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OUR VISION


OUR MISSION

“Empowering people through animation and being in solidarity with their efforts for Integral Human Development”
This has been a remarkable year for Caritas Sri Lanka (CSL). CSL is proud to profess of its progress, in terms of reaching towards 'Integral Human Development'. The Vision of CSL is more focused on establishing networking and linkages with global and local partners, both in government and private sector. As a result of this orientation, the organization has been able to build on its strengths to be more sustainable and intimate to the marginalized communities. This has also opened up avenues for CSL to collaborate or invite other religious denominations to work closely with us.

It is with gratefulness and profound sentiments of joy, the organization celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The presence of the College of Bishops of Sri Lanka and National Directors of past and present, witnessed a marvelous and a meaningful ceremony that culminated the Jubilee year. We are grateful to the late visionary leaders, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Cooray and Rev. Fr. Joe Fernando, who laid the strong foundation for CSL to reach this milestone.

We are happy to share Pope Francis' “dream” of a Church that contributes to inclusive and sustainable development, while caring for the earth and bringing the whole humanity together. In line with the Holy Father's encyclical “Laudato Si – Caring for our Common Home”, CSL initiated actions accordingly through our programmes promoting food security, environment conservation and protection, gaining rights for the plantation workers, healing and reconciliation among communities and inter religious harmony.

Giving careful attention to the draft Strategic Framework 2019-2023, designed by Caritas Internationalis, steps were taken to move the process of upgrading CSL to CI’s international standards. A team from Caritas National Centre conducted a series of workshops to educate all Diocesan Directors and staff on CI’s Strategic Orientations, their objectives and expected outcomes that will guide our services to the poor, marginalized, the displaced, migrants and victims of human trafficking.

We avail of this opportunity to remember with love and gratitude the remarkable leadership of Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy, as the Chairman of CSL for nearly six long years. Being a veteran humanitarian activist with professionalism and enthusiasm, his vision and guidance inspired the National Directors, Diocesan Directors, staff and many others in the institution. We bid him adieu with a great sense of sadness and wish His Lordship God’s choicest blessings.

I conclude this note with a reminder from two great spiritual guides:

“Aspire not to have more but to be more”. - Archbishop Oscar Romero

“If you want peace, work for justice”. - Pope Paul VI

Both the above leaders were elevated to Sainthood in October 2018.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide us all to ‘Add Value to God’s Love’!

`Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam`

Fr. Mahendra Gunatileke
National Director
Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC
Board of Management

Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando
Chairman

Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin Gnanapragasam
Vice Chairman

Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunatileke
National Director
Board of Management

Rev. Fr. Bennette Mallawa
Director
Caritas Anuradhapura

Rev. Fr. Raven Perera
Director
Caritas Badulla

Rev. Fr. Alex Robert
Director
Caritas Batticaloa

Director
Caritas Chilaw

Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake
Director
Caritas Colombo

Rev. Fr. Herman Fernando
Director
Caritas Galle

Rev. Fr. Eugene Francis
Director
Caritas Jaffna

Rev. Fr. Desmond Perera
Director
Caritas Kandy

Rev. Fr. Jamika Perera
Director
Caritas Kurunegala

Rev. Fr. S. Anton
Director
Caritas Mannar

Rev. Fr. DAnton Sriyan
Director
Caritas Ratnapura

Rev. Fr. Dunstan
Director
Caritas Trincomalee

Rev. Fr. J. Francis
Director
Caritas Vanni
Advisory Committee

Mr. Dinesh Weerakkody

Mr. Dinesh Weerakkody is the Chairman of Hatton National Bank PLC, Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka and Cornucopia Sri Lanka. He holds several honorary Advisory roles in the current government.

He currently serves in a number of private sector and MNC boards and Chairs / Member of the Audit Committee and the Remuneration Committee in several of those companies. He is a Council Member of the Employers Federation of Ceylon and the Institute of Directors of Sri Lanka. He is a member of the CIMA Asia Pacific Industry Advisory Body.

Mr. Weerakkody has published widely on Economics, Banking and Finance, HR, Leadership, Management, International Relations and development issues. He is an author of six books and is a regular business speaker / commentator.

Mr. Angelo M. Patrick

Mr. Angelo M. Patrick holds an MBA from the University of Colombo and is a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK) and a Member of the Institute of Marketing (UK). He has held Directorates and Senior Management positions over the past 45 years in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Canada.

He is presently a Group Director Capital Maharaja Organisation Ltd, having previously held the positions of Managing Director NDBS Stock Brokers Ltd. Director Carson Cumberbatch & Co Ltd. Senior Management Consultant, Bank of Ceylon.

Mr. Patrick is also a Non Executive, Independent Director of Richard Pieris Exports PLC.

Mr. Shanaka Ranasinghe

Mr. Shanaka Ranasinghe President’s Counsel, was called to the Bar in Sri Lanka in October 1986. During 1987-1995 he functioned as a member of the Attorney General’s Department.

He was appointed as ‘Principal Magistrate’ in the Solomon Islands during this period and subsequently reverted to private practice in 1995 and developed an extensive practice in the criminal field. He was appointed as a President’s Counsel in 2012.

Ms. Shehara Jayawardana

Ms. Shehara Jayawardana serves as the Joint Managing Director of McLarens Group. McLarens Group is a diversified conglomerate with over 60 companies and has its core business in shipping, marine and logistics sectors.

Ms. Shehara is also the Founding President of WISTA Sri Lanka, a global network for empowering women in the maritime sector. She was also appointed as the Treasurer of the Ceylon Association of Shipping Agents.

She holds a MSc. in Shipping, Trade and Finance with Honors from City University, CASS Business School, London, UK and BSc. in Economics with Honors from London School of Economics, UK.”
Advisory Committee

Mr. Victor Silva

Mr. Victor Silva is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, Fellow Member (retired) of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, U.K and Fellow Member (retired) of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, U.K. He was employed at Ceylon Tobacco Company Limited and held several key management positions in Finance and Administration.

He was elected as the Secretary of the Catholic National Association of Laity—the representative body for all Catholic lay faithful of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Yu Hwa Li

Mr. Yu Hwa Li is the National Director, Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka and an experienced NGO leader in international development and project management and brings a wealth of knowledge.

Mr. Li has served World Vision and Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC previously and serves on the Boards of LEADS and Lanka Financial Services for Underserved Settlements. He is a member of the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors (SLID).

Ms. Nilanthi Peiris

Ms. Pieris is an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and counts 29 years of experience including 28 years of practice at the Bar. Currently she serve as the Partner of Paul Ratnayake Associated.

She is also a Director of Sri Lank Telecom Human Capital Solutions (Private) Limited and SLT Property Management (Private ) Limited.

Previously, she has held several positions at the Bar Association, including the post of Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Tony Candappa

Mr. Tony Candappa, was a banker for 35 years, 15 years at American Express Bank and 20 years at Union Bank of Colombo PLC, lastly as the Vice President - Treasury.

He was until recently employed as a consultant at SAFE Holdings Pvt Ltd.
# List of Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRCD</td>
<td>Centre for Human Rehabilitation and Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSL</td>
<td>Caritas Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Service Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>Diocesan Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESCO</td>
<td>Eastern Self Reliant Community Awakening Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>GAATW</td>
<td>Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRF</td>
<td>Inter-Religion Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>MO</td>
<td>Member Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAC</td>
<td>Partner Advisory Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREDO</td>
<td>Plantation Rural Education and Development Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDC</td>
<td>Swiss Development Cooperation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHG</td>
<td>Self Help Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLBFE</td>
<td>Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWOAD</td>
<td>Social Welfare Organization of Ampara District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VLVC</td>
<td>Village Level Vigilant Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Caritas Sri Lanka at a Glance

Beneficiaries
• Direct : 43,776
• Indirect : 186,253

Districts: 25
Provinces: 9

Caritas Centres : 13

Staff
• National Centre : 52
• Diocesan Centre : 287

Programmes : 18

Funding Partners : 23

Special Programmes : 01
Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2018

The services rendered by Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC and its network extends through 12 Church Dioceses covering all 9 Provinces of Sri Lanka. The organization was founded by late Fr. Joe Fernando in 1968 under a concept initiated by His Eminence late Thomas Cardinal Coorey the then Archbishop of Colombo.

On 8th November 2017 a commemorative monument was erected at SEDEC premises as a mark of remembrance to its founders. A declaration was issued by the Bishops who were present on that day. As part of the Jubilee year activities, Caritas organized an island-wide debate competition involving all 13 Diocesan Centres that culminated at the national level debate competition on 9th July 2018 at the Aquinas College, Colombo.

A documentary film was made covering Caritas work and major achievements during the past 50 years. In addition a book on the history of Caritas – SEDEC was also published. The Catholic Messenger carried a series of feature articles from July 2018 onwards on different subject areas where Caritas as the social arm of the Church made an impact.

Over the years, Caritas has earned the credibility as the only organization that has the necessary basic network structure developed throughout the island. In addition, Caritas has emerged as an organization recognized as a neutral body particularly among the different ethnic and religious communities, having a wide reach and presence to be able to work with all such communities irrespective of race, religion, economic and social status.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC!
Two great spiritual guides became saints in October 2018, marking a very special moment for the Caritas family. Pope Francis described Saint Pope Paul VI as “the great light” and Saint Oscar Romero, assassinated in 1980 while celebrating mass, as a person for whom being “close to the poor and to his people” was everything. Paul VI inspired the creation of Caritas back in the 1950s and Romero is one of its patrons.

