

Call for Contributions for Relief and Rehabilitation of Tsunami victims in the coast areas of southern Tamil Nadu und Northern Kerala

On December 28th, two days after the Tsunami disaster, Mr. Rajagopal, Vice president of the Gandhi Peace Foundation and leader of Ekta Parishad called a meeting at the CESC Centre in Madurai. A small group of about eight people representing reputed personalities from the Gandhian field, from credible NGOs, as well as EP activists with experience in organizing mass movements was invited to participate. Some of the participants provided first hand reports of the tragedy that had hit the families along the coast. It was decided that 4 small fact finding teams should be assembled and visit some of the badly affected villages along the Southern Tamil Nadu coast, so an assessment of needs for assistance, etc. could be made. The teams were to report back in a meeting to follow on January 2nd in Trichy.

For the follow-up meeting in Trichy, the original group of people was expanded to 21 participants, representing additional key persons from grassroots level organizations with direct access to the field. The forum assembled was named the **People's Forum for Relief and Rehabilitation (PFRR)**. Based on the feedback reports provided by the four fact finding teams, it was decided to form the following committees in order to start immediate work in relation to the action needs identified.

- 1) Promotion of livelihood
(Mr. Velayutham, Mr. Nathan, Mr. L. Nathan)
- 2) Fundraising and proposal writing
(Mr. M Velayutham, Mr, M. Salethiayan, Mr. L. Nathan)
- 3) Monitoring Government action (Tamil Nadu)
(Mr. J. Kennedy, Mr. Kangasabapanthu)
- 4) Children and Women
(Ms. Ursula NathanJ, Mr. S. Syed)
- 5) Volunteer Coodination
(Mr Augustus J.)
- 6) Overall coordination
(Mr. Ariaravelan, Captain A. Ignatius) with CESC Centre in Madurai as the point of coordination
- 7) Liason with State and Central Government
(Mr. Dhanabalan (State), Gandhi Peace Foundation/Rajagopal (National))
- 8 International Coordination
(M. Hugentobler, K.Meier (CESCI Support Association, Switzerland, L. Bergeret, SOSPG Belgium, J. Carr Harris (LEAD India))

Comments about conclusions from the fact finding visits and implications for the approach to be taken by the PFRR committees:

It is well known that very many relief and rehabilitation projects are currently under way in South India, and that money is pouring in. The preliminary investigations of three teams of the PFRR in the area affected by the Tsunami disaster showed, that coordination of efforts and distribution issues are still a big problem. In spite of ongoing relief work there is much to

be done. In addition to gaps in the current relief operations, there are many additional short term problems. In particular, however, the PFRR wants to focus on rehabilitation with a medium and longer range perspective, to ensure, that – once the media loses interest in the situation – the long term well being and livelihood of the people affected will be further pursued.

Against this background and in view of the network and linkages that are accessible to the various member of the PFRR, the committee decided that its relief and rehabilitation efforts should focus on collaboration with individuals and groups in the affected area with few resources. These are in particular small NGO's and also local federations and women's self help groups that can build on existing structures and networks and are directly involved with the people affected. As it is clear that there is better coordination in Kanyakumari, the PFRR will concentrate its efforts on the Nagapattinam and Cuddalore area.

There are many important cases where one needs to keep a close watch: Money lenders may move in, migration may take place in a big way which needs to be properly directed (Tamil Nadu is known for migration and bonded laborer problems). It is furthermore important to make sure that there is no discrimination in rehabilitation based along caste and religious lines.

The following initial projects should be supported, many of which have both a short-term component (of immediate relief) and a long-term focus for rehabilitation.

Note: The cost/ expense figures below are preliminary, and will be updated continuously, following new information from the committees working in relation to the different projects.

Project/Activity Relief / Rehabilitations	Costs/Expenses	Short term Relief	Long-term Rehabilitation
Village clean up Clearing the villages (where necessary) (one month) mainly volunteers (approx. 100) 50 in Tamil Nadu 50 in Kerala Comments_ (GPF in Delhi and PFRR will send volunteers to Tamil Nadu) (one Ekat Parishad group working there)	Travel: 100 x RS 1000 Food: 100 x 30 days x Rs. 50 Material Total	 1,00,000 1,50,000 50,000 3,00,000	
School Children Nagapattanam Cuddalore 2000 children - school uniforms, clothes, etc. - Text books / note books	2000 x 500 Rs. 2000 x 100 Rs. Total	 1'00'000 2,00,000 3,00,000	Long-term support for children who lost their parents Creation of a Tsunami educational fund (Detailed proposal to follow)

