

ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

The CRRP from the commencement itself has addressed the issue of sustainability of the recovered settlements by assisting in capacity building. The project is aiming to achieve a safe, secure and sustainable communities through the promotion of self governance, sustainable environment, restoration and creation of community livelihoods, maintenance and management of community infrastructure, improved sanitation and building partnerships with external partners.

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, a partner of this programme, will continue to work with the communities, after the project is over by forming Red Cross Society Branches in parallel to the Community Development Councils.



House constructed at Sainthamarathu, Kalmunai

with the assistance of CRRP Project.

Building together, in racial amity

In a country plagued with communal strife for a long period, Pothuvil Verterkerny Etham Community Development Council stands out as a fine example in communal harmony. Although Tamils are the vast majority in this particular community, they have elected Mr. Samantha Sumanaweera, a Sinhalese, as their President.

Samantha has been a prominent social worker in the area and he has given the leadership to many activities, especially after the Tsunami of December 2004. Therefore when the community met together to elect the office bearers for their Council, the ethnicity of the person did not become a factor. The majority Tamils agreed to elect him as their President. Ms. Sathkunam Saratha, a Tamil female was elected as the secretary. The committee is a mix of Tamils and Sinhalese.

Although the primary objective of forming this CDC is the rebuilding of the Tsunami damaged houses under the CRRP project, they have ventured in to many other areas. While their new houses are nearing completion, they have started a savings programme from which they hope to provide loans to their members to commence livelihood activities.

Helping the Vulnerable

Abdul Rahuman Ajmeer Khan, a ten year old child lost both his parents and his house was completely destroyed in the tsunami. He became an orphan without a house to live in and with no parents to look after him.



Even though the house he lived in was completely washed away, Ajmeer Khan could not get any assistance as he was a minor and was not entitled to any of the grants. On the recommendation of the Community Development Council Ajmeer Khan was included as a beneficiary and the project assisted and guided his guardian to build the house for him.

With the intervention of the Project and the guidance of UN-Habitat, Ajmeer Khan will now have house, a sanitary latrine and a secure future to look forward to.



Relocation houses at Thiraimadu, Batticaloa.

Making a Fresh Start at Weralugodallawatta

A group of 23 tsunami affected families from the coastal areas of Colombo District purchased plots of lands in the rural interior of the adjoining Kalutara District with the funds provided by the Government.



Raised foundations at Weralugodallawatta

However they did not have sufficient resources to construct their houses, and to add to their woes, found the land they purchased is low-lying and subject to flooding. The group was desperate as they had been asked to move out of the temporary transit camps. The media highlighted their plight on several occasions.

The Community Recovery and Reconstruction Partnership stepped in with a full grant for construction of their houses

UN-Habitat is now assisting them to overcome the flooding problem by constructing raised foundations, access roads and internal roads and pathways to houses. In addition UN-Habitat has intervened with local authorities to obtain planning approval for the new, innovative constructions.

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SRI LANKA

UN-Habitat



Helping People to Help Themselves

Community Recovery and Reconstruction Partnership



The Tsunami of 26th December 2004 caused intensive damage and destruction to human settlements in 14 districts along the coastal fringe of Sri Lanka. This unexpected and unprecedented devastation killed and injured people, destroyed their houses and took away all their earthly belongings. The tsunami, not only destroyed the people, their homes and their personal assets, but also the essential infrastructure facilities. It is estimated that the total tsunami damage in Sri Lanka was around US \$ 1.3 billion. The most affected by this devastation were the poor and traditionally disadvantaged. Loss of livelihoods, destruction of educational and health facilities were extensive and difficult to be quantified.

TSUNAMI AFFECTED DISTRICTS IN SRI LANKA



The Tsunami affected families will be at the centre of the process of recovery and reconstruction. The responsibility of ensuring support to the families and communities will be undertaken by the UN-Habitat in association with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society.

The Community Recovery and Reconstruction Partnership for supporting the People's Process of Rebuilding (CRRP) was established by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) and the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) in June 2006 to assist Tsunami affected families in selected districts in Sri Lanka to rebuild their houses and recover their lives. The UN-Habitat is the designated Implementing Agency of the CRRP.

The support that the families receive under CRRP to rebuild their houses consist of a top up grant for house construction which supplements the Government of Sri Lanka base grant, a separate grant for a sanitary latrine as well as technical guidance during the construction process. In certain instances where the government base grant was not received, the CRRP on the recommendations of the UN-Habitat provided a full grant. In addition CRRP provides a grant for the repair or improvement of community infrastructure and for promoting livelihoods development.

The key factor in the CRRP recovery process is social mobilization process which motivates the affected communities to understand their situation and needs and to organize themselves to recover their lives through their own initiative and creativity.