

Sri Lanka and the Maldives

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- Following the arrival to Mali Island, capital of the Maldives the delegation members went to inspect the damage caused by the earthquake of Tsunami waves.
- Following the visits, during which they didn't see except minor damages, despite the fact that water flooded city street at a height of half a meter. They saw some 80-120 victims from the neighboring island who had been provided shelter at 4 schools.
- After that the delegation members went to the local Disaster Management Center where we met the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, Mr. Husain Shehab and Assistant Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Abdul Hamid Zakaria to update the members of the delegation of the latest news, statistics and requirements needed to relieve the victims and they were as follows:
 - The number of the completely destroyed islands were 69 out of 200 inhabited islands.
 - The number of displaced people from these islands were 12,000 out of 120,000 of the total population.
 - The total damages suffered by the Maldives is as follows:
 - 3460 houses were completely destroyed.



- 73 died.
- 34 missing.
- 910 injured.
- 17 Islands without electricity.
- 21 Island without potable water.
- On the afternoon of the same day the members of the delegation went to Ratol Island using hovercraft. The situation was assessed as follows:
 - 4 persons died out of 4000 inhabitants of this island.
 - All means of communications in the island were destroyed originally.
 - All houses of the island, walls of the clinic, pharmacy and school were affected.
- Following the assessment made by the members of the delegations in the Maldives, it was found that the resultant damage is simple compared with other countries, either on the human or material level.

Sri Lanka

- On the 3rd of January 2005 the delegation of the Society accompanied by Mr. Ahmed Faouzi, the Minister of Environment of Sri Lanka. visited Trincomalee a province on the East Coast of the Island and the village of Kinyia which is the biggest village in the province with 80,000 people inhabitants.
- The village of Kinyia has 20 shelters in the government schools and buildings.
- There are 4677 families sheltered at these places.
- The death toll at Trincomalee was 947 persons while there were 327 missing and 2850 injured.



- The members of the delegation made a visit lasted 3 hours at Galle, South of Sri Lanka in order to inspect the area and know the needs.
- The delegation members visited Jantota a small village in Galle Province of 8 sq. km. area and it is 115 km far away from Colombo. It is inhabited by only 400 individuals of 75 families.
- The death toll at this area was 15 dead no missing persons were reported.
- Some medical items were distributed to the villagers.

Hambantota

- The members of the delegation visited Hambantota area that was severely damaged by the devastating earthquake. The machinery leased by Kuwait Red Crescent Society for removal of debris were working round the clock hoping to find survival.

The delegation visited the Ministry of Health to meet with Mr. Nimal D. Silva, the Minister who received them and discussed the health situation and the problems that may result from the disaster, the most important, necessary and urgent needs, required by the Republic of Sri Lanka. Before they left they handed him 19 tons of different kinds of medicins.



- The delegation went to Ampara County on the Southeastern coastal strip of Sri Lanka that is considered the most damaged area of the country. The death toll amounted to 10,400 dead and more than 120 injured, according to the latest government statistics.
- The delegation started inspecting the work of the machinery that was leased by Kuwait Red Crescent Society to search for the missing persons. 11 dead bodies were found under the debris. A 17 day old live baby was also found under the debris.
- The delegation visited the county hospital (Ashaf Hospital) where more than 500 injured persons are treated.
- The delegation met the Minister of Housing & Construction at Ampara and discussed with her the damage resulting from the disaster. She reiterated that many families are living in schools and government institutions that were converted into shelters. She added that their stay in these premises will last for long and that they are in dire need to construct temporary houses as the school year is about to start in Sri Lanka.
- Later Kuwait Red Crescent Society delegation distributed 3 trucks loaded with family packages of foodstuffs among the refugees.



- The delegation visited Galle County, South of Sri Lanka and started their visit with Carpite Hospital and wondered among the wards to inspect the injured and wounded persons. The injured comprised one 12 year old girl who lost all her family members. Then the delegation handed hospital management over 5 tons of various medical aids.
- The delegation of Kuwait Red Crescent Society visited Gentota hospital where family packs of foodstuff were distributed among 240 needy families living in shelters.
- Then the delegation went to Unawatuna village, Galle county where family packages of foodstuff were distributed among 500 families.
- It has been agreed to construct a workshop for repairing boats at one village of Ampara County that is considered the most damaged area. The inhabitants of this village rely on fishing as the only means of income. This project is designed to repair damaged boats amounting to 100 boats (each boat serves 5 families).
- The delegation agreed to purchase chemicals to control infectious diseases provided that these chemicals should be applied in the same places where Kuwaiti leased machinery are looking for missing persons under debris.

Friday, 14/1/2005

- The delegation went to Galle County once again to distribute family packages of foodstuff to the families living in shelters which the delegation didn't visit before. 300 packs of foodstuff were distributed.