Project/Activity Relief / Rehabilitations	Costs/Expenses	Short term Relief	Long-term Rehabilitation
<p>Involvement in Relief Work Generally relief work is taken care of by government and various agencies/organizations. The fact finding teams of PFRR have made the following recommendations, as to materials still needed immediately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blankets - Plastic sheets/temporary shelter - Mats - Lamps - Soap & toilet items - Carry bags <p>Provisions for emergency needs; as the team travels through, they will encounter needs and should be able to provide on the spot support among for many families in cash and in materials. An amount of 5'00,000 Rs. should be made available to address such emergencies.</p>	<p>2000 x 300 Rs. 2000 x 100 Rs. 2000 x 100 Rs. 2000 x 100 Rs. 2000 x 50 Rs. 2000 x 50</p> <p>Total</p>	<p>6,00,000 2,00,000 2,00,000 2,00,000 1,00,000 1,00,000</p> <p>5,00,000 19'00,000</p>	
<p>Advocacy and Monitoring of Government Programs Corruption, insensitivity, divestment of funds can be stopped by and advocacy/monitoring group. This group can influence the relief and rehabilitation policy of the government. Travel, media work, organizing consultations, publishing reports, public hearings, forming investigation teams, etc will be the main tasks. A fund of 500,000 Rs. should be kept for this role.</p>	<p>Total</p>	<p>5'00,000</p>	
<p>Rehabilitation of Traditional Artisans Nagapattinam/Cuddalore These are families involved in seaweed and shell collection. Many of them are carpenters making boats and knitting nets for fishing. Generating employment for all those families who lost their work will be a big task. Family survey, planning, etc. will take some time. One can plan to work with at least 500 families and set aside money for that.</p>			<p>500 x 5,000 Rs. Total 25,00,000 (Detailed proposal to follow)</p>

Project/Activity Relief / Rehabilitations	Costs/Expenses	Short term Relief	Long-term Rehabilitation
<p>Women, who lost their husbands/family Restarting life is difficult for these women. Fishing cannot be an activity in which they are involved. They should be supported either by some other employment or by helping them to sell fish in the market, etc. Options can be thought of and a plan can be made with the participation of each individual woman. We need to raise resources to support them.</p>			<p>500 x 5,000 Rs.</p> <p>Total 25,00,000 Rs. (Detailed proposal to follow)</p>
<p>Rehabilitation of marginal small farmers and landless people</p> <p>Small farmers need to reclaim their land. Landless people who were depending on farmers for work also need to survive. The PFRR would like to work in areas where TALM (Tamil Nadu Agric. Laboreres Movement), SAG (Social Action Group), Lafti (Land for the tiller movement) and Sevalay are working (mainly Nagapattanam/ Cuddalore area). An actual survey of the land situation and planning will take some time as the people need time to recover from the shock. Many technical and experienced people need to be involved in this task. Only by doing distress sale of land can be stopped and employment can be generated</p> <p>Family survey and planning in an area of 20 villages involving 1000 families Work on the land (soil and land reclamation and other activities /desalination, etc.) Wages and inputs</p>	<p>1000 x 5000 Rs.</p>		<p>3,00,000</p> <p>50,00,000</p> <p>Total 53,00,000 (Detailed proposal to follow)</p>

Project/Activity Relief / Rehabilitations	Costs/Expenses	Short term Relief	Long-term Rehabilitation
<p>Youth motivation/involvement</p> <p>Young people facing unemployment can go in any direction. This is the time to work with them and also involve them in the entire process of relief and rehabilitation work. Youth coming from the outside should mix with them and work together.</p> <p>An amount of 5,00,000 Rs. should be reserved for this type of work.</p>			<p>Total 5,00,000 (detailed proposal to follow)</p>
Grand Total (preliminary figure)		30,00,000 Rs.	108,00,000 Rs.

Exchange rate: 100 Rupees (Rs) = 1.75 € = 2.60 SFr. = approx. 2.00 US \$
1,00,000 = 1 Lakh Rs. = 1750 € = 2'600 SFr. = approx. 2000 US \$

For additional information please contact the coordination office in India at CESC, cesci@eth.net or the secretariat of CESC in Switzerland: info@cesci.ch