

FSD Blood Donors Sparkle and Shine – Sri Lanka



During the refresher training

Following annual staff refresher training in Mulliyaweilei GN Division, Mullaitivu District, hundreds of FSD staff lined up on Saturday 05th January to donate blood destined for the most vulnerable and war affected community in Northern Sri Lanka. Blood donations are a vital resource to help treat health conditions including cancer and long term illnesses, people involved in accidents and in maternity care.

Dr. Dushyantha, the blood bank Assistant in Jaffna appealed in September last year for everyone, including de-mining firms, to contribute whatever they could. Everyday area hospitals are filled with surgery patients, premature babies, accident victims and other ill and injured people who need transfusions to live. The de-mining teams in Mullaitivu and Vavuniya wanted to provide a way for locals to help out the Northern

Province, and help with the blood shortage. The Chief medic of FSD gathered the staff who volunteered to donate blood. With little else to offer, 120 staff including 12 female de-miners and 78 male de-miners waited quietly to give their blood. The remainder of the staff were represented by community liaison, supervisors, national operations manager, medics and drivers. "When I joined FSD, I thought that I was an official life-saver but now I feel that I am not only officially helping the community but personally helping as well to save lives. I am proud of myself", says Thulasi, one of FSD's female de-miners. The commitment of de-miners and other teams proves that they are motivated towards the spirit of volunteerism. After the donation, FSD blood donors received their official Sri Lanka Blood Center Donor Card. This card can be used as

a form of identification and privilege when the donor is in need of blood in any emergency or falls seriously ill. The national hospitals in Sri Lanka will specially consider these patients in providing health benefits. Rupavahini, ITN, Shakthi TV and Vasantham FM were among the local media to cover the blood donation programme.

"Donating blood is literally giving the gift of life and a good start for the year. The staff enjoyed a change and it was interesting to see the team work. The enthusiastic donor participation in large numbers at the campaign displayed peoples' kindness and sincerity to the cause of humanity" stated Shoban Raj, National Operations Manager who himself donated blood at the Mulliyaweilei Centre.

- FSD

Australia and World Vision in AUD 3.8 million partnership for sustainable development

Australia and World Vision are partnering in an AUD3.8 million water and sanitation program for children and their communities in the Nuwara Eliya district. The partnership is in collaboration with the Central and Local governments, Plantation management and community based organizations.

The most recently completed water and sanitation project was launched in Elgin Estate on Tuesday. It was attended by Her Excellency Ms. Robyn Mudie, High Commissioner for Australia in Sri Lanka, Suresh Bartlett, National Director of World Vision Lanka, and Dan Seevaratnam, CEO of Watawala Plantations.

The project cost LKR 20 million and will provide safe and clean drinking water and improved sanitation for 800 people, including nearly 400 women and 300 children. It links two communities from the Upper and Lower divisions of Elgin Estate as they come together to complete maintenance work.

“We are pleased that the rural water supply systems have been designed and built to ensure safe drinking water for the estate families who have previously been susceptible to water-borne diseases. Access to clean water will have significant impact on the community, in particular on estate women both at home and at work and will improve their quality of life”, said High Commissioner Mudie.

“A special impact of this project is not only to ensure sustainable water and sanitation services but the forging of relationships between isolated communities and those responsible for providing services,” said Suresh Bartlett, World Vision Lanka’s National Director.

“Ensuring peace and fostering harmony amongst communities is a key focus for Australia. We are delighted to be able to partner with World Vision to make this a reality,” said High Commissioner Mudie.

The project was part of the Rural Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (RIWASH) program, funded by the Australian Government (through its aid agency AusAID) and implemented by World Vision.

The RIWASH program aims to provide water supply

and sanitation facilities, common bathing places, and storm water drainage systems to over 23,000 people, including 2,800 school children, who are scattered over a number of estates, schools and rural villages in the Ambagamuwa and Nuwara Eliya DS Divisions. To date, over 10,000 individuals have benefitted from improved water and sanitation facilities in the Ambagamuwa and Nuwara Eliya region.

The RIWASH programme will also engage the community, plantation management, and local government officials to implement the Government of Sri Lanka’s Rural Water and Sanitation Supply Policy, further strengthening governance and community structures.