- Then the delegation distributed 140 family packages of foodstuff to widows and orphans at Pituwalgoda village, Galle County.
 - Later they headed to Matara County, near to Galle County where 160 family packs of foodstuff were distributed at Weligama village.
 - On Sunday 16/1/2005 the delegation visited the refugee camp at Mattakhuliya area in Colombo where 500 packages of foodstuff were distributed among the needy families.
- Each pack comprises:
- 1- Various kitchen tools.
 - 2- Kids garments.
 - 3- Milk for children.
 - 4- Clothes for women.
 - 5- Hygenic items for women.
 - 6- Garments for men.
- Some sweets were distributed among the children of the camp to make them happy and to congratulate them on the occasion of Eid Al-Aldha.
 - 500 Eid gifts were distributed among the victims and the refugees of Kuchchaveli village, Trincomalee County on the East Coast of Sri Lanka.



- The delegation visited Muttur city, Trincomalee on 17/1/2005 and the village of Akkaracheni where they saw mass graves for 300 corpses who were killed from the disaster.
- The delegation distributed 1500 packs of foodstuff among the families who suffered from the earthquake and Tsunami waves in 5 camps in the same village. They also distributed 250 Eid presents among widows and orphans in these camps.
- On their way back to Colombo they visited Kuchchaveli city where 1500 packs of foodstuff were distributed among the families who suffered from loosing all their belongings and had to resort to a refugee camp. The delegation distributed also 250 Eid presents among widows and orphans.

Thursday, 20/1/2005

The delegation visited Batticaloa county where 3000 family packs of foodstuff were distributed in 2 villages of the county.

- 1500 foodstuff packs at Kattankudi village, and
- 1500 foodstuff packs at Eravur village.



The two following days Sunday, and Monday the 23rd and 24th of January The delegation traveled from Colombo to Ampara county to distribute 10000 family packages of foodstuff among the victims of this county.

- At one village of Ampara county they saw a project financed by Kuwait Red Crescent Society, representing boat repair workshop named after the State of Kuwait.
- One convoy provided by Kuwait Red Crescent Society went to Trincomalee county where 4700 cartons of foodstuff purchased from local market were distributed at Kinniyai area where there are 20 shelter for displaced families and refugees.
- The team went to Mabola village, near Colombo which they had visited before, where there were six refugee camps with 340 families. Packages of foodstuff were distributed among these 2 camps.



- The delegation completed distribution of the foodstuff to the remaining camps at Mabola area where there were another 510 families.
- The need for potable water:
 - 30 water tanks, 500 gallons capacity each were purchased and placed on the main street in the Southern part of the Sri Lankan Island passing the following areas Bintota, Galle, Matara to provide fresh water to the passers by and these tanks were deliberately placed there to be near their houses and camps.
 - The delegation traveled by helicopter to Kalamunai city, Ampara County.
 - 1000 cartons of family necessities containing garments and kitchenware were distributed.
 - 1000 school bags were distributed to girls and boys going to school soon.
 - Later the delegation went to Ulel area where Kuwait boat repair workshop exists to make sure of the progress of work. They found that the boat builders had already repaired 25 fishing boats ready for use and the rest amounting to 75 boats were under repair.
 - Another trip was made to Hampuntota county to distribute 1000 school bags to the students who lost their parents or to families who can not provide school bags to their children.
 - 1000 family food packages were distributed also.



- On Thursday 15/2/2005 the team distributed aid at Matara and Galle areas South of Sri Lanka. 500 school bags with stationery were distributed to the schools in both areas.

Saturday, 19/2/2005

- Aid was distributed to Beton area in the Western side of Sri Lanka. The aid comprised 500 packs foodstuff and 250 family essential needs (clothes and kitchenware).

- Aid were distributed at Kinnyia village in addition to the distribution of 1500 school bags.

- 500 family packs of foodstuff, 500 school bags with stationery and 500 family essential needs (clothes and kitchenware) were distributed at Batukoli and Kattankudy areas.

- 1000 school bags were distributed at Pothuvil area schools in addition to the distribution of 1000 family packs.





Arrival of the Chairman of the Kuwait Red Crescent Society to Sri Lanka 1/2/2005

- On arrival the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka held meeting with the Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society, the Vice President Dr. Hilal Al Sayer and the Treasurer Mr. Saad AL Nahedh at 10.30 am. In this meeting they discussed with the Society's need to procure some land in order to construct houses and villages in the name of State of Kuwait. A piece of land was immediately granted at Hampantota area, while the remaining land should be requested directly from the President of the Republic.

The Prime Minister took the opportunity to thank the president of the Society for his generous gift of a hundred fishing boat to help the fishermen who depend on fishing as their only and main source of living. Ofcourse the Prime Minister added that the country needed more fishing boats.

On the side discussions took place between the members of the Society and a decision was taken to offer the Sri Lankan Minister another hundred boats. This offer was met with overwhelming joy. The total cost of the two hundred boats was equal to US\$ 900000 (nine hundred thousand dollars).



The Chairman of the Society held another meeting with the secretary of the Prime Minister regarding the land requested by the Society to build 100 houses and the need to be able to inspect the land already dedicated to the Society. Immediately a plane was made ready to transport the Chairman and his team to Hampantota to take a close look at the land. They also met with the architect who will make the drawings . After these meetings the delegation left Sri Lanka to continue their trip to other countries.

The total cost of humanitarian assistance and projects for this period amounted to (KD. 524,232) Five hundred and twenty four thousand, two hundred and thirty two Kuwaiti Dinars.

Equivalent to (US\$ 1,784,000) One million, seven hundred eighty four thousand US Dollars.

