

# INFORMATION UPDATE

CONSORTIUM OF HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES

**IN THIS ISSUE :**

- ☞ Sphere awareness programme for DDMC page -4
- ☞ Meeting on Action Plans of the Probation Department in Dealing with Children Related Affairs page -6
- ☞ District Highlights page -9



Training session

## ICT Training

Two sessions were conducted for children from School for Deaf.

They were trained on Microsoft Word during both sessions. They learnt to draw shapes and work with pictures. Using these features they designed a greeting card for the next session. They were given internet access to download images from Google search. Few students were very creative and came up with good designs. Ten students attended both sessions.

## Colombo Knowledge Centre New Acquisitions – July 2013

**Resourcing Child Rights: Child Centric Budget Analysis Sri Lanka 2011, By Chathuri Jayasooriya**

Published by Child Rights Advocacy Network (CRAN)

This is a useful tool in determining how financial allocations could be made for children, based on needs and priorities. The conduct of the Child Centric Budget Analysis (CCBA) also called a Budget for Children (BfC) is an extensive exercise in financial analysis of the State budget. This is an undertaking of a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the national budget based on child-related indicators. The conduct of the Child Centric Budget Analysis (CCBA) also called a Budget for Children (BfC) is an extensive exercise in financial analysis of the State budget. This is



an undertaking of a systematic and comprehensive analysis of the national budget based on child-related indicators.

**A Protection Assessment of Sri Lankan Internally Displaced Persons who have Returned, Relocated or are Locally Integrating**

Published by UNHCR

From November 2012 through March 2013, UNHCR Sri Lanka undertook a sampling exercise of Sri Lankan internally displaced persons (IDPs) who had returned to their places of origin, had relocated elsewhere, or appeared to be locally integrating.



The purpose of the exercise is to assess the current situation of these households according to the global standard, the IASC Framework for Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons.



### IASC Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons

Published by The Brookings Institution

This publication is the fruit of a long process. In 2001 the former Emergency Relief Coordinator turned to the former Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons to provide guidance on how to determine when people should no longer be considered to be IDPs. An extensive inquiry was undertaken at the request of the Representative by the Brookings Bern Project on Internal Displacement and the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University. And a series of broad-based consultations were held with governments, donors, international agencies and NGOs, civil society and IDP organizations, which in 2007 resulted in a pilot version of the framework on durable solutions.

Further Information, please contact Lalith on [infoanalyst@cha.lk](mailto:infoanalyst@cha.lk)

## Standing committee on Children 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held with the other standing committee members from Save the children, World Vision Lanka, Don Bosco, Unicef, IHR, ESCAPE, Hope for Children, Serve, NCCSL and CHA. Stephanie Siriwardena Foundation also joined as a standing committee member.

### Agenda

- ☞ Discuss list of priorities and sequence action
- ☞ Determine how best to include and action remaining suggestions.
- ☞ Child safe guard policies by Save the children

### Action plan is as follows;

- ☞ Save need to check on Centralized standard for volunteer homes.



- ☞ CHA to obtain support of JSC.
- ☞ CHA to convene a meeting with stakeholders on dealing with incest
- ☞ World vision to check with UNICEF on the project with AG on case delays.
- ☞ IHR to present further details on their psychosocial initiatives for children's home at the next meeting.
- ☞ Serve need to discuss with the head of agencies regard to the recommendation made to strengthen the legal system on children in prison with their mothers.

## Standing committee on Children 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting

The 3<sup>rd</sup> standing committee meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> July . Agenda was: Submission to JSC on children and the Courts by CHA. Incest-comments/ discussion on outcome of meeting convened



by Prof. Wijesinghe. Child Line-discussion and follow up on note by Don Bosco. Action plan are as follows;

- Potential NGO support for an initiative to arrange a dialog or orientation programmes for Judges to enlighten the need to incorporate the suggestion in the submission to the JSC .
- A stakeholder meeting to be arranged on child help line
- Don Bosco and Save the Children should frame objectives to be discussed at the meeting on broadening scope of child help line



## Responding to incest in SL

In response to the suggestion received from the children- standing committee members, CHA hosted a meeting convened and chaired by Prof. Rajive Wijesinha- MP on Responding to incest in SL. The meeting was well attended with representatives from Legal Aid Commission, Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs, Ministry of Health - Family Health Bureau, Sri Lanka Police, ESCAPE, IHR, World Vision Lanka, Save the children, NCCSL, Don Bosco, Hope for Children Sri Lanka, Serve, Stephanie Sirwardhana Foundation and CHA.

