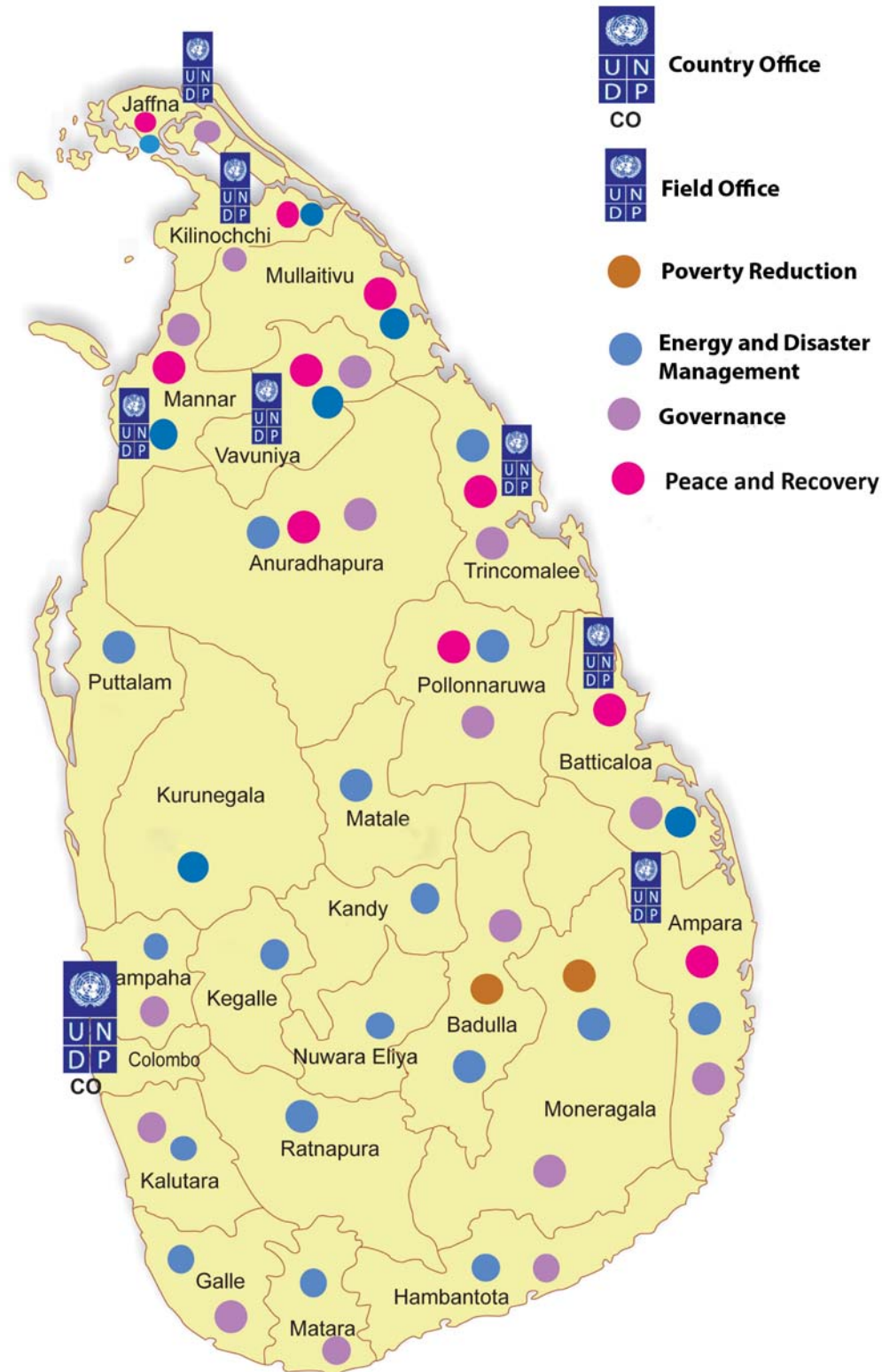


Where we work



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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 enlarging 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 accesses this information through its global network of country offices and adapts these 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:

- Socio 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.

