

# INFORMATION UPDATE

CONSORTIUM OF HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES

## Training on Gender Based Violence in Jaffna



During the workshop at Jaffna



Half day training was facilitated by CHA and MERCY Malaysia on gender based violence with the GBV working group in Jaffna on 4th of July. The training was done by the MS Sit Fong and around 25 participants from various organizations and line government sector had participated in the training.

According to the statistics at the Teaching hospital Jaffna, and the district coordinator of women development officials in the district of Jaffna, gender based violence has increased in Jaffna for last few years. Sexual abuse cases and domestic violence are reported in more numbers.

### Following matters were discussed during the session

- ☞ Cause and damages of GBV in the district
- ☞ Actions taken
- ☞ Limitations
- ☞ Actions taken in other countries such as Malaysia
- ☞ Brief explanation about the guideline on minimum standard on GBV work in emergencies.
- ☞ Possibilities for collective actions.

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## Training for counseling and career guidance teachers at Department of Education



During the workshop at Jaffna



Training was arranged on creative play therapy by CHA and Mercy Malaysia for teacher Counselors who have been working as school counselors in the Jaffna Education zone. This was facilitated with the special request made by Assistant Director of Education for guidance and counseling at Department of Education in Jaffna. Teacher Counselors take important role in the district to support the children in need for psychosocial and mental health wellbeing. Jaffna was affected by war for 30 years, which influenced psychosocial wellbeing of children and their learning ability. Teacher counselors are involved helping the students to overcome learning difficulties and to manage the psychosocial problems that they are facing in their day-to-day life.

MS Sit Fong has conducted the training on creative play therapy. In the brainstorming session, trainees expressed that students are being affected by harmful environment, sexual abuse, usage of alcohol (by other

*(Continued on page 2)*





During the workshop at Jaffna



adults), sudden social cultural changes, past war memories, exam fear and suicide attempts. It was commonly accepted that students have a lack of opportunity for free expression.

Therefore, the trainer introduced creative play therapy as an effective tool according to their age and situation.

#### Follow up and needs

The participants highlighted following issues and needs during the training and discussion.

- ☞ It is important to make necessary changes in the learning environment in order to ensure a safer and friendly environment for children
- ☞ Continuous efforts need to be taken to develop the capacity of the human resources at the school in the guidance and counseling field.
- ☞ Creation of effective tools can be helpful for students for creation of awareness and psycho education
- ☞ We are in need of reading materials in Tamil language. .
- ☞ An effective supervision mechanism must be developed.

## Training on Management and Strategy Planning for Mental Health and Psychosocial support services in Jaffna- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2013



During the workshop at Jaffna

Interventions for psychosocial wellbeing and mental health in the war affected Northern Province is identified as a great needs. There are number of service providers both in Government and Non-government sector who have been providing their services for a long time in the location.

The district of Jaffna is a key location for facilitating and contributing the inputs and resources for the mental health sector in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. There are trained human resources available in the district but which



During the workshop at Jaffna

is very limited compare to the needs in the province. At the same time, they are in a need to plan and organize their interventions according to the current context. Even though supporting mechanism is in place, number of psychosocial problems and issues have increased in great number compared to the past. In addition, there is a lack of coordination and networking among the service providers identified in the region. Based on the discussions with a number of professional from various institution in psychosocial and mental health sector, CHA and Mercy Malaysia has decided to organize a training on Management and Strategy Planning for Mental Health and Psychosocial support services.



workshop participants





### Institutions participated at the training

45 participants from following institutions participated in the training programme

**Government institutions** ( Psychosocial Coordinator of Regional Director of Health Services (Ministry of Health) ,Assistant Director of Education for Guidance and Counseling - Ministry of Education, Psychosocial Coordinator of National Child Protection Authority , Counseling officers from Ministry of Social Services , Counseling Assistants from Ministry of Women affairs and child development , District coordinator for Women Development officers from Ministry of Women affairs and child development, Social Service officers from divisional secretariats, Chief Nursing officer from psychiatric hospital ;

