



TRINET NEWSLETTER October 2006

Cleanliness is...

Participation to implement Water and Sanitation

In the novel "A town like Alice", Nevil Shute describes how his English heroine wants to repay the women in Malaysia who helped her during the war on her way back to Japan from Burma. She decides that what they need is a wash-house for clothes but rather than going by what the men of the



place think will be appropriate, she insists on the participation and feedback of the women who were going to use the place and has the area designed

according to their needs. After all, the user knows best – and in this case, the women decide on the position of the stones on which the clothes are beaten, their height and so on. In other words, the emphasis is on participation by the users in design of a facility for maximizing usage – especially of such facilities.

Environmental Sanitation (ES) has been defined as: "Interventions to reduce peoples' exposure to disease by providing a clean environment in which to live, with measures to break the cycle of disease. This usually includes disposal of or hygienic management of human and animal excreta, refuse and wastewater, the control of disease vectors, and the provision of washing facilities for personal and domestic hygiene. ES involves both behaviours and facilities which work together to form a hygienic environment."

Roland Schertenleib, 2002

So also in the tsunami affected areas of Tamil Nadu. The minutes of one of the early meetings (March 4, 2005) in Nagapattinam of the WASNET group says that "more than producing a policy book limited to the input of just a few NGOs, the stress should be given to assimilate the community's input on what they want". Cultural and traditional practices govern the behaviour of people, including the sanitary practices followed by them – but these have rarely been taken into account in programmes designed to improve access to sanitation, especially

in rural areas as the approach has been top down in most cases.

What has gone wrong?

This is perhaps a crucial reason why while drinking water supply has improved in many rural areas, only a third of Indians are reported to have access to sanitation – which means that two-thirds have no access. In fact, open air defecation is the accepted practice in many homes in rural India. **In fact, 2.6 billion people, more than 40% of the world population, do not use a toilet, but defecate in the open or in unsanitary places.**

Perhaps this was not so much of an issue when the populations were smaller; there was more space per-capita. But with increasing population density, and without a matching increase in safer disposal of wastes, public health issues especially in terms of faster spread of certain kinds of disease as well as increased contamination of drinking water become important.

Most of the tsunami devastated areas were rural. Few had toilet facilities – whether common ones for the hamlet or village or attached to an individual's home. Therefore, post tsunami, the sanitation issue has been and should be looked at from two angles. In the case of temporary shelters, groups of toilets have been provided for clusters of shelters. In the case of the permanent shelters, the issue needs to be looked at the household level rather than the community level – because of the focus on providing a house with an attached toilet. But it also may have to be looked at from a cluster approach when the facility for

treating the wastes in an acceptable and safe manner is more feasible for a group of households rather than for a single household especially



in coastal areas with high water table.

Sanitation

Inappropriate NGO-constructed sanitation should be redone where necessary

Campaign on an urgent basis for use and maintenance of toilets & related facilities

Community involvement wherever feasible.

Appropriate technology choice that has minimum O&M

From the final set of recommendations of the Consultation on Tsunami Recovery –The past, the Present and the Future, 22-23 September, Chennai

This is in fact one of the major areas of concern today in the post tsunami reconstruction period. The location of the toilet in the individual house has become an issue for extended debate. The women's voice clearly shows the preference for a facility that is close to the house – perhaps with an entrance from outside the house – but nevertheless attached to the house. Simple reason – this way they don't have to control themselves and wait for the cover of darkness to go behind a bush. How many groups constructing houses have heard the voice of women and children and factored in their special need? The government also needs to act faster and make public their intentions if they plan relatively large scale treatment systems so that the toilets in the new habitations have the appropriate infrastructure to feed into the centralized system.

Improved Sanitation facilities (Only facilities which are not shared or are not public are considered improved.)

- Flush or pour-flush to
 - Piped sewer system
 - Ventilated improved pit latrine
 - Pit latrine with slab
 - Composting toilet

Unimproved Sanitation facilities

- Flush or pour flush to elsewhere (Excreta are flushed to the street, yard or plot, open sewer, a ditch, a drainage way or other location).
 - Pit latrine without slab or open pit
 - Bucket
 - Hanging toilet or hanging latrine
 - No facilities or bush or field

The government has also rightly indicated the need for education and spreading the message of the need for the use of toilets and related facilities (see box). In other words, it is '**social marketing of a range of design options for on-site sanitation**' that is important as pointed out in the recent UNICEF report "Meeting the MDG drinking water and sanitation target: the urban and rural challenge of the decade" where statistics have been collected over time of changes in availability of sanitary

facilities (see box on what they define as improved and unimproved sanitation facilities).

