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Information Update

CHA Coordination Activities

CHA facilitates the National Consultation in preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit 2016



The CHA and A-PAD Sri Lanka in partnership with Muslim Aid and Islamic Relief facilitated the hosting of the National Consultation on 'Humanitarianism in Sri Lanka - Reaching new heights and goals', in preparation of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) 2016 which was held on the 10th of June 2015 at the Bandaranaike Centre for International Studies (BCIS) Auditorium in Colombo. The event encompassed a one day consultation process to compliment the World Humanitarian Summit of 2016 which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey next year and will be chaired by the Secretary General of the United Nations. The consultation was moderated in four groups

which touched on varying aspects of the subject and was attended by over 75 organisations in the CHA network inclusive of the government sector, UN agencies, I/NGO's, CBOs as well as the private sector, women,

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CHA participates in think-tank discussions in Washington DC on Sri Lanka and Emerging Order in South Asia

In a recent effort to revive Sri Lanka's relationships with the United States of America and India, a think-tank discussion convening political and civil society leaders in the island was conducted at the South Asia Center, Atlantic Council in Washington DC on the 24th of June 2015. CHA was represented by Executive Director, Jeevan Thiagarajah and Dhanya Ratnavale, Manager Relief and Rehabilitation.

Acting Director, South Asia Center, Atlantic Council, Dr Bharath Gopalaswamy moderated the discussion on Sri Lanka and the emerging order in South Asia with introductory remarks by Sri Lanka's Ambassador to the United States, Prasad Kariyawasam.



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youth and grass root organizations. Representation from the international community most notably included members of the Humanitarian Forum, UK, and the WHS Regional Consultation in South and Central Asia.



The Deputy Minister for Policy Planning and Economic Affairs, Dr Harsha De Silva, who graced the occasion as Chief Guest, addressing the gathering, cited the importance of a cohesive unit inclusive of the non-governmental sector as well as unconventional partners such as the private sector in taking on a humanitarian role in society. Also attending the event, Mr W M Bandusena, the Secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management, the Guest of Honour, echoed the importance of such discussions in edifying gaps and pertinent measures to bridge them.

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The discussion focused on Sri Lanka's development and reconciliation efforts to rebuild its economy and reinforce democracy, paving the way to strengthened ties with the US and continued bilateral relations. Sri Lanka's geographic location was discussed as being a significant contributor to its economic and social progress as well as to sub continental prosperity. The meeting also ascertained that the US and Sri Lanka will in future work towards better coordination.



Contributing to the discussion, Mr Thiagarajah had stated that “at times up to 2million (are) displaced in Sri Lanka. Eradicating original causes is prerequisite to end displacement. Durable process to peace and reconciliation is learning lessons from past, taking responsibility and moving forward.”

Lisa Curtis, Senior Research Fellow, Asian, The Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy at The Heritage Foundation hosted a luncheon on the following day, Thursday the 25th, with regard to post-war economic development in Northern Sri Lanka and the importance of supporting entrepreneurship, market access, and training opportunities and revamping the region's approach to donor aid at which Mr Thiagarajah and Ms Ratnavale were present as well.

On June 26, the Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement hosted a culminating event to look back on over 20 years of ground-breaking accomplishments and identify future challenges for working on issues of internal displacement. This is a remarkable story of how international law was made and the humanitarian world changed through the collaboration between an independent U.N. expert and a U.S. think-tank, supported by international lawyers, governments, NGOs, and academics. Speakers included key actors in putting internally displaced persons (IDPs) on the international agenda, including Francis Deng, Walter Kälin, Roberta Cohen, and many others.

Martin Indyk, Executive Vice President of the Brookings Institution, provided opening remarks. Roberta Cohen, non-resident Senior Fellow and Founding Co-Director of the Project on Internal Displacement moderated the first panel and Elizabeth Ferris, senior fellow and co-director of the Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, moderated the second panel. CHA staff were in attendance and Jeevan Thiagarajah was invited to present a civil society perspective.

