Needs Assessment Survey for Income Recovery (NASIR) in tsunami-affected areas in Sri Lanka

1,612 households from 8 affected districts

1. Extensive damage to productive assets

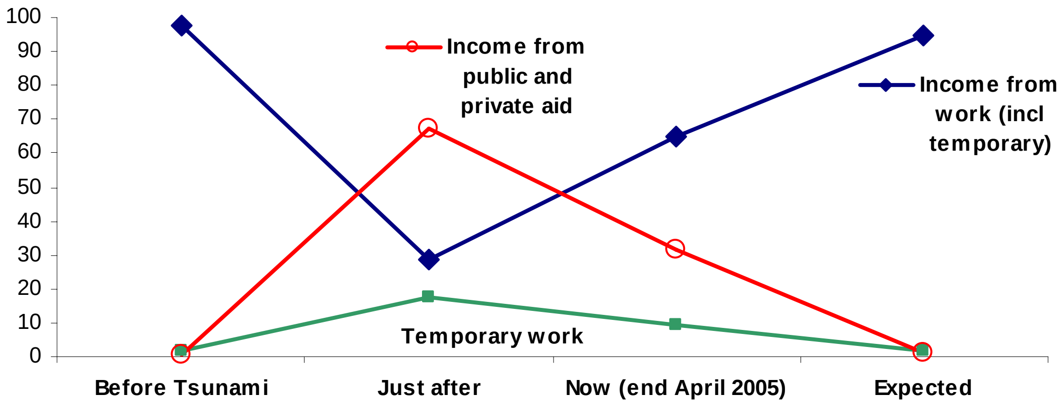
87% of surveyed households suffered from loss or damage of their productive assets.
Confirmed the previous findings
No major differences per district
But **Mullaitivu, Ampara and Batticaloa districts** very affected

2. Extensive main household income losses but encouraging rebuilding

As many as 87% of affected households lost their main source of income from work due to the tsunami.

After a period of dependency from aid, the majority of affected households have now rebuilt part of their livelihood.
Two-third of affected households have a main source of income from work (65%) (compared to opposite situation just after the tsunami)

Graph. Households main source of income overtime (% of all households)



9 out of ten working men and women (86%) lost their job or income-earning activity. Working women were as affected as working men in terms of job losses.

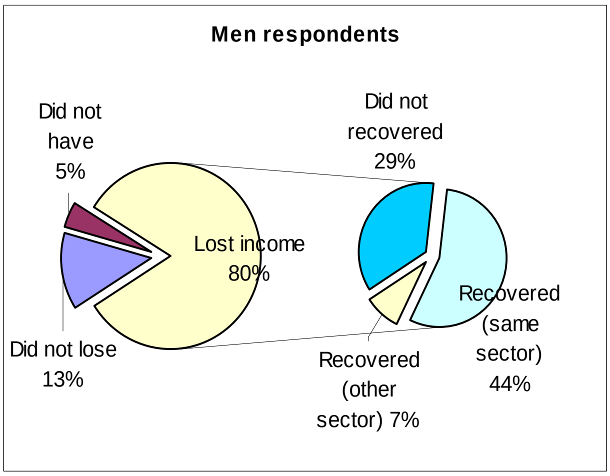
Given the high number of women respondents who were not working before the disaster, *in absolute terms* more men than women lost their job or income-generating activity after the tsunami.