Pope Francis wore the blood-stained belt Romero was wearing when he was murdered and carried the pastoral staff of Paul VI during a ceremony to make them saints in St. Peter’s Square. In his homily, Pope Francis described them as putting the Gospel “into practice in their lives, without being lukewarm without calculation, with the passion to risk and to leave it all behind”.

“Aspire not to have more but to be more”
- Saint Oscar Romero

Caritas Internationalis celebrated the sainthood with a vigil mass led by its president, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, its former president, Cardinal Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga and Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chavez, a one-time assistant of Romero and influential leader within the Caritas confederation. A fundraising concert by migrant communities and children and a conference on the two saints were also held in Rome.

“Aspire not to have more but to be more,” is one of Romero’s most celebrated quotes, and it continues to inspire Caritas today.
New Senior Executive

Dr. Shemal Fernando possesses diverse experience in varied genres. He is a professional, an academic, a reputed athlete, an eminent sports administrator, a freelance journalist and a humanist who is keen to expand his horizons. With an unblemished and decorative career spanning 38 years, he has become one of the longest served flag rank naval officers in the country. Through his charisma and candour, he has given the Sri Lanka Navy and the country a dynamic personality.

Rear Admiral Dr. Shemal Fernando’s key professional appointments include the Director General Administration, Director General Logistics, Director General Budget, Director General Finance as well as Naval Secretary at Naval Headquarters up to 2014. Then, he served as the Chief of Staff of the Civil Defence Force under the Ministry of Defence from 2015 to 2018. His eagerness to learn and his enthusiasm to improve did not diminish in anyway and he always displayed an insatiable thirst to enhance his professionalism.

He becomes the first Sri Lankan Admiral to achieve Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Philosophy and Master of Science in Management degrees from the Kotelawala Defence University. He also earned an Executive Master of Science in Administration through an International Olympics Committee Scholarship. He is an alumni of the renowned United States’ Naval War College, where he had the singular honour of becoming the first and only Sri Lankan ‘Student President’. He is a distinguished product of St. Mary’s College, Negombo and Royal College, Colombo.

He joined the Sri Lanka Navy as an Officer Cadet on October 1, 1979. His illustrious career began with being adjudged as the Best Cadet in Academic, Professional and Secretarial Subjects in 1980. He acquitted himself with professional excellence and enjoyed the confidence of his superiors and the respect of his subordinates. Admiral Asoka de Silva chose him as his Flag Lieutenant in 1985 and thereafter 10 successive Commanders of the Navy honoured him with Personal Staff assignments.

In recognition of his distinguished service, commitment and exceptional achievements in academic and professional spheres, he has been awarded with 12 medals and decorations, 26 commendations, 5-star Commendation Badge and emblem of the United States’ War College. He holds fellowship of the Chartered Institute of Management and the Institute of Management of the United Kingdom as well as fellowship of the Royal Asiatic Society and the Institute of Certified Professional Managers of Sri Lanka.

His services at national level in sports include the Secretary General and Vice President of the Athletics Association of Sri Lanka from 1987 to 2011 and the President of the National Shooting Federation from 2012 to 2015. Previously, he also served the National Rifle Association as Secretary General and Vice President during the period 2001 to 2011. He has managed Sri Lanka Contingents to Olympic Games (London 2012 and Athens 2004), Commonwealth Games (Glasgow 2014 and Manchester 2002), Asian Games (Incheon 2014 and Doha 2006), World Military Games (Hyderabad 2007 and Catania 2003) and World Youth Championships (Sherbrooke 2003).

Dr. Shemal Fernando joined the Caritas Family on 1st January 2019. A sportsman and a gentleman in the true sense of the word, his sporting attitude permeated his official and personal life at all times. He is married to Carmel Fernando and they are blessed with four children.
Replicating the Experience of Integral Human Development – Civic Dialogue and Cross Community Activities

This project is supported by Caritas Korea and is in its final year of implementation in the Diocese of Anuradhapura, Badulla, Mannar and Vanni as part of Caritas’ Strategic Priority on Integral Human Development. This project empowered the grassroots level communities by giving them training, exposure and guidance to form into strong community institutions.

Small Self Help Groups (SHGs) were formed into CBOs in order to gain their rights, are now being encouraged through this project to establish diocesan level Federations. This will enable them to have a resilient voice to advocate for the development of their communities and to access the government services and facilities. In order to be independent and be able to continue after the tenure of project period, they have now built sufficient financial strength in their respective CBOs.

In addition, the revolving loan funds have been established in each CBO with the support of Caritas, to obtain loans to start or to further develop their livelihood ventures. These also include agricultural home gardens where they are encouraged to grow chemical free healthy crops for their domestic consumption, thereby saving money spent to purchase vegetables, fruits and yams. The excess produce is sold out generating additional income for their families.

Achievements

- The villagers have voiced their desperate appeals for acquiring drinking water facility to a village in Periyakulam in Mannar district and subsequently, they were able to get the safe drinking water facilities.
- Important messages were communicated amongst the members of the groups
The CBO members earned their income by establishing animal husbandry – nurturing chicks and by selling fresh milk.

Now the Parents are focusing on their income generating activities which has improved their income considerably and their children are concentrating on their studies.

Due to the prevalence of kidney disease in the North Central Province in Mailagasshandiya, the CBO called Sumga in the area was able to obtain a water purification facility to help the villagers in the vicinity.

Legal Aid and Legal Services to Migrants and their Families
The third year project implementation commenced on 1st March 2018 in collaboration with our Deep Impact Partners and other SDC partners during the concerned project period. In addition, during the first quarter of the project, an implementation mechanism was established to incorporate 12 Caritas Diocesan centers which fall under the Sri Lanka network covering all the districts and provinces of Sri Lanka. The main objective of such a move was to expand the services rendered under this programme to reach out to number of migrants and to their family members.

During the project implementation, a few strategic moves were undertaken, especially when the grass root level project activities were initiated and implemented. Caritas Sri Lanka increased its focus more on the evidence based advocacy and further strengthened the grievance and case handling mechanism by linking the network with other civil society organizations that had a long relationship with Caritas Network. In addition, the migration unit of Caritas Sri Lanka enhanced the existing programme initiated by the organization and was able to create more awareness among the partners about the importance of venturing into assistance related to legal safe migration with the support of relevant government organizations.
CSL also became a project partner in a Research Documentation Project which focuses on women migrant workers.

This project is initiated by Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) a network of more than 80 non-governmental organizations from all regions in the world, who shares a deep concern for women, children, and men whose human rights have been violated by the criminal practice of trafficking in persons.

Accomplishments

The Migrant support database system was updated as per the new requirements of the partners with their active participation. Partners could now view the updates/status of their respective cases.

All Diocesan Migration officers are encouraged to get involved in the network of like-minded organizations and to conduct orientation sessions for aspirant migrants. This process will help them to identify and facilitate migrant families on grievance redress.

Knowledge Sharing Events

CSL shared its experiences, good practices and lessons learnt from the Safe Labour Migration Project and contributed towards National and International Policy dialogues at various forums on safe labour migration during the following events/meetings/gatherings:-

1. Meeting with SDC evaluation team to discuss mid-term evaluation of Sri Lanka National Labour Migration Programme was held on 17th July 2018.
2. A meeting was held with Mr. Wansekara, General Manager of Sri Lanka Bureau
for Foreign Employment (SLBFE) concerning the issues confronted by Caritas Migration Officers during the reconciliation process of the migrant victims.

3. A training session together with practical field knowledge was conducted in regard to the project titled, “Learning from experiences of Women Migrants”. Subsequently 20 migrant returnees and their families were interviewed in order to record their statements, screen the documentations and to learn more from their experiences as women migrants.


5. Two Caritas Sri Lankan staff members got the opportunity to participate at the Anti human Trafficking Programme – in Cambodia on the 25th February through 02nd March 2019.

6. CSL hosted the 7th Partner Exchange Platform Meeting at Caritas Sri Lanka auditorium on the 27th and 28th February 2019. Along with the main ceremony a training workshop for the paralegals were also conducted to provide them experience of facilitating cases of migrant returnees and migrant workers who are in need and in distress at the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE).


8. The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) in Bangkok/Thailand organized a workshop on Data Analysis and Learning from the Experiences of Women Migrant Workers in Kathmandu, Nepal.

9. Two staff members from Caritas Sri Sri Lanka participated in the Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting held on 28th March 2019, at the Ministry of Foreign Employment. An Officer from Caritas Sri Lanka made a presentation on the gaps and recommendations to the Ministry officials on behalf of all the SDC partner organizations.

Creating Access To Information

- A Database system was established to handle cases related to Migrant issues. Partners send their case study details through the system so that they could view the updates/status of their respective cases and a few stakeholders have the privilege of viewing them. The findings were shared with partners as a critical analysis to show the trends, best practices, and as constructive feedbacks and also to identify cases for litigation. Further reports were derived periodically from the data collected on a monthly basis which will then be presented to the relevant stakeholders.

