WHO Conference on Health Aspects of Tsunami Disaster in Asia
Phuket, Thailand
4–6 May 2005
CONTRIBUTION OF NGOs IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES
MAJOR ACTORS IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES

• Bilateral; government to government assistance.
• Multilaterals; relief associated UN agencies (OCHA, WHO), World Bank
• Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
• Military
OVERVIEW

• NGOs can be local or international. There is inappropriate tendency is to emphasise on international NGOs.
• NGOs both, local and international, usually associated with complex emergencies.
• Most emergency NGOs have pre-designed protocols on how to cope with complex emergencies.
AFTER TSUNAMI.
STRENGTHS OF NGOs

- **Ability to respond fast**: can rapidly mobilize both local and international resources (human and financial) to respond to emergencies.
- **Flexibility**: adapt rapidly to changing environments.
- **Manoeuvrability**: can reach the hard to reach areas and populations.
- **Creating public awareness**: NGOs tend to have good links with media.
Flexibility & Manoeuvrability of NGOs
NGOs AS FIRST RESPONDERS

- Rwanda
- Liberia
- Aceh
- Many other places
SERVICES PROVIDED BY NGOs IN EMERGENCIES

1. Curative services
2. Surveillance
3. Vector control
4. Training and health education.
5. Water and sanitation
NGOs AND SERVICE DELIVERY

• Many NGOs have capacity, both financial and technical, to deliver a wide range of health services e.g. curative, watsan, vector control.
• Services provided by NGOs generally reach most of the affected populations, including the hard to reach.
• After the tsunami, NGOs have played a key role not only in service delivery but in creating awareness on unreached IDPs.
Watsan problem identified by local NGO.
MAIN CHALLENGES NGOs FACE

• **Lack of the big picture**; mainly due to not being involved in decision making.

• **Poor coordination**; lack of a strong central coordination mechanism makes work of NGOs look haphazard.

• **Being ignored**; tendency to ignore work or reports generated by NGOs, especially local ones.
IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS OF NGOs

• Creating stronger links between MoH, bilaterals, multilaterals and NGOs.
• Involving NGOs in decision making.
• Training.
• Recognizing and incorporating local NGOs and all levels.
EXAMPLE OF AN NGO PARTNERSHIP
MOH, PHO & MENTOR PARTNERSHIP IN ACEH

- Joint trainings
Joint MOH,PHO & MENTOR trainings

- About 60 health agencies trained in national malaria case management.
- At least 2 staff from all puskesmas in Aceh Besar, Aceh Barat & Nagan Raya trained.
- More than 30 MOH health workers in satellite health posts trained.
Joint MOH, PHO & MENTOR
ACT/RDT distribution
Joint MOH, PHO & MENTOR
ACT/RDT distribution

• Distributed over 120,000 doses of ACT to PHO, DHO and NGOs in Aceh & Nias.
• Distributed over 239,000 RDTs to PHO, DHO and NGOs in Aceh & Nias.
Joint MOH, PHO & MENTOR vector control.

- Joint vector control activities
Joint MOH, PHO & MENTOR vector control.

- Intensive IRS program that has up to date provided protection to over 540,000 people in Aceh.
- Current ongoing activities in Sabang, Simulue, and Nias Islands. IRS also going on in Aceh.
- Distributed 15,000 insecticide treated shelter tarpaulins along west coast and Nias.
IMPACT OF JOINT MOH, PHO & MENTOR PARTNERSHIP

- Malaria and dengue fever effectively controlled. No tsunami associated outbreak reported to date
KEY MESSAGES

- NGOs have vital role to play in complex emergencies.
- Without strong coordinating mechanism, work of NGOs will look haphazard.
- Local NGOs must be fully integrated in the emergency planning and response.