

CYCLONE YARDAH RESPONSE

*How the
relief efforts
worked*



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@750 per
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CYCLONE VARDHA RESPONSE: How the relief efforts worked

Report by Dr. John Arokiaraj, State Officer - TN
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Caritas India

The Deputy Director of Caritas India Fr. Paul Moonjely stressed on the importance of volunteerism and psycho social support for victims of calamity.

Sharing the focus of the Coordination and learning workshop, he shared that the need is to strengthen the coordination mechanism between agencies and partners and take the challenges and learnings of the recent response for future interventions.

The workshop of jointly facilitated by Caritas India and CRS and attended by Madras Social Service Society, Asha Nivas and Chengalpattu Rural Development Society on January 9, 2017 at DMI centre, Chennai.

The entire process of this emergency response was explained by Dr. John Arokiaraj, Tamil Nadu State Officer with the help of infographic.

Fr. Celestine, a consultant appointed by CRS appreciate the coordination done at different levels and pointed out the commitment of the emergency workers for reaching out to the most vulnerable like SC's, ST's, PWD's, Widows, Transgenders, Pregnant and lactating women's.

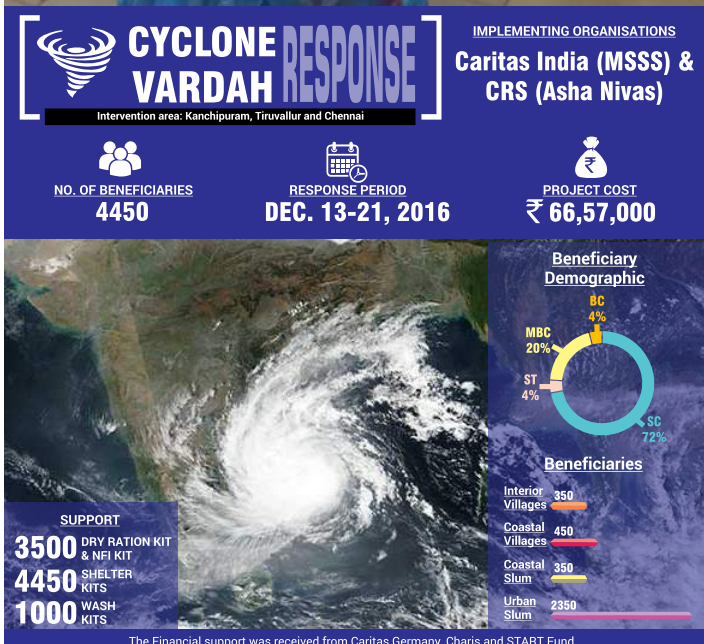
Placing on record the positive outcome of the response, the implementing partners said that good communication, preparedness, quick decision making and faith in partner capacity has helped them to complete the herculean task. During the response, Timeliness, quality relief materials and awareness on protection measures were seen as some of the achievements.

Time constraint, selection of limited number of beneficiaries from the large affected population, following sphere standards in locating the distribution points and satisfying the great expectation of the beneficiaries were identified as some of the challenges by the partners.

Utilizing the services of Children parliament members, youth, SHG's and other volunteer can be seen as some of the learnings to gear up the response during disasters. This could help member organisations to identify volunteers who are willing to extend their services during the time of emergency. It was also suggested to adhere the principles of Catholic Social Teaching during emergency response.

Mr. Anjan Bag, DRR – Manager appealed partners to undertake damage assessment of 50 sample households in the field of livelihood and shelter for Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kanchipuram to identify and explore possibilities of addressing unmet needs.

Fr. Paul said that during emergency we have follow the principle of subsidiarity and neutrality with inclusive approach and focused strategy to avoid conflicts.





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Report by Mukund Deshmukh, Social Development Officer - CESSS
 Edited by Patrick Hansda, Caritas India

“Vermi compost is suitable for organic farms that grows orange, vegetables, pulses and several cash crops and food crops” informed Mukund Deshmukh, Social Development Officer of Centre for Environmental Studies in Social Sector (CESSS), Caritas India.

Much impetus was given by CESSS to adopt organic farming to fight climate change and improve food production shared Mr. Mukund. The idea behind developing bio manure production centre was to cater the local need and provide alternate source of livelihood to the unemployed village youth of the target villages.

Youth groups were formed and linked to the banks and ATMA agencies to avail government schemes. The technical support received from CESSS helped youth groups to develop vermi compost and other bio manure.

The centre has sold 25 quintals of vermin compost to an orange grower farmer and one gram panchayat for the ongoing Govt. plantation program at the rate of Rs. 750 per quintal and received Rs. 18750.

31 farmers have purchased liquid manure and pest repellent for Gram, Wheat and vegetable from nearby 14 villages. These farmers are receiving technical support from CESSS to practice sustainable agriculture practices in their field.

They are following different ratio of dilution as per the requirement of present crops—situations. Generally dilution ratio is 1 liter liquid manure in 14 liter water for spraying purpose.

In future, these bio manure production centres will be developed into alternative earning sources for farmers and unemployed youth.

Farmers income can be raised by adopting organic farming and using bio manure prepared locally through crop residues, stubbles, straws, animal slurries, silage effluents, weeds etc.

Two newly opened bio manure production centres at Vastapur and Solamahu in Amravati, Maharashtra are producing quality vermi compost to cater this need.

Managed by Gurukrupa youth group and Ma Durga Adivasi Youth Group, the centre has produced 50 quintal of vermin compost from the bio manure production centres recently.

Vermicomposting transforms energy-rich and complex organic substances into stabilized humus through the action of earthworm. It not only decompose a huge amount of organic wastes but also help to maintain higher nutrient status in composted materials.



Ashakiranam motivating local communities to become service providers

Report by Amalkrishna, Program Officer - Ashakiranam
Edited by Patrick Hansda, Caritas India

Under a unique step to raise cancer awareness on cherai beach, Ashakiranam cancer care volunteers engaged local community to spread the harmful effects of Cancer.

Cherai beach is located on the north-end of the Vypeen Island in Kochi, Kerala and attracts many locals and tourists.

On the eve of new year, Pallippuram Panchayath, Ernakulam District Panchayath, Community Library-Cherai and Ashakiranam student volunteers organized the Ashakiranam cancer awareness beach campaign.

As the part of the campaign 500 Ashakiranam kites were prepared by the local community and put up for sale during the day. A public inaugural function was also organized at the beach for the kite fest which was

inaugurated by Pallipuram Panchayath president.

Tourism Minister Hon. Kadakampilly Ramachandran inaugurated the evening public function which was presided by Hon. MLA S. Sharma. IEC material of Ashakiranam along with the kites were distributed to the people during this function.

The event provided the platform for many local communities and student volunteers to get involved in humanitarian services. Caritas aims to motivate local community in extending their services to the needy and deprived communities members by developing people as service providers for each locality.

As the part of the program charity boxes were placed at three locations to mobilize funds for the cancer care campaign.

