

Annual Report

2017-2018



Our Vision

A leading community governed voice in Sri Lanka with inclusive communities and assured rights towards dignified life.

Our Mission

Empowering Children, Youth, Women, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Elderly persons through education, training, advocacy, disaster response, lobbying, accessibility and livelihood supports to enable their Voice to protect their rights through involving in decision making forums and processes

Healthy and Secure Infant and Young Children

- Health, Nutrition and ECCD -



1. Healthy and Secured children- Health, Nutrition and Early Childhood Development

Outcome 1: Parents and other caregivers of IYCs' apply appropriate nutrition, health and stimulation practices

➤ Conducting of training for lead parents on nutritional rehabilitation

In this program, lead parents implemented the key community networking system by the nutritional rehabilitation program at community level. Firstly the capacity of lead parents enhanced regarding the screening of mal-nourished children and nutritious menu preparation with low budget allocation for they used locally available food. Correspondingly, they were trained for monitoring and reporting of the progress of the entire rehabilitation program of the targeted children who are identified as malnourished.



• Situational Analysis of malnourished children

When it's comes to identified based on the baseline data were done first achievement. The identified children and lead mothers have grouped as the rehabilitation program for the respective group. In this process, we got basic information including number of family members, family income sources, family



food pattern, area specific protein sources and seasonal crop calendar lead parents ,PHM and technical advisers worked with together for aware about nutritional value and food items.

➤ **Implementation community based rehabilitation programs**



In this program lead parents have conducted weekly feeding sessions and it could be improved the knowledge, practice of parents and caregivers of malnourished children.in this program used locally available food and supplementary for health and hygienic feeding practices. Lead parents supported for the practicing menu

preparation within their own groups as practical sessions with the technical support of lead parents. The number of 08 programs was conducted in this area.

➤ **Follow-up visit with caregivers of selected group**



Lead parents have conducted progress review meeting and they were shared and updated their experiences. Some behaviors and practices were changed and improved nutrition level of children.

➤ **Prepare individual/group livelihood development plans**

In this activity were, 20 newly enrolled families (the needy householders in the community as single parent/both are unemployed or disable parents) were participated 'Household Vulnerability Framework' program. They developed their livelihood plans and

malnourished children had the first priority for this intervention. . Group development plans were established as a network of producers.

➤ **Facilitate to make available resources to execute the plan**

This program was divided 2 ways as individually and group. Community leaders were trained about financial management and marketing strategies for own products, Community leaders and lead parents did closely follow up the progress of the intervention are individual In Group category was 15 mothers



practiced business plan to initiated 'Hela-Bojun Hala'. They will carry out the business along with some other attractive concepts- one shop model, spicy garden and child friendly eco- environment: where people can buy many other home-made items at one place and have a child friendly environment while eating/feeding the children. VOICE will facilitate the district level Women Self-Employment Forum and will facilitate the group with other basic needs, in order to success the activity and establish their own stable entity.

➤ **Capacity building program for lead parents to deliver community based nutrition intervention**

35 lead parents from each GND were actively involved in community health, nutrition promotion and livelihood development projects. After that, this lead parent groups were linked with the community mothers' program



Child protection, nutrition counseling, gender balance, SRH including family planning, first aid and communication skills were impotence aspects in this program and Rajarata University was conducted a university diploma course for selected lead parents.

➤ **Organize health and nutrition symposium and experience sharing programs**

This year we did 2 symposium program for lead mothers and other participant. They were participated actively.

➤ **Conduct 'father- engagement' programs on positive parenting**

When it comes to Father-engagement programs is gave a better knowledge to fathers as how positively engage with the family responsibilities, how to protect and raise their voices for all the children and how to manage their time to enhance the positive energy within the family.

➤ **Promotion of BCC (Behavioral Change Communication) health education program on child feeding and child caring**



Rajarata University Health promotion unit were collaborated with Selwapurama, Weerapura, Thewanuwara and Saliyawewa areas and they aimed negative behavior and myths on child feeding, encouraged to setup positive attitudes , practices among the target group was identified that poor

knowledge, attitudes and practice on child feeding, caring are the most effective causes for underweight among IYCs in the VOICE working areas.

➤ **Conduct health education sessions on hygiene practice and management of illness.**

Also, it is a much known factor that frequent illnesses badly affect the age appropriate development and nutrition status of children. Poor knowledge of parents on hygienic practice, prevention, immediate response for illnesses and service availability of health are the few reasons behind this issue. Therefore, by addressing this gap, awareness programs on hygiene practice and management of illness will be conducted in collaboration with MOHs of respective areas. A special monitoring tool will be introduced to families to monitor the frequency of illnesses of their children.

➤ **Expand community driven water schemes**

This water project was developed water delivery system then they are selling the price per liter is only Rs.1.00. This facilities got by 350 families including 81 enrolled families and this safe water system is very importance for VOICE working area.



➤ **Awareness programs on water borne diseases and CKD**

In this year Ls 1 project did for CKD, total 04 prevention programs on water hygiene, water borne diseases related to the public health aspects .the CDK Prevention Unit of Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital, MOH unit and PHIs of Karuwalagaswewa were participated for the awareness program.

➤ **Conduct awareness programs on safe, caring and protective home environment**

Awareness programs conducted for parents and elders of the community and it decreased community level knowledge gap and how we maintained first aid tool kit. The Red Cross

Sri Lanka and Emergency Unit of National Hospital supported for technically part in this program.

