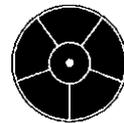
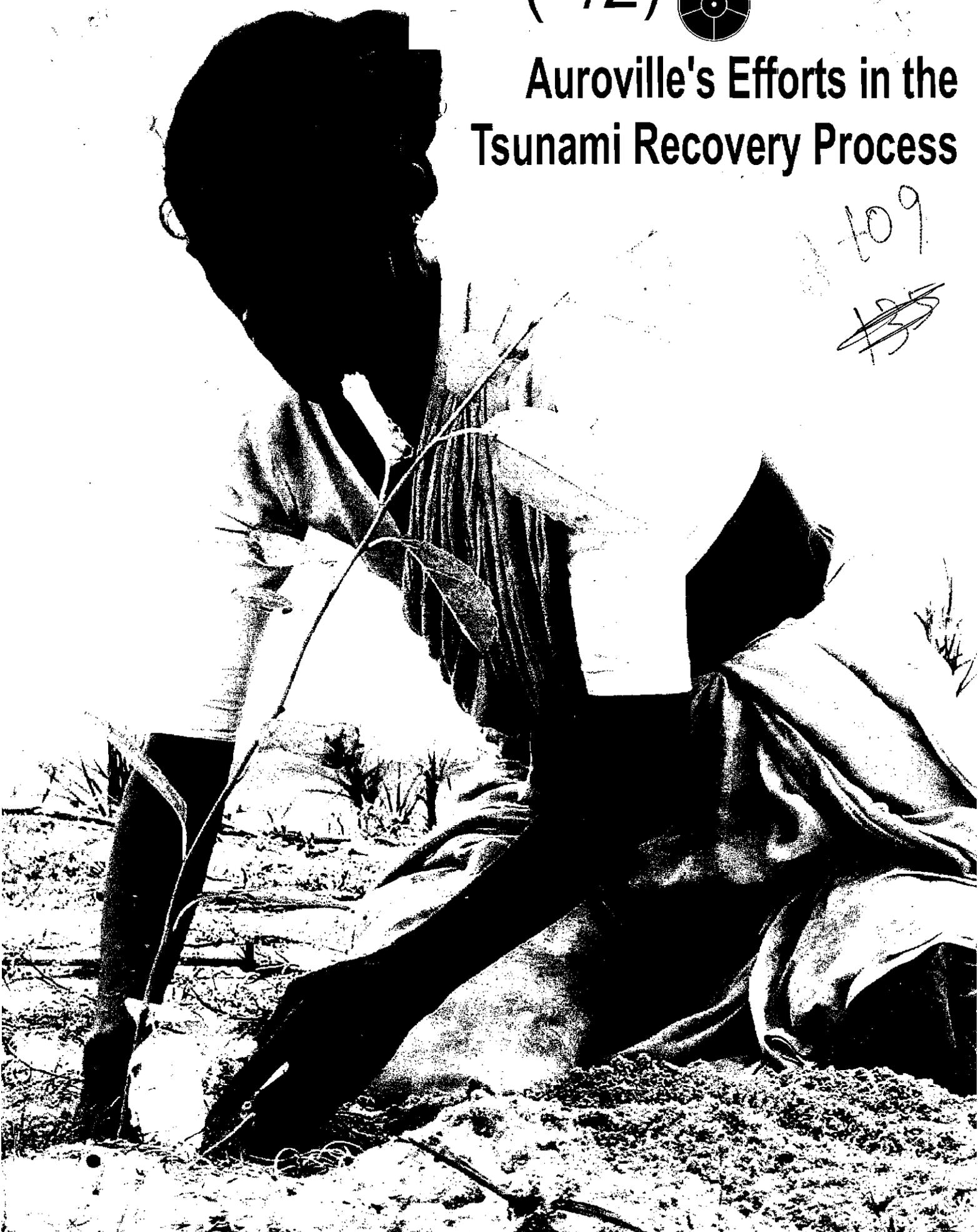


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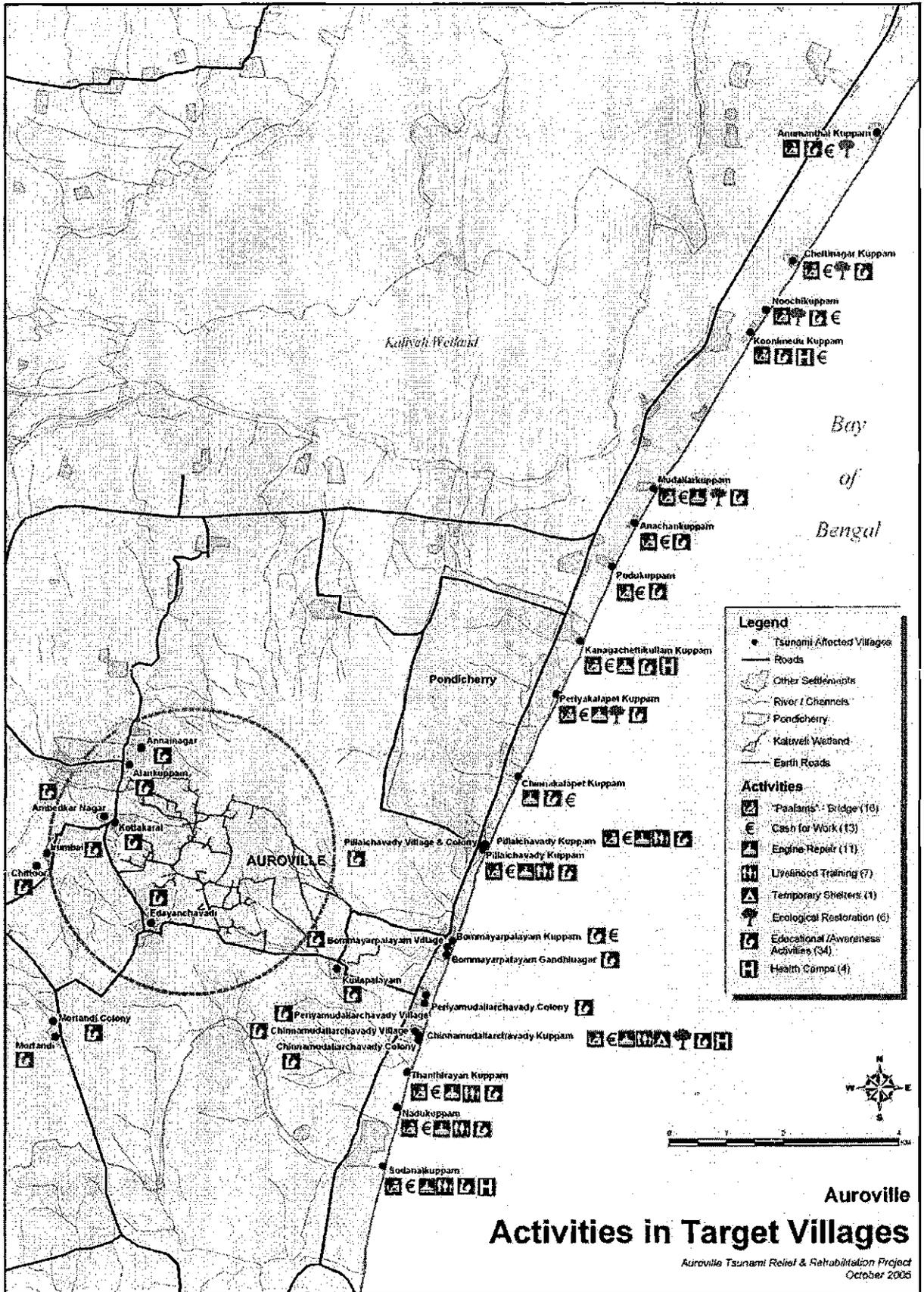


Auroville's Efforts in the Tsunami Recovery Process

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1 September 2005 - 31 August 2006



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1. INTRODUCTION: AUROVILLE TSUNAMI RELIEF & REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

The Auroville Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Project (ATRRP) has been functioning since 26 December 2004, the day the tsunami hit the Tamil Nadu coast. Legally, it operates under the umbrella of the Auroville Village Action Trust (AVAT). After an initial three-month period of relief activities, which are summarized below (and were described in detail in our last annual report), the organization began a programme of rehabilitation activities. At the outset, these activities were aimed primarily at populations who had been directly affected by the waves—those people living on the coast. However, it soon became clear that such a narrow focus created imbalances between the coastal and inland populations in the Auroville bioregion. As a result, ATRRP's target population was enlarged to include inland villages as well. The rehabilitation activities reported on in this report were carried out in 34 hamlets or communities located along the coastline in and around Auroville.

Aim

ATRRP's programme aims to assist communities to quickly rebuild their lives to the level that existed prior to the disaster, or, preferably, to a higher level than that which existed before.

Funding

Our projects are partly funded by the generous donations we have received from Indian and foreign donors. These donations were received from individuals and organizations from all over the world through coordinated efforts of Auroville International (AVI) centres worldwide. We also established working relationships with several international and national funding agencies.

Our Knowledge Centre and NGO Coordination are funded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Save the Children funded a programme for the construction of 26 Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Centres in Villupuram district and design of buildings and building manual for ICDS buildings for entire Tami Nadu.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is implementing a programme through Centre for Scientific Research (CSR), Auroville for the construction of decentralized waste water treatment systems (DEWATS). UNICEF financed CSR, Auroville for the construction of community toilets in the temporary shelters.

We were in collaboration with Concern Worldwide, who had financed our Community Strengthening, Livelihood and Eco-Restoration projects for 9 months till May 2006.

Rotary Club Ludwigshafen/Rheinschanze, Germany funded the Chinnamudaliarchavady temporary shelter programme which resulted in 83 temporary shelters

Lions Club in Mumbai provided support for relief activities.

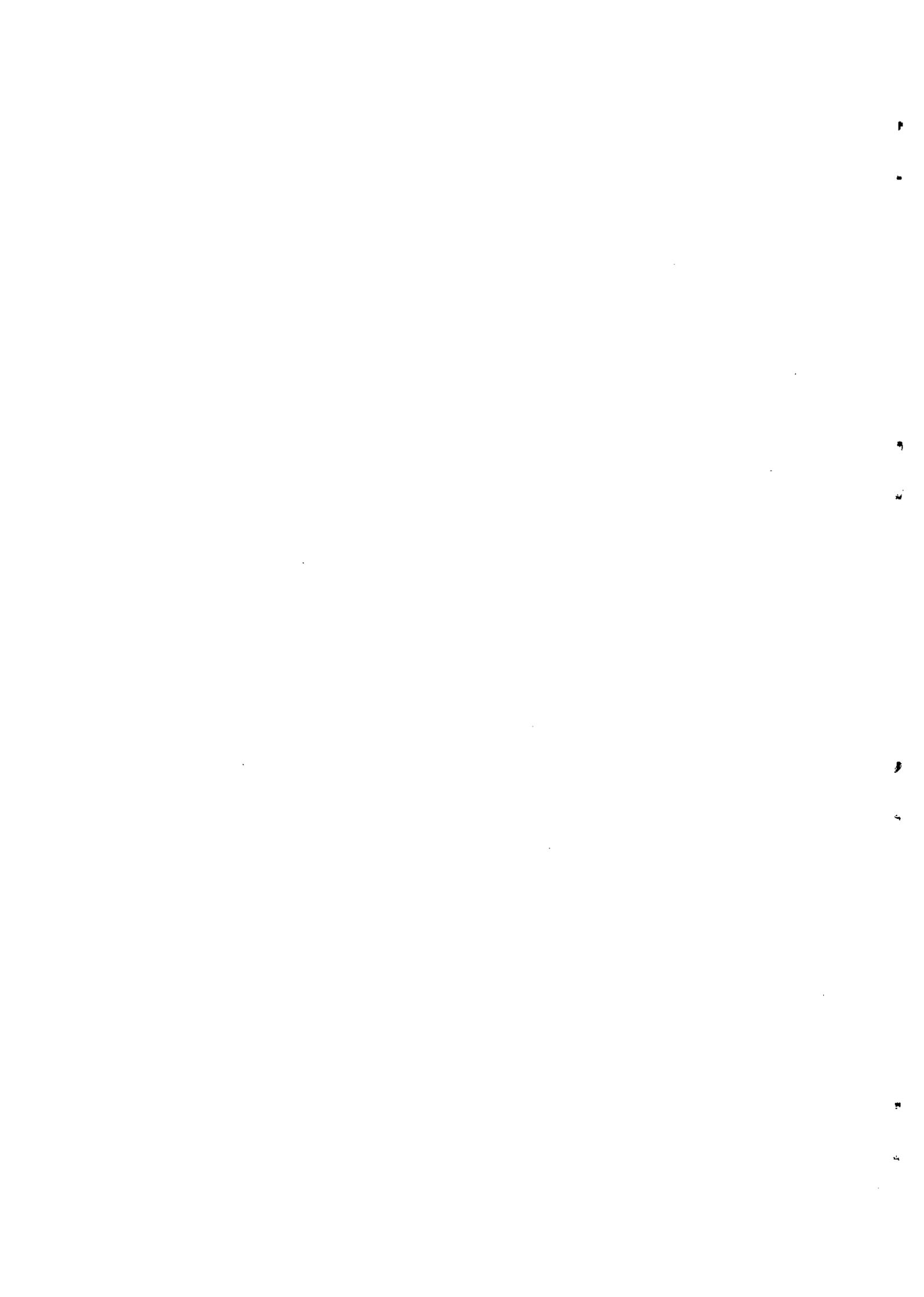
Suzlon, a large Indian multinational company provided donations for the relief phase.

