

Towards dignified life for all



ANNUAL REPORT

2020



Towards dignified life for all



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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



H.Kaumini Kathurusinghe

-President, VOICE Area Federation-

Message from the President of Board of Directors

Going Further Than We Imagined

I take this opportunity to convey this message to our Mother Organization ChildFund Sri Lanka, stakeholders, partners and friends of VOICE Area Federation (VAF) through this Annual Report.

From 2019 July to 2020 June was a momentous year for the BOD. We had the opportunity to visit the most of our program locations and the communities who continue its development journey on their own. They are equipped with social assets acquired through working with VAF, and have strong and capable Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in place to continue their progress. As a development worker myself, it was very satisfying to see the transformation that had taken place. It was clear that the strong commitment, hard work of our teams and communities has brought about this success.

VAF Sri Lanka was able to launch its first local Advocacy event for AYEVAAC to protect child Rights and human rights of the children and youth who are most vulnerable and isolate. This is the start of new journey and it is a remarkable milestone. It was a very moving and encouraging event.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the dedicated leadership and staff of the VAF. NGO in Sri Lanka does face many challenges and it is only with God given wisdom that the organization was able to meet its commitments. Last but not least my heartfelt thanks to all our international and local donors and partners who generously provide us the resources we need to keep going further than we imagined.

Board of Directors



H. Kaumini Kathurusinghe
-President-



A.H.M.D.P. Athapaththu
-Member-



R.P. Shashini Kaushlya
-Treasurer-



D.M. Nayomi Lakmali
-Vice President-



L.W.R.M. Liyanawadu
-Secretary-



H.M. Anura Bandara
-Member-



D.G.S.S. Chamara Wisjesinghe
-Member-

Year at a Glance

Total Funding	LKR 73.25 million
Number of Staff	23
Volunteers	235
Disabled People's Organizations	3
Self Help Groups	58
Program Districts	4
Grant Projects	3+
Children Reached	4800
Population Reached	5600

About US



VOICE Area Federation (VAF) is a non-governmental organization registered (Reg. No.: L-153616) under Voluntary is also a company limited by guarantee registered (Reg. No.: GA 2042) under Companies Act, No. 07 of 2007.

Social Service Organizations (Registration and Supervision) Act, No 31 of 1980 as amended by Act, No 08 of 1998. The VAF

In 2008, the organization started its functions as an implementing partner for ChildFund Sri Lanka, and is governed by a Board of Directors (BoD) elected from the communities. The BoD comprises a president, a secretary, a treasurer and two other members. The BOD is totally responsible for the governance, transparency and accountability of the total operation of the organization. The organization has employed a range of staff members to assist in realizing the decisions taken by the BOD. The Chief Executive Officer, Program Manager and Project Manager, Advisor, Finance Officer, Admin Officer, program officers, and the communication officer are key staff members of the organization.

The organization's vision is to be 'a leading community-governed voice for protecting rights of people towards dignified life for all'. The mission of the VAF is 'empowering Children, Youth, Women, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and the Elderly persons through education & training, advocacy & lobbying, accessibility and livelihood supports to enable their voice to protect their rights through involving decision-making forums and processes'. In order to accomplish this mission, the VAF has been working with government, non-government and community-based organizations and the communities including poor and the most vulnerable. we are dedicated to work with the most vulnerable children and families regardless of ethnicity, religion, race and gender.

VAF has been present in Sri Lanka for over two decades working for the most vulnerable children and families, partnering with the Government departments, local partners and different stakeholders.

Our Focus

Safe and Secured Infant and Young Children—Life Stage 1

1. YC aged 0-5 in the targeted communities grow in safe, secure and stimulating environments and achieve holistic, age appropriate development milestones.

Educated & Confident Children—Life Stage 2

1. Grade appropriate literacy, numeracy skills & ELCs is achieved among grade 1 to 5 children in the VAF operating area.
2. Improved performance of children in grade 6 to 11 in the VAF operating area.
3. Children aged 6 to 16 age living in safe, protected home, community and school environments in the VAF operating area.

