

290 youths and Ex combatant beneficiaries
completing their vocational training

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CHA is currently launching a project, 'Gift a Wish',

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Information Update

NOVEMBER 2011

Awareness Program on Skill Development for Youth in Jaffna in partnership with Practical Action



An awareness programme targeted youth in Jaffna on capacity available within Sri Lanka and the districts for sustainable career opportunities.

Resource persons were from Jaffna College Institute of Agriculture; District Vocational Training Center; National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority; Advanced Technological Institute; National Youth Services Council; National Institute of Fisheries and Nautical Engineering; IIS City Campus.

At the end of the session some of the participants got opportunities as relief announcers at Sri Lanka Broadcasting Cooperation Jaffna Service opened up opportunity for participants to apply for the post of relief announcer. Mr. Hiniduma - Director Jaffna Service, SLBC said that "This is good opportunity youth to get knowledge of career opportunities. We would like to give opportunity them to join with SLBC Jaffna Service as Relief Announcers. Participants could give contact details CHA Jaffna Office and they will be contacted soon for interviews". This will be handled by CHA Jaffna district office and monitored by Head office.

Technical Guidelines on Home Garden and Mushroom production with JANATHAKSHAN



Awareness program on Bio intensive Home garden and producing compost and Mushroom for rural community for Practical Action partners with value added training program. Moolai, Chulipuram village was selected since there were mostly women headed households.



Social Responsibility interventions by CHA

On going IT training for deaf students (three sessions todate) with an instructor from the school for the Deaf. Greeting cards designed in the second session with Ms-Word using

features in that application taught to them. At the end of the session two groups and played games on Alphabets from the Azim Premji Content. At the 3rd session with Ms-Excel they learnt to create a data sheet and design graphs.

Conflict Sensitive Skills for UNDP - CSO members

Two programmes conducted in Ampara



In Mullaitivu



Other training activities

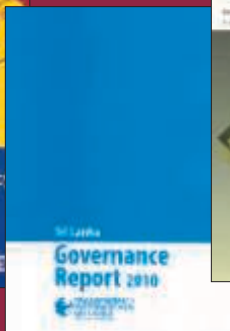
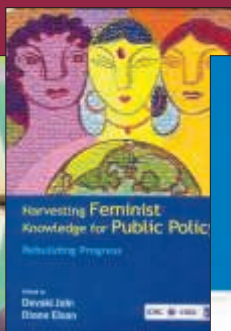
Presentation with Power Point- Participants from UMCOR & WUSC.

Advance MS Excel training - Participants from British council, ZOA refugee care, Search for common ground, Law & Society Trust and Zion Restaurant.



Comments from the participants

- ☑ *Excellent training, Thanks for imparting valuable riches in excel to us. It will help us in various ways. John Jesudason- Zion Fountain Café*
- ☑ *Well prepared & Well delivered- Juliet Francis –Search for common ground*
- ☑ *Pitched at the right level to make it practical- Hamzi Haniff - British council*



Acquisitions in November

Early Recovery and Development

Medical Out Reach Clinics



There were 1280 people including children and elders from five resettled locations in Maruthankeni DS division and the less advantaged island Allaippitty who received medical consultations and free medication. CHA has been running mobile medical clinics in five locations in Jaffna district where primary medical care is unavailable. Patients also are being identified with needs for mental health interventions in the target locations. RDHS Jaffna provides monitoring and coordination.

Support for Female Headed Households with referrals for Micro finance

With the support of ZONTA Club I of Colombo, CHA facilitated financial assistances to female house hold heads in Siruppitty village to start and empower their livelihoods. The women were selected for assistance, and referred to the donor.



290 youth and Ex combatants beneficiaries completing their vocational training



The vocational training targeted youth and rehabilitated ex-combatant beneficiaries continues and is at the final stage. The CHA-NAITA-BCGR, ILO funded Vocational training targeted 320 youths with 290 currently enrolled. On the job training will start from December onwards. on Market linkages and Start and Improve Your Business.

