

INFORMATION UPDATE

CONSORTIUM OF HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES



Coordination Facilitation and Networking

CHA CLD Monthly Meeting of Human Rights Platform

CHA CLD Monthly Human Rights Platform meeting was held at CHA . Main focus was law delays and children.

Prof. Wijesinghe informed the following are to be discussed with Secretary, JSC.

- a) Excessive remand – Magistrates having power on bail
- b) Follow-up on prison remandees (women with children) – visits by the Magistrate
- c) Psychosocial activities for prisoners
- d) Sentencing policy (Consistent policy; Judges training)
- e) Co-ordination with Government Analyst, AG's, Police Department to prevent delay in action.

IHR concerns with regard to children who leave children's home at the age of 18, with regarding to their reintegration into the community. Prof. will write to NCPA with regarding to a durable solution.

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CHA partnership with Ministry of Social services and Bureau of The Commissioner General of Rehabilitation to assistance for beneficiaries

Up to now, 11,770 (males and females) ex-LTTE cadres who have completed the rehabilitation programme have been reintegrated into society.

Rehabilitation programmes have been conducted at the Maradamadu and Poonthottam rehabilitation centres in Vavuniya. Around 600 former LTTE cadres are still in the process of undergoing rehabilitation under the aegis of the government.

In addition to receiving vocational training, the ex-combatants also received assistance to engage in self-employment projects. The beneficiaries were given the opportunity to select their vocational training programme from a wide array of forty-six different vocational training courses. These include agriculture, carpentry, masonry, outboard motor repair and various entrepreneurship oriented fields such as beauty culture and sewing. All reintegrated beneficiaries

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Meeting with Commonwealth Foundation

CHA held discussions with the Commonwealth Foundation office representatives from London who visited CHA to host the Commonwealth People's Forum (CPF) in Sri Lanka late this year. The CPF brings together civil society representatives from around the world to discuss and debate key issues facing Commonwealth people.

Held every two years in the run up to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), the CPF is the single biggest opportunity for civil society to engage with Commonwealth leaders on global development issues. The CPF provides a valuable arena for civil society to build partnerships with public and private sectors offering opportunities for learning, networking and exchange.

The 2013 CPF is organised by the Commonwealth Foundation and hosted by a consortium of Sri Lankan civil society organisations with the support of the Sri Lankan Government.

CHA Meets with Chief of Defence Staff Representatives - Disaster Management Knowledge Hub

CHA with the sanction of the Ministry of Defence made a presentation to officials of the Chief of Defence Staff's Office for a Joint Armed Forces-CHA initial inquiry to assess relevance, potential and material of past disasters, how Sri Lanka coped and responded and record lessons learnt. Further, the intention is to create a knowledge hub in the south for use by institutions and the region.

National Disaster Management Coordination Committee

The NDMCC was held on the 14th of February at the Ministry of Disaster Management. CHA being a representative of the steering committee attended the meeting.

Follow Up Meeting on Rehabilitation of Substance Abuse Offenders

CHA as a representative of the government appointed committee to look into the rehabilitation process of the drug offenders met with the Core Team on 15th Feb 2013 at the office of the Chairperson of Dangerous Drug Control Board. Attorney General office has provided legal directive for the transfer of offenders to a rehabilitation centre. Allocation of staff and rehabilitation centres have been identified. Training would be given to staff earmarked by BCGR.

Emergency Disaster Response and Recovery

CHA represented at the Disaster Management Capacity Building programme sponsored by the Government of Malaysia under the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme. 25 representatives from 10 countries from the region participated. CHA shared its unique experience in disasters both owing to conflict and natural disasters. Regional networks are being established.



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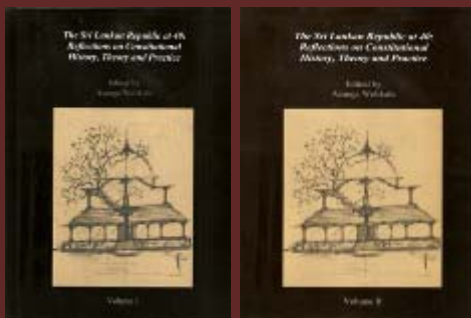
have been given the opportunity of rebuilding their lives with the assistance of the skills obtained during their rehabilitation programme. The career programmes had been designed with the aim of supporting those who wished to set up their own businesses, including a special loan scheme for self-employment. However, CHA identified many of the rehabilitated persons still have few issues on their livelihood opportunities and few others. The meeting to see solutions for these issues was held on 27th February at office of Bureau of The Commissioner General of Rehabilitation.

