

After the Tsunami

December 26, 2004

Rebuilding Lives and Livelihoods in Southern India
2005-2011



SAVE A FAMILY PLAN

partnering with the poor for a just world

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After the Tsunami

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STORIES OF HOPE AND RECOVERY

Save A Family Plan is sincerely grateful to Laurie Chan for her dedication, time and commitment in organizing and preparing this collection of stories.

Cover photo: taken in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu in April 2012. People look out at the Laccadive Sea, a body of water which destroyed this area in the 2004 Tsunami.

The background of the image consists of three vertical panels of different patterned fabrics. The left panel is orange with white floral and geometric patterns. The middle panel is red with a large white oval containing a floral design and a border of small red flowers. The right panel is blue with a repeating pattern of stylized figures and floral motifs. The text is overlaid on these fabrics.

This book is dedicated to all victims of the tsunami disaster of December 2004.

Save A Family Plan would like to thank all partners, benefactors, and supporters who responded to the needs of the Indian people with great compassion and generosity following the tragic events of December 2004.

On December 26, 2004, a magnitude 9.1 earthquake off the west coast of northern Sumatra in Indonesia triggered a massive tsunami that resulted in incredible destruction, injury, and loss of life. The earthquake and tsunami caused the deaths of at least 225,000 people in south Asia. Giant waves generated from the earthquake zone reached the coasts of at least a dozen countries situated around the Indian Ocean, including India.

In responding to the tsunami, Save A Family Plan and its program partners continued their long tradition of service to families in India by offering multi-year support and guidance to those in need, helping to restore health, security, and dignity through greater economic independence.

With its tsunami rehabilitation programs now complete, Save A Family Plan can now proudly share some of the success stories of families who have managed to rebuild their lives and livelihoods after the catastrophic events of 2004.

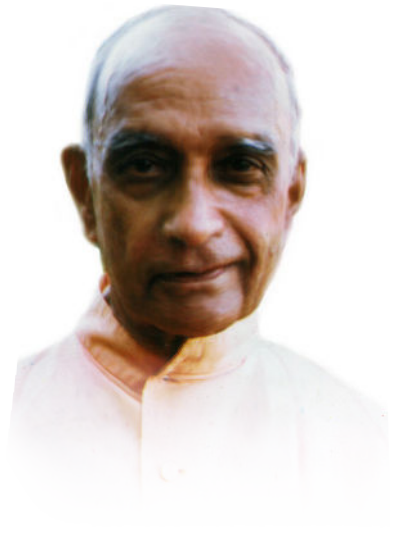


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Save A Family Plan (SAFP) is a Canadian international development organization and a registered charity in Canada and the United States, with offices in Canada and India. SAFP encourages supporters to work for justice and social change by assisting poor families and communities in India through its two major development programs: Family and Community Development. SAFP collaborates with dozens of Indian non-governmental social service organizations, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and numerous other governmental, technical, educational and financial institutions and organizations in India and Canada. SAFP began with inspiration from Pope Paul VI at the International Eucharistic Congress in Bombay (now Mumbai), India in 1965. Monsignor Augustine Kandathil, an Indian priest who was then teaching Chemistry at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, was in Bombay and heard the Pope's appeal for the world to join him in a non-violent battle against poverty and hunger in developing countries. That same year SAFP was born, lending assistance to five poor families in the southwestern state of Kerala, India. Today, over 11, 500 poor families benefit from the Family Development Program, and tens of thousands of others have improved their lives through CIDA-supported Community Development Programs. One hundred percent of all donations received by SAFP reaches those for whom it is intended. This is achieved by keeping administrative costs to a minimum, and by supporting the involvement of a large number of volunteers in both countries. SAFP's commitment to poverty reduction and social justice is unwavering. It continues to strive for effective empowerment and development of the poor, leading to economic security, social stability, and a dignified life.



Monsignor Augustine Kandathil was affectionately known as "Father Gus". He retired as Executive Director of SAFP Canada and returned to India in 1989 where he was President of SAFP India until his retirement in 1999. Father Gus passed away in 2001.

The Situation in India

A 2007 United Nations report (Tsunami, India - Three Years After) reveals the magnitude of the disaster in India:

12,405 tsunami-related deaths
 6,913 people injured
 647,599 people displaced
 over 100,000 houses damaged or destroyed
 75% of deaths were women and children
 787 women became widows
 530 children lost both parents
 over US\$1.2 billion estimated total losses

The waves affected 2,260 km of the southern and eastern coastal regions of the Indian subcontinent in the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala, and the Union Territories of Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They were reported to be from three to ten metres high in southern India, and to have reached 300 metres to 3 kilometres inland. Environmental damage was extensive, including the vast destruction of coastal ecosystems and disruption of fishing stocks.

The majority of those affected in coastal areas were fisherfolk and their families, who not only lost or damaged their homes and household possessions, but also their boats, equipment, and in many cases, their livelihoods. About one-third of people affected in the tsunami were poor and from socially disadvantaged groups. For such people, recovery would not be easy. With little or no land, assets, reliable sources of income, or easy access to resources, they faced further poverty and distress.



Save A Family Plan Response

In the days following the December 2004 tsunami, SAFP India Director Fr. Augustine Bharanikulangara and SAFP Canada Director Lesley Porter worked on response strategies to be implemented in collaboration with some of SAFP’s diocesan partner organizations. The tsunami had directly impacted families who lived within the operational districts of these organizations. As an immediate response to the tsunami, SAFP disbursed Disaster Management funds to five organizations in Madras, Kollam, Alleppy, Arch Trivandrum and Kottar. Money was used for emergency care kits which included mats, cooking utensils, rice and other materials to give families short-term relief. Soon after this, partnerships began to form with the Canadian High Commission in Delhi, India and the Women’s Initiative Network (WIN) in Kerala, India, to provide social and economic rehabilitation to the families and communities effected by the disaster.

SAFP Canada began receiving donations that would support its plans for assisting victims of the disaster. The response was overwhelming, and SAFP would eventually raise \$650,000.

SAFP was experienced in disaster rehabilitation; it had implemented such a program in the village of Mota Varnora in the earthquake-stricken Bhuj district of Gujarat in 2001. With that experience, and in consultation with other NGOs, SAFP decided that the most effective intervention for tsunami-affected families would be through SAFP’s existing Family Development Program. This program is based on a monthly stipend given over six years to an adult family member to support the development of a sustainable income initiative, thereby helping him or her to reliably earn income, meet the family’s basic needs, pay off debts, and save money for the future, if possible.