Changing our way of thinking

This realization has been reinforced with improvements in the access to drinking water across the globe while sanitation did not show up a corresponding approach with the use of conventional approaches. So when a group of experts met in Bellagio, Italy in 2000, they came up with a set of principles to identify ways to overcome barriers to progress in sanitation. All participants accepted the need to challenge conventional thinking, and to do so persuasively to the wider international water resources and waste management community, public and private, as well as among the broader community of economic, social, and urban policymakers. The basis of these principles included:

- 'Business as usual' cannot provide services for the poor; the rapid rate of urbanisation poses particular problems of squalor, human indignity, and threat of epidemic.
- Centralised systems designed and implemented without consultation with, and the participation of, stakeholders at all levels are out-dated responses to public health and environmental problems, and are ineffective in today's world. Stakeholder participation is vital.
- There is a lack of integration between excreta disposal, wastewater disposal, solid waste disposal, and storm drainage. Many problems would be resolved by a new paradigm which placed all aspects of water and waste within one integrated service delivery framework.
- The export of industrialised world models of sanitation to environments characterised by water and resource scarcity is inappropriate, and amounts to an amoral continuation of wrong solutions.

It is very clear that these are very much applicable today and should be kept in mind especially in the tsunami affected areas where so much rebuilding and so many changes in the social practices are taking place while designing and implementing appropriate solutions for the sanitation issue.



(photos courtesy NCRC)

The Bellagio Principles

1. Human dignity, quality of life and environmental security at household level should be at the centre of the new approach, which should be responsive and accountable to needs and demands in the local and national setting.
 - solutions should be tailored to the full spectrum of social, economic, health and environmental concerns
 - the household and community environment should be protected
 - the economic opportunities of waste recovery and use should be harnessed
2. In line with good governance principles, decisionmaking should involve participation of all stakeholders, especially the consumers and providers of services.
 - decision-making at all levels should be based on informed choices
 - incentives for provision and consumption of services and facilities should be consistent with the overall goal and objective
 - rights of consumers and providers should be balanced by responsibilities to the wider human community and environment
3. Waste should be considered a resource, and its management should be holistic and form part of integrated water resources, nutrient flows and waste management processes.
 - inputs should be reduced so as to promote efficiency and water and environmental security
 - exports of waste should be minimised to promote efficiency and reduce the spread of pollution
 - wastewater should be recycled and added to the water budget
4. The domain in which environmental sanitation problems are resolved should be kept to the minimum practicable size (household, community, town, district, catchment, and city) and wastes diluted as little as possible.
 - waste should be managed as close as possible to its source
 - water should be minimally used to transport waste
 - additional technologies for waste sanitisation and reuse should be developed

Conferences – Workshops - Meetings

Post-Tsunami Habitat reconstruction: Experiences and Lessons Learnt. Organized by TRINet in collaboration with the **Department of Civil Engineering, IIT-Madras** at Chennai on **29th September 2006**

The meeting which was attended by over a 100 people started with a short welcome by Dr Ahana Lakshmi of TRINet followed by **Mr V.Vivekanandan**, Steering Committee Member of TRINet giving an introduction as to why this meeting was thought necessary given the spate of meetings on tsunami and specifically on shelter. The coast and rural areas were fast becoming a concrete jungle with RCC structures developing in close density because of the demand of both the government and the community of the need for an RCC roof eschewing other construction materials. Other constraints are because of norms and values that have been placed and actually legitimized in the form of government orders. Despite these, many experiments and innovations have been done within these constraints by various NGOs and one of the purposes of this meeting was to look at some of the alternative approaches and methods used given the constraints. The meeting was also to strengthen the links between the scientific and academic institutions and those working in the field such as the government officers, NGOs and CSOs

implementing the works as this was a huge insufficiently harnessed human resource.

Dr S. Narayanan, Dean of Academic Research, IIT-Madras inaugurated the workshop saying that the tsunami was a great tragedy of monumental proportions, especially because of the lack of any warning. It was important to rehabilitate those who survived the tsunami. The reconstruction involves planning and coordination of various agencies to ensure building of reasonable quality shelters in a reasonable time. He emphasized the importance of early warning systems and while damage could not be prevented, it could be mitigated and said that this workshop was of immense importance to share lessons learnt from the tsunami experience which could be used for future disasters. **Dr Narayanan** then released two books authored by **Benny Kuriakose** and published by **SIFFS: Habitat Mapping of Chinnangudi**, the first copy of which was received by **Prof AR Santha Kumar**, Professor Emeritus, IIT and **Manual for Supervisors and Project Staff**, the first copy of which was received

by **Ms Annie George**, CEO of NCRC, Nagapattinam.

