TN FIRST

Social mobilisation for resilient livelihoods of the left behind communities during and beyond disasters in Tamil Nadu, India

March 2023

Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation

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Research Foundation (HRF)

The Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation works to protect and promote the human rights of socially excluded communities and vulnerable sections of society, mindful or intersectionality.

The Foundation enables these communities to exercise their constitutional rights, amplifies their voice, and enhances their participation in decision making through demystifying laws and sate mechanisms, building their capacity, and supporting them to deepen democracy and build capacity, and supporting them to deepen democracy and build inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities.

We broaden space for civic engagement and support human rights defenders to promote a culture of human rights to secure a life with dignity for all at all times.

A post-pandemic recovery process was initiated in November 2021 by HRF with the support of Recover Better Support Fund (RBSF-GIZ), with 18,000 households in remote areas in 137 panchayats, in 30 of 38 districts in Tamil Nadu. TN First, as the initiative was called, was to ensure that Tamil Nadu becomes first in all human development indicators, and the vulnerable communities become more resilient in an increasingly unstable world, where natural and manmade disasters are the norm.

In this short duration, the socially excluded and vulnerable communities in remote hamlets have been linked to formal support institutions, and have got about ₹776 million in quantifiable assets (land, houses, pensions etc) at a scorching pace of over ₹1.7 million per day for 454 days. In addition, the community was enrolled in government insurance schemes potentially worth ₹650 million, if the need arose due to a medical emergency or fatality.

It took 43,166 applications for entitlements (including 15,002 for the pre-qualifying documents), from December 2021 to February 2023, of which 17,196 (39.84%) have been approved and received to accomplish this incredible task. Over 34 district animators, supported by 23 mentors, were key to this achievement.

Objective

The initiative was to ensure that socially excluded and vulnerable communities (SEVC) in remote areas access emergency relief, all entitlements and social security benefits, and build forward better with sustainable livelihoods accessing and benefitting from all eligible state supported schemes and facilities.

Project priority communities

- Scheduled Castes
- Scheduled Tribes
- Fishers
- Migrant workers
- BPL families
- Single women
- Persons with disabilities

Geographical coverage

The district animators surveyed 161 village panchayats (about 481 villages) in Ariyalur, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dharmapuri, Dindigul, Erode, Kanyakumari, Karur, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Nilgiris, Perambalur, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Theni, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirappalli, Tirupattur, Tirupur, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvarur, Vellore, and Virudhunagar districts of Tamil Nadu. of them 137 village panchayats were covered in the TN First initiative.

Demographics

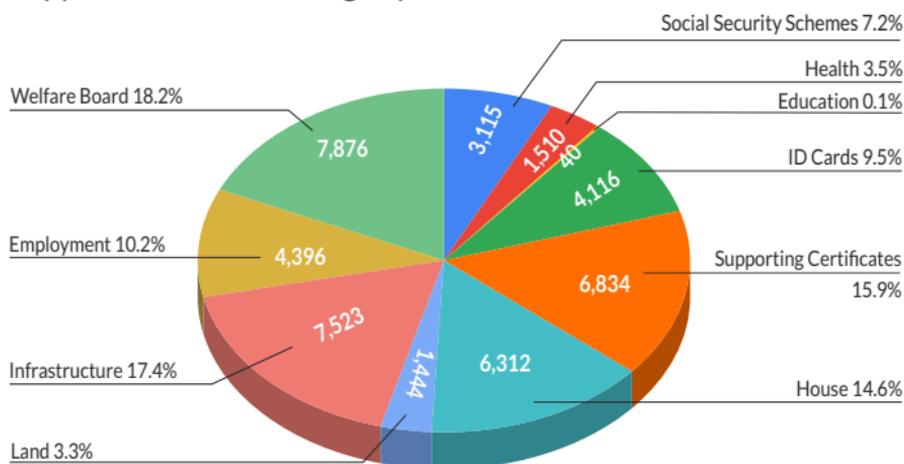| No.of HH	Below 18 Years			
	Girls	Boys	TG	PWD
18,086	8,549	8,732	120	299
	18 to 40 Years		40 to 60 Years		Above 60 Years	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
	14,398	13,496	8,683	7,321	2,675	2,465

Community coverage

The attempt was to reach out to the most underserved communities. Consequently, the coverage was **8,625 (47.69%)** from the scheduled castes, **3,238 (17.90%)** from the scheduled tribes, **1,526 (8.44%)** from the backward classes, **1,627 (9.00%)** from the Most Backward Classes, **2,732 (15.11%)** fishing communities and **338 (1.87%)** not known. Of the fishers **10 (0.06%)** belonged to the scheduled castes, **335 (1.85%)** to the scheduled tribes, **191 (1.06%)** to the backward classes and **948 (5.24%)** to the most backward castes. **1,248 (6.90%)** did not specify their community.

Highlights

Total of **43,166** applications were filed from December 2021 to January 2023, out of which **17,196** (39.84%) were received

The success rate varies according to the location, even within districts. Overall the greatest success is in enrollment for health insurance (75%), followed by employment (MGNREGS, 60%), and education (83%). Housing with a success rate of under 8% was the least successful, followed by land (35%) and social security schemes (30%). However, many of the applications are in process, and the success rate in those applications could well go up.