70 families receive solar sourced electricity this month



70 families from the poorest villages in Kopay and Nallur divisions where no electricity facilities are available are receiving solar power this month. Children from these families have been facing difficulties to continue the education. 30 families were already assisted under this scheme last year in Eluvathivu Island in Jaffna.

Psycho Social Unit Update

Psychosocial Forum:

It is planned to conduct a joint meeting for the months of November and December with presenters from the Ministry of Social Services and the GTZ . A working group meeting will be convened at CHA with the following aims:

To publicize work of the Forum the members to work together to compile and upload information for the CHA web page. This is planned to be conducted as a joint effort of all working group members. The activity will synthesize the work of the Forum from 1997 and will make available information on all successful tasks accomplished by the PSF- CHA; 2/3 papers/ abstracts and field reports of the Forum to be published in Journals.

For this purpose it is intended to publish information regarding the outcomes of the Capacity Building Research.

1. **Start up of a psychological clinic at CHA:** It is intended to initiate functions of the clinic from December accompanied by a web site. Interested individuals can learn about the functions of the clinic by contacting : PS Officer on psofficer@cha.lk / psconsultant@cha.lk Tele: 4610943 Ext 119.
2. **Public seminars and sessions for public:** Awareness with sessions/ seminars will target to cover a wide range of thematic areas which would focus on common psychosocial related issues of communities. Prof. Hemamali Perera, Dr. Jayan Mendis, Dr. Bhuddiprabha Pathirana, Dr. Sudath Damsinghe have been contacted.

Lifeline Programme :

- ☑ Lifeline Newsletter: 1st edition will focus on issues of children.
- ☑ Lifeline Sessions : Three mental health sessions were conducted by Dr. Jayan Mendis (Director of National Institute of Mental Health) at CHA Auditorium premises with the participation of 30 people on-Mental health in Sri Lanka, Rights of mentally ill people and Treating mentally illness in the family.



Up coming training planned for the month of December 2011 are as follows

Dealing with exam stress-1st of December 2011 (Thursday);Work Place Stress/ Detection of mental illnesses in school, 2nd of December 2011; Games and play for the child development,3rd of December

(Saturday);Child Abuse,19th of December 2011 (Monday);Sessions for on Special Needs Education for teachers, working with disabled kids ,(Dates yet to be confirmed). Interested individuals can learn about the functions of the clinic by contacting : PS Officer on psofficer@cha.lk / psconsultant@cha.lk Tele: 4610943 Ext 119.

Dissemination of information and referrals: The programme Unit addressed 2 referrals made by an Institute supporting disabled personnel. Referrals were made to the Family Planning Association to provide free counseling on reproductive health treated issues and Sahanaya Institute of Mental Health to further investigate for any mental health conditions and suggest means of support.

☑ Overall, flyers and information dissemination notices were prepared and disseminated. The Unit has compiled few data bases which cover private sector, leading schools of the country and the Institutions working for disability related issues. They are used as modes of dissemination channels to promote activities.

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Liaisons with Schools: The PS Consultant contacted 3 Principals and focal points of the Anula Vidyalaya, Museums College and the Ladies College to discuss Lifelines programmes targeted for children and teachers. Letters were drafted informing the schools about the upcoming programmes and sent to 10 leading schools in Colombo districts.

- ◆ Liaisons with the Media: Bihidora TNL educational programmes: It was decided to focus on issues related to adolescents and children and to repeat the programme as a follow up as there had been a good response from the general public. The resource persons have been contacted by the PS Consultant. The same panel comprising a Consultant Child Psychiatrist, Humanitarian Activist and an Academic will facilitate the upcoming follow up programme.
- ◆ Coordination with the Sunday Observer journalists: CHA obtained free space in the Sunday Observer events column to promote lifeline sessions. In considering further support/ collaborations, the Observer agreed to give a free space in the health section and disseminate information regarding the sessions. In order to compliment that an interview with the ED- CHA is planned.
- ◆ Collaborations with Asiri Hospitals: a web page was designed by the CHA IT Unit to continue collaborative initiatives. Discussions on specific activities are on going.
- ◆ Regional initiatives Updates
The following reflects work of the Networks supported by the CHA / National Forum.

