

THE HAVOC OF GAJA CYCLONE IN TAMIL NADU

1. Background:

In the early hours of 16th November 2018, Cyclone “Gaja” has made a landfall, with torrential rains and winds of up to 120 kmph, left a trail of destruction in Tamil Nadu.

The cyclone had created havoc in the 12 districts of Tamil Nadu killing 63 people and left hundreds homeless.

Accordingly to the latest report of the government on the damage caused by the cyclone:

- Twelve districts in Tamil Nadu were affected of which Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Pudukottai were massively affected during the cyclone.
- The power supply in many parts of the state had been disrupted. As per the estimates of the Tamil Nadu government, a total of 86,702 electric poles, 841 distribution transformers and 201 electric sub stations were affected.
- The cyclone has affected lakhs of people, disrupted communications, and damaged thousands of houses.
- Thousands of acres of crops were destroyed and atleast 40 lakhs of coconut trees were uprooted as per the government report. These have forced the farmers into distress.

The State Government has been actively involved in clearing debris of the fallen trees, restoration of electricity and relief works such as supply of food packs, bed-sheet....along with other volunteers.

2. ASSEFA Assessment & Proposed Relief Works:

ASSEFA has been working in Pudukottai district, which was damaged severely. Based on the assessment of our team including the members of the senior operational team, the following assistances will be provided to fill up gaps in the on-going relief works carried out by the government and other volunteers.

- Babies, pregnant ladies, young mothers were not able to access to nutritive foods. As a first phase, ASSEFA is planning to **supply milk** to the families having **babies** (*less than 1 year old*) for ten days as supplementary nutrition.

Based on the needs, pregnant ladies and young mothers will be assisted subsequently.

- Thatched houses and semi-pucca houses (*roof top fixed with tiles*) were damaged. Such houses will be **supported to replace the roof top** with G.I sheet (150 sq ft @ Rs 165). This, being the rainy season, provision of this support will be very helpful.
- Access to safe drinking water is a perennial problem. It has aggravated in the post cyclone period. ASSEFA is planning to **supply safe drinking water**, preferably RO water. The cost of RO plant including construction of shed works out to Rs 400,000. One plant can supply drinking water to 500 families.
- Many farmers were affected in terms of damages to their standing crops and tree crops – coconut, plantain, etc. and loss of livestock. Our team is still assessing their situation. We will get more information in the next communication.

3. Blocks/ Areas selected for first phase:

The proposed relief works will be undertaken in **64 most affected villages** in the following **four blocks**.

S. No	Block	Villages to be covered	Families in the villages	Field workers
1	Thiruvarankulam	24	24,000	6
2	Aranthangi	24	20,500	6
3	Manamelkudi	12	10,100	3
4	Arimalam	4	3,700	1
	Total	64	58,300	16

4. Our Team:

A team of **16 field workers** are in the field who will be involved in **identifying** and **providing** relief works under the **guidance of the senior manager**, Mr. Thiagarajan. Each **field worker will cover 4 villages**. This will be supervised by Mr. R Mahendran, a senior member of ASSEFA General Body and coordinated by Mr. L Kumar, senior member, SARC.

For any clarification, you can be in touch with logankumar@rediffmail.com or 9345213712

5. Contribution Required:

S. No	Particulars	Unit cost	Families identified	Status
1	Supply of milk for 10 days	400	3000 families	Already commenced
2	Repairing of houses	25,000	250 families	In process
3	RO water plant	4,00,000	10 units	In process

Those who are willing to join us, kindly contact us to the following e-mail address with the details as follows.

S. No	Particulars	Unit cost	Families identified	We are willing to support no of families
1	Supply of milk for 10 days	400	3000 families	
2	Repairing of houses	25,000	250 families	
3	RO water plant	4,00,000	10 units	

assefa@md2.vsnl.net.in and logankumar@rediffmail.com

Bank Details:

For Overseas Contribution:

Association for Sarva seva Farms
Account number: 10404411941
State Bank of India(Industrial Finance Branch)
Old No.103,New No.155 Anna Salai,Chennai-Tamilnadu.600 002-India
Branch number of the bank :09930
SWIFT code for the bank:SBININBB127

A Glance at the Havoc of Gaja Cyclone



Destruction of fishermen livelihood assets – boats, nets...

Uprooted trees – damaging vehicles and houses..



Uprooted Electric poles – Darkness in many villages



Massive block to road transport





Blocked Railway routes too..

Damages to the dwelling places



Damages to the dwelling places

Uprooted cell phone towers – affecting communication system and damages to the infrastrure





Loss of human lives & livestocks

Hundreds of thousand coconut trees were uprooted



Hundreds of thousand Plantains were uprooted

Thousands of livestock (sheep & goats) lost their lives

