

After the tsunami...

Level

Intermediate and above

Tasks

Creating sentences using words connected with poverty and debt
Scanning an article for examples of these words
Finding words in the article from their definitions
Discussing issues arising from the article

How to use the lesson

- 1 Write the word 'tsunami' on the board and ask students to tell you about the recent disaster e.g. which countries were affected? These included Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Note that some students may have been affected personally by the events, so this may be a sensitive subject. Hand out the worksheet and ask students to work in pairs to create sentences with some of the words in the box. Elicit examples from the class.
- 2 Ask students to scan the article to find as many of the words (or their derivatives) as possible in one minute.

Answers

Paragraph 1: debt (title) / poverty

Paragraph 2: relief (funds) / (staff) donations / pledged / (online) collection

Paragraph 4: poverty (x3) / debt relief / debt

- 3 Ask students to read the whole article for general understanding and summarise the key points. If appropriate, extend the discussion, e.g. ask students to think of other ways in which companies can help the victims of disasters. Do they think that the debt of the developing nations should be cancelled completely?
- 4 Ask students to look back at the article and find the words from their definitions.

Answers

(a) breakthrough (b) infrastructure (c) aftermath (d) catastrophe (e) vulnerable (f) campaign

- 5 Students work in small groups to discuss the areas in need of long-term investment in the countries affected. They must choose three they feel should be given priority. Ask each group to present their choices to the rest of the class and encourage a class discussion.

Related websites

Send your students these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.dec.org.uk/>

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/>

<http://www.unicef.org/>

<http://www.worldbank.org/>