

CONSOLIDATED REPORT 2003 - 2008



ABOUT THE HANDS



**MERCY
—RELIEF—**

The colour blue represents peace, unity and mercy amongst Men. The two hands depict assistance rendered by a more privileged hand to the less fortunate one, striving to steer it out of its living misery and attending to its inadequacies. The different shades of hands illustrate aid made available to those in need regardless of country, culture and creed. The upward-pointing index finger signifies the number one, significantly our common Origin.



LIST OF CONTENT

3	Foreword by Advisor	18	Milestone - Indian Ocean Tsunami
4	Chairman's Message	22	Milestone - South-Asian Earthquake
5	Board of Directors & Organisational Structure	25	Milestone - Cyclone Nargis, Myanmar
6	About Mercy Relief	27	Milestone - Wenchuan Earthquake, China
8	2003	30	Financial Summary of Milestones
9	2004	31	Consolidated Financial Statement
11	2005	32	Acknowledgements
13	2006		
14	2007		
16	2008		



“We do not need to know the victims to understand the anguish of a man who has lost his wife, a mother who lost her son, a child who has been orphaned or a family still searching for missing members, hoping against hope that they are safe. We all have our own families, and we know what our families mean to us.”

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

FOREWORD BY ADVISOR SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT ABDULLAH TARMUGI



Advisor onboard the SAF Chinook on one of his visits to Tsunami-Stricken Aceh.

My journey with Mercy Relief began 5 years ago in 2003, when the organisation was to be reborn as an independent humanitarian and non-governmental entity. I personally witnessed, then, the evolution of Mercy Relief - how the volunteers brainstormed their way to set the outfit's mission, vision and new direction. There was no other organisation in Singapore whose system or missions Mercy Relief could model after. Being a small nation, there was no clear mandate within the local social or welfare arena to focus on helping our overseas neighbours who are less fortunate or who fall victims to natural catastrophes.

Singapore takes pride in it being a melting pot of Asia, a metropolitan city where talents from all backgrounds and culture reside to contribute to the nation's economy and bring further liveliness and vibrancy to its social and cultural scene. Given the synergies, we stand as an economically wealthy nation. Yet, it remains in our consciousness that we should be equally rich in our civil and humanitarian contributions and deeds. Historically, the country has been spared by natural calamities and social strife. The few decades we struggled to achieve our success today is of no comparison to the suffering and misery endured by the destitute in nearby foreign lands. Therefore it is beyond righteousness and empathy that we put in context Mercy Relief's desire to position itself as a unique local entity that chooses to dedicate its services for the relief and betterment of others in the region.

From its humble beginnings in 2001 as small humanitarian outreach project of Perdaus, the new Mercy Relief's journey has proven to be extraordinary. Within these few years, the Mercy Relief team has traversed to over 15 countries, helping to ease the sufferings of fellow human beings. Every mission accomplished has proven to be a transformational episode for the organisation. Be it the smashing tides of the tsunami or hostile tremblings of the earth, no magnitude of disaster has deterred the organisation from extending its hands to those in need.

Each visit to Mercy Relief's work overseas was an emotional and humbling experience for me. I saw the modest, albeit positive, impact Mercy Relief has made to these communities and the fortitude and courage displayed by those affected. I reflected on the tremendous responsibility we have as a humanitarian agency to ensure that we are building an enduring organisation - not just for ourselves, but also for the affected communities around the region who rely on us for our timely intervention during disasters, and for the appropriate responses to alleviate their condition.

Mercy Relief continues to maintain a lean structure, but we take our responsibility and reputation in the region seriously. So, we continually stretch ourselves. But I am fully confident that our professional team has the bandwidth to rise to the occasion whenever its services are required. I therefore urge and appeal for the continuous support from all the organisations and individuals whose cheers of goodwill have given tremendous inspiration, motivation and drive to Mercy Relief. I congratulate the board, executives and especially all stakeholders for believing in, and standing by, us and our Cause.

ABDULLAH TARMUGI
Advisor, Mercy Relief

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

MR T K UDAIRAM



The usually cheery Chairman at the launch of CGGS Campaign in Aug 2008.

Notwithstanding the short history of our young organisation, Mercy Relief has managed to touch the lives and hearts of disadvantaged communities in 17 countries. Everywhere we go, we take comfort in knowing that our friends and families back home support our humanitarian efforts. Our reach to the needy communities overseas are made possible only with the kind contributions from generous individuals and groups who share our vision to alleviate sufferings in deprived corners of the region. As a homegrown people-initiated organisation, we take pride as custodians of the noble intentions of Singaporeans.

The vitality of the human spirit to care for others is manifested when our volunteers stride in gumption during relief missions to serve the victims. Each time a disaster occurs, we receive outpouring donations from public and corporate organisations alike. Our nation's willingness and readiness to contribute at any moment of need depicts its veiled benevolence.

As we open our hearts to the victims of catastrophes, we must count our blessings for the peace, stability and prosperity that we enjoy in our homeland. As Singaporeans, we have much to be grateful for. Hence, it is imperative that we continuously translate our gratitude into graciousness - to care and have consideration for others, especially those less fortunate than us. To this end, Mercy Relief has embarked on the 'Cultivating a Grateful and Gracious Society' Campaign. We hope that by advocating this gracious movement, the nation will search deeper within themselves their civic responsibilities and embrace the greater humanity.

Essentially, there is no end to humanitarian work. Despite loving what we do, there is no denying the irony of the industry. In the most paradoxical manner, the industry is alive only when the unfortunate numbers in certain areas are paralysed by horrific natural or man-made conditions. As such, Mercy Relief must continuously evolve to prepare itself for the unimaginable.

Mercy Relief is in the midst of a transformation – one that will reinvigorate our core competencies by renewing our focus on international development work. As a start, the new field offices in Shanxi and North Sumatera will provide more effective engagement with the local communities as we expand our work in China and Indonesia.

To our stakeholders: funders, partners, volunteers, supporters and friends, we bear responsibility in providing this Report to share with you how we have translated your contributions and also how this correlates to the positive changes brought upon the beneficiaries. The sanctity of a humanitarian charity is guarded only when operational governance is constantly maintained and observed with utmost priority within the organisation's administrative system. We will continue to work hard towards preserving the trust of our stakeholders and realising the hopes of our beneficiaries. Mercy Relief is only as big as the support that it receives from its stakeholders.

We are dedicated to embracing our vision of a world without sufferings and poverty, therefore reaffirming our commitment to extend humanitarian services to all regardless of country, culture and creed. On behalf of my board members, executives and all our beneficiaries, once again thank you for accompanying us through this journey.

Sincerely,

T K UDAIRAM
Chairman, Mercy Relief

BOARD OF DIRECTORS & ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mercy Relief is governed by a Board of Directors (BOD) comprising multi-racial corporate and social leaders. The Board of Directors has non-executive roles to oversee, advise and enhance the directions of the organizations.

THE EXECUTIVES

The core team that handles Mercy Relief daily operations is headed by the Chief Executive (CE).

As the head of an independent Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), the CE has full operational independence in developing human resource, finance and other internal policies. These policies would however require approval from the BOD.

With its current staff strength, the executive structure is divided into three divisions:

International Programme

The IP Division plans and manages MR's humanitarian programme, mainly disaster response and developmental projects.

Corporate Affairs and Resource

The CAR Division plans and manages MR's relationship and communication with its stakeholders. Integral work scope includes promoting and managing the Organisation's image and developing its resource capacity, both in terms of volunteers and funds. The Division also manages Mercy Exchange (MX), MR's social enterprise.

