



ASSEFA
ITALIAONG



Status Report

ASSEFA Italia Supported
**Coastal Areas Development Programs in Tsunami
Affected Areas**

Submitted to
ASSEFA-Italia

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1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Tsunami - An Unfortunate Incident

- The tsunami that struck along the eastern part of Peninsular India, on Dec 26th 2004, has brought lot of distress and death tolls in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Hundreds of thousand families have lost not only their kith and kin, but also their dwelling places, household assets and meagre livelihood assets. The people inhabited upto 7 kms from the seashore were affected. These people include *fishermen, farmers* and *wage earners*, who rendered services to fishermen and farmers.
- According to the Govt of Tamil Nadu, the impact of Tsunami in the state of Tamil Nadu is as follows:
 - Districts Suffered : 13
 - Population Affected : 984,564
 - Houses/huts Damaged : 126,182
 - Loss of Human Lives : 8,010
 - Estimated Losses : Euro 380-450 million¹

The estimate includes damages to dwelling places, fishermen household assets and livelihood assets such fishing boats, net, motors. Losses in other sectors – *agriculture and allied activities* have not been included.

- The Govt of India responded quickly to the disaster by assisting in clearing up the debris, setting up relief camps for temporary shelter, providing cooked food and immediate medical assistance. The response of the Indian public including the civil society organisations, businesses, private individuals was overwhelming. UN agencies, International Organisations, NGOs have been actively involved in relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected communities since 2005.

1.2 ASSEFA Response to Tsunami

- ASSEFA, one of the pioneering development organisations in India, has responded to Tsunami immediately by providing relief and rehabilitation measures. The affected villages have been identified and involved in supporting the affected families through assessing their needs. This has been carried out mainly to avoid duplication of the support. Simultaneously, rehabilitation programs have been designed and started supporting through separate teams in each area.
- At present, ASSEFA has been working in the coastal areas of *Marakanam, Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Parangipettai, Kurunjipadi* and *Karaikal*. Based on the needs assessment, support is being provided to 25,572 families inhabited

¹ Source: study report of Feedback Consultancy Pvt Ltd

across 416 villages. This includes both fishermen villages and farming villages. The supports provided include education for the children, comprehensive development programs for their mothers and livelihoods assistance for their youths.

1.3 ASSEFA-Italia, A major supporters

- For this noble work, ASSEFA has received support and encouragements from friends and well-wishers abroad. ASSEFA Italia Groups are the first to approach and render overwhelming support to carry on these services. The representatives from most of the groups had subsequently visited the project areas through the tours organised notably by groups of Genova, Torino, Catania and Alassandria.
- They visited the areas where they support and interacted with the concerned project team members and the communities to understand the impacts of tsunami in their life and how they are assisted under relief and rehabilitation measures through ASSEFA. This report explains the programs implemented with the support of ASSEFA-Italia

Current Status in the Tsunami Affected Areas...

- *After two years of tsunami, normality is back in the affected areas. The fishermen, with their new boats, have started fishing as usual. The country boats, which were used before tsunami had completely disappeared. Fishermen including who had no boats, have now fibre boats. With inadequate labours, many boats are still lying in the beach. Some boats were sold in the neighboring states and were made good money. In spite of this, the fishing business has recovered and is back with usual vibrant and dynamic in nature. Farmers are also able to recover their affected lands with external inputs as well as heavy monsoon rains, which helped to wash away the salinity of the land. They also received support such as milch animals and goatery for their income generation.*
- *The women and children are also in the state of recovering. Women are mobilized into groups and assisted with awareness creation on health, training inputs and alternative livelihood support. This helps them to divert their attention from devastating incident and participate in the developmental activities. Support in terms of motivation, confidence building and necessary educational supports have enabled the children to recover from the shock of tsunami. Almost all children are now attending the schools. Realizing the lack of quality education, regular schools*

2 ASSEFA Italia Support – At A Glance



3 Status of ASSEFA Italia Support

4 Conclusion

- The support extended by ASSEFA Italia, has, in fact, enabled thousands of families to recover from the disaster and to do their normal activities in the three areas - *Parangipettai*, *Kurunjipadi* and *Karaikal*. The assistance to livelihoods through women self help groups helped these women to restart their livelihoods activities and support their families to recover at the earliest. Similarly, the educational support in terms of construction and managing the schools has helped these children to get quality education. In the meantime, PARTAGE, France, has agreed to support these schools expenditure in a long run through child sponsorship program.
- ASSEFA is grateful to all members of ASSEFA Italia for their spontaneous response to this unfortunate incident, which brought innumerable miseries to the local communities inhabited along the coast of Tamil Nadu. We believe that to raise the resources that You all sent to us has been a great achievement for You, and highly appreciate Your concern for the people that were affected by the tragedy. We convey our gratitude to You on behalf of the tsunami victims.

ASSEFA Groups Supported Activities in Karaikal

- In order to support the tsunami affected families, members of various ASSEFA Italy groups raised funds worth Rs. 10,198,858 and sent to ASSEFA. These funds have been sent to assist the affected families depending upon their needs. Accordingly, ASSEFA assessed the needs of the people area-wise and decided to support these funds for promoting livelihoods and children education in the Karaikal region. Unlike, other areas, limited agencies have been working here, although the demand for the support required is more. Hence ASSEFA has started working in this region, particularly for the development of women and children.

