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# Information Update

**DRR PLANNING CONDUCTED IN AMBALANTOTA**

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## Monthly Network Meeting and Capacity Building for A-PAD Platform



*Ms Izuka presents to the members present*



The monthly network meeting for the A-PAD Multi-actor Platform in Sri Lanka which is facilitated by the CHA, was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. 16 members of the A-PAD were in attendance. Mr Chandraratne Vithanage, the Assistant Secretary General of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce co-presented along with Ms Sonali Seneviratne and Ms Akiko Izuka of the A-PAD. Ms Akiko Izuka, representing the Civic Force and A-PAD MO in Japan, presented on Japan's experience in Private Sector collaboration in Disaster Response.

The meeting was followed by an interactive workshop on 'Creating a Disaster Resilient Environment', an initiative of utmost importance to the private sector to avoid risk in investing on unsafe land which can affect businesses and CSR enterprises. CHA partnered with the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) to conduct this workshop.

## Monitoring and Evaluation carried out in Meeriyabedda

A Monitoring and Evaluation was conducted on A-PAD's response to the Meeriyabedda landslide last year wherein the affected were supplied with rations and other relief items. The three day monitoring comprised of a briefing with A-PAD project staff, meeting at DMC and with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the Co-Chair of A-PAD. A day's visit was made to the Poonagala Tea Estate to meet beneficiaries. Discussions were held with Brigadier in Command in Diyathalawa and Project Officer of Divisions Secretariat in Haldamulla.



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## Emergency assistance required for electrocuted dozen in Orugodawatte



L & Middle - Mr Firzan Hashim of the A-PAD SL visits the injured R - An injured individual receiving medical attention

The horrendous tragedy which resulted in the death of one has left 12 others critically injured as a flag pole collapsed onto a high-power electricity cable in the Wadullawatte area in Grandpass in Colombo on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June.

In the immediate aftermath of what was an unfortunate calamity, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) approached the A-PAD with a request for aid for the injured who were of poor economic backgrounds. As this form of injury does not immediately fall under the mandate of the DMC, they seek external support of the donor and I/NGO community.

CHA seeks to source the following items which they urgently require:

*Bedsheets/sheets, mosquito nets, wheelchairs, crepe-bandages, Betadine Solution, Acticoat, ration packs inclusive of drinking-items such as Sustagen, Horlicks, juices, etc.*

## National Psychosocial Forum Meeting



The Monthly Psychosocial Meeting held at CHA

The psychosocial forum meeting was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2015, at the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies auditorium, from 10.00 am – 12.00 pm. The presentation was conducted by Mrs Marini De Livera, Human Right Lawyer, on a research project conducted on Gender Bases Violence. The main idea behind this research is to gather information on

how procedures take place within the police stations when abuse-victims (women and children), visit the station to lodge a complaint. She also presented a handmade book created by her with the intention of raising awareness on how a child can protect him/herself from becoming a victims of abuse.

**If you are interested in joining future forums and receiving updates of previous forums please contact our Psychosocial Coordinator Ms. Nishadhi Cruz on 1144061461 or [psfcoord@cha.lk](mailto:psfcoord@cha.lk)**

## Koslanda Initiative – Providing psychosocial services to the adult victims

The Psychosocial program of the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies has initiated a work plan and working group with the intention of providing psychosocial assistance to those adults affected by the Koslanda landslides.

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Due to Government procedures and protocols, the program had to be held still until the families were transferred to a well-organized camp.

The CHA is in discussion with the Rotary Club of the Capital City to provide the victims with meditation and mental health programmes within the upcoming months. The process has been finalised and is awaiting confirmation of a date from the Camp in Koslanda.

**If there are any other organizations interested in supporting this initiative or interested in being a part of this meeting please contact our Psychosocial Coordinator on 0114061461 or [psfcoord@cha.lk](mailto:psfcoord@cha.lk)**

## Building of Pre School in Anuradapura



The CHA is in discussion with a potential hardware manufacturer in Anuradhapura for the supplies needed for the construction of the building. A builder will be commissioned from Colombo to take the necessary steps to commence building. CHA has finalized the plan and the financial aspects pertaining to the commencement of the construction.