- Compilation of information booklet on organizations working for Safe Migration will help strengthen the network in the country and for the public to be informed of the services offered by these organizations. This is to create a network of partner organizations, and to be disseminated to paralegals and relevant government officers to be used for reference or as a resource document. Presently, we translated
the booklet on ‘Partners in Labour Migration’ in Sinhala and Tamil which we have distributed amongst the network organizations, migrants and to their families for their information and references.

- CSL has printed a brochure on Case Management Procedures in English, Sinhala and Tamil languages for the deep impact partners and for the paralegals.

No of Cases entered by the Partners to the data base system is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Partner</th>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Resolved Cases</th>
<th>Processing Cases</th>
<th>Unresolved Cases</th>
</tr>
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<td>ESCO - Batticaloa</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREDO - Nuwara Eliya</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWOAD - Ampara</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Sarana - Caritas Colombo</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRCD - Kurunegala</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PREEDO - Nuwara-eliya</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caritas Diocesan Centres</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>434</strong></td>
<td><strong>274</strong></td>
<td><strong>137</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
</tr>
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Plantation Programme (GGH) Report 2018/2019

‘Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters by Strengthening of Workers’ Rights’ Programme funded by Misereor has been implemented by Caritas Sri Lanka from 2014 in the Plantation Dioceses to uplift the Plantation community amidst the exceptional situation that prevails only in the Plantation region.
The first phase (May 2014 to April 2017) was successfully implemented and was appreciated by the MISEREOR visitors and also endorsed by the plantation programme external evaluator. With the financial support from Misereor the programme was extended (July 2017 to June 2020) to new estates in the same Dioceses namely, Caritas SED-Galle, Caritas Kandy - SETIK, Caritas Badulla – USCOD and Caritas Ratnapura – SETHMINI.

Since the socio cultural and administrative situation in the estates and the related issues differ from the issues prevailing amongst the rural communities in the other parts of the island, we had to develop different strategies to make this programme to be fruitful.

Having this in mind, 16 vigilant groups were formed and now they are actively involved in community development activities in these selected four estates. The vigilant groups have been guided by the Diocesan programme coordinators to improve their health & sanitation, child education and livelihood development. Awareness programmes have been conducted on the importance of alcohol & drugs prevention and domestic violence.

Special meetings and discussions were held with the government officers and estate management to seek their support for ongoing activities of GGH programmes. Representatives from District and Provincial Secretariats, Police and Provincial Council participated at these meetings organized by Diocesan coordinators. These meetings paved the way as a preliminary session to discuss and solve problems such as;

- Health related issues and the attitude of the people towards cleanliness
- Emerging issues related to the youth
- The need for a new mechanism to be developed to work closely with the community was sensed by the service providers.
At the National level, progress review meeting and the orientation programme for the 2nd year programme implementation was held in May 2018, in which the challenges and achievements were discussed. Diocesan Programme coordinators presented their programme initiatives for the last six months and also the future strategic activities for the next six months. Finance expenditure against the monthly cash forecast was discussed at this meeting in the presence of the National Finance officer. It was emphasized that every month, TALLY back-up information also should to be sent by the Dioceses to update in the National Accounting System.

The relevant project staff members were capacitated periodically of the plantation programme on the current situation and prevailing issues in the Plantation Community. New strategies and methodologies to network with likeminded organizations and to maintain the rapport with the relevant stakeholders were also discussed.

In this regard, a capacity-building programme was conducted for the project staff and to the vigilant group members in order to provide the necessary guidelines, tools and techniques to address the plantation related issues very systematically, without leaving room for any confusion and conflicts in the society.

The programme mainly focused towards creating leadership amongst estate workers to claim for their rights and to establish and strengthen community institutions to work for the betterment of the estate community. The training programme was conducted at the Samudi Centre, Ratnapura with the participation of 45 members. The Bishop of Ratnapura diocese was the Chief Guest for the inaugural session. All related logistics were organized by Caritas Ratnapura Sethmini.
As part of the Project strategy, we offered an opportunity to our Diocesan project staff to gain experience and to learn from a ‘plantation related’ context, so that those involved in the project could benefit through a cross learning exchange of ideas. In this regard, we identified Malaysia as a probable country to visit as Malaysia has many years of experience in ‘plantations’ such as rubber, coffee, palm and tea.

An exposure programme to Malaysia was organized and a team of 15 members including 12 staff from Kandy, Galle, Badulla, Ratnapura Dioceses and the National Centre and three Diocesan Directors participated in this programme. The participants gained considerable knowledge and experience with the plantation communities from ‘plantation related’ context and a cross learning exchange of ideas. This exposure was instrumental to capacitate our staff to venture on new strategies and methodologies to network with likeminded organizations and to maintain harmonious rapport with relevant stakeholders.
Mr. Prasad
Migrant returnee from Batticaloa

Migrant returnee, Prasad* is 28 a years old newly married husband who used to work as a mason in Batticaloa. His wife, Shanthini, a 23-year old is a housewife. They both came from very poor family and rural backgrounds and 4 years before their marriage, Prasad underwent an eye operation as one of his eyes was infected with dust while working as a mason. Day by day his conditions exacerbated, placing him in a vulnerable plight.

Soon they were struggling with their home economy and Prasad had to borrow some money from a micro loan agent. However they only witnessed more troubles. At this time Prasad made up his mind to go abroad.

For that, he took another loan amounting to Rs. 350,000 with an annual interest rate of 120%. It was an exorbitant rate as he had to pay 1,000 rupees per month for every 10,000 he had taken.

Finally with the help of a sub agent, he went to Saudi Arabia on 31st of January 2019. Luckily as he went through the regular and legal process, he was registered and given the SLBFE straining.

Meanwhile he paid Rs.150,000.00 for the sub agent to get a job as a cleaner in a supermarket. But when Prasad went to Saudi Arabia, it was not what he expected. He was given a job in a rural desert area to look after camels and the conditions were deplorable. Since he was not physically strong and stable, it was really difficult for him to continue the job. He started calling his wife constantly and asked her to take him back to Sri Lanka.

His wife, Shanthini approached ESCO, an organization working closely with Caritas Sri Lanka (CSL) in assisting the labour migrants. Later with the support of CSL, a complaint was logged at SLBFE on 11th of February 2019 to bring Prasad to Sri Lanka stating his sick conditions and for not receiving promised work. Later an inquiry was held at SLBFE on 5th of March 2019 and the agent of Prasad insisted some money to repatriate Prasad from his wife, Shanthini. Luckily by 2nd of March, Parsad could come to Sri Lanka. However his agent never gave up asking money and started threatening Prasad. In this context CSL intervened again and obtained advice from the SLBFE that Prasad does not need to pay his agent any cent as the agent has already violated the agreement.

* name changed for security reasons.
Projects

A) Livelihood and Documentation Support for Families returning from India - Funded by Caritas Japan

With the end of the prolonged conflict in Sri Lanka number of families fled to South India as far back as the 1990s. Despite their prolonged stay in South India, these families have been unable to acquire their citizenship in India. Most of these families are now returning to Sri Lanka making use of the assistance rendered by the Government of Sri Lanka with the support of the UNHCR.

Their domicile locations are mostly in the districts of Mannar, Trincomalee and Jaffna. Few of the main obstacles they face are to obtain their relevant documents in order to be reintegrated into the mainstream of society such as birth and death certificates, marriage certificates, land deeds and educational transfer certificates. Some families find it difficult to reconstitute their lives due to difficulties in establishing sustainable livelihoods.

In order to support such families Caritas Japan has funded a project to help 150 families to obtain relevant documents and 20 families with livelihood support in the Mannar and Trincomlae Dioceses.

B) Mitigation of Thalassemia in the Diocese of Kurunegala, Batticaloa and Chilaw through Awareness and Empowerment - Funded by Misereor

With the support of Misereor a 3 year project to mitigate the effects of Thalassemia disease is being implemented in the Dioceses of Kurunagala, Batticaloa & Chilaw. It is estimated that there are about 2000-2500 cases in the island at present. This disease is a genetically inherited, non-curcurable but easily preventable disease. Activities include awareness raising programmes for children, community leaders and religious leaders; psychosocial support services for selected families, mobile clinics to collect blood samples and advocacy programmes to raise awareness.
C) Strengthening of Special Needs for Children and their Parents - Funded by Kindermissionwerk

Total of 95 Special Needs Children in Mannar and Vanni districts are continuing to be supported to ensure their integration into the mainstream of society. They are being supported with transport facilities to attend school and nutritional support to ensure their wellbeing; other activities include awareness programmes for both parents and children on relevant topics such as child rights and hygiene, group and individual counseling for the parents and children.

In Vanni the children are being supported to attend multi duty clinics for better treatment for their specific needs and physiotherapy services as well. Two parents’ groups assigned under this project as a volunteer movement to oversee the interests of their children have been a great success.

These 2 groups have been successful in urging interests of their children and have obtained numerous facilities to ensure that their children are able to attend school.

D) Sustainable livelihood support for former IDP Families - Funded by Caritas Australia

The 1st phase of this project which was implemented in the Vanni & Jaffna districts commenced in July 2017 and ended in June 2018 and is now in the second and concluding phase.

The project is promoting integral human development empowering the communities to strengthen their capacities to advocate and lobby for community rights and at the same time develop their livelihoods in a sustainable manner. Training in disaster risk
reduction strategies included in livelihood ventures is an important component of this project. A total of 138 house holds personnel will directly benefit from this project by the end of the second and concluding phase of this project.