Skilled and Involved Youth—Life Stage 3

1. Youth are empowered to engage in professions of their choice.
2. Youth make choices for a healthy reproductive life.
3. Youth are change agents in family and community.

Emergency Response

1. Children and youth access E platforms for Education health and Nutrition.
2. Children and families benefit from cash and food assistance and other survival needs including health safety and protection equipment.
3. Children and parental awareness on prevention of spread and, minimize stigma of COVID-19.

Disaster Risk Reduction

1. Enhanced resilience of target community, particularly youth and children.
2. Communities well prepare for disaster response with Emergency Response actions led by youth
3. Community function eco-system-based youth led DRR action plans and resilient eco-systems.
4. Vulnerable families adapt disaster resilient livelihood alternatives.
5. Relevant stakeholders effectively engage in participatory planning and execution of Eco DRR action plans

Community Based Rehabilitation

1. Children and youth with disabilities access to health, education, vocational training/apprenticeships and rehabilitation services in their communities .
2. Children and youth with disabilities and caregivers improve knowledge, skills in preventing secondary implications of disabilities and to ensure better care. And increase participation of CWD, YWD and caregivers in community events.
3. CBR steering committees strengthen at district and divisional level by strengthening the knowledge of stakeholders on CBR/Right based approach .
4. Disabled People’s Organization (DPO)/Self-Help Group (SHG) members develop leadership and entrepreneurship skills .

Child Sponsorship

Our approach has evolved into one of community development, focused on strengthening families and community structures that make up a child’s environment. The individual sponsor-to-child relationship supports this work, with sponsor funds pooled to improve life in the communities where sponsored children live.

	US	1054
	Australia	467
	Korea	365
	Taiwan	264
	Japan	143
	Germany	108
	Ireland	65
	Denmark	27
	Sweden	24
	New Zealand	13
	France	07



Today, support from sponsors is what allows us to remain in communities long term, building relationships with communities and focusing on children’s changing needs as they grow up. Support from diverse donors and institutions allows VOICE through ChildFund to expand and deepen its work with children and families even more. There are some people who wish to give great meaning for their birth. Among those kind hearted people some arise to make better future for children. Here VOICE Area federation makes a bridge among the child and the sponsor with the support of Child Fund Sri Lanka. In other word rural area children are able to make bond with generous foreign people under the protection of Child Fund and VOICE Area Federation through various types of communication the child as well sponsor are made happy. Sponsors’ friendship and encouragement further elevate VOICE’s impact for children, families and communities, increasing their well-being.



Sponsor gifts are the major material that develops the bond of the sponsor and the child. Per year more than thousands of sponsored children received cute, valuable and useful gifts from their sponsors. Birthday cards, school items, fancy gifts, greeting card, photos and letters are few of examples for them. After ensuring the child identity and protection sponsor relationship team handover them to the children.



Sponsor visits to saving memories

Visiting your sponsored child can be an unforgettable experience that will bless both you and your child. When you visit, you will get to see firsthand how you're making a difference in your child's life and in the entire community. We are telling your sponsored child you'll be visiting, we'll contact your sponsored child to confirm details of your visit (i.e. date, time, meeting location, etc.). Then we'll share the great news with your sponsored child's family so they can look forward to seeing you. We encourage you to take lots of photos and keep a journal of your trip to save memories.

Child Protection

Children grow up in a protected environment free from violence, neglect, abuse and exploitations. As a local Child-Centred Development organisation, committed to the wellbeing of children and to supporting the Convention of the Rights of the Child, VOICE does not tolerate child abuse. VOICE acknowledges its expectation that its employees and others who work with VOICE have children's best interests at the heart of their involvement with VOICE. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that VOICE has procedures in place to prevent and deal with child abuse by any VOICE Associate.



Child Centered Space

CCSs promote the protection and psychosocial well-being of children and help to support the fulfillment of their right to education. Although physical aid is crucial, this alone cannot address children's invisible wounds – the psychosocial impact of the crisis. CCSs provide support by giving children a safe space in which to play and re-establish a sense of normalcy. In CCSs, children receive support from trained local adults and engage in activities such as drawing, singing, dancing, drama and story-telling to enable emotional expression. Children also develop life skills such as basic literacy, nonviolent handling of conflict and learning to socially integrate with other children. Through their participation in CCSs, children feel greater hope for the future and communities become better organized to support their children.