(*Includes UNDSS and OHCHR staff members on UNDP contracts)



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EMERGING PRIORITIES

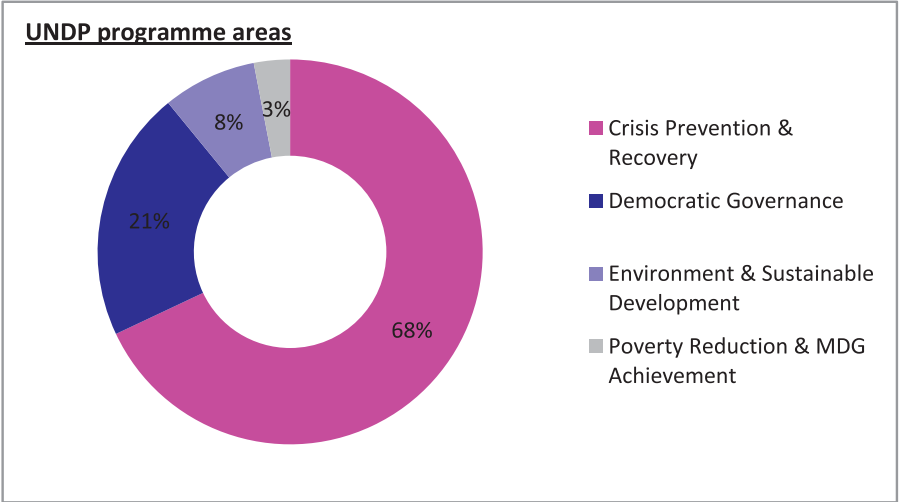
Sri Lanka today looks to the future with newfound hope for stability and peace. This moment of long-awaited transition follows a war in which parts of a country once known as ‘Serendib’ became battlegrounds distinguished by mass displacement, minefields, and a prevailing sense of fear. Emerging from the ashes of conflict, Sri Lanka is again a vibrant country that the world’s tourists yearn to visit, an economy that has achieved an 8% GDP growth rate, and a people with a proven, extraordinary resilience. Sri Lanka is likely to achieve the MDGs by 2015, if not before. It will be one of the few countries to do so despite simultaneously experiencing a conflict.

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

Constituting a foundation on which the development needs of Sri Lanka can be addressed in peacetime, these experiences provide a reference point for future UNDP programmes. Changes are on the horizon, however, and in moving forward, UNDP will accelerate its shift to more technical, policy-oriented support, in an effort to better leverage limited resources for the benefit of a bigger swathe of Sri Lanka’s people. With economic, social and political change being driven by newfound stability, UNDP today is actively expanding its partnership with the private sector, as a key engine of change that will soon eclipse humanitarian aid and ODA as the primary conduit of collaboration between Sri Lanka and the international community. UNDP will also expand its climate change and disaster management support, as forecasted economic trends put increasing pressure on Sri Lanka’s fragile ecosystems.

