

**ASSOCIAZIONE CONI
FATEBENEFRAPELLI
PER I MALATI
LONTANI**

Agreement n.

17

District

Trincomalee

Cost

1,520,190.55 Euros

Duration

January '05 - August '06



1 AFMAL AND MUTHUR HOSPITAL

Many years ago, the Cooperazione Italiana had been involved in rehabilitating part of the Muthur hospital: small pavilions connected to one another by low roofs supported by small columns, forming a labyrinth of walkways inside the hospital area, surrounded by a perimeter wall. After the tsunami destroyed part of the pavilions and walkways, several donors got involved in the reconstruction. Initially, the Department assured the renewal of health-care activity through AFMAL, which provided training to the staff while the construction proceeded, along with tents, medicines and field equipment – a tent is still set up in the courtyard, faded but in perfect condition, used to store the electrical equipment – and then remodelled the pavilion housing the maternity ward, the emergency care pavilion and the analysis labs, the common areas used as waiting rooms, and finally built an equipped dental office and a new surgical pavilion. The rehabilitation was completed quickly, but the hospital was in a war zone; the equipment was not set up and for a time was transferred to Trincomalee. For months Muthur was a town without of inhabitants, except for those in uniform. When the situation returned the normality, the local authorities set about repairing the damage from arms fire and again rendering the hospital functioning. At that point it was possible to install the medical equipment that was included in our project, open the newly built pavilions, and, in cooperation with the AISPO staff in Kinniya who came to Muthur by ferry twice a week, started providing assistance to the medical and paramedic personnel. When you ask the director of the hospital complex for news of the facility, he tells you that some 120 patients come every day, and there are some fifty births a month. “Before”, the complex operated at a much faster pace, with at



least two hundred births. If you ask “Before what?” he looks at you, smiles and answers, “Before”, without adding more. Then he says, “But we’ll get bigger again”, and you don’t know whether he’s answering you or talking to himself, looking for at least a glimmer of hope in words.



2 THE DHARUL JANNAH SCHOOL

Along the lagoon that cuts Muthur in two, on the inland side, the Department built one of the two schools constructed in this town that was hit so violently by the tsunami and by war. Dharul Jannah offers first-cycle classes and can accommodate some 200 children in six classrooms divided between two buildings, plus two halls for recreation activities and events. One building houses the principal's office, the library, the computer lab and the lunch hall. The Assembly Hall has a six-meter ceiling enclosing a simple and serious space that the entire local community has used repeatedly, as a sort of meeting place capable of holding all the students and more. Finally, two smaller buildings feature the restrooms and the watchman's room. In order to make the whole facility, which stands in the middle of the lagoon, safe, the construction plane was raised by 75 centimetres, and to protect it from the monsoon rains a drainage ditch was provided all along the bordering road. Potable water is provided by a well drilled by a company that came all the way from Colombo; it is deep enough to reach the freshwater table. At the corner of the perimeter wall, on the road, a tower was built for distributing the water. On the outside there is a clock depicted with the hands stopped at 7:58, when the tsunami of December 26, 2004, so profoundly impacted the life of this small fishing community.

CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Agreement n.

43

District

Trincomalee

Cost

3,024,549.84 Euros

Duration

March '05 - August '07

The cost indicated

above refers to the five schools completed with this project.



CIVIL
PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT

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3 THE AL MANAR SCHOOL

This was one of the last schools finished and handed over to the local authorities; it is in Muthur, a few meters from the ferry landing, in an area still closely guarded by the Navy. Built on three floors around a small courtyard, making use of all the available space within the residential area, on the strip of land that divides the ocean from the lagoon behind it, it is intended to meet the educational needs of the local Muslim community: impossible not to recognize the girls with their school uniform and veil resting lightly on their heads, and the boys in white shirts with the unmistakable openwork cap, also white.

The school has first- and second-cycle classrooms – 24 in all – a library, science labs, computer room, offices for the principal and administration, a meeting hall, a lunchroom and restrooms. The third-floor classrooms will likely be the source of constant distractions for the students using them: the windows look out over the roofs of houses and provide a look at life in the courtyards and two streets at the



back of the school, over the perimeter wall, and invite one to gaze at the lagoon on one side, with the coming and going of people crossing it at low tide and of fishermen in boats when the tide comes in; on the other side there is a dreamy view of the immense bay that reaches right up to the town. Above the roofs, the tops of the palms and other trees always blowing in the wind, and above them a sky that changes constantly, filled with clouds that are white and innocuous one minute and threateningly black the next, serving as a background to flying crows.

