



# Indian Housing Project



## Introduction

The Indian Housing Project is a housing reconstruction project funded by the Government of India and implemented through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL). Four Implementing Agencies (IAs) have been selected for this project, which is being executed in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. UN-Habitat is one of the IAs together with the International Federation for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in partnership with Sri Lanka Red Cross, the National Housing Development Authority (NHDA) of the Government of Sri Lanka and Habitat for Humanity. The 36 month project will be implemented from mid 2012 until mid 2015.

The specific action of this project will lead to direct housing provision through the

reconstruction and repair of 43,000 houses. UN-Habitat is responsible for supporting the reconstruction or repair of 16,800 houses in the districts of Jaffna, Killinochchi and Mullaitivu.

The project is being implemented using the home owner-driven methodology. Beneficiaries are selected through a transparent process on the basis of clearly defined and objective criteria. These beneficiaries undertake the construction or repair of their houses with necessary technical assistance and support provided by the IAs. Funds are released directly by the High Commission of India into bank accounts of beneficiaries based on certification of progress of work. Cash grants total Rs.550,000 to fully reconstruct a house and up to Rs. 250,000 to repair a house.

The entire Project is under full grant assistance of the Government of India with a total outlay of SLR 30.6 billion (approx. US \$ 270 million).



## Selection of Villages and Beneficiaries

Beneficiary selection activities under the Indian Housing Project are carried out jointly by the IAs and local officials of the Government of Sri Lanka. Realizing its critical importance, the two governments are committed to ensure that benefits under the Project reach intended beneficiaries. Therefore, a robust process of beneficiary selection, which is fair, objective, transparent and norm based, has been agreed upon and put in place. This process was finalized after extensive consultations with all stakeholders, including political parties, civil society organizations and affected individuals.

Under the selection process, as a first step, worst-affected villages in all five districts of the Northern Province are identified. Then, all persons in these villages, who do not own any another house in Sri Lanka, have not been

beneficiaries directly or indirectly under any other permanent housing assistance programme, have lived in that village or are descendents of families who have lived in that village as well as have now permanently returned to resettle in those villages and are in need of a permanent house, are placed on an initial list of beneficiaries. Necessary information is then collected through application forms distributed to them.

Based on the information provided, prospective beneficiaries are scored on a weighted scoring model. This model takes into account their state of livelihood, number of dependents in their family, age of dependents, extent of disabilities in the family and other similar vulnerabilities. The beneficiaries thus scored are ranked and only those, who score above a certain cut-off mark, are placed on the final list of beneficiaries. The process of scoring is fully transparent and participative.

The proposed lists of beneficiaries, together with the scoring sheets, are prominently displayed in public places. A period of 15 days is provided for persons of the area to register their complaints, if any, on the selection or non-selection of a beneficiary. The proposed list of beneficiaries is also notified to all elected representatives of the area. Complaints received are addressed in a public enquiry conducted by the Divisional Secretary along with the IAs. Only those beneficiaries against whom there are no valid complaints are placed on the final list.





In addition to this formal process of grievance redressal, complaints/representations from individuals and civil society organizations are routinely addressed to the High Commission of India, Colombo and the Consulate General of India, Jaffna. Such communications are also looked into and are suitably redressed. The Implementing Agencies on the ground and local officials play a key role in the selection process. The selection process envisages active participation of civil society organizations and local communities, particularly through the grievance redressal mechanism.

Full details of beneficiaries selected in each village and other relevant information about progress of the Project are available on the website of the High Commission of India.

## Key Project Results (for UN-Habitat Component)

- 14,000 homes reconstructed
- 2,800 homes repaired



## Key Information

**Funded by:** Government of India

**Partners:** Government of Sri Lanka, High Commission of India, displaced communities of the Northern Province

**Duration:** Thirty Six (36) months: Mid 2012 – Mid 2015

**UN-Habitat implementation locations:**

- Jaffna ( Maruthankerny, Karaveddy and Point Pedro DS Divisions)
- Killinochchi district ( Karachchi, Kandawalai and Pachchilaipalli DS Divisions)
- Mullaitivu district ( Oddusuddan, Maritimpeattu, Puthukudirippu, Weli Oya DS Divisions)

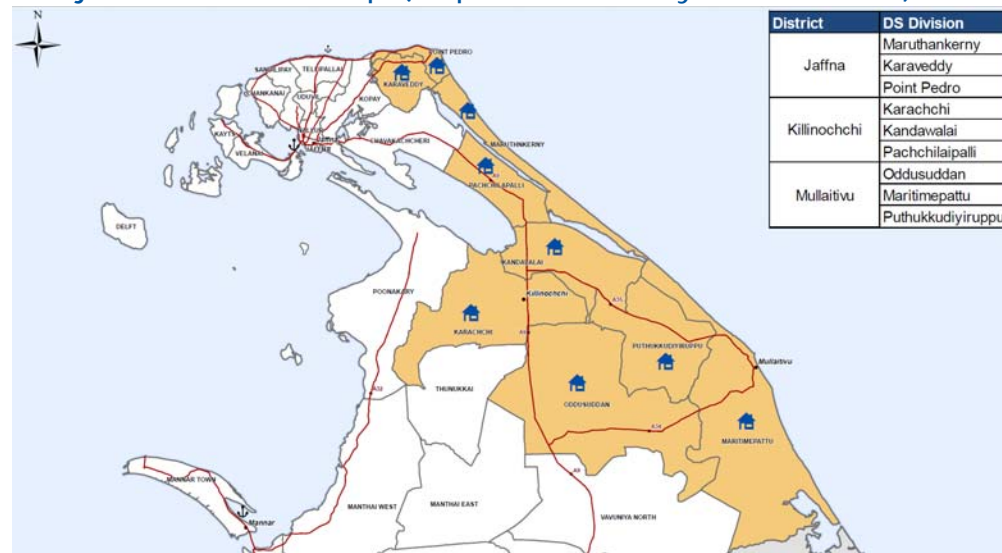
## Key Project Activities

- Beneficiary selection and verification
- Land ownership resolution and tenure assistance
- Provision of grants for housing construction and repair by the High Commission of India
- Provision of technical support and supervision on housing construction by UN-Habitat
- Advocating environmentally friendly construction techniques and materials
- Assistance with bulk procurement of construction materials
- Establishment and coordination of a Grievance Redress Process

- Skills Training for beneficiaries and communities (e.g. construction skills and leadership)



## Project Location Map (Implemented by UN-Habitat)



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