The office from ministry of social services confirmed that individual livelihood grants of SLR 25, 000 will be given for 29-30 applicants and SLR 250,000 housing grants for 5 beneficiaries in every division upon request from BCGR. Also he will confirm list of names of those approved to receive monthly stipend of 3,000 by 01st week of March. Executive Director, CHA said that Details of disabled beneficiaries and in particular those requiring crutches/wheelchairs will be provide to M/SS by first week March. He also mentioned that meeting with Chairman SIERRA to discuss providing jobs to trained beneficiaries 06th March 2013 at 9.30am at SIERRA Office.

Few other action points are given below.

- Meeting with SAHC and BCGR to be arranged by CHA to explore SA Fund assistance for beneficiaries.
- CHA to canvass with CCC job placements for BCGR beneficiaries.
- CHA to scope MoED programme support for home gardening/livestock/poultry rearing for BCGR beneficiaries.
- Partnership with sponsors to support beneficiaries with micro finance

New Publications at CHA Resource Centre



The Sri Lankan Republic at 40: Reflections on Constitutional History, Theory and Practice
Edited by Asanga Welikala

It marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Sri Lankan Republic.

Excellent Youth Volunteer 2012 – Srimal at CHA

The Youth Excellence Award ceremony was held in Sri Lankan Youth Premises in Maharagama under the patronage of Youth Affairs and Skills Development Minister Dallas Alahapperuma on 12th January 2013.

The best 20 youths were rewarded at the Award ceremony who were selected through 20,012 applications received from Sri Lankan youth in 20 vocational fields. Among them, 2012 were called for the first interview while 584 were selected under four stages. The best 20 youth were selected by panel of judges. Srimal Liyanage, CHA Hambantota district officer was awarded

as an Excellent Youth Volunteer. He has been working with CHA since 2007 and also he is a member of Youth Parliament.



Workshop on Advance Microsoft Excel

A workshop on advance Microsoft Excel enabling participants to understand advance features in MS Excel to effectively carry out their day to day work.



Promoting Professional standards

Sphere Awareness

CHA being the focal point in Sri Lanka for promoting Sphere- Humanitarian Charter and minimum standards in Humanitarian response an introductory session was carried out for representative of NGOs and INGOs with Sphere brochures distributed for further reference.

Regional Consultation on joint Standards initiative Humanitarian Standards for Aid workers

Focus Group Discussion for joint Standards initiative (JSI)

CHA facilitated a focus group discussion on the JSI stakeholder's consultation in Jaffna with the beneficiaries. The findings from the consultation with the organization staff and beneficiaries were reported back to the SAARC regional focal point.



Workshop on Project Budget Preparation



Representatives from LEADS, Norwegian Refugee Council, ADRA, ZOA refugee Care and Zion Café took part at this workshop.

Significant comments from the participant

- This workshop will help me to prepare budget as well as cost management- R Sanjeewan-NRC
- It was an effective training session. It will help me to move from the conventional methods and prepare budgets accurately focusing on the benefit of the beneficiaries-Buddika- ADRA
- Training was good .Everyone had a chance to express their views and participate since the participants were limited. –Janani- NRC
- It helped me to understand the details about a project from the beginning and the factors to be considered when preparing budget. - Iranga De Silva-LEADS
- Really important training and covered a lot of theory as well as practical examples. It also helps to prepare and present budget according to the donor expectations. - Shashika –NRC
- This training will help in day to day work with finance, as now I understand the budgeting part better.-Mariette- ZOA

Workshop on Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation

Participants were from TDH, LEADS, SOS Children Village, UNDP and Disaster Management. We are pleased to offer

some free placement for some deserved participants who could benefit from the knowledge gained.

Comments from the participants

- Excellent training. Very informative for a beginner. The trainer was very interesting not a boring moment at all. - UNDP
- The facilitator has comprehensive knowledge on the subject and she did not hesitate to share it. - Nuwan- DMC
- Excellent. The workshop helps me to change my style of working. Well organized and nice flow - N Asoomath- TDH
- Activities were interactive and helped with understanding implementation- LEADS
- Very useful foundation level training. It will help me to develop monitoring systems and evaluating the project activities.- Dee Jethwa- TDH



Psychosocial Updates

Coordination Facilitation and Networking



Forum Meeting focused on current status related to the HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka

Forum Meeting focused on current status related to the HIV/AIDS in Sri Lanka and looking into aspects of improving the psychosocial service provisions in the country. The Forum involved the participants for the Government Ministries, I/NGOs, CBOs working with people living with AIDS and representatives from the Universities such as the

University of Sri Jayawardanapura and University of Colombo. The Forum involved sessions conducted by two resource persons;

- Dr. Chamara Senadheera – Senior Lecturer , University of Sri Jayawardanapura
- Dr. Syama somawardhana , a Representative from the National STD/AIDS Control Programme, Sri Lanka
- Dr. Chamara Senadheera facilitated a session on 'Research evidence on HIV / AIDS in Sri Lanka - vulnerability and possible interventions' and the Representative from the National STD/AIDS Control Programme, Sri Lanka facilitated a session on the "Current situation of HIV in Sri Lanka and the draft National Action Plan for people living with HIV/AIDS). Furthermore the Forum discussed areas to be looked at when the psychosocial member organizations plan interventions related to HIV/AIDS prevention in Sri Lanka.