➤ **Conduct centre -based child protection activities: 'Child Protection Day'**

This activity has given advance knowledge about child protection under child protection mechanism for preschool teachers to including hazard free school environment. Then after teachers mapped out the most vulnerable families and Community leaders, parents/care givers, lead parents will be aware on the particular issues in preschool teachers. A 'Child Protection Day' was organized by teachers and parents along with children to sensitize the rest of the community.

➤ **Conduct home based education for parents and care givers**

By continuing the activity, parental education programs (n=15) will be conducted on home based education for children with technical support of the ECCD Authority. In these sessions, parents will be educated how to stimulate the child while feeding, travelling, decision making and spending free time with their parents/friends. Also, they will be instructed to monitor the child using the age appropriate development tool. The attractive and simple monitoring tools will be developed by adopting the UN monitoring tools.

Moreover, parents who have children at age of 3, will educated on the age appropriate development tool and follow up sessions will be conducted for the discuss the progress. This program will be linked with the lead parenting program and follow up sessions will carry out through lead parents.

➤ **Capacity building programs for teachers on development of learning and teaching materials**



This activity addressed the knowledge and skill gaps, training programs on attractive teaching techniques and drawing techniques conducted for preschool teachers. Around 70 pre -school teachers were participated by this activity. Finally in this activity children were created their arts for an exhibition.

➤ **Conduct training on sensitization of the disabilities among pre-school children**

In this activity we selected 06 preschool as the CBR focal point of community and coordination of CBR clinic. They did the active community leaders for CBR and special learning activities along with the 'Key Informants' and 'Self Help Group' members of EU-TOGETHER project. Well-established centers integrated with the Social Service Department and Special Education Unit of ECCD Authority to continue and follow-up the interventions.

➤ **Implementation of age appropriate ECCD assessment tool for ECCD children**

This program was immensely helped teachers to identify the children with different capabilities and address their development gap individually. ECCD officers and Local government were technically involved in this activity. By conceded the importance and progress of the activity, it conducted in Mundalama and Anamaduwa DS and also in Karuwalagaswewa by covering newly enrolled children

Educated and Confident Children

- Child Centered Education -



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2. Educated and confident children- Child Centered Education

Outcome 1: Child centered teaching methods are adopted by the teachers

Output 1.1: Increased capacity and commitment of teachers on child centred methodology-ATLAS

➤ **ATLAS PROGRAM- Establishing a provincial resource team for disseminating ATLAS Methodology**

Provincial resource team was established consists of In-Service-Advisors (ISA- primary education) in view of cascading the ATLAS Methodology to primary school teachers in 35 schools. This team is consisted of 10 ISAs who were capacitated with three main trainings conducted by International Literacy Association (ILA).



These ISAs mastered the child-centered teaching and learning methodologies through those trainings and thereby contributed immensely to train school teachers at Divisional level. Trained ISAs conducted training for primary school teachers in professional collaboration with Provincial Ministry of Education and Zonal Department of Education, Puttalam.

➤ **Third Atlas teacher training**

Third and final cascading teacher training of three successive trainings, was successfully conducted on 08th, 09th, 10,11th of September 2017 by Provincial primary education professionals. Training sessions were facilitated with both Sinhalese and



Tamil media and 114 primary teachers participated actively. Separate training sessions were organized for grade 1, 2, 3 and grade 4, 5 Sinhala medium teachers. Tamil medium training was conducted as one group. 3 Sinhala medium and 1 Tamil medium ISAs facilitated the program.

➤ **Train teachers to keep a sound relationship with parents**



Selected principals in 35 schools, were trained and capacitated to maintain sound relationship with parents. This training was conducted by Institute of Profession Studies as ToT session. Training was focused on the importance of parental involvement in children’s education. Trained principals were supposed to cascade the knowledge and strategies they learnt during the training to school teachers organizing sessions at their school level.

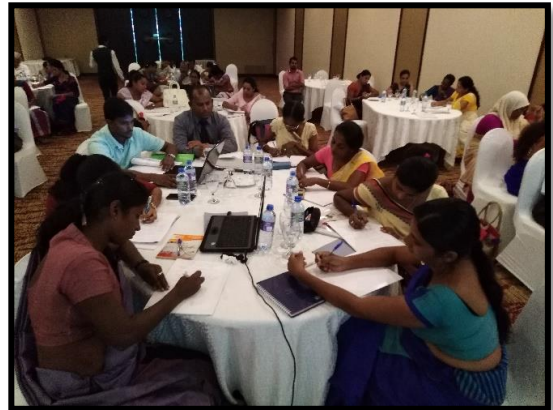
➤ **Training workshop on use of learning equipment**



A set of teaching and learning aids was given to each school of selected 35 schools, under ATLAS program. Having provided with the teaching and learning aid toolkit, 35 teachers were trained to use it in an effective manner. This two-day training was conducted by the person who invented the teaching and learning aids.

NIE training for Model School teachers

Two training sessions were held for Model School teachers selected under ATLAS project on 26th to 30th of December 2017 and 26th to 27th of May 2018 by National Institute of Education. The principal and Primary teachers of Pu/Vidya Chakrawrthi Vidyalaya participated for the Training programs.



Providing teaching learning Aids

The materials were selected under the guidance of provincial resource team. The materials will support teachers in their lessons to teach in a child centered manner. 8 sets of material distributed in 35 ATLAS schools.



Establishing Reading corners for children in schools

Books were selected with the guidance of zonal office of Puttlam. Reading books were distributed for 35 schools. VOICE Area Federation, in collaboration zonal education guided primary teachers to establish reading corners in each primary classes by now, 179 reading corners have been established in class rooms.



