



TRINET NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008

Shades of Green

When we think of coastal livelihoods, we tend to think of fishing. This was one of the reasons why the tsunami's impact on agriculture was not realized as quickly as its impact on the fishing community. The fact is that agriculture is an important livelihood for a huge proportion of the population living in India's coastal areas, especially on the eastern deltaic coast. For the farmers in the Cauvery Delta, June 12 was a special day as the water was released from the Mettur Dam. Subsequently there were news items every other day about the progress of the water with water reaching the tail end, Nagapattinam, a day or two in advance itself; of collectors encouraging farmers to grow paddy on so many thousand hectares for the Kuruvai crop.

In this issue

- Shades of green1
- An effort that worked2
- Useful Website3
- We prefer to be regulated3
- Coastal News4
- Useful Reads9
- Update from the TN Government...11
- Tsunami Rehab News Snippets12



**INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

22 May 2008

**BIODIVERSITY
AND AGRICULTURE**

India:

- 2% of the world's area but 8% of the world's biodiversity.
- More than 47,000 species of plants and over 89,000 species of animals.
 - 167 crop species and over 350 wild relatives.
- Considered to be the origin of 30,000 to 50,000 varieties of rice,
- Over 5,000 varieties of sorghum, 1000 of mango and as many as 500 varieties of pepper.

The list goes on...

May 22nd every year is observed as the International Day of Biological Diversity (IBD) and this year's theme "Biodiversity and Agriculture," highlighted the importance of sustainable agriculture not only to preserve biodiversity, but also to ensure that we will be able to feed the world, maintain agricultural livelihoods, and enhance human well being into the 21st century and beyond.

Agriculture is the backbone of India and its importance cannot be understated in the current situation of rising food prices. There are some clear areas of concern – the decline in the land under agriculture as well as decline in productivity and the decreasing biodiversity in agriculture. It is undeniable that a few major cereals – rice, wheat and maize are staples for most humans. However it must be recognized that there are hundreds of locally adapted varieties that have been recognized

and chosen by small farmers over the years. Unfortunately, it is also a fact that development of 'scientific hybrids' and the push to cultivating these has resulted in the erosion of a great number of these locally adapted varieties. Such realization came especially in the aftermath of the tsunami when hundreds of acres of agricultural land were rendered saline and there was a frantic search for seeds of those varieties that were salt-tolerant and could survive even in flooded fields.

Take a look at the situation in Tamil Nadu. Half a century ago, there were dozens of traditional varieties of paddy (*Oryza sativa*) which were cultivated extensively. In the mid seventies the High Yielding Programme came in with the release of dozens of varieties in the IR series. While the yield was high, they were also prone to disease and pests and hence

required external inputs. On the other hand, traditional varieties such as *Kuzhi Vedichan*, *Kuruvi Adichan*, *Kar Kuruvai* that were prevalent in the eighties and nineties may have been relatively low yielding but they gave a minimum assured yield and were hardy, being drought resistant, withstanding water logging and so on.

Currently, the varieties expected to be sown by the farmers in Nagapattinam district during the Kuruvai include:

Short-duration: ADT-36, IR50, TKM (Thiruvurkulam)-9, ASD (ambasamudram)-16, ADT-43

Medium-duration: ADT-33, ADT-39, Improved white ponni, ASD-19, CO-43

Long-duration: CR-1009, ADT44

The source of seed for these is the certified seed from the depots of the Department of Agriculture as well as private sources with the

certified seeds. All these seeds are the ones released by the research stations under TNAU. This means that there is high dependence on external agencies for seeds. This has been of growing concern and hence the move by agencies such as the Deccan Development Society in AP for example to empower women farmers by encouraging them to build seed banks so that the traditional varieties that have been chosen for local adaptations are available to the local farmer and in this way biodiversity is preserved. It is also heartening to note that more and more farmers are taking to organic agricultural practices. In the long term, we are realizing that many traditional practices have emerged because of experiential wisdom. Assuring food security is essential. Modern scientific understanding that is sensitive to traditional practices is the need of the hour to ensure sustainable development.

An Effort that Worked

Not so much attention was paid to the impact of tsunami on agriculture. For a district like Nagapattinam, the tsunami was just another disaster. The extent of inundation by the tsunami was enough to destroy the standing crop waiting to be harvested and leave behind salt laden muddy deposits in fields and farm ponds. Initially, the estimate was that it would take three years of cleaning up activities for the fields laden with tsunami deposits to return to productivity. Fortunately, the doomsdayers were proved false and

agriculture in the tsunami impacted areas was possible within months. But how was it done?

