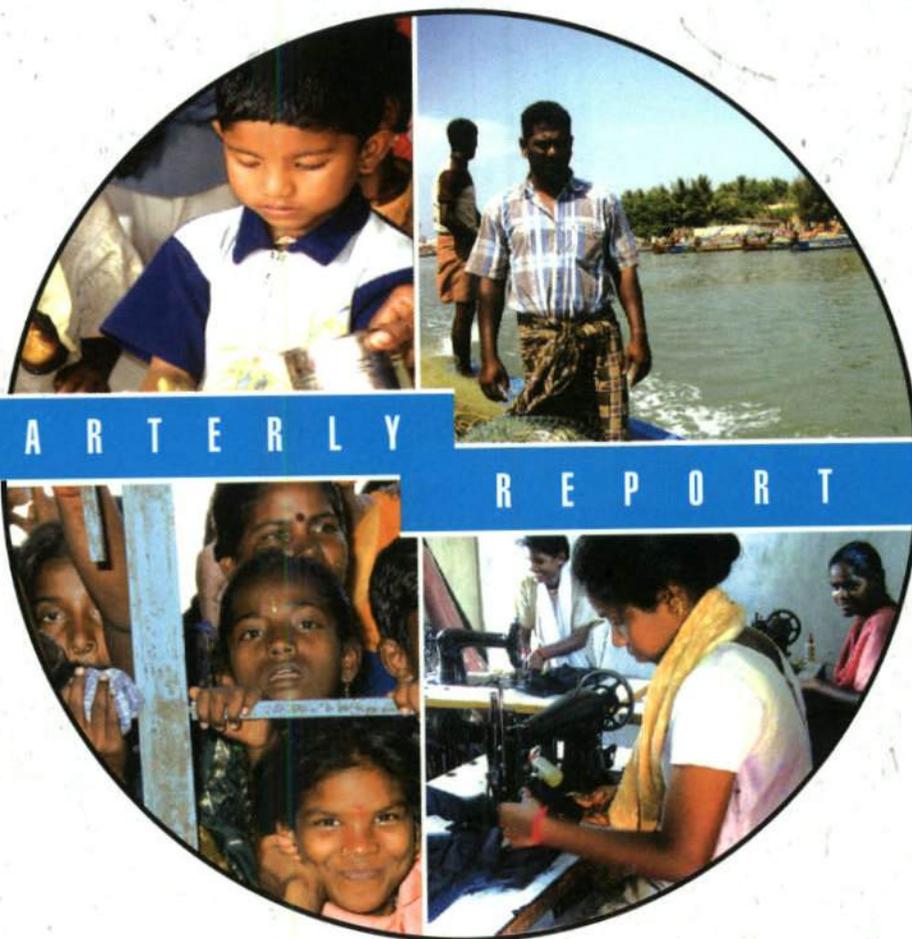




UNITED NATIONS TEAM FOR RECOVERY SUPPORT



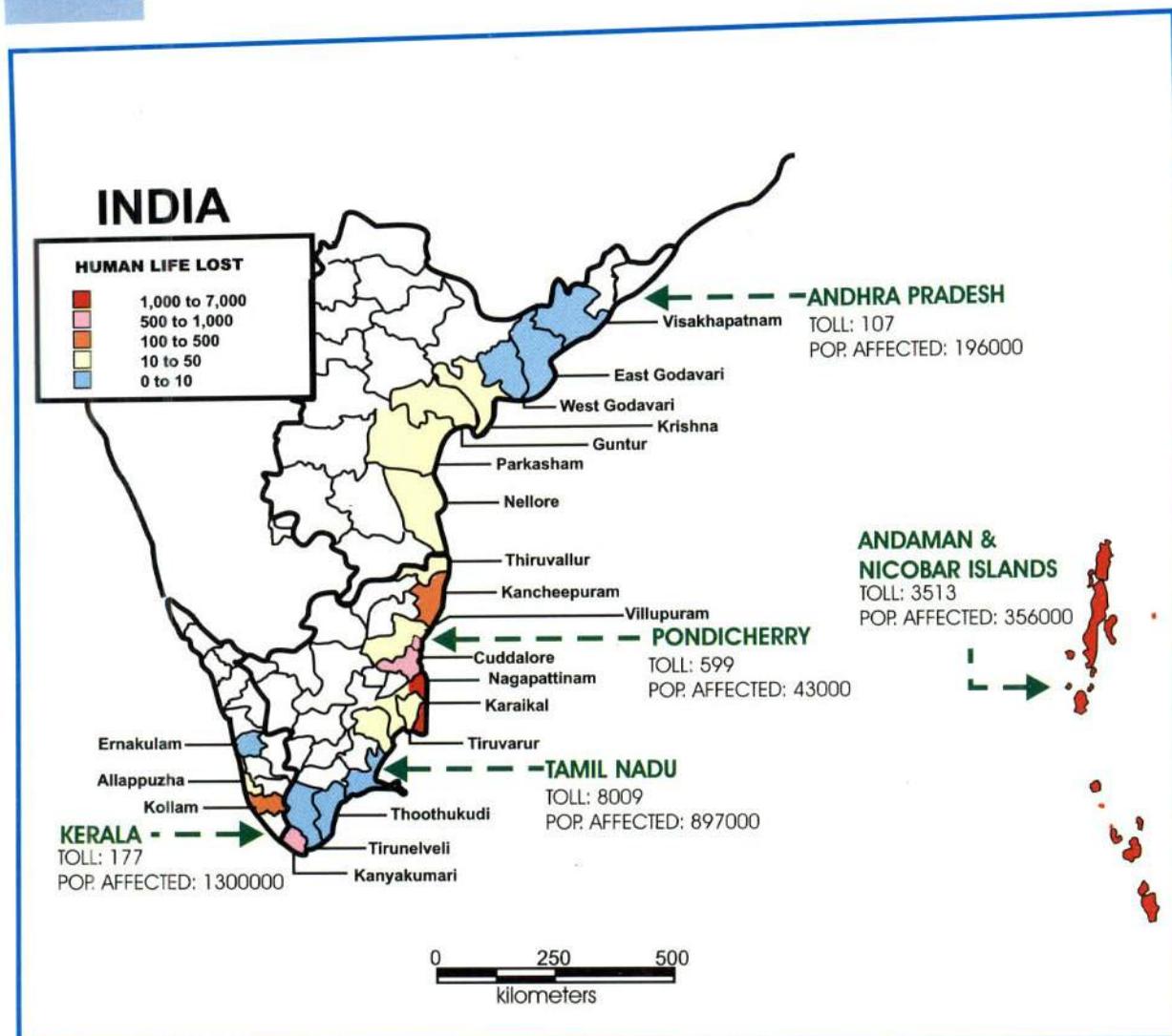
Q U A R T E R L Y

R E P O R T

TSUNAMI RECOVERY • A JOINT UN REPORT • INDIA

AUGUST 2006

Map of Tsunami affected areas



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I am pleased to introduce the second quarterly report for 2006. A lot has happened since the last report came out and this report will update you on the latest progress in the Tsunami recovery work of the joint agencies of the UN team for Tsunami Recovery Support (UNTRS).

One of the most important tasks in response to the tsunami is to rebuild the homes destroyed. More than 45,000 houses are in the process of being built; a huge task! The housing or shelter programme in India is a symbol of partnership, in which Government, NGOs, communities and international organizations work side by side to build back better. One of the key requirements of building back better is to build houses which are resistant to future disasters and are placed in locations that protect people and keep them out of harms way. In order to assess to what extent this has taken place, the UNDP has supported a study of the Nagapattinam Coordination and Resource Centre.