➤ **Field Supervision by ILA**



This field supervision was carried out by ChildFund and international Literacy Association/IRA Audrey L.Parrish,Ed.S. They visited Vijaya Vidyalaya Mudalakkuliya and Pu Kattakaduwa R.C.T.M. V on 22nd and 23rd of February 2017. Mr. Grant visited the Pu/Alutthgama Primary School, and had a discussion with

the principal, Teachers and provincial resource team on the 22nd of June 2017. Ms. Janet visited the Pu/Neelabamma Primary School, and had discussion with the principal,



Teachers and provincial resource team on Wednesday 22nd of November 2017. Ms. Janella visited the Pu/Rajavgama primary school, and had discussion with the principal, Teachers and provincial resource team on 04th May 2018 .They guided teachers and Provincial ATLAS resource team. They appreciated hard work of the

VOICE Area Federation, Provincial and Zonal Education Officers.

➤ **Form and strengthen Quality circles**



One day training was arranged to orient how to do a quality circle in the class room and data collection mechanism. Quality circles were conducted with the guidance of ISAs as instructions given by CFS and each school was monitored separately. There were 51

quality circles had been conducted and 215 teachers participated for the quality circles.

➤ **Follow up supports for teachers**

Follow up supports for teachers were done with the guidance of ISAs. In Service advisers observed each class under this activity. They visited 35 schools and 135 teachers observing how ATLAS methodologies are adapted in teaching sessions.



➤ **Formation of National and provincial steering committees**

Provincial level steering committee was established and continued the review meeting. This was held with the presence of Minister of Education in the North Western Province and Provincial, zonal officers and Voice Staff participated for North Western province ATLAS steering committees. Voice area federation shared the progress of the ATLAS project with the help of zonal education office. The Second National and Provincial Steering committee was held 8th of November at Chief Secretariat in Kurunagala. Hon. Mr.Dharmasiri Dasanayake, Chief Minister of the North Western Province, Education Secretary of the North western Province, Provincial and zonal officers.



➤ **Regular monitoring by National and provincial committees**



Provincial level of monitoring was conducted by Additional provincial director of education in Pu/Kattakaduwa R.C.T.School and Pu/Dutugamunu MahaVidyalaya. In service adviser in particular division too participated for this event.

➤ **Review meetings with teachers**



Mid-year and progress review meeting had with the establishment of steering committee. It was held on 18th of August 2017 at the District Secretariat Auditorium Puttalam. Minister of Education, cultural and Arts, Sports and Youth Affairs and information technology of the North Western

Mr.Sandya Kumara Rajapaksa, W.M.C.K.Wanninayake – Additional District secretary, provincial Director of Education (Development) of North Western–U.N.B. Jeyanthila,



Assistance Director of Education (development) –Mr. A.H.M. Arjuna, primary education director Mrs. Sujeewika Chandrasekhara, Director Board of VOICE Area Federation, ISA officers, ATLAS school principals & Teachers, Wasantha Pushpakumara – Chief Executive officer

(VOICE Area Federation) and VOICE Staff participated for this review meeting. Teachers and the In-Service-Advisors shared their challenges and the good practices of ATLAS project in front of the provincial Minister of Education and the higher officers of the provincial and zonal education offices.

Outcome 02: Children enthusiastically engage in alternative learning opportunities

Output 2.1: Improved children motivation towards the learning process

- **Deliver innovative learning techniques – exam oriented seminars and camps**

VOICE continued children focused innovative rapid interventions to improvement of learning opportunities of secondary school children to achieve a better outcome of O/L results. With the collaboration of Zonal Department of Education and the ISA officers contribute lot for this results oriented learning process. This is varying with the traditional seminar by improving activity based process by grouping them and limits number of student per the group. One specific teacher who responsible for the activity and rotate group accordingly. 21 school center based Ordinary Level exam targeting series of seminars conducted to improve the competencies of the students and fill the knowledge gap during the exam with the support of Zonal Education Department.



➤ **Innovative learning Techniques program**



Under this activity VOICE Area federation conduct 2 program to make aware the innovative learning techniques for the student on 5th, 6th May at Mudalakkuliya Maha Vidyalaya and Vidyachacrawarthy Maha Vidyalaya by the Educational and motivational instructor, Sanath Gamage. The

Main objective of this program was to make aware the techniques of memory enhancement and effective learning methods under the “happy learning Theme” students developed their future ambition under the guidance of the instructor. Students have given positive feedback after the completion of this program.

Output: children have accesses to improve knowledge through community based learning centers

➤ **Conduct Alternative Classes**



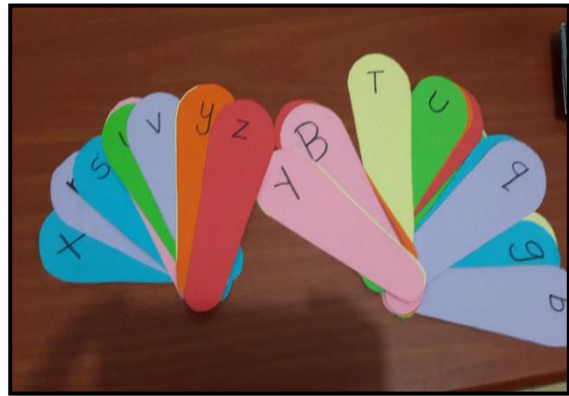
VOICE Area Federation assured the improvement of alternative language skills by focusing the 245 poor performing children in of grade 6, 7, 8. There are 11 classes conducted in 4 DSDs (karuwalagaswewa, Anamaduwa, Pallama and Mundel) by the panel of experienced teachers hired by the VOICE.

