



The Spirit of Service

TSUNAMI RELIEF WORK

February 4, 2005

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Table of Contents

Tsunami (Earthquake) Relief Efforts	3
Summary of Relief Aid Provided to Date	3
India.....	3
Sri Lanka.....	4
BAPS Care International’s Response	4
Mainland India	4
<i>Food & Hot Meal Distribution.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Drinking Water</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Medical Camps.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Household Items Distributed.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Educational Assistance.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Educational Materials Distributed.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Counselling & Restoring Dignity.....</i>	<i>6</i>
Andaman & Nicobar Islands.....	6
<i>Medical Assistance</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Medical Camps.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Family Health Care.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Drinking Water</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Educational Assistance.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Household Items Distributed.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>First Wedding After The Tsunami.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Counselling & Restoring Dignity.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Cleanup Assistance.....</i>	<i>8</i>
Prayers of Peace.....	9
Acknowledgements.....	10
Congressional Recognition.....	10
Andaman & Nicobar Islands.....	10
Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry.....	10

Tsunami (Earthquake) Relief Efforts

Nearly 250,000 people are feared dead and over 5 million made homeless by one of the world's worst Tsunami disasters in recorded history. Within hours of the disaster, BAPS Care International launched relief operations in the most affected areas. With its experience and expertise in more than 30 relief operations around the world, especially the long-term rehabilitation program successfully accomplished in Gujarat and Orissa, BAPS Care International mobilized national and international efforts.

Summary of Relief Aid Provided to Date

India

- BAPS Care International provided relief in Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- 150 volunteers were deployed on the ground in the worst affected areas.
- 51 villages and 26 relief camps have been provided with aid.

State	Villages
Tamil Nadu	Kancheepuram District: Alandtop, Mahabalipuram Minavar Panchayat, Nemmelikuppam, Kokilmedukuppam, Pattipullamkuppam, Perrur, Krishnan Kirnei, Pudhu Adaiyur, Padhu Kalpakkam, Pudu Nemmeli, Salvankuppam, Sulerikadukuppam, Venpurushamkuppam.
	Viluppuram District: Keezhputtupet, Koonimedu, Kottakuppam, Mudhaliarkuppam.
	Cuddalore District: Devanampattinam, Periyakuppam, Pudhukuppam, Sanankuppam, Sumiyarpettai.
	Nagappattinam District: Akaraipettai, Kallar, Khinchakuppam, Nagappattinam, Tirumullaivasal, Velanginni,
	Thanjavur District: Sethubava Chattram
	Kanniyakumari District: Aayirankaal Pozhimugam, Ambalapathy, Anjukudieruppu, Chothavialai, Ganapathypuram Thekkoor, keezhkarai, Keezha Manakkudy, Kootumangalam, Kottipadu, Maalaianinthan Kudieruppu, Mandaicaud, Manavalapuram, Mela Manakkudy, Nainaputhur, Parapattu, Puthalam, Sampasivapuram, Sethupathiyoor, Theckurichy, Therivilai, Veerbaghupathy.
Pondicherry	Solainagar.

- 174,000 hot meals have been served to the homeless.
- 12,000 Food Packets and 10,000 litres of mineral water distributed.
- 43 tonnes of rice, 16 tonnes of dal & 4 tonnes of sooji distributed.
- 6,006 homeless families provided with essential house hold goods.
- Hand pumps and water tanks installed to provide fresh drinking water.
- 12,000 notebooks and other educational materials provided to children.
- 1,708 adults and children were treated in 4 medical camps.
- Medical assistance to medical camps.
- 200,000 tablets to treat malaria, cholera, depression, diarrhoea, fever, etc.
- 8,000 injections
- 15,000 packets of rehydration powder.

- 11,000 mouth mask and 700 pairs of hand gloves to help clean up the area.

Sri Lanka

BAPS Care International has already sent 7 million dollars worth of medical supplies for the people of Sri Lanka in conjunction with CitiHope International.