Survey on socio-economic psychosocial status of slum communities in the Gampaha District (conducted by NISD interns)



The NISD interns conducted the following activities with the view of initiating humanitarian programmes with the urban slum communities in the areas of Kadawata and Ala-Bamma in the district of Gampaha.

- In consultation with the academic supervisors at NISD and at CHA the interns developed comprehensive field survey questionnaires to gather information on the psychosocial, health economic status of slum communities. The questionnaire tools can be used for the purposes of gathering data from the community on similar initiatives.
- The CHA – NISD interns conducted a survey to gather information on the socio-economic and psychosocial status of the slum families in the two areas. As such, in the area of Kadawata 60 households were surveyed to gather information. In the area Ala-Bamma 120 households were surveyed to gather information. The aim of the survey was to identify the general socio-economic and psychosocial issues of these families and plan psychosocial interventions accordingly.
- Post gathering of information the interns were in the process of analyzing the data and developing a comprehensive report with areas to be focused and interventions to be planned. A special emphasis was given to identify children with behavioral problems and different types of intellectual and physical disabilities.
- Contact was made with the District secretariat and Divisional secretariat focal points to discuss the way forward in following up with identified cases and to advocate for psychosocial support in the future.

Psychosocial Recreational Programs conducted for drop in centres of Sarvodaya Suwatha Day Care Center



CHA Psychosocial Unit organized a recreational program for the children attending Sarvodaya Suwatha Centre in the Borella district with facilitative support of 2 NISD Interns (Ms. Tharusha Hettiarachchi and Araliya Kolombage) . Eighty children between the ages of three and eighteen years are registered within the facility. Sarvodaya the Center acts as a safe place for the children and provides diverse types of educational, recreational and vocational training for the children. However the there is a strong need to conduct psychosocial recreational and education related programmes within the centre. Two separate programmes were conducted for the age groups of children between 3 years – 6 years and from 6 – 11 years. The recreational programmes and the sessions involved following activities

- Conducting an art competition
- Recreational activity session with the pre-school children
- Educational activities to stimulate mathematical reasoning skills of children between 6-11 years
- Some fun games and sports activities to stimulate cooperation amongst the teenagers

Coordination Facilitation and Networking**CHA Intervention for Dhaham school development**

With the objective to improve Dhaham school education for the children, CHA has taken special initiatives to improve some selected dhama schools in rural villages in Ambalantota DS division. Under this program, CHA provided some donations for the dhaham school children of Ridiyagama, Koggalla Sri Mahindaramaya Dhaham School to improve their knowledge . 100 students attended this program. Enhancing attendance ,conducting debating competition among the dhaham school students to enhance dhaham knowledge are planned activities.

Ambalantota Trade Association & some private institutions provided financial aid for this program. Grama Niladaries, DFCDF & youth members of Federation of Youth Clubs attended the program.

Civil Society Network Meeting

CHA - Ambalantota DS division civil society network meeting was held on February month .40 Representatives from Grama Niladaries, youth clubs leaders, CBOs members, women

societies, voluntary groups. Identifying current social issues of villages, public community purposes in the society, non schooling children, alcohol & drugs using, environment issues were main objectives of this civil society network meeting. Participants listed out current social issues, dividing into several groups to refer to relevant institutions to solve identified issues. Issues identified were:

- Land issues (without land deed certificates)
- Lack of opportunities for self employment & labor works also
- Environment issues
- Youth unemployment issue.
- Child protection issues.

CHA prepared a summary report for Ambalantota

Divisional secretariat office to obtain practical solutions from relevant institutions for the issues identified .

Knowledge management service & School Library developmentProgram

CHA donated many valuable reading material to H / Therapuththa National School

DRC Activities

- Information disseminated on Commonwealth Youth Forum to around 300 youth to apply for participate to the forum.
- information on Vocational Training opportunities disseminated to 24 school leavers.

Matara**Coordination Facilitation and Networking****Community protection Network Meeting**

CPN meeting and committee meeting was conducted with the participation of 10 CBOs in Matara District and action plan was discussed next month.

Entrepreneurship Development Programme

10 beneficiaries for cultivation of Anthurium for the export market , linking with Divi Neguma Programme received the one day training in Andiambalama.

