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IFAD

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PROGRESS REPORT ON IFAD'S RESPONSE TO THE TSUNAMI

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
I. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION	1
A. Design of Country-Specific Proposals	1
B. National Ownership	4
C. Coordination	4
II. PROGRAMME COSTS, FINANCING PLAN AND FUNDING GAP	6
III. OPERATIONAL ISSUES AND PROCESSES.....	9
A. Emergency Procedures	9
B. Administrative Budget and Staff Issues.....	10
C. Debt Relief Service	10
 ANNEXES	
 IFAD RESPONSE IN SOMALIA AND YEMEN	 11

PROGRESS REPORT ON IFAD'S RESPONSE TO THE TSUNAMI

INTRODUCTION

1. Shortly after the 26 December 2004 tsunami, IFAD committed itself to developing a USD 100 million programme for post-emergency recovery in affected areas. Four months after the disaster, as the development community's response to the tsunami is now shifting from the relief phase to the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, the Fund is presenting a number of proposals for consideration at the April session of the Executive Board. The proposed interventions have been expressly designed to help restore and further develop the livelihoods of affected rural communities in India, Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka (for details on IFAD's response in Somalia and Yemen, see the annex).

2. In the technical background document entitled *Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami – Proposed IFAD Response in Asia* prepared for the tsunami briefing session organized in conjunction with the meeting of the Governing Council (15 February 2005), the Secretariat agreed to inform the Executive Board at its April 2005 session on progress achieved in implementation of the tsunami action plan in Asia. This overall progress is summarized in the present document.

I. PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION

A. Design of Country-Specific Proposals

1. Proposed action plan

3. The strategy initially adopted by IFAD to respond to the tsunami disaster in the most diligent way was first to identify, among its ongoing operations in each country, the programmes that would be most relevant for addressing the pressing needs of the affected population. This review was followed by a rapid assessment of overall project performance in order to make sure that project managers would have the capability to rapidly expand project activities in the tsunami-affected areas. Secondly, as needs assessments exercises were reaching completion in each affected country, they served as a basis for designing new additional programmes.

Ongoing Programme Title or New Proposed Intervention	Proposed Action	Status
(i) India		
Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Programme for the Coastal Communities of Tamil Nadu	New intervention	Loan agreement to be prepared
(ii) Indonesia		
Income-Generating Project for Marginal Farmers and Landless (P4K) - Phase III	Expansion of area coverage of ongoing operation, with change of programme scope and lending terms	Loan amendment to be prepared
Aceh Recovery Programme	New intervention	Project design document prepared
(iii) Sri Lanka		
Post-Tsunami Livelihood Support and Partnership Programme	Expansion of area coverage of ongoing operation	Loan agreement to be prepared
Post-Tsunami Coastal Rehabilitation and Resource Management Programme	New intervention	Loan agreement to be prepared
(iv) Maldives		
Post-Tsunami Agricultural and Fisheries Rehabilitation Programme	New intervention	Loan agreement to be prepared

More precisely, and as summarized in the above table, the proposed tsunami action plan in Asia presented for consideration by the Executive Board at its April 2005 session is as follows:

4. **India.** The draft report on damage assessment and livelihood rehabilitation strategy for tsunami-affected coastal fishers in Tamil Nadu, conducted by IFAD in close coordination with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the invitation of the Indian Government, was finalized in mid-February. The report confirmed the need to support rural and fishing communities in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, as had been initially and tentatively identified by IFAD in early January. Vulnerable coastal fishing communities had also been identified as a potential target group for IFAD in the country strategic opportunities paper (COSOP) for India. The above-mentioned report on damage assessment and livelihood rehabilitation strategy was the basis for the formulation of the Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihood Programme for Coastal Communities in Tamil Nadu that is being submitted to the Executive Board for approval. The detailed design report for this project will be finalized in May 2005.

