

INFORMATION UPDATE

CONSORTIUM OF HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES



INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

COMPUTER TRAINING FOR SECOND BATCH FROM SCHOOL FOR DEAF

Computer training for second batch of students from School for Deaf, Ratmalana commenced in March. Eleven students from Year 9, 10 and 11 accompanied by a teacher participated in the training. On the first day they did a small survey to know their current knowledge and applications, interests to learn on computers, their hobbies and what they would like to do after schooling. Most of them like to learn email, internet and word processing. Some were interested in graphic designing, database management, presentation, spread sheet and networking. During this session it was noticed that their knowledge on reading and writing also has to be improved.

After the survey, they did a brain storming session on Azim Premji content. They competed individually and in groups in filling English words. Their participation and interest shown were very impressive.



COORDINATION FACILITATION AND NETWORKING

Meeting on Partnering to Eradicate Poverty

Ministry of Economic Development is seeking partners to support the objectives of Divi Neguma in eradicating poverty. Organizations individuals who have experience in local and international arenas in rural development are sought to partner the effort collectively.



The meeting to create a consortium of such organizations and individuals in linking with the Ministry of Economic Development and Local Government authorities' was held on 01st March 2013 at 10 am at CHA.

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The meeting commenced with a brief over view by CHA on the purpose of the meeting with agencies and individuals being given an opportunity to voice their views, concerns and clarifications on the Divineguma Act.

The Following are concerns expressed without attributing to any particular agency or individual

- Were Organizations doing similar activities required to channel their work through the Divineguma structures and institutions?
- What will happen to the other CBO?
- Who will be benefit by the program?
- Is there any political motivation behind this Act?

Conclusion & Action plan

A small group would be formed with volunteers drawn from this group to collectively table concerns and the agenda for the meeting with the Diva Neguma officials.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT COLOMBO KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

☞ **Language and Humanity**

By S. G. Punchihewa

Published by Centre for Policy Alternatives

☞ **Tamil Language Rights in Sri Lanka**

By Dr. Devanesan Nesiah

Published by Centre for Policy Alternatives

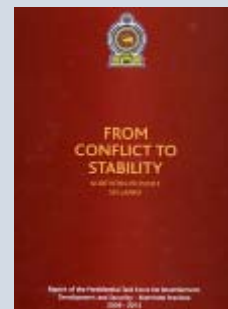
☞ **From Conflict to Stability Report of the Presidential Task Force for Resettlement, Development and Security**

– Northern Province 2009 -2012 Published by Ministry of Economic Development

☞ **What lessons Learnt?**

An accessible, thematised summary of the LLRC report

Published by International Centre for Ethnic Studies



INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR TAMIL LANGUAGE FIELD SUPPORT FOR ESOCIETY PROJECTS IMPLEMENTING IN NORTH AND EAST

After successful coordination of events in north and east in 2010 and 2011 once again CHA collaborates with Information and Communication Technology Agency (ICTA) to provide consultancy services for Tamil language field support for eSociety projects implementing in North and East.

VISIT BY ASIA PACIFIC ALLIANCE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT (APADM) REPRESENTATIVES TO SRI LANKA – 14th to 18th March 2013

Headquarter representatives of the Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management (APADM) based in Tokyo, Japan visited Sri Lanka to support the creation of APADM-Sri Lanka national platform. APADM is a trans-national disaster aid platform for the purpose of facilitating and collaborating among countries in the Asia-Pacific region with the aim of delivering effective and efficient disaster assistance through disaster preparedness, risk reduction, relief and recovery. Sri Lanka is one of the five founder countries of the APADM, the others being Japan, South Korea, Indonesia and Philippines. Consortium of humanitarian Agencies (CHA) is co-chair to the national platform with the Colombo Chamber of Commerce in Sri Lanka.

Masa UO and Megumi Kuwana of APADM Headquarters Japan, held discussions with CHA and Chamber's representative in Sri Lanka. The team with the national representatives met with the business sector, NGO sector and the Secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management (MoDM) in Sri Lanka.

Government Sector – The Secretary to the MoDM, Ms Mareena Mohammed appreciated the initiative and expressed her support and willingness to partner. She emphasized the need for such a platform which could bring in the business and NGO sector working together for a coordinated and effective mechanism to support the government's plan of action. This was a lacuna in Sri Lanka which needs to be addressed, she admitted.

