Reconstruction Programme Launched to Settle the People Displaced by the Tsunami which was issued by the Sri Lankan Reconstruction and Development Agency in June 2006. After a scant 10 weeks of research which relied on outdated and faulty sources, the conclusions cited in this paper included the following:

"III Once the asbestos fibres are bonded with cement as in the case of asbestos roofing sheets, it will cause no health hazard unless the fibres are exposed due to cutting, drilling or grinding.

IV Usage of asbestos roofing would not involve grinding but would necessitate drilling while fixing. Any health problems to arise from exposure to drilling could be avoided if the recommended safety measures such as wearing breathing masks are practiced by those engaged in it.

V The Asbestos Manufacturers' Association has educated the builders and carpenters by conducting training programs as well as by way of catalogues and brochures.

VI The asbestos manufacturing industries subject their employees to periodical medical check-ups and it has been revealed that employees have not been identified to be suffering from industrial related diseases.

VII According to the information available at the Cancer Hospital there is no evidence to show that the asbestos fibres are in the lungs of cancer victims in Sri Lanka."[77]

Indonesian Earthquake 2005

The earthquake which hit the Indonesian provinces of Yogyakarta and Central Java on May 27, 2005 measured 5.9 on the Richter scale. It lasted just 57 seconds, killed over 5,700 people and injured 47,000; more than 500,000 homes were destroyed or damaged.[78] According to Dave Hodgkin the Shelter Cluster Coordinator and Technical Advisor from UN Yogya/Central Java Earthquake Response:

"In Jogya, cleanup operations were largely community driven, with Gotong Royong (community working bee) groups chipping in, to sweep up, and remove much of the rubble. Almost uniformly no attention was paid to the risks posed by rubble removal. Low lying land, roadsides, rice paddies and rivers, were all used as dumping sites for the billions of tonnes of waste created by the minute long quake.

Families scrounged through rubble, dusting off bricks, timbers, steel, windows, doors, roof tiles, asbestos sheet and anything else with some possibility for reuse. Rubble crushers, backhoes, bulldozers and raw human labour set to work, cleaning up debris and reusing whatever possible as road base, foundation fill etc; all with little or no heed to dust for months after the earthquake.

As in Aceh, aware members of the emergency shelter cluster applied some of their overstretched resources (both time and funds) to produce public outreach documents to encourage safe handling of asbestos waste and to discourage its further purchase.

In both cases, efforts were often hampered by multiple factors including the scale of the disasters. With over 800 affected villages in the Java earthquake, comprising something in the order of 8,000 individual hamlets, and mixed literacy levels as well as varying levels of media access, public outreach is a massive task."[79]