



Hand in hand to care for the needy



Caritas Sri Lanka

Annual Report

2013 - 2014

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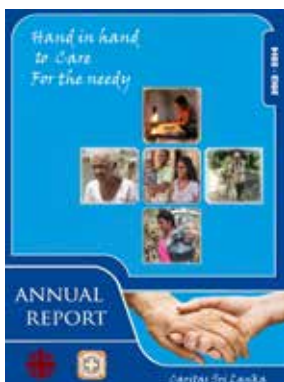
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Vision:

"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 focus on the poor and the needy is part of the Caritas Confederation's global campaign to fight hunger, ensure the right to food and eradicate poverty. Our endeavor is to walk hand in hand with the needy as they struggle to survive in a society that is rampant with inequality and the lopsided distribution of wealth. As the richest 1% in the world move towards owning half of the earth's resources in the coming years, Caritas re-dedicates itself to journeying with the needy and to seeking social justice for all.

From the National Director

The theme of this Annual Report, “*HAND IN HAND TO CARE FOR THE NEEDY*”, reflects the Caritas calling to be in continuous solidarity with the poor and marginalized sections of our society.

While our endeavours in the period under review have helped to bring about profound changes in the lives of the communities we work with, we are at the same time conscious of the need to walk hand in hand with many others who are being left behind despite the vast strides made in Sri Lanka’s development and economic progress.

As a country still trying to emerge from a string of man-made and natural disasters, Sri Lanka has expended much energy on nation building and Caritas has actively participated in this national journey. We combined rehabilitation and reconstruction work with a valid concern for sustainable peace through healing and reconciliation, without which it is certainly not possible to achieve the integral human development of our people. In fact, our work for social justice is based on this understanding.

The demand for social justice as a pre-requisite for global peace is enunciated by Pope Francis who, in his recent reflections, has drawn our attention to the large numbers living below the poverty line all over the world, the millions who go hungry every day and the thousands of children who face early death due to malnutrition or starvation. This humanitarian crisis is further compounded by the growing number of civilian wars in several countries and the resultant massive displacement of the innocent victims of fighting.



Fr. George Sigamoney
National Director

“It is also a timely reminder to us that there still are many who are in need of our accompaniment and want someone to walk by their side. Indeed, we have journeyed ‘hand in hand’ with many in the past and there is certainly a need to continue that journey”.

Pope Francis has also called on Governments to ‘redistribute wealth to the poor in a new spirit of generosity’ and to curb the ‘economy of exclusion’ that is taking hold of the world today. Such redistribution of economic benefits by the State, the Pope points out, must be accompanied by an ‘indispensable cooperation between the Private Sector and civil society’.

For us at Caritas, this is a call to rededicate ourselves to our Vision and Mission and to turn our eyes to the ‘least of our brethren’ as Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ commanded us to do. It is also a timely reminder to us that there still are many who are in need of our accompaniment and want someone to walk by their side. Indeed, we have journeyed ‘hand in hand’ with many in the past and there is certainly a need to continue that journey.

This Annual Report of Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC is intended as a tribute to all these people for their courage and resilience, and for their firm belief in the indomitable human spirit.

Fr. George Sigamoney
National Director
Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC



INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Access and control over resources and decision-making are vital components in the restoration of human dignity of poor and marginalized communities.

The Integral Human Development Program of Caritas focuses on empowering such vulnerable communities to achieve a holistic development which would help to create a world where all people are able to live to their full potential. The program aims to capacitate the target communities to understand the causes of marginalization, organize small groups to form community institutions and promote advocacy and lobbying actions to influence adverse policies.

Civic Dialogue and Cross-Community Activities

In June 2013, a program titled “Civic Dialogue and Cross-Community Activities” was launched in the Dioceses of Trincomalee, Ratnapura, Galle and Colombo, covering 9 Administrative Districts, to take forward the process of empowerment of voiceless communities. Around 1,000 persons would be the direct beneficiaries of this initiative which is aimed at creating and registering 20 new Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

The preparation of community-led action plans is one of its core activities, and the CBOs are guided to recognize issues faced by the people, including instances where they are unable to access the rights and benefits offered by the State. Linkages are thus established with local Government



agencies so that through effective dialogue and cordial relationships, the CBOs are guided to arrange and negotiate win-win situations for the people.

Empowerment of “Green Gold Harvesters” by strengthening of workers’ rights

Vigilant Groups have been formed in eight selected estates under this project which is being implemented in the Dioceses of Galle, Ratnapura, Badulla and Kandy with the goal of integrating the plantation communities into mainstream Sri Lankan society. Specifically, the project will facilitate increased access for these communities to State administrative services and help them to receive needed legal documents, while at the same time ensuring that community leaders emerge from the plantation sector.

Several cell meetings and awareness programs have been held in the estates and Vigilant Groups focusing on Health and Sanitation, Education, Alcohol and Drug abuse, Gender Equality and Domestic Violence have been formed. Youth members of CBOs were capacitated in the areas of leadership development, communication skills, disaster preparedness, children’s education and environmental protection while periodic discussions were held with Estate Managements and their presence solicited at community-led activities and events.

Mobile Clinics were organized to help people to obtain legal documents such as



National Identity Cards, Birth Certificates etc. This will be further strengthened by the setting up of Community Development Forums (CDF) as a way of linking these communities with the relevant Government agencies.

As a result of the above activities, there are visible impacts in several areas of concern. One of the distinct features is the improvement in relations between workers and Estate Managements. An attitudinal change on the part of Estate Managements towards the Caritas program itself is noticeable since they were not keen to implement it in their estates during the initial stages of our approach to them. Other improvements are seen in the areas of sanitation, education, drug and alcohol abuse, healthcare and social harmony.

The encouragement and support given by Misereor to take this project forward is a demonstration of their concern for the upliftment of plantation communities who have remained marginalized for a long time. It is envisaged that the activities under this program will be extended to other estates in time to come.



Water Resource Management and Women's Empowerment Project

Under this project being implemented in the Dioceses of Anuradhapura, Jaffna, Kandy, Kurunegala and Mannar, 33 drinking water wells have been completed (14 in Anuradhapura, 03 in Jaffna, 04 in Kurunegala and 01 in Kandy), 02 water conveyors repaired in Kandy Diocese, 04 rainwater harvesting tanks built in Jaffna Diocese and 150 water storage tanks delivered in Jaffna Diocese. Some value additions to the project were made, too, by way of renovating 13 existing domestic wells and 01 common well in Jaffna. In Anuradhapura, the Diocesan Centre merged the project with existing community water schemes and, in one instance, collaborated with a private Bank as an additional stakeholder.