Especially particular syllabus prepared with the guidance of subject specialist, Assistant Director of English in Zonal Department of Education. This syllabus is consisted of more

child-friendly activities including fun games, phonetics, dramas, songs, poems and story building activities.

➤ **Creative Learning and Teaching Aids for Language classes**

This program was conducted for the first time with English Language Teachers and the Additional director of education (English) in Zonal Education Office Puttlam. The main purpose of this exercise was to create a supportive learning environment for the child.



➤ **English Camps program with Language class students**

English camp was conducted in the active English class 4 functioning in the Pallama in Anamaduwa. All the activities had done in English medium. Children had environment share their ideas in English and to do activates. Based on the experience of the camp, it is expected to conduct such camps in Karuwalagaswewa and Mundalama areas.



Outcome 03: Parents/caregivers established supportive home environment to enhance children's educational performance

Output 3.1: Improved understanding of parents of their role in enhancing children's learning outcomes

➤ Awareness program for parents on poor performing students



VOICE Area Federation activated a program for children with less learning ability in a selected school. The school selected for this year is the Andigama Primary School. This program is being implemented for 150 children identified by the school. As a preliminary step, the parents of the school were educated by the parents of the parents and attended

by 72 parents. The awareness of the parents about the responsibility to bring the children to a higher education level. This program was co-facilitated by Voice Education Coordinators and supported the school and parents.

Output 3.2: Improved resources for children education at home for vulnerable families

➤ Provide learning material support for needy families



This program provided the necessary school materials for 400 enrolled-students. The equipment pertains to education are provided to 200 children in Karuwalagaswewa Zone, 100 children in the Anamaduwa Pallama Zone and 100 children in the Mundalama Zone. These 400 children

were identified under some of the criteria identified through the zonal agents in these four zones. School books, bags and shoes were distributed to school children.

Outcome 04: Children are capable of managing given situations using life skills

Output 4.1: Strengthening community based child protection mechanism

➤ Child Protection Advocacy Program for Principals and counseling Teachers

The first program of educating principals and counseling teachers of 35 schools on child protection was held with the presence of the Zonal Education Director in October 2017. The program is headed by the Child Protection Authority was the resource person. This program was attended by principals and 55 teachers from 35 schools



in Karuwalagaswewa, Anamaduwa, Pallam and Mundalama. The focus was on child care and child friendly school system, and another step was decided to conduct another program. The second stage of Child Protection Advocacy Program was held on 30th of January 2018. Resource contributors were from Puttalam District Superintendent of Police J.A Chandradasa and Mr.Kumara Warnakulasooriya, Puttalam District child Authority protection officer. This program



was conducted under two session, how we can protect children and how to build child safety committees. The Third stage of Child Protection Advocacy Program was held under the approval of the Puttalam Zonal Education Office on 21st of March 2017. The progress of the establishment of child protection committees and the issues pertaining to them

were discussed. The ISA officer in Special Education Unit & Voice Program Manager Mr.Ruwan Pothpitiyage, Ms.Chathurika Disanayake were Resource Personnel for the Program. The ISA officer discussed the role of principals and teachers in child protection.

➤ **Establish Child protection committee in schools**



School level Committees were established to ensure child protection in the school system. Committees established with the technical support of District child protection Authority officers and, Divisional child protection Authority protection officers in 10 schools in the Mundalama Zone, 16 schools in the

Karuwalagaswewa Zone and 10 in the Anamaduwa zone.

➤ **Preparing school Safety maps**



School security design maps were drawn and established in five schools identified under the Disaster Risk Management Project with 120 students in 5 schools in karuwalagaswewa area. The following

schools can be identified as identified schools Neelabamma Primary school, Munamalgaswewa K vidyalaya, DS Senanayake Vidyalaya, Thabbowa Maha Vidyalaya and Saliya model



school. The resource for this program was provided by District Disaster Reduction Committee in Puttaam.

➤ **Preparation of environmental protection projects with school children**

As one of the activities in emergency disaster management project, the program was carried out in collaboration with school children to prepare an Environmental Protection Project. 20 students in Pu/DS Senanayake vidyalaya and Pu/Dutugamunu K Vidyalaya participated for this activity at Aluthgama Zonal Office. Mr. Wijenayake and the officer of wild life department were participated for this program.



➤ **Celebrating "World's Children Day" program**

Child Protection Day program was held at Kattakaduwa Sinhala School with 80 children. There was a children awareness program, parent awareness program and entertainment program in this event.



Output 4.2: Children forums are strengthened

➤ Child club activities



Child clubs were utilized for innovative, participatory and attractive activities for instance, drama, art competitions, exhibitions, use of diaries by children. This activity is also instrumental in preventing child abuse issues/cases in their community and they will be given proper training to identify issues. Awareness programs on

empowering children's societies have been carried out in Karuwalagaswewa, Anamaduwa, Pallama and Mundalama.

➤ Community Level alcohol prevention



Programs for the eradication of narcotics have been carried out in Karuwalagaswewa , Mundalama and Pallama areas with the participation of 170 children. The resources were provided for these programs by two officials of the Dangerous Drugs Control Board. The main objective of this program was to create an active group to resolve the

grievances related to this area. This included the formulation of an action plan for this purpose.

