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HSBC PLEDGES \$1 MILLION TO TSUNAMI APPEAL

HSBC, through the Hongkong Bank Foundation, has given US \$1 million to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies following the tsunamis that wreaked havoc across the Indian Ocean on 26 December.

Douglas Flint, HSBC's Group Finance Director, said: "We have all been shocked and saddened by the devastating effects of the Sumatra earthquake and tsunami which swept across the Indian Ocean.

"The scale of this tragedy is still very much unfolding and we continue to make every effort to account for all our staff and their families located or known to be in the regions affected."

Although no HSBC offices or buildings were damaged by the tsunamis, the Group's operations in the region will be affected due to the scale of the devastation, Flint said.

He also revealed that a disaster relief fund has been set up for all staff donations across the HSBC Group, while advising customers who wish to donate to channel their support directly through the International Red Cross.

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Notes to editors

1. HSBC Bank Australia

In Australia, the HSBC Group offers an extensive range of financial services through a network of 35 branches and offices. These services include personal and commercial financial services, financial planning, trade finance, treasury and financial markets, payments and cash management and securities custody. Principal HSBC Group members operating in Australia include HSBC Bank Australia Limited (ABN 48 006 434 162) and The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (ABN 65 117 925 970). HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.

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News Release