**Context:**
While the health system in Tamil Nadu has been fairly effective in providing basic health needs to its people, the health sector continues to face challenges in terms of a stagnating infant and maternal mortality rates, growing burden of non-communicable diseases, the variable quality of care in both public and private healthcare sectors; and equity and access issues to healthcare.

Public expenditure on health services in Tamil Nadu is less than US$ 3 per capita per year and has fallen from 7.5 percent of the state budget in the mid-1980’s to 5.8 percent in 2001. Almost 75 percent of this budget is allocated to salaries, leaving very little for investment in equipment, infrastructure and materials required for the provision of care of even minimum quality.

**Project Development Objective:**
To significantly improve the effectiveness of the health system, both public and private in Tamil Nadu.

**Project Components:**
- Increased access to and utilization of health services, particularly by poor, disadvantaged and tribal groups;
- Development and pilot testing of effective interventions to address key health challenges, specifically non-communicable diseases;
- Improved health outcomes, access and quality of service delivery through strengthened oversight of the public sector health systems and greater engagement of non-governmental sector; and
- Increased effectiveness of public sector hospital services, primarily at district and sub-district levels.

**Location:**
In all 31 districts of the state.

**Status:**
One of the Project’s biggest achievements has been to ensure that any woman giving birth in the state has emergency healthcare services available for her and her newborn baby within 30 minutes travel of their home. Eighty two comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care centers have been operationalized to offer this service.

The Project has also taken healthcare closer to the state’s tribal population through mobile outreach vans and patient counselors. Schemes have also been launched to encourage women from these areas to come to hospitals and health centers to deliver their babies. In a novel partnership with civil society, NGOs have been contracted to provide services like counseling, mobile outreach services and mortuary vans.

Pilot implementation of both the Health Management Information Systems and
Hospital Management Systems is underway. The Quality Council of India is facilitating the accreditation process of 12 government hospitals. In addition to initiating training in Healthcare Waste Management (HCWM), Common Treatment Facilities have been contracted across the state for final disposal of bio-medical waste, and is operational across the state since September 2008. Two large district-based pilots on non-communicable diseases – hypertension and cervical cancer – are under implementation, with the potential to provide lessons for larger interventions.

Context:
The tsunami which hit the coastal region of India on December 26, 2004 caused overall estimated damages of US$1 billion in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry alone.

Project Development Objective:
To support the efforts of the Government of India, Government of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry to revive livelihoods and promote recovery in the tsunami-affected areas.

Project Components:
- Housing Reconstruction – This includes
  (i) provision of transit shelters;
  (ii) repair and reconstruction of existing houses, construction of new houses and infrastructure such as roads, water supply and sanitation, electrification, rainwater harvesting structure as necessary, as well as limited community infrastructure facilities such as community halls, anganwadis (nursery schools), primary schools, etc.; and
  (iii) resettlement of the families affected by the Project.
- Restoration of Livelihoods – This includes
  (i) restoration of damaged fisheries infrastructure, such as harbors, patrol boats, etc., and reestablishment of safety-at-sea systems/services;
  (ii) restoration of damaged agricultural lands and horticultural lands, farm ponds and dug wells;
  (iii) repair/reconstruction of damaged infrastructure related to animal husbandry; and
  (iv) promotion of sustainable...