Task Force to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Tourism

12 March 2005
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Situation and ECPAT responses in countries affected by tsunami

1. Indonesia
2. Sri Lanka
3. Thailand
Indonesia – Situation

Vulnerability of Children PRIOR to Tsunami:

- Low birth registration
- Trafficking of girls from rural areas, Aceh province, East Java to Medan and elsewhere.
- High incidence child prostitution in Medan, including reports child sex tourism.
- 600 children were previously trafficked annually from North Sumatra province to places such as Malaysia and Singapore, Dumai (in eastern Sumatra), Tanjung Balai (on Karimun Island) and Batam Island (Indonesian territory close to Singapore).
Indonesia - Situation

- As of March 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2005
  - 124,946 confirmed dead
  - 94,994 missing
  - 400,376 displaced people
  - A third of the dead were children

UNDP Indonesia [http://indonesia-tsunami.un.or.id](http://indonesia-tsunami.un.or.id)
Indonesia – Situation

- Children separated from family and community
- Children in refugee camps
- Children having lost one or both parents
PKPA
(Centre for Study and Child Protection)

PKPA is based in Medan, in North Sumatra province, and belongs to the National Coalition for the Elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, an affiliate group of ECPAT.
PKPA – Activities

- PKPA has collected identifying information on child survivors in North Sumatra and Aceh, as well as Nias Island.

- PKPA has set up posts in Aceh and on Nias Island and recruited local volunteers to assist in data collection.
PKPA - Activities

- A PKPA lawyer is working in refugee centres to investigate reports of exploitative practices (including trafficking) and Medan police have sought PKPA’s assistance.

- Development of a database to record information on unaccompanied children and on families reporting missing children. The database is to be organized on a village level basis.
PKPA – Action Plan

- For Aceh and North Sumatra:
  - School-aged child survivors now in refugee centres are re-enrolled in education programmes and/or schools
  - Children are reunited with families where possible
  - Children receive trauma counselling from skilled counsellors
  - Establish small community-based care centres and youth support centres
PKPA – More Information

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Sri Lanka Situation

- Vulnerability of children prior to tsunami.
  - CST already a major problem, particularly in terms of boys.
  - Though inconclusive, estimates of CSEC victims reached 36,000 in 1998
- Conflict-related and poverty-related vulnerability
Sri Lanka – Situation

- As of February 21st:
  - 31,147 Dead
  - 4,115 Missing
  - 546,509 Displaced Persons
  - One third of dead were children

Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Centre
http://www.lk.undp.org/ndmc
Sri Lanka – Situation

- In the 15-kilometre strip south of the capital, the tsunami swept away all the squatter settlements.
- Children separated from family and community
- Children in refugee camps without family or other carers.
- Concerns over the undocumented removal and transport of child survivors in Sri Lanka
P.E.A.C.E.
(Protecting Environment And Children Everywhere)

- P.E.A.C.E. works with the poor in coastal communities to fight the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The areas around Colombo in which it concentrates its usual child protection work have been devastated.
P.E.A.C.E. is conducting relief work in seven affected areas south and north of Colombo where it had conducted its programmes.

They are supplying basic material aid, including foodstuffs, clothing, medicines, first-aid and cooking utensils. About 50 families are benefiting from the provision of weekly packages of dry foods.

School materials (books, stationery, etc.) are being supplied to about 600 children from previous PEACE programmes.
P.E.A.C.E. - Activities

- P.E.A.C.E. has formed a committee of five community leaders to report on issues related to unaccompanied children who may be at risk of all forms of exploitation, with particular attention to reuniting children with their families and communities.
- P.E.A.C.E. is also seeking alternative accommodation for the people affected.
- Concern about plans to move refugees to army camps.
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Thailand

- **Vulnerability of Children PRIOR to tsunami**
  - Many children exposed to and victims of a very large sex industry in southern Thailand (Phuket in particular)
  - Most affected areas were not known for CSEC or CST.
Thailand – Situation

As of February 21\textsuperscript{st}:

- 5,395 Dead
- 1,915 Thai 1,953 Foreign 1, 527 unknown
- 2,991 Reported missing
- 279 recorded deaths in Phuket

Source W.H.O.

www.reliefweb.int
Thailand – Situation

- Children separated from family and community
- Children in refugee camps without family or other carers.
- Traumatised children in close proximity to tourists
Thailand – Necessary steps

- Insure that tourism professionals in affected areas are sensitised to the situation of the children affected by tsunami.
- Train tourism professionals to identify situations of exploitation.
- Promote a sustainable redevelopment of tourism which incorporates child rights.
- Establish additional centres and outreach services for children in tourism intensive centres.
- Close monitoring of the availability of children in the sex industry over the next three years.
Phuket - Activities

- ECPAT International is working with a partner organisation in Phuket to see how additional psychosocial support can be provided to children affected by the tsunami as well as long-term educational support.

- In collaboration with Accor, ECPAT is examining ways to mobilise the tourism industry in areas where children may be at-risk.
Sustainable Tourism Redevelopment

- All three countries affected by sexual exploitation of children in tourism.
- Opportunity to incorporate child rights into tourism development.
- Convene stakeholder meeting to examine short-term and long-term vulnerabilities of children.
- Ensure development of tourism that is sustainable and safe for local children.
Other ECPAT network developments

- Child Wise (ECPAT in Australia) is launching the next stage of its Child Wise Tourism training programme (Jan 05 – Jan 07)

- Build capacity of NTAs to conduct training in current or emerging child sex tourism destinations with a focus on improving community responses and preventing the sexual exploitation of children

- 35 community-based training sessions will be conducted in seven ASEAN countries.
More Information

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Thank You