

Mullativu District

Affected Divisional Secretary Divisions

Maritimepattu

Affected People

- Number of affected families : **7,421**
- Total number of affected persons: **27,604**
- Total number of deaths: **3,323**
- Number of persons who were in welfare camps at the initial stage: **11,993**
- Number of welfare camps at initial stage : **21**

Damages to Different Sectors

Sector	Nature of the Damage	Estimated Cost (Rs. Mn)
Housing	5,033 houses were fully damaged, 424 houses were partially damaged	3,125.0
Road	70 km. of Local Government roads were damaged, roads under RDA & RDD were damaged.	3,158.0
Water supply	Water supply system in the Mullaitivu town was damaged.	450.0
Agriculture	1,600 acres of lands have been affected, government buildings under Department of Agriculture have been damaged, coconut and Palm cultivation have been affected.	224.0
Education	14 schools buildings were damaged.	732.0
Health	Hospital buildings and Equipments have been damaged.	8.0
Fisheries	Fishing villages, fishing boats and gears were damaged.	327.0
Electricity	Existing power supply under off grid system was completely damaged.	150.0
Tourism	Attractive sites were entirely demolished.	500.0
Posts and Telecommunication	No telecommunication facilities available at present, postal facilities in the affected areas were damaged.	25.0
Administration (Public Institutions)	Kachcheri Building, Quarters of Public Officers, Divisional Secretariat Office at Maritimepattu, GSO's Office were destroyed.	276.0
Other	Buildings of Co-operatives, Local Government Authorities, Dept. of Animal Production & Health, National Housing Authority were damaged.	519.0
Total		9,494.0

Actions Taken

- The affected families were given shelter in 21 Welfare camps.
- Immediate food supply was assured for displaced population through MPCs stores and World Food Programme.
- The entire Government machinery focused its attention to speed up the recovery process within a shorter period of time.
- The financial assistance of Rs. 329 million has been provided by the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Relief and Reconstruction to meet the urgent needs.
- The refuge families were given individual temporary shelters.
- 1600 temporary huts are under construction with the funds allocated by the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

Confronted Problems and Issues

- Construction of houses involves in large amount of raw materials. It is difficult to obtain them locally and therefore need to transport them from out side the district.
- The acute shortage of skilled labour like masons and carpenters.
- Still debris clearance of the town area and other villages are not completed. This has become an obstruction for the resettlement and the development of the city.
- The big pressure from the business people and the small enterprisers on payment of compensation on damaged properties and on easy access loan facilities to recommence their business activities.

Challenges ahead

- 3,011 plots of land required to relocate the affected families within the buffer zone. Only a small portion of state land is available for this purpose.
- A considerable amount of money is required for the purpose of acquiring lands from the private owners.
- Shifting of Mulaitivu town is the big challenge and it will need large investments from both private and public sectors.

Way Forward

- Implementation of the development activities with the fund to be allocated by the donors.
- Fund to be allocated by the Government to restore the District Development
- Increasing & strengthening the capacity of the local NGO's & CBO's.
- Implementing Social Mobilization Programmes among the affected peoples.
- Re-building the capacity of the Government Departments & Institution.
- Training Programmes to the officers.
- Training Programmes on skill development activities.

*Post Tsunami Recovery Process
District Experience and Challenges Ahead*

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EXPERIENCE AND CHALLENGES AHEAD MULLAITIVU DISTRICT

Introduction

Since the creation of the district of Mullaitivu in 1979, it has experienced devastating threats by natural disasters, and man made disasters by ethnic war. The district suffered lack of proper communication due to non availability of Telephones, - transport difficulties due to bad roads, electricity and other basic needs culminating in widespread destruction of properties, and want of adequate competent staff to manage the state affairs. Mullitivu town area was deserted due to the displacement of the general public as well as the Government Institutions and the business community due to the security operations in 1990, and remained a prohibited zone for civilian population until the year 2002, when, with the signing of MOU between the Government and the LTTE, the town was resuscitated and attained normally.

On 26-12-2004 the Tsunami tidal waves once again caused enormous destruction for private and state property and a death of about 3500 people, within a small area which is the thickly populated town of the district, though the district administration is very weak in comparison to other districts, by the zeal and dedication of the officers in the district, the challenge was met.

The families affected directly by tsunami are 5827 consist the members of 22,602 and also economically affected approximately 1005 families consisting 4413 members. The public servants too affected 589 and 11 of them were died.

The people of the surrounding areas and the LTTE assisted the administration in providing immediate needs to the tsunami victims. The days following 26/12 saw the influx of relief supplies from several parts of the country. It is an opportunity at this juncture to thank all who had contributed towards relieving the sufferings of the tsunami victims.

Damages on state institutions

Most of the Government Institutions had their district offices in Mullaitive town which is very close to the coastal line and the following departments lost all their documents, records inclusive the buildings where they were housed. Departments that met wholesale destruction are:

- 1. The District Secretariat /Kachcheri**
- 2. Assistant Govt. Agent's Office – Maritimpattu 9(Newly built building was in progress and the functioning building).**
- 3. The Department of Zonal education – Mullaitivu (Newly built building).**
- 4. Agriculture Department (Newly built building was in progress).**
- 5. Agrarian Service Department.**
- 6. The District Superintendent office building, Postal Mullaitivu and Post Office Mullaitivu.**
- 7. Department of buildings, newly constructed office.**
- 8. Almost all the living quarters for the staff of AGA's office and Kachcheri including the GA's residency (Newly constructed buildings and the old buildings).**
- 9. Mullaitivu Maha Vidyalayam.**
- 10. Mullaitivu Roman Catholic School (Convent).**
- 11. Kallapadu, GTM school.**

12. Office of the Road Development Department, newly constructed office.
13. Office of the Road Development Authority.
14. Office of the Local Government Department.
15. Predeshiya Sabha, Matitimepattu.
16. MOH Office.
17. Assistant Commissioner Co-operative Development.
18. Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry.
19. Assistant Commissioner, Agrarian Development.
20. District Registrar office, (Registration of land, birth, marriage & death).
21. Assistant Director, Fisheries.

