



PROJECT FACT SHEET

SUMMARY

When the Tsunami devastated the coastline of Tamil Nadu in 2004, many families lost their livelihoods, their homes, and often members of their family. As part of CARE's Tsunami Response Programme, the Permanent Shelter for Tsunami project was put in place to provide permanent shelter solutions to some of the communities most affected. The project targeted the Irula, a Scheduled Tribe living in Kalaingar Nagar of the Cuddalore district, who are marginalised and thus very susceptible to poverty. The Irula had been dependent upon backwater fishing and ancillary industries for survival and largely lived in mud and thatched huts. When the Tsunami hit, they were left vulnerable, with no shelter, and with no means of ensuring reliable incomes. They were also denied access to the government relief efforts, and had no money to construct their own shelter, hence CARE decided to intervene.



Permanent Shelter for Tsunami

Location: Tamil Nadu

PROJECT AIMS

- To construct 165 new homes for families in Kalaingar Nagar in partnership with the Centre for Rural Education and Economic Development (CREED)
- To provide the necessary infrastructures to support the permanent housing provided

SPECIFICS

In the first phase, CREED identified 105 families in need of new shelter. Construction work was completed in October 2005 and the housing was handed over to the 105 beneficiary families through the District Administration. In the second phase, housing was provided for the remaining 60 Irula families and handed over to them in 2006.



The beneficiaries were allowed to choose the housing model from the models prescribed by the government. They were also co-opted in the design and construction work for their own houses to ensure ownership rights were upheld—all of the houses are jointly registered in the names of both husband and wife.

Through a community-based monitoring system, accountability was assured throughout the process.

Each house was constructed in 325 sq. feet and provided with electricity supply, toilet facilities, and a shallow water pump. Common septic tanks were also provided for each street, as were proper cement roads and drainage.

With CARE, CREED has also campaigned to raise awareness on water and sanitation, and has strengthened the Housing Beneficiary Federation as a follow-up mechanism to ensure the ongoing success of the project.

The project has encouraged other community developments such as the new government-run health centre and a pre-school constructed nearby.

The Permanent Shelter Project is also closely associated with other CARE micro-projects for livelihood restoration. CARE has provided the opportunities and created linkages between all 165 families to assure sustainable livelihood options for the overall development of the community. One such project is CARE's Crab Fattening Project.

With the recent occurrence of Cyclone Thane on 30 December 2011, CARE now further aims to build 100-150 low-cost homes for the people of the district.

CASE STUDY

Malliga is 30 years old and of the Irula tribe, Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu. At the time of the 2004 Tsunami, she and her husband Ravi were living in a small traditional hut made from local materials. The wave destroyed their entire home and all their belongings. They came to the Tsunami relief camp where CARE and local partner CREED identified the family. They were selected by the Kaliaigner Nagar village committee to receive new housing. Malliga is now living in the village with her husband and four children. Besides the house, CARE also provided the family with a small boat and nets for fishing which provides a sustainable livelihood. Malliga recounts her experience:

"My family has been blessed with light in our lives. We never imagined that we would ever have such a house. We lived in a forest area in fear of snakes, poisonous insects and frequent disasters. But now we feel safe and have regular work. Earlier we lived without electricity and water facilities but now we have come out of the darkness. We are able to send our children regularly to school and we will fulfill our desire to see them educated. We will always remember and be thankful to CARE for their selfless services and concrete support."

