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Stories from the Field — Tsunami Flash Appeal

Tsunami UNV Volunteers and Their Inspiring Stories in Sri Lanka

When the tsunami struck the coastline of Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004, UNV volunteers were among the first to be mobilized in the country to help wherever needed. Almost two and a half years later, their work continues.



Former UNV volunteer Kuki is surrounded by children ready to sing the Ohashimo song, which incorporates four essential don'ts in evacuation: "Don't push, don't stop, don't chat and don't return." The song was composed in Japan and adapted to the Sri Lankan context for the UNV partnership with Citizens towards Overseas Disaster Emergency (CODE) and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) - and IOM in the Kalutara area. Photo taken by Takuya Ono, IOM, in the Kalutara area, 2006

They were initially deployed to contribute to response and reconstruction efforts. Today, their activities vary from focusing on disaster risk reduction and early warning systems to investigating complaints of human rights violations in relation to the 2004 natural disaster.

All of this has been possible thanks to a USD 7.6 m donation made by the Governments of Germany and Japan to the UNV programme to help tsunami-affected countries. One of them is Sri Lanka.

Here, the UNV programme teamed up with UN agencies (i.e. United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme), government institutions (i.e. the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, the Disaster Management Centre, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka—Disaster Relief Monitoring Unit, and the Ministry of Health) and civil society organizations (i.e. Citizens towards Overseas Disaster Emergency, Young Men's Christian Association, Foundation of Goodness, World University Service of Canada and Sunera Founda-

tion) to deploy and mobilize UNV volunteers, both national (the majority) and international, upon request. Some of them have left upon completion of their assignments, some others are still here.

Their contribution to creating a better post-tsunami Sri Lanka through their true spirit of volunteerism has been widely recognized by our partners, counterparts and beneficiaries. Their tasks have not always been easy to carry out, though. Whenever UNV volunteers have been faced with challenges, they have turned them into learning opportunities. Every experience has thus improved their work and their interactions with the beneficiaries.

Their work cannot be measured only in terms of visible results. So much more has been achieved. UNV volunteers, for example, have helped children overcome the psychological trauma they suffered when the tsunami hit. The healing process is not over, but tsunami victims are truly grateful for what UNV volunteers have done.

This publication aims at documenting all this and much more. It is a tribute to the tireless work of many national and international professionals who have decided to volunteer their services through the UNV programme in Sri Lanka.

These are their inspiring stories...

Margherita Serafini
UNV Tsunami Programme Officer

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UN Volunteers is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



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A 14-Month Journey to Success

It was my final day in the field. While walking down a muddy, rugged road in a remote tea plantation, on my way to a school where we were conducting an outreach programme, I was thinking of the first day at my duty station, an unforgettable day of my assignment that had been admittedly a series of untold challenges, struggles, exhilarations, but also of great satisfaction.

"What? You've got to be kidding me! If there is no phone line, how can I communicate with the rest of the world?" I asked a local YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) coordinator, upon arrival, who had told me that, as a matter of fact, there was no phone in the office, let alone car, internet, or copy machine, things I had taken for granted for so many years. "You have to mail a letter or use your own phone if you need to contact Colombo," said the coordinator as if he had just heard a foolish question that everyone knew the answer to.

I was assigned to Matara, a fishing town of southern Sri Lanka I moved to in November 2005 as UNV Field Project Coordinator. My job was to assist YMCA in developing a very interesting initiative, *Disaster Mitigation Project for Children*, a community-based psychosocial programme designed to enhance disaster preparedness among children living in tsunami-affected areas. I was not the only international UNV volunteer involved in the project, though. I was soon to be joined by Kuki, from Japan like me. Two national UNV volunteers, Pathum and Jagath, completed the team.

In order to get started, along with my colleagues I began by reviewing literature relevant to natural disasters, effective preventive measures, and empirically supported educational activities.

I also interviewed professionals and community leaders in order to draw on local experiences, listed my ideas and compared them with those of others. As a result, we came up with some activities that would counteract natural disasters, including tree climbing, hazard mapping, survival camping, outdoor cooking, and first aid, to name a few. Our project was finally beginning to take shape.