**Non-Government Organizations** ( Seva Lanka foundation , Association for Health and Counseling , Holistic Health Centre , CORD, Centre for Child Development , Centre for Children's Happiness , Social Organization for networking and development (SOND), Itham Psychosocial Organization , Anjaliyaham Counseling Center , Centre for peace and reconciliation , Women in Need (WIN), Save the Children (SCF)



### Delivery of Training

Training was conducted by MS Sit Fong, clinical psychologist from Malaysia with the facilitation of T. Mayuran from CHA and Praveena from Mercy Malaysia. It was held on 2nd and 3rd of August in Jaffna district with the participation of over 45 trainees from different organizations but who are working for the promotion of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing in the district. Training was started with a needs assessment . Following topics were covered during the training programme

- ☞ Psychosocial challenges in emergencies
- ☞ Psychological Effects and changes through disaster face

- ☞ Psychological first aid as an intervention tool
- ☞ Understanding and needs and problems
- ☞ Self-intervention planning
- ☞ Strategic planning in-group based on the target group.
- ☞ Effective Networking
- ☞ Group planning for building a coordination mechanism in the district for mental health and psychosocial support services.



### Output and impact of the training

Following outputs are made by the training which can be expected immediately and within one year time.

A platform was created with over 23 institutions in mental health and psychosocial support services in Jaffna to meet and share the experiences, needs, problems and expectation

- It contributed to capacity development of new officials in the district .
- There were around 40 individual tasks developed which was shared in the big group in order to generate collaborative actions .
- A decision was made collectively to request the Regional Director of health services to re-activate the psychosocial forum again in the district.
- A wide network was created with officials from different institutions from various divisional secretariats.
- Planning was done about capacity development initiatives for the future .
- Number of collaborative interventions was developed .
- A random need assessment was done at the staff level for each vulnerable group.
- Ideas were shared in relation with development of tools and resources for the staff who are working in the sector

### Follow up Actions

By end of the training programme, there were requests made by the participants for the development of mental health and psychosocial support services in the district.

- More training needed for the staff who are working in the field of mental health and psychosocial support services in the district. This is a must for those who are recently recruited for example counseling assistants are appointed under the ministry of women affairs and child development who have a great need for trainings .

- Development of suitable materials in Tamil Language is necessary. There is material available in English language that need to be translated and shared with the staff in order to improve their knowledge in the field.
- Immediate action need to be taken to establish a formal or informal structure to connect the staff in order to avoid the duplication of services and for effective coordination .

## Standing committee on Disability

-8<sup>th</sup> August 2013



During the meeting at CHA

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held at CHA. Standing committee members from ZOA, Sightsavers, CBM, and Department of Disability Studies of the Faculty of Medicine-Ragama, BCGR, and National Secretariat for persons with disability (NSPD) and individual advocates on disability were present. Ministry of Social services invites articles before 15th September 2013 for the souvenir on world disability day.

## New Acquisitions – August 2013 @ CKC

### Sri Lanka at the Universal Periodic Review, United Nations, 2012; Submissions and Reflections

Published by Law & Society Trust

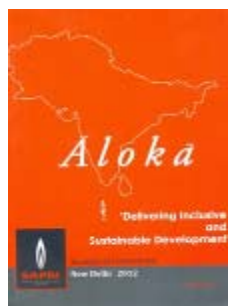
Extracts of the National Report of the Government of Sri Lanka Submitted to the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, United Nations, Second Cycle (November 2012)



### Joint Civil Society Submission – Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations, Second Cycle (November 2012)

Delivering Inclusive and Sustainable Development

Published by South Asia Policy & Research Institute Conference report - 02 Day conference in Ned Delhi in April 2012 "Delivering Inclusive & Sustainable Development"



## Workshop on Advance Microsoft Excel

-14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> August 2013



During the training

This workshop was held at CHA .Participants were from Hellmann Worldwide Logistics (Pvt) Ltd, VILUTHU Centre for Human Resource Development, Avery Dennison Lanka (Pvt) Ltd, Youth for Christ and CHA

## Workshop for World Health Organization (WHO)

26<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> August 2013



During the workshop



Two workshops on effective writing skills were organized for staff of WHO from 26th to 29th August 2013 at Colombo.

