



ASSEFA
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Completion Report

Re-establishing the Foundation for Sustainable
Development of Tsunami affected Children and
their Families

Submitted to
ASSEFA Torino Group and Torino Municipality

Oct 2007

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1 Background

1.1 Tsunami - An Unfortunate Incident

- The tsunami that struck along the eastern parts of Peninsular India has brought in lot of distress and death tolls in Tamil Nadu. Hundreds of thousand families had lost not only their kith and kin, but also their dwelling places, household assets and livelihood assets. The people inhabited upto 7 kms from the seashore including *fishermen, farmers* and *wage earners*, who rendered services to fishermen and farmers, were affected.

1.2 Impacts of Tsunami

- According to the Govt of Tamil Nadu, the following damages had occurred due to Tsunami in the state of Tamil Nadu:
 - Districts Suffered : 13
 - Population Affected : 984,564
 - Houses/huts Damaged : 126,182
 - Loss of Human Lives : 8,010
- 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 responses from the public including the civil society organisations, businesses houses and private individuals were overwhelming. UN agencies, International Organisations, NGOs have been actively involved in relief and rehabilitation measures since 2005.

1.3 Collaborative Intervention

- ASSEFA, one of the pioneering development organisations, has been working with the rural poor for last thirty-eight years. Multi facet programs have been implemented for holistic development of the rural community. ASSEFA supports, at present, directly 6,33,904 poor families inhabited in 8,200 remote villages across eight states of India
- Being a humanitarian organisation, ASSEFA has been supporting the tsunami affected families since the beginning. Relief operations such as distribution of essential materials like dhotis, towels, shirts, bedspreads, sarees, night-dresses for women, cooking utensils and food products were carried out immediately. To avoid duplication, village leaders were involved during the relief operations.
- During this process, ASSEFA had interacted with various stakeholders and assessed the supports required for long-term rehabilitation. Accordingly, two-year comprehensive rehabilitation programs were designed and implemented in Chithiraipettai area with the support of Municipality of Torino and ASSEFA Torino group with the focus of addressing the issues of the right to education, protection of children and income generation for women in the nine affected coastal villages in Parangipettai area of Tamil Nadu.

- This report explains the progress of various activities undertaken under this project by ASSEFA for upto September 07.

2 Project Objective

2.1 Broad Objective:

To improve socio-economic conditions of the tsunami affected families through suitable development programs to children, mothers and families in a sustainable manner.

2.2 Specific objectives

- To provide holistic education and joyful learning environment for young children
- To enable women to come out of distress status and participate in improving their socio-economical conditions and
- To facilitate the community to participate in planning, implementation and sustainability of the proposed welfare programs

3 Project Achievements

3.1 Outreach and Coverage (*Target 1000 families*)

- The affected families were identified and supported with suitable programs under rehabilitation. By the end of the project period, 1224 families inhabited across 17 villages have been brought under the project fold and supported them with suitable income generation programs. The children were assessed and supported with suitable educational services. Regular health care services were also provided to children and women.

3.2 Holistic and Joyful Education (*Target 200 children*)

In the tragedy of tsunami, children were most affected. With damages to the dwelling places, household assets and education materials, the continuity of children education were affected. As part of rehabilitating these children and also to provide quality and holistic education, a model school has been established and run successfully in the project area.

3.2.1 Construction of Model School:

- A school has been constructed in Chithirapettai village. The campus has 3 acres of lands with the total built up area of 3,598 square feet. The building has been constructed with 'Child friendly design' cost effectively to accommodate the children. Towards this, the local children were involved while designing the building. Necessary logistics such as table and chairs, block board, fans, etc., were purchased for comfortable teaching and learning. Prior to the construction,

permissions from various govt departments were received, as per the statutory requirements. The status of approvals/Recognition is enclosed in annexure.

3.2.2 Enrolment of Children:

- The school is functional since last year. The eligible children from surrounding affected fishermen villages have been enrolled regularly. Prior to this, the teachers and the other field workers have been actively involved in canvassing for the child admission. The parents were explained the importance of child education and briefed on how this school education would be different from other schools, particularly govt run schools. The project team has also used the women self help groups formed, as part of rehabilitation program, in the catchment villages to admit the eligible children.
- As on September, 215 children from 17 villages, aged below 5 years, are covered under this program. For some children, pickup arrangement has been done for safe journey from home to school and back to home. While canvassing for admission, thrust is also given to the importance of educating girl children. As the result, nearly 49 percent of the total enrolled children are girl students. These students are provided with quality and holistic education with 7 trained teachers.

