



NGO Information Bulletin



ADER NGO Information & Documentation Office

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Due to the number of NGOs present in South India, and the increasing complexity of the post-tsunami humanitarian landscape, ADER and the *Fondation de France* are collaborating to produce a bi-weekly English, French and Tamil NGO Information Bulletin.

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INFORMATION OFFICE UPDATE

A *Fondation de France* evaluation team will be visiting India from October 15th to the 23rd. Along with hosting their visit, the ADER - NGO information office will be organising meetings with local NGOs, visits to *Fondation de France* funded projects, and other relevant activities for the duration of their stay.

BI-WEEKLY NEWS RECAP

9 Months after the disaster, the tsunami is still making the headlines in India. However, the focus of government, the press and of NGOs is moving towards disaster preparedness, management and mitigation. Projects such as natural barriers and local level warning systems are being encouraged, and implemented. Meanwhile the reconstruction of permanent shelters is picking up steam.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU: STATUS OF PERMANENT SHELTER RECONSTRUCTRION PROJECTS

| DETAILS OF NO. OF HOUSES PROPOSED FOR CONSTRUCTION, CONSTRUCTION STARTED AND BALANCE –AS ON 16-09-2005 BY NGOs (Wherever MOUs signed) | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|---|--|-----------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sl.No. | Name of the District | Number of houses taken up for construction through NGOs/ Corporates | Number of houses which work started and stages | | | | | | |
| | | | Earth Work started | Foundation laid | Roof Laid | Completed | Total | Land Development and Cleaning | Balance to be Started |
| 1 | Chennai | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2 | Cuddalore | 2322 | 904 | --- | 280 | 207 | 1391 | --- | 931 |
| 3 | Kanchipuram | 3702 | 236 | 155 | 40 | --- | 431 | --- | 3271 |
| 4 | Kanniyakumari | 2554 | 913 | 700 | 175 | 25 | 1813 | --- | 741 |
| 5 | Nagapattinam | 17461 | 2133 | 318 | 195 | 50 | 2696 | 7319 | 7446 |
| 6 | Pudukottai | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7 | Ramanathapuram | 6 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 6 |
| 8 | Thanjavur | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 9 | Tuticorin | 716 | 229 | 89 | 4 | --- | 322 | --- | 394 |
| 10 | Tirunelveli | 2034 | 740 | --- | --- | --- | 740 | --- | 1294 |
| 11 | Tiruvallur | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 12 | Tiruvarur | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 13 | Villupuram | 1620 | 100 | 192 | 14 | --- | 306 | --- | 1314 |
| TOTAL | | 30415 | 5255 | 1454 | 708 | 282 | 7699 | 7319 | 15397 |

Source:<http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/housing.pdf>

Disaster Management

Disaster management policy likely by year-end

The Central Government has announced that the *Disaster Management and Mitigation Policy* is due to be passed in the winter session of Parliament, and will be in place by the end of this year.

Addressing a seminar entitled *Disaster Management: for a Safer India* the Minister of Defence said the proposed policy would have a new orientation, seeking to turn disasters into development opportunities rather focussing solely on relief and rehabilitation. Stressing the need for an effective disaster management policy, he noted that the Indian Government spends about 2% of its GDP in the form of relief and rehabilitation packages.

According to P.G. Dhar Chakraborti, Executive Director of the National Institute of Disaster Management 66 per cent of Indian land mass is disaster-prone and 10,000 km of the country's coastline is vulnerable to cyclones and other calamities.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/09/15/stories/2005091501730900.htm>

Gear up to tackle any disaster, officials told

Thanjavur Collector, M. Veera Shanmugha Moni, has called for preparedness from district to village level to meet any eventuality during natural calamities.

Presiding over a meeting to discuss disaster preparedness in the district at the Collectorate he said that the thrust was now on prevention rather than providing relief to people after disaster strikes.

People should be protected even before the disaster occurs.

He asked the officials to conduct a meeting to discuss disaster management at the revenue, division, taluk and village levels.

The Collector said that clear instructions have been drawn up in emergency guides, detailing the steps department officials must take during disasters.

Each department - Public Works, Education, Revenue, Health, District Supply, Transport and Electricity – have separate directives to follow should a disaster strike.

<http://www.hindu.com/2005/09/21/stories/2005092102510300.htm>

These directives are available at: <http://www.thanjavur.tn.nic.in/>

Environment

▶ **Pondicherry**

Pondicherry government keen on preventing sea erosion

Voluntary organisations will be encouraged to collaborate with the Pondicherry Department of Forests and Wildlife to plant more saplings on the coastal belt as the Administration is keen on preventing sea erosion and to mitigate the impact of tidal waves.

The tsunami that struck Pondicherry and Karaikal regions last year clearly illustrated the need for such natural barriers, and organisations who have advocated this need are finding that the political will and the funds for such projects are now in place.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/09/17/stories/2005091703980300.htm>

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

Bio-shield planned along the coast

The World Bank has released INR 10 crores to create a bio-shield along the coastline of the 13 tsunami-affected districts of the State. In sandy areas adjoining the coasts, 25 to 50 rows of casuarinas — *casurina equisetifolia* — will be grown to neutralise the force of giant waves.