4 THE AL ADHAN SCHOOL

There was originally a rather dilapidated three-storey building where the Al Adhan school complex in Kinniya now stands. The tsunami didn't touch it, didn't destroy anything, and perhaps because of that demonstration of natural security the area in front of the old building was chosen by the Ministry of Education for a large complex with first- and second-cycle classrooms. The existing building was completely overhauled, getting rid of the asbestos roof, which was replaced with aluminium sheeting, to turn it into offices, lodging for the president, administrative offices and a library. Two new two-storey wings house classrooms, 15 for the primary cycle and 12 for the secondary. At the end of the courtyard a new building houses the restrooms, dining hall and kitchen.

Outside the large rectangle thus formed there are two other buildings: one for teacher housing and the other for the Assembly Hall, the area that all schools have not just for official speeches by the principal at the start and end of the year but also for ceremonies and festivals, song and dance contests, shows and collective meetings of the school community. In addition to the electrical system and potable water, the complex was made liveable by the construction of a long containment wall separating the school area from its surroundings, and by a football field and a volleyball court. It will not be easy for the educational authorities to maintain the school properly. No matter how cute and smiling they are, several hundred kids together in a single space for long days are capable of giving a substantial boost to the wind, rain and sunshine in giving the buildings, recreation areas, walls and paint a worn appearance.

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5 THE KANIJAWELI SCHOOL

The new Kanijaweli school in Pulmoddai stands on a plot of land owned by the mining company which extracts a precious ore from a beach near the village that is used in making chips for our computers: a greyish-black sand, separated out by subsequent processing from the yellow sand our Mediterranean eye is accustomed to. That is why, when you come to this town on the coast, you seem to be passing through a circle of hell, with dark mountains, dark streets, and machinery and diggers that have all taken on the same colour, with even the rust in their dents being grey. From the town, however, none of this can be seen, and the main street takes you straight to the new school's gate. There are four buildings constructed by the Department, painted in pastel shades, with no traces of black or grey: one houses primary-cycle classrooms, the second more classrooms, the computer and science lab, and the library; the third has restrooms and a meeting room, and the fourth is housing for the teaching staff. The principal is a dynamic, energetic and vital woman well aware of the difficulties encountered in running a school in a place with so many contradictions and problems. Some students are children of mine workers, but most come from very poor fishermen's families. The principal complains of a lack of teachers at this school, as so often happens in the north area of Trincomalee, marked by the conflict that flares up and subsides repeatedly but is never over. Those we meet, however, all have the convinced attitude of those who love their work and are determined not to have anything to do with the colour of the mineral that makes a few people rich and sullies an otherwise enchanting coastline and landscape.



6 THE KOKKILAI SCHOOL

Kokkilai is a simply incredible place. Some 60 kilometres north of Trincomalee, just past a spot where the lagoon faces the ocean in a labyrinth of dunes, shallows and currents that only the local fishermen are familiar with, a town seemingly perched on a cliff appears among the palm trees. You could get there by land, but the army has reserved the road that runs along the very narrow strip of land that keeps Kokkilai from being an island. So the only way to get there is by crossing the lagoon in a boat, with a boatman steering the 9 hp motor and two kids who got in and out with the water barely up to their knees to help the poor outboard over the sandbars. From the boat, the school can be spotted easily, with its large red tile roof on a two-storey building, the tallest one in the town. When we get there, we discover that what we saw along the way is only a part of what was built: the school includes five buildings: the first, at the entrance to the complex, is for lodging for the principal and teachers; the other four, arranged around the courtyard, feature classrooms, the lab, library, restrooms and lunch hall, and the computer room. All of the construction materials were carried here by the same little boats that ferry visitors and residents, and for months carried the construction workers, architects and site manager. The army controlling the area made just one exception, for the truck with the benches, desks, chairs and equipment, which was allowed to take the



CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

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road, under escort. The principal says he doesn't have enough teachers, and it is not difficult to believe him: there can't be many people who feel so strongly called to teaching that they would agree to teach a few kids in an outpost as remote as this one. The village is atypical of the area, even from social point of view. The residents are all fishermen who came up here from Negombo on the coast opposite the island, because the sea is rich and with good catch. At the place where you catch the boat to the town, there is a group of small refrigerated trucks parked, waiting for the boats to come in. Fishermen and vendors weigh the fish on an improvised scale, then towards evening the trucks leave for Negombo in time for the morning market, with fish so fine they bring in a good income despite the distance of the trip. Before the civil war passed through this part of the island in the town of Kokkilai were living four hundred families. Now there are about a hundred, but even the principal is convinced that soon there will be more, if things go for the better. The army, which protects the village and has turned it into a small fort, would have no problem taking in other fishing families from an area outside the conflict. Meanwhile no one, not the principal or the designers, thought it wise to do away with the underground bunker in a corner of the school courtyard, not far from the newly installed water pump. There is a small stairway going down into the ground, a few steps promising shelter from the violence of weapons, so well known here. That stairway is an open question: how will the school operate, how many students and teachers will it have? The answer will come from the sand, which might start to hide it if it is not used.

