

Beyond Relief - the Cyclone Response of IFSP

Immediate response

A cyclone hit Trincomalee district on 26 December 2000. About 40,000 families were affected. The cyclone caused severe damage to buildings and infrastructure. Poor people and



Family in front of their destroyed house in Veerancholai

almost all families living along the coastal areas and in remote villages in the eastern regions of the district suffered. The roofs of simple houses were blown off and most huts were completely



Signing for the received tin sheets

destroyed. Rain and flooding caused threats to health since garbage and waste water from toilets were polluting drinking water wells. Based on an emergency request by GA Trin-

comalee, represented by Deputy Director Planning and Project Director IFSP, IFSP started an immediate assistance programme within the overall rehabilitation and reconstruction activities of government institutions and non-government organisations.

Shelter and health

Assessing the situation it became immediately obvious that assistance for shelter and health activities had to be given utmost priority. The assessment of the damages was done by DS, GS, IFSP, SLRC, SLF, Rotary and other non-government organisations. Criteria and proce-



Tin sheet distribution in a village in Muthur DS Division

dures for assistance were agreed upon. In cooperation with DoH IFSP chlorinated wells and removed huge amounts of garbage. This immediate action prevented water borne diseases. IFSP provided support for the clearance of debris. A package of roofing material was made available for 2,125 families in 50 villages in 7 DS Divisions. The costs for the cyclone assistance package of IFSP amounted to almost Rs 10 million.

Participation and cooperation

Throughout the assessment of the damage and the assistance, close cooperation and coordination with government, non-government institutions and the village population was ensured.

Active and intensive cooperation by the affected people took place at all times during the garbage clearing and well chlorination. Close collaboration with the DoH was crucial. The distribution of the roofing material to individual families was done by IFSP staff in closest cooperation with CBO leaders, GS and officers from DS. Immediately after having received the roofing material people started to either cover their houses or, as observed in many cases, improving and rebuilding houses. The assistance for roofing material had a stabilising effect among the local population. The families realised that service providers and a project like IFSP are in place and support them. They further realised that own efforts to improve their housing would be worthwhile. Nevertheless, in some cases, weather conditions, procurement procedures and currency changes led to a late arrival of the tin sheets.

Beyond relief: lessons learnt

Though an immediate action, the health activities and the roofing package go beyond relief. They demonstrate that development responses are possible and necessary even in times of



A new and longer lasting roof

disasters. The cyclone assistance has shown that relief combined with development activities enhance the participation and the ownership of the affected population. Such kind of support contributes to stabilisation and normalisation. Future activities of all organisations should stress on the development dimension. Relief

only would gradually undermine the initiative and self-help potential of people. The cyclone assistance has demonstrated that a joint effort not only ensures close cooperation, but brings better results in less time!

IFSP Work Plan 2001

The work plan 2001 is the result of a joint exercise of IFSP and all partner institutions. Proposals submitted by the Divisional Secretaries and the heads of departments were intensively discussed at a joint workshop held on 30 January 2001. Most of the proposals related to the objective of the IFSP and hence were included in the work plan, subject to the availability of funds. More than 200 project proposals for projects were submitted. They were listed under the following objectives: development of irrigation and social infrastructure, improvement of nutrition and health, promotion of agricultural and livestock services, promotion of employment and financial services, and institutional support to partner institutions.

The work plan of IFSP recognises the absorption capacity of the partner institutions and the need for support of the community based organisations. Capacity building is essential for successful implementation of the project activities. The cooperation of partner institutions and their willingness to absorb and integrate the IFSP contributions has to be enhanced. Also, the participation of the CBOs in the implementation of the IFSP supported project activities has to be further promoted. Every effort is being made to expand the relationships of IFSP with the partner institutions and the CBOs.

The budget for the IFSP work programme 2001 is estimated at about Rs 100 million, which is to be shared as follows: 26% is provided by the Sri Lankan Government, 74% is met by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany through GTZ. The total food-for-work budget will be provided solely by GTZ. Development of infrastructure and the promotion of nutrition and health are the core activities accounting for nearly 74% of the total budget.



INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME
TRINCOMALEE

IFSP news is also available in Sinhala and Tamil

Town Office
42, Huskison Street
31000 Trincomalee

Tel. 026-22023, 22687
Fax 026-22296
Email ifsp@lanka.net

District Planning Secretariat
Kachcheri
31000 Trincomalee

Tel. 026-21028, 21955
Fax 026-21028
Email ifsp@lanka.net