E) Construction of Houses for Families affected by Floods & Landslides in May 2016 - Funded by Caritas Germany

Floods and landslides affected several thousands of families in May 2016 in the Ratnapura diocese resulting in damage to housing and other infrastructure services.

As this juncture, the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) recommended that those living in high risk areas which are prone to landslides be evacuated and new houses be allocated to them. With the support of Caritas Germany 16 houses have been constructed for deserving families in the Aranayake DS division by the recommendation of the Government Agent of Kegalle.

The highlight of this project was the mobilization of local well-wishers to help in the different phases of the construction. A Caritas Shadow Volunteer Task Force as well as members of local parishes of the Ratnapura diocese helped in the clearance of the building site while a group of old boys of the St. Joseph’s College, Colombo (Class Group in the year 1993) funded support for the construction of the toilets.

The government provided the necessary infrastructure facilities such as land, internal roads, water and electricity. Caritas Ratnapura was able to mobilize Rs. 2.4 million towards this project. 16 families have rendered their Volunteer labour as well as their own assets to add value to their houses. These families are now living in their own houses with better protection and with enhanced dignity.
F) Educational Support for Children affected by floods & landslides that affected Sri Lanka in May 2017 - Funded by Kindermissionswerk

Under this project 195 children from the dioceses of Galle, Colombo and Ratnapura were supported with a monthly scholarship. Quarterly awareness sessions conducted in order to motivate the children were also embedded in this project. The project covering a period of 12 months was completed in February 2019. The parents of these children whose livelihoods were affected are happy that this assistance has helped their children to pursue their education.

G) Solar Lighting for Pre-Schools, Community Centres, Public places and Health Centres - Funded by Misereor

With the support of Misereor, Solar Power Systems had been installed in 39 locations in the Badulla, Anuradhapura, Kurunegala and Vanni (Jaffna) Diocesan Centres. These systems have been installed mostly in Community Centres and Pre Schools and the communities that have become aware of the benefits of renewable energy and its ability to reduce the carbon foot print. As part of this project, the remaining funds which were available have been utilized to conduct series of training programmes in Disaster Management including Disaster Risk Reduction in the Ratnapura, Galle, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Mannar Dioceses with the support of the respective District Disaster Management Centres in the Dioceses.

These programmes have given the participants a good knowledge of basics of disaster preparedness to enable better protection of vulnerable communities.
We spoke to the child’s mother, Ms. Jeevasothy, about her daughter and the challenges she had faced in upbringing her daughter. She narrated her life story by saying “I have 4 children and Abishalini is the youngest in the family. Her siblings are two elder brothers and a sister, who are all normal healthy children. My youngest child was conceived during the peak of the war in Mannar and we underwent severe difficulties having been displaced from our home and living in camps for a length of time. When Abi was born in 2007, she appeared to be a normal child, but by the third month we detected abnormalities when she had difficulties in her movements. Doctors confirmed that she was afflicted with Down’s syndrome and is also mentally retarded” says her mother.

She further continued by saying, “We enrolled her into a nursery school and she was very happy playing with other children. But the teacher informed us about her difficulties in moving around with other children. But we did not give up on our child but showered her with tender love and care that we could ever give. After a lapse of 3 years she got admission in to a normal school. But her two year duration in school had been very lethargic and she did not show any progress in the school activities. We were made to understand that the teachers had not been able to pay any attention nor did they have any extracurricular facilities for the needy children.”

Ms. Jeevasothy sounded very depressive and helpless when she uttered these words by saying what more we could do?

When we inquired about her present situation, she jubilantly told us how happy she is now with the new unit being inaugurated by Caritas in Mannar district for the Special Needy Children in a school in Andankulam. She also expressed her unbound happiness by saying the vast difference that she could see in her daughter’s physical mentality after having being there for the last 12 months.

Ms. Jeevasothy further stated that her daughter, “Abi had grasped the alphabet thoroughly and is able to pronounce the names of many objects and also she has improved her vocabulary. She has revealed her drawing skills and she writes few words in Tamil as well. We also noticed a remarkable improvement in her memory as she could remember all names of her school friends and teachers, as she relates them to us when she comes home. She further mentioned her amazement about Abi’s great abilities in performing dancing and singing in school”.

Ms. Jeevasothy mentioned that since her husband is a wage worker and does not have a permanent job. But she emphasized that they were willing to go through any difficulty to uplift our 4 children as they are our joy.

She paid a great tribute to Caritas Mannar and Kinersmissionwerk, for their unstinted support rendered to her daughter Abi, for which they were so grateful.
GOD’S LOVE FOR ALL

DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
- Mitigation of Thalassemia
- Documentation support for Indian returnees
- Educational Support for Flood / Children
- Housing Support for Flood & Landslide / Families
- Strengthening Special Needs Children & their Families
- Livelihood support former IDP families
- Promoting use of Renewable Energy
The right to food a fundamental right

Caritas Sri Lanka –SEDEC with the support of Caritas Norway has since 2013 established a special unit to promote Sustainable Agriculture to ensure Food Security which also includes addressing causes for poverty of poor and marginalized people in the country. The 1st phase of the project ended in 2017. The 2nd phase of the project covers the period 2018–2021.

A) Program “Addressing Causes for Poverty and Ensuring Food Security for Farming Communities”

CSL is implementing this program to safeguard food security for 26,000 subsistence farmer households including urban & rural poor and marginalized communities, war widows, women, youth. The program also intends to raise awareness of 52,000 school children about sustainable agricultural practices, and 26,000 mothers of preschool children about better nutritional feeding to protect their children from malnourishment in all 12 dioceses covering the 25 administrative districts of the country by 2021.

In the year 2018, the program has mobilized 6,409 subsistence farm families and formed them into 682 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and strengthened them on leadership, financial management, group dynamics and motivated them to start their own domestic economic units switching over to organic farming in their cultivation practices. With a view to advocate and lobby for their rights these SHGs have later come together to form Community Based Organizations (173 CBOs) and District/Diocesan federations (6).

From among these farmer families, 5,828 domestic economic units in the selected villages of 25 districts have been established with the upgrading of their unproductive Home gardens and paddy lands to secure their food throughout the year.
Domestic economic units include cultivating vegetables, fruits, herbal plants, yams, spices, live fencing, fire wood trees, trees for timber, grass, inland fisheries and rearing small scale livestock production units (poultry, cattle, goat, ducks, pigs, rabbits, turkey and bee keeping). Participating family members are able to consume a nutritionally balanced diet. The experience, learning and success of the CN/NORAD funded project “Substantiation of Community Institutions for Sustainable Agriculture to ensure food Security” has been invaluable in implementing these activities.

Family farming methodology is used in this program and it includes all family-based agricultural activities, and is a means of organizing agricultural, forestry, fisheries, livestock and aquaculture production which is managed and operated by a family and predominantly reliant on family labour.

It aims to raise the profile of family and smallholder farming by focusing attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, particularly in rural areas.

Program participants learnt through theoretical and practical training which included farmer field schools methodology, exposure visits to different national and international model farms, on-farm training, opportunities for to learn organic farming techniques, various demonstrations on crop cultivation, fish culture and integrated farming. Action learning methodology in used in the program interventions.

In order to strengthen the resilience of the domestic economic units relevant trainings have been given to ensure that the participant families are able to manage their activities with confidence. The trainings include;
1. Establishment of Organic Home Gardening - Production of compost fertilizer, liquid fertilizer, pest repellents and inter cropping methods to pursue organic cultivation and desist from the use of chemical fertilizers and insecticides.

2. Training on disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation including drought resistant farming techniques and elevated farming to protect the crops from floods.

3. Appropriate financial management, advocacy and lobbying, marketing of agricultural products to enhance income generation.

4. Awareness of agricultural value chains, forward and backward market linkages to achieve optimum productivity and income.

5. Nutrition program for Mothers of pre-school Children including the importance of breast feeding.

6. Bee keeping, mushroom cultivation, production and marketing of healthy food preparations using traditional and new recipes to help farmer families to diversify their livelihood activities and increase resilience.

7. Training on Advocacy and Lobbying to enable CBOs to pursue community rights & interests.

8. Awareness workshop on Caritas Anti-Corruption Code of Conduct, Procurement guidelines, Ethical Standards for Suppliers and Declaration of Good Conduct to ensure transparency and accountability in all project activities was held on 16th January 2019 at “Janasetha”, Caritas Kurunegala. All staff involved in this project participated in this workshop.

With the objective of raising the awareness of school children of organic cultivation and nutritionally balanced diets, 9,928 school children were trained in these subjects and organic school gardens have been established in all 13 DCs. This has brought about an attitudinal change not only among the children but their parents as well. The Departments of Agriculture, Health and Education in all districts have provided their fullest support for this effort. Similarly 5,182 mothers of pre-school children have been made aware of the importance of a nutritionally balanced diet which will enable their children to reach towards optimum levels of growth and development.

The results of these trainings given to farmers, pre-school mothers and children are now visible. Farmers have established home gardens using organic techniques producing their own compost fertilizers, natural pest repellents and drought and flood resistant farming methods that have improved the health of farmer families, children have more access to nutrition rich foods and there is an increase in school attendance. The programme during the year was 2018 was able to support 26,701 persons.

