

TSUNAMI UPDATE. No.10

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SWAYAM SHIKSHAN PRAYOG, INDIA

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Women build resilience

3 Years After Tsunami

People-friendly development with a human face

Excerpts from the Presidential Address by Prof. N. Vinod Chandra Menon, Member, NDMA, Government of India.

“Climate Change adaptation is emerging as one of the most serious challenges before policy makers and development practitioners. Pro active, people-friendly climate change adaptation strategies strongly rooted within the local grassroots reality of the coastal communities and their concerns for safety of lives, livelihoods and security needs measures is the urgent need of the hour shifting the emphasis from technological imperatives proposed by the protagonists of the dominant paradigm of reducing the carbon emission targets.”

Read the full speech:

http://www.disasterwatch.net/ndma_speech.pdf

For a brighter future—Indoensia

On the three-year anniversary of the devastating December 26 Indian Ocean tsunami, Mercy Corps reports that its recovery and reconstruction programs have shifted to a longer-term focus on improving the economic and civic strength of affected communities.

View the Report:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/289513/11981852522.htm>

UNICEF in Tsunami—Report

The report highlights the progress in UNICEF's other programme areas, including health and nutrition, water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS and child protection in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Read the report:

http://www.unicef.org/media/files/Tsunami_three_year_financial_figures_for_NatComs_final.pdf

Tsunami Update online at:

<http://www.disasterwatch.net>

Support the most vulnerable survivors—Action Aid

Action Aid was among the first anti-poverty groups to respond to the tragedy, launching the biggest emergency response in our history.

Over the last three years we have build award-winning housing in India, helped safeguard islands in Thailand against the threat of any future disasters, supported women to get work in Sri Lanka. Read more...

<http://www.actionaid.org/main.aspx?PageID=205>

Women initiatives in Tsunami: Archives 2005-07



We reproduce here encouraging stories and initiatives from our archives to highlight community response in tsunami affected areas of India, Srilanka, Indonesia and Thailand. Women led communities have played a key role in relief distribution, rescuing people, participating in local governance, addressing sustainable development etc. These initiatives show how women could play major role in disaster risk reduction, if they equip with better knowledge and skills.

Read the Archives at:

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources/Best-of-TsunamiUpdate.pdf>

Report gives poor marks for tsunami rehabilitation

Three years on from the tsunami, the story of relief and rehabilitation in Tamil Nadu is one of widespread exclusion, poor quality construction, lack of consultation with communities, insensitivity to women, and lack of urgency on the part of the State, according to a report by Vilimbunilai Makkal Kural (Voices from the Margins), a forum set up in the wake of the disaster.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/12/22/stories/2007122254900600.htm>



DISASTER
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“Strengthening community trainers towards disaster risk reduction and resilience”

Members of the GROOTS International network found that in spite of the critical role that poor women play in responding to natural disasters and in supporting their families and communities to get back on their feet, women are left out of all decision making processes. The aim of the interface was to strengthen network's cooperation with the grassroots NGO community and advance its efforts to reduce the impact of disasters at the community level.

This global initiative to develop a network of grassroots women's trainers is a partnership between Groots International and American Jewish World Service.

View the report::

<http://www.disasterwatch.net/trainersprofile.htm>

Better livelihood for women

Shoba lives in a fisher community in Karunagappally, Kollam District, one of the worst affected districts in the southern Indian state of Kerala. The Tsunami changed her life for the better. When before she and her family were struggling to make ends meet, she now has a new income source: Shoba followed a training in fashion design,

