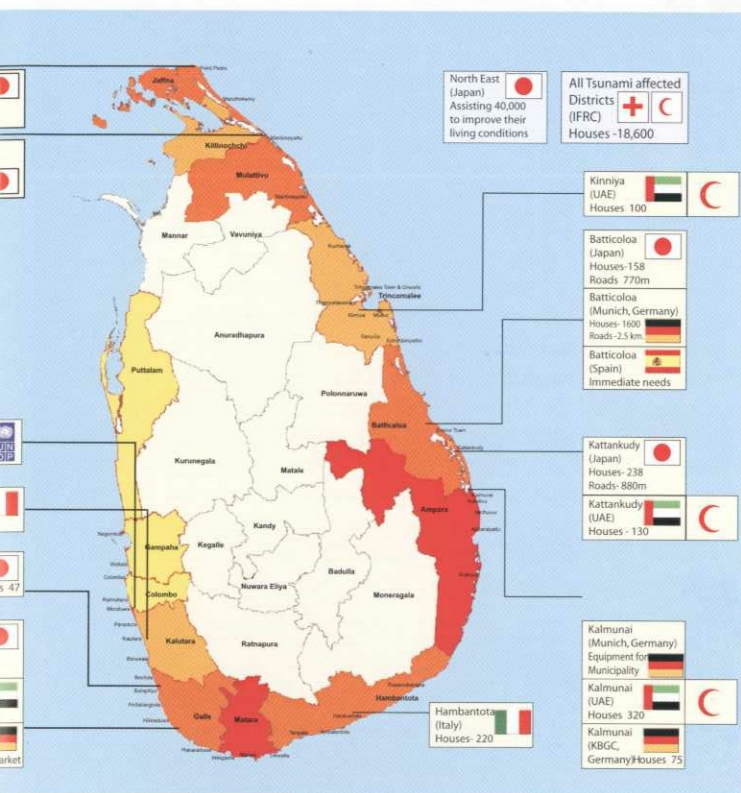
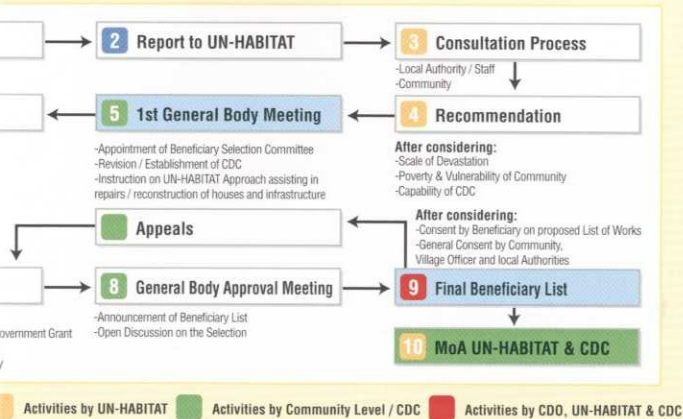


## UN-HABITAT Post-Tsunami Projects in Sri Lanka



## & Categorisation of Beneficiary Households



UN-HABITAT and a CDC in each project site ensured the community's pre-eminence. Community contracting were two key processes that supported the communities' own priorities and the UN-HABITAT have been supporting such processes by providing workshops and training programmes were organized for community leaders on material and labour procurement, regulatory requirements in house construction,

What disarmed recovery, though been so vigilant suffered...." The tents had rushed

and Anoma with K Tudor, Community Facilitator.



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## Good Practices

As communities take on more challenges, their confidence is growing. "Earlier, deaths and funeral ceremonies kept us engaged. Now, we have so many responsibilities," says Mohammed Bisiri, president of the Talapitya CDC. Since the tsunami, Talapitya has elected new office bearers to the community development council, and community vigilance over procurement of building material and labour has ensured better quality and stronger houses. In many cases, UN-HABITAT's financial support has enabled a community to start reconstruction when there has been a delay in government assistance, says Bisiri. The funds are transferred to the CDC's bank account and then distributed to the families, usually in instalments. For many fishing families in Sri Lanka's tsunami-ravaged areas, building a new home has also meant **being drawn into the world of modern banking** - they are now operating bank accounts for the first time and using ATM cards to draw money.

Technical experts from UN-HABITAT visit constantly to ensure that sound building practices are incorporated in the new houses. This means not only sturdier houses but also **hygienically designed toilets and kitchens** because "many diseases come from dirty toilets and dirty kitchens," as Galle municipal official Sugath Welivingoda points out.

In Waturegama, Balapitya, where communities displaced from what was once the "buffer zone"\* are being relocated, the drive for efficiency and accountability is evident. The site supervisor is selected by the CDC from the 47 beneficiary families. The new settlement is **funded by donations mainly from the people of Fukuoka, Japan**.

(\* Since October 2005, the Sri Lankan Government has revised its policy on the buffer zone, or the official no-go area for rebuilding activities, in the wake of the tsunami.)

Allowed to experiment with different designs, **households and communities have come up with varied visions of safety**. For example, in Thiruchenthur, one of the worst-affected villages in Batticaloa, 68-year-old Rasamma has built a staircase leading to the roof of her new home — an emergency shelter in case of another tsunami. "I want to be independent. That is why I want a staircase. In times of emergency, I will be able to climb up without help..." Another elderly resident in the area plans to build at least one room on a top storey, even if there is no money to build a whole floor.

Innovative alliances are keys to the success stories that UN-HABITAT has helped nurture. Partners in the tsunami recovery effort range from religious leaders to bank managers to academia to corporates. In Kattankudi, a densely populated town in Batticaloa district, UN-HABITAT **teamed up with mosque leaders to garner community support**. Its field staff used the mosque's public address system to mobilize the community and get local residents to form a new CDC. Mosque leaders were also part of the process in selecting beneficiaries for housing assistance.

The **private sector has also been a key ally** of UN-HABITAT's tsunami recovery effort in Sri Lanka. UN-HABITAT has signed an agreement with the Australia-based group, Bovis Lend Lease PTY Limited, a leader in the project management and construction services industry, to help rehabilitation.

## Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Under-Secretary-General

of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN-HABITAT visited Sri Lanka in October 2005 to review the post tsunami reconstruction programme in Sri Lanka. During her visit to Galle, she had the opportunity of talking to several tsunami affected families and opening a new house and a community bridge. A community leader in her speech thanked UN-HABITAT for allowing the families to organize themselves and take control of the rebuilding process. The Executive Director congratulated the communities for taking the rebuilding process to their own hands and completing over 500 houses in such a short time.



Community Leader making presentation

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