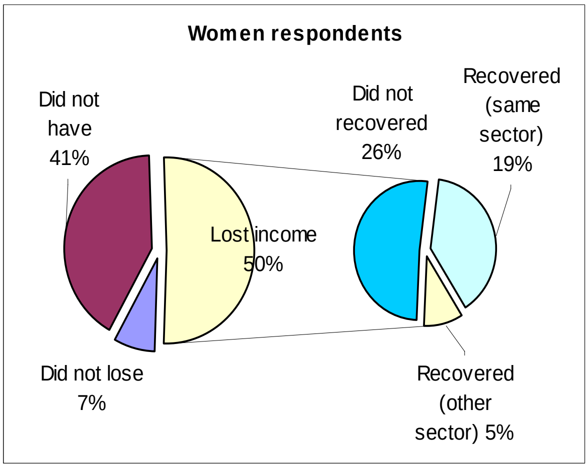
The recovery rates for those who had lost their job as a result of the tsunami is encouraging. **60% of those who had lost their job are back to work**

Affected working women have recovered their source of income to a lesser degree than their male counterparts. Overall, 68% and 55% of working men and women were working at the time of the survey.

Of those who had lost their job (recovery rates), only 50% of women who had lost their income source have since found an income-generating activity in the same sector, as compared to 65% of men.

Graph. Individuals' job losses and recovery by sex



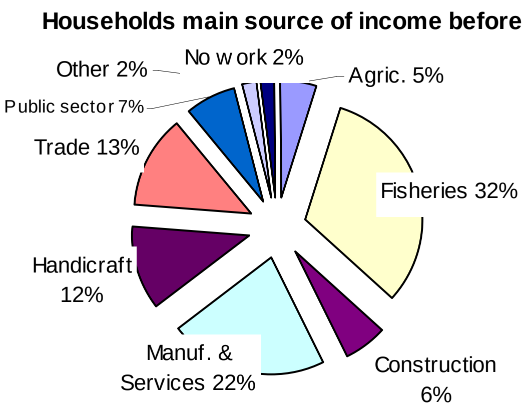


As a result, **only one-third of affected women are currently working**, largely in the same sector of activity as before. **In contrast, two-third of affected men are back to work (65%)**

Middle age workers have been particularly successful at going back to work, mostly in the same sector of activity as before the disaster.
More **worrisome is the situation of older workers (over 40)** as relatively fewer have recovered an income, several of them in a different sector of activity as before.

3. Jobs and main income lost and recovered by sector

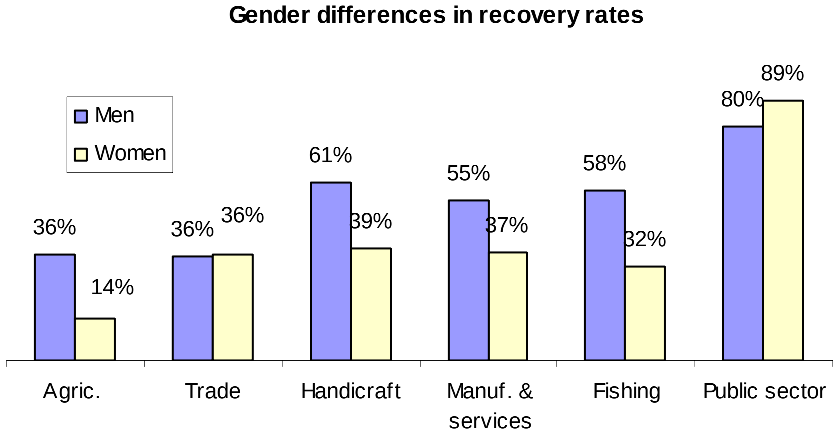
Most affected individuals were in fisheries, manufacturing and services, handicraft and trade before.



Job losses have affected all individuals regardless of their sector of employment (except public sector)**.** Most badly affected are fishing (93%).

Recovery rates (find job back in same sector) vary hugely by sector. **Sectors were people have found it most difficult to go back to work are agriculture and trade. Half of the fishermen/women are back to work.**

Compared to men, going back to their activity is **particularly difficult for women**, especially **in agriculture, handicraft, fishing and manufacturing and fishing.** Gender differences in job recoveries are lower in trade and public sector.



One-fourth of those not working before are planning to work (9% and 2% of surveyed affected women and men). Most do not know what they will do (Need for assistance in job search and counselling).