Bestsellers, a company from Denmark, were one of the large community of supporters for the Tsunami project.

General Electric (GE) from USA through SELCO India and Aurore, Auroville has provided support for 14 solar reverse osmosis machines for drinking water.

55 people working

Approximately 55 people work for ATRRP, both volunteers and salaried. These include a dedicated group of rehabilitation workers, programme and project coordinators, trainers, teachers, product designers, researchers, forest specialists, accountants and administrators.



2. SUMMARY OF OUR PROJECTS

Relief Activities

January, February and March 2005 were devoted to immediate emergency relief activities. During that time, food, cooking and school materials were distributed, emergency psychological and physical healthcare was provided, affected villages were cleaned and temporary shelters were constructed. Details about this work can be found in our first eight month report.

Rehabilitation

The last 12 months were devoted to rehabilitation activities. These have focused on five major work areas: NGO Coordination and Knowledge Resource Centre, Community Institution Building, Livelihood Development, Shelter and Infrastructure and Ecological Restoration.

NGO Coordination and Knowledge Resource Centre

NGO coordination creates a common platform for all NGOs working in the Villupuram district to obtain and disseminate relevant information, to get together with government officials, and to avoid duplication of activities. There are more than 25 NGOs in the Villupuram district, of which more than half regularly attend NGO Coordination meetings in which they share information on their projects. NGO Coordination works hand in hand with the Knowledge Resource Centre.

The Knowledge Resource Centre's task is to share Auroville's knowledge with the government and other NGOs. The aim behind the collection of information and the sharing of it is to make sure that reconstruction and rehabilitation happen in an environmentally friendly way, with good planning and on the basis of scientific and technical expertise. The Knowledge Resource Centre works together with CSR, Auroville Earth Institute, Shakti, Auroville Botanical Gardens, and Water Harvest in Auroville. Workshops and trainings for NGOs and government officials are organized on topics such as sanitation, sustainability, eco restoration, building technologies, etc.

Community Institution Building

The shift from relief to rehabilitation has meant making a shift from charity work to a policy of "helping-people-to-help-themselves." The former made sense during the emergency situation immediately following the tsunami, but in the long term, Auroville aims to create more of a partnership with local inhabitants with the mutual aim of regional development. As an initial step to forming such a partnership, ATRRP established Paalams (Tamil word for bridge) in 17 fishing communities and 15 inland villages. These are groups of 2 to 3 representatives from each village, who meet regularly with ATRRP field staff to share information and plan together. By doing so, the Paalams act as a link between the village, Auroville, the government, and other NGOs. Paalams also help Women's and Men's groups in the villages take up various projects for village improvement.

Livelihood Skills Development

To ensure complete rehabilitation, one of the chief factors is that the people have viable livelihood options to lift them out of poverty.

A dramatic response in the aftermath of the tsunami was the training of fisherwomen, many of whom had never held a needle, in making *Tsunamika*. *Tsunamika* is a little doll made from recycled fabric. The project has taught women to make the dolls, which are bought from them by Upasana Design Studio, a unit of Auroville, and then given away in exchange for a donation. *Tsunamika* has thus both provided livelihood skills training and evolved to become a successful micro model of a "gift economy".

In November 2005 inland village women started a training programme with WELL (Women's Empowerment through Local Livelihood) in the design and production of goods using waste paper. After completing the training, women are being assisted in setting up their own production business in their village. The women are enthusiastic about their new workshop, and the project thus far has received more orders for papier-mâché products than it can produce.



Vocational Training Programmes

One of the first responses after the tsunami was to offer computer education to young fisher men and women at the **Auroville Industrial School**, providing them with new opportunities beyond their traditional world of fishing.

Educational Loan Scheme

Financial hardship is possibly the primary factor preventing students from continuing education beyond 12th standard. In order to make it possible for some of the local students to continue with higher studies and vocational training, ATRRP has introduced an Educational Loan Scheme. Recipients are selected based on criteria such as economic hardship in the family and performance in the 12th standard examinations.

Micro finance

Micro finance provides support to initiate sustainable livelihood and enhanced income to the fisher folk and inland communities through the provision of micro credit. ATRRP aims to extend this kind of support through a network of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and functional groups. Once a group has fulfilled a number of administrative and lending practices for a six month period, it becomes eligible to receive credit from local banks or ATRRP.

Enterprise Development

An Enterprise Development project has been taken up to encourage local businesses to start up and expand. As a preliminary step, occupational affinity groups have been identified and formed. For example, groups of fish vending women, artisans, cycle rickshaw drivers, among others have formed federations and are developing savings and lending skills so as to be able to access loans.

In the **tailoring workshop** in Irumbai, set up in September 2005, women from villages in the target area are trained in cutting, designing, using sewing machines (padding), handwork and embroidery. After having completed the six months training period, some have sought to set up a tailoring workshop of their own. AVAT is assisting them in obtaining government loans to do so. A subsequent training for a new group of women has begun.

Another enterprise development project involved the development of **tools** to assist fish vending groups. Two design students from a foremost national design institute studied fisher folk livelihood and, based on their findings, designed two easily-imitable products: a carry-all for women fish vendors and a fish-scaler. The products are cheap and easy to produce.

Ecological Restoration

One observation arising from the tsunami has been the value of protective belts of trees on the coastline. Coastal villages willing to participate are being assisted with planting indigenous species to restore the natural protective vegetation of the coast and to reconstruct green areas in the villages. In two local villages, plantations along the beach and smaller plantations along village roads and school campuses have begun, shallow boreholes for watering have been dug, and local watch women have been employed to oversee the plantations and the watering. In addition, nurseries have been established in two Dalit villages where seedlings for planting areas can be raised -- providing livelihood opportunities for Dalit community members.

Shelter and Infrastructure

Even though the Tamil Nadu Government constructed a large number of temporary shelters, many families in some villages were still without shelter two months after the tsunami struck. The availability of lands was the main obstacle to their homelessness. In close coordination with the Villupuram District Collector, ATRRP constructed **temporary shelters** in Chinnamudaliarchavady, on the site of the damaged houses. Responding to an immediate need, temporary shelters have also been constructed in Bommayarpalayam for non-fishermen families.

In meetings with district authorities ATRRP had expressed a commitment to re-build **permanent shelters** in the villages of Chinnamudaliarchavady and Bommayarpalayam. However, the project was stalled by several factors. First, district authorities were unable to locate suitable land on which to construct the shelters. Next, there was disagreement among tsunami-affected people about in situ re-construction. And finally the donor agency that had committed to funding a large scale shelter programme in the area withdrew its commitment. ATRRP subsequently communicated its inability to take on this project to the district authorities.

3. ORGANIZATION AND WORKFORCE

The Auroville Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Programme was established to undertake activities relating to tsunami relief and rehabilitation in the villages surrounding Auroville. From the outset, the organization has operated under the umbrella of the Auroville Village Action Trust, which itself has been active in outreach and developmental work since 1983.

The initial days after the tsunami

Immediately after the tsunami hit, a large group of Aurovilians went out to collect information on the situation and needs in the shoreline villages and Auroville's beach communities. Everyone involved was in action mode from the very first moment. And that action mode stayed on for the hectic weeks that followed. There was a great sense of urgency, with not much time to discuss at any length how and what to do. At the same time, everything seemed to fall into place and everyone was doing exactly what he or she was good at doing. There was a tremendous workforce operating under a makeshift organization.

Long-term Rehabilitation

As the work evolved from immediate relief to longer-term rehabilitation, the organization had to develop a suitable structure. Today, ATRRP operates on a hub-and-spokes type model, with different programmes carried out by different Auroville organizations and overall coordination and reporting carried out by the office hub. Activities such as ecological restoration or livelihood therefore operate from different parts of Auroville, often with different models of organization, but they are linked, through an individual coordinator, to the ATRRP office, where the reporting of their activities, and their accounting, are streamlined. Project links to the villages are provided by another spoke, the Paalams.

Programmes and their coordinators

The ATRRP programme consists of distinct but very much interlinked focus areas. Each project field is spearheaded by a coordinator:

- The **Paalams / Community Strengthening team** is spearheaded by Moris and Anbu, who have a long experience in carrying out development projects. They are assisted by a team of 10 dedicated rehabilitation workers.
- The **Livelihood team** is coordinated by Auralice. The primary activities are Tsunamika, spearheaded by Uma and the Upasana team, and WELL, spearheaded by Danny and Orly.
- The **Knowledge Resource Centre / NGO Coordination team** is coordinated by Chandrah, Lata, and Prashant.
- The **Eco-Restoration project team** is coordinated by Walter, who has many years of experience with reforestation. He is assisted by two botanists, a village coordinator and two nursery workers.
- The **Shelter team** is coordinated by Suhasini, an architect and executive of Architecture Dept; Auroville Building Centre – CSR trust.
- A **Financial Management Team** is coordinated by Alain, with B. Kavery Subramanian and two assistants keeping the financial records. This team is responsible for the actual accounting and dealing with all financial transactions.
- The overall **Programme Coordination** is carried out by a "coordination hub". This is a group of six coordinators: Hemant, Alain, Chandrah, Elvira, Danny and Auralice.

4. AUROVILLE VILLAGE ACTION TRUST

ATRRP operates under the AVAT umbrella. AVAT was established as a trust in the year 2000, but existed as an activity of Auroville since 1983. Beginning as a small group of Aurovilians and professionals, it has grown to include several schools, training programmes and activities for the villages around Auroville. In the context of Auroville's aspiration for human unity, and honoring the dignity of the village people, AVAT has a vision for accelerating a harmonious and creative connection between Auroville and the surrounding villages.

Objectives are:

- Releasing village people's innate capacities for social, economic, and environmental transformation
- Encouraging collaboration between Aurovilians and villagers for collective evolution
- Providing maximum opportunity for education and the raising of consciousness in the villages and in Auroville,

In addition to ATRRP, there are several activities operating under AVAT.

- **Auroville Village Action Group (AVAG)**

AVAG relates to villages neighbouring Auroville, mainly through organizing Women's Clubs, Men's Clubs, supplementary education in the schools and generally encouraging community organization.

- **Life Education Centre (LEC)**

LEC conducts a daily programme for adolescent girls in vocational training and character-building.

- **Isai Ambalam School**

This school develops educational methods for first-generation learners, trains teachers and runs a primary school.

- **Lively Boutique**

Lively Boutique trains in tailoring and shop-keeping, and gives its profits to Village Action women's activities.

- **Mohanam Cultural Centre**

Mohanam Cultural Centre maintains a heritage house and cultural and educational programme in Sanjeevinagar village.

- **Svaram Musical Instruments**

This is a training centre for young men specializing in the production of musical instruments and the development of the talents of the trainees.

- **Auroville Industrial School (AIS)**

AIS is a top-grade training centre in computer technology and electronics. A vocational training for tsunami-affected youth is being conducted in this school.

The Village Action Core Group meets monthly, and the heads of the above activities report to each other and coordinate their efforts. More details about AVAT activities are available at www.auroville.org/environment/avag.html.

5. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In the aftermath of the tsunami, the south Indian coastal area has become flooded with aid organizations of every size and scope. From the outset, coordination and cooperation with these organizations has been an important element of ATRRP activities, both in terms of funding and in terms of organizational growth.

Coordination with Government and other agencies

The Villupuram District collector appointed ATRRP the coordinating centre of relief and rehabilitation activities in the district. As a result, it acts as a hub for regular NGO and District authority meetings, sometimes formal and often informal. The meetings function as a platform for information sharing and discussion, for reaching consensus on policies and avoiding duplication of efforts.