According to this study most things have gone well, but there are some concerns also; concerns that require our immediate attention. The findings of the study, see page 14 for more details - tell us that immediate action is needed to retrofit some housing projects to meet the construction guidelines. The study should establish a more routine audit process to control the quality of houses still to be completed and has lead to the development and distribution of guidelines to retrofit the houses already constructed.

This brings me to a related issue. At the time this editorial is written, the monsoon is hitting vast parts of India and will also come to Tamil Nadu soon. With a large number of people living in temporary shelters, which were not built to last, and knowing what happened last year during the monsoon, we have to make every effort to ensure that the people who were already severely affected by one disaster, the tsunami, are not again becoming victim of another. UNICEF in collaboration with the Department of Health in Tamil Nadu is preparing to distribute bleaching powder, chlorine tablets and oral re-hydration salts to prevent sicknesses through contaminated water.

In regards to possible flooding and cyclones, preparation is the key. The UNTRS recognized the need to enhance and multiply training for people in the communities and thus strengthen the ability of the people themselves to cope with natural disasters. In association with the Government of Tamil Nadu a project is implemented to build up and institutionalise the Early Warning System in the coastal districts. It looks at delivering understandable early warning messages and how these can be interpreted effectively as well as how the population then should react. Thirty future trainers underwent training in early warning mechanism for cyclone, flood, drought, tsunami and epidemics. They learned what the challenges are in taking precautionary measures during such warnings and how to plan in order to make the most effective use of such warnings (see on page15).

Looking back to look ahead

As the two year mark of the sad events of the 26th of December 2004 is approaching, the Government of Tamil Nadu together with the UNTRS, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (TNTRC) is planning to hold a meeting to review the progress of the Tsunami Recovery Program in Tamil Nadu to date and to share lessons learned and identify strategic direction for the next phase of the recovery work.

The outcomes of this meeting will be reflected in the next quarterly report which will at the same time be a special edition for the two year commemoration. In the mean time I hope this report gives you a good insight in what the UNTRS has been doing in the past three months.

Thank you,

*Pieter Bult,
UN Coordinator
UN Team for Recovery Support*

UPDATE

ADOLESCENT FRIENDLY HEALTH SERVICES

To strengthen access to health services for adolescents who become more vulnerable to high-risk behaviour and abuse in the aftermath of a natural disaster, WHO provided technical support to the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government initiated Adolescent Friendly Health Services (AFHS) in Nagapattinam District and facilitated establishment of an adolescent friendly health clinic. An advisory committee meeting was conducted at the launch and a series of training for healthcare providers have been conducted as follows :

- Training of Trainers: 30 master trainers were identified and trained in the three days "Orientation Programme for Adolescent Friendly Sexual and Reproductive Health Services" with the intent of developing master trainers.

- Training of specialists and medical officers at the hospital: 15 medical officers and specialists underwent the five days training for facilitating the provision of AFHS at the district hospital.

- Two trainings of three days each of medical officers based at Block Primary Health Centres where Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC) are established.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has also started the process of developing a multi-sectoral action plan which converge Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) and HIV-Aids interventions at the district level for selected high prevalence districts. In order to strengthen this effort, the government organised a workshop for the state

and the district officials from the Public Health Department and the Tamil Nadu State Aids Control Society. The workshop was a training of health care providers, managers and policy makers aimed on increasing the focus on young people. To enforce this, a tool that WHO has developed, called MAPM: Mapping Adolescent Programming and Measurement, was used. It helps programme planners focus on the most important interventions, determinants and behaviours to achieve high-quality outcomes in health and development. The participants realised that the existing district action plan would need to be modified in light of the MAPM. This then would strengthen future plans as well as the monitoring process.



In the aftermath of a natural disaster young people become more vulnerable to high risk behaviour and abuse

NEWS

NURSING IN EMERGENCIES

The concept of nursing during emergencies has been introduced as part of the field work programme for undergraduate students. More than 45 schools of nursing in Tamil Nadu have adopted villages and shelters near their schools to give their undergraduate students a firsthand experience of managing health conditions in emergency situations. In order to build the capacities a total of 125 faculty members have been trained in the module "Reaching out: Nursing Care in Emergencies".

SOCIAL EQUITY AS A CROSS-CUTTING ISSUE

More than any other disaster of the past, the tsunami disaster seems to have created a space for strong articulation of equity issues. Eighteen months after the disaster has struck, certain areas seem to need continued special focus and thus UNTRS in collaboration with the Government of Tamil Nadu has decided to concentrate on these areas.

- Disabled women and men:** UNTRS has been approached by an NGO for conducting a study of disabled women affected by tsunami. UNTRS proposes to support the study and scale it up to cover men as well. The expected output is to mainstream disability concerns in disaster planning and DRM.
- Widows:** Another serious concern is the large number of widows in the coastal communities, pre- and post-tsunami. UNTRS is in the process of collecting village level data in the district of Nagapattinam through academic institutions and NGOs. Since the widows need economic empowerment through an urgent intervention, UNTRS proposes to facilitate empowerment of the widows through sustainable livelihoods.
- Tsunami Marriages:** An unanticipated outcome of the tsunami disaster is "Tsunami Marriages". Young women who have lost their parents are married to men who are much older to them, for reasons of future safety and security. Possibly, the compensation money that orphans received also encouraged this. UNTRS is collecting information on this aspect and proposes to facilitate organising appropriate support programmes like family life education, awareness on maternal and child health, HIV/Aids, as well as to create sustainable livelihood options.
- Community Capacity Development (CCD) Model in Nagapattinam:** This is an attempt to develop a replicable model of adopting the CCD approach to develop the capacities of the communities and the local government and other appropriate agencies. The "build back better" approach in tsunami recovery work ought to include focus on equity and sustainability. The UNTRS facilitated the formation of an inter-agency working group which has met twice so far and has completed the mapping of development initiatives and resources in two selected panchayats (local governments) in Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts respectively. Subsequently, it was decided that UNTRS should initiate the CCD in one of the panchayats in Nagapattinam district. Capacity development in rights based approach to development for relevant government functionaries and NGOs and other actors will form part of the CCD initiative.
- Mainstreaming equity concerns:** In order to mainstream equity the annual work plans of the different sectors of UNTRS have been analysed and specific indicators for social equity have been developed or identified. Also as part of this initiative, data will be monitored and studies and documentation that may be organised by the various sectors will be reviewed with an "equity lens".
- Brink communities:** Some of the tsunami affected communities that have had the opportunity to progress need backstopping for some time. They might lack the capacity to utilise the opportunities given to them. The Irula tribal community in Cuddalore district and some of the Dalit (lower cast) communities in Nagapattinam districts are two examples. These communities for the first time have obtained livelihood assets and other resources. But the communities lack the necessary entrepreneurial and management skills to utilise these effectively and efficiently. For a variety of reasons, they may lose these assets and fall back rapidly and in the process get deeply hurt. Identifying these communities as the "communities on the brink", UNTRS is working on facilitating support for them.

STORY

HOUSING THE POOREST



© UNTRS

The Irulas have been leading a simple life in thatched huts

The Irulas are a semi-nomadic community of people who live in several parts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. This scheduled tribe used to make a living with rat or snake catching but had to give up their livelihood after the Indian Government introduced the Wildlife Protection Act in 1972. Although some of the tribes still continue to catch snakes in order to milk them for venom which is then used to produce antivenin, some tribes in search for alternative livelihood moved from their initial hunting grounds in the forests towards the coast. Here, they could find work with the fishermen communities in helping them with their daily tasks as well as do some backwater fishing on their own, mainly catching prawns. When the tsunami struck, 57 Irula villages along the coast of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh were affected, displacing over 1800 families. 27 persons died, 124 were injured and 300 houses were destroyed. 90 percent of their livelihood came to a standstill.*

Access to modern living

In the aftermath of the tidal wave and during first relief operations, most Irula tribes did not receive instant support for various reasons. The Irulas in the district of Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu were initially not listed as tsunami victims as they were inland fishers and thus not eligible for any relief or rehabilitation. Most Irulas today are scheduled tribes, meaning that they are registered with the Government of India and are entitled to certain welfare schemes. However, some of them have not been registered, which was the case of tribes in Cuddalore. They belong to one of the poorest groups in Tamil Nadu and the district administration decided to offer them assistance: "The Irulas are the poorest of the poor and I've always been moved by their plight", says Gagandeep Singh

* Numbers: Tata Institute of Social Science, 2005.