7 COSV AT MUTHUR

This NGO managed a project for the construction of housing in Muthur. In the first few months, COSV built 230 temporary shelters or single-family huts in five camps set up on reclaimed land, made accessible by the construction of streets connecting to the main road system, with hook-ups for electricity and water. All the families settled in the shelters were given basic necessities kits, as well as equipment and materials for maintenance of their homes. In two of the camps a play area for children was built, and in one a larger shelter was built for use as a place of prayer. In the second half of the year, once the problem of emergency housing was resolved, COSV built 20 single-family homes in the typical local style but made of reinforced concrete, to enable the beneficiary families to build a second floor in the future. The house design created by COSV was identified by the local authorities as a model, proposed to other organisations involved in the town's reconstruction.



COMITATO DI COORDINAMENTO DELLE ORGANIZZAZIONI PER IL SERVIZIO VOLONTARIO

Agreement n.

7

District

Trincomalee

Cost

480,000.00 Euros

Duration

February '05 - December '05



INTERSOS

Agreement n.

10

District

Trincomalee

Cost

751,570.26 Euros

Duration

February '05 - February '06



8 INTERSOS WORKSHOPS

Intersos carried out its first response in the Muthur Division, setting itself the objective of supporting the fishermen whose every means of subsistence had been partially or completely destroyed by the tsunami: boats, fishing equipment, motors and vehicles for marketing the fish. The NGO's project involved communities in the Muthur and Sampoor areas, one under the control of the Sri Lankan army and the other of the Tamil rebels. In both areas the NGO built and equipped two centres for processing and selling fish, as well as two workshops provided with all the equipment and materials needed for the repair of boats and motors. These workshops made possible the repair of 113 canoes, 50 boats and 40 motors, and the construction of an additional 50 new canoes and 30 new boats. The work done in these shops also involved young apprentices in four-month training sessions, which made it possible to train 14 technicians for boat repair and 8 technicians for motor repair. Also in the Muthur and Sampoor areas, the NGO rehabilitated a building for the Thaqwa Nagar fishermen's cooperative that was seriously damaged by the tsunami and built new buildings for the Cooperatives Union. Intersos also purchased and distributed 50 canoes, 30 boats and 60 motors, as well as 210 hook-and-line kits, 140 net kits and 100 bicycles equipped with ice boxes for marketing fish.



9 KINNIYA HOSPITAL

The tsunami completely destroyed the old district hospital in Kinniya that had been built years earlier by Cooperazione Italiana. The new hospital was built farther from the sea, on a rectangular plot of land whose shortest side abuts the main street. This two-storey building consists of two square building units opening onto inner courtyards to provide light and air to the rooms, and connecting to one another. Past the entrance, the first building has general and specialist examination rooms on two floors, with analysis labs, blood bank, medication rooms, administrative offices and small observation wards. In the second pavilion there are inpatient rooms, X-ray rooms and the surgery department. There is air conditioning in these rooms, in the blood bank, and in the specialist examination offices. At the end of the second building there is a courtyard, paved to make it practicable even in the rainy season, ending with a building housing the ambulance garage, the laundry, the generator room, and, to the side, a potable water tank. As in other hospitals in Sri Lanka, the noise is kept to a minimum; doctors and nurses move silently among the wards, the patients line up on seats waiting their turn, also silently. The maternity ward, crowded as always with expectant mothers and mothers accompanied by their newborns, is a happy and joyful place where everyone smiles. The staff is large, but specialist physicians are still scarce compared to the need, and to the potential of the installed equipment.



CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Agreement n.

31

District

Trincomalee

Cost

925,147.12 Euros

Duration

October '05 - May '07



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DEPARTMENT

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31



Admissions are rare in relation to the number of visits – several hundred every day – and are reserved for serious cases. After their visit, most patients stop at the pharmacy, which in reality is a window into the pharmacist's realm: a room, two tables full of packages of pills and coloured powders. The operator takes the prescription and fills it to order, fishing among his tables, making up a cocktail of medicines which he packages in a roll of paper which he hands to the patients, advising them on how it is to be taken.