Health and Nutrition

Community Based Health Promotion Program has been conducting with the collaboration of health professionals through community owned, community driven process to reduce malnutrition and improve hygiene in identified locations in Puttalam District.



Participatory adult learning - The preparation stage involves the community from the start, which encourages community ownership of the program. Moreover, Hearth sessions give caregivers the opportunity to actively learn and practice new child feeding and care behaviors in a supportive

Positive Deviance (PD) Hearth

A Positive Deviance (PD) Hearth intervention is a home and neighbourhood-based nutrition program for children who are at risk for protein-energy malnutrition in a low resource community. The intervention uses the 'Positive Deviance' approach to identify those behaviours practiced by the mothers or caretakers of well-nourished children from poor families and transfers such positive practices to other mothers who are equally disadvantaged economically. Positive Deviance Hearth intervention is designed to treat malnourished children, enable the families to sustain their rehabilitation at home on their own and to prevent malnutrition in younger siblings.

Discovering local solutions - The Positive Deviance approach helps community members discover that they already have the solutions to malnutrition and don't need outside resources.

Community Based Saving Groups

Women groups capacitated to improve their saving as a habit by cut down the most unnecessary home expenses to collective group saving to circulate funds to support an urgent money shortage for nutrition, sickness, economic problems, weddings, funerals or in other such needy essential requirements. This is easy, simple and efficient methodology based on the individual sharers to save money within the community by managing the community driven process.



Education

Ministry of Education supported for VOICE Education project to integrate with National Institute of Education (NIE), National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) and Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCCS) to uplift Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and School Based Violence Prevention (SBVP).

Advocate Secretary of the Ministry of Education on Child Protection and Education program of VOICE. And Created the integrated working environment with Department of Education to apply bottom to top approach to convince child centered education system with VOICE education program.

National level Support



Community café program



Provincial and Zonal level follow-up support on Child Centered Education



Ms. U. M. B. Jeyanthila, Provincial Primary Director (NWP) conducted class room observation in VOICE education programs in Puttalam.



National level teacher training for model school development



Model school developed under Active Teaching and Learning Approach in Schools (ATLAS).



School Based Violence Prevention Survey

VOICE got leadership to conduct SBVP Digitalized Baseline Survey in Puttalam District with the technical support of ChildFund International, ChildFund Philippine, ChildFund Sri Lanka, Action Unity Lanka and Tea Field Child Development Federation.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) integrated workshop with National and Provincial level stakeholders who are engaging life skills development activities to integrate SEL concept in to regular program activities by developing SEL and SBVP guide.

Duke of Edinburgh International Award

Towards dignified life for all

We supported to Youth Awardees to collect Silver Medals from Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. A life-changing experience for children. A fun time with friends, an opportunity to discover new interests, talents and develop essential skills for life and work.



VOICE signed MOU with National Youth Award Division in National Youth Council to establish an Open Award Unit in Sri Lanka on the partnership of Duke of Edinburgh International Award.

Bridging digital technology to rural schools to improve literacy and numeracy through smart class room concept with the combination of new technology and activity-based learning. With the best practices and lessons learnt through that project, VOICE Area Federation further enriched this program by introducing interactive teaching and e-learning tools to the class rooms with an aim to create attractive and interactive learning environment. Both students and teachers are equally benefitted through this initiation on the process of improving basic literacy and numeracy skills of both weak and poor performing students in the class room.

It has observed that these learning aids are used by teachers at their teaching to deliver effective and efficient service. Children are very enthusiastic to use large digital board to improve their age appropriate learning. Teachers are used to use pictures, motions and videos to improve the learning process and making fun games as well.



Screening the literacy and numeracy level of children through ASER Test (Annual State of Education Report)

The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) is a rapid assessment of children's ability to read simple text and do basic arithmetic. ASER is designed and facilitated by the VOICE in Puttalam district reaching more than 3000 children annually. All ASER metrics, measures and processes are planned to improve basic learning competencies and outcomes in Sri Lanka. ASER has demonstrated that it is possible to use simple, reliable and scientific methods of sampling and assessment on a large scale for high impact at a very low cost.