SAFP was now prepared to offer six years of support to 500 tsunami-affected families, with priority given to widows with young children. The program would be implemented in partnership with the respective DSSS partners, as seen below:

SAFP PARTNER NGO	STATE	NO. OF FAMILIES
Kottapuram Integrated Development Society	Kerala	10
Welfare Services Ernakulam	Kerala	15
Ernakulam Social Service Society	Kerala	25
Alapuzzha Diocesan Charitable & SW Society	Kerala	25
Quilon Social Service Society	Kerala	50
Trivandrum Social Service Society	Kerala	25
Kanyakumari Social Service Society	Tamil Nadu	50
Kottar Social Service Society	Tamil Nadu	75
Tuticorin Multipurpose Social Service Society	Tamil Nadu	150
Madras Social Service Society	Tamil Nadu	75
		500



Canada Fund For Local Initiatives—Promotion of Sustainable Livelihood Initiatives for Tsunami affected population in Alappad Panchayat of Kollam district, Kerala 2004-2005

The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) is a Canadian Government fund that is used for granting financial support to small local NGOs and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in order to promote economic and social development at a community level through technical, economic, educational, cultural or social development projects.

Following the tsunami, the Canadian High Commission in Delhi granted CFLI funding to Save A Family Plan to implement a project aimed at creating or reviving sustainable livelihood opportunities for tsunami-affected families in the Alappad panchayat region of Kollam (Quilon) District in the state of Kerala. SAFFP collaborated with Quilon Social Service Society to carry out this initiative.

Specific objectives were to improve the capacity of CBOs, and to assist individuals in re-establishing livelihoods in both fishing and non-fishing sectors including construction, coir (coconut fibre) processing, tailoring, and agriculture.

Alappad, in southwestern Kerala, is a fishing village where, prior to the tsunami, 63% of the families were reliant on the fishing sector for income. Through a participatory process, 366 vulnerable families were chosen to receive support and training for CFLI-funded livelihood initiatives. In addition to equipment and raw material supplies, beneficiaries received entrepreneurship, management, and other development training.

Self-Help Groups were formed, which allowed for cooperative microfinance activities, information sharing, and personal empowerment. Participatory methods were used to establish implementation plans, and Gender Impact Assessments were carried out for all planned activities to ensure that men's and women's concerns and perspectives were considered equally at all times in the implementation process.

Significant lessons learned from this project included:

- Participation of community-based groups such as SHGs ensures the sustainability of the projects at local level
- Skill development trainings and support services are essential for the success of livelihood initiatives
- Comprehensive and more sustainable projects are better for the disaster area
- Linkages and collaborations with local governments and other like-minded organizations help to ensure project sustainability
- Emotional support and counselling are essential in disaster-stricken areas while planning the developmental projects

opposite page: CFLI funding provided for livelihood equipment including dug-out canoes, china nets, carpentry tool sets, coir spinning ratts, masonry tool sets, farm equipment sets, and tailoring machines.

next page: Rajan, a fisherman from Alleppey, shows off new equipment provided by CFLI funding



Women’s Initiative Network–Tsunami Response Project

In addition to its six-year Family Development tsunami rehabilitation program, SAFP also funded a Tsunami Response Project (2005–2007) in partnership with the Women’s Initiative Network (WIN), a Kerala-based NGO whose mission is to empower women and help them to become more self-reliant through active participation in Self-Help Groups. This project was based in two tsunami-affected districts in Kerala: Alappuzha and Ernakulam.

The beneficiaries were from the Malikaparambu area of Chellanam, a region that was badly affected by water damage. Funding provided for 25 roof-rainwater harvesting tanks, 25 new sanitary latrines, 50 re-constructed/modified latrines, 25 coir ratts, and 10,000 mangrove saplings for planting. Other assistance was for trainings, education, and support for sustainable income generating initiatives.

*below left:
Through the WIN /SAFP Tsunami Response Project, this family received funding for the construction of a new septic tank toilet. Many toilets and leach pits were destroyed in the tsunami and families had to use beaches for open defecation.*

*below right:
Through the WIN /SAFP Tsunami Response Project, this family received funding for the construction of a rainwater-harvesting tank. The tsunami led to an acute shortage of drinking water due to saline contamination of public water sources.*





scene from Ernakulam District following the tsunami
(courtesy of Verapoly Social Service Society)

The Tsunami in Kerala

In the southwestern state of Kerala, the tsunami affected 250 km of flat coastal land in three southern districts: Ernakulam, Alappuzha, and Kollam. The southernmost district, Thiruvananthapuram, escaped heavy damage. In total, approximately 1.3 million people and 187 villages were affected, 24,978 people were placed in 29 relief camps, and 171 people lost their lives: Kollam (131 deaths), Alappuzha (35 deaths), Ernakulam (5 deaths). The water penetrated from .5 to 1.5 km into the mainland, with estimated 3 to 5 metre waves. Major damage in Kerala occurred in two narrow strips of land bound on the west by the Arabian Sea and on the east by backwaters, which are a network of inland waterways or canals linking lakes, lagoons, and ponds.



Ernakulam District

Ernakulam District has a total population of 3,105,798 and an area of 2,407 km², with its western border formed by a 46 km coastline on the Arabian Sea, including the 20 km length of Vypeen Island, which was greatly affected by the tsunami. Inland the district has a waterbody area of 12,700 hectares, and a forest area of 8,123 hectares. The coast and backwaters provide for productive sea and inland fisheries.

SAFP partners:

***Ernakulam Social Service Society/
Varapuzha (Verapoly) Social Service Society***

Ernakulam Social Service Society (ESSS), affiliated with the Verapoly Archdiocese, caters to the development of the poor and the marginalized populations in the coastal regions of Ernakulam and Trichur Districts. It covers an area of in 1500 km² with a population of 2.8 million. 274 SAFP regular beneficiary families live within this jurisdiction.

The tsunami struck the shoreline of Vypeen Island, including the villages of Edavanakadu, Narakkal, Elankunnapuzha, and Puthuvype. The majority of those served by ESSS live on Vypeen Island.

Following the tsunami, 12 relief camps were opened in the ESSS operating area, accomodating 2700 families.

