

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPLETION REPORT

Division: Sri Lanka Resident Mission

TA No., Country and Name		Amount Approved: US\$ 500,000	
TA 4567-SRI: Post-Tsunami Needs Assessment and Preparation for Emergency Assistance Implementation Strategies		Revised Amount: US\$ 500,000	
Executing Agency(ies) Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation (TAFREN)	Source of Funding Poverty Reduction Cooperation Fund	Amount Undisbursed: US\$ 5,527.58	Amount Utilized: US\$ 494,472.42
TA Approval Date: 18/Feb/2005	TA Signing Date: 27/Apr/2005	Fielding of First Consultant(s): 08/Jan/2005	TA Completion Date Actual: Original: 31/Dec/2005 31/Dec/2006 Account Closing Date Actual: Original: 31/Dec/2005 22/June/2007
<p>Description</p> <p>The tsunami wave that struck Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004 caused massive destruction of physical and social infrastructure along more than 1000 kilometers, or two thirds of Sri Lanka's coastline, from Jaffna in the North along the Eastern and Southern coast, and part of the West coast up to Chilaw, North of Colombo.</p> <p>In the weeks following tsunami, the Government of Sri Lanka prepared an initial assessment of the damage and cost of rebuilding, and then requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support the Government in developing a Joint Needs Assessment (JNA) to (i) assess the damage inflicted by tsunami, and to (ii) devise strategies on how to implement post-tsunami reconstruction programs.</p> <p>In February 2005, the Government of Sri Lanka requested the ADB to provide technical assistance (TA) for preparing emergency assistance, refining the damage assessment and implementation strategies caused by the Tsunami.</p> <p>The Government, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and the donor community coordinated the post-tsunami recovery and reconstruction program to (i) meet the immediate requirements of people who had lost their homes and livelihoods and help them resume their normal lives as quickly as possible; and (ii) to address the short and medium term rehabilitation needs of the tsunami-affected areas.</p> <p>Expected Impact, Outcome and Outputs</p> <p>The expected impact was the recovery and improvement of social and physical infrastructure in tsunami affected areas including restoration of the livelihood, health, education and welfare of tsunami affected communities. The TA was to support Sri Lanka's efforts to mobilize funding for a large-scale medium-term rehabilitation program in the tsunami-affected areas, and to help crystallize the different administrative and institutional arrangements for the successful implementation of livelihood restoration in the North, East, and South.</p> <p>The outcome of the TA was to prepare implementation strategies for emergency assistance programs and to help finalize the joint needs assessment (JNA) of rehabilitation needs in the affected districts.</p> <p>Expected outputs were (i) Joint needs assessment (ii) Implementation strategies for emergency</p>			

assistance and (iii) Capacity building at the district and provincial levels to improve planning and coordination capacity at the district and provincial levels to ensure contributory works, as well as strengthened community consultation, coordination of aid inflows, and implementation of projects.

The TA was well designed to meet the primary objective to assist in the Needs Assessment and to prepare projects to rehabilitate structures damaged by the Tsunami and assist affected people in rebuilding their lives.

Delivery of Inputs and Conduct of Activities

A team of 5 individual consultants were engaged to (i) provide inputs to the initial implementation of the emergency assistance loan to address rehabilitation and development in sectors such as transport, power, water supply and sanitation, coastal resources and community development, and microfinance/rural finance sectors and other crosscutting issues related to livelihood restoration; (ii) provide inputs to both phases of the joint needs assessment; and (iii) strengthen the capacity of key agencies at the district and provincial levels.

The consultancy team undertook assessment missions to tsunami affected areas in the South, East and North, and organized workshops for the district teams assessing recovery works. The team members also participated and made presentations to the (i) tsunami donor coordination committee; and (ii) the tsunami roads coordination committee. The Government appreciated their assistance, particularly in the road sector. The TA envisaged input of 27 person-months (p-m) of international and 32 p-m of domestic input. The actual inputs provided were 20 p-m of international and 5 p-m of domestic input. However, all TA activities were completed satisfactorily with the professional inputs from the Resident Mission.

Evaluation of Outputs and Achievement of Outcome

The TA team participated in drafting the joint needs assessment report, the TAFREN¹ needs assessment initial report, TAFREN draft 2, 3 and the final report, the needs assessment synthesis report, the district team report of tsunami recovery and the year end anniversary report on tsunami recovery. The team members assisted the Sri-Lanka Resident Mission in preparing Loan 2167/G 0006-SRI: Tsunami Affected Areas Rebuilding Project², and in scoping the European Commission in co-financing for the road component of the Project.

The TA team worked closely with donors, TAFREN, and the Ministry of Finance on the needs assessment and financing needs, and worked with the humanitarian relief agencies and NGO's to establish co-coordinated implementation strategies for recovery.

Overall Assessment and Rating

The overall Assessment of the TA is Successful with a rating of 2.0. The Government and the donor community well appreciated the TA.

Major Lessons

Although emergency funds for tsunami were quickly available, disbursement of the funds under the loan and grant has been slow due to (i) political changes (ii) conflict situation (iii) delay in co-financing, and (iv) procurement procedures.

Given the nature of the disaster (Asian tsunami), a faster way of financing consultants for needs assessments and project preparation would be useful. It was difficult to prepare and design a well thought out TA as future needs were not that clear and past needs (i.e. consultants) had already come on board.

¹ Later changed to RADA – Reconstruction and Development Agency

² Approved in April 2005.

Recommendations and Follow-Up Actions

An emergency procurement system and implementation procedures, designed to permit rapid procurement and implementation of projects under emergency funding, are needed for responding quickly following a major disaster.

ADB could consider having an 'emergency trust fund' with less stringent procedures to deal with national disasters.

Prepare a roster of Consultants who worked for this TA and other similar TA's for future use.

Prepared by: Sandeepani Kodituwakku

Designation: Consultant