

Department of Medicine senior resident **Anand Parekh** spent 10 days of his vacation in Tamil Nadu, a remote village outside of Pondicherry, India. Parekh set up shop and began treating wounds, then moved on to other villages. "The challenge will be to keep this flame of goodwill alive, for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of this population will take months and years," says Parekh. "We will have to stay with them."

Epidemiologists **David Celentano** and **Sunil Solomon**, who have conducted AIDS research in Chennai, India, since 1998, led an effort to provide shelter, clothing, water, and food to victims in two of their study's coastal communities. Says Celentano, "The desperate nature of the population is palpable."

Radiology's **Ananda Kumar** and Internal Medicine's **Ruben Amarasingham** used a \$20,000 donation from Johns Hopkins Hospital to collect more than 10 pallets of medical supplies to be shipped to Sri Lanka and distributed by the Red Cross. "That was the least I could do to help the victims, who have been through untold suffering and grief," says Kumar.

In January, the Bloomberg School's **Earl Wall** helped assess medical facilities in Banda Aceh and found that 70 percent of the area's doctors and nurses had been killed. "There were massive quantities of medical supplies—the hallways were packed with boxes and boxes of them. What they didn't have enough of were nurses and public health experts," says Wall. He and other members of the HOPE (Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies) program provided medical triage, coordinated with first responders, and determined if buildings were structurally safe.

MPH student **Navaratnasamy Paranietharan** and his brother were driving along a harbor side road near Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, when the tsunami struck. They were lucky to escape—through the car windows. Already members of the Red Cross Society, the brothers rode a motorcycle along coastal roads in Trincomalee searching for people in need of help. Paranietharan later assisted the Kinniya Hospital, where 60 patients and four staff had died in the tsunami.

Genetics researcher **Arani Raguraj** and her husband, **Sinnarajah**, coordinated food, money, and medical donations from Sri Lankans throughout the United States to aid residents of her native village on the northeast coast of Sri Lanka, one of the hardest hit. In early January, the couple and their baby daughter flew to Sri Lanka to assist in rebuilding its health system, through an IMHO that Sinnarajah established in 2003.

SPH assistant professor **Rashid Chotani** and MPH student **Yahya Shaikh** set up a temporary medical clinic in Pantou Labu, a remote location in north Aceh, Indonesia, that had been overlooked by local NGOs. "People presented with skin lesions, and most were depressed," says Chotani, adding that 10 people died from respiratory problems after the tsunami hit. Before leaving, Chotani arranged for additional supplies and a team of 10 health care volunteers to continue the aid effort.

JHPIEGO, a Hopkins-affiliated international health organization, partnered with the humanitarian group CARE to re-establish health care facilities in Aceh, Indonesia. JHPIEGO president and CEO **Leslie Mancuso** worked with the Indonesian government to survey conditions, finding that 77 health clinics were destroyed, leaving only eight crowded hospitals. Says Mancuso, "This JHPIEGO-CARE partnership will help assure that the urgent health care needs of mothers and children are addressed now and in the months and years to come."

Bologna Center graduate **Dennis Richards** traveled to Bangkok to conduct relief operations with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Richards says the recovery of the tourism industry will not be a problem, but the FAO "would like to see more emphasis on helping the Thais who have lost their families, homes, and livelihoods."

Civil engineering professor **Robert Dalrymple** surveyed the tsunami's effects on infrastructure in Phuket, Phi Phi Don Island, and parts of the Phang Nga province, Thailand, to see what engineering lessons could be learned. He was part of a team from the American Society of Civil Engineering (see "Findings," p. 29). "We were able to see what kind of construction was successful," he says. "We also saw the utility of seawalls and elevated construction."

The Bloomberg School's CIEDRS (the Center for International Emergency, Disaster, and Refugee Studies) sent a team to Jakarta to provide medical relief and establish an infectious disease monitoring system. Joining the team were Johns Hopkins emergency medicine physician and fellow **Alex Vu** and Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Emergency Department nurses **Brian Wahl**, **Emily Seay**, and **Andrey Rutkowski**.