Ernakulam SSS: Jolly Thomas Kadeparambil

Jolly is a carpenter who worked at his trade with his brother Jenson in a shed by the seashore in Ernakulam District. At the end of 2004, his son was less than one year old and his wife Nimmy was pregnant with their second child. Jolly's ailing parents lived with them as well. His father had heart disease and his mother suffered from ulcers, and both required medicine for their conditions, which added to the financial stresses on the family.

With a limited amount of work, Jolly and Jenson earned only \$85 per month. This was insufficient to take care of both the basic and medical needs of all members of the family. The house in which they were living was made of wooden planks and palm leaves. Their local Panchayat (governing body) provided for their water and sanitary needs.

On the day of the tsunami, Jolly and his family were at his wife's residence, since his brother Jenson had chicken pox and was at home with his parents. They were trapped indoors and washed away; fortunately they survived, but had to be hospitalized for a week with injuries. Jolly's home was severely damaged, having been uprooted in the disaster. Everything was destroyed, including the carpentry shed and machinery. Many tools were washed off.

The men could not work, and therefore had no income. Sadly, they experienced the loss of a neighbour child, a baby of ten months old whose body was found in a nearby canal. This was a matter of great sorrow for the people in the area.

Many volunteer organizations assisted in the area, providing citizens with food, shelter, and clothing. Jolly's family was assisted by Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA) in finding a house in which to stay.

Additional help came from SAFP, acting through ESSS. Jolly and his family were accepted under the Tsunami Rehabilitation Program, and began to receive monthly support so that he was able to buy new tools and secure financing to rebuild his carpentry business. Despite a slow start, Jolly began to earn up to \$200 per month, and the family is living in a new home.

Jolly and Nimmy now have three children in grades IV, I, and LKG. Jolly's brother Jenson is now married and helps take care of their mother. Their father has since passed away.

For the future, Jolly intends to construct a shed near his house and buy new machines. He would also like to start a chicken centre, and hopes to provide employment opportunities to those without jobs.

below left: Jolly resuming his carpentry work with new tools
below right: tsunami-affected family in front of damaged home;
this woman restarted her tailoring business and began candle-
making with SAFP assistance.
above right: tsunami-damaged home in Ernakulam District



Kollam (Quilon) District

Kollam District has a population of over 2.5 million and its 2,491 km² include diverse geographical features such as sea, lakes, plains, mountains, rivers, streams, backwaters, and forests. Kollam is an important maritime district, with a 37 km coastline on the Arabian Sea. Fishing is important to the economy of the district; an estimated 23,000 persons are engaged in fishing and allied activities. One third of Kerala's fish catch is from Kollam.

SAFP partner: Quilon Social Service Society

Quilon Social Service Society (QSSS) is the official social development organization of the Catholic Diocese of Quilon. The population covered is 350000, and within its jurisdiction are 162 regular SAFP beneficiaries. The major source of income for most of the population in the region is fishing and fish vending.

"...the normal conditions of the families are getting restored by the timely intervention of the Government and other agencies. Livelihood conditions are also getting back to normal level since most of the members of the families are engaged in income generating activities such as fish vending, fish drying, fish processing, value added food production and other non-conventional activities like running petty shops, ready made business, candle making, etc. The total reconstruction and rebuilding has given a new look and newness to the working environment..."

-QSSS

Quilon SSS: Little Flower Kadapurath Veedu

At the time of the tsunami, Little Flower and her fisherman husband Ouseph, aged 35 and 39 respectively, lived in a thatched house with their three children, Jackson, Henry, and Cenita, aged 20, 13, and 11. Jackson, the oldest son, is mentally and physically challenged. The family was indebted in the amount of \$1430 because of money borrowed to buy their house, and because of costs related to their elder son's health needs. In the tsunami they lost their house, its contents, and the fishing equipment needed for income.

After the tsunami the family moved to a temporary shelter which was a school building. They were provided with the basic necessities. Later they moved to another government temporary shelter which was a room and a veranda covered by tin sheets, with a shared bathroom.

Little Flower received support from SAFP and invested it in a dry-fish-making enterprise, a business in which she had prior expertise. She began as a wage labourer, but later saved enough funds to invest in a joint venture, which helped to reduce expenses. At this time, her income began to rise and she has been able to make \$75 per month.

Little Flower used some of the financial assistance for her children's education, and for health costs. She was also able to begin repaying her debt.

The quality of life has improved for her family. They now live in a new house. Henry now works as a wage labourer and daughter Sinila has graduated and is searching for a job.

Little Flower is happy with her income generation project, but knows that because of increased competition, she will have to concentrate on better marketing.



right: Little Flower and her family in front of their new house



*above left: Little Flower started a fish-drying unit with SAFP assistance
above right: Rani Sunil also started a fish-drying unit with SAFP assistance
below right: a house destroyed by tsunami waves near the seashore in Kollam District*

Allapuzha/Alleppey District

Allapuzha is popularly known as “the land between the sea and the network of rivers flowing into it.” This District has an area of 1,414 km², (3.6% of the state total) and a population of 2.1 million, creating a density of 1,492 persons per km², the highest in the state. The district is a sandy strip of land with lagoons and a network of rivers, backwaters, and canals. Allapuzha has an 82 km coastline on the Arabian Sea which is 13.9 % of the total coastline of the state. In addition to the important marine fishing industry, inland fisheries are active in this district because of the extensive canal and lake system.

Tsunami impact in Allapuzha:

- Deceased - 33
- Injured - 454
- Villages affected - 20
- Fully damaged houses - 2727
- Partially damaged houses - 4389
- Relief Camps - 9
- Families in Relief Camps - 1937
- Persons in Relief Camps - 7923

SAFP partner: Alleppey Diocesan Charitable & Social Welfare Society (ADC&SWS)

This social service agency of Alleppey Diocese is committed to the development of the coastal people in 40 villages in the coastal areas of Alleppey and Ernakulam Districts of the State of Kerala. These areas cover 333 km² and are home to over 300,000 people, most of whom are dependent on the fishing industry for income. There are 573 regular SAFP beneficiaries in the area.



