

ASSESSMENT OF THE TSUNAMI RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION IN KALUTARA, COLOMBO, GAMPAHA AND PUTTALAM DISTRICTS*

A. OVERVIEW OF THE DISTRICTS

1. The total number of tsunami-affected families in Kalutara, Colombo, Gampaha and Puttalam districts¹ was 26,636 out of an estimated total of 257,057 affected families in Sri Lanka – i.e. 10% of the total. Kalutara and Colombo were the worst affected of the four districts. Gampaha was affected on a lesser scale, with approximately 1500 displaced people, while Puttalam was the least affected, with 232 families in one division. Details for each district are provided below.

2. Urban centres were not directly affected in any of the districts, although the camps for displaced people were subsequently organised in and around urban centres. Although Colombo and Kalutara had similar numbers of displaced people, there were 28 camps set up in Colombo and 12 in Kalutara. Gampaha and Puttalam each have two camps.

Table 1: Situation report ²

District	No of affected families	Displaced	Deaths	Injured	Missing	Fully damaged houses	Partially damaged houses	No of camps
Kalutara	9,427	35,053	279	401	74	2,683	3,835	12
Colombo	10,150	38,020	138	64	12	3,100	2,627	25
Gampaha	6,827	1,449	6	3	5	278	414	2
Puttalam	232	66	4	1	3	23	72	2

3. The main priorities for the recovery are housing (providing transitional shelter and removing hindrances to expedite the completion of the permanent shelter), communications (establishing a two-way information flow between Government and the affected regarding recovery planning), addressing social problems aggravated by displacement (alcoholism, violence, abuse, reproductive health needs and HIV/AIDS), as well as livelihood restoration.

B. FINDINGS OF POST-TSUNAMI DAMAGE & NEEDS ASSESSMENTS FOR KALUTARA/COLOMBO/GAMPAHA/PUTTALAM ³

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¹ The affected administrative divisions are: Panadura, Kalutara, and Beruwala in Kalutara District; Moratuwa, Ratmalana, Dehiwala, Thimbrigasyaya, Colombo divisions in Colombo District; Wattala and Negombo in Gampaha District, Wennappuwa in Puttalam District

² Situation on 15th March, data obtained from the respective District Secretariats.

³ There have been a number of national and sector based needs assessments (e.g. Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment - Phase 1, Rapid Livelihood household survey by ILO/WFP, a WHO assessment, Fisheries sector damage and needs assessment, WFP emergency needs assessment, assessment by DANIDA on water and sanitation in Kalutara, etc.) that have varied in the depth of detail they provide at district levels. Whilst some data is available at district and divisional levels, the data largely is not disaggregated.

4. **Housing.** Housing damage ranged from 6,518 houses in Kalutara, to 5,727 in Colombo, to 692 in Gampaha and only 95 in Puttalam, with a total estimated replacement cost of \$43 million.

5. **Water & Sanitation.** Pipelines, service connections and latrines were damaged, while open wells were polluted with salt water. Total replacement cost is estimated at just over \$3 million. Camps in Kalutara & Colombo are currently facing significant challenges in ensuring adequate sanitation, given that there is no systematic removal of waste. There is an urgent need for heavy machinery such as gully bowsers, excavators, sludge pumps, backhoe, etc. Although ensuring adequate standards (including accessibility) of water & sanitation for the new settlements, both transitional & permanent, is essential, the financing of water and sanitation aspects of the proposed resettlements has not been made clear.

6. **Livelihoods.** The effect on the local economy has been felt in terms of damage to the tourism, fishery and informal income generation sectors, mostly in Kalutara, where total livelihood recovery costs were estimated at \$55 million. Data indicates that fishermen have lost small boats, fishing equipment, houses, stores, anchorages, harbours and fuel stations. Women who sold fish have lost stalls/shops in auction areas, utensils and equipment such as baskets, knives, bicycles, weighing scales. Tourism has been affected by damage to hotels, loss of tourist demand for products and services and the loss of petty trade activities on the beach. Women's home-based production work of small handicrafts, food businesses etc. has been impacted through displacement and loss of materials. In Gampaha, where damage to the boats was minimal, the fishing-based livelihoods have resumed.