5. **Indonesia.** In early January, IFAD's participation in a joint preliminary damage assessment exercise allowed the Fund to offer to assist the reconstruction efforts of the Government of Indonesia through the expansion of the covered areas and scopes of two ongoing operations. The joint inception mission conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and IFAD from 4 to 11 February in Aceh confirmed that the Post-Crisis Programme for Participatory Integrated Development (PIDRA) was the most appropriate channelling mechanism to host the new proposed Aceh Recovery Programme, and that the expansion of the area covered by the Income-Generating Project for Marginal Farmers and Landless (P4K - Phase III) would be a rapid and efficient way of assisting affected populations. The Government has approved the reallocation of loan funds under the P4K - Phase III project in order to finance the newly proposed activities in the tsunami-affected areas, but has indicated that the Aceh Recovery Programme should be financed through grants. Accordingly, a loan amendment will be prepared to reallocate the P4K- Phase III loan funds, expand the area coverage of that project and

modify the project's scope and implementation arrangements. In addition, IFAD is proposing to change the terms and conditions of loan 458-ID financing the P4K - Phase III project from intermediate to highly concessional. As regards the Aceh Recovery Programme, while a programme design document has been prepared for grant funding by other partners, its implementation remains dependent on successful mobilization of external financial resources.

6. **Maldives.** An inception mission was fielded to Maldives from 2 to 16 February to identify and prepare suitable support activities. Upon consultation with the Government, the decision to concentrate resources on the recovery of the fisheries and agriculture sector was taken and a new programme – the Post-Tsunami Agricultural and Fisheries Rehabilitation Programme – was designed. It has been submitted to the Executive Board for consideration at the April 2005 session.

7. **Sri Lanka.** The inception mission that was fielded from 7 to 28 January 2005 in Sri Lanka confirmed the pertinence of expanding the activities of the recently approved, but not yet effective, Dry Zone Livelihood Support and Partnership Programme to the tsunami-affected areas. In this context, the Post-Tsunami Livelihood Support and Partnership Programme is being submitted to the Executive Board for approval at its April session. In January 2005, the Government of Sri Lanka had also agreed on the need for designing a new programme specifically aimed at the recovery and sustainable development of the fisheries sector. To this end, a design mission was carried out from 2 to 23 February and the Post-Tsunami Coastal Rehabilitation and Resource Management Programme was designed; it has also been submitted for approval by the Executive Board at its April 2005 session. It is worthwhile mentioning that vulnerable coastal communities had been identified as a potential target group in the COSOP for Sri Lanka.

8. **Regional programme.** At the special session on tsunami prevention of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe (18-22 January), the United Nations agreed to create a global early warning system to reduce the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable communities. Further to this decision, experts from the United Nations and the Indian Ocean countries affected by the December tsunami gathered in Paris on 3 to 8 March to decide the ground rules for establishing a tsunami warning system in the Indian Ocean. The meeting agreed on a package of principles that would allow immediate action by the end of 2006. It was thus agreed that the system should be based on national tsunami centres and the free exchange of necessary data among countries. Participants also agreed that the tsunami warning system had to include substantial awareness-raising and public education and that it should be well integrated into other types of warning systems and national disaster management systems.

9. Detailed work can now commence on the planning and implementation of a full system that will comprise a comprehensive network of earthquake gauges and ocean seabed sensors and gauges; the development of national tsunami warning centres in each country (up to 26 in all); and the development of regional or subregional centres to provide advance analysis of data and warnings and support for public education. The Paris meeting participants agreed to meet again on 14-16 April to settle the details of the plans and to clarify the responsibilities of national, subregional and regional warning centres.

10. Recognizing the need to ensure that rural communities in risk-prone areas are well equipped to anticipate and respond to natural disasters and that effective mechanisms are established to link the national and local levels, IFAD has proposed to fund a regional programme covering India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand through a USD 2 million grant. The purpose of this programme would be to promote and strengthen community participation in disaster risk reduction and management, an area that might not be effectively covered in the currently proposed framework of action. The establishment of effective linkages between the national and local levels and the active participation of community members in disaster risk reduction and management efforts are indeed important measures to make sure that rural populations in risk-prone areas will be able to anticipate natural disasters and cope with such disasters when they occur. As the rural poor, in

particular, are the most vulnerable to natural disasters and since such external shocks have the potential to plunge vulnerable households into acute and permanent poverty, such an intervention would be in line with IFAD's mandate.