It was mandatory to carry out water analysis of the wells constructed. Therefore, the physical and chemical quality of the

water as well as its bacteriological quality were tested. Also identified was the urgent need for conducting Hard Material Tests in high risk water sources. Accordingly, cadmium and arsenic testing was done on 15 water samples and it was found that such hard materials which are believed to be the main cause of Chronic Kidney Disease were either absent or were only present within permissible levels. In order to create awareness on Chronic Kidney Diseases of Unknown Origin (CKDu), a workshop was also organized in Anuradhapura for Caritas staff and community leaders.

Mobilizing the people to be part of the construction of wells and to take responsibility for the maintenance of these facilities is another objective of this project. It provides a point of entry for community empowerment. Seven trainings on gender awareness were conducted, along with 14 other trainings in water, sanitation and hygiene. The people participated actively in the awareness-creation meetings as well as in the selection of locations, obtaining approval from





local Government authorities, preparatory work at construction sites and even directly involving in construction work.

In the process, Gender Mainstreaming was identified as a need and, consequently, an extra Gender Support Program was planned to support the “Water and Gender” Project. The service of a Gender Consultant was thus enlisted to bridge this gap.

CAFOD- UK has given its fullest backing for this project, having recognized the unquestionable need for people to have pure and safe water for their use. CAFOD support has included the enlistment of water and gender experts whose services have been a source of great strength in guiding the overall program towards its intended goal.

Safe Migration and Human Trafficking

Focusing on the importance of social and economic re-integration of migrant returnees into their families and into their communities, a series of 2 -day capacity building programs on Advocacy and Lobbying were conducted for groups of returnees in Trincomalee, Galle, Kandy and Kurunegala. Also, a study report of Caritas Sri Lanka based on an “Analysis of the National

Labour Migration Policy of Sri Lanka on Return and Reintegration of Women Domestic Migrant Workers” was released.

Creating awareness on skilled migration

A short TV commercial prepared by Caritas Sri Lanka under its Safe Migration Program was aired on selected TV channels in Sinhala and Tamil languages as a way of promoting skilled migration among Sri Lankan women. This is as an alternative to going abroad as unskilled domestic workers, especially to Middle Eastern countries, and it was a follow-up of the earlier Caritas awareness programs that were aimed at



educating prospective migrant workers on the need to undergo training and acquire certain skills before accepting jobs abroad as domestic workers. Further, in order to highlight families and family life, Caritas placed advertisements in the national and Catholic newspapers calling upon female





migrants to reflect deeply on their families before taking a final decision to go abroad for employment. The Government had, by then, announced its own plans to urge prospective migrants to take their family situations into serious consideration before leaving the country, and it was even prepared to pass legislation to enforce its policy on the subject.



International Migrants Day (IMD)

Migrant returnees from several Districts shared their experiences at the IMD commemoration held at SEDEC on 18th December 2013 under the theme “Decent work for all migrants”. On that occasion, 41 youth volunteers who had attended a 4- day Caritas capacity building program on safe migration and prevention of human trafficking received their participation certificates.

These youth represented the Dioceses of Colombo, Badulla, Galle, Kurunegala, Chilaw, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Ratnapura and Trincomalee. The IMD commemoration event was held under the patronage of Mr. Dong Li, Country Director, ILO Sri Lanka Office.

International Women’s Day 2014

The female staff of Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC joined the inmates of Methsevana Detention Centre in Gangodawila, Nugegoda on 11th March 2014 at an event to mark International Women’s Day.

There were 168 women and 10 children present on this occasion, along with 60 staff members of the Centre. Guided by the Caritas vision to share the Gospel values of love, forgiveness, peace, unity and equality, the marginalized community at this location was chosen by the female staff of Caritas in order to show solidarity with them.

The day’s program was enriched by motivational activities which encouraged the women inmates to remain positive in their outlook in life despite its trials, and to also cherish the value of being a woman, a wife, a daughter, a mother and a sister.

Songs and games were part of the entertainment provided to them on this important day which brings international focus on the value and importance of empowering women for society’s progress. The support and cooperation received from the Superintendent and staff of the Centre was invaluable in making this event a memorable one for all the participants.

Caritas Sri Lanka hosts South Asia Farmer’s Conference

Thirteen representatives of agricultural communities in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh



and Sri Lanka participated in a Farmer's Conference organized by Caritas Asia and hosted by Caritas Sri Lanka.

The conference was held in mid-September 2013 in Polonnaruwa in collaboration with Sethsaviya Caritas Anuradhapura. It was followed by a Training Program for Program Officers engaged in Sustainable Agriculture in the above countries, along with those from Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Mongolia, China and Indonesia, totalling 13 participants.

The Chief Resource Person for the Farmer's Conference was Dr. V. Haridas, Coordinator of Caritas Asia's CREAM program (CLIMATE RESILIENT) while Mr. Ariyaratne Subasinghe Arachchi, Agricultural Consultant from Sri Lanka was the trainer for the Officer Training Program. Speaking to the media during the conference, Dr. Haridas said that people who consumed rice, vegetables and other food crops cultivated by synthetic fertilizers and agro chemicals were poisoning themselves slowly and that





they will be subject to serious ailments that destroy kidney, bladder and liver. In addition, many species of farmer- friendly insects, harmless reptiles and other creatures are destroyed by chemicals. Dr. Haridas noted that a campaign has to be launched to bring down the use of such chemicals to the barest minimum.

Food Security

- **Sustainable Agriculture**

More than a thousand farmers in the Dioceses of Kurunegala, Batticaloa and Anuradhapura have been formed into small groups and capacitated in organic farming methods under a project funded by Caritas Norway.

These farmers have established viable home gardens which provide them with fresh vegetables and fruits,

thus ensuring a healthy and nutritionally balanced diet for their families, in addition to improving the family economy. Overall, the project titled as “Substantiation of Community Institutions for Sustainable Agriculture to Ensure Food Security” targets to cover 5,500 subsistence farmers in the Districts of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Kurunegala, Batticaloa and Ampara over the five-year period 2013-2017.

Meantime, selected farmers, agricultural instructors and Caritas implementation staff were also given capacity building training on Establishing Domestic Economic Units, Organic Farming Techniques, Farmer Field Schools Methodology, Marketing Strategies, Production of Compost and Liquid Fertilizer, and Production of Pest Repellants, as well as Approaches to Advocacy and Lobbying.



- **Training in organic farming**
A 2- day capacity building training programme on organic farming and how to establish domestic economic units was held at the Ratnasiri Wickremanayake National Training Centre in Hantane and the Horticultural Research and Development Institute (HORDI) in Gannoruwa, Peradeniya. The group of 35 participants included Diocesan Staff and volunteers of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Batticaloa Dioceses as well as 15 selected farmers from those areas.