Finance and Admin

The FA Division is responsible for the primary human resource coordination and managing MR's funds flow. Stringent systems of operations are put in place to maintain high level of corporate governance.

THE EXECUTIVE

CHAIRMAN

Mr Thali Koattiah Udairam

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr Ong Bon Chai

Dr Abdul Wahab bin Abdul Rahman

COMPANY SECRETARY

Mr Satwant Singh s/o Sarban Singh

MEMBERS

Prof Dr Ivy Ng Swee Lian

Dr Fatimah binte Abdul Lateef

Mr Chelva Retnam Rajah

Ms Dawn Westerhout

Dr Kevin Chan U-Jyn

Dr A Aahad M Osman-Gani

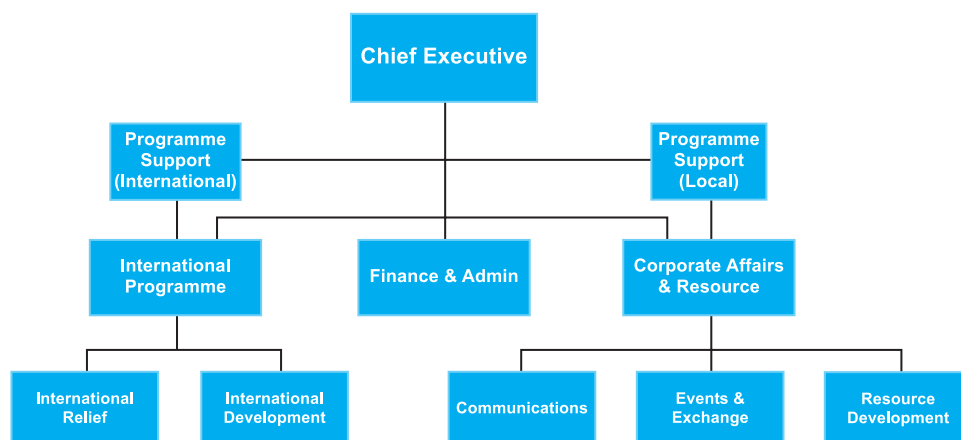
Sister Theresa Seow

Mr Jolyon Peter Caplin

Dr Mohd Mukhlis bin Abu Bakar

BG Goh Kee Nguan

Mr Michael Tay Wee Jin



ABOUT MERCY RELIEF



Mercy Relief was established in response to the human tragedies befalling mankind as a result of natural and man-made disasters. As an independent non-governmental humanitarian charity, it aims to promote a civil life of compassion, care and volunteerism in the community.

It is an initiative of Singaporeans servicing global needs to preserve the sanctity of humanity. Recognising that all humankind is part of the global community, Mercy Relief strives to extend its services to all regardless of country, culture and creed. The Organisation is committed to partnering all like-minded governmental and non-governmental agencies & institutions, corporations and individuals, both in Singapore and overseas, in its efforts to reduce poverty and improve lives in Asia.

Mercy Relief was registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee and was officially launched on 19 September 2003 by then-Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. It is an Institution of Public Character since December 2003.

The Reach: International Programme

Mercy Relief's international development work ranges from providing timely and effective emergency aid to longer-term rehabilitation in disaster-hit areas. In tandem, Mercy Relief implements sustainable development projects in rural areas to tackle the root causes of extreme poverty, focusing on basic education, healthcare, water & sanitation and sustainable livelihoods. Since its inception, Mercy Relief, through its international relief and development projects, has touched the lives and hearts of people in 17 countries in Asia, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Malaysia, The Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Palestine, The Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.



“I feel so powerless sometimes. But it’s better to do than not to do.”

Stefanie Sun, Mercy Relief Goodwill Ambassador, at an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp in Dujiangyan.



Children in Yunnan carrying donated food sacks home from school.

Barely a month after its Launch, Mercy Relief (MR) connected with its contacts in China and implemented the 'Beds & Books' project in WeiXing County at the northern tip of Yunnan Province. The education project sought to assist 1500 students from poor villages to continue their stay within the school system. The funds went into providing bursaries to help poor students stay in the dormitories, who would otherwise have to walk long distances averaging 10 kilometres daily through treacherous terrains. The funds paid for their lodging expenses and purchases of textbooks.

As an infant charity, MR was determined to develop its muscles and it did this through the formulation of a volunteer network, engaging and drafting youths into its fold. Collaborating with the Singapore Soka Association (SSA) and Perdaus, MR assembled a team of youth volunteers from different backgrounds, blending their skills and strengths, to help the less fortunate children in Cambodia. Named 'Riding the Rapids 2' and supported by the Singapore International Foundation (SIF), the team landed in Takeo, where it worked at the Aspeca orphanage. The task: to refurbish the dilapidated dormitory buildings and construct a new drainage system in and around the orphanage to prevent the recurring problem of overflowing floodwaters which occur during the annual monsoon seasons. The project included economic sustenance programme and skills training course. Incidentally, the expedition helped expose the youth volunteers to a new learning environment and experience through educational and cultural exchange activities.

The first test of emergency response for MR came in November. The flash floods that hit the North Sumatran district of Bahorok caused a devastating landslide which killed almost 200 lives and destroying the renowned Orang Utan sanctuary. MR was among the first foreign NGO to respond, providing building materials for shelters, food and blankets to more than 400 families who survived the disaster. The ability to respond swiftly was made possible by the early funding from Al Istighfar Mosque.

The year seemed to end on a quiet note which would allow young MR to regroup and recharge, but the earth shook hard in Bam, Iran, on 26 December killing 28,000.

The first test of emergency response for MR came in November. The flash floods that hit the North Sumatran district of Bahorok caused a devastating landslide which killed almost 200 lives and destroying the renowned Orang Utan sanctuary.



Drainage construction in Takeo, Cambodia.



MR directors studying a pharmaceutical field warehouse set up in Bam, Iran.



Iskandar Jalil displaying his skills at the pottery house in Siem Reap.



Relief supplies being packed at Ba'alwie Mosque enroute to Bam.

January 2004 started on the same note as how December 2003 ended. Responding to the international appeal made by the Iranian authorities, MR joined hands with its partners from the Singapore Catholic Archdiocese, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS), Singapore Soka Association (SSA), Young Sikh Association (YSAS), and the Iranian community in Singapore, to execute a major fundraising effort in aid of the earthquake survivors in Bam. Concurrently, it worked with the Iranian community in Singapore and Ba'alwie Mosque to consolidate and ship 2 containers of relief supplies comprising food, medicines, blankets, winter-wear, household items and personal hygiene kits. Thereafter, MR linked with the Singapore Red Cross Society (SRCS) and led an assessment team into Bam. Consequently, MR and SRCS facilitated the reconstruction of two orphanages and two relief warehouses in Bam and neighbouring Kerman.

Over in Cambodia, MR partnered Muslim Aid Australia (MAA) and completed the construction of two schools in Kampong Thom and Kampong Cham provinces. The partners also introduced skills training programme in Phnom Penh through the setting up of a computer laboratory and a sewing school. The courses were supported by the local Ministry of Education which endorsed the certifications.

In August, MR was faced with another calamity in the region. The relentless monsoons that brought heavy rains battered many Asian countries with India, Bangladesh, Nepal and China being the hardest hit. Ensuing floods caused widespread destruction to infrastructure, crops, livestock, culminating in a horrific devastation to the populations. More than 2,000 people died. Many millions were rendered homeless and hungry, while water-borne diseases, scarcity of food, lack of access to potable water and decent shelter threatened to increase the death toll. MR sent a relief team and distributed supplies such as medicines and food at the affected areas.