4. Individuals plans for the future: Assistance received and needed

Reasons for not working

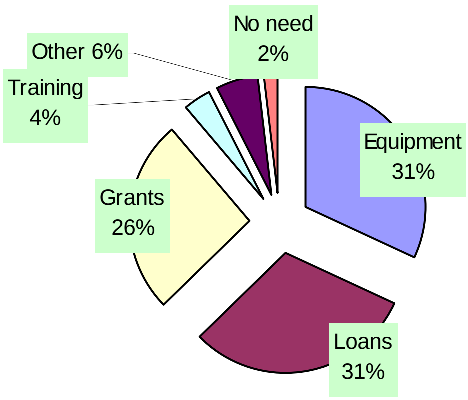
- The **lack of assets and material to work** with is the main barrier to rebuilding their livelihood for the majority of individuals currently not working, especially men. **For one-fourth of non-working women (27%),** and only 4% of non-working men, **family responsibility** is the main obstacle to employment.
- Most do not know when they will be back to work

Needs assessment of those who lack a clear livelihood strategy

- **Only 7% lack a clear livelihood strategy** for the future. The situation has **greatly improved** compared to previous survey (1/5 of individuals).
- **More women** are uncertain about their future livelihood strategy as compared to men. As many as 14% of affected women do not know what they will do in the future to earn a living.
- Available assistance, more stable housing conditions and advice and counselling are identified by those individuals as the support needed for them to decide what to do.

Type of assistance needed for better livelihood

- Main sectors: fisheries, manufacturing and services and handicraft sector.
- Most are available and able to work for 7 hours or more per day.
- Almost four working women out of 10 are available for 6 hours a day or less, and half of them for 5 hours or less only (family responsibilities)



Equipment, loans and grants (in kind or cash) are by far the most requested livelihood assistance most requested by tsunami-affected individuals (88% of first responses). Multi-responses: Training was mentioned by 12% of men and 17% of women.

Needs for training

- Same as initial survey **13% of respondents**
- **Mostly youth, women, and in some districts** (Southern districts, in particular Hambantota, and in Mullaitivu districts).

5. Cash for work: Assistance received and needed

Willingness and conditions to do paid for work

- As many as **36% of respondents are prepared to do paid manual labour** (appropriate for both sexes) on a temporary basis.
- Interest in paid manual labour is **particularly high in Ampara, Jaffna and Batticaloa districts** where half of the respondents are prepared to do manual labour
- Most respondents **in Hambantota and Trincomalee districts are not willing** to do paid manual labour.
- **Women overall are more willing. Explanation: highest share of women who are currently not working**. Age does not impact
- **Those displaced in camps** are particularly willing to accept paid manual labour as a temporary source of income, contrary to those affected but not displaced.
- **Individuals who are already doing manual-type of work**, such as agriculture, self employment or unskilled labour are very willing to do paid labour on a temporary basis, while those in a less "manual" work (services, trade and public sector employment), are less ready to earn a living by doing manual labour.

Conditions to do cash for work for those willing to do paid manual labour

- **The majority** would accept to do it **for a period of 1 to 3 months.** 40% of respondents are willing to do it for more than 3 months.
- **More than 70% would accept a daily earning of Rs350 or less.**

- The large majority (86%) **will accept to receive part of the payment in food (especially in camps) and being paid piece rates (80%).**
- Hambantota an exception (unwilling)

Reasons for not wanting to do paid labour

- Do not need it
- No reason given by 1/3 of respondents
- ¼ of women: gender cultural issues

6. Self employed and in business: Assistance received and needed

- **83% of respondents** are or intend to be self employed or running a business.
- **Working women as likely as men. Youth less** attracted by self-employment
- Large majority have previous experience and do not need training, and consider they will have customers (80%)

- **Most are able to work very long hours.** But **large gender differences** (40% women entrepreneurs can only work for 6 hours or less a day).

