

Inter Agency Group – Tamil Nadu

Cyclone Thane Response - Coordination meeting at Cuddalore

Date : 05th January 2012
Time : 3.00 – 4.30 pm
Venue : Indian Red Cross Society, Cuddalore District Branch,
32, Swarnapuri Nagar, Imperial Road, Chellankuppam, Cuddalore

Total number of participants: 84 (*please refer the annexure for details of participants*)

The Agenda was reviewed and it was agreed to be as follows

1. Current Situation and Emerging Concerns
2. Way forward

1. Current Situation and Emerging Concerns

This meeting was a follow up of IAG-TN meeting held on 31st December 2011, in the view of cyclone and the emergency it has created, where the meeting on 31st Dec 2011 has helped in generating the process of assessment through various organizations. This meeting was facilitated by IRCS and BEDROC. Mr. Balasubramaniam, the District Secretary of IRCS Cuddalore District Branch welcomed the participants. The meeting started with the self-introduction of all participants. The participants briefed on the current situation and here the emerging concerns were also discussed in details. The members felt that the damage assessment has not picked up the expected pace and also a comprehensive assessment details is not available. Adding on to this it was also felt that this scenario would lead to poor response among the NGO fraternity. The participants also narrated the scenario post Cyclone Thane, where the damages were beyond expectations. This Cyclone Thane proves to be a complicated disaster as the impact of the cyclones has been widespread and has taken communities by shock, where in many places communities have not witnessed cyclone of this type for years. A Cyclone going too much beyond coastal area by itself brings in the dimension of the level of impact. Added to this is the fact the cyclone impacted in places where NGO presence was less coupled with no government preparedness mechanism proves beyond doubt that the affected vulnerable and marginalised communities are yet to recover. In the light of these impacts of the lack of a Comprehensive Assessment Details, aggravates the situation. Though the Government on its part is trying to consolidate the damage details, the damage assessment details are not available even after 8 days. The delay in knowing the assessment also lead to a situation where the community resilience level could come down, submitting to reality by just coping to the situation. The damages are very clear and are as follows.

1. Deaths – 42 in Cuddalore alone
2. Livelihood
 - a. Fishing
 - b. Agriculture
 - c. Horticulture
 - d. Industries
3. Shelter – Fully and partially damaged around 3 lacs
 - a. Huts
 - b. Tiled & Asbestos roofing houses
 - c. Concrete houses
4. Infrastructure
 - a. Electricity
 - b. Telephone
 - c. Communications
 - d. Roads
 - e. Community Infrastructure (community halls, schools, crèche building, net mending shed etc)

5. Children
 - a. Psychologically affected
 - b. Notebooks
6. Environment
 - a. Many trees uprooted (including forest along the coast)

Besides the above there are also other indirect impacts.

Updates on Data collection

An update on the data collection was done and following are the updates

- Rapid assessment done in Nagapattinam by BEDROC for IAG Nagapattinam was shared
- Similar assessments have been planned pan-Pondicherry and Cuddalore through the NGOs in these districts.
- The Common Assessment formats were discussed and feedback taken on further information requirements.
- Identification and training of volunteers, 24 in Pondicherry and 10 in Cuddalore, have been completed and assessment work is on.
- BEDROC agreed to share the formats with all NGOs who were present in the meeting.

Further, the members suggested that the following are the immediate needs based on the field assessments,

Following are the immediate needs for community

- Food (Dry rations)
- Shelter
- Clothing
- Drinking Water
- Candles
- Education (student Kit)
- Removal of Debris
- Sanitary Kit
- Health Camps

It was pointed by some of members that NGOs should have consultations with the children to understand their problems and ensure their protection. There also should be focus group discussions with children and adults to understand the needs for mental health interventions. It was also pointed out by the members that NGO Coordination is must to respond to this emergency.

Further, the members suggested that the relief kit should contain the following items and which also need to be shared with the Government, INGOs and other Stakeholders..

Relief Material kits

- Candles
- Water
- Food
- Tarpaulin/plastic sheet
- Hygiene Kit
- Clothing
- Dry Ration with Cooking Oil
- Kerosene

2. Way forward

The following decisions were agreed upon by all the members present

- Since there is no concrete data available at present, it was felt by the members that at least 200,000 families need immediate relief.
- The NGOs are to carry out the assessment in their field and share the same with IRCS Cuddalore District Branch (sec.cuddalore@gmail.com) and this will be consolidated with the support of BEDROC (annie@bedroc.in). The consolidated data will be shared with all members by IAG-TN.
- Once the members have some data, they were advised to share the details of Damage assessment and requirement details with their Donor Organizations
- **IAG Formation:**
 - District level IAG team is to be formed in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Villupuram, Kanchipuram & Pondichery. They IAG – TN will do the facilitation process.
 - IAG was formally announced in Cuddalore and Pondichery. IRCS, Cuddalore District Branch which has already been leading NGO Coordination and they will anchor in Cuddalore.
 - In Nagapattinam, BEDROC has been coordinating NGOs network, they will continue to do that and BEDROC will also support Karaikal in developing NGOs network
 - In Pondichery, HOPE will lead the IAG, they had their first meeting on 4 Jan 2012
 - In Villupuram, Kalvikendra will initiate the NGO Coordination in their district
 - In Kanchipuram, ITWWS will make efforts to convene a meeting in their district with the support of IAG-TN
 - All the District IAG will be facilitated under IAG-TN
- An team was formed with 14 organizations for advocating with the District Administration government for relief and further development in Cuddalore District

List of members for Cuddalore Advocacy Team

1. ICCW	- Mr.RajeshKannan
2. CREED	- Mr.Nadanasabapathy
3. CCFID	- Ms.Revathy
4. ITWWS	- Mr.Rajendiran
5. LC Project	- Mr.Ashok
6. WASH	- Mr.Selvaganapathy
7. BEST	- Mr.Lenin
8. Elders for Elder	- Mr.Purushothaman
9. CSD	- Mr.Arumugam
10. REAL	- Mr.Lawrance
11. BLESS	- Mr.Antonysamy
12. BETHEL	- Mr.Selvan
13. Freelance Consultant	-Dr.Muralidharan
14. IRCS	-Mr.RM.Balasubramaniam

- The members are to share their response details with all the members for meeting out actual need and avoiding duplication
- The next meeting will be held in the next week depending on the progress we make in the relief

IAG Convening Organizations

1. Tamil Nadu - CASA, Mr. Joseph Sahayam, 9840881268, jpsahayam.casachennai@yahoo.com, iag.tamilnadu@gmail.com
2. Cuddalore – IRCS, Cuddalore District Branch (Mr. Balasubramaniam, 93676 32250, sec.cuddalore@gmail.com, iag-cuddalore@gmail.com)
3. Pondichery – HOPE, (Mr. Joseph Victor Raj 9486086938, vrhope@gmail.com)
4. Villupuram – KALVIKENDRA (Mr. Chinnaiyan 09443047406, kalvikendran@yahoo.com)
5. Kanchipuram ITTWS, (Mr. Rajnedran)

Annexure: List of Participants

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