The most applications filed are for enrolment with welfare boards (7,876), followed by infrastructure (7,523), supporting documents (6,834) and house title deed and housing scheme (6,312). The most received entitlements are enrolment with welfare boards (3,238), followed by infrastructure (3,698), employment (2,795), and supporting documents (2,726).

Applications: Success Rate				
Entitlement	Filed	% of total	Received	% of applied
Social Security schemes	3,115	7.22%	950	30.50%
Health	1,510	3.50%	1,137	75.30%
Education	40	0.09%	33	82.50%
ID cards	4,116	9.54%	1,621	39.38%
Supporting certificates, documents	6,834	15.83%	2,726	39.82%
Housing	6,312	14.62%	496	7.86%
Land	1,444	3.35%	502	34.76%
Infrastructure	7,523	17.43%	3,698	49.16%
Employment	4,396	10.18%	2,795	63.58%
Welfare boards	7,876	18.25%	3,238	41.11%
Total	**43,166**	**100.00%**	**17,196**	**39.31%**

The monetised value of the entitlements received is ₹776 million of the ₹3.3 billion applied for - just about 25%. It is likely that more of these will be sanctioned in the coming days. Land, housing, and basic income support from the welfare boards will contribute in the long-term to physical and mental health, longevity, and collective wellbeing - all resilience essentials.

Monetised Value				
Scheme	Per unit (₹)	Applied	Received	Monetised value (₹)	Calculation
Social Security schemes					
OAP	1,000	1,960	530	63,600,000	₹1,000 per month* (above 60 years)
Single women	1,000	874	319	38,280,000	₹1,000 per month*
PWD	1,500	281	101	18,180,000	₹1,000 per month*
Education					
Education fund	7,545	11	11	83,000	Received
ID cards (Ration card)	100	1,637	834	10,008,000	Family of 4 (20kg rice per month @ ₹5/- per kg)*
House and Land					
Housing scheme	280,000	2,645	348	97,440,000	Average ₹2.8 Lakhs per house (one time)
House title deed	200,000	3,667	148	29,600,000	Average ₹2 Lakhs for 2 cents (one time)
Land title deed	200,000	1,005	402	80,400,000	Average ₹2 Lakhs for 2 cents (one time)
Agriculture land	1,000,000	439	100	150,000,000	Average ₹10 Lakhs for 1.5 acre (one time)
Employment					
Self-Employment	7,000	279	1	7,000	
Employment (MNREGA)	281	3,747	2,571	72,245,100	100 days each, for one year
Welfare board	1,000	4,405	1,467	176,040,000	₹1,000 per month*
SS Farmer certificates	3,000	67	44	15,840,000	₹1,000 per month*
Fishers welfare board	5,000	846	33	3,300,000	₹5,000 for two months a year during fishing ban*
Infrastructure					
LPG	1,650	56	21	34,650	₹1,650 per connection
Electricity	450	328	262	14,148,000	100 units per month*
Toilet	12,000	2,323	615	7,380,000	₹12,000 Government grant
Total	₹1,721,526.45	24,570	7,807	₹776,502,750	

Note: * calculated for 10 years

At about ₹650 million, the monetised value of the potential medical insurance is almost 90% of the monetised value of the entitlements received. This has the spinoff effect on lessening chances of a health emergency pushing the family deeper into poverty, thereby reducing stress and improving mental and overall health.

Health	Per unit (₹)	Applied	Received	Monetised value (₹)	Calculation
Health insurance	500,000	735	605	302,500,000	Potential per annum
Health (PMJJY)	200,000	152	0	0	
Health (PMSBY)	200,000	90	0	0	
Eshram	200,000	2,625	1,738	347,600,000	
Total	**₹1,100,000**	**3,602**	**2,343**	**₹650,100,000**	

Other categories	Applied	Received
School Dropouts Readmitted	14	11
Transfer Certificate (TC)	6	6
First Graduate	8	4
Birth Certificate	522	241
Death Certificate	26	23
Child Vaccination	3	3
Below Poverty Line (BPL)	177	134
Corrections (Ration Card, Voter ID, Aadhar, PAN)	1,159	205
Voter ID	361	109
Aadhar	596	170
PAN	363	303
Community Certificate	4,613	1,823
Legal Heir Certificate	264	6
Income Certificate	899	314
Nativity Certificate	191	107
Residential Certificate	46	19
Job	10	0
Piped Water	1,461	1,063
Jal Jeevan	3,331	1,737
Road Facility	24	0
Covid Vaccination	529	529
Employment Exchange Registration	122	31
Employment Exchange Renewal	248	192
Bank A/C	23	10
Marriage Certificate	6	5
TOTAL	**15,002**	**7,045**

Acknowledgement

Associate Coordinator Anitha monitored the progress of the project along with Associate Coordinator Geethavani who also did the data analysis. Associate Coordinators Divya and Madhuravalli did the final data verification. Senior Coordinator Chitra coordinated the field programme. Coordinators Revathy and Halcyon Fernandes provided programme support. The programme was managed by Deputy Director Tamilarasi.

Edwin
Director (Programmes), HRF
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