

Tsunami in Indonesia

A tsunami is a giant ocean wave usually caused by an underwater earthquake. When the giant wave hits the shore it can cause a huge amount of damage to people and buildings.



Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

SCIAF is the official relief and development agency of the Catholic Church in Scotland and a proud member of the Caritas family. 7 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2PR. Tel: 0141 354 5555. Scottish Charity No: SC012302. Company No: SC197327.

On 28th September 2018 a huge earthquake hit Central Sulawesi island in Indonesia. It toppled buildings and crumbled roads. Then, hours later, a tsunami with three-metre-high waves washed away people, homes, roads, and crops.

Shops, hospitals and church buildings collapsed and were washed away. Main roads were blocked because of a landslide and the airport closed due to damage to the runway. Underground pipes were damaged meaning there was no clean water in the wells for people to drink.

- 2,000+ people died
- 1,000+ people went missing
- 10,000+ people seriously injured
- 67,000+ houses damaged or destroyed
- 200,000+ people in need of emergency shelter

(that's enough people to fill Hampden Stadium 4 times)

Indi's story

Indi was at home with her two-year-old daughter Cahya when the earthquake hit. They escaped their house just before it collapsed. They tried to make it over the bridge out of their village to safety.

“The bridge was collapsing, so everyone ran to the rice fields, but water started coming out from the soil. We made a row, hand in hand, and suddenly a muddy wave as high as a coconut tree hit us all. The big wave hit our bodies and we were carried away. I saw people drowning in the mud.”

Indi managed to save her daughter but other members of her family drowned. Villagers managed to help Indi and Cahya to safety.

“The villagers helped me and I was taken to my grandma house. We shared some food for one week until help came.”



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SCIAF's partner, Caritas Indonesia, distributed supplies to thousands of people who needed urgent help. Their initial response included over 7 tons of rice, hundreds of cans of sardines and 500 boxes containing emergency bottled water. They also provided emergency kits containing blankets, mats and materials for people to make temporary shelters.

Families like Indi's also received:

- A mosquito net
- A jerry can for carrying water
- Soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Washing detergent for clothes
- A bucket
- Dish washing soap
- Shampoo
- Cooking utensils

SCIAF sent £20,000 to Caritas Indonesia to help with the emergency response and to help communities recover from this disaster.

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