



Fast Facts

Country: Sri Lanka

Duration: April 2005 to July 2006

Implementing UN Agencies: UN-HABITAT

Other Implementing Partners: Local Government; community development councils

Budget: \$1,241,900

Key Words: Urban communities; infrastructure; capacity-building; community development

BACKGROUND

Faced with the burden of more than a decade-long conflict that arose in 1983 and killed at least 60,000 people, and injured, incapacitated or displaced many more, families in north-eastern Sri Lanka were left with little income and assets to rebuild upon. As a result, the cessation of the conflict was followed by a

significant rural-urban migration. However, in the absence of new investments in infrastructure and urban development, the process of rapid migration and urbanization brought further strains to the living conditions and the personal security of those on the move and living in neglected urban neighbourhoods.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Through a community-based bottom-up approach, the project aimed to assist vulnerable persons residing in neglected urban neighbourhoods in north-eastern Sri Lanka by empowering communities to engage with local governments and to promote small-scale infrastructure development in their neighbourhoods. Based on the commitment and the local knowledge of Community Development Councils (CDCs), the

project implemented activities that (i) rehabilitated small-scale infrastructure such as roads, water supply, sanitation, footpaths, drainage, electricity and street lighting; (ii) strengthened community-based engagement with local authorities; and (iii) introduced a community-led approach to urban development, social cohesion and community reconciliation.

BENEFICIARIES

The project benefited approximately 40,000 people in 40 settlements in the cities of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Batticaloa and Kattankudy. Some 1,400 community members participated in capacity-building trainings and workshops on topics including leadership, legal rights, environmental issues, disease prevention, first aid and social harmony. Another 4,500 individuals benefited from vocational skills training such as sewing, food processing, computer use, screen

printing and home gardening. The physical improvements and the vocational and other skills created by the project improved the overall welfare (social, economic, personal) of the community members. Meanwhile, the training provided to local governments improved their ability to serve the needs of the target communities and to address the future human security needs of the people in the area.