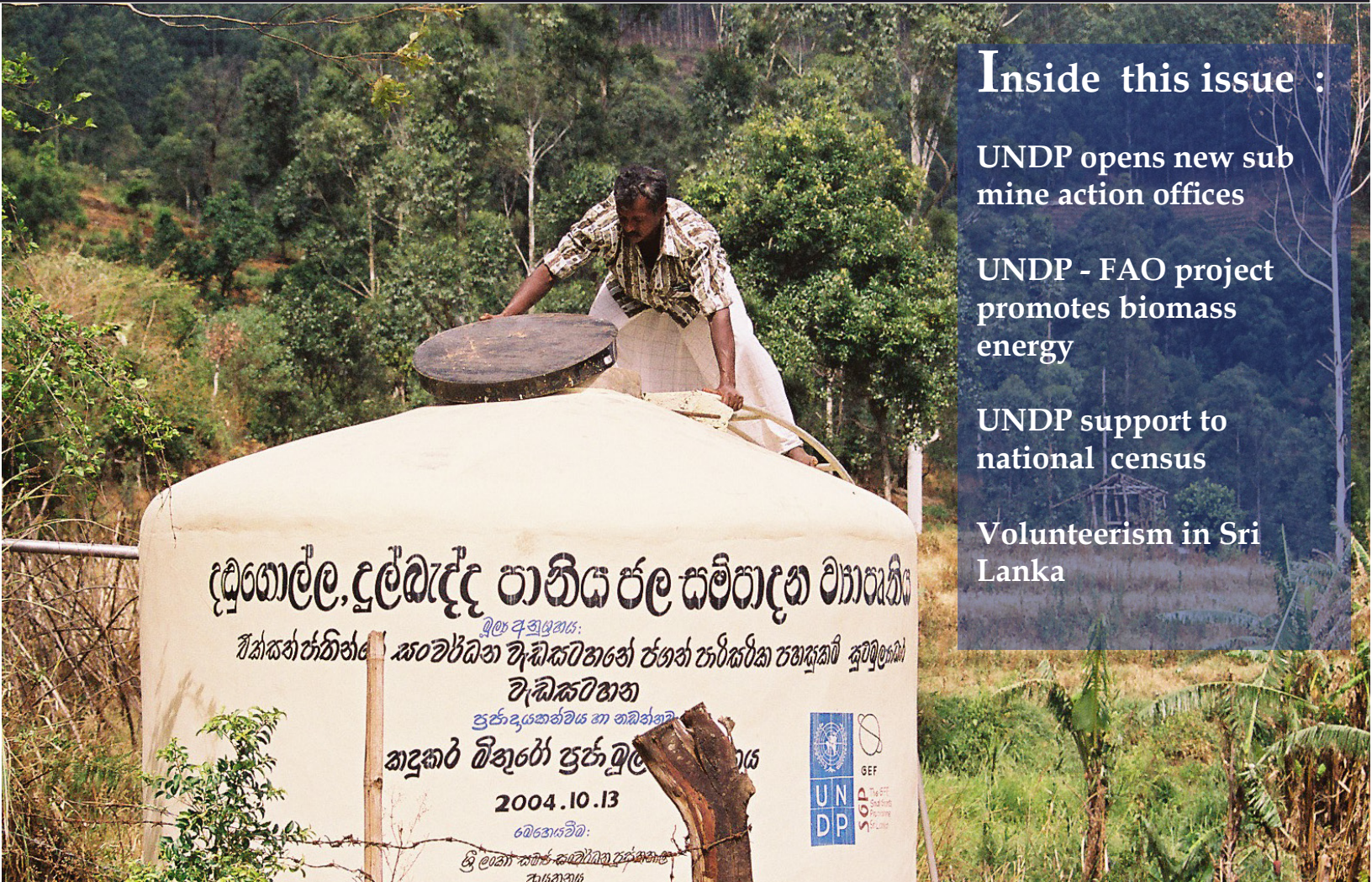


# On the Ground



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## UNDP Access to Justice Project supports Kalutara prison

A special ward will be established in the Kalutara Prison with the support of the UNDP Equal Access to Justice Project to house female inmates who have been imprisoned with their children, who are under five years of age. The new ward has been set up following the refurbishment of an existing building in the Kalutara Prison at a cost of nearly Rs.5 million. The ward is funded by the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR).

The unique features of the ward include separate kitchens for the inmates to prepare food for the children and a play area for the children. The move is aimed at providing a more conducive environment for the inmates' children to grow up.

According to the Department of Prisons, there are nearly 52 children under the age of five years in prisons with their mothers. Presently, they are housed along with the other female prisoners with no separate accommodation.