Business Sector – The team met with the Managing Director of largest Super market chain (Food City) in Sri Lanka, Cargills (Ceylon) PLC. The concept of the platform was introduced and Cargills expressed its intention to join the platform and agreed to discuss the signing of a MoU in supporting beneficiaries in rural areas by purchasing their products directly to the island-wide super markets. The platform whilst coordinating and facilitating disaster management is also looking at disaster resilient models to ensure livelihood sustainability to communities prone to disasters. These networks could reverse its functions during disasters as an effective mechanism. The team met with the District Chamber of Commerce in Trincomalee and discussed the concept of creating district based platforms. Projects currently being carried out by the chambers and the business networks and business models introduced to support vulnerable families were discussed in detail. The district chambers too expressed the need for a collaborative effort and were positive in its response to the creation of a district platform linking with the national platform.

NGO Sector – The district consortium of NGOs in Trincomalee convened its member NGOs and the APADM team met with the membership. The concept of a national and district platforms were briefed to the consortium members where many expressed the need for such a platform to create links within the district and at the national level. Members keenly expressed the need to review the past experiences in which many a conflict and natural disasters were responded in the district and to create a viable model with different stakeholders. NGOs expressed their strong links to the grass roots and their expertise in the different fields and target groups. Currently nearly forty NGOs are active in the district.



Secretary to MoDM in discussion with APADM representatives Masa Uo, Megumi Kuwana and Firzan Hashim, Deputy Executive Director of CHA



Masa UO, Megumi Kuwana, Kana Taniguchi (Peace Winds Japan), Firzan Hashim (Dty Exec Director CHA) in discussion with Imtiaz Wahid – Managing Director Cargills and Keerthi Goonesekara – General Manager, Retail Operations Cargills.



APADM officials from Japan, CHA and Peace Winds Japan in discussion with Chairman and representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Trincomalee District.

MEETING ON REHABILITATION OF ADDICTED SUBSTANCE MISUSERS IN SRI LANKA



The Meeting on Rehabilitation of Addicted Substance Misusers in Sri Lanka was held on 15th March 2013 at the

Auditorium of the National Dangerous Drug Control Board Office, Rajagiriya.

It was chaired by Ms Liesha de Silva, Chairperson of the National Dangerous Drug Control Board and represented by officials of the Ministries of Health, Social Services, Rehabilitation and Prisons Reforms, Attorney General Departments, with relevant experts. Since there is an initiative ongoing now to transfer to rehabilitation those currently in correctional facilities and to plan for future rehabilitees, the discussion was based on rehabilitating and eradicating drug dependence.

Addressing the meeting Prof Rohan Gunaratne said that the government is unable to do this alone and they expect assistance from Civil Society and private sector in areas such as Counseling, Vocational Training, Assistance for their families, Programms for children

11 representatives from NGO sector participated at the meeting invited by CHA.

Financial Management workshop



This 2 day workshop was held for representatives from LEADS, Norwegian Refugee Council, Plan International, Legal Aid Commission and ZOA refugee Care took part at this workshop. Participants were able to understand the importance of organization planning and setting up implementation of workable systems, policies and procedures to overcome the financial challenges a NGO may face.

Significant comments from the participant

- Excellent training. Help me to improve the inter department relationship and also to understand the importance of delegation.

- The trainer was good. It helps me to discover new technics and highlight the procedures to be improved in our organization
- Trainer was well experience on NGO finance management.
- Training was good. Understood the factors to be considered on budget preparing
- Easier to understand and well organize. Suitable for any level of NGO staff.

Effective Writing Skills



A workshop on effective writing skills was to improve the competence and confidence of individuals by learning the essentials within the English language for effective business communication. Participants were from Norwegian Refugee Council, Legal Aid Commission and GIZ.

Comments from the participants

- Very good training. Will definitely will change by writing style.
- It is really useful to develop my writing skills and carry out my day to day work

- Facilitator was an excellent trainer in this field.
- Such a good training with flexible training methods for adult learning.
- It will definitely help me in my career development

COORDINATION FACILITATION AND NETWORKING

The Youth Forum



The Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) is currently hosting a series of youth forums with an aim to promote volunteerism among the youth and develop their skills in being youth leaders. The 4 Forum in the series was conducted in March 7.

The Forum specifically focused on discussing youth development, leadership skills and public speaking skills for the youth. Youth from the academic institutions such as the University of Colombo, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, The American National College (ANC), NISD participated in the Forum.

The speaker at the Youth Forum was Mr. Sandun Fernando, a renowned expert and trainer in Youth leadership skills development and public speaking. Mr. Fernando focused on the following thematic areas in his session and had a fruitful discussion with the participants

Individuals/ organizations interested in participating in the Youth forums in the future may contact the following persons to get enrolled:

PS Officer - on Tel: 4626100 / psofficer@cha.lk Ps Consultant - psconsultant@cha.lk/psfcoord@cha.lk

Specialized Psychosocial Training for Government Cadre



Training of Counselors of the Ministry of Social Services

The CHA Integrated to its overall annual psychosocial work plan for 2013, the training of Government cadres on

specialized psychosocial related and psychological related service provisions. The following cadres are identified as target groups to be given special psychosocial related trainings by a pool of foreign and local experts.

