Where we work

UNDP in Sri Lanka

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the development arm of the United Nations. Human Development, UNDP's defining objective is about enabling people's choices. By expanding the range of choices, UNDP helps people to lead productive lives with dignity and self-respect.

UNDP brings to the table technical knowledge, best practices and lessons learned on how to do development. It assesses the information through its UNDP Office in Sri Lanka to identify the most relevant ideas to the local context in partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka.

UNDP supports countries in bringing about long-term development. It does this through developing the capacity of national and local institutions and individuals, and through sharing and helping them to best apply international practices in a country or a community. The objective is that people themselves develop the skills, knowledge and will power to build better lives for themselves and eventually for others.

UNDP's overarching goal in Sri Lanka has been to support the country in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and the reduction of poverty. UNDP pursues this goal by working closely with the Government of Sri Lanka in supporting:

- Social economic recovery and prevention of natural and man-made disasters
- Sustainable use of natural resources and greater reliance on renewable energy
- The promotion of democratic governance and human rights
- Poverty reduction and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The UNDP team in Sri Lanka consists of about 60 staff members, of which the vast majority are nationals. In addition UNDP has more than 100 personnel in field and project offices across the country.

(Excludes UNDP and OCHA staff members on UNDP contracts)

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EMERGING PRIORITIES

Though the final phase of the civil war, which ended in May 2009, UNDP focused primarily on development gains at the grassroots level. Direct support to communities in rebuilding small-scale infrastructure and sustaining livelihoods, capacity building for community-based organisations, and responses to seemingly intractable chain of natural disasters dominated the agenda.

Concluding a foundation on which the development needs of Sri Lanka can be addressed in a sustainable, these experiences provide a reference point for future UNDP programmes. Challenges are as on the horizon, however, and in moving forward, UNDP will continue to adapt its strategy to respond to the needs of a changing nature of Sri Lanka's people. With economic, social and political change ongoing, driven by continued instability, UNDP today is actively engaging in partnerships with the private sector, as a new engine of change that will ensure improved access to aid and ODA in the primary contact of collaboration between Sri Lanka and the international community. UNDP will also respond to climate change and disaster management support, as a range of emerging trends further underscores the need and urgency to build more resilient and sustainable communities.

The partnership between Sri Lanka and UNDP dates back over five decades, anchored in a strong bond of trust. This longstanding collaboration should go far in helping an empowered people thrive in this realisation.

UNDP: What we Do

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Poverty Reduction and MDGs

UNDP supports the Government of Sri Lanka’s efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. One key priority is to empower and strengthen institutions to plan and implement progress towards the MDGs both at the national and local levels. This includes the reduction of income inequalities and regional disparities in the country.

AREAS OF WORK INCLUDE:
- Supporting the Government in the implementation of poverty alleviation initiatives in lagging regions (Viva province and Plantation sector)
- Provision of policy level support for the development of national and sub-national MDG-based plans and budgets.
- Support to the Department of Census and Statistics to operationalise the 2012 census.
- Analysis of disparities and inequalities prevailing in the country for better distribution of economic growth.

KEY FACTS:
- Poverty in Sri Lanka declined from 26 percent in 1990/91 to 8.9 percent in 2009/10 according to the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) of the Department of Census and Statistics.
- According to the Demographic and Health Survey of 2006/2007, one fifth of children under 5 years of age are underweight, which is a serious cause of concern.
- Sri Lanka was one of the first countries in the region to introduce Managing for Development Results (MDR) or Results Based Management.

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SRI LANKA HELPS INTRODUCE R8M

For a little over 4 years, UNDP has been assisting the Government of Sri Lanka, through the Department of Project Management and Monitoring, which was earlier under the Ministry of Plan Implementation, to introduce Results Based Management (R8M) in Government offices. As the name suggests, R8M is result-based monitoring that helps the Government to ensure efficient and effective implementation of policies and programmes.

