



Indian Social Service Institute | Tsunami Report

January 8, 2005

INTRODUCTION

The people of coastal areas of ISSI's home district (county) of Pudukottai were affected by the tsunami. Thousands of fisherman lost their boats and nets due to the Tsunami. They are still afraid to go near the water. Due to this fear, most of them are lacking income and their families especially small children are suffering. The situation of Nagapattinam and Vailankanni church is very pathetic.

SITUATION OF THE TSUNAMI-AFFECTED AREAS

In Nagapattinam:

The tsunami affected the Nagapattinam and other 30 hamlets of east coast areas of Tamil Nadu state on 26th December, 2004 at 9.15 a.m.

We have collected information and observed the situation of the tsunami tragedy during our rescue services in the coastal villages. We discussed our findings with the affected youth and community leaders and took stock of the unfolding situation in the humanitarian camps where the affected people were accommodated in Nagapattinam area.

We understood the situation and their immediate and long term needs. It will take another two weeks for the area to become a little normal. Only then, can we get correct figures and data.

So far we have been able to put together the following data:

Number of villages/hamlets affected	30
Badly/severely affected	15
Hamlets completely vanished	5 (Akkaraiptty, Nambiyar Nagar, MGR Nagar, Ariyanathutheru and Kitchankuppam)
Number of deaths	above 7,000
Number of affected people	75,000
Number of camps where the affected people are accommodated	50
Places where the people are accommodated	Temples, schools, marriage & community halls in Nagapattinam, Thiruvarur and Mannargudi towns
The conditions of their houses and property	More than 15,000 families lost their houses, which were completely damaged by the waves; many lost their boats and fish nets, bedding, cooking vessels, furniture, jewels and clothes
About children	Hundreds of children lost their fathers & mothers; many children were admitted in hospitals for various diseases and injuries.
About women	Many women lost their husbands and children. They are become helpless widows
About aged people	Hundreds of aged people of both sexes in the age group of 50-60yrs lost their sons & daughters and are now helpless

OUR RESPONSE

The ISSI team, local youth and social groups started the rescue activities in the affected areas on 27th Dec, 2004. We found that thousands of dead bodies were not removed and properly buried/burned. Responding to the impending sanitation and health calamity, our team consisting of 15 members got involved in finding the dead bodies and buried/burned them on December 27th. The death rate is above 7,000 and growing in the area.

We are involved in the relief activities along with our local sister organizations. We request your kind consideration of the below facts and subsequent donations.

We are calling on our ex-volunteers and well wishers for their support for this important cause. We believe that our collective efforts can help realize a much-needed relief campaign and make a lasting difference in the lives of scores of tsunami victims.

Our organization initiated a network of NGOs called Relief Action Net (RAN) for organizing and providing immediate relief services and long term measures for the tsunami-affected people of Nagapattinam by joint action. At present 6 NGOs are in the network, which have lot of experience in the relief and rehabilitation activities in the region for many years.

ISSI will function as a legal custodian and coordinating agency for execution of the relief services. In this position, ISSI will coordinate the program and submit various reports to the supporting agencies from time to time. We will open an office for the relief service activities in the Nagapattinam town very soon. In the mean time kindly send all your communications to the following address:

Indian Social Service Institute
Attn: Mr. Rengaraj Ramaswamy, Managing Director
Kepparai, Kaikuruchi village
via Thiruvarangulam
Pudukottai (Dt.), Tamilnadu 622 303
India

Phone: 91-4322-265865
91-4322-338472 (mobile)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We need your help (both cash & kind) immediately for the benefit of over 5,000 people. Here's a list of items we need immediately:

- Supply of food items like rice, cereals, sugar, biscuits and milk powder etc.
- Distribution of clothes for all age groups, blankets & mats
- Supply of pure drinking water by lorry/tanker for the affected people accommodated in 10 camps
- Basic medicine bandages and plasters etc.
- Small children below 5 years in the camps are badly in need of milk powder. As many mothers are in the hospitals for treatment and recovery they are unable to give breast milk for the small children. So, we urgently need to supply milk powder and nutritional supplements, which will prevent malnutrition and prevent the children from various diseases.

Please visit the [Tsunami Appeal](#) page on our website to learn how you can donate.