7. **Education.** Only two schools each in Kalutara and Gampaha were damaged and need to be relocated, while five others in Kalutara were partially damaged. A further 89 in Kalutara lost some equipment due to the tsunami. In addition, a number of students were displaced (10,000 total, with 6,865 in camps in Kalutara District). Two schools in Colombo have been used as camps for displaced people and are currently using half their space for education and half for displaced people.

8. **Health.** Only in Kalutara were clinics physically damaged (2 fully and 4 partially). Sanitation & poor access to health services in Colombo and Kalutara are increasing vulnerability to disease within the camps. Visits of health workers were reported as irregular.

9. **Transport & Power.** Except in Kalutara, where replacement costs were estimated at \$36 million, only minor damage to these sectors was reported. Issues related to transport and power requirements for new houses and settlements will need to be assessed.

C. KEY CONTEXTUAL ISSUES

10. Current activities in all 4 districts are limited to providing relief to the displaced, administering the government-approved relief packages via the Divisional Secretariat (DS) and Grama Niladhari (GN), maintaining the camps (managed by the Government, temples, churches and mosques) and providing basic health and sanitation services. Recovery needs have not yet been adequately assessed or planned in any of the key sectors. In the housing sector, the number of houses partially and fully damaged has been estimated, land for rebuilding and potential organisations for financing housing construction have been identified to a large extent. However the necessary approvals and acquisition procedures are still in the process of being finalized. It appears that senior levels of authority have not yet provided clear policies and approval mechanisms to facilitate the land acquisition

process. Crucial issues, such as immediate and long-term health risks, nutrition, education, livelihoods, growing dependency, deteriorating social ethics in temporary settlements and mental trauma are still neglected.

11. **Socio-political tensions.** There are clearly tensions between local authorities and the central government, with Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation (TAFREN) cited in all four districts for the non-consultative way it has operated to date. There are also tensions between government agencies and the communities, notably because of unfulfilled promises in terms of the government relief packages. This is partly connected to the mismatch between the messages issued from the Centre and the existing circulars on relief procedures. There are gender-based tensions resulting from inequities in the distribution of livelihood support and other relief schemes. There is also some concern that relief and rebuilding efforts have become politicised, while the lack of coordination among private, independent actors has created some resentment. Finally, it was noted that a code of ethics would be helpful in guiding the way that affected people are treated by local officials.

12. **Local governance capacity.** The main concerns expressed were related to the lack of coordination and consultation between the central authorities and the Government Agents (GAs). This has resulted in a lack of clarity regarding central level decisions, leading to tensions between different groups; in particular the affected people and the divisional level authorities, who had different interpretations of what was to be done. The net result has been the undermining of the credibility of decentralized institutional structures. There is a strong need to develop consultation mechanisms to include the affected families and civil society organisations in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the recovery. However, to ensure that these consultative coordination approaches are competently applied, there is a need for strengthening the consultative skills of government officials and to build awareness of this need at both the central and local levels.

13. **Gender.** There has been a general failure to recognize the affected communities as being diverse groups composed of different sub-groups: women, men, disabled, children, the elderly, etc. There is a consequent imperative to take into consideration their different needs, vulnerabilities and capacities. For instance, there is no gender-disaggregated data being collected about the affected people. Also, analysis of women's livelihood roles in the affected sectors, as well as of how the different sub-groups are affected with regards to nutrition, health, sanitation, etc., is non-existent. It is notable that none of the post-tsunami national and sector-based assessments to date include a gender-based analysis.

14. Existing government relief schemes are oriented towards heads of households, who are generally men, excluding women from direct access. Furthermore, the government and non-government staff are not adequately aware of women's particular concerns such as menstruation, infant feeding and breast feeding. The lack of privacy in the camps and tents has made women's lives especially difficult. There is a higher incidence of alcoholism observed among the displaced and, as a result, heightened exposure of women and young girls to sexual abuse and violence, with a consequent increased risk of HIV and other diseases. Disabled women are particularly vulnerable to abuse.

15. Meanwhile a lack of information as to what can be expected from the recovery effort, and the lack of avenues for women to express their concerns has led to anxiety, confusion, frustration and depression, particularly since they are mostly confined to the camps. There are no adequate forums for affected women to express their concerns, which aggravates the situation with regard to information flow.