Initially, I felt discouraged when people expressed little interest in getting involved in our project, which was, in fact, something completely new to them. However, I later

realized it was my approach that needed to change.

Being a social worker myself, I have learned to treat people in the same way I want to be treated. By the same token, if you want to be accepted by the people you are working with, you should always be the first one to accept them. When feeling stressed, shut down your computer, pack your bag, and get on a bus to somewhere you have never been. When you come back refreshed, you will be able to appreciate your environment and the meaningful work you are doing.

When you experience frustration, it is highly likely that you are unaware of your host agency's strengths and expertise and that you have unrealistic plans. Change never occurs overnight; rather, it is a gradual process of pushing and pulling, ups and downs, and hopelessness and hopefulness, often occurring while you're unaware of it. That is what happened to me. When I finally realized what I was

doing wrong and what adjustments were needed on my part, the project took off. Kuki, Jagath, Pathum and I started traveling extensively in the Matara area.

Finally, our hard work was starting to bear fruit. We were so excited. And so were our YMCA colleagues who had invested a lot of time and energy on this new adventure!

Smiling children started pouring in, attendance got higher and higher. We were in high demand!

We relied on local volunteers we trained to conduct

sessions with children on disaster preparedness. What we wanted to avoid was to become indispensable. Instead, we wanted to build capacity at the local level in order to replicate the efforts after completion of our assignments. Requests also started coming from farther away, and we extended our area of intervention to Galle and Badulla - the tea region.

When we walked into the school where 15 children were waiting for us with excitement, I went back to reality. It was really my last day in the field. Climbing up a steep slope in a three-wheeler, descending the muddy road, we had, I thought for a moment, come a long way—a 14-month journey that was about to come to an end. "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive." Robert Louis Stevenson



Three children proudly show the oil lamps they made during a disaster mitigation training session in the tea plantation region. Photo taken by Hiroyuki Takita in Badulla, 2006

Hiroyuki Takita

Former UNV Field Project Coordinator



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Healing Wounds While Preventing Disasters

Time and again local community members are the first to join hands during an emergency situation and, on a voluntary basis, help the most vulnerable. Alas, prior to the 2004 tsunami, there were no proper disaster management plans for the Sri Lankan municipalities. Few volunteer Samaritans were involved in preparedness activities and almost none of them had the necessary skills to save lives when the need arose.



National UNV volunteers Anuradha, Jagath and Manjula interact with members of the local community in Galle, involved in Hazard Mapping exercises. *Photo taken by Vero Balderas Iglesias in Galle, 2007*

To address this important issue, a new legislation was passed in 2005 to set up the Disaster Management Center (DMC). A wide range of projects and activities have since strengthened the response capacities at grassroots levels and continue to bear fruit.

Thirty-one-year-old Sriyani, for instance, is a mother of two who has recently completed a First Aid Certificate Training Course in Galle, as part of the District's Risk Management (DRM) programme activities.

"A few days after finishing the training I helped a little boy whose finger got smashed while closing a door. I knew how important it was to cover the wound to prevent any infection and then advised his mother to take him to the hospital," Sriyani recalls.

For a period of three days, members of the St. John's Ambulance Service taught 25 volunteers how to provide emergency First Aid care in a non-hospital environment. The trainees are now qualified to perform the role of 'First Responder' in any emergency situation.

On the other hand, hazard mapping exercises help to co-ordinate the response activities at a community level.

"They are carried out in consultation with the villagers to identify the most vulnerable areas and to select the safest evacuation routes," explains UNV volunteer Jagath, who is among those organizing the DRM activities in the Galle district.



First Aid Certificate trainee Sriyani shows UNV volunteer Anuradha the importance of covering an open wound to avoid any potential infection. *Photo taken by Vero Balderas Iglesias in Galle, 2007*

His counterparts, District Disaster Management Officers, Manjula and Anuradha are also fully committed to their UNV volunteer assignments.