An **International workshop on post-tsunami soil management** is to be held in Bogor, West Java on July 1st and 2nd, 2008. Here is the abstract of the paper on how post-tsunami agri-rehab was achieved. The paper is going to be presented by Mr Chandramohan, erstwhile agriculture sector head of the NCRC, Nagapattinam and currently overseeing the PWRM Project of BEDROC, Nagapattinam.

Post-tsunami agriculture livelihood restoration: A district-level co-ordination effort

Nagapattinam, a coastal district in Tamil Nadu had the highest extent of agricultural land affected by tsunami in the Indian sub-continent totaling to around 7,000 hectares which included all types of lands. The government's survey of damages and the package proposed for reclamation had its own limitations. At a time when NGOs and donors gave lower priority for agricultural reclamation (early 2005), the NGO Co-ordination and Resource Centre – NCRC took up the cause and reassessed the damages and evolved a comprehensive package of activities (with the active participation of all stakeholders). The damages and package were presented to the

Disasters and Emergencies Committee (DEC) – a group of donor organizations which led to their sensitization about the issues as well as their coming forward to support NGOs in agriculture. NCRC conducted a series of workshops and meetings to sensitize NGOs as well to work on agriculture and later played a key role in linking them with donors.

A common shared understanding was brought among NGOs in terms of uniform package and methodology / approach in implementation. The comprehensive package included three sets of activities., 'immediate' for desalination, 'short-term' for restoring soil

fertility and 'long-term' for sustaining the farm in the long-run. Extensive advocacy effort were taken up with individual NGOs and their donor agencies to bring about commonality.

Participatory area (village) allocation was done for the NGOs in decentralized meetings in the presence of line departments and farming community ensuring working in contiguous areas. 23 NGOs implemented the common package across 42 revenue villages working with 297 Tsunami Farmers Self Help Groups (TFSHGs). Simultaneously, mass information dissemination on the package was done through printed brochures and local FM radio. NGO staff capacities were built through one-off training programmes. Effective implementation of activities was also ensured through direct monitoring visits and regular review meetings.

At the end of the season 2005-06, the comparison of soil test values of electrical conductivity (salinity) and pH (alkalinity) taken before and after clearly showed significant reduction in the values. There was a marked increase in the soil fertility status in terms of soil organic carbon and other major nutrients. In spite of heavy rainfall during the season, the crop yield, especially of paddy, was optimum in at least 40% of villages and this changed the earlier assumption of farmers that no crop was possible for the succeeding three years.

The successful first year's reclamation effort was the result of joint efforts with the government complementing their work & package and reclamation of all tsunami affected lands and farmers (irrespective of type and category) through an effective participative co-ordination mechanism.

USEFUL WEBSITE

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

This website is about Farmers' Rights (FR) as they are addressed in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Farmers' Rights are basically about enabling farmers to continue their work as stewards and innovators of agricultural biodiversity, and about recognizing and rewarding them for their contribution to the global pool of genetic resources. Thus, Farmers' Rights are critical to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture and consequently for food security – today and in the future. Farmers' Rights are also a central means in the fight against rural poverty in developing countries.

Developed as a tool for decision makers, practitioners and others involved in the realization of farmers' rights, this website was launched in the framework of the Farmers' Rights Project of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway. It includes information on the history, legal status and contents of farmers' rights, a comprehensive database on legislation and policies, and concrete recommendations on implementation.

We Prefer to be Regulated

The MoEF put up the draft CMZ regulations on their website in May and announced two months time for objections and suggestions. It is only towards the end of the 60 day period that many state governments seem to have even woken up to the fact that a lot of the power that they hold in their hands was going to drain away towards the centre. The Maharashtra CM has said that "CMZ should be formulated jointly by the Centre, state government and a coastal management or scientific body and that is not being done". The Tamil Nadu government officials have said

that they would ask their counterparts for a Tamil translation of the document. The Kerala government has sought comprehensive changes in the document – perhaps the only state to do so after extensive consultations with trade unions and other stakeholders – aiming to ensure that the new CMZ norms did not hit the livelihood of fishing communities or prevent them from constructing houses on the coastal stretches.

The Industry too is evidently waking up to the fact that the CMZ notification would be far

more restrictive than the CRZ. An interactive workshop in Mumbai by the CII pointed out that "clarity was required on a number of terms like Coastal Zone, Adjacent, Biological boundaries, Culturally Sensitive Areas and others being used in the Notification but which left huge scope for interpretation" and raised questions about abilities to implement.

The NGO sector has been active for quite some time now. Starting with the consultation a year ago organized by TRINet, and following it up with meetings and protests, the NFF has just completed a two month long 'coast to coast' Abhiyan (May-June 08) that took cognizance of the status of the terrible conditions afflicting coastal communities. This has been reported extensively in the press as well.