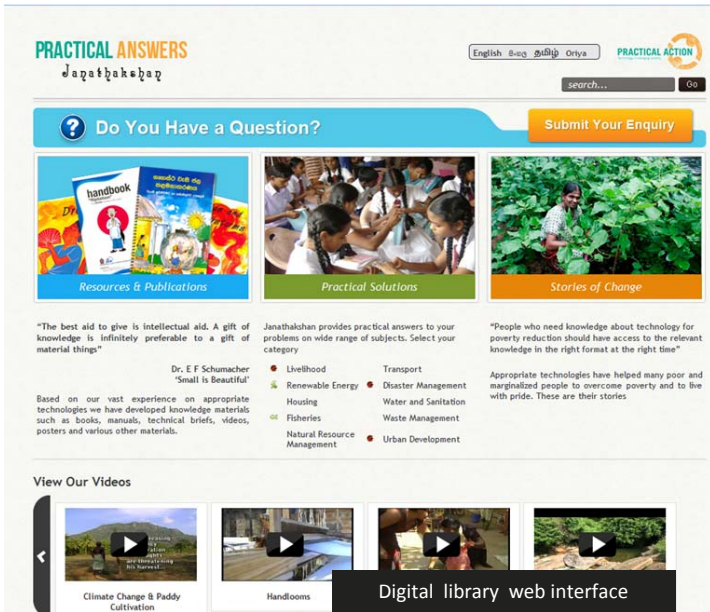
Nuwara Eliya is among the most disadvantaged districts in Sri Lanka, with significant levels of poverty and poor health statistics. Although home to abundant water sources, its water and sanitation access is the lowest in the country.

World Vision Lanka has a long history of working in Sri Lanka and in the Plantation Sector. Its Ambagamuwa Area Development Programme commenced nearly 15 years ago in 1997. The organization has expanded its programmes to Nuwara Eliya, Bogawantalawa, Pathana and Walapane in recent years. Its long term grassroots presence ensures such projects meet the needs of the communities. RIWASH is integrated with the larger longer term development programs of World Vision.

The AUD3.8 million funding for the partnership with World Vision is part of Australia’s development cooperation program with Sri Lanka, which will total more than AUD40 million in 2012-13. Australian development assistance focuses primarily on health, education and sustainable economic development, with programs located in lagging regions across the country.

-World Vision

Practical Action: Launches Digital Repository on Appropriate Technology



Action's 25 years of work and experience in the field of technology and development in Sri Lanka. The digital library makes this knowledge available to anyone at any time that can read and has access to the internet, whilst making locating the relevant information inside of books far more reliable and much easier. The Digital Repository especially targets development workers, extension workers, students, academics and researchers, entrepreneurs and local communities. Most materials in the repository are downloadable free of charge and all Practical Action's new publications will be available through the repository.

The Digital Repository is a key resource developed by Practical Action under its free of cost technical enquiry service Practical Answers. Since its launch in 2006 Practical Answers has focused on reducing poverty in Sri Lanka through the provision of knowledge and information on small scale technologies directly at the community level. Today, Practical Answers works across 25 districts of Sri Lanka servicing more than 6000 technical enquiries annually and reaching a maximum number of more than 600,000 beneficiaries. In 2010 Practical Answers was awarded the e-Swabhimani award for National best e-content on e-Enterprise and Livelihood by Information Communication Technology Agency (ICTA). The digital repository further extends the service of Practical Answers across Sri Lanka and the world.

- Practical Action

Practical Action (Sri Lanka) launched the Digital Repository on Appropriate Technology on 20th February 2013 in the presence of distinguished Chief Guest Minister of Power and Energy, Hon. Pavithra Wanniarachchi, Chairman, Business Development Centre (Pvt) Ltd Dr. Premasiri Gamage, Secretary, Ministry of Technology and Research, Mrs. Jayasamara Gunarathna, Chairman, International Finance Corporation Mr. Dushyantha and Head of Natural Resource Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, Practical Action (Sri Lanka), Mr. Ranasinghe Perera.

The Digital Repository is a collection of digital knowledge resources encompassing Practical

Excellent Youth Volunteer 2012 – Srimal at CHA

The Youth Excellence Award ceremony was held in Sri Lankan Youth Premises in Maharagama under the patronage of Youth Affairs and Skills Development Minister Dallas Alahapperuma on 12th January 2013. The best 20 youths were rewarded at the Award ceremony who were selected through 20,012 applications received from Sri Lankan youth in 20 vocational fields. Among them, 2012 were called for the first interview while 584 were selected under four stages. The best 20 youth were selected by panel of judges. Srimal Liyanage, CHA Hambantota district officer was awarded as an Excellent Youth Volunteer. He has been working with CHA since 2007 and also he is a member of youth parliament. -- CHA



Socio-economic Empowerment of Conflict-affected Communities in Northern and Eastern Provinces in Sri Lanka



Handicap International (HI) is an independent international aid organisation working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. Handicap International in Sri Lanka is committed to strengthening the physical rehabilitation services, enhance access to livelihood services, promote a barrier free environment and contribute towards full participation of persons with disabilities within society.