*Below : UNDP Resident Representative Neil Buhne at the opening of the Kilinochchi*



## UNDP establishes two new Sub- Mine Action Offices

The UNDP Support to Mine Action Project established two new Sub- Mine Action Offices this month. A new sub-DMAO ( District Mine Action Office ) for the Mullaitivu District was opened on the 24th of September. The office will be housed in the Mullaitivu District Secretariat and will report to the main DMAO in Vavuniya. Following this another new sub-DMAO for the Kilinochchi District was opened on the 29th of September. This sub- DMAO, will report to the main DMAO in Jaffna. The main functions of these two Sub-DMAOs will be to monitor mine clearance activities in the districts. The offices will also be equipped with Quality Assurance capacities, as well as Information Management Systems for mine Action (IMSMA) workstations.



# UNDP moves back to Kilinochchi

September 2010 was a significant month for UNDP as it re-opened its Killinochchi Office. Initially established in 2003 and relocated to Vavuniya in September 2008, the 17 member team is now pleased to be home and fully back to business, working from the WFP compound.

Under the leadership of Vijayakumar Navaneethan, the team covers both Killinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts, the areas most devastated by the conflict, and implements projects reaching as far as Nachchikudah on the North West coast with Mannar and Jaffna around to Kokilai East and West on the Eastern coast border with Trinco.

Now back in location, the team is looking forward to increasing the impact of its support by being closer to the people they are ultimately working to serve. Catalysing early recovery cuts across all programmes from the Transition Recovery Programme (TRP), providing direct socio-economic support to 5,000 recently resettled families across 19 GN Divisions to the Capacity Development for Recovery in the North (CADRIN) project, working in partnership with the District and Divisional Secretariats to support the emergence and empowerment of close to 300 rural development societies, women's development societies, farmers organizations and similar grass root service providers.

Alongside direct programming, coordination is a key focus of the office. Surge support in the form of manpower, equipment, logistics and training is provided to the Planning Units of the two GA offices through the same CADRIN Project, implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs. Additionally, the team includes an Early Recovery Coordination Officer whose sole responsibility is to work with local partners to ensure an effective use of early recovery resources through joint planning, gap analysis and the development of common standards for assistance.

For more information about the CIDA, EU and UNDP funded TRP Programme and the Norwegian funded CADRIN please refer to [www.undp.lk](http://www.undp.lk)





# EVENTS

13-14  
OCT

## The Second National Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)

The Second National Symposium on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), held on the 13th and 14th October 2010 was another milestone in disaster management in Sri Lanka. The Chief Guest at this occasion was The Hon. Minister of Disaster Management, Mr.A.H.M.Fowzie.

The Symposium which coincided with the International Day of Natural Disaster Reduction had 4 main themes: Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, Research and Educational Tools for Disaster Management, Meeting the Challenges of Climate Change, Preparedness, Early Warning and Response for Multi-hazards. In total 55 research papers were presented and discussed at this symposium, while 15 posters were developed out of the proposals submitted.

In addition 2 special sessions were conducted. The first special session was for the Officials of Municipal Councils and Urban Councils, on the Disaster Resilient Cities. About 50 officials attended this forum. The underlying theme of this event was how to make your city resilient to disasters. The second special session was the Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation Practitioners' Forum, where the immense contributions and successful partnership of the NDMCC members were acknowledged and felicitated. NDMCC members were also given an opportunity to provide input about what they would like the NDMCC to do in 2011.

## UPCOMING

14  
DEC

### Launch of the 2010 Human Development Report

UNDP Sri Lanka will launch the 2010 Human Development Report titled "Pathways to Human Development: The Real Wealth of Nations," at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies. The launch will begin at 9.00 a.m under the patronage of Hon. Minister Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister International Economic Cooperation. The 2010 HDR, which is the 20th anniversary edition of the report, introduces the Inequality Adjusted HDI (IHDI), the Gender Inequality Index (GII) and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as three new indices for the measurement of human development. The report also lists the HDI rankings of 169 countries and Sri Lanka has been ranked 91.

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## International Volunteer Day Celebrations

The United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Programme in Sri Lanka will be launching the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) at the British School Auditorium, Colombo. The year 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV). Opportunity exists for activities throughout 2011 that will showcase the diversity, breadth the depth of volunteering worldwide and offer the chance to raise the profile of volunteering and mobilize many more volunteers. The United Nations Volunteer Programme, is glad to facilitate the launch of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10) steering committee. The steering committee is a combination of a range of sectors including Youth, Academia, Civil Society, Private Sector, Government and Media. The evening will be followed by an evening of entertainment entitled "Inspiring the Volunteer in You".