The latest in the series of such meetings was organized by the CAG titled 'Combating Coastal Challenges' on June 24th & 25th 2008 at Chennai. The two day deliberations tried to understand the implications of the CMZ notification along with the reports of the conditions along the coast from the different coastal states. Goa clearly leads in understanding and action against illegal structures in the CRZ region. A complete mapping of the CRZ as well as the structures in the CRZ has been done. The special feature about Goa is that the NGOs in the state have taken the CRZ law as their own and have made the effort, against odds, to ensure that it is implemented. Other states did not have much to say in this regard except that violations are happening and people at the grassroots level are the ones who are suffering.

Reports are a-plenty in the press about the black flag demonstrations and petitions (online, postal, in person) by members of the fishing communities as well as those working with them. But where are the other stakeholders? There is no doubt that the

fishing community is the largest stakeholder on the coast because of the livelihood related requirements. But are they the only ones? Will lip service by mentioning that the fishing community's activities will not be affected be a sufficient palliative to them?

The fact is that the CMZ notification does not set out to do anything that it supposedly aims to:

- No protection to the coastal environment, not even the ecologically sensitive areas
- No livelihood security to coastal populations
- No adequate protection for natural hazards
- No mention of the effect of land based activities on coastal ecosystems

There is no second thought here but that the CMZ notification must be withdrawn in its present form. Let the principles set out in the CRZ 1991 notification be first applied properly – when something as fundamental as demarcation of the HTL has not been completed since 1991, is it believable at all that the entire vulnerability mapping of the coast will be completed in two years? Can something like this that affects such a huge chunk of the country, something that is supposed to be impacting the local level populace be done without any consultation with the local governance structures or even the state government's inputs? One of the features about the CRZ 1991 is that it was amended 19 times but definitely it did not achieve the notoriety of the new CMZ notification of being amended even before it was notified.

Management may sound progressive but it is not easy. For the moment, it is clear that regulation is preferable. At the very least, the notification is, to use the words of a leading activist, "a discriminatory document that is social unjust". Time to discard the CMZ and ensure that CRZ 1991 be strengthened and implemented properly.

Coastal News

This month has been the focus of the Machimar Abhiyan by the NFF and the news in this section reflects that to a great extent.

New Delhi

Coastal zone notification will ruin livelihood:
fishermen: New Delhi: The National

Fishworkers Forum has urged the Centre to immediately withdraw the "ill-conceived draft

Coastal Zone Management (CZM) notification. For, it will not only adversely impact the fragile ecological system and marine life but also take away the means of livelihood from the 10-million fishing community, representatives of the forum told a press conference here on Friday. "The future of millions of fisherfolk is at stake as the Centre, in league with the governments of coastal States, plans to bring up huge commercial projects along the 8,118-km long coastline." The forum said the new draft superseded the 1991 Coastal Regulation Zone notification of 1991, but this was done without consulting the fishing community, main stakeholder. "We demand that all efforts to replace the CRZ notification be stopped until a comprehensive legislation is enacted."

<http://www.thehindu.com/2008/06/14/stories/2008061451011300.htm>

CRZ ACT DILUTION - Lakhs of traditional fishermen cry foul: LAKHS of traditional fishermen spread along the nine coastal states

State to seek translation of CMZ notification into local languages: Chennai: The State Environment Department will ask its Central Government counterpart to translate the draft Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) notification into languages of the communities living along the coast. It will also ask for the time for public comment on the notification to be extended, Environment Secretary N. Sundaradevan said on Tuesday. The 60-day period for review and public comment is due to end in a week. However, with the notification only available in English, published in the Gazette and on the Ministry's website, few of the communities living along India's 8,000-km coast were able to access the draft, let alone make any comment. With a number of environmental activists bringing up the issue at a national meeting on 'Combating coastal challenges' here on Tuesday, Mr. Sundaradevan agreed to take up the issue with the Centre.

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/25/stories/2008062554530500.htm>

Fishermen oppose Centre's proposal: Tuticorin: Thousands of fishermen belonging to various country boat and mechanised fishing boat associations and members of non-governmental organisations, all from Tuticorin and Tirunelveli districts, took out a rally here on Friday. They protested the proposed move

and two union territories are increasingly getting restless. Their worries stem from the latest efforts by the Union Environment Ministry to notify the whole of 8,118-km-long Indian coastline under a new Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) Act by replacing the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Act of 1991. They dread that the serene Indian coastline would be put up for sale and replaced with industrial hubs, urban centres, resorts and nuclear power plants in the near future thus forcing them to leave their occupation. "It is a clear attempt to dilute the CRZ regime and deprive 3.5-lak strong fisher community of their livelihood by opening the coastline for sale and destroying the fragile coastal ecosystem. The new CMZ notification has provisions that allow industries to build new infrastructure but deprive fishermen even of the basic housing," says V Vivekanandan of Thiruvananthapuram based South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies.

http://epaper.newindpress.com/artMailDisp.aspx?article=14_06_2008_007_004&typ=0&pub=396

Tamil Nadu

by the Central Government to introduce coastal zone management (CZM) notification later this year.