*top: tsunami-affected Alleppey families requiring SAFP assistance
right bottom: new government/NGO housing in Alleppey District
next page: Rosamma and her children in 2011, and with her tailoring machine*



Alleppey DC & SW: Rosamma Robert

Rosamma was a widow whose husband had died of a heart attack a few months prior to the tsunami. He had been a fisherman. She and her husband had not owned a house, and after his death she and her two children had to move to her brother's house, which, although in poor

condition, was available because he was staying at his wife's house. Rosamma did some tailoring work that earned her only about \$8 per month. She and her family did not have close access to safe drinking water, nor did they have a latrine. She was \$250 in debt, with no savings, and now the only monetary support she received was from her husband's brother, who helped her with \$4 per month.

Rosamma's son Christoph Robin was almost seven years old and in Grade II at the time of the tsunami, and his sister Alphonsa was almost four and in Lower Kindergarten.

Life became more difficult after the tsunami. The house in which they were staying was damaged and unlivable. Most of the area's livestock was swept away, and food was scarce. The water quality was unsafe, and conditions were extremely unsanitary without proper working latrines. Rosamma could not continue her tailoring work without a livable house in which to work. She had to find daily petty work.

Save A Family Plan, through ADC&SW, assisted Rosamma with much needed financial support, since she had not received anything from the Tsunami Rehabilitation Centre nor from the Tsunami Housing Project. This helped her to reconstruct her damaged house

and to start a new income generating project (IGP), which was a stitching unit.

Rosamma also had to deal with a thyroid problem during these difficult times, for which she needed medication. The stitching unit has assisted Rosamma in earning a living. Many people, including most of her neighbours, depend on her for tailoring their clothes, and from this work she now earns \$12.50 per month.

Now, Rosamma has a part-time job as an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) worker, which provides her with \$25 per month. She now has a house to live in and a sanitary latrine, as well as safe drinking water and electricity. She hopes to expand her stitching unit so as to earn more income that will help her to meet her children's future educational requirements. At present her son and daughter are healthy and doing well in school, studying in grades VIII and IV respectively.

She is extremely grateful for the help given to her family through SAFF.



Kottapuram Social Service Society

The Latin Diocese of Kottapuram lies within the civil districts of Ernakulam, Trichur, Malapuram and Palghat of Kerala state. It has an operating area of 3300 km² and a population of 3.2 million.

KSSS is the social service agency attached to this diocese. Three of the affected coastal villages in its jurisdiction were on Vypeen Island in Ernakulam district, and four are in Trichur district. Fishing and fishing-related activities provide the primary source of income for families in these areas. 35 SAFP regular beneficiary families lived in five of the damaged villages, but were not directly affected.

"... After the Tsunami there were tremendous changes in the areas. So many distressed houses were rebuilt with the help of Government and many other voluntary organizations. Numbers of sustainable projects were started for income generation...many camps and programmes were conducted for the relief of the people..."

-KSSS

Kottapuram SSS: Mrs. Sheela Unnikrishnan Karinat

Sheela and her husband live in Azheekode, a coastal village in Ernakulam District. They have two sons, Arun and Akhil. She suffers from asthma.

At the time of the tsunami, they lived in a thatched shed made of coconut leaf and other material. Although they didn't lose anything, the house was affected and the floor of their home damaged by the salt water. Although no physical harm occurred during the tsunami, the event was very traumatic for the family; they said that they had never seen such a big wave in their lives.

Sheela's husband was a fisherman and she earned additional income from Screwpine mat-weaving and working at the ice factory. But after the tsunami, the shortage of the fish put their family in a terrible financial crisis.

The family was housed at a nearby school, which served as a tsunami rehabilitation centre. There, they shared with similarly affected families, which gave them a better understanding of the present situation. Many NGOs and other charity organizations conducted different classes and provided food and water. Counselling from social workers at the rehabilitation centre also helped them to deal with their situation and give them hope.

Later, the family made a temporary thatched house beside their old house.

With Save A Family assistance, Sheela started mat-weaving as her income generating project. (IGP) Normally there is good local availability of raw material, but this changed after the tsunami. Raw materials had to be purchased from other suppliers at a higher price.

Because of this, Sheela started to cultivate the raw material herself, thereby dealing with the shortage of raw material.

Through the IGP, Sheela was earning \$43 monthly.

She was able to construct a house with Save Family Plan assistance and a local government (panchyath) grant. She was also now able to provide for the education needs of her children and after six years support her children had reached Xth and IXth Standard.

Sheela would like to continue this successful IGP and continue to earn money for the betterment of her family.

Kottapuram SSS: Jancy Koseph Kothalath

Jancy and her husband and two daughters Akhil and Anagha lived on the coast in southern Kerala in a small thatched house that was destroyed in the tsunami. Fortunately no one was harmed, although the trauma of the event affected them greatly.

Jancy's husband, a fisherman, lost his livelihood, and as a result they lost the financial security of having a regular income. Together, they attended sessions and classes at a Rehabilitation Centre that helped them adjust to the changes in their lives.

With SAFF assistance, Jancy hoped to start vermi-composting as an income generation project. She received training in that venture which boosted her confidence in this field.

She was able to sell the compost to nearby homes and institutions.

For the first phase she started vermi-composting in one tank and in the second phase she developed it to a larger scale with the construction of a second tank. In one tank, she would get approximately 10-15 kg of compost, for which she sold at \$8.50 per kg. She also got regular work with other neighbourhood women in a rice powder unit in a nearby home. Jancy is also involved in another group IGP involving the culture of green mussels and edible oysters. The culture time is four months, and her share of earnings after that time can range from \$30 to \$57.

With her earnings, she has been able to provide for the educational needs of her children, and for treatment of one daughter's tuberculosis.

She built a house with the support of both the Panchayath (local government) and SAFF. It consisted of one hall and two bedrooms.