Teachers Profile

S. No	Name	Male/Female	Age	Qualification	Position
1	A.Malarkodi	F	34	M.A.,M.A.,B.Ed.,	Headmistress
2	P.Shobarani	F	24	B.A.,	Teacher
3	Veniladevi	F	24	B.Sc.,	Teacher
4	Magalakshmi	F	25	B.Sc.,	Teacher
5	J.Chitra	F	23	Nursing	Teacher
6	Kayalvizhi	F	22	D.M.T	Teacher
7	Nirmalarani	F	22	B.A.B.L.,	Teacher

3.2.3 Holistic Education:

- In order to recover initially from the fear of tsunami, these children are provided with additional caring, joyful and friendly environment. Apart from teachings regular syllabuses prescribed by the government of Tamil Nadu, life skill education is taught regularly. These include teaching non-violence, yoga and meditation, surrounding environment, livelihoods activities, etc.
- To make joyful and learning environment, games and sports, cultural competitions, arts and crafts, etc., have been conducted. Towards this, the children and the school have been supported with necessary text books, teaching aids, sports materials, etc. To enhance the reading habits as well as enrich the knowledge of the children, a library has been established with good collection of books, articles and journals.
- Health check up for the children by the professionally qualified doctors has also been organised regularly. In case of complicated/communicable diseases, the

children have been linked with the nearby hospitals for long-term treatment. In addition, to make these children aware of the personal hygiene and basic health care, the concept of developing kutty doctors is introduced. Accordingly, bright students are selected and given training in personal hygiene and basic health care.

3.2.4 Training to Teachers:

- Capacitating the teachers in teaching methodology, curriculum preparation and in subjects is necessary to ensure quality education. Accordingly, all the teachers have been provided with need based training with the support of the experts. Further, monthly review meeting has been organised among the teachers to discuss the performance of each student and teachers and necessary actions required for further improvement. In addition, parents-teachers associations have been formed, which meets every quarter to discuss the performance of each student and mutual supports required in developing all the children.

3.3 Livelihoods Support Services

The tsunami had brought in extensive damages to the livelihoods activities in the coastal areas. Fishermen, who had not only human losses, but also their boats, nets, motors were either lost or damaged. The daily wage labourers, who render services to the fishermen were also lost their livelihood. Similarly, women who had been involved in various activities such as fish marketing, processing of sea fishes, fishing net repairing, handy crafts and other petty trades, had also lost their activities. These families, particularly women were assisted with livelihood promotion services.

3.3.1 Formation of Women Groups:

- Women, being vulnerable, had been affected badly. They were disturbed mentally and traumatised due to the loss of their kith and kin, assets and displaced living. ASSEFA females' workers had series of meeting with these women and consoled them. As part of diverting their attention from the tragedy and concentrate on development activities, women have been brought under small groups.
- Initially it was very difficult to bring the women under Self Help Groups (SHGs). But ASSEFA slowly made inroads in forming women groups. Many women have been brought under the groups. At present, 1,224 women have been brought under 68 self help groups. These groups are mainly used for the following services:
 - ♣ Identification of children and their development needs
 - ♣ Delivery of services without duplication and
 - ♣ Participation in income generating activities

3.3.2 Strengthening Women Groups:

- Initially, the groups were encouraged and convinced to conduct group meeting, as and when required to identify the support required and deliver the same to the beneficiaries. As on date, the groups have evolved a system to meet once in a month to discuss various development issues. In the group meeting,

handholding trainings are given to the members in various aspects such as leadership, group dynamism, livelihoods, financial management, child protection, stress management, disaster preparedness and systems and procedures.

- They were also taken for exposure visit to understand how women in groups participate in income generation effectively in other project areas. This has given adequate and now they started participating in social events. The system of group savings and utilisation of the savings among the members are also introduced gradually to strengthen group activities. Today, each group has a saving in the range of Rs 15,000 to 25,000. They rotate this amount among the members to meet their immediate needs as well as for consumption purposes.

3.3.3 Income Generation Program:

- Supporting with income generation program is essential to accelerate the rehabilitation process. Towards this, ASSEFA has identified the missing gaps through women groups and supported the members of the groups accordingly. Under the project, 601 families were supported with income generation activities such as petty business, dry fish making and marketing, retailing of fresh fishes and for multi-purposes. These funds have been utilised on the revolving basis and hence the group collects the amount from the benefited families and use it for supporting other needy members on a sustainable basis.