BAPS Care International's Response

Mainland India

- A relief coordination office was set up in Ahmedabad and Chennai center was transformed into a relief center.
- Within 20 minutes, volunteers were helping rescue workers on the Marina Beach in Chennai.
- Within 2 hours, volunteers prepared and airlifted 10,000 food packets from Ahmedabad to Chennai.
- By evening a relief kitchen was set up on the East Coast Road (30 miles from Chennai) which was serving hot meals and drinking water.
- Volunteers in India and abroad started a massive drive to collect, organize and transport relief aid to the affected areas.
- Within 24 hours, survey teams were already in the affected areas in the districts of Kancheepuram, Viluppuram, Cuddalore, Nagappattinam, Kanniyakumari and Pondicherry:
 - to assess precise extent of damage caused by the disaster.
 - to pinpoint devastated villages for relief aid.
 - to ascertain the number of survivors and size of surviving families.
 - to list requirements and quantum of relief aid needed in each affected area.
- A precise list of emergency relief items was sent to all BAPS Care International centers to ensure items in urgent need were sent immediately.

Food & Hot Meal Distribution

Just hours after the Tsunami struck India, volunteers had rushed emergency aid immediately. 10,000 food packets were prepared and airlifted to Tamil Nadu from Gujarat. Food and fresh drinking water was provided to the victims in the worst affected areas on the East Coast Road, roughly 30 miles from Chennai. A relief kitchen was set up on the East Coast Road in the evening to serve freshly cooked hot meals to the homeless that served over 5000 hot meals a day for 37 days!

Item distributed	Quantity
Hot meals served:	174,000
Food packets	12,000
Rice	43 tonnes
Dal	16 tonnes
Sooji	4 tonnes

Volunteers catered the hot meals as per the habitat and cultural requirements of the local Tsunami affected victims. A special menu was designed that offered not only tasty, fresh, nutritious, wholesome and hot meals but also a variety of dishes like Pongal, Sambar,

Kitchadi, Uppuma, Immali Rice and Basibela so they are strayed from the monotony of their diet.

Drinking Water

- On 26th and 27th December 2004, 2000 litres of mineral water was distributed in the coastal areas devastated by the Tsunamis.
- Tube wells were installed with hand pumps to provide constant fresh drinking water in 3 villages: Nemmelikuppam, Padhu Kalpakkam and Sulerikadukuppam.
- Water storage tanks to store fresh drinking water were installed in 4 villages: Pattipullam Kuppam, Sulerikadukuppam, Nemmelikuppam and Padhu Kalpakkam.

Medical Camps

To detect early symptoms of cholera, malaria, typhoid and other tropical diseases together with dehydration and under nourishment, a unique paediatric medical check up camp was organized on 13th January at a high school in the village of Nemmeli (District Kanchepuram).

A team of 24 doctors, nurses and medical specialists in the field of general and tropical diseases examined a total of 508 children from 22 devastated villages. Free medicines were provided to those who required it.

Household Items Distributed

4,316 homeless families were provided with household kits.
Each kit contained:

1 tarpaulin (18'x12')	2 bed sheets	1 plastic water pot
1 cooking stove	1 Indian frying pan	1 plastic bucket & mug
1 serving spoon	aluminium handi	2 steel dishes
2 steel glasses	1 sari	1 lungi
1 coir floor mat	1 torch	tooth brushes
toothpaste		

Educational Assistance

The coastal homes were either destroyed or completely washed out. Children and college students had lost their study books. With schools reopening, BAPS Care International extended help to students of all ages from Lower Kindergarten to college by providing the following educational material.