- **Almost 15% have a previous loan that they have not repaid yet.**
- **21%** of men and women entrepreneurs **tried to get a business loan since the tsunami** (16% of all respondents).
- **Less women entrepreneurs than men (13% and 25% respectively).**
  - Most of them in a bank (56%) or MFI (34%)
  - Very high success rates (85% - men and MFI: 100%).
  - but very large gender differences (60% to 80% women, more than 80% men)
  - Those unsuccessful: Collateral the main issue

- **23%** did not apply yet but **are planning to apply for a business loan.**

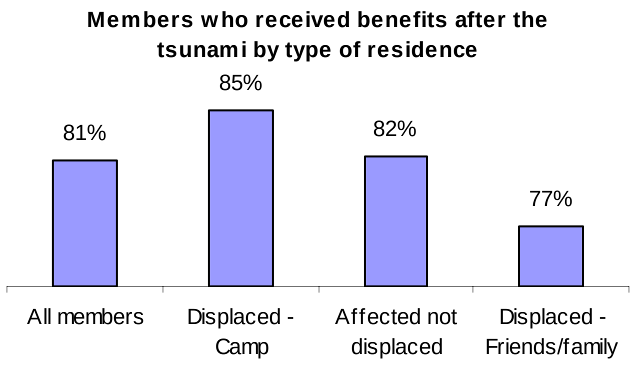
Reasons not to apply for a loan:

- unwillingness to take the risk (25% - no gender difference)
- lack of knowledge on how to get it (23% - esp. women)
- lack of collateral (17%).
- Lack of documents, etc...

Need for better information and support in filling documents, as well as flexibility esp, regarding collaterals.

7. Social protection: Assistance received and needed

- One-third of the tsunami-affected households is still dependent on aid or on personal non-work related income such as savings or borrowing (34%).
- **83 % of households are not covered by any social security scheme.**
- **Only half of the respondents know how to receive benefits**, and only one-third of the women
- **Most members have received benefits from their social security scheme since the disaster (81%**) (except Hambantota)
- **Important differences by type of residence**

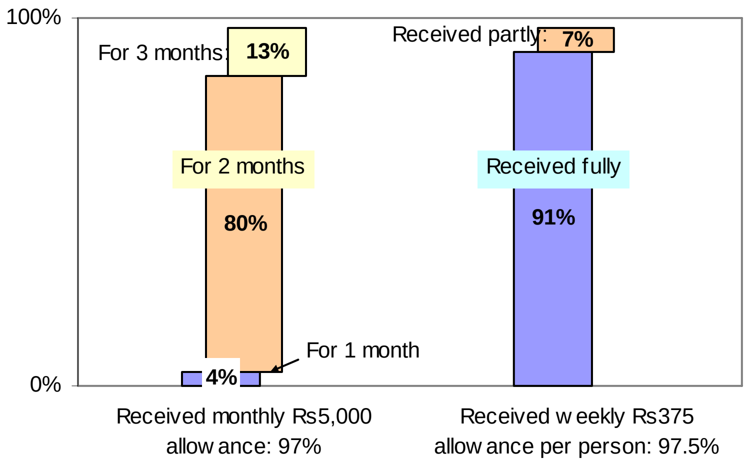


Recipients of social assistance (not disaster relief related)

- Almost half (45%) of affected households had received social assistance before the disaster, almost entirely under the Samurdhi system (43% in total).
- For nearly all households **benefits have not been disrupted by the disaster**.
- Since January, the average monthly benefits are similar to those obtained before the disaster.
- **Amounts received under the Samurdhi or Poor relief** social assistance system **are very low**, with around 80% of households receiving **Rs375 or less per month** from one of these welfare systems.

Relief disaster and tsunami-related Government assistance

- Nearly all affected households surveyed had received the disaster relief assistance provided by the Government consisting of **Rs5,000 per family per month and Rs375 per person per week.**
- **Delays** in distributing Government assistance is the main issue reported (end of April, **only 2 months benefits for 85% of affected households**)



- 9% of surveyed households had not received or not received fully the allowance of Rs375 per person per week, of which the majority had received only the part in kind.

