

# 20 years after - then and now

## An explorative study of the status of communities relocated in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami in Sri Lanka

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ICG/IOTWMS Working Group 1 on Tsunami Risk, Community  
Awareness and Preparedness  
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AN EXPLORATIVE STUDY OF THE  
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# Rationale for the study



- 26th of December 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the Indian Ocean Tsunami
- Since 2004, relocated communities have lived in relocation sites and have encountered many socio-economic, political, psychological and environmental challenges
- Longitudinal studies regarding the relocated communities are limited
- Significant gap in knowledge regarding the situation of relocated communities “a long time after relocation”

# Objectives

To explore the status of community formation and social cohesion amongst the relocated communities

To understand the status of livelihood and social infrastructure restoration initiatives

To comprehend gender related impacts of post-tsunami relocation

To apprehend the impact exerted by the relocation process on vulnerable groups such as children, disabled and elderly

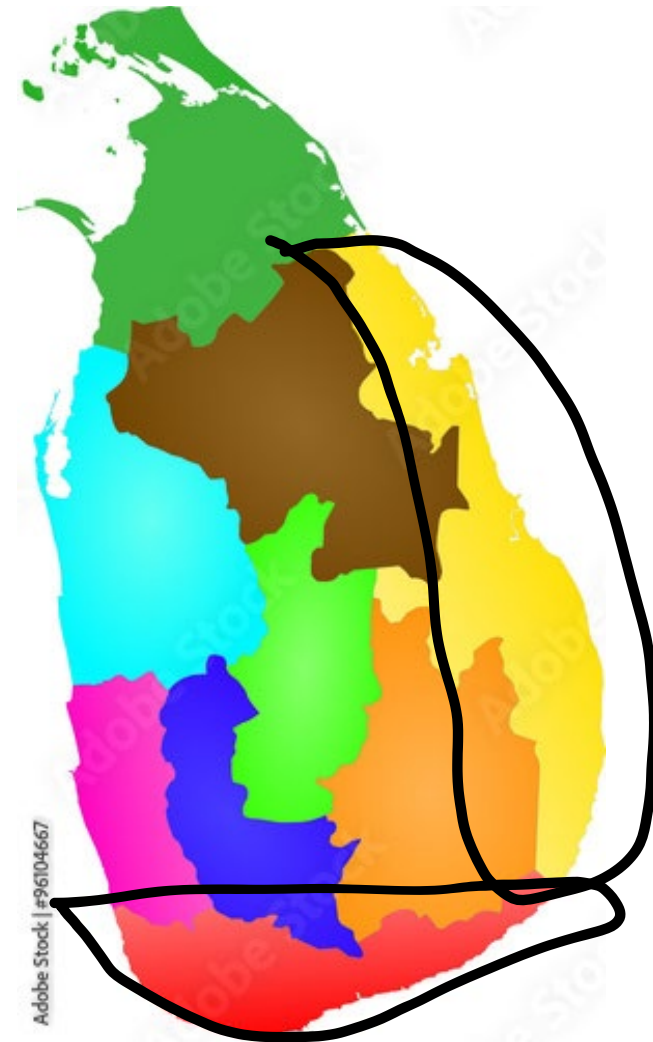
To understand the long-term impacts of post-Indian Ocean Tsunami recovery and relocation policies

To comprehend the issues and challenges that have emerged from the relocation process a long time after relocation

To understand the coping and adaptation strategies employed by relocated communities to overcome the challenges

# Selection of relocation sites

- The study intends to explore the status of relocation sites located in the Southern and Eastern provinces
- Availability of secondary data that would enable the current study to build a comprehensive and holistic picture of relocation sites.
- Longitudinal access to relocation sites



# Selected relocation sites

Community	Donor	Original number of housing units
<b>Southern Province – Galle district</b>		
1. Laxman Kadiragamar settlement	Tsunami Relief Cooperation Germany	<b>120</b>
2. Babaragoda Green Village settlement	Salzburg community Austria	<b>78</b>
3. Ihalagoda Chima Friendship Village	South China Charity Federation	<b>145</b>
<b>Eastern Province – Batticaloa district</b>		
1. Dutch Bar Community, Thiraimadu	Swiss Red Cross and Swiss Solidarity	<b>100</b>

