WHO Conference on Health Aspects of Tsunami Disaster in Asia

Phuket, Thailand
4–6 May 2005
Challenges for water, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions in the immediate aftermath of the tsunami: An Acehnese perspective

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- Working in seven sites
- Working on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion
- Well-positioned to respond immediately to the disaster in Nias
Challenges to water provision

- Contamination of wells
- Salinisation of groundwater
- Chlorination – was it appropriate?
- Boiling of drinking water
- Tankering
- Lack of on-going maintenance commitment from other NGOs
Challenges to Sanitation provision

• High water table with flooding of latrines
• Lack of access and desludgers
• Community resistance to pit latrines
• Appropriateness
• Sustainability
Challenges to waste disposal

- The sheer amounts
- What to tackle first
- Recycling
- Lack of access
- Lack of interest from NGOs
- Lack of infrastructure
- Packaging of donations
Challenge of body disposal

• Dead bodies pose a limited health risk
  BUT:
• There is a psychological effect on the survivors
• There is the problem of the smell
• The sheer numbers
• Are there practical ways of solving this as early as possible?
Distribution of hygiene kits

• Community not always consulted
• No coordination between agencies
• Not always appropriate
• Packaging and disposal
Maintaining Dignity

We can do this by:

• Giving people the hygiene articles they need
• Holding lingerie fairs instead of just distributing underwear
• Consultation especially with women
Hygiene Promotion

- High levels of knowledge
- People living in crowded areas
- Not used to pit latrines
- Need for hygiene articles rather than knowledge
Coordination

- Many smaller NGOs with no humanitarian experience
- Too much money
- Coordination at national level well-managed but not lower down the ladder
Capacity building

- Oxfam did support the Ministry of Public Works
- Not enough recognition of staff trauma and lack of resources
What could we do better?

- Better coordination
- More effective use of resources
- Less duplication
- Improved logistics with maybe a pipeline
- Uniform approach to household water disinfection
- Support to the ministries in terms of staffing and resources
- Better assessment of options as to where to invest resources
Overall rating

- Appropriateness – mostly
- Adequacy – partially
- Effectiveness – yes if we look at morbidity data
- Efficiency – could be improved
- Connectedness – partially
Acknowledgements

- The Oxfam Aceh field team
- Paul Sherlock
- Richard Luff
- The Oxfam public health team
- WHO for inviting me to the conference
- The people of Aceh