

ASSISTING THE TSUNAMI AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

The primary objective of the CRRP is to assist identified communities and families to rebuild their settlements and housing by supplementing the Government base grant with additional financial and other inputs from the Project. Additional objectives are to assist families whose needs have not been addressed due to unclear land ownership, loss of documents, death of the Head of the household or other issues, resolve these and facilitate access to the Government and the Project grants and other benefits.

Other objectives of the Project include, enabling people to rebuild their social capital through the organization of representative



bodies with the capacity to take decisions regarding their own rebuilding process and establishing their community level governance structures in the form of Community Development Councils. Assisting the families to establish access to the banking system and helping to create employment from the investment of the rebuilding process as a way of contributing to the recovery of the local economy are other objectives.

An all pervading objective is to improve the quality of life of the affected communities through better and secure housing, improved sanitation, improved social infrastructure, home gardening and attention to the protection and enhancement of the environment.



Saratha Chandrasiri Perea's Tsunami destroyed house and the new house at Kahawitagehena, Kalutara District.

PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER TO ASSIST THE COMMUNITIES

The project is guided by a National Steering Committee (NSC) of the Partners which meets quarterly. The day to day management decisions on implementation are taken by a National Project Management Team (NPMT) chaired by the UN-Habitat National Project Manager which meets every week.

District offices have been established in all operational areas by the UN-Habitat. Under each District Manager there are Engineers, Technical Officers, Community Mobilizers, a Data Base Operator and an Admin and Finance Assistant appointed by UN-Habitat as well as Community Mobilizers and Monitoring personnel from the International Federation of Red Cross and Sri Lanka Red Cross. District Managers report to the UN-Habitat National Project Manager, who liaises and coordinates with other Partners.

The responsibility of ensuring support to the families and communities to rebuild is undertaken by UN-Habitat as the implementation agency in association with Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) raises and provides funds for the Project, monitors progress and provides a feed back to the donors.



IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

The basis of CRRP implementation strategy is community mobilization, which enables the affected families to organize themselves to take collective action by developing their own plans and strategies for recovery. The mobilization and the organization of the community are strengthened by the establishment of a representative and elected Community Development Council (CDC) which is registered either with the Divisional Secretary in rural areas or with the Local Authority in Municipal or Urban Council areas. With the establishment of the CDC, a Community Action Plan is prepared by the community under UN-Habitat guidance. The Community Action Planning (CAP) and management approach sees people as the main resource for development rather than as an object of the development effort or as mere recipients of benefits. The objective of this approach is to motivate and mobilize the people of a settlement to take the lead in the planning and implementation of their own improvement activities.

The CRRP programme has now reached 5655 tsunami affected families in seven districts in Sri Lanka and 77 Community Development Councils have been formed.



BUILDING HOUSING AND ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing construction is the core component of the project and the financial installments are paid direct to the beneficiary bank accounts by the IFRC on the recommendation of UN-Habitat. This UN Habitat recommendation is based on a request by the Community Development Council, endorsed after inspection by District level staff.

A unique feature of the CRRP programme is the development of a comprehensive database which has all beneficiary details, payments made and construction progress. Physical progress made by the beneficiaries are entered in to the system and payment lists are generated from the Database, while the installments are paid direct to the beneficiary bank accounts.



A newly constructed house at Polykandy, Jaffna under the CRRP

It was earlier envisaged that the CRRP will provide a top-up grant equivalent to the Government base grant. However, the project has now developed a separate localization cost per District based on the building costs in each district.

The CRRP insists on the construction of a sanitary latrine with minimum standards as an essential component for improving the quality of life and provides with a separate grant of US \$ 500 for this purpose.

Project funds at the rate of US \$ 80 per beneficiary family are allocated to rebuild or improve community infrastructure facilities through community contracts undertaken by the Community Development Councils. The Community Contract emerges from a process in which the communities identify their needs, prioritize their problems and agree upon plans for their solutions. Since the community will carry out the work they will have a sense of ownership and will also be responsible for the future maintenance of the infrastructure. As communities are undertaking the work by themselves, they will not compromise on quality and this process will also ensure that the investment in rebuilding will become a cash injection to the affected people. Community contracting system also encourages local entrepreneurship, regenerating local economy and promoting skills transfers. Up to date 50 community contracts have been completed.

Livelihood development is being promoted under the Project to supplement livelihood initiatives already planned and to forge links with related agencies, like the Women's Bank of Sri Lanka.