Educational Materials Distributed

Item Description	Quantity
Note Books	11,000
School Bags	460
Pen, Pencil, Rubber, Ruler sets	841
Compass Boxes	287
Plastic Pencil Cases	173
Slates	37

Counselling & Restoring Dignity

The villages devastated by the Tsunamis are all located on the coast. The emotional traumas were enormous. Thousands of victims were given physical aid, but an even larger number were given psychological and emotional counselling by volunteers to help overcome a variety of post-traumatic stress and extreme fear of the ocean. Today, many are slowly recovering from the mental shock of the disaster and are picking up the pieces from their shattered lives. Smiles are seen on the faces of the children again.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

The worst affected areas in India were the Andaman & Nicobar Islands situated roughly 900 miles from Kolkata in the Indian Ocean. BAPS Kolkata immediately began relief operations for victims in the Andamans. A survey team was instantaneously stationed at Port Blair to coordinate relief work with the Honourable Lieutenant Governor of the Andamans: Mr. Ram Kapse and the Deputy Commissioner: Mr. Gyanesh Bharathi. Thousands and thousands of survivors were displaced, distressed and depressed. Working with the Hon. Lt Governor, volunteers were dispatched and precise relief materials were sent by sea and air to Port Blair. Most of the survivors from the islands of Car Nicobar, Hutbay, Katchal, Nancwory, Terassa, Chowra, Cambelbay and more were evacuated to Port Blair and accommodated in relief camps.

BAPS Care International volunteers visited all the camps and provided assistance and aid to roughly 26 relief camps in the following areas:

Badmash Pahar	Bhatu Basti	Chouldhari
Dandes Point	Haathi Tapu	Jungli Ghat
Lal Pahar	Lokenath Pahar	Machi Bazar
Mithikhari	Ograbraj	Port Blair
Shippighat	Teligu Basti	Tirupati Temple ward No. 8 & 9
Wandoor		

Relief materials were also sent to the islands of Cambelbay, Terassa and Hutbay by ship.

Astonished by the precision and coordination of BAPS Care International's relief work, local government requested the volunteers to provide day to day reports on relief situations at Port Blair. Even information on the birth and location of the famous baby boy named Tsunami was provided by BAPS volunteers.

Medical Assistance

Per the list of requirements faxed directly to BAPS Kolkata by the Deputy Commissioner: Mr. Gyanesh Bharti and Dr. Namita Md. Ali, Director of Health Services (Port Blair), the following medicines were immediately sent to Port Blair. The medicines were then handed over to the Andaman & Nicobar Government Health Services which in turn were distributed to government run medical camps operating on various islands.

Item Description	Quantity
Rehydration powder	11,000 packets
Water Purification	60,000 tablets
Anti-Malaria	55,000 tablets & 1,000 injections
Anti-Depression	40,200 tablets

Anti-Diarrhoea	16,600 tablets
Anti-Vomiting	6,000 tablets & 1,000 injections
Paracetamol	10,000 tablets
Antibiotics	400 injections
Operation Purpose	2,000 injections
Mineral boosting	300 injections
Saline injections	800 injections
Anti-Urinal infection	1,000 injections
Pain Killer – Specific	1,000 injections
Sterile Water	900 injections
Disposable syringes & needles	9,400 sets
Anti-Septic Cream	1,920 tubes

Medical Camps

BAPS Care International, with the help of local doctors and medical specialists, organized 3 medical check-up camps in relief camps at Jungli Ghat, Chouldhari and Wandoor for victims from Car Nicobar, Hutbay, Katchal, Nancwory, Terassa, Chowra and Cambelbay.

Family Health Care

To help adults and children regain health and strength packets of oral rehydration powder, boxes of glucose powder and packets of glucose biscuits for children were distributed to 1,700 families located in relief camps at Port Blair.

Drinking Water

The fresh water reservoirs at Port Blair were completely contaminated by sea water. The main water pipes were damaged. With huge demands for fresh drinking water BAPS Care International immediately shipped 30,000 pouches of mineral water from Kolkata.

Educational Assistance

The devastated islands had been evacuated. Men, women and children were accommodated in relief camps at Port Blair. There was an urgent need to restart some kind educational activities in order to help children overcome the shock of the disaster. However, there was a lack of infrastructure, classrooms, writing utensils and notebooks. Recognizing this urgent need, BAPS Care International directly transported 1,000 notebooks and pens to Port Blair by air from Kolkata.