Mathematics poor performing program

Mathematics teachers from grade 6-11 in selected schools were capacitated to apply child friendly teaching techniques and activity-based learning methods by focusing poor performing children who got below 40 marks for their 1st and 2nd term mathematics examination in 2019 recognized via Provincial Department Education database.



Exam Oriented Education camps

Most of the schools runs with the very limited resources both materials and knowledge. Special education sessions conducted to improve the interest of children on English / Science and Mathematics with support of Zonal Education office. Activity-based camps organized in selected schools by participating the nearest schools focusing secondary schools



Online classes

VOICE introduced the online classroom targeting the O/L students with the participation of qualified teachers through ZOOM App. Youth volunteers are actively engaging to support the children those who haven't smart phone in remote areas. Effectiveness improved through home works, spot quizzes and submitting the answers. This is new experience to the community, enrolled and non-enrolled children. VOICE one YouTube channel enriches with quality and attractive materials for self-studying.

An advertisement for VOICE ONE ONLINE CLASSES. The ad features a yellow and blue color scheme. At the top, it says "VOICE ONE" and "Published by Gawesh Kaushan [?] · August 12 ·". Below that, it says "VOICE ONE - ONLINE CLASSES" and "සමස්ත ආවේණික ලදානමක් එසේත් නොවෙයිවදු ලබන, 10 වැනි ... See More". The main text reads "BEST MASTER EDUCATION ACADEMY" and "100% FREE" in a red stamp. Below that, it says "GRADE 10 ENGLISH THEORY CLASS" and "EVERY TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY AT 08.00 PM TO 09.00 PM". At the bottom, there are logos for VOICE ONE, VOICE, and ZOOM, along with the phone number "070 7100 300" and the website "WWW.VOICE.LK".

Best Master Education Site

Online learning aids management system that produce Educational Video, quizzes, past papers stored in this site and use as a self-leering portal for all students.



VOICE One YouTube Channel

This was started during the Covid 19 pandemic situation to share the information on Health & nutrition, psychosocial support for children, timely and balance news on politics, emergency responses and awareness to children, communities and stakeholders.





DRR projects were mainly developed with the approach of “Community based Youth Led Disaster Risk Management” concepts where youth plays a major role in overall management of the project. This approach provides an avenue for children to participate fully, and youth provides leadership to minimize the impact of disasters at the community level by: building on successful youth-led DRR models; and mainstreaming DRR into regular programming and community development. The implementation of the DRR project was executed by VOICE Area Federation at the District and worked closely with the targeted youth and communities including coordination at the local level with all stakeholders mainly government and other I/NGOs. Bridging the Gaps for Children in Emergencies for the children and families we serve, a natural disaster or other emergency isn’t just an inconvenience — it’s a life-altering event that can destroy homes, livelihoods and any sense of security in an instant. In times like this, VOICE connects children and families not only to the tangible resources they need to survive, but also to each other and to opportunities for physical, emotional and financial recovery. Sometimes, that means helping children safely process the trauma of an emergency through child friendly therapeutic activities, like the ones VOICE implemented after flash floods, high wind and slow onset drought across Puttalam in July 2019 to June 2020. Flood Recovery intervention for flood affected children and families in Karuwalagaswewa DSD in Puttalam District. Children and their families coped and recovered from the impact of the floods with improved capacity to be resilient from hazardous events.

Emergency Response

With the COVID 19 pandemic situation, Puttalam district named as a one of the most critical and high-risk districts. Women and children were the most vulnerable and shaken up by stressful events unfolding around them. Their immature minds suffered lot by hearing number of covid-19 positive cases and tragic deaths increase day by day in Sri Lanka and worldwide. Children are experiencing, the parents are struggling other challenges to live and face many hardships with continuous curfews and lockdown situations. VOICE strengthen enough to fight against pandemic situation by using new innovations that lead to lasting change with new technology.