AISPO physicians – four Italians including a surgeon and an anaesthetist – assist the hospital director and the staff in taking possession of the new equipment, formulating organisational systems that are random elsewhere, improving operator professionalism and managing surgical activity. AISPO is also rehabilitating the old hospital. It will be used as medical staff's house, the drug warehouse and supplies, and to further cast off the memory of the catastrophe by removing another pile of rubble.

10 AISPO AT KINNIYA

Kinniya, a coastal town on Trincomalee bay devastated by the tsunami, was for months one of the nerve centres of Italy's Civil protection in Sri Lanka. In the very first days after the catastrophe, a Department team set up an Advance Medical Post in Kinniya to provide emergency health assistance to the survivors. Right from the start of the Programme, it was decided to rebuild the town's hospital, and operate a field hospital for the time needed to finish construction of the new facility. In the following months, other facilities were added to the first tents of the Advance Medical Post to increase the functionality of the medical centre and to meet the needs of the population. When the field hospital was completed, management of the facility was entrusted to AISPO, an NGO associated with San Raffaele Hospital in Milan, with long experience in managing medical and health-care facilities in many countries around the world. AISPO began providing services in Kinniya in July 2005; its mission included managing the field hospital, providing medical personnel, ensuring the availability of medicines and consumables, and providing the local health operators. The field hospital was beefed up and reorganised in cooperation with the local authorities, who promoted the Italian facility in the tents to a division hospital and training and assistance centre for local personnel for the entire region. When the new hospital complex built from the ground up by the Department was finally completed in March 2007, after delays caused by the conflict, AISPO handled the move from the temporary facility to the permanent one, where all medical care and equipment were transferred. The new hospital is already being managed by local personnel, but AISPO's activity continues at the request of those in charge of health care for the Trincomalee District. The Italian personnel expanded their range of activities: the AISPO team went to work at the Muthur hospital as well, carrying out a series of training sessions for all of the medical and paramedic personnel as well as the delicate task of assisting the local authorities in improving the organisational levels of the existing facilities and the efficiency of the region's entire health system.



ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER LA SOLIDARIETÀ TRA I POPOLI

Agreement n.

42

District

Trincomalee

Cost

1,100,000.00 Euros

Duration

July '05 - April '07



**COOPERAZIONE
E SVILUPPO**

Agreement n.
4

District
Trincomalee

Cost
350,000.00 Euros

Duration
February '05 - February '06



II CESVI AT KINNIYA AND IRAKKAKANDI

In a majority Tamil/Hindu area, CESVI focused its efforts on the Muslim villages of Kinniya and Irakkakandi, in Trincomalee District, consisting primarily of fishermen and their families. The NGO was involved in rebuilding the fish cabins – structures used to store and preserve the catch – which had been destroyed or seriously damaged by the tsunami, improving their quality in terms of safety, functionality, hygiene and compliance with environmental norms. In all, 57 were built, 32 in Kinniya and 25 in Irakkakandi. The project also included 89 boats and 76 motors, as well as the purchase and donation of 50 new motors.



12 THE KUDDY KARACHI SCHOOL

Following the tsunami, dozens of schools in the Trincomalee area were destroyed or seriously damaged. Others were used as improvised shelters by hundreds of families who had lost their homes. These included the Kuddy Karachi girls' school, selected by CESVI for its project. The facility, located in the Kiniya administrative division, a majority Muslim area, had previously consisted of five buildings giving hospitality to some 370 girls between the ages of 5 and 14, and 30 teachers. Three of these buildings were rehabilitated, while two were demolished because of their precarious structural conditions and replaced by a single two-storey building. In accordance with instructions from the Sri Lankan Ministry of Education, the NGO improved the qualitative and quantitative standards previously offered by the school, rehabilitating the perimeter wall, creating new classrooms, an assembly hall, a computer room, a recreation and sports field, areas for administrative use and restrooms, with special attention to facilities for the disabled people. The school complex, equipped with electricity and potable water from an elevated tank, was also equipped with furnishings, equipment and various teaching materials. The school never shut down during the work: the young pupils of Kuddy Karachi continued to attend classes in temporary facilities which were moved around several times as required by construction. The pupils celebrated the reopening of their school on March 30, 2007, chasing each other through the hallways and putting on small shows featuring song and dance and waving tricolour flags to welcome the representatives of CESVI and the Civil Protection Department who took part in the ceremony along with the local authorities. Recalling the commitment of the Italians and the joy of that festive day,



there is a gilt plaque a few feet from the entrance and the coloured banners which, five months after the inauguration, still decorated the walls of the assembly hall.

