

INFORMATION

Update



August 2011

CHA Launched Sphere Handbook 2011 Edition



Launching ceremony of 2011 Edition Sinhala, Tamil and English versions of the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response

was held on 24th August 2011 at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies. Hon Basil Rajapaksha,

Minister of Economic Development graced the occasion with an invitee list of government officials, diplomats, UN, aid agencies and corporate heads and representatives.

The event was well attended and the presence of the Minister of Economic Development, Hon Basil Rajapaksha expressed the Government's recognition in ensuring adherence to minimum standards in responding to disasters. Ambassadors from over ten diplomatic missions and donor representatives in Sri Lanka attended the launch. Swiss Development Cooperation Office in Sri Lanka (SDC) in partnership with CHA provided the funding for the translation of books into the Tamil and Sinhala languages. The event also provided an opportunity to disseminate

(Continued on page 2)

In this IU issue



Presentation on NGO taxation -
Page 2



Contribution to the health and other needs of resettled community
Page 3



Training Programs
Page 4

Presentation on NGO taxation



CHA hosted a forum discussion through its Membership to elaborate and understand the new guidelines for remission for NGO income tax in terms of section 102 of the Inland Revenue Act No.10 of 2006. It was held at 09.30 hrs on 26th August at the ADB Auditorium, Colombo 7 and was addressed by Mr H B A Seneviratne, Deputy Commissioner General **Tax Policy and International Affairs of the Department of Inland Revenue**. It was of immense benefit to all agencies – I/NGOs who were present and also enabled them to clarify through an open discussion.

Mr Seneviratne briefed the audience principally on the following sub-topics.

- General Chargeability to Income tax
- Income Tax Payable by NGOs on grants, donations or other receipts
- Remission of tax (for any Y/A commencing from 01.04.2011)
- Procedure to be followed
- Application for the remission of tax

The PP presentation of the Deputy Commissioner General of IRD could be obtained on written request to cprpliaise@cha.lk

(Continued from page 1)



the books to a wide range of invitees. Each invitee was presented with copies of Sinhala, Tamil and English versions of the Sphere Handbook. It was a successful project; Info Unit team has done more effort to achieve the

target on time. CHA undertook translation in Tamil & Sinhala , designing in all three languages. Formatting and designing were carried out in house for the books and promotional activities including banners and posters.

Services offered by the CHA Information Unit

- **Printing, Translation and Editing.** Some of our prospective clients in the month of August are; ARC worldwide, Leo Burnart, Save the children, SOS, Equal Ground, and UNOCHA.
- **Graphic Designing**

Contribution to the health and other needs of resettled community.....

Ampan Hospital- Jaffna renovated



The divisional hospital in Ampan, abandoned for over 20 years and was in high security zone was completely Renovated and equipped by CHA through the partnership of MERCY Malaysia with the funding of Ministry of Foreign affairs, Malaysia.



In October 2010, the Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition of Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MERCY Malaysia in partnership with CHA, to take part in the renovation and refurbishment of Ampan Hospital in Jaffna. Ampan is one of the resettled areas and was also affected by the Tsunami that hit Sri Lanka in 2004.

WATSON Standards in Resettled villages



A water and sanitation programme was completed in Navalady, a resettled location in Ariyalai in Jaffna district. The project was implemented with the assistance of Department of Community Medicine, University of Jaffna and with

the financial support of MERCY Malaysia. 41 families were assisted by Well renovation and over 300 persons will have access to clean water. Additionally, a hygiene education programme was also conducted and free hygiene kits were distributed for 140 families. A training on communicable diseases and reproductive health was provided to the village health volunteers and mid wife in Nallur MOH with assistance from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Jaffna.

Vocational Training for Rehabilitated and war affected Youth



CHA Undertook vocational training programmes with the support of ILO for rehabilitated and war affected youths in Poonerian division in Wann

while NAITA facilitated the trainings. Computer hardware training was already commenced and four more programme will commence from 1st of September. 320 youths from Poonerian and Kilinochchi DS divisions are selected for the programme. Participants are given an option of selecting the training from nine different trades. The training will be for the period of four months.

Highlights of UNDP/CHA conflict Sensitive trainings

Training in Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Jaffna and Killinochi districts were conducted with two training sessions in each district. The selection of participants was done by the UNDP from conflict affected villages.

Batticaloa - 28th – 30th July at Sarvodaya Training Center



Anuradhapura – 28th -30th July at Ethawetunuwewa & Kapithigolawa



Jaffna- 13th – 18th August at Anaicoddai & Pandateruppu



Killinochchi- 24th -29th August at UNDP Field office



Upcoming trainings on IT

- 13th & 14th September'11 –Advance Excel 2007
- 20th -21st September'11- Advance PowerPoint 2007

Psychosocial Initiatives



CHA General PS Forum was conducted with representatives from Survivors Associated, Lifeline, Helvetas, GTZ, UNICEF, UNFPA, SHADE, FRC, Caritas, SAHANAYA, TAF, Sarvodaya, Disaster Management Ministry, UNICEF, Ministry of Social Services, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and Mother's Touch Foundation were among the participants. The topics discussed is as follows;

- Updates of Interventions taking place in the north, east and the southern provinces
- Presentation by the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI)
- Presentation of district updates.