"I was in India when the 2004 tsunami struck several countries in South East Asia. While I did my best to support the affected there, I felt the need to come back and help my own people to prevent and deal with potential disasters," Anuradha says.

For Manjula, an Ayurvedic (indigenous) medical practitioner and surgeon, volunteering is especially rewarding. "In my field I deal mostly with individuals. But this assignment allows me to work closely with the community. By encouraging a proactive approach towards Disaster Risk Management, I truly feel I'm contributing to the well-being of my beloved country."

In a district highly vulnerable to natural disasters, including torrential rains and floods, DRM team work is paramount. In this context, the role of the UNV volunteers is to effectively hold together the overall efforts, while encouraging others to contribute with unconditional commitment.

According to the DMC District Coordinator, Captain Senaratna, they are succeeding in their task. "The UNV volunteers working with us are as skilled and qualified as any other professionals earning a salary. The added value is that they understand the importance of this kind of work and are always ready to help."

Vero Balderas Iglesias
UNV Communication Specialist



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A Day in Seenigama...

On 30 November 2006, Margherita Serafini, UNV Tsunami Programme Officer, and I went to the south region of Sri Lanka to meet with Mihirinie Wijayawardene, who was, at that time, UNV Project Coordinator with the Foundation of Goodness (FoG). She, along with other volunteers, had been playing a key role in the post-tsunami reconstruction efforts in the area.

That day was a day of celebration in Seenigama and surroundings. "As I mentioned in my e-mail we will be going for a housewarming," she explained as we travelled a short distance to the small village of Godagama. She was referring to the handing over of the 500th newly built house by FoG to the tsunami-affected beneficiary. A small crowd had gathered around the house when we arrived. After several short speeches the key was handed over to the grateful beneficiary. "I will be eternally grateful to the people responsible for putting a roof above my family again," he said with genuine undertone of gratitude in his voice. Tea, food and soft drinks were served to the people who were present at the occasion. Nineteen-year-old Osanda Gunawardana proudly gave a tour of his family's new home – the 500th house built with the support of FoG and generous donors. We were introduced to volunteers from the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development programme who had arrived in Seenigama the day before to contribute to the reconstruction efforts.

Kushil Gunasekera, Founder/Trustee of the foundation, was seen in the background hosting the event. He then announced that the handing over ceremony of the 400th restored home damaged by the tsunami would also be happening that day. "Let's now go to that site and you can then go on a mini tour to see our other projects, before we have a sumptuous lunch prepared by the villagers," he said to me, as he got into the vehicle of his cousin, Mr. Sidath Weetimuny, former cricketer who represented Sri Lanka.

We arrived at the site after traveling a few minutes. Kushil invited Margherita to cut the ribbon and officially pronounce the handing over of the house.

Montessori teacher K.H. Piyaseeli de Silva and her family were the 400th family to receive funding from FoG to restore their home, which they have lived in for 56 years. Sri Lankan hospitality was once again evident when tea and food were served after a couple of short speeches to mark

the occasion. "We are happy again; we can now live comfortably and achieve our goals," Piyaseeli shared as we departed.

Mihirinie then accompanied us on a short tour to see the other projects undertaken by the Foundation. "We have completed several housing projects and have started a few more," Volunteer Coordinator Faye Ruck-Nightingale briefed us as we went to the first housing project site. "This is a new project and that's why you only see the bare land. Land clearing work at the moment has stopped due to the rains, but will resume soon," she said as she stepped over several puddles of mud made by the recent rains. She then took us to a recently built community centre, with a children's playground, and then to the 'Seenigama Oval'. "This is the brand-new cricket pitch to be built for the surrounding villages by FoG with the support of major sponsor Surrey County Cricket Club," she said. She then pointed at a half-completed concrete structure in the distance and continued, "Over there, you see a 25-meter swimming pool being built. This is sponsored by Canadian singer Bryan Adams and will be opened in February 2007."

We were then taken to the Community Centre of the small village built by FoG for lunch. As promised, a sumptuous meal was served by the villagers. Mihirinie detailed her role in the village's reconstruction efforts, and how proud she was of the Rainbow Clinic, which had expanded its medical services under her coordination.



