ENSURING SUSTAINABILITY

The CRFP from the commencement itself has addressed the issue of sustainability of the recovered settlements by assisting in capacity building. The project is aiming to achieve a safe, secure and sustainable communities through the promotion of self governance, sustainable environment, restoration and creation of community livelihoods, maintenance and management of community infrastructure, improved sanitation and building partnerships with external partners.

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, a partner of this programme, will continue to work with the communities, after the project is over by forming Red Cross Society Branches in parallel to the Community Development Councils.

Building together, in racial amity

In a country plagued by communal strife for a long period, Puttukudi Vetkerery Ethamum Community Development Council stands out as an example of communal harmony. Although Tamils are the vast majority in this particular community, they have elected Mr. Samuel Kumaran, a Sinhalese as their President. Kumaran has been a prominent social worker in the area and he has given the leadership to many activities, especially after the Tsunami of December 2004. Therefore when the council met together to elect the office bearers for their Council, the ethnicity of the person did not become a factor. The majority Tamils agreed to elect him as their President. Ms. Sithikumar jasmine, a Tamil female was elected as the secretary. The committee is a mix of Tamils and Sinhalese.

Although the primary objective of forming the CCB in the rebuilding of the Tsunami damaged houses under the CRFP project, they have ventured into many other activities. While their new houses are nearing completion, they have started a savings programme from which they hope to provide loans to their members to commence livelihood activities.

Helping the Vulnerable

Abu Rahuman Ameer Khan, a ten year old child lost both his parents and his house was completely destroyed in the tsunami. He became an orphan without a house to live in and with no parents to look after him.

Even though the house he lived was completely washed away, Ameer Khan could not get any assistance as he was a minor and not entitled to any of the grants. On the recommendation of the Community Development Council, Ameer Khan was included as a beneficiary and the project assisted and guided his guardian to build the house for him.

With the intervention of the Project and the guidance of UN-Habitat, Ameer Khan will now have a home, a sanitary latrine and a secure future to look forward to.