

## Capacity building of Civil Society and Local Authorities to define development through sustainable livelihoods



R1: Kukkupadayan CC President participating Area development meeting at Musali PS



R2: Discussion between Mangalagama Sinhala Communities, Livestock federation and Govt Officials



R2: Batticaloa and Mannar WIG members are developing thier future pathways



R3: Heavy Vehicle Machinery Training for selected youths



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**List of abbreviations**

ACLG	Assistant Commissioner of Local Government
BOC	Bank of Ceylon
CBO	Community Based Organization
CC	Community Centres
CEB	Ceylon Electricity Board
CGP	Career Guidance Program
CSO	Community Service Organization
CST	Career Skill Training
CVM	Conflict Vulnerability Mapping
DS	Divisional Secretary
FCS	Fishermen Cooperative Society
FHH	Female Headed Household
GA	Government Agent
GN	Grama Niladhari
GYB	Generate Your Business
HRM	Human Resource Management
JBS	Job Bank Services
KESSA	Kaayanagar Eichchilawakkai Sannar Savarikulam Anthoniyarpuram network
LA	Local Authority
LFWS	Livestock Farmers Welfare Society
MOH	Medical Officer of Health
OTBED	Overall Training Based Economic Development Centre
OTC	Operated Training College Galkulam
PS	Pradeshiya Sabah
PWD	People with Disability
RFO	Regional Fisheries Officer
ROM	Result Oriented Mission
SHG	Self Help Groups
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOND	Social Organizations Networking for Development
SYB	Start Your Business
VDP	Village Development Plan
VTP	Vocational Training Providers
VT	Vocational Training
WIG	Women in Good Governance
WRDS	Women Rural Development Society

## 1. Description

- 1.1. Name of Coordinator of the grant contract: ZOA
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person: Mr. Robert Antony Caleesious
- 1.3. Name of Beneficiary(ies) and affiliated entity(ies) in the Action: Social Organisations Networking for Development (SOND) and YGRO PVT LTD
- 1.4. Title of the Action: Capacity building of Civil Society and Local Authorities to define development through sustainable livelihoods
- 1.5. Contract number: DCI-NSAPVD/2014/352-146
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period: 1st February 2017 – 31st July 2017
- 1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s): Sri Lanka; Eastern Province - Eravur Pattu, Batticaloa District and Northern Province - Manthai West and Musali, Mannar District,
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups<sup>i</sup> (if different) (including numbers of women and men): The final beneficiary numbers tally over 3000 families, lacking basic livelihood opportunities, based in communities in Batticaloa and Mannar. The target groups comprise: Civil Society, Local Authority, Marginalised unemployed / under employed, with special focus on youth, female headed households, single parent families and people with disabilities
- 1.9. Country(ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7): n/a
- 1.10. Place (if different from 1.7): n/a

## 2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

### 2.1. Executive summary of the Action

This project is being implemented by ZOA, YGRO and SOND in 32 GN divisions belonging to 3 DS divisions in 2 districts; YGRO activities have covered all GN divisions in the targeted DS divisions. At this stage of the project, the significant impact of the 2.5 years of implementation is very apparent and there is a surge in confidence about the final achievements of the project.

Almost all the targeted 32 CSOs are operating in full scale and are fully involved in the developmental issues identified in the community meeting and through village development plans. 152 development issues, 29 livelihood issues and 65 advocacy issues were brought up by CSOs to relevant authorities and possible solutions were obtained and opened up in discussions with local authorities to encourage them to engage more in village level activities and smoothen the accountability or response mechanism in the targeted local authorities and with other actors working in the same sectors. This is particularly important as almost all the targeted Local Authorities have delayed in holding elections for the post of chairperson in Pradeshiya Sabah's – as the post remains vacant, much of the main decision making or implementation cannot be done. However, the Local Government Election is finished for all the Local Authorities where the project is being implemented in Mannar and Batticaloa Districts. Community centre members are willing to fulfil their village needs with the new elected members and the Chairman.

Strategies to address the identified conflicting issues were formulated with the support of the respective communities. The main issues addressed include indebtedness in the fisheries sector, encroachment into agriculture lands, access to water tanks, middlemen exploitation, high interest loans, lack of livelihood skill development, inter-ethnic and religious tensions, and conflicts in cattle rearing, lack of female representation in local governance, and other livelihood related issues. Considerable progress has been made on these issues, and the strategies employed, which were fully supported by government departments, are being used as a model to develop or motivate other societies who face similar issues.

ZOA continues to work on 17 issues through advocacy groups. In terms of livelihood, people are generally keen to actively engage and learn best practices and techniques. In fisheries, with more buying and selling options, competition has increased in the market. However, the rate at which fishermen are becoming released from middlemen exploitation is still very slow; linkages have been made with banks in terms of refinancing, but fishermen need more preparation prior to being released from their debts. Women's groups are very active now and their capacity is being improved in the area of good governance; they have also established links with many other women's groups and relevant

stakeholders. Many were preparing to participate in the Pradeshia Sabah elections that were due to be held in May; however, these elections were postponed by the government.

Registration of 1628 unemployed youths / persons in the career guidance centre continues, 863 suitable candidates were given career guidance, skill development trainings, vocational trainings during the reporting period, apart from that small scale business development trainings, supports, post harvesting techniques, trainings, learning through exposure to best model with in and out of the district were organized for identified youth or persons, 334 trained or supported youth are earning more and supporting their families.

The log frame indicators were fine-tuned based on the recommendations drawn from the ROM evaluation and in cooperation and consultation with EU line managers

Discussions have begun within the ZOA, YGRO and SOND team members and community leaders / government about possible handing over / sustainable arrangements beyond the project period to ensure continuous follow up or sustainability of action implemented.

### **Progress toward the Objectives of the Action:**

#### **SO1. Civil society groups and local authorities' are strengthened to increase and improve decision-making about development issues in their areas.**

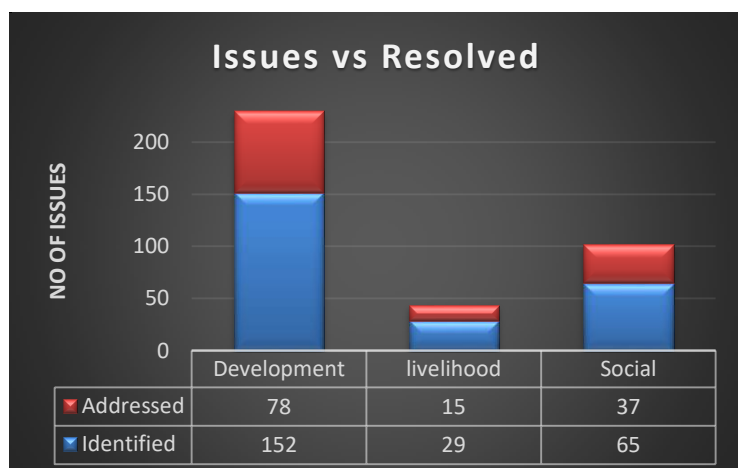
SO1.1: By the end of the project, active interaction between community centers and Local Authorities has resulted in resolving of at least 70% community development issues:

32 CSOs (Community centre) have discussed with Local Authorities. During the discussion, 152 development issues falling within 16 different categories were referred for Local Authority action and 78 issues (51.3%) were resolved completely. **Annex 3** contains a list of the issues. As a result of this activity the relevant local authorities allocated a total sum of Rs. 31,511,067.00 (30.1 Million) for development programs including the construction of 28 roads, installation of elephant fencing, construction of a Children's' park, construction of a common toilet, drainage construction, Construction of overhead bridge, setting up a water supply scheme, Construction of Community Centre building, and bus halt, etc. During the project period, 16 kind of issues were brought to the relevant department to solve them. Among them "Access to water, Infrastructure facilities, Access to electricity, Transport services, Equipment / tools, Environmental protection, Education and Awareness" have been the major areas which frequently addressed by the Community centres.

69% of CCs out of 32 have followed up the water access, infrastructure facilities related issues with the Pradeshia shapas. 20CCs for Access to electricity, 16CCs for Education, 14CCs for transportation, 12CCs for livelihood, 14CCs for common awareness, 15 CCs for equipment, and 13CCs for environmental protection have been followed the issues with the relevant officials. Other issues are followed up with the relevant departments which are less than 50%.

20CCs out of 32 CCs have been received Less than 1 Million Rupees for the village development works which is 63%. Only 3CCs have been received 1 Million to 2 Million Rupees for the village development works. Only 2 CCs have been received above 7 Million Rupees which is 6%.

Water access	Transport services	Infrastructure facilities	Livelihood needs	Electricity access	Control deforestation	Market linkages	Land titles/access	Block sea water inclusion	Permanent house	Toilets access
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51 out of 54 Capacity building training sessions for CSOs of both Musali, Manthai West and Eravur pattu have been conducted. Book keeping, Documentation, Networking, Eliminating barriers among the CC, Social change, Duties and Responsibilities, Community mobilization, Conflict resolution, Ensuring the sustainability of the Community Centers are the trainings titles. Out of 32CCs, almost all the CCs have been participated all the trainings. 97% of CCs have participated to the documentation trainings. Above 63% of the CCs

have been participated all the trainings.

All 32 village community centres have been either re-formed or newly formed.

SO1.2: By the end of the project, at least 70% of CSOs have undertaken collective action with Local Authorities for environmental protection, while promoting livelihood outcomes. During re-formation of the CCs, SOND was able to mobilise / advocate the CCs members to give priority to women, youth and PWDs. Among the targeted 29 CCs, currently 44% of women representatives are selected (129 women are elected out of 294); LAs have given equal opportunities for all CCs to get their village development plans or implement the activities (eg. Invitation for meeting with LAs, call for proposals from all CCs etc

Many of the 32 community centre members, women in good governance members and livestock federation members are receiving invitation from various divisional or district level coordination to attend meetings or discussions; this has greatly improved the opportunity to address ground level issues and to try and find good solutions to solve the discussed issues.