*top: Sheela now earns income from mat-weaving
bottom: Jancy earns income from selling compost*



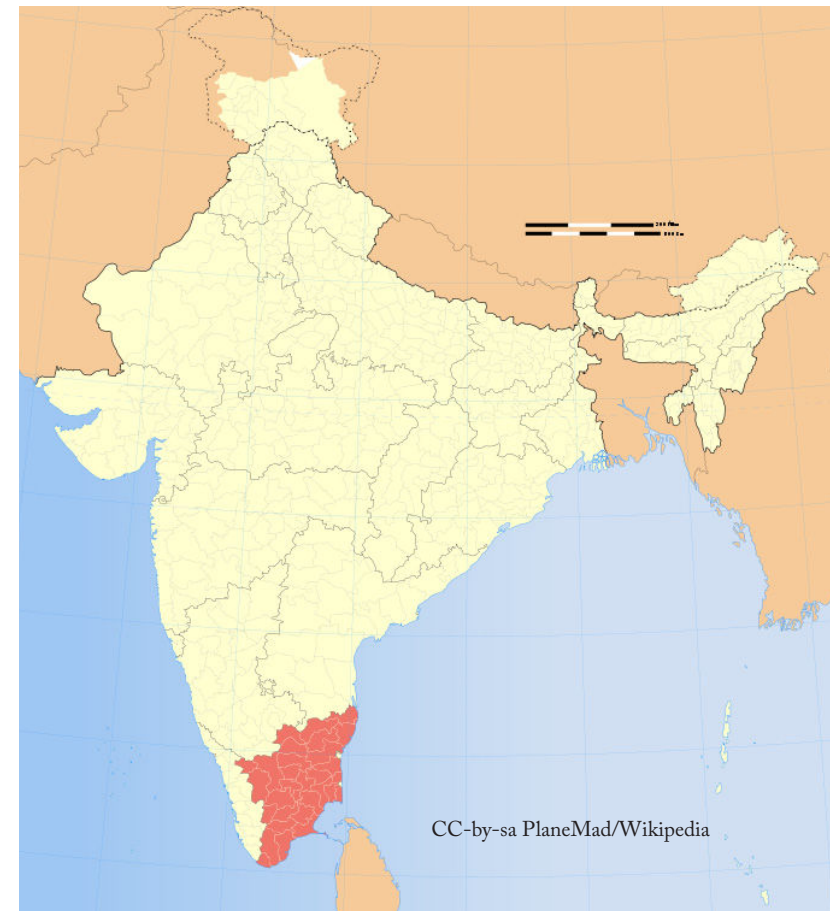
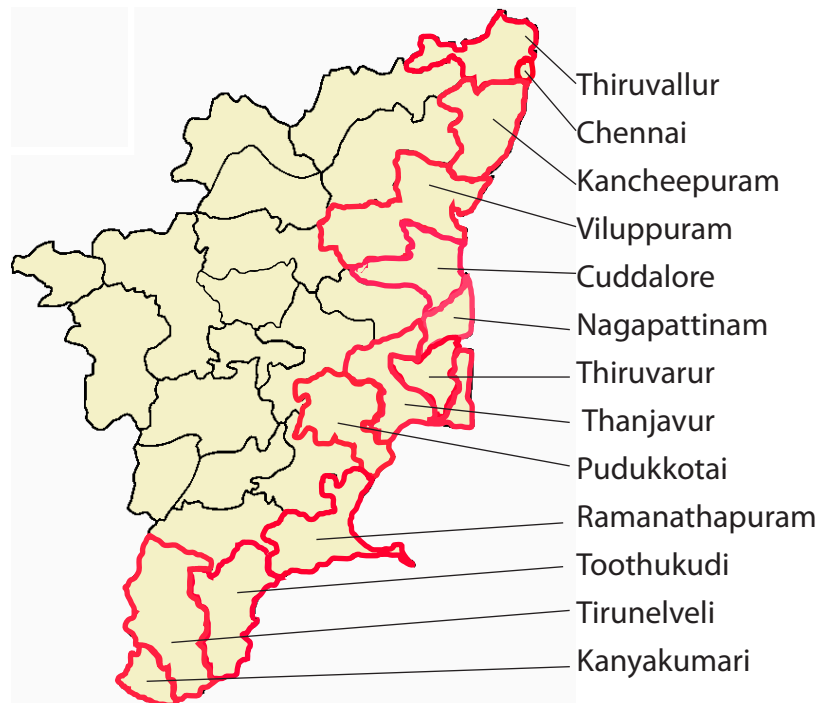
scene from southern Tamil Nadu after the tsunami
(photo courtesy of KSSS)

The Tsunami in Tamil Nadu

Thirteen coastal districts in Tamil Nadu were affected by the tsunami: Thiruvallur, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Viluppuram, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Toothukudi, Tirunelveli, Thiruvarur and Kanyakumari. Over 900 km of coastal area was impacted overall, and water penetration into the mainland ranged from .2 to 2 km. In total, 376 villages were affected in this state.

Approximately 900,000 people were affected, with over 8,000 deaths reported. The district Nagapattinam, where over 6,000 people died, was the most severely impacted. More than 800 died in Kanyakumari District and over 600 were reported dead in Cuddalore District. 44,207 persons were placed in 58 relief camps.

As in Kerala, large numbers of those affected on the coast were fisherfolk who suffered the most damage in terms of housing and livelihoods with loss of dwelling units, household assets, and productive assets like boats and nets.



Chennai (Madras) and Tiruvallur Districts

Chennai is a city district covering an area of over 178 km², situated on the northeastern corner of Tamil Nadu along the Coromandel coast on the Bay of Bengal. The 2001 population of Chennai District was 4.2 million.

The district of Tiruvallur is bounded on the east by the Bay of Bengal, with 55 km of coastline. There are 58 marine fishing villages in this district, and it is estimated that there are over 25,500 families engaged in fishing. There is a large area of inland freshwater and a productive inland fishery. In 2001 the population Tiruvallur District was 2.7 million. As a result of the tsunami, 206 persons died in Chennai District and 29 in Tiruvallur.

SAFP partner: Madras Social Service Society (MSSS)

This is the official social agency for the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore, which serves the city district of Chennai and district of Thiruvallur. MSSS works for the development of the poor and marginalized in these areas. 297 regular beneficiaries of SAFP's Family Development Program lived within the regions covered by MSSS as of December 2010.



above: debris and temporary shelters on seashore after tsunami in coastal area in Chennai/Tiruvallur District (photo courtesy of MSSS)



Madras Social Service Society: Soosai

At the time of the tsunami, Soosai was a 65 year-old man who lived with his wife, aged 60 in Chennai District of Tamil Nadu. He worked for daily wages, barely earning enough to meet the needs of his family. Their grandson Anthony, aged 9, was orphaned after the boy's parents and sister (Soosai's daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter) perished in the tsunami. The boy came to live with Soosai and his wife.

Without a regular job, and because of his age, Soosai was unable to earn sufficient income at this time to properly support the child. With SAFFP assistance, he hoped to start a petty shop in his house from which he would earn enough income to be able to educate his grandson and look after his family's needs.