The initiative was linked to the National Budgeting process of Sri Lanka. The treasury guidelines for budget preparations released in 2001 required Ministries to submit their Budget Requirements linked to their Performance Indicators in the Agenda Result Frameworks. Simply put, this means that funding for Ministries will for the first time be linked to their performance or how well they are meeting the identified targets. This project assisted the Government to release a Projects/Programmes Management tool which will enable the Government to monitor the progress of development programmes more effectively.

The success of the programme has been appreciated by many Governments in the region and delegations from several countries such as India, Yemen and Afghanistan have visited Sri Lanka to study the system. In addition, UNDP has also provided technical assistance to other countries such as Peru, Benin, Nigeria, India, etc., so that they too can benefit from the experience of the Sri Lankan Government.

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1) MDG Support Project (Phase II)

- Duration: 2009-2012
- Budget: US$150,000
- Major Donor: UNDP
- Implementing partner: Department of National Planning, Department of Census and Statistics

**Brief Description:** The project will support the capacity of the Department of National Planning for improved efficiency and productivity of the public sector in achieving national development priorities, including the MDGs. The project will focus on inducing regional disparities and poverty in the MDGs through capacity building of planning officers at national and sub-national levels and assisting them to plan MDG-based Development Plans. The Department of Census and Statistics will assist in the collection of accurate socio-economic data especially in the North and East. This entails support to the national census to be carried out in 2012, which covers the whole country, including the North and East, and by introducing new technologies for processing and analysis of information collected.

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2) 2nd National Human Development Report (NHDR)

- Duration: 2011-2012
- Budget: US$ 40,000
- Major Donor: UNDP

**Brief Description:** The Human Development Report is a powerful advocacy tool that highlights important issues that have significant impacts on Human Development. Sri Lanka produced its first National Development Report in 1998. The report, titled Regional Dimensions of Human Development, assessed the extent of Human development disparities at the regional, provincial and district levels. Much has changed and happened since then. The second report will be published ten years after Sri Lanka is now geared to produce an MDG report which will highlight the inequalities that prevail in Sri Lanka. Despite the huge gains Sri Lanka has made in the MDGs during, there inequalities have had a serious impact on the improvement of the human development conditions of the entire population.

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**Ongoing Projects:**

1) MDG Support Project (Phase II)

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**Recent Achievements:**

- UNDP’s support to the Government in institutionalizing Results Based Management (RBM) has been very effective with RBM being introduced at the sub-national level as well. Provincial Governments have been requested to link their funding arrangements to Results Based Management. This ensures that the performance of local governments will also be closely monitored.

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**Future Priorities:**

- As part of the MDG Support Project, UNDP will assist the Government in producing MDG-based plans and budgets to address special disparities in certain MDG indicators as outlined in the 2nd MDG Report.

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- One of the concerns highlighted by the Government has been with regard to youth moving from the estate sector to urban centers due to the lack of income generating activities and the poor social conditions in estate locations. UNDP proposes to expand the chosen available to plantation youth by improving employment opportunities in agriculture.

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- Enhance capacity for evidence-based national policy development, planning and monitoring of sector development strategies for inclusive growth to address inequalities at sub-national level.
SHARING BEST PRACTICES

Angathakulam Yaya in Nellumwewa is a new settlement scheme in the Puttalam District, on the west coast of Sri Lanka, where a number of families from the Kurunegala District were resettled. Majority of the resettled are paddy farmers. The Nellumwewa area, as observed by the Rice Research and Development Institute (RRDI) has salinity levels higher than 2 ds/m, making the lands unsuitable for paddy cultivation. As such many farmers were forced to abandon their lands leading to the loss of their traditional livelihoods.

Realizing the seriousness of the issue, UNDP and the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of the Ministry of Disaster Management partnered with RRDI and the National Federation for Conservation of Traditional Seeds and Agricultural Resources (NFC/TAAG) in 2008 to implement a Climate change adaptation project. This initiative would test rice varieties and agronomic practices such as the use of organic manure, managing water to flush salts out of the root zone, preparation of lands to reduce evaporation and salt accumulation and management of water throughout the cultivation season.

