



To: OCHA Geneva, UNCT in Thailand  
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UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand  
Subject: **Disaster, Field Sit Rep 19**  
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**I. SITUATION**

The Thai Ministry of Interior Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) is the central body collating tsunami-related data from other Government agencies: its latest summary was released on 29 September, and current figures confirm no changes to the official death toll as reported in SITREP No. 18. Other key figures are:

Category	Latest figure	Source and date	Figure last month [same sources]
<b>Bodies</b> <i>still to be identified and claimed/repatriated</i>	<b>1,526</b>	Tsunami Victim Identification Centre (TTVI), 07.09	<b>1,650</b>
<b>Tsunami orphans</b> <i>minor increases in Bangkok, Phang Nga and Phuket provinces</i>	<b>1,480</b>	Ministry of Education, 01.09	<b>1,449</b>
<b>Unemployed</b> <i>by tsunami in six affected provinces</i>	<b>7,788</b>	Ministry of Labour, 05.09	<b>9,358</b>
<b>Living in shelters</b>  <i>Phang Nga:</i> <i>Krabi:</i> <i>Ranong:</i>	<b>2,900*</b>  2,500 180 190	Ministry of Social Development, DDPM Ranong office, 05.09  *Based on number of households, x average 3 persons	<b>4,000*</b>
<b>Houses completed</b> <i>Overall:</i> <i>Since early August:</i>	<b>1,907</b>  451	DDPM, 01.09	<b>1,456</b>

The DDPM has been appointed as the Unit responsible for coordinating assistance from government and private agencies, organizations, foundations both international and national so that cooperation can be more efficient and according to objectives and needs of the victims.

**A Regional Trust Fund** to support tsunami early warning arrangements in the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia was launched with a US\$ 10 million contribution by the Government of Thailand. In addition to this pioneering initiative on the trust fund, Thailand is one of five countries in the Indian Ocean that is preparing to develop national capability to detect, analyze and provide timely warning of tsunamis generated along the Indonesian seismic zone and its extensions.

An **aggregation of the individual sector estimates** made by Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Bangkok indicates that the total impact (measured in terms of the amount of damage and losses) caused by the tsunami in Thailand is 84,549 million Baht, or US\$ 2,168 million (@ exchange rate 1 US\$ = 39 Thai Baht) three quarters of which were economic losses. This makes Thailand, in terms of absolute physical damage and economic losses, the **second most affected country by the tsunami**.

## II. OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES, RESPONSES

During the past five months, the Thai Ministry of Culture has been assigned to carry out **Cultural Project to Promote and Revive Tourism Along Andaman Coast (“Art for Andaman”)**. This project covers following seven activities:

- 1 Andaman Tsunami Memorial and Museum
- 2 Art on the Beach
- 3 Art Exhibitions at Thai-Hua Museum
- 4 Andaman Contemporary Art Contest
- 5 Youth Camps
- 6 Cultural Streets
- 7 Sculpture Memorials

On 21 September 2005, the Government of Thailand launched an **International Competition for Memorial to Commemorate Tsunami Disaster**, with the goal of gathering and developing ideas and concepts with the objective of building an appropriate and interactive Memorial. The Thai Government has selected a site in Khao Lak-Lamru National Park in Phangnga, the hardest hit province, to build the Tsunami Memorial as a permanent tribute to those who lost their lives.

### **Disaster Preparedness**

UNDP support to DDPM through the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) to help establish the foundation for **community-based, multi-hazard early warning and disaster preparedness** was initiated at the DDPM Training Academy in Phuket with the initial assessment and mapping of disaster risks and community level preparedness needs by community leaders and local authorities from nine tsunami affected communities. The first group of trainers is now being trained at the DDPM Training Academy in Bangkok to teach DDPM staff and community based groups how to do *basic* community first responder search, rescue and first-aid for disaster victims. The first of two tide gauges has been installed off Taphao Noi island and is providing data to the Thai Meteorological Department through an interim global telecommunication system (GTS) set up under a WMO/IOC agreed program.

### **Livelihood restoration**

FAO/UNDP project for the enhancement of income generation through the empowerment of fisher folk groups in six affected provinces has started and boat engines and associated accessories are being provided to fisher folk groups on cost-recovery basis, in close collaboration with local NGOs. Technical assessment for determining the level of fishing capacity and a stakeholder analysis for the implementation of community-based sustainable coastal resource management are also being implemented. The Department of Fisheries is expected to play a critical role to coordinate various donor contributions to avoid over-supply of fishing equipment. FAO's new project has been supporting the Department of Fisheries in enhancing coordination capacity. The new FAO/UNDP project for the in-depth assessment of mangroves and forests affected by Tsunami is assisting the Government in coastal forest ecosystem rehabilitation and management.

As reported by ILO, in the informal economy (especially, retrenched tourism workers), groups of ex-hotel women workers have started their income generating activities. They are now producing batik and have taken their first orders from buyers. Eight partners of ILO have started their activities, many training sessions have been held in the formal tourism economy and ILO reports indicate that both employers and workers are satisfied. In most case, registration for the trainings has exceeded initial planning.

In the Phang Nga province, a survey of needs of people with disabilities has been carried out, entrepreneurship and skills trainings have been conducted, marketing of the products is being done and the local Tourism Authority of Thailand has offered to join some of the activities in order to upscale the outreach. The Phuket Chamber of Commerce, one of ILO's partners, has been appointed to participate in the Committee for the one year memorial celebration.

### **Migrant communities**

In September 2005 the results of the migrant registration were released by the Ministry of Labour, indicating approximately 18 per cent decline from the previous year in the number of registered migrant workers, despite the increased demand expressed by employers. This year's migrant registration allowed migrants who were registered with the Ministry of Interior in 2004 to extend their residence and work permits for a fee. Migrants who recently arrived in Thailand and those who did not register with the Ministry of Interior in 2004 were not eligible to register for work permits.

IOM observed that more and more migrants are moving into the tsunami-affected provinces particularly to work in construction. In this sector, migrants' accessibility to health service remains an important issue particularly for migrants who live at the construction sites in shelters provided by the employers. It is observed that in some cases these migrants have restricted movement and may not be allowed to leave the construction site. Migrants at the plantation sites (mostly rubber plantations) are another area of concern, because the plantations are isolated and it is difficult for the migrants to travel to centres where they can access basic services.

Little intervention is made in terms of mental health work targeting migrants. IOM in collaboration with Mental Health Recovery Centre is planning a survey to assess the needs and situation among migrant communities.

### **Health Care**

A Baseline Survey of Reproductive Health Care Services in the Tsunami Affected Areas of Thailand has recently been completed. This UNFPA-supported project in 12 tsunami-affected communities in Phang Nga, Ranong, Phuket and Krabi provinces aims to: (a) identify health needs and health problems of tsunami victims; (b) determine the nature and extent of existing reproductive health (RH) services in the tsunami affected areas; and (c) provide recommendations to local authorities and involved NGOs to improve access to gender and culturally sensitive reproductive health services including mobile clinics. Specifically, the survey looked at understanding maternal and child health care, antenatal, intra-natal and postnatal care; treatment of sexually transmitted infections; and adolescent health in the communities.

### **III. CHALLENGES**

With the newer disasters occurring within and outside the region, it is feared that the pledged funding for tsunami recovery activities would be affected. It will be a challenging task to keep the humanitarian community's attention focussed on tsunami recovery that is well under way in Thailand as well as other affected countries.

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