



Shelter for All

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the agency responsible for human settlements, mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. UN-HABITAT's operational activities are focused on:

- Promoting Shelter for all;
- Improving urban governance;
- Reducing urban poverty;
- Improving the living environment; and
- Managing disaster mitigation and post-conflict rehabilitation.



UN-HABITAT's Focus in Sri Lanka

Under the Millennium Development Goals, UN-HABITAT is assisting Member States to monitor and gradually attain the "Cities without Slums", Target 11, which is one of the three targets of MDG Goal 7; "Ensure Environmental Sustainability".

Under this target UN-HABITAT in collaboration with the Government of Sri Lanka, has identified the following areas as priorities for development.

- Transfer of informal settlement "slum" dwellers, presently living under sub-human conditions to good quality housing, through promoting sustainable finance mechanisms.
- Basic facilities including shelter, safe drinking water, sanitary needs, drainage, waste management and safe living environment need to be improved.
- In Collaboration with Ministry of Housing Development of a National Housing Policy
- Ensuring Security of Tenure

Present Programmes

UN-HABITAT is presently operational in nine districts and is implementing the following programmes

- Slums Upgrading Facility : Promoting Sustainable Financial Solutions for Urban Informal Settlements Upgrading
- Rebuilding Communities & Shelter for IDP's in North East Sri Lanka : Assisting Returnees displaced rebuild their homes
- Rebuilding Community Infrastructure & Shelter : Assisting Tsunami Displaced Rebuild their Homes
- Access to Basic Urban Services in Municipalities
- Lunawa Lake Environment Improvement and Community Development

A Long History of Cooperation

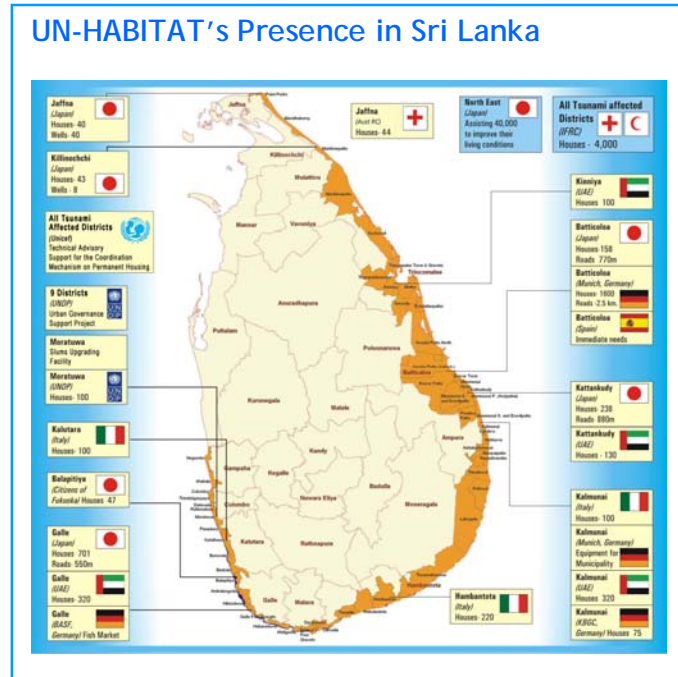
Since its inception in 1978, UN-HABITAT has helped focus the thrust of the human settlements policies in Sri Lanka and assisted the nation stay in touch with the global trends. Its assistance to the country has ranged from the City Master Planning in the 1980's to advocating enabling approaches that promoted participatory planning and development, focusing on reduction of poverty, and promoting inclusiveness in its cities. Parallel to these efforts, UN-Habitat has shared its extensive global experience to assist Sri Lanka in mitigating the impacts of natural and human made disasters. The Government and UN-Habitat, with the assistance of a multitude of donors, have partnered in promoting flagship programmes including the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless 1987 (IYSH), the Global Shelter Strategy, the Global Programme on Community Development, the Cities Alliance Programme, Disaster Management Programme, Urban Management Programme and the Sustainable Cities Programme.

UN-Habitat played a key role in mainstreaming participatory methodologies including Community Action Planning, community led settlement planning and community contracts in urban low income housing programmes. Today the principles are also being incorporated in urban governance through broad based city consultations, participatory decision making, and greater recognition of the voice of the poor in local government.



- Urban Governance Support : improving the urban governance in Sri Lanka, and localizing MDG

UN-HABITAT has spent over US \$ 25,000,000.00 over the last 5 years on the above programmes.



Community Centered Approach

All projects follow a community-based approach to housing rehabilitation and reconstruction, pioneered by UH-HABITAT in the 1980's in Sri Lanka. The beneficiaries themselves participate in the projects, both at the decision-making process and at the implementation level. The advantage of engaging the affected people is that it restores their dignity and gives them self-confidence. UN-HABITAT is not only helping to restore their houses, but more importantly their communities.

This people centered approach was best summarized by a post tsunami programme CDC leader in Galle, when she said "UN-HABITAT did not come with contractors or house

plans. But they had vision. ...they tried to help us regain our confidence in ourselves - something the tsunami has destroyed. UN-HABITAT officials encouraged us to prepare our own house plans."

Our Partners

- Government:** Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Nation Building, Ministry of Disaster Management
- Donors:** IFRC, Govt's of Japan, Italy & UAE, SOLIDAR / NPA, Cities of Munich & Vitoria
- Private Sector Donors:** KBGC & BASF
- UN agencies:** UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, etc.
- Others:** IFRC, Architecture for Humanity, MFCD, Women's Bank and other Community based private sector organizations.

Contacts us

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