The project helped farmers to integrate traditional knowledge and modern breeding and agronomic technologies and to obtain bountiful harvests repeatedly. Nellumwewa is only one of the many areas that have suffered due to salinity issues that reduce the productivity of most paddy lands. In addition, sea level rise, salt water intrusion and excessive evaporation resulting in salt accumulation are some of the issues predicted due to climate change.

This joint Government, NGO and UNDP initiative is a pioneering climate change adaptation measure to ensure the food and livelihood security of more than 30% of paddy farmers in coastal and irrigated dry areas.

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Energy, Environment and Disaster Risk Management

UNDP’s Energy, Environment and Disaster Risk Management cluster supports the Government of Sri Lanka to meet its international obligations including the three Rio Conventions. Cluster programmes work at the national, sub national and community levels to promote environmental sustainability, natural resource management, renewable energy and disaster resilience.

AREAS OF WORK INCLUDE:

- Ensuring sustainable development and the achievement of the MDGs by providing technical assistance in the areas of disaster risk reduction, climate change challenges, biodiversity conservation, forestry and wildlife management.
- Strengthening 24/7 early warning capacity, national and sub-national level response coordination and regulatory framework and ecosystem based disaster management.
- Implementing Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects and enabling activities in the areas of biodiversity, climate change adaptation, invasive species, biomass to energy.
- Supporting Sri Lanka to meet its obligations on international agreements and treaties in the areas of environment and Disaster Risk Reduction including support for Rs. 20.
- Development and use of a number of tools to mainstream environmental sustainability, climate change adaptation and disaster resilience in development, such as national multi-hazard profiles, building designs and local authority land use plans and the Strategic Environment Assessments.

KEY FACTS:

- 10 districts in Sri Lanka and approximately 15% of the total population are affected by landslides.
- More than 30% of the coastal paddy lands in Sri Lanka are threatened by salinity.
- Every dollar spent on risk reduction has the potential to save USD 4 in relief costs.
- Sri Lanka has 103 river basins and over 10,000 lakes and tanks. Management of the quality and quantity of these water resources is the key to long term environmental sustainability. Sri Lanka is one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots. However, from 106 species of amphibians, 21 are already considered extinct.
Ongoing Projects:

1) Community Forestry Programme
- **Duration**: 2012-2015
- **Budget**: US $ 4,792,988
- **Major Donors**: AusAid
- **Implementing partners**: Ministry of Environment and Forests
- **Brief Description**: Community Forestry Management (CFM) Programme has been identified as one of the best approaches for sustainable forest resource management and livelihood enhancement of the communities dependent on forest resources. The Forest Department prepared a Strategy for Community Forestry Management in Sri Lanka in 2008 and this project will assist them to implement the strategy in 15 districts in Sri Lanka benefiting more than 15,000 households. The overarching objective of this project is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the dry and intermediate zones.

2) Strengthening Disaster Management Capacities in Conflict Affected Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka
- **Duration**: 2012
- **Budget**: US $ 876,753
- **Major Donors**: AusAID
- **Implementing partners**: Ministry of Disaster Management
- **Brief Description**: Sri Lanka has achieved significant progress in managing disasters. However, further improvements are necessary in emergency operations management. This UNDP-UNOCHA collaborative project aims to develop the operational capacity of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) to respond to emergency situations with a special focus on the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Further, facilities in selected evacuation centers and coordination mechanisms at District levels will be improved with the replication of Disaster Management Coordination Committees at District levels. Links between disaster management stakeholders and mainstream development planning processes at the district level will be strengthened.

