

SRI LANKA: a nation at its crossroads



Annual Report
2012-2013



Caritas Sri Lanka

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Vision:

"Realization of a Just Sri Lankan Society based on the Gospel Values of Love, Forgiveness, Peace, Unity and Equality - lived, promoted and protected irrespective of Caste, Creed and Nationality".

Mission:

"Empowering people through animation and being in solidarity with their efforts for Integral Human Development".



Cover Story

Our country is at a defining moment in its long history, from which our future trajectory will be decided. Sri Lanka is in the middle of a rapid economic, social, cultural and political transition. Equally importantly, the nation also needs to come into a pact with itself for the building of a permanent peace four years after the end of three decades of ethnic war.

As many moves and counter-moves are being made on all sides to achieve reconciliation and a resolution of the 'national question', concerns are also being raised as to what would happen if all these efforts fail to bring a win-win solution acceptable to all sections of our people.

Religious tensions that are on the rise in recent times have created fresh fears of a return to conflict if not properly handled.

Truly, the nation is at an important cross-road.

The path we choose to take from here could mean the difference between lasting peace and renewed strife.

Which way shall we go?

That's the question.

Director's Message



This Annual Report broadly covers the activities of Caritas Sri Lanka during the period April 2012 – March 2013 and is presented under the theme “ Sri Lanka: a nation at its crossroads”, because it is being released at a defining moment in the country’s history. The path Sri Lanka takes here and now could mean the difference between peace and strife, between unity and division, and between prosperity and catastrophe.

It is with this acute awareness that we as the Catholic National Commission for Justice, Peace and Human Development are reviewing our own role and accompaniment in the nation’s forward march.



Between the pages of this book, the reader will get a glimpse of our areas of work. Disaster relief, disaster preparedness, rehabilitation, reconstruction, psychosocial support, mobile medical clinics, community empowerment, training and capacity building of grass root level leaders, child protection, educational assistance, vocational training, promoting healing and reconciliation, bridge building between divided communities, dialogue with political, religious and civil society leaders, safe migration, prevention of drug/alcohol abuse and protecting human dignity are the notable interventions, along with social service projects and other initiatives.

Of these, one that deserves special mention is our 3-year program on Integrated Human Development through Community Empowerment (IHDtCE) which was started in 2010 and ending in this year. We invested much energy on implementing it, along with an equally substantial financial investment of nearly Rs. 400 million. Promoted in all our 12 Dioceses through the network of 13 Diocesan Centres covering the 25 Districts in Sri Lanka, this program not only had a huge impact in mobilizing rural, grass root level communities to become agents of social transformation but it also set out the framework for an alternate development model in which the people become the key players and decision-makers in shaping their own future well-being. This is, in fact, a sharp contrast to the “top-down” model of development which has no space for people’s participation in the affairs of the communities in which they live. I have personally seen, in the last few years, how the Caritas empowerment approach has brought out the energies and creativities of rural, voiceless people and I have been impressed by the second level leadership that has emerged from among their midst, thus challenging our earlier views of them as beneficiaries, recipients and dependents. Today, we engage



with them, consult with them, plan with them and even learn from their native ingenuity. Above all, we are proud to call them our partners in development. Recently, I visited the Navaratnapuram village in Trincomalee District which had been affected by thirty years of civil war. 90% of the women here are war widows. When they returned to this village after a long period of displacement, all what was left of it was a thick jungle. But today, it has undergone an amazing transformation through the efforts of an empowered community. These women earn a substantial livelihood through their income generation projects, supported by the savings and credit schemes they have created among themselves and now they live in dignity despite their earlier misfortunes.

In the area of rehabilitation and reconstruction in the war ravaged parts of the North and East, we have completed 122 houses and given livelihood support for around 450 in order to help resettled families to re-order their lives. In total, the number of houses built in the post-war period is nearly 1,250. We were supported in these efforts by many people of goodwill from around the world and through the generosity of our foreign partners who showed remarkable solidarity with those struggling to recover from the pain and suffering of a needless war.

Among the resettled families, and also among families in other parts of the country are many who have not been able to mourn their dead. Therefore we took steps, even in the midst of some challenges, to help bring about a closure to their grief by arranging remembrance services for all who perished during the long years of the ethnic conflict.

A new initiative during the period under review was the setting up of a Desk at the National Centre to focus on the rights and welfare of plantation populations living on the tea estates in the country. It is a well known fact that these communities who were the backbone of the country's economy for several decades have still remained a neglected part of Sri Lankan society.

All our achievements would not have been possible without the blessings of God Almighty and we therefore thank the Good Lord who, in His Divine Providence, has shown us the way at all times. The guidance we received from our Bishops Chairmen and Vice Chairmen past and present, the excellent cooperation received from the Diocesan Directors and their staff, the tremendous contribution of the staff of Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC who are my greatest strength and most valuable resource, have all enhanced the value of the work we have done.

The fact that our labour was enriched and made more meaningful by the spirit of accompaniment demonstrated by our supporting partners is recorded here with deep appreciation and gratitude.

Fr. George Sigamoney

National Director

Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC



Holistic development which promotes the good of every person and the whole person is the key element that guides the Integral Human Development Program, and its underlying principle is community empowerment that highlights poor, marginalized and vulnerable people as agents of social transformation.

Water Resource Management and Women's Empowerment, Green Gold Harvesters Project focused on the plantation sector, Integral Human Development through Community Empowerment (IHDtCE) Program and Safe Migration are the main areas of intervention through which we seek to build solidarity and holistic development that enable people to live to their full potential.

Water Resource Management and Women's Empowerment Project

This two-year project is designed to increase access to safe drinking water in several areas in the Dioceses of Kandy, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Mannar and Jaffna by providing 71 common wells, 15 rain water harvesting tanks, 200 water storage tanks and 8 renovations to water conveyors. At the same time, organizing the people and motivating them to take responsibility for the maintenance and management of these resources is an important component of the project, while several trainings in Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) are also included for all the stakeholders. Overall, the project will benefit nearly 10,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries. A Start-up Workshop to provide initial orientation on the project to Diocesan staff was held in January 2013, facilitated by two officials of CAFOD - UK. The services of Gender Consultants are also enlisted in order to encourage women's participation in water - related decision making, since the women living in the target rural areas who go out to collect water in remote areas are often subject to various forms of harassment.

Green Gold Harvesters Project

Aimed principally at uplifting the life situations of plantation communities, this project is also directed at approaching the plantation managements and creating community forums consisting of both people's representatives and officials managing the tea estates where these communities have been toiling for generations to support the country's economy but still not getting a fair share of the fruits of their labour. Through the formation of Vigilant Groups, the community will be empowered to seek win-win solutions to their work-related issues while also combatting social ills such as rampant alcohol and drug abuse, domestic violence and overcoming issues such as lack of proper housing, health and sanitation facilities.

Integral Human Development through Community Empowerment

This 3 -year project started in the year 2010 is nearing completion in 2013. Organizing the community as a way of empowering people is a methodology adopted throughout by the Caritas Diocesan Centres, and more than 1,200 small Self Help Groups (SHGs) have so far been



formed in several Districts. The amalgamation of SHGs has given rise to Community Based Organizations (CBOs) which have been strengthened to take over responsibilities such as project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This has, in turn, capacitated the CBOs and their members to participate in decision making processes and engage in advocacy and lobbying actions to claim their rights.

Such empowerment builds grass root level leadership in these communities and enables them to become resilient to the negative impacts of economic, social, political and cultural distresses that arise from time to time.

Name of the Diocesan Centre	No. of Villages	No. of Small Groups	No. of Group Members / Beneficiaries	No. of CBOs formed	No. of Federations	No. of Welware Societies/ Youth & Children	Total no. of other society members	Total Beneficiaries
Batticaloa	36	311	2,716	34	5	15	666	3,382
Anuradhapura	58	152	1,086	17	2	15	1,359	2,445
Jaffna	21	62	1,056	20	10	21	864	1,920
Colombo	40	188	1,811	5	-	-	-	1,811
Galle	55	121	1,793	8	-	-	-	1,793
Chilaw	21	60	1,691	6	4	18	-	1,691
Vanni	18	88	1,258	18	-	16	397	1,655
Badulla	17	68	809	6	-	15	427	1,236
Kurunegala	15	48	960	4	-	-	-	960
Kandy	16	64	679	16	4	6	187	866
Mannar	8	31	384	8	-	8	320	704
Ratnapura	20	37	340	6	-	14	357	697
Trincomalee	20	130	810	10	-	-	-	811
Total	345	1360	15,394	158	25	128	4,577	19,971

Total Members 19,971

Updated on 31st March 2013

Safe Migration and Human Trafficking

In the light of the increasing number of migrant workers leaving Sri Lanka for foreign employment due to the deteriorating economic conditions in the country, compounded even further by the enormous debt burdens faced by the people, Caritas continues to persist in its advocacy work to make migration safe for all and to help prospective migrants to take right decisions.