Full story:

http://www.un.org.in/untra/stories/content_01.asp?ref=ss_26

INDONESIA: Community empowerment through mitigation efforts

Ten years ago if asked to describe what a disaster preparedness and risk reduction programme was, the Indonesian villagers in Sepa Batu community of West Sulawesi would probably have difficulty doing so. Back then, a comparatively small number of people showed interest in volunteering because they had little knowledge of what the Indonesian Red Cross (PMI) did in their communities. The local PMI branch office had very limited resources with only one officer and little financial support from the local government. Today though, villagers' understanding and attitudes towards the Red Cross and disaster management have changed for the better. The villagers in Sepa Batu have now actively become involved with disaster management, especially since PMI and the Danish Red Cross (DRC) jointly implemented the Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) programme in 2003.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/DPAL-79NHJY?OpenDocument&rc=3&emid=TS-2004-000147-LKA>

INDIA: National coastal women's movement formed

The National Coastal Women's Movement (NCWM), a network of women from the coastal villages of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh, was formed here on Monday, at a meeting held to observe Rural Women's Day. The forum will function as a pressure group at the grassroots level in establishing the rights and educating communities about these rights. It will also supervise and participate in the implementation of development projects in villages. Virgil D'Samy and Vasantha, who were part of the organising committee, said the objective was to consolidate the strengths of the coastal women and sensitise both the government and the public on issues relating to them. The idea to form such a network was sparked by Act Now on VAW (Violence Against Women), a movement born after the tsunami, in response to the disaster and the unique position of women post-tsunami.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/10/16/stories/2007101660290800.htm>

UNDP: Disaster Resistant Construction Practices: A reference manual.

Disaster Resistant construction practices are as important as disaster resistant structural designs. Infact the methodology for construction also should be designed for disaster resistance. We should have proper implementation of the structural details so as to let the structure behave as envisaged.

http://www.un.org/in/untrts/reports/Disaster_Resistant_Construction_Practices.pdf

INDIA: Panel charges state with failure to rehabilitate tsunami victims

The present condition of tsunami survivors is in violation of Article 21, the panel of a people's tribunal on tsunami rehabilitation has observed. Too much attention was given to developing the coast for tourism rather than aiding the affected fisherfolk, it said.

Three years after the tsunami, the real disaster is not the devastation the force of nature wrought but the State's failure to take steps to rehabilitate people, the panel has observed.

The panel, which included former judge of the Mumbai High Court H Suresh, social activist Asghar Ali Engineer, historian K.N. Panikar and former vice-chancellor of Mother Teresa Women's University Yasodha Shanmugasundaram, heard the testimony of over 40 affected people and received over 120 representations from Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari and Cuddalore, and the Karaikal region of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/12/23/stories/2007122359610400.htm>

SRI LANKA: Community health programme

Sri Lanka: Sumanawathi is a participant in a home garden project in Sri Lanka's southern district of Kalutara which is part of a wider community based health program (CBH) being implemented by the Spanish Red Cross and Sri Lanka Red Cross (SLRCS) across nineteen villages in the district. The project is providing seeds and training to vulnerable families with the aim of encouraging families to eat a more nutritious and balanced diet. "All the vegetables we now eat we grow ourselves. We have even been able to share some of the produce with relatives and neighbours," explains Sumanawathi. Since the 2004 Asian tsunami, the health and care programmes of the SLRCS have undergone a dramatic expansion with programs that now cover First Aid training, community based health, psychosocial support, public health in emergencies and HIV awareness and prevention.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/SSHN-78NDZT?OpenDocument>

INDIA: Implement coastal zone notification

Nagapattinam: A health insurance scheme, supported by the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, has been launched for tsunami victims in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. As many as 50,593 beneficiaries have already been identified to avail of the scheme and the enrolment process w/fishermen and women of Nagapattinam district under the banner of National Coastal Protection Campaign (NCPC) on Wednesday demanded the Centre to strictly implement Coastal Regulation Zone Notification in its original form and give up the move to implement the Coastal Zone Management Notification 2007. Addressing a public meeting on the occasion of World Fishermen's Day here on Wednesday, members of Fisherwomen's Federation of Nagapattinam district and members of the Vanga Kadal Meen Thozhilalar Sangam rejected the M. S. Swaminathan Committee report on fishermen. They also demanded the Centre to enact a legislation ensuring that the coast and the sea belonged to fishermen. ould be completed by March 2007, District Collector Tenkasi S Jawahar said in a statement on Monday.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/11/23/stories/2007112361490600.htm>

INDIA: 11th plan will address preparation to face disaster and relief

CHENNAI: Issues of preparing for disasters and post-disaster relief will be addressed in the 11th Plan, Vinod Chandra Menon, member, National Disaster Management Authority, said on Thursday.

