

INFORMATION

Update



Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction – Hambantota

Second workshop in a series of training programmes focused on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sri Lanka was held at Hambantota District secretariat conference room. Theme of the workshop was "How to make your house safe from natural disasters". This was held in partnership with Disaster Management Center.



Purpose of this workshop is to provide basic information to participants to ensure that houses they build are sturdy and safe when exposed to common natural disasters in Sri Lanka.

61 participants including Community leaders, Youth Leaders and Government officials attended the awareness programme.

Advanced Monitoring & Evaluation – May 2014

A workshop on Advanced Monitoring & Evaluation took place at CHA Board room. There were 12 participants from seven different organizations. They were from Terre Des Hommes, ZOA, Holy Cross Provincial ate, LEADS,

SERVE, National Peace Council of Sri Lanka. The workshop was with various objectives to be achieved & fruitful. The workshop would have developed their knowledge and Skills on Monitoring & Evaluation and will be able to apply some tools in their community development work.

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Basic Counseling skills Workshop

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Participants' comments

- We received knowledge, happiness, attention and new things and we want to thank CHA for that
- This is a very important content for us to work in the community
- Understood clearly about M & E Log frame
- Needed guidance explanations were almost achieved



National Psychosocial Forum Meeting

The psychosocial forum meeting was held chaired by Ms. Chrishara Paranawithana- Consultant - CHA.

Presentations were on Happy Family Concept Initiatives and its strategic actions plan by the Department of Social Services

- This is a 5 year project that will be developed in Sri Lanka. The goal of the project is to improving the positive attitudes, life skills and necessary knowledge of all family members of Sri Lanka and also mobilizing resources to address the family issues, so as to start a journey towards shaping up an excellent person and happy and perfect family; finally to have an inclusive, peaceful and pleasant society.
- There are 05 main objectives and 26 immediate objectives.

5 main objectives are :

1. Improving the positive attitudes, life skills and necessary knowledge of all family members of Sri Lanka within 5years through awareness programmes.
 2. Enhancing psychosocial and economic status of families which need special care and protection through mobilizing and coordinating resource systems.
 3. Establishing a continuous mobilization system to prevent and solve family issues and protect persons' rights in every village by empowering civil society and civil society organizations as a part of the local social system.
 4. Establishing 331 family development resource centers in the social service section of Divisional Secretariats to implement the service provision programme mainly to ensure case management service for families which need special care and protection,
 5. Improving the professional capacity of technical personnel in project operation and to have the ability to extend the project by themselves in the future and create a network of technical personal at central, provincial, district and divisional levels using staff from social service sector and relevant other sectors.
- Target groups of the awareness programmes - Couples entering matrimony, Pregnant mothers and their husbands Pre-school children's mothers, Preschool children, Children, teenagers, irregular school attendance & special children, Children, teenagers , Youths , Widows, Elders, All members together of the family, Persons with disabilities, Parents and guardians of persons with disabilities
 - Monitoring & evaluation of the project will be done by Central Project Monitoring Committee, Provincial Project Monitoring Committee, District Project Monitoring Committee & Divisional Project Monitoring Committee

Alternative social policy activism for children in detention in Sri Lanka by Mr. Sajeewa Samaranayake.

Background:

- Fundamental Rights case in 2010 by a girl 16, who was harassed by other girls at a Remand Home for Girls in Western Province
- Counsel for petitioner included a general prayer for Commissioner of Probation and Child Care to reform this Remand Home
- Supreme Court appointed an expert to facilitate development and implementation of a plan to reform both Girls and Boys Remand Homes run by Probation in Western Province

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Activities related to reconciliation

Engagement with High Commissioner for Canada and Advisor on Reconciliation to HE the President

Suggestions by CHA

1. Using the Young Parliamentarians report on Reconciliation, LLRC progress reports with both sets of authors and Missions with an interest on reconciliation, to ask what more can we do?
2. Having a sitting with the NPC and asking what is it they will do for reconciliation.
3. Focusing on Language Policy -using the National Policy Framework for Social Integration (NPFISI),the LLRC actions undertaken and planned with the Ministry of National Integration, HRC,OLC and LLRC Action Plan Committee to review who is doing what, what could be done more AND at a another level what can the Provinces do too to make Language Rights a reality.
4. Advocate for adoption of the Bill of Rights in SL.

