

**VOLONTARIATO
INTERNAZIONALE
PER LO SVILUPPO
DON BOSCO**

Agreements n.

2 and 55

District

Gampaha, Kandy

Cost

3,090,813.59 Euros

Duration

February '05 - November '06



1 THE BOSCO PURA RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX

“Bosco Pura”. That is the Sinhalese name for the residential complex of 13 buildings built by VIS in Negombo, with a total of 200 apartments assigned, in agreement with the local authorities, to as many families who survived the tsunami and then sought refuge on the island’s west coast. Many of them were taken in at a tent camp set up at the entrance to the vocational school run by the Salesians, the religious order with which VIS is associated and which has worked for decades in this coastal city, the former capital under Portuguese rule and the most heavily Catholic city on the island. The NGO’s staff experienced the tsunami firsthand: VIS was in fact already in Sri Lanka running various cooperation projects.

Because it was affected only marginally by the tsunami, Negombo became the destination for many homeless families. VIS immediately began assisting the homeless , relying on the network of relationships developed over time by the Salesians with the local people and authorities. The schools and parishes continued to function, but in various areas of the country, in addition to hosting tent cities they also hosted programmes run by VIS: workshops for the construction and repair of fishing boats, depots of goods to be distributed, outpatient clinics and health-care services, projects to assist children and



adolescents. The most difficult part of the project carried out with the Department involved the construction of the housing complex. The solution adopted and completed involved taking a chance: the homeless families in Negombo had never even seen a condominium, accustomed as they were to small single-family homes scattered in the villages along the coast. It required a long period of support and involvement of the beneficiaries to identify together the final characteristics of the new housing, the features of each unit and of the common areas, the location of the sanitary facilities and the kitchens. Then VIS built the complex on the reclaimed and urbanised area, handling relations with the local authorities, the Salesians and the assignee families right up until completion of the construction. Today, on what was a plot of land in Negombo used only as a dump, you will see, at the foot of the water tower with its giant sign bearing the name of the complex, a genuine urban neighbourhood, a sort of village, multiethnic and multireligious, that is starting to live its own life now taking shape in the network of relationships among the new neighbours: there are flowerpots on the balconies, lawns around some houses, laundry hanging in the courtyards, on the balconies and in the windows, women talking to one another, a tuk-tuk with the motor still warm, and most of all countless children playing in the plaza.

VOLONTARIATO INTERNAZIONALE PER LO SVILUPPO DON BOSCO

Agreements n.

2 and 55



**CIVIL
PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT**

Agreement n.
29

District
Colombo

Cost
1,504,459.25 Euros

Duration
January '05 - May '07



2 EMERGENCY RESPONSES

This project incorporated the activities managed by the Department in the first phase of helping the tsunami victims. The emergency response consisted mainly of providing medical assistance and setting up reception camps in two places, in the Galle area in the south, and in the Trincomalee area in the northeast. In the south, the Department provided 530 tents set up in 12 tent cities which accommodated some 4,300 people, and installed an Advance Medical Post consisting of three pneumatic tents that operated until April 2005, with doctors and nurses from Pisa Hospital. The Firefighters, who participated actively in setting up the tent cities, also lent assistance to their local colleagues (which led to Agreement n. 36). The Department brought drugs and medical materials from Italy for use at the AMP and for distribution to four other hospitals in the area. In the Trincomalee area, four tent cities were set up with the help of the Italian Firefighters, with some 350 tents that accommodated a total of some 2,800 people. At Kinniya, on a plot of land near the town mosque, a second Advance Medical Post was set up and operated with the participation of staff from the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan and volunteers from the National Alpine Troops Association, which was later turned into a full-fledged field hospital. The activities carried out by the latter are described in the summary of the AISPO project. In all the tent cities and the two areas used to provide medical assistance, the Department worked to provide potable water and build sanitary facilities and areas for collective use, and to provide the families housed in the tents with basic essentials. The tents brought from Italy, most of them carried by the Canadairs to the two areas where they were used, were donated to the local authorities at the end of the initial



emergency phase.

