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# The 2004 Thailand tsunami reviewed lessons learned

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## **Abstract**

This chapter reviews the events leading up to, and immediately following, the December 2004 tsunami that occurred in South East Asia; and the lessons that were learned from a logistical perspective are highlighted. It is clear that countries in the region lacked the communication infrastructure and logistics capacity and capability to deal with the aftermath of such an event. Logistics is central to the delivery of relief aid. In the context of the tsunami, the effectiveness and speed of response, the significance of the cost element and the fragility of emergency supply chains in extreme conditions are highlighted. The tsunami raised many issues relating to large-scale humanitarian disasters, including the level of preparedness for such events and how best to manage logistics and supply chain activities in volatile conditions such as those that immediately followed the tsunami strikes. Subsequently, many organizations, especially in Thailand, began to give more attention to the issues related to large-scale emergencies including preparedness and implementation of appropriate plans during emergency relief operations. The lessons learned from the response to the tsunami, especially the dissemination of information, should enable countries and organizations to better prepare for, and respond to, such emergencies in the future.