



Community Engagement Best Practice Award: 'Constructive Communities' Project Batticaloa LTRT



Mrs Josephine Pillai receiving the Community Engagement Award from Mr. Perry Mansfield (LTRT Programme Director) on behalf of the LTRT Batticaloa Office

Communities need to be involved in identifying their own problems, seeking solutions, and in making decisions about how to implement them. Projects often fail when they don't do this.

The best practice award is given to LTRT offices proactively engaging with communities and display excellence using various community engagement methods. It is also an opportunity for offices to learn from one another.

This month's award has been awarded to the LTRT Batticaloa for their innovative Constructive Communities Project.

If your office or team is proactively engaging with communities and displays best practice we would like to recognize your team work.

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1. The big Idea!

After learning some hard lessons at our other construction sites, the construction and HAT team wanted the community at Palayadithona to be more involved in the housing construction. The aim was to develop a greater sense of ownership for the community, while also having extra 'eyes and ears' on the construction site.



5. Community Participation

The community organised the meeting to be held at a nearby school one morning during the week after the men had returned from fishing when children would be engaged in CFS activities so mothers could attend. The community actively participated in the training.



2. Planning

Stakeholder Representative Assistants and Community mobilisers canvassed the community at Palayadithona to gauge interest in running a community training workshop. They received a positive response from this meeting and it also emerged that many of the beneficiaries wanted to be employed on the construction site as laborers.



6. Information Gathering: Construction Log Book

A community log book was set up and left with the community mobiliser so that community members could record any questions, complaints or queries they had about the construction of their houses, at the construction site conveniently located right next door to their temporary shelters!



3. Preparation

Construction Managers Rocky Muguba and Mike Wolfe drafted material to present at the community training workshop. They brought along examples of good and poor construction materials and pictures so new concepts were easier to understand



7. Follow-Up

Beneficiaries have been using their new knowledge to make regular entries to the log book. After entries are made they are reviewed by the Stakeholder Representative Assistant and the community mobiliser.



4. Local Capacities For Peace

Meanwhile, the construction team advocated to have beneficiaries employed on the construction site. As a result, half the laborers working on the site are beneficiaries from the surrounding temporary shelter site. And based on our LCP assessment, the construction site was used as a way to connect people in the area with many of the other laborers employed from surrounding communities.



8. The next step

Once log-book entries have been discussed, our Stakeholder Representative Assistant communicates them to our construction team, who then follow-up at the construction site and take action if necessary. Work is now progressing so well that planning for a follow-up training session is already underway!

