

Overview

Anawim is among the Asha projects that have been impacted by the tsunami disaster in December 2004, though it suffered only physical damage and no loss of life.

Since the villages coordinated by Anawim are located in coastal Tamil Nadu, several of them were subject to partial or full flooding. One village, Senthilveethi, was just 100 feet from the shore and was completely washed out by the tsunami. In every case, the villagers were forewarned or saw the wave coming and were able to evacuate to safer areas.

Senthilveethi

Villagers saw the wave coming and rushed to Tiruchendur, and are now staying at a community hall in Prasad Nagar. However, the village – including their houses, boats, fishing equipment, an iron kiln, goats, etc. – was almost completely destroyed. According to Anawim, government funds are allocated only to those whose families suffer loss of life. Thus, for now, Anawim has arranged for about Rs 1000/family from Anawim as an emergency fund. Anawim has requested funds for rebuilding the village from Asha as well as the Japanese embassy. Per the request below, the total cost of rebuilding will be about \$19,000, of which about \$12,000 for housing is the most urgent. Senthilveethi has not been funded by Asha in the past. We are working with Anawim to better understand these needs as well as other resources that may be available.

Appeal from Anawim:

“On 26th December 2004 Tsunami hit the coast of Tamil Nadu and many lives and resources were lost. We are particularly concerned about Senthilveethi, Veerapandianpattnam in Thoothukudi District of Tamil Nadu, which is one [of] the sixty villages [in which we are] working. On 26th December 2004 giant waves of 40 feet high hit the village and totally destroyed the village. However the villagers were able to escape to safety and no lives were lost. However all their houses and properties were completely destroyed. They have moved into a community hall in Prasad Nagar far away from the coast. Local voluntary Youth group is providing them food. They have to also buy fishing equipment to go to the sea. They have to retain their livelihood resources. As a friend of Anawim we would request you to liberally contribute to their cause to rehabilitate the poor in Senthilveethi. Out of our [meagre] resources Rs.20, 000/- [has been allocated for] immediate relief. Senthilveethi has 65 Dalit families totaling to 350 population 200 male and 150 female among them there are 45 children who are attending our Supplementary education center. We have a self-help group named MalarSHG and it has 20 members, whom we have been helping with loans for income generation activities. They are an active group and taking care of the welfare of the community. Total loss is estimated to (65xRs.30, 000) = Rs.1,95,000/- approximately 4534 US Dollars of household resources and Kattumarang, sea-shell collection, lime kiln worth Rs.3,00,000. Their main occupation was fishing, sea-shell collection which is later converted into lime. They also had 200 goats and they were able to retrieve only 50 goats. This has also made a loss of 150 xRs.800 = Rs.1, 20,000/- which will be approximately 2791 US Dollars. However our basic commitment to our 20 members of self help group for whom we must build houses this will work up to 20xRs.25,000=Rs.5,00,000/- approximately 11628 US Dollars. We would request you to share your resources so that we could care for the poor in Senthilveethi by providing them housing.”

Mangalwadi

Villagers evacuated and stayed with the nearby Muslim community. Some water entered the houses, but there was no loss of life or property. Asha NYC/NJ funds this village. We are continuing to follow-up on whether there was even minor property damage which we could help repair or any other needs.

Other Villages

Some of the other villages (out of a total of 60 that Anawim works with, of which Asha has worked with 8) suffered more minor flooding. Water entered some houses, but villagers stayed in local schools and temples which were above the water level. We are continuing to follow up regarding any needs of these villages.