All our activities are being coordinated with the beneficiaries, responsible authorities, and other NGOs. Auroville NGO coordination and the Knowledge Resource Centre (AV NCKRC) are acting as a coordination hub for the NGOs working in Villupuram district. This is a forum for dialogue between NGOs and the government under the umbrella of the Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (TNTRC), established by Tamil Nadu government, UNDP and INGOs.

Cooperation with other NGOs

During the early days we were in close contact with Bhoomika Trust, an advocacy NGO based in Chennai, the South India Fishermen Federation Society (SIFFS), a leading fishermen's cooperative of South India, and the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF). We are also part of the Tsunami Rehabilitation Information Network (TRINet - www.trinet.in), a forum of information sharing created by Bhoomika Trust, ICSF and SIFFS. In addition, ATRRP has established contact with several international and national agencies working in Tamil Nadu.

ATRRP signed a MoU with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** in February 2006 towards the development of its NGO Coordination Cell and its Knowledge Resource Centre. The aim of the project is to effectively coordinate post-tsunami NGO activities in the Villupuram district, to make information available in print and on CD. They also conduct workshops and trainings for capacity building among NGOs that are involved in long term rehabilitation programmes including shelter.

ATRRP cooperated with **Concern, International** between February, 2005 and May, 2006. The working partnership focused initially on immediate relief activities and later on rehabilitation projects that were geared primarily towards assisting the "poorest of the poor". The relationship was important for ATRRP, both in terms of funding and in terms of capacity building within the organization.

Beyond the above partnerships, ATRRP has cooperated with other organizations. Some examples:

- **Save the Children**, a US-based charity funded 27 Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Centres. The Architecture Department of the *Auroville Building Centre*, a unit under Auroville Centre for Scientific Research, was responsible for design, creation of a construction manual and construction of a few prototype centres along the coast.
- ATRRP also cooperates with the local NGO **PDC** (People Development Centre) which has organized women's groups in the target villages. As PDC has no educational or empowerment programmes beyond savings and credit, their women's groups welcome our programme input and now are relating directly for awareness programmes, micro finance, micro projects and solid waste management projects.
- ATRRP has cooperated with **Sport Sans Frontieres** since January 2006. They are a French NGO that implements village sports programmes in some of the target villages.

6. EMERGENCY RELIEF ACTIVITIES

This phase lasted from 26 December 2004 to April 2005. The main activities carried out were:

- Emergency relief camp
- Distribution of emergency relief materials
- Cleaning of the tsunami-affected villages
- Cash-for-work
- Physical and psychological health programmes
- Yoga training for village women
- Social awareness dramas
- Construction of temporary shelters
- Engine repair service
- Auroville beach communities relief

Each of the activities is summarized below. For further details, please see our first 8 months report.

6.1 EMERGENCY RELIEF CAMP

Immediately after the tsunami struck on the morning of December 26, the first ad hoc meeting of concerned Aurovilians took place in Kulapalayam, an inland village neighboring Auroville. From 26 till 29 December 2005, approximately 2,500 coastline village residents in search of safer places received shelter, food, blankets, clothes and medical care in a relief camp set up in a village high school managed by Auroville at Kulapalayam and a smaller camp set up in Kottakarai area.

6.2 DISTRIBUTION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF MATERIALS

On Tuesday the 28 December, teams of Aurovilians went out to make a rapid assessment of the situation along the coast and the Auroville beach communities. Ten villages and communities were initially identified as Auroville's main concern. Soon however, the number of target villages went up to 28. On the basis of continuous need assessments, it was decided to distribute food and non-food items like blankets, clothes and school materials. Over a period of three months, a total number of 28 hamlets, with a combined population of approximately 35,000, have been provided with food, non food items, blankets, clothes, kitchen utensils, school supplies and sports materials.

6.3 CLEANING OF THE VILLAGES BY VOLUNTEERS

Beginning in the first week of January, a daily group of 100 – 150 volunteers worked in the villages to remove the debris and waste that the tsunami had left behind. A total of five hamlets, with a combined population of approx 3,750, were cleaned. The project paved the way for the 'cash-for-work' project, in which villagers themselves took up cleaning responsibilities in return for cash.

6.4 CASH-FOR-WORK

Initially villagers did not all want to cooperate with this programme, because they wanted the government to assess the damage done before they began cleaning up. Slowly, however, more and more residents expressed a willingness to clean their village themselves. As they also had an immediate need for cash (since their usual fishing work had been disrupted), the 'cash-for-work' cleaning programme was started. It resulted in 14 cleaned villages. A much needed temporary income was also provided to 3,505 families.

6.5 PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

The first physical health care activities took place in the emergency relief camp. Later, four health camps were organized, in cooperation with the Pondicherry institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), where villagers could receive free medical care. Soon it became clear that a large number of tsunami-affected patients were suffering from post-traumatic stress symptoms. In response, Auroville's women's groups cooperated to form a trauma healing team that went out to the village's everyday to provide psychological therapy and homeopathic treatment.

6.6 YOGA TRAINING FOR VILLAGE WOMEN

A training programme in Hatha Yoga was organized for a group of tsunami-affected women in Nadukuppam, one of our target villages. Abha, a certified yoga teacher, taught the women basic postures for three months. The aim was to provide women with an opportunity to better cope with the tragedy they had lived through.

6.7 SOCIAL AWARENESS DRAMAS

Social awareness dramas provide a very strong medium for dealing with day-to-day problems. In the aftermath of the tsunami these interactive and playful events proved to be an effective tool for giving affected residents a way of talking about what had happened. The Yatra Performing Troupe created a special tsunami performance with singing, a play and special attention for the children. In addition to the drama performance a group of musicians went out to the villages, staged sing-along, which was very much appreciated by the residents. The social awareness dramas provided a forum for tsunami-affected residents to interact with one another about what had happened, gave some entertaining distraction after the tragic events and disseminated the message that it is good to keep talking and that people should help each other and take care of each other. Performances took place in 13 villages between January and March 2005. ATRRP also organized two awareness dramas with the help of Boomika Trust, Madras, to motivate the tsunami-affected to work together for rebuilding their community.

6.8 CONSTRUCTION OF TEMPORARY SHELTERS

Between May and August 2005, 96 temporary shelters were built on the site of the damaged houses in Chinnamudaliarchavady and Bommayarpalayam. Although the Tamil Nadu government had constructed a large number of temporary shelters, many families in this community were still without shelter.

6.9 ENGINE REPAIR SERVICE

Many fishing boat engines were damaged after the tsunami, preventing the fishermen from going out to sea and earning a livelihood. The engine repair service with a workshop in Chinnamudaliarchavady repaired 195 fishing boat engines and trained youths in engine repair and welding.

6.10 AUROVILLE BEACH COMMUNITIES RELIEF

A special team saw to the needs of the residents of nine Auroville beach communities. This was funded separately from other ATRRP activities. Depending on needs, individuals and families were relocated, urgent individual financial needs were met, cleaning activities were undertaken, infrastructure (restoration of water, electricity and telephone connections) and house repairs took place, new wells were dug, and damaged fences were resurrected. Production unit losses were also compensated and damages repaired.

7. REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Towards the end of April, 2005, a shift occurred in ATRRP's work. Around this time, activities began to focus away from immediate relief and increasingly on longer-term rehabilitation. By May, 2005, a rehabilitation programme was underway. Activities were carried out in the following sectors:

- NGO Coordination/Knowledge Resource Centre
- Paalams/Community Institution Building
- Livelihood Development Projects
- Ecological Restoration
- Shelter and Infrastructure

They are described in detail below.

7.1. NGO COORDINATION / KNOWLEDGE RESOURCE CENTRE

The Auroville NGO Coordination and Knowledge Resource Centre (AV NCKRC) were borne of the need to share information, expertise and ideas among the various organizations and agencies contributing to the massive tsunami rehabilitation efforts in South India. The idea behind this project is that the process of rebuilding communities and economies following this natural disaster creates an intricate interplay of social, political, psychological and environmental issues far more complicated than the simple reassembly of physical structures or replacement of material possessions. It is believed that coordination among all participants will produce a more effective rehabilitation and development programme, and that better information sharing will produce better coordination.

While response to the tsunami was still in the relief phase, the concept of District Resource Centres (DRCs) was developed by the UNDP. Today, DRCs have been developed in Nagapatinam (NCRC), Auroville (NCKRC), Chennai (TNTRC), Kanyakumari (KRRRC), Cuddalore (CRC), and Tirunelveli/Thoothukudi (TRCTT). These DRCs facilitate the flow of information between coordinating organizations and the villages and hamlets where the physical work of reconstruction is performed. They also provide a place for coordination activities and exchange of ideas to occur.

At present, the DRCs are contributing knowledge with particular areas of focus. The Auroville NCKRC contributes expertise in planning, architecture, and other issues related to the construction of shelter and habitat. The NCRC in Nagapatinam brings together organizations with a wealth of experience in livelihood issues; particularly with respect to the fishing economies of the South Indian coast. TNTRC is the state level resource centre for tsunami recovery, effective coordination among all stakeholders, and sharing of information and knowledge. The AV NCKRC is an interactive platform, serving as both a library for data and a forum for communication and collaborative effort. It is a virtual hub for the collection and sharing of knowledge, dissemination of best practices, and development of consensus.

ATRRP signed a MoU with the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** on 22 February 2006 towards development of its NGO Coordination Cell and its Knowledge Resource Centre. The aim of the 18 months project is a coordinated and needs based response to the aftermath of the tsunami by government and non-government organizations.

Objectives are:

- To ensure that NGOs are optimally coordinated and have access to the best and most up to date information available. Therefore AV NCKRC organizes NGO Coordination meetings every month and thematic/special meetings every other month, chaired by the Special Deputy Collector. Representatives are also sent from the Villupuram centre to Chennai for ongoing state wide NGO coordination meetings to report on issues arising.
- To inform the government of the consensus reached by NGOs on different issues and to lobby for incorporation of recommendations within government policies.
- To disseminate Auroville's knowledge in appropriate technology and habitats and serve the needs of the NGOs engaged in rehabilitation all along the affected coast.

With UNDP funding NCKRC provides workshops and trainings on specific technologies and their implementation for NGO members and government officials and makes the information available in print or on CD. NCKRC also

provides technical support to NGOs in the fields of: planning, architecture, renewable energy, ecological restoration of coastal ecosystems, wastewater treatment, GIS (Geographic Information Systems), water harvesting, providing site-specific solutions to flood affected rehabilitation sites, etc.

The Auroville NCKRC also conducts workshops and training sessions in collaboration with other organizations in Auroville. These bear in mind the long term tsunami rehabilitation along the Tamil Nadu coast. Workshops and trainings will be offered in:

- Sustainable Habitats
- Decentralized Waste Water Treatment Systems (DEWATS)
- Effective Micro-organisms (EM) in relation to: hygiene, sanitation, solid waste management, organic farming and husbandry.
- Ecological Restoration
- Alternative and sustainable building technologies: Ferro cement as well as Compressed and Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEB).



Tency explaining the Polishing Pond of the Invocation DEWATS plant



A walk through the Ravena forest

Project	Knowledge Centre / NGO Coordination	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that NGOs are optimally coordinated and have access to the best and most up to date information available; • To inform the government of the consensus reached by NGOs on issues and to lobby for incorporation of recommendations within government policies; and • To disseminate Auroville's knowledge in appropriate technology and habitats and serve the needs of the NGOs engaged in rehabilitation. 	
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in NGO Coordination Meetings; • Participation in Meetings and Conferences; • Organisation of workshops; and • Organisation of exposure visits for NGOs and government officials 	
Time Frame	September 2005 – ongoing	
Total Expenditure	INR 684,806	USD 14,811
Funded by	ATRRP and UNDP	
Report	<p>Participation in several NGO Coordination Meetings to emphasize the cooperation between the government of Tamil Nadu and the NGOs. Topics included SHGs, saline intrusion in groundwater, mid-term shelter standards, insuring houses, community based disaster preparedness and shelter, sanitation and infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Attended meetings, conferences and workshops organized by TN Government, UNDP, TRINET, ICSF, TNTRC, other DRCs about shelter and other sector specific programmes such as ecological restoration, livelihood, sanitation, other infrastructure, etc. Also actively involved in the UNDP / NCRC / Hunnarshala mid-term shelter survey of reconstruction work.</u></p> <p>Participation in exposure visits at other Resource Centres and one organized in AV for other DRCs.</p> <p><u>Advocacy on flooding and regional drainage issues in Cuddalore, Chennai, Nagapattinam and Villupuram Districts. Report on suggestions for future development of all flood prone areas along the coast submitted to the Collector and Officer on Special Duty (R&R), TN Govt.</u></p> <p><u>Organized workshops and trainings in collaboration with Auroville-based organizations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EM Workshops with Auro Annam • "Sustainable Habitats" Workshops with CSR • DEWATS Workshops organized with CSR • Eco Restoration Workshops with Auroville Botanical Gardens and Shakti. 	