This workshop enabled the participants to learn the essentials within the English language for different types of business communication and improved the competence and confidence.



## The Impeachment of Sri Lanka's Chief Justice: A Legal Critique



Published by Law & Society Trust  
Contents: The Impeachment of a Sri Lankan Chief Justice- Some Observations on its Constitutionality and Legality - Jayantha de Almeida Guneratne –Chandra Jayaratne v. Anura Priyadarshana Yapa & Others



## Appropriateness of the Sri Lanka poverty line for measuring urban poverty

Published by Centre for Poverty Analysis  
In developing countries, poverty is generally measured in terms of expenditure on food and the expenditure on non-food needs is based on what households whose expenditures should be sufficient to meet their food needs spend on non-food. Since, non-food expenditure in

urban areas is likely to be higher this method is likely to under report poverty in the urban areas. Thus, this study explores measuring poverty in urban areas using multiple dimensions.

## CHA Youth Forum : Visiting Children's Home



During the dancing class

Two of the Youth forum members visited the Special Children's Education Development Foundation in Narahenpita on 04, August 2013. The foundation

consisted of 38 students ranging from the ages of 6 – 38 years. The foundation was formally established in 1994 after registering with the Ministry of Social Service. These students are supervised by two teachers with the assistance of three other helpers. The foundation teaches dancing and art to the students. The foundation also has the support of the parents. The youth forum members were told that the foundation does not have a stable place to conduct these classes, due to which they rent out an Ayurvedic center every Sunday to conduct these classes.

Some of the students who are still schooling are dropping out of

their schools due to unimaginable financial trouble. The foundation requested the forum to support them by donating materials that are essential for the students and the class.

**These materials included:** A DVD / CD player, Cupboard to keep their items, White Board - 3 x 2 ½, an Organ, Pastel, Drawing books, Scissors, Glue bottles, Color papers, and Building blocks, bats, and balls for therapeutic activities.

The youth forum has decided to collect the above mentioned materials and hand it over to the foundation within the month of September. The forum is also in the process of planning a workshop for the parents of these Students.

**Those interested in donating the above mentioned materials for the Down syndrome students** please contact [psfcoord@cha.lk](mailto:psfcoord@cha.lk) or [ishipm89@gmail.com](mailto:ishipm89@gmail.com) Notice: **Those interested in joining the CHA Youth Forums and becoming part of the CHA team as an intern/volunteer to promote such youth affairs**, please contact [psfcoord@cha.lk](mailto:psfcoord@cha.lk) / [ishipm89@gmail.com](mailto:ishipm89@gmail.com) Tel: 4626100

## Working Group Meeting with the district coordinator for the Initiation of the Crisis Center

The Psychosocial Forum meeting laid grounds to an initiative that would be carried out and organized by the Psychosocial Programme of CHA. This initiative is to particularly study existing services and to address needs of the victims of abuse, domestic violence, trauma and marginalized communities.

The working group also intends to come up with practical solutions to address service delivery gaps and focus on case conferencing mechanisms and addressing the needs of any case with acute psychosocial needs. The working group meeting with the District Coordinators was held on 12, August 2013 at the CHA auditorium. The working group was able to introduce the initiative in a more descriptive manner to the Coordinators and get their suggestions and viewpoints about it. Each of the coordinators presented the system followed in their respective districts. The Working group was able to get a good idea about the existing systems in the eastern, Northern provinces and Hambantota District. These Coordinators were more than willing to provide their support towards the initiative.



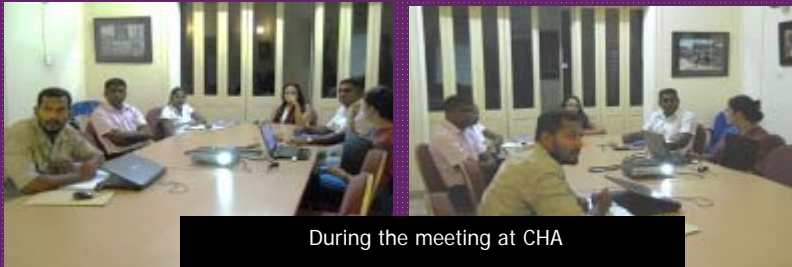
During the meeting at CHA

## Monthly psychosocial newsletter – August 2013

The psychosocial program of CHA published a monthly newsletter for the month of August. The newsletter included all activities conducted by the psychosocial program during the Month. The newsletter was sent to all forum members and other officials involved with CHA.