Karaikal Region – At a Glance:

- The area, Karaikal is a part of the Union Territory of Pondicherry, located in between Nagappattinam and Tiruvarur districts of Tamil Nadu. It consists of five communes – *Kottucherry, Nedungadu, Thirunallar, Neravy and T R Pattinam*. The total geographical area is 161 sq km and has a population of 1,70,640 as per the Census of India 2001.
- The major religions practiced by the local communities are Hinduism (75%), Christianity (11%) and Islam (14%). Karaikal has the highest percentage of Muslim population in this Union Territory of Pondicherry. Even before the French invasion in 1674, there was Muslims. They had settled here at-least several centuries ago, mostly the seafaring Arabs who migrated from their native lands in the early part of VII century.
- Agriculture is the main occupation of the rural communities, followed by service sector, which includes retailing, refreshing centres, repairing, renting and labourers in construction, hotel, domestic work and security. Fishing is the main occupation for the communities inhabited along the coastal villages.

Status of Women and Children

- The rapid assessment of the areas had shown that women and children are comparatively more vulnerable. The following are the reasons identified for their vulnerable status:
 - Many are addicted to the liquor for two reasons 1) Marketed in large quantity under govt permission 2) Liquor rate is comparatively cheaper.
 - The situation of women is more pathetic. Over 10 percent of married women are widows, destitute and divorced. The reason is being many of the husbands died because of health problems, arised due to drinking of alcohol. Moreover, the lack of awareness of the health problems has also complicated this problem.

- Similarly, destitute and divorced occur due to misunderstanding between two families, echoism between partners, illicit sexual relationship, sexually potent and dowry.
 - These women faces complex problems – *economically, social* and they feel insecure about their future as well as their children.
 - The habit of drinking leads to very often domestic violence, which affected the life of the children. Many children grow without proper parental guide.
 - Due to this, children, often, do not get proper health care services and also find difficult to concentrate in their studies.
- This problem has become more complicated after tsunami, which not only affected their livelihoods but also disturbed them mentally.

A Glance At Initiated Programs:

- ASSEFA has been working 38 affected and backward villages with the focus being given on building up confidence among the women via women self help group through awareness creation and support them with income generation activities. Further joyful holistic education to the young children has also been initiated.

• Livelihoods Support for Women

- The women from the affected and socio economically backward families have been mobilized under self help groups. They have been given orientation and awareness on various topics in respect of their development as well as their family. In each group, the membership is restricted to 20. If more women want to join, another group is formed in the same village. By April 07, 119 groups across 34 villages have been formed with the membership of 2012 women under this program.
- As part of strengthening group activities, group savings has been initiated. Accordingly each member save fixed amount every month, as decided by the group. These amounts will be rotated among the members to meet their immediate needs as well as for consumption purposes. In addition, assistance is provided to the group members to start livelihood activities mainly petty trade, small business, tailoring, fish retailing, dry fish making, snacks bar, etc. This enabled women to participate actively in livelihood activities and contribute to their family income generation
- The assistance is given mainly through groups, which uses this fund on revolving basis. Accordingly, the group collects these funds from the members with interest and rotate it again for the livelihoods activities on a sustainable basis. Further, the group has been trained to use the interest income, for their development activities such as children education and health care services.

• Children Education Program

- The initial discussion with the local communities, particularly women, has shown that they are keen to have programs for their young children. Accordingly, ASSEFA has started feeder centers to help their children aged below 5 years old in the following ways:
 - Provide health care services including supply of nutritive mix
 - Increase their vocabulary ability
 - Improve interrelationship among the children and their personality and
 - Of course, provide joyful environment
- During 2007, ASSEFA proposes to bring in 300 children under this program by establishing 10 feeder centers with each taking care of 30 children. Baseline survey has been undertaken in this respect, to assess the present situation including number of young children. A qualified teachers are being recruited and given training to provide child friendly services.
- Under health care services, planning to conduct health check up twice a year with the help of professional medical doctor. In case of health complication for any student, s/he will be referred with the local govt hospital for regular treatment. Nutritive mix will be provided regularly as part of supplementary. The teachers will be trained in basic health and given a medical kit box to attend common children health problem.
- As on April 07, 5 feeder centers have been started in Jeeva nagar, Varichikudi, Thiruvettaikudi, Kotticherri medu and Vadamattm benefiting 83 students with quality services. The local women self help groups are linked with these schools for management. Accordingly, the interest income earned out of rotating the revolving funds for livelihoods are being used to meet the recurring expenses such as teachers salary, teaching materials, etc...

Annexure II

Alessandria Groups Supported Activities – Revised Budget

Sl.No	Originally Proposed Programmes	Original	Revised Proposals in Rs			Total
		Proposal (Rs)	Annapanpettai	C.Pudupettai	Chitrapettai	
1	Children's Home for Orphans (5yrs)	900,000	450000	450000		900,000
2	Children's Home for Orphans (1yr)	120,000	120000			120,000
3	Child Care Family Support (1yr)	162,000		162000		162,000
4	Scholarship to continue Education	72,000				-
5	Health Check up	20,000	11400	9200		20,600
6	Sports Materials	15,330	8655	6675		15,330
7	Education Materials	87,250	33750	53500		87,250
8	Technical Education	51,000				-
9	Literacy Centre (1000 ft)	1,200,000	400000	400000	400000	1,200,000
10	Emergency Mat. Utensils / Nutritive Mix	111,111	55000	55000		110,000
11	Distribution of Milk	306,000	150000	156000		306,000
12	Mother & Child Health Care	85,000	40000	45000		85,000
13	General health Check up	53,440				-
14	Income Generation Program (IGP)	1,000,000	650000	627000		1,277,000
15	Books & Records	100,000	50000	50000		100,000
16	IGP Training	100,000				-
	Total	4,383,131	1,968,805	2,014,375	400,000	4,383,180

Annexure IIa

School Building At Chithraipettai Funded by Alessandria Group

	Particulars	Budget	Actual	%
1	Construction of School Building	4,00,0000	3,55,540	89%

Annexure III

Annexure IV

Annexure V

Annexure VI

Annexure VII