Tsunami Reconstruction Activities in Town Panchayats Strategies and Outcomes

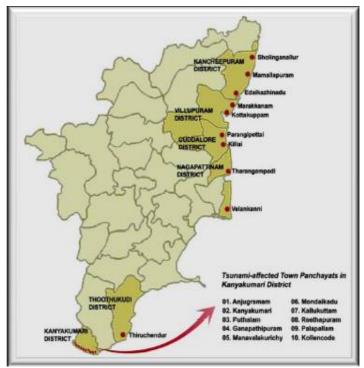
Background

The devastation unleashed by the massive Tsunami waves on 26th December, 2004 was unprecedented in nature. The Tsunami affected around 50 Town Panchayats in six Coastal districts Tamil Nadu. namely. Kancheepuram. Villupuram, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari Thoothukudi and Districts.

It was an extraordinary calamity of rare severity. According to the intensity of disaster, the affected Town Panchayats were categorized as

"Worst damaged" and "Partially damaged" Town Panchayats. Out of the 50 Coastal Town Panchayats, 19 Town Panchayats were declared as "Worst damaged" Town

Panchayats with heavy loss of life and property damages.



The Directorate of Town Panchayats under the aegis of the Municipal Administration & Water Supply Department undertook relief and rehabilitation measures to tackle the large scale devastation, by restoring the damaged infrastructure and the Livelihood of the people displaced by Tsunami.

Repair, restoration and rehabilitation activities of Infrastructure and Livelihood were taken up under two externally aided projects,

- the "Tsunami Emergency Assistance Project" (TEAP) funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at a cost of Rs.6357.30 lakhs with Loan and Grant component;
- the "Emergency Tsunami Reconstruction Project" (ETRP) supported by the World Bank at a cost of Rs.1934.87 lakhs with Loan component.

The TEAP project activities have been completed in all respects as on 31.10 2009 and the ETRP project activities are nearing completion.

TEAP aided by Asian Development Bank

The relief and rehabilitation measures taken up under TEAP encompass

- "Improvements and restoration of damaged roads, and repairs & reconstruction of public buildings" at a cost of Rs. 3504.01 lakhs under Loan component.
- Restoration of water supply and sanitation facilities including Solid Waste Management" at a cost of Rs. 895.04 lakhs under Grant component.
- ❖ Activities for restoration of the "Livelihood of displaced people" at a cost of Rs. 1267.80 lakhs under Grant component.

ETRP aided by World Bank

The relief and rehabilitation measures taken up under Loan component of ETRP encompass

- Providing basic amenities such as street lights, electricity house service connections at a cost of Rs.95.00 lakhs for the newly constructed permanent shelters.
- Providing infrastructure facilities for the newly formed habitations such as internal cement concrete roads, BT approach roads at a cost of Rs. 1062.10 lakhs and Storm water drains, at a cost of Rs. 223.04 lakhs.
- Construction of Public Utility buildings such as community halls, anganwadi buildings, buildings for Self Help Groups (SHGs), cremation sheds, bus shelters and library buildings, schools and shops for livelihood and recreation of the displaced people in the newly constructed Tsunami habitations at a cost of Rs. 190.05 lakhs.

Newly created habitations

The Government of Tamil Nadu has formed about 57 new habitations in 18 severely affected Town Panchayats for housing the displaced people through reputed NGOs and Organizations with the overall supervision of the District administration. These newly formed habitations were provided with basic amenities and infrastructure facilities under ETRP as mentioned above.





A Synopsis of Reconstruction Activities

Roads: Access and Connectivity





Under TEAP, a total length of 196.929 kms of damaged roads at a cost of Rs 3050.04 lakhs have been reconstructed, of which cement concrete (CC) roads constitute 84.703 kms and BT roads constitute 112.226 kms. The restored roads have vastly improved the access and connectivity in and around the affected places.

Under ETRP, provision of internal cement concrete (CC) and BT approach roads for a length of 45.00 Kms, protective walls, retaining walls and revetment have been provided at the new tsunami habitations at a cost of Rs.1062.14 lakhs.

Construction of Buildings

Under TEAP, repair and reconstruction of nine Public utility buildings comprising of one Community Hall, six Office Buildings, one library building and a Fish Market complex at a cost of Rs.452.28 lakhs were taken up. Of these, except Fish market complex at Velankanni Town Panchayat, other eight building works have been completed.

The reconstruction of a fish market complex at a cost of Rs 101.73 lakhs is slated to be completed by January 2010. The complex will house around forty fish stalls, sixteen mutton stalls, ten chicken stalls, ten vegetable stalls and ten grocery shops.