Household Items Distributed

BAPS was closely monitoring the day to day situation in relief camps at Port Blair. As per the needs of the island victims accommodated in the camps, BAPS shipped needy items which were distributed in a form of family kits to 1,700 families:

Blankets	Buckets	Plastic bowls
Plastic glasses	Torch and cells	Utensil sets
Mosquito nets	Toilet soap bars	Washing soap bars
Detergent powder	Tooth powder	Hair oil
Talcum powder	Balm	Bleaching powder
T-shirts	Lungis	Sarees

Dresses & Clothing	Undergarments	Girls' frocks
Trousers	Shorts	Baby dresses

First Wedding After The Tsunami

The first wedding to take place after the Tsunami disaster at the Andaman & Nicobar Islands was between Kalpana Mandal and Sanjay Mistri. As the couple and their families had lost their homes the wedding took place at a relief camp.

BAPS Care International provided the following items for the bride, bridegroom and their families to wear at the wedding which was held on 16 Jan. 2005 at Port Blair:

- Banarasi wedding saree and matching blouse for the bride
- New clothes for the bridegroom
- New clothes for the bride's and bridegroom's families

As there was a shortage of drinking water in the camp, mineral water was also provided by BAPS Care International for all the guests at the wedding reception.

Counselling & Restoring Dignity

A large number of the islands have been completely devastated by the Tsunamis. Most of the islanders were evacuated to relief camps at Port Blair. Over 40,000 survivors were displaced, distressed and depressed. The emotional traumas were enormous.

Apart from providing physical aid, BAPS volunteers personally interacted one to one with victims to offer comfort, solace and hope.

Cleanup Assistance

With so much destruction, the job of cleaning up the debris was enormous. By special request from the Deputy Commissioner of the Andamans, BAPS Care International provided the following assistance:

Item Description	Quantity
Hand Gloves	750 pairs
Mouth mask	11,000 pieces

Prayers of Peace

- On 27th December, BAPS Center in Chennai and 9,100 centers across the globe arranged mass prayers for the departed souls. Relatives and friends of the deceased had also attended the gathering to offer their respects and prayers. Many found peace after the ceremony.
- On 2nd January, the High Commissioners and representatives of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand all met at BAPS Center in London, to pray and appeal for help. More than 3,000 people joined in solidarity to support.
- On 2nd January 2005, BAPS Care International organized special prayer services in more than 40 BAPS Centers in North America in support and memory of the victims of the catastrophic Tsunami disaster in South Asia. Hundreds of distinguished guests and thousands of well-wishers participated in these services.
- On 9th January 2005, Premier Dalton McGuinty paid a visit to the BAPS Center in Toronto to participate in a Prayer Assembly organized by BAPS Relief International, Canada.
- On 16th January, The Prime Minister of Australia Hon. John Howard, the Consular General of India to Australia, the Hon. M. Ganapathi, and many leaders from the Indian and Australian community gathered at BAPS Center in Sydney to offer prayers for the Tsunami victims organized by BAPS Care International.

Acknowledgements

Congressional Recognition

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition was presented to BAPS Care International for its "Outstanding Tsunami Relief Efforts" in Houston on January 22, 2005 by U.S. House of Representative, Congressman Al Green, 9th District, Texas.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

"BAPS arrived soon after the earthquake and Tsunami strike. The Sanstha and its volunteers worked tirelessly in the relief camps to provide succour to the affected people. They also distributed essential items and medicines for the victims and sent materials to outer islands. The BAPS Care International volunteers have done a commendable job by providing timely relief.

I place on record my sincere appreciation of the work done by the BAPS volunteers in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and thank the Sanstha for sending volunteers to the Islands in this hour in need."

Prof. Ram Kapse (Lieutenant Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

"BAPS an NGO headed by His Divine Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj has sent 20 volunteers from Kolkata Center for relief work in the earthquake and tsunami hit area in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. They have performed a wonderful job by supporting the inmates in the Relief Camp as well as in the remote areas in South Andaman. The volunteers have performed a commendable job by providing timely help to the affected victims. The effort put by them is commendable and appreciable. I extend all the best to the team and hope they will continue to involve themselves in such humanitarian activities in future."

