

5. Other issues on progress with tsunami relief and reconstruction

5.1 Excellent access to initial relief

All GNDs have received the funds for deaths for 15,000 for kitchen equipment of Rs 2500, the livelihood grant of Rs 5000 and the food/cash coupon.

5.2 Problems with transitional accommodation

Many people complained of the problems with emergency shelter (tents) and the slow progress in receiving transitional shelter. Many of these problems have increased with the rains. However as earlier data has shown even before the tsunami one third of households in the sample had rooves of cadjan or metal sheets and 27% had temporary walls (ie clay, planks, tin sheets).

5.3 Many fishers still awaiting fishing boats and equipment

Fishers in several GNDs complained that they were still unable to replace their lost fishing boats and nets.

5.4 Some limited shortcomings with public officials such as GNs

Grama niladaris are the key link between the people and the government. In a few cases, there were concerns raised about the GNs ability to assist either because of corruption, failing to attend to his duties or being new to the area:

- GN is reported to be very difficult to find in Navalady, Manmunai North, Batticaloa
- In Sinnai Ullai allegations were made against the GN: “We have problems with the GN. He does not help us but hinders. It is very difficult to get anything approved by him. If we give him some money then of course no problem. He expects to get some money from us for everything. “
- Dewata GND has recently been divided into two. According to focus group participants, the newly appointed GN does not know the people in the area and their problems.