Between 2009 and 2013, the European Union funded a 42 month long project titled “Socio-economic Empowerment of Conflict-affected Communities in Northern and Eastern Provinces in Sri Lanka”, through EU-ACAP. A consortium of NGOs comprising of ACTED, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Sewalanka Foundation and Handicap International gathered their expertise collectively to support recovery of conflict affected populations in these areas. The specific objective of the project was to improve living conditions, enable access to sustainable livelihoods and facilitate the peaceful cohabitation of long term Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), host communities, resettled populations and returnees in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. Handicap International’s aim was to mainstream disability within all components of the project.

To achieve this objective, the project focused first on re-establishing and strengthening inclusive community based structures. Handicap International ensured the presence and participation of Persons with Disabilities within village groups, community based organizations and working groups. Within 82 villages, CBOs and gov-

ernment stakeholders participated in the identification of existing common buildings for accessibility modifications to allow persons with disabilities easy access. Eight villages were selected as Model Villages by the community to be fully accessible. HI conducted several awareness sessions on the importance of accessibility for inclusion of persons with disabilities within the community. Using the technical expertise of Handicap International, 155 buildings are now accessible for persons with disabilities

In terms of the livelihood activities carried out within the project, existing producer groups such as the Women’s Rural Development Society, Rural Development Society, Farmers and Fishermen associations were identified in each of the 82 villages. Internal savings and credit mechanisms were set up for each of these groups. HI’s aim was to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities within these producer groups. Community enterprises which included persons with disabilities were set up



and supported by the project with assets and infrastructure. More than 300 mobility devices were given to Persons with Disabilities after needs assessments were done by HI’s physiotherapists. At the end of the project, more than 2500 persons including more than 500 persons with disabilities were supported in their livelihood activities through individual and collective small businesses. Livelihood service providers are now aware of persons with disabilities rights and needs and include them in their activities and services.

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In each village, Community Mediation Groups (CMG's) were set up and trained in non-violent communication, inclusion, disability, identification of psychosocial problems and legal framework. HI focused on specific awareness campaigns on disability and protection in close cooperation with authorities and established referral mechanisms to legal and psychosocial professionals. Every 3rd of December which is the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, participatory events were conducted in common places. At school level, a drawing competition was conducted, involving more than 600 children from the North and East. Selected drawings under different themes were used for mural painting on school walls. This built positive attitudes toward children with disabilities amongst society, thereby reducing stigma and discrimination.

After 42 months the social, psychosocial and economic situation of affected conflict populations has clearly improved. Regarding persons with disabilities, an assessment of their quality of life highlighted that 55% have improved their overall outlook on life, 62% have improved livelihood incomes, and 59% have improved self confidence. At the same time, stereotyping and discrimination against persons with disabilities has decreased in the society. Community based organizations and local authorities were deeply involved in all stages of the project to ensure local ownership and sustainability of activities as well as construction implemented during the project.

For more information on HI project activities, please email: commcoord@handicap-international-sl.org

- Handicap

USEFUL WEBLINKS

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Read more: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2013/03/20130301143598.html?CP.rss=true#ixzz2MY7G6szR>

☛ Asia Pacific Food Situation Update - February 2013

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/017/ap047e/ap047e00.pdf>

☛ Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/downloadDoc.aspx?docID=3632&type=pdf>

☛ Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators Reports- RC/HC Reports 2012

<http://www.unocha.org/cerf/reportsevaluations/residenthumanitarian-coordinators-reports>

The Newsletter is an effort to illustrate the work of the humanitarian community, including doubts and criticism, for humanitarian audiences. Circulated to I/NGOs, the civil society, Government agencies, private sector, donors, and diplomatic missions. The newsletter covers agency activities, interviews with Heads of agencies, CKC updates, district activities, and advocacy initiatives.

*We hope **The Humanitarian** newsletter would give wide publicity for development agencies' projects and programs. We invite your feedback and suggestions to improve the quality of this work and your contributions in different sections of upcoming editions to expand its outreach and purpose. Please contact us on 4626100 ext 135 or infoanalyst@cha.lk for further information With Our Best Wishes*

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