16. **Environment.** Loss of a part of the beach in south Colombo has made it difficult to tie up fishing boats, while the Kalutara/Moragala coral reefs are likely to have been

damaged by the tsunami. The waves have also damaged erosion control/protection measures such as the rock bunds that were in place in a number of areas, leading to increased exposure. Ground water has become contaminated with seawater in many places, while natural coastal vegetation has been damaged. A major concern is sand excavation, which has intensified owing to post-tsunami reconstruction. This is exacerbating salt intrusion into Kalu ganga.

17. Following the tsunami, plastic water bottles and sheeting have accumulated and will need to be disposed of, while gully bowsers need to be provided at divisional level to respond to sewerage needs. Litter and large solid waste, such as cars in the ocean in Beruwela, need to be cleaned up quickly. Perhaps most controversially of all, there is confusion surrounding the application of the 100 m buffer zone, which has slowed down the pace of recovery efforts along the coastline.

18. **Land related concerns.** The entire shelter sector (transitional and permanent) and livelihood recovery depend very much on land-related issues. These issues centre on the announced 100 m buffer zone, where the confusion over how it will be applied is compounded by the fact that the coastal areas in these districts are heavily populated. Furthermore, there is a lack of clarity as to how the existing compensation procedures for the acquisition of private land will be applied in the post-tsunami situation. In particular, the low prices offered and the fact that the organizations responsible for paying for such acquisitions have not yet been identified, is hindering clarification. As a further complication, it is proving difficult to confirm land titles for the damaged houses, particularly in Gampaha and Colombo districts, where approximately 98% of the damaged houses were occupied by illegal occupants who, by definition, didn't possess titles. At the same time, the slow process for allocating government land for transitional and permanent shelter is leading to growing frustration and health problems among the displaced families.

19. **Natural disasters risks.** Despite the fact that Kalutara and Colombo are flood prone districts, there are no indication that current discussions regarding the recovery include measures to mitigate future floods and related natural disasters. Indeed the risk of floods can be heightened if the building of houses and infrastructure involves, for example, the refill of drainage areas or the blocking of drainage channels. Meanwhile, early warning systems and preparedness for natural disasters vary from weak to non-existent. There are severe gaps in the engagement of the communities at risk in any discussions. This is in part due to the fact that officials at the divisional and district levels lack knowledge and skills regarding integrated disaster risk mitigation.

20. **Human rights.** The main basis for human rights concerns is the lack of consultation and participation of the affected communities in the recovery process. The lack of privacy, access to information, adequate nutrition, access to education and health services in camps, particularly for disabled people, all need to be viewed from a human rights perspective. Gaps are noted in terms of appropriate standards for recovery plans (eg. Sphere standards for shelter and sanitation) and the absence of mechanisms or reference points for assuring that rights are respected. Weaknesses in the ethical practices of relief and reconstruction staff are also an area of concern.

21. No systematic legal aid is currently being provided to the affected populations. Although NGOs may be providing a few services, there needs to be easily accessible information on rights and how to obtain assistance / address grievances. Legal aid desks and human rights monitors should be provided at divisional level with clear links to GN staff as part of recovery plans. Such a service, encompassing female staff, is particularly needed by women, given the observations on rising alcoholism, abuse and violence.

22. **HIV/AIDS and social vulnerability.** As mentioned earlier, sexual abuse of women has increased as a result of the rising prevalence of alcoholism among male household members. Men are vulnerable to alcohol and drug abuse due to their loss of livelihood and the increased access to cash through relief schemes to male heads of households. Women who have lost their livelihood could be more prone to engaging in commercial sex work, increasing the risk of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. As for children, they are at greater risk due to reduced domestic protection in camps and the increased likelihood that they will become involved in risky behaviours.

D. IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

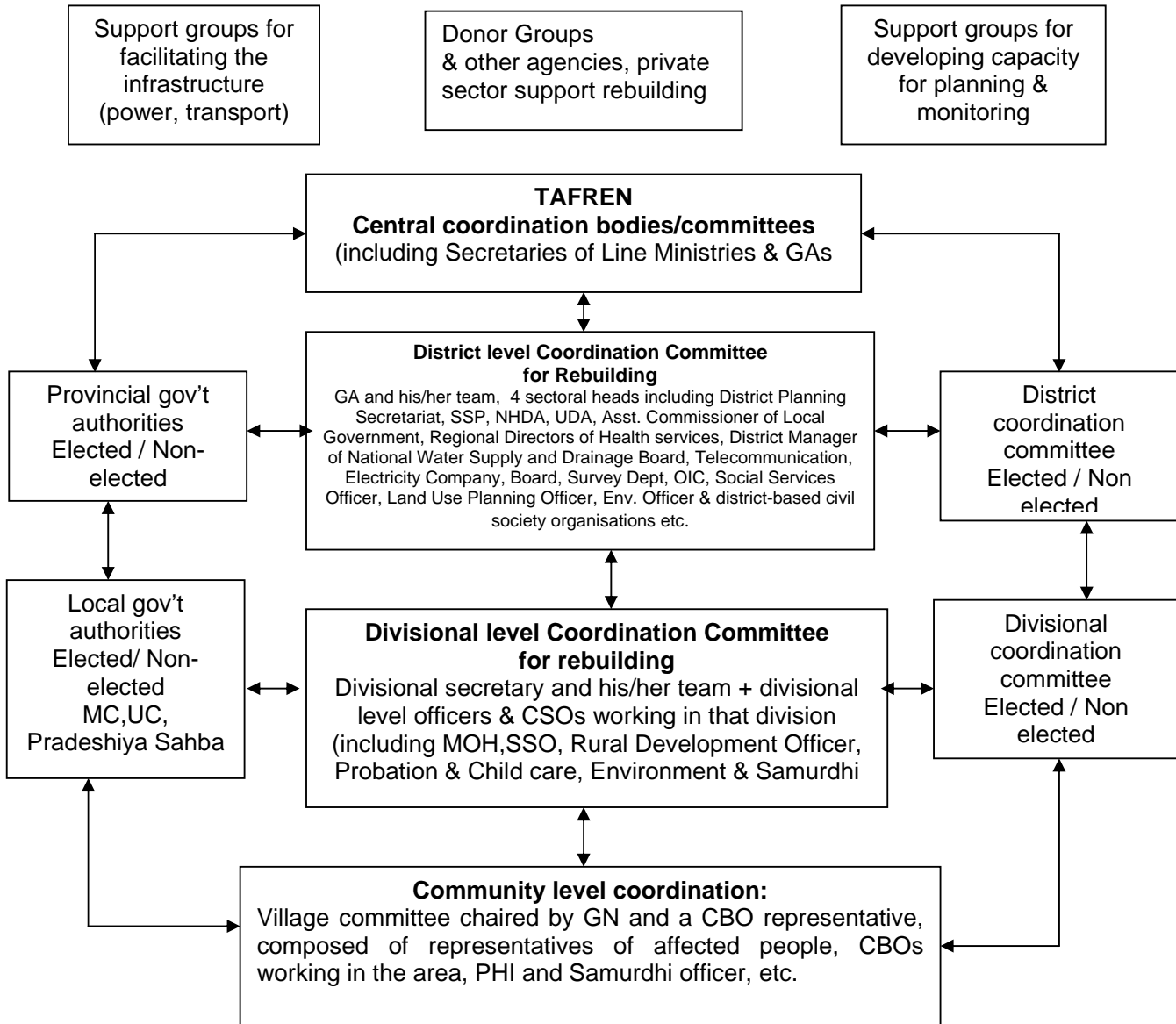
23. All stakeholders agree on the need for a central recovery coordinating body. It is also agreed that the system that has so far tackled relief and rehabilitation is inadequate in the current situation. Strong critiques were expressed at all levels with regards to TAFREN as the central coordinating body, particularly regarding its non-consultative way of functioning. People felt this had slowed down the recovery process. It was suggested that, if TAFREN is to remain as central coordination body, it should include Secretaries of the main line ministries and the GAs. District level core teams should be set up to guide the actual rebuilding process. The proposed implementation mechanism is presented in Figure 1.