**If you are interested in making a donation, please note that materials are also welcome (pens, pencils, books, stationary and toys), you could also hand over funds to CHA and the youth forum will purchase the materials needed. Finally, to make a donation to these children please contact our Psychosocial Coordinator Ms Nishadhi Cruz on [psfcoord@cha.lk](mailto:psfcoord@cha.lk) or 0765525744**

## District Highlights—Hambantota

### CBDRR Project – Hambantota District

This month, the CHA Hambantota District Office conducted four DRR follow up programs and one Network Meeting. DRR planning, disaster resilience for students and psychosocial training in DRR were the topics covered in the follow-up programs.

### 2 follow-up programs on DRR Planning conducted in Ambalantota



DRR Planning Program at Kuda Bolala Village



DRR Planning Program at Kiula Village

This month two DRR Planning programs were conducted in Ambalantota. Approximately 70 people attended the trainings which were conducted in Kiula and Kuda Bolana villages. The cohorts in attendance for the follow-up were selected based on their attendance for the DRR planning and water management training which was held in 2014 under last year's CBDRR project. Mr Samantha Wickramage, Program Officer of the DMC conducted the training programs.

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## Follow-up program on Disaster Resilience

A Disaster Resilience training program was conducted on the 20th of July for the students of H/Therapuththa National school. 42 students following Geography as a subject attended this program. 98% of the students in attendance were from vulnerable areas often affected by flood and drought. Additionally, the school is also located facing the Walawe River. In light of these circumstances, these students have had to face many difficulties. Thus, it was decided that the conducting of a follow-up program on Disaster Resilience would in a great way contribute as an investment in the future of the township as the resilience of the future of the society depends on the future of its youth. Mr Senaka Prasanna, the Geography teacher of the school conducted the training program as a resource person.



Under the DRR/PSF project CHA conducted a psychosocial and counselling program for the Hambantota district youth leaders of the National Youth Service Council (NYSC) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July. There were 42 youth in attendance of this event. Mr Janaka Hettiarachchi, the Counselling Officer of NYSC conducted this training program as a resource

## Psychosocial Response and Counseling in Disaster Risk Reduction



person. Ms S R G Chathurika Harshani, a teacher of the English language who was in attendance, pointed out the importance of such training seminars for the youth of today's society and thanked the CHA for making such services available.

## Network Meeting

The CHA Hambantota District Office conducted a Network Meeting on Disaster Response for Hambantota district CBOs and government organizations under the supervision of the GA on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July at the GA's Office. There were 24 participants in attendance representing government, CBO and voluntary organizations in the district. CHA has played a vital role in coordination and networking among government bodies, NGOs and CBOs for many years. At present CHA is implementing activities on disaster management, preparedness and response in liaison with the DMC. Hambantota has, in recent years, been vulnerable to many natural disasters. Although the district has a strong coordination and network among government and NGOs to work on behalf of the development of the district, at present it has been identified that there is a lack of coordination and networking between the government and CBOs in disaster management and response. Thus, CHA decided to conduct a Hambantota District NGOs Coordination/Network Meeting on disaster response to encourage a collaboration under the supervision of the GA. Accordingly, CBOs and voluntary organizations working on disaster management were invited.





## Jaffna

### **CBDRR PROJECT - JAFFNA DISTRICT**

Under the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction project, CHA Jaffna, in collaboration with the Disaster Management Unit of the District Secretariat in Jaffna, conducted four Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction workshops in the district for the month of July. Three workshops have been held in Mullaitivu as well.

### **Two workshops on Creating Disaster Resilient Communities**

Jaffna Project staff organised a workshop at the Women's Development Society Office in Kopay on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July for the members of the Community Centre, Vatharawattai, J/280, Kopay Division. 42 people participated in the workshop. An officer of the DS Office in Jaffna, Mr Concladious, was the resource person.