◆ Activities of the Mannar Psychosocial Forum: 15 organizations participated in the meeting discussing improvements to be made in overall networking functions for the year 2012. Joint activities to be supported by members have been confirmed. Awareness and training on psychosocial issues and GBV was conducted at 10 locations for 411 participants.:

◆ Ampara Network Activities:
As a result of the PS Network Dr. Nowfel at the Base Hospital Ampara has initiated operations of a GBV Desk

- **Established in January 2009**
- **To ensure identification and effective management of victims of gender based violence and thereby taking preventive measures against it.**
- **To strengthen the capacity of health staff, government institutions, community based organizations, nongovernmental organizations, community leaders and the community to change the attitudes and practices within their community and work place that are free of gender based violence**

GBV Statistics			
Type of Violence	2009	2010	2011 (over)
Domestic Violence	26	41	11
Sexual Harassment	3	2	
Rape	1	1	
Child Sexual Assault	8	15	8
Other child abuses	5	1	1
Socio Economic Violence	1		
Deceived	1	4	
Psychological abuse	2	1	
Attempted suicide	6	4	8
Total	53	69	28

Call for Expressions of Interest

Half way home for mentally challenged persons. With 1 in 10 Sri Lankans challenged mentally an effort is on to develop a half way home complex. Resources raising is envisaged by-

- ◆ Inviting families whose members need rehabilitation to build a unit and lease it to the facility post their recovery;
- ◆ Invite companies to lend at zero interest from profits;
- ◆ Invite citizens to contribute as social impact bond shareholders;
- ◆ Invite a corporate to contribute the scheme of managing the complex to sustain and generate revenue to repay where needed until handover to the government in about 15-20 years.

Further details can be obtained by emailing-execdir@cha.lk

Supporting gifted students

Scores of gifted students, particularly from rural areas and poorer families are limited in using their talents to advance rapidly. We are inviting gifted schools and their students to link with gifted students in underserved schools with a view to providing a platform to enable gifted students to advance and fast track their progress including accessing institutions of higher learning. An ongoing conversation with school heads, Dialog and the Indian High commission is focusing on this initiative. Further details can be obtained by emailing-execdir@cha.lk

Advocacy

- ◆ Inter faith dialogue on reconciliation in association with SEDEC for invitees from several faiths in Sri Lanka.
- ◆ Guest Lecture has been planned on the topic, Reconciliation - the way forward an assessment of ongoing initiatives, a listing of productive possibilities accompanied by a Panel discussion.
- ◆ Human Rights interventions with IHR - reports of individuals who are missing have been forwarded to HRC for follow up action.; options for beggars accommodated in facility featured in a Newspaper are being explored; option to rehouse a group of families living by the edge of the sea behind a railway station in Colombo 4; micro finance loans for

prisoners awaiting release awaits consent of the prisoners to proceed with application; encouraging HRC to pro actively take up and represent interests of poor litigants in Courts and government service providers..

- ◆ Revision of Vagrance and Maintenance Acts. Ministry of Justice has undertaken to revise former at Consultative Committee in Parliament. Latter needs canvassing to enable SL to align itself with the CRC which makes it a right to claim both parents by children where SL still holds the man to be head of household while the woman has to right to claim but not necessarily pay nor maintain children. Poorer children continue to be separated from parents on account mostly of poverty while obligation to maintain remains a mans task irrespective of his income.

Partnership with Kahawatte Plantations PLC in areas

Promoting wellness systematically, focused on women and men health, preparing for aging, dealing with issues when aged and teen health. A core of 100 St Johns Ambulance trainees will used to disseminate message;

Promoting growing of vegetables under the Divi Néguma programme among your 9,000 families with seeds being given free by Government; Accessing lower cost finances from India for housing loans; Encouraging savings and using fund to lend for micro finance among families; Promoting use of idle land for export crops; Promoting excellence in education for students and literacy among the older workers.

