

across a local waterway and took on community projects such as repairing schools, building temporary shelters and clearing rubble.

One DART member, Captain Karen Trainor, a nurse practitioner based in Petawawa, Ontario, helped treat 30 to 70 people a day in mobile health clinics around the area. "Most of the hospitals were destroyed, and many doctors and nurses were killed," she said as she returned to Canada. "DART made a big difference in the eyes of Sri Lankan people."

In addition to federal funds, the provinces and territories have donated roughly \$20 million. Municipalities climbed on board as well, with cities such as Calgary contributing emergency supplies and organizations like the Federation of Canadian Municipalities providing expertise to their counterparts in the region to rebuild local administrations and re-establish essential services such as sewage treatment, drinking water and public transit.

Canadian companies and unions have committed funds to help tsunami victims and are matching employee and member contributions. Firms such as Air Canada and Apotex Inc. worked with World Vision Canada to ship relief supplies like water purification equipment, clothing and non-perishable goods, and Air Canada provided transport for aid workers.

Canadian NGOs, many of which have field offices or partners in the affected communities, were able to respond quickly to diverse priorities, from transporting the injured to hospital and building temporary housing to distributing food, medicine and clothing.

Strong ties between the NGOs and their local counterparts in Asia have helped those in need receive appropriate assistance. Both the United Church of Canada and Presbyterian World Service & Development, for example, support the Institute for Development Education (IFDE) in India, which in turn helps local



photo: MCpl Paul MacGregor, Canadian Forces Combat Camera

women from marginalized and poor communities work together to break cycles of poverty. Even in the midst of the chaos following the tsunami, the groups took time to understand the needs of families in devastated fishing villages, creating a sense of partnership with aid recipients.

"(It made) the community feel treated with dignity and respect," IFDE Director Anitha Mahendira wrote in an e-mail to her Canadian partners.

Surely the most remarkable Canadian response to the tsunami came from the public, with individuals donating almost \$200 million in contributions.

Subject to guidelines, the Government of Canada will match

Making a contribution: Captain Karen Trainor, a nurse practitioner with Canada's DART, helped treat people in mobile health clinics in Sri Lanka, such as this girl with a skin condition.



photo: Jennifer Hart, FAC

Open house

At the front of a two-story house in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, within sight of washed-up cars and ruined buildings, a Maple Leaf flag announces a new presence for Canada on the scene of the tsunami's worst devastation. Opened on January 30 by Randolph Mank, the Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia, "Canada House Aceh" is helping to channel Canadians and Canadian support to those hardest hit by the disaster.

"It's important for people to know that Canada is here, and trying to help as best we can," says Karen Foss, a political officer posted in Indonesia and one of a team of several staff who have relocated from Jakarta to work and live at Canada House.

Diplomat Karen Foss: "I'll be here as long as I'm needed."

Located about 50 metres from where the waves stopped, the large house has quickly become a focal point for Canadian involvement in relief and reconstruction efforts. It provides on-the-ground contact for Canadian International Development Agency representatives, Indonesian officials, other donors, non-governmental organizations and even individual Canadians wanting to assist in the rehabilitation work.

Canada House is always busy, with staff coming and going between projects in the field and meetings with local people and then working long into the night on reports and preparing for the day ahead.

"I'm very proud of how the Government of Canada has responded, and impressed by all of the support coming from Canada," says Foss. "That's what makes this work so rewarding. I'll be here as long as I'm needed."