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

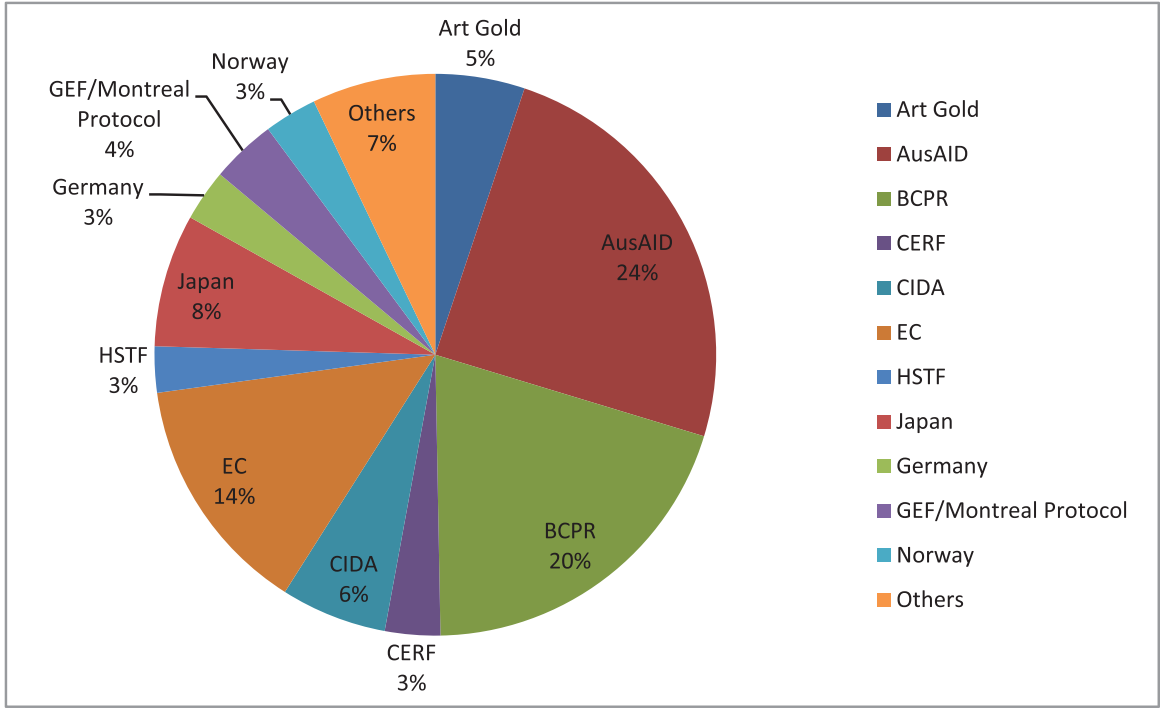
UNDP: What we Do



* 2008 - 2012: Support to Sri Lanka Development Practice Areas



Major donor contributions



Total funds: US\$ 69,125,290

(Only includes contributions over US\$ 500,000)



Poverty Reduction and MDGs

SRI LANKA HELPS INTRODUCE RBM

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, and is now under the Ministry of Finance and Planning (MPI), to introduce Results Based Management (RBM) in Government offices. As the name suggests, RBM is results based monitoring that helps the Government to ensure efficient and effective implementation of policies and programmes.

The initiative was linked to the national budgetary process of Sri Lanka. The treasury guidelines for budget preparations released in 2011 requested Ministries to submit their budget requirements linked to their Key Performance Indicators in the Agency Results Frameworks. Simply put, this means that funding for Ministries will be closely tied to their performance or how well they are meeting their identified targets. The project assisted the Government to release a Project/Programme Management tool, which will enable the Government to monitor the progress of development programmes more effectively.

The success of this 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. Maldives has also expressed interest in learning more about RBM from Sri Lanka. Officials from the Government of Sri Lanka have been involved in helping the Maldives develop a framework to institutionalize RBM. The framework was presented at a donor forum held in March 2010.

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 (Uva 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 operationalize 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 under weight, which is a serious cause of concern.
- Sri Lanka was one of the first countries in the region to introduce Managing for Development Results (MfDR) or Results Based Management.



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Ongoing Projects:

1) MDG Support Project Phase III

- Duration : 2010-2012
- Budget: US \$ 600,000
- Major Donors: UNDP Target Resource Allocation from Core (TRAC)
- Implementing partners: Department of National Planning, Department of Census and Statistics.
- **Brief Description:**
The project will strengthen 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 reducing regional disparities with regard to the MDGs through strengthening the planning and budgeting capacity of planning officers at national and sub-national levels and assisting them to produce MDG based Development Plans. The Department of Census and Statistics will be assisted 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 Northern and Eastern provinces, after a long lapse of time, and by introducing new technologies for processing and analysis of information collected.

2) 2nd National Human Development Report (NHDR)

- Duration : 2011-2012
- Budget: US \$ 60,000
- Major Donors: UNDP TRAC
- **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 Human 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 this first Human Development Report which was published ten years ago. Sri Lanka is now geared to produce its 2nd NHDR which will highlight the inequalities that prevail in Sri Lanka. Despite the huge gains Sri Lanka has made on the MDG indicators, these inequalities have had a serious impact on the improvement of the human development conditions of the entire population.

Recent Achievements:

- UNDP's support to the Government to institutionalize 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 requirements to Results Based Management. This means that the performance of local governments will also be closely monitored.
- The Second Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Progress Report for Sri Lanka was launched on the 20th of September, 2010, coinciding with the Global MDG Summit which commenced on the same day in New York. The report highlights Sri Lanka as a unique country in its approach to human development. Despite its relatively low GDP per capita indicator, the country has already achieved most of the MDGs, especially those related to health and education. Nonetheless, challenges still remain, as the report shows, such as the wide disparities in MDG indicators across different regions in Sri Lanka.
- UNDP Sri Lanka organized and hosted the South Asian regional consultation on areas of concern for human development, especially focusing on the changing global dynamics with the rise of the global south and the human progress in a diverse world, as well as defining goals beyond the MDGs.

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.
- 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 localities. UNDP proposes to expand the choices available to plantation youth by improving external prospects for employment.
- 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

Angithgakulam Yaya in Nelumwewa 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 Nelumwewa 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 (NFCTSAR) 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. Nelumwewa 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 drier areas.

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 wild life 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 Rio+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.