A conversation on a domestic process of accountability for reconciliation hosted by the Ambassador for Japan.

A Marga/CHA note tabled:

Framework of reconciliation in SL is provided by-

- The LLRC - There are at least three distinct components - judicial and investigative processes for the accountability issues ; administrative for the resettlement restitution and reparation; and political and social for the reconciliation process.

Issues of Accountability and Justice

The Commission's approach to reconciliation can be summarized under four heads:

- The re-evaluation of the past and a proper understanding of the roots of the conflict
- The nature of the grievances that have led to the conflict as well as the grievances that have arisen during the conflict.
- The readjustment of attitudes and restructuring of relations that is essential for reconciliation

The value system that must guide the process of reconciliation and "the new era of healing, peace building" and human development in Sri Lanka

The Ideology of Reconciliation and the Framework of Values.

The Report's approach to the grievances of communities articulate the overarching values that should guide the re-adjustments that all communities need to make in their relations with each other . Truth is the first prerequisite. This involves the full uncovering of all that happened in the past and acknowledgement of the past. Second uncovering the truth requires searching self-appraisal on the part of all communities and the acceptance of the share of responsibility that each community must bear for the conflict and the suffering that it caused. Third there must be genuine contrition on the part of all participants in the conflict for their share of responsibility. Fourth, this has to be followed by a concrete expression of that contrition. Finally there has to be accountability and justice. The LLRC approach to accountability and justice is principally one of restorative justice in which forgiveness and rehabilitation, punitive action, full reparation and restitution for the victims, all have their appropriate roles to play in the given context, with all the elements contributing to reconciliation and peaceful co-existence of all communities.

Values Goals and Attitudes

On each of the issues the LLRC sets out the actions that need to be taken to address the existing problems and grievances

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arising out of the conflict. These actions relate to the recommendations that have already been made in the preceding chapters of the report. All these actions and their outcomes are a necessary condition for a full process of reconciliation. But what the LLRC emphasises in its approach to reconciliation is that the actions by themselves are not a sufficient condition for reconciliation. The attitudes values and goals that guide the actions are equally important. The focus has to be not only on what needs to be done; it has to be equally on how it is done. All the actions must be done in a manner that restores confidence, heals the wounds of the past and restructures the relationships between communities. The process of healing requires empathy with the victims, care and compassion for their hardships and suffering. . (8.303)

LLRC points out that the main instruments of reconciliation will be the initiatives and measures taken to address the issues that have been listed. If these initiatives and measures are to be effective as instruments of reconciliation, the values goals and attitudes that guide the implementation will be crucial.

The Government's Concept of Accountability and Justice:

On accountability the government stated that it would be guided by the philosophy of restorative justice. The government clarified its position on accountability in its exchange with the UNSG which is contained in the Annexes to the Panel's report. It defined accountability as a combination of two processes: (a) individual accountability and criminal liability for wrong actions and (b) political responsibility for the processes which led to the breakdown of the ceasefire and the sequence of events up to the end of the military operation. On individual accountability the government said it would draw on the experience of the South African Truth Commission which applied the process of restorative justice directed at reconciliation. None of the statements issued by the government contain a detailed exposition of the concept of restorative justice and its principles and their application to the post conflict situation. However there are various observations that the government makes on different issues that help us to identify some of the main elements of the process the government has in mind. At one point the Government affirms "that the work of the LLRC has to uncover the complete truth". Therefore knowledge of the truth becomes the foundation of restorative justice and reconciliation. But in restorative justice the truth is important not for the punishment of offenders but for the acknowledgement of wrongs by the offenders and the full expression of "contrition" for the wrongs done. The term used in the government statement is "contrition." Contrition becomes the next step in restorative justice. While the uncovering of the truth "requires a focus on the past," (again the words in the statement) the past once uncovered and expiated through a process of genuine contrition "must be relegated to history" through forgiveness. Contrition is followed by forgiveness and reparation. All communities who have been responsible for this past must participate in the process. Punitive or retributive justice is shaped and modulated by the application of the principles of restorative justice through such measures as rehabilitation and moral regeneration, "restrictive sentencing and non-custodial sentences". This would be the process of restorative justice applied to individual accountability. Uncovering the truth in term of political responsibility would imply all parties acknowledging their share of the responsibility for what happened, learning from the lessons of the past and moving forward to a durable process of peace and reconciliation.