Prof. Ravindra Gettu of IIT said that it was very important to ensure that the reconstructed habitats are adequate in all respects since if the houses are not constructed properly, in a few years time we would have a second disaster when the houses start leaking and develop other problems.

The **Technical Session** was chaired by **Prof AR Santha Kumar** and had five speakers – **Mr Durganand Balsavar**, **Dr Koshy Varghese**, **Mr Benny Kuriakose**, **Mr Sriram Ganapathi** and **Mr Harjeet Singh**. While the first four speakers shared

their experiences especially in the interactions with the beneficiary community in Tamil Nadu, **Mr Harjeet Singh** spoke about ActionAid's experiences in the Andaman Nicobar Islands. The **Panel Discussion** was chaired by **Mr CV Sankar**, IAS, Officer on Special Duty (Relief and Rehab), Government of Tamil Nadu. The session was moderated by **Prof Ravindra Gettu** and the panellists were **Dr Prema Rajagopal** of IIT, **Mr K. Gopalan** of Oxfam and **Mr V.Vivekanandan** of SIFFS.

A detailed report on the meeting will be available soon on the website www.trinet.in

Government Updates

The Tamil Nadu Government has put up the latest information on the status of relief and rehabilitation in the state as on 31st August 2006. The details are available at <http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/tsunami-relief.htm>. Also available are the details of

Workshops and Trainings conducted at http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/tsunami_training.pdf and the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami Affected Areas from http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/RajivGandhi_rehab.pdf

Rehab News Snippets

Tamil Nadu

Housing and Infrastructure

Minister hands over keys to 45 tsunami victims:
Thoothukudi: State Minister for Animal Husbandry, Geetha Jeevan handed over keys of the permanent shelters constructed at Periyathalai here to 45 tsunami-affected residents of the area on Tuesday. The shelters were constructed by Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA), an NGO, at a cost of Rs 1.97 lakh each under Tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme. Basic amenities like road, street lights, drinking water supply and anganwadi centre would be set up soon at an estimated cost of Rs 15.65 lakh there.

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20060906072923&Topic=0&Title=Southern%20News%20-%20Tamil%20Nadu&Page=T>

699 houses being built for tsunami-hit:
Nagapattinam: The Development Promotion Group (DPG), a Chennai-based non-governmental organisation, has built 133 permanent houses in Vilundamavadi, each with a plinth area of 403 sq.ft. (Government norm is 324 sq.ft.) at a total cost of Rs.3.10 crore. R. Bhakther Solomon, Chief Executive Officer of the DPG, handed over the keys of the houses to the tsunami victims through M.K. Stalin, Minister for Local Administration, at a function here on Tuesday.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/07/stories/2006090709670300.htm>

Governor inaugurates houses for tsunami-hit:
Cuddalore: Tamil Nadu Governor Surjit Singh Barnala inaugurated 161 houses constructed jointly by the group of Sikh Associations across the country. The project - 'Partners in Relief' - Leprosy Mission Trust India, Guru Nanak Sikh Welfare Council, Gurumat Parchar Charitable Trust, Sri Guru Granth Sahib Study Centre, Habitat for Humanity-India, IM Soir Sweden, Schlumberger and Round Table Square International Services - India. As many as 161 houses for fisher folks who were rendered roofless by tsunami, a community hall, fish market and a school building were constructed in Muzhukuthurai hamlet. Infrastructures including road, electricity and augmentation of drinking water supply have also been established.

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20060928125513&Page=T&Title=Southern+News+-+Tamil+Nadu&Topic=0>

Eco-friendly toilets installed: Tiruchirappalli, Sept 19: A tsunami-hit village near Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu has become the first in the state to have 50 eco-friendly toilets installed by a social service organisation. The 50 new technology

'Ecosan' toilets have been installed at Kameswaram village.

