

Assessing Post Tsunami Humanitarian Aid Distribution and its Effects on Health Care Access: a Case Study on Banda Aceh, Indonesia

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Abstract

Each disaster brings with it billions of dollars of investment from the side of humanitarian communities with the aim of supporting response and recovery efforts. The ultimate goal of all their efforts is to make sure that the sizable investment in response and recovery has led to saving of lives and improvements in the living condition of affected communities. Humanitarian and development practitioners need to ensure that their investments are well-spent and that the recipients of their aid are better off than they would have been without their interventions. During the time period of 2004 to 2008, approximately US\$10.4 billion went to disaster response and recovery interventions globally, mainly in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. This figure does not include the huge amount of aid from local sources. The scale of investments like this in disasters necessitates careful planning for expenditure and careful evaluation of the impact of the interventions; so that the humanitarian communities ensure that they did it right and with a view to sustainable development. This is an issue of global concern. This paper examines the efficiency of the humanitarian aid in improvement of health care access and the sustainability of improvements that it has created in response to the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia. It shows how the exit of external aid and humanitarian assistance in Aceh has led to a decline in indicators under study i.e., health care access indicators.

Keywords: Disaster, Humanitarian aid, Indian Ocean Tsunami, Health care access.