Output 4.3: Children have opportunities to develop life-skills.

➤ Duke of Edinburgh award program

This activity also conducted as a school base program with the department of education and youth awarding authority. VOICE was provided technical and financial support for the program. Initially 53 children in 2 schools were enrolled for the silver medal and they are in the process of achieving silver medal. Children were completed the 1st step and obtained bronze medal.



➤ Leadership Training of Trainers

Two days' residential leadership camp with Out Bound training at Rathnasiri Wicramanayake Training center at Hanthana to enhance life skills of the students. Key Accomplishment of the trainings are

- Roles and responsibilities of students as an active citizen



- Carry out a self-assessment the soft skill required in personal and professional life
- Able to execute plan to use skills appropriately by making suitable behavioral adjustments

- Contribute to team efforts meaningfully increased self-confident and Morale – create a sense of community, trust, enthusiasm, commitment, confidence in achieving difficult tasks.
- Education/Learning Unit already existing in schools. This is due to increased community awareness regarding educational opportunities for CwDs.

➤ **EYE SCREENING CAMPS**



Eight free eye screening camp was held in Puttalam district's four divisions (Karuwalagaswewa, Anamaduwa, Pallama and Mundalama) conducted by VOICE together project, department of social services district and zonal education department. The camps were screening camps for cataract surgeries and

refractive errors. Arrangements for the camp were finalized in consultation with the department of social services district and zonal education department.

Youth Empowerment

Skilled and Involved Youth



03. Skilled and Involved Youth- Youth empowerment

Outcome 1. Youth apply vocational and life skills in the current job market

Output 1.1. Youth received career guidance and counselling

➤ Individual career development plans and career visioning camps



Knowledge on Career visions, career goals, knowledge current job market and vocational training opportunities are worryingly lacking among youth in VAF operational area. This outcome was designed to increase knowledge, career visions and developed individual action plan for their future. There was change of the

youth in participation of development program. 387 individual career development plans (243 male, 144 Female) have been developed. This initiation has positively influenced to create career vision of youths mind.

➤ Career guidance in schools

Moreover, School level career guidance programs have been conducted for schooling youths and pool of counselor- teachers have been capacitated to provide career guidance at school level.



Output 1.2. Youth have obtained vocational & life skill competencies

➤ Youth Scholarship on Vocational training and Exposure Visits

Youths in VOICE working area are engaged with irregular, low paid, risky careers due to lack of resources and poor guidance. By referring their career visions and plans youths have identified available opportunities in employment skill development. In FY17-18, total number of 68 youths have been referred for 'on the job training' including in the NAITA, SLITHM while 57 youth engage with vocational training in the Open University, Ayurveda University and Technical College - Anamaduwa. These youths were motivated through exposure visits to the standard vocational training institutes.



➤ Improvement of Professional English Language Skills of Youth

Three month English course module was developed to enhance the language competencies of the youth. 48 youth successfully completed the program.



Output 1.3. Youth have access to engage in safe and dignified employment (formal or self-employment)

Since there was no strong forum for civil society actors, in FY 17, District NGO consortium has been formed and facilitated to create a dialog between non-government organizations who are working in Puttlam district. The VOICE has been taken the leading role to reform the NGO consortium in district level. It was proposed to align and take hands with likeminded organizations to address the unemployment issues in Puttalam district through NGO consortium. Furthermore, a sub forum- 'Youth Skill Development Sub Forum' has been created particularly to address the youth issues in the district.

➤ Conducting Job fairs



Limited accessibility to job vacancies is one of the key problems in the district. By addressing this issue, job fairs were organized in remote areas (Karuwalagaswewa, Pallama and Mundalama) with specific private sector companies according to company requirements. In FY 17 and FY18, total 278

youths have been given opportunities to participate for ten job fairs out of which 107 youths got the employment opportunities for assured jobs in private sector. This activity was implemented in collaboration with Berendina Employment Center and Skill Development Council, Puttlam.

➤ Towards Youth entrepreneurship

On the other hand 70 youths were screened through the individual career plans as interested group for starting their own business. So they were given series of trainings for developing business ideas and 40 potential youths created business plans by the small

business development unit of the district secretariat. 20 youth out of total have been given financial and technical support to start income generation activities such as retail shop, poultry farming, mini dairy, carpentry work shop and mini garment. Credit service was introduced to those youths as a revolving fund so that they can apply for easy loans among themselves.



This intervention was very much attractive to youths because they had opportunity to engage themselves in their own business by taking the supports of family members also. They are proud of being a citizen who contributes to country production.

Outcome 2. Youth collectively advocate at community forums

Output 2.1. Youth are gained knowledge and skills on civic engagement

➤ Forming and Strengthening youth forums

Activities focused for formation of new 8 youth groups and strengthening existing groups have been successfully completed during the FY 16 by collaboratively with divisional youth services officers in 4 DSD. Action plans for each youth clubs were prepared and implement them properly. Sport tournaments, esthetic programs and cultural events were organized and conducted by youth groups. But this activity is may not sustain but these youth clubs needed to be networked with other civil society organizations to get more services from them and to deliver more advocacy role on behalf of their community.

➤ Media Literacy and Youth Advocacy

In FY 17, total 15 youths have been undergone a training on Media and Communication Material Development. This activity was collaborated with the Sri Lanka Rupavahini Cooperation. Once they successfully completed the course, the team has been created



their own entity called 'Sathwera Youth Movement' and engaged with their own contracts related to the media development. As well as, they are the key resource panel for the VOICE in related to develop documentaries, short films, video clips and photographs of the activities of all projects which delivered by the VOICE.

