

KENYON

EMERGENCY SERVICES

A WHEELS UP COMPANY

CASE STUDY

Response to Thailand tsunami

BACKGROUND

The Indian Ocean Tsunami made landfall on 26th December 2004. It was unprecedented in its scale, destroying parts of Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand, resulting in over 250,00 deaths within the regions.

Approximately 5,000 non-Thai nationals from 30 different nationalities died due to the tsunami. Over 30 individual Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) teams were deployed by their national governments.

Kenyon was contracted by the Australian Government to support the international disaster response operation in Thailand.

CHALLENGES

The involvement of numerous independent national disaster victim identification teams placed a strain on the command structure and the necessity to standardize the victim identification process.

The overall scope of the disaster and large number of deceased was overwhelming. There was no

data management system within Thailand capable of recording the antemortem and post-mortem information on the deceased.

There was pressure on the various national DVI teams to expedite the identification of their nationals killed in the incident.



SOLUTIONS

Kenyon provided two mobile mortuaries, equipment and consumables and appropriate personnel to support the mortuary operation. The teams also embalmed and prepared remains following post-mortem examination for final disposition.

Kenyon provided crisis communication advice and support to the Australian Government. A 'Wall of Remembrance' was constructed adjacent to the repatriation center in Phuket, where the victims' families could gather in memory of their loved ones.

Kenyon teams provided specialist advice on chemical use, personal protective equipment for the response operation and DNA collection, the chain of custody procedures and DNA data management processes.

Kenyon provided comprehensive IT support to the Disaster Victim Identification Information Management Center.



RESULTS

Kenyon had the operational capacity and capability to provide a specialist disaster response team to focus their skills and expertise on locating, recovering, managing, identifying, and repatriating the deceased found at specific locations in the disaster region.

They provided continuous operational, technical, and logistical support to the international response operation for over eight months.

Kenyon provided the Thai National Police with a copy of their Plasm Data DVI program to rectify the incident data management problem.

Over 90% of the reported missing persons were positively identified - an outstanding result for an open disaster of this nature.

If you would like to know more about Kenyon International Emergency Services, visit kenyoninternational.com or contact kenyon@kenyoninternational.com