The cluster initiatives are based on the Green Lanka strategy published by the Presidential Secretariat (2009), the Caring for Environment 2008-12 strategy by the Ministry of Environment and the Natural Resources (2008) and Road Map Towards a Safer Sri Lanka strategy of the Ministry of Disaster Management (2005).

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.



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Ongoing Projects:

1) Community Forestry Programme

- Duration : 2012-2015
- Budget: US \$ 4,792,988
- Major Donors: AusAid
- Implementing partners: Ministry of Environment

- **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 Forest Management in Sri Lanka in 2008 and this project will assist them to implement the strategy in 15 districts in Sri Lanka benefitting 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\$ 1,328,821
- 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 \$ 134,056
- 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 \$ 1,825,000
- 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 \$ 2.0 million
- Donor : Global Environment Facility

- **Brief Description :** This project will facilitate the operation and management of sustainable plantations with Gliricidia Sepum as an energy producing crop. It will aim to generate livelihood options through the application of dendro gasification technologies for electricity and non-electricity purposes.

7) Climate change adaption

- Duration : 2012 – 2016
- Budget: US\$ 3.5 million
- Major Donors: Special Climate Change Fund
- Implementing partners: This project will help to mainstream climate change adaption in development.

8) Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme (GEF/SGP)

- Duration : 1995-ongoing
- Budget: US \$ 6,330,000 (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 projects have 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-BCPR, AusAid
- 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 environmental sustainability, disaster risk reduction, renewable energy expansion and climate change adaptation. The Cluster will support Sri Lanka to implement post Rio+20 action plans.
- Capitalizing 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 governmental, 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 mobilization under GEF Cycle V. We will work with other UN organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, (biomass to energy and REDD++), World Food Programme (climate change adaptation), UNOCHA (disaster response), the United Nations Environment Programme (Montreal Protocol and REDD++) and a number of leading private sector entities in Sri Lanka in implementing projects.

Recent Achievements:

- Convened over 30 governmental and inter-governmental agencies around the Integrated Strategic Environment Assessment – ISEA (www.isea.lk) for the formerly conflict-affected Northern Province. The ISEA facilitated the establishment of environmental baselines for the Northern districts including the mapping of natural resources, archaeological areas and wildlife corridors which helped guide decision-making around post-war developmental projects with sensitivity to key environmental issues.
- Facilitated the development of tools such as national hazard profiles for coastal erosion, storm surges, cyclones, droughts, floods, landslides, sea level rise and tsunamis, and cyclone and flood resistant building designs for schools.
- Supported the establishment and functioning of the National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee (NDMCC), a 65-member strong platform which serves as the hub for disaster risk management activities in the country.
- Technical support provided to phase out ozone depleting “CFC” gas in 2009 one year ahead of the target.
- Facilitated the non-use of harmful methyl bromide fumigant in Sri Lanka's tea industry, allowing ‘ozone-friendly’ tea products to access niche markets.
- Development and support to propagate solid waste to biogas systems at community, government, private and institutional levels including S-S Cooperation with Cambodia and Vietnam.

- Technical support to leading private sector recognition efforts including, Best Corporate Citizen Award - Ceylon Chamber of Commerce; National Cleaner Production Award - UNIDO and Ministry of Industries; Geo-Responsibility Awards - Holcim Lanka (Pvt.) Limited and Ministry of Environment; and the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV + 10).
- Led efforts to install and manage extensive drainage, solid waste, sewerage and water management systems for the Manik Farm IDP complex in Vavuniya, thereby ensuring the well-being of over 300,000 IDP's in the Menik Farm IDP complex in Vavuniya from the potential harms of recurrent monsoons.
- Development of a database of disaster incidents during the last 40 years (www.desinventar.lk) and collection of climate change adaptation work in Sri Lanka. (www.climateadaptation.lk)
- Supported the formulation of key policy document such as “Road Map towards Safer Sri Lanka (2006)”, “Caring for Environment (2008)”, “Hariitha (Green) Lanka Strategy and Action Plan (2009)” and “Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2011)”, which continue to serve as definitive planning documents on environmental and disaster risk issues.



A LAND OF ONE'S OWN

Mannikam Marimuttu left her house before day-break to reach the mobile documentation clinic in Batticaloa town. The 70 year old lady lost all property, including her 4 acre land and her legal documents when she and her family were displaced in 1990. The conflict also snatched away her two sons.