**B) With work towards a decent life – Support for Poor Families in Kurunegala Diocese – funded by Caritas Slovenia**

Since 2015, Caritas Sri Lanka –SEDEC is implementing a project to support 30 poor farmers to develop their livelihoods in the Kurunegala and Chilaw districts. With a view to sustainability of the livelihood ventures comprehensive trainings have been
given in all aspects of business development to ensure that the beneficiaries select the most suitable livelihood venture based on their knowledge and experience. Livelihood ventures include dress making, mushroom cultivation, spice processing, food processing, small scale trading, vegetable cultivation and animal husbandry.

Under this project a revolving fund scheme is being operated which provides for urgent personal needs of the 30 beneficiaries.

Leaflet - combatting of Army Worm

This worm which was initially identified in Nigeria in 2016 spread to 44 countries in the African continent and had spread to India around May 2016. It has now been identified in several districts in Sri Lanka especially in the Ampara, Anuradhapura, Moneragala, Kurunegala and Vavuniya districts and is likely to spread to other areas as well.

CSL in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and the Diocesan Centres prepared and distributed a leaflet in the Tamil language giving details of the worm and its impact on crops. The leaflet contains information on the identification, impact and control measures to combat the spread of the worm with diagrams. The worm can destroy crops such as maize, paddy, vegetables, fruits and sugar cane.
Mr. Muththu Lingam Antony Ravindran, a 44 years old farmer was living at Vavuniya. His wife Mary Margret 34 years old was living at Periya Madhu. Both got married and settled down at the 2nd Cross Street, Eachchakawakkai, Mannar. He continues to narrate his own story, “we had been occupied with home garden and small business. We had small portion of land and planted some highland crops. Then we had established our income, out of our day to day toil, suffering hardships and challenges in the home garden. During the war time we were displaced to Vellankulam and finally we came back and resettled at the present place of Eachchalavakkai. Since we do not have any children, my wife is everything for me in my life. We have a Parrot named Rani. It is 15 years old. We never say it is our pet but we proudly say it is our child. When we were displaced here and there during the war, we had to carry carefully the parrot amidst the shelling and shooting”.

While he was sharing his past history, we could observe that his tears running through his cheeks. Due to the unexpected disease, he has lost his right eye sight. “After I have lost my right eye my wife is the one who bears up our burden alone and she is never resentful of me”, said Mr. Ravindran with some sadness. While the wife is caring, loving and looks after her husband, she is an ardent supporter for the establishment of home garden in the house.

He further shared proudly and happily, “I had few plants in my house earlier for our own food consumption but after the involvement of Caritas-Valvuthayam we improved our knowledge on home gardening through training programs and exposure visits that paved way for us to earn more than Rs.10,000 monthly. We both work in the garden and we are fully satisfied with our garden”.

Mr. Ravendran takes his home garden products to local market once in two days. When there is more harvest he brings the products to Mannar main market. At the same time, friends and relatives come home to buy the vegetables and fruits. As the products are organic there is a high demand for his vegetables and fruits. Their active involvement in the garden has made them free from all sadness and giving new energy and strength for their long life.

Reflecting on his achievements he says, “I do not use the chemical for the vegetable garden. I have been utilizing the natural pest repellents out of the many leaves. I have varieties of vegetables at my home garden, such as bitter gourd, beans, snake gourd, chilies, pumpkin, limes, water apple, mangoes, bread fruit, sweet limes, water melon, jack fruit, plantain, passion fruit, guava, coconut trees, varieties of green leaves and so on”.

“Though I am a rural village farmer, now I am well known not only in my village and local market but also among the traders from Dambulla market”. He is very much thankful to Caritas Mannar to including him in this project.
GOD’S LOVE FOR ALL

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- Substantiation of Community Institutions for Sustainable Agriculture to Ensure Food Security
- With work towards a decent life - Support for Poor Families
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE

The Social Justice and Sustainable Peace Unit of Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC is currently working to promote social justice and sustainable peace in post-war Sri Lanka through all the 13 Diocesan Centers. The main objective of this unit is to build bridges amongst different ethnic and religious communities to create understanding amongst each other. In addition, education support to the poor and the vulnerable children are also provided covering the 13 DCs. Currently 6 major projects are being managed and implemented by this unit.

Projects

1. Healing and Reconciliation – journey towards a sustainable Peace Unit - funded by Caritas Australia and MISEREOR - Germany

The new phase of this peace building project under the above title is being implemented island wide since 2018 through 13 Diocesan Centers of Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a peaceful Sri Lanka by promoting mutual respect between major ethnicities at the Village level, regional and at the national levels.

Under the project, 26 Village Level Vigilant Committees (VLVCs) have been created with the objective of mobilizing and forming committees, comprising of (13 predominantly Tamil speaking areas and 13 in Sinhala speaking areas) to support the early identification of obstructions for social cohesion, reconciliation and ethnic/religious harmony.

The project will also form Regional-level Peace Forums (comprising of three or more Districts) to discuss and resolve the problems identified by the Vigilant Committees and build networking relations with other CSOs involved in peace building and religious amity to find joint solutions that can be resolved at the regional-level.

2. Promoting a common vision for tolerance and harmony amongst all Religions in Sri Lanka” funded by Caritas Norway/NORAD

The new project phase started in 2018 in all provinces which are covered by 13 Caritas Diocesan Centers. This project aims to reduce inter-religious tension in the target areas, to generate tolerance and understanding towards religious diversity. The project develops lessons for other societies to prevent inter-religious conflicts.

The 65 Inter Religious Forums (IRFs) are formed island-wide through the network of diocesan centers where the members of the IRFs play a pivotal role in reducing religious tension in the
areas vulnerable to chronic ethnic and religious violence. The IRFs consist of religious leaders of all faiths, local government representatives such as DS officers, Samurdhi officers and community members of all religions.

Although the war concluded 10 years ago, religious tension is still prevailing. Sporadic incidents such as the one that took place in Digana, Kandy last year has created a sense of fear among certain religious groups. Intellectuals have identified ‘Hate Speech’ spread via social media as one of the main causes for the tension. In this context, the project was exceedingly successful in reaching the overall goal of contributing to an independent society respecting the diverse positive relationships built amongst people of all religions towards a collective, peaceful and harmonious future. Relationships amongst different ethnic and religious groups were strengthened through the activities such as common celebrations of religious festivals and second language training classes conducted under this project.

As a result, a better understanding and respect for all religions/ethnicities and their core values were enhanced in the target communities and villages. Many religious and social issues were solved within the community due to the attitudinal changes of beneficiaries.

3. **Helping People Move towards Reconciliation** – funded by CAFOD

This project is implemented in the Dioceses of Ratnapura and Batticaloa considering the diversity of the ethnicities. Ratnapura population is mainly Sinhalese and the Tamils are predominantly from the plantation sector. The population of Batticaloa comprises mainly of Tamils and Muslims. This project is implemented in Ratnapura through 10 Inter Religious groups in 6 DS divisions and in Batticaloa through 5 Inter Religious Forums (IRFs) in 3 DS divisions.
Main objective of the project is to improve commitment and capacities of the communities, civil society leaders and national decision-makers for promoting unity and reconciliation in a plural, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious Sri Lanka.

The project addresses the knowledge and capacity lapse of the target communities and strengthens the existing community structures to bridge the gap while contributing to peace-building and reconciliation.

Exposure visits conducted by this project has contributed tremendously in bridging the cultural gaps among Sinhala, Muslim and Tamil communities. Issues and concerns connected to reconciliation were brought to the attention of district and national level authorities as well as to the Civil Society Organizations.

4. **Supporting Primary Education of Poor and Vulnerable Children’ – funded by Caritas Korea.**

Children of the most vulnerable and poor communities in the dioceses of Anuradhapura, Badulla, Chilaw and Vanni are the beneficiaries of this project. Educational and financial support is given to 240 vulnerable children including orphans, semi-orphans and the children affected by the 30 year war. They are provided with special education training facilities to support their primary education and will help them to access schools with better facilities to continue their education.

The Teachers were trained in adopting new techniques to handle the primary children. The project has helped to improve attendance in schools and helped children who had sat for the government scholarship examination to get pass marks to enter into quality schools with better facilities and qualified teachers.
5. ‘Poland/Caritas Sri Lanka Scholarship Programme’ – funded by Caritas Poland.
For 10 years, Caritas Poland has journeyed with Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC showing their solidarity, reaching out to more than 5,500 students throughout Sri Lanka.

Initially the project supported the Tsunami victims and later the scholarships were extended to underprivileged children in all the dioceses. In 2018, a total of 482 students, 37 from each diocese were the beneficiaries of this scholarship grant.

6. Civil Peace Service Program - Caritas SEDEC and AGEH
The Association for Development Cooperation (AGEH) is an organization for advice, recruitment and personnel development, which supplies professionally qualified and experienced experts to work on church-based development cooperation projects.

Currently, some 300 experts are working in Asia, Africa, Latin America, South and East Europe. Main partners and promoters from AGEH are Misereor, Caritas Internationalis, religious orders, dioceses and many other church and non-church organizations.