Stressing the importance of preparation, he said the package, to be incorporated into the Plan, would combine sound theories with practical tools, and would involve community participation. Tackling climate change, a serious issue for policymakers, would involve adopting more people-friendly emission reduction strategies rooted in communities.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/12/22/stories/2007122259760800.htm>

INDIA: Tsunami-hit women keen on new trade

Women in the tsunami-hit villages are now keen in improving their economic condition by starting several new income generating business with the assistance and support extended by the Development Promotion Group, a Chennai-based NGO.

These SHGs have saved Rs.1.12 crore and made an internal lending of Rs.4.06 crore and accessed to the tune of Rs.1.78 crore through various banks as linkage fund to take up socio-economic activities to improve their lives. A garment manufacturing training centre, a livelihood revival programme for tsunami victims, was established at Velankanni in the district jointly by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Bangkok and the DPG.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/12/16/stories/2007121651720300.htm>

INDIA: Make sea shell collection a cottage industry

Nagercoil: The Federation of Seashell Collectors will organise the third district-level conference here on Friday to mount pressure on the Government to find out an early solution to their multiple point charter of demands, including the constitution of a welfare board. The seashell collectors, affected by the tsunami, living in more than 14 villages in the district have appealed the Government to ensure their welfare similar to the help extended to the fishermen community. There are 2,996 people living in 14 hamlets, including Michiyaanvilai, Agastheeswaram, Thamaraiputhur, Puthukudiyuruppu, Sethupathiyur, Kovilvilai, Kattukadai and so on, who were running 59-limestone chulai in different parts of the district. Even though they were affected indirectly by the tsunami, they were yet to be given compensation.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/12/13/stories/2007121354810500.htm>

OXFAM: Tsunami Response –Third year report

Threequarters of the way through our tsunami response, we are proud of what we have achieved. Oxfam received more money than ever before for a single disaster and we are largely on track to spend it as planned. We said from the outset that it would take time to help rebuild shattered lives, livelihoods and communities. Now Aceh, the Indonesian Province worst hit by the disaster, for example, is a vibrant, thriving community where not so long ago there was grief, fear and resentment. That is not to say there haven't been problems. Lack of access to areas of northern and eastern Sri Lanka as a result of the conflict has meant that many tsunami-affected people are not receiving the help they need.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EDIS-79TP8U/\\$File/Full_Report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/EDIS-79TP8U/$File/Full_Report.pdf)

INDIA: Riding the waves

Disrupted lives, destroyed livelihoods. While this was a reality for fishing communities after the Tsunami in 2004, the plight of non-fishing communities who are nevertheless dependent on coastal resources was no better. These communities are involved in non-fishing activities such as the sea shell trade (as collectors and artisans), coir industry, and lime processing in the Kanyakumari-Thoothukudi coastal belt in Tamil Nadu. When the Tsunami struck, Prabha, like all others in her village in Alanthurai, in Thoothukudi district, was paralysed with fear and panic. Today, however, thanks to the Disaster Preparedness Training at SEDCO (Scientific Educational Development and Community Organisation), a Thoothukudi-based development NGO, Prabha knows how to respond appropriately when natural disaster strikes.

