

< STEP 2: trim along this line >



People in Sherthur village in India witnessed how houses surrounded by coconut trees sustained less damage than more exposed houses. In response, the village planted new trees between the first row of houses and the water to create a buffer zone. Beside each new tree they have placed a sign with the name of a person who died in the tsunami.



Simple, forward-looking steps like listing contents in relief packets in two languages helps ensure coordination among relief groups to avoid duplication and oversight — making sure needs are met efficiently and effectively.



One LWR partner in India, at the ready with 37,000 relief packets in 14 warehouses when the tsunami struck, distributed relief materials like these to 50,000 families — some 250,000 to 300,000 people in 4 weeks. That's one packet every 20 seconds, 10 hours a day, seven days a week for four weeks. Talk about being prepared!



**wave of giving**<sup>™</sup>  
 ~ update ~

~ *The first 90 days* ~

This inaugural *Wave of Giving Update* highlights the work Lutheran World Relief is doing in the “relief” phase following a disaster — those critical first 90 days when efforts focus on saving lives and getting to people the necessities they need to survive.

Lutheran World Relief simultaneously begins a long-term development approach in the aftermath of disasters. We knew within days of the tsunami crashing ashore that ours would be a multi-year commitment in the region to rebuild lives and livelihoods. A commitment that would involve many, many facets and be incredibly detailed. From painstakingly identifying, recording and fingerprinting each aid recipient to initiating negotiations with local governments for land needed for housing and other building projects — our deliberate approach pays off in the long run with better acceptance of our work, more participation from the communities, and the members of those communities feeling an important sense of ownership in the work we do with them.

Subsequent *Updates* will continue to chronicle how our multi-year plan is unfolding, and introduce you to some of the people your gift is helping.



*LWR's work with partners in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia will focus on housing, livelihoods and rebuilding infrastructure like this contaminated well.*

We hope you feel inspired by the photos and stories Wave of Giving makes possible — because you helped make Wave of Giving possible. These are your stories.

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## ~ Our partners, our presence ~

Working with partner organizations in and of the communities we serve has invaluable benefits. With up to 40 percent of some communities' civil servants dead, and with remaining workers overburdened and unfamiliar with communities, it was the intimate knowledge of LWR partners that saved the day.

In one instance, when government workers failed to acknowledge that an entire community of people existed behind the main village where they were distributing aid, it was LWR's partner that rectified the situation by relocating the aid vehicles and continuing the distribution to the deserving people that were being overlooked.

*As relief activities unfolded, so did the specific needs of people receiving it. By listening to families explain that they had nowhere to keep their relief supplies, LWR partners quickly added suitcases to the effort, giving families, now living in tents and with neighbors, a place to store their things.*



## ~ Listening to needs ~



*LWR and its partners conducted surveys and issued and explained yellow identity cards like the one shown here to ensure equitable distribution to deserving families. This system prevents problems caused by unplanned distribution, like people receiving 2 or 3 of some items while others receive none.*



*By distributing small cook stoves, LWR and partners responded to people's desires to begin providing for themselves and to depend less on feeding stations — both of which restore dignity, confidence and independence — no small feat for people already feeling vulnerable and afraid.*

## ~ A place to live ~

Temporary housing needn't be degrading — surely survivors have endured enough. Yet that's what some governments that lack the insight and firsthand experience with the dynamics of communities forced to live in temporary housing are inadvertently doing. They are suggesting, and are in fact planning to build temporary shelters that have little privacy, are made of heat-trapping tin, force up to 50 families to share a bathroom and actually separate members of the same families. At a time when the restorative bonds of family should be fostered, LWR and partners advocate for building temporary housing, where some people will live for up to six months, using native materials, which include private bathrooms and are conducive to privacy and dignity.



*Government-proposed housing on the right, with 18-foot X 24-foot rooms for entire families and narrow slits for doors, contrasts sharply with the individual housing unit on the left for which LWR partners advocate. These more dignified dwellings feature heat-resistant palm frond roofs and much-needed privacy.*