SLFI introduced its services and possible collaborative avenue with the PSF coordination structure. As part of main trainings planned for the future, the Foundation is aiming at running training programmes for Prison workers and possible collaborations to be explored with the PSF.

Regional initiatives

Mannar

Monthly Psycho-social Forum was held on 28.07.2011 at Mental Health unit, District General Hospital, Mannar. With the support of CHA, an awareness program held on 14th & 15th August for 40 Teachers of Madhu Educational

Zone. The programme mainly focused on preventing child abuse, identified children with problem behaviors due to possible mental illnesses, preventing teenage pregnancies and effective teaching skills. As an action plan these teachers are planning to conduct few lecture sessions in schools.

Southern Province (Galle, Matara, Hambantota)

Workshops were conducted for Prison workers and prisoners with facilitation by the CHA Southern Province Coordinator

Lifeline as a referral Hub

One specific objective of the Lifeline project is to mainly operate as a referral hub to link needs with available services. For this purpose the PS Unit has liaised with the following organizations to formulate an effective referral mechanism to direct community referrals received through Lifeline hotline facility for further assistance.

Media collaborations

CHA supported the TNL TV 'Bihidora' media programme aimed at, educating the general public in diverse health & psychosocial related issues. Panels of experts are contacted to be part of the Live Bihidora educational TV programme. The first CHA supported Bihidora program aimed at 'issues of middle age women'. A Health psychologist, a General Surgeon and a Lawyer were in the panel, whilst discussing issues pertaining to middle age crisis, health related aspects, psychological aspects, psychosocial service availability, legal elements and how the immediate environment and community can respond to common problems of middle aged women.

The 2nd program for Bihidora will aim at discussing teenage related issues. A panel of experts has been contacted and TNL TV is in the process of confirming dates for the upcoming programmes.

District Highlights

Jaffna

Accommodation facilities available at the Urelu country home in Urelu for corporate as well as individuals.

Country Home Jaffna
Board & Lodging

Situated in Urelu a small village in the Jaffna District and about 10 Km from Jaffna and reachable in 10 minutes of travel in private vehicle.

The rooms are clean and we offer the usual services you would require. Board and lodging is priced at very nominal rates

Bookings Contact:
 Tel: 0114626100 / 0778693370
 Email: jafdr@cha.lk
 managerhr@cha.lk

Legal advice at no cost

Free Legal Clinic is conducted every Wednesday at CHA/ IHR Office, Jaffna. CHA Attorney supports and appeared for 11 cases at Mallakam and there were 37 clients reported.

Hambantota

Drinking water facilities for a rural Temple

CHA Hambantota district Office provided coordination & facilitation support to provide drinking water facility to Sri Mahindarama Temple, Maha Bolana Ridiyagama,



Ambalantota in collaboration with Foundation of Goodness. Under this program CHA officers made initial visits to the temple to obtain feedback and discuss with Theros, members of the Temple development committee and villagers. The details and photographs were shared with the Donor. Foundation of Goodness has agreed to fund for this project. Temple committee and the villages shared their gratitude for the coordination of CHA.

Support for building new house for poor youth

CHA was able to support the Ambalantota Federation of youth club's housing project by linking this association with business communities, CBOs, NGOs for fund raising. This house opening ceremony will be held on 03rd week of September 2011.

Reading classes & Children's Clubs

With the objective of enhancing reading habits and literacy status of rural children, DRC Hambantota in collaboration with donor agencies provided reading publications to children societies at Lunama Ambalantota. Reading classes are conducted every week..

World Literacy day program

World Literacy day program was held with coordination by CHA on 09th Sept 2011 at H / Therapuththa National Collage Ambalantota.

District Highlights..... *continued*

Matara



Sisujaya scholarship Fund

10 scholarships were awarded to the students who have financial difficulties. Each student has received Rs.2000/- to purchase school items for the new term.

Beneficiaries were selected through CPN member organizations. Coordinator-Child protection Authority, Manager- Rural development Bank, government officers, NGOs were present at the ceremony. CPN has decided to give 40 scholarships during year 2011.

Information Dissemination

CHA continues to disseminate information through the District Resource centers (DRC).

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The Information Update Newsletter, produced by CHA focuses on updates of the CHA projects, monthly highlights; situations in districts; new acquisitions and other related information for the community it serves.

The Information Update is also available on the CHA website: <http://www.humanitarian-srilanka.org>