Initial contacts with Sri Lankan partners started in 2015. In the meantime, 3 organizations have been identified as Sri Lankan partners namely Caritas SEDEC - Sri Lanka, National Peace Council and Centre for Communication & Training.

Three Civil Peace Workers, who were selected, prepared and trained at AGEH, arrived in Sri Lanka in November 2018, and started to work as consultants on peace and reconciliation issues at the above mentioned organizations.
Ms. Bozana Ivelic Katava, a Civil Peace Worker, joined Caritas SEDEC on 22nd November 2018. She is entrusted to work closely with the Social Justice and Sustainable Peace Unit of Caritas Sri Lanka. She works in the projects related to peace building and reconciliation, social cohesion, social harmony, justice and religious amity. Initially, six Diocesan Centres have been selected; namely, Badulla, Ratnapura, Trincomalee, Anuradhapura, Jaffna and Colombo.

A Planning Workshop was held in Caritas National Centre premises at the beginning of April 2019, in which the project vision was defined as “Safe, peaceful, and supportive environment which prevails enabling members of all ethnic and religious communities, especially the youth to live in an inclusive society, in harmony with dignity and tolerance to promote co-existence and acceptance of each other’s diversity”.

Direct partners on this project will be respected religious leaders from all communities, youth, women, Sunday Schools Teachers, government teachers and teenagers.
I Ms. Karunakaran Umashankari of 08th Cross, Koolavady, Batticaloa was invited by my Aunt to take part in a meeting dealing with Peace and Reconciliation. I joined her with reluctance in taking part in the first Meeting. Still for all I find a lot of changes have taken place within me. Having become a member with one of the Inter-Religious Group’s I had the opportunity to work with them hand in hand in activities related to Reconciliation.

Street Dramas were conducted by members belonging to ‘Inter-Religious’ Groups based on “Reconciliation’. Even, I had the opportunity to be cast in a role in the said ‘Street Drama’ and have gained a lot of experience by taking part in these dramas conducted in many remote villages in the District of Batticaloa which has brought awareness among people on ‘Peace and Reconciliation’.

The outcome from the staged ‘Street Dramas’ depicted on the extent of ‘Unity that prevailed between the Tamils and Muslims 25 years back and made the people to feel that it was time to forget the past ill feelings and open a fresh chapter in reconciling with each other so that they could live with Peace and Harmony as members of one family.

All the Artists including me who were involved with this ‘Street Drama’ programme regretted the loss of the unity among the two communities that prevailed before the three decades of civil war that affected the North-East of Sri Lanka. I realize the value of participating in such Street Dramas and wish to work as a member of the ‘Inter-Religious Group’ in order to bring harmony among the two communities as it prevailed before the outbreak of civil war.
GOD’S LOVE FOR ALL

Special Programmes

Asia DRR Workshop - Colombo, Sri Lanka
Caritas Asia organized the first Asia Disaster Risk Reduction workshop on 17 – 19 April 2018 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The event was hosted by Caritas Sri Lanka and was attended by 23 participants from 13 Asian MOs including Sri Lanka. The participants were Directors, DRR and humanitarian key person of each MOs with extensive experience in disaster risk reduction and humanitarian work.

Awareness Programme against the Legalization of Abortion in Sri Lanka
An awareness programme was organized on the 23rd of April 2018, against the government’s attempts to bring amendments to the present bill on abortion. The programme was organized under the leadership of His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith. Several Bishops, Heads of Congregations, priests and nuns, medical practitioners and activists participated in this programme and discussed possible ways to oppose and present alternatives to the proposed legalization. The stance of the Catholic Church is that the church vehemently condemns abortion under any reason or circumstance.

As per the statistics, there are 355,000 births in a year and 365,000 abortions take place exceeding the number of births. Complications and psychological effects of abortion are another concern which needs more attention and consideration.

Caritas Asia Regional workshop on Sustainable Agriculture Exposure & Learning Visit – Indonesia
Caritas Asia gave the opportunity to Caritas Sri Lanka to attend a workshop in Indonesia on Sustainable Agriculture Exposure & Learning Visit. 4 persons from the Caritas Sri Lanka network including Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake, Diocesan Director, Caritas Colombo; Rev. Fr. Bennette Mellawa, Diocesan Director, Caritas Anuradhapura, Rev. Fr. G. Alex Robert, Diocesan Director, Caritas EHED, Batticaloa and Nilani Tissera, Consultant, Food Security, Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC participated in this exposure visit. The exposure visit was conducted on 9 – 11 May 2018 assisted by Diocesan Caritas Ruteng in Flores, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.
Participants gained knowledge on several aspects of production of organic products and also visited the village farm co-operatives that have developed in recent years. It was a very significant experience despite its simplicity. Although the economic and social conditions of our respective countries are noticeably different, many features of these projects are applicable in many of our rural sites. In Indonesia, for example, setting up these small agricultural co-operatives, essentially made up of women, was a valid solution to the subsistence problem of families where men leave villages in search of work. For us, this would mean on the one hand creating jobs and livelihoods for people and small communities who live in similar situations of economic crisis, by providing them with knowledge and technologies that can be part of the changes taking place in our country, such as the rediscovery of organic agriculture.

All Island Debate Competition

An all island debate competition was organized on 9th July 2018 at the Aquinas College of Higher Studies, as one of the key activities in view of Caritas Sri Lanka’s golden jubilee celebration in November 2018 under the theme, “God’s Love for All.” Caritas Sri Lanka, together with the 13 Diocesan Centers took the initiatives to hold this debate competition in Sinhala and Tamil mediums to create awareness on the themes of peace, reconciliation, good governance and social justice amongst the school going children.

The 104 students from 13 Diocesan Centres took part in the competition with much enthusiasm and heated arguments were exchanged on the given topics. After an intensive competitive semi-final round, St. Benedict’s College Kotahena and Jaffna Hindu College from the Tamil Medium adjudged as the Finalists. Meanwhile, Rajarata Maha Vidyala- Hingurakgoda and Sri Sumangala National School –Wariyapola from the Sinhala Medium were adjudged as the finalists.

At the finals, Jaffna Hindu College from the Tamil Medium and Rajarata Maha Vidyala from Hingurakgoda from the Sinhala Medium were crowned as Champions respectively.

Mega Beach Clean-up Campaign

Mega beach clean-up campaign was carried out by Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC in collaboration with ‘Seth Sarana’, Sunday Schools and Parish Youth Societies under the theme of ‘God’s Love for All’ on 30th September, 2018, starting from Palliyawatta in Wattala to Poruthota in Negombo, covering a stretch of 34 km. It was successfully completed with the participation of over 5000 environmental-lovers from all walks of life.

It was the first time in Sri Lanka that such a long beach stretch was cleaned-up within 5 hours. Representatives from Presidential Secretariat, Marine Environment Protection Authority, Central Environment Authority, Department of Coast Conservation, Divisional Secretariats of Wattala,
Ja-Ela and Negombo, Negombo Municipal Council, Wattala-Mabola Urban Council, Ja-Ela Town Council, students of Maris Stella College, Negombo, Sunday School students and teachers, Youth Societies including YMCA and representatives of the Anglican Church, the parishioners and many environmental-friendly organizations participated at the campaign.

World Food Day Commemoration 2018

Caritas Sri Lanka Network commemorated “World Food Day” on 16th October, at the Auditorium, Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC under the Global Theme, “Our actions are our future. A # Zero Hunger world by 2030 is possible”.

National Director and all Diocesan Directors, 82 Food Security staff members, Farmer representatives, Government officers, Mr. Aron Halfen, Program Advisor, Caritas Norway, His Excellency Thorbjørn Gaustadsæther, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to Sri Lanka & the Maldives, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Hon. Mahinda Amaraweera, Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Anganjan Ramanathan, Deputy Minister of Agriculture participated in the ceremony.

Welcoming the invitees, the National Director Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC, Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunatilleke stated that the Church through its Social Arm Caritas has taken on the responsibility towards contributing to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s), especially the second SDG which is “Overcoming Hunger”, by engaging directly with the poor farmer communities in the country through the program of “Addressing causes for poverty and ensuring food security for farming communities” supported by caritas Norway/NORAD.

World Food Day Celebration was held in Chilaw Diocese on 17th October. Chief Guest was the Rt. Rev. Dr. Valence Mendis, The Bishop of Chilaw. National Director, Directors of Kurunegala & Kandy, Mr. Aron Halfen, Program Advisor, Caritas Norway, Officials of the Department of Agriculture and over two hundred farmers participated in this event. Organic Farming techniques, establishment of organic Home garden, and preparation of pest repellents were demonstrated in the exhibition held in the Chilaw Diocesan Centre.

Right to Food Advocacy Group Meeting held in Philippines

Nilani Tissera, National Program Coordinator for Food Security program participated in the Asia Right to Food Advocacy Group (working Group) meeting held on 30-31st October 2018 in Manila, Philippines.
Reflection on the Current Political Situation
Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC through SJ & SP unit organized an awareness programme to discuss and analyze the political crisis that developed in Sri Lanka in late October 2018, on the 15th November, 2018. Priests, religious, civil society leaders and staff of Caritas National Centre participated in this programme.

