

## SRI LANKA

# North East Community Restoration and Development Project



The armed conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam began in 1983. Due to the conflict, tens of thousands of internally displaced persons have relocated to areas away from the conflict, overwhelming the already stressed infrastructure and social service facilities in the host communities. The scale of the destruction and dislocation strained the government's ability to restore basic services, shelter, and livelihoods for both the local populations and internally displaced persons, in addition to delivering its normal services.

The government requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 2001, as one of its leading development partners, for assistance to rehabilitate the conflict areas. ADB's North East Community Restoration and Development (NECORD) project—first approved on

16 October 2001—comprises three overlapping subprojects. ADB was the lead agency for the projects, which ran from 2002 to 2012.

By supporting the government's rehabilitation plans for the northern and eastern regions, the project envisaged benefits that would meet the urgent needs of some 1.5 million people, including the poor, displaced, and disabled; restore sectors that form the backbone of the economy; rebuild communities; and help stabilize the population's economic base.

Support was to be provided to several sectors, mostly through civil works. Following the procedures successfully initiated under NECORD I, subprojects within sectors were proposed by the district governments, after consultation with divisional agencies, communities, and local governments.

## PROJECT RESULTS

The project restored basic social infrastructure, community services, and livelihoods. Significant improvements were achieved in basic social infrastructure and community services.

**Reduced travel time.** The time needed to travel to medical facilities and to neighboring towns decreased. The number of families with access to medical facilities exceeded the target of 120,000 families through the construction and rehabilitation of district hospitals. Access to schools was improved. Agricultural production improved, with a 9% increase in irrigated area and a 17% increase in the number of active farmers. Investments in health and education sectors and in providing shelter, water, and sanitation were indirectly favorable to women in terms of improved access and time savings.

**Improved living conditions.** More than 800 health workers were trained in general health topics. About 900 classrooms were reconstructed in 163 schools and 2 preschools, where some 83,800 students (45,151 female) benefited. Shelter was provided through reconstruction of 2,122 houses, benefiting more than 2,000 families. Some 1,000 fishers were trained in production enhancement methods for inland fisheries, and revolving loan funds were established for fishing societies, benefiting some 7,000 families.

**Women's empowerment.** About 158 women's rural development societies were reactivated and their members' livelihoods enhanced through revolving funds, which aided self-reliance and created self-employment for over 1,500 women. The gender strategy included measures to improve the living conditions of female teachers and nurses in difficult conflict situations.

Provincial project coordination committees ensured equitable support to diverse communities and prevented overlap with other

development programs. A gender action plan was to be applied, to ensure equal participation by male and female stakeholders.



About 45 medical facilities were restored to cover more than 120,000 families.



The time needed to travel to the nearest town decreased by 47%.

Sources: Project Data Sheet. <http://www.adb.org/projects/36601-013/main>; ADB. 2005. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loans and Grants for the Tsunami-Affected Areas Rebuilding Project and the North East Community Restoration and Development Project II in the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka*. Manila. <http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/projdocs/2005/rrp-sri-36601.pdf>; ADB. 2013. *Completion Report: North East Community Restoration and Development Project in Sri Lanka*. Manila. <http://www.adb.org/projects/documents/north-east-community-restoration-and-development-project-pcr>



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The project is in line with the strategic directions of ADB's South Asia Department. The strategy focuses on sustainable infrastructure, climate change mitigation and adaptation, human development, regional cooperation and integration, public-private partnership, and good governance.

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## PROJECT AT A GLANCE

**Cost and financing:** Asian Development Fund Grant, \$14.0 million; Asian Development Fund Loan, \$26.0 million; Government of Sri Lanka, \$9.1 million; Government of Sweden, \$5.9 million

**Project approval date:** L2084: 15 June 2004, L2168: 14 April 2005, L2618: 9 March 2010

**Project themes:** Restoring physical infrastructure

**Status of project implementation:** Completed

**Loan closing date:** L2084: 30 June 2009, L2168: 31 December 2011, L2618: 30 September 2012

**Executing agency:** Ministry of Economic Development

## FOR INFORMATION

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Link to South Asia Project Briefs:  
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