24. Some of the recommendations in this section are of a general nature (eg. the need to adhere to internationally accepted minimum standards in transitional shelter and to promote the consultation and inclusion of marginalized groups) and are relevant across districts. Other needs are of a specific nature (eg. the need for flood prone housing designs in certain parts of a district) and can only be adequately addressed at the local/lower levels. There are also a number of crosscutting and fundamental issues (on human rights, governance, participation, disability, gender) that need to be addressed.

25. Figure 1 presents a proposed mechanism to address crosscutting and sector-specific concerns in recovery/rehabilitation. It proposes an alternative way of working to maximise utilisation of existing structures and personnel by improving vertical coordination to promote sharing of responsibility and authority and by improving lateral coordination between the provincial government, the district government and the district administration. Through consultation, it aims to bring the community into the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of rebuilding. The desired end product is a greater degree of decentralised planning and implementation (at the divisional and lower level) to ensure that rebuilding addresses the specific needs of the area and the people and uses local resources and skills, as well as addressing crosscutting, closely inter-connected development issues such as environment conservation and disaster risk reduction in an integrated way. The mechanism also aims to improve communications on key policies (e.g. the coastal buffer zone, land acquisition) between the central and local authorities and the concerned communities.

26. Fundamental to the proposed mechanism are the principles of integrated planning, inclusive community participation and coordination between the community, divisional, district and central levels. For the mechanism to work effectively, there is a need for policies and directives from higher government levels to support locally appropriate reconstruction options that have been identified and analysed at the divisional and community levels. There is also a need to build planning and monitoring capacities at all levels with regards to integrated decentralised planning approaches, community mobilisation, gender sensitivity, conflict sensitivity, disability sensitivity and human rights.

FIGURE 1



27. In order for such a mechanism to work, there is a need to build institutions at the community level (e.g. village development committees) to enable them to play an active and constructive role in consultation, planning, implementation and monitoring processes and to identify indicators and monitoring mechanisms. In the context of the post-tsunami recovery, it will also be necessary to monitor the application of guiding principles⁴, already endorsed by the Government and the donor community, across all stakeholders. These principles include allocation of resources according to identified needs and local priorities, subsidiarity, consultation with affected communities, communication and transparency in decision-

⁴ See ADB, JBIC, WB, 2005, Sri Lanka Post Tsunami Recovery Program: Draft Preliminary Damage and Needs Assessment, January 10-21, p.8

making, zero tolerance for corruption, reduction of future vulnerabilities, analysis of wider impact and a coordinated approach. The recommendations that follow should be considered in the light of this proposed mechanism.

28. **Housing.** Authorities need to expedite the construction of transitional shelters according to minimum international standards, to get people out of the tents and camps. Many families in Kalutara and Colombo Districts are still in emergency shelter, in fragile tents which will not withstand the rains, in temporarily fixed broken houses and in common halls of temples and schools. For permanent housing, the issue of the 100-meter buffer zone needs to be resolved in the light of the 1997 Revised Coastal Zone Management Plan, prepared by the Coastal Conservation Department

29. Relocation, including the land selected and the housing designs, should be done in consultation with the communities to ensure that ethnic, religious, mobility, gender and livelihood concerns are taken into consideration. Land use policy should be enforced equitably, incorporating a process of village level arbitration, involving the Village Development Committees. The needs and rights of vulnerable groups, such as illegal occupants and disabled people⁵, need to be considered in particular, using clear criteria and policies that have been decided in a consultative manner.

30. In the construction of temporary shelters, the use of materials that can be re-used for building permanent shelters should be maximised, while permanent housing technologies should minimise the use of sand and timber. Construction plans should be sensitive to flood management issues and not disturb natural and manmade drainage systems, especially in Kalutara and Colombo districts, which are flood prone.

31. **Education.** In this sector, the priority should be to minimize *ad hoc* responses. It is suggested to review the damage to schools in relation to existing education plans in each district. Education rebuilding needs to be coordinated, at the very least, with plans for rebuilding housing and restoring livelihoods.

32. During the recovery phase, it is recommended to consider providing noon meals for school children in affected areas to ensure adequate levels of nutrition, given that rations distributed over the resettlement period are likely to be of minimum quality. In the longer term, there is a need to introduce disaster awareness and preparedness content into the curriculum.

