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## Action

## Tsunami: drift using

Alain Le Sann

**Nine months after the tsunami, fishermen from South India have new boats funded NGOs. Assistance not always well controlled, as explained Alain Le Sann, president of the Collective fishing and development.**

On the beach in Chennai (Madras), thousands of people walk around looking for a little freshness in the midst of dozens of colorful boats fiberglass proudly displaying the names of donors, some old repaired discreetly remind catamarans devastation of the tsunami. In appearance, the 700 kilometers of coastline in Tamil Nadu affected there is more than nine months by the tsunami, life has returned to normal, fishing is distributed over again. But the huts where fishing families lived and disappeared, in a city like Madras, some have been displaced several kilometers from the beach. Flowering names of NGOs on boats also creates a feeling of unease. Fishermen would they lost control of their business and their fate? Several meetings with the leaders of the South Indian Federation of Fishermen's Societies (SIFFS) (1) to measure how this question of the relationship between fishermen, NGOs and the State is the major problem of the reconstruction.

In South India, 80% of 10,000 victims were fishermen and their families. After the tsunami, hundreds of NGOs, Indian and international, have rushed to the affected villages. With considerable funds, but for the most inexperienced of the fishing community, they spoke generously to distribute emergency and take part in the reconstruction. Yet M.Vivekanandan, director of SIFFS, does not mince words to criticize the behavior of many NGOs. They did not take into account the tremendous capacity for governance manifested by hundreds of fishing villages. These villages are often of great homogeneity of caste and religion. Some are Christians, Muslims or other Hindu, some is mixed. They are always directed by a council ( *panchayat* ) consisting only of men. In the 1990s, the government introduced new *panchayats* where women represent a third of the elected, however few actually work, and it is the traditional structures that

have taken over the equitable distribution of aid in connection with the religious structures (dioceses , temples, mosques). Thus, some *panchayats* demanded of those who had received direct aid NGOs they hand these gifts so that they are evenly distributed. SIFFS regret of course that women are not associated with these *panchayats* and ensures their representation based on their organizations and NGOs that support long ago. In Nagapattinam, the

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worst affected district south of Pondicherry, SIFFS works closely with the Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA) (2), with a strong presence of women fishing.

However, it is unrealistic in the context of drama, will remedy overnight to a thousand defects social system. In this case, for SIFFS, it was mostly avoid that aid comes exacerbate tensions within the fishing villages and ensure equity in the distribution, without excluding women and *Dalits* (outcasts). M.Vivekanandan knows SIFFS must manage constraints to its social base without sacrificing the objective of equity. The federation will have in place a system of microcredit for women anglers.

From the early days, it was necessary to allow fishermen to retain control over the process of relief and reconstruction. SIFFS received support for this collector (prefect) of Nagapattinam and was inspired by the Indian experience multiple disasters (earthquakes, hurricanes). In early January, a delegation visited a reconstruction site in Gujarat. Fishermen came back with the intention to rely on a few simple principles: coordination, transparency, participation and equity. With the support of SIFFS, the government has decided to limit the number of NGOs by requiring them support one or more villages for the duration of the reconstruction. A coordinating body, the NGO Coordination and Resource Centre (NCRC) was established to link between the prefect of Nagapattinam, NGOs and fishing villages. It is headed by the Prefect, SIFFS, SNEHA and a representative of the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP). This unique experience indeed interested international organizations as a possible model for coordination of relief and reconstruction of the affected areas. A framework SIFFS, Annie George, anime this structure with professionalism and dedication. She agreed to leave his family in Kerala to pursue the reconstruction until the end.

The NCRC has organized several workshops for NGOs to develop common bases intervention on various aspects of reconstruction. Fishing, agriculture, temporary housing, health, education, women, *dalits*, etc.. This effort pays off, but it was not enough to prevent some abuses. Thus, thousands of boats were

given to fishermen without verification, in the absence of any record of the boats destroyed. Those who had a *kattumaram* (3), considered archaic by many NGOs have received a fiberglass boat. All fishermen who asked, bosses or sailors, were offered boat. There would now be in several places four times more boats before the tsunami! Everywhere along the roads, yards align their colorful boats. NGOs absolutely wanted a quick and visible action that can show their effectiveness to their donors. The result is astonishing indeed, the name of the donor is registered for a long time on the thousands of boats that have invaded the beaches. But to manage the consequences of the overexploitation lightness many NGOs? Some went so far as to consider the owners of boats as exploiters. It is true that in giving a boat every sailor the problem seems solved.