# Selected groups

- The study aims to collect data from five groups of individuals that are part and parcel of the relocation process. These are:
  - Original tsunami settlers
  - Original settlers who moved back to the buffer zone
  - New settlers
  - Host community
  - Officials (central/provincial/local)



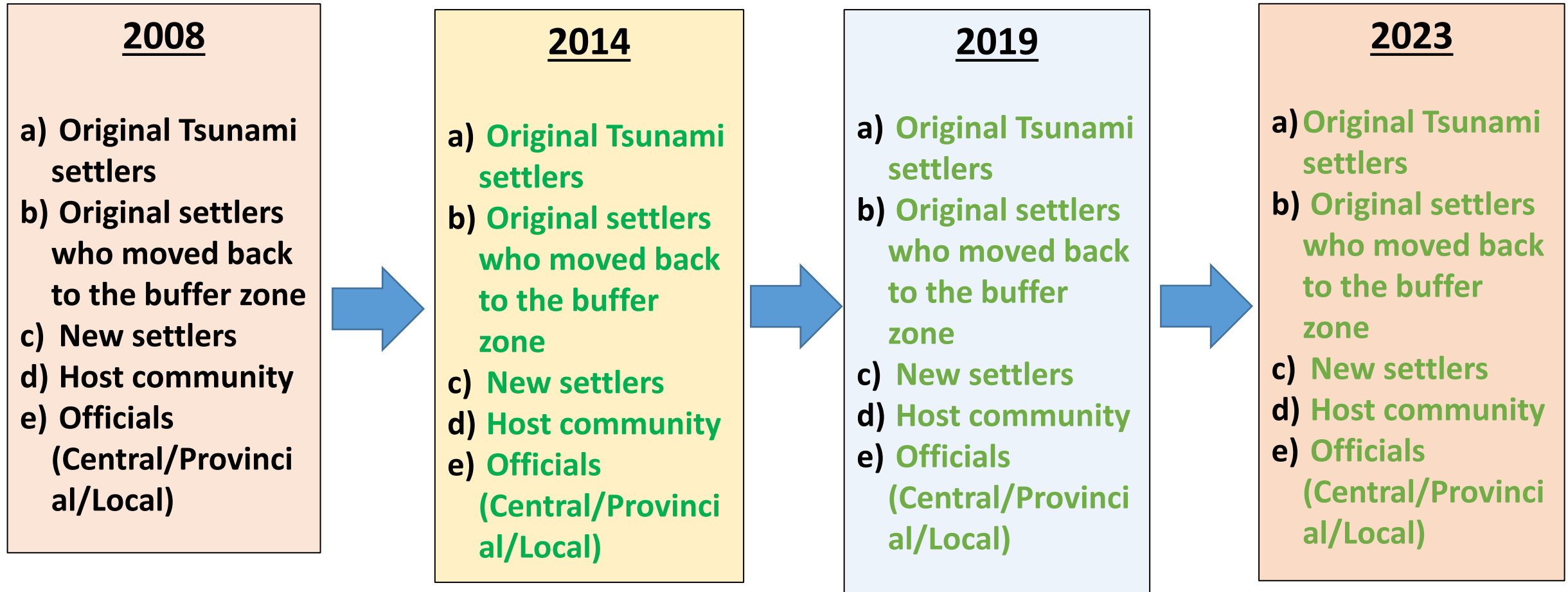
# Data collection methods and techniques

- Structured interview schedules
- A literature review
- Secondary data sources such as government statistics, peer reviewed journal articles, books, reports, documentaries
- Secondary data on socio-demographic details, the relocation process, vulnerable groups, issues and challenges experienced by relocated communities, host communities,





# Groups interviewed in 2008,2014, 2019 and intend to collect in 2023



# Key outputs



1. **A comprehensive report** on the status of relocated communities
2. Publication of **2 high quality journal articles**
3. **Drafting of a policy paper** on voluntary and involuntary relocation
4. **Drafting a position paper** on voluntary and involuntary relocation
5. Organising a **round table discussion with key stakeholders** to disseminate findings
6. **Share the findings** at the planned Global Tsunami symposium to be held in Indonesia in 2024. Format to be discussed

# The way forward

- Data collection and analysis, drawing conclusions
- Potential for other countries to do a similar study
- Discussions with WG1 on possible links with the planned Global Tsunami symposium to be held in Indonesia in 2024