

One Disaster After Another (p. 12-13)

Identify the different needs of these workers in the Sri Lankan community. How might the tsunami have affected their businesses? What resources might assist these people to return to work after the disaster?

<p>Women working at their sewing machines to make clothing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Effect of tsunami on business: · Resources needed:	<p>Farmers who grew crops and kept animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Effect of tsunami on business: · Resources needed:
<p>Men and women who had a stall at the local market selling vegetables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Effect of tsunami on business: · Resources needed:	<p>Builders of houses and fishing boats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Effect of tsunami on business: · Resources needed:

Working Women

Twice a month, 27 young mothers get together to share stories and food in the small suburb of Dickwalle, Sri Lanka. Each woman lost her husband in the tsunami nearly two years ago and now attends a widow's society operated by World Vision.



Damayanthi is one of the women who attends a support group that helps widows provide for their children.

One of the grieving women is Damayanthi Manackarage.

Damayanthi's husband was driving a customer in his taxi when the 10-metre wave inundated the coastal road he was travelling on. His four-month pregnant wife was left alone with their then six-year-old daughter.

"When I am at home, I feel like I am alone in this. When we get together though, I see that there is equality in our suffering. We have all experienced the same loss. It's good to hear how one day I will be able to move on with my life."

As part of World Vision's economic recovery program, Damayanthi attends a widow's support network that helps encourage women to find ways of providing for their children. Community leaders were asked to identify potential mothers who were either living alone, or with extended family, that would benefit from a group

focused on their needs. The group that began with 11, now welcomes 26 women every other week.

"Now I use the sewing machine and material World Vision gave me to sew saris that I can sell locally. We would have no income if I didn't have this machine."

This economic recovery program is helping the women to plan a committee that would include a chairman, treasurer and secretary. Ten percent of all the income that the women make will go into a fund and then be distributed to those most in need each month.



Lalith earns an income by selling vegetables at the market.

Market Vendors

“If it wasn’t for the help we received to rebuild this market, we wouldn’t have any way to take care of our families,” explains Lalith. “I can’t imagine where I would be without this market.”

As part of World Vision’s economic recovery program in Sri Lanka, Lalith and other vendors in Galle’s Green Market are able to continue working and earning an income. World Vision funded the paving of surrounding roads that were torn up by the tsunami, upgrades to the drainage systems that buckled under the pressure of the water, and provided many vendors with new stalls to help sell their vegetables.

“I have been selling vegetables at this market for 17 years but without the help, I wouldn’t have been able to recover,” admits Lalith. “I suppose I would have had to sell vegetables on the street, changing location each day. I would have lost all of my regular clients.”

World Vision will also donate garbage and composting bins to the marketplace, and install rainwater-harvesting tanks that collect water for vendors to use throughout the day.

“Repairing the building was the first step for us to return to our normal lives. This stall helps me provide enough food, medicine and school supplies so that my two children will have a better life than me. We all have hopes and dreams that nearly died on the day of the tsunami. Now we can continue to hope for bright futures for our children.”



Buildings are reconstructed following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

Builders

A cement manufacturing plant is ensuring tsunami-affected youth are given skills training and employment, while producing much-needed materials for permanent home construction.

People are provided with two months of paid training, after which they can acquire a loan and begin their own cement block business.

The blocks that are produced are distributed among those who are struggling to rebuild their homes on their own land. To date, 144 tsunami-affected youth have been trained and provided with employment on a cash-for-work basis. In addition, 530,400 cement blocks have been produced for the construction of permanent housing – enough to build 530 houses.

World Vision Sri Lanka also introduced a scheme that allows people with disabilities in the region to earn money working on a project to build permanent houses for their tsunami-affected neighbours.

The plan bought special tractors that can be operated entirely by hand, so people who have lost one or both legs can operate them. Local people with disabilities were hired to drive these tractors, loaded up with building materials, to and from building sites where World Vision was helping to construct permanent shelters.

They were paid for this work and used some of that payment to buy the tractors by installments. When the permanent shelters are completed, the tractor drivers will then use the vehicles for their own businesses.

There's no reason why people with disabilities can't be involved with reconstruction of their communities.



Workers receive skills training to rebuild homes and buildings following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.