December saw Mercy Relief doing the unprecedented. Partnering the SSA, SIF and Mendaki, it dispatched 3 expeditions concurrently, involving 75 youth volunteers to 2 countries – The Philippines and Indonesia.

Building on its previous efforts in Cambodia, MR deployed a team of 24 youth volunteers to Siem Reap to expand on an existing handicraft centre (Proleng Khmer) through the construction of a pottery house, a high-temperature kiln and a kiln studio. The aim of the project was to equip local Khmer youths with relevant pottery and weaving skills to provide them with better employment opportunities. Singapore's own Master Potter Iskandar Jalil provided his inputs on the design of the kiln, later named as the Singa Kiln. Together with MR's Advisor Abdullah Tarmugi, Master Iskandar Jalil travelled to Proleng Khmer in October to share his natural gift with the young and aspiring local potters. The project was part-funded by Master Iskandar and other reputed Singaporean potters such as Ahmad Abu Bakar, Thomas Cheong and Alvin Leow, all of whom had earlier donated their unique art creations for sale. The remainder of the project costs was provided by a group of Singaporean philanthropists.

(Continued)

December saw MR doing the unprecedented. Partnering the SSA, SIF and Mendaki, it dispatched 3 expeditions concurrently, involving 75 youth volunteers to 2 countries – The Philippines and Indonesia. The first 2 teams landed in Medan to execute structural refurbishments, where they were joined by senior volunteers comprising doctors, dental therapists, teachers and educationists to provide medical and dental screenings and run educational programme. The third expedition arrived in Iloilo City to implement a livelihood programme and distribute medicines to 1,200 villagers in Quezon province affected by an earlier typhoon.

The volunteers and staff returned to Singapore on the fourth week of the month, exhausted but fulfilled, anticipating a deserving Christmas and New Year holidays. A few days later though, the world was to witness the most devastating and largest catastrophe in modern times – an undersea quake in the Indian Ocean, followed by a TSUNAMI.

2004 proved to be an eventful year for Mercy Relief that had begun to receive recognition from its partners

To enhance its overseas operations, Mercy Relief established partnerships with Cathay Pacific Airways and Travelways Pte Ltd to facilitate its travel and logistical arrangements. MediaCorp TV 12 Suria adopted Mercy Relief for one year from April 2004 to help Mercy Relief's humanitarian cause.

In recognition of the Singaporean efforts to assist in the development of the country, the Cambodian Prime Minister's office conferred the Gold Community Service Award to Mercy Relief.

H.E. S R Nathan, President, Republic of Singapore presented the SIF Award to MR for its effort in enhancing the goodwill of Singaporean overseas.

Homegrown pop singer Stefanie Sun appointed as 1st MR Goodwill Ambassador. Both locally born and bred, but with a regional reach and recognition. Stefanie's role as an ambassador includes sharing her overseas humanitarian experiences with other Singaporeans to younger generation.

MR was mentioned at PM's National Day Rally.

MR held its first Stakeholders' Session at the SSA headquarter, this event being a platform for MR to share its past achievements and reveal its future plans.

MR became a beneficiary of President's Charity 2004.

Mercy Relief launched its social enterprise, Mercy Exchange (MX), which aims to provide a sustainable source of funding for MR's overseas humanitarian programmes through the sales of handicrafts produced by MR's beneficiary countries.

Profits are channeled back to these countries, either directly through supporting the cottage industries where the products are made, or indirectly through MR's humanitarian projects in the countries. This initiative plays a vital role in supporting the cottage industries in developing countries. By providing a market for their products, Mercy Exchange helps to generate employment and sustain livelihood for the disadvantaged communities.



H.E. President S R Nathan presenting the SIF Award to MR.



Governor and Mrs Governor of North Sumatera officiating the launch of MX.



Former Chairman Zulkifli Baharudin receiving the Cambodian PMO award on behalf of MR from Governor Chap Naly Voud.



Stefanie Sun sharing her aspiration as our Goodwill Ambassador after her appointment.



Doctors and Nurses attending to earthquake victims in Nias.



Medical mission in Secata Camp, Banda Aceh.



Sorting of NTUC Fairprice food relief packs during the early days of the tsunami.

The New Year was ushered in by the ghastly consequence of the colossal waves from the Indian Ocean that shook Asia and shocked the world. The sheer enormity of impact of the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami required every available option to be used to prevent further loss of lives and the real risk of an epidemic.

Within a few days after the tsunami struck, MR sent separate preliminary missions to Aceh and Sri Lanka. Operations Command Centres (Posko Temasek) were set up almost immediately in Medan, Meulaboh and Banda Aceh to facilitate MR's field operations in Aceh and North Sumatra. Thereafter, a string of relief and medical missions were deployed to Banda Aceh, Meulaboh and Nias Island from January to March. Whilst the final relief mission was scheduled to return from Aceh just after mid- March, the strong earthquake that hit the Nias and Simelue islands on 28 March warranted further relief missions to be deployed to Nias, stretching the operations into the later part of April.

Their presence there was a sign of friendship and reflected Singaporeans' remembrance of their neighbours' loss, and accompanying them through their anguish.

At the same time, MR facilitated leaders from the various religious organisations to be in Banda Aceh to participate in the region-wide 100th Day memorial service. Their presence there was a sign of friendship and reflected Singaporeans' remembrance of their neighbours' loss, and accompanying them through their anguish.

MR's efforts continued into the rehabilitation phase where it committed to support the rebuilding of Aceh through several reconstruction projects at several affected areas. (See also Milestones – Indian Ocean Tsunami on pages 18 – 21)

In May, MR's goodwill ambassador Stefanie Sun visited the people of Meulaboh where she distributed MR's Goodwill Bears and friendship letters (from Singaporean school children) to the children at the orphanages. She also taught the children popular Singaporean songs to help lift their spirits and cushion their psychological trauma.

To share the realistic images of the situation at the tsunami-affected areas with the Singaporean public, MR organised a series of 'Glimpses of Light' exhibitions from January – April to showcase the photographic shots of its group of volunteer photographers who were at the disaster zones. The Series sought to share, reflect and learn from the tragedies and pay tribute to the survivors for their resilience and optimism.

As part of MR's endeavour to support fellow local charities and in tandem create awareness on the plight of the needy amongst us, it participated in the President's Star Charity Challenge in June.

(Continued)

September came with great sorrow for all at MR. The crash of Mandala Airlines plane that carried 117 passengers, including the Governor of North Sumatera H.E. Tengku Rizal Nurdin, meant MR lost a fine partner and close supporter whom it had been working closely with since 2003. A medical team and a support team were deployed to the crash site within hours, to support the overall rescue operations in Medan.

That same month, the ground trembled terribly again, hitting the South Asian region with Pakistan and India being the worst-hit. Scores of lives were lost and those who survived barely possessed anything, with the usually-callous winter looming. With the real experience gained and lessons learnt by MR during the tsunami operations, it swiftly deployed its first medical relief team to Balakot, Abbotabad and Muzaffarabad. It set up base in Muzaffarabad to support two field hospitals there and, in tandem, paved access for Team Singapore's deployment (comprising Parkway Medical Group, Singapore Red Cross Society and Singapore's national health clusters). The first mission also teamed with the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) in a joint-rescue operation. The relief efforts continued until mid December.