- **One human family, food for all**
A special Eucharistic Celebration was held at 12 noon on 10th December 2013 at the SEDEC Chapel to coincide with the worldwide launch of the Caritas International (CI) Campaign titled “ONE HUMAN FAMILY, FOOD FOR ALL” which is aimed at ending poverty while promoting and restoring dignity.

Rev Fr George Sigamoney, National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka was the celebrant at the Eucharistic service along with Diocesan Directors, following which a symbolic gift of food hampers was given to 10 needy and deserving families as a sign of our solidarity with CI’s fight for the world’s poor.

Caritas Sri Lanka is already implementing meaningful programs focusing on food security and sustainable agriculture in order to identify itself with the global search for solutions to the looming food

shortage which would aggravate the existing situation where millions all over the world are already going to bed hungry every night.

- **Workshop on Farmer Field Schools Methodology**
A two- day workshop was held on Farmer Field Schools (FFS) Methodology for a group of nearly 30 participants including Diocesan and National Centre staff and volunteers, as well as selected farmers. The Dioceses of Batticaloa, Kurunegala and Anuradhapura participated in this program at Rathnasiri Wickremanayake National Training Centre in Hantane, Kandy. A field visit was also undertaken to the model home garden of the Horticultural Research and Development Institute (HORDI) and the Agricultural Technology Park at Gannoruwa, Peradeniya.





SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE

The focus on healing and reconciliation as the way forward for post-war Sri Lanka has continued to be a motivating force in our work for social justice and sustainable peace. Constant engagement with political, religious and civil society leaders as well as with grass root level communities remains as the major focus area of Caritas interventions.

Inter-Diocesan Exposures

The “people’s movement for peace” which Caritas sought to build through bridge-building among communities was further strengthened by a series of inter-diocesan exposures. Under this program, Sinhala and Tamil people living in villages in various parts of the country came under a “twinning” arrangement which saw them travelling to spend time in the homes of their colleagues living in distant places and in entirely different settings. By living together in

one another’s homes for three days and through sharing of experiences, they developed deep bonds of friendship and understanding. Tamil and Sinhala people who participated in these exchange visits have now learnt each other’s languages and are able to communicate freely, thus enhancing their capacity to empathise with another person’s views, feelings and experiences.

In May 2013, nearly 450 of them came together in Kilinochchi from the Dioceses of Jaffna, Mannar, Kandy, Badulla, Kurunegala and Anuradhapura for a healing and reconciliation program, along with several religious dignitaries representing the Christian, Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim faiths. The spirit of solidarity prevailing among these communities is the bedrock of the “people’s movement for peace” which Caritas will continue to build and strengthen. These



efforts are supported by Caritas Australia under the project to Promote Healing and Reconciliation.

National Reconciliation

In April 2013, a discussion titled “LLRC, Reconciliation and Ethnic Equality – where are we now?” was held with the participation of political personalities, civil society and religious leaders.



- In February 2014, a panel discussion on National Reconciliation addressed by eminent academics was held to highlight reconciliation as the urgent need of the hour.
- The Report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), released by the Government in December 2011 has been the subject

of study ever since, and Caritas maintained an abiding interest in the implementation of LLRC Recommendations as a way to achieve lasting peace in the country.

Human Rights and Human Dignity

- A Voter Education Program was developed under a wider program aimed at strengthening good governance and democracy in the country. In Mannar, Jaffna and Vanni, awareness was created among the public on the value of their franchise. Mobile clinics were also held in order to assist people in obtaining important documents needed to exercise their voting rights.
- Promoting a culture of respect for human dignity formed the basis of a series of Trainer-the-Trainer (TOT) Workshops held in Kandy, Jaffna, Vanni, Galle, Ratnapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Colombo, Anuradhapura and Kurunegala where teachers of religion in schools and ‘Daham Pasals’ (Sunday Schools) participated with enthusiasm.
- ‘Community Security and Human Rights’ was the subject of a two-day TOT Workshop conducted for Diocesan staff engaged in human rights work. It was arranged in June 2013 under a project to ‘Foster Community Mobilization for Conflict Transformation’.
- A seminar titled “Women Leadership in Social





Action” was held in September 2013 for Diocesan Human Rights Coordinators and Group Leaders of Community Based Organisations.

- International Human Rights Day was marked on 10th December 2013 in 65 villages where an empowerment program is being implemented in all Dioceses. Under this program, the residents of these villages are trained to be vigilant of the conflicts taking place in their localities.

Promoting Religious Harmony

- Exploring ways of building understanding, solidarity and possible joint actions for the promotion of religious harmony in Sri Lanka, informal dialogues were held in November and December 2013 with Muslim and Hindu religious leaders respectively, amidst plans to hold similar discussions with Buddhist leaders too in the future.
- In February 2014, an interreligious coexistence program was initiated in all the Dioceses under a Caritas Norway funded project aimed at advocacy to build respect for the rights of religious minorities and to create mutual understanding for the prevention of discrimination.

Child Rights and Child Protection

- In June 2013, a capacity building training program for those working with children was held for a



group of clergy in the Archdiocese of Colombo. The theme of the session was “Positive Thinking Skill Practice in Handling Children”.

- An outreach program held in Kurunegala in August 2013 brought together a group of parents, senior students and Caritas Program Coordinators from all the Dioceses. Its objective was to educate the participants on





how to create better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of parents and children within the framework of child and family. Included in the two-day agenda were visits to an Elders' Home in Gonawila and a Children's Remand Home in Wariyapola.

Educational Scholarships

Under a program started with financial assistance from foster parents in Poland and supported by Caritas Poland, a group of 1,500 deserving and talented children is helped to improve their education. The award of scholarships is linked to the Child Rights Program.

