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Information Update

A-PAD Network Meeting and Case Study Presentation on Lessons Learnt post-Nepal Earthquake

A meeting convening A-PAD SL Members was held on May 28th at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was moderated by A-PAD National Representative and Executive Director of the CHA, Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah. The forum focused on how Sri Lanka should be prepared should an event like the Nepalese Earthquake take place. The response mechanism and the challenges the A-PAD team faced since they touched base in the devastated land was presented as a case study.

The local authorities', villagers' and relief workers' deliberations and limitations in a chaotic situation were captured in the presentation made by Deputy Executive Director of CHA, Mr Firzan Hashim. The contribution on



Ms Iizuka present Mr Yapa with a Certificate of Appreciation at the Network Meeting held at the CCC

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Round-table on Land-grabbing and Land-Fraud in Sri Lanka



A preliminary meeting was held convening CBOs, media and lawyers to assess issues with regard to land-grabbing and related fraud committed in the aftermath of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. Ideas were exchanged with regard to referencing issues on a policy-level to a commission established to assess these issues. Fraudulent ownership claim of land although difficult to detect, was taken on as a possible intervention and an important topic of current relevance. Laws pertaining to land fraud were discussed and ideas exchanged. Further meetings to follow.

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the A-PAD SL to AP-AD Japan was appreciated by way of certification presentation. The meeting also gave light to other neglected urban problems. The A-PAD website was launched at the meeting. 28 persons representing the Government Organisations, Corporates, Donors agencies, Media, Bankers, INGO's and NGO's were present at the meeting.



Members in attendance at the Network Meeting



A-PAD Website Launched

Following the multiple meetings to finalise the structure for the A-PAD SL website, it was finalised and launched in late May. CHA has employed the internal expertise of an in-house web-developer who will update the website regularly. The A-PAD SL website <http://www.apadsl.org/> was launched by the Guest of Honour, Director General DMC, Major General L B R Mark, at the Network Meeting held at the CCC on the 28th of May.



A-PAD SL Website being launched by the Guest of Honour, Director General DMC, Major General L B R Mark

A-PAD Membership Donation of PC for Flood-Affected School in Mannar

Following the flood relief dissemination to the Thampanaikulam School in Mannar, the A-PAD notified its membership of the school's need for IT equipment due to the destruction of their IT Lab in the torrential rains. Eureka Technologies, an A-PAD member organisation was prompt in coordinating the donation of a brand new PC complete with keyboard.



Ms Joanne Gunasinghe and Mr Eymard Tavarayan of Eureka Technologies handing over the equipment to Ms Sonali Seneviratne of the CHA

Policy Meetings

Network Partnership Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change – A meeting was held with the representation of the World Food Programme (WFP) and World Vision Sri Lanka and Ceylon Chamber of Commerce at the CHA premises. Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah, ED, CHA and National Representative for A-PAD SL presented the topic of conversation

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Network partnership meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation

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from the CHA perspective as being based mainly on 'disaster-preparedness' by working on the impending problems in order to deal with what is coming as opposed to 'disaster response'. In this respect the topic of conversation relied mainly on content related to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaption with a focus on the environmental impact and policy recommendations.

- **Road Map for Resilience** – Discussions took place at the UNDP organized by DMC and the Ministry of Disaster Management to discuss Beyond CBDRM and road-map for resilience. UNDP is sensitizing their partners on future steps bringing forward the Safer Sri Lanka concept and CHA's view and ideas were taken into consideration.
- **Round-table on Land-grabbing and Land-Fraud in Sri Lanka** – A preliminary meeting was held convening CBOs, media and lawyers to assess issues with regard to land-reclamation and frauds committed and referencing it on a policy-level to a commission established to assess these issues.