<http://www.newindpress.com/sunday/sundayitems.asp?id=SED20071215062611&eTitle=Issues&Link=0>

INDONESIA: Through the lense of children

This month the Indonesian government dedicated the 100,000th new home in Aceh Province, three years after the towering waves of a tsunami crashed ashore in one of the deadliest natural disasters in history. Roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, seaports and airstrips have also been built in Aceh, and most of the displaced population have found new homes. Similar progress has been made in Sri Lanka, Thailand and other nations around the rim of the Indian Ocean, where the radiating waves that followed an earthquake off the Indonesian coast took 260,000 lives on the morning of Dec. 26, 2004. The disaster is over now, part of the past. But for those who survived it, there is no clear break between what was past and what is now. The tsunami is part of their present and part of their future.

<http://www.ihf.com/articles/2007/12/25/asia/tsunami.php>

INDIA: Vulnerability reduction programme in Tamilnadu

With the help of the Centre and World Bank, the Tamil Nadu government is in the process of working out a 'massive vulnerability reduction programme,' to prevent loss of human life in the event of natural disasters, State Social Welfare Minister Dr Poonkothai said here on Wednesday. "The Government is reconstructing disaster resistant infrastructure and with its 1000 km coastline, plans to set up 997 early warning systems, 150 evacuation sites and 78 emergency shelters in the next two years," she said at the launch of a book containing success stories of the survivors of the tsunami. The book, "Turning the Tide," is edited by senior journalist R Bhagwan Singh and has stories by Chennai based journalists. Titled "Atharavalitha Azhiperalai," in Tamil, the book is a joint effort by the UN Team on Tsunami Recovery Support, and NGOs Save The Child and Care-India.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/004200712111641.htm>

World Vision: Tsunami Response Final report Dec 2004-07

This final report outlines the World Vision India Tsunami Response programme and its impact on the recovery of households. A three-year programme was designed by World Vision to meet the recovery needs of affected communities, and support their longer-term rehabilitation. The programme encompassed seven integrated sectors: Livelihood Support, Infrastructure Development, Health, Education, Community Rehabilitation, Disaster Preparedness and Camp Management. Community-based needs assessments, a baseline survey and exit assessments all helped to inform the strategic plan for the life of the response.

<http://www.wvi.org/wvi/wviweb.nsf/maindocs/414D63627BCAA932882573A6006251A1?opendocument>

UNDP: "Half baked relied"—Tsunami India: Three years after.

UN report on its own efforts says only half the number of homes that were to be built have been completed so far. Lack of funds is the least of problems here. The UNDP, in its report, "Tsunami India: Three years after," says the UN agencies had \$44.51 million at the disposal, including contributions from funding agencies and countries. Of this, \$5.30 million was for housing, water and sanitation. The largest amount was for health, hygiene and education, though it is not indicated how many schools or hospitals were destroyed by the tsunami or how many were re-built.

<http://www.businessstandard.com/common/storypage.php?autono=306902&leftnm=4&subLeft=0&chkFlg=>

INDIA: Governments and individuals stay focused on the future

An unprecedented \$13.6 billion in aid has boosted rebuilding, but political and economic challenges remain three years later.

Three years ago, a towering wave swept aside the flimsy home of A. Muttama in Nagapattinam, India, and stole away her three children. Together with her husband, Selvaraj, a fisherman, she turned her back on the sea. After two years in shelter, they moved to Madras, where he found work as a rickshaw driver.

<http://members.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/lw/119849313670.htm>

INDIA: Beyond recovery: empowerment and mobilization through community development

This report highlights the initiatives by Swayam Shikshan Prayog in tsunami affected villages in Tamilnadu, India.

Download the report at:

http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources/SSP_3rd_yr_tsunamireport.pdf

TEARFUND: The roots of a real recovery

The majority have been survivors in some of South Asia's poorest communities. Livelihood restoration has been critical to get people back on their feet, whether that is providing boats and nets for fishing communities in south east India or chilli farming on Sumatra's western coast.