- Prison workers
- Police Women and Children’s desk officers
- Probations officers
- Counseling assistants of the Social Services departments

In consultation with the Ministry of Social services, National Counseling Unit, the CHA organized a special preliminary psychosocial training on the 1st of March at the CHA auditorium in Colombo. The training focused on discussing the following thematic areas;

- Early Child hood developmental disorders identification, and case management aspects for counselors
- Dealing with orphans—The trainings were facilitated by Clinical Psychologist (Ms. K. Munasinghe) from the CHA resource pool and Mr.Duminda Wanigasekera, Trainer coordinator of Samutthana resource centre, which is a member of the CHA National Psychosocial Forum.

25 counselors from the Colombo and Gampaha districts participated in the training programme. It is intended to conduct training for counselors affiliated to all districts and continue a series of follow up trainings on diverse specialized thematic areas on psychosocial and psychological aspects throughout the year. On this behalf CHA plans to utilize an expert resource pool of with local and international work experiences.

13th March 2013 – Working Group meeting with psychosocial experts for mapping of Psychosocial services in Sri Lanka – At the CHA HQ auditorium

The project aims to develop a comprehensive database on island wide psychosocial services offered by institutions and organizations working in Sri Lanka. A dire need exists in collecting information of services offered by existing Non - Governmental organizations (NGO’s) as the humanitarian field has undergone many changes pertaining to the operational aspects of services offered by INGO’s and NGOs in the recent past. The CHA has been updating databases for psychosocial service provisions since the post tsunami context. The database is outdated as the information comprises details of services offered up to the year 2009. Fur-

thermore, there is no available database/ tool which provide information on psychosocial service provisions in all the 25 districts in the country.

Objectives of the Project Activity

- To map and track organizations providing psychosocial services in 25 districts
- Produce a comprehensive Psychosocial Services Database in print and electronic version of an advanced but simple software with updating and upgrading facilities;
- Incorporate information in the Database pertaining to the PTF approval process and guidelines for Humanitarian organizations



The Database research group would be using a questionnaire as a tool to collect data. In the intention of updating this questionnaire CHA has a working group meeting on the 13th of March 2013 at the CHA HQ auditorium with a few professionals from the psychosocial forum to obtain their perspectives and suggestions. Almost all district coordinators have been contacted and several valid NGO lists have been obtained through CHA resource's as well as the UN – OCHA. The project would be completed by August and would be published in the form of a directory as well as on the web. If your Organization conducts any psychosocial activities please be kind to contact us on

PS Officer - on Tel: 4626100 / psofficer@cha.lk
PS Consultant - psconsultant@cha.lk/psfcoord@cha.lk

Community projects facilitated by CHA **Open community projects in the Kandawatta and Kandana slum areas**

Survey on socio-economic psychosocial status of slum communities in the Gampaha District and community gathering and awareness programme (conducted by NISD interns) During the month of March 2013, 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.

- ☞ 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 surveys was to identify the general socio-economic and psychosocial issues of these families and plan psychosocial interventions accordingly.

- ☞ The 2 interns conducted informal interviews using a structured questionnaire to gather information on the socio-economic status, overall psychosocial conditions which gave primary emphasis on issues related children within the communities. The survey has revealed information pertaining to following deprived conditions of the communities

- School drop out of children to be a common social problem
- Extreme poverty and lack of lavatory , sanitary facilities for the slum areas
- Illiteracy and unemployment
- Suspected cases with learning disabilities
- Children living in deprived psychosocial environments

Based on the observations made through the surveys in line with the project objectives the following areas were concentrated on;

- ☞ Coordinate with the government officials affiliated to the Divisional Secretariat office in the division and informing them of specific cases identified. An effort was made to link services with the primary needs identified through the survey. On this behalf special discussions were made with the relevant Government officials.
- ☞ Furthermore, a special community gathering comprising Government officials, the community and the Pradeshiya Sabha niladari was conducted to discuss results of the survey. The programme emphasized specific children related psychosocial problems in particular and the overall psychosocial issues of the slum communities. The event provided a platform to form a children's club the interns are to work on the due processes of formulating a strategic action plan to continue functions of a children's club with a main emphasis in gathering volunteers to conduct
- ☞ academic related and recreational activities for the non-school going children and children with suspected learning disabilities . At the end of the community project the detail project report of the interns will be available for referencing.

Energy saving project



An awareness programme conducted for women group on health hazards affected with cooking using firewood in a traditional kitchen and awareness on

economically important energy saving low cost cooking stoves introduced to a community group in Akuressa Porathota Sarvodaya Community group. This a very good alternate where the people can make up their own stoves for small and cottage level industries.