Exploring options on a future SL with the British High Commission

Suggestions from CHA

Can SL dream a future Vision for a liberal secular SL?

We have a policy framework for National Integration approved by Cabinet. The National Policy Framework for Social Integration (NPFISI) has a vision to: *Safeguard fundamental and human rights and promote social and legal protection and Foster cohesion, harmony and inclusion through the assurance of socio-economic wellbeing and social justice.* In its development special emphasis was also placed on submissions made at the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) hearings and the recommendations made in the final report published in November 2011. *Amongst the objectives of the NPFISI are- Ensure individual wellbeing and quality of life, facilitate upward mobility for all. It adopts a rights Based approach including upholding the rights and responsibilities of duty bearers and rights holders AND an inclusive and participatory process with collective commitment to implementation.* If this were the policy, it requires further work to realise some of the objectives.

A summary of an example of such complimentary work is found below drawn from the REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES COMMITTEE for Singapore. Could a group of SL drawn from outside Government come together to dream a vision with its accompanying elements as Singapore has done? Could it look at how UK and Commonwealth experiences and resources help define and fuel a future vision which maximizes our opportunities in a new world environment, by building our capabilities in a select number of areas making the best use of our resources, with the aim of achieving sustained and inclusive growth.

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HIGH-SKILLED PEOPLE, INNOVATIVE ECONOMY, DISTINCTIVE GLOBAL CITY

"We must make skills, innovation and productivity the basis for sustaining Singapore's economic growth. This will also provide for inclusive growth, with a broad-based increase in the incomes of our citizens. We must also be a vibrant and distinctive global city – open and diverse, the best place to grow and reach out to a rising Asia, and a home that provides an outstanding quality of life for our people". REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES COMMITTEE for Singapore, February 2010.

Amongst its elements are-

1. **Continuing Education and Training** The workforce of the future - nearly 60% of Singapore's resident workforce will have at least a diploma qualification by 2020, compared to 36% in 2007.
2. **Emergence of new growth industries** - Singaporeans will be equipped with relevant skills for job opportunities in new growth industries, whether they are preparing for new jobs, switching careers or acquiring new skills for their current jobs.
3. **Attracting and Rooting MNCs, Asian Enterprises and Global Mid-Sized Companies-** MNCs' Home in Asia;
 - b. **Launch point** for Asian enterprises to regionalize and internationalize; and
 - c. **First and Essential base in Asia** for global mid-sized companies.
1. **Developing a Vibrant SME landscape and globally competitive Local Enterprises-** Develop an Export-Import bank-like institution to provide internationalization
2. finance; Catalyze supply of growth capital; Empower local trade organizations to drive growth and internationalization; Establish track record with significant consumers; and. Enhance access to human capital.
3. **Ensuring Energy Resilience and Sustainable Growth-** Against this backdrop, this subcommittee has identified five key strategies: Diversifying our energy sources; Enhancing infrastructure and systems; increasing energy efficiency; strengthening the green economy; and Pricing energy right.
4. **Fostering Inclusive Growth-** GROWING THROUGH SKILLS AND INNOVATION; A WORKFORCE AT THE GLOBAL SKILLS FRONTIER; INCLUSIVE GROWTH FOR ALL SINGAPOREANS; A SUSTAINABLE FOREIGN WORKFORCE
5. **Growing Knowledge Capital.**

Meeting on National Policy Framework for Social Integration (NPFISI) and Development of Affirmative action for citizens affected by Conflict

The meeting was held on 27th May 2014 at CHA. This is the first in a series of forum discussions focused on Social Integration in Sri Lanka to periodically recommend and advocate the adoption of measures which relate to the objectives of our national policy through the Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration. The discussion will examine methods to define Affirmative Action for citizens affected by Conflict recommended by the LLRC.

The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, Commitment 4 – 1995 defines social integration as "*the process fostering societies that are stable, safe and just and that are based on the promotion and protection of all human rights, as well as the non-discrimination, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality of opportunity, solidarity, security and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and person.*"

The four basic standards drawn are: Respecting all human rights and fundamental freedom, Nurturing of unity in cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, Realizing social justice by enshrining the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups and Ensuring democratic participation and the rule of law.