Bedi, the District Collector. As a first step, he arranged to certify them as Scheduled Tribes of Irula community, "which", he adds, "they ought to have been long ago".

With this, three Irula coastal communities which were affected by the tsunami were lifted into the state of a scheduled tribe and hence entitled to support. The Government then donated the land where they have been living in thatched houses. A scheme was worked out to give them new permanent housing. Today, in the communities of MGR Nagar, Kalaingar Nagar and Ponnanthittu, various NGOs have built or are still in the process of building a total of 303 houses worth Rs. 62,600,000 (approx. US\$1,337,159).

In Kalaingar Nagar, 101 houses have been finished already and 60 more houses are under construction. Balu, one of the community leaders, is quite pleased to show the houses, which not only provide the Irulas with a safe roof over their head when the monsoon or a cyclone strikes, but also with direct access to water, electricity and toilets. "Before, when a cyclone hit, we always had to rebuild everything. Now we have some security", he says. As to getting used to a completely new lifestyle, the Irulas will not only get economic assistance for an alternative livelihood, but are about to receive some training in modern living. NGOs are taking up various development activities. Gagandeep Singh Bedi explains: "Trainers will be sent to them to make sure they know how to use everything properly; like the toilets for example."



© UNTRS

The way it's going to be: the tribes will settle in solid houses

UPDATE

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FOR FISHERMEN

A study of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) within the UNTRS Fisheries Mission was published in May 2006. The study, entitled 'Tsunami-Rehabilitation: Assessment of policy support for sustainable pro-poor fisheries in Tamil Nadu, India', provides an overview of the status of the fisheries sector in Tamil Nadu with respect to current and planned 'post-tsunami' interventions. It also proposes steps to converge the interventions in the fisheries sector into some form of common mechanism that seeks to address longer-term sustainable fisheries issues. The study suggests a Fisheries Policy and Implementation Programme (F-PIP) for Tamil Nadu. The purpose of the F-PIP is to establish a process to enable the planning, design and implementation of policies for appropriate fisheries management in the state. The outputs of the project would include the following:

- establishing the mechanism for stakeholder consultation and engagement in information sharing
- establishing and operationalising fisheries policy and legal frameworks
- establishment of co-management arrangements for all marine fisheries
- identification of opportunities to enhance existing livelihoods and to develop future options for livelihood diversification.

Mission to Chennai

A mission visited Chennai in June 2006 to develop an action plan for implementing the recommendations of the study. The outputs of this mission are expected soon in the form of a project proposal. The proposal aims to develop the framework for a fisheries co-management programme in Tamil Nadu with the World Bank's support and will be implemented over 18 months. Its emphasis is on long term management of the resources. In order to address the more immediate livelihood needs of the fisherpeople, such as the poorer, vulnerable and marginalised ones, FAO-UNTRS has developed a programme that remains focused on management, but also strengthens existing livelihoods and supports sustainable livelihood diversification.

NEWS

A TEAM COMPLETE

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has now finished recruiting its team members working for tsunami recovery. The ILO team, responsible for implementing the livelihood component within the UNTRS team, has been active since the first moment after the tsunami hit. It has provided skill, development and vocational training to groups as well as individual young women and men totalling 1103 persons in the tsunami affected districts of Tamil Nadu of whom 537 have received employment. However, while shifting from the relief into the rehabilitation phase, some additional posts had to be filled. In total, five people have been recruited to facilitate the relief efforts from the UNTRS office in Chennai and in Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari districts in Tamil Nadu as well as in Kollam district in Kerala. The objective of this now complete team is to develop the human capital in improving employability, especially among young people and the vulnerable groups.

STORY

BAGS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

In the small village of Devaneri, on the East coast of southern India, women learn how to stitch up-to-date bags for costumers in the cities.

Fabric cut-outs lie spread across the cement floor, four women are bent over their sewing machines and work eagerly working on what are to become bags: bags in all sizes and shapes with an up-to-date design made out of sailcloth. Nothing unusual one might think, just a small enterprise somewhere in the South of India. But stitching is not these women's profession. They live in Devaneri, a fishermen community in the district Kanchipuram.



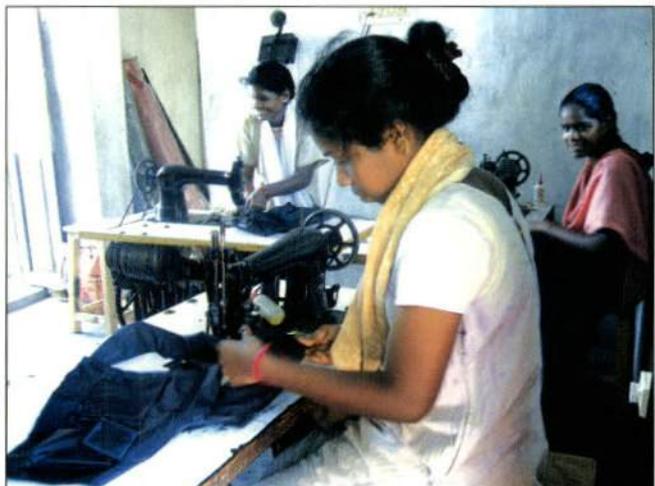
Made by women: Bags from Kanchipuram go as far as the US

After the tsunami struck in this village, the fishermen did not go out to the sea for about three months. These days, fishing is returning to normal, but there is not enough catch from the sea to make a decent living. And during the months from March to August, when fish on the East coast of India is not as readily available as in the peak season, an additional income source is welcomed. So the women opted for an alternative livelihood: Sewing bags.

Soon to be employed

Supported by the Indian NGO Aid India and UNDP, six women have been trained for over a year to refine their skills. "Their training is almost finished, but they do have some difficulties in handling and cutting the slippery sailcloth. So we are now working on this", explains their teacher Mr. Umar, who has been a tailor since finishing high school, specialising in raincoats. So he has exhaustive experience with sailcloth.

The working hours are from 10 am to 5 pm and at the moment each seamstress manages about 3 to 4 bags a day. Their goal is to reach a total of 45 bags a day. Still in the training phase, they receive 35 Rupees a day, which is less than one US\$. But once the training is finished, these ladies will be employed by Aid India on a salary basis and will receive around 3000 Rupees or 65 US\$ a month (per capita income in India for 2006 is an expected 1750 Rs or 38 US\$ per month¹). The organisation will be in charge of acquiring orders and marketing the bags. "We acquire orders for conferences and seminars", says Krishna Komanbur, livelihoods coordinator with Aid India. And the business seems to have taken on as Krishna Komanbur explains: "The latest order that has just come in consists of 350 bags for a conference in Texas, in the United States".



Sewing their way into alternative livelihood: women of a fisher community in Devaneri

¹Government of India, 31st May 2006

STORY

A LIGHT IN THE NIGHT

A street play helps fishermen in Tamil Nadu to understand how to improve their own safety when out fishing on the Indian Ocean.

As the actors take their final bow, the message has sunk in: If you follow certain rules in boat safety, deadly accidents while out fishing on the sea are less likely to happen. Fishermen and women from the coastal village Kallar in Nagapattinam just attended a street play on boat safety organised by the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) and supported by UNDP.

