

# Case Study

## Rehabilitation of the Post-War Victims of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka

Master M.I.T

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# Context

- Sri Lanka an island with two major ethnic groups : The majority Sinhala (78%), Tamils (14%) Muslims (7%) Burghers (-1%)
- Majority Buddhist country (73%), Hindus (12%) Christians (8%) and Muslims (7%)
- 22% of the population is urban and the remaining is rural
- 30 year of protracted ethnic war brewed from a simple students manifestations to a armed conflict between the separatist LTTE and the different governments.
- The war came to an end on May 19, 2009 creating a human disaster and a humanitarian crisis.
- 300000 Tamils internally displaced ; more than 50000 killed, the north occupied by the army and the defeat of the LTTE y the army.
  - **Today we are before a major humanitarian Crisis**

# The Humanitarian Crisis

- There is a need to rehabilitate the victims of war who have lost everything. Their homes have been destroyed partially or totally. People are still in the camps and need to be supported through food and basic needs.
- Land deeds and documents are totally lost and not retrievable.
- The most affected are the children and the widows of war who are more than 40000 officially, leading to women-headed families and they live in dire conditions, because socially, psychologically and economically they are excluded and marginalized.
- Elders are also left by themselves and need immediate attentions
- The fishermen can go to the sea, but they need fishing gears and nets and also the necessary permits. There is a market for their catch, but they must be in a position to negotiate the price which is controlled by the Sinhala community.
- Housing is still a major issue and the government is allocating the construction of houses to the families and NGO are invited to help them.
- Land mines are a major obstacle to early agricultural recovery and there is a need to plan a rehabilitation program to ensure agricultural recovery. For this the livelihood program is important.
- Psychosocial accompaniment is not encouraged by the government and the army is very vigilant about it. But children need psychosocial support. The population is under stress and insecurity.
- In this situation only about 14 NGO (most of them are local) are allowed to work. UN agencies are organizing regular coordination meetings.

# The Humanitarian Crisis

- The government has no rehabilitation plan and on the contrary is creating High security zones and militarizing parts of the northern zone.
- The movements of the civilian population is restricted and the NGO are controlled.
- Government does not encourage the NGO to undertake any community based activities nor psychosocial programs.
- Landmines and explosion of unexploded bombs are a major threat.
- The rainy season is due soon and will create more hardships and sufferings to the population.

# Risk Assessment and Vulnerability analysis

In this humanitarian crisis you are requested to :

- 1. List the type of disasters that the present situation may lead to
- Who are the most vulnerable victims who need immediate care
- What are the risk that may impact the population
- A brief description of any mitigation efforts to reduce the vulnerability and effects of other disasters
- A brief description of any disaster recovery plan