Tearfund relief and reconstruction programmes overcame monumental tasks in the weeks and months after the 2004 tsunami killed some 300,000 people. Thousands more were made homeless – half a million people in Sri Lanka alone. In the Indonesian province of Aceh over 40 per cent of people lost their livelihoods.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/SSHN-79YHRX?OpenDocument>

SAVE THE CHILDREN: Helping Children Survive and Thrive

Three years after this enormous catastrophe, Save the Children continues to stand by hundreds of thousands of children and family members who survived the disaster in more than 1,000 villages in five countries: Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Somalia. As a result of the tremendous generosity of donors worldwide, children are attending new schools, families are moving into new homes, fishermen have new boats to maintain their livelihoods, and thousands of teachers, healthcare workers and small business owners are getting the training they need to do their jobs more effectively.

<http://members.alertnet.org/thenews/fromthefield/SaveChAllii/9191a81bb152362aeb272d00ec9b0a02.htm>

SRILANKA: Status quo of the tsunami early warning system for the Indian Ocean

Report of the GITEWS-consortium for the third anniversary of the tsunami catastrophe of 2004.

The German-Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System for the Indian Ocean (GITEWS) runs on track. Main milestones like the development of the automatic data processing software SeisComP3, as well as the underwater communication for the transmission of the pressure data from the ocean floor to a warning centre are already finalised. Furthermore the calculations of the ocean modelling including the source modelling were completed and are available in a data base so that the system can be set into operation at the end of 2008. This positive conclusion is drawn by the GITEWS consortium consisting of different German geo and marine scientists on the occasion of the third anniversary of the tsunami catastrophe on December 26, 2004.

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2007-12/haog-sqo122007.php

INDIA: Rebuilding lives

Work is still going on to rebuild lives and restore livelihoods with the active participation of 400-odd NGOs.

NAGAPATTINAM district bore the brunt of the tsunami in Tamil Nadu in 2004. In the past three years, however, rehabilitation and reconstruction works have been going on in full swing to restore the livelihoods of the affected people, most of them fishermen and their families, and to rebuild their homes.

The government allotted 603 acres of land (497 acres of private land, 59 acres of temple land, 25 acres of donated land and 22 acres of poromboke land) for the construction of houses for those rendered homeless by the tsunami, at a cost of Rs.30 crore. The land was then handed over to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to build the houses. The new housing colonies coming up on this land are being provided with safe drinking water, roads, street lights and other amenities. More than 400 NGOs, Indian and foreign, are involved in the rehabilitation work.

<http://www.hinduonnet.com/fline/stories/20080104242509800.htm>

INDIA: A village revisited

Three years after the tsunami struck, a look at the way relief measures have shaped up in Pattinacherry, the worst-hit village in the State of Puducherry.

The people of Pattinacherry eventually did return to the sea, though it took them six months to get their boats sailing again. Six months, when they went through life dazed, six months when even their food, they gratefully remember today, was cooked for them by the volunteers of an Italian NGO.

The memories are still vivid. Against the huge losses that took them by surprise that December day, people still remember small details with clarity: the water level creeping up inside a house but stopping just short of the TV; people waking up in the nick of time... and death of loved ones that still brings tears. And though they have become a little stoical and philosophical ("When something like that happens, what can one really do?") there is that lingering trace of bitterness that even an hour's notice on the TV could have saved so many lives.

<http://www.hindu.com/mag/2007/12/23/stories/2007122350100400.htm>

FAO: Fisheries and aquaculture recovery

The Asian tsunami of 26 December 2004 killed nearly 300 000 people and devastated the livelihoods of millions more, many of them poor fishers and fish farmers. Indeed, fisheries and aquaculture were the hardest-hit sectors, with large numbers of boats, fishing gear, aquaculture ponds and support installations damaged or destroyed. FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has played a leading role in helping fishers and fish farmers in the region get back on their feet, building and repairing boats, providing replacement fishing gear, and clearing and rehabilitating damaged fish farms.

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2007/1000735/index.html>

"Tsunami Update" is an online newsletter from Disaster Watch, an initiative by the Huarion Commission and GROOTS International to support grassroots women to build community resilience.

Co-ordinated by Swayam Shikshan Prayog, India

<http://www.disasterwatch.net>