The objective of the programme was to create a deeper understanding amongst the participants of the current political crisis from a constitutional and moral perspective. The guest speakers of the programme were Prof. Camena Gunaratne, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Open University of Sri Lanka and Mr. J.C. Weliamuna, President’s Counsel, erudite, renowned human rights lawyer and the former Executive Director of the Sri Lankan branch of the anti-corruption organization, Transparency International.

Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunatilleke welcomed the eminent guests and thanked all who were present for having graced the occasion. To explain the purpose of the forum Fr. Mahendra quoted an extract from chapter IV of Vatican II – ‘Gurdium et Spes’ (Church in the Modern World), ‘Men are repudiating political systems, still prevailing in some parts of the world, which hinder civil and rebellious liberty or victimize their citizens through avarice and political crimes, or distort the use of authority from being at the service of the common good by benefitting the convenience of political parties or of the governing classes.’

First Regional Gathering of IRF Members
SJ & SP unit of Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC together with the association of Caritas Ratnapura – Sethmini organized a regional gathering for 65 Inter Religious Forum members from the Dioceses of Badulla, Galle, Kandy and Ratnapura on the 24th & 25th January 2019, in Ratnapura. The well-known prominent dignitaries delivered speeches at this programme. The programme was concluded with colorful cultural events by the participants from all the dioceses.

Caritas Internationalis Management Standards (CIMS) Workshop
Mr. Kushal Neogy, Sub-Regional Director – Partnership (South Asia) of Catholic Relief Services facilitated a workshop on CIMS on the 7th & 8th February 2019. He shared the documents pertaining to procedures and standards of the CIMS and enlightened the audience as to how the standards are adhered to and applied in the local operational contexts. The workshop was funded by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). National Director and all Diocesan Directors along with Senior Staff Members participated at this workshop.
Special Project:
Environment Conservation & Protection

The proliferation of waste and the problems of managing this waste in an environmentally sustainable manner has become a major issue in the country.

With the support of Caritas Italyanna, Caritas Sri Lanka is implementing a 12 month pilot project to promote a cleaner and healthy environment to be attained through Education and Promotion of Waste Management in the Diocese of Colombo. Caritas Sethsarana is the implementing partner of this project.

In such a context this project is very relevant to safeguard the environment and improve the quality of life of the people. Under this project 500 school children from 10 schools in the Diocese of Colombo are being given knowledge and training on waste management including converting degradable waste in to compost fertilizer and segregation of solid waste to be disposed through the solid waste collection system of the Colombo Municipality to protect the school environment.

20 SHGs have been formed in selected location and they will form 20 Community Environmental Committees which will establish Compost Production Units using the degradable waste that is to be collected for this purpose. These committees will also be given awareness and knowledge on relevant subjects related to waste management and disposal; a Paper Recycling Centre is to be established in a building donated by Caritas Colombo at Mattakuliya, Colombo 10 for this purpose. Caritas Colombo has identified 10 establishments that are willing to purchase bundled papers. The income generated from the sale of waste paper will be used for the future maintenance of the Recycling Centre and the sustenance of the project.

The Central Environment Authority, the Solid Waste Management Authority, the Environmental Police Unit and the Ministry of health will share their knowledge and experience with participants of this project.

In the opening, Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunathileke, the Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, welcome all participants and briefly described the current hazards and disasters situation in Sri Lanka. He emphasized on the needs to strengthen cooperation and collaboration in the region to find a better solution for reducing risk in the community traditionally, professionally and scientifically. The agenda of the workshop was designed in such a way to capture and integrate the expectations from MOs on Disaster Risk Reduction and to empower learning process. The discussions focused particularly on basic concepts, DRR mainstreaming and Contingency planning.
Prof. Koji Takakura, an Environmental Engineer from Japan, widely known as the inventor of the well-known Takakura composting methodology made a courtesy call to SEDEC on 18th May 2018. Prof. Takakura delivered a lecture on his composting method which was followed by a practical session to demonstrate the methodology of this process. A large gathering of invitees including 4 Diocesan Directors from Chilaw, Colombo, Ratnapura and Jaffna National Centre staff participated in the half day session.

Rev. Fr. Francesco C. Takashi Seto - Executive Director, Caritas Japan & Ms. Yoko Yokoyama during their visit to Sri Lanka in the 2nd week of May 2018, discussed the possibilities of supporting the documentation needs of families of Sri Lankan origin who have been staying in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu for over 2 decades and wish to return. Caritas Japan has offered to support a project to help these families to return to Sri Lanka and reintegrate in to the mainstream of society.

Mr. Said Bazeghi, International Programme In charge, Caritas Trento, visited Sri Lanka on 4th June 2018. He was accompanied by Mr. Beppe Pedron, South Asia Regional Coordinator for Caritas Italiana. Caritas Trento is a Diocesan Caritas Organization in Italy, which is partly funding an environmental project in Sri Lanka with the objective of creating a healthy living atmosphere and environment sensitive communities. The project is being implemented in the Diocese of Colombo. Caritas Italiana is the other network partner working in collaboration with Caritas Trento.

A 4 member delegation led by Rt. Rev. Dr. Raymond, Chairman of Caritas Myanmar visited Sri Lanka from 2nd to 7th July 2018. During their visit they met with Rt. Rev. Vianney Fernando, Chairman of the Catholic National Commission for Justice, Peace & Human Rights and learn about the Church experiences during the civil war and also about the CSL experience in responding to the conflict. They visited the Kandy and Trincomalee Dioceses to learn about these experiences. During their stay in Trincomalee, the delegation was able to exchange views with the Bishop of Trincomalee, Rt. Rev. Noel Emanuel and Rt. Rev. Dr. Kingsley Swamipillai, Bishop Emeritus of Trincomalee.
Rev. Stig Utnem, a member of the Lutheran Church, Norway, visited Sri Lanka in the 3rd week of August 2018. His visit was mainly to look upon the Caritas Norway – Caritas Sri Lanka partnership as a means to promote partnerships with the Lutheran, Anglican and Methodist Churches and expand inter-religious dialogue between the two countries.

Ms. Kesuma Sadak and Ms. Kerstin Klein of Misereor, Germany were in Sri Lanka from 26th of September to 9th October 2018 to monitor projects funded by Misereor. During their stay they participated in the Beach cleanup campaign on 30th September and later during the week visited project locations in Jaffna to observe activities of the Advocacy towards Healing, Reconciliation & Good Governance project. Following this visit they had a debriefing meeting with the National Director and relevant staff members.

Mr. Aron Halfen, Program Advisor, Caritas Norway, visited Caritas Sri Lanka from 15th to 22nd October to review the project progress and visited Chilaw, Kurunegala, Kandy and Trincomalee Dioceses. He had a special meeting with His Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. Vianney Fernando, Bishop of Kandy, who is also the current Chairman of the Catholic National Commission for Justice, Peace & Human Development under which Caritas operates as its National Secretariat. And he met Diocesan Directors, DC Food Security staff and Direct Project participants of the food security program.

Rev. Fr. Paul Choo, Director, Caritas Korea, visited Sri Lanka in the 1st week of December 2018. During his stay he visited the projects funded by Caritas Korea in Mannar, Vanni and Anuradhapura Dioceses in the fields of Education and Integral Human Development, Civic Dialogue and Cross Community Activities. He observed the progress of these projects and had an opportunity to interact with some of the beneficiaries of these projects. At the conclusion of his field visit he had a debriefing session with Fr. Mahendra Gunatilleke, National Director and staff members and had a detailed review of the projects being implemented at present. Caritas Korea has also agreed to support 3 new projects in the fields of Education, Civic Dialogue and Livelihood & Temporary Housing for the period 2018/2019.
His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Ludwig Schick responsible in the German Bishop’s Conference for International Affairs on issues of the Universal Church visited Sri Lanka along with Mr. Martin Vehrenberg, Vice Managing Director (AGEH) and Dr. Jorg Luer, General Secretary, German Commission for Justice and Peace, from 3rd to 6th January 2019. During his visit he met with His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith and visited the Kandy and Mannar Dioceses and also had discussion with the Respective Bishops of these Dioceses and the local Caritas Directors. The purpose of the visit of Archbishop Schick and his team was to be in solidarity with the local Church and learn more about the situation in Sri Lanka.

Dr. Ulrich Fuser, Head of the Asia Department, Ms. Kesuma Saddak, Programme Officer of Misereor, Germany visited Sri Lanka from 25th of January to 3rd of February 2019 to meet the plantation programme participants and stakeholders. They were accompanied by two special officers, Judge Dr. Anne Lipsky and Senior Public Prosecutor Dr. Peter Schneiderhan. The objective of the visit is to visit selected project areas funded by Misereor and meeting with the target communities and other important stakeholders to get a feedback on the present reality in Sri Lanka in relation to peace, reconciliation, governance and human rights. In Kandy diocese, they met with estate people and had an opportunity to study about day to day life of the estate community. People explained about their existing and emerging problems and how they respond to such issues through the programme activities. The plantation programme participants clearly explained about their strategy on building relationships with estate managements and government officers for the betterment of the estate people.

Dr. Claus Hemkar, Consultant Architect, Caritas Germany visited Sri Lanka in March/April 2019. On 4th April 2019, he visited the Aranayake Divisional Secretariat division in the Ratnapura DC, to monitor the progress of the housing project that was implemented in this location and checked on the quality of construction of the houses built. At the conclusion of his visit he had discussions with the Director of Caritas Ratnapura as well as the National Director and relevant staff members about the progress of the project as well as prospects for future partnership with Caritas Germany.

