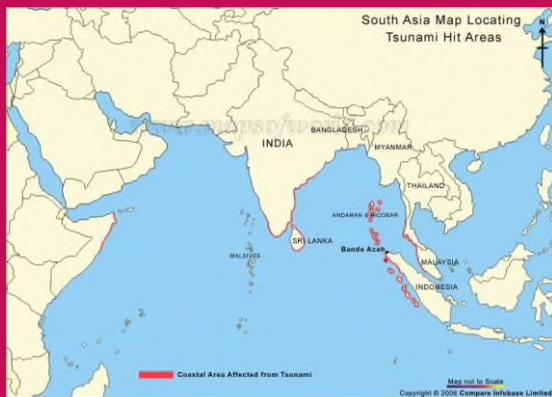


# Disability And Disaster

# Challenges and Responses in South Asia...



**0850 local time** – Quake centred in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, about 95 km from Islamabad. 30,000 believed dead



Source: US Geological Survey. REUTERS

- The Indian Ocean Tsunami and the Indo-Pak Earthquake 2004 - 05
- High dose of aid has certainly helped ameliorate the sufferings of those affected



# Challenges and Responses in South Asia...

- Anomalies and challenges in relief and rehabilitation work, - PwD their inclusion and participation
- Lacunae in relief and rehabilitation efforts
- Experiences gained by Leonard Cheshire Disability (LCD) – South Asia Regional Office



# People with Disabilities - Inadequacies in Emergency Response...

- Discriminate against people with disabilities as they tend to get more adversely affected than others
- The ability of people with disabilities to cope and survive completely depends on others
- Breakdown of support systems often impede functioning independently and within their dignity. (Oosters, 2005)
- Leonard Cheshire Disability has been involved in research during both the disasters

# People with Disabilities - Inadequacies in Emergency Response...

- While in policy, development agencies explicitly state their commitment to inclusion of People with Disabilities, in reality it is not effectively implemented.
  - People with Disabilities viewed more as vulnerable group rather than as rightful participants
  - Awareness on “how to..” does not always percolate down
  - Train field level workers to adopt inclusive practices are minimal.
  - Pre determined non-inclusive Budget and plan – rigid to change

# People with Disabilities - Inadequacies in Emergency Response...

- Access to aid has often been limited
- Loss of assistive devices during disasters results in mobility restrictions
- Indiscriminate and hasty amputation often by inexperienced doctors post-disaster
- Pressure to deliver quickly to a larger population impedes inclusion practices



# Disability Resource Centres - A One stop shop

- LCD started 8 DRCs in India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Indonesia.
- Cross Disability, - All under one roof and in the community
  - Advocacy/ campaigning and Mainstreaming
  - Information Services
  - Mobility and assistive devices
  - Community based rehabilitation services
  - Promotion of inclusive education

# Disability Resource Centres - A One stop shop

- Promotion of economic empowerment opportunities
- Organizing people with disabilities and their families into self help groups, supporting federations at the block/district level









**LC DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE**  
**ASSISTIVE DEVICES**



# What we learnt...

- Development Agencies involved in building houses, toilets and schools could not be convinced
- Inflow of huge charity funds Vs rights-based participatory approach
- Number of players during the relief stage and after
- Great opportunity for creating a barrier free society
- Mainstreaming with Government and International development agency work is the only way out for successful inclusion

**Thank You...**