



The two countries most affected by the December 26 tsunami are Indonesia and Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka the eastern coast took the brunt of tidal waves. The death toll in the northeastern parts is 20,279 (Two-thirds of the total tsunami deaths in Sri Lanka), and the numbers still keep increasing. 6,725 are still missing as of 7-Jan-05, with over 5000 injured. 110,000 people have been displaced from their homes destroyed by the tsunami, and are being fed, clothed and housed in temporary shelters.

North-Eastern coast of Sri Lanka which suffered the most damage is impoverished due to 50 years of discrimination and neglect and a twenty year war waged by the government. The government is reluctant to send (internationally donated) relief supplies to this part of the country.

“Aid efforts in Sri Lanka are being hampered by obstruction from the island’s air force, inappropriate supplies and a lack of co-ordination on the ground, a British aid worker said today... The Sri Lankan air force is very powerful because of the war and they have a lot of control. They say they want to check that the aid is not going to any Tamil organization.”

[Caroline Gammell; The Scotsman; 10 Jan 2005]

The Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) has been providing disaster relief in this region with its own funds and also coordinates the activities of other international NGOs. Several international observers have complemented the TRO for its competence and efficiency.

“In a well-practiced drill, squads set up roadblocks to control panic and prevent looting. Others requisitioned civilian vehicles to move the injured to hospitals. Many donated blood. Teams with digital cameras and laptops moved into disaster zones to photograph the faces of the dead for later identification, then swiftly cremated or buried the corpses. [Arthur Max; Associated Press; 2 January 2005]

“Well-coordinated relief arrangements put in place within so short a time are all really commendable.” [Carol Bellamy, executive director of UNICEF, after an onsite visit tsunami affected northeast].

“the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization, or TRO, has been assisting not only Tamil Hindus in the northeast but also Buddhist Sinhalese and Muslim families.” [Boston globe editorial 5-Jan 2005]

The TRO is the most experienced disaster relief agency having served in the area for much of the 20-year civil war. In a report to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in person [9-Jan-05], the TRO said:

“Our organization mobilized immediately by clearing dead bodies and debris. In the period leading up to yesterday, we have dispatched 137 trucks (938 metric tones) of relief items (which includes volumes of international aid and government distribution), clothing and food items, tents for 3,200 families and 40,000 temporary sanitation facilities in collaboration with international organizations. Jointly with other organization we have 40 operational medical units. In the Jaffna district, we have effectively consolidated 35 camps into 17 currently operated by us and other local organizations.”



***“We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give”***

-- Sir Winston Churchill



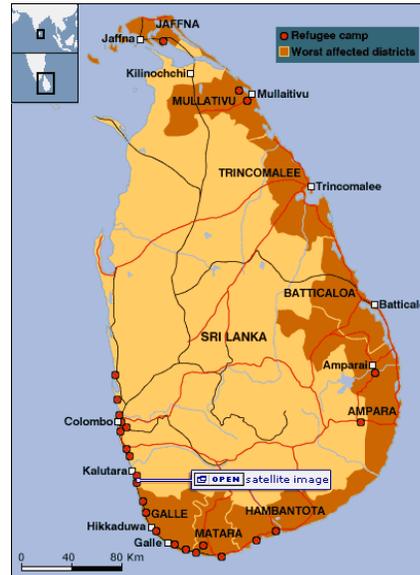
TRO is ready to start Phase II and III of the relief rehabilitation work and needs your help.

TRO is a registered NGO in Sri Lanka.

Its affiliate TRO-USA is registered in the United States with Tax Exempt Status granted by the IRS 501(c) (3) [Tax ID 52-19-43868].

TRO-USA is a voluntary organization with **NO** overhead expenses. One hundred percent of donations are used for emergency relief and the ongoing rehabilitation of the North-East Sri Lanka.

We are grateful to the United States government for having pledged support: President Bush has asked the American people also to be generous to the tsunami victims.



This BBC map highlights the lack of refugee camps in the North-East of the island: An area that was already devastated by 20 years of civil war.

**Please Give Generously.
We Assure Every Penny Goes to
the Victims.**

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**Sri Lanka:
A Country in Need**