



# Community Engagement & Accountability Best Practice Award: Economic Recovery Community Transition Program Matara LTRT



Mr Priyantha Karalliyadde & Mr Sisera Fernando receiving the Community Engagement & Accountability Award from Mr. Perry Mansfield (LTRT Programme Director) on behalf of the LTRT Matara 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 Matara for their innovative economic recovery community transition program.

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

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### 1. Small Group Formation

The Economic Recovery Team in Matara, are actively engaging with 230 small groups in regard to World Vision's transition out of tsunami work in the District. The groups are made up mostly of empowered women who are showing that by actively working together sustainable livelihoods can be generated. The groups engage in a range of income generating activities from fish processing to batik making.



### 2. Planning

World Vision will be transitioning from the Matara Economic Recovery Program in March 2007. Even before the PACT/HAT transition assessment in early September the team had already worked with the community and determined plans, which will enable the small groups to prosper into the future without World Vision support.



### 3. CBO Development

A key part of the transition plan is to assist the 230 groups organize themselves into 14 CBOs. World Vision Matara has conducted a lot of research to determine the options for registration of the CBOs – they can be registered under the Special Society Act and the pros and cons of each were discussed with the community. Mobilizers also researched at village level about the pre-existing CBOs who were already operational so that small groups had the option to join existing structures rather than create new CBOs. Monthly community meetings were conducted to ensure the people were kept updated of the latest research findings and community feedback.



### 4. Community Transition Planning

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of October, nine full-day planning sessions were held with the members of the small groups in each GN. At these sessions the groups worked together to review their achievements thus far, determine their goals for the future, evaluate the program and develop a transition plan. planning sessions were circulated within the small groups and formed



### 5. Linkages

Links to other organizations have been deliberately fostered throughout the formation of small groups as well as for the transition. CBOs have been linked to Divisional Secretaries, Rural Development Ministries, INGO's and Civil Society Organizations. These organizations will support the CBOs once WV has transitioned out of the district.



### 6. The Future Looks Good

Transition has been an ongoing focus for World Vision Matara and Priyantha and his team is already planning for the final stages of World Vision support for the CBOs and small groups. He has 3 final meetings planned. The first will look for potential office bearers for the CBOs, again discuss progress and registration options. The second meeting, approximately one week later will engage the CBOs in the formation of a constitution, which will be drafted by World Vision but needs feedback from the communities. The final meeting will aim to assist the CBOs officially submit the documents to become registered. Then it's up to them to work together towards a vibrant future!