This practice, to promote certain issues through actors performing on the street, is a longstanding tradition in India. Apart from traditional methods like sticking together as a community, boat safety had not been an issue among fishermen: "In times of trouble even a neighbour you have problems with on shore will come to your rescue", explains Veluchetta, the leader of the Panchayat (local government) of Kallar. "But this play gives ideas on what to carry to the sea to be safer".

But it is not only men who should learn about safety. In fact, with this play, women in particular are targeted: "Awareness among the women is important; they will make sure that their men go out equipped adequately so that they will return home safely", explains S. Gunasekaran, a United Nations Volunteer in charge of the street play in the district of Nagapattinam.

The women agree: "With this play we get some new ideas and we'll follow the rules in the future and give some extra fruit when our men sail to sea", explains Elatchi, who lives in Kallar.

A free booklet on safety

So far, the play has been shown in 38 villages throughout the most affected districts in Tamil Nadu. It is set in a fishing hamlet and tells the story of a social worker who visits a village and attempts to engage fishermen in a conversation on boat safety. They do not pay attention to him - so he addresses one of their wives. The woman subsequently tries to influence the men, but in vain. Only after a series of accidents happen and two fishermen lose their life, do they call upon the social worker to answer their questions.



Volunteer actors from Pondicherry bring issues on boat safety to the communities in fisher villages

A free booklet is distributed to the audience, which explains in pictures and words how to enhance boat safety: Carry repair tools for the engine, extra food and diesel and if fishing at night, lights for the boat and the net. Items like life vests, compasses and a Global Positioning System (GPS) are also promoted. But hardly any fisherman possesses or can afford them. To address this, UNDP and SIFFS with the support of the ECHO (European Community's Humanitarian Aid Department) will provide safety training and distribute boat safety kits containing these items to affected hamlets in Tamil Nadu (see also report on boat safety workshop).

UPDATE

A STATE LEVEL WORKSHOP ON SEA SAFETY

On 12th July, 2006 a workshop on Sea Safety was conducted in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It aimed at disseminating the results of a sea safety project as well as sensitising Government and NGOs on the measures available for enhancing safety on small boats. The work shop was jointly organised by United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies (SIFFS) and the Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (TNTRC).

Mohan Varghese Chunkath, Special Commissioner for Fisheries of the Government of Tamil Nadu, pointed out that presently the Government did not have any policy or approach towards sea safety and would welcome efforts of NGOs in this direction.

The technical sessions began with a presentation on the just concluded sea safety project, a component of a project funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) aiming at rehabilitating livelihoods of tsunami victims in two districts in Tamil Nadu. John Swamy, National Boat Safety Consultant of UNTRS, detailed the risks and dangers experienced by small scale fishermen. Very little has been done so far about the safety of these fishermen in India. Most safety initiatives in the past were targeted at fishermen in large mechanised boats. This project is the first initiative on sea safety for small scale fishermen on the Tamil Nadu coast.

The project is intended to increase awareness on all issues concerning sea safety. In the first half of 2006, workshops were conducted in 16 villages in Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts. Street plays were staged in 38 villages across both districts, especially targeting women. An illustrated handbook in Tamil was published and over 8000 copies were circulated among fisher communities. The handbook contains precautions to be taken before heading out to sea, while at anchor, while fishing at night and during bad weather. In total, during this project, more than 12,000 men and women have been made aware of risk and safety at sea.

Responding to the fishermen's request for safety



The safety of fishermen is now discussed at State level

equipment after the workshops, SIFFS has initiated a pilot project targeting five fishing hamlets in Nagapattinam District. Safety kits, consisting of eight pieces of equipment, will now be made available to fishermen in five villages in Nagapattinam. During the workshop, kits were distributed to five fishermen from the pilot project villages.

Call for State policy

V. Vivekanandan, CEO of SIFFS categorised the boats on the basis of propulsion into mechanised, motorised and non-motorised and explained why each of these boats had distinct safety requirements. He said that SIFFS has a non-normative approach to sea safety and that it was the fishermen who decided what equipment to carry. He also stressed the importance of involving the family in safety initiatives.

Venkatesh Salagrama, director of Integrated Coastal Management, placed sea safety in the larger context and highlighted the need for an inclusive approach towards sea safety.

A group session which followed ended in a call for a state policy on sea safety and a request to the Government to ensure safety standards among fishermen. The workshop was then concluded by CV Sankar, Officer on Special Duty, Relief and Rehabilitation. He said that there was much attention upon fisher communities, post tsunami and that all outstanding issues on sea safety would be taken up at various levels, particularly at policy level, to arrive at solutions.

UPDATE

PREVENTING TRAFFICKING AND SPREAD OF HIV

The Government of Tamil Nadu has recognised that Trafficking and HIV AIDS is a growing problem and needs to be addressed. Augmenting the efforts of the Government and other civil society organisations, UNICEF and UNDP are working towards prevention of trafficking and HIV/AIDS. UNICEF looks at trafficking in the larger child protection framework.

- **Children without parents:** Following any emergencies, children without parents are one of the most vulnerable groups. UNICEF supported the Department of Social Defence in setting up a database of children without parental care.
- **Study on trafficking and HIV vulnerability in tsunami affected areas:** A rapid assessment of the extent of vulnerability of women and children during crisis has been initiated by UNDP in selected tsunami affected districts in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Pondicherry.
- **Strengthening the juvenile justice system:** The Juvenile Justice System in the country deals with both children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection. UNICEF supports the Department of Social Defence and two consultations have been held on finalising the Juvenile Justice Rules.
- **Training of village level watchdog committees:** Village level watchdog committees are being set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu to deal with trafficking issues at local government level. 1300 community members were trained on trafficking issues.
- **Response through the Trafficking and HIV/Aids (TAHA) project:** In partnership with National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) and Ministry of Women and Child Development the TAHA project is being implemented in 11 states and has been extended to the 21 tsunami affected districts in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. It aims at improving systems and support as well as the access to relevant information and available services. The partners are National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), Nehru Yuvak Kendra (NYK), NGOs, Human Development Resource Network (HDRNet) and relevant Government departments.
- **Training of children on life skills:** NGOs implementing this programme with UNICEF support are Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW), Voluntary Health Association of Kanyakumari (VHAK), Tamil Nadu Science Forum (TNSF), Tulir and RUWSEC (Rural Women's Social Education Centre).
- **Network on child trafficking:** UNICEF has extended its support to Campaign against Child Trafficking (CACT), a national level network to prevent Child Trafficking.
- **ICT and HIV/Aids:** Extending the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) initiative to the Tsunami affected districts, UNDP is supporting 30 ICT village kiosks (to start with) to provide information on HIV prevention, online treatment guidance and awareness among others.
- **Promoting safe mobility:** In partnership with the NGO Catholic Relief Services, UNDP has embarked on a migrant resource centre in Kanyakumari district. This will help people also from the HIV/AIDS perspective.
- **Prevention among young people:** UNICEF in collaboration with Directorate of Teacher Education Research and Training (DTER) is implementing HIV/AIDS and life skills programme in 13 tsunami affected districts. In 5 tsunami affected districts UNICEF in collaboration with Nehru Yuvak Kendra and NGOs have targeted young people between 12 and 20 years to bring awareness on HIV/Aids, issues related to sexuality and trafficking.
- **Prevention of parent to child transmission (PPTCT):** In the tsunami districts in the current year so far 112,573 pregnant women have attended the PPTCT clinics and 104,841 mothers have been counselled.
- **Persons living with HIV/Aids (PLHA) needs assessment:** UNDP has conducted an assessment of the needs of PLHAs in the tsunami affected districts. A project is being designed with INP+ (Indian Network of Positive People) to improve the quality of life of PLHAs in the tsunami affected districts.