Concurrently, MR maintained its humanitarian outreach programme for youths. In October, MR supported the Temasek Polytechnic's People Connect Projects to send a youth expedition to Bego, Myanmar, to erect a computer laboratory and execute basic IT training for 150 children there.



Destruction in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan.



After weeks of packing, it's all smiles at the Live@Lowland volunteer appreciation event.

With the real experience gained and lessons learnt by MR during the tsunami operations, it swiftly deployed its first medical relief team to Balakot, Abbotabad and Muzaffarabad.

August – The LIVE@Lowland volunteer appreciation event brought together the many volunteers – from those who had come repeatedly and tirelessly into Lowland Collection Centre; to those coordinating local and overseas operations and attending to endless public enquiries and receiving donations at MR's HQ; to those who had courageously stepped forward to be deployed on relief missions to the affected locations. It was a platform for the volunteers to blend and share their different experiences from their respective deployments. Through the exchanges, volunteers understood and appreciated the relief supply chain better - from those receiving the donations here in Singapore, right up to those delivering and distributing them to the beneficiaries at the affected locations. It was an occasion to celebrate the true spirit of volunteerism.



Students came to Lowland after school to help with the packing of relief goods.

September - MR held its 2nd Annual Stakeholders' Session held in September. Incidentally, the Session coincided with the Singapore government's call for better corporate governance, greater transparency and accountability in the civic sector. The Session was attended by more than 100 representatives from corporate donors, institutional partners, volunteers and the media.



Singapore students helping to pack the Playpacks for their friends in Pakistan.



Distributing hygiene kits in Merapi.



The first two fishing vessels, Panalpina Passion and Cahaya Nias at sea.



Attending to an injured villager in Bantul after the earthquake.

2006 started with a big bang when Mercy Relief, together with MediaCorp Radio, organized the 'Playpacks for Pakistan' roadshow. Donations from the audience and pledges made by listeners who responded to ad-libs aired on various radio stations managed to raise 10,000 Playpacks in total. These Playpacks were later distributed to 6 different schools identified by MR's partner, The Citizens Foundation across the mountain regions of Muzaffarabad.

The first two fishing vessels funded by Panalpina World Transport (S) Pte Ltd and Cargill Asia Pacific Holdings Ltd were delivered to the fishing community in the west coast North Sumateran town of Sibolga in March. This semi-modern motorized fishing vessel cost USD 165,000 each.

The disaster response team got busy from May 2006 onwards when MR sent two staff to Mount Merapi, Jogjakarta to provide early assessment on the conditions of the communities that would indefinitely be affected by the volcanic eruption. When the catastrophe eventually happened, two medical teams were sent to help with the evacuation and to provide primary medical care to the affected villagers. Only a week into their mission, this second team was then diverted to Bantul to assist in the earthquake relief efforts there.

In December, MR responded to the call for relief aids in Central Philippines. First lashed by Typhoon Durian in late November, the country was then blasted by Typhoon Utor in early December. Working with the Social Action Centre (SAC), which is affiliated to All Churches Together (ACT), MR relief teams provided aid to over 800 families in Legaspi City. The teams set up mobile clinic services to service further 500 villagers. They also conducted milk nutrition programme for the infants, children and the elderly. To support the Mental Health Department, the team carried out a psycho-socio programme for the 200 children by providing stationery and art materials. From relief workers to Santas, the MR team brought joy to the 700 children in 3 evacuation centres by giving gifts and spending Christmas day with them.

For rehabilitation, MR funded the re-roofing of a school building comprising 3 classrooms to be used as temporary shelters for 150 IDPs. When normalcy returned, these shelters were converted into classrooms for 90 students. MR also provided 10 water filtration systems to the affected villages to ensure that the community has long-term access to safe drinkable water.

In recognition of the Singapore team efforts, the City's Department of Health and Centre for Health Development awarded a certificate of commendation to Mercy Relief. MR's effort in the Philippines won the support of Merrill Lynch, and this year, SAF Power 98FM radio station donated airtime to create awareness of MR's humanitarian efforts and appealed to the public to donate in support of MR's missions.

Other responses

Back in Aceh, MR continued to bring much liveliness to its 'adopted' town of Meulaboh by hosting an energetic group of youths from Marsiling CC who spent two weeks doing chores and interacting with the children at the orphanage.

In October, Mercy Relief sent two staff to do needs assessment in war-torn Lebanon. Consequently, MR sent a shipment containing tents, blankets and other relief supplies to the victims there.

From extending hands to neighbours far away, Mercy Relief shifted its focus to its nearest neighbor at the start of 2007. When the monsoon period culminated to a phenomenal rise in tidal inflow, MR decided to respond to the precarious flood situation in Johor Bahru. Together with the Land Rover Club, MR sent a convoy of 9 vehicles to support the relief missions initiated by its local partner Mercy Malaysia. The MR team spent 7 days supporting their counterparts to provide humanitarian relief to flood victims in Muar and Batu Pahat. They supplemented Mercy Malaysia's efforts with 3,000 hygiene kits, 100 units of water filters, conducted nutrition programmes for children and the elderly. These contributions amounted to S\$33,500.



Volunteers had to travel in small boats to reach the victims in flooded areas of Aceh Tamiang.

Together, the team serviced 6 evacuation centres in Muar, Batu Pahat, Grisik, Sungei Raya that housed a total of 5,000 IDPs. The MR team complemented Mercy Malaysia's team by providing logistical support for its aid supplies distribution at the various evacuation centres and also helped to set up the medical warehouse.

Days after, another MR team was mobilized to provide relief to the flood victims in Aceh Tamiang. From Aceh, MR then sent a staff to monitor the flood situation in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. It was from here that Mercy Relief managed to expand its network of partner organizations to move into greater Indonesia.

On 9 April, President S R Nathan launched the Heart of A Lion book which was put together by MR with the support of the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation. The Book showcased the generosity and selfless efforts of Singaporeans and Singapore organisations in the various devastated areas in the bitter aftermath of the tsunami.



Medical volunteers working under makeshift tents to treat affected villagers.



Handing over relief supplies to an Evacuation Centre in Johor.



MR filled the Land Rovers with relief supplies for the flood victims.



The newly reconstructed SD Priyan and SD Ngandong in Central Java. The completed schools were fully furnished with new desks and chairs.

Together with delegates from donor organizations, MUIS and the Tanglin Trust School, MR handed over the completed schools which were fully reconstructed during the rehabilitation phase after the earthquake occurred.

MR went back to Bantul and Klaten in Central Java in May to check on the development of the local community that was affected by the disaster the year before. Together with delegates from donor organizations, MUIS and the Tanglin Trust School, MR handed over the completed schools which were fully reconstructed during the rehabilitation phase after the earthquake occurred. To support the student's continuing education, the corporate funders also provided uniforms, school furniture and play packs to the children. MR's calendar was quickly filled next with the occurrence of the Pangadaran earthquake and tsunami in August 2006. 2 medical teams were deployed to distribute blankets, tents and hygiene packs to the affected communities there. Moving into the last quarter of the year, MR responded when the earthquake haunted the people of Bengkulu, a district in Sumatera. A reconnaissance team, comprising two staff and a medical personnel, were sent to recce the area, and they distributed various food items, hygiene kits and medicine as part of their mission.



