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NGO Information Bulletin

ADER NGO Information & Documentation Office

No: 6, Chanda Sahib street, Pondicherry, 605 001. India.

Telephone: +91 413 520 0606 Fax: +91 413 520 0607

Email: infoinde@ader-france.org

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

The staff of the Information Office hosted a delegation from the *Fondation de France* from October 15th to the 23rd. The delegation visited almost 23 projects supported by the foundation and their local partners along the Tamil Nadu Coast.

NEWS RECAP

The past months have seen significant events which have drawn comparisons to or had an impact on tsunami rehabilitation projects in South India.

- 1) The earthquake that wrought devastation in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and parts of Northern India on October 8th is likely to have caused the death of 80 000 people. **The information office is in touch with several people who have contacts with local organisations seeking foreign partners in Indian administered Kashmir.**
- 2) The early onset of the north-east monsoon has brought unusually high precipitation to Tamil Nadu, with floods killing 46 people since mid-October. 1.5 lakh people were displaced in Cuddalore, Chennai and Nagappattinam districts, as well as in inland districts along the Cauvery River. The rains have brought reconstruction to a standstill in numerous sites, while flooding many temporary settlements. However, the stronger than usual precipitations are expected to accelerate reclamation projects for agricultural lands which were salinized by the tsunami.

Disaster Management

Mock drill on disaster management

The Fire and Rescue Services Department conducted a mock drill on disaster management techniques in Tuticorin to create awareness of the methods, which should be followed, at the time of calamities such as tsunami, earthquake and cyclone. A team of officials led by R. G. Jeyakanthan, District Fire Officer, demonstrated the steps that should be followed as soon as the region received warning on tsunami.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/10/14/stories/2005101405350300.htm>

Disaster management cell to be set up

A disaster management cell will be set up to take care of the short, medium and long-term measures to address the situation arising out of natural calamities, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare R. Anbumani said.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/10/16/stories/2005101604640300.htm>

Fishing

▶ **Pondicherry**

Fisherman killed in clash over sharing relief

The treasurer of the village panchayat was murdered and 5 others were injured at Nallavadu village in a clash over sharing of tsunami relief. The attacks followed a panchayat meeting in which it was decided that funds obtained for tsunami relief should be pooled and shared among the villagers. Some villagers had reportedly obtained as much as INR 9 lakhs of aid, and were against the proposal to share the money. The victims were attacked with sticks and machetes as they slept on the beach.

Source: The Hindu print version 06-09-2005, New Indian Express print version, 06-10-2005

Relief for fishing labourers sought

The All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) has threatened to resort to an indefinite fast if the government fails to provide compensation to fishing labourers as part of its tsunami relief measures. AICCTU president S. Balasunbramanian told reporters that the government had provided compensation to boat owners ranging from INR 1.75 lakh to 4.5 lakh, but that the workers employed in these boats had been left high and dry.

After the tsunami fishing activity had come to a halt for more than 170 days, putting the fishing workers in dire straits. Recently, fisheries workers were once again rendered jobless for over a month due to the research work that was carried out in the bay by MVGECO.

Source: See New Indian Express on 14- 10-2005 (Pondicherry Edition)

Media

Girl's remains found after 10 months

A. Anusuya of North Chennai went missing when the tsunami hit the Tamil Nadu coast on December 26. On Wednesday, her skeletal remains were found under a boat in the Royapuram fishing harbour, and returned to her family

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/10/13/stories/2005101308650400.htm>

Rain in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry

Cheer for residents: reservoirs fill up

Poondi reservoir, a major drinking water storage source for Chennai, is a sight for sore eyes today. The reservoir, usually with little or no water, now presents a picture of plenty. Thanks to the steady inflows from the Kandaleru reservoir in Andhra Pradesh, Poondi's storage has improved from 20 mcft to 642.6 mcft in the past 12 days. The early setting in of the Northeast monsoon has also helped. Although it is too early to say Chennai will have a comfortable water position next summer, the present inflows are heartening, water managers say.