Diocese	No. of Children
Anuradhapura	69
Badulla	60
Batticaloa	45
Chilaw	65
Colombo	400
Galle	200
Jaffna & Vanni	321
Kandy	60
Kurunegala	84
Mannar	79
Ratnapura	60
Trincomalee	57
Total	1,500

Vocational Training

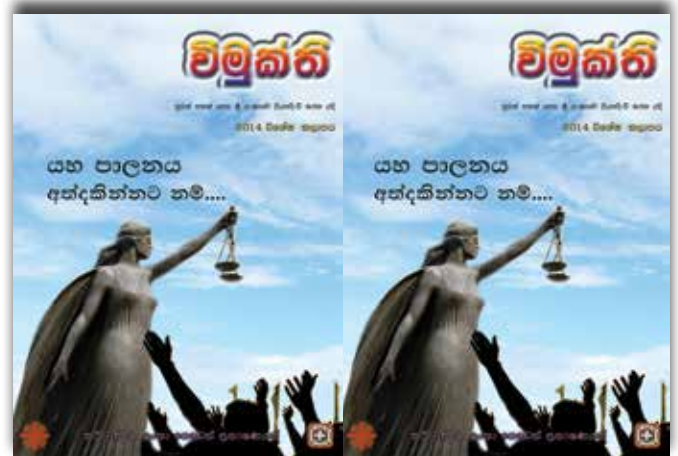
A program of Vocational Training, especially aimed at school drop-outs, was initiated in the Dioceses of Mannar, Badulla, Anuradhapura, Trincomalee, Kurunegala, Ratnapura and Jaffna. A total

of 160 boys and girls were selected, with priority being given to orphans and the deserving poor. They enlisted for various courses in institutes accredited to the National Apprenticeship and Training Authority (NAITA) in order to equip themselves with marketable skills for employment or self-employment.

Child Friendly Education Program

A grass root level program for marginalized children was initiated in Anuradhapura, Galle, Ratnapura, Chilaw, Batticaloa and Trincomalee Dioceses with the main objective of helping these neglected children to identify their abilities and skills. The program is designed to tap their future potential for good citizenship and it demonstrates respect for their dignity as children.

Vimukthi Magazine



A special edition of **VIMUKTHI** magazine focusing on good governance was published with a collection of related articles which had appeared in both Tamil & Sinhala languages in past issues of this quarterly magazine. These articles offered different perspectives on issues such as democracy, rule of law, anti-corruption drive, right to information, devolution of power, free and fair elections and so on.



RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

The year 2014 was the 5th year since the long drawn out war in the Northern and Eastern parts of the country came to an end, with the Government of Sri Lanka re-establishing its authority in all parts of the country. Throughout this period of 5 years, Caritas has been closely involved in addressing the needs of those affected by war and this has helped to improve the quality of life of thousands of people.

During the period 2013/14, we continued to focus our attention on the rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of the war affected families, especially in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. While many of these families were supported to resettle with basic livelihood and housing

assistance and have been able to recover from their early difficulties, there are still a large number of families who need assistance. Our Diocesan Centres continue to receive requests from District Secretaries and local communities who have only received minimal support and who are yet to stabilize their lives in a sustainable manner.

The period 2013-2014 continued to be challenging in terms of climate variations, with floods and a prolonged drought affecting several thousands of families in many areas of the country. Such conditions have had a negative impact on many of the communities, leading to a decline in family incomes. All humanitarian activities, especially in the Northern Province, have been conducted in consultation with



Central and Local Government authorities and also with written permission from the Presidential Task Force (PTF) which oversees such activity in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. During the period under review, our focus was on the following activities;

Construction of Semi-Permanent Core Houses

Caritas continues to encourage the owner-driven model of construction as recommended by the Government of Sri Lanka since 2011, in keeping with its policy of encouraging the families to take more responsibility for their own development. Taking such additional responsibilities has boosted the confidence of most of the beneficiaries, and they have added much value to their houses by using their own resources. Our selection policy gives priority to support the most vulnerable

sections of the community and has included widows, women-headed families, families with a large number of female children and families with disabled members. Such families are now able to live with a strong sense of security and look to the future with optimism.

Livelihood

Livelihood assistance is continuing to be provided at Rs.40, 000/= per family in order to help them rebuild livelihoods and earn a sustainable income. The emphasis now is to provide such assistance on an equitable basis so that more deserving families could benefit from such assistance. This was in the form of setting up of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in the villages and also getting the beneficiaries to pay back 50 percent of the grant to the SHGs, so that the funds could be rotated among other members of the respective groups. Such a form of distribution was later organized and implemented with the support of the Women's Rural Development Societies (WRDS).



During the period under review, assistance was given to 1,036 persons. Livelihood assistance has been given for home gardening, cultivation, animal husbandry, poultry, small-scale fishing and retail business activities. Appropriate capacity development trainings of one or two day's duration have been given to the beneficiaries in relevant fields so that they could manage their ventures in a sustainable manner.



Working with the Women's Rural Development Societies (WRDS)

The WRDS function under the supervision of Local Government authorities and are involved in community development as well as in activities that help members to generate income to address family needs.



The WRDS office bearers and members have been given capacity development trainings in fields such as leadership, advocacy, and basic project management skills including participatory rural assessment skills and basic income and expenditure management that have helped them to manage their own self employment projects. Many of the WRDS are now using these acquired skills to identify the needs of the village

and to effectively advocate for services from the Local Government for the development of the community.

Caritas had given support to selected WRDS to commence projects for the benefit of the community and many such projects are now operating successfully in some of the villages in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. Support has been given to set up service- oriented and income generating ventures such as library, rice mill, and rental of furniture and cooking utensils, setting up of community farm and a common shop to sell local products. Such ventures are now beginning to generate an income for the respective WRDS.



An example of an innovative project has been the library project implemented in a school in Silavaththai village in the Mullaitivu District. The WRDS successfully lobbied the Ministry of Education and was able to set up a library in a school. This library contains student reference material which children cannot afford to purchase. Such a facility caters to the needs of students of several schools in the area.



Caritas considers this innovative strategy of empowering the WRDS as a timely effort to rebuild community cohesion and encourage participatory development at the grass roots level.



Mobile Medical Clinic

The mobile medical clinic is continuing to provide its services to the most vulnerable families living in six remote villages of the Madhu DS Division of Mannar District. These are areas where access to State health services is limited and no proper transport facilities are available. This project is funded by MDM France.



Capacitating staff

In the post-war period, the task of addressing the needs of the war-affected and displaced families required the services of skilled staff who could work with the sensitivity that was needed in such a situation. Skilled staff were in demand as there were several humanitarian agencies addressing the needs of the war-affected families and who needed such workers. Often, the retention of trained staff was a challenge.

Caritas Diocesan Centres organized training programs from time to time to capacitate staff in relevant fields such as basic project management skills including PRA techniques, microfinance techniques and leadership skills which enabled them to address the needs of the beneficiaries more effectively.

- **Training in Participatory Rural Assessment (PRA)**

A 3-day residential Capacity Building Program on Participatory Rural Assessment (PRA) and its practical application in designing community grant projects was held at Manresa, Batticaloa.

The participants comprised 16 staff members from the Diocesan Centres in Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Mannar and Vanni, 10 members of Women's Rural Development Societies (WRDS) in these areas and 02 staff members of SEDEC National Centre.

The program was supported by Caritas Swiss under their project to "Reconstruct Permanent Core Houses and Livelihood Support for Tsunami and War Affected Families".

