

February 2005

# The Teller

Hope  
after the horror



Staff Tsunami Fund: how you are raising the cash • What the money means to the people • AIB aidworker's on the spot report

## Staff rally for tsunami survivors

AIB STAFF ACROSS the group were shocked and saddened by the unprecedented impact of the Asian tsunami on the people of South East Asia.

Employees in America, Ireland, Poland and the UK decided they wanted to do something practical to help.

The response has been fantastic. Already, just over one month after the disaster struck, the new Staff Tsunami Fund has pledges and contributions from staff of more than €300,000.

Everyday more donations are being made – by both current staff and retired employees. The initial target figure for staff contributions is €750,000. CEO Michael Buckley has promised that AIB Group will match staff donations on a three to one basis – which could mean €3 million being raised for the fund.

This special edition of *The Teller* marks the official launch of the Staff Tsunami Fund on Friday 28 January.

We report fundraising events held in AIB Group offices all around the world. We also talk to one AIB staff member who is in the frontline of efforts to help the people whose lives were devastated by the tsunami.

Donal de Buitelir, Chairman of the Staff Tsunami Fund, said: "I want to say thank you to all staff who have played their part in raising cash for the fund. There's been real enthusiasm to make a difference to the lives of people affected by the tsunami. It's been great to see – and it's clear the money is much needed.

"We are working closely with GOAL on identifying specific projects in Sri Lanka. We promise to keep everyone updated on how the money is being used on the island. Keep the money coming in – and, if you want to do more after the launch day events, please consider making modest but regular contributions by standing order. Thank you."



A GOAL worker helps build a shelter in Sri Lanka

## How GOAL is helping people in Sri Lanka

PICTURE IRELAND. NOW trace the coastline going clockwise from Belfast to Limerick and you have an idea of the area affected by the December tsunami in Sri Lanka, a country about the same size as Ireland.

In some places the waves – there were three of them in total – came in a couple of hundred metres. In other places the water travelled two to three miles inland.

Hundreds of houses, hotels, factories, schools, offices and shops were destroyed. More than 36,000 people were killed or are still missing. And it is here that the support of the Staff Tsunami Fund will be making a difference.

GOAL, AIB Group's charity partner, has three operations running in Sri Lanka – in the coastal towns of Ampara, Hambantota and Matara. The focus of GOAL's work at the moment is still on the grisly task of body retrieval as well as clearing the rubble. They have also begun building temporary shelters and are now assessing the longer-term development needs of the area.

In some places the power of the

water reduced concrete buildings not just to rubble but to dust, says Ray Jordan, Emergency Coordinator for GOAL. "I'm a civil engineer by trade and I've never seen anything like the destruction caused by the tsunami."

While the damage caused to the fishing industry and the boats has been given much media attention, there are many other affected groups, adds Jordan.

"There's the women who cleaned the fish landed by the boats and who brought them to market. There are also all the people who relied on the tourism industry for work. 45,000 hotel rooms have been destroyed along the Sri Lankan coast – that's 45,000 rooms which don't need cleaning every day anymore," he explains.

One way GOAL is helping is by starting cash-for-work projects. Local people are employed to clear rubble, salvage bricks, clear harbours and build shelters. Explains Ray: "By paying people a wage, we aim to restore their dignity. They decide what to buy with their money – it's some form of normality."



# Putting the fun into fundraising!

Losing weight, wearing strange clothes, getting heads shaved, playing golf in the office. You name it, staff around AIB Group did it in the name of charity. Here are just some of the many events held across the group to raise money for the **Staff Tsunami Fund**.