Joint programme with Ruhunu Development Bank

Technical support for dried fish making group was given in Beliaththa,Katuwana areas during the month. RDB extends loan facilities for the establishment of driers. CPN resource person involved in the process providing technical support.

Reading circle Programme

CHA Matara DO team helped 25 school children with their home work, improving their reading skills and IT knowledge. The programme is now expanded and weekend newspapers also kept for reading in the district office.

Energy saving project

An awareness programme conducted for women group on health hazards of cooking using firewood in a traditional

kitchen and awareness on economically important energy saving low cost cooking stove introduced to a community group in Kekunawela Sarvodaya Community group with 15-20 women benefiting from this programme. This a very good alternate where the people can make up their own stoves for small and cottage level industries. CHA provided the technical support .



Jaffna

Coordination Facilitation and Networking

Jaffna district co-ordination meeting



Jaffna district forum was held on **26.02.2013** at jaffna cha **meeting hall** . More than 51 representatives from Government Office, NGO's & CBO's and media personnel took part in the event.

Dr.[Mrs].Vaksala Amirthalingam, Assistant Director, Department of Animal Production and Health Department, Thirunelvely Jaffna who was the guest speaker, delivered his speech on "***Animal husbandry activities for the livelihood of below poverty line families***".

In the course of her speech, she mentioned the following :

"The below poverty line families are finding difficulties for their day to day existence. Their income is low as such their savings are low.

We can find illiteracy among them. The below poverty line families are in a position to find ways for their basic needs

such as Housing, Clothing and food. The easiest way for their up keeping of life is to start poultry or goat rearing.

Nowadays the milking cow rearing is very expensive. They cannot afford a good amount of money in milking cow rearing. The maintenance of milking cow also a serious question to a below poverty line family."

MOBILE CLINIC SERVICES – MERCY MALASIYA



The Mobile Medical Clinic of Mercy Malaysia's ended in February.

Free Legal Services at IHR, Urelu-45 clients sought free legal advice and assistance.

PSYCHOSOCIAL ACTIVITIES in the village of Kaddaikadu, Mamunai, Uduththurai & Kervil with the help of volunteers conducted awareness activities.



PAST EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2013

| Date | Title | Venue | District |
|-----------------------|---|--|------------|
| 19-Feb | The Development Planning meeting | SOND office | Jaffna |
| 19-Feb | The Gender Based Violence Meeting | Women in Need | Jaffna |
| 20-Feb | CHA CLD Monthly Human Rights Platform meeting | CHA Conference Room | Colombo |
| 21-Feb- | District Coordination Meeting - Ampara | PDS Organization | Ampara |
| 21-Feb- | Discussion on Women rights & Children rights | District Secretariat | Jaffna |
| 21-Feb | District Coordination Meeting - Killinochchi Regarding the issues of Women headed families in Kandawalai | Kandawalai | Jaffna |
| 26-Feb | District Coordination Meeting - Jaffna Animal husbandary activities as a livelihood | CHA District office | Jaffna |
| 27-Feb | District Coordination Meeting - Batticaloa | NAYAM Office | Batticaloa |
| Feb | Meeting with Commonwealth Foundation | CHA | Colombo |
| 14 th -Feb | CHA Meets with Chief of Defence Staff Representatives - Disaster Management Knowledge Hub | Chief of Defence Staff's Office | Colombo |
| 15 th Feb | Follow Up Meeting on Rehabilitation of Substance Abuse Offenders | office of the Chairperson of Dangerous Drug Control Board. | Colombo |
| Feb | Emergency Disaster Response and Recovery | Malaysia | Malaysia |
| 27th Feb | CHA partnership with Ministry of Social services and Bureau of The Commissioner General of Rehabilitation to assistance for beneficiaries | office of Bureau of The Commissioner General of Rehabilitation | Colombo |
| Feb | Sphere Awareness | CHA Conference Room | Colombo |
| Feb | Focus Group Discussion for joint Standards initiative (JSI) | Jaffna | Jaffna |
| Feb | Workshop on Project Budget Preparation | CHA Conference Room | Colombo |
| Feb | Workshop on Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation | CHA Conference Room | Colombo |
| Feb | Workshop on Advance Microsoft Excel | CHA Conference Room | Colombo |
| Feb | Forum Meeting focused on current status related to the HIV/AIDS | CHA Conference Room | Colombo |
| Feb | Coordination Facilitation and Networking CHA Intervention for Dhaham school development | Hambantota | Hambantota |

Web links :

For more reports and minutes of Coordination Facilitation and Networking, please visit us on the web at :

http://www.econsortium.info/cha/Meeting_Minutes.html

For our publication and Newsletters , please visit us on the web at :

http://www.econsortium.info/cha/Newsletters_Reports.html



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