

Impacts of the Tsunami on Poverty in Sri Lanka

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Prepared by



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1. Introduction

Background

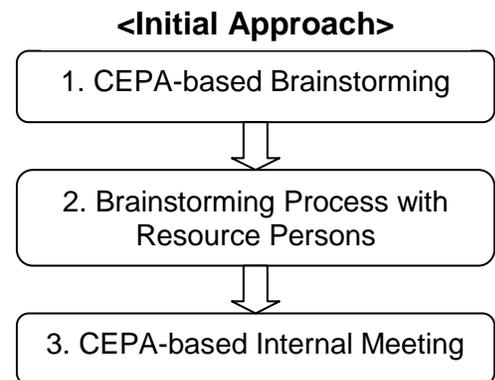
The Tsunami that hit Sri Lanka in December 2004 has brought a great loss of life, livelihood and infrastructure. While the unprecedented amount of financial and humanitarian assistance has been committed by the international aid agencies in response to the national disaster, little attention has been paid on how the concentration of assistance has impacted on the wider Sri Lankan economy and social structures, particularly in terms of poverty and equity. The study aims to discuss the impact of the tsunami on Sri Lanka as a whole focusing on both positive and negative effects.

Objectives

- To understand the wider impact of the post tsunami activities on Sri Lankan economy and social and political structures
- To contribute towards managed, long-term development
- To shed light on impact of tsunami and the post tsunami activities on the non-tsunami areas

The INITIAL approach and orientation of the process

After a CEPA-based internal brainstorming session was conducted as the initialization of the process, individual discussions with a larger group of researchers/practitioners were conducted as part of the initial conceptualization. Once these discussions were finished and the contents of the brainstorming process consolidated, the CEPA team revisited the concept to rework the potential issues and methodology.



The BRAINSTORMING process with Resource Persons

The brainstorming process aimed to obtain a wide range of opinions and advices on the relevance and feasibility of the study. It also allowed to obtain their involvement and cooperation from potential resource persons according to their level of interest in each topic. The brainstorming sessions were held in the form of individual interviews to be more feasible than a workshop style, seeing as it was more time efficient for the resource persons involved, while ensuring better participation and a greater range of ideas for exploration. The potential topics were discussed as follows according to the interest and expertise of the resource persons: (1) macro economics; (2) infrastructure; (3) labour market and wages; (4) legal issues and (5) social issues.

The role of this documentation is **to consolidate the brainstorming process and provide extract of feedback** to those who participated in the discussion.

2. Response from BRAINSTORMING with the Resource Persons

A total of 21 resource persons from various institutions were interviewed in this process. Resource persons with expertise in economics, data and statistics, infrastructure, conflict issues, social issues, public policy and legal issues were interviewed covering a wide range of topics. (See annex Y for list of those interviewed during the brainstorming phase)

The discussions served not only to gather the resource persons' ideas regarding his/her specific field of interest but also on the concept of the study as a whole. They were carried out based on a set of guiding questions, covering the resource persons' comments on the total concept, their personal focus-areas and the suggested topics as well as their suggestions for new topics. Any information regarding existing works, workshops or literature done on these issues was also compiled. The level of participation which the resource persons wished to take on, and their suggestions for potential sponsors or funding, rounded off the discussion.

The spread of ideas in relation to the different discussion points is given in the table below.

Summary of brainstorming:

Topics	Response	Suggestions for focus areas	Who has been working on the topic?	Potential Funding
Macro Economics	<p>-Need to involve the field work to obtain beyond secondary information</p> <p>-The <i>extent</i> of the impact by the tsunami needs to be looked at, not just the impact</p> <p>-Isolating the impacts of tsunami will be difficult as problems are equal in both tsunami-affected and non-affected areas now</p> <p>?: Title of the concept note is a bit misleading as it does not highlight non-Tsunami areas</p> <p>?: It might be too late to look at how the tsunami has affected other areas</p> <p>?: How information related to the North & East is obtained?</p> <p>✓ The concept is useful</p>	<p>-Keen to see policy impact</p> <p>-Focus on disparity issues as to how the tsunami areas and non-tsunami areas coped with regard to poverty issues</p> <p>-Positive aspects of the tsunami aid (including for non-tsunami areas)</p> <p>-General inflation as opposed to wage rates & material cost hikes</p> <p>-Material costs- with inflows of foreign aid as well as the export of construction materials through the Indo-Lanka agreement</p> <p>-Tsunami aid used in non-tsunami areas due to surpluses and the effects of this overflow of funds</p>	<p>-“The Report on People’s Consultations on Post Tsunami Relief...” by UNDP</p> <p>-“Post-Tsunami Recovery: Issues and Challenges in Sri Lanka” by IPS and ADBI (Also look out for IPS report done for ADBI looking at social sector issues coming out in September)</p> <p>-Marga institute will also have a research work regarding to impact on macro economics</p> <p>-“The Tsunami Reconstruction Response: Sri Lanka” by Patricia Alailima</p> <p>-“Post-Tsunami Recovery & Reconstruction report” RADA</p>	<p>-ILO</p> <p>-ADB</p> <p>-World Bank</p>
Infrastructure	<p>-Infrastructure is a good topic to focus on the impact of tsunami (i.e. schools and hospitals can be looked at as welfare services)</p> <p>-Should focus on only Tsunami-areas since the impacts on other areas were insignificant</p>	<p>-Land scarcity (ex. Galle)</p> <p>-The diversion of attention due to prioritization of railway building (ex. the annual budget was redirected to help the tsunami-affected tracks, therefore upland tracks were neglected)</p>	<p>- “South Asia disaster report” by ITDG/Practical Action</p> <p>-“Post-Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Report” by RADA</p>	<p>-Nordic embassies</p> <p>-Asia Foundation</p> <p>-Joint publication with another organization</p>

	<p>-Look at overall poverty situation and how it was changed looking at the local capacity building</p> <p>?: Need more guidance in the framework concept- how to analyze and present</p> <p>✓ Never too late to look at the issues</p> <p>✓ Will be useful to focus on the impact of tsunami as a whole</p>	<p>-Indirect impacts such as wells and ground water intrusion of salt water due to tsunami</p> <p>-Dependency created due to foreign aid (including adjacent towns to tsunami areas)</p>		<p>-UNDP</p> <p>-World Bank</p>
Labor market & wages	<p>-Figure out methodology and budget limitations so that the information will not only be superficial</p> <p>-TOR and topics need to be more specific</p> <p>?: It might be a little too early to conclude the trend of wages and labor market</p> <p>✓ Think it will be an interesting study</p>	<p>-Mobilisation of labour force (ex. Labor force in the factory industry due to the 'cash for work' scheme)</p> <p>-Indirect impacts on people from non-Tsunami areas those whose market was washed away by Tsunami</p> <p>-New jobs created by tsunami – many undergraduates got jobs with high salaries especially in the development sector</p>	<p>-“Rapid assessment of the tsunami’s impact on livelihood in affected areas in Sri Lanka” by ILO</p> <p>-“Livelihoods in Post-Tsunami Sri Lanka: Building Back Better?” by ILO & IPS</p>	<p>-ILO</p> <p>-PEP</p> <p>-GDN</p>
Legal issues	<p>-Be sure not to be duplicate with existing works</p>	<p>-Equity issues-how changes in law have affected equity issues</p> <p>-Landownership & relocation issues (Large land parcels that the UDA had acquired were subdivided into smaller plots in order for tsunami housing. This subdivision of land caused a decrease in productivity)</p>	<p>-DCS has an ongoing household survey on income and expenditure looking at the tsunami affected and non-affected areas (expected completion will be June '07)</p> <p>-“Landlessness and Land Rights in Post Tsunami in Sri Lanka” by CPA</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Livelihood and relocation- how these have been affected by the tsunami - Land and government reconstruction- legal issues have been questioned - How land policy has affected the whole of Sri Lanka, not just the Tsunami-affected regions -Perceptions of people on livelihoods, land and laws -Not just legal issues but legal processes should also be examined. Perhaps it could be rephrased as inheritance -Land ownership in gender perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -CPA Quarterly publication on peace process 	
<p>Social issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Access to information on the impact of tsunami is limited -Since data collection might be a little difficult, maybe reliance should be on case studies or regional studies -Need to narrow down topics -Social issues such as child adoption are getting more serious after the end of the initial emergency stage ?: It is difficult to see clear linkage between tsunami and the changes that happened in non-tsunami areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gap in distribution of aid between the tsunami victims and victims affected by both tsunami and conflict -How host communities and relocated communities have been affected due to relocation of land, regarding socio-cultural aspects -Productivity of the community (i.e. fisher communities that have access to the dole do not return to fishery) -Attitudes of people to their own development (some affected people are unwilling to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Ethnic Conflict, the State and Tsunami Disaster in Sri Lanka” by J. Uyangoda -The UN is starting a major evaluation on the tsunami involving RADA, DCS and UNICEF -“The impact of Tsunami on Households and Vulnerable groups in two districts in Sri Lanka – Galle and Colombo” by CENWOR -“Rescue, Violence and Discrimination in a Disaster” by S. Kottegoda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -East West Center of the University of Hawaii -UNIFEM -UNFPA -DFID -NORAD -EU -SIDA -CIDA