On October 24 last year, the total storage in the city's reservoirs was 23.4 mcft; this year it stood at 1,557 mcft on the same date.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/10/25/stories/2005102514670300.htm>

Torrential rain in city leaves tsunami-hit families reeling

The city infrastructure may have coped well despite being lashed by heavy rain in the last weeks. But the underclass reeled in the flooding. The most agitated are the hundreds of families still recovering from last year's tsunami, and trying to find an improved livelihood at the rehabilitation sites. In north Chennai, residents of Kargil-Vetri Nagar — temporary settlement for the tsunami-affected — blocked traffic along the Ennore Highway after rainwater flooded their houses.

In the southern fringes of the City, another set of tsunami-affected people, living in temporary shelters at Kannagi Nagar had to move to higher ground as the water inundated the entire locality.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/10/14/stories/2005101418050300.htm>

1.5 lakh Chennaiites evacuated

More than 150,000 Chennaiites, who were left homeless by the inundation in several parts of the city and its suburbs due to heavy rains, were evacuated on Thursday October 27th. They were housed temporarily in schools, community halls and marriage halls.

The Chennai Corporation set up 25 relief centres to provide food, drinking water and medical facilities to the affected persons.

Source:

<http://www.newindpress.com/NewsItems.asp?ID=IE920051027230705&Page=9&Title=Chennai&Topic=0&>



20 relief camps started in Erode district

Compensation offered to victims includes free saris and dhotis. Those affected will also receive INR 2,000 for a fully-damaged house and INR 1,000 for partially-damaged house, in stark contrast with the aid offered to the victims of the Tsunami.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/10/27/stories/2005102702330300.htm>

Reconstruction

Critical gaps in rebuilding Tsunami-hit Village: Study

The rehabilitation work in the tsunami-hit districts is progressing in full swing. But some recent studies by Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (TNTRC), a joint initiative of the UNDP, the State Government and NGOs in the affected districts, brought out important issues including critical gaps in the reconstruction Phase. The studies have revealed commendable initiatives taken by Government, NGOs and other agencies.

But they also found some grey areas. For Instance, the study, undertaken recently at Samanthanpettai in Nagappattinam, where the tsunami claimed 150 lives apart from destroying the fishing boats, reveals that as many as 200 new fishing boats – more than double the number of craft compared to pre-tsunami situation – have been provided by NGOs.

Another startling revelation relates to the plight of the Dalits in the Village. The rehabilitation and reconstruction measures have made little impact on the 10 Dalit families, it says

Source: The Hindu print version 23-10-2004 : Pondicherry Edition

Rain hits construction of permanent shelters

The construction of permanent shelters for the tsunami-affected people in Nagappattinam district was hit by the rain during the last week of October.

Many workers did not turn up for work because of the rain, and some construction sites were too wet for foundation work to proceed.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/10/26/stories/2005102608450500.htm>

Sanitation

Officials instructed to drain rainwater stagnant in temporary tsunami shelters

Collector, J. Radhakrishnan instructed officials of the District Revenue and Public Works Departments and the municipalities to drain rainwater stagnant in temporary tsunami shelters in various parts of the district.

After holding a meeting with the officials, the Collector said there was a possibility of heavy stagnation of water in low-lying areas as well as in the temporary shelters during the monsoon. Besides accommodating the inhabitants, this might pose a risk for the spread of disease in densely populated shelters. Officials were instructed to drain the water using pump sets.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/10/25/stories/2005102505270300.htm>

Tsunami rehabilitation inadequate: study

According to a report prepared by the Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Co-ordination (Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry), post-tsunami rehabilitation efforts, especially in the housing sector, have failed to reach out to large sections of the affected population.

The study, carried out along with the Tsunami Legal Action Committee, was spread over 434 villages and hamlets in nine tsunami-hit districts. While the Government promised that 130,000 permanent shelters would be built, land allocation has so far been done only for 34,000 units. In 182 villages, no land has been allocated

Another study, 'Tsunami: the Hit and the Affected', done by People's Watch, on the exclusion of non-ocean fishing communities from relief and rehabilitation efforts, has found that 346 such communities have been completely left out.