Policy Meetings Attended

Resilience Framework for Sri Lanka

A-PAD SL will partner with other key stake holders in the country along with Ministry of Disaster Management in formulating a 'Resilient Framework for Sri Lanka'. The aim is to integrate risk reduction into public investment policies and planning including community based interventions. A Technical Working Group was established with A-PAD SL representation. Meeting was held with 16 representatives at the Disaster Management Centre. A-PAD SL contributed a draft paper for policy formulation. The process will continue until the policy framework is drafted.

Civil Society Consultation by the Resettlement Authority

In order to make the planning process of the Resettlement Authority inclusive, a series of consultations with different stakeholders was held at the BMICH. CHA was represented at the Civil Society Consultation conducted by the Resettlement Authority on the 30th of June 2015.

National Psychosocial Forum Meeting

The psychosocial forum meeting for both June and July is planned to be held on the 10th of July 2015, at the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies auditorium, from 10.00 Am – 12.00 Pm. Due to unavailability of a date and many other external factor, it was not possible to hold a forum meeting within the month of June. The July meeting will include presentations allocated for both June and July.

The presentation will be on a needs assessment of victims of violence. Women and Children, who are the most vulnerable groups in Sri Lanka, is of profound importance in the current scenario. With new legislature on victims and witness protection, the question as to whether laws and best practices are been implemented correctly must be answered. This research will focus on the procedure victims face once they decide to report the crime, when they go to the police station traumatized in need of assurance and safety. The presentation will be conducted by Dr Maneesha Wanasinghe, Senior Lecturer and Mrs Marini De Livera, Human Rights lawyer and trainer attorney at law.

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

Training Programs

Workshop on "Elders Mental Health and Wellbeing" for Ministry of Social Service Officers



The above pictures were taken during the MoSS workshop

The workshop was conducted by Dr Tamitegama, who has been working with elders for over 20 years and has an extremely wide knowledge about educating elders to be healthy and independent during their retirement stage. The workshop was conducted on the 11th of June 2015, at the CHA auditorium from 10.30 Am – 4.30 Pm. There were 17 social Service officers from around the country.

The platform was an open space for the social officers to share their experiences and challenges faced and how they should work on certain matters related to elders. Dr Tamitegama explained and shared many ways in which an elder can be taught to be independent and healthy as the retirement age is the most amazing time of a human's life. The MoSS officers stated the mental state and stigma elders follow about themselves, which leads to mental distress in their late age.

The workshop was a success and received many positive feedbacks from the social service officers.

Koslanda Initiative – Providing psychosocial interventions to the adult victims

The Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, with the support of the Rotary Club is in the process of initiating the psychosocial programs for the victims of the Koslanda Land Slide. The Psychosocial consultant of CHA has had many discussions and conducted presentations on the planned initiative. CHA is hoping to officer these programs in August 2015.

If there are any other organizations interested to support this initiative or interested to be a part of this meeting. Please contact our psychosocial Coordinator on 0114626100 or psfcoord@cha.lk

Hambantota

CBDRR Project – Hambantota District

During this month the CHA Hambantota District Office conducted 2DRR follow-up programs and one District Network Meeting.

Follow-up workshop on DRR Planning

A follow-up on DRR Planning was conducted at the Community Centre in Lunama North of the Ambalantota DS Division on the 25th of June 2015. The village of Lunama which is rurally located, is a farming community unfortunately plagued by regular disasters such as droughts and floods which hinders their livelihood and income. 34 participants i.e. 30 females and 4 males were in attendance. Attendees had previously participated in the DRR Planning and Water Management Training Programs held in the village of Lunama the previous year. The workshop was conducted by Mr

Samantha Wickramage, Officer of the Disaster Management Centre, Hambantota.



Follow-up workshop on Water Management



A follow-up programme was also conducted on the 26th of June 2015 on Water Management, for 30 members of the village of Ridiyagama who had attended the water management workshop conducted the previous year. The follow-up programme was amalgamated with shramadhana programme for farmers in the community and was held at the

Ridiyagama Community Centre in the Ambalantota DS Division. There were 9 males and 22 females in attendance. Mr Athula Priyankara, Agriculture and Research Officer at the Agrarian Service Office, Ambalantota was the resource person who conducted the activity.