Community members wait in line at the Rainbow Clinic to access its free-of-charge services. Photo taken by P.H. Sampath, Foundation of Goodness, in Seenigama, 2006

Mihirinie then showed us around the premises of the FoG office. "This was the tsunami-damaged holiday home of the FoG founder and trustee, Kushil", she said as we approached the Rainbow Clinic. "The clinic, after humble beginnings is now open to all villagers in the community, and provides a free General Practice style service to patients not only from Seenigama, but also from approximately 20 other neighbouring villages. Prescribed essential medication is also dispensed at the onsite pharmacy without charge," she added very fondly.

Soon after this tour, Margherita and I headed back to our office in Colombo. Thus, ended my first inspiring field visit, which made me realize even more the importance of volunteerism towards sustainable human development.

Asanga Ranasinghe
UNV Operations Assistant



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Water Colors of Nature and Hope

When the Boxing Day tsunami hit Kosgoda in 2004, 17-year-old Piyumika almost lost her father and her own life.

"We were at the beach when the second huge wave swept us away several miles inland until we reached the resort area. I was then able to climb to a hotel's roof but my dad was out of sight and I felt terrified," she recalls.

Miraculously, her father found her alive almost half an hour later and they both headed home safe and sound.



Planting of home garden flora is another activity that UNV volunteer Shantha supervises as part of his work with the TCP. Photo: Vero Balderas Iglesias, Kosgoda, 2007

What they saw upon arrival, though, was a dark scene of debris and desperation. The painful experience haunted the locals for months, and psychologically, the younger generations were particularly affected.

"When I went back to school I just couldn't concentrate. I used to love attending my painting class but my passion for the subject suddenly disappeared," explains Sagara, who was also affected by the tsunami.

Piyumika and Sagara needed a friend to help them not only heal their mental wounds but recover their love for art, nature and life in general. They found this friend in Shantha, a national UNV volunteer, who works as a Project Assistant for the Turtle Conservation Project (TCP).

Shantha, a talented artist himself, has been teaching students how to produce masterpieces using water colors and acrylic. The main theme for this art work is environmental conservation.

"I've been teaching people the importance of protecting biodiversity since I was 13 years old. Now that I'm married, my children are so involved in these kind of activities

that the first word one of them uttered as a baby was 'fish' instead of 'ma' or 'dad'," he says laughing.



Shantha admires some of the colorful art work produced by Piyumika. Photo taken by Vero Balderas Iglesias in Kosgoda, 2007

Shantha's lifestyle is devoted to volunteerism. He works from Monday to Friday at the TCP and spends most of his weekends giving free lectures on natural history and endangered species. He also organizes field trips.

"Shantha is doing something good for the youth and the society in general" underlines 16-year-old Lahiru, adding that he has learned not only clever tips to draw better portraits but he has improved his school grades as well.

The TCP was established in 1993 to facilitate the implementation of sustainable marine turtle conservation strategies through education, research and community participation. Funded by various organizations including UNDP, It is one of the initiatives which are part of the partnership between the UNV programme and the Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme.

The TCP has now expanded its activities. Shantha supervises the environmental art workshops, the planting of home garden flora, the provision of tools and supplies for carpenters and shop owners to name just a few.

There are also plans to put on sale the colorful cards the young trainees paint. But despite the potential earnings, for the students it is Shantha's example of the true spirit of volunteerism the most priceless and sweetest treat.

"One doesn't have to earn a salary to feel passionate about his/her job. These kinds of activities help one interact with people from all walks of life and the experience as a whole is worth more than money can buy," Shantha concludes.

Vero Balderas Iglesias
UNV Communication Specialist



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A Stable Life... Everyone's Right

I have been working since July 2006 as a UNV Field Officer under a very interesting project I feel very passionate about, which aims at strengthening the human rights dimension of tsunami recovery in Sri Lanka. This initiative is the result of a partnership between UNDP and the Disaster Relief Monitoring Unit (DRMU) of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and the continuation of the People's Consultation project, a community-based consultative process through which tsunami-related concerns from a human rights' point of view were raised following the natural disaster.