➤ **Child Protection Initiatives**



In FY 18, over 150 youths contributed to the national youth movement "Alliance of Youth for Ending Violence Against Children" by the name of "Sathwera VOICE Youth Movement". 12 Youth Area federations exist in the Puttalam District got united under the above mentioned name. This was a very much attractive

program and it was very much instrumental in inculcating the formative values related to civic engagement and social consciousness.

Output 2.2 Youth have demonstrated youth-led child protection initiatives

➤ **Street Drama Campaign**

Compared to FY 16 and FY 17, FY 18 was more focused on child protection activities and initiatives. A strong and skilled youth advocacy team was emerged from the 'Sathwera Youth Movement' and they conducted awareness campaigns on Child



Rights and Child Protection at village level. Thus these youth leaders became change agents to their own communities. Youth Led Micro projects related to Child Rights and Child Protection were implemented at village level.

Outcome 3. Youth are practiced healthy reproductive behaviors

Output 3.1. Youth have improved knowledge on SRH

SRH and gender training were conducted for 70 youths with technical support of the Family Planning Association. During the focused group discussions, it was revealed that considerable number of youths gained proper SRH knowledge through the trainings conducted.

In FY 18, 2 Youth Friendly corners were established where youths have access to proper and healthy information on SRH.

TOGETHER

Disability Inclusion



TOGETHER Project – Disability Inclusion

With a new and determined focus being placed on social inclusion, there is a need to develop community services (door-to-door services) to allow all children access to services they require. It has been observed that children with disabilities based in rural communities within the Puttalam district are presently unable or have difficulty accessing rehabilitation services, thus highlighting a need for the development of community-based rehabilitation through this project. This provides the relevant information about how VOICE Area Federation intended to include community-based rehabilitation with the support of District Secretariat Puttalam, district and divisional level social services units, LAs, CSOs and SHGo.

Based on data collected from the four divisions of the district through the KIM survey, four medical screening camps were conducted with the support of the special team which included: consultant paediatrician, ophthalmologist, ENT surgeon, psychiatrist, visiting physician (VP), physiotherapists, medical officers (General), nurses and public health midwives (PHM). The conditions of CwDs, PwDs and elderly people were properly diagnosed and follow-up management of referrals was ensured. A number of CwDs were diagnosed for further medication, treatment and rehabilitation by the team specialist. The referral also listed short and long term plans by the consultants.

The team of consultants worked hard and greatly supported the Together project's medical screening camps. They agreed to support follow-up clinics at the hospital compound. They are contacted for further consultation and referrals where needed.

Altogether there were 295 CwDs with a variety of disability conditions and 481 elderly persons, including PwDs, attended the medical screening camps in four Divisional Secretariat divisions of the district. Of these, 102 CwDs were from Anamaduwa division, 335 from Mundal, 176 from Karuwelagaswewa and 113 from Pallama.

Based on the results of the medical camp findings, 26 hearing aids (11 for male and 15 for female), 111 spectacles for children (56 for male and 55 for female) were distributed. A fully adjustable bed was donated for a boy with Cerebral Palsy based on recommendation during the medical assessment. Five children were referred for special medical assessment, consultation and further medication to the Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Borella, Colombo. Please see below photos:

Right-based approach training for SHG members:

Advocacy ToT training was conducted for 5 CSOs (VOICE staff) key players. The CSO resource people from VOICE conducted 4 right-based approach training programmes for SHG members from 4 Divisional Secretariat divisions. The participants were taught what advocacy is and so on. Best pictures of advocacy and roles of SHG members in changing lives of CwDs and PwDs and etc were distributed.

- **Established a special Education Centre in Andigama in the Pallama Divisional Secretariat division**

During the KIM survey, volunteers (KIs) identified a number of children with special needs, who could be sent to the special education unit in the area.

A similar identification was made in three other Divisional Secretariat divisions. Provisions for school education do exist. There are a number of special units which help prepare children for entering mainstream education. There are also traditional, institution-based services, mostly catering to specific disabilities.

Finally, there is the regular classroom, which is accessed by a marginal number of disabled children. However, despite these provisions, about 31% of disabled children in Sri Lanka have never been to school. The special units, which were originally conceived as a pre-inclusion training ground, have mostly become an end in themselves. Often,

children stay there until they are 18, only moving on to make space for other children. This is because regular schools completely lack the capacity to address the educational needs of disabled children.

Teachers feel inadequate in dealing with disabilities such as hearing impairment, which require alternative methods of teaching within the classroom. For children with severe and multiple disabilities, physical accessibility to and in schools adds another barrier. So far, there are no NGOs in the district promoting inclusive education actively, although 'casual integration' is encouraged. Providing continuous support, training and facilitation to promote good inclusive practices in schools is a major need.

These issues were forwarded and discussed at the Pallama division's Steering Committee meeting and it was decided to have a discussion with the Department of Education (Director for Special Education).

As a result of the meeting, the Department of Education (Special Education Unit) has understood the situation and agreed to start a Special Education Unit at the Andigama Gamini Vidhyalaya. But they requested the Steering Committee to support with supplementary facilities such as colorful furniture, toys, educational puzzles, shapes, letters, pastel colors, sand/mud clay, drawing paper etc.

VOICE Federation supported with the above mentioned items and started the Special Education Unit with 7 children at the Gamini Vidhyalaya. The Principal was supportive and allocated a Special Trained Teacher for the unit.

