



January 20, 2005

Dear friends concerned about the Asian tsunami crisis,

We are asking your help in providing relief assistance to the grief stricken survivors of the Indian Ocean-Bay of Bengal disaster. Donations are being accepted to start a reconstruction project in Sri Lanka whose fishing industry has been devastated. Until January 31, 2005 your donation to our ***LifeNets Asian Tsunami Reconstruction Fund*** is deductible for the 2004 taxable year because of a special bill signed by President Bush.

The fishing trade is Sri-Lanka's second largest industry, following tourism. It employs over 55,000 people. Sri-Lanka is one of the largest suppliers of marine aquarium organisms in the world.



Many of the country's coastal communities in the south-east have lost most of their productive assets. This widespread loss of fishing vessels and essential gear means loss of income and occupations. According to the latest preliminary figures obtained by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), nearly 23,000 fishing vessels of various categories incurred loss and damages. That constitutes 81% of the total number of fishing vessels in the country!

Furthermore, the fishing population suffered more than 7,500 deaths, with 6,600 missing; and 91,000 displaced persons. The few surviving residents of fishing communities severely lack adequate savings to replace their assets or meet the immediate food needs without outside assistance. The goal of our program is to begin immediate reconstruction and help the fishermen resume fishing in the shortest time possible, so as to feed themselves and their surrounding community. This will avoid the mass migration of displaced people to overpopulated cities.

While the task is huge, we can become part of a hands-on process to help this ravaged area. We are working with Sri-Lankans in their country as well as those in the United States who are ready to go to Sri Lanka and help. We are partnering with other humanitarian agencies and the US government. Your contribution will be leveraged many times over!

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Your contribution will send a message of support and caring - and be a symbol of solidarity with our partners and friends in these areas during these difficult times.

### **Our Immediate Goals**


- Mobilize surviving fishermen
- Repair damaged fishing vessels to make them immediately seaworthy
- Replace boats, engines, and fishing gear
- Assess and mobilize required support facilities, i.e. netting, tools, cold storage

All your contributions are tax deductible. All funds raised will be applied to the reconstruction program.

Thank you for your generosity and message of support. Please share this message with others who are interested in making a difference in the lives of a devastated society. We will let you know what their contributions are doing. We will keep you informed about progress and outcomes on our website as well as through our *Lifelines* newsletters.

Again, if your contribution is postmarked by January 31, it can be deducted on your 2004 income taxes if you live in the United States.

Gratefully,



Victor Kubik  
President

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