The other Govt. offices too suffered heavy losses of assets, documents etc. It would be appropriate to mention here that all most all the computer records were lost by the soaking of CPUs in sea water. This has resulted heavy manual work load for the staff to prepare the summary of accounts for December 2004. Similarly the other departments too did their work manually in December 2004.

Losses to private properties

The dwelling houses of the fishermen small and medium sized congested along the coast were completely washed away by the tidal waves, causing heavy losses to the average and poor households. The boats, out boat motors, fishing gears, were also damaged and washed away by the sea rendering the surrounding fishermen destitute. As the tidal waves reached more than 2 km. into the land several business establishments and private assets suffered heavy losses. It is estimated that 5457 families have lost their dwellings.

Loss of life and human suffering

Within a short time of about 15-30 minutes the sea had swallowed more than 3000 precious lives and left thousands injured and ailing. In the absence of proper medical facilities within the district, the injured had to be taken to Kilinochchi, Jaffna and Vavuniya, a distance of 50-80 km. for emergency and further treatment.

The death Categories are as follows according to the death registration by the district registrar:

1. Male	882
2. Female	1146
3. Children (Below 15 years)	1118

Total 3146

The deaths and missing of this district are: 3,323

Post tsunami relief work

Temporary sheds

The tsunami affected population was given shelter in twenty one camps established in Mulliyawalai and Puthukkudiyirruppu area about 10-15 km. away from the sea shore. Immediate food supply was given from the stores of the MPCs and the world food program. After 3 days food supplies from Colombo and other places started flowing in and feeding the refugees was not a serious problem. The entire Government machinery focused its attention to the issue and at the end of February the refugee families were given individual temporary shelters, in places closer to their former dwellings, allowing the schools to function where refugee camps were established. The contribution by the NGOO and INGOO towards achieving this task was commendable. At present all the displaced families are living in individual temporary huts numbering 2124 at 21 locations constructed for the purpose. A further 1600 temporary huts are under construction with the fund allocated by the Ministry of Rehabilitation and these shelters also in progress to provide accommodation to the sharing families with friends and relatives to avoid problems to reside within their houses.

Access roads

The road belongs to all three authorities like RDA,RDD and Local government are severely damaged and the people are facing difficulties to move from place to place as the vehicle owners are reluctant to operate their services

Post and communication

The arrangements were made to restore the postal activities are not satisfied due to inadequate facilities in this district. No proper building facilities, staff, furniture, vehicles and equipment available. No communication facilities are available in this district and the installation of 30 telephones to provide communication facilities to the departments are in progress and it is observed as very slow

Accommodation for staff

The officers of the various departments are facing difficulties for their accommodation and daily they are traveling 10 k.m. to come for office and they need to spend more time for their traveling

Filling of vacancies and providing vehicle facilities

It is necessary to fill the existing vacancies in all departments and providing vehicle to serve the affected people by the government official without any inconveniences.

Water supply

Almost all wells were polluted and no way to get the purified water from this area. Establishing water supply scheme is very essential.

Electricity supply

No electrical power supply from electricity board and using generators are very expensive and the affected people are unable to afford the electrical expenses.

Damages of agriculture lands

Approximately 2000 acres lands were damaged by salt water and the technical supports may restore the agricultural activities in this area. The main cash crops such as coconut and Palmyra trees were mostly damaged and re-plantation of these crops is essential. This situation has created the shortage of timber items for the purpose of the housing and other needs.

Challenges to meet the relocation program

3011 plots of land required to relocate the affected families within the buffer zone and large amount of land to be utilized for this purpose. Action already initiated to acquire the necessary land from private parties. Only a small portion of the state land is available for this purpose. A considerable amount should be paid by the government for the purpose to pay the compensation to the private parties to acquire the above lands. Construction of the houses will be involved a large amount of ray materials and it is difficult to obtain locally and need to transport from out side of this district except sand. The acute shortage of skill laborers like masons and carpenters are in this district and the training program for skill training to be accelerated to solve this problem. Still debris clearance of the town area and other villages are not completed and it is an obstruction for the resettlement and the development of the city.

Problem faced by the fishing community

75% of the affected people are from the fishing community and they lost their fishing boats and other equipments and facing very hardship to restart their life. Priority should be given to them to restart their economic activities immediately.

Damages to the business and small enterprises

The big pressure received from the business people and the small enterprisers for the payment of compensation and the facilities to obtain easy access loan to restart their activities.

More and more needs are required for the development of the tsunami affected area of this district for private and public sector. Shifting of Mullaitivu town is the big challenge for the administrative machinery and it will be involved a large amount of financial assistance. The financial assistance Rs.328.805 Mn. has been provided by the Ministry of rehabilitation, relief and reconciliation to meet the following urgent needs:

- i. funeral expenses**
- ii. payment for kitchen utensils**
- iii. Needs for school kids**
- iv. Maintenance of welfare centres, providing water supply and sanitation facilities.**
- v. Issue of food stamps**
- vi. Payment for cooked meals**
- vii. Financial provision to construct the temporary shelters**
- viii. Debris clearance.**

Finally it has been observed that considerable attention must be taken by the relevant authorities to preserve the coastal area to protect from the future threats such as Tsunami, sea erosion, water pollution caused by the sea water.