All 32 Community Centres have received Rs.10,000.00 from Predesha shapas in Mannar and Batticaloa Districts due to the interaction created among the Community Centres and the Local Authorities.

SO1.3 By the end of the project, community members observed a 20% increase in resolved issues with regard to livelihood opportunities.

Totally 29 livelihood issues were identified by 20 Community Centers during the reporting period, 15 livelihood issues were solved (51%), 14 are in progress, staff and community centers are continuously have discussion within their society/village level to identify the livelihood issues and continuously advocating for resolve pending issues.

A 1km internal access road to Thevanpitty beach has been renovated by ZOA in 2015 and around 30 women widows involve in catching the prawns, grabs in the late evening and sometimes they are unable to get back home in the mid night because of the fear and darkness of the road. In addition to that those who are unable to go home in the mid night cannot even sleep there and they as groups stay in the beach side without sleeping as the Navy, Army forces have the camps in the same place. This issue is brought to PS Secretary, ACLG of Mannar to fix the street lamps to the 1 km access road. As the resulted, the Electricity Board has involved fixing the posts and lamps.

Karadiyanaru Community Centre has renovated one small irrigation tank in Karadiyanaru with the support of PS, Eravur Pattu. The tank irrigates water to the paddy field, Community water supply scheme which funded by Ministry of city planning and water supply has been being maintained by Kokkupadayan community centre, The Department of Irrigation, Mannar has allocated Rs 3 million to renovate the Kokkupadayan tank, Eravur Pattu DS has provided Rs 3 million to construct the bridge which connects the villages of Velikkadandi and Kopaveli. During the rainy season, there is no transport link between the 2 villages and all their livelihood related activities are seriously affected.

Kokkupadayan, Anthoniyarpuram, Pankudaveli Community Centres have started the livelihood activities to their members with the fund support of SOND. Pankudaveli Community centre have provided the 100 Jack trees, 55 lemon trees and 300 cashew tress and 300 pomegranate trees to their members of the Thalavai, Pulayaveli and Pankudaveli villages.

## **SO2. Promotion of reconciliation through increased mobility amongst interfaith/interethnic communities through a more fair and equitable distribution of livelihood opportunities.**

SO 2.1 By year 2, the number of programme initiatives with potential to increase equal livelihood opportunities increased. In Batticaloa District, 7 livelihood initiatives programs were commenced (4 agriculture producer groups, 2 fair trade markets for livestock and fish, 1 SME group), In Mannar District, 11 different agriculture producer group initiatives (6 Producers groups, 5 self-help groups) and 5 fair trade fish markets were commenced. As a result of improved knowledge on quality control and market links, they are now functioning collectively to bargain for better prices for their products.

The above said programme initiatives were strengthened throughout the period of year two implementation. Reconciliation related activities among intercommunity agriculture farmer's livestock farmers, SME women and groups producers were organized through workshops, experience sharing, exposure visits and field observation. These implemented activities have brought the inter-ethnic communities together and helped them gain a good understanding of the cause of the problems. Now communities have realized the real causes of conflicts and have come forward and work as collectively to use the livelihood resources and opportunities to benefit all.

ZOA organized and facilitated self-help group, producers group, women groups, village vice advocacy group and divisional people forum. Most of these groups comprise multi ethnic, multi-religious and marginalized people. SHGs and WIG groups are focusing on women for their empowerment through social life, economic and politics; currently, an SHG is a women's group has 7-10 members who support each other; these very active groups get involved in saving, credit activities and also provide the foundation to prepare women to work actively on different issues at their village level; WIG was formed with the support of active women to focus on women's labour rights and to prepare more women to get involved in the decision making process, specially get involved in politics. ZOA is continuously supporting capacity building program through awareness and training on women's rights and political knowledge. ZOA facilitated the women groups to work against exploitation women who are exploited by employers and micro finance companies; they also assisted women to fight against exclusion in village level for equal access and distribution. Advocacy groups are working to address major livelihood issues and other basic need; they aim to address relevant stakeholders in administrators and ministry levels. Village- level issues are handled by village level advocacy groups and the Peoples forum gets involved in divisional issues.

SO2.2 By the end of the project, at least 50% of CSOs are involved in advocacy activities, with a view to creating interfaith and/or interethnic inclusive dialogue and promoting equal access to resources and services for all community members: Conflict Vulnerability Mapping was completed during 1st year and the report was disseminated to all the CSOs, LA's and relevant government authorities; they are now well aware of the findings.

As a result all the livelihood strategies and initiatives that have commenced have taken into account all the different communities in the target locations and have been watchful of the conflict triggers that were identified in the CVM report.

Water management and shortage of water was burning issue during the dry session and even though many promised made by authorities and politician, no action was taken. People were suffering during last dry session without water. That situation lead the people got together under the leadership of civil society and organised big protest to address the issues collectedly and lodged compiling at District secretary office, soon after lodgings complaint, the officers visited location and allocation was made to start the water supply scheme in these area, however, the community formed a group is called civil groups to do close monitor the progress of the promised plan/ project.

The following main issues are priorities in the project area cultivation land (paddy land and high land), Access to land and tank military occupied, Middlemen exploitation, Lack of technical skill for farmers and fishermen, raft under high inters loan, Lack of women participation in decision making level, exploited women labour rights, Ethnic religious conflict. The above groups are actively work for the issues.

SO2.3 By the end of year 2, 100% of livelihood initiatives have a deliberate strategy for opposing discrimination and promoting equity for marginalised groups. Strategies that have been developed to deal with discrimination and to promote equity for the marginalised include the facilitation of producer groups, fair trade market establishment, advocacy groups, women group for good government, self-

help groups and SME business group for value addition. These activities provided assistance to 53% of those comprising the marginalised group.

ZOA is now working with SME women to provide necessary capacity training events in order to increase production as well increase the income. A sales out-let was set up at Chenkalady town to sell their local products such curd juice and jam. As access to this location is limited the DS is in the process of allocating a new location in the newly open market, in order to sell these local organic items

ZOA is promoting home garden through SHG groups for their food security. SHG groups are more aware of household finance management and exploitation of family income by middlemen and micro finance companies. Women's groups received SME training to start and improve their business and also to facilitate women labour rights. Marginalized people are also involved in producers groups such as agriculture and marketing group such as fisheries. ZOA is continuing to provide technical training to strengthen SHG's, Farmer organizations and Fishermen cooperative societies to improve their knowledge and skill.

SO2.4 By the end of the project, 70% of people from marginalised groups report improved access to CSO groups and LAs. Many steps have been taken to link the groups such as Women in Good Governance, Fisheries Societies, Livestock Market Society, Self Help Groups and Producer Groups to have regular meetings, consultation with CSOs, Rural Development Authorities and LAs

All together more than 980 families in the targeted location has linked to Local Authorities (Women In Good Governance 150, Fisheries Society members 250, Livestock Market Operation 130, Self Help Group 350)

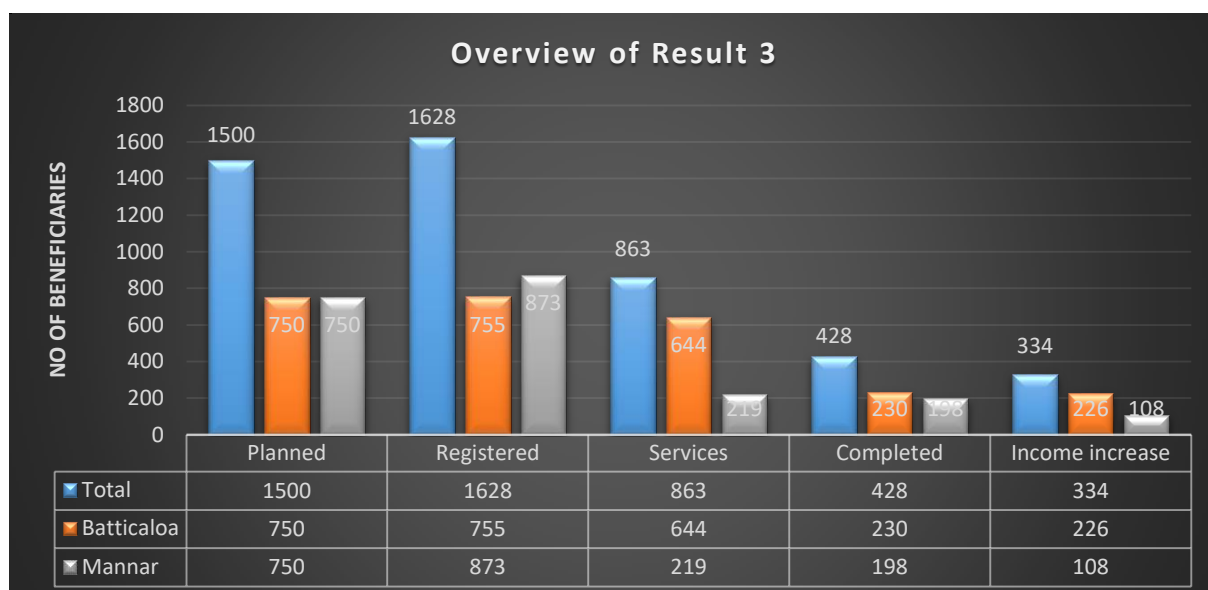
SO2.5 By the end of the project 50% of people from marginalised groups report increased and improved access to livelihood opportunities. Approximately 22,134 persons are expected to receive benefits from this project; of that number 1187 persons fall within the marginalised groups (FHH, PWDs, ex-cadres) and following steps such as train and mobilize the leaders to understand inclusive approach and important of equal chance for marginalized groups have been taken to include the majority of the marginalised group in the various interventions that have been commenced, especially the SME activities and the activities to benefit the producer groups.