S. John Joseph, former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and chairman of Society for Social Forestry Research and Development, said the project would ensure plantation of casuarinas on 2,000 hectares and creation of mangroves on 700 hectares before June 2006. It was started in last July by the Department of Forests with the participation of selected NGOs in coastal areas of Tamil Nadu.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/09/14/stories/2005091407550400.htm>

Fishing

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

Poor judgement in the construction and allocation of fishing boats has elicited numerous articles in both the local and international press. Articles note that the massive increase in local demand for boats has forced experienced boat makers and factories to produce new boats in record time, while encouraging ambitious but inexperienced entrepreneurs to enter the boat building business. The result has often been shoddy boat construction, poorly adapted to the needs of the fisherman and to the rigours of their coastal environments.

Cited in an article on *India Together* is a boat maker who went from producing 3 boats a month to producing 80, leading to a logical shortfall in the quality of his boats.

Sources: <http://www.indiatogether.org/2005/sep/ddz-leakboat.htm>, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/SYD276343.htm>

Media

The headline of the New India Express on September 18th was entitled: *A tsunami of Fraud? Relief cheques worth Rs 15 crore bounce*. The principle accusation was that 15 crore of donations to the Tamil Nadu *Tsunami Relief Fund* were not cashable, including the cheque of a famous actor. While these accusations were withdrawn in a subsequent article, (the figures were revised to about 4 crore) the incident demonstrates that tsunami rehabilitation activities remain headline news material.

Sources: New Indian Express, 18-09-2005

See also: 15 crores didn't bounce

<http://www.hindu.com/2005/09/21/stories/2005092116780800.htm>

Reconstruction

▶ **Andaman and Nicobar**

In tsunami-hit island, timber, cement models clash for sanction

A debate on the models for the reconstruction of tribal housing has prevented the 600-crores set aside by the Centre for rehabilitation from being used in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The Central Government's building agencies are pushing for the steel-and-prefabricated prototype houses that they have put up in the islands, while an NGO group is lobbying for traditional timber houses, which have been approved by the Planning Commission and the Home Ministry.

The NGOs have been insisting that the tribals are used to living in timber houses best suited to the local environment. The government agencies also point out that the tsunami has hit the timber stock of the islands. "Processed timber is not available locally and has to be imported from outside. Besides, it would require large-scale skilled local labour which is not available," an official said.

Source: New Indian Express, 18-09-05

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IEH20050917123032&Page=H&Title=Top+Stories>

▶ **Tamil Nadu**

A study on the status of life in temporary shelters, undertaken by the Swayam Shikshan Prayog, the Covenant Centre for Development and the People Science Institute is available online. The study was conducted in temporary shelters in the Sirkali and the Tharangambadi talukas of Nagapattinam District to assess the temporary shelters, and to come up with plans to improve them. The full study is available at

http://www.disasterwatch.net/resources%20links/Life_in_Temporary_shelters.pdf

Chennai: 900 families still without shelter

Eight months after the tsunami, about 900 families from the low lying non-fishing community of Srinivasapuram are still struggling for shelter. The families staged a fast on Wednesday, urging the State government to provide them temporary shelters.

As of now, many of these families are living at their relatives' houses while others are on the roadsides in various parts of the city. Most of the people, who had opted for rented accommodation after the tragedy, lament that they have since had to vacate their new lodgings due to financial constraints.

Many families were not available at their places during enumeration and hence they were left out of the exercise. As a result, they have not been provided with temporary housing. Said one man: "When the government takes time to construct permanent houses for tsunami-hit families, it should ensure that they get at least temporary shelters in the meantime."

Source: <http://newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IE920050915140615&Page=9&Title=Chennai&Topic=0>

Tsunami relief: 60 per cent of land acquisition over

Tamil Nadu Joint Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation Neeraj Mittal has stated that almost 60 per cent of land acquisition for permanent shelters in Tamil Nadu has been completed. Mr. Mittal said 842.02 acres of land have been acquired for permanent shelters and 499.47 acres are yet to be obtained. The government has spent a sum of INR 23.2 crores so far for land acquisition. While the first phase of construction will be over by March 2006, September 2006 is targeted as the end of the second phase.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/2005/09/23/stories/2005092316600300.htm>

Other articles on Reconstruction:

<http://www.chennaionline.com/colnews/newsitem.asp?NEWSID=%7BFD69FB08-C4C1-4D59-8B3A-212A3096EC2F%7D>

<http://www.hindu.com/2005/09/25/stories/2005092504370500.htm>

NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

- ▶ The government of Tamil Nadu tsunami website has been updated with several new documents:
 - A summary of housing activities of the Government of Tamil Nadu up to 31-08-2005: <http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/tsunami-relief.htm>
 - A *Guide to Legal Provisions for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation in Tsunami-affected Areas of the Coastal Regulation Zone in Tamil Nadu* <http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/tr-guide.pdf>