Reading circle Programme

CHA resource center is being used during the week by 25 students near Matara doing their home work, improving their reading skills and IT knowledge. The programme is now being expanded and weekend newspapers also kept for reading in the district office.

Community protection Network Meeting

Community protection Network Meeting was conducted with the participation of 10 CBOs in Matara District. For the New year CPN Plan to coordinate the small scale entrepreneurs in their villages for the Aurudu Pola held in each DS division which is organized under the Divineguma programme

Jaffna

Co-ordination meeting



NGO Co-ordination meeting on the Topic of the meeting is "Industrialization at Jaffna and employment opportunities ". 25 participants participated at the meeting. The Resource persons were is Mr. Gnanapiragasam Antony Thavachelvam, M.A, Dept. of Education, Kilinochchi.

Mobile Clinic Services – Mercy Malaysia

The Mobile Medical Clinic of Mercy Malaysia CAME TO AN END IN February. Certificates were issued to 27 volunteers who were worked in the Mercy Malaysia Team

Need Assessment -

District officer visited to Killinochchi and met Mr. M. Kathirgamanathan, Divisional Officer, Agrarian services, Killinochchi and collected the data on lands under cultivation and Agrarian problems in Killinochchi.



Free Legal Services



Free Legal Services at IHR, Urelu-40 clients received free legal advice and assistance.

Hambantota

CHA / DRC Literacy program



Literacy program for selected Hambantota Care housing scheme children with a field visit to follow up on children, education and literacy status. Many children who have poor literacy levels were

identified. Literacy classes organized for 16 children for the initial day program. In addition donations of some reading publications for those children to utilize to enhance their literacy status. Welfare society called "Swarna" is managing this program under the supervision of CHA.

Environment cleaning program



Under the Advocacy & Accountability program, CHA organized environment cleaning program at Ambalantota Koggalla village areas which specially identified very critical environment issues. We were able

to join NGOs, CBOs & Youth Leaders, village leaders and villagers to launch this environment program. Ambalantota Trade Association and some private institutions provided financial support for this one day program. In addition , it

District Highlights

has been planned to provide some plants for villagers to grow to protect soil erosion.

IT Trainings courses

CHA Hambantota district office was able to refer 18 persons for Information technology courses conducted by Voluntary organizations in Hambantota divisional secretariat division. Among these schools leavers and un employed youth have involved for the above trainings. For the time been, this course has been able to complete two month course successfully. IT guide hand books for students to use for their studies was donated.



CHA Youth Symposium



CHA conduct-ed youth symposium program for unemployed youth in Ambalantota DS division to identify youth expectations and refer

them for employment opportunities, vocational trainings and academic courses was the main objective of this symposium. There were 26 youth who attended this symposium. Hambantota NGO coordinator, Youth service officer, DFCD, Grama Niladharies attended this program. Referrals were made for 09 youth for English & IT courses.

- 11 for private & NGOs employment opportunities.
- No of 04 youth refereed for vocational training courses

No of Visitors for month : - 52

Date	Venue	Subject	PAST EVENTS FOR MARCH 2013
1-Mar	Colombo CHA	Partnering to Eradiate Poverty	
1-Mar	Colombo CHA	Child development issues for Counselors (Ministry of Social services)	
7-Mar	Colombo CHA	Youth Development Forum	
8-Mar	Colombo CHA	ICTA Project plan development	
12-Mar	Colombo CHA	Disaster Management Meeting with Japan Representatives	
12-Mar	Colombo CHA	S T C Meeting	
13-Mar	Colombo CHA	Island wide Mapping of PS Services	
14-Mar	Colombo CHA	IT training Ratmalana School students	
18-Mar	Colombo CHA	DMC Meeting with Japan Representatives	
19-Mar	Colombo CHA	BCGR Meeting	
21-Mar	Colombo CHA	Effective writing Skills -Workshop	
21-Mar	Colombo CHA	CHA-CLD Meeting	
22-Mar	Colombo CHA	Effective writing Skills -Workshop	
27-Mar	Colombo CHA	ED's Meeting with Dr.Kumaraswamy	
18-Mar	Trinco	APADM representatives meeting with Business , NGO and Government Sector)	
15-Mar	Colombo	Discussion on rehabilitation of addicted substance misusers in Sri lanka	
12-Mar	Colombo	Financial Management workshop	
19-Mar	Jaffna	International Women's day discussion	
19-Mar	District Secretariat, Jaffna	NGO Implementation meeting	
25-Mar	Jaffna- CHA	Coordination meeting	
16-Mar	Jaffna	Mobile Medical Clinic	
19-Mar	Killinochchi	Meeting with Divisional Officer, Agrarian services, Killinochchi	