Chart (1) below shows the relevant statistics regarding departures for the three years from 2011 to 2013 while Chart (2) shows the steady flow of foreign remittances by migrant workers for the same period.



CHART 1

Employment	Departure for Foreign Employment					
	2010		2011		2012(a)	
	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
Total Placement	267,507	100.0	262,961	100.0	279,482	100.0
By Source						
Licensed Agents	160,500	60.0	146,293	55.6	104,216	37.3
Other	107,007	40.0	116,668	44.4	175,266	62.7
By Gender						
Male	148,001	55.3	136,307	51.8	142,331	50.9
Female	119,506	44.7	126,654	48.2	137,151	49.1
By Manpower Category						
Professional	3,057	1.1	3,848	1.5	4,300	1.5
Middle Level	6,884	2.6	6,136	2.3	9,223	3.3
Clarial and Related	7,923	3.0	9,907	3.8	16,016	5.7
Skilled Labour	71,537	26.7	67,746	25.8	66,275	23.7
Semi Skilled Labour	4,932	1.8	4,182	1.6	3,406	1.2
Unskilled Labour	60,422	22.6	63,642	24.1	62,027	22.3
Housemaid	112,752	42.1	107,500	40.9	118,235	42.3

(a) Provincial Source: Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment

CHART 2



Yet for all, the negative effects of migration also continue to be felt in a widespread manner among the families of the migrant workers. Break-up of family bonds and incidences of child abuse are among the commonly reported distresses in these households, apart from the disturbances in children's behavior patterns and a decline in their educational standards. Moreover, several cases of violence against women domestic workers continue to be reported from Middle Eastern countries in spite of the many efforts being taken to guarantee their protection and safety.

The social and economic reintegration of migrant returnees into their families and their communities, too, is a subject that received our close study and we undertook an analysis of the National Labour Migration Policy of Sri Lanka with a view to creating awareness on the subject of reintegration which is an important dimension of the overall migration process.



TV Commercial on Safe Migration

A brief, 15-second TV Commercial prepared by Caritas was telecast over a few months in Sinhala and Tamil languages on two popular television channels to portray the need for potential migrant workers to consider several important factors and taking

wise decisions on their part before they actually leave for foreign employment.

Signature Campaign

Following a public campaign to highlight the need for the Service Contracts of migrant workers to be translated from Arabic and English languages and be made available in the native languages, the Signature Campaign was carried out in several Districts covered by the Dioceses of Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Kandy, Galle, Ratnapura and Jaffna, with the focus of collecting 10,000 signatures to influence the Government to undertake this task.

All the said Dioceses participated actively and enthusiastically in this activity and it created awareness among the public about issues pertaining to migrant workers. Most of the people were unaware about the National Labour Migration Policy and about the fact of the contract presently being only in English and Arabic languages.

The Dioceses applied different strategies to obtain the targeted numbers of signatures. Coordinators, animators and other staff members in the Diocesan Centres, members of the stakeholder groups formed under the Migration projects, migrant returnee groups and other volunteers were all engaged in collecting the signatures. The campaign was conducted in many villages and Government offices, including the Training Centres of SLBFE.

No	District	Total
1	Batticaloa	2,329
2	Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa	1,672
3	Badulla and Moneragala	1,740
4	Kurunegala	1,500
5	Trincomalee and Mullaitivu	1,500
6	Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Matale	1,470
7	Galle and Matara	1,155
8	Ratnapura and Kegalle	765
9	Other areas	60
Total		12,191

Leaflets and banners were used to create awareness among the public during the Signature Campaign. Some Dioceses had also made use of many opportunities such as special days and events to conduct the Signature Campaign.



Integral Human Development

Media advocacy for the Signature Campaign was conducted through the electronic and print media, too, using the following banner headline in Sinhala and Tamil languages and spelling out the objectives of the campaign:



“Come and join with us to translate the employment contract of women domestic migrant workers into native languages”

The aim was to educate the public that opportunity must be given to women domestic migrant workers to read and understand their service contracts so that they will be familiar with their terms of employment prior to departure and thus be conscious of their rights as well as their obligations. In this way, the space for exploitation is reduced while also minimizing the possibilities of serious violations.

“Jeevika” Magazine

Dedicated to the welfare of the large number of women toiling hard in Middle East countries in their search for a better life for themselves and their families, the bi-lingual “Jeevika” magazine published periodically in Sinhala and Tamil is a tribute to these women who bring in a vast amount of foreign exchange which supports Sri Lanka’s economic well-being. A variety of articles and interviews on the factors that influence safe migration are published in the magazine, along with insightful sharing of experiences by migrant returnees.





Airport assistance for migrant returnees

On three occasions between September and December 2012, Caritas provided airport assistance to 40 women migrant returnees who arrived in Sri Lanka after having been detained in Jordanian detention camps for a long time. They had left Sri Lanka with dreams of earning a decent income to improve the quality of life of their families. But their dreams were shattered, as for a variety of reasons, they could not find proper households where they could work with dignity.

Many of them were not paid their wages. Despite facing such difficulties, they worked diligently and completed their two - year contract period. But their ordeals were not over. Many of them were not allowed to leave and they were not provided with air tickets to return home, either. Unable to continue to work in such houses and due to the harsh conditions they faced, several of them fled these households. They were certainly not criminals. Fleeing their households, they ended up in prison for breaking the Residency Laws in Jordan, with no one paying any attention to their plight.

These unfortunate women had no way of communicating with their family members back home nor were they in a position to highlight their plight to their families. But a Jordanian humanitarian organization called Tamkeen had come to their rescue by providing them with air tickets and a grant of USD 100 each to return home. Among those migrant domestic workers were Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims from various parts of the country.

All of them, when they returned to Sri Lanka, said “We are not criminals but we had to be in prison”. In Colombo, the Centre for Human Rights Development (CHRD), having come to know of their impending return, informed Caritas Sri Lanka and requested help for these unfortunate women. The staff of Caritas Sri Lanka acted promptly to meet the returnees at the airport and accompanied them until they reported at Sahana Piyasa, the Complaints Desk maintained by the SLBFE in Katunayake.

The returnees who came back with shattered hopes and disappointment were able to find some solace in the fact that there was somebody waiting for them at the airport. Caritas also gave





assistance to the family of a woman domestic worker who died in Saudi Arabia in August 2012 to bring her mortal remains back to Sri Lanka three months later.

Training on Enhancing Life Skills for Youth

Around 40 youth from the Dioceses of Badulla, Batticaloa, Anuradhapura and Kurunegala attended a four-day Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshop held in SEDEC from 28th February to 3rd March 2013 on 'Enhancing Life Skills'.

The Workshop was conducted under the Caritas program to prevent alcohol and drug abuse and it included sessions on Self-understanding, Critical Thinking, Decision-making, Creative Thinking, Problem-solving, Promoting Listening Skills, Communication, Stress Management and Time Management.

A special presentation on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse gave the participants an awareness of the social problems caused by this growing menace.

The workshop which was made lively and interactive through games, role play and debates was facilitated by Mr Freddie Jayawardena, Mr Ranjith Nihal and Mr Siyon de Alwis.



Training on addressing alcohol/drug abuse problems

Under the Safe Migration and Prevention of Human Trafficking Program, a series of training programs on addressing alcohol/drug abuse problems were held for Caritas Diocesan staff of Kurunegala, Badulla, Batticaloa and Anuradhapura in order to build their capacity for creating awareness among community members on this social evil.





Among the subjects dealt with during the training were the conditioning to drugs and alcohol, the tolerance levels, dependency, withdrawal symptoms and prevention methods.

International Migrants' Day Commemoration - 2012



Caritas Sri Lanka marked International Migrants' Day (IMD) with a two-day event held on 17th and 18th December 2012 at the SEDEC auditorium, with the participation of migrant returnees from several parts of the country, including many Jordanian returnees. The IMD event was organized in the backdrop of the continuing trend in violations of migrant domestic workers' rights in destination countries and with a special focus on the recent increase in the number of returnees from Jordan. The theme of the event was *"Empowering migrant returnees to identify their contribution to Sri Lankan society"*.

On the first day, Ms Suhad Zarafili, Manager of the Community Centre maintained in Jordan for migrant workers by Caritas Jordan was the resource person at a special orientation session on the prevailing Jordanian laws in relation to migrant workers, as well as insights into the country's culture and so on.