11. In order to assess the need for and relevance of such an intervention, IFAD will closely monitor the development of the global early warning system in order to identify possible gaps in linking national systems to the local level. A regional programme proposal might consequently be submitted to the Executive Board at its September 2005 session.

2. When unusual circumstances call for a special response

12. While all the projects proposed in the framework of IFAD's response to the tsunami are aimed at restoring and further developing rural livelihoods, there are a number of important prerequisites for this to happen. In countries with extensive damage to the housing sector (as in Sri Lanka), for example, housing rehabilitation appears as a critical step, or even a precondition, before devising ways and means to revitalize rural livelihoods. Therefore, while IFAD is not normally involved in private housing reconstruction/rehabilitation, this activity had to be included in some of the proposed project designs. The same applies for the reconstruction of lost, privately-owned fishing boats and equipment, an activity not traditionally supported by the Fund. These measures, however, are only foreseen on a provisional or gap-bridging basis: if, in the course of project implementation, other donors come in and commit financial resources for housing rehabilitation or asset reconstruction, the resources that IFAD had initially earmarked for these types of activities would be reallocated to other activities.

3. A phased, flexible strategy

13. In most affected countries, the development community's response to the tsunami disaster is now shifting from the relief phase to the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, even though progress is uneven across and within the affected countries. While, initially at least, relief and recovery efforts had to proceed in parallel, the sustainability of the recovery process in all affected countries will largely depend on governments' and donor agencies' ability to integrate longer-term development planning into recovery and reconstruction. Moreover, experience elsewhere shows that recovery and reconstruction should look beyond returning to the pre-disaster situation and rather seek to improve infrastructure and livelihood opportunities and reduce vulnerability. This is the strategy that IFAD has followed in all four countries. In countries where rehabilitation is well advanced, medium- to long-term development measures have been devised. In countries where reconstruction is slower, stop-gap measures have been introduced, while a longer-term development strategy has been introduced.

B. National Ownership

14. Local ownership is key to ensure the relevance, success and sustainability of development operations. In order to make sure that proposed IFAD programmes best meet the needs of tsunami-struck areas, staff members and consultants have worked in close consultation with the central governments in all countries and with the local governments in Aceh (Indonesia) and Tamil Nadu (India).

C. Coordination

15. As in any emergency situation, donor coordination was identified in the early days after the catastrophe as a major imperative and a key to effective assistance. Accordingly, various forums, task forces, working groups and other coordination mechanisms were developed for various purposes and timeframes in each of the affected countries. While these various coordination mechanisms aim at preventing duplication of work, organizing effective deployment and management of aid, increasing the complementarity of interventions and, possibly, pooling donor contributions, effective donor

coordination remains a major challenge in most countries given the extraordinary multiplicity and diversity of the actors involved and the multi-sectoral dimension of the needs.

16. In the area of coordination, one of the specific challenges faced by IFAD relates to the lack of a permanent field presence. In order to overcome this difficulty, the Asia and the Pacific Division temporarily deployed staff members to the field and quickly organized consultants' missions.

17. More precisely, IFAD's efforts to coordinate with other partners during the programme inception stage include the following:

18. **India.** At the invitation of the Government, IFAD participated in the needs assessment exercise that was organized shortly after the disaster. IFAD also met with representatives from the World Bank, UNDP and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with whom the draft inception report was also shared. Throughout the needs assessment and inception phase, close contacts were maintained with the Central Government, the Government of Tamil Nadu, and the Relief Commissioner. During the programme implementation phase, IFAD will work in close partnership with the European Commission and the German aid agency GTZ, and it will ensure that its contribution to the reconstruction of tsunami-affected areas is part of the overall government efforts.