Interventions were,

1. Children and parental awareness on prevention of spread and minimize stigma of COVID-19.
 - Establishment of E platforms among youth, parents, volunteers, service providers to share e-based awareness creation materials.
 - Development of IEC materials on COVID-19 prevention and response practices targeting children and parents and share through E platforms and media sources. (video story, photo story, leaflets)
 - Utilization of available video and audio materials and disseminate information through local communications systems such as temple/church speakers, announcements on raising awareness.
2. Provision of dry ration and cash assistant to needy families who are insufficiently supported through major food distribution programs.



3. Psychosocial support develops through home Gardening to improve social, emotional and physical development.
4. Support children for managing distress and unease.
5. Development of video on Psychosocial support and Social & Emotional Learning for Children and Parents and share through social media and other e platforms.
6. Encourage children to attend ongoing educational programs in electronic media and e leaning platforms.
 - Establish VOICE One YouTube channel.
7. Face mask production to deliver most vulnerable school children, volunteers, Lead Mothers, center facilitators and government field officers.
8. Produced Personal protection equipment's kits for community volunteers, Youth leaders, field staff and needy government staff.
9. Allows children to express their emotions in a safe and healthy way with their family members.

Where we work

Puttalam

- Karuwalagaswewa
- Anamaduwa
- Pallama
- Mundal
- Vanathavillu

Polonnaruwa

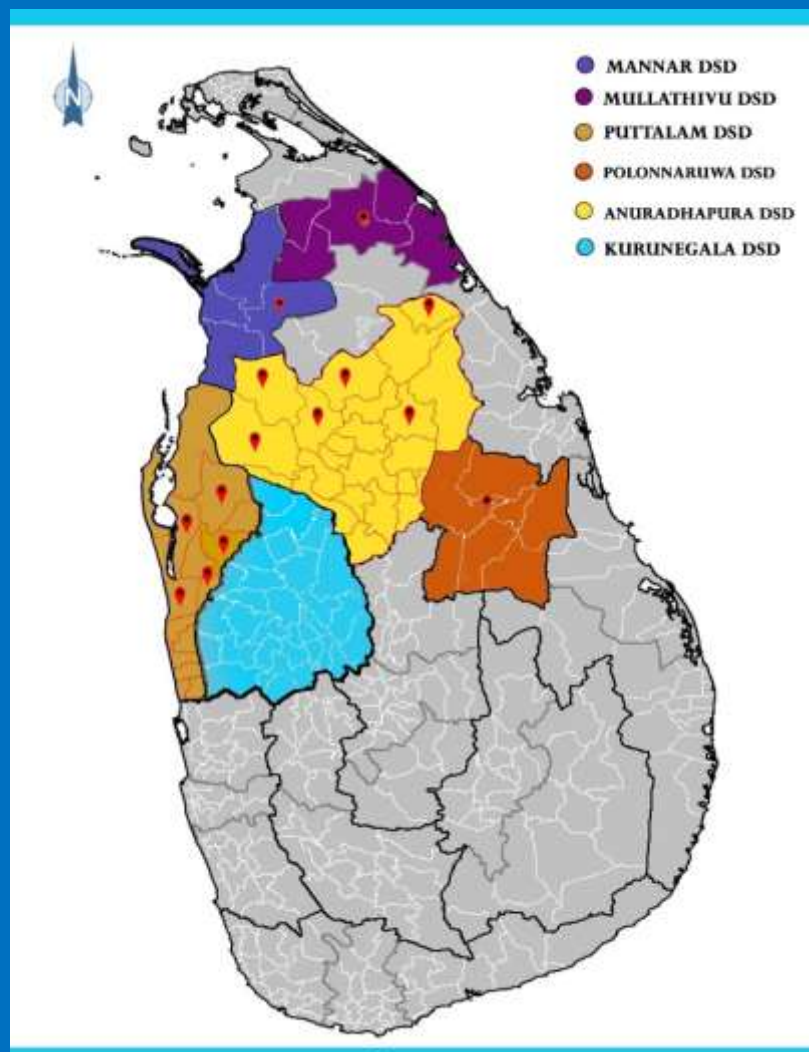
- Madirigiriya
- Lankapura

Mannar

- Manthai West

Mullaithive

- Manthai East



Community Based Rehabilitation

VOICE recognized that the inclusive program plan and implement by rights-based approach. To specifically address the need of Children with Disability and for better gender integration in our programs, practices and policies. VOICE prioritized model inclusion throughout the program from design to implementation, monitoring and reporting. Monitoring and Evaluation tracked with disaggregate data so that inclusion can be tracked and staff will be trained to be aware of social inclusion from a rights perspective. VOICE focused on strengthening existing government systems to support PwDs and empower them, therefore it is expected the positive changes by strengthening DPO in each division, a technical support group/Steering committee, which consists of necessary line ministries including education, health, vocational training, youth empowerment and child protection experts from provincial ministries and provincial representatives of national authorities, and other senior experts, particularly from the Provincial Councils. In addition, the steering committee will enhance their understanding, capacity and knowledge through the process, to continue their guidance in upcoming similar interventions, either by government agencies or non-governmental organizations, ultimately improve the sustainability of the intervention in long run. The DPO and SHGs supported to dissemination of information to the grassroots empowering the hard to reach. And continued as independent entities and lobby for further rights of PwD overall and work closely with respective service providers to access the necessary services.



Our Partnerships