Soosai now runs a petty shop, and earns approximately \$120 per month. He has been able to pay off his debts, and has improved his house with a new roof. All family members are in good health, and Soosai requires no further outside assistance. In addition, because the grandson now has ownership of his deceased parents' home (in his grandparents' trust), that house is rented out for additional income.

opposite page bottom: Soosai, his wife Pushpam, and grandson Anthony

Madras Social Service Society: Baskar

At the time of the tsunami, Baskar was a 32 year-old widower with two daughters aged 14 and 11. They lived in a rented hut in Chennai District of Tamil Nadu. He was a cycle rickshaw driver, but did not own his own vehicle.

The family lost all of its household possessions in the tsunami. Baskar found it difficult to pay for his children's education and to buy nutritious food. With SAFFP's assistance, he hoped to purchase his own cycle rickshaw which could earn him enough to meet his family's needs.

Baskar did purchase a cycle rickshaw, as planned, and earned good profit from his business. He purchased .3 acres of land and built a house with savings accumulated from deposited earnings. He earns nearly \$80 per month, has repaid his loans and debts, and continues to save money. He no longer requires any outside financial assistance.

His elder daughter Anitha, now 20, discontinued school after Grade 5, but received training in tailoring, and is able to earn income. She is now married. The younger daughter, Soniya, is doing well in her studies.

*right: Baskar and his two daughters in 2005
below: Baskar with his cycle rickshaw*



Madras SSS: Pappa Pazhaveekadu

Pappa is a 41 year-old woman living with her children in a remote village called Naduvorkuppan, located 68 km from Chennai City in Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. She belongs to a Backward Community (legally recognized as socially and educationally disadvantaged) and is illiterate.

Pappa's sons are Christopher and Melkis and her daughter is Soundarya. Her husband left the family ten years ago and married another woman. Her sons attended school up until 10th Standard and then began helping her in her new business venture. Her daughter has done very well academically; she obtained a score of 431 out of 500 in 10th Standard and continued on in school.

Before the tsunami, Pappa was running a mobile meal delivery business in her village. In the disaster she lost all her equipment. She had no source of income, was struggling to feed her family, and had to borrow money. She applied for SAFP assistance through MSSS, and was accepted. She also joined a newly formed women's Grama Sangam (village level association for women). She later obtained more funding through MSSS to begin a masala grinding and selling venture. This unit expanded with further funding to purchase packing equipment, and then a tricycle, used by her older son as a rickshaw to take fish to the fish markets. With guidance from MSSS, she saved a significant amount of money from all her dealings. Later yet, she obtained additional funding for selling home appliances.

Pappa repaid all her loans from her savings. She is now earning \$150 to \$200 per month. She is grateful to MSSS and SAFP for giving her an opportunity to rebuild her businesses and earn a reliable income.



top: Pappa and two of her children after the tsunami in 2005

bottom: Pappa selling masala powder



right top and bottom: Perianayagam, a fisherman, lives with his wife and children in a remote village called Naduvorkuppam in Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu. With help from MSSS and SAFF, he has been able to purchase equipment and earn sufficient income to care for his family.



Kanyakumari District

Kanyakumari District is situated at the southernmost tip of India in Tamil Nadu. The tsunami-affected area is situated in the western part of the Kanyakumari District on the coast of the Arabian Sea, and includes the coastal towns of Colachel, Kottilpadu, and Simon Colony. Colachel has a population of almost 14,000. Here, 338 persons were killed, 47 persons went missing, and 976 families lost their houses completely. Kottilpadu, a poor fishing village, had a population of approximately 3500, of which 197 were killed, 22 went missing, and 580 lost their houses. Simon Colony, with a population of 2750, had about 100 families that were badly affected by the tsunami. Most people in this area depend on the sea for their livelihoods, and suffered the loss of boats, fishing equipment, homes, and possessions.

Tirunelveli District

This district in southern Tamil Nadu has an area of 675 km with a population of 3.1 million, creating a density of 455 persons per km² (2011). It has a coastal area on the Gulf of Mannar contiguous with Tuticorin district to the northeast and Kanyakumari district to the south.



*top: boats and debris lie in the ruins of a church in southern Tamil Nadu (courtesy of KSSS)
opposite page: scene from southern Tamil Nadu after the tsunami (courtesy of TMSSS)*



SAFP partners:***Kanyakumari Social Service Society (KKSSS)***

Kanyakumari Social Service Society is the social service organ of the Catholic Diocese of Thuckalay, Tamilnadu, which serves Kanyakumari District, the southernmost district in India. It works for the socio-economic development of the poor in this area. The operating area is almost 1800 km², with a population of 1.9 million. 50 families who live in the tsunami-affected Colachel area received SAFP assistance through KKSSS. Most of the people in that area depend on fishing for their livelihoods. KKSSS was highly involved in tsunami relief efforts, acting in collaboration with many social agencies like SAFP India.

Kottar Social Service Society (KSSS)

KSSS is the official social work agency of the Diocese of Kottar in southern Tamil Nadu, which works to strengthen the development of the marginalized and disadvantaged so that they can achieve self reliance. The Diocese covers a land area of 1665 km² in the district of Kanyakumari. The population covered by the diocese is over 1.7 million people. The diocese consists of the taluks of Thovalai, Agasteeswaram (minus the parish of Azhagappapuram belonging to the diocese of Tuticorin), Kalkulam and Vilavancode (minus seven coastal villages belonging to the diocese of Trivandrum) of the Kanyakumari District of Tamilnadu.

Thuckalay/Kanyakumari Social Service Society: Sahayahelan Justin

At the time of the tsunami, Mrs. Sahayahelan was a widow whose husband Justin had died in a boat accident 11 years previously. She had two daughters aged 14 and 12 years. The family lost their house by the seashore and all their belongings, including her tailoring machine, furniture, and ornaments.

Sahayahelan was in a state of shock after the tsunami, not knowing if any of her family had survived. When the tsunami had struck in her village, her father had been at a tea stall and her two sons were at their friends' home. Only three were at home. They were rescued and moved to a church campus, one of the tsunami rehabilitation centres. Only after 12 hours did she learn that the rest of her family was housed at another rehabilitation centre.

Sahayahelan had previously done tailoring work, although this did not allow her to earn enough income to pay for the basic needs of herself, her three children, and her parents. Fortunately her mother had helped the family through earnings made by fish vending. The tsunami was devastating because it left Sahayahelan without any income source.

