

Livelihood support by NGOs and international agencies: effectiveness, equity and quality

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Ongoing study on impact of tsunami aid

- Interface between international agencies and Sri Lankan governance institutions, NGOs and communities: humanitarian principles versus practice
- No specific livelihood focus in study
- Today's presentation:
 - five community studies in five districts in the North, East and South
 - focus on beneficiary+agency interface-50% of INGOs say that lack of information is the main obstacle to effective aid delivery

Focus of aid delivery

- Restoring past livelihoods
- Finding alternative livelihoods
- New income generating activities
- Cash for work
- Employment in aid agencies
- Fishing versus non-fishing livelihoods
- Standardisation of aid packages

Common livelihood interventions

- Boats, motors and nets
- Push cycles, fish boxes, weighing scales for fish traders
- Tool kits for mason, carpenters, electricians
- Utensils (paddy boiling pots, string hopper machines etc.)
- Sewing machines
- Seeds, animals, agricultural implements
- Flour grinding machines, blenders
- Cash grants (Rs. 5000-Rs. 10 000)
- Cash for work
- Subsidised/interest free loans
- Vocational training

Community concerns: beneficiary selection

- Production of beneficiary lists by local government authorities – inaccurate, incomplete, manipulated
- CBO distribution to friends and relatives
- Biased towards resourceful people, 'living by the roadside'
- Non-affected people
- Mismatch between input and occupation

Implications

- Unfair distribution: gaps and overlaps, non-affected
- Incomplete deliveries (boats without engines and nets...)
- Oversupply - market implications
- Cash grants used for consumption

Impact

- Social rivalries and disintegration versus increased cohesion: South versus North East
- Dependency?
- Social transformations: changes in socio-economic status

Why?

- Lack of reliable information at the household level: manipulation of lists
 - lack of effective information collection by NGOs, i.e. PRA
- Diversion of resources and bribery
- Competition among aid agencies – lack of community level collaboration
- Selection of field officers from the communities
- Manipulation of aid by political and social forces
- Lack of enabling factors, i.e. housing
- Sense of urgency and rush – casting the net wide...
- Lack of effective supervision and monitoring

Policy recommendations

- Effective data collection at community level, e.i. PRA
- Improved sharing of information and communication at village level
- Systematic and transparent criteria for beneficiary selection
- Rigorous monitoring

