

**Pre and post tsunami issues affecting fishing communities and the challenges to be addressed if 'build back better' is to contribute towards sustainable livelihood development in the fisheries sector**

## Pre Tsunami Issues

**Data collected using participatory needs analysis with 53 lagoon and coastal fishing communities between 1998 and 2004**

### 17 pre tsunami issues - 43 lagoon fishing communities Ampara District / Batticaloa District December '03 and November '04.

- 1st Priority Issues** Nets and canoes damaged in the conflict  
Access to formal credit / high rates of interest for informal credit
- 2nd Priority Issues** Nets and canoes damaged in the conflict  
Access to formal credit / high rates of interest for informal credit  
The FCS has no meeting place  
Fishing families can not afford to construct permanent houses
- 3rd Priority Issues** Institutional strengthening and capacity of FCS  
The FCS has no meeting place
- Other Issues** Illegal fishing in the lagoon is decreasing fish catches  
Decreased fish production due to mangrove destruction by the conflict / firewood collection

### 17 issues – 03 three coastal fishing Jaffna district / May 2003

- 1st Priority Issues** No access to credit to buy boats, engines and nets
- 2nd Priority Issues** Destruction / damage to houses; no toilets
- 3rd Priority Issues** No transport facilities for fish to Jaffna and from Jaffna to Colombo
- Other Issues** Security restrictions prevent fishermen from fishing  
There is no pre-school in the village  
Women and men have no other skills or opportunities to generate income  
Insufficient number of DW wells in the village  
Security restrictions prevent fishermen from fishing  
There is no pre-school in the village

### 43 issues - 07 Coastal fishing communities 05 Stakeholder Groups / Hambantota District August 1998

#### 01. Youth - 14 Issues

- 1st Priority Issue** Youth are forced to leave school early due to poverty
- 2nd Priority Issue** No vocational or adult education opportunities
- 3rd Priority Issue** High unemployment within and outside the fisheries sector

#### 02. Women – 09 Issues

- 1st Priority Issue** Irregular income from fishing, indebtedness, no experience of savings nor access to CBO or other formal credit
- 2nd Priority Issue** Access to health facilities and low awareness about health issues
- 3rd Priority Issues** New technology, access to markets and training for coir production

### 03. Fishworkers – 11 Issues

- 1st Priority Issue** Terms and conditions of labour are poor, salaries are very low, job security is high
- 2nd Priority Issue** Lending agencies and fisheries cooperatives only provide loans for *mudalali* and not for fishworkers
- 3rd Priority Issue** Marketing issues, low prices, uncompetitive, lacks transparency

### 04. Boat Owners – 10 Issues

- 1st Priority Issue** Marketing issues, low price, uncompetitive, lacks transparency
- 2nd Priority Issue** Foreign vessels fishing inside the EEZ are destroying nets and damaging boats.
- 3rd Priority Issue** Irregular income from fishing, indebtedness, no experience of savings nor access to CBO or other formal credit

### 05. Fish Vendors – 06 Issues

- 1st Priority Issue** Vendors operate at marginal profits, highly variable wholesale price, high competition between vendors selling at different prices
- 2nd Priority Issue** Wholesale prices are increased by 'mediators' operating from private landing centres and by fish merchant who bulk buy fish
- 3rd Priority Issue** Post harvest issues, cold storage and access to ice

### Pre Tsunami Issues

- Are different in different parts of the country
- Differ between different types of fishing community
- Are different for different stakeholder groups with a fishing community
- Change with time

### Two Post Tsunami Issues

- Q1 To what extent are FCSs valid representatives of the fishing community?
- Q2 Have the needs of genuine tsunami affected boat owners and fishermen been met under the emergency tsunami relief phase?

### Q1 To what extent are FCSs valid representatives of the fishing community?

Office bearers of a typical FCS are usually all men, who own boats, who don't always fish and who live in a brick built houses some distance from the beach.

But just how surprising is this?

Role of women in the fisheries sector?

Boat owners (and fishermen?) tend to be older, wealthier, more influential, better educated, more respected / more powerful and have more time than fishworkers.

Is the fact that men who own boats tend to dominate the administration committees of FCS the real issue?

Who are the members of FCS?

**A summary of membership data collected from 24 FCS in four DS Divisions in Ampara District in August 2005.**

DS Division	No. FCSs	Membership		Boat Owners Fishermen	Fishworkers	
		Total	Active		Total M	Active M
<b>Pottuvil DS</b>	8	981	745	193	80%	74%
<b>Thirukovil DS</b>	8	1,415	733	136	90%	81%
<b>Sainthamaruthu DS</b>	6	580	343	58	90%	83%
<b>Kalmunai DS</b>	2	191	114	15	92%	87%
<b>Totals</b>	24	3,167	1,935	402	<b>87%</b>	<b>79%</b>

**So who supports FCS?**

Government Agents

Divisional Secretaries

Department of Fisheries Resources

Department of Cooperatives

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

**The results of a CBO Assessment of 79 FCS in the Batticaloa District and Ampara District in June 2005.**

52% FCS at CBO Stage O – Batticaloa (n=25)

56% FCS at CBO Stage O – Ampara (n=54)

No FCS at Stage 2 or Stage 3

Average Total Value of CBO Stage 1 FCS > CBO Stage O FCS

Average Cash value of CBO Stage 1 FCS > CBO Stage O FCS

**Q2 Have the needs of genuine tsunami affected boat owners and fishermen been met under the emergency tsunami relief phase?**

In many fishing villages in Ampara district and in Batticaloa district, tsunami affected boat owners and fishermen are still complaining that their needs for replacement craft and engines have yet to be met.