Secretary Mr. Bandusena chairing the 63rd NDMCC Meeting



Meeting on Land Reclamation

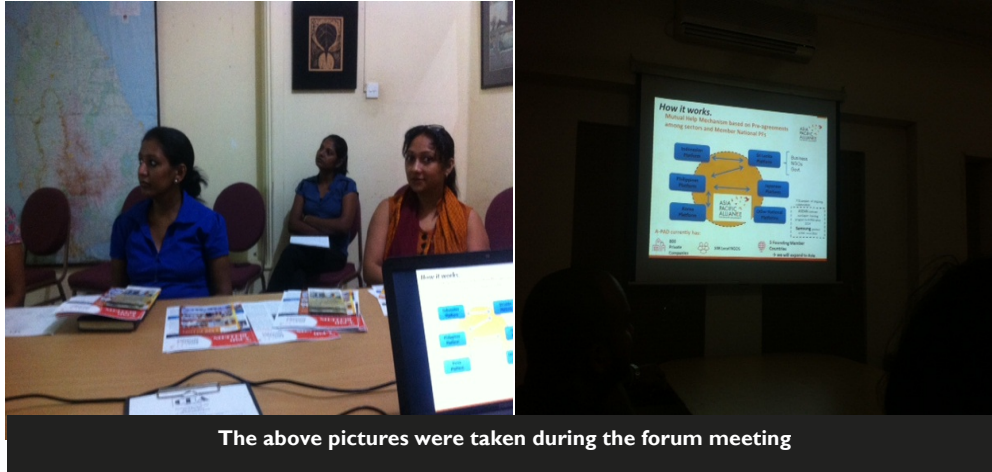
- **NDMCC Meeting** – The A-PAD was accepted to the NDMCC forum. The First meeting took place on May 29th at the DMC conference room with the Secretary of the DMC chairing the meeting. Being the first meeting chaired by Mr Bandusena, he was keen on taking up initiatives, papers or recommendations from those present in the future meetings. The importance of NDMCC taking up matters to NCDM was reiterated.

CHA Advocates Equal Rights and Change

- **CHA in Collaboration with SEDEC to promote Rabat Principles on Religious Tolerance**
CHA in collaboration with SEDEC through SEDEC is hoping to organize regional sittings with inter-religious groups to promote knowledge of the Rabat Plan of Action and elicit views of participants on how religious tolerance could be promoted. This is to be accompanied by a concluding session in Colombo with key religious and inter-religious groups to reaffirm the belief in religious tolerance using the Rabat Plan of Action.
- **Administration of Justice**
CHA is currently in conversation with relevant parties working in the crux of the local justice system to advocate policy and practices with relevance to justice and rule of law with an objective to help enhance the confidence of citizens and ensure better practice of justice within the country. Areas of focus will include the Court Vacating System which needs revising, issues with regard to Right Violation Petitions, ensuring mandatory disciplinary action against right violators including those practicing payment of compensations from public funds, allocation of call-in times for court hearings and mandatory times for sessions, ensuring conduction of case management hearing at the beginning, producing of accused before the Magistrate for remand custody, suggestions to introduce an effective computer-based record keeping for the entire Court system and ensuring Strict adherence to the Rule Book.
- **Assistance for families alleging disappearances of family members**
While post-conflict Sri Lanka continues to search for their lost, the need to reconcile their efforts with a conclusive outcome remains a yawning gap that needs bridging. CHA is currently attempting to advocate assistance for those attempting to reunite with their loved ones by way of legal support and provision of related entitlements and is in conversation with relevant government personnel and other organisations.

National Psychosocial Forum Meeting

The psychosocial forum meeting for the month of April was conducted on the 29th of April 2015. The forum consisted of over 15 participants from I/NGO's and Governmental Organizations. The meeting provided grounds to discuss in particular “the **Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management Sri Lanka**”. This project is pioneered by the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies and the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.



The above pictures were taken during the forum meeting

Ms. Lizuka, the Project coordinator for the Civic Force based in CHA conducted the presentation on the project and work that has been conducted for the past year. APAD Sri Lanka has been a focal point for all private sector organizations to participate during a disaster in the country. Droughts, Landslides and floods were main disasters that occurred in Sri Lanka in the past Year. With the

assistance of the private sector and other I/NGO's APAD was successful in conducting relief activities in affected areas.

If you are interested in joining future forums and receiving updates of previous forums please contact our **Psychosocial Coordinator Ms. Nishadhi Cruetz on 114626100 or psfcoord@cha.lk**

Collaboration with the Rotary Club of the Capital City to conduct psychosocial programs for the Koslanda Landslide Victims

The Psychosocial Program of the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies were invited to conduct a presentation on the intended program for victims of the Land Slide and effects of trauma at a Rotary Meeting held on the 6th of May 2015. Mrs. Chrishara Paranawithana, Psychosocial Consultant, Ms. Nishadhi Cruetz, Psychosocial Coordinator, and Dr. Tamitegama, Member of the Psychosocial Forum participated at this meeting to conduct the said presentation. There were over 25 participants and were extremely interested in the programs CHA is hoping to offer the victims of the Land Slides which occurred in Koslanda in October 2015.