Excited students swamped donors who were giving out new uniforms at their school opening

As a humanitarian organization, Mercy Relief's primary focus is to deliver aid to help reduce the sufferings and pain experienced by our fellow human beings. When there is no disaster, people need to preserve peace and harmony by avoiding conflict and war. As such, MR organized an observance event to commemorate the International Day of Peace. The poignant observance included songs, poetry recital and screening of the video "Peace One Day". The event included performances by celebrities, a dialogue session and a moment for reflection led by representatives from the Inter-Religious Organisation.



Thanksgiving prayers by religious leaders.

Circumstance favoured MR with docile meteorological conditions at the beginning of the year. MR seized the rare moment of respite to regroup and revitalise itself, focusing on internal capacity building.

But in the midst of the regeneration, the twin catastrophes struck the northeast Asia. Within 10 days of Cyclone Nargis lashing Myanmar, China was severely rocked by the Wenchuan earthquake. MR quickly linked itself to UNICEF in Yangon and dispatched relief supplies comprising medicines, tents, food, water purifiers and household kits. MR partnered with Singapore's Ministry of Health and Singapore Red Cross to send a unified Team Singapore to Twante to provide medical assistance there. MR deployed 2 more relief teams to provide system shelters and install 3 ultrafiltration water treatment plants with desalination capability and 20 membrane filtration units at the affected areas of Twante, Pyinsalu and Laputta.

Over in Sichuan, the MR response team landed on the fourth day of the disaster to personally distributed \$450,000 worth of relief supplies to the survivors across four devastated prefectures. The supplies included tents, system shelters, food, medicines and Playpacks. With the pouring donations, MR committed to 8 reconstruction projects there.

MR completed all of its 9 tsunami reconstruction projects in Aceh in July, well within the time frame set by the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Agency of Naggroe Aceh Darussalam and Nias (BRR) for all reconstruction projects to be completed by end-2008. MR held the inauguration ceremonies for the final 4 projects namely the Babussalam and Samatiga complexes as well as the Tsunami Mass Grave Memorial in Meulaboh.

August was a high point in the history of MR when it was invited to share its experiences in 'Risk Wise', a publication released in August at the International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos. The editorial team shared MR's experience on 'Peacetime Strategies for Disaster Risk Mitigation', urging like-minded aid agencies to develop peace-time strategies that may facilitate future relief operations.



A somber walk through the damaged school in Sichuan to reminisce the students lost to the earthquake.



The new dormitory at Babussalam Orphanage compound.



Cyclone survivors getting treatment from our medical personnel.

2008

After focusing much of its operations overseas, MR embarked on its first structured local engagement initiative. Partnering the Northeast Community Development Council (CDC), South West CDC, the Singapore Soka Association (SSA) and the Hyperbaric & Occupational Medicine (HOM) Pte Ltd, MR launched the 'Cultivating a Grateful & Gracious Society' Campaign in August.

The 5-month long Campaign aims to create awareness amongst Singaporeans of the plight of needy communities throughout the region. It seeks to remind Singaporeans to be grateful for the blessings of peace, stability, security and prosperity that they have enjoyed and to avoid being fair-weather friends and passive bystanders to the less fortunate around them. The Campaign's objectives revolve around the idea of promoting international volunteerism and to encourage Singaporeans to be active and effective members of a global village; hence the Campaign's slogan, "If we could care for strangers, then caring wouldn't be strange."

To effectively convey the message of the Campaign, MR and SSA put together an animated booklet to depict examples of gracious behaviours. The 12-page booklet provided insights on how Singaporeans can essentially encourage each other to look beyond their own needs and comfort zones, to search within themselves on their responsibilities towards society, to engage the community in promoting acts of graciousness and ultimately to naturally embrace humanity.

The Campaign comprises a series of 4 concerts and photographic exhibitions held around the heartlands with Asian Idol Hady Mirza as its Ambassador. Talks and exhibitions were also conducted at schools to bring the message closer to younger Singaporeans.

If we could care for strangers, then caring wouldn't be strange.



Asian Idol Hady Mirza used his harmonic voice to spread the CGGS campaign message of graciousness.



The campaign booklet was 'un-iced' by Mayors Zainul Abidin Rasheed (Northeast CDC) and Amy Khor (Southwest CDC).



Mayors looking at the photo exhibition that depicts MR's humanitarian works and voluntary efforts by Singaporeans.

MILESTONE

INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI



Dispatching relief supplies to Meulaboh, Aceh.

ACUTE RESPONSE

Within days after the tsunami changed the shorelines of several Asian countries, Mercy Relief (MR) deployed separate preliminary teams to Sri Lanka and Aceh carrying 30 tonnes and 18 tonnes of relief supplies respectively. The freights were fully underwritten by Cathay Pacific Airways and Airmark Logistics. Partnering the Singapore Soka Association (SSA), the teams delivered medical supplies, food, water, surgical gloves and masks, body bags and blankets at the two locations. The bulk of the food supply was donated by NTUC Fairprice.

To facilitate and ensure effective and efficient deployment of MR's and other Singaporean relief teams to Aceh, MR set up command centres called "Posko Temasek" in Medan, Meulaboh and Banda Aceh. Posko Temasek operations were funded by the Tsunami Relief Fund Committee (SRC) and MR.

In the meantime, MR sent 14 volunteers to Meulaboh, West Aceh aboard the Republic of Singapore Navy LST RSS Endeavour to help clear the debris left by the waves. This was MR's first collaboration with the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) to provide humanitarian aid overseas. The MR team also provided 1,600 units of 4-men tents during this mission. Over in Banda Aceh, MR's medical teams worked alongside their SAF counterparts, treating an average of 150 survivors daily at the Secata Camp where 3,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) sought shelter. Back in Meulaboh, MR's medical volunteers served out of the A&E Department at the Meulaboh General Hospital with other medical personnel from the SAF and international organisations.

In Singapore, 1,200 volunteers participated in an island-wide street collection to raise funds for subsequent relief missions and rehabilitation projects.

The great outpour of sympathy from Singaporeans was not restricted to cash donations but also those in kind. The Singapore Land Authority (SLA) allowed the complimentary use of its two school premises as collection centres – one at Lowland and another at Pasir Panjang. At the height of the tsunami response, the two Collection Centres became second homes to thousands of volunteers from all walks of life who spent countless hours receiving, sorting and packing clothes, food and medicines into carton boxes bound for the affected regions. The two Centres handled more than 1,500 tonnes of relief supplies worth around \$4 million. The last container of relief supplies left the MR-SLA Collection Centre in July and brought a closure to the makeshift Collection Centres.

Of the 700 tonnes of bottled drinking water received at the Collection Centres, about half were distributed at the affected areas. The remainder was liquidated, with the proceeds used to purchase 10 units of water filter systems which produced 100,000 litres of clean water each day. The water filter systems not only fulfilled the original intent of the donors i.e. to provide safe drinking water to the victims, but it ensured a more sustainable source of clean and safe water for the beneficiaries whilst they rebuild their lives.

In an effort to allow the survivors to be reconnected with the outside world, MR collaborated with Mediacorp Radio to distribute new transistor radios amongst the displaced families living in and around Secata camp in Banda Aceh.

MILESTONE

INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI



The Muhammadiyah Boys Orphanage.



Having lessons in the semi-permanent structure classroom.



The Muhammadiyah Kindergarten.



The Muhammadiyah School.



Children going home happily with their Playpacks.

NIAS EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

Just 3 days to the end of the 3-month emergency phase declared earlier by the Indonesian President, MR was once again putting together another relief team – to respond to another major earthquake that badly rattled the Nias and Simelue Islands on 28 March. Two medical teams were sent into Nias, once again working with the SAF, to treat the injured. With more than 100 schools badly damaged, the North Sumatran Governor called for an immediate action to provide new structures and put the children back in schools. MR responded by committing to quickly install 50 semi-permanent structures for some 6,000 students to resume their classes.