COOPERAZIONE E SVILUPPO

Agreement n.

5 and 56

District

Trincomalee

Cost

370,918.49 Euros

Duration

February '05 - March '07



**CIVIL
PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT**

Agreement n.

32

District

Trincomalee

Cost

384,189.46 Euros

Duration

July '05 - August '07



13 ST. JOSEPH'S ORPHANAGE

The convent of the Carmelite Sisters in Trincomalee is a cluster of buildings with little space between them, like a small residential neighbourhood that grows on top of itself in the little space available. The convent has a long history behind it and became what it is today through generations of mothers superior and sisters who were very attuned to what might be useful in that town on the border between all the country's ethnic groups. The border is an area of clashes and conflicts – and the events of these last few years have provided ample evidence of that – as well as a place of coming together, dialogue and trade. The Carmelites have always kept to this spirit, attentive to needs rather than to ideas and the origins of the people who hold them. That is why, after the tsunami, they thought they needed a new building in place of a smaller, run-down one, to house female orphans and children from families in serious difficulty, abandoned in the refugee camps throughout the northeast part of the island. When it is in full operation, more than 60 girls will be housed in the new facility. With space calculated down to the millimetre to build according to the regulations, a large, three-storey building rose in the centre of the area, intended to house girls without families, with classrooms, common work areas, the kitchen and dining hall, a computer room, housing for the sisters in service, and the personnel who work at the complex.



It took a passionate mother superior like Sister Theresilda, who travelled often to Jaffna, to get the project off the ground and past the thousands of bureaucratic problems with the civil and military authorities. It took the resolution and determination of Sister Carmella, who took over in Trincomalee, to convince the Department to select a company less subject to the risks of the conflict to finish the work in time. Mother superiors and sisters, with the determination, passion and steadfastness that only women have in difficult situations. The sisters' approach to the inauguration says a lot about the future of this building: a quick ceremony, the customary dances and songs, prayers and benedictions, but without stretching it out, short speeches to say thanks, almost as if the real thanksgiving would begin from that day forward, when the rooms will be fully used, occupied and made home by the little residents. In the building next to the one built by Civil Protection, school continued during the ceremony; the invited guests left the complex, allowing the orderly lines of students who had finished their school hours to pass by. Two by two, the ever-smiling girls passed in front of the sister teacher, greeting her. Education from another era, perhaps, or perhaps patient, smiling education that is also strict, as needed in a place like Trincomalee to lend substance to the hope for a tomorrow of dialogue and peace in this border land.

CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Agreement n.

32



**GRUPPO
VOLONTARIATO
CIVILE**

Agreements n.
19 and 60

District
Trincomalee

Cost
581,029.89 Euros

Duration
February '05 - November '06



14 GVC AT KONESHAPURI

Along the road going north from Trincomalee along the coast, after a few kilometres the sea disappears from sight, hidden by a series of low hills, perhaps an ancient dune system. On one of these, almost on the top, now sits the village of Koneshapuri, assigned by the local authorities who identified the site to welcome the homeless families who had lived along the coast before the tsunami. GVC began to work with these fishing communities as part of the project approved and financed through the fund managed by the Department. GVC's first effort involved assistance in the resumption of fishing. GVC provided 23 canoes and 17 sets of nets and equipment; six structures were built to house boats, and two for drying fish. Meanwhile construction of 48 houses began in Koneshapuri, on a plot that is part of a much larger project. Jica, a Japanese agency, was assigned by the local authorities to coordinate the creation of the new neighbourhood, to build the services system and provide electricity and potable water to the new houses. To provide stability for the buildings constructed on the hillside, GVC built containment walls and a rainwater drainage system. The houses were assigned to beneficiary families, but only a few families have actually moved in, because the conflict slowed down the work planned by the Japanese agency and there is still no water; it has to be taken from distant wells.



