

Communication 2

GAJA CYCLONE AND RESPONSES

1. Background:

The “Gaja” cyclone that struck in the early hours of 16th November 2018 had created havoc especially in the **four districts** – Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Thanjavur and Thiruvarur in Tamil Nadu.

ASSEFA shared the agony of the people particularly **Pudukottai where ASSEFA has been working** since 1980’s, to the well-wishers and friends of ASSEFA.

2. Present Situation:

In many villages, the **situation remains grim**. Though, people have started **returning to their homes** from the relief camps, but their **challenges remain the same**.

- The **trees** that were uprooted were **not yet fully cleared**.
- The **electricity yet to be restored** in many villages.
- Many people remain **inaccessible to safe drinking water**.
- The govt has supplied **“tar sheet” to cover the roof** as temporary arrangement to manage the monsoon rains.
- Many people are **still depending on relief support**, provided by the government, private firms and philanthropists.

3. Responses from well-wishers and Friends:

The positive responses for our first communication are as follows. This gave our team, the needed encouragement and energy to carry on this noble cause of helping the families in distress.

Responses as on November 30, 2018

Particulars	Responses
• Individual Philanthropists	13
• Trusts	02
• Companies	03
• MBTs	20
• Overseas ASSEFA groups	09

4. ASSEFA in Relief Works:

ASSEFA has **formed four teams** to assess and assist the local team in providing the relief support for their speedy recovery.

- **Distribution of Milk:** Mr. R Mahendran, a senior member, having vast experiences in procuring and distributing milk, is continuously assessing the needs and distributing milk to the families having children less than one year old, pregnant ladies and elderly people.

The distribution was **started from 26th November 2018**. As on 1st December, ASSEFA has **distributed 18.848 litres of milk** covering **9,424 families**.

Distribution of Milk

Date	Families covered	Milk supplied in litres	Villages covered
26 th Nov	3,840	1,920	64
27 th Nov	4,242	2,124	64
28 th Nov	2,456	1,228	52
29 th Nov	2,064	1,272	48

30 th Nov	2,640	1,320	52
1 st Dec	3,120	1,560	52
Total	18,848	9,424	

This support will be extended based on the needs.

- **Repairing of damaged houses:** Mr. Pandiarajan, who has vast experiences in providing support for house repairing is involved in assessing the needs especially **to cover the roof with G.I sheet**. Many houses of thatched and tiled roofs were damaged during the cyclone. The cost of G.I sheet is Rs 165 per sq ft. The houses might require at-least 150 sq ft sheet.
- **Safe RO drinking water:** Mr. Durai Arasan, a senior member, having vast **experience in installing community RO water plants** is involved with local team in identifying potential places and members to operate and distribute safe drinking water to the villagers. This will solve the perennial problem of accessing safe drinking water. The capacity of the proposed **RO plant is 1000 lpd**, which will **support 500 families**.
- **Livelihoods support:** Similarly, a **separate team** formed to assess the **damages to the agriculture, tree crops and livestock** and support needed to revive the livelihood activities. This will be undertaken by Mr. **Sanjay Gandhi**, who has over ten years experiences in livelihoods promotion.

5. Suggestions / Participations:

Kindly contact (logankumar@rediffmail.com & assefa@md2.vsnl.net.in) If any of you want to join us in this noble mission.

S. No	Particulars	Unit cost	Families identified	Your suggestion and support
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	

Bank Details:

<u>For Contribution within India:</u>	<u>For Overseas Contribution:</u>
Association for Sarva Seva Farms SB A/C 0938101015419 Canara Bank Royapettah Branch IFS code – CNRB0000938	Association for Sarva seva Farms Account number: 10404411941 State Bank of India(<i>Industrial Finance Branch</i>) Chetput Chennai 600 031 Branch number of the bank :09930 SWIFT code:SBININBB127

The third communication with more details will shared by 10th December 2018.

Distribution of Milk to young children (*less than 1 yr old*), Pregnant ladies & elderly persons.