This consultation focussed on issues highlighted and arrived at conclusions which address current gaps and

concerns. Action points are as follows;

1. Legal aid commission to formulate a draft revision of law.
2. CHA should go through the present school curriculum on life skills and health science in order to incorporate sexual education/ awareness in the curriculum. Dr Wijemanne to raise awareness of this in the NEC
3. Save the Children to write to Prof Lakshman Jayathilake of the NEC with regard to books distributed in 2005 on sexual education.
4. Relevant ministry staff to meet weekly once a month in each division to update awareness and plan activities
5. GS in each division should weekly meet with police officers, teacher's counselors, principal, religious leaders, mid wife etc. in order to strengthen the grassroots level coordination.
6. Relevant Ministries Staff should be instructed to send in a simple report monthly on what the divisional activities are to the Ministry as well as the Divisional Secretary.
7. Contacting TRC and telecom providers on prospects for a unified and integrated hotline/helpline service.

## Standing Committee meeting on disability



A Standing committee on Disability was formed jointly with National Secretariat for persons with disability, Sight Savers, ECSAT, ZOA, DWDN, BCGR and CHA. This committee will be working on advocacy, representation and direct action issues related to Disability.

### Action point

- ☞ Social services ministry will send a letter to the Health ministry copying BCGR regard to develop database and linking the disabled personnel to relevant district hospitals.
- ☞ Checking up with Ragama Hospital on the possibility of receiving hearing aids for the 2 children.
- ☞ CHA to supporting ESCAT to organize a Neuro Physician from Galle hospital to carry out checkup for children suffering from cerebral palsy.
- ☞ Suggested to get article from CWD and invite media for the next meeting.
- ☞ Draft National action plan will be e-mail by NSPD to CHA to circulate among the standing committee members.



### Promoting professional standards

## Sphere awareness programme for DDMC

Upon request made by the Assistant Director, DDMCU a Sphere awareness programme was held at Nallur Divisional Secretariat for 30 District and Divisional Secretariat officers of Jaffna district. The participants were very interested and determine to incorporate the Sphere standard on their work and express their eagerness to participate in an in-depth training on Sphere.



## Sphere awareness in Ampara district



A Sphere introduction presentation was carried out at Ampara district. The presentation highlighted the background and importance of the sphere standards. 25 participants from NGO and CBOs were presented.

Participants were very much interested and requested CHA to carry out a one day programme on Sphere.



## Sphere awareness in Jaffna district

An introduction on Sphere standard was carried out at Jaffna district office. Following this introduction the Sphere brocher were distributed for easy reference. NGOs, CBO and government officers were benefited through this introduction.

# Workshop on “Ensuring Accountability through HAP standard “



In order for any humanitarian programme to be effective, aid workers need to be able to determine whether their relief work is meeting the real needs of the vulnerable people affected. The Humanitarian Accountability Partnership's (HAP) Standard helps to ensure that individuals and or-

ganizations can deliver on their commitments, being accountable to the people they assist and providing quality aid in a timely, cost-effective, and evidence-based manner.

An introductory workshop on HAP standard was held on 2nd July 2013 in Colombo. This course was designed to enable participants to understand accountability and apply the HAP standard in humanitarian programmes. This workshop was carried out by Maria Lauranti from Indonesia

## Workshop for Diakonia Partners

A 3 days workshop was organized by Diakonia and facilitated by Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies. Total number of the participants was 24, representing partner agencies of Diakonia.

This training aimed at promoting the knowledge and application of the **Humanitarian Accountability Partnership Standards** and its benchmarks to the work of any humanitarian initiative.