An established 4 divisional Steering Committees in the district:

CBR Steering Committees (SC) were established from Karuwelagaswewa, Anamaduwa, Pallama and Mundal Divisional Secretariat divisions of the district, comprising LAs, SSOs,

police, MOH staff, parents of CwDs, PwDs, education and key CSOs members. These committees have now become powerful and are making decisions in the consultative process. During the meetings, the parents of children with disabilities and the people with disabilities played a major role and they bring many ideas and action plans based on their needs.

Further, members of civil societies and SHGs are also key stakeholders of the SC and they also bring their expertise and new development ideas for the CBR action plans, developed by the SC (district/divisional level).

The District Social Services unit has planned and is now ready to replicate the same model in 12 other Divisional Secretariat divisions of the district.

➤ **Advocacy Event on celebrating international day of Persons with Disabilities**

A walk was organized by VOICE Area Federation in collaboration with civil society organizations, SHGs and relevant government stakeholders in view of advocating for the rights of the persons with disabilities and making their voice to be heard at their service providers. Over 500 persons with disabilities from 4 Divisional secretariat divisions participated in the day event.

Personal Testimonies

***Mr. R.M.S.S. Lalith Wickramasinghe, President, District Disabled Forum
(Abathiththa Balamandalaya), Puttalam***



The Together project has greatly contributed to our disabled community, especially for children, youth and adults with disability in the selected Divisional Secretariat divisions of the district from 2015 to 2017.

I am sure that, through this project, it empowered the voices of disabled people by identifying their needs and providing a platform to express their opinions, evaluating the existing services or resources, advocating for changes.

Also, it conducted public awareness programmes as we are subjected to a socially, culturally and economically disadvantageous position. And it helped us to access our basic healthcare, education, vocational training and employment. I also acted as a resource person in a number of awareness and local advocacy programmes which were held in Divisional Secretariat divisions for SHGs.

Through this project, VOICE developed our capacities and confidence through workshops and leadership training. Also, it hugely supported children and adults with disabilities by providing mobility aids and other basic healthcare facilities.

As the President of the District Forum on Disability, I thank you so much for all the support provided to us and empowering us.

5. Mother of Senehas (7 year old boy) diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, in Mudalakuliya in Anamaduwa division:



I thank so much VOICE organization for the dedicated services provided to us as well as other disabled children in the area.

We facing difficulty in receiving rehabilitation and other services from hospitals as the services are far from us. We do not have the facility or transport arrangements to take them to hospital.

But, VOICE organization set-up a rehabilitation and caring centre in our area and brought down a team of professionals, including physiotherapists and speech therapists, monthly. They provided Senehas with exercises to do, home management training for me and for other parents too. Also, their volunteers visited our home regularly and guided us and help us further.

As a mother of a child with a disability, I thank you and God Bless all of you.

6. A.M. Riswas, father of Mohamed Rimas (11 year old boy), Pulithivasal, Mundal

We are a family of 5 members including Rimas. He had continuous support from VOICE organization like rehabilitation services, wheelchair, medication and check-ups etc.

Now we never feel his disability and he is independent but needs a little support. He goes to Pulithivasal Muslim School and is studying at Grade 5.



We thank Almighty Allah for the great support provided and special thanks goes to VOICE Area Federation.

7. Mr. G.A.Thushara Malwaththa (46 year old) father of Roshan Madusanka (17 year old) and Thushana Madushanka (16 year old), Thabbowa, Thewanuwara, New Gammanaya



Both my sons are hearing impairment from birth. They are school drop-outs due to their impairment.

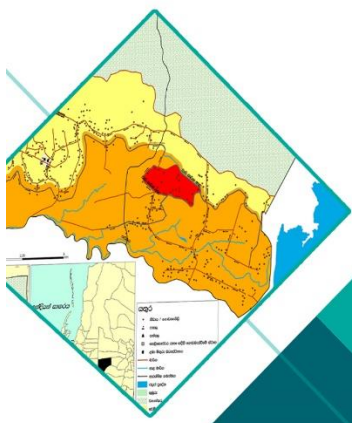
VOICE identified us through their data collection process and referred both of them to the ENT surgeon during the medical camp. Doctors conducted the audiometry test and recommended hearing aids for both.

Later, VOICE provided hearing aids for my sons after medical check-ups. VOICE continue to help us. My older son Roshan is now going to school as they had a discussion with the school authority who agreed to provide school admission again.

With VOICE's help my second son Thushana is now receiving employment-based vocational training (in Hotel Management) in Anuradhapura Hotel School.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Responses

Making
Communities
Disaster
Resilient



05. Disaster Risk reduction and Emergency Response- Making Communities Disaster-resilient

➤ **Youth Awareness on establishing safety live fence with Palmira trees to protect from elephants.**

As other projects of VOICE, DRM related Projects will be implemented with collaboration & guidance of relevant government bodies those have human & physical resources to carry out DRM actions. When those expertise are not adequately available from those authorities, outsource actions will be taken with consent of government & donor agencies. Lessons from previous hazards happened within & outside the district will be taken into consideration when implementing activities with supportive & collaborative efforts of relevant parties in the district and outside. Capacity of community and related parties inclusion of children & youth in the divisions will be enhanced to ensure sustainability of the program. VOICE will provide supplementary financial supports in kind and grass-root level human resources when & where needed for ensuring smooth operation of DRM actions and long lasting impact. And results of each event are documented and disseminated among interested parties for their use on DRM. VOICE's efforts on DRM will be put into dialogue through workshops and field tours for other parties who are interested to make use the information /data for their use in future. As well this will be an opportunity for VOICE to improve its framework and strategies on DRM.