Vulnerable families have regular income to manage their food cost through home garden and commercial garden. Fishing community has good market access linked many buyers to site and fishermen bargain their catches also Income level significantly increased. Mainly their business capacity and production knowledge increased.

### **SO3. Reduced poverty through the delivery of quality, relevant, marketable vocational and personal skills.**

SO3.1 By the end of the project, 50% of families' report more opportunities and/or increased income as a result of vocational training and career guidance received. During the reporting period, 1628 job seekers have been registered and received skills training and career guidance. 14% (334 persons) have reported an increase in income.





SO3.2 By the end of the project, 50% of families report more opportunities and/or increased income as a result of improved skills and enhanced skills and marketing opportunities. During this period, 1348 families were engaged in new initiatives that facilitated the setting up of producer groups to ensure quality seeds, quality production, timely harvest etc.

A survey has been conducted and a total of 216 and 106 families were interviewed in Batticaloa and Mannar districts respectively. The main weaknesses identified by the survey: Limited access to technical and business management skills for farmer and producer groups in the target villages, Limited access to improved inputs and production technology, Limited knowledge and skills in post-harvest handling and packaging which results in depreciation of the product. The findings also revealed that skills level and adoption of best practices was uneven across the target villages and it identified the technical and business management skills and best practices that would lead to improved performance by the producer groups. 10% family's survey has been conducted.

## 2.2. Results and Activities

### **R1: Capacity Building: Civil Society groups & Local Authorities capacitated and empowered to take ownership of development initiatives**

R1.1 By the end of the project, at least 32 CSOs have improved their knowledge to advocate for livelihoods solutions and are re-connected to larger networks: during the reporting period, SOND has conducted 51 different capacity building training sessions for 32 CSOs. The trainings were very useful and the activities and the record keeping of the CSOs has improved. There are 21 documents that CSOs are expected to maintain (list set out in table below). 8 of these documents were introduced in 2016. The two main documents are the Minutes Book and the Accounts and after the training sessions, all 32 CBOs were diligent in maintaining these records. 32 Community centres have improved their record keeping skills and maintain 457 documents of 672 which is 68%. Rest of the documents are being prepared by the CSOs and this number is improving. The graph below, depicts this improvement. Numbers in the graphs represent following type of documents.

30CCs out of 32 have been maintained the Meeting minutes, Attendance register. Letter register, Accounts book, Assets register, Village people details, Members details, Future plan, Members ledger, Equipment rent details are maintained by more than 19CCs.

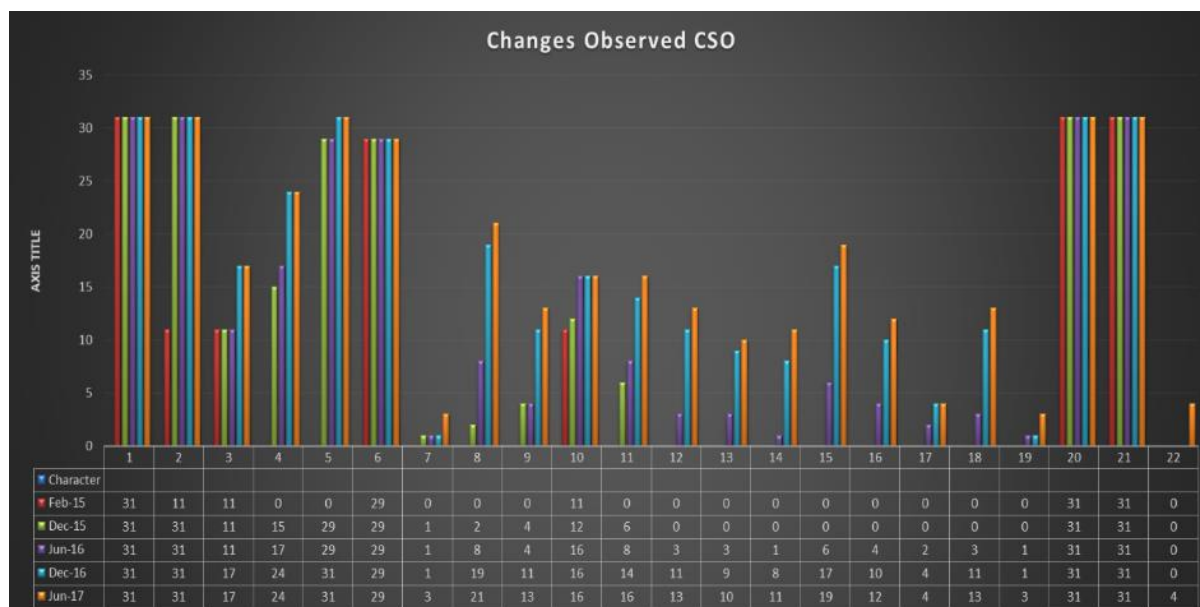
63% of the CCs (18CCs) have been regularly submitting their financial reports to the monthly, general meetings. 22 CCs have been recorded their assists. Only 50% of the CCs have been maintained the future plan for their CCs. Only 05 Community centres have Community Centre buildings. Decisions are being made among the 18 CCs regularly.

CSO members have gained the knowledge and skill to prepare the basic documents of Village Development Plan. 21 CSOs from Manthai West, Eravur pattu and Musali attended the VDP training sessions and have been prepared the VDP reports for their local areas. The members of the CCs are aware of their increased responsibilities and duties and have been active in identifying issues, both development and social, and referring them for action to the relevant authorities.

No	Name of Document	7	Fishermen register	15	Receipts
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1	Meeting minutes	8	Assets register	16	Beneficiaries' details
2	Attendance register	9	Needs of the CSO	17	Contract details
3	Subscription details	10	Loan Details	18	Members' ledger
4	Event register	11	Register of Services provided	19	Equipment rent details
5	Letter register	12	Village people details	20	Constitution
6	Accounts book	13	Members' details	21	Registration with LA
		14	Future plan	22	Event Photos



R1.2: By the end of the project, at least 70% community centers are functioning as forums for discussion on community development: The increased interaction between the 32 CSOs with 3 LAs during the reporting period resulted in over 195 identified issues being referred for action and relevant state authorities such as CTB, Zonal Education office, Private bus depot, Private sector, CEB, MOH, GA, Dept of Probation, local politicians, wild life, National water supply board, etc. The villages of Marappalam (Tamil) and Mangalagama (Sinhala) are border villages which had a broken relationship due to the civil war; some degree of tension still existed and there was a great need for peace building. In this situation, in May 2016, the Marappalam CC with the support of ZOA and SOND and the Eravur Pattu Pradeshiya Shaba facilitated a sports meet for communities from both villages. Following this, the Mangalagama community invited the community of Marappalam for a peace campaign in July 2016. Both activities were very successful and the tensions between the communities have decreased considerably and good relations are being built.

19 meetings were conducted in 2016,2017 with the Pradeshiya Shaba of Eravur Pattu, Musali and Manthai West in order to network and strengthen links between CCs and LAs. Community Development officers and Planning officers from 3 Pradeshiya Shaba's secretaries also were present and the CCs were given the opportunity to present their needs and discuss the issues facing their communities. All the Community Centre representatives openly discuss with the Local Authority officers and they gave the response. This shows the accountability between the LAs and CCs. All 32 community centres have invited by respective LAs and contributed to prepare the annual plans of the Local Authorities for 2017. A working relationship has now developed between the PSs and the CCs. In total 195 issues were raised and referred for action to the relevant authorities (Division Secretary, Government Agents, MOH, CEB, Department of Probations, Wild life, CTB, Private bus depot, Ministers/Politicians, Police, were some of the authorities to whom matters were referred. Out of 195 issues, 115 were resolved by different authorities among them 78 issues resolved by Pradeshiya sabahs of Manthai west, Musali and Eravur Pattu PSs.

Five Contracts have been given to the Pankudaveli Vivakanandha Community centre by Eravur pattu PS. (1) the community centre capital fund has been increased to Rs. 300,000.00 (2) A contract to construct the slaughtering house has been given to Anthonyarpuram by Manthai West PS.

18CCs out of 32 have been maintained the welfare system of their community centres. 25CCs have development, livelihood related, advocacy issues being assessed which is 78%. 25CCs have been successfully completed their village issues which is 78%.

More than 50% of the CCs have linked with the Grama Niladhari, Economic Development Officers, Samurdhi Officers, Pradeshiya Sabha Officers, Department level Officers, Politicians.

R1.3 By the end of the project, at least 30 Village Development Plans used as communication tool by local CSOs towards Local Authorities

District	Batticaloa	Mannar	Total
Division	Eravur Pattu	Manthai West, Musali	
No of advocacy Initiatives	105	90	195
No of Issues Resolved	64	51	115
% of Resolved issues			59%

Rs.300,000.00 is allocated by Manthai West Pradeshiya Shaba to construct the surrounding fencing and getting electricity connection to the Periyamadu East community centre building which funded by the 100 days works through the Manthai West Divisional Secretariat. Fund is being allocated to renovate Children Park with fencing in Pankudaveli, under the local government strengthening project by PS, Eravur pattu.

Pankudaveli bus halt renovated by the PS, Eravur pattu. One small irrigation tank was renovated in Karadiyanaru with the support of PS, Eravur Pattu. Fund is allocated to renovate Kithul library, Common toilet under the local government strengthening project by PS Eravur pattu. A bus halt to Mangalagama village was built by Pradeshiya Sabah in Eravur Pattu. Kondaichchikuda, Savariyarpuram, Thampaddai Musali, Potkeni and Kokkuppadayam community centers received one water tank each (1000 Liters) by Pradeshiya Sabah in Musali.