Funders: Cargill Asia Pacific Holdings; Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) and Mercy Relief.

REHABILITATION & RECONSTRUCTION

At the close of the emergency phase, MR immediately embarked on the reconstruction projects which it had earlier committed to. Every single project was personally managed by MR.

PROJECT PLAYPACK

Singapore sent 'Play Packs' to children in the region who were rebuilding their lives in the wake of the tsunami. 20,000 Play Packs were distributed in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, and the Maldives.

Each Play Pack comprised a back-pack with school essentials such as stationery, recreational items such as art materials, and simple toys and games. The Play Packs would not only help the children to go back to school, but at the same time cater to their need to play. Each pack came with a personal note of encouragement and greeting hand-made by the children in Singapore.

The project came about from the realisation that one of the main challenges in crisis zones is to restore normalcy to the children's lives. This includes upholding a child's "right to play" – a right recognised by Article 31 of the UN convention on the Rights of the Child. The contents were decided by a committee of experienced volunteers who have worked with children.

Funders: Tsunami Relief Fund Committee (TRFC, SRC) and MR

MUHAMMADIYAH SCHOOL & ORPHANAGES

These were the first three reconstruction projects undertaken by MR. The Muhammadiyah School was shortlisted by the UNICEF as one of the institutions that required immediate reconstruction for want of safety and space for the surviving students.

The projects were designed by renowned Singaporean architect Tay Kheng Soon. The school was given two new wings and two refurbished ones. A multi-purpose recreational hall was included into the school's complex. The orphanage projects eased the cramped living conditions for 90 orphans. Another 80 children from the kindergarten located at the boys' orphanage also got to experience a new and proper learning environment for the first time after its extensive refurbishment. The successful completion of the Muhammadiyah complexes gave the Acehnese much assurance of Singapore's sincerity and conviction to help rebuild their lives.

In return, they translated their gratitude and grace by naming the crossroad joining the three projects - Simpang Temasek, or Temasek Junction – a legacy of goodwill and friendship between the two nations.

Funders: Commerzbank AG; Lien Foundation; Al Istighfar Mosque; TRFC (SRC) and MR.

MILESTONE

INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI

SEMI-MODERN FISHING VESSELS

To supplement the post-tsunami socio-economic development programme, MR committed itself to the provision of 10 semi-modern fishing vessels for the North Sumatran and Acehnese fishing communities whose livelihoods were destroyed by the catastrophe. Partnering established local shipbuilder PT Pal Indonesia, the project aimed to equip the communities with new vessels and skills to expedite the economic recovery process and open new opportunities for them. Each bearing a unique name proposed by the respective funders, the vessels were presented to the Acehnese and North Sumatran cooperatives at the various affected port towns.

Funders: Panalpina World Transport; Cargill Asia Pacific Holdings; Neptune Orient Lines (NOL); TRFC (SRC) and MR.

100TH DAY MEMORIAL

Leaders representing various faiths in Singapore attended the 100th Day Memorial Service in Banda Aceh to pray for those who perished. Singapore's presence at the Service symbolised the common heartbeat and goodwill shared between the people of the two countries. At the same time, the religious leaders distributed two containers of food supplies donated by NTUC Fairprice to the community, and Play Packs to the children at an affected school.

BABUSSALAM & SAMATIGA BOARDING SCHOOLS

The Babussalam boarding school in Meulaboh was damaged almost beyond recognition. It was one of the best schools in West Aceh. The school catered to some 420 children, half of whom resided on the premises. The Babussalam complex covered both dormitories for the boys and girls spread over seven buildings. The compound also included study centres, recreational halls, and new water and sanitation facilities.

The Samatiga Boarding School which had been completely wiped out got new accommodation and education facilities for 75 children living and studying there. The complex comprised an office block, a recreational and prayer halls, dormitories for both boys and girls and a kindergarten block with a playground.

Funders: Jurong Country Club; Yum! Restaurant International; The Indonesian Embassy in Singapore; Chicago School of Business Alumni Club; Caltex Chevron; Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS); Tanglin Trust School; Eunoss CC; Commerzbank AG; TRFC (SRC) and MR.

Singapore's presence at the Service symbolised the common heartbeat and goodwill shared between the people of the two countries.



Religious leaders took turns to offer a prayer at Ground Zero in Banda Aceh.



Samatiga at the start of the construction.



The completed Samatiga compound.

MILESTONE

INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI

OTHER TSUNAMI PROJECTS

Bursaries : MR facilitated the provision of bursaries to 100 Acehese students studying in the University of North Sumatera (USU) whose families were affected by the calamity, to ensure that they continue with their education.

Funded by : Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS)

Mass Graves : MR erected a concrete perimeter fencing around the existing mass graves cemetery to preserve the conditions of the graves and hence the sanctity of those who perished and buried there.

Funded by : Donations received by the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore

The tsunami catapulted young MR to the forefront of disaster relief. Despite being small, its capacity was enhanced many folds from the great support and trust it received from the donors and volunteers. The existing goodwill and confidence that it shared with the North Sumatran government, particularly the Governor, the late Tengku Rizal Nurdin, ensured that full trust was accorded to MR to move into conflict-stricken Aceh which allowed for an early and effective intervention.

From this disaster on, MR could no longer turn back but to assume the larger role in future relief efforts, bear greater responsibility to those in need and fulfill elevated expectations from its stakeholders.

In an effort to document the extraordinary work done by all Singaporean NGOs, military and civil defence forces in the tsunami, MR initiated the publication of 'Heart of a Lion'. This coffee table book was made possible through the donation from the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation and the amazing editorial team spearheaded by Singapore Press Holdings and MR jointly.

The tsunami catapulted young MR to the forefront of disaster relief. Despite being small, its capacity was enhanced many folds from the great support and trust it received from the donors and volunteers... From this disaster on, MR could no longer turn back but to assume the larger role in future relief efforts...



Survivors of the Tsunami lived in these IDP camps for years until they get a new home.



A moment of silence at the tsunami mass graveyard in Meulaboh.



The complete transformation of the Babussalam complex.

MILESTONE

SOUTH-ASIAN EARTHQUAKE



The PIMA field hospital in Muzaffarabad where Team Singapore worked.

When the 7.6 magnitude earthquake hit the South-Asia region in October 2005, Mercy Relief (MR) immediately activated its existing network in Pakistan, the Pakistani Islamic Medical Association (PIMA), for the latest ground information. It reported that the effects of the earthquake was worst at and around the epicenter located in Muzaffarabad region, some 120 km north-east of the capital Islamabad where more than 90% of its buildings had collapsed. Heavy casualties and severe devastation were reported at the Pakistani-administered Kashmir, the capital Islamabad, and North West Frontier Province.

During the acute phase, MR immediately collaborated with the Singapore General Hospital of the Singhealth Group to send a 6-man preliminary medical team to attend to the immediate needs of the victims and casualties and to analyse the other needs on the ground. The team landed in Islamabad and made its way to Balakot, Abbotobad and finally set up base at the UN base camp in Muzaffarabad. The team operated out of the PIMA field hospital, attending to the injured and sick, averaging 450 patients per day. 65% of the daily cases attended were pediatric cases and orthopedic injuries.

