

# Post-Tsunami Relief

## Water supply and sanitation in Maldives

### Providing rural villages with sustainable access to water and sanitation services

In an effort to support Tsunami-relief efforts and long-term development in Asia, the United Nations Foundation, The Coca-Cola Company and UNDP partnered in 2005 to support a community-based and locally-constructed water and sanitation system.

In Maldives, the project is focused on the remote island community of Dhambidhoo where homes experienced extensive if not complete destruction of local buildings. Furthermore, salt-water incursion exacerbated the vulnerability of the island environment. Full recovery of the freshwater lens is expected to take years.

With funding and partnership from The Coca-Cola Company, The Australian Agency for International Development and the United Nations Foundation, Dhambidhoo has experienced much needed water and sanitation developments, specifically:

- 1) Upon project completion, all households and public buildings will be fitted with durable, water-tight septic tanks connected to an advanced sewage system that recycles discharge for irrigation and groundwater recharging purposes.
- 2) Previous practices of discharging sewage into the island's main lagoon and groundwater will be reformed.

Project leaders have been in close partnership with the Dhambidhoo Island Development Committee to ensure community ownership and sustainability. Necessary training and technical assistance has been provided to the island's residence for proper

- **Country:** Maldives
- **Launched:** 2005
- **Partners:** The Coca-Cola Company, AusAid, The United Nations Foundation
- **Program Highlights:** Provision of a sustainable sanitation system for all the 866 residents of Dhambidhoo Island, modernized sanitation systems for all households and public buildings, reforming the island's antiquated waste-collection system



Modern sanitation systems have vastly improved access to clean water as well as waste-removal practices on Dambidhoo Island.

maintenance and management of the new system.

Provision of adequate sanitation has been identified as a pressing national challenge and is an integral component of the UN's post-tsunami Shelter Recovery Project, a joint collaboration between UNDP and UN-HABITAT. Furthermore, the "Dhambidhoo model" has been designed so that it can be replicated in other island communities across the Maldives.