**AIB Raheny staff** did a fast and also held a Jersey Day ... **Allied Irish Bank (GB) Mayfair** held a bikeathon on an exercise bike borrowed from a local gym ... **AIB Dungarvan** have been holding a sponsored weight loss programme ... **Group Law** dressed down for the day ... **AIB Wicklow** ran a match the baby photo to the employee competition ... **First Trust Stormont** held a coffee morning ... **AIB Thurles** ran a no uniform day and sold gifts and cakes ... **Allied Irish Offshore in the Isle of Man** held an auction of donated items as well as offers of babysitting and ironing ... staff in **AIB Kilmacthomas** held a dress down day and a raffle ... staff in **AIB Mallow** brought in a keyboard and guitar for a singalong ... **Ark Life** enjoyed breakfast pastries &

afternoon treats, a theme lunch and an auction ... **Allied Irish Bank (GB) Glasgow** went back in time for a 1970s day ... **Darren Shields & Danny Tumilty** of First Trust Currency Services raffled a signed David Beckham shirt ... **AIB Cahir** hosted a coffee morning ... staff in **BZWBK head office in Poland** held a bake sale ... **AIB Cavan** raffled a hamper donated by one of their relationship managers ... **Allied Irish Bank (GB) Liverpool** guessed the number of jelly beans in the jar and held a trivial pursuit night ... **Switchroom** staff in Bankcentre, Dublin supported one of their colleagues, **Gemma Traynor**, in a sponsored silence ... **Marketing Unit (GB)** held a sponsored keepy uppy ... **AIB UCD** staff paid for a lunch cooked and served by themselves



Wache under threat ...  
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nell Street, Dublin



And now it's gone!



In BZWBK in Poland, Business Support Centre employees were tempted to make payments to the fund with cakes. Agata Wypychow was one of people who baked the delicious cakes.



First Trust Cookstown staff went back in time for Friday.

... **First Trust Ballymena** held a bread & soup lunch for staff and sold quiz sheets ... **AIB Ballina** held a coffee morning ... **Allied Irish Bank (GB) Uxbridge** brought some of the senior managers from GB head office across the road back to the floor ... **Carmel O'Callaghan, AIB Castlebar**, raffled an oil painting painted by herself ... the **RBSO** went black & white for the day and also held a Eurovision sing-a-long sponsored walk on Saturday ... **Central Securities** in Adelaide Road are planning a table quiz ... **Network Services** in Belfast are holding a pamper night with Virgin Vie on Thursday in Queens Square ... **AIB Douglas Road, Cork** & the regional office are doing a sponsored walk ... **Allied Irish Bank (GB) Brighton** was held a raffle and cake sale ... It was hats off to **Direct Banking in Naas** with wear-a-hat day, a cake sale, auction, lucky dips and games ... **Kevin MacCourt, RBSO**, lost his beard ... **IDRU, Uxbridge** polished shoes for the day ... the **CRM Unit** in Bankcentre, Dublin auctioned a Kerry jersey signed by the All Ireland-winning team ... **First Trust Derry** swapped baby photos for a who's who ... **Learning & Development** in Adelaide Road washed cars and organised games for the afternoon ... **First Trust** launched a people auction with fishing lessons, decorating services, reflexology sessions and gourmet cooking time all up for sale ... the **Limerick/Clare I&P** team did a 10km sponsored hike



AIB Tallaght held a sponsored pounds-for-euros weightwatching scheme. Friday was the final.

up Keeper Hill, Co Tipperary ... **AIB New Ross** sold gifts ... **IT Services** held a 5-a-side soccer tournament – won by a team from Bankcentre ... **Change Management Capital Markets** held a bake sale, a baby who's who and a pub quiz ... **AIB Cobh** held a ten hour fast ... **F&T** division held a jersey or head gear day and the management team gamely submitted their baby photos for a guessing game ... **AIB Santry** held a dress down day ... **First Trust Lisburn** dressed down for the day and hosted a coffee morning ... **Allied Irish Bank (GB) Cardiff** held a dress down day ... **Alan Roberts of NBP Project** is doing a 50km sponsored run – 10km every day ... **Castlereagh Business Centre** cooked lunch for staff and local branches ... **Private Banking, Bankcentre, Dublin**, held a raffle, a coffee & scones morning and a dress down day ... **Brand Management** held a fashion and beauty evening with guest speakers including VIP editor Emer O'Reilly Hyland, Gary Kavanagh of Peter Mark and make-up artist Zoe Clark ... **AIB Oranmore** sold crème eggs to the highest bidders ... **Central Facilities Management** in Bankcentre, Donnybrook House and Adelaide Road have foregone their Christmas party (always held in January) with staff contributions going to the fund instead ... **Allied Irish Bank (GB) Manchester** held a guess the baby competition ... Martin Rafferty, **AIB Corporate Finance**, organised a sponsored walk ... **Service Implementation, eTec** hosted a big table quiz – with answers on sale for between €10 and €50 each ... **First Trust Coalisland** held a cheese & wine reception ... **AIB Tipperary** staff dressed down for the day ... **Private Banking in Mayfair**