- ▶ The TNTRC website has been updated to include a model project for the reclamation of Tsunami-affected Agricultural lands, http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/Nagapattinam/Nagapattinam_NCRC.doc

- ▶ A survey on the efficiency and the origin of emergency relief provided to tsunami affected people in India and Sri Lanka has been conducted by the Fritz Institute. It is available online at http://www.fritzinstitute.org/images/FLpdfs/fi_articles_/2005/Findings_Sept2605.pdf

- ▶ A note entitled *Tsunami - Resettlement of Coastal Communities- Options and Implications – Tamil Nadu* – has been prepared by CARE India. It is available, along with other updates on Care’s activities, on the downloads page of TRINet’s website: <http://www.trinet.in/modules/mydownloads/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| Event | Organiser | Date/ Time | Place |
|--|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Training session: <i>Environmental Health in Emergencies</i> | RedR India info@redrindia.org | 17-10-05 to 23-10-05 | Pune, Maharashtra |
| Workshop: <i>Understanding the Sphere Project</i> | RedR India info@redrindia.org | 16-11-05 to 19-11-05 | Trivandrum, Kerala. |
| International Conference on Disaster Management and Trauma Counselling | Sudha Bhogle at bangaloreuniversity@counsellor.com | 21-12-05 to 22-12-05 | Bangalore, India |

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pondicherry

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Paris

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APPENDIX: PONDICHERRY GOVERNMENT CONTACTS FOR NGOS

| Pondicherry Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Office | |
|--|---|
| <p>Mr.B.V.Selvaraj I.A.S (Development- cum- Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner) Pondicherry Chief Secretariat Goubert Avenue, Pondicherry – 605 001. Tel. +91 413 233 4144 Email: bvsraj@nic.in</p> | <p>Contact person: Mr. S.Ganasen (Revenue Officer), Mr. M.Kandaswamy (Deputy Tahsildar), Tel. +91 413 223 3325. Email: bvsraj@nic.in</p> |
| Pondicherry Collectorate | Karaikal Collectorate |
| <p>Mr. G.Ragesh Chendra (Collector), Mr. Rajamanikam (Revenue Officer and Contact Person) Dept. of Revenue & Disaster Management, Saram, Pondicherry – 605 013. Tel. +91 413 224 8691, 224 9060 Fax No: +91 413 224 8759 Email: jsrev@pondy.pon.nic.in</p> | <p>Mr.Sundara Vadivelu (District Collector), No: 609/602,Collector House, Karaikal, Pondicherry State. Tel. +91 436 822 2941 Email: collr.kkl@nic.in</p> <p>Mr. Md. Manoor (Deputy Collector) Tel. +91 436 822 2467</p> |
| Government Contact by Activity | |
| <p>Agriculture, Land Reclamation & Related Activities</p> | <p>Dr. Sathyaseelan (Additional Director), Agriculture Department, New lighthouse St., Vamba keerapalayam, Pondicherry. Tel. +91 413 233 6977 Email: agri@pondy.nic.in</p> |
| <p>Arts, Craft Training & Development</p> | <p>Mr. Mathew Samuel (Director), Rural Development Department, Pondicherry Housing Board Building Complex, 2nd Floor, Anna Nagar, Nelithope, Pondichery – 605 005. Tel. +91 413 220 3601 Email: drdapdy0405@sify.com</p> |
| <p>Boats, Net Distribution & Related Activities</p> | <p>Mr.M.K. Surendiran (Director), Mrs.Ramalakshmi (Joint Director), Mrs. Mary Chinna Rani (Deputy Director), Fisheries Department, Botanical Garden Premises, Pondicherry. Tel. +91 413 222 8761</p> |

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|--|---|
| Environment, Natural Coastal Barriers, Plantations, Related Activities | Mr. P.Devaraj, I.F.S (Deputy Convenor of Forests) B.R. Balagandhi, (Deputy Director - Social Forestry), Department of Forests, Botanical Garden Premises, Pondicherry. Tel. +91 413 222 8088, 222 8304 Fax: +91 413 234 9304 Email: dcf_pondichery@yahoo.co.in |
| Social Activities | Mrs. Devi Mathews (Director), Women and Child Development Department, No: 50,Chittan Kudi Main Road, Sithankudisai, Saram, Pondicherry – 605 013. Tel. +91 413 224 4964 |
| Water Desalinisation & Related Activities | Mr. G.Vijayan (Asst. Engineer), Public Works Department, Water subdivision Subiya Salai, Pondicherry – 605 001. Tel. +91 413 233 6520 |
| Project Implementation Agency Office | |
| Mr.G.Thevaneethi Dhas (Project Director), Mr.P.Kandasamy (Joint Project Director) Project Implementation Agency, 5 th Floor, A-Block, Kamaraj Centenary Educational Complex, Anna Nagar, Pondicherry. Tel. +91 413 220 5566 Email: pia@pon.nic.in | |