33. **Health.** It is important to determine current specific health needs among the affected people, including reproductive health concerns. Since the health needs of a population tend to change in such circumstances, needs should be reviewed on a regular basis in view of assuring flexible responses. Regarding the rebuilding phase, it will be important to ensure that health facilities are easily accessible for all residents of the new settlements. Finally, coordination between line and Provincial Ministries, as well as between district and village level health service providers needs to be maximized.

34. **Water and sanitation.** Since there are many stakeholders in this sector, the major challenge is to ensure consultation and coordination with the main actors. Local authorities identified a severe lack of basic equipment required to respond to water and sanitation concerns. Such equipment should be included as an essential component of the rebuilding resource plan for Kalutara and Colombo Districts in particular.

⁵ *Promotion of Accessibility to the Built Environment for Persons with Disabilities, Addendum to Report Book Four – Planning and design guide*, by the steering committee of the Ministry of Social Services, Sri Lanka, December 1998, available on www.accessforall.lk

35. Considering that community perceptions and acceptance are key to the sustainability of water and sanitation programmes, steps should be taken to maximize the involvement of all parts of the concerned communities during planning and implementation stages. The new settlements should include water and sanitation considerations in the integrated plans for the settlements.

36. **Infrastructure (transport and power).** Although the damage to transport and power services was not extensive in these four districts (except the railway tracks in Kalutara, which have already been repaired), the main concern is that transport and power services be included in planning for the relocated communities to ensure they meet the needs of the population.

37. **Livelihoods.** Livelihood recovery programmes need to avoid focusing solely on fisheries and tourism, recognising as well the needs of the large number of small, often informal businesses operated by women and men (petty trading, boutique owners, food processing, tailoring/sewing, women's home based activities). Data on livelihoods should be held at the GN level.

38. Livelihood restoration plans should also consider environmental protection issues linked to the livelihoods in question. They should allow space for differing gender needs, especially those of single and widowed women who may prefer home-based work, and avoid focusing only on men as well as avoiding stereotyping occupations. The livelihood needs of the elderly and the disabled need to be addressed, while sex industry workers need appropriate health schemes. Finally, rebuilding plans should encourage the use of locally available skills and labour.

39. **Fisheries.** A viable response to the needs of this sector should take into consideration the variety of fishing techniques used, as well as the ancillary occupations related to this sector. It is worth noting that women play a significant role in these related occupations. Finally, rebuilding plans should facilitate the development of local skills for repair and reconstructing of boats and gear.

40. **Disaster risk management.** Rebuilding plans must consider the risks associated with natural disasters in the locations selected, since this will have repercussions on new structures, settlements and livelihoods. It is recommended to build on existing plans for natural disasters (such as the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan prepared for Kalutara District⁶) and to develop comprehensive and broadly owned district disaster management plans. Consultative disaster mitigation plans, incorporating multi-hazard risk analysis, are needed for Colombo, Gamapha and Puttalam Districts, which can be developed in parallel with the rebuilding plans (housing, roads, drainage and infrastructure). These plans should incorporate early warning systems that take into account the needs of blind and deaf people.

41. **Coastal protection needs.** Because rebuilding will have an impact on coastal resources, coastal protection needs to be an integral part of the rebuilding process. Blanket prescriptions should be avoided with regard to the 100-meter buffer zone. The Coastal Conservation Management Plan of the CCD, based on contour mapping, should be taken as a reference document and starting point for consultations with those likely to be affected.

⁶ Please Refer Kalutara District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan , January 2005 (by UNDP and Government of Sri Lanka)

The green zones concept being implemented in selected areas in Kalutara District should be seriously considered elsewhere.

42. **Social protection needs.** It is imperative to recognise that affected communities are not homogenous. A first step in effectively responding to the diverse needs is to disaggregate divisional level data collection and analysis to identify different needs and preferences based on ethnicity, religion, gender, age and disability. Such analysis would help improve awareness of specificities by all stakeholders and engage communities in the process of responding to and monitoring needs.

43. Drug and alcohol abuse is at disturbingly high levels in Kalutara and Colombo and possibly in Gampaha, while post-tsunami commercial sex is widespread. Vulnerable groups need better access to appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, while the entire community could benefit from campaigns to raise awareness of the risks.