- **Microfinance training for Diocesan staff**

A group of 37 staff and volunteers from the Diocesan Centres in Vanni, Mannar and Trincomalee, along with officers from Caritas National Centre participated in a 2-day Capacity Building Training programme on Microfinance, with special focus on Revolving Loan Schemes. It was held at the Sewalanka Training Centre, Vavuniya.

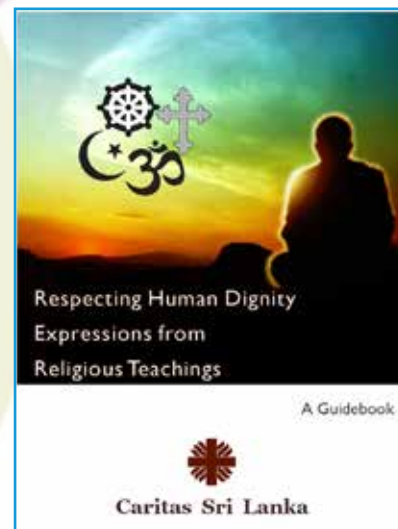


- **SPHERE training**

A 3-day training programme on Essential Humanitarian Practice and SPHERE Programme was held in February 2014, facilitated by resource persons from RedR Organization and attended by 28 participants from Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Badulla, and Kandy Dioceses as well as from the National Centre. It was held in the Tamil medium and a similar training in Sinhala medium was planned to be held in due course.

Post war response programme of Caritas Sri Lanka and its diocesan network

Sectors		Houses			Livelihood			Community Project			Capacity Building program		
Funding Partner	Diocese	Target	Completed	In progress	Target	Completed	In progress	Target	Completed	In progress	Target	Completed	In progress
Misereor	Vanni	50	24	26	335	100	235	2		2	6	4	2
	Mannar	54		54	100		100	1		1			
Caritas Spain								preschool		1			
	Trincomalee	30		30				1					
Caritas Taiwan		25 repairs		25									
	Trincomalee				26	26	0						
CRS	Trincomalee				270	270							
	Batticaloa				265	265							
Caritas Italy	Vanni				106	75	31						
Caritas Australia	Vanni	25		25			12						
Caritas Germany	Jaffna	12		12	12								
Caritas Swiss	Vanni	210	188	12	184	184		8	7	1	28	28	
	Trincomalee	38	28	10	56	48	8	2	1	1	30	30	
	Batticaloa	92	68	24	98	68	30	5		5	21	21	
Total		536	308	228	1452	1036	416	19	8	11	85	83	2



PROGRAMME COORDINATION

As an organization working for the promotion of social justice and sustainable peace, Caritas Sri Lanka was deeply concerned about the increasing religious fundamentalism and growing tension in many parts of the island as a result of aggressive action by certain extremists groups. In response to this situation, a proposal was developed to carry out advocacy to prevent discrimination and create mutual understanding and respect for the rights of religious minorities.

A contract was signed between Caritas Sri Lanka and a funding partner, and funds were secured in February 2014 to commence activities under this project titled “Creating a Conducive Environment for Religious Amity.”

Caritas Sri Lanka became aware that there are many children in the Diocese of Jaffna whose education was disrupted due to the war and are unable to join regular schools unless their knowledge gap is filled. Likewise, under the Diocese of Chilaw in the Puttlam District the attention of Caritas was drawn to the most vulnerable and poor children in remote islands and villages with absolutely no access to education or other facilities. A proposal titled: “Educational Support for Most Vulnerable and Poor Children of Jaffna and Chilaw Dioceses of Sri Lanka” was forwarded to a funding partner who has shown interest to support this project.

The need for a programme on psychosocial intervention and guidance for the adolescents has been felt by parents, school principals and teachers, and ‘Daham Pasal’ (Sunday School)



teachers. Misbehaviour and suicidal tendencies of traumatized and misguided adolescents who have lost all hope, not realizing the value of life, have reached a critical level. A number of requests were received from Dioceses for assistance to address this growing problem faced by adolescents. A proposal was developed with the title: "Behaviour Shaping, Behaviour Management and Value Education to Adolescents as part of Psychosocial Intervention". After discussions with a potential donor, the proposal was forwarded for consideration of support covering the three Dioceses of Chilaw, Trincomalee and Vanni.

the local culture, ethnic and religious background and placements were arranged at Caritas HUDEC Vanni and at Caritas SED Galle, respectively. Understanding the context of country and working region, need assessment of grassroots level poor, marginalized and war- affected communities, results-based project planning, design and formulation (bottom-up and rights-based approach) were among the learnings in the Dioceses. They completed the Internship from 5 August to 27 December 2013.

Continuing for the third consecutive year, four Interns successfully completed the prescribed programme under the Caritas Internship Programme from 1 July to 31 December 2013. An increasing demand was seen for the Caritas Internship Programme, especially from other countries. In response to a request received from Secours Catholique, France two international internship places were offered. Following an orientation given at the National Centre, the Interns were familiarized with

Following the publication of the two Guidebooks on "Respecting Human Dignity - Expressions from Religious Teachings", both in Sinhala and Tamil languages, Caritas Sri Lanka was able to draw the interest of a donor to support an updated Guidebook in English language. The work is in progress.





SPECIAL EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Bishop Vianney Fernando becomes Chairman of Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC



The Chairman of the Catholic National Commission for Justice, Peace and Human Development, Most Rev Dr Vianney Fernando was given a warm welcome at SEDEC on 29th May 2013 as he assumed duties in his new role as Chairman of Caritas Sri Lanka. Welcoming His Lordship, the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, Rev Fr George Sigamoney said that this was the “fourth innings” at SEDEC for the new Chairman since he was earlier

the Director of SEDEC (1980-1983) and Commission Chairman on two previous occasions (1986-1991 and 2001-2003). In addition, he had also been President of Caritas Asia (1995-2003) and a Vice President of Caritas Internationalis.

Sri Lanka Working Group (SLWG) Meeting 2013

The annual SLWG Meeting was held on 17th & 18th September 2013 in the SEDEC Auditorium under the theme “Sri Lanka at its crossroads: the state of the nation and the role of the Church”. It was attended by Diocesan delegates of the local Caritas network, several Bishops and foreign partners





representing CAFOD-UK, Caritas Norway, CRS-USA, CHARIS-Singapore, Caritas Slovenia, Caritas Asia, Caritas Australia, Caritas Italiana and International Foundation for Electoral Systems. Mr Michel Roy, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis was among the distinguished invitees.



