



Guiding the community to make their own decisions

Objectives and expected results

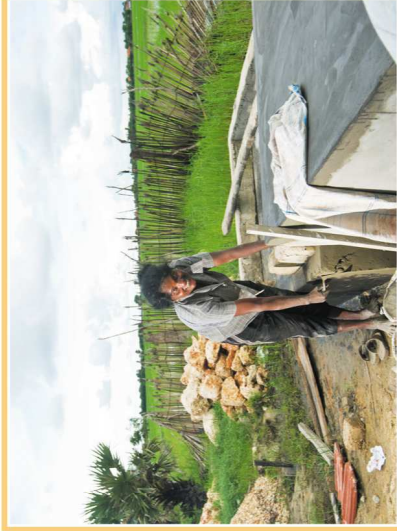
To contribute to a sustainable solution for the returnees in the North and to improve the living conditions and social cohesion of displaced people, returnees and their host communities in the North, through provision of permanent housing.

Main activities

- Reconstruction of 4'700 houses and repair of 105 houses.
- Six months training in construction methods with the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA) for over 180 youth
- Facilitating the legal documentation of property for home owners.
- Training leadership opportunities for women.
- Promotion of environmental friendly construction techniques and reforestation.

About SDC

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is Switzerland's International Cooperation Agency within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). SDC presence in Sri Lanka was established in 2003 with a Field Office in Jaffna and subsequently a Cooperation Office in Colombo. In line with the Cooperation Strategy for Sri Lanka, Switzerland co-funds, implements and coordinates humanitarian and development projects and extends support to political dialogue and rule of law in partnership with International Agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the Government.



Training and opportunities for women



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Switzerland is presently supporting the resettlement of families displaced by the war in the North, through housing, livelihood and infrastructure projects. A second component of the programme consists of promoting the rights of migrant workers and their families and taking steps to make migration safer and more beneficial for them. A third component implemented by the Human Security Division of the FDFA supports durable reconciliation processes through political dialogue, the protection of human rights and the enhancement of the rule of law.

Permanent Housing for conflict affected people in northern Sri Lanka



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Project :
Support to Conflict Affected People through provision of Permanent Housing

Total Budget: 20'567'000 CHF

Swiss Contribution:
13'711'770 CHF

Time frame:
2013 to 2015

Geographic focus:
Jaffna & Kilinochchi districts

Implementing partners:
SDC in partnership with UNHABITAT

Funding partner:
European Commission(EC), AusAID, SwS, Swiss Red Cross, SAH & SDC

Following the end of the conflict in the North of Sri Lanka, permanent shelter has been identified as one of the key humanitarian requirements of returnee populations. SDC is committed to provide permanent housing to returnees: as a part of its holistic approach flanking measures such as the re-construction of essential community infrastructure and the restoration of livelihoods will also be carried out. Up to date approximately 2'000 houses have been completed and another 2'700 houses are in the pipeline.

Summary

The targeted beneficiaries are recent returnees, conflict affected, with no housing facilities, very few resources, and a long history of displacement. The houses are constructed under an owner-driven approach: necessary funds are provided in progress-based instalments for the reconstruction of fully or partially destroyed houses according to their own needs, requirements and wishes. SDC provides technical expertise to increase both the efficiency and effectiveness of the construction process. The programme is implemented by SDC in close collaboration with relevant local authorities. With a strong focus on sustainability, beneficiaries are empowered to take ownership of the project, and are responsible for constructing their houses and maintaining them durably.

Background and Context

The North and East of Sri Lanka were the worst affected areas during the conflict between GOSL and the LTTE. A majority of the IDPs have returned to their places of origin, but some still remain displaced, living mainly with host families or in rented facilities. Their return to normalcy represents multi-fold challenges that would prove difficult to overcome without some external support. The cost of building a house far exceeds their meagre incomes and therefore the 550'000 rupees provided by SDC per house is appreciated. The specific needs of the vast number of female single-headed households are particularly noteworthy.