held a mufty day and tried to guess the name of the teddy bear while Hannah & Neil stayed quiet and Jimmy served tea and coffee ... **Trinity Programme, SOX Project** and **Enterprise Change Management** staff guessed the amount of money in the jar and held a raffle ... **AIB Falcarragh** organised a GAA derby refereed by Donegal county player and AIB employee **John Gildea** ... **First Trust Centre** held a giant afternoon tea ... **International Banking Services** in Belfast launched a charity alimail bingo ...



Staff in AIB Tuam Road Galway dressed up to celebrate the launch of the tsunami fund.



Allied Irish America New York held a pizza & soda day.

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# Restoring lives

AIB staff member & GOAL volunteer **Finne Lucey** reports from Sri Lanka

IT'S NEARLY A month since I arrived in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. I was supposed to go to Darfur in Sudan after Christmas but then the tsunami happened.

My job here as a logistician is to help ensure our three field locations are equipped to run the emergency programmes.

When I went to Ampara – a region that suffered massive loss of life – I met people who had lost everything. One fisherman told me he was at the market when the tsunami hit.

“Everything went quiet, birds flew away and the dogs started to run.”

Everyone heard a loud booming noise but didn't know what it was. Everything went quiet, birds flew away and the dogs started to run.

Then the sea was sucked out 500 metres and immediately started to rush back. The fisherman ran to the nearest palm tree and started to climb. Others ran to their homes to get their valuables. They had no chance, he told me.

The waves started to rise and the fisherman kept climbing. Eventually he was at the top of a four metre tree when the water stopped – and began to go back out. When he looked down there were people struggling against the pull. Some managed to hold on but others were not so fortunate. He grabbed whoever he could.

He managed to get to his house and found it still standing. But his boat was smashed – his livelihood

gone. Worse was to follow. He discovered his wife and one of his daughters had been shopping at the beachfront market. They did not survive.

When I spoke to this fisherman, I would say that despite everything his outlook was positive. He said he had other children and other family members to live for – he just wants to get his life back on track. And we can help. One of GOAL's projects is boat repair and rebuilding.

When I travelled by road to get to Ampara, it was through some of the most stunning landscape I've ever seen. But when I arrived at the coast, the scenery changed for the worse. One side of a street looked normal – the other was a mess of rubble and vegetation.

On the beachfront, there were people picking through the debris trying to salvage what they could. Despite the amount of people, it was relatively silent.

The GOAL projects are immediate interventions. We've been giving people non-food items like clothes, hygiene kits, kitchen equipment and bedding materials.

But most of these people have no homes at present. Temporary shelter construction is vital. In Hambantota I met a young girl called Ayesha. She and her family were the first to move into one of our temporary shelters. They were thrilled to have something solid that they can call their own until they can build something more permanent.

That the children have been traumatised by what happened to them is very obvious. They're playing in the middle of all the destruction. But when I go to take a photo, they produce their biggest smiles.

Their families have started to help them get over it by returning to a semblance of normality. Going back to school means a lot at this time. To help with this, the GOAL volunteers have made up some back-to-school kits with rucksacks, copybooks and pens.

This got the children very excited about school and took their minds away from what had happened. Maybe this was only a temporary effect. Getting over something like the tsunami is not easy. But they've made a start ... and that's really important right now.

*Finne Lucey, from Cork, has worked for GOAL since 2002 in Afghanistan and Northern Uganda. She is currently on career break from AIB where she last worked as the AIB Sports & Social Club coordinator. She goes to Darfur in February.*



Finne sits on the steps of a destroyed house.



