

Sri Lanka

North East Community Restoration and Development Project



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The armed conflict between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in the 1980s killed about 60,000 people and displaced 700,000–800,000. The conflict also destroyed or damaged houses, infrastructure, and livelihoods, and had led to the redistribution of ethnic populations, loss of access to markets and social services, and minimal functioning of the civil administration in the project area.

In October 2001, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the North East Community Restoration and Development (NECORD) Project to support the restoration of basic

services and livelihood activity in the north and east areas of the country, which had been neglected due to many years of conflict. The project components included rehabilitating basic infrastructure in the education, health, water supply and sanitation, shelter, community development, roads, agriculture, and fisheries sectors, and the related incremental implementation costs and consulting services. The project is in line with the strategic directions of ADB's South Asia Department, which focuses on sustainable infrastructure, climate change mitigation and adaptation, human development, regional cooperation and integration, public-private partnership, and good governance.

Project Results

Basic services, shelter, and livelihood restored. The NECORD project helped restore basic services, shelter, and livelihoods for 500,000 beneficiaries and benefited a further 500,000 people indirectly, which helped stabilize the economies of the Northern and Eastern provinces. It also enabled people displaced by the hostilities to return home to more productive and better quality lives by improving their standards of living and economic opportunity.

The constructed and restored physical facilities and the various community development and livelihood programs are sustainable. Commerce has returned to the communities and larger towns, even in areas that were in a conflict situation.

The markets were busy; schools, health clinics, and agrarian centers were in full operation; and life was returning to normal.

The project supported each of the eight districts equitably in terms of allocated funds for different works, as specified and prioritized by the local communities and governments. In terms of gender, more than half of the beneficiaries were women; many of the houses provided under the shelter component were for widowed or single mothers. The community development projects focused on helping the poorer households, often headed by women. The project also ensured that the various cultural and religious communities received fair and equitable support from the project to prevent social tensions.

Final project outputs included 596 contracts for 464 subprojects across these sectors benefiting more than 1 million people

By working with and supporting existing government structures and procedures, works and programs were done quickly and efficiently. This made NECORD a model for post-disaster operations



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The subprojects were proposed by the beneficiary districts based on requests from local divisional governments in consultation with the villages, communities, and local governments



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The project authorities were able to respond to the most urgent needs, even in a fluid conflict situation

The Project at a Glance

Cost and financing: Asian Development Fund, \$25 million; Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, \$4 million; GTZ, \$2.50 million; the Netherlands, \$0.50 million; Beneficiaries, \$1 million; Government, \$7 million

Project approval date: 16 October 2001

Project theme: Social development

Status of project implementation: Closed

Loan closing date: 23 January 2009

Executing agency

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Sources: Project information document, <http://pid.adb.org/pid/LoanView.htm?projNo=34442&seqNo=01&typeCd=3>; ADB. 2009. *Completion Report: North East Community Restoration and Development Project in Sri Lanka*. Manila.