The above pictures were taken during the Rotary Meeting held on the 6th of May 2015

Upcoming psychosocial programs

Conducting Capacity building Programs for Social Service Officers and Assistance of MoSS on education elders about mental health – 11th of June 2015

CBDRR PROJECT – HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT

Of the 18 follow-up activities planned for the year in Hambantota, 2 have been implemented successfully during the month of May.

Follow-up workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction Planning



The first follow up on DRR Planning took place at the Walawewaththa Community centre at the Ambalantota DS division conducted follow-up program under the subject of DRR planning. 37 participants representing two villages were in attendance at the workshop with 19 males and 18 females. The DMC officer Mr Samantha conducted the follow-up program as a resource person. The Grama Niladary officer, Economics Development Officer, Chairman of the Federation of Youth Clubs at Ambalantota, a member of the Ambalantota Mediation Broad and two DMC officers attended for this event.

We considered the following matters during selection:

- Participation in the DRR planning programs in 2014.
- Considering knowledge acquired in previous DRR training.
- Active participation and previous intervention for community level disaster risk reduction activities with Grama Niladary & DMC offices.
- Possibility of future intervention during emergencies.

Follow-up workshop on Sphere Minimum Standards



The CHA Hambantota district office also conducted a follow-up programme for a select group of 33 youth leaders out of the 75 youth leaders in the Ambalantota DS Division for whom a SPHERE minimum standards training program had been conducted last year. The follow-up programme was held on the same topic. There were 12 males and 22 females in attendance.

We considered the following matters during selection:

- Prior participation in Sphere Minimum Standard workshop conducted in 2014.
- Representatives of Youth clubs in Ambalantota DS division.
- Considering knowledge acquired in previous DRR training.
- Active participation and previous intervention for community level disaster risk reduction activities with Grama Niladary & DMC offices.
- Possibility of future intervention during emergencies.

CHA Coordination and Facilitation Services

The CHA Hambantota District Office continues to provide coordination and facilitation services to the Hambantota district, National Youth Service Council Office and the Ambalantota Federation of Youth Clubs who will be participating in the regional programme, Sirasa Jayaboomi, in Ambalantota.

Information Dissemination

CHA District Resource Centre provided information on request to 28 clients this month.

CBDRR PROJECT – JAFFNA DISTRICT

Under the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Project (CBDRR), CHA Jaffna, is working in collaboration with the Disaster Management Unit, District secretariat, Jaffna.

3 Workshops on Water Resource Management Conducted at Mandaitivu Maha Vidyalayam

A workshop in 3 parts was organised at Mandaitivu Maha Vidyalayam on the topic of Water Resource Management as a part of the CBDRR project. It was presented by Mr T Balasubramaniam of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board of Jaffna. Altogether 113 students participated in the 3 workshops.

The first group comprised 36 students of grade 6 to 7, the second group of 20 students from grade 8 and the third group comprised 57 students of grades 9, 10 and 11.



Workshop on Creating Disaster Resilient Communities held at Karamban Shanmuganantha Maha Vidyalayam

The workshop was held for 39 students of Karamban Shanmuganantha Maha Vidyalayam, presided over by Mr. Concladius Jesuthasan of the Disaster Management Unit, DS Office-Jaffna. The workshop was 3 and a half hours long and was held from 1.30 AM to 2.00 PM.



Recipients grateful for rainwater-harvesting system

The CHA through the A-PAD project aided in the facilitation of one of 148 houses in a housing scheme in Kayts Island, Jaffna with a rainwater harvesting system earlier this year. Mr Srisankar, the Field Officer of CHA Jaffna revisiting the site was pleased to note that the system was being put to use by the recipient.

The recipient, Mrs Thangarasa Thayalini, speaking of the generous donation responded, “We are truly grateful. During the rains the tank was full. Even our neighbours were able to use the water from our tank.”