The inauguration on the first day was attended by some members of the Diplomatic community as well, and among them was Her Excellency Ms Grete Lochen, the Norwegian Ambassador who delivered a message on this occasion. While Rev Fr George Sigamoney, National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka welcomed the participants and spelt out the SLWG objectives, the keynote address was delivered by Rt Rev Dr Vianney Fernando, Chairman of Caritas Sri Lanka, and a special message was delivered by Mr Michel Roy. A short documentary film on the contributions made by Caritas Sri Lanka in the post-war period was also screened. The meeting participants and invitees thereafter visited the Achievement Stalls set up in the SEDEC premises to portray the work done in key areas such as Social Justice and Sustainable Peace, Safe Migration and Prevention of Human Trafficking, Integral Human Development through Community Empowerment and Community Based Disaster Preparedness.

The business sessions which followed were moderated by Mr Mathew Carter, Head, Humanitarian Desk of CAFOD-UK. Initially, inputs on the current socio-economic and political situations in the country were provided by Prof. Savithri Goonesekera, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Dr Anila Dias



Bandaranaike, former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank and Dr Muthukrishna Sarvananthan, Director of the Point Pedro Institute of Development. An interreligious forum attended by dignitaries of the Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic faiths was also held on the theme “Promoting religious amity and co-existence’.

A number of group discussions formed part of the meeting agenda, based on identifying the key challenges facing Sri Lanka and also identifying the strategic priorities for Caritas Sri Lanka. The foreign partners, on their part, presented their own strategic priorities for Sri Lanka





and for the Asian Region as a whole. At the conclusion of the sessions, Mr Mathew Carter offered a synthesis of the entire proceedings of both days, highlighting some key issues that featured in the discussions and interactions. Fr George Sigamoney presented a consolidation of the identified priorities and how they would be re-aligned in terms of the Revised Strategic Plan of Caritas Sri Lanka.

45th anniversary of Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC

A Thanksgiving Eucharistic Service to mark the 45th anniversary of Caritas Sri Lanka was held in the SEDEC Chapel on 17th September 2013, with the Apostolic Nuncio, Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Spiteri as the Chief Celebrant. The concelebrants were Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, Chairman of SEDEC and Rt. Rev. Dr. Norbert Andradi, Bishop of Anuradhapura. Several Bishops and delegates of the local Caritas network were present at this Service, including the Founder of SEDEC, Rev. Fr. Joe Fernando, along with members of the Clergy and Religious and a number of foreign partners from the international Caritas network and other agencies.



In his homily, the Apostolic Nuncio noted that during the 45 years of its existence in Sri Lanka, “Caritas has generously served, and is still dedicated to serve, the people in need”. Reflecting on the recent words of Pope Francis exhorting Christians everywhere to serve, to accompany and to defend poor, marginalized and voiceless communities, the Nuncio said that “serving means, first and foremost, welcoming these people into our hearts. It means establishing meaningful relations with them, looking them straight in the eyes and bending down to attend to their needs. This is Christian charity”.

Visits by CAFOD delegates

- Mr. Neil Thorns, Director of Advocacy and Member of CAFOD Corporate Leadership Team, accompanied by Ms. Sarah Barnett, Program Officer for Advocacy visited Sri Lanka in May 2013. One of the objectives of their mission was to learn about how change takes place in Sri Lanka and the role of advocacy in bringing about such change.





- Mr. Oliver Behn, CAFOD Regional Manager for Asia and Middle East visited Sri Lanka in June 2014. He participated in the opening of 78 houses built in Karunattakerni, Mullaitivu District with CAFOD funding. He also visited the villages of Galkiriyagama in Anuradhapura District and Paramudukkandal in Vavuniya District where he met members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) established under the Water and Gender project supported by CAFOD. Also in Mullaitivu, he held discussions with members of Women Rural Development Societies (WRDS) and members of the Association for Disabled Persons.



- Ms. Sophia Peiris, CAFOD Program Officer and Ms. Keziya Lawan, Advocacy Accompanier visited Sri Lanka in October 2013 to review the progress of the Water and Gender Project in the Dioceses of Kandy, Jaffna, Kurunegala, Anuradhapura and Mannar. They also participated in a workshop discussion on 'Chronic Kidney Diseases of Unknown Origin (CKDu)' held in Anuradhapura.



- A three-member team from the CAFOD Theology Program visited Sri Lanka from 14th to 24th January 2014 with the objective of gaining direct knowledge of the projects facilitated and delivered by CAFOD partners, as well as to meet with theologians in this country and to share with colleagues in Sri Lanka some of the current work of CAFOD's Theology Program.





The team was made up of Liam Hayes, CAFOD's Theology Program Advisor, Fr. Augusto Zampini who is a member of CAFOD Theology Reference Group (TRG) and Catherine Gorman, Communications Coordinator of the CAFOD Theology Program.



During their visit, they held discussions with Rev. Fr. George Sigamoney, National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC and with key program staff in the National Centre. They also had informal discussions with a few Catholic Bishops, some representatives of Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic faiths as well as with women social activists and members of Anglican and Methodist Churches. They visited the Dioceses of Kandy, Anuradhapura and Batticaloa where they witnessed the progress of CAFOD - funded projects and met with several groups of beneficiaries.

Visit of Caritas Swiss delegation

Ms. Anina Feller and Ms. Regina Wenk of Caritas Swiss visited Sri Lanka from 17th February to 2nd March 2014 in connection with the housing and livelihood projects supported by Caritas Swiss in the Vanni, Batticaloa and Trincomalee Districts.



Visit of Caritas Portugal delegation

A two - member delegation comprising Mr. Eugenio Jose da Cruz Fonseca, President of Caritas Portugal and Mr. Joao Pereira, Programme Officer visited Sri Lanka from 1st to 8th October 2013 to review the progress of projects supported by them in the Dioceses of Mannar, Jaffna and Trincomalee where 25 houses are being built and livelihood of 100 families are funded by Caritas Portugal.



They also held discussions with Rev. Fr. George Sigamoney, National Director of





Caritas Sri Lanka before undertaking an exposure journey to several Districts in North and East.

In Mannar, the delegates participated in the handing over of houses built in Manthai West DS Division to the beneficiaries, while in Jaffna the foundation stone was laid for a housing scheme consisting of 15 houses in Manipay and livelihood grants were given to 100 fishing families in Nagarcoil.

In Mullaitivu, the visitors met with the beneficiaries of previous housing and livelihood projects supported by Caritas Portugal, including the recipients of deep sea fishing boats distributed among them after the tsunami disaster.

MDM Team visits Mannar and Kilinochchi

Mr. Christian Raggioli and Ms. Sophie Baylac of Mediciens du Monde–MDM France visited Mannar and Kilinochchi from 8th to 11th October 2013 to assess the progress of the Mobile Medical Clinics being conducted with the support of MDM.