Interview with Prashant

Prashant Hedao has been working for ATRRP since 12 January 2005. He came to ATRRP after Hemant called him, asking him to join the team. Hemant knew that Prashant had much experience in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) / mapping and environmental planning, and thought that "he was just the person we needed in the first days after the tsunami, when the government was going to come up with long term rehabilitation and shelter policies." Prashant is an architect, with specialization in landscape architecture and ecological planning.

Prashant and his wife Lata – an architect with specialization in regional planning – have been integral members of the ATRRP team since Hemant's call. As the organization launched its rehabilitation programme, they worked together on a proposal to create the Auroville NGO Coordination and Knowledge Resource Centre (AV NCKRC).

Funded by UNDP, this project works to coordinate NGO activity, ensure that organizations have access to the best and most up to date information available, inform the government of the consensus reached by NGOs, lobby for incorporation of recommendations within government policies, and disseminate Auroville's knowledge.

In April, 2005 The AV NCKRC was appointed the NGO Coordination Centre by our district administration. It works together with the other five NGO Coordination Centres in the affected districts in Tamil Nadu.

Prashant says the AV NCKRC consultation meetings are very important. NGOs, government officials, and private sector representatives hold forums on topics like shelter, livelihood, water and sanitation, infrastructure and ecological restoration. These forums can provide the basis for government policies. Thus they play an important role in finding science based and technically sound solutions and in influencing policies. Consultation meetings take place in Nagapattinam, Chennai and other places along the coast.

According to Prashant, the influence NGOs have is quite positive. He says NGOs take up a lot of advocacy work, and that their voice is heard by the government. He knows, because he is the AV NCKRC representative to government officials. As such, he maintains regular contact with officials like the Special Deputy Collector (Relief and Rehabilitation) at the district level and the Officer on Special Duty (Relief and Rehabilitation) at the State government level.

Regarding NGO coordination, Prashant thinks it is very important to have all the information about what NGOs are doing available in one place. There are over 25 NGOs in Villupuram district alone, of which more than half regularly attend meetings and have shared information on their projects. Of the other NGOs many do attend meetings and workshops, but are not too open to share information about their work. Prashant thinks that maybe they do not see the usefulness of it.

Prashant says that in Tamil Nadu NGOs share their rehabilitation work mostly on a geographical basis. This is most obvious in shelter building, where NGOs have been appointed to build shelters in certain villages. If another NGO, for example, would concentrate on building schools, they would be asked to contact the NGO responsible for shelter building in that village to coordinate their project with them.

Comparing AV NCKRC to other NGOs, Prashant says: "Other NGO Resource Centres work pretty much the same way as we do, although we concentrate more on building construction, alternative technologies, planning issues and flooding - while they have their focus on fishery and social aspects of rehabilitation." He can see a difference in our spirit of work here in Auroville as compared to that prevailing in other NGOs. He thinks that the approach is more cordial, and that the team makes decisions together. Mostly, the knowledge of different groups is shared and decisions are made on that basis – although he does say that there is always scope for improvement!

What Prashant likes most about his work is that he is in contact with government officials at both District and State level, and is able to discuss a wide variety of issues with them on good science based policies, and share information with other NGOs.

7.2 THE PAALAMS / COMMUNITY INSTITUTION BUILDING

The Paalams Project was initiated because there was a need for dialogue between ATRRP and the target populations. Responding to this need, ATRRP established groups in 17 fishing villages, each comprising of 1 elder and 2 youth who had been selected by the Panchayat leaders of their village. These groups came to be named Paalams – the word "Paalam" meaning bridge in Tamil. Later, Paalams were established in 15 inland villages as well.

Paalam members attend monthly meetings convened by ATRRP where they discuss issues of concern in their respective villages. The meetings are also a forum for different providers such as NGOs, government officials, or the private sector (banks, insurance companies, etc.) to give out information -- which Paalam members bring back to their village elders who disseminate it to the wider community. In addition, the meetings provide a platform from which Paalam members and the ATRRP field staff can partner in village development and community institution building.

Paalam members assist ATRRP in carrying out many of their projects, and also help to coordinate projects. They also carry out capacity building and community strengthening projects in their villages. The main methodology for such projects is via micro projects (MPs). MPs are initiated by local community based SHGs who discuss problems within the village/kuppam and identify projects which assist the social, cultural, environmental, health and economic condition of the village/kuppam. Once the SHGs identify a solution they acquire estimates on the cost of the projects and then submit their proposal to ATRRP for funding. The criterion for submission is that villagers will pay one-third of the cost of the project (whether in kind or in cash).

Once approved, MPs are initiated and implemented by SHGs. 137 MPs have been carried out thus far, including: furnishing local schools; equipping youth clubs with gym materials; managing waste water, repairing street taps, and lights; supporting educational workshops for students; starting solid waste recycling; road repairs; providing night schools for students; AIDS awareness workshops; capacity building in the form of training workshops in leadership, health and sanitation activities, etc. It is hoped that this unique cooperation between ATRRP field staff and Paalam members will enhance the capacity for effective ATRRP management and lead to the integral development of the surrounding villages and the bioregion.

Another Paalams activity is the development and support of men's and women's SHGs. SHGs are given trainings in participatory and democratic decision making as well as making proper minutes and record keeping. The groups also identify problems and solutions in the village and request funds from ATRRP under the micro project programme.



Project	Paalams / Community Institution Building	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist the communities directly and indirectly affected by the tsunami; • To assist them in restoring and improving their livelihood; • To reduce their vulnerability to future disasters; • To support capacity building and community strengthening at the village/kuppam level; • To strengthen community-based organization at the village level to ensure a participatory and community-owned process in the post tsunami rehabilitation programme; • To promote savings and inter group lending 	
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the Paalams and SHGs ATRRP assists capacity building and community strengthening via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing furnishing for schools, equipping youth clubs with gym materials; • Managing waste water, starting solid waste recycling; • Repairing street taps and lights; road repairs; • Supporting educational workshops for students, AIDS awareness workshops; • Providing night schools for students; • Starting associations to provide better economic opportunities; • Capacity building; training workshops for the Paalam members in leadership, health and sanitation strengthening community-based organization to become participatory and democratic in their decision making. 	
Time Frame	January 2005 - ongoing	
Total Expenditure	INR 6,494,986	USD 140,478
Funded by	ATRRP and Concern	
Report	<p>137 micro projects including: provision of water taps, lights or hand pumps for villages; building of SWM (Solid Waste Management) sheds; building or paying teachers to teach at night schools; provision of work camps during which villagers clean up their village or temples; awareness workshops on AIDS, health and sanitation, leadership trainings etc.</p> <p>Support for the creation and development of men's and women's SHGs and providing them with trainings in participatory and democratic decision making. The groups also identify problems and solutions in the village and request funds from ATRRP under the micro project programme.</p>	

A FIELD TRIP TO ANITCHANKUPPAM

I was interested to find out what our Paalam field staff did, so I asked Srinivasan (one of the team leaders) to take me along on one of his field trips to the villages. Today Srinivasan took me to Anitchankuppam, a 20 minute ride. Along the way, Srinivasan told me a bit about himself and his work as a Paalam team leader. He comes from Chennai. His aunt and uncle live in Auroville since 1969 and so he was connected to Auroville since long. He has worked for ATRRP as a member of the field staff for the past year. He is the leader of one of four field teams, his team is called Rose. There are also the Jasmine, Lotus and Lily teams. Srinivasan's team works in four kuppams (fishing villages) and six inland villages.

A typical day of work for Srinivasan would be to go visit some of the villages to talk to the Paalam members and Panchayat leaders to facilitate the programme that they have identified. Some of the activities in the villages are work camps, where youth club members get together to improve the village (repairs, clean ups like the 'beautiful India' activity, tree clearing to free electrical lines etc), health camps (for example the eye camps where all the village people can get free eye examination and if necessary are taken directly to operations conducted in the Aravindh Eye Hospital in Pondicherry) or the Solid Waste Management programme (where households recycle their paper and

plastic waste). Another of Srinivasan's jobs is to collect revolving loans given to individuals and groups. The field team also monitors night schools and organizes field trips for the students.

Srinivasan says he enjoys his work because every day is different. He says that his most challenging task is to deal with the people in the village and to assist them once they have identified projects that will be beneficial to their villages.

Just a few days ago, Srinivasan went to Periarumudaliarchavady to meet with the youth group about the introduction of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) project. The youth group will oversee the project with the help of the Panchayat and make sure that it is implemented in the village. A waste collection shed will be set up in the village. The villagers will collect and separate their garbage. Some of the waste like thick plastic and paper can be sold. The income generated will be used to maintain the project. Srinivasan thinks that it will take six to eight months before the project is successful. It will take a long time for the village people to get rid of the habit of throwing their garbage in the streets. An educational awareness programme was originally held in the schools and villages so that the children and adults understood the health, sanitation and environmental problems associated with SWM. In the villages of Annainagar and Moratandi the SWM programme is already successful.

Anitchankuppam is a rather big fishing village about 10 km north of Auroville, Srinivasan is meeting with the Panchayat leader and Paalam members to discuss their trip to Kerala on Monday. Some office staff, field staff, Paalam members and Panchayat leaders will take part in this exposure visit to SIFFS (South India Fishermen Federation Society). SIFFS assist fisher folk to get a fairer price for their fish. Normally city fish vendors or the leaders of the kuppams receive the lion's share of the price of fish.



We arrive at the beach, where a meeting takes place in the community shed, which was built for the fishermen for mending nets and

to have meetings. Although the sun is strong and the day is hot, the shed is nice and cool. About 20 people sit together and talk. Two men get up to meet Srinivasan. One of them is the Panchayat leader, the other one is a Paalam member and representative of one of the 20 men's SHGs in Anitchankuppam.

On our way into the villages I see lots of barracks on both sides of the road. Many of them have been built closely to the tsunami-affected villages. Small corridors separate the half corrugated buildings. Plastic sheets and porches were put in place to make the spaces more habitable.

We meet Maha, the leader of five women's clubs in Anitchankuppam. She is a housewife and has two sons. Her women's club was founded with the help of PDC, another NGO. The other four women's clubs in the village did not function so well, so they asked if they could join her club. Maha is a very dynamic woman, like many other women in the villages. These women have many responsibilities in their villages and accomplish many things. Because the women's clubs receive loans, Srinivasan comes here to collect the repayment.

On our way back we see the building site of the new homes for the fishermen families in Puddukuppam; nice and neat white buildings for about 240 families that will soon be finished. I enjoyed my trip into the village and seeing the work the Paalam field staff are doing.

7.3 LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Helping people to find a means to livelihood is an essential ATRRP component. Currently, three livelihood programmes are underway: Tsunamiika, WELL and Micro Finance and Enterprise Development. Details of each programme are provided below.

7.3.1 ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR WOMEN: TSUNAMIKA

What started off as entertainment for children is now providing livelihood for about 180 women from the fishing villages. An initiative of Upasana Design Studio (a unit of Auroville), this project began immediately after the tsunami hit. Uma, executive of Upasana, wanted to participate in tsunami activities and thought of training the women to sew a small doll out of waste cloth materials. The process was quite simple and the material of low cost. The idea was that sitting together, learning and working, would help participants to take their minds of the tragedy that had hit them. The doll was named "Tsunamiika", meaning "born of the tsunami".

Today, one and a half years after the tsunami, the women have produced almost one million Tsunamiikas. They have been trained not only to make the little dolls, but also to find their own waste cloth material, do their own quality control, to pack the dolls and to deliver them. Their self confidence has grown immensely and they are very proud of their achievements. The Tsunamiika women are now also helping to make contacts with other women in the villages and are ready to take up new projects.

At the same time, Tsunamiika carries the symbolic meaning of the tragedy and the empowerment of the women making the little doll. It was decided early on that the doll would be given away for free to people all over the world. Recipients of the doll often chose to send a donation in exchange for the doll they receive, and donations are used to pay doll-makers a salary for the dolls they have created. The salary provides them a very decent living, which they can earn during their spare time at home. The result is a successful micro "gift economy"-model.