Gyanesh Bharti (Deputy Commissioner, District of Andaman)

"BAPS immediately provided help in the aftermath of the Orissa super cyclone and the Gujarat earthquake. And BAPS Care International is now here in the Andamans providing all forms of help to the weak and needy. This is wonderful service to mankind."

Manoranjan Bhakta (Hon. M.P. of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

"Most people think only about distributing food and nothing else. Your organisation (BAPS) thinks about the person as a whole and the basic essential needs. You are the only organisation here that has given people bathing soaps, washing powder, hair oil and other essential items. It speaks so much about you people and how much you care. Well done and keep up the excellent work."

Raj Kumar (Director of Education, Andaman & Nicobar Administration)

"We thank BAPS for the medicines which were extremely vital and which we received just at the right time."

Dr. Namita Md. Ali (Director of Health Services, Andaman & Nicobar Administration)

Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry

"BAPS has sincerely worked to help the affected. The relief kitchen feeding people with hot meals has been appreciated by everyone."

R. Venkatesan (District Collector, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu)

“BAPS has done a wonderful job by providing relief to the Tsunami victims in this district. You have really helped in every respect.”

P. Velusami (Additional Collector, Kancheepuram District, Tamil Nadu)

“There is widespread devastation and we are grateful to BAPS volunteers for distributing so many household items today to 352 affected families from 7 villages of Kanniyakumari District. On behalf of the people I again thank the organisation for the noble work they are doing.”

P. Selvarajan (Project Officer, District Rural Development Agency, District Kanniyakumari)

“BAPS has extended physical and, most importantly, emotional relief to Tsunami victims.”

The Hindu (English Daily, 16 Jan. 2005)

“The only bit of relief we had received consisted of old and used clothes. We were forgotten and left in the corner. You have given us life again by given us these items. Your concern has deeply touched our hearts. We can not forget what you have done for us.”

Fazuludeen Aditha Begam (Housewife, Village: Kottakuppam)

“The people of this village are extremely happy. You have done a lot for them. When most people are celebrating Christmas and the New Year in merry making, you have come from afar so that we can eat, wear and have a roof over our heads.”

Father Joseph Paul (Church of the Holy Family, Village: Keezhputtupet)

“BAPS is a noble organisation that serves people irrespective of caste, class, creed, community or religion. Its work provides inspiration for all of us.”

J. Moses (CEO, Chardep NGO, Nagercoil, Dist. Kanniyakumari)

“We needed a medical camp like this and BAPS has come forward and done a wonderful job. They also distributed notebooks, pens, pencils and packets of biscuits free to all the children. On behalf of all the children and teachers here, we are deeply thankful to the organisation.”

V. Subramanian (Headmaster, Nemmeli High School. District Kancheepuram)

“We were worried about the children. We didn’t know what we would do if the children fell ill. But we are now relieved that BAPS doctors have come to our villages and have checked the children.”

Gangadharan (Parent, Pattipullam Kuppam)

“BAPS is the only organisation providing hot meals in this area. The work is really commendable. 5,000 meals a day is no small task. The food too is pure, fresh, tasty and nutritious. It is exactly what these people need today. It is also very thoughtful of BAPS Care International to change the menu so that these people don’t get bored with the same food.”

N. Kanagasabai (Govt. Primary Health Officer)

“What did we have? We were on the road with nothing. You (BAPS) gave us life. You looked after us like a mother looks after her child.”

Srinivasan (Village leader of Nemmeli Kuppam)

“Our biggest worry was food, but BAPS has taken that worry away from us. We are all really grateful to the volunteers of BAPS who have been lovingly serving food to us twice a day from the day of the Tsunami. There are a lot of people and organisations coming here

to give some kind of relief and aid but it is really the hot meals that have really been important to us.”

P. Subramaniam (Fisherman, New Kalpakkam)