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/21/stories/2008062152760300.htm>

Black flag protest by fishermen in Tuticorin: Tuticorin: The National Union of Fishermen (NUF) observed the World Environment Day by hoisting black flags at coastal hamlets across the district on Thursday. The members protested the proposed move by the Centre to replace the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 with a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Notification. G. Anton Gomez, president of NUF, said that the new notification would open coastal resources for commercial exploitation, threatening the livelihood of millions of fishermen. He said that instead of showing interest for a new notification, the Government should take steps to take stern action against those who had breached the CRZ Notification 1991 under the Environment Protection Act.

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/06/stories/2008060651370300.htm>

Fishermen want draft in local languages: Chennai: Fishermen across India's 8,000 km coastline are faced with an unusual problem. The draft notification on the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) 2008 which has

been put on the website of the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, invites objections and suggestions from 'any interested persons' within 60 days from May 1. But there is a catch here. The draft notification is in English and there are few fishermen who understand the language. Unhappy that the government had made little attempt to enforce the coastal regulation zone (CRZ) notification of 1991, the

fishermen are now demanding that the latest CMZ notification be translated into Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil and other national languages so that the message could be disseminated among all members of their fraternity who neither have access to a computer nor understand English.

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Chennai/Fishermen_want_draft_in_local_languages/articleshow/3112408.cms

Kerala

Changes in draft CZM guidelines sought: Thiruvananthapuram: The State government has sought comprehensive changes in the draft Coastal Zone Management (CZM) norms published by the Centre. Responding to a calling attention by Babu Prasad (Congress) in the Assembly on Friday, Fisheries Minister S. Sarma said the government had submitted to the Centre a series of proposals aimed at ensuring that the CZM norms did not hit the livelihood of fishing communities or prevent them from constructing houses on the coastal stretches of the country. The State government had prepared its objections to various provisions of the draft norms after holding two rounds of consultation with trade unions in the fisheries sector in

Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, he added. Mr. Sarma said the State had taken exception to the draft proposal to place the territorial waters up to 22 kilometres under the CZM norms and had told the Centre that this should not in any way affect fishing rights of indigenous communities. It had also told the Centre that the local bodies and the fishing community must have sufficient say in the planning and development processes along the coastal areas. He said the State was particularly concerned about the decision to have a 'setback line' along the coast which would mean that the fisher folk would be able to have houses only outside the 'setback line.'

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/28/stories/2008062859090400.htm>

Puducherry

Fishermen demo reaches Pondy: Puducherry: The National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) embarked on a national campaign from Kutch to Kanyakumari to save the coast and fishermen. The campaigners reached Puducherry on Sunday. The campaigners expressed apprehension on the policies of the government and said like the farmers, the fishermen are threatened and should not become extinct due to the implementation of various projects like the Sethusamudram Shipping Canal Project (SSCP), coastal reclamation for industrial use as in the case of

Kerala Kulasekharapatnam Thermal Power Plant, to name a few. Their aim was to oppose the move of the Ministry of Environment and Forest to replace the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification of 1991 by the new Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) notification. In this regard, the fishermen would observe June 20 as 'National Day of action against CMZ' through demonstrations and picketing in front of government offices.

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20080609022846&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+-+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0>

Andhra Pradesh

Photos of the NFF rally in Vizianagaram



Orissa

Rally boost to fisherfolk: Calcutta, June 17: They didn't know what marine SEZ was till the day they were told of acquiring their land on the coast for building port, shipping yard and even resorts to cater to international tourists. "Nobody ever bothered to ask the fishworkers whether they were ready to part with sea fishing before chalking out the coastal zone management plan," said Harekrishna Debnath, the chairperson of National Fishworkers' Forum. Debnath has been leading the Machhimar Adhikar Rashtriya Abhiyan, which started in Kutch in Gujarat on May 1. The coastal rally — focused to ensure fishermen's traditional livelihood amid "sale of coastal land to private companies" — covered more than 2,000km and entered Orissa yesterday.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1080618/jsp/nation/story_9424216.jsp