6  
DEC

## UNDP and FAO join hands to help the Government promote biomass energy

According to the Ministry of Power and Energy only around 77% of households have access to electricity. To expand this coverage the Government is looking at new sources of energy such as Coal, Dendro, Wind and Solar Power, which will also help promote energy efficiency. This diversification of energy sources will help meet crisis situations caused by escalations in fuel prices and unexpected periods of drought, when water resources run dry.

Biomass generated energy or "Dendro Thermal" power has been identified as one of the key diversification options. Communities can grow biomass such as Gliricidia which is a short term crop with six cycles per year, yielding about 30 tons of biomass annually. Biomass can be converted into energy through gasification or used directly in boilers or as fire wood in commercial drying processes. Growing Gliricidia provides an additional income and the leaves can also be used to make compost or improve soil quality.

In 2010, UNDP and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) joined hands to help the Government initiative to promote Dendro power. Towards this initiative UNDP and FAO were able to mobilize around USD 2 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to improve policy, and address institutional and socio-economic barriers in promoting

### UNDP TRP supports recovery activities in Jaffna

On the 6th of December, UNDP TRP embarked on its latest initiative, the Jaffna Rehabilitation Project 2 (JRP- 11), which will be implemented under Norwegian funding. With a budget of USD 850,000, JRP- 11 will be carried out from December 2010 to November 2011. The project will focus on sustainable livelihoods, community housing, community infrastructure and social transformation. The overall objective of the project is to facilitate the sustainable resettlement of returnees in the 4 targeted DSDs (Tellipalai, Vadamaradchy East, Chavakachcheri, and Karainagar), and to reduce tensions within and between communities by improving their socio-economic conditions.

The district of Jaffna is host to over 29,000 families displaced both on account of the war and related mine contamination as well as the High Security Zones (HSZs) set up since 1990. Following the Supreme Court ruling in 2007 releasing areas adjacent to the HSZs, and subsequent demining operations, large numbers of displaced people have returned to these areas. However, across the board, returnee communities face immense challenges with respect to damaged housing, deteriorated internal access roads, lack of clean drinking water, sanitation facilities, access to pre-school and community buildings, as well as a lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities specifically in the areas of farming and fisheries.

Against this backdrop, JRP- 11 will attempt to improve the capacity of the beneficiaries by helping them to initiate their livelihood activities, by improving their housing and infrastructure facilities, and by mobilizing Community Based Organizations and increasing their involvement in the implementation and maintenance of community infrastructure.

Dendro power. Considering that Sri Lanka is a tropical country with a significant amount of rainfall and that about 40% arable land is underutilized, the Dendro power idea is not far from being realized. Once the technical, financial and policy barriers are addressed, Dendro power will be on its way. This project will be implemented through the Sustainable Energy Authority of the Ministry of Power and Energy and the Forest Department of the Ministry of Environment.

## UNDP Supports National Census 2011

The Department of Census and Statistics (DCS), is gearing-up for the 2011 Census that will provide the first comprehensive update of data on the country's population since the 2001 census exercise. The 2011 census will cover the Northern and Eastern provinces, which were last included in a national census as far back as 1980.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have accelerated the demand for data and countries like Sri Lanka, despite having a sound network for data collection, face numerous challenges such as limited availability of data at the local level, inaccuracies resulting from the use of manual processing techniques and non-availability of some denominators needed for MDG monitoring. As part of the MDG Support Project Phase III, UNDP will be partnering with the DCS to provide necessary support to improve data quality, accuracy, coverage, and timely availability of data in the census exercise. UNDP will help the DCS to introduce a new system for on-line editing and procedures for imputation, under expert guidance and help put into place advanced statistical applications, for effective analysis of census data. UNDP will also help to ensure efficient dissemination of information, through published reports, as well as through the electronic media.

There is also a significant need for complete and accurate maps of administrative divisions and their subdivisions, covering the census enumeration areas, particularly of areas in the Northern and Eastern provinces. UNDP will support the development of these maps that will ensure that these regions are adequately covered and fully reflected in the census.





# The Spotlight

Programme Officer of United Nations Volunteers, Stuart Malcolm shares his thoughts on volunteerism in Sri Lanka...

## How long have you been working with volunteers?

About 12 years. I have been with United Nations Volunteers since the beginning of this year, but before that I worked with Volunteer Services Overseas (VSO), and I have worked with volunteers in the UK, Malawi, Cambodia, and Sierra Leone.