Three years after the tsunami, one still runs across a few mounted tents both in the north and the south, discoloured but in perfect condition.

3 ETIMOS AND MICROCREDIT

Etimos, the operative branch of Banca Etica specialising in microcredit, began operating in Sri Lanka in April of 2005 with a projected funded by the Department's programme to support the island's institutions active in microloans: small loans designed to make it possible to start up businesses, even for people whose poverty or difficulties kept them out of the normal credit circuits. This form of support to very small, often female-owned businesses, often in the form of village- or community-level mutual aid societies or cooperatives, has proved to be a formidable tool even after an emergency, to provide concrete aid to the poorest segments of the stricken populations in building opportunities for income for themselves and their families. In Sri Lanka, Etimos identified two development banks, six microcredit institutions, one NGO and an association of very small-scale producers as local partners; their businesses had in fact been stymied by the damages suffered by current loan recipients all along the coast, who had been left unable to meet their commitments to repay the small sums they had received. Using three distinct approaches – capitalisation of its partners, support for loans issued and for training, and technological and organisational programmes for the local banks and institutions – Etimos in fact made it possible to resume issuing and granting thousands of small loans to as many beneficiaries. The extraordinary interest aroused by this project and its results, which exceeded all expectations – in terms not just of satisfying the direct beneficiaries but also for the project's role as reference and stimulus, becoming the opportunity for and the focus of an uninterrupted series of contacts, participation, new initiatives and new projects within the reach of the poorest members of the communities scattered along the coast, both in the south and in the tormented eastern parts of the island – convinced the Department and the Guarantors Committee to invest a significant share of the savings generated during operation of the programme together with Etimos. The result was the new Etimos-DPC project described in the first part of the volume among the six new projects that will complete the response in Sri Lanka.



BANCA ETICA ETIMOS

Agreements n.

28 and 53

District

Colombo

Cost

4,908,556.00 Euros

Duration

April '05 - April '07



**CIVIL
PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT**

Agreement n.
46

District
Colombo

Cost
3,457,424.00 Euros

Duration
January '05 - December '05



4 SUPPLY OF GOODS AND VEHICLES

The Department of Civil Protection developed this project in three separate areas, following the specific requests from three Sri Lankan agencies.

The first involved support, through the supply of materials and mechanical means including two 9,000 litre tanker trucks and two 7,000 litre cesspit emptiers, for the programme approved by the Ministry of Urban Development and Water Supply to ensure potable water supply in southern parts of the country hit by the tsunami, by cleaning wells and sewage systems, improving existing water systems, and building new aqueducts.

The second effort involved the request for aid made by the Ministry of National Building and Development to implement the programme for handling the problem of the thousands of tons of debris that the tsunami left along the coasts. The DPC participated in the programme by supplying heavy equipment for work in the island's northeast provinces, which were completely lacking in machinery suitable for collecting the rubble, to ensure proper disposal.

The third effort supported an initiative promoted by the Department itself, taken on by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC), the country's national broadcasting service, for the creation of a nationwide radio alert system capable of ensuring the immediate evacuation of the population in the event of an emergency. The Department provided the equipment necessary to boost the country's three main radio stations by equipping each with a stereo radio transmitter capable of ensuring reliable reception.



5 FAO AND FISHERY SUPPORT

Many of the NGO projects included in the programme funded by the Department involved repairing boats and motors, distributing nets and fishing equipment, donating new boats or setting up workshops for the construction of canoes and other small craft. The FAO project complemented the Department's contribution to the resumption of fishing in Sri Lanka with more structured efforts and with a different and more ambitious target than the first immediate aid, essential for fishermen in resuming their activity and producing income for their families. FAO's efforts took the form of an initial plan to survey the damages suffered by the fishermen and their coops, and then went on to formulating a fishing programme capable of optimising the results of the activity, and training for fishermen – explaining to them the benefits of specialising in catching certain species of fish that are more profitable in terms of market price – and, finally, supplying boats and equipment optimised for the various fishing techniques. FAO worked to steer the fishermen's groups and coops as much as possible towards equipping themselves for deepwater fishing using larger boats, capable of staying at sea for several days at a time. Some of the resources assigned to the project by the Department were used by FAO to rehabilitate or build new equipment on land, like shelters, warehouses and refrigeration units for keeping the catch. One final area of activity involved the basic supply and initial training for fishing families who, by personal choice or because of logistical or practical problems, expressed their intention to take up farming: these families were given tools, seed and training courses to help them become confident with their new activity, often faced by women as the result of diversification and an increase in



