

INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI - LATEST TOLL

Three months on to the day, the toll of the Boxing Day tsunami continues to climb. The total number of dead and missing is now put at around 305,276, with more than 220,000 of these in Indonesia's Aceh Province. The number of injured is currently at more than half a million, with the destruction of around 410,000 homes leading to the internal displacement of more than 1.7 million people. Two million people in the affected region are estimated to have lost their jobs and about twice this number are expected to fall into poverty as a consequence of the tsunami. Total economic losses may be as high as US\$13.4 billion (Euro10 billion), with insured losses estimated at between US\$2.5 and US\$4 billion (Euro1.9 – 3 billion). The cost of recovery and reconstruction in Indonesia is expected to be the equivalent of 2 percent of the country's GDP and in Sri Lanka, around 4.4 percent of GDP.