

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

Final Project Progress report from SOND to ZOA.

Date of Submission: 28.02.2018.

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. Assessment of implementation of Action activities

1.1. 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 Pradeshiya 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 Padesh 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
--------------	--------------------	---------------------------	------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	-----------------	--------------------	---------------------------	-----------------	----------------

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.

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
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 Kokkuppadayan 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 Kokkupadayan 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 Sarvodaya 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 constrict 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.

Anthonyarpuram 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. Anthonyarpuram 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. Anthonyarpuram 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.

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 also cleaned.

330 Kagu trees received from Mr.Nadarajah and distributed among the 30 members by Pullumalai Senthamarai CC.Nutritional foods, to the value of Rs 5500/-, for the preschool children and preschool teacher's monthly salary of Rs 7500 for each month provided by Pullumalai Senthamarai CC. The funds collected from the well-wisher who was born in Pullumalai village and now lives in Canada.

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 tress 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 Sanasamuqa 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 (Sanasamuqa Nilayam):

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 Commisionner 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 Illuppakkadavai. 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.

Observation:

When we start to work with the other CBOs and then to work with the CCs, we found many commonalities among them. During the war time most of the CBOs were defunct, and few of them were functioning also not very effective.

The CBO leaders do not want to take any responsibilities and at the same time they do not want others to take responsibilities and wanted to keep the leadership with them by doing nothing. But the community as they all are affected, wanted these CBOs to help them.

The leaders of the CBOs do not have knowledge to manage the societies effectively and unable to communicate with the service providers. The attitude of the government officials also not favour of the local leaders.

Most of the CBO leaders do not have the exposure to the new development trend and because of this reason they all are doing the same thing in the CBOs like what they have done before 30 years.

Our Intervention:

By understanding the above situation and context, we plan our intervention carefully. First we start the discussion with the community leaders about the above matters. We also motivate them and made them to think about the Vision that they are going to see the future.

Encourage and Motivate the young leaders and accommodate them along with the traditional leaders. Many tailor made training programs are conducted according to the need of the leaders.

Our field staff also facilitate them to use/ apply the knowledge gain in the training program. Gradually the leaders are able to understand their roles and responsibilities and keep the documents properly, contact the service providers and get the support to fulfil the needs of the community.

Recommendation:

1. Monthly meeting with the CBOs executive committees need to be conducted along with the supporting NGO staff.
2. Monthly work plan need to be developed and ensure that the plan activities are implemented with the NGO field staff facilitation.
3. Coaching and training needs to be arranged for them to build the capacity specially on mobilizing the community and managing the CBOs.
4. Multi sectoral approach is the best way to improve the community status.
5. A full time staff among the community is important to ensure the smooth function of the CBO with clear specific tasks.
6. All the CCs/ CBOs need to be federated in Division and District level and function like a forum to advocate for big issues. The forum can also include capable people to influence the policy / decision makers.

SOND Contribution:

SOND did it's best to achieve the project objectives. We use all our past 30 years experience in working with the community in this project.

We also did not do much in the latter stage of the project as the Program manager left and join in the government service, two of our field contest in the election and they left. And only one staff work with us to work in the two DS divisions in Mannar district.

SOND will give one day a month to these CCs to train or Coach them and any one can use us with out any cost.

Working Experience:

This is the first project working with ZOA for SOND. We value the good practices and commitments of the staff in ZOA. We are also able to gain lot of new experience from ZOA. The office set up, working relationship, admin- cost effectiveness ect.

We are very much happy working with ZOA and even in the future we will work with them.

We are thanking ZOA for all the support given in the project period.