WHO Conference on Health Aspects of Tsunami Disaster in Asia

Phuket, Thailand
4–6 May 2005
2.8 Water and Sanitation

Sri Lankan Experience

Deepthi Sumanasekera
Asst. General Manager (RWS),
NWSDB
Sri Lanka
Areas Affected

10 Districts

LEGEND
- Affected Coast Line
- Worst Affected Areas

10 Districts
Magnitude of the Damage

- 550,000 were affected
- 30,000 deaths
- Around 1000 IDP Camps
- 50,000 service connections destroyed in 10 major wss
- Contamination of 40,000 shallow wells
Cleaning of wells

Repaired transmission

Flushing of wells

Cleaning of wells

Damaged distributions

Tsunami Health Conference

World Health Organization
Water Supply

• Immediate Needs:
  • Formalize water supply at IDP camps (facilities available & Supplementary)
  • Assess and repair the damages to headworks of pipe borne wss
  • Accurate assessment of drinking water requirement in IDP camps
  • Arrange additional supply
  • Storage at camps
  • Cleaning of shallow wells
  • Awareness
Sanitation

- Challenges faced:
  - Inadequate toilets in IDP camps
  - De-sludging of filled pits in camps
  - O&M of common toilets
  - Repairs & reconstruction of toilets where houses are partially damaged
  - Behavioral changes required
  - Environmental threat due to damaged pits
What was good?

- Initial public intervention (volunteers !)
- Institutional links already existed within the sector
- Quick response through decentralized institutional arrangement
- Establishing a Central Coordination Unit (CNO)
- Carrying out of a RAPID TECHNICAL NEED ASSESSMENT for medium & long-term planning
Shortcomings Observed

• Absence of an emergency plan
• External Assistance:
  – Predetermined assistance
  – No specific focal area
  – Duplication of works
  – Lack of needed assistance
  – Few software assistance
Shortcomings (contd.)

- Difficulties in Planning due to no firm commitments
- Ineffective & inappropriate investments
- Inappropriate timing
- Lack of knowledge about NGO capacities
- Lack of accountability
Plans Ahead

• 3 PHASES
  • Immediate relief
  • Restoration of need for settlements
  • Expansion to enhance service level

• Major Concerns
  • Water resources
  • Fast implementation