They held discussions with Rev. Fr.M. Jeyabalan– Director of Caritas Mannar, the Medical Officer of the Mobile Clinic and with Rev.Sr. Aida of the Holy Cross Sisters, as well as with several Women’s Groups in villages of the Madhu and Manthai West DS Divisions.

They also examined the steps to be taken to make the mobile clinic more effective and more beneficial to the residents of remote villages where access to medical facilities is highly limited.





PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2013 to 31st March 2014 (Project Wise)

Project	Agency	Amount (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)	%
Caritas Chilaw New Development Programme	Caritas Italiana	1,322,714	1,322,714	0.30%
Child Protection Policy Programme		5,681,887	5,681,887	1.29%
Children Programme - Jaffna		1,597,459	1,597,459	0.36%
Children's Sponsorship Programme	Caritas Poland	12,306,607	12,306,607	2.80%
Construction of Pre Schools in Trincomalee	Stichiting Wilde Ganzen	5,744,928	5,744,928	1.31%
Construction of Pre Schools in Vanni		13,376,860		
	Stitching Cordaid	5,028,800	18,405,660	4.19%
Creating a Conducive Environment for Religious Amity -213-332	Caritas Norway	4,144,588	4,144,588	0.94%
Emergency Response Workshop -SLK 267	CAFOD	682,880	682,880	0.16%
Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters - 322-900-1086 ZG	Misereor	3,475,000	3,475,000	0.79%
Fostering Community Mobilization towards Conflict Transformation 2013 -105344	Stitching Cordaid	5,593,003	5,593,003	1.27%
Production of Guidebook on Human Dignity in English Language	Johannes Paulus II:s Past oralcentrum	460,632	460,632	0.10%
Human dignity is the basis for upholding human rights : A religious perspective - CFLI 2012 - CLMBO - 0003	Canadian High Commission of Sri Lanka	117,783	117,783	0.03%
Improving the health status of Mannar Districts population through effective Mobile Clinic System	Medecins Du Monde	3,034,500	3,034,500	0.69%
Integral Human Development – Civic Dialogue and Cross – Community Activities	Caritas Korea	6,471,256	6,471,256	1.47%
Livelihood Support for War affected Women and their Children in Sri Lanka - P 100121	Caritas Schweiz	9,590,880	9,590,880	2.18%
Livelihood Support for War affected Women and their Children - P 11031		2,460,180	2,460,180	0.56%
Livelihood Support for War Affected and Resettled Families in Eastern Province of Sri Lanka	Catholic Relief Services - USCCB	26,480,000	26,480,000	6.02%
Promoting , Healing and Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace	Caritas Australia	5,392,312	5,392,312	1.23%
Reconstruction of Permanent Core Houses and Livelihood support for Tsunami and War affected Families in Sri Lanka - P 120141	Caritas Schweiz	152,299,100	152,299,100	34.64%



PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2013 to 31st March 2014 (Project Wise)

Project	Agency	Amount (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)	%
Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	Caritas Portuguesa	12,256,585		
	Caritas Australia	32,630,718		
	Caritas Espanola	28,201,151		
	Caritas Germany	4,405,000		
	Caritas Norway	6,626,104		
	Caritas Taiwan	1,299,504		
	Caritas Italiana	3,587,206	89,006,269	20.24%
Relief Assistance for families affected by flood	Canadian High Commission of Sri Lanka	228,258	228,258	0.05%
Resettlement for IDPS affected by War - 322-003-1022	Misereor	26,062,500	26,062,500	5.93%
Resettlement for IDPS affected by War - 322-003-1030		21,239,489	21,239,489	4.83%
Safe Migration and Prevention of Human Trafficking	Caritas Italiana	2,554,877	2,554,877	0.58%
South Asia Farmers Conference	Caritas Asia	4,038,068	4,038,068	0.92%
Strengthening Democracy in Sri Lanka ; Exercising the Universal Franchise	IFES. INC	1,756,922	1,756,922	0.40%
Substantiation of Community Institutions for Sustainable Agriculture to Ensure Food Security 113 -191	Caritas Norway	13,778,169	13,778,169	3.13%
Vocational Training for Youth and Educational Programmes for Children	Caritas Italiana	2,610,509	2,610,509	0.59%
Water Resource Management and Women Empowerment - SLK 264	CAFOD	13,177,009	13,177,009	3.00%
		439,713,436	439,713,436	100%



PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2013 to 31st March 2014 (Agency Wise)

Agency	Project	Amount (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)	%
CAFOD	Water Resource Management and Women Empowerment - SLK 264	13,177,009		
	Emergency Response Workshop - SLK 267	682,880	13,859,889	3.2%
Canadian High Commission of Sri Lanka	Relief Assistance for families affected by Flood	228,258		
	Human dignity is the basis for upholding human rights : A religious perspective - CFLI 2012 - CLMBO - 0003	117,783	346,041	0.08%
Caritas Portuguesa	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	12,256,585	12,256,585	2.79%
Caritas Asia	South Asia Farmers Conference	4,038,068	4,038,068	0.92%
Caritas Australia	Promoting , Healing and Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace	5,392,312		
	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	32,630,718	38,023,030	8.65%
caritas Espanola	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	28,201,151	28,201,151	6.41%
Caritas Germany	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	4,405,000	4,405,000	1.00%
Caritas Italiana	Caritas Chilaw New Development Programme	1,322,714		
	Child Protection Policy Programme	5,681,887		
	Vocational Training for Youth and Educational Programmes for Children	2,610,509		
	Children Programme - Jaffna	1,597,459		
	Safe Migration and Prevention of Human Trafficking	2,554,877		
	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	3,587,206	17,354,651	3.95%
Caritas Korea	Integral Human Development – Civic Dialogue and Cross – Community Activities	6,471,256	6,471,256	1.47%
Caritas Norway	Substantiation of Community Institutions for Sustainable Agriculture to Ensure Food Security 113 -191	13,778,169		
	Creating a Conducive Environment for Religious Amity -213-332	4,144,588		
	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme (411-331) - EA 17/2012	6,626,104	24,548,861	5.58%
Caritas Poland	Children's Sponsorship Programme	12,306,607	12,306,607	2.80%



PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1 April 2013 to 31st March 2014 (Agency Wise) Cont...

