

INDIA

“One year after the tsunami:
a journey of healing and hope”



Thank you for your commitment to remember all who suffer and struggle to survive following the tsunami. Your gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response after the South Asia Tsunami will fund a comprehensive and multi-year response in the region.

On December 26, 2004, the day of the terrible South Asia Tsunami, young Rangit (pictured here) was at home in the coastal village of Sothikuppam, India. Rangit clutched his baby sister as the powerful waves crashed around them, but could not keep hold.

His sister's death and Rangit's own near-death left him severely traumatized. Rangit was withdrawn and could not speak. Like so many other survivors, Rangit's physical injuries could be treated, but the emotional injuries he carried were just as threatening to his health.

The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, with gifts from ELCA International Disaster Response, worked with a community agency to train over 1,400 local leaders in trauma counseling. The participants, many of whom are teachers, learned to recognize the signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in children. Then, through an innovative program of counseling, songs, dance and art therapy, they helped the children and their parents begin to recover.

The tsunami's waves will forever shape this boy's life, but today Rangit is talking again and even smiles and laughs. Through your gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response and the capable ministry of our partners in India, Rangit has progressed on his journey toward health, healing, and wholeness.

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