<http://www.chennaionline.com/colnews/newsitem.asp?NEWSID=%7BE2028F6F-AC7A-42A2-9B5D-A711312E4019%7D&CATEGORYNAME=Tamil+Nadu>

Casuarina planting along coastal belt set to begin:

Chengalpattu: An estimated 18 lakh casuarina saplings are ready to be planted in the coastal belt of Kancheepuram district. The saplings have been raised by the Social Forestry Division of the Forest department at Chengalpattu in five of its nurseries located in four villages on the East Coast Road. The saplings will be planted on a 26-kilometre stretch from Neelankarai to Vadanemmeli village on the East Coast Road.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/11/stories/2006091114820400.htm>

Lions Club to build houses for tsunami-affected:

Lions Club of Ponneri with assistance from Lions Clubs International Foundation will be constructing 102 houses at Thangal Perumbullam in Ponneri

Livelihoods

Seaweed cultivation along coast inspected:

Ramanathapuram: A high level team from the Sri Lankan Government and the World Bank, which studied the project sites of seaweed cultivation along the coast of Rameswaram on Friday, has decided to introduce seaweed cultivation in the northeast of Sri Lanka to rejuvenate the economy of tsunami and conflict-affected people. They visited

String of projects for Cuddalore:

Cuddalore: With financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank, the Tamil Nadu Government has sanctioned a string of projects to be implemented in the tsunami-devastated district. These include construction of two high-level bridges, roads, storm water drainage and renovation of fishing yards. The

Vocational training for children of tsunami-hit:

Chennai: Completion certificates of a cell phone servicing and beautician course were given away to children of tsunami-affected victims at a programme organised by the Community Development Organisation Trust (C-DOT).

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/09/stories/2006090918450200.htm>

Solar-powered fish drying unit: Kancheepuram: A solar-powered fish-drying unit, constructed at a cost of Rs.13 lakh and three multipurpose shelters built at a total cost of Rs.27 lakh by the World Vision India along coast at Panaiyur Periyakuppam, were dedicated to the villagers on Tuesday.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/13/stories/2006091319870400.htm>

Taluk. The houses proposed to be constructed for people affected by tsunami in Koraikuppam village, will be completed by June 30, 2007.

The Hindu Downtown (Anna Nagar) Sep 17, 2006

SEZ status offered to foreign firms producing non-conventional energy:

Chennai: K.E. Ragunaathan, managing director of Solkar Solar Industry, gifted four wind generators to select households in the tsunami-affected area of Nagapattinam.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/18/stories/2006091810650500.htm>

'Village knowledge centre' opened:

Nagercoil : The M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, in cooperation with the Athencottasan Muthamizh Kazhagam from Naduvoorkarai near Mandaicadu opened a 'village knowledge centre' at Mondaicadu Puthoor, a coastal village affected by the tsunami.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/04/stories/2006090408900300.htm>

Aliangadu, Mangadu coastal villages near Mandapam, where members of the Self Help Groups run by fisherwomen, have floated rafts on the shallow areas of the sea to grow seaweed. The team held in-depth study about the profitability for women, who engaged in the cultivation.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/08/stories/2006090809400300.htm>

focus of the ADB is on providing livelihood measures to women and the handicapped and to improve infrastructure. In the wake of the visit of ADB Director General Kunio Senga to Cuddalore on Monday, the district administration released a statement listing out the projects to be taken up.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/06/stories/2006090604060300.htm>

Bio-fertilizer unit for fisherwomen:

Kancheepuram: Orchid Trust, a corporate social responsibility division of pharma major Orchid Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd, has set up a unit to produce bio-fertilizers and biocontrol agents for fisherwomen at Pattipulam, a coastal village in the district. The fertilizers produced in the unit will be marketed through the trust's outlets in the district.

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IET20060912143536&Topic=0&Title=Southern%20News%20-%20Tamil%20Nadu&Page=T>

341 tsunami survivors get jobs:

Pcorayar, Sept 27: Manpower Inc, a leading US-based employment services agency, has said it has given vocational training to as many as 591 youth in tsunami-hit Nagapattinam district in Tamil Nadu and helped 341 of them find jobs. Apart from skills training, the

project aims at seeding self-help groups that would help women start small businesses in 70 different fields, he added. Manpower has two vocational training institutes in the district, the second one being in Nagapattinam town. Both the institutes are managed by Hope Foundation, an NGO.

<http://www.chennaionline.com/colnews/newsitem.asp?NEWSID=%7B9B853003-444C-4E88-9C98-465E07C4A54C%7D&CATEGORYNAME=Tamil+Nadu>

Training programme for fishermen begins: Tuticorin

A five-day training in 'value-added fishery products' organised by the Fisheries College and Research Institute (FCRI) for the tsunami-affected fishermen commenced on its premises here on Monday. As

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Housing and Infrastructure

Stone laid for construction of 100 permanent shelters at Bambooflat by MAM: Port Blair, Sept 10 Mata Amritanandamayi Math (MAM) will construct 100 permanent shelters at Bambooflat for the tsunami affected people of the area. The Secretary of the Math, Shri Muthukumar Swamy informed that the permanent shelters will be constructed within one year time from now.