Project	TSUNAMIKA	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide training programmes for tsunami-affected women, so that they develop skills which they can use for earning (additional) means of livelihood; To strengthen the women's self-confidence; To build up the women's independence by training them in quality control and sourcing and preparing of material 	
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of additional livelihood for 180 women in 6 villages; Total production till today: 800,000 dolls; Total income per participant: INR 600 - 2500 per month; The greatest impacts are increased self confidence, positive self image, greater self determination, new purchasing power, which the village women now have as independent income earners as well as the changing family dynamics,; The team leaders do not only have the respect of the women in their teams, they also experience growing respect from their families as well as from different traditional and elected male leaders of the village 	
Time Frame	February 2005 - ongoing	
Total Expenditure	INR 3,505,100	USD 75,811
Funded by	ATRRP and Concern	

Report

- **Quality control:** in order to increase the number of good quality dolls, special workshops have been organized. A system of peer evaluation, in which dolls are inspected by the women from another village, has been introduced.
- **Sourcing and preparing:** step by step a system in which the participating women become more independent in the sourcing of raw materials has been put into place, so now 60% of the waste cloth is delivered by Upasana, and 40% is self-sourced. Also the preparation of the cloth is now taken up by local women tailors.
- **Media, events and publications:** the first anniversary of the tsunami had a lot of media attention on TV and in print, as had the Tsunamika doll. The 'story of Tsunamika' has been published in a widely distributed children's magazine in North India. On February 5 a Tsunamika Anniversary Fete with all participating women was organized in Periyamudaliyarchavadi. A Tsunamika book will be printed soon.

Interview with Vimal of the Tsunamika project

On the 1st of January 2004 Vimal came to Auroville to work for Upasana. He is a fashion designer, and had worked for a film ad agency in Chennai before that. He came upon Upasana while sourcing for clothing to be used in photo shootings. He liked it and decided to stay for three months – two years later he is still here!

At Upasana his work is not so much focused on fashion designing, he actually takes photos for the website and posters and works on presentations. Things just come to him like that and he likes his work and the new experiences he has. His photos were in an exhibition recently.

Being the flexible person that he is, Vimal was ready to help when the tsunami hit. He and some others went to the relief camp in Auroville to keep the children busy. They took waste cloth and taught the children to make a little doll. The next day the adults came to see what the kids were doing and Vimal remembers how the ladies started to laugh! Tsunamika was born. She started to make people happy from the first day.



After the tsunami the fishermen could not go fishing, the women did not have to sell the fish and were traumatized and restless. Uma, the head of Upasana, and the tsunami team found it necessary to teach the women something, so they could provide some livelihood for their families. Uma and her team then started to plan workshops for women in the affected villages. Introduced by Village Action Group, the team found that the women in the villages were very interested to learn.

Vimal remembers that in the first workshop on 2 February, 2005 in Chinnamudaliyarchavadi they expected about 20 women, but 60 showed up. What was surprising was that only about ten of them had previous experience in stitching. So this was a big challenge for Vimal and his colleague Vidya. Luckily the doll is easy to make and does not need much needlework. So step by step they taught 474 women in six villages to make Tsunamika. For four months Vimal and his colleagues went to the villages every afternoon from two till five.

Vimal says that his relationship with the women has deepened during those past months. Now he actually goes to the villages just for visits. He knows about 30 women in each of the villages and they invite him for tea and just talk to

him about every day life. He smiles when he talks about this and one can feel how important this is for him. The Tsunamika doll gave those women a door to open up towards other people and to take their livelihood in their own hands.

Today 180 ladies work in six villages; two ladies in each village are the leaders. They organize the work and help in quality control. Every 15 days the leaders come to Upasana in Auroville to meet with the Upasana team. They bring the finished and readily packed dolls; they collect their money and receive more waste material for the next batch of dolls. Vimal says that the Upasana team takes a step back from their involvement with the production of the doll every time they meet. In this way the women will learn to be independent and to find their own raw materials. Already now Upasana provides only 60% of the raw material. The rest the women manage to collect on their own. In the future they will be able to come up with all of it on their own.



The one year celebration of Tsunamika on 5 February 2006 was a great success. Vimal showed us the photographs of the event. Women who would before never open their mouth now took the microphone and talked about their feelings. It is amazing how much confidence the women have today! A special guest on this occasion was Prema, a young Indian designer, who had originally invented the doll.

The plan for the Tsunamika project is to make one million dolls and distribute them all over the world. Vimal proudly states that already they have reached about 50 nations with 800,000 dolls. The team will have completed 1 million Tsunamikas by January 2007. The fact that Tsunamika is not sold but given freely, is something very close to the heart of Vimal and his colleagues. The doll means a lot to them and the women who make them.

In March a workshop was held to make puppets. For this purpose the dolls were made in a much bigger size. Every one of the women has one of the bigger dolls at home to interact with. Puppeteers use the Tsunamikas in puppet shows in India to tell her story.

Vimal thinks that the women will be able to learn any other skill in a very short time. Through their work with Tsunamika now they have the confidence, the organization and the ability to adjust. Some of them were already asked to do some other work. But they did not want to give up making Tsunamika. They say that it is a habit now and they love to do it in their free time, when they have finished selling fish and doing their housework. Even the husbands are very supportive and some of the women say that the husbands help them with the finishing touches and that they are even better at it! The money the women earn helps them to pay back their loans, buy school materials for their kids and to make a celebration like Diwali more special.

Vimal and his team work on a diversity of products around the doll. Tsunamika is used on stationary articles like note pads and cards. Dolls are attached to hairpins, paper clips and pencils. Recently, a children's story book on Tsunamika was printed. Its translation in 15 different languages is currently underway. The Tsunamika project goes on, and even the Upasana team doesn't know when it will end. They are already planning for and developing future activities for the women, so they can keep earning their livelihood.

7.3.2 WELL livelihood from recycling training

Another effort to provide livelihood for village women is the WELL (Women Empowered by Local Livelihood) training centre. Spearheaded by an Israeli couple, the training centre started to function in November 2005. The idea is to use waste to create products. The first training concentrated on baskets and other items weaved with tightly rolled newspaper. The first group of women has finished their training and started their own workshop in their village. They will produce baskets and sell them through WELL to generate income for their families. The next group of women started their training in August 2006. Once they have completed it, they will be assisted in setting up a workshop and in the marketing and sales of their products.



Project	WELL livelihood from recycling training	
Objectives	To ensure that women from the target area are equipped with alternative livelihood options through effective recycling	
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One recycling handicrafts training centre established in Auroville for one year. • One Innovative Designing and quality control centre, which will operate as long the production continues. • One Marketing unit for this kind of products. • Fifty women with capacities to produce and to run their self profit sharing workshops. • Additional thirty to fifty women trained by the trainees. • Sales turnover of products made of recycled waste amounting to INR 800,000 per year. • Eighty to one hundred women with improved self-confidence who demonstrated ability to manage their own financial and social transactions. • Social integration of women from different socio economic backgrounds and different villages. 	
Time Frame	November 2005 – ongoing	
Total Expenditure	INR 350,291	USD 7,576
Funded by	ATRRP and Concern	
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training completed for 10 women in the preparation of waste paper, baskets weaving, pulp making, designing and preparing different designs, painting products, quality control, calculation, and basics for setting up individual workshops • In August 2006, a new group of 10 women started their training in developing and producing a new line of products • Classes completed in spoken English, hygiene and health and a workshop in recycling plastic to make flowers • Trainees also learned to work together, enjoy companionship and gain mutual understanding • A profit-sharing workshop in the village has been established • Sales of products adding up to INR 50,000 	

'Recycling Freaks' start a project training village women



Danny and Orly arrived in Auroville exactly two months before the tsunami hit. They came with their children, aged 17, 11 and 9 years old. Their intention was to live in Auroville for a year. A long time before that, they had had the general idea to work with and to promote recycled materials. So when the tsunami hit the Tamil Nadu coast, they took it as a sign to open a workshop which would teach affected villagers to create saleable goods out of recycled paper, thereby providing them with a means to an alternative livelihood. Now they are here in Auroville to stay.

Orly had worked with papier-mâché and other recycling techniques for many years before. She had her own studio in Israel doing papier-mâché art. As part of it, she gave workshops to parent groups and taught teachers to use waste materials in their art classes. She also had experience as a social worker, giving classes to mentally challenged, handicapped people, and groups of hard-to-reach teenagers. She combines all of these skills in her work on the WELL project.

Danny's experience is with large enterprises in the financial field, mainly in audit and consultation. When he was involved in this work, he always tried to bring across his vision: that enterprises should support and contribute to local communities. He also coordinated a project to provide used cell phones to women who had suffered from violence at home. The cell phones were connected to an emergency call centre to be used in case of violence.

Danny and Orly now work together as a team to build up WELL, combining her experience with papier-mâché, recycling paper and other materials, and social work and his abilities in business strategies.

Besides promoting recycling, which is very important to both of them, Danny and Orly think that the WELL project has an aim of helping all those involved 'grow together'. From the start they made it clear to the women trainees that everything they would work on would be developed in a team. Gradually the women accepted this idea and started to be very excited about it.



The biggest gift that WELL is giving to the women is that they are empowered by what they learn and by the way they interact with each other (although the women are from different villages and socio-economic backgrounds). Slowly even very shy women open up, talk about their problems, and become more self-confident. In addition, trainees get classes in spoken English, and learn about health issues once a week.

WELL is set up as a training centre that is committed to continue training groups of women for another year, after which the project will shift its focus to the promotion of recycled products. So far, one batch of trainees has completed their course and set up a workshop in Alankuppam (a local inland village). From their new workshop, they are working to complete orders given to them by WELL.

Products will be sold in India's bigger cities and abroad – sadly there doesn't appear to be a market for them here: plastic, not paper, is the more favored material locally.

A second group of women are starting their training now. This group will learn to weave paper baskets, as did the first group. The following group will be trained in producing differently designed products – the decision to do so is based on the marketing feedback and a need to avoid unnecessary competition between trainee groups.

WELL just completed their webpage (www.wellpaper.org) for WELL products. They are establishing contact with wholesalers around the world, and some seem to be very interested in WELL products. But everything goes step by step. Before any large orders can be taken up, women trainees have to be able to produce a certain number of baskets, with high quality standards. Another obstacle that needs to be overcome before goods can be exported is a legal one: they need to acquire the proper licensing first. And Danny and Orly have never sold products commercially before. They need to familiarize themselves with procedures for making labels, packing and shipping.

A case study: Poorani, a WELL-trained woman



Poorani is one of the women participating in the WELL project. She is from Alankuppam and heard about WELL through an SHG group in her village.

Poorani was not directly affected by the tsunami because her house is not on the beach. The homes of her relatives, who do live on the beach, were badly damaged; they had to stay with her for some time in the aftermath of the tsunami. Poorani has two little girls of two and four years. Her husband works in a leather workshop near Auroville.

In November 2005 Poorani and eight other women began a six month training at WELL. Orly and Danny, the project holders, were their trainers. Every morning Raji, a Tamil Aurovilian, joined them in their training and translated. They talked about the work, found solutions for production problems and shared their ideas for the product design. Poorani says it was not so much a training process as a forum for developing the products together. She didn't feel like an employee who had to fulfill a certain schedule but instead like someone whose ideas mattered.

She says, "The atmosphere in the workshop is very friendly and joyful. The women get along well and want to continue working together in the future. They find that they work well together and that they share the same ideas and goals."

Poorani and the other trainees were trained to choose and sort papers, make papier-mâché pulp, roll paper into long sticks that are used to weave baskets and paint the finished products. She says she enjoyed the *creative days* most. On those days, the women could experiment with the material, develop better ways to work and create their own designs.

Poorani says that, in addition to the training, 'I learn English, through daily conversations with Danny, Orly and Raji and during the English lessons in the afternoon'. She also learned about product cost calculation and how to plan for filling bulk orders. All of this will help her and the other women to one day become independent and start their own business.

7.3.3 Micro-Finance and Enterprise Development

This programme began in September 2005 as an Enterprise Development programme. Early activities included individual business loans, micro enterprise activities and the tailoring workshop.

- **Business Loans:** a total of 20 individual business loans, ranging from INR 5,000 to INR 20,000 were issued to businesses such as a shoe making business, small grocery shops, an incense-stick-making unit, an ice plant etc. Reasons for loan application included loss of working tools and materials due to the tsunami and the need to get working capital to start their business again.



shoe factory asking for business loan

The programme was then put on hold after the monitoring and evaluation team received feedback that some loans were thought of as grants and would not be paid back. Loan recovery was uncertain and further individual loans were not given out.

Instead, the ATRRP team decided to only issue loans through associations that had practiced saving and established a repayment record. At the same time, a micro-finance consultant was retained to review and assess the enterprise development programme. The consultant advised that ATRRP restructure the enterprise development programme, and specifically, to separate its micro finance and enterprise development activities. This was done in December, 2005.