This training was designed to bring forth the accountability framework as per HAP Standards that can be adopted and contextualized by the participants' organization. Through discussion, reading material, case studies, examples and simulation, the training has given an introduction to six benchmarks that are applicable in HAP Standards

### Over-all comments about the training

- ☞ Useful training and excellent trainer
- ☞ Very participatory and lively training.
- ☞ It will help us to improve our services to people whom we are committed to serve.
- ☞ Training and trainer was excellent. The trainer had the required competency.
- ☞ Training was comprehensive and very informative. The trainer was quite inspiring and motivating.
- ☞ The trainer's knowledge and presentation style is very good.
- ☞ This training is useful to increase accountability and staff relationship. Video clips and simulation (role play) are the best.
- ☞ Very informative and knowledgeable.
- ☞ All the HAP benchmarks are easily explained and understood.



# Psychosocial Forum

## Meeting on Action Plans of the Probation Department in Dealing with Children Related Affairs

The Psychosocial Forum Meeting was initially planned for June, 2013. However, due to unavoidable circumstances, CHA had to postpone it to July 12, 2013.

The forum meeting mainly focused on the action plan of the Probations Department for child related affairs. Probation Officer Nirmalee Perera presented the operational aspect of her department. She gave the forum members an overall view about the department's duties and strategies, the officer's duties, and the new strategies the department has now initiated.

### Main topics presented by the probation officer were:

- Process of adoption
- Description of the new programs – surveys conducted on vulnerable children, village models and strengthening of families on a provincial level.
- Funding systems – the Probation Department is funded by the National Treasury and implements various development programs.
- Awareness programs are conducted for children, parents and school officials about child abuse and related issues.
- The probation departments also financially support children without education facilities (not schooling).
- They also deal with dysfunctional families. The department provides the families with counseling services, and it tries its best to provide the child with the same environment; however, there are also instances in which they take the children out of their families and place them under the relevant authorities' supervision.

The second presenter at the forum meeting was Ms. Vishaka Thilakarathne, a freelance Consultant. She presented the NGO's point of view about the strategies used with regard to child abuse or any other abused victim. She gave the forum members a few real-life experiences and presented the challenges she and the rest of the group/ the civil society face when attempting to support the victim. She also spoke about the problems the children face in the processes of available service interventions. Dr. Rasanjali, Deputy Director of Mental

Health, suggested that the MOH should take a lead in coordinating such cases at the grass root level liaising with the officers such as the Probations counselors, social workers, etc. The members agreed with this statement made. Even though Sri Lanka has a very good health administrative set up and other services provided in a systematic manner, there seems to be gaps in making appropriate referrals when it comes to addressing needs of the abused victims. The presenter finally suggested that in every district, a focal point (a government institution or a humanitarian agency) should take a lead to facilitate a mechanism to make the public aware of the available service provisions, ( e.g. whom to call or contact in time of a crisis and refer the case) and to take in a role to coordinate with the available services and link these needs with the services that are already available (for instance handling a child abuse case / victim of GBV needs multiple supporting mechanisms such as psychosocial, legal, family sessions etc.).



Health, suggested that the MOH should take a lead in coordinating such cases at the grass root level liaising with the officers such as the Probations counselors, social workers, etc. The members agreed with this statement made. Even though Sri Lanka has a very good health administrative set up and other services provided in a systematic manner, there seems to be gaps in making appropriate referrals when it comes to addressing needs of the abused victims. The presenter finally suggested that in every district, a focal point (a government institution or a humanitarian agency) should take a lead to facilitate a mechanism to make the public aware of the available service provisions, ( e.g. whom to call or contact in time of a crisis and refer the case) and to take in a role to coordinate with the available services and link these needs with the services that are already available (for instance handling a child abuse case / victim of GBV needs multiple supporting mechanisms such as psychosocial, legal, family sessions etc.).

