

Briefing Paper on Taking stock of the Tsunami recovery process

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Promoting positive action towards disaster risk reduction and advising future recovery policies and practices when communities face the aftermath of a major disaster, a briefing paper has been launched on Taking stock of the Tsunami recovery process in Sri Lanka: 2004 to 2014.

A conference taking stock of the Tsunami recovery in Sri Lanka was held in Colombo in December 2014 organized by GDRC at Huddersfield, UK, University of Colombo and University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the unprecedented disaster. A number of papers dealing with diverse aspects of the disaster and its aftermath were presented, followed by a panel discussion that examined the policy implications of research findings presented by various authors and the discussions that followed. While some of the papers looked at broader issues of disaster risk reduction, others embodied analyses of data collected through recent field research in different parts of the country affected by the Tsunami. This brief policy statement is based on the deliberations throughout the conference involving researchers, public officials and other participants.

The main factors influencing recovery outcomes in Sri Lanka can be categorised as:

1. The nature and extent of settlement planning
2. The role of local institutions including local government
3. Socio-economic characteristics of victims
4. The role of donor agencies
5. Distance between the original and new settlement
6. Quality of construction
7. The nature and extent of social infrastructure
8. Beneficiary participation and community mobilisation

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