On the second day, Ms Suhad Zarafili was the Chief Guest at the 13th International Migrants' Day Commemoration event.

Welcoming the participants to the event, the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, Rev Fr George Sigamoney said that though migrant workers have made an enormous contribution to the Sri Lankan economy through their hard-earned foreign remittances, this has not been accompanied by personal fulfilment for many of them and their families because of the numerous issues and hardships they have had to face during the course of their foreign employment.





What, then, has gone wrong with the migration process, Fr Sigamoney asked and pointed out that though there are several reasons for this state of affairs, the most significant factor lying at the root of the troubles faced by migrant workers is their lack of knowledge about the laws, customs and cultures prevailing in the destination countries. This shortcoming must be remedied immediately by making proper use of the excellent services and trainings provided by the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

In her address, Ms Zarafili urged the Sri Lankan migrant returnees to share their experiences with others so that they may learn from the sad situations which several returnees had to face, such as non-payment of salary, harassment, abuse, isolation and even torture. In such a context, Ms Zarafili said, it is utterly regrettable that there is still a continuous flow of female domestic workers into Jordan, some of them even being close and immediate family members of those who had already gone through serious difficulties and unpleasant experiences.

“Though migrant workers have made an enormous contribution to the Sri Lankan economy through their hard-earned foreign remittances, this has not been accompanied by personal fulfilment for many of them and their families because of the numerous issues and hardships they have had to face during the course of their foreign employment. What, then, has gone wrong with the migration process?”



“ In recent years, there has been an increase in the numbers of run-away migrant workers engaged in part-time works, thereby being treated as illegal immigrants. I urge the Sri Lankan migrant returnees to share their experiences with others so that they may learn from the sad situations which several returnees had to face, such as non-payment of salary, harassment, abuse, isolation and even torture”.



Networking Activities

With a view to strengthening the network of key stakeholders, several organizations including Caritas have come together periodically to identify important issues related to migration and to work together towards resolving same.

The first meeting with civil society organizations to discuss about issues of migrant workers was hosted by HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation. Several representatives of organizations working on migrant issues participated in this meeting. A workshop held previously in Colombo on “Kafala system” provided the platform for this first discussion. The meeting was initially coordinated under the name of Migration Round Table Discussion. It was decided that this meeting would be held once in two months, hosted by one of the participating organizations. Subsequently, the number of representative organizations and individuals increased and presently there are about 27 active stakeholders / civil society organizations in this informal umbrella group called “Sri Lanka Migrant Forum”.

The forum gave the opportunity for each member to become acquainted with other civil society organizations and to recognize each others’ strengths.

Training on the use of Audio Visual Equipments

A 3-day Training Workshop on ‘Reporting and Documentation utilizing Audio Visual Equipments’ was held at SEDEC from 16th - 18th May 2012 with the participants of 30 Diocesan and 9 National Centre staff.

The objectives of the training were:

- To improve understanding and awareness on latest audio visual techniques.
- To improve skills on use of Audio Visual equipment to produce quality reports, to make effective presentations and to conduct fruitful advocacy and lobbying campaigns.
- To do better reporting and documentation of project-related matters.





Promoting healing and reconciliation continues to be our priority concern as the country moves from a post-war to a post-conflict situation and a divided nation looks with hope to a future in which its people will find peace in the truest sense of the word.



Our Inter-Diocesan Exposure Programs had brought together men, women, youth and children from Sinhala and Tamil communities and helped to build bridges of understanding among the grass root level people. The attitudinal changes brought about by these interactions could pave the way to mutual respect, the removal of suspicion and a deep appreciation of what unites us. These exposures also created a space for language learning for better communication, resulting in cordiality and friendship which help break down the invisible walls of mistrust and fear.

In February 2013, nearly 500 of these participants from the dioceses of Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Kandy, Mannar and Badulla gathered together in Nochchiyagama for a National Healing and Reconciliation Day. Several religious dignitaries also took part in this event where people from villages in both Sinhalese and Tamil areas lit candles to remember the dear ones who had died during the 30-year ethnic conflict, marked their names on a specially constructed symbolic monument and offered flowers in their memory.



Child Rights and Child Protection

1. Caritas Scholarship Program

This program, started with the support of foster parents in Poland and supported by Caritas Poland, currently benefits 1,500 poor children in eleven Dioceses, each of whom receives a sum



of Rupees Two Thousand monthly for his or her education. The award of scholarships is closely linked to the Child Protection Program.

Diocese	No of Children
Colombo	500
Galle	200
Jaffna and Vanni	286
Chilaw	65
Mannar	79
Kurunegala	84
Anuradapura	69
Badulla	60
Kandy	60
Ratnapura	60
Trincomalee	37
TOTAL	1,500

Success story of Kasun Chamara

This is 21-year old Kasun Chamara of Telijjiwela who is seen here being carried by his mother to the Sri Jayawardenepura University which he has entered as a First Year student to read for a Bachelor of Commerce Degree. Kasun had been afflicted from birth by a rare disease that stunted his growth and physical development. But Kasun was a studious child and excelled in his studies while attending Rahula Vidyalaya in Matara. His parents carried him to school regularly as he could not walk and they encouraged him at all times even though they were a poor family with two other children younger to Kasun. His father is employed as a driver and has to support the family with his limited income. It was in 2009 that Kasun was introduced to the Caritas Scholarship Program as a deserving beneficiary through the Diocesan Centre in Galle. Ever since then, his family has continued to receive valuable financial assistance through this Program and it has helped Kasun in no small way to improve his educational standard and achieve his ambition of proceeding to university education. This Scholarship Programme is supported by Caritas Poland.





2. Universal Children's Day 2012

Events to mark Universal Children's Day were held in Kurunegala and Vavuniya on 6th and 13th October 2012 respectively, under the guidance of Caritas Sri Lanka National Centre, with the collaboration of Caritas Kurunegala Janasetha and Caritas Mannar Valvuthayam. Nearly 300 Sinhalese children belonging to Caritas Children's Societies in the Dioceses of Colombo, Kurunegala, Kandy, Chilaw, Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, Ratnapura and Galle gathered at the event held at St Anne's College, Kurunegala while a similar number of Tamil children from the Dioceses of Jaffna, Vanni, Mannar, Batticaloa, Badulla and Trincomalee took part in the event held at Rambaikkulam Girl's MMV, Vavuniya.

The Bishop of Kurunegala, Rt Rev Dr Harold Anthony Perera and the Bishop of Mannar, Rt Rev Dr Rayappu Joseph were the Chief Guests at the respective events where competitions were held in Drama, Art and Debate in the Sinhala and Tamil languages. In Kurunegala, the first prize for Drama was won by Colombo Diocese while Kurunegala Diocese carried away first prizes in the Debate and Art competitions. In Vavuniya, the Mannar Diocesan Team took first place in the Debate competition while the first prize for Art was jointly awarded to Vanni and Trincomalee Diocesan Centres. The first place for Tamil Drama was secured by Kandy Diocese.



3. Outreach program on Child Rights and Child Protection

A 2-day outreach was held on 21st and 22nd August 2012 at the NISD Training Centre in Talawa (North Central Province) for a group of 96 participants comprising School Principals, Teachers, Diocesan Coordinators and Animators as well as Volunteers from eleven Diocesan Centers who are in charge of the Children's Societies formed under the Caritas Child Rights and Child Protection Program. Its theme was: **HELP A CHILD IN NEED.**





The objectives of this activity were to educate the participants on child rights and how to safeguard children in their own areas, deepen their knowledge of current issues involving children in several parts of the country, to familiarize them with the legal references needed to help children in the present situation and to train the Volunteers on how to work closely with Diocesan staff.

The participants were divided into 9 groups and sent on an exposure to Borawewa, a war-affected village in Polonnaruwa. Each group visited 25 families in the village and on their return they presented reports of their findings and shared their experiences.



The entire program was facilitated in Sinhala and Tamil languages by Mr Niranjan Chandraprakashan, Attorney-at-Law, Mr Siyon de Alwis, Human Resources Trainer and Rev Sr Nilanthi Ranasinghe FMM, Program Officer of Caritas Sri Lanka.

4. Vocational Training

An orientation session on “Vocational Training for School Drop-outs” was held in February 2013 for Diocesan Coordinators, with a special focus on how to help school drop-outs by providing them with marketable skills and thereby helping to reduce child labour. Consequently, a program to enlist a number of youth for vocational training courses in various institutions has been launched. Presently, 20 youth selected by each of the Diocesan Centres in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, Badulla, Ratnapura, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Vanni are undergoing training in various training institutions in their own areas which are accredited to the National Apprenticeship and Training Authority (NAITA). They are learning marketable skills for employment and/or self-employment.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

A group of 75 male and female Police officers attended a discussion held at SEDEC Auditorium to mark International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 27th June 2012.

