



Government of the Republic of Maldives
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)



PRESS RELEASE: PROJECT HANDOVER

Project title: Programme for Post-Tsunami Recovery in the Shelter Sector: Short Term Housing and Community Facility, Guraidhoo Island.
Country: The Republic of Maldives
Executing Agency: UNDP/UN-HABITAT
In Partnership with: The Citizens of Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan and the People of Norway
Location: Island of Guraidhoo, Kaafu Atoll
Date: 10 April 2007

SUMMARY OF PROJECT UNDERTAKINGS

Seven months after the devastation of the December 2004 Asian Tsunami, nine homeless families continued to live in tents on the beach of Guraidhoo Island in Kaafu Atoll. In response, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), in partnership with UNDP and the International Federation of the Red Cross, responded to alleviate the urgent shelter needs of these families.

Within the framework of the Shelter Recovery Program, the project funded the construction of a community facility to provide short-term housing for these homeless families. The Island Women's Development Committee (WDC) worked closely with the Shelter Recovery Programme in the design and management of the unit. Following the relocation of families to their new homes, the facility will continue to benefit the island as a community centre under the custodianship of the WDC, with special emphasis on accommodating women's activities. The facility will provide a much-needed venue for meetings, child care, training classes, and craft activities of the local women.

In addressing the specific challenges of this project, the project shared the common implementation modality of the Post-tsunami Shelter Recovery Programme. The Programme provided the Women's Development Committee with **building materials** and **grant capital** to employ the services of a building contractor, as well as the **organizational and technical guidance** necessary to ensure sound construction.

THE HANDOVER CEREMONY

The handover ceremony began on the morning of 10 April 2007 with the arrival of a delegation of UNDP, UN-Habitat, and the Government of Maldives representatives on the Island of Guraidhoo, Kaafu Atoll. Representing the Government of Maldives were Mr. Hamid Yoosuf (Director General, Ministry of Atoll Development), Ms. Fathimath Yumna (Director, Ministry of Gender and Family), Ms. Sarawak (Ministry of Gender and Family), and Mr. Mohamed Adam (Atoll Chief, Kaafu Atoll). UNDP was represented by Mr. Shaheem Razee (Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP Maldives). UN-Habitat was represented by Mr. Srinivasa Popuri (Shelter Recovery Programme Manager).

The members of the delegation were welcomed at the jetty by smiling faces of the local community members holding fresh coconuts as refreshments. The delegation was then led by Ms. Shiyaama Hassan, the President of the Women's Development Committee of Guraidhoo Island, to the site of the Women's Development Center where they had an opportunity to walk through and inspect the Centre first-hand. Once through, the formal handover ceremony commenced with the recital of the Ko'ran by one of the local youths. Congratulatory speeches by Ms. Hassan and Mr. Adam followed, after which the Completion Certificate and the Declaration of Ownership were signed by present parties.

Many pictures were taken afterwards to commemorate the occasion and a traditional Maldivian-style lunch was provided by the Guraidhoo community.



Clockwise: Mr. Hamid Yoosuf, the Director General of the Ministry of Atoll Development, and Mr. Srinivasa Popuri, Shelter Recovery Programme Manager of UNDP/UN-Habitat, inspecting the construction of the WDC; the recital of the Ko'ran to begin the ceremony; the signboard in front of the WDC details the project; Ms. Shiyaama Hassan signs the Declaration of Ownership to formalize the receipt of the WDC; building-back-better...together