



# Community Accountability Best Practice Award: 'Constructive Communities' Project Jaffna LTRT



Nimalraj Stanislaus receiving the Community Accountability Award from Mr. Perry Mansfield (LTRT Program Director) on behalf of the Jaffna HAT & Jaffna LTRT 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 Jaffna 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. Accountability means accepting responsibility

In order to level the land and lay foundations for 122 houses at Pothpathy UDA site all vegetation was removed. Since we at World Vision are accountable for all our actions, we accepted that we should have consulted more thoroughly with the communities and thought about the long term implications of this action. Through consultation with the community it was decided to replenish the area with useful trees and use it as a peace building opportunity.



## 4. The unstable environment of Jaffna

After August 11th 2006 security rapidly deteriorated in the North of Sri Lanka, communications were inaccessible, and a large portion of the population were displaced. The context within which LTRT Jaffna staff were working changed and fluctuated dramatically. However, with perseverance implementation of positive and sustainable projects have continued.

## 2. Community Consultation Exploring Accountability

Several community meeting were run by Kathir. At the meetings community members had the opportunity to talk through the different options, identify suitable plants and be part of the decision making process. Kathir explained that accountability means World Vision takes account for its actions and are held responsible for them. to communities and other stakeholders. Like everyone we make mistakes but strive to learn from them and make redress wherever possible. It was decided to purchase 2375 local native seedlings, including mahogany, coconut, mango, pomegranate and palmyra fronds to shelter the plants. The trees were planted at the shelter site, in the temple, in schools and in the church.

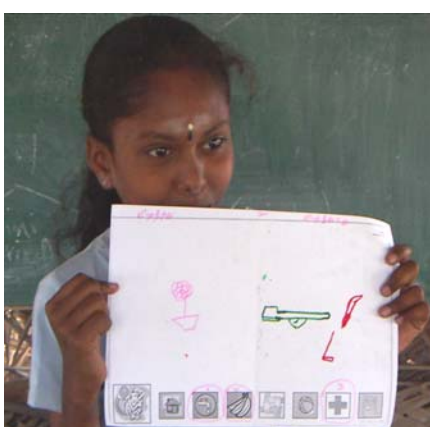


## 6. From Accountability Principles and Commitment to Demonstrated Action

Transporting materials to Potpathy is a difficult task now. Materials had to be unloaded & loaded at two places for security checks. Truck owners are no longer willing to take their vehicles to Potpathy. Yet despite these difficulties Kathir and Nimalraj pushed through with the replanting and continued to support those stakeholders involved. With the program transitioning over the next quarter the LTRT Jaffna staff continue to model accountability principals and commitment in action!

## 3. Local Capacity for Peace & Peacebuilding

The Local Capacity for Peace assessment had revealed the tensions between the community in Pothpathy & the nearby village of Kudatanai. Kathir organized Christian and Hindu youths from these communities to work together planting seedlings. Christian youths planted trees at a Hindu Temple at Kudatanai and joined hands with the Hindu youths at Kudatanai as part of a closing activity ceremony.



V.Kathiramali (Stakeholder Representative) Jaffna in from of Pothpathy UDA site with the trees in the foreground.