

UNDAC TEAM THAILAND

UNDAC Field Report – Trang and Krabi Provinces - 31/12/04

Trang

UNDAC Team met with Deputy Prime Minister Purachai, the Trang Governor and the local Director of the Ministry for Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) in Trang today. These officials reported that the worst hit areas of Trang are the islands of Ko Muk, Ko Talibong and Ko Sukon. Mainland coastal areas have been less severely affected. The UNDAC Team drove along the coastal road from Hat Pak Meng (just south of Sikao) to Hat Yong Ling (inland from Ko Talibong) on route to Trang and can confirm that damage is minimal along this stretch of coastline. However, the fishing port of Ban Ta Se (near Langu) is reported to have lost many fishing boats. (Please see bottom of page for the latest provincial government damage estimates).

The Deputy Prime Minister claimed that all smaller islands off the Trang coast have been searched and survivors evacuated to Ko Talibong and Ko Sukon. While many of the smaller islands have been severely affected, most are not permanently inhabited and are only used as temporary ports for fishermen. The Provincial administration has reportedly been working with the Trang Chamber of Commerce to assist all villages on Ko Muk, Ko Talibong and Ko Sukon with water, food and shelter. The death toll on these islands stands at 6 (2 foreign nationals and 4 Thai). It appears that provincial authorities responded quickly to assist island communities and the general public has been generous in providing additional assistance.

The government officials claimed that immediate humanitarian needs have now largely been met and that the government is beginning to focus on longer-term rehabilitation and recovery. Relief supplies are no longer needed. Of greatest concern to the provincial administration is the impact on fishing communities and environmental damage to coastal wetlands. Water supply systems have reportedly not suffered significant damage and the Ministry of Health is monitoring water quality.

The Trang MSDHS Director reported that fisherman who have lost their boats are being/will be supported with a daily stipend (for an unspecified time) and one-off cash grant of up to 50% of their boat's value. (A national policy decision is likely to have been made on this issue and similar levels of compensation and assistance will be provided to all affected provinces).

Satun

While the UNDAC team did not visit Satun Province, the Deputy Prime Minister had just returned from Satun and reported that the situation in Satun is similar to Trang. In Satun the islands also sustained more damage than the mainland coast and survivors have now all been evacuated, or are receiving government assistance. The focus in Satun is also on economic and environmental rehabilitation and providing assistance to fishing communities.

Krabi

The UNDAC Team met with the local Director of the MSDHS at the Krabi Crisis Centre this evening. Provincial officials reported that the most severely areas in Krabi have also been the islands, in particular Ko Phi Phi Don and Ko Lanta. Officials described that Ko Phi Phi Don suffered extensive damage, as the island is essentially two islands joined by a narrow isthmus. When the tsunami hit Phi Phi it 'wrapped' around the western island and struck in both directions either side of the isthmus. Only two buildings are reported to remain standing.

Coastal communities from Ban Khlong Muang to Ban Laem Pho and on Ko Cham have also been affected. However, the focus in Krabi is still on the retrieval and identification of dead bodies, so provincial authorities are not yet in a position to provide clear details on to extent of damage to infrastructure and rehabilitation needs.

Approximately 500 surviving workers from Thailand's north-east that were employed on Ko Phi Phi have reportedly been assisted by the Thai Government to return home. Local Phi Phi islanders have apparently moved to the mainland and are staying with family members.

Provincial Government damage estimates for Trang and Krabi

TRANG

DEAD	-	5
INJURED	-	112
MISSING	-	1
BOATS (DESTROYED)	-	370 (11 million Bht)
VEHICLES (DESTROYED)	-	3
HOUSES (DESTROYED)	-	134 (13 million Bht)
AGRICULTURE LAND (AFFECTED)	-	287 square km
FISHING GEAR (DESTROYED)	-	493 (250,000 Bht)
ROAD DESTROYED	-	3 roads
DAM (SMALL) (DESTROYED)	-	1
Government Office (DESTROYED)	-	1
FISH FARM (DESTROYED)	-	12 million Bht loss
Animals (DESTROYED)	-	332 (poultry, goats)

KRABI

DEAD	-	494
	-	157 Thai
	-	141 foreigners
	-	136 (not identified)

(at time of report another 100 bodies has been brought into the temporary mortuary)

INJURED	-	3269
	-	1141 requires treatment at Krabi Hospital

(442 Foreigners, 699 Thai)
150 surgeries performed
Currently only 4 Foreigners remained in Krabi Hospital
(rest evacuated to Bangkok)
Currently 57 Thai remained in Krabi Hospital, 2 in Intensive
Care
Hospital in need of Intravenous antibiotics, Body Bags, Dry
ICE or refrigerated containers for human remains.

UNDAC Team movements on 1/1/05

The UNDAC team will travel to Ko Lanta (a short distance from the mainland near the Krabi-Trang border) tomorrow with the UNICEF assessment team, then return to Phuket in the afternoon. The UNDAC team will aim to compare notes with UNICEF, World Vision and other assessment team reports from Trang and Krabi tomorrow to see if a similar picture is emerging of the situation and needs in these provinces.

*The team heard today that there is a large Burmese migrant population in Ranong and various agencies are concerned that the needs of these migrants are not being addressed.