family income. FAO worked all along the coast, but especially in the south, between Galle, Tangalle and Hambantota, identifying those fishermen's groups and coops most willing to take up the challenge of new fishing methods and to take up farming in tandem with fishing.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Agreement n.

27

District

Colombo

Cost

2,981,545.00 Euros

Duration

June '05 - May '06



**CIVIL
PROTECTION
DEPARTMENT**

Agreement n.

63

District

Colombo

Cost

492,948.99 Euros

Duration

November '06 - July '07



6 ACTIVITIES COMMON TO THE PROGRAMMES

This is the only "project non-project" in the whole programme. This was designed to be a "any other business" item, essential in any serious expense budget, and was used as a container for items not provided for in other projects but essential to their completion.

The final spending amount recorded in it is attributable to various initiatives. The most substantial one involves an additional investment in electro-medical equipment and consumables (reagents and other laboratory materials) for the blood bank of Matara Hospital, implemented after delivery of the building built by the Department when the relative project had already been closed out, including in terms of accounting.

For the same reason (closing of original projects), some supplies of computer hardware and software intended for the first schools built and delivered by the Department were attributed to this project. The same expense was incurred for the schools completed in 2007, but it was done in time to include it in the balance for each project.

The last two items posted in this project involve the legal assistance required in Sri Lanka, widely used in closing out the contracts and in amending them, when – often because of the events associated with the civil war in the eastern part of the country – it was repeatedly necessary to change delivery and due dates, checking whether conditions were right for attributing and demanding the penalties called for by the contract. In one case, the Sri Lankan attorneys helped make the decision to go to court to terminate relations with a nonperforming company without paying damages, and the case was won. The final item in this project involves the expenses incurred for that portion of the photographic, video and journalistic documentation made in Sri Lanka and used on various occasions to inform the local population, and for the manufacture on the island of plaques, posters and other tools for identifying projects and works placed on the facilities delivered to the beneficiaries of the various projects.



7 THE ISTITUTO SUPERIORE DI SANITÀ (ISS) IN SRI LANKA

The tsunami devastated Sri Lanka's coasts, but it also exposed delays, a lack of updated data, and poor monitoring and scheduling by the country's authorities and agencies, who had to deal with the dynamics of reconstruction often without all the information needed to proceed effectively. The project that involved the Italian Istituto Superiore di Sanità, a technical and scientific body under the corresponding Italian ministry, was planned in support of the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health. The ISS conducted a project in support of the Sri Lankan health system, carrying it out in two major areas, field research and training for technicians and operators in the sector. Research efforts were concentrated on three different topics: socioeconomic health analysis of quality of life and poverty indicators, chemical and microbiological analysis of water, and finally a clinical-diagnostic analysis of the main health problems in the areas under review.

The activities were carried out mostly in the districts of Kalutara, Galle and Matara and directly involved doctors and nurses from local Ministry of Health facilities, the Medical Officers of Health (MOH), lab personnel from the National Institute of Health Sciences (MIHS) and the National Water Supply & Drainage Board (NWS&DB), which kept most of the equipment purchased by the Institute to carry out the monitoring and control activity. To correlate the data relating to the impact of socioeconomic conditions on the population's health conditions, 2,535 questionnaires were completed and 23 focus groups held, which provided information that was collected in a database and a final report. Chemical analysis of the water was based on more than 150 samples taken in various locations in the south. Chemical-diagnostic monitoring involved a representative sample of 1,300 people and provided information useful in defining priorities for arranging training for local personnel. The ISS made a particular commitment regarding the training of managers and technicians of the central laboratories of the Ministry of Health in Colombo, who are now trained and equipped for monitoring and analysing even food substances. A project summary and the results achieved were presented in Colombo on November 2, 2006, at a public conference that included representatives of the Sri Lankan Ministry of Health, the Higher Institute of Health and the DPC, to close out a project that provided the institutions responsible for the country's health and social policies with new, up-to-date techniques and methods for collecting and analysing data useful for the strategic planning of future projects.