0.75 Km length internal road in Kaththalampitty renovated by PS, Manthai West worth. Rs.500, 000. Kaththalampitty village people constructed a bus halt as memorial building of one of the villagers. Internal road sides cleared by PS, Manthai West worth Rs. 2M.

20 Street lights received by Kokkuppadayam community centre from PS, Musali. The short access road to pond is blocked by the Army camp in Sannar. The fishermen are instructed to reach the pond walking nearly 3Km back side of the camp. The Inland fisheries society along with the Sannar CC negotiated with the Army to allow the people to use the access road to the pond. Not the village people access the short path to the pond. Due to Cooperative shop not function at Sannar village the people struggle to get the services near the village or surrounding villages such as Eachchelavakkai, Gayanager etc.. This issues addressed by the Sannar CC to the Co-Operative Department. Now the Co-op is finding place at Sannar village to open the shop.

Function of the Liquor shop situated near the main road in the Moontrampitty village was stopped due protest carried out by Moontrampitty CC with the support of all village CSOs and the people. Rs.1.5m is allocated to renovate the main beach road in Pappamoodai by Manthai West Pradeshiya Shaba. Rs.1.5m is allocated to concrete the beach road in Savariyarpuram by Musali Pradeshiya Sabha and the work is in progress. A request letter has been handed over to the Manthai West Divisional Secretary by Mullikkandal CC, RDS, WRDS, and Agricultural society requesting to construct the paddy dryer base to the village. Fund is allocated by DS office to carry out the work. According the request made by Koolamkulam CC, Farmer society and RDS, 2Km Irrigation channel cleaned by Irrigation department in Koolamkulam village funded by DS office, Musali. According the request made by Thampaddai musali CC, Farmer society and RDS, 2Km Irrigation channel cleaned by Irrigation department in Koolamkulam village funded by DS office, Musali.

400 m length of internal roads were renovated, a culvert was built by PS in Koduwamadu village. This road mostly used for agricultural purposes. 400 m length of internal roads were renovated by PS in Pankudaveli. This road mostly used for agricultural purposes, Based on the CVM report and the VDPs, totally 22 livelihood related issues identified by community centers which were addressable by them and solved with in the project period. There are some livelihood related issues remain each villages such as high rate of alcohol consumption, high interest rate of loan, unemployment, inadequate capital to start business, mindset of the people etc., Those are not taken into consideration to solve in the project period. It needs more time to be solved.

100m of Sarvoodaya Nager internal road in Periya Pullumalai renovated by Concrete by Eravur pattu PS. 16 street lights provided to Koduvamadu and Kiththul villages by Eravur pattu PS. Construction of 09 internal roads in Koduvamadu, Kayankuda and Thampanamveli has been completed by

Eravurpattu PS. 10 Street lights fixed in Moontrampitty village by Manthai West PS. 0.4 m is allocated to clean the burial ground and mark the boundaries in Kokkupadayan village by Musali PS. 29 Water tanks (1000 Litters) provided by Eravurpattu PS to Koduvamadu, Koppaveli CCs.

Five contracts signed with Eravur Pattu Pradesha shapha and they have increased the bank balance up to Rs. 300,000.00. Hon. Amal, Member of parliament has allocated Rs.1,500,000.00 to construct the children park. The works are in progress. Rs.10,000.00 has been donated by the Hon. Sarwanandan, Member of Predesha shapa representing the "Tamil Alliance Party" to fill the land to construct the children park. Pankudaveli Community centre has provided the learning materials to the 40 studeents of Grade 10,11 and 12 students worth Rs.15,000.00. Eravurpattu PS has donated learning materials to 35 students who study in Grade 6,7 and 8 Students. Volley ball cord set up by the Community centre to get the youths' supports to carry out the village needs.

Rs.100,000.00 has been provided as loan to 13 members of the Community centre. Office set up for the Community Centre. 4 Self Help Groups formed. Each group consists of 08 members. Anthoniyarpuram Community Centre has received the Community Centre building from Manthai West Predesha shapa. 40 M road has renovated by Concrete worth of Rs.500,000.00 Rs.500,000.00 allocated to the Community Development project by the Divisional Secretariat. People forum to raise and solve the village issues has formed with the membership of Illuppakkadavai Police OIC, Church father, principal, village people.

Only 9CCs have been individually raised funds for their societies. 24 CCs have been raised funds themselves and only one CC has raised funds with the support of all the village societies.

06CCs have prepared the village development plan individually and 09CCs have prepared the plan as a group of the community centre members. 16 CCs have prepared the plan With village and other society representatives.


#### R1.4 20% of advocacy initiatives successfully resolved:

To date, 195 issues in total, such as development, livelihood related issues were identified by 32 community centres and advocated to 16 government departments in all three PS divisions in Batticaloa and Mannar Districts. Among them 98 issues (50.3%) have been resolved.

The premises of Clinic centre and GN office were cleared in 2 Siramadhana campaigns which have been carried out by the Community Centre in Mootrampitty; 150 Palmyra seeds have been provided to 30 members for plantation by Mootrampitty Community centre; Anthoniyarpuram Community centre submitted a request to Police to donate a wheel chair to a PWD and this request was granted. Anthoniyarpuram Community centre have conducted two Dengue eradication awareness events for the village with the support of Community centre members and the Police officers.

Anthoniyarpuram Community centre members conduct house to house visits to ensure that all the school going children are involved in learning activities from 06.00Pm to 08.00 Pm. Anthoniyarpuram Community centre provides Rs.1000 as a monthly medical allowance to the pregnant ladies( from 7 to 10 month) for medical expenses. So far, 2 pregnant ladies have received this allowance. Anthoniyarpuram Community centre provides Rs. 250 as monthly payment to the elderly people (above 65 years). So far, 3 elderly persons have received it. 3 Water tanks (each 1000 Litre) given to Sannar village by the PS, Manthai West; 15 Street lights fixed for Sannar village by PS, Manthai West.

also



330 Kagu among the 30 CC. Nutritional children and each month provided by the well-wisher who was born in Pullumalai village and now lives in Canada.

Dengue eradication siramadhana campaigns for households in Periyapullumalai village have been carried out by the Pullumalai Senthamarai CC; the temple, RDS building and School premises were cleaned.

trees received from Mr.Nadarajah and distributed members by Pullumalai Senthamarai foods, to the value of Rs 5500/-, for the preschool preschool teacher's monthly salary of Rs 7500 for Pullumalai Senthamarai CC. The funds collected from

5 teachers for the Pullumalai School were newly recruited by the Zonal Education office, Batticaloa because of the initiatives taken by the Pullumalai Senthamarai CC. 100 Acre land vested by the department of Land in Manthai West Divisional Secretariat because of the initiatives taken by the Thevanpitty CC.

Pankudaveli Community centre have provided the 100 Jack trees, 55 lemon trees and 300 cashew trees and 300 pomegranate trees to their members of the Thalavai, Pulayaveli and Pankudaveli villages.

## Activities' Description

A1.1 Assessment and selection of CSO's & Local Authorities through the orientation of staff and field level consultations with communities and other stakeholders including CSO's and LA's.

Based on the meetings with Pradeshiya Shaba's; ZOA has agreed to support LAs on accountability mechanism and amendment of old circulars which are not applicable in current context, more work will be done during next quarter.

A1.2 Formation and strengthening of CSO's Capacitating Local Authorities through Rehabilitation of Sanasamuga Nilayam's, consultations & the development of village development plans.

SOND conducted 19 training sessions to engage youth to get involved in VDP activities, improve the basic book keeping and documentation, strengthening the functioning of CSOs and eliminating the barriers among the committee members of the Community centre; these sessions were conducted for the CSOs in Manthai West, Musali and Eravur Pattu. There were 320 participants from 32 villages, of whom 126 were male and 194 female.

### Formation or Re Organizing of Community Centre's (Sanasamuga Nilayam): Annex 2

In Manthai West, one village CC was re-formed and 12 village CCs were newly formed. Two CCs were ready in existence. In Musali, one village CC already exists and 6 village CCs were newly formed, In Eravur Pattu, one village CC was already in existence and 9 village CCs were newly formed.

### Preparation of village development plans (VDP):

SOND facilitated and conducted a series of meetings for initial data collection and VDP preparation. 554 people (215 male and 339 female) from 28 villages from all 3 DS Divisions participated. Eravur Pattu DS Division: Villages of Irralakkulam, Marappalam, Urugamam, Thalavai, Pullumalai, Karadiyanaru, Koduvamadu, Sarvodiyanager and Koppaveli. Manthai west DS Division: Villages of Eachchalavakkai, Minukkan and Periyamadu west Vaddaiyanmurippu, Illuppakkadavai, Savarikkulam, Kathalampitty, Thevanpitty, Anthoniyarpuram, Pappamoodai, Gayanager, Moonnrapitty and Sannar. Musali DS Division Villages of Potkeny Savariyarpuram, Maruthamadu, Thampaddai Musali, Kokkupadayan and Kondachchikuda.

### Monthly meetings to the Community Centres:

SOND facilitated the monthly meetings with the committee members of the Community Centres in Musali, Manthai West and Musali Divisions. During the meetings, the village issues discussed and followed up with the committee members. During the reporting period, 54 meetings conducted.

A1.3 Facilitating strong linkages between CSO's & LA's with other stakeholders and government organizations through the formation of village and divisional level coordination bodies for effective lobbying and advocacy on identified issues through preparation and marketing of development proposal.

In 2016, 08 meetings for the sole purpose of strengthening the links and networks among the CCs and LAs were facilitated by SOND in Musali, Manthai West and Eravur Pattu. So far, in 2017, 02 such meetings have been conducted in Musali, Manthai West. The Community Development officers and planning officers from both Pradeshiya Shaba's secretaries participated in the meeting. 04 Meetings were conducted in Musali LA where 56 males & 47 females participated, representing 07 community centers. There were 87 CC representatives (51 male and 36 female) from 15 Community centers who participated in the two LA strengthening and networks meetings in Manthai West. The CC representatives were given the opportunity to present their cases and discuss their needs and issues.