Centre's CMZ would deprive livelihood of 17 lakh fishermen in country: Berhampur (Orissa): The proposed Coastal Management Zone (CZM) act by the UPA Govt. would deprive the livelihood of at least 20 lakh people including the 17 lakh fisherwomen across the country, stated HK Devnath, the

chairperson National Fisherman's' Forum (NFF). The fishermen community as a part of their nationwide protest movement had agitated in front of the collectorate office at Chatrapur demanding the withdrawal of the CZM and enforcement of the Coastal Regulatory Zone of 1991 that was in the interest of the lakhs of people depending on this Zero investment sector-fishery across the country.

http://www.odishatoday.com/orissa/CMZ_would_deprive_livelihood_of_17_lakh_fishermen_170608-9865327.html

Fishermen to stage protest against CMZ: Bhubaneswar, June 18: Protesting against the Union government's proposed coastal management zone (CMZ) notification, the coastal communities of the country, under the banner of the National Campaign for Rights of Fisher People have announced they will stage peaceful demonstrations in front of the nearest government offices for one hour on 20 June, as a part of the national day of action. This would be followed by sansad chalo-Delhi on 22 July.

http://www.thestatesman.net/page_news.php?clid=9&the_me=&usrsess=1&id=208777

Maharashtra

'Coastal Management Zone will hamper Mumbai makeover': Mumbai: Taking a strong objection on Coastal Management Zone (CMZ) regulations, Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh has shot off a letter to the prime minister, opposing certain provisions, which he feels would hamper Mumbai's development. Deshmukh also objected to the 'non-representation' of the state government while deciding the CMZ guideline. "CMZ should be formulated jointly by the Centre, state government and a coastal management or scientific body but that is not being done," he added.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/News/Economy/Coastal Management Zone will hamper Mumbai makeover/articleshow/3138885.cms>

CRZ revision poses too many questions: Environmentalists and urban planners doubt the efficacy of the draft notification on Coastal Management Zone (CMZ). The notification, a revision of Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ), was issued on May 1, 2008. "Setback line, which will replace the high tide line, is confusing," said Rishi Aggrawaal of Mangrove Society of India. "Under CRZ, high tide and low tide lines were clearly demarcated. The

provisions were strong enough to check violations. But it is not so with CMZ." Mangrove Society of India's Mumbai chapter had convened a meeting at Maharashtra Nature Park in Dharavi on Sunday to discuss the notification.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?newsid=1168054>

In feedback on CMZ, state seeks funds from Centre to protect coasts: In an attempt to open up more land for development, the state government has urged the Centre to allocate funds for coastal management measures that will take the setback line closer to the coast. The request is part of the Maharashtra government's final draft of suggestions and objections to the Ministry of Environment and Forest's (MOEF) proposed notification on the Coastal Management Zone (CMZ). "There is a need for costly coastal management measures like building retaining walls, wave breakers or plantations. If we can protect the coast this way, the setback line can be taken closer to the coast and a lot more land will be available for development," said Principal Secretary, urban development, TC Benjamin, adding that the Centre should create a fund for the above purpose and the same should be made

accessible to the state government. Among other things, the state government has also objected to the non-inclusion of the state government in deciding the setback line as also the absence of any state representatives in the National Board for Sustainable Coastal Zone Management. Along with its letter, the state Urban Development department has enclosed suggestions and objections by

various agencies like the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, City and Industrial Development Corporation and the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority.

<http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/In-feedback-on-CMZ-state-seeks-funds-from-Centre-to-protect-coasts/327120/>

Gujarat

Fishing women victims of income inequalities:
We can see the towers of the new port in the distance. We can also see our day's catch getting smaller and smaller. We are being slowly pushed further from the sea. But the sea belongs to everyone. The sea will not let

us down," says an optimistic Jannatbai, a leading member of a fishing community at Mundra on the western coast of Gujarat.

<http://nation.ittefaq.com/issues/2008/06/19/news0867.htm>

Karnataka

CMZ- Fishermen and environmentalists prepare to confront Govt: Mangalore/Kochi, June 14, 2008: The Coastal Regulation Zone which has protected the Coastal areas from the pillage of mankind is now under grave danger of being scrapped and replaced with Coastal Management Zone. With the draft proposals being now published for the constitution of CMZ authority the environmentalists and fishermen have become weary of the proposals and are preparing to file a Public Interest Litigation and also start a nationwide agitation against the proposal, they

want the CRZ to be retained. Speaking to Mangalorean.com General Secretary of Akhila Karnataka Meenugarara Kriya Vedike Vasudeva Bloor stated that the CMZ would begin new kind of activities in the coastal areas including industries, tourism and construction which will give way to loss of livelihood of fishermen and other people dependent on the coast. This will also ruin the sensitive coastal biodiversity and eco system.