Mr Jayantha Wickremasinghe, Senior Superintendent of Police and Director of the Children’s and Women’s Bureau exhorted the participants to be courteous and considerate to the people who visit Police Stations to complain about their grievances. He noted that in the case of suspects arrested





for various crimes, Police torture is well known in Sri Lanka. It is, therefore, absolutely essential for Police officers to be familiar with the legal framework within which interrogation of suspects could be carried out. Torture, especially, can be avoided if Police officers act with a conscience and are familiar with the related laws, Mr. Wickramasinghe stressed.

Dr Prathiba Mahanamahewa, the present Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission spoke of the need for rehabilitation of torture victims who suffer immensely in their lives, both physically and mentally. He said that it should always be possible to carry out interrogation of suspects by using reasonable methods.



LLRC Recommendations

The Caritas program to create public awareness on Recommendations made by the Government-appointed Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) was extended to the Anuradhapura Diocese where two sessions were held in Polonnaruwa and Medirigiriya for groups of community leaders on the importance and value of LLRC Recommendations, especially those relating to reconciliation. The sessions were organized by the National Centre in collaboration with Caritas Anuradhapura Sethsaviya.



Visit of Catholic Bishops to the North

In January 2013, Caritas facilitated a 4-day visit to the North of a delegation of Catholic Bishops. The objective of the visit, arranged in collaboration with Caritas Mannar Valvuthayam and Caritas



HUDEC Vanni, was to study the situation and conditions of the people in the Northern region, the resettlement activities and the various issues faced by the people.

The visit paved the way for the Bishops to meet and interact closely with people at grass root level and to know their concerns, fears and frustrations as well as their expectations. On their return, the Bishops issued a public statement, observing that the power of healing has not reached its desired level of success and that more needs to be done. The Bishops also noted that the LLRC Recommendations with regard to reconciliation need to be taken more seriously.



Training in Non Violent Communication (NVC)

Two Training - of - Trainers (TOT) Programs on NVC were held in Tamil and Sinhala languages for a group made up of 25 staff members from Jaffna, Vanni, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Chilaw, Kandy and Kurunegala Diocesan Centres and 03 from the National Centre.





Both training sessions were facilitated by Rev. Fr. Anthony Pillai SJ and the trainees were equipped with the knowledge and skills to conduct similar trainings for participants of the Caritas program to promote healing and reconciliation.

Respect for Human Dignity

A series of trainings focused on creating a culture of respect for human dignity was conducted for several groups of teachers in the Dioceses of Colombo, Galle, Ratnapura, Badulla, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Batticaloa, Vanni, Jaffna and Kandy. The teachers who belonged to all religious groups have since been able to change their approach to the children in their care as well as change their attitude towards their own responsibilities. The teacher-student relationships have vastly improved and the children, too, are imbibing the culture of respect promoted by these trainings.



Seminar on Religious Harmony

Religious and civil society leaders belonging to Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic faith participated in a Caritas seminar held in June 2012 under the theme *“Religious harmony as a way forward in creating healing and reconciliation”*.

The keynote address was delivered at this event by the High Commissioner for South Africa in Sri Lanka, His Excellency Geoff Doidge who pointed out that collaboration between religious and political leaders is very vital for a way forward for Sri Lanka. He quoted the South African experience where all religious and political groups came together to seek transformation at the end of apartheid rule. Fr. George Sigamoney, National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka in his





intervention referred to certain recent incidents of religious tensions and said that “religious extremism cannot exist side by side with national reconciliation”.

Consultation on national reconciliation

The implementation of LLRC Recommendations was the focus of a Caritas Consultation held in July 2012 with a group of religious and civil society leaders. They shared their own experiences in working for reconciliation and also examined the potential for more collaboration from civil society and the faith community to work with the Government in meaningfully implementing the Recommendations, while at the same pooling their combined knowledge, experience and capacity to work on an effective contribution to this cause.



Exposure program for members of Children's Societies

Around three hundred children belonging to Children's Societies in the Dioceses of Anuradhapura (250) and Mannar (55) gathered in Polonnaruwa for an exposure program on 28th June 2012. They are members of the Children's Societies formed under the Child Rights and Child Protection Program of Caritas Sri Lanka and this was the first time that they were meeting each other.

The objective of this outdoor activity, held at a location coming under the purview of the Wildlife Department near the Parakrama Samudra, was to bring the children together to promote unity among them and help them to find new life. The program also seeks to find new approaches to Reconciliation and Peace, by inculcating the values of understanding and tolerance among the younger generation.

A team of resource persons led by Mr Siyon de Alwis and including officials from National Child Protection Authority and Wildlife Department





gave the children valuable orientations on child rights, the love of nature, respecting and protecting the environment and so on. The children shared their experiences quite freely during these interactive sessions and not only came to know each other through fun and games but also formed new friendships for the future.

Remembering the war dead

A series of interreligious services were held in several Dioceses to remember those who lost their lives during the 30 years of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

These remembrance services, arranged by the Caritas Diocesan Centres in Colombo, Jaffna, Mannar, Vanni, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa and Trincomalee, were occasions for Christians, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims to come together for a common purpose, regardless of ethnic or religious differences.



“Vimukthi” Magazine

As a quarterly bi-lingual magazine published in Sinhala and Tamil, “Vimukthi” focuses on social issues of the day. In January - April 2012, the need for peace and reconciliation and the steps needed to make these a reality were discussed at length. In July - December 2012, this publication highlighted the need for child protection in the face of the enormous threats faced by children and young people in an increasingly violent and uncaring society.





The Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Unit of Caritas Sri Lanka continues to play an active role in helping people affected by natural and man-made disasters to recover and rebuild their lives. Even though the military conflict in the North ended over four years ago, there are still a large number of families who need to be



supported to reconstruct their houses and revive their livelihoods. Thus, Caritas has moved on to the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase in order to assist the resettled families to regain a foothold on their lives. At the same time, in the context of natural disasters, Caritas Sri Lanka has been quick to provide immediate relief assistance such as drinking water and dry rations to displaced families and also rebuild their damaged houses and recover their livelihoods.

The main assistance given is in the form of construction of semi-permanent core houses with latrines, livelihood support, vocational training for youth, building the capacity of the people through Community Based Organizations (CBOs) such as Women's Rural Development Societies (WRDS) and the initiation of community projects such as construction of common wells and community halls.

All activities in support of the resettlement of people, especially in the Northern Province, are carried out with the permission of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) and relevant Line Ministries as well as Local Government authorities.

Construction of semi – permanent core houses

In the initial stages when the people began returning to their villages at the end of the military conflict in mid-2009, Caritas built houses using the contractor- led approach. Later, with the conditions being more conducive, the strategy shifted to promoting the owner -driven model of construction. This process enables the beneficiary family to take more responsibility for construction of the house and toilet and feel a sense of ownership of the house that is built. The beneficiaries accepted this challenge and many of them, in fact, made useful additions and improvements to the original house design by using their own resources. Other positive results of this approach have been the involvement of local skilled persons such as masons and carpenters in the construction. Their involvement has boosted their skills and also helped the development of the local economy. Further, some disabled but skilled persons such as masons have been



employed in the construction of the houses, giving them an opportunity to earn a living in addition to making the public aware of their abilities. The criteria for beneficiary selection was so designed as to give priority to widows, women-headed families, and families with many children or disabled members. All these recipients now have a strong sense of security and are able to live in dignity.

Caritas has a target of building 178 houses during the period 2012/13 and has so far completed 122 houses with toilets in Vanni, Jaffna, Mannar and Anuradhapura. Caritas has also built such houses for the neediest families who were displaced due to floods in the dioceses of Colombo, Kurunegala, Kandy, Anuradhapura and Batticaloa.



EA 17/2012- Project period: 1st June 2012 - 31st May 2013						
Sector	Partner	Location	Target	Achievements		
				Completed	%	In progress
Semi permanent shelter with latrines	Caritas Australia	Mannar	138	82	60	6 Beneficiary selection in progress
	Caritas Canada	Jaffna				
	Caritas Italy	Mannar				
	Caritas Portugal	Anuradhapura				
	Misereor	Jaffna				
	Caritas Singapore	Mannar				
			Total	138	82	59

Livelihood support

In order for the resettled families to rebuild their livelihoods and earn a sustainable income, Caritas Sri Lanka has provided a livelihood grant of Rs. 40,000.00 per family so that they could purchase essential assets such as agricultural implements (water pumps, sprayers etc.), poultry and other livestock such as cattle and goats. Assistance has also been provided for the setting up of small business activities such as grocery shops and retail trade. Caritas has planned to provide 805 families with such assistance and has so far helped 450 families in Anuradhapura, Mannar, Jaffna, Vanni and Trincomalee.



