## **Good Practices and Lessons Learned**

in Post-Conflict Reconstruction in Sri Lanka





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# **Contents**

Acronyms and Abbreviations	4
Foreword	5
Executive Summary	6
Introduction	9
People	13
Partnerships	37
Technologies	55



# **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

CAP - Community Action Planning

CBO - Community Based Organisation

CSEB - Compressed Stabilised Earth Blocks

DS - Divisional Secretary

DRR - Disaster Risk Reduction

EU - European Union

FHH - Female Headed Household

GA - Government Agent

GN - Grama Niladhari

GoSL - Government of Sri Lanka

HOD - Home Owner Driven

IDP - Internally Displaced Person

LA - Local Authority

LDO - Land Development Ordinance

MRE - Mine Risk Education

NAITA - National Apprenticeship and Industrial Training Authority

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization

NERD Centre - National Engineering Research and Development Centre

OHG - Organic Home Gardening

PTF - The Presidential Task Force for Resettlement Development

and Security of the Northern Province

SDC - Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SIP - Settlement Improvement Planning

UN - United Nations

UN-Habitat - United Nations Human Settlements Programme

VRC - Village Reconstruction Committees

WCBSG - Women's Community Based Savings Group

WRDS - Women's Rural Development Society

### **Foreword**



ince the end of the conflict in Sri Lanka, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has been supporting conflict affected communities to rebuild their lives by constructing permanent houses and vital infrastructure facilities in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

From 2010, UN-Habitat supported over 31,000 families to rebuild their conflict damaged homes and provided over 420,000 people with community infrastructure facilities. This programme was made possible with the support of numerous partners – including multiple donors, Government of Sri Lanka, Non Governmental and Community Based Organisations and the communities of the North and East.

This publication documents the key good practices and lessons learned by UN-Habitat in implementing the post conflict reconstruction programme over a period of six years. Implemented in the districts of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mannar in the North and Batticaloa in the East, this Programme has contributed towards changing the lives and improving living conditions of over 450,000 people.

UN-Habitat is grateful to our main funding partners - the Government of India, Government of Japan, European Union, Government of Australia and the Government of Switzerland, who made this programme possible through their generous funding. The support provided by the Government of Sri Lanka at the central, district and local government levels was a vital factor in the success of this programme. The communities of the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, who helped implement this programme by providing their time, energy and labour is highly appreciated.

We hope this publication is useful to organisations, governments and countries throughout the world, who are helping their own communities recover from conflict situations.

### Dr. Joan Clos

United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat -United Nations Human Settlements Programme

# **Executive Summary**



or many decades, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) has been providing assistance to rebuild lives devastated by natural disasters and conflicts around the globe. Yet, no two situations are ever the same. Each provides a unique set of circumstances, and every new initiative produces fresh challenges and opportunities to learn.

The Post-Conflict Reconstruction Programme in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces, implemented by UN-Habitat, provided numerous opportunities as well as challenges and proved to be a testing ground for many new strategies and technologies. The programme proved to be highly successful, completing the reconstruction of 31,350 homes and 520 infrastructure facilities, and bringing fractured communities closer together.

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