Source: <http://www.hindu.com/2005/10/21/stories/2005102119000800.htm>

According to a report from Oxfam International titled "2005: Year of Disasters", that the number of people affected by natural disasters has climbed dramatically over the last decade, with tens of millions of people affected in the past year alone. The report says the response to these emergencies has been characterised by an uneven, often late and sometimes inefficient international humanitarian performance that has been undermined by inadequate funding for the U.N.'s vital appeals. In its briefing paper, Oxfam says that humanitarian assistance still does not cover all needs, often arrives too late, and is too often determined more by media profile or political criteria than humanitarian need. It concludes that these failings are condemning thousands of people to unnecessary suffering and death.

Source: <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=30675>

NEW ONLINE RESOURCES

- The government of Tamil Nadu has put a summary of their tsunami rehabilitation activities to October 17th on the Government of Tamil Nadu tsunami website.
<http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami/>
- The government of Pondicherry tsunami website (<http://pondichery.nic.in/tsunami/tsunamimain.htm>) was updated with several new documents (some of which have since been removed). Nevertheless, the following documents were downloaded by the ADER Information Office while they were available. Please contact us if you would like them.
 - Guidelines for the allotment of Plots/Houses to the Tsunami affected Families
 - Constitution of Technical Committee
 - G.O no 101 on the Constitution of Technical Committee
 - G.O. no 112 Procedures for disbursement of ex-gratia amount
 - Application form for building houses for Tsunami affected families
- A paper entitled *Tsunami – Contingency Plan for shifting occupants of Temporary Shelters in case of emergency*; Cuddalore District, August 2005 is available at the following address.
[http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/Cuddalore/TsunamiContingencyPlanCud_draft%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/Cuddalore/TsunamiContingencyPlanCud_draft%20(2).pdf)
- The Government of India National Disaster Management Website has been updated with a paper entitled *Preventive/ Protection and Mitigation from Risk of Tsunami*
<http://www.ndmindia.nic.in/Tsunami2004/Strategy%20Paper%20on%20Tsunami.pdf>
- The TNTRC website has been updated to include an Impact Assessment conducted by the Kanniyakumari Resource and Rehabilitation Centre
<http://www.tntrc.org/downloads/Kanyakumari/IMPACT%20ASSESSMENT-Post%20tsunami%20intervention%20in%20Kanyakumari.DOC>
- The University of California Berkeley has produced a study in collaboration with the East-West Centre at the University of Hawaii, entitled *After the Tsunami: Human Rights of Vulnerable Populations*. The report concludes that governments in all five tsunami-affected countries failed to establish effective mechanisms to respond to complaints of abuses, and international humanitarian agencies often failed to report abuses.
<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/stored/misc/AfterTsunami14FullReport.pdf>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event	Organiser	Date/ Time	Place
Workshop: Post tsunami changes in the fisheries sector.	Organized by TRINet	11-11-05	Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Workshop: “The Sphere Project - “Sphere in Humanitarian Practice”	RedR India Contact : info@redrindia.org	16-11-2005	Trivandrum, India
Training: Capacity building program on “Livelihoods Promotion and Market Development”	MART Contact R. Gopi Krishnan, Tel: 044 - 553 15594 mart_chennai@yahoo.co.in	17-11-05 to 19-11-05	Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
Seminar: International Conference on Disaster Management and Trauma Counselling	Sudha Bhogle at bangaloreuniversity@counsellor.com	21-12-05 to 22-12-05	Bangalore, Karnataka.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pondicherry

Laurent Tyers Information Officer Tel. +91 413 520 0606 Mobile : +91 98946 80458 Email : infoinde@ader-france.org	M. Muruganadam Assistant Information Officer Tel. +91 413 520 0606 Mobile : +91 98946 22240 Email : infoinde@ader-france.org
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Paris

ADER : Association pour le Développement Economique Régional Gionata Simioni, Programme Manager 31 Rue de Reuilly, 75012 Paris - France Tel. +33 1 40 24 03 03 Fax: +33 1 40 24 09 77 Email: contact@ader-france.org	Fondation de France Martin Spitz, Programme Manager : Email: martin.spitz@fdf.org Estelle Hédouin, Programme Information Manager: Email: estelle.hedouin@fdf.org
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