Other assistance

Caritas provided 210 bicycles for the deserving children affected by war in the Districts of Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. These are children who live in distant areas where public transport facilities are limited and have to face difficulties in getting to school.

EA 17/2012- Project period: 1st June 2012 - 31st May 2013						
Sector	Partner	Location	Target	Achievements		
				Completed	%	In progress
Livelihood Support	Caritas Australia	Mannar	705	350	54	16 Beneficiary selection in progress
		Anuradhapura				
	Caritas Canada	Jaffna				
	Caritas Korea	Mullaithivu				
	Caritas Japan	Trincomalee				
	Misereor	Jaffna				
	Caritas Italy	Anuradhapura				
	Caritas Portugal	Jaffna				
		Trincomalee				
Total			705	350	49	



Assistance was also given to those affected by floods during the period December 2012 - January 2013 by providing them with essential Non Food Relief Items (NFRI) such as clothing, lamps, mats, mosquito coils and drinking water. Such assistance was provided to 1,205 families and 548 children in the Anuradhapura and Mannar Districts, apart from the sanitary packs that were given to 300 women in the same Districts.

Funded by Sacred Convent of Assisi				
	Location	Target	Completed	%
Flood/Landslide Housing	Colombo	8	8	100
	Batticaloa	8	8	100
	Kurunegala	8	8	100
	Anuradhapura	8	8	100
	Kandy	8	8	100
Total		40	40	
Livelihood Support	Mannar	50	50	100
	Vanni	50	50	100
Total		100	100	
Bicycles to deserved students	Mannar	105	105	100
	Vanni	105	105	100
Total		210	210	



Canadian Government funds for floods		
Drinking water & NFRI	Anuradhapura	675 families, 340 children
	Mannar	530 families, 208 infants
		Total 1205 548
Sanitary items	Anuradhapura	100 women
	Mannar	200 women

Sweden Project - Caritas Sweden		
Permanent shelter with latrines	Vanni	20 in progress



With funding support from Medicine Du Monde (MDM - France), Caritas Mannar Valvuthayam is conducting a mobile health clinic in the Madhu and Manthai West DS Divisions in Mannar District. This has benefitted vulnerable families living in remote areas where access to health facilities is difficult.

A notable feature in the Caritas strategy has been to make the community take more responsibility for their own welfare. Earlier, in the aftermath of the military conflict, the focus was on immediate relief and rehabilitation assistance. However, with the focus shifting towards the permanent resettlement of displaced families, a more sustainable approach is being followed.

In many villages, the Women's Rural Development Societies and the Caritas Self Help Groups (SHGs) are being strengthened with capacity building support which has led to the overall development of the village. Large numbers of women are coming together to work out new models of cooperation and self-reliance. The community itself is taking on several tasks on their own initiative to develop the village. This empowerment process has united the community. The WRDS units and the SHGs have been able to actively advocate and lobby local government officials to find solutions to the many problems facing these communities.





Workshop on Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP)

The main focus of CBDP is to motivate and empower communities to be resilient to disasters and to depend on their own skills in minimizing damages and preventing loss of lives.

A four-day Workshop on CBDP for around 70 Caritas Diocesan and National Centre staff was organised by Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC in collaboration with Caritas SED Galle in April 2012. The program was held in Hambantota and it received funding and strategic support from Caritas Asia.

In his keynote address at the awareness session on Global Warming and Climate Change Adaptation which formed part of the Workshop, Fr. George Sigamoney, National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka named global warming and climate change as two of the most important concerns in mankind's modern history and said that these may even matter more than global wars, global poverty and global terrorism.

The resource persons at this session were Prof. W.M. Wilson and Prof. Ranjana Piyadasa of the University of Colombo. The CBDP Workshop included trainings on Save and Rescue methods and it was designed in collaboration with the Disaster Management Centre of the Government of Sri Lanka, the Lifesaving Association of Hambantota and St. John's Ambulance Association.





Psychosocial Support

Impact of war, disasters, conflicts and health problems have severe psychosocial consequences. The emotional wounds may be less visible than the destruction of homes, but it often takes far longer to recover from emotional impact than to overcome material losses. In the aftermath of the military conflict in the North and East and in the early stages of the resettlement process, our trained befrienders and psychosocial programme coordinators and volunteers listened to the traumatic experiences of the people in a spirit of empathy and accompaniment. This process, over the years, has gradually led to a position of empowerment for the people to take control of their lives, to face the realities and to move forward with courage.

Caritas psychosocial intervention is about:

- helping children, families and communities to improve their psychosocial wellbeing.
- encouraging better connections between people, and building a better sense of self and community, expressed through caring and respectful relationships that communicate understanding, tolerance and acceptance, and
- promoting everyday, consistent care and support in the family and community.

It ranges from care and support offered by caregivers, family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, health workers and community members on a daily basis and extends to care and support offered by Caritas psychosocial coordinators and volunteers. In Mannar and Vanni Districts, especially, a programme mainly targeting widows, children, youth, and the physically and mentally challenged persons is in place. Medical assistance is being provided while empowerment of different groups is under way, along with therapies such as play therapy and dynamic therapy among the children. Sports and games are also encouraged by providing them with the needed materials and kits.

Training of Trainers (TOT) Workshops

A 2-day Training-of-Trainers (TOT) Workshop was held at SEDEC for a group of 32 participants from 12 Diocesan Centres with the objective of capacitating the Diocesan Psychosocial Coordinators and Volunteers to identify children and women with psychosocial problems and to seek ways and means of how to respond to them.





The training also focused on some useful therapeutic methods by which Caritas staff could help these victims and ensure that their emotional and psychological well-being are restored.

Dr Jude Jeyakumar, Psychiatrist at Kalmunai Base Hospital and Mrs Kanthi Hettigoda, Clinical Psychologist were the Resource Persons for the Workshop.

Following the TOT Workshop, two initiatives were taken in Trincomalee and Batticaloa Dioceses. In Batticaloa Diocese, two awareness programs and clinics were held in Kalmunai and Batticaloa for members of psychosocial support groups and community leaders.

In Trincomalee Diocese, a 5-day Residential Workshop for psychosocial volunteers and members of psychosocial support groups was held with the aim of enhancing psychosocial activities in the District. As a follow-up, the participants of this Training Workshop undertook a 2-day exposure visit to the Kalmunai Base Hospital. They also met members of psychosocial support groups in Kallady, Batticaloa.

All above programs were conducted to coincide with World Mental Health Day which fell on 10th October 2012.

The Programme Coordinators and Volunteers of Caritas Mannar and Caritas Vanni Diocesan Centres attended a 2 - day Training of Trainers (TOT) Course on how to provide psychosocial support for war widows and children.

The training course, conducted in Tamil language, was held at SEDEC auditorium and was facilitated by Dr. M. Ganeshan, Consultant Psychiatrist of Mulleriyawa Mental Hospital and Ms. Linda Rose, a British Psychosocial volunteer.

The scope of the training included play therapy, art therapy, problem analysis and the ways to help traumatized children and victims of war.





The severe drought that prevailed in 2012 affected most parts of the country, making access to safe drinking water a major problem faced by people in many Districts. Unfortunately, most of the international donor organizations represented in Sri Lanka were phasing out their support programmes and closing their offices, as Sri Lanka was no more a priority for them.

However, the Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) made use of an opportunity to lodge an application for corporate funding by the British Government which was made possible by CAFOD, one of the strong funding partners of Caritas Sri Lanka. At the initial stage, CAFOD agreed to equally match the corporate funding to support the establishment of community wells in most drought affected villages in the Dioceses of Anurachapura, Jaffna, Kandy, Kurunegala and Mannar. Their support also included renovating or replacing drinking water installations in Kandy, Matale and Nuwara Eliya Districts and constructing rainwater harvesting tanks in Jaffna, among others. During the final negotiation stage, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka had categorised Sri Lanka as a Middle-Income Country and under this circumstance, the British Government announced its inability to support this project. Undeterred by the change of events, CAFOD offered to meet the full cost of the project. Since this project aimed at relieving women from the burden of fetching water for family needs, a team from CAFOD visited Sri Lanka in November 2012, including an expert in Gender to ensure that gender sensitivity forms part of the project activities.

As a result of the National Director's efforts to secure funding to uplift marginalised plantation communities, a project proposal previously designed by the PCU titled "Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters" received funding support, and implementation commenced in January 2013.