19. **Indonesia.** Given the magnitude of the disaster and the generosity of the assistance pledged in Indonesia, IFAD has been coordinating with other donors and with the Government since soon after the tsunami hit, starting already at the special ASEAN meeting of 6 January. Working in partnership with other official development assistance and emergency assistance agencies has been the leitmotiv of IFAD's formulation of an appropriate assistance framework thus far. As a member of the team for the needs assessment, rehabilitation and reconstruction of Aceh and North Sumatra, IFAD helped produce the damage and loss assessment report and the recovery strategy notes, along with other donors. While participating in various sectoral coordination forums, IFAD formulated its response to the tsunami disaster with the participation of the affected communities (sheltered in internally displaced persons camps) and of representatives of the Central Government's Task Force for the Tsunami Disaster and of the Government of the Province of Aceh. IFAD also discussed possibilities for collaboration with several donor country representatives and its colleagues from ADB, FAO, the World Bank, the World Food Programme, among others, and from a number of national and international NGOs.

20. **Maldives.** In order to make sure that IFAD's response to the tsunami disaster would effectively answer expressed needs, meetings were held with the representatives of key ministries, namely the Ministry of Fisheries, Agriculture and Marine Resources; the Ministry of Atolls Administration; the Ministry of Finance and Treasury; and the Ministry of Planning and National Development. IFAD also held coordination meetings with ADB, FAO and UNDP.

21. **Sri Lanka.** In Sri Lanka, country representatives from Germany (representative of the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), the Netherlands (First Secretary to the Ambassador), Norway (Special Advisor to the Ambassador) and the United States of America (USAID) were met with to discuss possible partnerships. Meetings were also held with ADB, FAO and UNDP. The design mission aide-mémoire was shared with all these agencies. Meetings were also held with representatives of key ministries, namely the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Land and Irrigation; a final wrap-up meeting was held with the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

22. In developing its new programmes, IFAD has made sure that coordination is strongly embedded in programme designs. Accordingly, in the course of project implementation, IFAD will see to it that its interventions are well coordinated with the interventions funded by other partners while ensuring that they are well integrated into overall national reconstruction plans.

II. PROGRAMME COSTS, FINANCING PLAN AND FUNDING GAP

1. Additionality principle

23. Soon after the disaster, the United Nations called upon the international donor community to adhere to the additionality principle, in virtue of which relief and reconstruction interventions in the affected countries would add to, rather than replace, other financial commitments. In other words, the donor community was urged not to divert funds from other humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in order to assist the tsunami-affected countries.

24. In order to adhere to the additionality principle, IFAD – as other UN agencies and international financial institutions (IFIs) – will have to appeal to the generosity of its Member States.

2. Total programme costs

25. In early January, the Fund announced a commitment of USD 100 million in new resources to support recovery and reconstruction efforts in India, Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka. The following table provides details on the overall programme costs (now estimated at USD 106.28 million), financing plan and funding gaps in these four countries.

**Table 1: Summary of IFAD programme costs and financing
(USD million)**

	Country Programmes				Regional Programme	Total
	Sri Lanka	Maldives	Indonesia	India		
A. Base programme costs (required resources)						
(1) Reallocation of loan savings	-	-	3.18	-	-	3.18
(2) Additional loans to ongoing operations	4.7	-	-	-	-	4.7
(3) New loans	28.4	4.1	-	30	-	62.5
(4) New grants	1.5	0.7	31.5	-	2	35.7
(5) Enhanced field presence	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	0.2
(6) Total	34.7	4.8	34.78	30	2	106.28
B. Base programme financing (available resources)						
(7) Loan funds reallocation	n.a.	n.a.	3.18	n.a.	n.a.	3.18
(8) IFAD loan financing ^a	16.55	2.05	n.a.	15	-	33.6
(9) Available grant financing (Italian supplementary funds)	0.86	0.28	0.86	N/A	-	2
(10) Total	17.41	2.33	4.04	15	-	38.78
C. Funding gap						
(11) Immediate funding gap ^b [(10) – (6)]	17.29	2.47	30.74	15	2	67.5
(12) Overall funding gap ^c [5]	34.7	4.8	34.78	30	2	106.28
D. Resource mobilization targets						
(13) Primary target [11]	17.29	2.47	30.74	15	2	67.5
(14) Total target [12]	34.7	4.8	34.78	30	2	106.28

^a Amounts financed from IFAD's own resources, additional to PBAS allocations, regional lending share and IFAD 2006 programme of work.