National UNV volunteer Kushani visits a permanent shelter where tsunami-affected girls are now rebuilding their lives. Photo taken by Vero Balderas Iglesias in the Panadura area, 2007

During this second phase of the partnership, help-desks were established in eight tsunami-affected districts. I run the one in Kalutara along with my UNV colleague Ramesh Coopan. Our work focuses on the promotion and protection of human rights (by responding to, investigating and redressing the human rights concerns and complaints of the tsunami-affected in a systematic and timely manner), capacity development on human rights (by increasing the capacity of recovery stakeholders to strengthen the human rights dimension of their work), and people's participation in tsunami recovery (by ensuring a sustained channel of communication between the affected communities and recovery stakeholders through empowerment, participation, transparency and accountability).

I make frequent field visits to post-tsunami temporary and permanent shelters to make sure the voices of the tsunami-affected are heard and paid attention to. After I speak with them (both in the help-desk office and in the shelters), I liaise with the relevant government officers such as the Additional Divisional Secretary in Kalutara, the Kalutara RADA Coordinator, the RADA Livelihood Coordinator, and the Tsunami Appeal Committee to share with



A group of students discuss the importance of the leadership programme with the UNV Field Officers in Kalutara District. Photo taken by Vero Balderas Iglesias in the Panadura area, 2007

them the complaints made to us once Ramesh and I have investigated and documented them. Furthermore, I get in touch with the police to request protection for the beneficiaries when it considered necessary.

Investigation on tsunami-related complaints and liaising with all parties is only part of what we do. We also organize programmes to raise awareness on tsunami-related human rights issues for both the tsunami-affected and the duty bearers. As for the first, we cover topics like fundamental human rights, the Tsunami Housing Policy and tsunami relief entitlements. Particular emphasis is given to raising awareness on accessibility of services provided by the government. Women are encouraged to form women's groups and initiate livelihood activities with the assistance of the RADA Livelihood Unit. Tsunami-affected school children attend programmes aiming at their empowerment through the development of their leadership skills by addressing fundamental human rights. As for the latter, similar activities are organized for duty bearers such as the Additional Divisional Secretary, the RADA Coordinator, the RADA Livelihood Coordinator, officers at the Divisional Secretariats, and those in the Grama Niladaries (GNs) of Kalutara District. The objective is to increase their capacity as duty bearers when taking up the complaints we have documented.

I am really passionate about my work. I feel empowered by giving hope and assistance to people in my own country where their lives have been devastated by the tsunami. I might not be able to solve all the challenges they face, but I hope my work goes beyond the physical reconstruction of their households. I hope it will help them look at the future, after so much suffering, in a more positive way.

Kushani De Silva
UNV Field Officer



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TSUNAMI UNV VOLUNTEERS CURRENTLY SERVING IN SRI LANKA

Margherita Serafini, Italy, Tsunami Programme Officer, Colombo, UNV

Veronica Balderas Iglesias, Mexico, Communication Specialist, Colombo, UNV

Asanga Ranasinghe, Sri Lanka, Operations Assistant, Colombo, UNV

Nishkala Sirikananathan, Sri Lanka, Finance/Administrative Assistant, Colombo, UNV

Zafra Afker, Sri Lanka, Administrative/Finance Assistant, Colombo, UNV

Maria Amalka Santiago, Sri Lanka, Administrative Assistant, Colombo, UNV

Kogilavaani Kulasegaram, Sri Lanka, Programme Development Assistant, Colombo, UNV

Rajiv Ranjan, India, ICT for Development Advisor, Colombo, UNDP

Shane Cogan, Ireland, Monitoring and Reporting Officer, Colombo, UNDP Transition Programme

Joohi Haleem, Pakistan, Programme Officer, Colombo, UNDP Transition Programme

Nirosha Kandegama, Sri Lanka, Programme Assistant, Colombo, UNDP/Art Gold

Kelum Wadumesthrige, Sri Lanka, Community Development Specialist, Galle, UNDP/Art Gold