The second workshop on Creating Disaster Resilient Communities was conducted for the benefit of women at the Velavan Community Centre at Changanai J/162 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July. 36 women attended the workshop. Representatives from Colombo were present for the workshop. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> workshop to be held in Jaffna. Under the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) Programme. Mr Concladious conducted the second workshop as well.



### **Workshops on Management of Water Resources to Mitigate Effects of Drought and Flood at Village Level**

Two workshops on the 'Management of Water Resources to Mitigate Effects of Drought and Flood at Village Level' were conducted for the benefit of the students of Thampatty Government Tamil-Mixed school in Kayts Island. 30 students were in attendance of the first seminar to be conducted and 40 students, the second seminar. The Resource person who conducted the workshop was Mr T Balasubramaniam of the Water Supply and Drainage Board of Jaffna. These workshops concluded the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> workshops to be conducted in the peninsula under the CBDRR programme.



## CBDRR Project in Mullaitivu District – 3 workshops conducted on Community Awareness in Disaster Risk Reduction Planning

3 workshops on Community Awareness in Disaster Risk Reduction Planning have been held in Mullaitivu in the Month of July. The first, second and third workshops were held on the same day at the same venue albeit at different times for three batches of women.



The first workshop on Community Awareness in Disaster Risk Reduction Planning was held on the 7th of July for 27 school students of the Mu/Alampil RC Maha Vidyalayam in Alampil South GN Division.



The second workshop on Community Awareness in Disaster Risk Reduction Planning was held on the 18th of July for a batch of 45 women from the Manthuvil GN Division. It was held at the Manthuvil Community Centre.

Risk Reduction Planning was also conducted at the Manthuvil Community Centre of the Manthuvil GN Division for another group of 53 women.

The third workshop on Community Awareness in Disaster



## District Coordination Meeting



The monthly coordination meeting was held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July at the CHA premises under theme **‘The role of society in preventing the use of narcotics – a disaster prevention effort’**. Mr K Gouthaman, District Psychosocial Coordinator of the District Secretariat, Jaffna was the resource person. 14 participants were in attendance.

## Women's Drop-in Centre, Jaffna

IHR/CHA have over a two year period advocated one-stop facilities for vulnerable women where service providers are found in one location. A modest beginning in this direction has taken root with the understanding of the GA Jaffna. It will be located at a home and land provided free where Livelihood programmes to empower women socially and economically (including home gardening) and Training programmes will be offered. In emergencies, short term shelter facilities will be extended. The service will be managed by a CBO nominated by the GA overseen by Women Development Officers.

IHR/CHA has further advocated for the creation of “resilient communities” amongst the vulnerable by capacitating them to acquire skills, knowledge, links with marketing and low cost credit lines. Space to meet for capacitating activities has been offered at CHA Jaffna.

### Meeting Highlights - July

Date	Topic	Venue	District
2-Jul-2015	Meeting with Muslim Aid on finalizing the Nat. Consultation report, in coordination with Dr. Saleem.	CHA	Colombo
2-Jul-2015	Meeting with Mr Concladius at the Divisional Secretariat, to discussed workshop scheduled for the 7th	District Secretariat	Jaffna
2-Jul-2015	Meeting with Ms Umayal of District Secretariat - discussion regarding workshop	District Secretariat	Jaffna
2-Jul-2015	Land reclamation - follow-up meeting on what issues to be tackled by a forum set up to handle land reclamation issues	CHA	Colombo
3-Jul-2015	Meeting with RDC		



