

## **\$10 million already spent to save lives**

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**World Vision Australia** has already spent \$10 million in delivering life-saving aid to the victims of the Asian tsunami and has reaffirmed its commitment to spend every cent of the \$80 million it has raised in its national appeal within the next five years.

The aid agency has released more details on where the funding will go and the procedures in place to ensure an open and transparent process.

“The trust the public has placed in us to manage their donations is a sacred trust. Money has been donated under incredibly emotional circumstances. Every dollar World Vision receives will go a long way in helping families and communities to rebuild their lives following the tsunami,” chief executive Tim Costello said.

“We want to assure the public that we are working to deliver the best aid in the most effective way possible.”

Mr Costello assured the Australian public that 93 per cent of funds donated would go to relief and rebuilding programs.

“We estimate that some 20% of the \$80 million raised in the Asian Tsunami Disaster Appeal will go towards emergency relief, just on half will go to rebuilding infrastructure, 20% on economic recovery and 20% on social and community rehabilitation,” he said.

“World Vision Australia has already spent \$10 million on emergency relief, and has distributed items such as food, clothing, blankets and utensils to more than 500,000 people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Myanmar. We expect to spend \$34 million within the first year, and the balance will be spent over the next five years.”

Mr Costello said World Vision Australia has transferred \$30 million to its Global Treasury Unit, which is based in the United States, which then makes it immediately available to the field when required.

“Globally, the World Vision partnership has collected some \$270 million for the tsunami response. With such vast sums of money and different currencies, we use the Global Treasury Unit to increase efficiency and protect us against currency changes. Australia always has control over where the money is used,” Mr Costello said.

“If we don’t do this the countries where our relief effort is underway will receive money from World Vision all over the world in different currencies – Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and United States dollars, Euros and other currencies – which would cause a logistical headache.

“The remaining funds will stay in our Australian account and any interest that is earned will flow back into the tsunami response.”

World Vision has estimated that of the total funds raised in Australia 45% will go

toward victims in Aceh, 34% will flow to Sri Lanka, 15% to India, 5% to Thailand and 1 % to Myanmar.

The aid organisation has also underlined its commitment to keep administration costs relating to the Tsunami Appeal at below 7%.

<http://www.worldvision.com.au/media/mediarelease.asp?id=217>