Marimuttu 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 Equal Access to Justice Project, UNDP is supporting the Government of Sri Lanka to provide basic legal 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 the government offices tasked with issuing these documents are located in town centres, they are difficult and expensive to travel to for many people, especially when the process often requires half a dozen trips to as 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, birth certificates and other documents crucial to the rehabilitation of their families, lives and livelihoods.

Soon after midday Marimuttu 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".

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, 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.



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Ongoing Projects:

1) Equal Access to Justice-Phase II

- Duration : 2009-2012
- Budget: US\$ 7,740,000
- Major Donors: UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP Target Resource Allocation from Core (TRAC), UNHCR, UN Trust Fund for Human Security, and the Government of Germany
- Implementing partner: Ministry of National Languages & Social Integration.

● Brief Description:

Phase II of the Equal Access to Justice Project continues the activities of the first phase within a conflict-prevention framework and with a renewed emphasis on vulnerable communities in the North and East. The project works with disadvantaged groups to ensure that communities have increased knowledge of their rights and are able to access and benefit from legal services. In addition, A2J-II also works with service-providers including judicial and non-judicial officers, the police and lawyers, to train them to be better able to deal with grievances experienced by disadvantaged groups.

2) Local Governance Project (LoGoPro)

- Duration :2009-2012
- Budget: US \$ 5,885,000
- Major Donors: UNDP BCPR, UNDP TRAC, Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund (DGTTF) and Norway.
- Implementing partners: Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs and Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils.

● Brief Description:

The Local Governance Project was initiated to improve local service delivery for recovery and the attainment of the MDGs and to strengthen local democratic dialogue and support processes that enable citizens to hold their local government institutions accountable. The project includes interventions that target structures at the local level.

3) UN Joint Programme on Human Rights

- Duration : 2009-2012
- Budget: US \$978,000
- 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 components of the Programme support the strengthening of the Human Rights Commission to address certain key issues that resulted in its downgrade from 'A' to 'B' status by the ICC, particularly with regard to reporting and engagements with civil society.

Recent Achievements:

- In partnership with UNDP, the Human Rights Commission undertook a capacity assessment of six of its regional offices with a view to identifying key requirements with regard to strengthening complaints handling, 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 Senior UN Advisor on Human Rights.
- A total of 101 community workshops were conducted under the Community Legal Empowerment for Women (CLEW) component of the Equal Access to Justice Project, to improve legal awareness on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and rights related to marriage, divorce and maintenance. Working with local theatre groups, the project used interactive drama to highlight key issues related to SGBV and reach nearly 15,000 beneficiaries in Jaffna, Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts.
- Nearly 7,000 people benefitted through increased awareness and access to justice redress mechanisms as a result of the legal aid clinics conducted countrywide. In addition, 26,809 people were able to obtain vital civic documentation, including birth, marriage and death certificates, through the mobile documentation clinics, held in 25 districts in the North, East and Estate areas of the country.
- UNDP supported the Government to finalize and launch its 5 year National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights meeting the Government's pledge made at the Universal Periodic Review. The Plan covers eight thematic areas and highlights the goals, activities, indicators, timelines and responsible parties to track implementation. Gender issues

were also considered across all chapters of the Action Plan with a specific chapter focusing on the protection and promotion of the human rights of women.

- UNDP held consultations with Government Agents in the North to ascertain their requirements in terms of staffing capacity, basic equipment, skills development and logistics. These findings have been used to support an initiative that was launched by UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs, to strengthen the capacity of Government Agents in the North to fulfill their role as the nodal agencies for recovery planning, coordination and monitoring on the ground.
- UNDP supported the Government to develop and display across the country a Citizen's Charter, which summarizes the key roles and responsibilities of the public service. Currently, the Citizen's Charter is displayed in 14,0422 Grama Niladhari offices, and this is being further expanded. Based on the Citizen's Charter, UNDP supported the Ministry of Public Administration to develop 20 Work Manuals for various public service positions, streamlining and detailing the duties and functions of public officers, thereby institutionalizing processes and systems. This led to a significant policy level contribution, where the Government, based on the manual on the Public Sector Pension's Scheme, streamlined and revised the Sri Lankan Pension Law.
- UNDP assisted the Government to formulate the five year Eastern Development Plan, in line with the national development strategy set out in the Mahinda Chinthana: Vision for a New Sri Lanka.