District Network Meetings

Network Meeting held at the District Secretariat

The Hambantota District Office convened the first of the five network meetings scheduled for the year on the 4th of June 2015. The meeting consisted of 29 representatives from various

factions, namely, NGOs, INGOs, CBOs, voluntary organisations and government representatives of Hambantota, excluding CHA representatives. It was held at the District Secretariat meeting room, Hambantota and was facilitated by Mr Bandara, the NGO coordinator of the GA's office. Hambantota is a district vulnerable to natural disasters. Although the district has a resource pool of organisations and individuals as well as information specialising in the subject of DRR, the lack of proper coordination is a hindrance to the utilisation of these resources. At present CHA is coordinating the implementation of various disaster management, preparedness and response activities in liaison with the DMC and other actors in DRR in the district.

Jaffna

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 and other actors in DRR in Jaffna.

Workshop on Community Awareness in Disaster Risk Reduction Planning

The first of the two workshops held in Jaffna under the Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (CBDRR) for the month was a workshop on Community Awareness in

Disaster Risk Reduction Planning which was conducted by the CHA in Jaffna at the Pannalai Women's' Development Centre of the Thellippalai DS Division on the 11th of June. The workshop was conducted by the resource person, Mr Concladius Jesuthasan of the Disaster Management Unit, Jaffna. 32 women participated in the event.



Workshop on Creating Disaster Resilient Communities



A workshop on Creating Disaster Resilient Communities was conducted for the benefit of the fishing community at the St Mary's Community Centre, Navanthurai on the 26th of June. 84 attendees participated in the workshop. Mr Concladius representing the Divisional Secretariat Jaffna conducted the workshop. The project facilitated the enlarging and printing of a hazard map drawn up by the members of the community which was put up on display at the Community Centre to aid the community members in identifying flood-affected regions.

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Representatives from Colombo were present for the workshop.

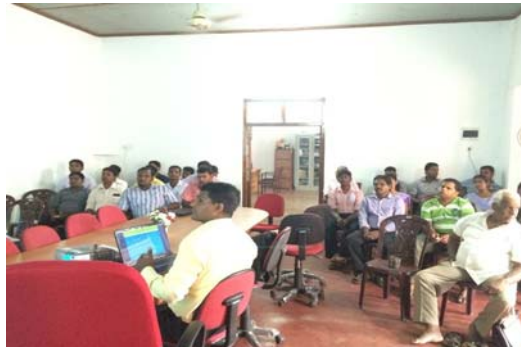
Project Officer, Ms Jayanthi Somasekaram, visiting the Jaffna Office on the 24th of June, was in discussion with project staff regarding the project activities in Jaffna. Ms Somasekaram also met with the Social Mobilization Specialist from the Water Supply and Drainage Board, Jaffna, Mr T Balasubramaniam, the resource person assigned to conduct the workshop on 'Water Management and Rainwater Harvesting'. The discussion touched on the workshop scheduled to be conducted for the benefit of the district network in Jaffna. The aspects and implementation of rainwater harvesting systems were additionally discussed.



District Network Meetings

Network Meeting Held at CHA

The CHA District Office conducted two network meetings this month. The first one was conducted on the 16th of June. Following the network meeting, a workshop was held on the topic of Disaster Recovery Activities in the Jaffna District and included the participation of 27 individuals representing the Disaster Management Unit of the District Secretariat, Pradeshiya Sabha officers, CHA staff and veracious NGOs and was facilitated by Mr Ravi Sangarapillai, the Assistant Director of the Disaster Management Unit of the District Secretariat Jaffna. It captured such relevant points as, "natural disasters cannot stopped but reduced" and "why the local community has not been able to utilise available resources such as the Warning Towers in coastal areas."