^b Refers to resources required to fund full programme costs.

^c Refers to resources required to ensure that the resources mobilized by IFAD to finance its tsunami action plan are fully additional to PBAS allocations, regional lending share and the 2006 programme of work and do not reduce IFAD's own resources.

3. Financing plan

26. The plan is for IFAD to finance USD 33.6 million of the total programme costs for India, Maldives and Sri Lanka from its own resources, additional to the respective countries' PBAS allocations, the regional lending share (thereby compensating for the shortfalls in the 2002 and 2003 loan programmes) and the programme of work approved at the December 2004 session of the Executive Board.

27. To finance the remaining programme costs, including the new programme for Indonesia, the plan is to mobilize external resources from cofinancing partners. In the event that additional funds cannot be mobilized, IFAD is committed to fund the financing gap by further allocating its own

resources, rather than having to reduce the scope of some of the proposed interventions.¹ To this end, potential funding gaps will be bridged through the use of funds under the 2006 Programme of Work. This solution, however, means that resources already committed to finance other activities/projects in the Asia region will have to be used and that IFAD will not be in a position to adhere entirely to the additionality principle.

4. Funding gap and resource mobilization targets

28. The immediate funding gap for the tsunami action plan in Asia stands at USD 67.5 million. These are the resources needed to finance 100% of the proposed programmes' costs and implement all proposed programmes according to plans.

29. The overall funding gap for the tsunami action plan is USD 106.28 million. These are the resources needed to ensure that IFAD's response to the tsunami will fully adhere to the additionality principle.

5. Resource mobilization strategy

30. In order to mobilize external resources, IFAD's Asia and the Pacific Division and its Resource Mobilization Unit have developed a resource mobilization strategy that is currently being pursued. The two units are working closely together to ensure that the required external resources will be mobilized on a timely manner.

31. So far, resource mobilization efforts have yielded the following results:

(a) Italian Cooperation has committed an initial USD 2 million in grants to be divided as follows:

- USD 0.86 million for Indonesia
- USD 0.86 million for Sri Lanka
- USD 0.28 million for Maldives
-

(b) At the country level, cofinancing is being pursued as follows:

- In Indonesia, other IFIs and UN agencies have expressed interest in cofinancing the two proposed interventions. As the Government has adopted the policy of financing the reconstruction of tsunami-affected areas through grants, IFAD will endeavour to mobilize grant resources to finance the Aceh Recovery Programme.
- In India, discussions have been initiated with FFIs and insurance companies for cofinancing. The Government has urged IFAD to start its programme as soon as possible.
- In Maldives and Sri Lanka, similar discussions have been initiated with potential partners in order to bridge the funding gaps.
- In all countries, the implementation frameworks of proposed IFAD programmes are such that these programmes could easily contain any additional sectoral interventions that other donors may be interested in financing.

32. On 6 January 2005, the UN Secretary General launched the Indian Ocean Flash Appeal, calling for USD 977 million to be used for immediate relief assistance in Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Seychelles, Somalia and Sri Lanka by the end of June 2005. Initially, IFAD opted not to be included in the appeal because it is not mandated to intervene in emergency relief operations, nor does the Fund have any obvious comparative advantage in doing so. In order to make sure that the funds

¹ The only exception concerns the proposed Aceh Recovery Programme in Indonesia, which cannot be implemented unless a grant amount of USD 30 million is mobilized from external sources.

committed to appealing organizations and agencies have been disbursed according to plans and to determine whether an extension of the June deadline was advisable, a mid-term review of the Indian Ocean Flash Appeal was organized in March 2005. For that occasion, IFAD endeavoured to have some of the projects and programmes designed as a response to the tsunami disaster listed in the “extended” Flash Appeal. However, this attempt, which was part of IFAD’s resource mobilization strategy, was not successful.