Similarly, there were 3 meetings in 2016 and 1 meeting in 2017, held at Eravur Pattu, facilitated by SOND and ZOA. The CDO, Planning Officer and Revenue Officer were present at the meeting. 124 CC representatives (80 male and 44 female) from 10 Community Centers participated and presented



their needs/issues in writing to the PS. All 10 community centers were invited by the respective LAs and contributed to prepare the annual plans of the Local Authorities for 2017. ZOA took the opportunity to present a project overview to the participants.

#### Formation and strengthening of People Forum:

4 District People Forum/ Common Coordination Bodies at District level meetings were facilitated in Mannar with the participation of 19 Community Centre representatives. In addition, Advocacy group members of ZOA (72 Male & 40 Female) participated from all 19 villages. Prof. Balasundarampullai from Jaffna University, 5 priests, retired government officials, the former Pradesha shaba chairman were also present. The participants shared their experiences and expertise to try and find solutions to the issues that exist in the villages.

02 People Forum / Common Coordination Bodies at divisional levels meetings have been carried out in Musali Division with the participation of the Advocacy group members of ZOA. 32 Community Centre representatives (21 Male & 11 Female) participated from all 7 villages.

Similarly, 02 meetings have been conducted in Manthai West Division with the participation of the Advocacy group members of ZOA. 60 Community Centre representatives (33 Male & 27 Female) participated from all 15 villages.

2 People Forum / Common Coordination Bodies at Divisional levels meetings were facilitated in the Eravur Pattu Division with the participation of the Community Centre representatives (17 Male & 09 Female) from all 7 villages.



Village issues and needs were discussed and actions were suggested by the People Forum members, in order to find suitable solutions to the issues

On 8 June 2017, a media briefing session was facilitated with 5 leading media personnel and active community centre members; the purpose was to ensure that information on village issues reached a wider section of the public,

including local authorities and relevant departments. 6 females and 10 males participated in this program.

#### Physical support for CSO's, Co-op's (furniture, books, magazines, computer and other equipment):

All 32 Community Centers (10 in Eravur Pattu, 07 in Musali and 15 in Manthai West) have been assessed using an assessment questionnaire and based on the assessment results the all 32 Community centers were graded as "A, B and C". It was noted that only one Community centre awarded "A" category and 19 CC awarded as "B" categories and the rest of the 12 CC awarded as "C" categories. Furniture (Table, Chairs) have been handed over to the 32 CCs based on their results.

#### The use of public events and competitions for proactive engagement and involvement of stakeholders:

The common event for awarding the medal, furniture, stationaries, CSO hand books and caps was celebrated on 10/11/2016 at Town hall, Mannar at 10.00 am to 01.00pm. Assistant District Secretary of Mannar District Mr. Papakaran was the chief guest for the event and Mr. George, Ms. Nirmala from ZOA and Mr. Peris from YGRO participated. Mr. S.Senthurajah addressed the key note speech and Mr. Vijayakumar chaired the event. CDO, several GNs, Samurthi officers and over 200 numbers of the participants from CCs also participated. Active members from CCs were also selected to the people forum.

Similarly, the common event for awarding the medal, furniture, stationery, CSO hand books and caps was celebrated on 28/02/2017 at Chankalady, Batticaloa at 10.00am to 01.00pm. Mr.Siththeravel,

Assistant Commissioner for Local Government was the chief guest for the event and Divisional Planning officer, Chankalady DS office, Secretary and Community Development officer from Eravur Pattu Predeshiya shabha, Grama Niladaries participated. Mr. S.Senthurajah delivered the key note speech and Mr. Vijayakumar chaired the event. Over 100 members from CCs also participated.

A1.4 Dissemination of information and expanding influence through exposure and experience sharing, visibility, publications, events, clinics, celebrations etc.

Posters - 60 posters were printed, setting out the services provided by the PS, Banners - 2 banners were printed- for project visibility, Handbooks - 2000 are printed- Guidelines for CSOs. Visibility name board for all 32 Community Centres were handed over to them.

03 Talk shops on “Constraints of access to public services and solutions” held in 2016 at Illuppakkadavai, Eachchelavakkai in Manthai West and Thampaddai Musali in Musali Division. 06 GNs and 03PS officer and 04 Samurthi officers were present as government officers. There were 17 speakers who spelt out the current issues and constraints and discussed possible solutions.

There were 154 participants (102 male and 52 female).

01 Talk shop on “Service delivery by the Social Service Department, Probation Department and Foreign employment Division” which function under the Manthai West Divisional Secretariat Division was held on 23 March 2017 at Multipurpose building in Illuppakadavai. A total of 40 members from Community centres participated.

02 Talk shops on “Service delivery by the Social Service Department, Probation Department and Foreign employment Division” which function under the Musali, Manthai West Divisional Secretariat Divisions were held on 08 May 2017 and 23 May 2017, at Multipurpose building in Kokkuppadayam, Vaddaiyanmurippu respectively. A total of 85 members from the Community centres participated.

Similarly, 2 talk shops on maintaining the small irrigation tanks conducted in Eravur Pattu Agrarian service areas and increase the social responsibilities to protect the natural environment carried out to CC members, RDS, Agriculture society members and paddy farmers, school going children with the presence of 03 Agrarian Development officers, GNs, School principal, Teachers and ZOA staff in Karadiyanaru. Altogether 234 participants consist of 150 female and 84 male participated on it.

On 24 April 2017, a Talk shop on “Making basic awareness of services delivery” by the Wild life, Forest Departments was held at Conference hall, Karadiyanaru School, Karadiyanaru from 10.00 am to 01.00pm. Director of Wild life Department, Batticaloa, field officers, Forest extension officer, Forest protection officer and Field officers from Forest Department and GNs from Marappalam, Urugamam and Pankudaveli participated and shared information about the services delivered by the Departments. More than 50 people representing the Community Centres, participated in the event.

A1.5 Capacitating CSO's & LA's on environmental conservation and their respective roles and investing in modalities of improved engagement and involvement by CSO's & LA's through improved service provision and joint mitigation initiatives.

Awareness sessions conducted to enhance knowledge of community on the importance of growing shady trees/ fruit trees in the interest of environmental conservation and increasing ground water level, Periyamadu East Arafaa CC has planted 50 lemon seedlings.

Civil Society Organizations follow up several environmental protections issues and brought up to forest and police department during the reporting period

In Eravur Pattu, shady trees have been received from District forest Department and ready to hand over to the CC members.

## **R2: Peace building: Conflict mitigation through equal access to livelihood resources and opportunities**

R 2.1 Inclusive resource and livelihood study conducted in year 1, results made available and accessible to all stakeholders: 3 DS

ZOA presented the Conflict Vulnerability Mapping report to all the 32 CSO's & 3 local authorities, 3 DS's and 2 Government Agents, the INGO Forum, UN agencies as well as the NGO Consortium. The report created much interest and a resolve to cooperate with ZOA to resolve the identified issues. ZOA

continues to facilitate activities that will help resolve the issues and achieve the goal; in addition to the CVM report, documentary films are being prepared to address the issues of livestock market, pasture land, women in good governance and the bad debt issues of fishermen.

Department of Agriculture has come forward to provide support in developing Seed production for paddy and Groundnut. The former Seed Producer Groups got registration certificate from authorities and it gives reorganization for them to produce good quality seeds and this has been resolving the seeds shortages in the Maha Sessions.

Pasture land issues between Tamil, Muslim and Sinhala communities in Mangalagama and Pullumalai surrounding areas have been taken up as serious. Many discussions were held at community level and higher authority's level. A strategy has been developed to address these issues continuously by ZOA over the next two years, even though the project period would have concluded.

Village-wise advocacy groups were formed with 5-7 members comprising specialized CSO leaders. These groups are well aware about the issues in their villages and common issues; they have begun discussions and have taken action to bring issues to the notice of relevant authorities. The People's Forum provides support to bring up common issues at the divisional level. Paralleled SHG's and WIG groups are also working on women's issues and social issues.

R2.2 Strategies relating to 18 inequitable distribution of resources and/or opportunities are reported by CSOs and transparently documented by LAs:

A study was conducted by SOND in order to assess civil society and the current level of CSO skills in the target villages. The aim of the study was to identify areas of weakness and strength in order to improve the skills and decision making about the various issues in their local areas.

Livelihood CSO's are actively involved in resource sharing and distribution process. They are very keen on inequitable transparency approach. SHGs and women's groups also keep an eye on accountability, transparency and equitable distribution of resources.

R2.3. 30% of incidents addressed related to conflict between communities over resources:

Based on the study conducted, 30 livelihood related issues were identified in all 3 targeted DS divisions. Necessary steps have been taken to address 17 issues, which comprise 90% of the identified issues

Cattle from Pullumalai GN and neighbouring villages are entering the agriculture land in Mangalagama and destroying the agriculture and their livelihood – this was one issue that was identified during the CVM study, conducted at beginning of the project. Now, both communities have been educated on ways to resolve this issue and this has helped to bring reconciliation among two ethnic groups, thereby reducing tensions and the threat of conflict.

A detailed work plan to solve this particular issue was designed and focus groups in Sinhalese and Tamil areas have been formed, and necessary communications has been made with relevant DSs.