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3-Jul-2015	Skype meeting with CF/A-PAD Japan on project progress/Nepal status/other project updates/Symposium in Jaffna	CHA Team	Colombo
3-Jul-2015	Meeting with Mr Lavakanth and Mr Claudious at the Divisional Secretariat to handover necessary documents for the 7th.	District Secretariat	Jaffna
6-Jul-2015	Meeting with Mr Krishan Sugathapala on NBRO presentation topic for Network Meeting on July 16.	NBRO	Colombo
7-Jul-2015	Meeting with Sheran Henry Associate on partnering with Architects to support resilient structures on landslide, disaster-prone areas.	Sheran Henry Associates Colombo 04	Colombo
7-Jul-2015	Meeting at DMC to contribute to preparation on Action Plan on GBV - meeting of a technical committee	DMC committee room	Colombo
8-Jul-2015	Meeting with Mr Concladious - regarding workshop conduction	District Secretariat, Jaffna	Jaffna
8-Jul-2015	Meeting with Mr K Gouthaman, District Psychosocial Coordinator, National Child Protection Authority, District Secretariat, Jaffna - request to participate as a resource person for the co-ordination meeting		
8-Jul-2015	Meeting with Dr Saleem to finalise booklet for WHS Consultations	Mahatma Gandhi Centre	Colombo
10-Jul-2015	Psychosocial Forum Meeting on Gender-Based Violence; Ms Marini De Livera made a presentation on her research and work on GBV in rural Sri Lanka	CHA	Colombo
13-Jul-2015	Mr Srishankar met Mr Claudious at DS Office, Jaffna and discussed about the next workshop to be held on 16th	DS Office, Jaffna	Jaffna
14-Jul-2015	Mr Srisankar visited Thampatty and made arrangements for the workshop to be held on the 17th	GTMS, Thampatty,	Jaffna
15-Jul-2015	Mr.Srishankar visited Arali & chankanai and made arrangements for the workshop to be held on 16th	Community Centre, Araly	Jaffna
16-Jul-2015	A-PAD Network Meeting and Workshop at CCC	Ceylon Chambers	Colombo
20-Jul-2015	Visit to DS Office Sandilipay to meet Mr Thirukumaran, DM Officer and Mr Thirukumaran, DMC Officer in order to discuss arrangements for the workshop.	DS Office,Sandilipay	Jaffna
21-Jul-2015	Meeting at District Secretariat, Jaffna to meet Mr Soroopan, DMC Tellipalai, on the arrangement for issuing of buckets	Dist.Secretariat, Jaffna	Jaffna
22-Jul-2015	Meeting with the Monitoring and Evaluation team for Meeriyabedda from Japan	CHA	Colombo
22-Jul-2015	Meeting with DMC on M&E of Meeriyabedda	DMC	Colombo
23-Jul-2015	Site visit Diyathalawa Army Camp - Meeting with Brig. Athula Silva, Col. Fonseka	Diyatalawa	Badulla
23-Jul-2015	Site visit to Tea Factory where beneficiaries are housed.	Meeriyabedda	Badulla
23-Jul-2015	CHA Coordination Meeting. Theme of the meeting: 'The role of the Society in Preventing the Use of Narcotics'	CHA Meeting Hall	Jaffna
24-Jul-2015	Meeting with Chandra at CCC on Land slide Monitoring	CCC	Colombo
24-Jul-2015	Wrap up meeting with Sonali	CHA	Colombo
24-Jul-2015	Meeting with the Asst. Director of the Education Dept, Jaffna to discuss the Symposium	Education Dept, Jaffna	Jaffna
29-Jul-2015	Voices of Strong Women' - panel discussion and presentation on the untold stories of war affected women in the North and South of Sri Lanka.	BMICH, Colombo	Colombo

## Notice of Relocation of Office

This is to notify you that with effect from the **1<sup>st</sup> of August 2015**, the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies will be relocating to the following address. Please also note that the telephone number(s) and all other contact details will remain unchanged.

Our new address will be:

**No 1, Gower Street,  
Colombo 05.**

**No 1, Gower Street, Colombo 05.**

**Tel/Fax: 011—4061461 Ext. 134**

**E—mail: [info@cha.lk](mailto:info@cha.lk)**

*The Information Update is also available on the CHA website:*

**<http://www.humanitarian-srilanka.org>**

*For further information please contact Svetlana Abeysekera on [info@cha.lk](mailto:info@cha.lk)*