From the information gathered by the preliminary team, MR HQ made the decision to continue with the assistance and deploy further missions to support the relief efforts. It was also decided that the subsequent Singaporean civilian missions shall go into theatre under the banner of Team Singapore. This was a joint effort by several organisations: MR, the Singapore Red Cross Society (SRCS), medical organisations like Singhealth, National Healthcare Group and Parkway Medical Group. The relief operations were also supported by Singapore Pakistani Association and the Ba'alwie Mosque in Singapore. The SRCS co-funded the emergency relief efforts.

Each team spent about two weeks working on the ground to provide medical treatment at the designated areas. In total, Team Singapore comprised 4 medical teams and 1 logistics team. The later teams also worked at the Abbas Hospital, a tertiary hospital which was the regional referral centre for field hospitals in the region. Team Singapore worked alongside the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to implement a vaccination programme at the PIMA field hospital. Their efforts were supplemented with the provision of filtrated water by the Danish Disaster Response Team, and Oxfam which carried out a waste disposal service at the hospital.



Singaporean medical volunteers working with local doctors at Abbas Hospital.

It reported that the effects of the earthquake was worst at and around the epicenter located in Muzaffarabad region, some 120 km north-east of the capital Islamabad where more than 90% of its buildings had collapsed.

MILESTONE

SOUTH -ASIAN EARTHQUAKE



Playpacks distribution at a hillside school in Pakistan.



Attending to an aged victim at the field hospital.

Through PIMA, MR procured emergency supplies from Islamabad. These included tents, blankets, food packs and medicines. MR also sent a shipment of blankets, medicines and household items, funded by the Singapore Pakistani Association (SPA) and the Ba'alwie Mosque. Another 1,000 tents, 1000 blankets, food and medicines were distributed to the survivors living in makeshift shelters in Ambour, Rala, Basnara and Manak Bayyan IDP camps under the coordination of the Pakistani Armed Forces, as well as the Kaghan and Neelum Valley IDP camps run by the The Citizens Foundation (TCF). Medical supplies were also provided to the PIMA field hospital and the Abbas Hospital to boost their pharmacies.

At the close of the medical relief efforts, the logistics team conducted further needs assessment in more remote villages near the epicenter. At the same time, the team worked with the Pakistani Armed Forces to distribute tents and other relief supplies in those areas. Together with the monies contributed by the Singapore Red Cross, MR was able to procure 200 tents that provided shelter to more than 1000 people during the harsh winter for the next three months.

Within weeks of the disaster, the Pakistani government had already put up the blueprint for rebuilding works. Given the enormity of destruction, it was apparent that no time could be wasted to reinstate the infrastructure of the area. Naturally, this created a surge of developmental work opportunities; opened to any NGOs who could provide maximum resource capacity to restore the scarred mountain terrains of Pakistani Kashmir to its former picturesque state. Thus, while other compatriots scurry to identify suitable projects, MR remained level headed in determining its next move. With recommendations and support from its donors, MR subsequently decided to concentrate on providing psychological aid to the most vulnerable of the demographics. Hence to create a sense of normalcy for the children amidst the adversities faced, MR provided them with new sets of stationery and educational materials to prepare them for school. The 10,000 Playpacks that MR raised together with MediaCorp Radio brought smiles to both children and parents who were thankful that their children got happily distracted by the colourful bags and toys, taking them away from the sorrow of catastrophe.



MR logistics team worked with the Pakistan military to distribute the tents.

The 10,000 Playpacks that MR raised together with MediaCorp Radio brought smiles to both children and parents who were thankful that their children got happily distracted by the colourful bags and toys, taking them away from the sorrow of catastrophe.



“I’ve been very impressed by Mercy Relief... Well, I went down to Meulaboh and I saw the work that Mercy Relief was doing. In particular, they had a volunteer team in the general hospital. This was one of the few medical installations in Meulaboh which was still intact. There were doctors, nurses, volunteers all cheerfully working hard. The patients and the parents and the people, you know, victims of the disaster, deeply appreciated the work which they did.

So I saw firsthand, how a group of volunteers with passion, organization, goodwill and the willingness to sacrifice their comfort could make such a positive difference. And in doing so, this is a role model. A role model for other Singaporeans, a role model for other Singaporean organizations.”

Vivian Balakrishnan
Minister for the Community, Youth and Sports

MILESTONE

CYCLONE NARGIS, MYANMAR



Team Singapore Medical Mission to Myanmar.

The mayhem in Myanmar caused by Cyclone Nargis on 2 May witnessed one of the most protracted humanitarian relief responses in recent times.

Within the first week of the disaster, Mercy Relief (MR) sent 5 tonnes of relief supplies through UNICEF in Myanmar and the local Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, comprising 500 tents, 500 household kits, medicines, water purification tablets, 100 sets of water filter systems, 4,000 sets of face masks and gloves and 200 feminine kits. The freights were flown complimentary of Silkair.

Whilst an 8-man medical team was assembled and ready for deployment on the 5th day after the disaster, the regulatory restrictions imposed by the local authorities thwarted the possibility of an early intervention to the humanitarian crisis, especially in and around the Irrawaddy delta region. When the regulations were somewhat eased on the international civilian humanitarian community, MR joined hands with Singapore's Ministry of Health and the Singapore Red Cross to send a medical contingent under the banner of Team Singapore. The Team served out of a 50-bedded hospital in the township of Twante, treating an average of 500 victims daily over two weeks.

The Team served out of a 50-bedded hospital in the township of Twante, treating an average of 500 victims daily over two weeks.



MR volunteer pharmacist administering medication to an infant at a hospital in Twante.

MILESTONE

CYCLONE NARGIS, MYANMAR

Building on the goodwill and confidence established with the Myanmar government, MR worked with other international NGOs which had long presence in Myanmar such as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), and deployed 3 units of its ultra-filtration water treatment systems, with desalination capability and treatment rate of 10,000 litres per hour, at the affected delta areas. The project implementation included the deployment of technicians and trainers to install and train the locals on the use and maintenance of the systems. Another 20 units of pedal-powered portable water filter systems were distributed to rural clinics and orphanages in other affected outlying areas through Myanmar's Ministry of Health.

In addressing the children's needs to normalcy, MR partnered Accel International Co Ltd to provide 8 system tents for temporary classrooms and classroom furniture for 6 schools in the delta region through Myanmar's Basic Education Department (BED). Additionally, MR is committed to rebuild a primary school in Htantabin.

The episode in Myanmar prompted MR to re-evaluate its overall crisis response strategy. Once again, it was reminded that no two disasters are similar; corroborating the organic nature of the industry itself.



Local villagers were trained on how to operate and maintain the water treatment systems by the engineer.



A satisfied villager comparing water before and after treatment.



Only 4 men was required to deploy the 30sqm system shelter.



30 children could fit into each temporary classroom.

MILESTONE

WENCHUAN EARTHQUAKE, CHINA

In the midst of China's joyful preparations for the Beijing Olympics, the fury of Wenchuan earthquake rocked Sichuan and shocked the nation on 12 May. Four days after the disaster, Mercy Relief's (MR) acute response team made its way to Ground Zero. Working with the local Disaster Management Centres, the Sichuan Foundation for Poverty Alleviation (SFPA) and the Poverty Alleviation Bureaus of Chengdu and Ziyang, the team was on the road for a month to personally distribute S\$450,000 worth of relief supplies comprising tents, food and medicines to the affected areas across four prefectures namely Aba, Mianyang, Deyang and Chengdu.



Ambassador Stefanie Sun preparing for the Playpack distribution in Dujiangyan.