How can this be true?

**A summary of craft destroyed, planned and delivered by donors in Ampara and Batticaloa according to UN FAO October 2005.**

		Traditional	Beach Seines	FRP	One Day Boats	Multiday Boats
<b>Batticaloa</b>						
<b>Destroyed</b>		2,107	119	494	4	
<b>Planned</b>		119%	96%	120%	125%	
<b>Delivered</b>		100%	48%	20%	0%	
<b>No. Donors</b>	28	9	7	10	2	
<b>Ampara</b>						
<b>Destroyed</b>		1,479	110	358	43	1
<b>Planned</b>		149%	145%	178%	207%	100%
<b>Delivered</b>		112%	63%	98%	0%	0%
<b>No. Donors</b>	49	16	11	18	1	1

### Two possible explanations for the discrepancy?

- One: That the replacement craft for these tsunami affected boat owners and fishermen are 'on the way' – will be delivered soon.
- Two: That replacement fishing craft have been distributed to individuals who did not own fishing craft or gear before the tsunami.

### Data collected in September 2005, to investigate the distribution of fishing assets under the emergency relief phase, with 24 FCS in Ampara District.

	Pre Tsunami	Replacement	Up/down graded	New Boat Owners	Deficit	
Lagoon Canoes	124	47	-	53	87	30%
Madel Vallam	2	1	-	-	1	50%
Sea Canoes	111	6	32	5	74	
FRP	173	39	1 Sea C.	27	133	23%
28' ODB	4	-	-	-	4	0%
OBM	240	77	-	27	163	32%
IBM	4	-	-	-	4	0%
Madel	6	1	-	-	5	17%
Net Sets	925	151	-	-	774	16%

### Delivery of fishing craft as tsunami relief under Approach A

- Private international donations received by post tsunami NGO A
- Fishing craft purchase by NGO A
- Fishing craft leased to tsunami affected boat owners, fishermen and fishworkers
- Monthly payments
- Craft owned by NGO A, until repayments complete
- FCS X not involved in the selection of 'beneficiaries'

### Delivery of fishing craft as tsunami relief under Approach B

- Private international donations received by pre tsunami NGO B
- Immediate needs of both male and female tsunami affected members of FCS X assessed
- NGO B purchased inputs including craft and nets
- FCS X delivered the craft and other inputs to selected tsunami affected boat owners, fishermen and women members of the society.
- The assistance was provided on a 100% grant basis (i.e. given freely).

### Delivery of fishing craft as tsunami relief under Approach C

- Fishing craft, engines and gear purchased by Bilateral Donor C
- Beneficiaries selected by government department D.
- 12.5% of the cost of the craft and gear paid in advance to departmental officer.
- Boat owners, fishermen affected by the tsunami within the society and non fishing members of Village Y received fishing craft, as emergency relief, on a 87.5% grant basis.

### Delivery of fishing craft as tsunami relief under Approach D

- Pre tsunami NGO E, co-financed and supported by an international NGO F
- FCS X identified tsunami affected boat owners and fishermen.
- Beneficiary list was publicly verified by the members of the society.
- Distribution of fishing craft and gear purchased by NGO E on a part grant (60%), part credit (40%) basis.
- 40% repayments to FCS X's Administration Fund.
- Capital repayments have been deferred for six months.
- Interest repayments of 2%
- 1% remitted to the NGO, by FCS X, to meet its future extension costs.

### Challenges – 1/3

- to integrate both pre and post tsunami issues into plans for long term livelihood development activities in the fisheries sector.
- to grasp and respond appropriately to the different issues facing the fisheries sector in the north, east, south and west of the country.
- to swiftly replace the 'one-size' fits all approach that has dominated the emergency relief phase of the response to the tsunami, by more locally sensitive interventions.

### Challenges – 2/3

- to address the widespread failure of FCSs to function as effective CBOs, either by supporting existing FCS to overcome their institutional weaknesses and strengthening their management capacity of existing FCS or by developing new CBOs to represent the fishing community.
- to verify the distribution of assorted fisheries hardware under the emergency phase as a prelude to embarking on long term livelihood recovery with selected fishing communities.
- to revised the current post tsunami fishery database, making data easier to verify, inclusive of data collected from and certified by individual fishing communities, organisations and other agencies.

### Challenges 3/3

- for governmental, international and national organisations is to give up some of this space that they have recently occupied and to create real opportunities for representatives of fishing communities to play a greater part in decision making regarding the development of their future livelihoods.

the ultimate challenge is to make sure that post tsunami livelihoods developed in the fishery sector are **sustainable**.

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