The other big challenge is the reconstruction of

halls

- ▶ Meeting with a famous and mysterious Blocker: Robert Johnson
  - ▶ ethnic Sort Renault
  - ▶ Prisoners forgotten camp Rieucros
  - ▶ "No enough volume! "A documentary about the crazy mechanical WTO
  - ▶ Enrageons us Brest!
  - ▶ Refugees: Chechen children out of school
  - ▶ The ten-year Action against unemployment
  - ▶ Aralis: half a century of struggle against exclusion
  - ▶ Mobile Phones : roofs bristle
  - ▶ Cabaret policy
  - ▶ Carpenters another life
  - ▶ Seasonal work: Hell Holiday
  - ▶ Cachan squatters
  - ▶ Charente: looters water
  - ▶ The National Archives does not want to lose the memory
  - ▶ Immigration: Children in major danger
  - ▶ What plays the mayor of Fecamp?
  - ▶ Child labor: small hands Potosi
  - ▶ Video: the eye was in the city
  - ▶ Portrait of a centenary Association: The crumb of bread
  - ▶ The last farm Paris
  - ▶ Fumbles nothingness
  - ▶ Immigration: a policy on the life of Foreign
  - ▶ Social blues
  - ▶ Treaties criminals activists
  - ▶ Tell me how you buy?
  - ▶ Tsunami: Promises Kept
  - ▶ Waking black cats
  - ▶ The real reasons plan Villepin
  - ▶ That small wage rise fist!
  - ▶ Solidarity with Palestine
- "build bridges"
- ▶ L uncertain future of the House of steelworkers
  - ▶ Missions impossible in Chechnya
  - ▶ -old "enemies" of 15 years
  - ▶ Shared gardens
  - ▶ Wal-Mart undercuts the social
  - ▶ speculators against farmers

The other big challenge is the reconstruction of villages. Benny Kuriakose, an architect of Madras undertook with enthusiasm to lead a team of thirty architects hired by SIFFS to lead the reconstruction of 2,000 houses. The Government strongly encourages fishermen to move away from the beaches. This issue of land is a nightmare for the government and fishermen. SIFFS due mainly to avoid precipitation and gives two years to complete the program that has been entrusted. This is the largest program of all those entrusted to NGOs by the government, which is relieved of this responsibility.

The team begins by SIFFS a full study and accurate villages to rebuild, development of cadastre, social structure, economic, religious, cultural, political structure, education, etc.. A risk map is performed. Thus the members of the association he could show, for example, a field assigned to a village by the government was more dangerous than others, closer to the coast but raised. *"I want to get to build 2 000 different houses, corresponding to the wishes and needs of families of fishermen, because before all the houses were different "*, it says Benny. Each family has 3 000 euros and can make choices in this envelope. It may be inspired by six built to help families visualize their project model homes. This whole process takes time but is essential to enable individual and collective ownership of the reconstruction of villages. SIFFS requires only a few frames, installation of toilets with composting and recovery of rainwater by a flat roof to face severe drinking water shortage. The immediate problem to solve is that of improved temporary shelters, where living conditions are very harsh, heat, dirt, promiscuity, child malnutrition and soon monsoon downpours.

Beyond reconstruction, SIFFS also wants to lay the foundations for sustainable development for fishing, despite the plethora of boats distributed. On his site Tarangambadi (near Karaikal, the former French colony), a hundred workers complete the program shipbuilding fiberglass and kattumarams. In a few weeks, this site will end, and the workers out of work for several years. Joseph, the site manager, is happy to show us the first prototype of a new series of boats suitable for fishing on the high seas Before the tsunami, SIFFS fought trawlers and had engaged in discussions with the owners to consider their conversion . Many trawlers were no longer profitable due to overfishing and to the federation, the destruction of hundreds of them by the tsunami creates the opportunity to accelerate the conversion process with the support of the government, which has now substantial funds. This space freed by trawlers may be occupied by coastal fishermen with inexpensive boats, adapted to the high seas and landed on the beaches. These fishermen use techniques tenderloin or softer than the trawl lines, and they emerge as the overexploited coastal zone.

After these few days of visits to the coast, we saw fishermen who knew regain control of their future in the Nagapattinam district. Fishing has picked up since June, cooperatives SIFFS were rebuilt and operated since July. Thanks to them, the fishermen were able

SINCE JULY. THANKS TO THEM, THE FISHERMEN WERE ABLE to find better prices and avoid dependence on wholesalers. They know they will have to manage the consequences of using uncontrolled by NGOs. SIFFS alone can not challenge a few months an unequal structure based on caste and marginalization of women, but it has preserved the resilience of village communities to ensure both equitable reconstruction and a better future. For once, this is not money that is lacking, but NGOs and donors should carefully measure that money is a source of power and can result in a loss of autonomy for the victims. For our part, the Collective fishing and development is for this reason that we chose to give the money collected (4) directly as possible to fishermen's organizations as SIFFS, India, or National Fisheries Solidarity (NAFSO) (5), Sri Lanka. We do not regret that choice.

ALS

(1) SIFFS includes thousands of artisanal fishermen in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

(2) SNEHA, founded in 1984, works with poor fishing communities in Tamil Nadu and especially women and children.

(3) Raft made of logs assembled, very suitable for the type of fishing and coastal South India.

(4) The Collective has received more than 000 250 different communities (4) The Collective has received more than 000 diverse communities whose 250 Brittany Regional Council and the General Council of Finistère, several fishermen's associations and maritime world, hundreds of individuals and organizations throughout France.

(5) NAFSO is a national federation of various groups of fishermen and coastal communities of Sri Lanka.co