

Minutes of the NGO Coordination Meeting

Cyclone Thane Response

Date: 06th January 2012, at BEDROC Office, Nagapattinam

List of NGO's participants

1. CARE
2. IRCS
3. ROSA
4. DHAN FOUNDATION
5. SEVALAYA
6. VBEDS & PEDDA
7. REED
8. SIRD
9. SKAVNS
10. SNEHA
11. VESA
12. NDFSF

Agenda

1. Current Situation and Emerging Concerns
2. Way forward

This meeting was facilitated by BEDROC. Ms. Annie George, CEO BEDROC welcomed the participants. The meeting started with the self-introduction of all participants at 11.00 am.

The rapid assessment data collected from 35 coastal villages in Nagapattinam on 31st December by Bedroc was presented in the meeting for validation and feedback from the participants. The participants supported the findings of Bedroc. It was agreed that the village-wise information and the formats would be sent to all participants.

Major damages are :

Items	Partial damage	Full damage	Total
Crops <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paddy• Ground Nut• Banana• Black Gram• Lemon		3177 acres 55 acres 1130 no.'s 1 acre 50 cents	
Assets <ul style="list-style-type: none">Boats and Nets<ul style="list-style-type: none">CatamaransFRPNets	165 272	105 123	

Livestock			
Poultry		1500 (1 Poultry farm)	
Goat		10	
Milch Animal		4	
Infrastructure			
Kutcha houses	1226	82	
Pucca houses		69	
Electric Posts			76
Fish Drying Yards			3 No.'s
Fish Auction Centre			1 No.'s
Dry Fish			10 Tonnes

Efforts that Bedroc had taken in constituting 12 Rapid Assessment Teams in Pondicherry and 5 Teams in Cuddalore for systematic and comprehensive data collection was also shared in the meeting. The information from these districts would also be made available to all NGOs if they so required.

Discussion Points

1. As the damages were more to livelihoods than lives or homes and there were no relocations or relief camps necessary, the NGOs decided that relief activities were not a priority in Nagapattinam
2. However, in case of requirement, the NGOs would meet the needs on an individual basis.
3. Special care would be seen to support with education material
4. Compensation for houses damaged:
 - The GoTN have announced a package of Rs. 5000/- for fully damaged and Rs. 2500/- for partially damaged huts.
 - There are 1226 partially damaged huts and 82 fully damaged huts in the areas assessed.
 - The compensations are not adequate for the rebuilding of the huts. This will only lead to more vulnerabilities in shelter.
 - ***It was decided to explore possibilities of bringing such houses also under the perview of the Housing programmes of the State where higher amounts are being sanctioned for converting vulnerable houses to safe houses.***
5. Compensation for Livelihoods- Agriculture
 - The Samba season is the main season for cultivation in Nagapattinam. With the crops lost in north Nagapattinam, the incomes of the farming communities will be badly affected.
 - With irrigation water available for three more months in the irrigation canals, it may be possible to utilize the remaining period for growing short term varieties of paddy/ other crops like pulses.
 - However, two things holding back the farmers from clearing their fields and moving on with other crops are the official assessments that need to be done for ensuring they get compensations and the lack of wherewithal for procuring additional seeds and other inputs

- If the farmers can be supported with such inputs and an assurance that the compensations due to them will reach them, they may be motivated to try recouping their losses
- **Decided to explore such recouping strategies with the farmers and the agricultural department**

6. Compensation for other livelihoods

While assets damaged or lost were being compensated by the Govt., the indirectly affected were usually left out of the compensation package. The indirectly affected in Thane Cyclone are:

- ◇ Agri. Laborers
- ◇ Fishing boat crew members
- ◇ Fresh Fish vendors,
- ◇ Dry fish vendors

- Compensation packages should be prepared not only on the basis of assets lost but also for the persons who lost their livelihood.
 - **It was decided to meet with the Policy makers and explore possibilities of increasing the NREGA component in the affected villages so that income generation for those whose livelihoods have been affected can be sure of some income generation mechanism.**

7. As a preparedness plan, CARE, SIFFS and SNEHA agreed to work together with Insurance agencies to see if insurance packages could be designed that would support such people in the aftermath of a disaster
8. There was a lack of information from Karaickal, which though positioned within Nagapattinam, is a part of the Pondicherry Union. VBEDS agreed to collect the damage assessment in Kariakkal
9. Decided that a team of NGOs would try to meet the Collector at the earliest.

Meeting came to an end by 1 pm