	<p>?: It is difficult to measure to what extent tsunami impacted on the potential issues</p> <p>✓ Impacts of tsunami on the whole of Sri Lanka should be discussed.</p>	<p>work if they are not paid)</p> <p>-Positive aspects of tsunami aid- Capacity was built up at the local level, especially at the DS level, Better cooperation with NGOs and outsiders with commitment, and People got to understand the importance of natural environment (i.e. coral reef conservation, tree planting)</p> <p>-Social Issues- with regard to the MDG's (Millennium Development Goals)</p> <p>-Gender issues in Tsunami activities (i.e. Non gender-sensitive projects made gender issues worse)</p> <p>-Widows/widowers & second marriages</p> <p>-Childcare issues (i.e. single parenthood, child rehabilitation activities, child custody, institutionalization/registration of the tsunami orphans)</p>		
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3. CEPA discussion on brainstorming feedback

After the conclusion of the resource person interviews, the feedback was consolidated and presented to the CEPA team. Based on this feedback a discussion on potential themes, a potential method of structuring the work and coordination and potential resource persons/authors was conducted.

At this discussion the main objectives of the project were re-identified to be:

- Understanding how post tsunami activities changed poverty and equity issues in Sri Lanka
- Understanding how the influx of financial and technical assistance after the tsunami impacted on the Sri Lankan economy and social and political structure
- To contribute towards managed, long-term development

The output of the study was decided on to be an edited volume (edited by CEPA) comprising of individual stand-alone studies on the various themes. The study team for each theme is to consist of an 'expert' and co-author, CEPA staff members being involved in some topics.

Considering the duplication of work and feedback from the interviewees, it was decided to narrow down the focused areas in the project as below.

- (1) Legal and social issues relating to women and children (Gender and Childcare)
- (2) Tsunami and Conflict
- (3) Labour market and wages
- (4) Infrastructure
- (5) Impacts of the international community on local relief and development NGOs

The project will be divided into 5 phases according to each focused topic. After the resource persons finish the working papers, CEPA will host the forum to discuss findings with them at the end of each phase. After all the phases are finished, the edited volume will be disseminated at the final forum.

The next steps

Following dissemination of brainstorming process documentation and the revised concept note, the next steps are (see Annex Z for potential time frame):

- A literature review on related works (done by CEPA)
- Finalising specific themes to be studied and calling for the resource persons according to their individual expertise (done by CEPA)
- Present a framework of research approach (done by Resource persons)
- Writing the proposal for funding (done by CEPA)
- Finalising resource persons writing on their individual studies (done by Resource persons)

Annex Y: <List of the interviewees>

Organization	Name	Expertise
ADB	Ms. Johanna Boestel	Economics
CENWOR	Prof. Savitri Gunasekara	Gender / Childcare
CEPA Associate	Dr. Ramani Gunatilake	Economics
	Dr. Darini Rajasingham	Conflict issues
Chamber of Commerce	Mr. Jayantha Abhayaratne	Economics
	Ms. Gayathri Gunaruwan	Economics
Colombo University	Prof. W.D. Lakshman	Economics
	Prof. Lalithasiri Gunaruwan	Infrastructure
CPA	Ms. Bhavani Fonseka	Legal issues
DCS	Mr. Wimal Nanayakkara	Data and statistics
Freelance Consultant	Dr. Rajendra Ariyabandu	Water management
	Prof. Patricia Alailima	Public Policy
IPS	Ms. Dushni Weerakon	Economics
	Ms. Nisha Arunatilake	Economics
	Mr. Paul Steele	Economics
Marga Institute	Ms. Mytle Perera	Social development
Practical Action	Dr. Vishaka Hidellage	Infrastructure / Social development
Save the Children	Ms. Dharshini Seneviratne	Childcare issues
UDA	Dr. Don Jayaweera	Infrastructure
UNDP	Ms. Madhavi Ariyabandu	Gender
Women and Media Collective	Dr. Sepali Kottegoda	Gender

Annex Z: Potential Timeframe of the project

Although CEPA is still working on the proposal and is not applying for funding yet, the potential timeframe can be presented as follows.