The second Caritas Internship Programme was launched by the PCU Coordinator. Five Interns successfully completed the programme from 1st May to 31st October 2012 and two of the Interns have subsequently been absorbed as staff members at the National Centre.

The PCU proposed a project titled "Human Dignity is the Basis for Human Rights - a religious perspective" and secured corporate funding from the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The funds were released through the Canadian High Commission in Colombo. This project included the conduct of several TOT Workshops for school teachers and Sunday School teachers, based on a training manual previously designed by PCU. The PCU Programme Coordinator was



responsible for the compilation, development and printing of a Guidebook, “Respecting Human Dignity - Expressions from the Religious Teachings” which was published in both Sinhala and Tamil languages utilizing these funds.

The Safe Migration and Human Trafficking Desk at Caritas had carried out a survey on alcohol and drug abuse among family members of migrant workers which revealed that it is increasingly becoming a problem in the Dioceses of Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa and Kurunegala. Thus, the Programme Coordination Unit developed a project proposal to address this problem and it immediately received funding support. This project included activities on alcohol and drug awareness and an introduction to training on Enhancing Life Skills. The Programme Coordinator was also a resource person at a Life Skills training programme organized for youth leaders from the participating Dioceses and provided an overview of the global drug situation and its impact on Sri Lanka.

While continuing to monitor the progress of the IHDtCE Programme implemented by the Caritas Diocesan Centres, directions and guidance were given to the respective Dioceses to help meet the expected milestones of the projects. Besides preparation of monitoring reports, the PCU developed several project proposals to further enhance the community empowerment efforts and bring sustainability to the existing community institutions.

Among the major proposals developed by PCU and expecting funding approval are:

1. “Integral Human Development - Civic Dialogue and Cross Community Activities”.
2. “Substantiation of Community Institutions for Sustainable Agriculture to Ensure Food Security.”
3. “Promoting Healing and Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace”.
4. Third Caritas Internship Programme



Workshop on water resource management and women's empowerment

A Programme Start-up Workshop on Water Resource Management and Women's Empowerment was held on 22nd and 23rd January 2013 at SEDEC Auditorium, facilitated by Ms. Mary Lucas, Programme Manager and Ms. Victoria Jones, Programme Officer of CAFOD U.K.

The Workshop set out the objectives and framework of the Gender and Water Project to be implemented by Caritas Sri Lanka in the dioceses of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Jaffna, Mannar and Kandy in association with the respective Diocesan Centres, and its beneficiaries will number over 10,000 men and women. The workshop was participated by the respective Diocesan Officers as well as by the National Centre Team coordinating this project.



Sri Lanka Working Group Meeting - SLWG 2012

The SLWG Meeting 2012 was held in Rome on 15th and 16th October with the participation of 13 Partners from 8 agencies, including Caritas International (CI), Caritas Australia, Caritas Swiss, CAFOD, Cordaid, Caritas Italiana, CRS and Misereor. The delegation from Caritas Sri Lanka, led by Rt Rev Dr Harold Anthony Perera, Chairman of SEDEC was made up of Rev Fr George Sigamoney – National Director, Mr K Theivendirajah-Manager, Disaster Risk Management and Mr Ryle Perera – Senior Finance Manager.

The main objective of the meeting was to appraise the Partners on the current country





situation in Sri Lanka and to focus attention on the needs of the IDPs resettled in the North and East of the country.

The discussions were cordial and fruitful, and the Partners showed a deep understanding of the issues faced by the people living in the former war-torn areas even three years after the military conflict ended in mid- 2009. They also expressed their concerns regarding National Reconciliation and sustainable peace in post-war Sri Lanka.



A photo exhibition on Sri Lanka, arranged under an initiative of Mr Patrick Nicholson, Communications Director of CI was also part of the 2-day event in Rome. The preparation and coordination of the SLWG Meeting was done by Mr Beppe Pedron in liaison with a team from Caritas Italiana who is the Accompanying Partner for Caritas Sri Lanka.

Fact-finding mission to the North

Rt Rev Dr Harold Anthony Perera, Chairman of Caritas Sri Lanka, accompanied by Rev Fr George Sigamoney, Director of SEDEC undertook a 3-day visit to the Vanni from 28th – 30th November 2012 in order to see first-hand the life situations of resettled families and to assess the possible areas of Caritas intervention for the upliftment of their living conditions. Among the issues brought to the notice of the visitors by the people of Puthukudiyirippu area were:

- Curtailed food supplies by the World Food Programme(WFP).
- Poor housing, with many of them still living in tents while only a few families have been provided with temporary houses
- Insecurity due to snake infestation.
- Insecurity due to buried explosives as mine clearance had been completed only around their dwelling places and not in the surrounding areas
- Insecurity felt by women and children due to frequent security checks, especially while the men were away at work





- *Poor soil conditions created during the period of the war and the resultant difficulty in ploughing the land and making it productive*
- *Pollution of drinking water wells*
- *Frequent illnesses among the people and skin rashes appearing on children.*
- *Lack of documentation regarding land ownership as the documents were misplaced during war and displacement*
- *Disruption of children's education as school buildings were damaged and were without proper roofs and furniture.*



In Karunattakerny, the members of the Women Rural Development Society (WRDS) met the visitors and briefed them of the progress made after 223 families returned here at the end of nearly 30 years of displacement. They are resettled in their own land. Caritas has built 78 houses for the most vulnerable families and repaired 40 wells. Membership in the WRDS had grown from 20 to 120. Under a Caritas program, the members have received training in leadership, savings and credit schemes, management of personal finances and so on. A Revolving Loan Scheme has been set up with funds provided by Caritas and some members have been given start-up capital for income generation projects.

Fr Sigamoney in his remarks to the community said that he had come to this village in early 2011, soon after the people had returned to their places of origin. The area was more a jungle then and people were living in huts without even basic facilities. Now, he was happy to note the improvements that were visible, with so many houses being built and people exuding confidence in their ability to rebuild their lives. Bishop Harold Perera told the community that there were several families in other areas he visited who are facing far more difficult conditions, and that in such a context the people should learn to be united and work together for the benefit of the entire community.

Caritas South Asia Directors' Meeting

The Caritas South Asia Directors' Meeting was held in Colombo on 16th & 17th August 2012, hosted by Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC and attended by Mr Zar Gomez - Caritas Asia Regional Coordinator, Rev Fr Pius Perumana- Executive Director of Caritas Nepal,





Rev Fr Paul Moonjely - Assistant Director of Caritas India, Dr Benedict Alo D'Rozairo - Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, Mr Amjad Gulzar - National Executive Secretary of Caritas Pakistan and Rev Fr George Sigamoney - National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC.

Following the meeting, the visitors undertook a 2-day exposure trip on 17th & 18th August to Anuradhapura to see the outcomes and achievements of the Integral Human Development through Community Empowerment (IHDTCE) Program implemented by Caritas Anuradhapura Sethsaviya under the coordination and facilitation of the National Centre. The visitors met the residents of three villages, namely Ipalogama, Galkiriyagama and Amene and held discussions with them while also sharing with them the experiences in their own countries.

CRS donates Prosthetic Components to Caritas Mannar

A stock of 720 pieces of Prosthetic Components (solid foot and profile foot) imported from Cambodia was gifted by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) USA to the Centre for Disabled (CFD) which is managed by Caritas Valvuthayam Mannar.

The CFD was started in 1999 with the help of social workers to serve people with disability. In April 2011, it was officially inaugurated as an Institution complying with ISPO (International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics) standards. CFD is fully equipped with modern technology and has all the facilities to deliver quality service to the patients. The services of CFD are totally free of charge.

CFD was established with funding support from CRS and UNICEF while technical support was provided by Motivation UK.

The National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, Rev.Fr. George Sigamoney handed over the stock of prosthetic components to Rev.Fr. M. Jeyabalan, Diocesan Director of Caritas Valvuthayam in the presence of Mr. John Worthington, Administration Coordinator of CRS Colombo Office.





Our Special Visitors

Delegation from Caritas Japan

A two-member delegation from Caritas Japan comprising Rev Fr Daisuke Narui, Director and Ms Yoko Yokoyama, Program Officer visited Sri Lanka from 23rd to 27th November 2012 in order to strengthen their partnership with Caritas Sri Lanka.

During their visit, they held discussions with Rev Fr George Sigamoney, National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka and the Program Officers of the National Centre in order to appraise themselves of the country situation as well as the projects and programs carried out by the Caritas network in Sri Lanka.

The visitors also undertook an exposure trip in the Diocese of Anuradhapura where they met with residents of Galkiriyagama and Borawewa villages who shared their experiences, both about the problems faced in the war years and about the current Caritas initiatives for reconciliation in the post-war period.