3) Disaster Risk Management through Partnerships in Sri Lanka
- **Duration**: 2009 - 2012
- **Budget**: US $ 1,328,021
- **Major Donors**: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction – Indian Ocean Consortium (ISDR-IOC), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction – European Union (ISDR-EU), Red Cross, UNHCR, UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), Government of France, OXFAM GB, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute
- **Implementing partners**: Ministry of Disaster Management
- **Brief Description**: The main aim of this project is to develop partnerships and collaborative programmes with other agencies within the disaster management framework and institutional structures in Sri Lanka, which are engaged in socio-economic development activities. The involvement of public, private and non-governmental sector stakeholders will strengthen the outreach capacity of the key government institutions involved in promoting risk reduction concepts and will contribute to creating a culture of collaborative actions for risk reduction.

4) Institutional Strengthening for Phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances
- **Duration**: 2011 - 2012
- **Budget**: US $ 1,140,056
- **Major Donors**: Multi-Lateral Fund of Montreal Protocol
- **Implementing partners**: Ministry of Environment
- **Brief Description**: This project extends institutional support to the National Ozone Unit, in the Ministry of Environment, helping it plan, organize, direct and coordinate all activities required for the implementation of Sri Lanka’s strategy in areas related to the phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances under the Montreal Protocol.

5) Strengthening the Capacity to Manage and Control Alien Invasive Species in Sri Lanka
- **Duration**: 2010 - 2015
- **Budget**: US $ 1,832,000
- **Major Donors**: Global Environment Facility
- **Implementing partners**: Ministry of Environment
- **Brief Description**: Alien invasive species (AIS) affect health and livelihoods and threaten biodiversity in countries like Sri Lanka. This project aims to build capacity and facilitate communications among the multiple stakeholders who are responsible for the introduction and spread of AIS. The project aims at creating the necessary environment for joint action, allowing these stakeholders to share knowledge about the rationale, need, techniques and best practices to tackle AIS in Sri Lanka.

6) Preparation for Promoting Sustainable Biomass Energy Production and Modern Bio-Energy Technologies in Sri Lanka Project
- **Duration**: 2009 - 2015
- **Budget**: US $ 2.2 million
- **Donor**: Global Environment Facility
- **Brief Description**: This project will facilitate the operation and management of sustainable plantations with Giricilla Seepom as an energy producing crop. It will aim to generate livelihood opportunities through the application of dendro gasification technologies for electricity and non-electricity purposes.

7) Climate change adaptation
- **Duration**: 2012 – 2016
- **Budget**: US $ 3.5 million
- **Major Donors**: Global Environment Facility Climate Change Fund
- **Implementing partners**: The project will help to mainstream climate change adaptation in development.

8) Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme (GEF/SGP)
- **Duration**: 1995-ongoing
- **Budget**: US $ 6,350,000 (amount committed till June 2010)
- **Major Donors**: Global Environment Facility
- **Brief Description**: This programme was launched in Sri Lanka in 1994 and has so far funded over 325 NGO/CBO initiatives in 21 districts of the country. The programme has been in the areas of biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), international waters and multi-focal areas.

9) Strategic Support to “Operationalize the Road Map towards a Safer Sri Lanka”
- **Duration**: 2009-2012
- **Budget**: US $ 2,150,000
- **Major Donors**: UNDP-UNOCHA
- **Implementing partners**: Ministry of Disaster Management
- **Brief Description**: The “Road Map for Disaster Risk Management Towards a Safer Sri Lanka” was formulated in 2005 as the vision document for the Sri Lankan disaster management sector. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) was entrusted with the responsibility to operationalize the Road Map. While some sections of the Road Map have been implemented with significant success, other areas are progressing at sub-optimal levels. This project aims to assist the DMC and other relevant stakeholders to implement the Road Map proposals by building their capacity and creating an enabling environment.

