

## **A roof over their heads**

**Sri Lanka 2006**

Malika participates in Oxfam Australia's innovative housing program in Sri Lanka. A single mother with five children, Malika was identified by her community as one of the poorest and in need of housing support; before the tsunami, Malika's family had been living in a mud-thatched house.



Malika and her family in front of their new home.

Photo: A.L Suneetha OxfamAUS

Oxfam Australia bulk-bought construction materials to be used over a two-year period as part of its housing program. We supplied building materials while Malika and her family designed the new brick house and contributed labour. "I would never have dreamt that I would ever live in a house like this," said Malika, "not in this birth."

We work under the principle of 'do no harm', ensuring activities are gender and conflict sensitive and do not create tensions in communities. We support tsunami-affected people as well as the poorest in tsunami-affected areas who are equally or more disadvantaged. Working this way creates a greater impact on alleviating poverty.