Future Priorities:

- With financial support from Norway, help local government authorities in the Northern Province to assume their roles as focal agencies for development planning, coordination and monitoring.
- In the area of justice, UNDP will work across the country on 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 Sri Lanka's first Access to Justice Policy. One new significant partnership will be with the Judicial Service Commission





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 produce 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's 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 upto 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 3,500kg of prawns are transported from Mullaitivu daily.

Commenting on this latest venture, the Government Agent of Mullaitivu, Mr Pattinathan 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.

Peace and Recovery

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 (SMAP) 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.

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.

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) UNDP support to Mine-Action Project

- Duration : 2002-2012
- Budget: US\$ 17,461,825.89
- Major Donors: UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), AusAID, UN Peace Building Fund, EC, UK Department for International Development (DFID), World Bank, UN Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF), Government of New Zealand
- **Brief Description:**
UNDP's Support to Mine Action Project (SMAP) has been instrumental in establishing Sri Lanka's National Mine Action Center (NMAC) and in leading mine action standard and policy setting, while providing support to mine action quality assurance and coordination, which is the critical enabler for safe resettlement, recovery and development activities.

2) Technical Support to Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)

- Duration : 2009-2011
- Budget: US\$ 100,000
- Major Donors: UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- **Brief Description:**
This project supported the Sri Lankan Government to formulate a National Action Plan (NAP) for assisting the socio-economic reintegration of former cadres into civilian life in the country and based on the NAP, the project also supported the development and roll-out of Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs) on various aspects of reintegration.

3) Transition Recovery Programme

- Duration : 2008 – 2012
- Budget: US\$ 41,731,489
- Major Donors: AusAID, UNDP BCPR, Japan, CIDA, EU, Norway
- **Brief Description:**
The Transition Recovery Programme (TRP) is UNDP's flagship programme in Sri Lanka and supports communities through area-based recovery and development assistance. Using community-based approaches and working with local-level government and civil society, TRP's work gives power to local communities to identify, plan and carry-out their own community development, and uses these activities as vehicles for bringing people together and increasing the participation of excluded groups like women and youth.

4) Support to Early Recovery Planning, Coordination and Capacity-Building

- Duration : 2009 – 2012
- Budget: US \$ 943,030
- Major Donors: UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- **Brief Description:**
UNDP's Early Recovery Coordination Project (ERC), serves as a hub for recovery efforts in the North and East of Sri Lanka and assists district governments, UN agencies, INGOS and NGOs to coordinate their work to increase aid-effectiveness and reduce assistance gaps.

Recent Achievements:

- The TRP continues to support housing, livelihoods and livelihood infrastructure needs of conflict affected communities in the North and East. Between 2008 and 2011, the TRP reached over 12,222 persons through livelihood assistance and has constructed permanent houses for 362 returnee families, over 509 livelihood infrastructure facilities reaching over 80,224 individuals and 171 social infrastructure units benefitting 35,796 individuals. 91% of those provided with livelihood assistance have initiated activities 6 months after the programme; 95% of those receiving micro-enterprise loans have initiated micro-businesses within 3 months; 89% of government departments that received support have expanded their service delivery; and 75% of community organizations that received training adopted improved accountability measures 6 months following. The TRP also supported communities to initiate over 400 social transformation activities such as exchange visits, social, cultural, and sports events, and school twinning, bringing together communities that had been kept apart by the war.
- The SMAP has facilitated the clearance of 41.53 km² or 13.84% of Confirmed Hazardous Areas in 2011, allowing for the release of lands available for housing, farming, access to fishing, schools, railroads, places of worship and tourist destinations. The SMAP supported the establishment of Sri Lanka's National Mine Action Center, and continues to support its operational activities.

- UNDP supported early recovery coordination forums are fully operational at the district and divisional levels in the North and East. UNDP facilitated the standardization of livelihood assistance packages in the Northern districts, ensuring equitable assistance to beneficiaries.

Future Priorities:

- To adapt to the changing environment, UNDP will adopt a local economic development framework in its work in conflict-affected areas, which will include a formal integration between its current downstream recovery and local governance programmes.
- UNDP will continue using market-based approaches with more emphasis on value addition and enterprise development, to support its beneficiary communities to migrate from subsistence to market livelihoods, focusing on the well-being of people still at risk. This work will involve building connections between communities and private sector organizations, so they can access new markets and financial services.
- UNDP will continue using its recovery work as entry points for peacebuilding between communities kept apart by war, and scale-up select initiatives such as the schools twinning to have a greater impact on post-war reconciliation.
- UNDP's mine action work will focus intensively on transferring its mine action management responsibilities to the Sri Lankan government by end 2013.