Future Priorities:
- The Energy, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Cluster will support the Government’s Vision for infrastructure expansion, economic growth and in achieving the targets set in “Mahinda Chintana - Vision for the Future” by focusing on an environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction, renewable energy expansion and climate change adaptation. The Cluster will support Sri Lanka to implement post 2015 action plans.
- The Cluster will work on the foundation work during the last five years, including the Integrated Strategic Environment Assessment, hazard profiles for multi-hazards, building codes, databases and other environmental best practices, the Cluster will engage the government, non-governmental and private sector to support them to achieve development objectives in an environmentally friendly manner.
- The Cluster will provide financial and technical resources through three large GEF projects on biomass to energy, control of invasive alien species and mainstreaming climate change adaptation in reconstruction and development. Bilateral support will also be provided in a programmatic manner through the Community Forestry Programme (CFP), Disaster Management Programmes and future mobilisation under GEF Cycle V. We will work with other UN organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, Bioenergy to Energy and REDD+ and a number of leading private sector entities in Sri Lanka in implementing projects.
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According to the Department of Census and Statistics, 8.9 percent of Sri Lanka’s population live below the poverty line. Such communities face considerable obstacles in accessing justice.

Sri Lanka was the first country in Asia to sign the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

Sri Lanka had the first ever female head of state, but today less than 5% of Members of Parliament are women.

Sri Lanka has a dual system of local governance—the Civil Service structure and the Provincial Council structure. The country has 9 Provincial Councils, 25 District Secretariats, 256 Divisional Secretariats and 160 electorates.

A LAND OF ONE’S OWN

Malakum Mannattu left her house before dawn to reach the mobile documentation clinic in Batticaloa town. The 70 year old lady had to prove the ownership of 4 acres of land and her legal documents when she and her family were displaced in 1993. The conflict also marched away her two sons.

Mannattu took two buses and travelled over 12 kilometres in the morning to make it in time for the UNDP-supported documentation clinic. The clinic is her only realistic chance of getting a replacement land deed for the plot she and her husband lost nearly two decades ago.

As part of its Safer Access to Justice Project, UNDP is supporting the Government of Sri Lanka to provide basic land documentation to internally displaced populations. For several years now mobile documentation clinics have been dispatched to communities that have been heavily affected by conflict and displacement. Since this government office tasked with issuing these documents is located in towns centres, they are difficult and expensive to travel to for many people, especially when the process often requires a dozen trips to many different offices. These clinics offer a one-stop solution where people can show up with supporting documentation and, after a day within the clinic, come out with the land deeds, both certificates and other documents crucial to the rehabilitation of their families, lives and livelihoods.

Soon after midday Mannattu is ready to leave. She was successful in getting her land deed replaced. She cannot wait to reach home to deliver the good news to her husband. In a voice trembling with emotion, she says: “We have been struggling all our lives, especially after our sons were taken away. It took us nearly 20 years to get our land back but now we will not have to go through all the hardships again.”

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Governance

UNDP supports national institutions to respond to the needs of ordinary citizens. UNDP does so by strengthening oversight mechanisms, encouraging participation in decision-making, promoting accountability and transparency in public service delivery, and providing equal access to justice.

AREAS OF WORK INCLUDE:

- Support to strengthening local democratic dialogue processes and mechanisms that enable citizens to hold government institutions accountable.
- Protecting human rights through interventions at both the local level and the national policy level.
- Ensuring access to judicial services and legal remedies for vulnerable groups, especially in the conflict-affected areas and strengthening the capacity of justice services providers.

KEY FACTS:

- According to the Department of Census and Statistics, 6.9 percent of Sri Lankan population live below the poverty line. This translates into considerable variation in accessing justice.
- Sri Lanka was the first country in Asia to sign the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).
- Sri Lanka had the first ever female head of state, but today less than 5% of Members of Parliament are women.
- Sri Lanka has a dual system of local governance—the Civil Service structure and the Provincial Council structure.
- The country has 9 Provincial Councils, 25 District Secretariats, 256 Divisional Secretariats and 160 electorates.
Ongoing Projects:

1) Equal Access to Justice Phase II
   - Duration: 2009-2012
   - Auditors: USD 36,043
   - Implementing partner: Ministry of National Languages & Social Integration
   - Brief Description:
     Phase II of the legal access to Justice Project continues the activities of the first phase within a conflict-prevention framework and with a renewed emphasis on sustainable initiatives to ensure access to justice for the general public and vulnerable groups. The project aims to provide a legal aid service that is transparent and accountable, and to develop a legal framework that ensures that individuals have access to justice and can obtain the procedures and benefits from legal services. In addition, the project works with service-providers, including judicial and non-judicial officers, police and legal aid providers, to ensure that they are better able to deal with grievances experienced by disadvantaged groups.