Activities have been taken up to help children and young people to understand issues around HIV/Trafficking

UPDATE

CHILD FRIENDLY CLASSROOMS

Quality in the schools has been one of the challenging areas which UNICEF, as part of the UNTRS, has been treading in the tsunami affected districts of Tamil Nadu. The agency has been collaborating with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the nodal agency of the Government of India to inject the necessary components of quality into the Activity Based Learning (ABL)-Schools in the districts. In Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts the 110 and 130 ABL schools respectively have received cash assistance of Rs. 2000 to enhance the classroom environment to make it more child-friendly. In addition, these schools are receiving more supplies in the form of child-friendly furniture, book racks, globes, charts, teaching and learning aids and more. Periodic training on English reading skills has been given to teachers to enhance their performance. In collaboration with the child environment sector of UNICEF, a school sanitation and safe hygiene campaign has been

undertaken in all the blocks along with survey of toilets and other sanitary facilities in schools for enhancement.

Trained to go back to school

In the 31 bridge course centres supported by UNICEF the 620 out of school children have been under constant training not only in academics but also co-curricular activities like developing oratory skills, singing and painting. In order to equip them with the best possible classroom aids, the school-in-box materials (this box has classroom supplies like notebooks, pens, pencils, chalks, bags, slates and charts on alphabets and numbers) have been supplied and put in use. These centres aim at making the district free of dropout students and children have so far never enrolled. Therefore children hailing from all the affected communities are covered. So far, more than 40 children have been successfully integrated into formal schools.

NEWS

MEENA AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

UNICEF through the NGO League for Education and Development has introduced a special awareness campaign that includes a video show which depicts a young girl named Meena learning. She explains to her family and her community about the importance and fruitfulness of education, healthy nutrition and sanitation, gender equality, HIV and other topics. The Meena club in Kollumedu has been established in the village after screening the Meena movies in the village. Meena is an animated girl character who is instrumental in spreading the awareness messages on various issues. This club has 25 girl children as its members and fosters dreams among the children but also works actively among the community. It generates awareness on social responsibility, initiates small economically gainful activities like making homemade greeting cards. The profit made by selling them is accumulated along with voluntary contributions. This method enables sharing of talent in painting, art and dancing. Since the Meena video is screened in front of all the community, the club members say that the attitude of their families undergo a positive change in terms of their conduct towards them. This goes particularly for equality in education and in sharing of food.



Meena is an animated girl character who is instrumental in spreading awareness messages

UPDATE

FILLING THE GAPS

A technosocial assessment for the post tsunami shelter reconstruction was undertaken with an objective to strengthen the process of quality reconstruction and provide independent feedback on possible gaps and weaknesses. Additionally, it suggests ways and mechanisms to overcome these gaps and improve the overall quality of reconstruction work. The assessment was mandated by the State Government of Tamil Nadu and commissioned by the UNDP and the NGO Coordination and Resource Centre (NCRRC) in the district of Nagapattinam. It was conducted in 37 villages in three districts, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore and Villupuram looking at aspects of construction quality, design and planning, compared to the technical guidelines provided by the Government as well as at various issues of flooding in low lying sites, sanitation and repairs of partially damaged houses. In most cases the technical guidelines have been adhered to and overall, the quality of construction is of good standard. However, the reinforcement detailing practices and masonry work need to be improved in a number of cases. Sanitation continues to be a major concern. Options like Ecological Sanitation (ECOSAN) and Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) as well as a centralised sewerage treatment plant are the technologies that may have promising applications in the region. Still there are issues of community adaptability such as costs, maintenance responsibilities and energy costs. ECOSAN offers the most suitable option but requires good community motivation and training. DEWATS is a sustainable and low maintenance technology but applicable only where space is available.

Though at most sites, people were involved in design evaluation and suggestions, not much modification was done based on people's feedback. Their direct involvement in construction and management process was negligible. It was found that panchayats (local governments) had ensured their role in allotment of houses and in negotiation for more houses besides those in damage assessment. As far as the geometry and the aspect ratio of the houses are concerned, all

the houses meet the safety criteria laid out in the technical guidelines. Almost 50 percent of the houses do not have the possibility of extension. Possible alternatives have to be worked out and demonstrated for vertical expansion.

The District Administration has put up a mechanism for construction monitoring. However, experience indicates that two additional mechanisms have to be put in place: an independent one to periodically monitor the planning, design and construction quality as well as a technical support system to help the NGOs and district administration understand the technical guidelines and provide technical advice and support.

Very few sites have designed infrastructure facilities like electricity, water supply, sanitation and roads. Whereas in many cases only planning was done, at other places, infrastructure needs improvement. The survey findings were presented in different forums to the State Government functionaries, NGOs and the resource centres throughout Tamil Nadu. A consultation meeting was organised to act further on the recommendations. Some of the major outcomes have been the preparation of the retrofitting guidelines for buildings, which was put forth as a tool for the repair works taken up by the State Government and some NGOs. Another outcome is the development of a handbook on disaster risk reduction practices of buildings.



Participants of the State level workshop in Chennai

NEWS

GUIDELINES FOR DISASTER RESISTANT BUILDING

Guidelines for Disaster Resistant Construction Practices have been published in English and Tamil. The handbook has been prepared for the benefit of technical supervisors and masons as part of the information, education and communication campaign in post-tsunami shelter reconstruction. It is a joint initiative of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the UNDP.

UPDATE

MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM



In future disaster situation there still might be damage, but if early warning systems work properly, less people will be endangered

As part of medium to long term Disaster Risk Management initiatives, the establishment of Early Warning Systems (EWS) is seen as vital to warn the masses of an imminent natural hazard. Despite efforts being underway at the national and regional levels to establish effective tsunami warning systems, there is a clear need for the development of EWS at local level. This has to be done in emphasising the top to bottom information flow mechanisms, as well as the capacity to take actions following these warnings at the community level.

The Government of Tamil Nadu in association with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing a project that envisages to strengthen and institutionalise the EWS in the tsunami affected coastal districts. This project looks to adopt a strategy in focusing on the delivery of 'understandable' early warnings to the communities at risk.

The objectives of the project are:

- Review Early Warning Systems existing for different hazards.
- Strengthening dissemination mechanisms of early warnings to communities, via community participation and training.
- Institutionalisation of Early Warning Systems within Disaster Management Committees and Disaster Management Teams at community level, as well as capacity building at local level in early warning interpretation and practice.

At the state level consultation meeting in Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, various suitable communication and dissemination technologies were identified. The objective of this meeting was to identify Early Warning technologies suitable for Tamil Nadu. Additionally, these technologies had to be assessed and a plan was made to integrate the chosen ones. A following meeting in the district of Cuddalore, which is to be the pilot district to implement EWS, resulted in a decision as to which technologies are most suitable.

Training on five hazards

As part of capacity building for early warning interpretation and acting on such information, a two day training of trainers (TOT) programme took place. The thirty participants underwent training in early warning mechanism for five hazards: cyclone, flood, drought, tsunami and epidemics. The training focused on how warnings are issued, what the challenges are in taking precautionary measures during such warning and how planning can be done to make the best use of such warning.