Diehard Kilkenny Cats, Leo Carroll and Brendan Marnell, donned Waterford jerseys in an effort to raise money for the tsunami fund at AIB The Quay, Waterford.

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**AIB Newcastle, Galway** hosted a coffee morning ... **AIB Catering** in Bankcentre, Dublin ran a raffle for a dinner for eight in one of the Private Dining rooms, including wine ... **Group Corporate Relations** dressed down for the day ... **AIB Western Road** in Cork held a video sale – videos donated by **Noel Dunne** – and a guess the baby competition. The day ended with cocktails made by **Evelyn** and **Sinead** ... **First Trust Kilkeel** held a bake sale and a raffle ... **AIB Listowel** held a fast over several days ... **Allied Irish Bank (GB) Watford** fined swearers, held a raffle and will donate part of their tea fund for the month ... the **FX Refund Centre** in Bankcentre, Dublin charged all visitors to their office an entrance fee ... **Wholesale Support Services** in **Ashford House** held a jersey day ... **First Trust Newtownards** held a coffee morning with all staff wearing aprons ... staff in **AIB Carrick on Suir's** lotto syndicate donated their lotto fund ... **HR** in **Uxbridge** wore pink, played darts, held a bikeathon, auctioned their services and held a tombola ... **AIB Drogheda** held a book sale, a charades competition and a

services auction ... **Capital Markets IT** ran a coffee morning, a raffle and a baby photo competition - and also participated in a Carrisbrook House Muffin Eating Competition ... **AIB Dundalk** held a coffee morning ... **ITD** held a putting competition ... **AIB Skibbereen** held a no uniform day ... **AIB Donegal** organised indoor pitch & putt, basketball and darts ... **AIB Crumlin Road** held an all-day coffee morning ... **IT** in **Bankcentre** had a wet sponge throwing

competition aimed at the managers ... A number of male staff in **AIBIM** had their legs waxed, heads, moustaches and beards shaved. **AIBIM** also held a muffin eating competition ... **HR Resourcing** held a cake sale ... and **Denise Boyd, Outward Payments, Ashford House**, shaved her head. **Outward Payments** also held a cake sale and raffle.



Golfing in Allied Irish Bank (GB) Wimbledon

## Give regularly

THE STAFF TSUNAMI Fund is a long-term project. If you want to help, one of the best ways is to make regular, monthly contributions by standing order. It's amazing how small regular donations add up over time.

And, remember, not just current staff from AIB Group companies can make donations. If you have retired from AIB, your contributions are also welcome.

If you are in the Republic of Ireland, you need to get hold of the Staff Tsunami Fund standing order form. Hard copies have been distributed across the network and you can also download them from the intranet, where available. These forms should be returned to Standing Order Unit, Branch & Clearing, AIB Bank, 1 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2.

The account details are as follows:

Account name: GOAL AIB Staff South East Asia Fund  
Account number: 99903088,  
Sort code: 93-33-84. (AIB Westmoreland St, Dublin)

In Northern Ireland, special standing order forms are available on First Trust branch servers. Gift Aid forms are also being distributed which allow GOAL to claim back tax on your donations. The account details are as follows:

Account name: Goal AIB Staff South East Asia Fund  
Account number: 07978067  
Sort code: 93-80-92 (First Trust, High Street, Belfast)

In Britain, standing order forms can be printed from the Word template called tsunami. Gift Aid forms are also available as a Word template under the name declaration. The account details are as follows:

Account name: Goal AIB Staff South East Asia Fund  
Account number: 01438020  
Sort code: 23-92-90 (Allied Irish Bank (GB), Uxbridge)

In Poland, there are full details about donating to the fund on the BZ WBK intranet. The account is:

Account number: 13 1090 1854 0000 0001 0337 8331  
Fundacja Banku Zachodniego WBK S.A.  
pl. Wladyslawa Andersa 5 61-894 Poznan  
Telephone 61/850 30 40 fax. 61/856 52 03

Once-off donations are still welcome. In the Republic, staff members who are AIB internet or telephone banking customers, can also use a special number to make a donation. The number is 1890 242429 and the line is open 9-5pm.

### The Teller

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