### The action points of the forum meeting are listed below:

- ☞ The forum decided to form a working group to look into practical issues when dealing with victims of abuse and violence and create possible paths to initiate / support a proper coordination structure to support referral mechanisms and also to look into possibilities of establishing centers such as `crisis centers` with the involvement of the Government, humanitarian agencies and any actor within the field to support follow up of such cases.
- ☞ The CHA psychosocial coordinator to contact the relevant ministries requesting them for their support.
- ☞ The working group to review the recommendations provided globally when initiating case conferencing facilities in Sri Lanka and to come up with a practical mechanism to strengthen service delivery for the public. As an initial step it is suggested to collate all relevant Government and I/NGO services in the districts and publish leaflet providing information of available services and hotlines in Sri Lanka.
- ☞ CHA to responsibility in initiating a process to identify services in all districts ( through taking into consideration the results of the islandwide psychosocial mapping initiative of the CHA`s psychosocial programme, and collating information on services available for women and children in all districts.
- ☞ The Directorate of the Ministry of Health to support the initiative and provide technical guidance and advice.

**Note: Organizations interested in participating in the upcoming Forum meetings are invited to contact CHA on [psfcoord@cha.lk](mailto:psfcoord@cha.lk) / Tel: 4626100**

# Youth Forum



The youth forum meeting was held and objectives were introduced by the psychosocial intern Ms. Ishika Millaniyage. Members were given few minutes to introduce themselves to each other. Ms. Ishika did a presentation about the forum and what members should expect from it. Many of the members who attended the forum made suggestions regarding the activities that could be conducted. Finally, all the members decided to conduct a few activities as an initial step. The

forum members will meet again on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July at CHA to plan the visit to a home for Down syndrome children. The objective is to spend the day with these children and conduct play activities with them.

Ms. Ishika the psychosocial Intern of the CHA and the psychosocial Coordinator conducted a life line activity with the members. They were given papers and asked to draw or write their failures, achievements and Goals. The members were given 15 minutes to complete this task. Once this was completed they shared their stories with each other. The main objective behind this activity was to help the youth members have a clear picture about their failures and achievements, and how they could use these as lessons to achieve their goals.

## Highlights of upcoming events of the youth forum:

1. Youth Forum members visiting a home for Down syndrome children
2. Second youth forum meeting on the 31st of July to plan the home visit mentioned above.

Those interested in joining the youth forum group to visits the Down syndrome children 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 a 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**

## Quarterly psychosocial newsletter

The psychosocial program of CHA created a quarterly newsletter and published it within the month of July. The newsletter included all activities conducted by the psychosocial program and the Psychosocial Forum during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of the year. The newsletter was sent to all forum members and other officials involved with CHA. The newsletter will be available on the CHA website. The link is given below:  
[www.econsortium.info/cha/](http://www.econsortium.info/cha/)

## Working Group Meeting 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 the any cases with acute psychosocial needs. The working group meeting was held on the July 24, 2013 with the intention of gathering representatives from the relevant government Ministries, I/NGOs who may suggest valuable ideas for handling such situations and brainstorm the possibility of setting up a crisis centers to handle grievances of victims of abuse, trauma and domestic



*(Continued on page 8)*

violence needing long-term psychosocial rehabilitation. The main objectives of forming the working group are:

The working group will be able to work together and initiate a process for a collective effort in order to centralize services targeting not only children but also women and men, who are subject to abuse and violence. The main objective of this initiative is to create a package of services within the existing set-up.

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Vishaka Thilakarathne and the working group consisted of seven individuals, including the Director of Mental Health, Dr. Rasangalee Hettiarachchi and the CHA Psychosocial Consultant/Clinical Psychologist Ms. Chrishara Paranawithana. After an effective brainstorming session about the existing services and gaps, the working group decided on a few action plans.