➤ **Awareness creation sessions to community and youth on disaster management and resilience promoting strategies.**

Strengthening the civil society especially children and youth is an important aspect where they are sensitized on DRM in their respective locations from the childhood and been able to lead disaster risk reduction projects. Mobilizing the children and youth will be an effective method to take the DRM concept forward in villages where they have a special recognition from the community.

➤ **DRM awareness raising events for school children, school teachers and parent members of School Development Committees.**

5 schools from Karuwalagaswewa DS were selected for this program. Selection was done together with the officials of Divisional Secretariat, Karuwalagaswewa and DDMC, Puttalam. This was done aiming to improve understanding on DRM.

➤ **Awareness creation sessions for youth on other prominent safety concerns and risky day to day activities at domestic level.**

Youth were selected from the villages of Munamalgaswewa, Saliya "A" and Pahala Puliyankulam and 255 youths from both sexes (figure 4) have participated to the sessions. Intention of the session was to increase the understanding on domestic level accidents that can be taken place at home. Officers of Divisional Medical office of Health carried out the sessions while facilitation role done by VOICE office together with grass-root level medical professionals. After the awareness, a field visit was arranged to observe potential accidents that can be occurred at domestic level. It was highlighted that, pesticides drinking, injuries due to sharp kitchen items (eg. coconut scraper, knife) oil lamp accidents and unprotected water wells, broken glassware scattered around homestead as common domestic level safety concerns. Later on Street drama was performed by the youth highlighting what they have observed during the visit aiming to convince the community on ways & means of preventing from domestic level hazards.

➤ **Youth , Parents and stakeholders map the vehicle accidents prone areas in Karuwalagaswewa DS.**

Police department have been invited to conduct the session on mapping traffic accidents prevalence and prone places in the division. Subsequently, training to youth and parents on first aid practices was given and first aid kits were handed over to the schools nearing to possible road accidents places identified at the workshop. It was much helpful sessions to build good rapport between community & Police department

to making supportive actions at their other concerns to assure peace & harmony in the division. Altogether 130 participant from different community category, children, youth ect. from Karuwalagaswewa DS division took part to the session. 3 days first aid training was organized by VOICE while St Jones Ambulance Brigade and Red Cross Society provided technical inputs on theoretical & practical mode. Sign boards were put on the places where precaution actions should be taken while driving & riding.

➤ **Provide training to volunteers on Child Centered Space operations including representatives from the District Education Department and Child Rights Promotion office**

Childfund Sri Lanka with the field arrangement of VOICE Area Federation trained 28 Volunteers from GNDs of Munamalgaswewa, Pahala/Puliyankulam ,Saliya A ,Tambapanni and Tabbowa on CCS & its operational mechanism. Training was conducted as a three days residential training program and 16 females and 12 male volunteers were successfully completed this program.

➤ **Awareness program on child protection and strengthen village child protection committees.**

The child protection committees were overviewed by the child rights promotion and development officer of Karuwalagaswewa DSD who is the key person to form and oversee village level child protection committees. Child protection committee at grass-root level consists of 15 members including GN (chairman), principal of the school, police officer, religious leader, and pre-school teacher, leader of farmer's organization and other leaders of welfare societies functioning in the GND. 32 members of different category in the village took part to the awareness session. An opportunity was created to build sociable, as well as authorized linkages between CCS volunteer team and Child protection committees enabling them all to work together for child protection issues at hazard events.

➤ **Developing hazard mapping in potential schools & Grama Niladari Divisions**

Purpose of this activity was to identify possible hazards could be occurred in the GNDs and schools, so that early response could be taken easily at flooding or any hazards.

Tabbowa ,Neelabemma ,Saliya A ,Munamalgaswewa junior school & D.S Senanayake Maha Vidyalaya were selected for this event as schools while Kumbukwewa & Galawewa ,Saliya "A" , Tambapanni were selected as GNDs. The hazard mapping workshops were conducted outsourced Person who has expertly on GPS and satellite map processing technology. Participants also get to know about this technology and information sharing through active participation was remarkable observation at the awareness session. Elephant attack and unprotected of existing for this event as schools while Kumbukwewa & Galawewa ,Saliya "A" , Tambapanni were selected as GNDs. The hazard mapping workshops were conducted outsourced

➤ **Tree planting project in Karuwalagaswewa Area**

A tree planting project was conducted in the Karuwalagaswewa Zone with the participation of 100 school children in Pu/Saliya Model School, Pu/DS Senanayake School and Pu/Dutugamunu K vidyalaya as one activity for the implementation of emergency disaster management projects. From Karuwalagaswewa, tree planting was carried out on either side of Saliyawewa. Divisional Secretary in Karuwalagaswewa, Ms.Sujeewika Chandrasekara- Director of Primary, ISAs, Program officer – DRR project ,ChildFund sri lanka, Officers in PLAN International and Berandina, principals and parents participated for this program.



Financial Investment on Social Development

Project	Budget
Healthy And Secured Children	8,241,277.77
Educated and Confident Children	14,330,041.99
Skilled and Involved Youth	6,925,963.91
Cross Cutting Programs (CB,CBR,DRR,SR)	10,342,276.68
Together Project- EU Grant	4,774,675.31
DRR Project-KOICA Grant	2,505,530.22
DFC Funds	5,779,542.27
NFC Funds	568,362.92
Total investment	53,467,671.07