33. The next steps of IFAD’s resource mobilization strategy are as follows:

- Inclusion of IFAD’s projects and programmes in the respective national reconstruction plans of the tsunami-affected countries.
- Signing of trust fund agreements with the World Bank. While the UN system had the responsibility of coordinating emergency and immediate recovery efforts in the tsunami-affected countries, the World Bank will manage the multi-donor trust funds that have been (or are being) established in these countries to finance long-term recovery efforts. In this context, an umbrella agreement is currently under discussion between the World Bank and the UN system to define the conditions of access to these trust funds. After the umbrella agreement is signed by the World Bank and the headquarters of all interested UN agencies, country-specific agreements detailing country-specific conditions for accessing each established trust fund will be prepared. IFAD is currently following up on this process and will approach both the World Bank headquarters and the UN Resident Coordinators in each country to become a signatory of both the umbrella agreement and the country-specific agreements.

III. OPERATIONAL ISSUES AND PROCESSES

34. In order to ensure that proposals for loans and grants to finance new projects and proposed amendments to existing loans may be finalized in time to be submitted to the April session of the Executive Board, a number of internal steps had to be expedited. These are summarized in the following paragraphs.

A. Emergency Procedures

35. Unlike other organizations, IFAD does not have an emergency policy or emergency procedures. In order to allow for the provision of timely assistance to the concerned countries, IFAD looked into the various options at hand to expedite a number of standard processes and procedures, without jeopardizing existing safeguards. These included the following:

1. Project development

36. With an eye to timely preparation of project proposals, IFAD sought to streamline the standard project development process without sacrificing quality. Consequently, and on an exceptional basis, the design, appraisal and formulation phases were merged into a single phase. Also, in order to shorten internal clearance and approval processes, normal internal reviews by the Operational Strategy and Policy Guidance Committee (OSC) and the Technical Review Committee (TRC) were combined. Furthermore, TRC members agreed to meet on exceptionally short notice and project development teams worked together exceptionally well.

37. IFAD is committed to ensuring the quality of its financed projects and programmes throughout the project cycle, including the design stage. In the case of the tsunami action plan, the Fund has no intention of deviating from this important rule. In order to make sure that the celerity

with which new programmes had to be designed will not be detrimental to the quality of their design, implementation of new proposed programmes will be phased in over an initial two-year recovery and rehabilitation phase and a subsequent five-year development phase. An in-depth review will be undertaken of all proposed interventions at the end of the two-year recovery phase, so as to ascertain the relevance of project design, evaluate overall implementation progress and propose changes as needed.

2. Loan agreement preparation and negotiation

38. To allow for timely clearance of the various documents submitted to the April session of the Executive Board, staff from the Office of the General Counsel and the Loan and Grant Administration Section of the Controller's Office agreed to work on exceptionally short notice. Also, on an exceptional basis, it was agreed that loan negotiations could be held after the month of April, rather than before the Executive Board session, according to the standard procedure.

39. Consequently, loan negotiations are tentatively planned to take place in early May for India, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

3. Loan effectiveness conditions

40. According to the standard procedure, a number of effectiveness conditions have to be met for a loan agreement to become effective. To ensure a prompt response in the tsunami-affected countries, IFAD has limited the conditions of effectiveness to the ratification of the loan agreement by the national legislature and the provision of a legal opinion.

B. Administrative Budget and Staff Issues

41. In preparing its response to the disaster, IFAD has sought to utilize its existing human resources in the most effective way possible so as to minimize additional costs. So far, its participation in needs assessment exercises and the preparation of new project proposals have mobilized three Country Programme Managers and their assistants almost full time since the month of January, in addition to short-term consultants recruited to participate in project design missions. A short-term consultant was also recruited in Rome to help coordinate the overall response of the Asia and the Pacific Division: this was the only additional cost incurred by the Division vis-à-vis its "routine" operations. The financial savings allowed by merging the inception, appraisal and formulation phases will, however, largely cover this extra cost.