<http://www.and.nic.in/monday.htm>

part of the programme, training was first imparted to eight 'master trainers' on the subject, who, in turn, would disseminate the information to larger number of fisherfolks along the Tamil Nadu coastline later. Under it, trainees were taught methods of fish preservation, hygienic handling of fish catch, preparation of value-added fish products and marketing of various fishery products, by a team of instructors headed by P. Velayutham, Head, Department of Fish Processing Technology, at the institute.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/26/stories/2006092604250300.htm>

India plans port at Great Nicobar: New Delhi, September 5: As part of the post-tsunami port infrastructure building exercise, the Andaman & Nicobar administration is exploring the possibility of setting up a trans-shipment port in Great Nicobar Island, the southernmost landmass in the Indian Ocean.

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<http://www.indianexpress.com/story/12084.html>

Livelihoods

Project appraisal committee under of KVIC meets: Kamorta, Sept 13. The 25th meeting of the Project Appraisal Committee under the REGP of KVIC was conducted here at Kamorta yesterday. 29 tsunami affected tribal youths submitted their applications, out of which 19 applied for availing financial assistance for setting up different kinds of units like lathe/ fabrication workshop; flour mill; autorickshaw; STD booth; tea stall cum snacks bar etc. 10 tribal youths applied for undergoing training in repairing of mobile / CD/ DVD; repair of refrigerator & AC; Wood

Carving / artistic furniture and for Toys & doll making under the REGP scheme of KVIC.

<http://www.and.nic.in/telegame.htm>

CARI training on revitalization of tsunami affected farmers: Port Blair, Sept 20 Central Agricultural Research Institute, Port Blair will be organizing a training on 'Revitalization of tsunami affected farmers- a step towards better tomorrow' from tomorrow to Sept 26 for the farmers of South Andaman and Little Andaman.

<http://www.and.nic.in/thursday.htm>

Pondicherry

Housing and Infrastructure

Building schools part of tsunami rehabilitation, says Collector: The Pondicherry Collector, G. Theva Needhi Dhas, has said that the rehabilitation of tsunami victims does not stop with just building them houses, but included building schools for the children and providing other facilities for them. Mr.

Dhas also distributed financial assistance of Rs.5,20,000 to 56 students affected by the tsunami for the pursuance of higher education.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/21/stories/2006092103790200.htm>

Andhra Pradesh

Housing and Infrastructure

'Tsunami Court colony' inaugurated: Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice GS Singhvi on Sunday inaugurated a 'Tsunami Court colony' comprising 50 houses constructed near Battisanaiah Palem village in Prakasham district. He said 50 houses were constructed amounting to

Rs 25 lakh, contributed by the Judiciary to the tsunami hit villages.

http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_1784885_0009000200_04.htm

Rosaiah opens Fishland: Ongole: Minister for Finance and Health Konijeti Rosaiah on Tuesday

declared open Fishland, constructed at a cost of Rs 1 crore with modern facilities for storage and marketing of fish, at Vadarevu in Chirala mandal of Prakasam district. Later, he inaugurated a residential complex of 60 houses built for tsunami

victims and laid the foundation-stone for another 40-house complex for the same cause.

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IEA20060920042034&Topic=0&Title=Southern%20News%20-%20Andhra%20Pradesh&Page=A>

Livelihoods

Dharmana distributes fishing nets: Srikakulam: Distributing nets, including a community net, called 'ilavala', among fishermen of Tellavanipeta village at a meeting held here on Saturday, Minister for Revenue and Relief Dharmana Prasada Rao said his Government was committed to welfare of

fishermen in the State. The nets and other implements required by the fishermen were provided by Red Cross.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/17/stories/2006091707300300.htm>

Kerala

Livelihoods

A gift from the United States for the tsunami-hit fisherfolk: Kollam: The first batch of ten fibreglass reinforced plastic fishing vessels to be distributed as a gift from the U.S.-based Brunswick Corporation to the tsunami affected members of the fishing community arrived in Kollam on Monday. Each boat is 36.6 ft. long and 5.7 ft. wide. It has a 120 HP diesel engine. The vessel is capable of carrying 13 persons and can achieve speed of 12.5 knots (23.15 kmph) with a load of 2,000 kg. The vessels are equipped with a fish hold to preserve the quality of the catch.