Under ETRP, a total of fifty nine public utility building works have been constructed at a cost of Rs.265.00 lakhs. All the works have been completed.





Street Lights and House Service Connections

Under ETRP, 1044 street lights in 37 habitations and 3451 electricity house service connections have been provided in 34 newly formed habitations at a cost of Rs.105.16 lakhs.





Water Supply and Public Toilet Facilities

Under TEAP, repairs and improvement of damaged water supply and public toilet facilities in the affected Town Panchayats at a cost of Rs.214.10 lakhs have been completed. This constitutes 34 water supply works at a cost of Rs.115.08 lakhs and 28 public toilet works at a cost of Rs.99.00 lakhs.

Apart from this, Tamilnadu Water Supply and Drainage Board has provided comprehensive water supply schemes under TEAP in 16 Town Panchayats at a cost of Rs. 403.18 lakhs

Under ETRP, Storm water drains at a cost of Rs 223.04 lakhs have also been provided at the newly formed habitations.





Under ground sewerage system

TWAD Board has taken up construction of underground sewerage systems under ETRP at the newly constructed tsunami habitations in Town Panchayat areas adopting Single Point Intermittent Sand Filter (SPISF) Technology in 25 habitations, Decentralized Waste Water Treatment (DEWATS) technology in 20 habitations and Fluidized Bed Biological Reactor (FBBR) Technology in 5 habitations. The components basically are comprised of an interceptor tank (collection from house-holds), a sewer grid and a filter bed with an underground drainage system.

Livelihood Activities

Tsunami not only took away lives, but also the livelihood of the survivors. The affected people were rehabilitated by forming them into Self Help Groups and providing them assistance for restoring their livelihood, enhancing their quality of life and assets to levels higher than the pre-Tsunami period.

SHGs formed	3387 SHGs 60926 members
Basic Orientation Training provided	2027 SHGs 36486 members
Skill Development Training imparted	170 SHGs 2279 members
Revolving Fund sanctioned	1648 SHGs 29736 members
Economic Assistance provided to SHGs	349 SHGs 6023 members
Economic Assistance to disabled persons	870
Training to Un-employed youth	343

An amount of Rs.1267.80 lakhs was sanctioned for the livelihood activities taken up in 19 Town Panchayats. Basic Orientation Training was given at a cost of Rs.42.72 lakhs for 2027 SHGs and skill development training to 170 SHGs at a cost of Rs.34.76 lakhs. Subsidy by way of Revolving Fund at Rs.464.00 lakhs for 1648 SHGs and Economic Assistance for 349 SHGs at Rs.510.13 lakhs and for 870 disabled individuals at Rs.87.00 lakhs have been sanctioned.

Basic Orientation Training





Skill Development Training







Economic Assistance to Self Help Groups













Economic Assistance to Disabled Individuals





Solid Waste Management under TEAP

SWM envisages an outlay of Rs. 688.54 lakhs for providing Solid Waste Management facilities in 18 Tsunami affected Town Panchayats. The works completed comprises the components of awareness generation at a cost of Rs. 29.00 lakhs, procurement of primary and secondary collection vehicles, tools and accessories, equipments etc., at a cost of Rs. 286.00 lakhs and construction of compost park with vermi compost and bio dung cubicles, landfill, and other civil infrastructure at a cost of Rs. 273.00 lakhs to meet out the underlying visions of the Town Panchayats.

Awareness and sensitization activities













Equipments / Vehicles for Solid Waste Management







Initiatives for better monitoring and accountability

In order to capture and record the details of the beneficiaries of the Livelihood projects, Bio-metric Identification process is being carried out by the Commissionerate of Town Panchayats by implementing a software application which is web based so that it can be accessed from various locations across the State. This will enable proper monitoring, follow up and evaluating the impact of the livelihood projects on the beneficiaries and serve as a data base for giving benefits for the others who have not yet received any benefits.

This bio-metric technology uses fingerprints and facial photographs along with data base to create foolproof identification of the members of Self Help Groups who have received benefits under TEAP.

After recording the details, the members will be issued PVC identity cards with all their information captured on them that can be used for further transactions with the Government or any other Agency.

Bio-metric identification card

The Government in G.O.Ms.No.260 Revenue (NC.IV) Dated 23.05.2008 have issued orders according sanction for a sum of Rs.24.33 lakhs towards implementation of biometric identification management system of about 33847 SHG members located in 19 Tsunami affected Town Panchayats. The above work has been entrusted to M/s.ADC System Private Limited, Chennai at a cost of Rs.13.73 lakhs, The work has been completed and bio-metric identity cards are to be issued to the SHG members.





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