C. Debt Relief Service

42. Following the announcement by Paris Club creditors on 12 January 2005 of a debt moratorium for countries impacted by the tsunami disaster, those creditors met on 9 March to further discuss the situation of the countries concerned. On the basis of the situation analysis made by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and for debtor countries that have declared their interest, Paris Club creditors have agreed – consistent with the national laws of the creditor countries – not to expect any debt payment on eligible sovereign claims from those countries until 31 December 2005. They propose that the deferred amounts be repaid over a five-year period, including one year of grace. Moratorium interest accrued in 2005 will be capitalized and paid as the deferred amounts. The moratorium interest rates will be determined on a bilateral basis. Paris Club creditors expect that the resources freed up by this measure will directly benefit the people affected by the tsunami.

43. Consistent with the spirit of this initiative, the willingness of IFAD donor Member States to contribute to the debt servicing requirements of Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka (for amounts up to, respectively, USD 25 402 993, USD 858 891 and USD 8 597 323) will be further explored. The proposed softer terms and conditions for Indonesia are also part of this approach.

ANNEX

IFAD RESPONSE IN SOMALIA AND YEMEN

Somalia

1. Although the earthquake epicentre was far away from the Somali coast, the force of the tsunami was strong enough to cause loss of life and damage to property and infrastructure there. The tsunami hit the Somali coast during the peak fishing season, when migratory fishing is a significant activity. Preliminary reports indicated that between 150 and 200 people died and 54 000 were affected.¹ Homes were destroyed, community infrastructure damaged, fishing boats and gear lost, and surface water points demolished or contaminated.

2. IFAD is currently working with the Somali Aid Coordination Body and its local partners in Somalia to develop a programme for livelihoods recovery in the tsunami-affected areas. The programme, to be launched in September 2005, will support affected communities in regaining key production assets. It seeks to rehabilitate surface water sources (used for household drinking water as well as for agriculture) and to support fishers in resuming their traditional livelihoods. The grant will rehabilitate small earth dams and reservoirs and establish water-harvesting facilities. Fishing gear will be replenished, and boat repairs supported.

Yemen

3. The effects of the December tsunami on Yemen's shores will cost more than USD 1 million, according to an initial assessment conducted by the Ministry of Environment and the Environmental Emergency Unit (EEU), together with an emergency mission of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

4. The huge tidal wave severely affected the livelihoods of fishing communities in Socotra and its archipelago, 350 km south of the mainland, close to the tip of the Horn of Africa, and the coastal region of the governorate of Al-Mahara in the east of mainland Yemen, bordering Oman. Although the main tsunami wave passed south of Socotra, waves of up to six metres hit Yemeni shores and washed boats up as far as one kilometre inland. The emergency EEU/UNEP assessment was conducted only on Socotra and in Al-Mahara, the hardest hit areas. It concluded that a further assessment was required of other coastal areas, and a UNEP/OCHA mission was scheduled to arrive in Yemen on 3 March.

5. The initial report found that in Socotra and Al-Mahara, 50 fishing boats and 69 outboard motors were destroyed and a further 108 boats were partly destroyed, although it is known that boats were also lost on the coast of the governorate of Abyan, east of Aden. At least 1 000 lobster and octopus traps and more than 600 nets and long-lines were lost.

6. Yemen is not included on the list of countries suffering damage or needing help from the USD 2.5 billion pledged for recovery efforts. The Yemeni government has no funds for compensating those affected by the tsunami and the Yemeni people themselves are largely unaware of the extent of damage to their own country. However, they have been responding generously to the international relief effort. So far, private donations totalling over USD 6 million have been made.

7. In response to the tsunami, IFAD fielded a damage and needs assessment mission that is expected to complete its work by the month of June. Depending on the outcomes of this mission,

¹ The Somali Aid Coordination Body and the UN Food Security Analysis Unit for Somalia are in the process of documenting the full impact of the tsunami in Somalia.

IFAD will look into the possibility of funding a specific intervention in response to the tsunami. The fisheries development component of the currently ongoing Al-Mahara Community Development Project (528-YE) might be the most appropriate channelling mechanism to host this new potential intervention.