### **These action plans are listed below:**

- Creating a list which would include existing services (psychosocial, medical, legal and social protection services) for a critical situation.
- CHA will take the responsibility of calling available hotline services in the country and to collate information of their services, nature of work. CHA will also take the responsibility of gathering 25 District NGO representatives/ psychosocial network coordinators, who would be able to work closely for the initiative, by providing information about already existing psychosocial, medical, legal and social protection services.
- CHA, along with the members of the working group would then create a brochure including information about available services (psychosocial, medical, legal and social protection services) in the relevant districts and at central level. Furthermore to focus on disseminating the information leaflets in all the districts through the District Secretariats, through year end calendars published, and identify mechanism for disseminating information amongst the general public ( e.g media programmes , newspaper articles etc.),
- The working group will also conduct a few field studies to get an idea about the structure and the functions of available service provisions catering for the victims of abuse and trauma. By conducting these studies the working group will know what areas to improve.

The Working Group is also envisioning to set up a pilot Crisis Centre gaining involvement of both Government , I/NGOs to run a service for the people in need and to create a mechanism to coordinate a package of services within the existing set-up.

## **The Island Wide Mapping Initiative of Psychosocial Organizations and Development of a 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

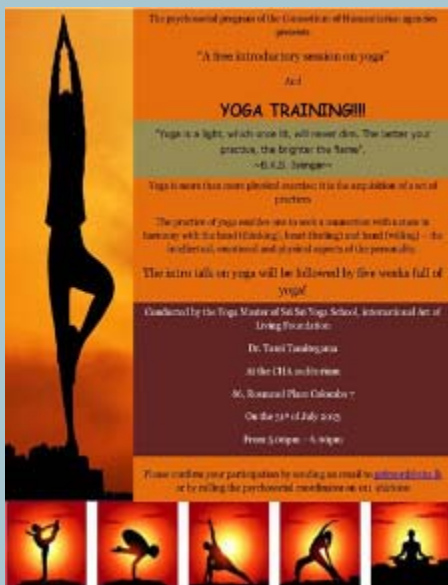
- Providing a comprehensive list of updated information of organizations doing psychosocial work in Sri Lanka during 2013.
- Identify organizations providing specific and special psychosocial related interventions such as children related interventions, interventions focused on the elderly community, 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.)

For further information: Contact CHA - [psfcoord@cha.lk](mailto:psfcoord@cha.lk) / Tel: 4626100



**Special Notices on Upcoming Events organized by the Psychosocial Programme Unit of CHA**

**Yoga Training**



The above image was sent to all members notifying them about the yoga training

CHA is planning to have a free introduction session on July 31, 2013 from 5.00 pm – 6.00pm at the CHA auditorium. This introductory lesson is for the participants to understand the con-

CHA has taken the initiative to conduct a five-week-long yoga training session at the CHA auditorium. This program will be 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.

cepts of Yoga before they decide to register for a course. The first lesson will commence from the 7th of August, and the course will then continue for five weeks.

For inquiries/ get yourself enrolled for the sessions: Please contact PSF Coordinator on 4626100 emails: psfcoord@cha.lk

**Alcohol and Drug abuse workshop**



The above image was sent to all members notifying them about this workshop.

The alcohol and drug abuse workshop will take place on August 2, 2013 at the CHA auditorium from 9.30 Am to 12.30 Pm. The workshop would be conducted by Rev. S. Upatissa, an expert counsellor in alcohol and drug abuse.

**District Highlights**

**Hambantota**

**Advocacy & Accountability**



Field survey at Ridiyagama Diyawara Gammanaya to identify childrens issues under the supervision of Ambalantota divisional Secretariat office with about 20 government officers of

Ambalantota DS such as CROP, Social development officer, Women development officer & Grama Niladaries. We visited 80 families to identify childrens issues as well as actual living situation of their families.

Issues identified were:

- ☞ Non schooling due to poverty
- ☞ Children without birth certificates
- ☞ Child abuse
- ☞ Nutrition issues.
- ☞ Lack of basic schooling equipments for schooling & studies

- ☞ Lack of fixed income or labor work in the village.
- ☞ Lack of vocational training opportunities for school leavers & un-employed youth.
- ☞ Lack of safe environment for children at home.

Mobile Clinics planned in response in collaboration with relevant institutions & authorities under the supervision & guidance of Ambalantota Divisional secretary.