Following the tsunami, at the rehabilitation centre, the family was provided with basic amenities. Later they were moved to temporary housing, which was difficult because of thatched walls that let in snakes, mosquitoes and rats, and because of leakage during rains and severe heat in the summer. The toilets there did not allow for privacy, and there was a lack of water. The family was miserable in this condition.

With SAFP assistance, Sahayahelan bought a stitching machine and restarted her tailoring work. It was challenging because she had had a hip operation, and because of so many other women doing tailoring work in the community, making the venture competitive.

She is able to earn \$50 to \$75 per month from her livelihood, allowing her to meet most of the daily expenses of the family, and to save some money as well. The earnings allowed her to give her daughter in marriage.

Because of her hip condition, she has used some of the earnings to buy an electric motor for the stitching machine, which she hopes will improve her earning potential.

Sahayahelan and her family were provided with a new disaster-proof house from Caritas on a small plot of land provided by Kottar diocese, 500 metres from the sea. Her children continued at school, the daughter got married, and the boys are now fishing, which adds to the family income. Sahayahelan is grateful for the support that has allowed her to progress in life.



Thuckalay/Kanyakumari Social Service Society: Karlous

Mr. Karlous is a fisherman, who was 44 years old at the time of the tsunami. His wife died in that disaster and he was left with his four children, three sons and a daughter aged 10, 9, 2, and 1.

They had lived in a coconut leaf thatched house just 20 metres from the sea, which was lost, along with all household possessions, in the tsunami. Karlous had owned two catamarans and five types of fishing nets. He would normally go out in the morning to go fishing with his neighbours. He earned enough then to support his family, about \$8 per day. With the loss of his fishing equipment in the tsunami, he was left helpless.

After the tsunami, Karlous and his children were housed at Vattam church, one of the tsunami rehabilitation centres, where they were assisted with their basic needs including food, medicine, blankets, bedsheets, etc. This was a difficult time because of having to live with large numbers of people in a place lacking sufficient toilet and water facilities for everyone.

Later they moved to temporary tsunami housing which was a small 15 x 15 foot temporary shed. This space was inadequate for the family; living together, cooking, and washing became difficult, and the openness created a feeling of insecurity.

To re-establish his livelihood, Karlous purchased new fishing equipment with the financial assistance received from SAFFP. He had already been provided with a new catamaran from Caritas India. With that he could restart his fishing and generate new income. Despite being unable to fish regularly due to rheumatic pain, he began to earn \$100-\$150 per month, enough to meet the daily and educational needs of his family.

Life has improved significantly for Karlous; in addition to the assistance from SAFFP, Karlous received .03 acres of land from the Kottar diocese, as well as an earthquake/tsunami-proof house from EFICO, a foreign NGO. His elder son achieved 10th Standard in school and is now a fisherman. The other children continue their studies. The family enjoys good food and good health, except for Karlous' chronic condition.

For the future, Karlous would like to buy a second catamaran that would allow him to fish more regularly. Normally the boats are used alternately so that one can be properly dried while the other is being used. He is now able to save \$58 per month.



*above : Karlous and his four children at their temporary housing unit
below: Karlous with his boat and fishing equipment*



above left and right: displaced citizens at Kottar tsunami relief camp

below left: woman at Kottar relief camp

below middle: camp supplies waiting to be distributed

below right: relief camp cooking area

(courtesy of Kottar SSS)



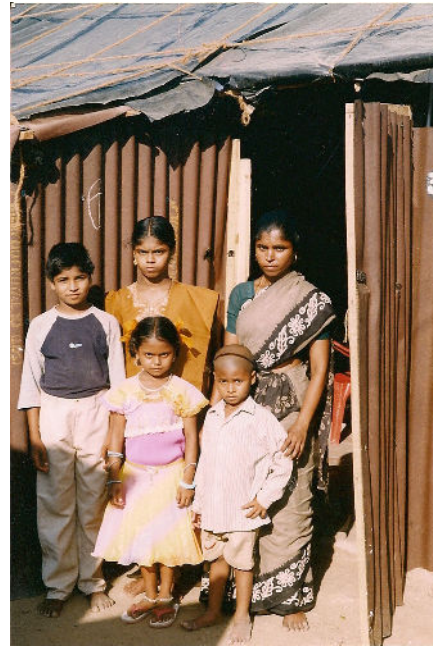
**Kottar Social Service Society:
Mrs. Santhal Pious**

Mrs Santhal, who lived in Manakudy, Tamil Nadu, lost her husband in the 2004 tsunami. She was left with four children, two sons and two daughters, ranging in age from 12 to 4 years of age. All their belongings were swept away, including the family’s fishing equipment for which they were owing money. Mrs. Santhal had no source of income and could not pay back these outstanding loans.

In addition, one of her daughters required treatment for seizures, which was an additional expense. Mrs. Santhal needed to provide for her family’s basic needs, and hoped to be able to have sufficient funds to meet the children’s educational costs.

With SAFP assistance, she hoped to start a provision/petty shop that would provide her with a sustainable income source to meet all these needs.

She has made good progress. Not only is she earning \$23 monthly from her petty shop, she is also working as an animator, earning a further \$86 monthly. Her elder daughter is now married, and the other children are studying. She has a house, a regular income, and is able to maintain her family without further external assistance.



**Kottar Social Service Society:
Mrs. Rose Mary Francis**

At the time of the tsunami, Mrs. Rose Mary was 42 years old, living with her three children aged 12, 11, and 7 in Kottilpad, Tamil Nadu. Her husband had deserted the family prior to that event.

Having lost their home and belongings in the tsunami, they were moved to a temporary relief camp. Rose Mary had no income source, having lost her means of livelihood.

With assistance from SAFP, she hoped to start a petty shop and earn sufficient money to meet her family’s needs, including education for her children.

Much has improved for Rose Mary—she started coconut sales in her home and earns \$34 per month. Her son is now a fisherman and earns \$86 per month. The government provided a house for the family, and she is able to manage the family without external assistance.

*above: Mrs. Santhal Pious and children
below: Mrs. Rose Mary Francis and children*

Thoothukudi District (Tuticorin)

Thoothukudi district is situated in the south-east of Tamil Nadu, on the Gulf of Mannar between Ramanathapuram district to the north, and Tirunelveli district to the south. The total area of the district is 4621 km², with a population of 1.7 million, creating a density of 378 inhabitants per km² (2011). The port city of Thoothukudi/Tuticorin is the site of the district headquarters.