CI Communications Director

Mr. Patrick Nicholson, Communications Director of Caritas Internationalis (CI) was in Sri Lanka for three days from 24th July 2012. During his stay, he held discussions with Rev.Fr. George Sigamoney, Director of Caritas Sri Lanka and the National Centre staff who shared with him details of the various projects and programmes implemented by SEDEC. He also undertook an exposure trip to Mannar and Vanni Districts where he visited the beneficiaries of Caritas shelter and livelihood programmes in their own villages as well as appraising himself about the resettlement process in the war affected region.





Delegation from Caritas Norway

The Secretary General of Caritas Norway, Ms Martha Rubiano Skretteberg and the Communications Advisor, Mr Kristian Jahren Ovretveit visited Sri Lanka for three days from 29th August to 2nd September 2012. During their stay, they held discussions with the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, Rev Fr George Sigamoney and the staff of the National Centre to explore possible areas of future cooperation.

The visitors also travelled to Galle where they were welcomed by the Diocesan Director of Caritas SEDGalle, Rev Fr Michael Rajendram and his staff. In Galle, the visitors participated in an encounter with affected migrant returnees who are being helped under the Caritas Pre-departure and Post-arrival Assistance Program.

Rev Sr Ushani Perera, Program Officer of the Caritas Women Desk introduced the visitors to the affected migrant women and their families who shared the traumatic experiences they had gone through due to the violation of their rights and the severe injustices they had to face in their search for a better future in foreign countries.



CRS delegates

Ms. Kathleen Merkel – Outreach Programme Manager, Mr. Savik Sengupta – Regional Finance Officer and Ms. Sangeetha Bhatia – Programme Officer visited us to review the projects and programmes supported by CRS.





IFES representative

Ms. Miriam Young, Consultant for International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) accompanied by Mr. Vasu Mohan, Consultant visited Sri Lanka to initiate support for programmes aimed at good governance and democracy in the country with a special focus on the voting rights of the people.



Caritas Swiss delegates

Ms. Susanne Loosli Muller, Programme Consultant and Ms. Regina Wenk, Technical Consultant of Caritas Swiss visited the project areas in Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Mannar & Trincomalee to review the progress of house constructions and the support given to WRDS units in those areas.



Misereor delegates

During their visit, Ms. Kesuma Saddak and Mr. Michael Gilbertstahl of Misereor – Germany discussed the progress of projects supported by Misereor and also explored avenues for future interventions.



More visitors:

Among our other visitors were Ms. Annina Feller of Caritas Swiss, Ms. Tanja Haque of CAFOD-UK, Mr. Jan Nielen of Cordaid, Mr. Dunstan Raggioli of Medecins du Monde and Mr. Overtvest Kristian of Caritas Norway who were here to review various projects and programmes supported by their institutions.

Financial Report



PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2012 to 31st March 2013 (Project Wise)

Project	Agency	Amount(Rs.)	Total(Rs.)	%
Addressing Drug/ Alcohol abuse problems under Migration and Human Trafficking Programme	Caritas Italiana	3,209,528	3,209,528	0.76
Advocacy for the Promotion of the Skilled Labour Migration to Middle East	Caritas Japan	2,519,000	2,519,000	0.59
Advocacy towards implementation of the recommendations of LLRC	Caritas Japan	2,241,127	2,241,127	0.53
Caritas Chilaw New Development Programme	Caritas Italiana	7,966,376	7,966,376	1.88
Child Protection Policy Programme	Caritas Italiana	3,601,051	3,601,051	0.85
Children Pilot Programme - Vanni	Caritas Italiana	4,913,042	4,913,042	1.16
Children Programme - Jaffna	Caritas Italiana	3,391,104	3,391,104	0.80
Children's Sponsorship Programme	Caritas Poland	24,360,550	24,360,550	5.75
Construction of Boys Home in Trincomalee	Stitching Wilde Ganzen	10,660,726	10,660,726	2.52
Construction of Tube Well -Vanni	Mr. Ranil Rajapaksha	269,300	269,300	0.06
CRS Caritas Sri Lanka Internship Arrangement	Catholic Relief Services - USCCB	405,705	405,705	0.10
Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters 322-900-1086 ZG	Misereor	5,519,250	5,519,250	1.30
Fostering Community Mobilization towards Conflict Transformation 2013 -105344	CORDAID	8,294,000	8,294,000	1.96
HR As A Learning Instrument- 105344		4,127,500	4,127,500	0.97
Human dignity is the basis for upholding human rights : A religious perspective - CFLI 2012 - CLMBO - 0003	Canadian High Commission of Sri Lanka	1,126,717	1,126,717	0.27
Improving the health status of Mannar Districts population through effective Mobile Clinic System	Medecins Du Monde	6,415,943	6,415,943	1.51
Psychosocial Support for Widows, Children , Youth affected by the aftermath of War	Kindermissionwerk	2,859,532	5,758,900	1.36
	Missio	2,899,368		



PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2012 to 31st March 2013 (Project Wise) - Cont...

Project	Agency	Amount(Rs.)	Total(Rs.)	%
Livelihood Support for War affected Women and their Children in Sri Lanka - P 100121	Caritas Schweiz	19,246,492	19,246,492	4.54
Livelihood Support for War affected Women and their Children in Sri Lanka - P 110131		7,727,128	7,727,128	1.82
Livelihood Support for War - Affected Women and their Children in Sri Lanka - SLK 262	CAFOD	4,118,400	4,118,400	0.97
Pre Departure and Post Arrival Assistance for Sri Lanka Women Migrants	Caritas Luxembourg	11,444,166	11,444,166	2.70
Project No 1420 - Return and Resettlement of conflict displaced IDP's	Catholic Relief Services - USCCB	550,800	550,800	0.13
Promoting , Healing and Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace	Caritas Australia	8,647,729	8,647,729	2.04
Promotion of Reconciliation and Healing - SLK 261	CAFOD	2,968,000	2,968,000	0.70
Promotion of Safe Migration of Women Domestic Migrant Workers in Sri Lanka 1550 884 5067	Catholic Relief Services - USCCB	1,950,026	1,950,026	0.46
Rebuilding Lives of Disaster Victims	Sacred Convent of Assisi	32,430,060	32,430,060	7.66
Reconstruction of Permanent Core Houses and Livelihood support for Tsunami and War affected Families in Sri Lanka - P 120141	Caritas Schweiz	57,525,649	57,525,649	13.58
Reconstruction of Permanent Core Houses and Livelihood support for War affected returnees - P 110068		78,016,228	78,016,228	18.42
Rehabilitation , Livelihood enhancement and Psycho-social activities for Northern IDP's in Sri Lanka - 322-900-1080	Misereor	399,181	399,181	0.09



PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2012 to 31st March 2013 (Project Wise) - Cont...

Project	Agency	Amount(Rs.)	Total(Rs.)	%
Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	Titular Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore	16,286,850	74,303,874	17.54
	Caritas Australia	6,641,172		
	Caritas Korea	5,264,000		
	Caritas Italiana	12,941,573		
	Caritas Japan	1,656,000		
	Caritas Portuguesa	12,589,970		
	Caritas Sweden	12,376,274		
	Caritas Canada - Development &Peace	6,548,035		
	Relief Assistance for families affected by Flood	Canadian High Commission of Sri Lanka		
Resettlement for IDPS affected by War 322-003-1022	Misereor	8,193,658	8,193,658	1.93
Safe Migration and Prevention of Human Trafficking	Caritas Italiana	3,722,750	3,722,750	0.88
Vocational Training for youth and Educational Programmes for Children		2,969,609	2,969,609	0.70
Water Resource Management and Womens Empowerment - SLK 264	CAFOD	12,465,763	12,465,763	2.94
	Total	423,599,739	423,599,739	100.00



PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2012 to 31st March 2013 (Agency Wise)

Agency	Project	Amount(Rs.)	Total(Rs.)	%			
Caritas Australia	Promoting, Healing and Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace	8,647,729	15,288,900	3.61			
	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	6,641,172					
Caritas Italiana	Children Programme - Jaffna	3,391,104	42,715,033	10.08			
	Vocational Training for youth and Educational Programmes for Children	2,969,609					
	Addressing Drug/ Alcohol abuse problems under Migration and Human Trafficking Programme	3,209,528					
	Child Protection Policy Programme	3,601,051					
	Caritas Chilaw New Development Programme	7,966,376					
	Safe migration & prevention of human trafficking	3,722,750					
	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	12,941,573					
	Children Programme - Vanni	4,913,042					
	Caritas Japan	Advocacy for the Promotion of the Skilled Labour Migration to Middle East			2,519,000	6,416,127	1.51
		Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012			1,656,000		
Advocacy towards implementation of the recommendations of LLRC		2,241,127					
Caritas Korea		Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	5,264,000	5,264,000	1.24		
Caritas Luxembourg	Pre Departure and Post Arrival Assistance for Sri Lanka Women Migrants	11,444,166	11,444,166	2.70			
Caritas Poland	Children Sponsorship Programme	24,360,550	24,360,550	5.75			
Caritas Sweden	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	12,376,274	12,376,274	2.92			
Caritas Canada - Development & Peace	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	6,548,035	6,548,035	1.55			
CORDAID	HR As A Learning Instrument-105344	4,127,500	12,421,500	2.93			
	Fostering Community Mobilization towards Conflict Transformation 2013						
	-105344	8,294,000					



PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2012 to 31st March 2013 (Agency Wise) - Cont...