Jessica Skinner, British/Australian, Field Officer, Ampara, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

Sivaguru Thanigaseelan, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Ampara, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

Mohamed Fahmi, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Ampara, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

Eliyathamby Jeyarasa, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Batticaloa, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

Kushani De Silva, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Kalutara, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

Ramesh Coopan, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Kalutara, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

M.G. Jayaratne, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Galle, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

Anuruddika Gamage, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Matara, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

Nilanthi Alwis, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Matara, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

Nihal Abeysooriya, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Hambantota, UNDP/Human Rights Commission

Sukbir Nagra, U.K., Human Rights Officer, Colombo, UNDP/Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights

Chandrika Karunaratne, Sri Lanka, Human Rights Support Officer, Colombo, UNDP/Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights

Thushan Kapurusinghe, Sri Lanka, Project Field Coordinator, Kalutara, GEF/SGP

Upendra Wickramaratne, Sri Lanka, Project Field Coordinator, Kalutara, GEF/SGP

Sarath Dayananda, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Kirinda, GEF/SGP

Shanthasiri Jayaweera, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Kosgoda, GEF/SGP

Ranasinghe Aladeniyegedara, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Galle, GEF/SGP

Sajith Subhashana, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Galle, GEF/SGP

Senaka Weerasinghe, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Galle, GEF/SGP

Amara Nuwan, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Galle, GEF/SGP

Ruchira Gunathilaka, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Tangalle, GEF/SGP

Nisala Perera, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Tangalle, GEF/SGP

Ranil Perera, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Rekawa, GEF/SGP

Anuradha Prabath Kumara, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Negombo, GEF/SGP

Nayanathara Mohotti, Sri Lanka, Project Assistant, Colombo, GEF/SGP

Anita Shah, Kenya, DRM Specialist, Colombo, UNDP/DRM

Savini Sirikumara, Sri Lanka, Information Officer, Colombo, UNDP/DRM

Chandana Kasturiratne, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Colombo, UNDP/DRM

H.C. Anuradha, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Galle, UNDP/DRM

Suranga Kahandawa, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Galle, UNDP/DRM

Jagath Jayawardena, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Galle, UNDP/DRM

Ganga Samarawickrama, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Matara, UNDP/DRM

Mahil J.U. Liyanage, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Matara, UNDP/DRM

Manjula Mahesh Kadudunkorala, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Matara, UNDP/DRM

Ruwani Seneviratne, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Matara, UNDP/DRM

Kugathas Sugunathas, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Ampara, UNDP/DRM



The UNV Tsunami Unit strikes a pose before the camera in the UN compound. From left: Asanga, Zafra, Nishkala, Vaani, Margherita and Vero. Photo taken by Vero Balderas Iglesias in Colombo, 2007

DRM

I.L. Fajruteen, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Ampara, UNDP/DRM

Laksiri Kumar Nanayakkara, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Ratnapura, UNDP/DRM

P. K. Premaratne, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Ratnapura, UNDP/DRM

Sarath Perera, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Ratnapura, UNDP/DRM

Arunaa Nancy, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Batticaloa, UNDP/DRM

Selvaraj Theyanath, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Batticaloa, UNDP/DRM

K.D.Weerakkodige, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Beruwela, UNDP/DRM

Rohan Cooray, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Hambantota, UNDP/DRM

Kaushal Attanayake, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Hambantota, UNDP/DRM

Mahesan Pathmashankar, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Ampara, UNDP/DRM

Janaka Gamage, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Trincomalee, UNDP/DRM

M. Muhaijeer, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Trincomalee, UNDP/DRM

Subhashini Abeyasinghe, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Puttalam, UNDP/DRM