The newsletter will be available on the CHA website.

## District coordinators meeting



During the meeting at CHA

The district coordinators were invited to CHA on 12, August 2013. They were introduced to the web database that is to be launched by the end of August 2013. The District Coordinators were given an hour to go through the web database and re-check the organization details that had been entered to their relevant districts. They were able to provide the project team their knowledge and suggestions on the publication of the directory and the database.

## Yoga Training



During the yoga session



started at 5.00Pm and concluded by 7.00Pm.

CHA took the initiative to conduct a five-week-long yoga training session at the CHA auditorium. The program is being conducted by Dr. Tami Tamitegama, a Yoga Master of the Sri Sri Yoga School, international Art of Living Foundation. Dr. Tamitegama served as its founding Trustee and Secretary General of the Art of Living Foundation in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Tamitegama conducted the first yoga session on 14, August 2013 at the CHA Auditorium. The session

The workshop focused on a model of change created by Prochaska, Di Clemente & Norcross (1992). Rev. S. Upatissa provided valuable information about communication strategies, when counseling an alcoholic or a drug addict. He emphasized on the importance of the counseling skills of a counselor as this is crucial in succeeding with the patient.

## The Island Wide Mapping Initiative of Psychosocial Organizations and development of the Psychosocial Service Providers Directory 2013

The Psychosocial Programme Unit of the CHA is in the process of finalizing the Directory for Psychosocial Service Providers in Sri Lanka after conducting a mapping of available organizations in Sri Lanka. The Directory will be published in all 3 languages.

The end product of the psychosocial Directory being developed by CHA will aim at

- Providing a comprehensive list of updated information of organizations doing psychosocial work in Sri Lanka during 2013.
- Identify organizations providing specific and special psychosocial related interventions such as children related interventions, interventions focused on the elderly community, IDP community, war-affected communities, migrant communities, etc.
- Link such services with community needs identified from all districts and liaise / inform the relevant psychosocial networks, organizations providing services of specific community needs in the districts. (Rephrase this sentence! No English professor on this or another planet is able to understand what you mean with this terribly awkward use of English.)
- The project team has now completed data entering and is in the process of finalizing the format and design of the web database. CHA is hoping to launch the web database by the mid of September.

**For further information: Contact CHA - psfcoord@cha.lk / Tel: 4626100**

## Alcohol and Drug abuse workshop



During the workshop

The alcohol and drug abuse workshop was held August 2, 2013 at the CHA auditorium from 9.30 Am to 12.30 Pm. The workshop was conducted by Rev. S. Upatissa, an expert counselor in alcohol and drug abuse.



## Workshop on building communication skills for counselors

The communication skill building workshop was conducted on 16, August 2013 at the CHA auditorium, by Rev. S. Upatissa. The workshop took three hours, commencing at 10.30 Pm and concluding at 1.30 Pm. He gave a descriptive presentation on how the human mind and nerve system operates and how important the communication skills of the counselor are when counseling a client. He spoke the important role of Body language, tone of voice and words, when communicating with a client. The workshop consisted of role playing and team work.



During the workshop



## Workshop on Coaching



During the coaching workshop



## Tamil language field support for eSociety projects implementing in north and east

CHA made a field visit to Aralaganwila to oversee the Maduru Oya - EZy Water project which is implemented in East by Richfield Lanka (Pvt) Ltd., under the e-Society initiative funded by ICT Agency in Sri Lanka. Basis of the EZy Water Project is using Information and Communication Technology to pilot and introduce demand based water allocation and distribution procedures to manage water in the Left Bank of Maduru Oya so that available water resource is allocated fairly among communities to be settled in the Right Bank. As the consultant for **Tamil language field support for eSociety projects implementing in north and east**, representatives of CHA visited the project location on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August. During the visit had discussions with the Team Leader, System Developer, Irrigation Engineers and Training Specialist and got to see the water distribution system via Distribution canals. The Canal Modeling Software that is in the development process also was demonstrated. As part of the visit attended the Training of farmers of the blocks Wijayabapura & Damminna which held at Aralaganwila Training Center by Richfield Lanka.