4 Financial Status

- The proposed budget for the project was Rs 4,682,250. However, ASSEFA has received Rs. 49,51,130. The excess receipt is due to exchange gain. Out of the total receipt, a sum of Rs 51,36,016 has been spent towards programs expenditure. The excess expenditure of Rs. 1,84,886 has been met out of local resources. The summary of expenditure against budget is as follows:

Budget Vs Expenditure as on Sept 30, 2007 (INR)

S. No	Particulars	Budget	Expenditure
1	Investment for Schools	20,50,000	26,36,025
2	Teachers Related Programs Cost	4,44,000	2,86,634
3	Children Related Programs Cost	2,18,250	1,75,194
4	School Related Programs Cost	2,20,000	2,88,163
5	Income Generation Programs Cost	17,50,000	17,50,000
	Total	46,82,250	51,36,016

The detailed expenditure statement is enclosed in the annexure.

5 Conclusion

- The support extended jointly by Torino Municipality and ASSEFA Torino Group enabled thousands of families to recover from the disaster and to do their normal activities in *Parangipettai area*. 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.

- To ensure continuity of the livelihoods programs, adequate capacity buildings have been provided to the women groups in various disciplines. Today, these group members have been empowered in carrying out income generation programs and participate meaningfully in social services such as village development activities. Further, they have been linked with external institutions/govt department to avail any support as and when required towards women development programs
- For financial support, women groups have been encouraged to utilize the project funds, intended for livelihoods activities, on revolving basis. This would not only enable them to avail the resources on timely basis for income generation activities, but also help many more women to take up suitable activity. In case of any short fall in requirements of credit for economical activities, these women groups have been linked with micro-credit organizations such as Sarvodaya Nano Finance Ltd.
- Similarly, to meet the recurring expenses of the education program, the income generated out of rotating the revolving funds for economical activities would be used. This would ensure continuity of the education program.
- ASSEFA is grateful to the Municipality of Torino and the members of ASSEFA Torino Group for their spontaneous response to this unfortunate incident, which brought innumerable miseries to the local communities. 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.

Children Welfare Programs – At A Glance

Construction of Building in Progress



Children Activities



Women Groups Meetings



Details of Livelihoods Support

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Name of the Village</i>	<i>Name of the Group</i>	<i>No of Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1	Thamanampettai	Roja	20	40,000
2	Thamanampettai	Sembaruthi	20	40,000
3	Sindhmanikuppam	Udayam	15	30,000
4	Sindhmanikuppam	Deepam	20	40,000
5	Indira Nagar	Nadhikarai	20	40,000
6	Ayyampettai	Annaiherasa	20	40,000
7	Vandiyarpallam	Parasakthi	15	30,000
8	Kothnkudi Thoppu	Nagatha	17	34,000
9	Andarmullipallam	Pavai	20	40,000
10	Andarmullipallam	Malligai	20	40,000
11	Andarmullipallam	Chinnamaiyamman	20	40,000
12	Pettodai	Mani	18	36,000
13	Andarmullipallam	Sembaruthi	20	40,000
14	Thiyagavalli	Vanamyil	20	40,000
15	Thamanampettai	Sewanthi	20	40,000
16	Thamanampettai	Mahizampoo	20	40,000
17	Thamanampettai	Samanthi	20	40,000
18	Thamanampettai	Annaiindiraganthi	20	40,000
19	Thamanampettai	Malligai	20	40,000
20	S.N.Nagar	Thirumagal	20	40,000
21	Pettodai	Anbu	20	100,000
22	Nayakarpettai	Gangaiyamman	20	100,000
23	Nayakarpettai	Ommuruga	20	100,000
24	Nayakarpettai	Srigangayamman	13	65,000
25	Chitrapettai	Roja	15	75,000
26	Chitrapettai	Samanthi	20	100,000
27	Chitrapettai	Marikozhunthu	18	80,000
28	Chitrapettai	Kodaimalar	20	100,000
29	Chitrapettai	Malligai	20	100,000
30	Reddiyarpettai	Angalamman	20	100,000
31	Thoppukollai	Thendral	15	30,000
32	Thoppukollai	Gangai	15	30,000
	Total		601	1,750,000