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Identification of economic vulnerability of tsunami affected fishing community in Sri Lanka for rehabilitation and reconstruction: A Case study of tsunami affected fishing community in Kalutara district

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The Indian Ocean Tsunami that hit the country on 26 December 2004 has had severe impact on Fisheries Industry. It affected the Fisheries infrastructures and community in 12 out of 14 coastal districts. This study examined the impacts on the vulnerability of fishing community of Kalutara district and the impact of the tsunami relief and rehabilitation activities on the level of vulnerability of this community.

A Survey was conducted at Three Fisheries Inspector (FI) Divisions in Kalutara District and composite vulnerability indices were computed by using Normalization method. The variables of income per month, expenditure per month, number of dependents, number of fishing days per month, Land size, value of productive assets, savings per month, loans taken and age of household head were taken into account for the computation of Composite Vulnerability Index. Results showed that composite vulnerability index is 0.41 and fishing community of Kalutara District is in average level of vulnerability.

The short-term rehabilitation and reconstruction strategies and programmes implemented to assist tsunami affected community to rebuilt their livelihood assets, re-establish their fishing activities and start fish marketing, processing and distribution showed some success in Kalutara District. However, institutional support facilities and services are not fully completed. To smooth implementation, effective coordination will be required for channelling of official and private funds and improved co-ordination and communication among the various agencies be critical for rehabilitate and reconstruct on fishing community.

This composite vulnerability computation, which can be applied to evaluate effectiveness and success of strategies and programmes, implemented at different time and locations.

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Tsunami and its impact on fisheries industry in Hambantota district of Sri Lanka

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December 26, 2004 the earth quake occurred close by the Sumathra Islands created a tsumani situation at north, east and south region of Sri Lanka and caused heavy damages killing over 30,000 people, destroying over 100,000 homes and weakening the livelihood of the victims. Also, the natural ecosystems, and coastal infrastructure were destroyed to a great extent. Twenty percent of the coastal population affected in Hambantota district and more than seventy percent were affected in north and east regions. Fisheries industry experiences a large amount of losses among the affected economic sectors and industries. Not only the livelihood of the people who are directly involved in fishing but also the livelihood of the people in related industries, were impacted by the disaster. In general, death, displacements, and damages to the fishing boats and fishing harbors are the results of the Tsunami which pave the way to an economic and social crisis in the country. As it discloses the significant direct impact to fisheries industries and to the nation at large, the purpose of this study is to asses the damage and inquire the needs for those who engaged in fisheries and related industries in Hambantota district. Godawaya village in Hambantota district is selected for the study as it is one of the villages involving in different sub sectors of the fisheries industry and it has been seriously affected by Tsunami. Fifty families, which involved in fisheries industry, are directly interviewed using a structured