Supporting Youth

- ◆ We have provided office space for a student Association from the National Institute of Social development. 20 volunteers students have sought placements while another 10 are expected.
- ◆ Student interns from the Colombo University will conclude a 8 week programme soon.
- ◆ Several volunteers have been convened by two new staff of CHA who are driving initiatives working with youth.

clothes in decent condition, educational material as well as recreational items. Items will be distributed to **various children's homes, orphanages, certified schools** whose standards CHA has worked towards enhancing by improving the quality of life of those who reside in these homes.

Volunteerism Project

'Gift a Wish' Project

CHA is currently launching a project, 'Gift a Wish', a donations drive of various items which CHA will collect and distribute to impoverished people, many of whom do not have access to basic necessities such as food, hygienic and sanitary items,

CHA is currently launching a

Items will also be disseminated to women's homes and government run institutions for women and children that face a significant lack of resources. Such centers include the Ranmuthugala and Makola remand homes for

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children as well as the Methsevana home for women. It is unfortunate that many of these women and children, with no guardians to support them, do not have access to simple necessities such as toothpaste and, in the case of infants, milk bottles.

Items you wish to donate can be either new items or second hand items in decent condition and can include dry rations, clothes, shoes, toiletries, books and other stationary as well as toys and games.

Items collected from the donation boxes, along with being distributed, will also be kept available at the CHA Head Office in Rosmead Place where impoverished and helpless individuals are welcome to collect items they need. We are in the process of acquiring another private space where the items will be displayed for collection all year round. We look forward to your invaluable support in **making 'Gift a Wish' a reality.**

District Highlights

MATARA

- ◆ Seed paddy for low income farmers- small scale growing of seed paddy along with introduction of new and highly productive cultivation practices



was undertaken through farmer awareness Programmes in Kekunawela, Deiyandara and Kapugama for 25 farmers. In the next season we will collect 2kg of seeds from each farmer to distribute among others in that areas.

- ◆ In collaboration with VIDATHA office conducted a **one day Training programme on "Goraka Paste Production** at VIDATHA Center for 35 entrepreneurs with the practical training along with methods for quality production requirements and packaging systems.
- ◆ **In collaboration with Handloom weaver's cooperative** society and community protection network a small group for handloom weaving at Kekunawela village was established. Training material and the machine will be handed over to the community group by the first week of December. 5 trainees will be provided Rs.2500 allowance during training period.

- ◆ Many rural poor use firewood for cooking and domestic food processing. They are not aware about



gasses emitted by inefficient firewood burning which causes many health hazards for the women and children.

Awareness and introduction of economically important energy saving low cost cooking stoves to the community was provided to 60 women.

- ◆ A field visit was undertaken to Pitiduwa village in Weligama to meet a fragrance stick making group to



introduce different scent materials which can be used for unscented bathe sticks to use as a mosquito repellent.

Basic awareness was given. The group is willing to join in this experiment.

- ◆ Community protection Network Meeting was conducted with the participation of 12 CBOs in Matara District. New organizations are being joining the CPN for source technological solutions for existing enterprises and cottage level industries.

District Highlights

HAMBANTOTA

Children clubs

50 poor students at Ridiyagama Children society were provided school bags, books, pencils, pens & other essential items. Dakshina Friend ship Community Development Foundation (DFCDF), Sujaya Foundation and businessmen in Ambalantota provided financial supports for this program.



Reading Class

Additional pre tuition classes for reading class children targeted the school term test on English, Maths, Sinhala & science.



JAFFNA

- ◆ IHR hosted by CHA received 19 public complaints and were assisted with legal services.
- ◆ 39 students in families below the poverty line are assisted with free tuition.
- ◆ Salaries of teachers, costs of stationary and books are met by private donations.
- ◆ The Environment officer will provide services to Nallur Divisional Secretariat on Environmental Development Programme.

KALUTARA

Literacy class continues in Paragoda Kanitu Viduhala in Bulathsinhala



Reader who wish to obtain more information, comment or wish to collaborate with CHA are invited to communicate by email with execdir@cha.lk.

Upcoming CHA Trainings

for more information Email : training@cha.lk

Translation and Editing services extended by the CHA PET Unit to the NGOs and private sector.

E-mail: infoanalyst@cha.lk