44. **Loss compensation needs.** Both businesses and households need clear policies and information on procedures with respect to how human and material losses are to be treated in the post-tsunami period, particularly if the latter were not insured. Such policies should also clarify the position of people without land titles, people in versus those out of the coastal buffer zone and people with different levels of loss.

45. **Human rights concerns.** While human rights standards are well established for conflict situations, this is not so for natural disasters. The post-tsunami rebuilding challenge is an opportunity to look into this aspect and adhere to such standards. In order to translate into reality the rights of affected communities to participate in the planning and implementation of their return to a normal life, accessible bi-directional information channels between citizens and government, taking into account the needs of those facing communications barriers, need to be instituted down to the divisional and Grama Niladhari levels. This could include simple information bulletins and easy to complete questionnaires. The format of the form recently issued for the Tsunami Housing Reconstruction Programme is a cause for concern with regard to its practicality and sensitivity to the position of the displaced.

46. Plans must also assure that reconstruction resources are equitably distributed so that all affected persons are able to satisfy their basic needs. Independent monitors could be named to assess how well this principle is being respected and where the gaps are.

47. **Governance capacity needs.** Improving the capacities of district and local governments is key to ensuring all aspects of rebuilding (needs assessments, planning, implementations, monitoring) are carried out according to high standards. Local public bodies will need a broad range of support and resources to ensure they have the needed capacities. This includes awareness of cross cutting issues (gender, human rights, participation, etc) and how to deal with them, as well as general planning, management and monitoring skills. Material support such as information technology, transportation facilities and communication networks will also be needed.

E. OBSERVATIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

48. **Getting the approaches right:** The adoption of the above recommended approaches will be challenging as well as energy and time consuming. However, this investment is crucial for the successful outcome of the rebuilding.

49. Community consultation and participation is an essential component of the approach, which anchors the recovery in a rights-based and people centred process. Local community organisations, including local women's groups are key stakeholders in rebuilding. To translate this principle into action, it will be necessary to work on institution building at the community level with all parts of the community. Studies of widely known best practice assert that the engagement and participation of people make the process more effective and enables the valorisation of the community's own capacities and resources, boosting morale and developing a sense of ownership leading to sustainability.

50. One should look beyond the convenient "off the shelf" engineering options and instead invest in creative alternatives which are sensitive to environmental concerns, sustainable, physically accessible to all, cost efficient and have more potential in meeting larger development objectives. In the same way, investment should look beyond the stereotypes for livelihood support schemes, encouraging new skills development in order to contribute to broader development objectives linked to poverty reduction. The recommendation to link rebuilding with longer-term development objectives and poverty reduction goals is not likely to have additional cost implications when carried out within a well coordinated planning mechanism.

51. The implementation mechanisms and approaches proposed here include a strong skills and capacity building component⁷, without which the rebuilding challenge of the mentioned districts will be difficult to meet. The current administrative and implementation structures, as well as grassroots organisations, need their capacities enhanced to be able to take up this challenge.

52. Extremely high levels of commitment do exist at the district level and below. This commitment needs to be supported with resource availability and improved skills. Capacity development will complement this commitment and will contribute both to the quality and the speed of implementation. The capacity development needs to be tailored to the specific needs and realities of the organisation and the location if it is to achieve the desired impact.

53. Capacity development will have time and cost implications for rebuilding. In terms of time, during the first year, it is necessary to initiate awareness building for the higher-level officials, particularly on the cross cutting issues, to facilitate a smooth consultation and communication process. For the levels below, skill development also needs to be started in year 1, in parallel with the recovery planning and implementation.

54. It is unlikely that the capacity development costs are included in the financial needs indicated in Section B. They will therefore require attention in the next stage of recovery planning. The human resources required for this component can be solicited from Civil Society Organisations, among others. Also, maximum utilisation of local personnel is recommended as a cost effective measure.

⁷ Capacity development has 2 main components: skills and capabilities (software), plus material resources and infrastructure (hardware). The development of skills and capabilities needs to include awareness building on the guiding principles, cross cutting issues, skill development on integrated planning, implementing and monitoring, institutional development at the community level and development of technical skills where there are gaps. The hardware component is comprised of networking systems, office space, computers, vehicles, heavy machinery and equipment.