2) Local Governance Project (LegalPro)
   - Duration: 2009-2012
   - Auditors: USD 27,605
   - Major Donors: UNDP RDFI, UNDP TRAC, Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) and Hungary.
   - Implementing partners: Ministry of Public Administration and Local Affairs and Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils.
   - Brief Description:
     The Local Governance Project was initiated to improve local government performance and the promotion of the rule of law and to strengthen democratic dialogue and support processes that enable citizens to hold local government institutions accountable. The project includes interventions that target structures at the local level.

3) Unprecedented on Human Rights
   - Duration: 2009-2012
   - Auditors: USD 957,000
   - Major Donors: UNDP TRAC and DGTTF
   - Implementing partner: Human Rights Commission
   - Brief Description:
     The Programme works closely with government partners to support their efforts to meet commitments to international human rights agreements. In particular, the UNDP component of the Programme supports the strengthening of capacity to deliver on human rights commitments. The Programme implements interventions that work closely with government partners to develop human rights policies and mechanisms that contribute to the achievement of the MDGs, particularly with regard to reporting and engagements with civil society.

Recent Achievements:
   - In partnership with UNDP, the Human Rights Commission published a capacity assessment of all six regional offices to strengthen compliance across human rights monitoring and reporting and investigations. A specialized programme of technical assistance and training has been developed and is being delivered in partnership with the Office of the Oversite Human Rights Advisor.
   - A total of 12 community workshops were conducted under the Community Legal Empowerment for Women (CLEW) programme of the Legal Access to Justice Project, to increase legal awareness and legal support for women. The workshops were delivered to women in rural and urban areas.
   - A project was launched by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Public Administration and Human Rights, to strengthen the capacity of government agencies at the National and Provincial level in terms of policy development, implementation and monitoring.

Future Priorities:
   - A $25 million support from Norway, help local government authorities in the Nordhordland region to ensure their role in facilitating planning, coordination and monitoring.
   - In the area of justice, UNDP will work across the mantra to legal aid, legal assistance for prisoners, community legal awareness and capacity development for judicial and non-judicial officers. It will build on strong existing partnerships in the justice sector, which have provided entry points for key policy initiatives, including 1st Lanka’s first Access to Justice Policy. One new significant partnership will be with the Judicial Service Commission.

Government

NDFP

[Image of a page from a document]
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RESTORING LIVELIHOODS, RENEWING HOPES

The fishermen in Mullaitivu have engaged in deep sea and lagoon fishing for years. There are more than 7,000 members associated with fisheries societies in the district. However, the devastating war destroyed the majority of assets and infrastructure necessary for fishing. Fisheries societies were in need of financial capital to fully resume and expand their fisheries activities.

UNDP's needs assessments indicated that the fishing industry in Mullaitivu would benefit from improved infrastructure, market linkages and value addition including from facilities for fish preservation, especially given that the bulk of the products is transported and sold outside the district. The lack of an ice plant was a major concern for fishermen in the area. With little or no power to negotiate with traders, the fishermen were often forced to give away their fish for reduced prices for fear that they would go waste without proper means of preservation. In addition, Mullaitivu’s fishers were also paying high prices for ice from outside the district.

The establishment of the ice plant in Mullaitivu through the Community Recovery Project with funding from the European Union (EU) aimed to address the acute need for ice in the district fishing sector. Established through the Fisheries Cooperative Societies' Union (FCSU) and completed in August 2011, this ice plant located in Kallapadu in the Mullaitivu District, can produce up to 10 tons of ice per day. It directly benefits over 7,000 fishermen by ensuring a prolonged shelf-life for their catch through the provision cold storage facilities.