ZOA has initiated a Batticaloa District Livestock Federation with all divisional livestock societies and two meeting has been held among the members this new forum have started involving in conflict issues such as pasture land and cattle damages for agriculture in district boarder areas

Livestock Market initiation: ZOA has worked very hard over the year to set-up and facilitate a Livestock market at Kithul (A5) so that trade fairs can be held for/by livestock farmers as well as various consumer / business organisations purchasing livestock meat. ZOA also provided support to set-up the Livestock Farmers Welfare Society (LFWS) in Eravur pattu and empowered them in various ways to run the cattle market with the collaboration of the Local Authorities. At the start the LFWS called for the assistance of the DS office and the Veterinary department to be present at the market on set days and provide necessary documentation (health certificates, papers for cattle transportation etc.)

LFWS felt that a permanent staff must be appointed by authorities so that market operation will be regularised. This request has been referred to higher authorities and may take some time to regularize legally.



**Livestock market** was on-hold for 4 months due to animal-related diseases. The farmers and society were continuously working with the livestock department to restart the market operation. After long discussions and various meetings with departments, the market was reopened in mid-November 2016. Also some infrastructure development works are being done at market premises to promote the marketing of cattle's. A business plan was prepared by LFWS for next three years and it was submitted to ZOA and other financial institution to get loan from them to promote the business activities of livestock market. It was observed while reviewed the business plan that the society need capacity in handing of higher business polio and advices society to recruit person to handing the daily financial activities and business correspondence. A new marketing officer was recruited for LFWS. ZOA has agreed with the society to support with additional funds to ensure smooth operation of the livestock market.

Totally 642 animals belonging to 378 farmers being sold through livestock market so far which has brought around **24.3 Million** Rupees. This has brought about an increase in income of **Rs.10-15,000** per animal additional income per animal



ZOA has supported ground nut seed producer society to visit other potential

locations for value addition process and it was calculated that farmers would gain additional Rs.30 per kg if they do de-shelling at household level. The society decided to purchase a decorticator machine for this purpose through a bank loan, this intervention will help more than 350 farmers who do ground nut cultivation in the target area. ZOA also continued to facilitate linkages between society members and the government department and agriculture minister for additional benefits.

The following issues are priorities in the project area in Mannar under CVM study - cultivation land (paddy land and high land); access to land and water irrigation tank occupied by military; encroachment of tank catchment area; middlemen exploitation; lack of technical skill for farmers and fishermen trapped under high interest loan; lack of women participation in decision making level; exploitation of women's labour rights; ethnic religious conflict. Progress on land issues is moving very slowly, it is linked with the forest department, DS's, military, and also has considerable political involvement. Advocacy groups are still in the process of addressing these issues with relevant stakeholders. Kokkupadayan tank catchment area has been encroached upon by some farmers. CC and advocacy group took these issues to irrigation department and DS to address the conflict.

ZOA facilitated 4 RFO/FCS to run the independent market with **96 fishermen** who have been refinanced and linked with financial institutions, releasing them from high-interest loans by exploitative middlemen. 150 farmers improved their knowledge on farming techniques and improved the quality and quantity of their produce

The Irrigation department conducted a survey of the Kokkupadayan Tank and resolved the issues relating to it. The Thevanpitty paddy land issues were raised to ministry level by the CC and advocacy group

High interest loan data was collected from all 22 villages and ZOA conducted a Debt Awareness Program through mobilizers for 200 people. 202 people were linked to low interest loan from banks and micro finance organisations.



WIG actively work in women's issues and they continuously get training on women empowerment, political awareness and women's labour rights. ZOA is continuously



facilitating ethnic and religious issues through advocacy groups and the people forum's, also with the participation of SHGs and WIGs.

A2.1 Assessment and dissemination of conflicts and vulnerabilities stifling growth and development the Staff orientation / training.

The CVM assessment was completed in the 1st year and the findings and report were shared with all the stakeholders so that they too could gain a good understanding of the communities and would be able and willing to cooperate and provide support to carry out the required work in the project areas.

A2.2 increasing the understanding of local groups, CSOs and Local Authority on vulnerability (Gender, Caste, Disabilities, etc.) & conflicts.

The examples below depict the increased understanding of stakeholders on issues of vulnerability:

It is anticipated that the conflict between the middlemen and livestock farmers will be resolved through the facilitation and establishment of the livestock market. All of the actors in the supply chain have agreed to share the profit equally in order to reduce the high margin for the middle man. The livestock market was opened on 7th March 2016.

The livestock farmers were reluctant to sell cattle through the newly established livestock society since they were aware of the income losses of the society. As such, negotiations were held with the Commercial Bank which agreed to provide low-interest loans to farmers so that the need for a 'middle man' is diminished and the farmers can get a decent price for their animals.

During the reporting period, continuous awareness was given to communities on livestock selling. A notice board was placed in each village to disseminate information on the operation of the market. The following exposure visits were conducted during this reporting period for livestock farmer's federation members – visiting livestock farmers following best practices and techniques, visiting farmers working with milk based products with value addition, visiting societies following sound accounting systems and book keeping.

Using the grass land between the livestock farmers and agriculture farmers has been a situation of conflict among the agriculture farmers and the livestock farmers. At times this gave rise to ethnic related issues among the communities. To deal with this, the Sanasamuga Nilayam members in Pullumalai and Mangalagama decided to jointly act as mediators and address the issue using conciliatory approaches. Now, the two communities have started to interact with each other and this will give them the opportunity to discuss the issues of grasslands.

Follow up of pasture land usage and cattle damages on agriculture crops between Mangalagama and surrounding Tamil villages (detailed above): a strategy and comprehensive plan has been prepared to carry out the activities even beyond the project period. As initial steps, a subcommittee has been formed to meet the stakeholders who are affected by this issue. This committee has met with divisional secretaries and other government officials to disseminate information on these issues as well as to collect the necessary data.

During the reporting period, the WIG group commenced mobilization among the communities to get support from different clusters. WIG group members participated in different training sessions (such as gender sensitization, labour rights, good governance, violence against women), meetings, and events organized by ZOA, women's networks, NGO consortium, transitional justice groups, constitutional reformation groups etc. Political party leaders requested the WIG group to organize community level meetings and WIG members also visited the political party offices. WIG is continuously raising awareness to women in their villages and members are increasing in numbers. WIG is also expanding their network with organizations and other women's group who are involve in women empowerment work. WIG members met WRDS members in target divisions and conducted awareness sessions on women's participation in politics and women's labour rights.

A clear constitution and strategies have been finalized for WIG to ensure and maintain neutrality (the constitution is available in Tamil and is being used in the ongoing registration process of WIG). As some of the main members showed an interest to join political parties, a second level of leaders was also established to continue community level activity without any political influence.

The WIG Groups had started a dialogue with political parties and organised meetings with political leaders to discuss women rights, proposed electoral system reformation in the constitutional changes, 25% seats to the women in local council election. Some political parties have accepted their demands and promised to give seats in future elections.

WIG groups were also involved in a variety of activities, including, identification of child and women abuse, prevention of illegal alcohol business/sale, peace and integration activities, legal document support for missing persons, family visits to check voters list registration, business opportunity trainings for women headed, forming of a Garment Workers Federation for women to address their issues collectively etc.

ZOA works in 38 Pradeshiya Shaba electoral clusters in targeted 3 DS divisions as follows:

A strategic development workshop has been arranged with both Mannar and Batticaloa WIG members and future plans have been finalized

District	Division	Total GN	Total Cluster	ZOA targeted Cluster	WIG Member	Nomination by Political Parties (nominated / nominee)
Mannar	Manthai West	36	11	6	40<	3/3
Mannar	Musali	20	10	2	10<	1/3
Batticaloa	Eravur Pattu	39	17	8	62	3/5

The KESSA women network and the Women in good governance groups are very active, ZOA continues to carry out capacity building activities and link with other networks. The KESSA women network took the initiative to resolve the issue of drop-outs among garment workers; 57 girls commenced work but only 11 continued working: 30 new girls were employed by Timex garments and some re-joined the underlying issues that cause the drop-out of workers needed to be addressed and KESSA made contact with the free trade zones and the general services employees union to seek advice on the situation. Thereafter, they facilitated awareness sessions for garment workers; they are also supporting the formation of a labour union for garment workers in Mannar and ZOA is assisting them with this process. ZOA and the trade union facilitated an exchange programme for workers from Jaffna, the East, upcountry and the South to share their experience and problems. Following this, they collected worker issues and organized three awareness discussion meetings with the Free Trade Zones & General Services Employees Union on labour rights.

WIG / ZOA continues to be involved in SHG activities in providing loans to group members at a low interest rate, promoting home gardening through organic cultivation method, assisting in household financial management methods, conducting alcohol addiction awareness training and making plans to run blood sugar checking clinics at community level, with referral services provided if help is needed. Women's groups have been formed and strengthened through awareness and training. The following training was provided for 30 to 40 women from 20 villages – women in politics, women in good governance, sensitization on social issues, exposure visit with other women's group and meeting political parties. Subsequently, three women expressed an interest to contest the upcoming local authority election.

Out of the total of 162 SHGs in the target locations, 75 (1228 members, 309 from marginalised groups) started functioning. These 75 SHGs have saved Rs. 3.5m combined and have commenced issuing loans to their members. Many of the vulnerable SHG members are now more confident about life, more active as CSOs, and more willing to make their voices heard. 7 villages formed a



groups

ZOA also continue to facilitate 102 previously formed SHGs; totally 188 SHGs are functioning 36 awareness programs were conducted to strengthen SHG's on household finance management, encouraging people to develop home gardens for food consumption and awareness sessions on managing loans – over 750 SHG members participated in these sessions. (Overview of 188 SHGs)

District	No of SHGs			Total Savings	Loan Granted	Service Charges	Cash in Hand
	Old	New	Total	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
Mannar	80	28	108	3,430,212	3,528,282	323,487	526,167
Batticaloa	22	58	80	3,634,913	344,480	710,316	1,074,480

Totally 342 individuals have linked with low interest Rs.24M loans financial institutions which has supported beneficiaries to reduce their income loses due to high interest loans

	102	86	188	7,065,125	3,872,762	1,033,803	1,600,647
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As a result of the CVM assessment, ZOA identified that many in the community had taken high interest loans (22%-34%) on micro-finance schemes and were unable to make the repayments because of their low income levels.