Network Meeting Held at Chamber of Commerce & Industries, Yarlpanam (CCiy)

The second network meeting was held on the 25th of June at the CCIY followed by a workshop on Rainwater Harvesting and Water Management facilitated by Mr T Balasubramaniam, Social Mobilization Specialist from the Water Supply and Drainage Board, Jaffna. 18 participants representing the private sector attended the meeting. Representation from the CHA Colombo staff was of importance. Ms Akiko Iizuka representing the Civic Force Japan gave a brief introduction on the Japanese experience in private sector partnership and collaboration with Asia Pacific Alliance (A-PAD)



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Meeting Attending in June

Monthly Meeting and Memorial for S Vithiya held at the NGO Council in Jaffna

Ms Kilta Sriranganathan represented the CHA at the monthly meeting held at the NGO Council on the 25th at 09.30 a.m. Mr Thatparan, President of the NGO Council presided over the meeting where the follow-



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ing matters were discussed.

- Implementation of activities with Diakonia Fund.
- New format of NGO council Profile for 2015.
- 25th Anniversary of NGO council.

Following the meeting, a Remembrance Day was organised in memory of the late Ms S Vithiya, a student of Pungudutivu Maha Vidyalayam who was brutally abused and murdered at Pungudutivu at the age of 18. The Remembrance Day speech delivered by Reverend Father Damian, Director and Psychosocial Counsellor of Anjaliaham, Point Pedro. In his speech, he mentioned the importance of creating awareness on such matters and the importance of monitoring and protecting children from abuse. He emphasised the importance of working in cooperation with specialists in law enforcement in order to generate the necessary awareness.

Discussion on Resettlement in Vali North

Ms Sharuka Selvarajah and Mr Srisankar attended the meeting on organized by the District Secretariat, Jaffna on the 29th at 02.00 pm to discuss matters and needs pertaining to the currently resettled populace in Vali North. The meeting was held at the District Secretariat Auditorium in Jaffna. Mr Swaminathan, Minister of Re-settlement , NGO's, Govt Depts. and other private sectors also participated in the meeting.

Free legal services at IHR, URELU

Meeting Highlights - June

Date	Topic	Venue	District
3-Jun-2015	Monthly Skype Meeting	CHA	Colombo
4-Jun-2015	Hambantota District NGOs coordination meeting	District Secretariat	Hambantota
8-Jun-2015	Meeting with the Asst Director, Disaster Unit, District Secretariat	District Secretariat	Jaffna
9-Jun-2015	Meeting with internal team for the National Consultation for the WHS.	CHA	Colombo
9-Jun-2015	Meeting to confirm resource person for workshop	Divisional Secretariat	Jaffna
10-Jun-2015	World Humanitarian Summit	BCIS Auditorium	Colombo
16-Jun-2015	Network Meeting Jaffna		Jaffna
16-Jun-2015	Monthly Meeting on Federation of Youth Clubs in Ambalantota	Divisional Secretariat Ambalantota	Hambantota
22-Jun-2015	Meeting with Disaster Management Divisional Secretariat, J	Disaster Management Unit, Div. Sect., Jaffna	Jaffna
23-Jun-2015	Meeting with Land Use Planning Officer regarding hazard maps for Navanthurai.	Divisional Secretariat	Jaffna
23-Jun-2015	Met Ms.Umayal, Officer, Planning, Dist. Secretariat, Jaffna and discussed to arrange a workshop at Kopay next week.	District Secretariat	Jaffna
24-Jun-2015	Meeting with Mr Balasubramanim, Social Mobilization Specialist, Water Supply & Drainage Board, Jaffna	CHA	Jaffna
25-Jun-2015	District Network Meeting	CCiy	Jaffna
26-Jun-2015	Workshop on "Creating disaster resilient communities for the fishing community in J/84 & J/85 Grama Seva Division in Jaffna district.	St Mary's Community Centre, Navanthurai	Jaffna
24-Jun-2015	A think-tank discussion held in Washington DC focusing on Sri Lanka's strides in reviving its relationship with the US	South Asia Center, Atlantic Council	Washington DC, USA
30-Jun-2015	Civil Society Consultation by the Resettlement Authority	BMICH	Colombo

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The Information Update is also available on the CHA website:

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

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