"Now I have no problem in storing my catch. Ice is available throughout the day, even in the night hours. I am now planning to expand my fishing activities," stated 59-year old Sri Skandarajah who had been rather frustrated due to the exploitation of fishermen by external traders. He added that in the past the prices offered by the traders were so low that sometimes he was compelled to borrow money to make ends meet.

Altogether, things are changing rapidly. With the establishment of the ice plant, unlike before, the fishermen of Mullaitivu have higher bargaining power. Traders from many parts of the country are coming to Mullaitivu in search for fish. At present, about 10 tons of fish and 3,300 kg of prawns are transported from Mullaitivu daily.

Commenting on this latest venture, the Government Agent of Mullaitivu, Mr. Pattranath stated that the establishment of the ice factory is a critical step for the resettled people to rebuild the fishing industry in Mullaitivu and in doing so, rebuild their lives.

AREAS OF WORK INCLUDE:

- Supporting socio-economic recovery and social cohesion in the conflict-affected districts in the North, East and other indirectly-affected districts, by addressing the resettlement and reintegration needs of returnees, host communities and other vulnerable groups through community based development.
- Support to the National Mine Action Programme for the overall management of mine action activities in Sri Lanka.
- Support for effective information-sharing, planning and coordination of early recovery activities.

The war in Sri Lanka caused tremendous losses to social and economic capital, slowed down the country’s development, and fragmented relations between people.

UNDP Sri Lanka’s Peace and Recovery cluster, works primarily in the formerly conflict-affected areas of the country’s Northern, Eastern and adjacent Northern and Eastern districts, in the areas of mine action, sustainable livelihoods, recovery coordination and the reintegration of ex-combatants. The cluster aims to provide an integrated package of technical, policy and downstream programming assistance to support those directly impacted by the war to restore dignity to their lives and to support populations across the country to make peace with their neighbours. The cluster currently hosts the Transition Recovery Programme (TRP), Support to Mine Action Project (SMAIP) and Early Recovery Coordination Project (ERC) and has previously hosted a project providing Technical Support to Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) and an initiation project on Bi-lingual Competency Development of the Public Sector.

KEY FACTS:

- Most of the 330,000 individuals displaced at the end of the war in May 2009 have returned to their districts of origin.
- Approximately 10,400 of the estimated 11,700 persons identified as LTTE ex-combatants have returned to their communities.
- The total remaining extent of contamination as at 31st December 2011 in Sri Lanka is approximately 133.09 km2.
- UNDP baseline study found that 43% of conflict-affected households report having no livelihood skills and 76.7% indicate difficulties in accessing credit.
- The National Mine Action Centre (NMAC), established in 2010, is the operational coordination body for mine action activities in the country.

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Ongoing Projects:

1. Support to Basic Action Project
   Duration: 2006 - 2008
   Major Donors: UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
   The project supported the Sri Lankan government to establish a national project plan for rehabilitation in the areas affected by the tsunami. The project also addressed the needs of children and women in the recovery phase.

2. Technical Support to Support Demobilization and Reintegration (TSR)
   Duration: 2006 - 2009
   Major Donors: UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
   The project provided technical assistance to the government to support the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. The project focused on providing vocational training and psychological support to former combatants.

Recent Achievements:

- The UNDP-supported early recovery coordination facilitated the stabilization of livelihoods, particularly for the most vulnerable groups.
- The project supported the establishment of livelihood recovery programs, which included microfinance, skills training, and market access for small-scale farmers.
- The project provided ongoing support to the government's efforts to build back better in the affected areas.

Future Priorities:

- To adapt to the changing environment, UNDP will continue to strengthen its partnerships with local governments and civil society organizations.
- UNDP will focus on supporting the establishment of local economic development frameworks in the affected areas.
- The project will continue to support the government's efforts to build back better in the affected areas.

Peace and Recovery