During the field visit



During the field discussions



During the training of farmers

The Coaching workshop was conducted by Rozaine Cooray, a well-known Organizational psychologist, on 23, August 2013. The duration of the workshop was two hours, starting at 10.30 am and concluding at 12.30 Pm the participants included undergraduate students and representatives of organizations. The workshop goals were

- How your growth determines your success
- What you need to manage your growth
- How you can practically grow into your success

She further explained the importance of the coaching approach to learning and development. It is now increasingly growing in popularity and effectiveness due to its self-directed approach to taking action. Coaching involves being a sounding board for new ideas, supporting in making life-changing decisions, challenging to expand clients' views beyond their perceived limitations, supporting the clients to discover answers within oneself and clarification of values. All this contribute in building hope and restoring functionality through empowerment, in alignment with the person's values, current available resources and the readiness to change.

## Well Being Centre

The well-being centre conducted at CHA includes a few professional psychologists. They were able to have Seventeen consultations within the month of August.

## Matara

### Coordination facilitation and Networking



**Energy saving project-** Practical session conducted for women group on health hazards of cooking using firewood in a traditional kitchen and awareness of economically important

energy saving low cost cooking stove introduced to a community group in Kotavila for 25 women. Visited the three offices of economic development officers and discussed the needs in their village.

es. CHA coordinated through the CPN network organizations remedies.

**Discussion with Ruhunu Ransalu group** to source training for a womens group in Kekunawela.

**Reading circle Programme** continues for 25 school children for their home work, improving their reading skills and IT knowledge.



## Jaffna

### Need Assessment Survey

During the month, CHA, Jaffna conducted a need assessment survey at Sirupiddy East and had discussions with the community members of the WRDS, RDS and members of CBO's.



The co-ordination meeting for the month was held - at CHA Meeting Hall. The topic of the meeting is "The Election system in Sri Lanka". The Resource person was: Mr.S.Thiruchenthurn, Lecturer, Dept. of Political Science, University of Jaffna. The target group was from the Divisional Secretary's office, Administrative Level staff, Management staff, newly appointed Graduate Trainees and the staffs from NGO's.

### Other events :

- Training program on Gender based violence conducted by CHA
- Training for counseling & career guidance The training for counseling & career guidance teachers at Department of Education, Jaffna. conducted by CHA
- Free legal services in collaboration CHA with IHR. 20 clients came to the IHR office for free legal advice and assistances.
- The Diploma course in Human Rights will be conducted by IHR, Jaffna in collaborate with CHA, Colombo

### Coordination meeting



## Hambantota

### Child Rights & leadership training program

CHA conducted one day awareness program on child rights & leadership training for children in Ambalantota DS division. To provide basic knowledge on child rights. There were about 50 children attended for this program age limit between 11

to 17. There were Government officers, CRAN members, CBO members & youth clubs leaders attended for this program.

### Environment Program

CHA provided coordination support to cleaning rural area with women leaders, youth clubs leader & CBO members. WE provided some



plants for the planting program to protect environment.

**Humanitarian Assistance** -provided humanitarian assistance to 10 poor people, providing spectacles and wheel chairs in collaboration with private donors.

### Coordination & Facilitation services

Coordination & facilitation support for CRAN network to refer children for National Children Forum.

### DRC Information Dissemination

Information on Hambantota District population, Geographical situation, administration structure & Population, Hamabntota District livelihood information, National Youth Survey and media contact information to University students, researchers, child rights and development representatives, businessmen. and youth club leaders.