ZOA helped these people to restart their business with a proper business plan and assisted them through SHG to get low interest loans (annual 6.5% BOC / 10% YGRO) from micro finance organizations and banks. As a result,

133 people received low interest loans from YGRO (Rs.30,000 per person)

55 from Bank of Ceylon (Rs.100,000 per person)

84 farmers from Hatton National Bank (Rs.100,000 per person)

70 peanut farmers from Commercial Bank (Rs.99,000 per person),

Amounting to a combined total of Rs 24,820,000 to re-start their livelihoods.

A2.3 Facilitating conflict transformation & peace building through formation of advocacy and lobby groups promoting strong linkages through exposure, experience sharing, linkages awareness and advocacy with relevant stakeholder groups.

ZOA facilitated 3 CSO forum meetings with relevant LAs have to understand VDP and CVM findings in the target areas. Many CSO's presented their issues and these were documented and handed over to LAs by CSOs. ZOA and SOND continue facilitating regular meetings with CSO's and LA's to advance accountability and ensure the referral system is followed by LAs.

Based on the review and discussion with LAs, it was apparent that the existing referral systems in targeted divisions were not working and the response from LAs to complaints/requests was poor. ZOA and SOND have had discussions with LAs about the situation and necessary follow up has been taken. The CSOs are actively engaging with the LAs to get feedback and response.

The pasture issue between the communities of Pullumalai and Mangalagama has been mentioned earlier in this report. There was potential for ethnic conflict in this situation but it was resolved through discussion and a peace & reconciliation process.

ZOA conducted 3 conflict transformation training sessions for our target selected beneficiaries who were interested in peace building. ZOA facilitated the formation of village-wise advocacy groups with trained people and relevant livelihood CSO and CC active members. They took responsibility to identify issues, with ZOA facilitation. ZOA continues to facilitate peace building and understanding through dialog and discussion among all communities through group meetings.

ZOA also conducted capacity building training for 29 participants (both male & female) on peace transformation and advocacy to handle livelihoods and social conflict in their villages. 15 village-wise advocacy groups and 2 division-wise people's forums have been formed to identify livelihood conflict issues on agriculture land, irrigation tanks and other issues of exploitation.

ZOA has initiated discussion in order to form a district forum for livestock farmers associations; one of the functions of this forum is to mediate on cattle issues in border areas and also ready to introduce the livestock market idea to other divisional livestock associations



### **R3: Skills building: Reduced poverty through the provision of marketable personal & professional skills**

R 3.1 50% of youth reporting improved understanding and access to the labour market has increased: YGRO has targeted 1500 youths in both districts to increase labour market access, in total, 1628 youth have been registered in the last 2.5 years in the career guidance centres from selected villages; 873 youth were registered in the Mannar Career Guidance Centre & 755 were registered in the Batticaloa Career Guidance Centre. 859 registered youth followed a variety of training programmes. Awareness sessions on the labour market and dissemination of information was conducted with the support of the respective divisional government vocational training centres as well; apart from that YGRO also disseminated information available on other vocational training providers and encouraged youths to register themselves on the job.net as well

R 3.2 70% of Trainees reported increased employability or productivity as a result of the training: There has been an increase in employability and income as a result of the training and networking. 334 persons have gained employment during the reporting period and reported increased income; details listed out below various trainings and awareness which has contributed to increase the income during last 2.5 years

Employment status of above given details are below:

Description	District	Target	Complete	Employed
Heavy Vehicle Machineries training	Batticaloa	33	17	17
Hotel & Hospitality Training	Batticaloa	10	8	4
Out Source Vocational Training	Batticaloa	6	5	5
Seminar (NVQ & Foreign)	Batticaloa	181	67	67
Life skill training	Batticaloa	167	100	100
Capacity building CST, CGP, GYB, SYB)	Batticaloa	247	33	33
House wiring and Household repair VT	Mannar	16	09	6
Out Source Human Resource Management	Mannar	5	4	2
Life skill training	Mannar	100	100	54
Capacity building (CST,CGP,GYB,SYB)	Mannar	40	40	33
Heavy vehicle operator	Mannar	20	17	03
Advance Tailoring training	Mannar	25	24	0
Guiding for Employment (Motor Bike, Car)	Mannar	9	0	6
Advance skill Industrial Wiring	Mannar	4	4	4
		863	428	334

Income increase for those analysis for those who got jobs:

Description	District	Evaluated (Person)	Working status (before)	Income before	Income after
Heavy Vehicle training	Batticaloa	17	Unskill labour/ Labour	14,941	22,294
Hotel & Hospitality course	Batticaloa	4	Unskill labour/ Labour	7,125	14,250
Out Source Training	Batticaloa	5	Vegetable Curd Business	16,800	20,800
Seminar (NVQ & Foreign)	Batticaloa	67	Agriculture & Unskill lab	8,507	10,186
Life skill training	Batticaloa	100	Agriculture & Unskill lab	10,715	12,780
Capacity building (CST,CGP,GYB,SYB)	Batticaloa	33	Cattle rearing/ Agri	5,684	16,263
House wiring and House hold equipment repair VT	Mannar	6	Unskill dropped out students	00	10,000
Out Source HRM	Mannar	2	A/L completed students	00	12,000

Life skill training proper business ideas	Mannar	54	Poultry, tailoring, Beauty culture	4,000	7,500
Capacity building (CST, CGP, GYB, SYB)	Mannar	33	Cattle, Agri, Poultry, Fishing	9,000	12,500
Heavy Vehicle operator	Mannar	3	Unskilled / job less	10,000	15,000
Guiding for Employment	Mannar	6	Skilled /Job less	6,000	12,000
Advance skill Industrial Wiring	Mannar	4	Skilled up grade	15,000	22,000
		334			

### R 3.3 50% of people with improved business management skills has increased

18 women village leaders received GYB training to identify suitable businesses to start, based on their resources; 18 young women received GYB training and continued to get trained in Beauty culture; 13 young women received SYB training, 54 producer's women from the villages received GYB training; 6 trainees completed house wiring and household equipment repair training and can now start working in their trade; their skills have also improved considerably. At the time they were selected for training they has no idea of what they wanted to do but now they are employed with electricians at their villages and 4 of them have become partners with their employers to earn increased income; 3 Life skill training sessions were conducted for poultry producers (92 people benefited) and there has been a noticeable improvement in the way they operate and manage their business activities.

### R 3.4 50% of people with improved technical skills has increased

Value-addition training was conducted for 22 participants, ZOA supports 17 groups continuously in producing of other valued- added items from pine apple, mango, milk, water melon, lemon, green orange, cashew fruit and peanuts; during this quarter, a trial was conducted, in Mangalagama, to extract the juice of the cashew fruit. If this succeeds it will give good value to the vast quantity of cashew fruit that are thrown away on a regular basis.

2 exposure visits were arranged in relation to improve the production and quality of banana production; the Banana society members have adopted many of the new improved methods in their cultivations.

Fisheries market disseminated to (Manthai west); and are profitable sea for each kg suitable was serious

of networking (less than

After the Banana exposure cultivation training improved; societies are able extension services; training high yield; introduced good water sector company (David Gram) to supply harvest equipment for quick and low cost harvest; detailed calculation and necessary test run organized to understand the cost difference between dry nut sells and un- shelled nut sales; on average Rs.14 additional income will be gained, so decide to purchase the machinery required for the process.

analysis was conducted for 4 fishing communities and results RFOs, Assistant Fisheries Director, DS, GA and LA Two RFO/FCS function well and they keep proper records transparent in their activities. They are running a food business; each fishermen is earning 60/= to 100/= of sea food. Producer groups have been organized and market crops have been identified; an assessment carried out to identify fishermen who are in debt; an exposure visit was organized to a successful 'model' society for the purpose learning and experience sharing; is continuing with potential low interest 8%) bank / financial institutions

to Jaffna and value- addition and received, cultivation techniques has to access the government subsidy and provided on cultivation techniques to get

management systems; link facilitated with private

Societies are able to access the government subsidy and extension services; the Government has declared Maavalaiaaru (Puttampuri) a potential area for ground nut cultivation and 700 acres were cultivated during last season; Conducted 2 awareness training on labour rights; collaborated with Trade Union and distributed labour rights information (RTI) hand-outs; 50 potential farmers identified and trained on quality seed production in full collaboration with seed department; 10 paddy farmers and 30 peanut farmers have started quality seed production; 5 peanut seeds producers have had

successful harvests and the department of agriculture has decided to purchase the peanuts at Rs.320 per kg; 25 commercial farmers also harvested and sold at Rs195 per kg

100 farmers have visited two value- addition processing places and decide to purchase a seed decorticator machine for processing which will be easy and time saving / cost saving method  
Buyers of unshelled peanuts have been connected to the farmers and they have agreed to purchase unshelled peanuts at for Rs.320 / per kg.

ZOA continued to assist fishermen to improve their earning capacity in the following ways (46 fishermen from 6 RFO/FCS and 6 fishermen department staff participated):

- Helping them to refinance their loans and make good links with the market to improve their prices
- Conducting 2 capacity building trainings on good governance and book-keeping
- Facilitating 2 exposure visits to Jaffna and one to Colombo to interact with well-functioning FCS – visiting ice factories, processing centres etc.
- Holding 2 coordinating meetings with RFOs interested in sea-food marketing – 3 RFOs showed interest in engaging in this business, one from Musali and 2 from Manthai West
- Providing assistance to facilitate recovery from low-income, as a result of catch from the sea being much less than usual in the last six months

A3.1 Analysis of markets for actual opportunities in labor and skills, perceptions and job market and the dissemination of information to larger stakeholders promoting marketable solutions.