Tuticorin Multipurpose Social Service Society
TMSSS is the social service agency of Tuticorin Diocese, which covers 6,440 km² in Tuticorin district and parts of Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts. It serves the marginalized and poor by helping them to achieve economic independence. 28 coastal villages in its operating area were affected by the tsunami (20 in Tuticorin and 8 in Tirunelveli), ten people died, and 10,000 families were evacuated.

Tuticorin MSSS: Mrs. Sahaya Makki

At the time of the tsunami, thirty-seven year-old Sahaya lived with her three children: eight year-old twin daughters, and a four year-old daughter in Idinthakarai in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. Her husband had deserted her three years previously. She was doing house-maid work to earn money to care for her family, but earned very little income. They were housed in a temporary tsunami shed after they lost their home. With SAFF assistance, Sahaya hoped to start a goat-rearing livelihood project to earn money to meet her family's basic needs.

right: Mrs. Sahaya Makki and her children



Tuticorin MSSS: Mr. Jayakumar

At the time of the tsunami, 54 year-old Jayakumar lived with his three daughters, aged 16, 12, and 10 in Idinthakarai in Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu. His wife had died five years earlier from cancer, and he suffered from heart disease, preventing him from doing heavy manual labour. He had difficulty earning enough money to meet his family's basic needs and educate his daughters, and had been receiving assistance from St. Vincent De Paul Society. The family was moved to temporary housing after the tsunami. With SAFF assistance, Jayakumar hoped to start a petty shop to earn more income.

right: Mr. Jayekumar and his children



above right: devastation at Colachel in Kanyakumari District--at Colachel, 11,500 Catamarans, 650 fishing nets, 48 fibre boats, and 425 Yamaha engines were washed away (KKSSS)

below left and right: wrecked boats in TMSSS operating area



Trivandrum Social Service Society

TSSS is the nodal organization of Trivandrum Archdiocese for implementing social action programmes for the empowerment and development of people in Trivandrum and Kanyakumari Districts. The total population of the Latin Trivandrum Archdiocese area is over 1.85 million and the operational area is 686 km².

Latin Trivandrum: Stella Lonches Pallipurayidom

At the time of the tsunami, Stella Lonches was a widow living in a small hut close to the seashore in southern Kerala. She earned a small income as a fish vendor. Her husband had died of a heart attack in 2001. She lived with her four children: a daughter Mani aged 13, a daughter Johnsy aged 10, a son Robin, aged 6, and a daughter Shobi aged 4.

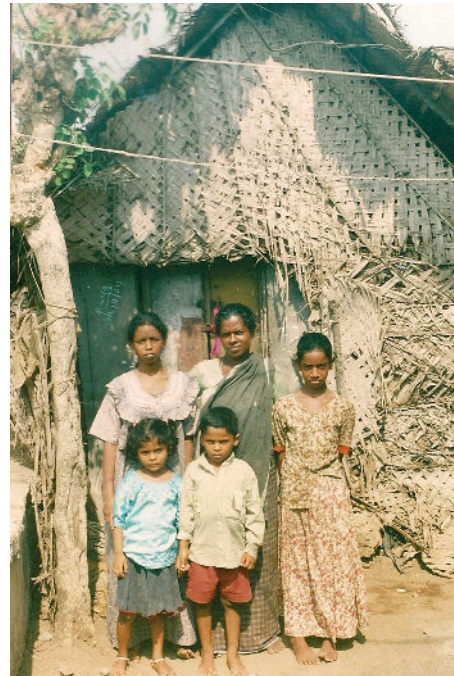
As a result of the tsunami, Stella's home filled with water and was damaged. Clothes, vessels, study materials, and a small table were lost.

Stella could no longer sell fish to earn income. It was difficult to feed her family and to meet their other needs, and as a result she borrowed from a money lender and fell into debt.

Stella and her family with many others from needs were met by the local church. However, or clothing to satisfy Medical support Diocesan Social Service Save A Family Plan assistance to start a fish She attended classes, business management.

Dry fish production fish in the off-season, extra income. Her new challenges—early on available for drying due the rainy season, she can year. At present, Stella per month.

Stella's debts are now paid off and her house has been repaired. Her older daughter has been given in marriage; her two other daughters are at a free boarding school for poor children; and her son, who has stopped his studies, is doing fishing-related work.



were relocated to a school the community, where basic local self-government and the there was not enough food the needs of so many people. was provided through the Society (DSSS).

provided Stella with financial drying and vending business. which included training on

allows Stella to sell dried thereby allowing her to earn business is not without its there was a scarcity of fish to the tsunami; and because of only dry fish for part of the is earning approximately \$85

Latin Trivandrum: Saramma Poivilakam

Saramma was a 31 year-old widow whose husband had died of typhoid. Because she suffered from a rheumatic heart condition, she was not able to work at anything requiring hard physical labour; nevertheless, because of necessity, she sold fish door-to-door to earn income. She and her two daughters, Selvarani and Sheeba, aged 13 and 12 respectively, at the time of the tsunami, lived in a small hut close to the sea. The two girls attended the local school and were in grades VIII and VII respectively. However, their mother could not meet their educational expenses nor provide them with adequate meals.

As a result of the tsunami, their hut was badly water-damaged and they lost vessels, chairs, and clothing. They were forced to move to a relief camp, which was based in a school. This was a difficult time, as they had to deal with inadequate food and clothing. The children were sent to live with relatives, who unfortunately treated them harshly. After one and one-half months the family members returned to their hut, but were frightened, feeling vulnerable to the strong winds and the high waves of the sea.

With the help of Save A Family Plan, Saramma hoped to do fish vending on a larger scale, and therefore take better care of her family. For the first months, she used the financial aid for her children's education. But she did not have success in fish vending. Because of the scarcity of fish, and resulting inflated prices, she was forced to borrow from moneylenders to make ends meet.

Instead she started a firewood business, which, although difficult in rainy season, has gone well. The elder daughter got married, and Saramma was able to construct a small house with government assistance. With her income generation project, she now earns approximately \$45 to \$75 per month and is able to manage the family's expenses.

top: Saramma started a firewood business with assistance from SAFP

bottom: Stella started a dried-fish business



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SAFP/partner tsunami reports and information

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SAVE A FAMILY PLAN
and
its partners in India



helping tsunami victims succeed
in their livelihoods





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