

Assessment of the Success of Government 's Emergency Relief Programme in Matara District

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the success of the emergency relief programme implemented by Government authorities in Matara, a district badly affected by the Tsunami of 26 December 2004. Guided by a questionnaire, 80 families accommodated in three Tsunami camps were first interviewed to ascertain whether they were satisfied with the way relief was provided to them. Based on a separate questionnaire, the views of the bureaucracy were sought thereafter on the same issue. The constraints faced by Government officials in distributing relief were also examined. Two research teams were detailed for the above study. It was concluded that the efficiency and effectiveness of the government's emergency relief programme in Matara was a success. The factors contributing to the success of an emergency relief programme are: a sound information base, leadership, motivation and rewards, human resource training, resource availability and inter-agency coordination.

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