Agency	Project	Amount(Rs.)	Total(Rs.)	%
CAFOD	Promotion of Reconciliation and Healing - SLK 261	2,968,000	19,552,163	4.62
	Livelihood Support for War -Affected Women and their Children in Sri Lanka - SLK 262	4,118,400		
	Water Resource Management and Womens Empowerment - SLK 264	12,465,763		
Canadian High Commission of Sri Lanka	Relief Assistance for families affcted by Flood	2,140,409	3,267,126	0.77
	Human dignity is the basis for upholding human rights:A religious perspective - CFLI 2012-CLMBO-0003	1,126,717		
Caritas portuguesa	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	12,589,970	12,589,970	2.97
Caritas Schweiz	Livelihood Support for War affected Women and their Children in Sri Lanka - P 100121	19,246,492	162,515,498	38.37
	Livelihood Support for War affected Women and their Children - P 11031	7,727,128		
	Reconstruction of Permanent Core Houses and Livelihood support for Tsuanmi and War affected Families in Sri Lanka - P 120141	57,525,649		
	Reconstruction of Permanent Core Houses and Livelihood support for War affected returnees - P 110068	78,016,228		
Catholic Relief Services - USCCB	Project No 1420 - Return and Resettlement of conflict displaced IDP's	550,800	2,906,531	0.69
	CRS Caritas Sri Lanka Internship Arrangement	405,705		
	Promotion of Safe Migration of Women Domestic Migrant Workers in Sri Lanka 1550 884 5067	1,950,026		



PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2012 to 31st March 2013 (Agency Wise) - Cont...

Agency	Project	Amount(Rs.)	Total(Rs.)	%
Kindermissionwerk	Psychosocial Support for Widows, Children, Youth affected by the aftermath of War	2,859,532	2,859,532	0.68
Medecins Du Monde	Improving the health status of Mannar Districts population through effective Mobile Clinic System	6,415,943	6,415,943	1.51
Misereor	Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters 322-900-1086 ZG	5,519,250	5,519,250	1.30
	Resettlement for IDPS affected by War 322-003-1022	8,193,658	8,193,658	1.93
	Rehabilitation , Livelihood enhancement and Psycho-social activities for Northern IDP's in Sri Lanka - 322-900-1080	399,181	399,181	0.09
Missio	Psychosocial Support for Widows, Children, Youth affected by the aftermath of War	2,899,368	2,899,368	0.68
Mr.Ranil Rajapaksha	Construction of Tube Well - Vanni	269,300	269,300	0.06
Sacred Convent of Assisi	Rebuilding Lives of Disaster Victims	32,430,060	32,430,060	7.66
Titular Roman Catholic Archbishop of Singapore	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	16,286,850	16,286,850	3.84
Stitching Wilde Ganzen	Construction of Boys Home in Trincomalee	10,660,726	10,660,726	2.52
Total		423,599,739	423,599,739	100.00

Appreciations



Caritas Sri Lanka and the Diocesan Centres appreciate the cooperation, assistance and encouragement we received from all the Partners who support our endeavours:

1. *Caritas Internationalis*
2. *Caritas Asia*
3. *Caritas Aotearoa – New Zealand*
4. *Caritas Australia*
5. *Caritas Corea*
6. *Caritas England & Wales / CAFOD*
7. *Caritas Italiana*
8. *Caritas Japan*
9. *Caritas Luxembourg*
10. *Caritas Norway*
11. *Caritas Poland*
12. *Caritas Portugal*
13. *Caritas Sweden*
14. *Caritas Switzerland*
15. *Canada International Development Agency (CIDA)*
16. *Catholic Relief Services (CRS – USA)*
17. *CHARIS – Singapore*
18. *CORDAID*
19. *MISEREOR*
20. *Missio*
21. *Wilde Ganzen*
22. *Canadian High Commission in Sri Lanka*
23. *Kindermissionwerk*
24. *Medicins du Monde*
25. *Sacred Convent of Assisi*
26. *Development & Peace – Canada*
27. *International Foundation for Electoral Systems - IFES*
28. *Our local benefactors*



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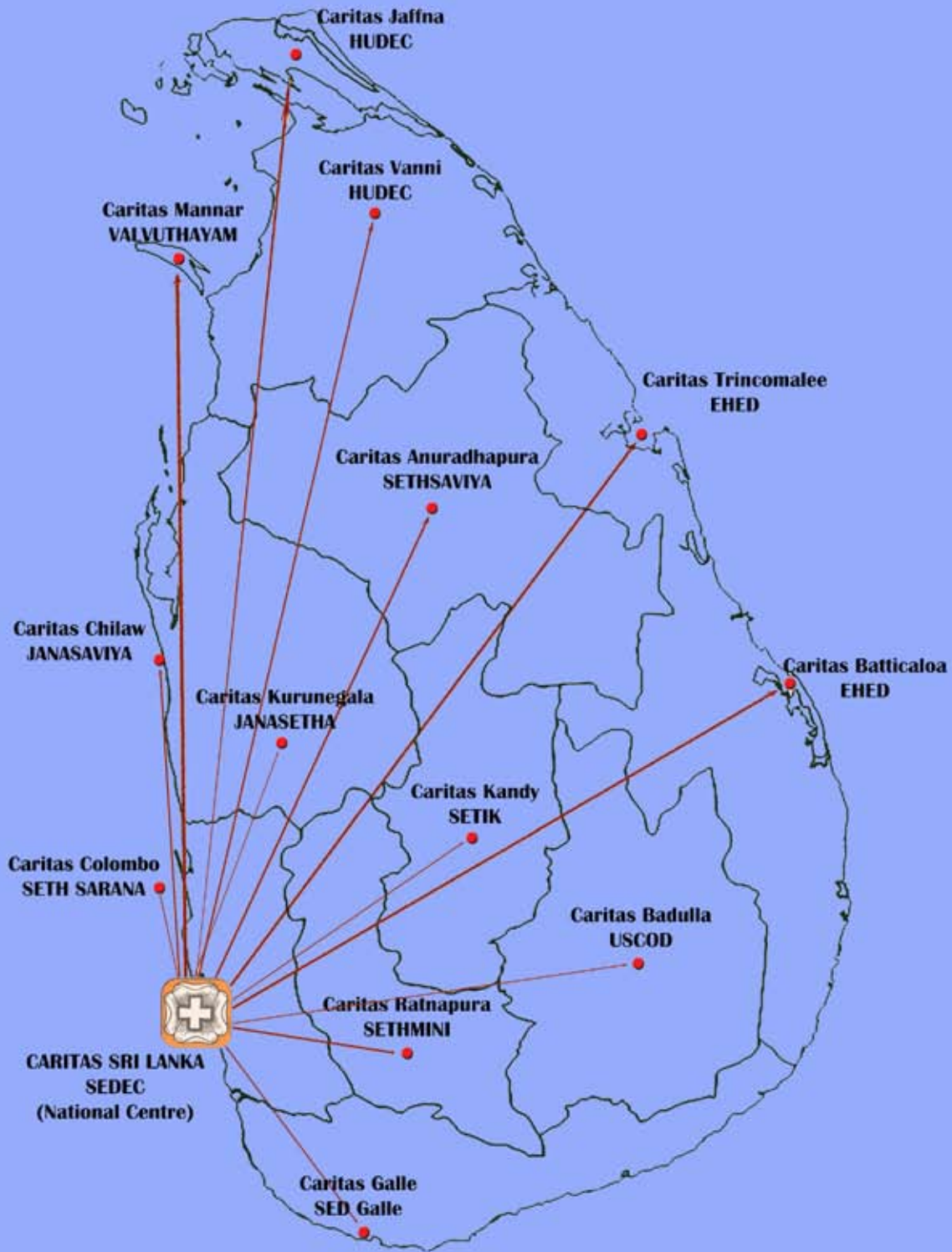
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