ISTITUTO SUPERIORE DI SANITÀ

Agreement n.

25

District

Colombo

Cost

657,114.70 Euros

Duration

April '05 - November '06



PUNTO.SUD, ACTION AID, SIM	8 MONITORING
Agreement n. 47	<p>One of the projects in the general Programme in Sri Lanka was dedicated to auditing, checking and monitoring all operations run by the Department on the island, to declare and reinforce the conviction that these were not "extras" to be included if time and money were left over but rather an essential dimension "internal" to any serious programme of action that guarantees its accuracy, transparency and visibility.</p>
District Colombo	<p>Three entity worked in Sri Lanka and in Italy to give a systematic interpretation of the Programme's implementation, to provide the Department with information collected ad hoc on the progress of the activities and make it possible to keep them under control and to respond to any critical issues revealed during reconnaissance in the field and reading of the documentation produced by the implementing partner..</p>
Cost 475,000.00 Euros	<p>Action Aid International conducted research into the post-tsunami international aid projects in Sri Lanka, publishing four successive updates of a text that analyses the emergency phase and the subsequent phase of aid programme implementation by various actors, including the Department, and then follows implementation of the projects in the field through March 2006. The study, conducted using direct interviews, on-site visits and the documentation available on the Internet sites of the partner working in Sri Lanka, closes with a series of methodological considerations that lead Action Aid International to consider favourably the proposal to establish a National Emergency Fund in our country.</p>
Duration January '05 - December '07	<p>As requested by the Department, SIM did monitoring of all the initiatives included in the general Programme, describing their progress as of September 2006. The report includes a general part, which assesses the consistency of the Programme's management as a whole, highlighting the difficulties and critical issues encountered and overcome during the initiative, and a second part devoted to a specific analysis of the individual projects, as indicated in the general Programme. Both the study by Action Aid International and the report by SIM can be found on the Department's web site, in the section devoted to activities in Sri Lanka.</p>
	<p>Punto.sud operated in Sri Lanka from September 2005 to the end of the projects. The association provided consulting and technical support to the Department's administrative office required for assessing both the management procedures and the documentation produced as part of all the projects, for training the administrative personnel involved in running the Programme and for the final validation of the</p>

reports produced by the implementing partner; over time it became an essential reference point for all the monitoring, auditing and administrative closeout work for the Programme in Sri Lanka. Punto.sud's work also included the reorganisation, conservation and archiving of all the administrative documentation relating to the general Programme and the individual projects, as well as preparation of the contents of the Department site section devoted to the accounting of the activities carried out in Sri Lanka.

9 WATER SUPPLY

The Akurala school, built by the Department in the District of Galle, and the village of Kumburupiddy, built by the GVC in the north, are in areas not currently covered by water systems and where it was impossible to solve the water problem by drilling wells: in the former case because of construction space, and in the latter because of the weak capacity of the water table. The Department carried out an "ad hoc" project with the National Water Supply and Drainage Board in order to ensure both areas of an adequate supply of potable water for a period of three years, the time needed by the competent authorities to equip them with permanent water systems. For both the school and the village, the Department took charge of the cost of managing resupply – driver, maintenance, parts, fuel, etc. – which was done using tank-equipped trucks. In addition, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board was given machinery and materials useful for making the final connection within three years fix period.



CIVIL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Agreement n.

52

District

Colombo

Cost

248,597.54 Euros

Duration

July '06 - December '06

