

2004 Boxing Day Tsunami

HOW IT HAPPENED

On the 26th of December 2004 one of the worst tsunamis ever recorded in history hit South East Asia. The tsunami was triggered by a 9.2 magnitude earthquake in the Indian Ocean. This earthquake displaced the ocean floor causing huge waves of water travelling at insane speeds to hit the western coast of Northern Sumatra. The wave grew in height to about 10m as it approached the land devastating anything in its wake. The tsunami occurred 7 hours after the earthquake.

EFFECTS



230 000 people were killed in the Aceh Province of Sumatra

1.7 million made homeless

Nearly half a million were injured

tourists from several countries killed

Flooding

Fishing grounds were destroyed

Trees and the natural ecosystem were destroyed by salt water

Thousands of people lost their jobs.

Infrastructure was completely destroyed making transportation and communication impossible

Food shortages and lack of health services exacerbated the death toll

Several tourist resorts were destroyed badly affecting Indonesia's tourism industry

The effects were felt in several countries surrounding the Indian Ocean. Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, Burma were severely hurt. The tsunami was also felt in the Eastern coastal countries of Africa such as Madagascar and Somalia.