<http://mangalorean.com/news.php?newstype=broadcast&broadcastid=81162>

Other Coast and Fisheries related news

Move to arrest sea erosion on Odisha coast:
Kendrapara (Odisha), June 18: In a significant move, the state government has decided to arrest sea erosion by an innovative geo-tube technique to save a cluster of highly vulnerable hamlets in Kendrapara district. The geo-tubes made up of high grade rexin material and filled with sand would be put in place at strategic erosion-hit shoreline along the Rajnagar tehsil. The geo-tube experiment, which is proposed to be undertaken during the course of current monsoon season, would be the first of its kind in the state, according to official sources.

http://www.kalingatimes.com/orissa_news/news3/20080618_Move_to_arrest_sea_erosion_on_Odisha_coast.htm

Violent sea erodes their hopes of survival:
Mangalore June 5, 2008: Standing near the houses abutting the sea at Indiranagar, CISCO Road, Ullal, you frequently take a few steps backward as powerful waves hit a wall of rocks

or wall of sand. Not because the waves will drench you, but because you do not know when the sand under your feet shifts. There was a series of tree falls or landslides on Thursday and the waves sucked the debris in. A group of three boys, who were watching the fury of the sea, which saw a concrete mouth of a channel bringing waste water from a fish processing unit collapse. "It collapsed only a few minutes ago," they told this correspondent. Aloysius Albuquerque, owner of nearby resorts, said about 15 to 20 metre of the resort land was swallowed by the Arabian Sea in the last 24 hours. "It is serious, very serious," he said. The people of Indiranagar said they spent sleepless nights for the last three days. "Unless we are alert, our houses will collapse on us," said Hussain whose house is barely 15 ft away from the seashore.

<http://mangalorean.com/news.php?newstype=broadcast&broadcastid=80270>

Public health in crisis-affected populations: a practical guide for decision-makers

by Francesco Checchi, Michelle Gayer, Rebecca Freeman Grais and Edward J. Mills.

<http://www.odihpn.org/download.asp?ID=2902&ItemURL=documents%2Fnetworkpaper061%2Epdf>

Never before has it been clearer what interventions must be implemented to mitigate the adverse health consequences of wars and natural disasters, and what standards those interventions must strive to achieve; similarly, the range of interventions at our disposal has never been greater.

Despite these advances, reviews of the global relief system suggest an ongoing failure to deliver. They also highlight the dire lack of credible data to help us understand just how much populations in crisis suffer, and to what extent relief operations are able to relieve that suffering.

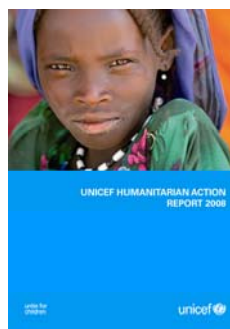


Political considerations often obstruct the delivery of appropriate relief. The premise of this paper, however, is that lack of knowledge is also an important limiting factor. This paper argues the need for advocacy for timely and appropriate relief; grounded in clearly outlined, scientifically sound reasoning, focusing discussion on substantive matters and reducing the scope for political manipulation. As such, the paper aims to enable readers to better face up to the political and bureaucratic aspects of the global relief system.

UNICEF Humanitarian Action Report 2008

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/retrieveattachments?openagent&shortid=ASAZ-7FXG8E&file=Full-Report.pdf>

The 2008 Humanitarian Action Report outlines UNICEF's appeal for 39 emergencies around the world. An important lesson learned from major emergencies is that timely and flexible funding enables humanitarian actors to respond rapidly and most effectively to priorities established with national counterparts. While the report deals with the humanitarian action appeals in different parts of the world, a special section has been devoted to 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami: Lessons Learned. Some extracts from this section:



In 2004, the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami challenged humanitarian assistance to an unprecedented degree. After three years implementing programmes in eight countries, UNICEF has achieved results for over 6 million children and women in tsunami-affected areas. Some 1.2 million children were immunized against measles and more than 3 million children received vitamin A supplementation and essential drugs, as well as emergency water and sanitation to help prevent disease outbreaks in the aftermath of the disaster. Since then, UNICEF and its

partners (including governments, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society groups) have helped build capabilities that did not exist before and assisted in reconstructing and improving on what the tsunami destroyed. They have combined the training of more than 56,000 health staff, the provision of key supplies and equipment to more than 7,000 health facilities and 2 million schoolchildren, the development of child protection policies and the construction/rehabilitation so far of 107 schools, 59 health facilities, 28 child centres and water facilities serving some 700,000 people. In all this effort, six key lessons for future humanitarian support were identified:

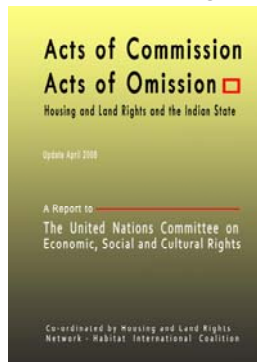
1. Effective coordination, partnership and stewardship are necessary to reach all children affected by an emergency
2. Children and communities should be provided with the knowledge and skills needed to identify warning signs, and prepare for and better cope with disasters
3. Effective emergency response requires the right person at the right place at the right time

4. Providing the right supplies in the right place at the right time can go far in addressing emergency needs
5. Reliable information is essential in order to target the most vulnerable, and plan, monitor, coordinate and be accountable to stakeholders

6. Adequate funding and adaptable financial and administrative procedures are necessary for rapid response to sudden onset emergencies

Acts of Commission, Acts of Omission: Housing and Land Rights and the Indian State: A Report to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
www.hic-sarp.org April 2008.

This report compiled by the Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) – Habitat International Coalition, in collaboration with civil society groups and social movements. A summary of this report is also included in the joint parallel report submitted to the Committee by the Peoples’ Collective for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Extracts from the section **“Inadequate Rehabilitation of Tsunami Survivors”** are given below:



The 2004 tsunami affected the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry, affecting over 28 lakh (2.8 million) people and leading to loss of life and property. Post-tsunami rehabilitation, however, despite the passage of three years, continues to be fraught with delays and inadequacies in restoring permanent housing and livelihoods to the survivors.

While most families have been allotted alternate housing in the state of Tamil Nadu, several families in Chennai and Thiruvallur districts, are still awaiting housing. As is evident in the case of the tsunami, the impacts of natural disasters and failed rehabilitation are felt most strongly by women and children. Relocation of families in the middle of the academic year has resulted in an increase in dropouts from school, especially of girl children. A common complaint across tsunami sites has been the lack of consultation with survivors.

In the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, only 298 houses have been provided of the 9797 houses that the government has agreed to build. This list, however, has left out several hundred families who are still awaiting news on whether they will receive government housing or not. In order for rehabilitation to be adequate, it must be grounded in human

rights principles, and must especially incorporate a gender-equality approach.

Questions for the Government of India:

1. Why is it that even three years after the tsunami, thousands of families are still awaiting permanent housing in Tamil Nadu?
2. What steps is the government taking to ensure that housing is provided for those whose names are left out of the housing lists – in both Tamil Nadu and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, including tenants?
3. Why are the majority of tsunami survivors still living in intermediate tin shelters in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?
4. Does the government have a clear timeline as to when permanent housing will be completed for all tsunami survivors in all the affected areas?
5. How does the government justify the finding of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in its 2007-08 report that states and Union Territories have diverted Rs. 228.58 crores (Rs. 2.285 billion) at the cost of beneficiaries?

Recommendations for the Government of India:

1. The right to relief and rehabilitation, as well as the right to disaster prevention must be recognised as human rights, and the Government of India must take measures to ensure the adoption and implementation of human rights standards in all aspects of disaster management and post-disaster response.
2. As also requested by the Committee in its List of Issues, the government should provide detailed information on the post-tsunami rehabilitation process, including in terms of housing, education, and livelihood restoration in the affected districts in Tamil Nadu.

**Baseline Analysis Report on Impact of Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Programmes in the Tsunami Devastated Areas of Tamil Nadu
Final Report– Revised, May 2008**

<http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/Press/DHVVol-I.pdf>: (Volume -I)

<http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/Press/DHVVol-II.pdf>: (Volume – II)

The two volume report prepared by DHV India Pvt. Ltd. is based on primary data and interactions with the secondary stakeholders representing a cross section of individuals, groups and institutions representing communities, NGOs and Government organizations. This report gives an overview of the impacts of the post-Tsunami interventions on the affected communities from the coastal districts. The report goes on to explain in detail the sector-wise and category-wise initiatives taken and how far they have influenced the life of the coastal communities. The concluding part of the document talks about the role of local communities, government departments concerned and the voluntary agencies in preparing the people for facing emergencies, calamities and disasters in future.

The study followed a before-after model. The 'before' sections highlight the life situations of the affected people before the disaster. 'Current' situation focused on certain key indicators that explain the living conditions of these people after the Tsunami. The methods adopted for gathering information ranged from quantitative (questionnaire) to qualitative (FGD, interview schedule, case studies, transect walk) procedures as well as collection of secondary data. Rehabilitation and resettlement are assessed in terms of improvement in fisheries, housing infrastructure, services in education/health, livelihood, SHGs and other cross cutting areas.