Agency	Project	Amount (Rs.)	Total (Rs.)	%
Caritas Schweiz	Livelihood Support for War affected Women and their Children in Sri Lanka - P 100121	9,590,880		
	Livelihood Support for War affected Women and their Children - P 11031	2,460,180		
	Reconstruction of Permanent Core Houses and Livelihood support for Tsunami and War affected Families in Sri Lanka - P 120141	152,299,100	164,350,160	37.38%
Caritas Taiwan	Relief & Rehabilitation Programme - EA 17/2012	1,299,504	1,299,504	0.30%
Catholic Relief Services - USCCB	Livelihood Support for War Affected and Resettled Families in Eastern Province of Sri Lanka	26,480,000	26,480,000	6.02%
CORDAID	Fostering Community Mobilization towards Conflict Transformation 2013 -105344	5,593,003	5,593,003	1.27%
Johannes Paulus II:s Pastoralcentrum	Production of Guidebook on Human Dignity in English Language	460,632	460,632	0.10%
IFES. INC	Strengthening Democracy in Sri Lanka: Exercising the Universal Franchise	1,756,922	1,756,922	0.40%
Medecins Du Monde	Improving the health status of Mannar Districts population through effective Mobile Clinic System	3,034,500	3,034,500	0.69%
Misereor	Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters by Strengthening of Workers Rights-322-900-1086	3,475,000		
	Resettlement for IDPS affected by War - 322-003-1022	26,062,500		
	Resettlement for IDPS affected by War - 322-003-1030	21,239,489	50,776,989	11.55%
Stitching Wilde Ganzen	Construction of Pre Schools in Trincomalee	5,744,928		
	Construction of Pre Schools in Vanni	13,376,860	19,121,788	4.35%
Stitching Cordaid	Construction of Pre Schools in Vanni	5,028,800	5,028,800	1.14%
		439,713,436	439,713,436	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 Korea
6. Caritas England & Wales / CAFOD
7. Caritas Germany
8. Caritas Italiana
9. Caritas Japan
10. Caritas Norway
11. Caritas Poland
12. Caritas Portugal
13. Caritas Spain
14. Caritas Taiwan
15. Caritas Sweden
16. Caritas Switzerland
17. Johannes Paulus II: S pastoral lentrum
18. Canada International Development Agency (CIDA)
19. Catholic Relief Services (CRS – USA)
20. CHARIS – Singapore
21. CORDAID
22. MISEREOR
23. Missio
24. Wilde Ganzen
25. Canadian High Commission in Sri Lanka
26. Kindermissionwerk
27. Mediciens du Monde
28. Sacred Convent of Assisi
29. Development & Peace – Canada
30. International Foundation for Electoral Systems - IFES
31. Our local benefactors





**45TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
CARITAS SRI LANKA**





**45TH ANNIVERSARY
OF
CARITAS SRI LANKA**





**SRI LANKA WORKING GROUP MEETING
2013
AT COLOMBO**





**SRI LANKA WORKING GROUP MEETING
2013
AT COLOMBO**





**SRI LANKA WORKING GROUP MEETING
2013
AT COLOMBO**





**SRI LANKA WORKING GROUP MEETING
2013
AT COLOMBO**





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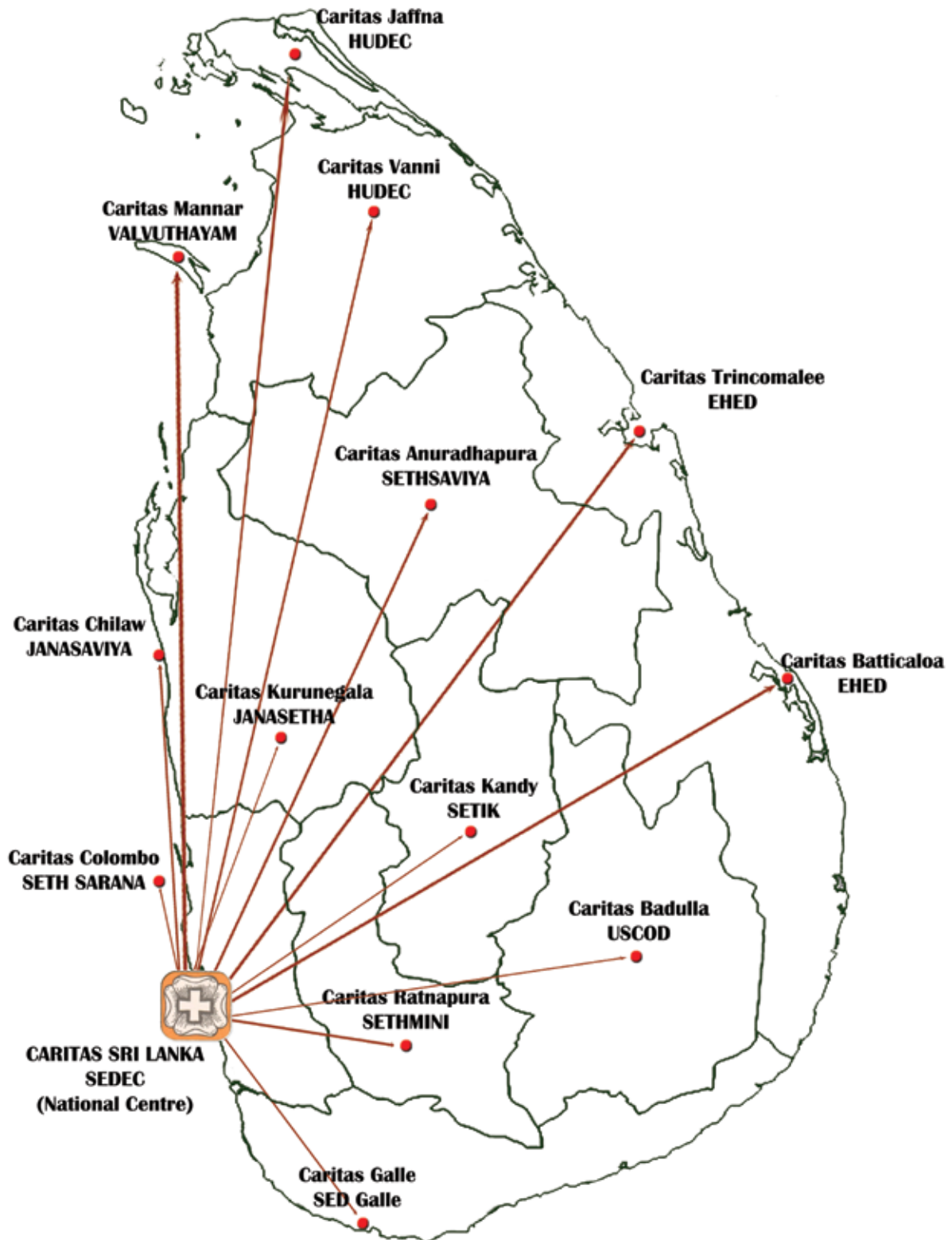
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