15 GVC AT KUMBURUPIDDY

Kumburupiddy is a village “invented” by the local authorities after the tsunami, away from the sea, created from nothing in the middle of the fields, like so many others all over Sri Lanka. It was on these sites that local authorities concentrated the projects of the various international agencies working in the area for the reconstruction. At Kumburupiddy, GVC built 88 houses for as many homeless families, as other agencies also built new houses all around, and the local authorities studied solutions for the supply of electricity and water. As the time approached to close down the construction site and turn over the houses, water had still not come to Kumburupiddy. For this reason, the project approved by the Department was modified, and GVC equipped each house with a 1,000-litre water tank and built two resupply points for the inhabitants, with 5,000-litre tanks for community use. Water resupply is ensured by the Water Board, a public agency that manages water resources in the area, which has a tractor and two tank trailers. The civil war passed through the area in the second half of 2006, causing the new residents to flee. Later, some of the families returned to their new houses, but the minimum conditions are still not present for Kumburupiddy to become a normal, vital town.



GRUPPO VOLONTARIATO CIVILE

Agreements n.

20 and 61

District

Trincomalee

Cost

860,128.07 Euros

Duration

February '05 - November '06



**VOLONTARIATO
INTERNAZIONALE
PER LO SVILUPPO
DON BOSCO**

Agreements n.

1 and 54

District

Trincomalee

Cost

978,135.98 Euros

Duration

February '05 - November '06



16 VIS IN TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Kalampattay is in the middle of the jungle, a village of 86 homes built by VIS for the families of a Tamil community, previously dispersed by the civil war, which the tsunami struck hard in the areas around Trincomalee where many had taken temporary refuge. For the survivors, the tsunami was the chance to realise their dream of returning home, which VIS turned into a reality when it was called on to work in the area by the Salesians in Trincomalee. Within a few days after the tsunami, VIS had established a stable and ongoing relationship with the community's families, providing aid and support for their most urgent needs: 23 boats and 70 outboard motors repaired, 123 sets of nets and 39 new boats donated to the fishermen left without means of subsistence, medical and psychological care especially for the women and children, job opportunities created for 80 people, to help them maintain their families. Then VIS began construction yard, building 14 houses at Nilaveli and 86 at Kalampattay, handling the area's town planning, the rainwater drainage system, excavation of wells for potable water, and, finally, construction of single-family houses. Electricity was provided in each house by means of an autonomous unit consisting of a solar panel connected to a battery. At the entrance to the village, VIS built an outpatient clinic for medical care. The new houses were delivered to the families in November 2006, and Kalampattay began to live again, while the NGO's personnel continued their efforts giving assistance for children, with a discreet ongoing presence. The dream of Kalampattay's inhabitants lasted only a few months. The inter-ethnic conflict resumed and again hit the community: the army marched on the village and the families were forced to flee once again and to seek shelter elsewhere. Now, in late 2007, the houses are deserted; a few are still locked up, as if the owners were going to return at any moment, while many have been ruined and sacked, the solar panels stolen, the batteries carried off or destroyed and left on site. Between the road and the village there is now a fortified military encampment in the midst of a clearing that was not there before: the jungle has been flattened in broad stretches to allow the sentinels and patrols to see if someone is approaching. As in the worst dreams, Kalampattay is brought to life only by the circumspect presence of the soldiers, who patrol in single file through the silence of the houses, the earth torn up by bulldozers and the trees knocked down. Only peace can bring an end to the nightmare and bring life to this corner of the world, peace that was desired, achieved and lost again by the 86 families brought together by Italian solidarity and delivered once again to pain and uncertainty by war.



17 MOVIMONDO AT JAFFNA

In addition to the Districts of Matara and Ampara, Movimondo carried out a reconstruction project at the extreme northern tip of the country, where, in addition to the problems common to areas hit by the wave, critical issues associated with difficult transport and a worsening of the political situation also had to be faced. In the north, which has long been a stronghold of the Tamil separatist movement, LTTE, it was possible to work with relative ease only in the early months of 2005, when Movimondo began the project. Subsequently, as the conditions established in the ceasefire signed by the Colombo government and the LTTE in 2002 deteriorated, it became increasingly difficult even to reach Jaffna. For these reasons, the NGO found itself having to repeatedly reformulate the original project, finally deciding to concentrate its efforts on building new housing and on activities associated with improving health and sanitary conditions at the site where it was possible to build, in Nagathampiram. There Movimondo built and assigned 36 houses, complete with hook-ups to the power grid, to as many families, a total of 158 people, who had previously been housed in a temporary shelters. In addition to the houses, the NGO built the access road to the new settlement, as well as 27 wells for potable water. Movimondo managed to turn the new houses over to the beneficiaries in February 2006, just before the north came under the exclusive authority of the Colombo military authorities.



MOVIMONDO

Agreement n.

13

District

Jaffna

Cost

291,450.00 Euros

Duration

January '05 - November '05