Future trainers get trained on early warning systems

NEWS

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ALCOHOL ABUSE

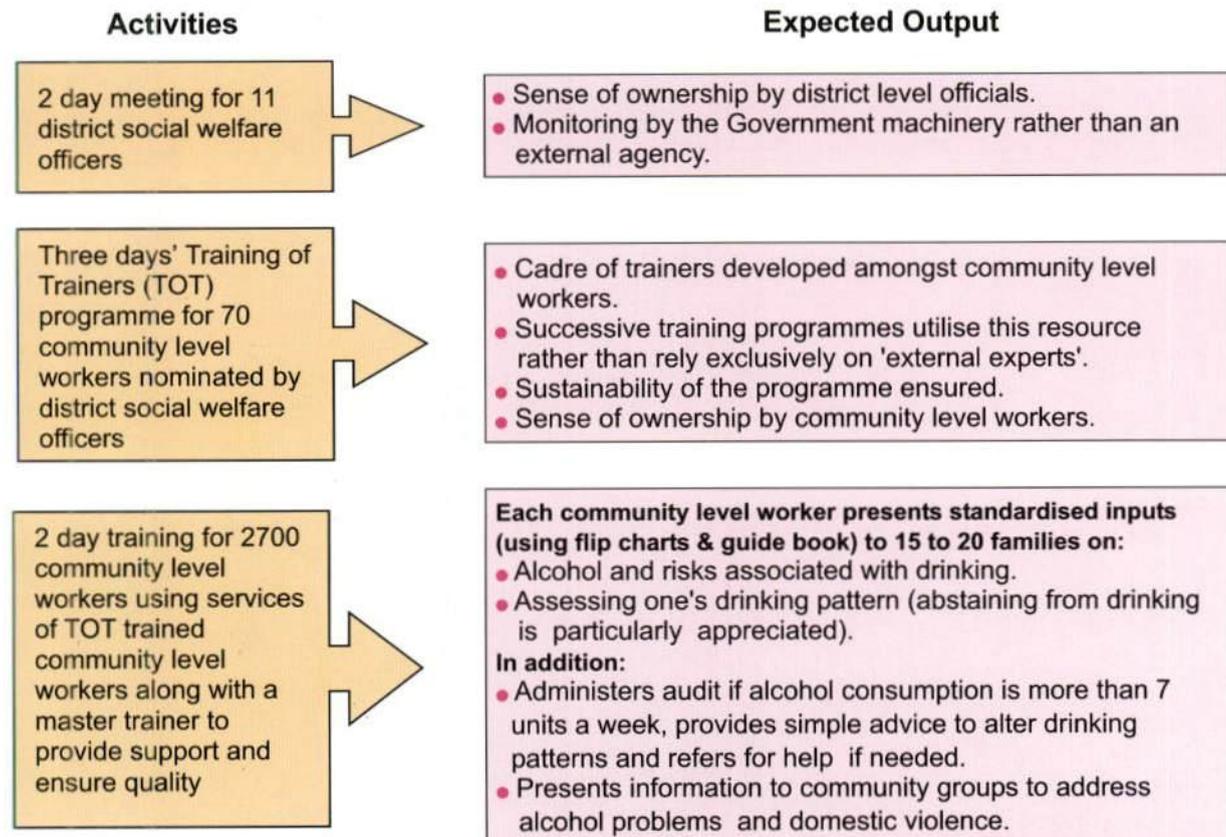
WHO Country Office India with funding support from UNICEF, has launched a project in 11 tsunami affected districts to build a capacity of community level workers. This project is in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, the Government of Tamil Nadu and the TT Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation, Chennai, a pioneer NGO in the field of addiction management.

Two trainings of trainers (TOT) were held from 15 to 20 of May 2006 to train master trainers who would in turn educate other community level workers in the districts. 32 selected master trainers from three districts attended the first TOT programme, while 29 master trainers from 8 districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the second one. Participatory techniques were used throughout to make the programme effective, as well as enjoyable. District level training programs in each of the 11 districts will start from 16th July 2006. A one-day preparatory meeting will be held with master trainers and the consultant from a hospital at district headquarters, followed by a series of two days training programs. Two trainers will handle each group with 25 CLWs from the same district.



These trainers will educate community level workers on alcohol and substance abuse

The major project activities and expected outputs are as follows:



UPDATE

CHILD PROTECTION AND RIGHTS IN KERALA



In Kerala 38 villages were affected by tsunami and are all covered by a psychosocial care and support programme

The psychosocial care and support programme in Kerala state is a joint initiative of the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Kerala, People's Council for Social Justice (PCSJ) and UNICEF. The programme, which began following the tsunami, with a focus on psychosocial care, has been designed to address larger Child Protection and Child Rights issues.

In Kerala, the most affected districts are Kollam, Alappauzha and Ernakulam. 38 villages were affected by tsunami and they are all covered by this programme. The beneficiaries of the programme are on one hand the village youth, who act as voluntary resource person as well as children, who live in coastal areas prone to natural disasters and sea erosion. Some of the children are members of the 'Balasabhas'

associated with Kudumbashree (also, see box) programme, which is a poverty eradication programme by the Government of Kerala. UNICEF supports Kudumbashree in promoting children's parliaments at local, district and state level.

A survey has been done among 15,577 children as well as counselling of groups, families and individuals. In total 26,828 people have benefitted from counselling so far. Awareness camps were held and 8,343 children and adults attended.

So far, the programme has helped prioritise psychosocial care as an issue and is contributing immensely to generating more awareness on child protection and child rights issues.

BOX

Kudumbashree, a women-centered, community based organisation of the poor, initiated in 1998 by the State Government of Kerala, has prioritised child development with an emphasis on child participation. To ensure development of children, Kudumbashree developed a concept called Balasabhas (children's neighbourhood) an informal forum of children, situated in their neighbourhood. Balasabhas are like networks of children from the age of 10 to 15 years, coming from poor families. 20-40 children living in a neighbourhood of families, who struggle below the poverty line, constitute one Balasabha. There is a leader and deputy leader to coordinate the activities. The groups normally meet fortnightly. To take the agenda of children's participation and their empowerment ahead, Kudumbashree, with the support of UNICEF, is into the process of developing children's parliaments at local, district and state level. This will be an opportunity for ensuring children's participation in governance. In the pilot phase, 140 village panchayats (10 panchayats each from every district) and 5 municipalities are being covered.

CASE STUDY

COMMUNITY HELPS NICOBARESE TSUNAMI ORPHAN IN RECOVERY



© Pablo Bartholomew/netphotograph.com for UNICEF

Serafina with her grandmother Lillian Edwards. After the girl lost her parents due to tsunami, she was adopted by her extended family

Serafina is one of the 31 tsunami "orphans" in Car Nicobar. Only a few days before the tsunami occurred on December 26, her parents had left the island to visit their home in Bonda in Katchal in the southern Nicobar Islands, where the father used to work as a wage labourer. The parents would not return.

Then only 3 1/2 years old, Serafina has no recollection of the event and the mayhem that followed. But to help her overcome the magnitude of personal loss, the wheels of the extended family have kicked in automatically, without any undue manoeuvring, to act as a buttress.

Tribal Nicobarese have an extended family system in which words like "orphan" and "widow" are not a part of the sociocultural lexicon. As a result the orphans and widows have always been absorbed into the extended family networks. Thus, the responsibility of Serafina's upbringing is not viewed as onerous but one of routine and is accepted as such. She and her older sister Pamela now live with their extended family in a brick structure stationed amidst coconut and pandana trees.

Serafina also regularly attends the local Anganwadi (health) Centre in the Big Lapathy village (formerly known as Jayanti village). The centre is run by an Anganwadi worker, Ms. Diana and is regularly visited by Veronica, a UNICEF supported Community Development Motivator (CDM). Serafina spends 2-3 hours at the Anganwadi Centre every day along with about 40 children of her age. These child-friendly spaces provide a social outlet for children but they also play a significant role in ensuring that all children receive adequate calories and micronutrients and their growth is regularly monitored.

