



Fast Facts

Country: Sri Lanka

Duration: October 2010 to March 2014

Implementing UN Agencies: UNICEF; ILO; UNDP

Other Implementing Partners: National ministries; local authorities; Sri Lanka Police; Sarvodaya Legal Aid Movement; Institute of Human Rights; Women In Need; local NGOs

Budget: \$2,957,610.65

Key Words: IDPs; women; children; conflict-affected communities; community reconciliation; access to justice; alternative livelihoods

BACKGROUND

Communities in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka have borne the brunt of an intractable conflict that ended recently and resulted in the death of family members, repeated displacement, the loss of productive income and assets, and interruptions in basic social services. Many face additional obstacles in their efforts to resettle and rebuild their lives and communities. Former combatants, who were often young at the time of their recruitment, lack the necessary skills and training required to enter into formal

employment. Women face challenges in obtaining death certificates for the loss of their husbands and are disqualified from claiming inheritance and pensions. As a result, reconciliation and the creation of social cohesion remain tenuous for these conflict-affected communities as people face extreme vulnerabilities due to the lack of adequate protection against violence, discrimination, legal documentation, exploitation and child recruitment, as well as lack of access to social and economic opportunities.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project's overall objective is to advance a comprehensive response to widespread vulnerabilities faced by conflict-affected communities in north-eastern Sri Lanka. Giving extra attention to women, children, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees, the project aims to (i) ensure greater access to legal

support, documentation and protection; (ii) offer livelihood support and vocational training and improve economic opportunities in fisheries and agriculture; and (iii) promote sustainable peace, reconciliation and social cohesion among conflict-affected families and communities.

BENEFICIARIES

The project is implemented in two of the most conflict-affected districts in Sri Lanka, namely Batticaloa (Eastern Province) and Vavuniya (Northern Province). In total, 34,000 people in Batticaloa and Vavuniya will benefit from the

project, including children, vulnerable women and households in need of livelihood support and those in need of legal documentation or legal advice and assistance.



APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

By adopting the human security approach, the project offers a comprehensive post-conflict strategy aimed at addressing the multi-dimensional insecurities faced by conflict-affected communities in north-eastern Sri Lanka. In particular, the project supports the promotion of sustainable peace, reconciliation and social cohesion by developing strategies that strengthen the protection and empowerment of conflict-affected populations. To achieve this, the project mainstreams top-down and bottom-up strategies in all its activities. Top-down strategies include building the capacities of Government and local institutions to deliver the required services. In particular, the project aims to strengthen the capacities of these institutions to provide access to reintegration services, justice mechanisms, education and health care.

At the same time, the project works with the beneficiaries to ensure that they can become more self-reliant. For example, by providing support to

communities to initiate small-scale businesses and through the provision of vocational trainings, the project creates opportunities for economic empowerment of vulnerable people. As a result, the project is instrumental in improving people's personal safety as well as expanding their welfare and overall sense of optimism in their future and that of their communities.

In addition, by capitalizing on the comparative advantage of a diverse network of UN agencies, the project advances a multidisciplinary approach that avoids duplication and ensures greater impact by the United Nations system. Moreover, through partnership with Government agencies, community-based organizations and NGOs, the project involves a wide range of stakeholders and further guarantees the development of context-specific activities that are based on local realities, that build on existing capacities and that can therefore be sustained and expanded upon after the completion of the project.