

Small Action Projects Fact Sheet

Strengthening the resource mobilization capacity of NGOs working in the North of Sri Lanka



During SDC's many engagements in the North, the need to strengthen the resource mobilization capacity of local NGOs and community based organizations increasingly became evident. In a changing aid context with humanitarian needs still remaining to be met, it is imperative for organizations to change their outlook and strategies for development/humanitarian aid fund raising. A two day training workshop on resource mobilization strategies was organized for local agencies carrying out relief, resettlement and rehabilitation activities in the North of Sri Lanka. The workshop was conducted by the **Centre for Advancement of Resource Mobilization**. A fair representation of men and women represented local NGOs and CBOs. Topics discussed included how to strengthen their ability to develop fund raising plans, approach potential local and international donors and write up appropriate funding requests and proposals.

Employing community based initiatives to address violence and abuse of children, with a specific focus on the exploitation and early marriage of adolescent girls

While the focus in the conflict affected North is mainly on re-building scattered communities and society, issues such as child protection, domestic violence, sexual abuse, child labour, exploitation and early marriage are becoming of increasing concern. SDC supports the **Jaffna Social Action Centre (JSAC)** to employ mobilization strategies within communities to develop village based mechanisms to prevent violence and abuse of children. The project further provides guidance to young adults to develop life skills, understand sexual and reproductive health issues, understand and practice non-violence, plan for a stable future with sustainable employment and to fully participate in community activities.

Livelihood assistance for women headed families in the Chankanai division, Jaffna

The Chankanai Divisional Secretariat area consists of more than 2'763 women headed families including 178 war widows who have returned from IDP camps. Most of them find it difficult to manage their daily needs with the government welfare allowance. Often young children from these families are compelled to stop their education half way and seek employment for a very low wage. SDC supports 50 women headed households to earn a living and reduce their dependency status as well as to manage themselves independently through sustainable income generating activities. The project is implemented by **Shanthiham**, who will also provide any necessary psycho-social counseling services to beneficiary families.

Provision of prosthetics and mobility devices to patients identified as economically vulnerable in the conflict affected areas of the northern province.

Due to the conflict, a disproportionately high number of amputees and other disabled persons, who require prosthetics and life long orthopaedic support, live in the North of Sri Lanka. The **Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability (JJCDR)** is the only rehabilitation centre in the Jaffna district which has been providing free, customized orthotic, mobility and physiotherapy support since 1987 to disabled persons, especially those with economic vulnerability. SDC is supporting JJCDR to provide up to 160 economically vulnerable disabled persons with free custom made orthopaedic /mobility devices and prosthetics, thereby enabling to reintegrate socially and live full lives.



When Anton Dilakshiya, lost her right leg in a shell attack, at the tender age of 10, during the last stages of fighting in 2009, she thought that her future dreams and hopes were shattered. Dilakshiya is one of the persons benefiting from SDC's support this year. Every year she has to have her prosthetic leg modified/re-casted to fit her, as she is a growing child. JJCDR provides basic accommodation facilities to patients such as Dilakshiya, to stay in-house and receive physiotherapy for up to 3 days each year, and to also ensure that the new/modified limb fits to perfection, before allowing them to walk away. With her new found mobility, she can now walk to school independently and manage her daily work alone.

Improve sanitation condition for the displaced dwellers of Kurunagar at Allipiddy



The original residents of Kurunagar returned to the Kurunagar flats after 20 years of being displaced by the war. With the gradual increase in the number of people over the years, the flats were becoming over-crowded resulting in unhygienic sanitary conditions and an increase in other social problems. The **Alliance for Relocation Reconstruction Kurunagar (AREK)** has facilitated these families to relocate to Allipiddy village. While a majority of the families settled in permanent houses with support from private donors, 32 families remain in temporary shelters without latrine facilities. SDC is supporting AREK to construct latrines for these 32 families and to enhance hygienic habits and awareness about health and sanitation issues among the resettled families.

Supporting and strengthening the income generation of families in the Tellipallai division, Jaffna

The Tellipallai division in the Jaffna District is ideally suitable for agriculture. However, intensified agriculture using chemical fertilizers and pesticides has led to widespread prevalence of soil and water contamination. SDC supports a project to encourage farmers to use organic farming and environmentally friendly traditional agricultural methods, implemented by the **Vaddukodai Development Foundation (VDF)** in Jaffna. The project targets economically vulnerable resettled farming families. The project introduces and promotes natural organic practices and eco-friendly agro products, provides assistance to vulnerable farming families to purchase agricultural inputs, and strengthens market linkages for sale of organic produce. Beneficiaries will also be trained to draw up business development plans and maintain proper financial records.

“My Worlds”: A creative journey to one’s cultural roots

While more than 43’000 Sri Lankan migrants, many of them of war refugees of Tamil descent, live in Switzerland they comprise the largest non-European diaspora in Switzerland. This main objective of this project was to attempt to reconnect children of the Sri Lankan diaspora with their cultural heritage and with children living in Sri Lanka. The project aimed to build ties between the children and facilitate intercultural dialogue between two groups which share a cultural heritage, despite being divided during the years of armed conflict. The project which was implemented by **Joel Sames**, a Swiss photographer, consisted of two components, in Switzerland and in Sri Lanka, where children were empowered to express themselves and explore complex questions about belonging, identity, and culture, through art.



Renewed hope through Playback Theatre” - Theatre of Friendship National Gathering 2013- Jaffna

The project focused on using Playback Theatre in Sri Lanka to initiate friendships between communities that were on opposing sides during the country’s ethnic conflict. Youth from diverse communities of from different ethnic and social backgrounds, were brought together to receive training and to artistically express themselves through theatre.

Implemented by **Kaveri Kala Manram, Jaffna**, the project supported trainings in Playback Theatre to youth groups in the four regions of Jaffna, Galle, Colombo and Hatton. It further supported a National Gathering bringing these four groups together, creating a platform for these youth to mix, train, connect with each other, and perform together. The gathering was planned at the time of the traditional Tamil Thaipongal Festival, giving visitors to Jaffna an opportunity to observe a significant Tamil festival and giving the Jaffna hosts an opportunity to present their culture to their colleagues.