YGRO was continuously involved in disseminating the market survey finding at 09 events, including awareness programs/ meetings at village level / divisional level and district level to promote demand opportunities in the job market; this also involved facilitating registered Job Bank Services to provide more suitable training or referrals to develop their skill and employability by providing advice on business training based on the demand opportunities in the job market

755 jobseekers were registered under OTBED centre, Chenkalady ; 19 of them have been guided to vocational (heavy vehicle operators and VTPs outsource) training; 22 unemployed youths received GYB and SYB training; 66 youth have received life skilled training; 28 youth received career skill and guidance training; 70 youth attended Foreign employment & NVQ Awareness Programs. Altogether, 205 jobseekers were provided with employment advice and assistance during the reporting period.

780 jobseekers were registered under OTBED centre, Pallamadu. At first mobilizers conducted the need identification survey to enumerate and identify the unskilled and the unemployed on the JBS data system. Thereafter, 90 people received business training, 40 people received advance skill training, 93 youth received life skill training, and vocational training and 20 persons were sent for outsourced training

A3.2 Informed career guidance and counseling services with Special tailor made solutions for women & people with disabilities.

Based on the market survey findings regarding the lack of interest showed by women and PWDs in seeking outside employment opportunities due to family commitments and physical status, YGRO has conducted programs such as career guidance and counselling to help these groups and advise them on growing businesses locally.

YGRO has conducted a varied range of programs such as career guidance and counselling, what is the Business Idea, Are you the Right Person for Business, Generate your Business Idea, Analyse your Business ideas generate your business etc.: Advance skill training was provided to those with basic skills in order to add value to locally available products, using external resource persons.

A3.3 Provision of marketable professional and vocational technical education and training through the identification of appropriate trades & on the job training opportunities.

YGRO developed Vocational Training Courses based on the market survey recommendations, and conducted village level VT awareness programs to identify suitable youth/persons. VT courses are being conducted through the process developed and linked with employer; the courses are NVQ certificate level training, conducted and recommended VT courses;

Unemployed youths from Eravur Pattu DS division were selected and sent to Galkulama OTC for systematic Heavy Vehicle operator training ; 17 youth are now are undergoing the training, specifically selected for Backhoe loader, Forklift and Skit steer loader training, because there is a high need in the market for skilled operators in these fields. In addition, other unemployed youths from Eravur Pattu DS division and have been sent to the Hotel Management and Hospitality training at Sri Lanka Institute of



Tourism and Hotel Management [SLITHM) in Kalkudah, One youth who followed the VTP is now running a food processing business from her own home

30 youth from Mannar and Batticaloa are in the process of enrolling for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Heavy vehicle machinery training course.

A3.4 Improving & increasing opportunities for employment and income generation through increased productivity and improved market linkages in (Agri / Fisheries / Dairy / Small business & Casual labor sectors)

ZOA has commenced working with 17 societies / producer groups which includes more than 1500 farmers and fishers in both districts such as banana producer groups, ground nut producer groups, peanut seed producer groups, seed paddy producer groups, papaw producer groups, chillie producer groups, Vegetable producer groups, home gardening groups, livestock farmers federation, fisheries groups etc

During the reporting period, these group members attended 24 agriculture training sessions on cultivation methods, 452 members received water conservation training and market skill training; this helped farmers to increase productivity by pot cultivation and usage of natural fertilizers; exposure visits to other best practice societies, booking keeping training, training on effect of illegal fishing, providing support to develop land mapping and encourage them to develop water reservation systems with in the land etc further improved the knowledge and technical skills of the members.

During the reporting period, ZOA the support of mobilizers, was able to support 48 Papaw Cultivators (Mannar), 77 Ground Nut commercial Producers (both districts), 40 Banana Producers in Batticaloa, 5 Peanut seeds producers (both districts), 45 Vegetable 45, 41 Chilies Producers in Mannar, 118 Home gardening farmers (both districts), 90 Fresh water fishers in Batticaloa and 200 Livestock farmers in Batticaloa; in most instances, these specified farmers are involved in more than one of these activities. SME support was provided to 9 vulnerable women (dry fish, tea shop, chillie powder and chicken rearing); they also received training in value-addition and were taken on exposure visits to increase their knowledge and improve their work practices in order to enhance their income; 3 market outlets were also facilitated to assist the beneficiaries to sell their products.

11 Book keeping training sessions were held for 115 members (FCS & RFO) from 7 villages. Three of these societies are maintaining good book keeping systems. 3 Awareness training sessions on Illegal Fishing practices were conducted for 52 fishermen from 6 villages. 4 FCS/RFO are now running the independent market. 90 fishermen are selling their catch through this independent market.

5 Awareness training sessions on Illegal Fishing and resource management, were conducted for students; 146 students from 3 schools (Thevanpitty, Anthoniyarpuram and Illuppakadavai) participated.

## 2.4 Updated action plan Year 3

Year 3 – Feb 2017 – Jan 2018	Feb-July 2017						Aug-Jan 2018						WHO
Activity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
A1.1 Capacity Assessment of 31 CSOs		C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E	D			SOND
A1.1 Formation and strengthening of CSOs, Co-ops	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	SOND
A1.1Capacity building on roles & responsibilities CSO's & LA's	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	SOND
A1.2 Facilitating strong linkages between CSOs, Co-ops, LAs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	SOND
A1.2 Conducting of VDPs	x	x	x	x	x	x							SOND
A1.3 Facilitate advocacy issues identified in VDPs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	SOND
A1.4 Legal AID clinic				x					x				SOND
A1.4 Organizing competitions among peer CSOs & Co-ops			x						x				SOND
A1.4 Common events, competitions and exposure visits		x						x				x	SOND
A2.1 Conflict Vulnerability Studies		C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E	D			ZOA
A2.2 Dissemination of Conflict Vulnerability Study findings among stakeholders		C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E	D			ZOA
A2.3 Continuous support providing to Livestock farmers federation and livestock Market arrangements	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	ZOA

A2.3 Create networks between the seed producers and department of Agriculture	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					ZOA
A2.3 Increase the women participation in politics	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		ZOA
A2.3 Fair trade practices for fish business	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		ZOA
A2.3 Continue to involve in women savings/credit activities (SHG)	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		ZOA
A.2.3 Develop advocacy plan and address with higher level officer	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		ZOA
A2.3 Initiatives for Potential SMEs	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					ZOA
A3.1 Labour Market Survey and Dissemination			C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E	D			YGRO
A3.2 Job bank Services related registration	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		YGRO
A3.2 Life skill training & Seminars - NVQ Awareness & Foreign employment	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				YGRO
A3.2 Beneficiary capacity building and career guidance activities	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		YGRO
A3.3 Vocational awareness & Training - six month course & outsources	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					YGRO
A3.4 Providing Agriculture/ Dairy related trainings.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				ZOA

### Challenges reported:

- There are difficulties in finding systematic trainers for heavy vehicle operations. One of the few option is the Constructions Equipment Operator Training College at Galkulama, Anuradhapura; there are delays since they recruit and train batch by batch
- Unexpected and severe drought situation has affected cultivation
- Heavy damage caused by cattle affected paddy cultivators and peanut producers
- Middleman creating blocks/ interruptions in fisheries refinancing linkages and strategies, noticed in both districts
- Women's group have faced difficulties, as WIG members who are interested in joining political parties are not clear about WIG constitution
- WIG members have become prominent in different divisional and district meetings, and as a result have received several invitations for many meetings; this has affected some of the women leaders' income, as they depend on daily labour
- Youth who undergo various trainings and subsequently expect immediate job opportunities
- Government staff support for livestock market is limited due to their own job priorities and shortage of staff members in the veterinary department
- Allocation of women representation in political parties' priority list in terms of preference to WIG members or politically-connected members still unclear
- Participants who voluntarily followed the Hotel Management Course become less enthusiastic about the course due to prevailing negative social perceptions
- There is a lack of motivation to fully complete courses upon registration, as beneficiaries have not made any personal financial investment
- Discrepancies in Eastern and Northern Provincial Council allocation of subsidiary funds cause tension on the ground level
- ACLG was not clear about the nature of the project objective of staff training and capacity building, which resulted in delays in implementation
- No elected member (Chairman) in Pradeshiya Sabha to make decisions
- Tax collection not done in most working locations, which affects funding allocation to community centre requests; LAs are not well structured and do not allocate funds appropriately
- Cooperative societies presently too dependent on the leadership of few leading authorities, which results in instability in the event of a change in leadership; second-level of leadership structure non-existent
- Government support is limited for the livestock market and only male animals can be sold (however, many female animals are slaughtered unofficially)
- Some refinanced fishermen have been forced to return to indebtedness to middlemen, due to lacking structures of FCS/RFOs
- Sinhalese communities complain that livestock of nearby Tamil communities are encroaching onto their lands and damaging their livelihoods; however, the Sinhalese communities are reluctant to address the issue, as they are reportedly occupying the lands illegally
- Lack of support by men for women in politics, as well as traditional barriers for Muslim women making it difficult to mobilise Muslim women for political representation

- u) Women are reluctant to pursue labour rights at garment factories, although there is interest at village-level

**Annexures:**

Annex 1: Case Stories

- a) Mannar, Release from Middleman trap - ZOA
- b) Batticaloa, Heavy Vehicle Vocational Training – YGRO
- c) Mannar, Life skill development – YGRO
- d) Batticaloa, Peanut producer society and market linkages – ZOA
- e) Batticaloa, CC Linkages with Local Authorities - SOND
- f) Mannar, Anthoniyar Community Centre – SOND

Annex 2: Target Locations vs Status of CSOs

Annex 3: CSO Development Issues examples / Livelihood issues

Annex 4: Refined log frame indicators

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