

# Origin of the People's Process

During the early 1980s, UN-Habitat worked with the Government of Sri Lanka to pioneer a community engagement philosophy that placed the communities at the heart of their own development – this philosophy would later become the cornerstone of UN-Habitat's community development programmes in urban and rural environments.

During that time, the municipality of Colombo integrated the People's Process into its own development agenda and operationalized over 1500 Community Development Committees (CDCs) to work with local government for implementation of a large-scale housing programme. This was the first example of the People's Process being adopted by government.

## Fundamental principles

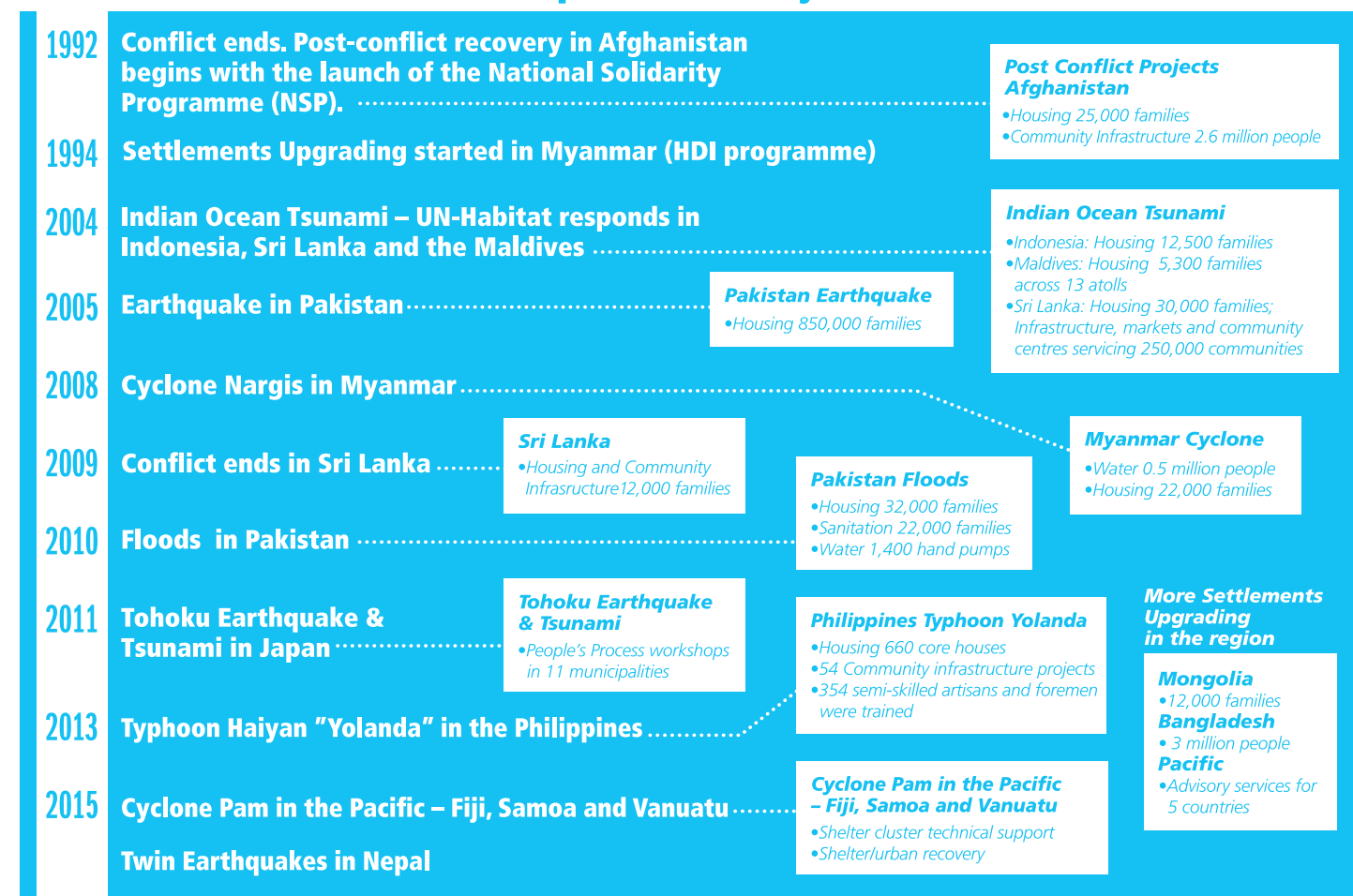
The People's Process brings about a paradigm shift moving from a model of control by authorities to one of support to people – this is done through a participatory community development methodology built around 5 steps



## Multiple spillover effects

The People's Process achieves sustainability by combining technology with local knowledge: Moreover interventions are cheaper (approximately 30% more value for money), enhances the local economy, unlocks potential for local entrepreneurial opportunities, and national constructions standards are familiarized to local artisans through training. The approach also ensures human rights through inclusivity and sustainability through a low environmental footprint.

## Timeline : UN-Habitat in response to major events & critical issues



# 35 YEARS OF PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT

The People's Process: From Grassroots to Governance



Representatives of a Community Development Committee (CDC) that worked to develop and construct the first women's park in a province of Afghanistan. ©UN-Habitat Afghanistan



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