<http://www.hindu.com/2006/09/27/stories/2006092708200400.htm>

Useful Reads



For her it is the big issue: Putting women at the centre of water supply, sanitation and hygiene. <http://www.wsscc.org>

It is estimated that women and girls in low-income countries spend 40 billion hours every year fetching and carrying water from sources which are often far away and may not, after all, provide clean water. From this standpoint, it is simple to

understand that a woman could be empowered by having a nearby pump that conveniently supplies enough safe water for her family. Easier access to such basic services enables women to identify and grasp new opportunities for themselves, to grow in confidence and attain a greater sense of personal dignity.

This report is a collection of evidence, brief examples highlighting the effect and benefits of

placing women at the core of planning, implementation and operations of WASH programmes. The experiences also show how women's empowerment and the improvement of water supply, sanitation facilities and hygiene practice are inextricably linked. One cannot be successfully achieved without the other.

The evidence comes from a variety of sources, some of it from recent literature, project reports and evaluations and some from personal correspondence with those involved, where changes are currently happening but not yet documented. Although the report is organised around selected key themes, the multiple impacts of any single intervention or improvement where known are also indicated. (excerpted from the introduction).

Scaling up rural sanitation in South Asia: Lessons learned from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. 2005. Water and Sanitation Programme-South Asia. www.wsp.org



In South Asia, more than 900 million people (66 percent of the total population) remain without access to adequate sanitation. Despite significant investments, rural sanitation coverage in the region is barely keeping pace with population

growth. South Asia contains more poor people without access to sanitation than any other region on earth, which puts its national governments under extreme pressure to make the most of the limited available resources for the development of sanitation services. In the past, this meant pouring money into building heavily subsidized toilets, but

there is increasing evidence that this approach tends to result in low toilet usage and wasted investments. New approaches are needed to make a substantial and sustainable impact on public health. This study suggests that the focus of large-scale sanitation programs should be on stopping

open defecation and on improving hygiene behavior on a community-by-community basis, with success measured not by the number of toilets built, but by long-term improvements in public health and well-being.

Progress for Children: A report card on water and sanitation. No. 5, September 2006. www.unicef.org



Water and sanitation are vital in themselves, but they are also key prerequisites for reducing child and maternal mortality (MDGs 4 and 5) and combating diseases (MDG 6). And they are key to reducing child undernutrition (MDG 1) and achieving universal primary education (MDG 2). Girls, especially, are likely to spend more time in school when they spend less time fetching water

and when adequate sanitation facilities are available on school grounds. This report card, the fifth in a UNICEF series that monitors progress for children towards the MDGs, measures the world's performance in water and sanitation. It projects that, if current trends continue, the world is on track to meet the target for drinking water – though some countries and regions are lagging behind; but many are way behind in sanitation.

Meeting the MDG drinking-water and sanitation target: the urban and rural challenge of the decade. www.who.int



The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have set us on a common course to push back poverty, inequality, hunger and illness. The world has pledged to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Entering the International Decade for Action, Water for Life, 2005–2015, this report looks

at the challenge of meeting the MDG target for drinking water and sanitation. Achieving the MDG drinking water and sanitation target poses two major challenges: a rapid pace of urbanization, which requires a major effort even to keep up the current coverage levels; a huge backlog of rural people unserved with basic sanitation and safe drinking water, which calls for an intensive mobilization of resources to reduce the vast coverage gap between urban and rural populations.

About Us

TRINet, the Tsunami Rehabilitation Information NETwork was set up in March 2005 as a response to the broad information requirements in the state of Tamil Nadu for tsunami rehabilitation and reconstruction phases to help in sharing information between different groups working on various aspects in the different districts of the state.

TRINet was Initiated by SIFFS: South Indian Federation of Fishermen Societies, ICSF: International Collective in Support of Fishworkers and the Bhoomika Trust. Currently the members of TRINet include the NGO Coordination and Resource Centre (NCRC) in

Nagapattinam, Auroville Tsunami Rehabilitation Knowledge Centre and the Kanyakumari Rehabilitation Resource Centre (KRRC), Nagercoil, and the information Centres in Chennai, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli and Kerala set up by SIFFS.

*This is the sixteenth issue of the **TRINet Newsletter** since it was launched in July 2005. TRINet brings out a weekly e-digest of news on tsunami rehab in all the affected countries as well as a Tamil newsletter called "**Alayathi**", aimed at the communities in Tamil Nadu. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please write to us at info.trinet@gmail.com.*

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