Since then, we have focused on the creation of SHGs, and on helping SHG members to build up their capacity to save and to lend. 17 groups are in operation and have each been given a revolving fund of INR 10,000 with which to develop this capacity. After a year of practice, these groups will be recommended as eligible for government loans – which amount to INR 45,000 for each club, out of which INR 30,000 is a grant. Members aim to obtain these loans to meet family members' educational expenses, improve existing businesses, etc

Project	Micro Finance	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage local businesses to start up and expand • formation of SHGs and occupational affinity groups that develop savings and lending skills so as to be able to access loans 	
Output	Formation of men's SHGs; loans given to individual businesses and men's and women's SHGs	
Time Frame	September 2005 - ongoing	
Total Expenditure	INR 1,148,000	USD 24,830
Funded by	ATRRP and Concern	
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 loans to men's SHG of INR 10,000 • 54 loans to AVAG and PDC women's SHG of INR 10,000-30,000 • 20 individual business loans of INR 5,000-20,000 	

- The **Micro Enterprise** Component in turn, has focused on preparing for micro enterprise activities. This has involved an enterprise mapping exercise, formation of occupational affinity groups, a driver training workshop (13 members of SHG). We are currently conducting a study of the working status of our men's club members and their range of monthly income. After the study more training will be organized to give entrepreneurship skills and

special skill training for the members of the SHGs, who are ready to create new employment activities for their club members.

- To create livelihood opportunities for women a **Tailoring Workshop** was set up. The training was provided in response to an expressed need of SHG members in inland communities. A government scheme had been announced whereby loans would be available to women who were setting up small businesses. The SHG members wanted a skill that would enable them to access these loans. 32 women started the first workshop in August 2005. A number of the trainees were illiterate and for the most part unmarried. Two teachers trained them in different aspects of tailoring. The workshop included actual on-the-job, paid training in cottage industry units in and around the Auroville area, including Upasana, a fashion design company, for which the women made handkerchiefs, and the Sri Aurobindo Ashram, for whom the trainees made CD inlays. The first group of women has finished the programme and is now ready to work. The workshop also provided follow up assistance with application for the government loans or job application in the local market. Most of the students have now applied for government loans and are waiting for them to come through. A second group of women has started the training with AVAG support.

Project	Tailoring workshop	
Objectives	To provide training for women in tailoring and assist them with setting up small tailoring businesses	
Output	A total number of 22 women have been trained and are able to start their own business or be employed	
Time Frame	August 2005 – January 2006	
Total Expenditure	INR 91,350	USD 1,976
Funded by	ATRRP & Concern	
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women were trained in sewing machine application, maintenance of machines, hand stitching, mending, hemming (hand and machine) hand drawing, designing on materials, measuring and fitting clothing items for a client, quality control, as well as the theoretical aspects of fulfilling bulk orders. • AV Health Services conducted a wide range of personal development and hygiene classes for the participants. They included hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and health, prevention and disease. • All the women have gained more confidence in themselves and tailoring, and are even teaching their children/girls what they've learned at home • AVAG assists trainees with application to government loans to set up their own small enterprise • The trainees sewed a wide variety of items (13 different types: shorts, shirts, blouses, dresses, skirts and Indian clothing) for relatives/friends/villagers and also completed orders for AV units 	

An Enterprise Development Project: NID Students design fishing tools

Two NID Students contacted ATRRP to do research in the fisheries sector. The focus of their study was to identify areas of product intervention in the traditional fisheries. The idea was to try to improve the livelihood opportunities of fisher folk, and alleviate poverty of poor and marginalized producers, processors and traders through the application of strategic and appropriate design.

They began by conducting a needs analysis study. This was done through interviews, discussions and field visits, all of which were facilitated by the ATRRP field staff. A report of this study is now available.

The students then began designing tools that could be used by women fish vendors. They prototyped three simple tools; one for use in the preservation, one tool for preparation and one tool for handling of fish. The prototypes will now be tried and tested in the field.



Project	Tools for fish vending women	
Objectives	To create useful tools to be used by women fish vendors for preservation and improved fish handling	
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need assessment study of fisheries sector and especially traditional fisheries and its stakeholders with need analysis • Prototyping of tools for preservation and improved fish handling 	
Time Frame	November 2005 - ongoing	
Total Expenditure	INR 130,066	USD 2,813
Funded by	ATRRP	
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need analysis was conducted in cooperation with our field staff • All technology associated with the selling, process, transportation of fish to market were inspected and the needs were discussed • The interns then designed a number of prototype 'tools' which were all part of a kit for the women fish vendors • Sharing of the prototypes with the vendors at the fish market at Bommayarpalayam village and Pondicherry market, was greeted with very positive response, however there was some concern over the cost of some of the technology 	

7.3.4 Educational Loan Scheme

Financial hardship is possibly the primary factor preventing students from continuing education beyond 10th and 12th standard. In order to make it possible for some of these students to go for higher studies and vocational training, we introduced an educational loan scheme. Candidates were chosen individually based on pre-determined criteria (for details, see below). While initial repayment trends were good, villagers gradually became less diligent about making payments. Because village leaders were used in the selection process, and because these leaders change annually, loan repayment was not deemed necessary after a leader had passed out of office. There was also some talk among village folk that the loans had been paid out of tsunami funds, which they consider to be grant money that does not need to be repaid.

In the meantime, we are strengthening SHGs so that educational loans can be given through them from next year onwards.

Project	Educational Loan Scheme																																					
Objectives	To enable youth to pursue higher studies, and so pave the way for a brighter future for both individuals and the community																																					
Output	176 students have received educational loans. Repayment rate of 65% as of Aug 06																																					
Time Frame	May 2005 – ongoing																																					
Total Expenditure	INR 1,694,456	USD 36,649																																				
Funded by	ATRRP																																					
Report	<p>Criteria for inclusion in the scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 60% marks in 12th standard examinations, economic hardship in the family, absence of bread winner in the family or single parent households, endorsement from the Panchayat. Correspondence courses are excluded. • Acceptance after interview with selection committee, who selects solely on the basis of the above-mentioned criteria. Approx. 100 applications have been rejected the majority of them on the basis of the economic criteria. • Applications have come in and been accepted from both tsunami-affected fishermen villages as from inland villages. <p>Overview of chosen studies</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Field of Study</th> <th>No. of Students</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bio-Technology / Informatics</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biology / Chemistry</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Administration / Management</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Commerce</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electrical & Electronic Engineering</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Horticulture</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hotel & Catering</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ICT-related studies</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ITI / Industrial studies</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Labor Management</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mathematics</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mechanical Engineering & related studies</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nursery / Midwifery</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Office Administration</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Teaching</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zoology</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>176</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Field of Study	No. of Students	Bio-Technology / Informatics	4	Biology / Chemistry	13	Business Administration / Management	8	Commerce	19	Electrical & Electronic Engineering	33	Horticulture	1	Hotel & Catering	8	ICT-related studies	36	ITI / Industrial studies	11	Labor Management	1	Mathematics	8	Mechanical Engineering & related studies	19	Nursery / Midwifery	11	Office Administration	1	Teaching	2	Zoology	1	Total	176
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7.3.5 Vocational Training Programmes (AIS)

The Auroville Industrial School (AIS) offers government recognized long-term SCVT (I.T.I.) courses in Information Technology (Software and Hardware), Corporate Secretary and General Electronics. In the evening it offers AIS Certificate courses in General Electronics and adult education programmes in Spoken English, Accounting & Tally, Internet, MS-Office and Desk Top Publishing (DTP). Directly after the tsunami hit, AIS trained 35 students from tsunami-affected areas in DTP, and another 13 students from tsunami-affected areas joined one year Information Technology courses. 70% of students got a placement in Pondicherry and Auroville after completing a one year course. Adding to this all students got special training in HIV/AIDS prevention, in general health care, and family planning. At the end of their studies a special course was conducted in communication training and preparation for employment. This year 14 students from tsunami-affected coastal areas have joined the one year ITI courses. Most students are paying for their studies, but students from tsunami-affected areas get a reduced rate. Since the school is situated quite far from the coast, ATRRP funded the cost of transport.



Project	Vocational training in Auroville Industrial School	
Objectives	To provide youth in the tsunami-affected area with vocational skills with good employment probability to enable them to earn their livelihood outside of the fishing sector	
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> examination result of students of 2005: 100 % passed all students qualified for a recommendation of AIS (min. 60% marks in examination) 70% got secured employment. One of the hardware students has been offered training in Canada by his employers. Average salary after 3 months of trial period 3000 RS/ Month. 	
Time Frame	July 2005 - ongoing	
Total Expenditure	INR 384,746	USD 8,322
Funded by	ATRRP	
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 students from the tsunami-affected area trained in DTP in 2005. 13 students from the tsunami-affected area joined one year ITI courses in 2005. 14 students from the tsunami-affected area joined one year ITI courses in 2006. Extra curriculum activities: all students got special training in HIV/ AIDS prevention and in general health care & family planning Special courses were conducted in communication training and preparation for employment 	

7.4 Ecological Restoration

The ecological restoration project operates out of Shakti, Auroville, and has four objectives:

- To begin to create a shelterbelt along the Coromandal coastline by restoring original indigenous Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests in order to increase the safety of coastal residents;
- To reconstruct green areas in selected villages to enhance shelterbelts and to provide a source of income from the plants for residents;
- To raise awareness of basic environmental issues, leading to greater insight in the importance of plants, trees, and forest, and thereby creating a willingness to actually maintain and expand planted village areas; and
- To establish seedling nurseries in selected villages that would provide livelihood opportunities for residents.

Shelterbelt and green areas planting: Initial activities involved negotiation with local village leaders for coastal land on which to carry out planting. With the help of Paalam members, a series of surveys were organized in the villages and GIS maps were created. After an extensive dialogue with the community, 133.28 acres of land was secured. Initial plans were for local fishing communities to manage plantations. However, it then became evident that fisher folk don't have the time to manage the plantations and trade in fish at the same time, and that the latter is a more lucrative business for them. As a result, they cannot be expected to manage plantations. After long deliberations, it was decided to have the local Dalit communities (who do not fish) become involved with plantation management.



Actual planting has been carried out in two villages: Anumandhai Kuppam and Chetti Nagar. A total of 12500 tree saplings of different species were planted over an area of approximately 25 acres (resulting in an average 500 saplings per acre). SHG members assisted the Shakti team with the planting.

The survival rate of the first planting was approximately 20%. This was the result of at least two factors. First, unexpected post-tsunami sea erosion had taken place in this area of the coast. As a result, in Anumanthai, three rows of seedlings in the south, increasing to five lines in the north of a 900 meter coastal stretch were completely lost to the sea moving further inland. An additional three

to four rows were lost to the accumulation of sand moving further inland. Second, some of the planted species did not perform well in the coastal climate. This latter factor will help in the determination of which species to plant in subsequent plantings.

The current status of survival is around 10%. The additional loss is almost completely the result of social factors: NGOs, working in the same area, took away the people we had hired for watering, offering higher wages to other work and areas that had been selected by the Panchayat and mapped for planting were used for drying an exceptional high catch of fish. In both cases there was no watering for an extended period of time resulting in a considerable loss of plants.

Even with the watchmen, from the fishing community, we faced problems. They agreed to do the work but, as mentioned above, they left whenever there was a more lucrative job or when they were needed in the kuppam.

An additional village, Nochikuppam has now been identified and subsequent plantings will take place there in addition to the first two villages mentioned above. A second planting of about 5000 saplings is planned for October-November 2006. Local SHG members will assist with the planting.

Educational activities: Plans are underway to initiate activities with funding from Treviso & AVI, Italy. Activities will be carried out in primary and high schools, and will include exposure visits to forests, drawing and other competition programmes and classes. Three schools have been contacted and discussions have been held with

the respective headmasters. Each of them gave a list of educational material that they would be happy to receive for their classrooms. That material has been bought and is being distributed. So far two groups of students have been brought to Shakti for exposure visits. Drawing and other competition programmes will be initiated soon.



Kalaselvi (with hose), Pushba (right) and Kala M (left) at nursery in Gangai Nagar

Nurseries: Initially, ATRRP and Shakti sought to work with two Panchayat groups and five SHGs from the fishing community. This didn't work out, so finally two nurseries, run by women SHG members from two dalit villages, were finally agreed upon. The villages are the dalit hamlets of Koonimedu and Gangai Nagar. Shakti has provided all infrastructure facilities to start the nurseries, as well as loans to the SHGs for buying a small motor. Both the nurseries reached their capacity and have together around 25000 seedlings. It was agreed that Shakti will buy their nursery stock in 2006 at I R 7 per seedling. They should try and become self sufficient from 2007 onwards. However, Shakti will continue to help them with directing eventual customers that ATRRP may find, through consultancies or otherwise, to them.