Children are the most vulnerable group in any disaster and orphans particularly so. However, traditional Nicobarese family networks and Anganwadi Centres compliment each other in providing for and nurturing the growth and development of children from the very beginning of their lives, have played major roles in mitigating what might have been virulent psychological and physical trauma of the tsunami.

Gaurav Garg, UNICEF ROSA, South Asia Media Hub.

UPDATE

ANALYSING SATELLITE IMAGES

When it comes to the environment in the coastal areas of the tsunami affected districts, two teams have been involved in the data collection on the ecological, socioeconomic and policy components. The collated data are being housed in a Geographical Information Systems (GIS, a software that helps interpret satellite images) based coastal database, which is designed to accommodate ecological and socioeconomic data. For this, satellite images of the different coastal areas are being procured and analysed. Exercise of validation of the data available is also being carried out.

Several administrative and operational aspects of the environmental programme are complete. A website providing basic documentation has been created (www.ptei-india.org). A project communication system has been set up.

The project staff also contributed to addressing the issues of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and coastal protection in meetings while strongly promoting the need for greater advocacy on coastal policies that are participatory in their approach.



© Rohan Arthur, NCF

Data collection for environmental studies in mangroves near Pondicherry

NEWS

AWARENESS ON COASTAL REGULATION ZONE

The programme along with the Department of Environment (DoE) of the Tamil Nadu Government and in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Center (TNTRC) has initiated a survey that would enable the DoE to develop a better Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and achieve sustainable coastal development. This exercise titled 'Awareness of Coastal Environmental Issues along the Tamil Nadu Coast - A Stakeholder Survey' will be carried out along the series of workshops conducted by DoE with the major objectives of highlighting the issues on the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), its implementation and the role of various stakeholders in the development of ICZM. The target groups for the workshop are the various stakeholders that include the different government departments, the NGOs, coastal panchayats and community leaders. This exercise will help the government and the UN to understand and identify the needs and issues on coastal environment problems. This information would then be used to develop an integrated and sustainable coastal development plan. Educational and awareness programmes on the coast could then be initiated. Additionally, this would be a mapping exercise of NGOs working on environmental issues along the coast.

UPDATE

HYGIENE FOR ALL

In the shelters in the tsunami affected districts, UNICEF in partnership with the District Administration and the NGO partners is implementing shelter based waste management system, water quality monitoring and surveillance, promotion of ecological sanitation toilets, school sanitation and hygiene education programme.

- **Shelter Based Waste Management System:** Seven NGO partners are focusing on hygiene promotion and provision of emergency water supply in 55 shelters covering 13,725 families in three districts. The goal for hygiene promotion is to assist people to understand and adopt practices designed to reduce their exposure to disease. 35 summer camps and 25 hygiene campaigns were organised in shelters and extending to 10,000 beneficiaries. 380,000 soaps were distributed to families, schools and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres to promote the practice of washing hands.
- **Ecological Sanitation :** Ecological Sanitation toilets serve as an effective alternative to the normally used flush toilets, especially in water-scarce areas. Ecological sanitation not only provides safe sanitation and protection of the

ground water, but also provides important fertilizer and soil improvers to establish coastal shelter belts for protection against erosion, cyclones and a tsunami. 300 ecological sanitation toilets in three districts are proposed, 40 toilets already completed and the rest is in progress.

- **Training In Water Quality Monitoring:** A training programme in partnership with Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board on water quality testing and monitoring systems in three districts enable 246 participants to learn how to monitor the quality of water in their respective home towns and villages. This is a hands-on training on 'water testing' using field water testing kits developed by the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board.
- **School Sanitation and Hygiene Education (SSHE):** In schools, hygiene education aims to promote practices that will help healthy behaviour and prevent water and sanitation related diseases. UNICEF is implementing SSHE in five districts. Training programmes for 11,198 teachers, children, members of parent teacher's associations, as well as local representatives were organised.



Learn how to wash your hands: in schools, hygiene education aims to promote practices that help healthy behaviour

STORY

OPERATION RAINSHINE

The earthquake and tsunami of December 2004 devastated the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, wiping out most water supply systems and pipelines. But a simple method for harvesting rainwater restores and improves access of the island population to clean water.

The earthquake and tsunami of December 2004 devastated the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, wiping out most water supply systems and pipelines. But a simple method for harvesting rainwater restores and improves access of the island population to clean water.

The small island of Car Nicobar which lies in the heart of the archipelago in the Indian Ocean bore the brunt of tsunami. Entire villages were destroyed, the people have since been relocated inland where they continue to live in intermediate shelters till their permanent houses are completed at the end of 2007. The tsunami caused severe and in some cases irreversible damage to the infrastructure. Most water supply systems and pipelines were wiped out and bringing clean water to people living in shelters far away from the coast became a daunting challenge for the administration. At the request of the District Administration, UNICEF undertook the task of providing rain water harvesting facilities to each temporary dwelling unit built under a programme dubbed *Operation Rainshine*. The objective has been to ensure provision of adequate and safe drinking water for all families and children in shelters and schools. In Car Nicobar alone, to date, 1450 Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) units have been supplied.

The Tsunami magnified pre-existing problems related to water supply. In the immediate aftermath, people moved deeper inland to places with few or no water resources or where ground water had been contaminated by the ingress of sea water. Since roads had been literally washed away or rendered inaccessible, the administration was unable to send water tankers to remote areas. Faced with limited availability of fresh water and great demand, UNICEF supported a sustainable low cost solution keeping in mind simple needs and the geography and weather systems of the area.

Up to 150 days of rain

Given that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands typically receive up to 3 meters or between 120 - 150 days of rain annually, the largest and perhaps the most underused renewable water resource is rain water. Through *Operation Rainshine*, an abundant and renewable natural resource has been tapped



© Pablo Bartholomew for UNICEF

Rain water harvesting is a solution where other supply systems fail

into to provide water security to the communities. In peak monsoon time when torrential rains sweep across the island, a tank can be filled in only 20 to 30 minutes. A 1000 litre tank provides water security for a family of five persons for an additional 20 days. 5000 litres tanks increase the per household storage capacity dramatically to 50 days at a relatively low cost. With 120 days of rainfall and with two monsoons per year, it means that the rain water harvesting system can supply for a total of 320 days per year. This has not only increased water security but has taken tremendous pressure off pipe and other water supply systems.

Since the tsunami, rain water harvesting units have become a part of the village landscape in Car Nicobar. Units have also been setup in schools, to ensure that children have access to safe drinking water. Communities have been trained in cleaning and maintenance of the equipment; thereby giving the community the full ownership and responsibility for their functioning.

The efforts in providing safe drinking water in Car Nicobar have shown that, in spite of major logistical challenges, community participation, clear sighted and ingenious planning and localised execution can reap benefits.

Gaurav Garg, UNICEF ROSA South Asia Media Hub.

UPDATE

A SOFTWARE TO CAPTURE TSUNAMI RELIEF ACTIVITIES

The Tamil Nadu Disaster Management System (TNDMS) is a software developed by UNDP for the Government of Tamil Nadu in partnership with Price Waterhouse Coopers. The software captures the damages and losses as well as relief and rehabilitation activities undertaken by the Government of Tamil Nadu. TNDMS will enable information exchange and coordination among civil society partners, government agencies, bilateral and multilateral agencies.

TNDMS is aimed at providing a beneficiary tracking system by which the Government administration will definitely get a better handle on the amount of disbursements and the people who benefited from a particular Government Order. The software has the ability to go to a level of a single individual in a village habitat and can do aggregations of revenue from village to state level. Apart from that, segregation can be done across different departments to identify the financial outlays and monitor the progress of work in each department. All Government orders that have been issued so far have been captured in the system. The software will help the revenue department to track progress of work in different districts and across different departments.