In the midst of China's joyful preparations for the Beijing Olympics, the fury of Wenchuan earthquake rocked Sichuan and shocked the nation on 12 May.



MR relief truck crossing treacherous terrains.

MILESTONE

WENCHUAN EARTHQUAKE, CHINA

Large 30 square-metre system tents were also erected as temporary schools for the children to congregate and play at the affected areas. Schools provided a platform to distract children from the trauma, psychological and emotional scars from the disaster and as a form of psychological rehabilitation for them.

On 1st June, which was China's Children's Day, MR's Goodwill Ambassador, homegrown pop star Stefanie Sun, helped distribute MR's first batch of Play Packs to schoolchildren in Mianyang Prefecture and Dujiangyan. Stefanie also visited the quake victims at an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps to lend a listening ear to hear the victims' pain and sorrow having lost their loved ones to the disaster.



The presence of our goodwill ambassador brought much joy to the young victims of the earthquake.

On 1st June, which was China's Children's Day, MR's Goodwill Ambassador, homegrown pop star Stefanie Sun, helped distribute MR's first batch of Play Packs to schoolchildren in Mianyang Prefecture and Dujiangyan.



Local residents helped endlessly to dispatch relief supplies to the survivors.



Wenchuan hospital staff receiving MR supplies into hospital.

MILESTONE

WENCHUAN EARTHQUAKE, CHINA

Since 12 July, MR committed itself to and embarked on 8 reconstruction projects in Ziyang Prefecture amounting over S\$1,200,000. The projects are scheduled to be completed within first quarter 2009.

Wolong Primary School - Reconstruct one primary school damaged by quake. Around 70 students. (Funded by Hong Leong Group)

Laojunjing School - Reconstruct one student dormitory and repair 3 teaching blocks for 700 students. (Funded by a group of philanthropists)

Luochong Home for the Aged - Reconstruct one Home for Aged for 20 persons. (Funded by a group of philanthropists)

Huayandong Primary - Reconstruct one primary school for 70 students. (Supported by Seabridge Bunkering Pte Ltd)

Dongyue Health Clinic - Reconstruct one health clinic that serves the needs of more than 1000 villagers. (Funds from earlier public appeal)

Chiyun Bridge - Reconstruct one bridge that serves more than 1000 villagers. (Funds from earlier public appeal)

Hedian Bridge - Reconstruct one bridge that serves more than 300 villagers. (Funds from earlier public appeal)

Laojunjing Student Assistance - Provided financial assistance to 20 underprivileged students whose families were badly hit by earthquake. The financial assistance will enable the children to stay in the school dormitory and continue their education for the next 3 years. This will also give their families relief from the financial burden of having to rebuild their homes and lives. (Funds from earlier public appeal)

The financial assistance will enable the children to stay in the school dormitory and continue their education for the next 3 years.



Students looking excitedly at the model of Wolong Primary School.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY OF MILESTONES

INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI

As at 30 September 2008

	S\$'000
Corporate donations	7,358
TeleMercy Collection	735
Public donations	1,109
TOTAL INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI DONATIONS	9,202

Projects

Project Costs

	S\$,000
Relief Missions & Supplies	650
Operations Command Centres: Posko Temasek (Medan & Meulaboh)	530
Project Playpack	196
Reconstruction: Muhammadiyah Boys Orphanage	381
Reconstruction: Muhammadiyah Girls Orphanage	237
Reconstruction: Muhammadiyah School	520
Reconstruction: Babussalam Boys Orphanage	1,053
Reconstruction: Babussalam Girls Orphanage	489
Reconstruction: Samatiga Orphanage Complex	508
Reconstruction: Meulaboh Mass Cemetery	80
Reconstruction: Semi-modern Fishing Vessels	2,541
Reconstruction: Semi-permanent Nias Schools	320
Reconstruction: Sanitation for orphanages and schools	189
Bursaries for Acehnese Students in University Sumatera Utara	49
Operations Support Costs	1,421
TOTAL INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI RELIEF EXPENSES	9,164
Amount Disbursable	38

SOUTH ASIAN EARTHQUAKE

\$'000

Donations received	485
Relief Missions & Supplies Expenses	228
Project Playpack	204
Amount Disbursable	53

MYANMAR CYCLONE NARGIS

S\$'000

Donations received	768
Relief Missions & Supplies Expenses	541
Reconstruction Expenses	65
Amount Disbursable	162

CHINA WENCHUAN EARTHQUAKE

S\$'000

Donations received	1,793
Relief Missions & Supplies Expenses	525
Reconstruction Expenses	1,212
Amount Disbursable	56

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As at 31 December 2007	31 Dec 2007 S\$'000	31 Dec 2006 S\$'000	31 Dec 2005 S\$'000	31 Dec 2004 S\$'000	31 Dec 2003 S\$'000
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Fixed Assets	20	53	88	46	18
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash and bank balances	1,701	1,941	1,899	554	496
Receivables	6	9	12	35	9
Inventories	109				
TOTAL ASSETS	1,836	2,003	1,999	635	523
CURRENT LIABILITIES	61	93	35	23	9
NET ASSETS	1,775	1,910	1,964	612	514
FUNDS					
General Fund	195	180	468	266	51
Restricted Fund	1,580	1,730	1,496	346	463
TOTAL FUNDS	1,775	1,910	1,964	612	514
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE					
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED	31 Dec 2007 S\$'000	31 Dec 2006 S\$'000	31 Dec 2005 S\$'000	31 Dec 2004 S\$'000	31 Dec 2003 S\$'000
INCOMING RECEIPTS					
General Fund	517	531	3,165	811	135
Indian Ocean Tsunami Fund	1,676	2,112	4,786	19	-
Bangladesh relief	7	-	-	-	-
Cambodia relief fund	-	-	-	-	17
Palestine relief fund	-	-	-	-	182
Iran relief fund	-	-	8	476	-
South Asian Earthquake relief fund	-	209	276	-	-
Youth Expedition Programme: Medan, Cambodia, Philippines	-	-	14	115	-
Others: Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines	164	515	25	80	300
TOTAL RECEIPTS	2,364	3,367	8,274	1,501	634
EXPENDITURES					
General Fund	(500)	(819)	(2,963)	(515)	(84)
Indian Ocean Tsunami Fund	(1,818)	(1,969)	(3,715)	-	-
Bangladesh relief	(16)	-	-	-	-
Cambodia relief fund	-	-	(9)	(4)	(1)
Palestine relief fund	-	-	-	(139)	-
Iran relief fund	-	-	-	(476)	-
South Asian Earthquake relief fund	-	(230)	(202)	-	-
Youth Expedition Programme: Medan, Cambodia, Philippines	-	-	(19)	(140)	-
Others: Afghanistan, Lebanon, Iraq, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines	(165)	(403)	(14)	(129)	(35)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	(2,499)	(3,421)	(6,922)	(1,403)	(120)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF RECEIPT OVER EXPENDITURE	(135)	(54)	1,352	98	514
TRANSFERRED TO:					
General Fund	15	(288)	202	215	51
Restricted Fund	(150)	234	1,150	(117)	463



“Do Not Forget Us” said Pak Ali, principal of the Muhammadiyah School in Meulaboh to the team of thirteen Mercy Relief volunteers preparing to return to Singapore in January 2005. The volunteers had spent two weeks clearing tonnes of debris at the school which was devastated by the 26 December Tsunami.



GLIMPSES OF HOPE

www.mercyrelief.org