Representatives from High commissions, Embassies, Civil Society and UN organizations were among participants. All of them stressed implementing LLRC action plan and willingness to support Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration for their activities.

Equal Rights and Change

Supporting vulnerable women in Social Care Drop in Centre in conjunction with Ministry of Women and Childrens Affairs

Space at CHA ,Bankshall Street, Jaffna – free of charge. This space will be used for womens unit officials to conduct activities and provide services utilizing this space.

Premises and land at Urelu, Chunnakam –will be utilized as a shelter to access legal services, understand from each other coping and or innovative methods to overcome challenges, decide where necessary to act in groups, engage in small scale agriculture/ livelihood programmes, use facilities as drop in locations for therapy, engage in group activities, engage in small scale enterprise related production.

Submission to Secreatry , Ministry of Social Services

- (a) Helping the elders in Elders Home – enabling conformity with stipulations for standards of with care and protection, and organising home visits.Related to which could be a Helpline in this regard.
- (b) Working towards the promotion of implementation of the Disability Act.
- (c) Support service for those afflicted by HIV/AIDs - focus on family members, survivors of those afflicted and dying of AIDS and legal rights HIV/Aids victims and families.

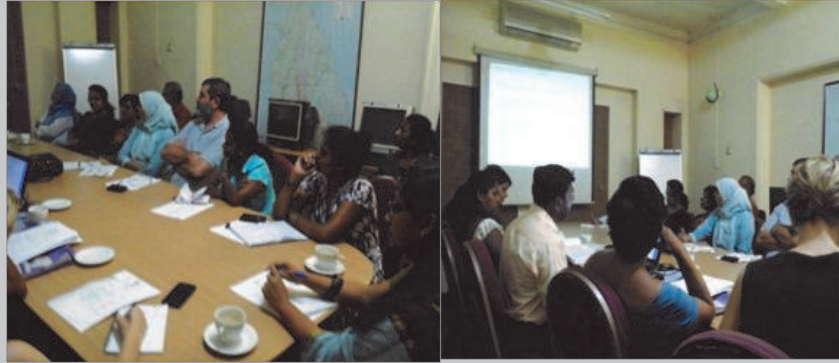
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The main areas discussed were ;

- Problem – weak, unregulated and uncoordinated initial response for children in contact with the law
- Scope of Plan – Probation
 1. Ensuring proper coordination between police and probation officers when producing children (both victims and offenders) in court
 2. Probation Commissioner to establish 24 hour probation response facility – hotline 2713039
 3. Probation to furnish Magistrates with updated schedules of temporary places of safety
 4. Appointment of two coordinating probation officers (one for each remand home) to liaise with other probation officers and expedite legal issues for children
 5. Ensuring the medical examination of all children admitted within 24 hours
 6. Confining admissions of children to the Western Province and ensuring that other provinces would not send children to these facilities but develop their own places of safety
 7. Ensuring a child friendly reception and improvement of living conditions in the Remand Homes
 8. Provision of regular counseling services
 9. Ensuring that all vacancies are filled and new recruitments carried out ensuring the integrity of selection procedure
- Scope of Plan - Prison Transport
 1. Securing passenger vans for the separate transport of children
 2. Review of human resources and securing necessary resources with a training plan for developing a child friendly escort service
 3. Obtaining medical support from prison hospital, mental health and children's hospitals
 4. Upgrading facilities for children in transit and obtaining sufficient stocks of essential facilities
- Interim care placements
- Gateway to Child Protection

Mr. Samaranayake informed of the members of the initiatives taken by the Probations Department to train all Island Probations Officers and cadres involved in child protection activities. An invitation was extended to all humanitarian organizations by the CHA and the Forum to collaborate for any support for this initiative.

The forum meeting included close to 18 participants from various member organizations, and Institutions. They were quite interested in the topic associated with this forum meeting.



Basic Counseling skills Workshop

The Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) organized a workshop for the NISD interns on the ____ of May at the CHA auditorium in Rosmead place. The workshop was carried out by Mr. Duminda Wanigasekera, Trainer coordinator for Samuththana. The workshop gave the interns a detailed description regarding basic counseling skills and certain aspects that needed to be focused on when counseling. Mr. Duminda conducted many activities and engaged in interactive speaking with the interns during the workshop. The interns found this workshop to be extremely useful for their future as social workers in the field.