VOICE Area Federation is one of the strong partners of ChildFund Sri Lanka, partnership that transcends legal, structural and cultural boundaries. We accept the obligations of joint participation, shared goals and mutual accountability that true partnership requires. We affirm our interdependence and our willingness to yield autonomy as necessary for the common goal. We commit ourselves to know, understand and love each other. We greatly appreciate the support and collaboration of our donors and implementation partners throughout the year.



Career guidance

Career guidance sessions at school level have been conducted for a group of schooling youths through trained resource persons.



Career vision camps at Divisional level

Career vision camps were conducted at divisional level targeting the unemployed and school passed out students. These events were conducted divisions, with the participation of HRDOs and SDOs in each respective division. The youth who participated in these programs gained the knowledge on their future career pathways.



Career Counselling

VOICE established professional school career guidance teachers with the collaboration of Department of Education to deliver quality career guidance for students with follow up support to develop individual career counselling plans.



Social marketing for youth employment

Youth community mobilizers established to conduct web based psychometric test at field level for their peer youths to identify and help them to create each of the peer's future plan. VOICE launched the "ONE STEP MORE" social marketing program with the objective of improving the youth employment.



Job fairs

Limited accessibility to job vacancies within the district and outside the district became a key issue for the youths in VOICE working areas.

By addressing this issue, job fairs were organized in remote areas with leading private sector companies. This activity was implemented in collaboration with District Secretariat Puttalam and Leading private sector companies.



Success Stories

Anushka Kaushalya, enrolled male child lives in Halmillagollawa in Karuwalagaswewa DSD in Puttalam District. VOICE has prioritized to conduct ASER (Annual State of Education Results) test conducted for learning canters and learning spaces to measure the literacy and numeracy level of the children who participated to learning canters and learning space. At the initial ASER test, he was in word level under the literacy skills. His competencies were not in age appropriate level. Therefore, VOICE gave him a special attention to improve reading and writing skills daily with age appropriate activities and games. After 4 months, he achieved in paragraph level. At present, he is more likes to go to school when compare to the last year." Last year I do not have interest to do my studies whether I have ambition to be a scientist one day. At the fast, I failed to do my studies with poor literacy skills. I feel at present I can read well. I like to come every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday for VOICE literacy improvement class.



I wanted be successes on my job and help my parents I was confident and satisfied when I met VOICE AREA FEDERATION in my area and they showed me the possible ways where I can go". "Not only that, VOICE has given me the opportunity to get the exposure in many areas such as leadership skills development, career guidance, photography, mass communication that knowledge makes me encourage to overcome life challenges" "Therefore, I was always confident that I had the feeling that I know something more than others in my peer society. My future ambition is to I want to join with management level passion of the organization". -Lakshman Madushanka from Saliyawewa-

