

Key Achievements— 3 Years On



ADB's thrust in Tamil Nadu and Kerala has been on reconstruction and rehabilitation of tsunami-affected areas and populations in line with ADB's Disaster and Emergency Assistance Policy (DEAP) enhanced by self-sustaining livelihood development and supported by institutional capacity building.

Key Achievements

Partnerships. In India, "partnerships" have been the underlying force in the tsunami recovery efforts that are being jointly executed by ADB, the state governments, NGOs, and other development partners. Today, tsunami recovery and reconstruction projects are being operationalized in 13 districts of Tamil Nadu (364 villages) and 9 districts of Kerala (160 villages).

ADB has worked in close cooperation with the state government departments to execute disaster recovery projects through their line departments, consultants, local NGOs, and local government bodies. ADB has been supported by a clear and responsible government coordination mechanism, as well as cooperation from various partners.

Project Monitoring. In Tamil Nadu, a Biometric Identification and Financial Monitoring System for beneficiaries is being established; this will be replicated by implementing agencies.



In Kerala, the PMU has developed an Oracle-based project performance-monitoring system. This web-enabled Remote Automation System will speed up the progress of reconstruction projects in the state while ensuring fiscal discipline. The system will be implemented initially for the Project Performance Management System in the ADB-funded TEAP, where the project plan, project cost, time schedules, and district- and department-wise accounting and fund flows will be available online. The installation of the server, software, and hardware requirements for implementing the automation system has been funded by ADB. Technical experts believe the system could be replicated to monitor other government projects and ensure timely implementation.

Disaster Risk Management. Through its experience in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, ADB has learned important lessons. “Disaster relief strategy needs to be mainstreamed into policy decisions on infrastructure, agriculture, housing, and natural resource management, among others,” according to ADB Vice-President for Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Ms. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss at the Second Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction organized by India’s Ministry of Home Affairs in November 2007. At the conference held in New Delhi, Ms. Schaefer-Preuss emphasized that disaster relief is an important pillar of poverty reduction.

Restoration of Public Infrastructure. Infrastructure rehabilitation has started to make a positive impact on the lives of the tsunami-affected people. Restoration of four fish landing centers/harbors in Kerala and six fishing harbors/landing centers in Tamil Nadu has been completed, thus, restoring the livelihood of the fisherfolk.

“ADB is committed to global initiatives, such as the Hyogo Framework of Action, and to assisting member countries pursue their national disaster action plans, and to participating in regional disaster risk reduction initiatives. ADB has taken heed of the lessons learnt from recent major disasters and is developing additional mechanisms to support hazard management and disaster risk reduction in the Asia-Pacific.”

— Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, ADB Vice-President
Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development

Rehabilitation and restoration of four ports and six landing centers/harbors in Kerala and two minor ports in Tamil Nadu have nearly been completed, which has led to increased port operations and revenues.

Water supply systems for 5 towns and 26 villages have been restored/improved in Kerala while, in Tamil Nadu, water supply upgrade for 6 towns and 430 villages has been completed. In Tamil Nadu, 35 sanitary complexes are being rehabilitated. A separate sanitation and environmental awareness multimedia campaign is also being designed for launch in the tsunami-affected areas.

In Tamil Nadu, about 900-kilometer (km) village roads, 215-km town roads, and about 115 km of roads in urban areas are being restored, with work completed on about 760-km roads. In Tamil Nadu, about 230 public buildings are being upgraded. Restoration of damaged electricity distribution and streetlights is also under implementation. Construction has started for three new bridges in Kerala and five high-level bridges in Tamil Nadu, which are planned as evacuation routes in case of future tsunami threats.

The construction of new bridges and upgrading of roads under TEAP will ensure better evacuation routes in case of a future tsunami and also improve connectivity with the mainland for fisherfolk that dwell in coastal belts to main/artery roads. This will enable better and quicker access to markets, health, and education facilities for their families. TEAP has restored damaged public infrastructure to a higher, cost-effective, environmentally sustainable standard while incorporating features critical to disaster prevention.

Livelihoods. TEAP has enabled coastal communities to overcome their misfortune by building/rehabilitating infrastructure and restoring livelihood activities. These have opened new avenues of opportunities providing alternative and sustainable employment with infusion of new technologies to increase the scope of income generation. Retroactive financing has helped replace productive assets of affected persons within the first 6 months, enabling them to restart their livelihood activities and overcome the trauma of the unprecedented disaster that had befallen them. The introduction of insurance of assets and accidental/health insurance has brought further security for beneficiaries.

“Convergence” has been recognized as a critical component to ensure effective and sustainable livelihood activities. The first major initiative under TEAP was the disbursement



These water tanks (left) in Velankanni are part of the restored/ improved water systems in Tamil Nadu; this new village road in Puddupali (right) will provide quicker access to market, health, and education facilities

of a special grant of \$660 (Indian rupees [Rs]30,000), together with bank credit of \$330 (Rs15,000), to each of more than 15,000 SHGs (85% women groups) to revive internal group lending activity to meet the emergency requirements of the group members. New economic activities developed with women's groups focus on the creation of group ownership of assets to raise levels of empowerment in the community. This has increased their voice in the gram sabha (community-elected village administration committee) and increased their bargaining power with local banks. SHGs are being encouraged to form federations/cooperatives/societies to enable procurement of land to start joint economic activities on a larger scale to benefit the local community. The initiative on land procurement is now being tested and adjusted in two villages in two districts in Tamil Nadu, and the transfer of title deeds to the federations is in progress.

More than 46,900 SHGs have been provided revolving credit and economic assistance. Microenterprises run by about 2,400 and 3,764 existing SHGs have been assisted in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, respectively; while about 1,200 and 2,000 new SHGs have been assisted in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, respectively. Damaged productive assets of 2,000 and 3,748 SHGs have been replaced in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, respectively. Skill

training has been provided to 575 SHGs in Kerala, and 155,452 beneficiaries across SHGs and individuals in Tamil Nadu. Insurance cover has been provided for more than 1,200 beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu, and about 35,826 individuals consisting primarily of disabled persons and widows through small grants for starting small income-generation activities.

Besides livelihood interventions, and rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing infrastructure, ADB is also focusing on restoring and protecting the environment and disaster risk management.

DEAP has shown the way to a systematic approach to disaster management that shifts emphasis away from responding and toward anticipation and planning for disasters and emergencies. It focuses on the need for risk and vulnerability assessments and advocates that ADB partner with regional institutions that track disasters and support surveillance and early-warning facilities in DMCS. Today, the principles underlying DEAP are being followed in ADB's response to tsunamis in all DMCS. One of the main lessons learned from previous experience with emergency loans incorporated into the new policy that is being observed is the need for flexibility and increased preparedness for future emergencies.