The following nine good initiatives have been identified by adopting various criteria such as new methods used, identifying local resources and skills available in the community, participation of the beneficiaries, providing trainings, making changes in the policies, motivating for soft skills and strengthening sustainability process etc

1. Public-private partnerships - Collaborative efforts of the State Government

2. Replication of Psycho-social support-Best model
3. District Resource Centres:
4. Village Information Centres
5. Corporate social responsibility – A good beginning by Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board:
6. Good Practice: Database helped many petty vendors:
7. Business Collaboration in micro enterprises - A fast-track approach by Directorate of Town Panchayats:
8. Collaborative venture in rehabilitation of saltpan workers: A good beginning by Commissionerate of Municipal Administration:
9. Livelihood enhancement through Community Infrastructure; A good initiative by Tsunami Project Implementation Unit (A Unit of Dept of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj):

Lessons learned from such disasters as the Tsunami are listed as follows:

- Managing hostile public, NGO's and the media is very important – They should become partners in disaster management and should be used as a source of information
- We have benefited greatly from the services of voluntary groups of youth trained and sensitized to relief operations. At local levels similar groups should be set-up.
- We should co-ordinate humanitarian aid based on local needs rather than capacity to supply– unwanted supply of old clothes, blankets and wheat flour.
- Dependency syndrome has to be discouraged and participation in rebuilding encouraged.
- Following the Tsunami the women needed at least six months to reorganize their lives. This waiting period was utilized to instil in them a spirit of solidarity and develop SHGs among them.
- Information was available only about the organized sector assets. Community

resources data were not available. As a result, the benefits and programmes for the poor and the vulnerable could not be initiated in time.

- There is much scope for improvement in the temporary shelter scheme.

Rehabilitation machinery was caught unawares about the technicality of the temporary shelters. temporary shelters were meant only for three months. Fire-proof roofs posed some problems

Tsunami Rehabilitation - News Snippets

LIVELIHOODS

Bank scheme for tsunami-hit village: Nagapattinam: Indian Overseas Bank on Thursday launched its 'IOB-Sampoorna', a special scheme for total village development in the tsunami-hit Kameswaram in Nagapattinam district. Bank Executive Director G. Narayanan, who launched the scheme, said

that the bank had already launched the scheme in Kuthambakkam and Padur villages near Chennai in Tamil Nadu and would introduce it in more villages

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/20/stories/2008062054890600.htm>

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Tsunami victims get houses: Chennai: Tsunami victims in Pudhunemelli village in Kancheepuram were recently given the keys to 42 houses built by Lions Clubs International District 324 A5 and Lions Club Anna Nagar Towers. Chennai Mayor M. Subramanian formally handed over the keys to a new home for the beneficiary families.

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/16/stories/2008061657960200.htm>

NGO to build houses for tsunami-hit fishermen: Nagercoil: A non-governmental organisation, known as Society for Social Development (SOSOD), based at Sucindrum near Nagercoil, has come forward to construct 1,200 houses in a phased manner for tsunami-affected fishermen. Speaking to The Hindu, the Director of SOSOD, J. George Joseph said that third party facilitating work for the construction of houses under Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation package in Kanyakumari district was going on in full-swing.

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/04/stories/2008060452930300.htm>

Collector hands over 91 permanent houses: Nagapattinam: The district administration is taking all steps to complete construction of the pending 2,755 permanent houses in the tsunami-hit villages and instructed the NGOs

and Government agencies to complete the houses for handing it over to the beneficiaries as quickly as possible, said the Collector, M. Jayaraman, here on Saturday. The Collector, who handed over 91 permanent houses to tsunami-hit families out of the 208 families now staying in the temporary shelters at Kadampadi, said that the remaining 117 families would be provided permanent houses before July 15. Mr. Jayaraman pointed out that out of the total target of 19,736 permanent houses for the tsunami-affected families in the district, 16,093 had already been completed and handed over to the beneficiaries.

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/29/stories/2008062958290300.htm>

Slowdown in construction of houses:

Cuddalore: There is slowdown in the construction of permanent houses for the tsunami-affected people in Cuddalore district. Non-supply of sand and bricks by contractors is said to be reason for the delay. This came to light when Collector Rajendra Ratnoo inspected the progress of works at coastal villages such as Rasapettai, Nanjalingampettai, Naickerpettai and Thamanampettai.

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/06/27/stories/2008062750900300.htm>

TRINet: The Resource and Information Network for the Coast
c/o Bhoomika Trust, #3A, New No. 40, Murrays Gate Road, Alwarpet, Chennai 600 018
www.trinet.in

Issue 37. Prepared by Dr Ahana Lakshmi for TRINet