

“ I hope that the report contained in these pages, laid out in numbers, words and images, will be appreciated by many Italians for what it is: a civil act – all the more civil because it is unfortunately rare - of homage to the sovereignty of citizens, of respect for a mandate freely given and knowingly assumed as a task, of a sense of responsibility for what is done in the name of our whole country.

FERNANDA CONTRI  
CHAIRMAN OF THE TRUSTEES COMMITTEE



SRI LANKA: THE REPORT

HOW WE USED DONATIONS FROM ITALIANS FOR THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS



# SRI LANKA: THE LANKA: REPORT

CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

HOW WE USED DONATIONS FROM ITALIANS FOR THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

▲ **Giovanni Bastianini** is a mission expert with the Civil Protection Department in Sri Lanka, in charge of Communications.

▲ **Agostino Miozzo** is the Director General of the International Relations Office of the Civil Protection Department, and he is the Department's Head of Mission in Sri Lanka.

▲ Less than 24 hours after the tsunami hit the coasts of Southeast Asia on December 26, 2004, a team from the **Civil Protection Department** was already at work in Sri Lanka bringing assistance and relief to Italian tourists caught up in the catastrophe, while other emergency units went to the Maldives and to Phuket, Thailand.

▲ When the **Sri Lankan** government requested aid from other countries on behalf of the victims of the tidal wave and the Italian government immediately answered yes, Civil Protection beefed up its presence on the island with additional personnel, equipment and more resources to help the stricken populations. The appalling dimensions of the catastrophe, the terrible accounting of the victims and the steady increase in survivors left homeless and with nothing, the succession of stories told by those returning home via the air bridge organised by Civil Protection, the dramatic images captured by tourists and broadcast on every television channel all created a situation of intense involvement and participation by all Italian citizens, who proved themselves to be extremely generous in a great outpouring of solidarity. When the mobile phone operators and other promoters of initiatives for the tsunami's victims had to decide whom to entrust the collected resources to, their choice fell on Civil Protection, which was already on the scene and had demonstrated it could act efficiently.

▲ In the intense moments following a cataclysm that occurred thousands of kilometres away but experienced by Italians like a drama broadcast live, thus began the commitment of the Civil Protection Department in Sri Lanka; even in the absence of any means of continuity, it followed up on its first-response efforts with a complex programme of aid on behalf of the victims of the tsunami. In time, the donations received would reach some **50 million Euros**. With these resources, applied entirely towards aid, the Department bore the costs for its own personnel and for managing its efforts; Italy's Civil Protection carried to completion the projects "accounted for" in this volume, working directly and with the cooperation of many NGOs and other implementing partners.

▲ The first projects were marked by urgency: tent camps, temporary shelters for the homeless, supplies of boats and fishing nets, initial support kits for families stripped of all possessions by the tidal wave. As the months passed, the Department's efforts took on a more structured approach and content: construction and rehabilitation of houses, schools, hospitals, orphanages and other public facilities, as well as efforts in support of economic recovery for the neediest families through microcredit loans. Two and one-half years after the tragedy, **all planned projects have been completed** and turned over to the beneficiaries and to the local authorities.



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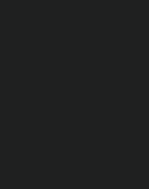


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▲ Giovanni Bastianini

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