Project	Ecological Restoration	
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To begin to create a shelterbelt along the Coromandal coastline by restoring original indigenous Tropical Dry Evergreen Forests in order to increase the safety of coastal residents; To reconstruct green areas in selected villages to enhance shelterbelts and to provide a source of income from the plants for residents; To raise awareness of basic environmental issues, leading to greater insight in the importance of plants, trees, and forest, and thereby creating a willingness to actually maintain and expand planted village areas; and To establish seedling nurseries in selected villages that would provide livelihood opportunities for residents. 	
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Anumandhai Kuppam and Chetti Nagar a total of 12500 tree saplings of different species were planted over an area of approximately 25 acres; In the dalit hamlets of Koonimedu and Gangai Nagar nurseries were started to raise a total of 25000 seedlings for both nurseries; and Educational programmes have been started in the village schools 	
Time Frame	March 2005 – ongoing	
Total Expenditure	INR 1,552,256	USD 33,573
Funded by	ATRRP and Concern	
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelterbelt and green areas planting: After an extensive dialogue with the community, 133.28 acres of land was secured. It became evident that fisher folk don't have the time to manage land and trade in fish at the same time. As a result, it was decided to involve local Dalit communities in the land and plantation management. Actual planting has been carried out in two villages: Anumandhai Kuppam and Chetti Nagar. A total of 12500 tree saplings of different species were planted over an area of approximately 25 acres (resulting in an average 500 plants per acre). 	

- The survival rate of the first planting was approximately 10%.
- An additional village, Nochikuppam has now been identified and subsequent plantings will take place there in addition to the first two villages mentioned above. A second planting is planned for October-November 2006.
- **Educational activities:** Plans are underway to initiate activities with funding from Treviso & AVI, Italy. Activities will be carried out in primary and high schools, and will include exposure visits to forests, drawing and other competition programmes, and classes.
- **Nurseries:** Two nurseries, run by women SHG members from two dalit villages, the hamlets of Koonimedu and Gangai Nagar, have established 25000 seedlings in both the areas for future plantation.

7.5 Shelter and Infrastructure

The resettlement and rehabilitation programme for shelter in the tsunami-affected coastal villages of Villupuram district has been a difficult undertaking. Initially, different NGOs working in the district planned to each take up resettlement initiatives in one or two villages. At the time, ATRRP committed to rebuilding permanent shelters in Chinnamudaliarchavady and Bommayarpalayam, two villages where we had already constructed temporary shelters during the relief phase. However, we have not been able to see through our commitment for a number of reasons involving identification of lands on which to build, and inconclusive negotiation between ourselves, the target population, and the government over whether to relocate or build in-situ.

In the interim, a prototype set of shelters will be built in the village of Chinnamudaliarchavady. These will be used to promote a format of site planning and architecture that allows for the continuity of the socio-cultural patterns that were prevalent pre-tsunami. They will also be used as office space for our SHGs and for the South Indian Fishermen's Federation (SIFF).

The village of Vassavankuppam in Marakanam block of Villupuram district was not adopted by any NGO for the implementation of the permanent shelter for the 161 homes destroyed by the tsunami. The village of Vassavankuppam bought the land for the resettlement programme and requested our help in implementation of the programme. Two funding agencies were approached but their pre-conditions were such that it precluded an effective implementation programme. Therefore the shelter group of ATRRP had to inform the village, the two funding agencies and the district collector that we were unable to undertake the project. The deadline imposed by the district authorities for completion of all shelter programmes by the end of October'06 leaves us with no choice but to step back from undertaking any direct implementation programmes but we have offered to the District collector our collaboration as a consulting agency for site and infrastructure planning and shelter design if they were to undertake the work.

8. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

ATRRP has been involved in relief and rehabilitation work since the tsunami hit in December, 2004. Initially, our projects focused on the communities that were directly affected by the tsunami. Over time, however, we have begun to target other populations as well. Our programme has gradually widened from tsunami relief and rehabilitation activities to overall development work. At this time, almost two years after the tsunami hit, we officially conclude all relief and rehabilitation work. From hereon, we will focus all our efforts on long term sustainable development projects for villages in the environs of Auroville.

This shift is occurring all over Tamil Nadu in government and non-government agencies alike. As Mr. C.V. Shankar, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) at Relief Commissioner's office, Government of Tamil Nadu, said recently: "Now we are at a turning point in moving from relief and rehabilitation to more long term and sustainable development of the affected areas and their populations and in reducing risks for future disasters."

In addition, a Livelihood Skills Training and Opportunities for Youth and Families project proposal has been submitted to several organizations for funding. Our objectives are to develop a replicable programme of livelihood skills training that boosts employment opportunities for rural youth and families in the Auroville-Kaliveli bioregion, which are environmentally and economically viable and sustainable.

9. ACTIVITIES OF OTHER AUROVILLE-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

After the tsunami struck, many Auroville-based organizations and individuals engaged themselves in a wide array of relief and rehabilitation related activities. Till today a lot of these organizations are involved in tsunami related rehabilitation work:

AVHS (Auroville Health Services) provides a preventive health care service to the community of Auroville and to the surrounding villages. A team of ten people, made up of volunteers and employees supports the following projects:

- **Village health clinic** provides primary health care for the people of Morattandi village. The clinic also provided health education to local women's groups and schools and takes part in out-reach health camps.
- **Health education** is given to women's and men's groups and local schools. We strive to educate people to understand their bodies, giving clear guidelines on how imbalances in health are caused, the symptoms and remedies. We educate people about medicinal plants that are freely available and the role of proper nutrition and hygiene.
- **Sanitation education and installations** -- Sanitation education is a major part of our health care programme in tandem with this we have started our first ecological toilet programme with the installation of eighteen dry toilets in the village of Thenkodippakam in co-operation with the local women's group. It is hoped to duplicate this project else where.
- **Food safety and hygiene inspection** - This service provides personal hygiene, food safety and kitchen management skills to hundreds of local people employed to help in fifty food facilities in Auroville. A weekly, on site series of classes and facility inspections covers the topics of food safety and prevention of food-borne disease. The service helps to increase the standards of food hygiene in Auroville, as well as impacting on village health as these workers learn and take the new practices home.

Auroville Tsunami Pure Water Project installed a series of AQUADYN dynamized drinking water machines (10,000 liters per day) in tsunami-affected coastal villages close to Auroville.

AuroRE installed Solar Desalination units: Fourteen solar desalination and water purifying units were donated by General Electric to be used in the tsunami-affected villages along the coast. The donation was arranged by Selco, a solar company in Bangalore. The new solar powered Merlin RO water treatment systems were tested at CSR (Centre for Scientific Research, AV). Aurore understanding ground realities (e.g.: Auroville has installed many different technologies in the surrounding villages for the past 30+ years and most of these have fallen into disrepair due to poor maintenance and monitoring services and lack of interest from the local communities). In coordination with the Rotary Club of Madras and GE office in Chennai two villages (Sulerikattukuppam and Kanathur Reddy kuppam) were identified near Mahabalipuram as prototype installations. After the observation other systems are in process of being installed in villages and few in beach communities of Auroville. Operation and maintenance modalities are being worked out between Aurore and other partners involved in this project.

All the data from this experience will be compiled by Aurore for future applications and dissemination. These units are run on solar power. The small drawback is that they can only produce about 2.000 liter of drinking water per day, which makes them suitable only for small hamlets. By comparison, the Aquadyn desalination and purifying unit can give 10.000 liters a day and a number have been installed in some of the affected villages as well.

Auroville Water Harvest is working to improve water quality and availability in the nearby coastal areas:

Research: Following the catastrophe coastal India has faced due to the tsunami, Auroville Water Harvest has been involved in assessing the pollution and risks generated on fresh water resources as many people depend on the availability of clean water. This investigation made jointly with other agencies is now used as a reference document by TNTRC. Harvest is also included in various networks at state and regional level dealing with the post tsunami situation in regards to water and sanitation. Advocacy, concept papers and on-site analyses are part of the ongoing activities.

At the same time Harvest is participating in a study on long term impact of sea water intrusion in the aquifer system and its remediation (right word?). This study is made in collaboration with Stanford University, USA and Pierre & Marie Curie University of Paris, France.

Sanitation: Considering the seriousness of the risk the coastal population is facing due to lack or inappropriateness of sanitation facilities, Harvest is involved in developing appropriate sanitation complexes and treatment facilities in 6 villages of Villupuram District (through UNICEF funding) but also in several places in Kanyakumary and Nagappattinam Districts (various funding), and also to create the necessary awareness and mobilization in the population. These projects are conducted jointly with CSR and Aquadyn.

Groundwater Recharge: Following our observation of the massive changes of groundwater quality along the coast, Auroville Water Harvest decided to address this very alarming problem. About 60% of the daily fresh water supplied to the coastal population was not available from one day to the other, and the risk of further invasion of saline water cannot be neglected. It was proposed to construct several ground water recharge structures in the gully and canyons in order to catch the large volume of fresh rain water lost to the sea every year. A grant was received in August from the City of Hilden, Germany, which allows us to do the work which should be completed by June 2006.

ICDS (Integrated Child Development Centre)

The Architecture Department of the Auroville Building Centre went into partnership with "Save the Children-Fund" to design and develop buildings for the 'Integrated Child Development Scheme' (ICDS - a government run scheme for infant and children's education and health and nutrition support to women, adolescent girls and children):

Auroville Building Centre created two architectural designs for different land areas. The designs were done in such a way that adaptation to further ICDS centres in other areas in Tamil Nadu was possible. A manual on construction techniques for the building of further ICDS centres (including a 25 minutes DVD explaining technologies), was developed, 50 copies were given to local NGOs and governments in five districts.



Auroville Building Centre trained seven teams of builders in building technology, quality monitoring, accounting and construction management to construct 26 ICDS buildings in Villupuram district and one in Kancheepuram district. The team had to establish liaison with the local leaders to enable smooth implementation and to co-opt local labour for the construction. 26 of the centres have been completed and handed over. Due to lack of land availability the centre in Kancheepuram district could only be started in mid-June'06. This centre will be completed and handed over in August '06.

Training in child protection, nutrition and hygiene/sanitation was conducted for the ICDS officers, women's self-help groups and community women leaders from the 26 Villupuram centres.

The implementation of the project has been evaluated as a success both by the funding agency and the district authorities.

AuroAnnam, a unit specializing in Enhanced Micro-organism technology (EM), has been very active in hygiene management right after the tsunami struck, mainly in the heavily hit Nagapattinam and Cuddalore Districts. Faced with the threat of epidemics in refugee camps EM was successfully used as an environmentally friendly means of controlling flies, dysentery and odors. EM was sprayed in 27 relief camps and in other areas, with the result that the odors and flies were rapidly reduced, and then largely eliminated.

Sanitation facilities in tsunami shelters were assessed, information was passed on to the Secretary RD. In several meetings with DRDA, NGOs, and tsunami relief officials input was given on appropriate management of sanitation, wastewater treatment, and hygiene. Information on eco-friendly hygiene management with EM in sanitation facilities was promoted, in meetings with officials and NGOs, via NGOs, and through training seminars on EM use. Assistance - technical guidance and financial support - was given to the NGO SCOPE in tsunami relief activities in Akkaraipettai, Nagapattinam District as well as to Palmyra, Auroville in a sanitation programme in Annamundai, Villupuram District. Technical guidance was also given to the NGO FEED working in Periyamudaliyarchavadi, Villupuram District.

One educational film in Tamil on the need for sanitation was produced, with the title "Gramathivasam", and copies

passed on to NGOs, UNICEF, and Mr. C.V. Shankar. - Another educational film on the subject of eco-sanitation with the title "Muthalidam" was produced and completed in February 2006.

Effective Micro-organisms for sanitation

By Priya Sundaravalli

Effective micro-organisms (EM) were discovered in Japan in the 1960s. It's a combination of lactic acid bacilli, photosynthetic bacteria, yeast and other organisms and it has been found to be very useful in, among other things, treating waste water, solid waste, enhancing organic fertilizer and as a bio-pesticide. It was introduced in Auroville in late 1999. Dr. Lucas, manager of AuroAnnam, is one of its main proponents.

On 29 December 2004, three days after the tsunami, AuroAnnam was contacted by the Secretary of Rural Development of the Tamil Nadu Government who had just been put in charge of tsunami emergency relief. She wanted to know if EM technology could be used in public sanitation work along the affected coast. If so, she wanted a programme to be implemented immediately.

"It was a huge task," says Dr. Lucas. "But the state machinery was in place to help with the technology transfer, and officials from various coastal districts were put in touch with us." Within a week, AuroAnnam made a stock of activated EM available for relief organizations working in the affected areas. "But only a few NGOs in Cuddalore and Nagapattinam districts used EM in their public sanitation efforts. Most agencies preferred dusting with chlorinated bleaching powder or, even worse, spraying pesticides to control insects."