Overall, more than 97% of surveyed affected households have received fully or partly the government relief allowances.

Assistance received from private sources
Half of all households have received financial private assistance since the disaster. Private assistance **is prevalent in the North and North East** (including Trincomalee district.

More than 9 out of 10 households benefited from TRO assistance in the North and North-East districts (Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Trincomalee) **and one-fourth of households in Ampara and Batticaloa districts**

Private aid reaches out tsunami-victims in camps better

8. Information needs

- **60%** of Tsunami-affected individuals consider they **lack information about the services and entitlements offered to them** (13% "not at all" informed).
- Younger workers less informed (or satisfied)
- No major differences by district except Trincomalee and Mullaitivu: more than 90% lack information

Radio, newspapers and television are the most important channels of information (in this order) as well as friends and family

Grama Niladari are important in North and some districts (Colombo, Hambantota).
Other sources minor (community centres, NGOs/CBO, divisional secretariat, temple and posters, camp information centres)

9. <u>Highly precarious shelter</u>

Four month after the tsunami, 80% of all affected households still endure living in a temporary or incomplete shelter (60%) or with friends or relatives (21%).

- Most people displaced in camps still live in a tent (67%). Apart from the Northern districts (Jaffna and Mullaitivu - solid temporary structure)
- Issues for one-third displaced with relatives in Ampara, Trincomalee, and Batticaloa districts (go back to their "house" during the day to receive Government support) Call for urgent JM
- Non displaced also living in insecure and precarious shelter (only one-third lives in their complete house). Worrisome in the Eastern and Northern areas, especially in Ampara, Jaffna, and Batticaloa districts

10. <u>Uncertainty about possible relocation</u>

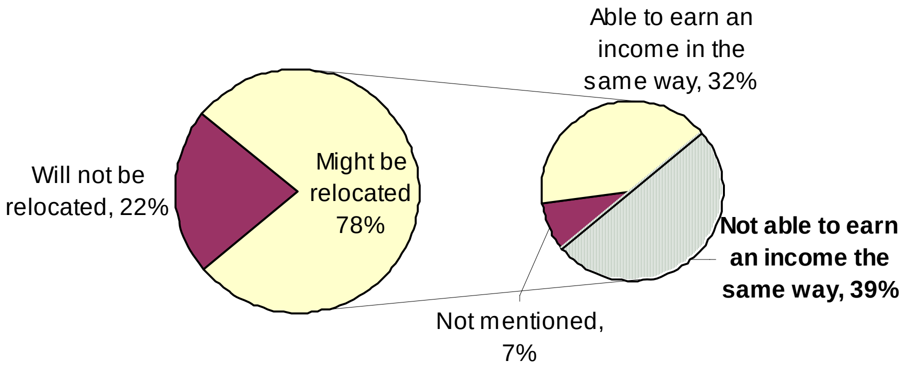
80% of all affected households find it difficult to rebuild their livelihood in a sustainable way as they expect that their house might be relocated (with 25% who do not know).

Most of those currently living in their own complete house expect they might be relocated (70%).

Half of those whose house was situated in the buffer zone do not expect or do not know whether their house will be relocated.

Consequence of relocation on income generation
40% of all tsunami-affected individuals expect that they might be relocated and that after relocation they won't be able to earn an income in the same way.

Graph. Capacity to earn an income in the same way as before if relocated:



11. Description of survey
Colombo, Galle, Hambantota Southern area
Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee in the Eastern Area
Mullaitivu and Jaffna in the Northern Area

Gender and age balance respected (40% women, compared to 33% of women in the labour force – Average age 38)

Camps, displaced with relatives, not displaced
In the affected areas and surroundings, within 300 meters from the coastal belt (displaced families away from coastal areas not covered)