Meetings Attended in May

Human Rights Commission Meeting

Ms Kilta Sriranganathan represented CHA Jaffna at the discussions conducted on preparing a guide for safeguarding Human rights activists which was organized by the Human Rights Commission, Regional Office, Jaffna. Mr T Kanagaraj, co-ordinator for the Human Rights Commission, Jaffna presided the discussion. Mr Kabilan, Education Administration Officer also presented during the discussion. In the discussion, the members from Community Based Organizations, NGO's and social service activist also participated. 26 participants were present during the discussions.

District Review Meeting

CHA was also represented by Mr Srisankar, Field Officer, at the District Review meeting which was held on 21.05.2015, at the District Secretariat Jaffna at 02.00 p.m. Representatives from NGOs and Divisional Secretariat officers were present and reviewed their project activities for the year 2015. Mr Srisankar reviewed the activities for CHA.

Exhibition of Photography on Women

Ms Kilta Sriranganathan of CHA was in attendance at an exhibition of photography on women which was organized by the NGO Council in collaboration with the University of Jaffna. Women selected from relevant NGOs and the University were given sufficient training subsequent to which they visited Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Karainagar where they captured photos of working women involved in labour. Altogether 100 of the photos taken were displayed at this event. The event highlighted the plight of women and their hardworking role in society.



MONTHLY CO-ORDINATION MEETING

The district co-ordination meeting held at the CHA Meeting Hall in Jaffna earlier in May. The theme of the meeting was Domestic Violence. The Chairperson welcomed the Resource Persons Mrs Karthiga Aathiththan, Attorney-at-Law, and Coordinator for Women in Need, and Mrs Thayapary, Women Development Officer, District Secretariat, Nallur, Jaffna. 19 participants were in attendance. Following a brief welcome a workshop on Sphere Standards was presented to the attendees. The Chairperson described the importance of Sphere Standards in the rehabilitation and reconstruction process. Ms Aathiththan briefed on the nature, reasons and effect of domestic violence. Ms Thayapary also shared her expertise with the people on domestic violence. An interactive session followed where the attendees vocalized their various opinions and concerns on various needs and constraints of women in the society of Jaffna

FREE LEGAL SERVICES AT IHR, URELU

CHA in collaboration with the Institute of Human Rights (IHR) has been providing free legal services in Urelu. Three clients visited the IHR office in Urelu for the services offered during the month of May.

Meeting Highlights - May 2015

Date	Topic	Venue	District
5-May-2015	Internal Team Meeting	CHA	Colombo
6-May-2015	Skype meeting on National Consultation for World Humanitarian Forum	CHA	Colombo
8-May-2015	Network Partnership and Policy Considerations in DRR and CCA and its Impact on the Environment	CHA	Colombo
11-May-2015	A-PAD Internal Meeting	CHA	Colombo
11-May-2015	Skype meeting - National Consultation for World Humanitarian Forum discussed	CHA	Colombo
13-May-2015	Internal team meeting A-PAD/CBDRR	CHA	Colombo
13-May-2015	WHF National Consultation - internal team meeting	CHA	Colombo
13-May-2015	Discussion on preparing a guide for safeguarding Human Rights Activists	Human Rights Commission, Regional Office	Jaffna
14-May-2015	Monthly Coordination Meeting Jaffna	CHA	Jaffna
16-May-2015	Monthly Meeting of Ambalantota Federation of Youth clubs	Ambalantota Rangiri Temple premises	Hambantota
18-May-2015	Policy meeting with DED and DG, General Mark of DMC	DMC	Colombo
18-May-2015	Website development team meeting	CHA	Colombo
18-May-2015	Interview youth leaders for Foreign Symposiums	National Youth Council Service Office, Tangalle	Hambantota
20-May-2015	Internal Team meeting	CHA	Colombo
21-May-2015	Meeting with National Consultation for World Humanitarian Forum with coordination team	CHA	Colombo
21-May-2015	The District Review Meeting	District Secretary	Jaffna
25-May-2015	Meeting at Muslim Aid - National Consultation for World Humanitarian Forum	Muslim Aid	Nawala
27-May-2015	Meeting with NBRO	NBRO	Colombo
29-May-2015	Psychosocial Forum Meeting	CHA	Colombo

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The Information Update is also available on the CHA website:

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

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