## Why do you think volunteerism is important in a country like Sri Lanka?

As much as it would like to, the government can't do everything or reach everyone and the private sector is not interested in some of the remote communities in the country. Volunteering fills in these gaps and actually contributes to the economy. Although it's not recognized for it, volunteerism is actually saving the government money in many ways.

## From your experience so far do you think the idea of volunteerism is well accepted here?

I think there is a history and a culture of volunteering but it's mainly the shramadhana idea of volunteering, which is more about helping others at a community level rather than volunteering in a wider sense like sharing professional skills or cooperate volunteering or Cooperate Social Responsibility. These forms of volunteering are not as recognized.

## What are the main volunteer organizations working in the country?

Well some of the organizations that come to mind are Sarvodaya, Helpage and Red Cross but there are also lots of organizations that you wouldn't think of as volunteer organizations. The Girl Guides and Boy Scouts for instance are also volunteers. Then there are other

people like social workers who use volunteers to extend their reach. There is also a small CSR component with big companies like John Keels and Hayleys.

## How does the UN volunteer system work?

We have 3 main types of volunteering; International volunteering, where we bring specialists from overseas to volunteer with UN agencies. Then there is national volunteering where we bring Sri Lankans into UN agencies to work on project coordination, communication, advocacy, all sorts of different skills. Thirdly we have online volunteering which is a free service offered to any nonprofit organization in Sri Lanka, for work that can be done remotely, like designing a website or translating documents. We also promote volunteering in general, and we work with the government and local NGO's to improve the services offered to volunteers and also to coordinate the sector.

## How many volunteers is UNV working with at the moment?

At the moment about 30. 2/3 are national and the rest are international. Has UNV collaborated with any government institutions to promote volunteerism? We have had a partnership with the Ministry of Social Services for about 4 years now. With them we implemented the VOICE project to establish a volunteering information and coordination center. That was looking at volunteering legislation but also trying to show case the different types of volunteering in the country.

## Do you think it is necessary to have national policies on volunteerism?

Yes, the volunteering that does exist in Sri Lanka is not well coordinated and is not systematic or organized, and so there is a need for a central body to share best practices and to legislate for the rights of volunteers. But more than that to recognize the contributions



Stuart Malcolm has been leading the UNV team in Sri Lanka since January 2010. Stuart is a Scottish national and has worked in over 70 countries. He speaks six languages.

they make and to encourage further volunteering. This is important to remove some of the barriers that exist to make volunteering easier and more attractive.

### **How do you think opportunities for volunteerism can be improved in this country?**

Next year is the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteering. So we would like to use that year to promote volunteering and to encourage more people to volunteer but fundamentally we require government support to recognize the importance of volunteering.

On the 5th of December we will be celebrating International Volunteer Day and we hope to use this as an opportunity to recognize the achievements of volunteers and to push for further improvements.

### **Do you think the volunteer process needs to be more formalized? Will this increase its appeal?**

There is a lot of informal volunteering going on and that is great and we don't want to discourage that. But we would like to make people more aware of other opportunities out there. Employers don't always know how best to manage volunteers in terms of recruitment and retention policies. Rather

than seeing volunteers as free labor employers need to manage them well in order to get the best out of them.

### **From experience, can you think of any good examples for efficient volunteer systems?**

Well, I can think of two good examples from Sri Lanka itself! The Legal Aid Commission in Sri Lanka has a legal and empowerment volunteer programme, which takes and law and sociology students from the University of Colombo and sends them to legal aid centers around the country to offer advice at a community level. This scheme is quite small scale but has proven to be quite successful, both in terms of volunteers learning new skills and the services provided to the communities.

Another good example is the work done by the National Institute of Social Development (NISD). They have developed a curriculum on volunteering for the Bachelor of Social Work Degree. It is in fact quite

revolutionary in that it is one of the first of its kind anywhere in the world, covering all aspects of volunteering.

### **Do you agree that volunteerism is often associated with young people?**

I think because the shramadhana concept is so strong and is somewhat based on religion, it means that people of all ages are involved. But more formal volunteering does tend to be carried out by younger people. However under the VOICE project we worked with elders committees to promote elderly volunteering and we also promoted cooperate volunteering for experienced professionals. People of all ages should be able to volunteer.

### **What do you think the volunteers themselves get out of volunteering?**

One of the comments we always get is that volunteering is working for nothing. While it maybe the case that volunteers don't get a financial reward, they always receive non monetary rewards. For example,

they are able to learn new silks, develop career opportunities, and access environments that they wouldn't normally come into contact with. They also have the opportunity to network with different groups of people. They also have the personal satisfaction of helping others and giving something back.



*The United Nations Volunteers team at the 2009 IVD celebrations*

Visit [www.undp.lk](http://www.undp.lk) for more information