Visits of other foreign representatives

Representatives of the Karibu Foundation, based in Oslo, Norway visited Sri Lanka and made a courtesy call to SEDEC on 26th March 2019 with the objective of learning the activities that SEDEC implements under the Peace and Religious Amity Projects. In this context, the Karibu Foundation hopes to cooperate with local organizations like SEDEC and intends to establish in Sri Lanka. At the meeting, Karibu was represented by Mr. Eilert L. Rostrup, Director, Karibu Foundation and 3 other officials.
## Financial Review

### PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1ST APRIL 2018 to 31ST MARCH 2019 (Partner Wise)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount (Rs)</th>
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<th>Sector</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caritas Australia</td>
<td>Sustainable Livelihood Development Support for War Affected Families</td>
<td>7,939,261</td>
<td>7,939,261</td>
<td>Livelihood Support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Promoting Healing &amp; Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace</td>
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<td>Caritas Germany</td>
<td>Construction of Houses for Families affected by Floods &amp; Landslides</td>
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<td>2,753,903</td>
<td>Resettlement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Diocese of Rathnapura, Sri Lanka. p 322.001/2016 KH 2823</td>
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<td>Caritas Italiania</td>
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<td>Caritas Japan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Returning from India</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caritas Korea</td>
<td>Integral Human Development - Civic Dialogue &amp; Cross Community Activities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Supporting Primary Education of Poor and Vulnerable Children</td>
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<td>Communities</td>
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<td>Woman International</td>
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<td>Colombo &amp; Galle in Sri Lanka - A17 0312 001</td>
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<td>Strengthening of special needs children and their families in Mannar</td>
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<td>&amp; Vanni in Sri Lanka. - D 17 0312 001</td>
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### Financial Review

**PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1ST APRIL 2018 to 31ST MARCH 2019 (Partner Wise) - Cont...**

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<th>Agency</th>
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<td>Mitigation of Thalassemia in the Dioceses of Kurunegala, Batticaloa and Chilaw through Awareness and Empowerment</td>
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<td>Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters by Strengthening of Workers Rights 322-900-1109</td>
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# Financial Review

## PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1ST APRIL 2018 to 31ST MARCH 2019 (Project wise)

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<th>%</th>
<th>Sector</th>
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<tr>
<td>Addressing Causes for Poverty and Ensuring Food Security for Farming Communities</td>
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<td>82,836,420</td>
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<td>Caritas Sri Lanka /Poland Scholarship Programme - 18/2017 CPZ</td>
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<td>23,251,962</td>
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<td>Construction of Houses for Families affected by Floods &amp; Landslides-Diocese of Ratnapura, Sri Lanka. P 322.001/2016 KH 2823</td>
<td>Caritas Germany</td>
<td>2,753,903</td>
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<td>Documentation and Livelihood Support for Families of Sri Lanka Origin Returning from India</td>
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<td>Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters by Strengthening of Workers Rights 322-900-1109</td>
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<td>Mitigation of Thalassemia in the Dioceses of Kurunegala, Batticaloa and Chilaw through Awareness and Empowerment</td>
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<td>4,934,394</td>
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<td>1.75%</td>
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### Financial Review

**PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1ST APRIL 2018 to 31ST MARCH 2019 (Project wise) - Cont...**

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<th>Amount (Rs)</th>
<th>Total (Rs)</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Sector</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner Agency Support for Migration Programmes.</td>
<td>Global Alliance Against Traffic in Woman International Secretariat-GAATW</td>
<td>980,720</td>
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<td>0.35%</td>
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<td>Promoting a Common Vision for Tolerance and Harmony among all Religions in Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>Sustainable Livelihood Development Support for War Affected Families</td>
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<td>3.59%</td>
<td>Safe Labour Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Labour Migration Project-Jaffna</td>
<td>Misereor</td>
<td>1,784,500</td>
<td>1,784,500</td>
<td>0.63%</td>
<td>Safe Labour Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar Power Project</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,664,300</td>
<td>1,664,300</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening of special needs children and their families in Mannar &amp; Vanni in Sri Lanka - D 17 0312 001</td>
<td>Kindermission</td>
<td>5,201,746</td>
<td>5,201,746</td>
<td>1.85%</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for the Landslide &amp; Floods affected children in Rathnapura, Colombo &amp; Galle in Sri Lanka - A17 0312 001</td>
<td>Kindermission</td>
<td>3,690,288</td>
<td>3,690,288</td>
<td>1.31%</td>
<td>Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Primary Education of Poor and Vulnerable Children</td>
<td>Caritas Korea</td>
<td>9,605,274</td>
<td>9,605,274</td>
<td>3.42%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work towards a decent life support for poor families in Sri Lanka.</td>
<td>Caritas Slovenia</td>
<td>837,564</td>
<td>837,564</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

281,221,426  281,221,426  100%
Our Network in Sri Lanka
(Current as of 1st of July 2019)

ANURADHAPURA
Rev. Fr. Bennette Mellawa, Director - Caritas Anuradhapura (Seth Saviya)
A 09 Road, Maradankadawala.
Tel. : 025-2265295, Fax no. : 025-2265295
E-mail : caritasanuradhapura@gmail.com

BADULLA
Rev. Fr. Raveen Perera, Director- Caritas Badulla (USCOD)
Bishop Leo Technical Institute, Peelipothagama Road, Badulla.
Tel. : 055 – 2222635, Fax no. : 055 - 223574
E-mail : caritasbadulla@yahoo.com

BATTICALOA
Rev. Fr. G. Alex Robert, Director – Caritas Batticaloa(EHED)
Jeyanthipuram, Kumarathan Kovil Road, Iruthayapuram, Batticaloa.
Tel. : 065 – 2222125, Direct : 065 - 2225458, Fax no. : 065 – 2227017
E-mail : ehed@caritasbatti.org

CHILAW
Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson, Director – Caritas Chilaw (Sedec)
Kurunegala Road, Old Town, Madampe.
Tel. : 032 - 2247638, Fax no. : 032 - 2247638
E-mail : caritaschilaw@yahoo.com

COLOMBO
Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake, Director – Caritas Colombo (Sethsarana)
No.20, Jubilee Hall, Archbishop’s House, Colombo 08.
Tel: 011-2688999, 070-3200466, Fax No. 011 : 2445316
E-mail : ccaritas@sltnet.lk, sethsaproject@sltnet.lk, sethsafinance@sltnet.lk

GALLE
Rev. Fr. Herman Fernando, Director - Caritas SED Galle
No: 2/1, Templers Road, Mount Calvary, Kaluwella, Galle.
Tel. : 091 -2244138, Fax no : 091-2233710
E-mail : directorcaritassed@gmail.com

JAFFNA
Rev. Fr. S. Eugene Francis, Director – Caritas Jaffna (HUDEC)
No.14, Deogue Street, Mathew’s Road, Jaffna.
Tel : 021 - 2222571, Fax no. : 021 - 2222571
E-mail : hudec@sltnet.lk, caritasjaffna@gmail.com
Our Network in Sri Lanka  
(Current as of 1st of July 2019)

KANDY  
Rev. Fr. Desmond Perera, Director – Caritas Kandy (SETIK)  
255/50, R. C.D.L. Fernando Mawatha, Katugastota Road, Kandy.  
Direct : 081 - 2222775, Fax no : 081 - 2222775  
E-mail : setik@sltnet.lk

KURUNEGALA  
Rev. Fr. Jamika Perera, Caritas Kurunegala (Janasetha)  
St. Anthony’s Church, Pallandiya, Maspotha, Kurunegala.  
Tel. : 037 - 2237147, Fax no. : 037-2237147  
E-mail : jkurunegala@gmail.com

MANNAR  
Rev. Fr. S. Anton, Director – Caritas Mannar (Valvuthayam)  
Main Street, Mannar.  
Tel. : 023 - 2232140, Fax no. : 023 - 2232893  
E-mail : info.valvum@gmail.com

RATNAPURA  
Rev. Fr. Sanjeeewa Peiris, Director – Caritas Ratnapura (Seth Mini)  
Hospital Road, Eheliyagoda.  
Tel. : 036 - 2258410, Fax no. : 036- 2258495  
E-mail : sethminir@yahoo.com

TRINCOMALEE  
Rev. Fr. Dunstan Fredrick Joseph, Director - Caritas Trincomalee (EHED)  
295, Dockyard Road, Trincomalee.  
Tel. : 026 – 2222204, Fax No. : 026 – 2222474  
E-mail : ehedcaritas@yahoo.com

VANNI  
Rev. Fr. Joseph Francis, Director – Caritas Vanni (HUDEC)  
HUDEC Office, Kilinochchi.  
Tel. : 021-2285805, Fax No. : 021-2285805  
E-Mail : caritasvanni09@gmail.com
Appreciations

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

• Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe e.V. – AGEH
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• Caritas Australia
• Caritas Belgium
• Caritas Germany
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• Caritas Slovenia
• Caritas Spain
• Caritas Swiss
• Catholic Relief Services (CRS) – USCCB
• CHARIS - Singapore
• Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women - GAATW
• Kindermission - Germany
• Misereor - Germany
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