The above pictures were taken during the workshop, conducted at the CHA auditorium

The youth forum

The youth forum of the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA) has gathered all necessary materials through donations and funds raised for the Montessori project in Anuradhapura. Due to a few delays with the school, CHA was unable to travel to Anuradhapura during the period of Sinhala New Year and wesak. The forum has finally got in touch with the Montessori and confirmed to travel to Anuradhapura by the 3rd week of June as a Poson project. Two CHA officials will travel with the youth forum members to Anuradhapura to conduct the project.

If you wish to donate materials or funds for youth forum activities, please contact the youth forum coordinator at the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies on psfcoord@cha.lk or 0114626100

Future planned workshop initiatives

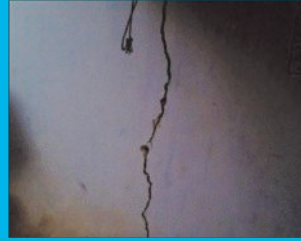
The CHA is currently in discussion with the Path of Divine organization, to conduct capacity building workshops on 24th and 25th of June. When the discussions are finalized the CHA psychosocial coordinator will forward the notice a week prior to all members. If you wish to take part in this workshop or enquire about it please contact CHA on 011 4 626100 or psfcoord@cha.lk

DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Hambantota

CHA Advocacy & Accountability program

The district office followed up on a requests from people of a vil-lage called Bolana where at the Mahindarama Temple we were able to identify building damaged by previous earth tremor. As a result, a sponsor y promised to donate financial and material to build new building in the near future.



CHA Jaffna district coordination meeting

Jaffna

The Chairperson welcomed the Resource person Mr.Sangarapillai Ravi, Assistant Director, Disas-ter Management Division, District Secretariat, Jaffna and the invited participants. Specially he welcomed the Resource person because in the midst of many appointments and engagements he agreed to propose something on the under-ground water of Jaffna. At the end he thanked the audience and resoures for their esteemed participation.



The human resources its arts culture, economic and livelihood activities are closely associated with physical resources. The physical resources and and water are closely related with the objective of Human Resources. For example : Fertile soil and good water helps the people for their farming. The sea and oceans help the people for their fishing. Water and sand in several help the world in many ways.

Jaffna peninsula is full of limestone rocks of Miocene age, as its geological struc-ture. The upper layer of this rock has faults and miniholes. The lower layer of the limestone rock is very hard, as a result of this the rains during rainy season the surface of the earth is filled with rains. Later the water goes into the limestone rocks through the miniholes. The water stored there. This is what we called as "Underground water". The people of the peninsula used this water for their do-mestic as well as gardening work.



Apart from this Jaffna peninsula is graced with lagoons naturally. To certain ex-tents, the lagoons also absorbing the water. Thondamanaru, Mulliyan, Ele-phantpass East, Elephant pass west are some lagoons and water reserves in the North. There are thousands of ponds in the peninsula. These ponds also collecting water from rains. At the same time, this is visible there are some flood bunds and bunds for storing water from salinity.

During the rainy season, the water goes to sea and in the dry season salties wa-ter entering into the lagoons and forms salt. This is a special feature in the Jaffna lagoons. Due to this state of affairs, the salinity in the land is spreading and it comes under control, whenever our land get heavy rains. In other words either our land should get annual rainfall or we have to find access for good water to our peninsula, in order to control the pollution of underground water. The recent

researches are reflect that the consumption of water at Jaffna is increasing heavily eventhough its population is comparatively low than early. The Hotels, Industrial Centres and Jaffna Teaching Hospital consumes a good portion of water daily. As such we have to find water resources for our consumption. The following suggestions shall be considered for water resources :

1. Renovation and re-habilitation of Nilavarai tidal well with equipments and machinery to remove salinity from water.
2. Pokkanai well and Idikundu well both can be developed for the purpose drinking water.
3. The Arumugam Plan for Jaffna river shall be considered for development. If government is sincere towards the needs of its citizen of North, this project is viable.

FREE LEGAL SERVICES AT IHR, URELU

29 clients sought free legal aid at the IHR office Ureluin May