Lucas was not disheartened by the poor reception and application of EM. "In fact we were happy that EM got its foot into the door of public health," he says. "A few times, the local media reported on EM technology and the Secretary publicly stated that EM was successfully used in the immediate-tsunami hygiene efforts and so had helped to prevent the outbreak of an epidemic."

The interest of the Department of Rural Development in AuroAnnam's EM technology has since continued. "The Secretary wants us to introduce EM technology in all districts of Tamil Nadu, preferably in every block of Tamil Nadu. She wants to see EM being used in at least in one public toilet or sanitary complex and in one composting site. And then she wants feedback on its performance - what are the problems with using EM, does it work well, and if not, why not."

But even though AuroAnnam has done a few demonstrations at the district levels, it has not yet been able to convince the less senior officials to use it. Lucas says candidly, "The top level is fully convinced; but things do not move in the middle bureaucratic levels. The motivation to implement a technology that is cheap, cost-efficient and interesting is, sadly, zero, and I haven't exactly understood why."



Meanwhile, AuroAnnam has started working on a smaller scale with local NGOs and, increasingly, within Auroville. "A demonstration site has just been finished in Auroville," says Lucas. He is referring to the new toilet building at the Visitors' Centre that uses EM Technology for hygiene and for sewage treatment. "Its success can be judged by every visitor to Auroville!" he declares.

Deepam, an organization involved in working with disabled children in the Auroville bio-region, provided emergency relief materials to selected villages and organized a 2 months tailoring training for 16 women and girls of these villages. They have all passed the exam and received an official certificate. All of them then received a sewing machine.

Aranya started the CEL (Integration of Conservation, Livelihood and Enterprises in Tamil Nadu Coromandel coastal region) project in the first week of December, 2005 with the financial support from Ford Foundation, through CCD, Madurai. The project sites are tsunami impacted fishermen settlements located in Marakkanam block, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu, selected on their need and potential for sustainable livelihood alternatives/interventions. The

objectives were to create and integrate coastal communities for sustainable livelihood and micro-enterprise using traditional and cultural heritage. The project was also to restore marine and beach eco systems and to assess pre and post tsunami status of marine fisheries and livelihood.

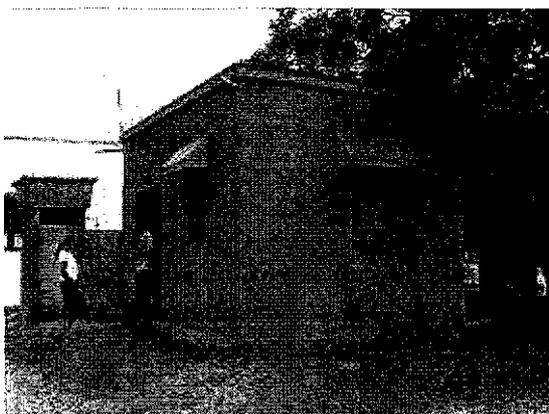
Palmyra, an Auroville organization specializing in rural development, assisted the tsunami-hit fisherman's community of Anumandhai Kuppam with the formation of two Women's Self Help Groups. The aim has been to identify their needs, to help them continue their fishing activities, and – with the help of Germany's DIK NGO - to support them with 70% funding towards their material needs. Palmyra continues to meet fortnightly with representatives of the groups. Meanwhile, all the women members of the SHGs have participated in a 1-day workshop on "Viable Activity Identification", and training has been given in basics like keeping minutes, books plus savings, credit, cash and general ledger records.

One encouraging outcome of this initiative has been that the SHGs have acquired two 3-wheeler pick-up vans to make fish transportation easier, and to enable them to sell fish further a field. They have also been helped with the purchase of 40 sets of nets of 3 types, and with the construction of a building for housing SHG records and conducting meetings and training sessions.

AVBC (Auroville Building Centre) is a unit operating under CSR (Centre for Scientific Research) concerned with research and development in earth and Ferro cement technologies, and appropriate architecture. AVBC has completed a UNICEF project with co-funding from BORDA (Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association) in 6 kuppams along our district's tsunami affected coast: Chinnamudhaliyar Chavadi Kuppam, Pudhukuppam, Mudhaliyar Kuppam, Koonimedu Kuppam, Chetty Nagar Kuppam and Anumandhai Kuppam. In each of these villages 5 toilet blocks for female, male and children users were installed. All toilets are connected with two septic tanks and a leach (what does this mean?) pit. Other installed facilities are bathing cubicles for ladies and a compost device/pit for dry and wet solid waste. The innovative part of the scheme is that all elements are prefabricated in Ferro cement and assembled during a three day period at the site.

The next project that AVBC will execute is with KSSS (Kottayam Social Service Society) and CRS (Catholic Relief Services) at Kottilpadu village for the installation of 2 toilet blocks for 625 users each and connected to a Baffled tank reactor which is prefabricated in FRP (Fabricated Reinforced Plastic). The baffle tank reactor will treat the incoming sewage and channel it afterwards into an infiltration field; the out flowing effluent will reach CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) norms and not pollute the coastal groundwater table. This is the first project which will be replicated further in Vellankanni for 3000 users and hopefully in more relocation sites along the Tamil Nadu coast. A small film document is being made on the whole project.

Auroville Earth Institute has mostly been involved in providing information on disaster resistance, presenting papers to seminars and workshops, conducting training courses on earth construction and various consultancy works. Mr. Satprem Maini from the Auroville Earth Institute was contacted by NGO Emergency Architects to evaluate a reconstruction project with interlocking compressed stabilized earth blocks in Muthur, Sri Lanka. Auroville Earth Institute has also been involved in designing model houses, for which government approval has been granted. 5 model houses have been designed and presented to the government for approval. The Tamil Nadu government approved the technology with compressed stabilized earth blocks for the reconstruction of the tsunami-affected areas. The technology has been mentioned in the guidelines. The model houses A and D won a first prize at the national competition "*Hazard resistant house design contest*", organized by Gandhigram Rural Institute and funded by Bhoomika Trust & ICA-USA.



The construction of a Technology Demonstration Units (TDUs demonstrate that it is possible to build disaster resistant buildings with appropriate building technologies which are cost effective) has taken place in Bommayarpalayam in the form of a community centre.

The model house A of 21 m², which won the first prize of the "*Hazard resistant house design contest*" was built at Anumandhai as an office for the local women self help group.

Earth technology for coastal rehabilitation

By Priya Sundaravalli

It is well documented that earth technologies are the most appropriate for areas at risk of earthquakes or cyclones. So when the government of Tamil Nadu with support from United Nations Development Project invited building designs for rehabilitation of tsunami-hit houses, they demanded that the construction meet earthquake resistant criteria. It followed naturally that Auroville's Earth Institute, with its extensive knowledge and expertise in disaster resistant building technologies, would apply.

"Building for tsunami-resistance is not much different from building for earthquake-resistance," says Satprem. "In both cases the foundation has to be strong. In the tsunami context, the earth blocks have to have the extra strength to deal with the potential presence of salt in the environment. This, we found could be achieved by adding a little more cement to the soil mix."

For the post-tsunami reconstruction, the Auroville Earth Institute submitted five designs, all using Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks (CSEB). Two of these designs won awards, and it was decided to use them in demonstration buildings. "We have completed one demo house in Anumandai with a Ferro cement channel roof, and another in Bommayarpalayam that uses a 'filler' slab roof."

With the two demonstration units in place, Satprem hopes that earth technology will find more favor and acceptance. "These technologies are appreciated by the top level management, but the real challenge is finding support and acceptance where the work is being implemented."

"The main reason for the low popularity of CSEB technology is the labor-intensive nature of the work, and the process needs trained and skilled workers," explains Satprem. To train end-users in earth technology skills, the Earth Institute has since its beginnings been offering hands-on seminars and workshops. "To date, about 4200 people from all over the world have passed through our training programme," says Satprem.

After the tsunami, this educational component has taken on an even greater importance. "We offer a variety of courses from two-day beginners' sessions, to ten-day intensives including refresher and specialized courses," says Satprem. "At the completion of each course, we give certificates to the participants. This formal recognition empowers many of our trainees."

A most gratifying experience for Satprem has been a workshop with a group of twenty women from the Kottakuppam Village Self Help Group. "These ladies wanted to learn how to make CSEBs so that it could be an additional economic activity within their group. They bought an Auram Press for their group, attended the workshop, and very soon started making blocks. And now we hear that they are selling earth blocks to building sites. What more empowerment could we have hoped for?"

10. BUDGET

FINANCIAL REPORT		
December 26 , 2004 - August 31 ,2006		
1 USD = 46.235 INR		
1.TOTAL RECEIPTS		
1.1 DONATION RECEIPTS	IN INR	IN USD
	Rs.	\$
Contributions - Tsunami		
From Auroville Unity Fund - Foreign Currency - Tsunami	35,569,959	769,330
From Auroville Unity Fund - Indian Currency - Tsunami	2,871,439	62,105
From Financial Service A/c No.0901 VFR	2,971,563	64,271
Contributions - Tsunamiika		
From Auroville Unity Fund - Foreign Currency - Tsunamiika	2,117,248	45,793
From Auroville Unity Fund - Indian Currency - Tsunamiika	288,012	6,229
Contributions - Tsunami (Donor Based)		
From Concern		
- Phase I	2,043,400	44,196
- Phase II	6,217,000	134,465
From UNDP	1,141,488	24,689
Total	53,220,108	1,151,078
1.2 OTHER RECEIPTS	IN INR	IN USD
	Rs.	\$
Contribution for Activities		
Contribution for Micro Projects	113,432	2,453
Contribution for Community Shed	10,000	216
Contribution for Cultural Programme	5,000	108
Contribution for Sports Kits	2,250	49
Contribution for Concern ED Driving Training	5,000	108
Contribution from UWC Books & Registers	35,000	757
Contribution for Engine Repairs	88,820	1,921
Contribution from KC NAIS Participants	5,900	128
Contribution for KC Transport Expenses	9,370	203
Sales - Products		
Sale of Tsunami T-shirts	29,576	640
Sale of Paper Mache Products	3,755	81
Interest - Receipts		
Interest - Micro Credit SHG's	32,164	696
Interest - Micro Credit Individuals	13,888	300
Interest - Auroville Unity Fund	1,208,300	26,134
UNDP - Workshop Participants Contribution Receipts	20,900	452
Total	1,583,355	34,246
Grand Total	54,803,463	1,185,324

2. TOTAL EXPENDED

2.1 ADMINISTRATION (Project Management and Communication)	IN INR	IN USD
	Rs.	\$
Administration Expenditures	2,156,430	46,641
Total	2,156,430	46,641
2.2 RELIEF ACTIVITIES	IN INR	IN USD
	Rs.	\$
Distribution	2,526,476	54,644
Cleaning	634,620	13,726
Emergency relief camp	331,142	7,162
Psychological and Physical Health	448,422	9,699
Trauma Counseling (Social Awareness Dramas)	132,192	2,859
Total	4,072,853	88,090
2.3 REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES	IN INR	IN USD
	Rs.	\$
Community Strengthening / Paalam Expenses	4,519,812	97,757
Ecological Restoration	925,042	20,007
Educational Programs	561,853	12,152
Workshop and Training expenses	81,066	1,753
Knowledge Centre	173,627	3,755
Livelihood - Cash for work	1,064,101	23,015
Livelihood - Engine Repair Service	402,561	8,707
Livelihood - Enterprise Development	150,619	3,258
Livelihood - Plastic Waste Workshop	10,556	228
Livelihood - Tsunami	1,378,692	29,819
Livelihood - Paper Mache Project expenses	28,969	627
Livelihood - Skills Development	15,238	330
Shelters and Infrastructure	62,602	1,354
Tsunami Dental Programmes - children	100,000	2,163
HIV / AIDS Action assessment Programme	21,710	470
Water and Sanitation	1,044	23
Total	9,497,491	205,418
2.4 CONCERN	IN INR	IN USD
	Rs.	\$
Concern Expenses - Phase I	2,043,400	44,196
Concern Expenses - Phase II	6,330,432	136,919
Total	8,373,832	181,115
2.5 UNDP	IN INR	IN USD
	Rs.	\$
UNDP Expenses	511,179	11,056
Total	511,179	11,056
Grand Total	24,611,785	532,319

Cover: Picture of woman planting a seedling for our Eco Restoration Project

**Auroville Coastal-area Development Centre (ACDC)
Formerly known as Auroville Tsunami Relief & Rehabilitation Project (ATRRP)**

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