

The Big Picture

News stories in photographs

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Five years since the Tsunami

Five years ago, on Boxing Day, December 26th, 2004, a magnitude 9.3 earthquake hit the seafloor of the Indian Ocean, causing tremendous waves of seawater to rush ashore as devastating tsunamis that left 230,000 people dead across 13 different countries - the fifth deadliest natural disaster in recorded history. Over 45,000 of the dead were never found. Five years later now, reconstruction moves apace, as multiple aid groups have built more than 140,000 homes, 1,700 schools, 3,800 houses of worship and 3,700 km of roads. On this anniversary of the catastrophe, we have collected here photographs of survivors, some rebuilding, some remembering, and seven sets of "before and after" photos (numbers 4-10, be sure to click them to see the transition effect). I'd also like to direct your attention to a fantastic multimedia presentation on this subject from Thomson/Reuters called **Surviving the Tsunami. (25 photos total)**



23 A Red Cross volunteer sits amongst open umbrellas printed with portraits of smiling children representing children orphaned in the Indian Ocean tsunami, during its fifth anniversary at the Tsunami museum in Banda Aceh December 26, 2009. (REUTERS/Beawiharta) #