The software is available in Tamil and English and comes with a system where all grievances can be

addressed to the district collectors from any internet access point. A separate section shall be accessible to the general public who will also be able to view the progress of rehabilitation work.

One round of training has been completed for the identified government officers in each tsunami affected district and at present data entry is being done by individuals outsourced from a private company. This is only an initial hand holding period until the Government officials get conversant with the software. The Department of Revenue Administration and Disaster Management & Mitigation will ultimately own the software, which will ensure effective partnership with other departments at the state, district and block level.

Twelve information technology (IT) facilitators have been placed in tsunami affected districts at the District Collectorate in order to facilitate the data entry process. They will subsequently help government staff, who has been identified for training.

Once successfully used and tested, the software is likely to become model software for any disaster on the Indian mainland. The software will be accessible to the general public, once the training for all government officials is completed.

NEWS

NEW DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTRES

Since the last quarterly report, Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (TNTRC) has been networked with two more district resource centres at Cuddalore and Tuticorin/Tirunelveli district. This will facilitate the tsunami rehabilitation process for all stakeholders. It will provide forums to discuss strategies for better coordination in various sectors, share and document lessons learnt and help highlight issues pertaining to the protection of the most vulnerable sections of the displaced population.



The Collector of Cuddalore holds a speech in honour of the inauguration of the Cuddalore Resource Centre

UPDATE

Below is the latest overview of the money spent and invested so far from Government, United Nations and the Asian Development Bank as well as the private sector:

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA:

Immediate relief (National Contingency Fund, NCCF) ¹ :	Rs. 700 crore (US\$ 155.5 Million)
Relief after assessment (Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package)	Rs. 3644.05 crore (US\$ 809.5 Million)
Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme (based upon consultative process of Core Group in the planning commission)	Rs. 9870.25 crore (US\$ 2205 Million) ²

UNITED NATIONS:

FUNDS MOBILISED BY UN AGENCIES in US\$	FUNDS MOBILISED	FUNDS UNDERWAY OF MOBILISATION	TOTAL
UNICEF	29,570,000	0	29,570,000
UNDP	9,425,000	5,000,000	14,425,000
ILO	1,400,000	290,000	1,690,000
UNFPA	80,000	0	80,000
FAO	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
WHO	1,757,661	0	1,757,661
UNESCO	30,750	0	30,750
Not allocated to Agencies	450,000	0	450,000
TOTAL	41,523,411	5,290,000	49,003,411

Source: Recovery Framework United Nations Team for Recovery Support, 2006

PRIVATE SECTOR:

Corporate response	US\$ 8 million ³
Indian companies	Rs. 40 crore (US\$ 9.2 million) ⁴

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK:

Grant	US\$ 76.20 million
Loan	US\$ 67.55 million
Total	US\$143.75 million

WORLD BANK:

Total	US\$ 465 million ⁵
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¹ Status report Government of India, April 2006. Numbers valid for Indian mainland (Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala) and the Union territories (Pondicherry, Andaman Nicobar).

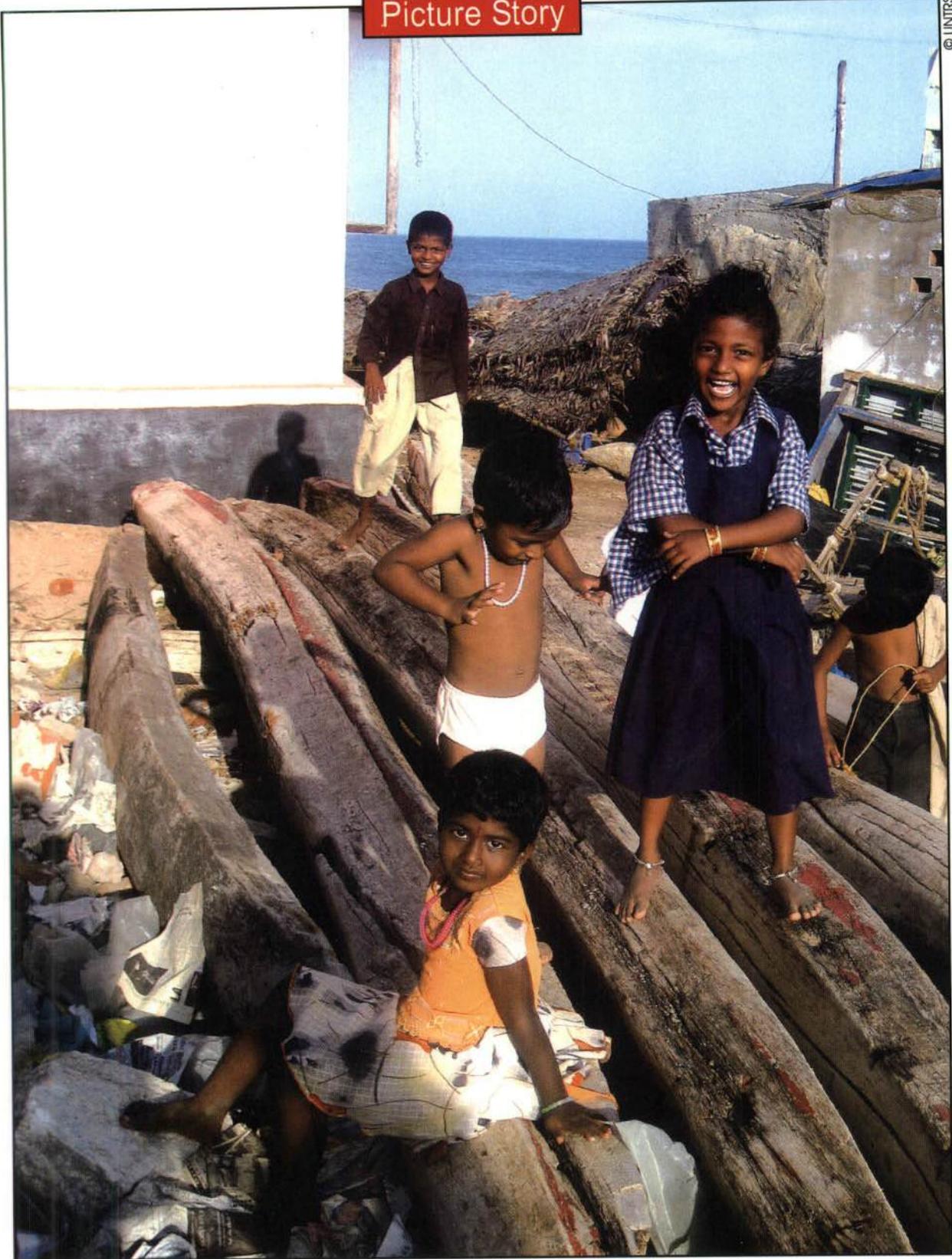
² This total sum includes the initial relief sum Rs. 700 crores (155.5 US\$) released by the National Contingency Fund as well as Rs 1600 crores (US\$ 359 Million) out of the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package.

³ Sum includes cash, food and medicine, emergency relief supplies and other humanitarian services.

⁴ Given to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Companies have also provided donations to established relief NGOs (figure unknown).

⁵ World Bank fact sheet October 2005.

Picture Story



© UNITS

Running, laughing and playing with what is left over from an old wooden raft boat, also called a catamaran: It is a happy summer evening for these children living in a fishing hamlet along the coast in Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu. But the smiles do not tell the story of the disaster that also hit this southernmost district of India. 33 coastal villages were affected by tsunami, 798 lives were lost and 6491 houses partially or totally damaged. But the smiles of these children tell another story yet: They indicate that relief efforts have had their impact and that the population is moving away from loss and grief and looking forward into the future.

Statistics: "From disaster to development..."

Kanyakumari Rehabilitation Resource Centre in collaboration with District Administration.