making similar arrangements. We applaud this initiative and will also do whatever we can to help such direct co-operative to co-operative assistance.

Gabriella Sozanski, ICA Director of Knowledge Management, is acting as co-coordinator of our global appeal. She is currently seeking further information from our members in the affected areas. A special edition of our *ICA Weekly Digest*, our global newsletter will this week provide further information about what is happening and what help is needed.

Contact: Garry Cronan, Communications Manager

Tel: +41 22 929 88 27

E-mail: cronan@ica.coop

The International Co-operative Alliance is an independent, non-government association which unites, represents and serves co-operatives worldwide. The ICA was founded in London in 1895. Its members are national and international co-operative organisations in all sectors of activity including, agricultural, banking, fisheries, housing, tourism, consumer and worker co-operatives. ICA has 228 member organisations from over 90 countries, representing more than 800 million individuals worldwide.