**Awareness program on Kitchen waste management for rural women**



With the objective to raise awareness and improve kitchen waste management CHA organized a half day awareness session for 30 women at Ambalantota DS division. 30 women leaders who

expect to start home gardening by using home waste were selected. Participants arranged one small model home garden with some plants. As an initial step, CHA donated some seeds and plants for women to start this program in collaboration with individual sponsors. Technical instructions were

*(Continued on page 10)*

given by senior students of Agriculture department of University of Ruhuna .

## Providing Donations for Rural temple



Responding to a request from Rural Temple called Sri Mahindaramaya, CHA District office was able to donate paint, plastic chairs,

bed sheets, pillow cases, stationeries, dictionary to the Temple with contributions of Private companies, to plant walls of the Temple. Initial steps to paint the walls are also being taken.

## Information Dissemination

- Hambantota District DS division contact details to CBOs.
- Geographical information for 21 school students.
- Information on Children for 06 university students.
- Lending DRC publications to 16 clients
- Information on Children Homes in Hambantota district for 05 University students.
- Referred 11 youth for employment opportunities and vocational training programs.

## Education Program

With the objective to improve Literacy status of school students, CHA Hambantota district office donated English medium reference books for English study unit of H / Therapuththa National College to utilize for students.

## Matara

Coordination facilitation and Networking

## Energy saving project

Practical session conducted for women on health hazards with cooking using firewood in a traditional kitchen and awareness on economically important energy saving low cost cooking stove introduced to a community group in Radawela 'Mulatiyana for approximately



25-35 women.

## Reading circle Programme

continues for 25 school children doing their home work, improving their reading skills and IT knowledge..



## Model paper classes for year 5 students

CHA provided model papers for year 5 students in MR/ Dampella K.V for those who face the year 5 scholarship examination in 2013. The teacher voluntarily involved in this extra class work. Model papers are given every week and the model paper class will be continued. CHA monitors progress by obtaining the marks weekly of each student. 25 students benefit from this programme.



## Jaffna

## Need assessment survey at Kaddupulam, Chankanai



Need assessment survey at Kaddupulam, Chankanai with the Grama Seva Niladhari, Samurधि Officer, Members of Rural Development Society, Members of Food co-operative stores and the President of the Rural Development Society at Kaddupulam.



## CO-ORDINATION MEETING

**CO-ORDINATION MEETING** Topic of the meeting was "Necessity of Family Planning". Dr.T.Jeyaseelan, Medical officer for Health, Kopay was the Resource person.. The Target group was the Staff of MOH office, NGO's , DS Office staff, Government Department staffs, Members of WRDS, RDS and members .

**Free Legal Services at IHR, Urelu-30** clients sought free legal advice and assistance.

### JULY 2013 EVENT- HIGHLIGHTS

DATE	TYPE	SUBJECT	VENUE	DISTRICT
1-Jul-2013	Training	Training on Humanitarian Accountability Partnership	CHA	Colombo
2-Jul-2013	Meeting	Discussion on Online Database - Disability Ex-combatants	CHA	Colombo
8-Jul-2013	Meeting	Meeting of Donor Team - The Asia Foundation	CHA	Colombo
11-Jul-2013	Meeting	Responding to incent in SL	CHA	Colombo
12-Jul-2013	Meeting	PSF Forum	CHA	Colombo
14-Jul-2013	Meeting	District Coordination Meeting Ampara	Janasaviya Organization	Ampara
16-Jul-2013	Meeting	Meeting on setup Harmony center at Killinochchi	CHA	Colombo
17-Jul-2013	Meeting	Standing Committee meeting on children	CHA	Colombo
26-Jul-2013	Meeting	PSF Youth Forum	CHA	Colombo
1-Aug-2013	Meeting	District Coordination Meeting Jaffna	CHA District Office	Jaffna



**CONTACT :** Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (Gte) Limited

Address : No. 86, Rosmead Place, Colombo 07.

Tel/Fax: 011—4626100 | E—mail: info@cha.lk | Web : www.humanitarian-srilanka.org