## AUGUST 2013 EVENT- HIGHLIGHTS

| DATE      | TYPE                   | SUBJECT   | VENUE                         | DISTRICT                               |
|-----------|------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1-Aug-13  | Meeting                | Meeting with Mercy Malaysia Team  | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| 1-Aug-13  | Meeting                | District Coordination Meeting Jaffna  | CHA - Jaffna                  | Jaffna                                 |
| 2-Aug-13  | Workshop               | Workshop on Alcohol & Substance abuse   | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| 2-Aug-13  | Workshop               | Psychosocial Workshop -Training on Management and Strategy Planning for Mental Health and Psychosocial support services | CHA - Jaffna                  | Jaffna                                 |
| 5-Aug-13  | Meeting                | Meeting with Registered Medical Officers  | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| 8-Aug-13  | Meeting                | Standing Committee Meeting on Disability  | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| 8-Aug-13  | Meeting                | Meeting With The Asia Foundation Team   | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| 17-Aug-13 | Meeting                | District Coordination Meeting_Ampara  | Janasaviaya Organization      | Ampara                                 |
| 23-Aug-13 | Workshop               | Workshop on Coaching  | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| 24-Aug-13 | Meeting                | District Coordination Meeting Jaffna  | CHA - Jaffna                  | Jaffna                                 |
| 4-Aug-13  | Workshop               | Training on Gender Based Violence in Jaffna   | CHA - Jaffna                  | Jaffna                                 |
| 26-Aug-13 | Workshop               | Workshop for World Health Organization (WHO) 26/08/2013 to 29/08/2013   | Colombo                       | Colombo                                |
| 14-Aug-13 | Workshop               | Workshop on Advance Microsoft Excel (14th -16th August 2013 )   | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| Aug -13   | Workshop               | Training for Counseling and career guidance teachers at Department of Education – Jaffna                                | CHA - Jaffna                  | Jaffna                                 |
| 12-Aug-13 | meeting                | The Psychosocial Forum meeting  | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| 12-Aug-13 | Meeting                | District coordinators meeting   | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| 1-Aug-13  | training               | Yoga Training   | CHA - Colombo                 | Colombo                                |
| Aug -13   | Field visit            | Tamil language field support for eSociety projects implementing in north and east                                       | Maduru Oya                    | Aralaganwila to oversee the Maduru Oya |
| Aug -13   | Need Assessment Survey | Discussions with the community members of the WRDS, RDS and members of CBO's . - Sirupiddy East                         | CHA - Jaffna - Sirupiddy East | jaffna                                 |
| 14-Aug-13 | meeting                | District Coordination Meeting- Trinco   | Trinco                        | Trinco                                 |

## CHA Ampara District Coordination Meeting - August 2013



CHA Ampara district Coordination meeting was held at "Janasaviaya" Organization. The meeting was chaired by Mr. A. L. Nagoorthambi, President of Janasaviaya Organization. The Coordinator, CHA, Ampara, welcomed all the participants for attending this forum meeting. In the course of the welcome,

last meeting report was read out and accepted by the participants and also follow up status updated.

Thereafter the presentation on "Women Right and violence again women" was done by CHA Coordinator.

It highlighted available mechanism for violence again women and children, role of the Ministry of Child Development and women's Affairs, Services Provider for victimized women such as Women's Societies Members, Divisional Level Officers, District level officers, local NGO and CBO, current issues about women right, mainly child abuses, violence against women, lack of advocacy and awareness, etc and requested the participants to make use of available network s to share information about issues.

Mr. Nagoorthambi from Jansaviya organization pointed out that women have very poor awareness on womens rights, therefore, he requested the forum to arrange an awareness program on "Women Right" for all to understand and about service providers and women rights.

Ms. Farina from women society requested the forum to conduct awareness program for victimized women due to lack of awareness on women rights also mentioned some issues about their victim members and also requested the forum to arrange a workshop on violence against women and children.

Ms. H. Haseena, from women rural development society pointed out that most of the women are being abused and do not divulge their plight. After sharing of views was over the vote of the thanks was delivered by Mr. Salahudeen, Treasurer of Janasaviaya Organization.



### CHA Web links

- [www.econsortium.info](http://www.econsortium.info)
- [www.spheresrilanka.org](http://www.spheresrilanka.org)
- [www.csnis.lk](http://www.csnis.lk)
- [www.humanitarian-srilanka.org](http://www.humanitarian-srilanka.org)



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