Surekha Perera, Coordination Support Officer, Colombo, UNDP/DRM

K. Chandrasekara, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Kilinochchi, UNDP/DRM



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FORMER TSUNAMI UNV VOLUNTEERS SERVING IN SRI LANKA

Cristina Herrero Perez, Spain, UNV Programme Officer, Colombo, UNV
Kushali Amaratunga, Sri Lanka, Programme Development Assistant, Colombo, UNV
Anoma Induththara Gunadasa, Sri Lanka, Operations Assistant, Colombo, UNV
Aparna Basnyat, Nepal, HRBA Officer, Colombo, UNDP
Javier Ijeno Nunez, Spain, Area Programme Manager, Galle, UNDP/Art Gold
Chaminda De Silva, Sri Lanka, Livelihoods Specialist, Galle, UN HABITAT
Carolina Shaban, Columbia, Specialist Urban Planner, Galle, UN HABITAT
Gustavo Lenzi, Italy, Specialist Engineer, Galle, UN HABITAT
Zihan Zarouk, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Colombo, UNDP/DRM
Sri Bandara, Sri Lanka, Project Administration Assistant, Panadura, GEF/SGP
Hafsa Raheem, Sri Lanka, Project Administration Assistant, Kalutara, GEF/SGP
Daminda Solangaarachchi, Sri Lanka, IT Specialist, Colombo, UNDP/DRM
Partheepan Kulasegaram, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Ampara, UNDP/DRM
Mohamed Kubais Thahir, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Trincomalee, UNDP/DRM
Vindhya Wijewantha, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Kalutara, UNDP/DRM
Samanthika Ekanayake, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Ratnapura, UNDP/DRM
Anupama Dias, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Matara, UNDP/DRM
Dinesh Rajapakshe, Sri Lanka, Disaster Inventories Officer, Colombo, UNDP/DRM
Janaka Kodithuwakku, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Hambantota, UNDP/DRM
Ketan Trivedi, India, GIS Specialist, Colombo, UNDP/DRM
M. Fahim A. Wahab, Sri Lanka, District Support Officer, Ampara, UNDP/DRM

A.D.S. Siriwanasa, Sri Lanka, District Disaster Management Officer, Kalutara, UNDP/DRM
Chandana Kumara, Sri Lanka, DDMO, Gampaha, UNDP/DRM
Sesath Thambugala, Sri Lanka, Coordination Support Officer, Colombo, UNDP/DRM
Tharumini Wijekoon, Sri Lanka, Human Rights Support Officer, Colombo, UNDP/Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights
Sithamparanathan Ganesharatnam, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Trincomalee, UNDP/Human Rights Commission
Giuseppe Crocetti, Italy, Field Officer, Trincomalee, UNDP/Human Rights Commission
Rasika Samarasinghe, Sri Lanka, Field Officer, Galle, UNDP/Human Rights Commission
Neni Indriati, Indonesia, Field Officer, Batticaloa, UNDP/Human Rights Commission
Kyaw Kyaw Oo, Myanmar, UNV Computer Programmer, Colombo, Ministry of Health
Ranmal Perera, Sri Lanka, Computer Programming Assistant, Colombo, Ministry of Health
Esther Mc Intosh, Guyana, Capacity Building Programme Officer, Colombo, WUSC
Uwe Foehring, Canada, Capacity Building Programme Officer, Matara, WUSC
Pathum Jayasekara, Sri Lanka, Field Project Assistant, Matara, CODE/YMCA
Hiroyuki Takita, Japan, Field Project Coordinator, Matara, CODE/YMCA
Kuki Hamada, Japan, Project Field Coordinator, Matara, CODE/YMCA
Nimesha Fernando, Sri Lanka, Field Project Assistant, Galle, CODE/YMCA
Maria Carolina Hoyos, Colombia, Acting Fund Raising Office, Colombo, Sunera Foundation
Mihirinie Wijewardene, U.K, Project Coordinator, Colombo, Foundation of Goodness

DONORS

Government of Germany, Government of Japan

PARTNERS

UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN HABITAT), Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme (GEF/SGP)

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Disaster Management Centre, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka—Disaster Relief Monitoring Unit, Ministry of Health

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Citizens towards Overseas Disaster Emergency (CODE), Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Foundation of Goodness, World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Sunera Foundation