

**COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES WITH
TSUNAMI AFFECTED COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN
TAMIL NADU, INDIA**

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

(April 2006 to September 2007)

Project No: 321-901-1033 CA
Project Title: Community Health Initiatives with Tsunami affected Coastal
Communities in Tamil Nadu, India
Project Location: Pazhaverkadu, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu

Community Health Cell

Society for Community Health Awareness, Research and Action
No.367, Srinivasa Nilaya, Jakkasandra 1st Main, 1st Block,
Koramangala Bangalore-560034

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

(Inclusive of activity report from April 1, 2007 to September 30, 2007)

COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES WITH THE PEOPLE'S ACTION MOVEMENT AS COMMUNITIES IN TAMIL NADU, INDIA

1.0 Background

Community Health Cell (CHC) unit of Society for Community Health, Assessment, Research and Action (SOCHARA) has a long history of responding to disasters, starting from several days for some. Members of CHC have responded in various capacities to the following disasters: Bhopal Gas Disaster, Madhya Pradesh, India (1984); Bangladesh cyclone, Coastal Bangladesh (1991); Latur earthquake, Maharashtra, India (1993); Orissa super cyclone, Orissa, India (1999); Gujarat earthquake, Gujarat, India (2001); Gujarat riots, Gujarat, India (2002) and more recently the disaster following the Tsunami hitting coastal Tamil Nadu, India (2004). These responses have been a part of citizen initiatives from Bangalore, with multi-disciplinary teams including doctors. However, they have usually been short term responses extending up to a maximum of three months. This time after the tsunami, CHC / SOCHARA decided to respond affirmatively to the request from partners in India and abroad for a longer term involvement with the affected communities.

CHC established a project extension unit in Chennai and placed two of its staff members in Chennai. The team members and others from CHC traveled to Tamil Nadu coast to do the need assessment. After traveling and discussing with various partners the team decided to concentrate on the Pazhaverkadu region of Thiruvallur district in Tamil Nadu, India.

The Pazhaverkadu area was introduced to CHC by Peoples Action Movement, a partner of New Entity for Social Action who was one of the initial partners CHC worked with. CHC began work in Pazhaverkadu in February 2005. One of the early initiatives was the formation of Pazhaverkadu Action Network (PAN) which is a network formed of all the NGOs working in the Pazhaverkadu area after the tsunami, and is aimed at coordinating relief and rehabilitation activities, as well as a facilitation of advocacy activities in the area. The subsequent work of CHC in the area was evolved in constant discussion with the various communities and NGOs (now PAN) in the area.

The initiative received funding support from Misereor. The project started in the month of June 2006 and extended for a period of 15 months up to September 2007.

1.1 The overall objectives of the project were as follows:

1. To help rebuild coastal communities affected by the tsunami in selected parts of Tamil Nadu, India by using a community health perspective and approach.
 - To undertake community capacity building for health in selected hamlets.
 - To play a facilitative role through networking with local partner organizations and networks.