



ADRA Sri Lanka News

One life at a time...

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JANUARY 30, 2009

You are holding the first issue of ADRA Sri Lanka's quarterly newsletter. It includes highlights of activities during the last quarter of 2008. Our desire is to share with you the many ways ADRA is working inside communities to bring hope and make this world a better place.

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Opening of LIGHT II

In a colorful ceremony, on October 21, 2008, ADRA Sri Lanka officially launched the second stage of the Livelihood Income Generation Health and Training (LIGHT) project in Hatton. This project is a continuation of LIGHT I and it aims to assist communities in the tea estates with basic needs of clean water, sanitation, nutrition, and income generation.

Mr. W.M. Gunawardana, Divisional Secretary of Ambegamuwa addressed guests and staff members of ADRA Sri Lanka and wished them a very successful project for the benefit of the community.

Mr Sakthiyavelu, Divisional Development Assistant to the Ministry of Nation and Estate Infrastructure, Mr. Attanayaka, De-

velopment Officer of the NGOs sector, on behalf of the District Secretary, and Mr. Augustin, Program Manager of World Vi-



Country Director Mr. Edgar Castillo, and Project Manager Mr. R.M. Sivamohan next to a new water reservoir.

sion, were also present in the event.

During the program, community members of 14 estates took the opportunity to thank ADRA Sri Lanka for the assistance provided during many years. Following the

ceremony, Mr Karunaharan, Program Coordinator of PREDO, Mr. Gunawardana and Mr. Attanayaka proceeded to unveil the project signs.

In addition to the opening ceremony, the estate management staff, local government officers and personnel of other NGOs participated in the inauguration of two water supply sites (from previous LIGHT I Project) at the Queensland and Mahanilu Estates.

LIGHT II is funded by ADRA International and will benefit a total of 750 households in five estates. ADRA Sri Lanka has been working with the communities of the tea estates for a period of 10 years

New Project Manager

We are very pleased to share that Mr. Tissa Jayasekara has joined ADRA Sri Lanka as Project Manager for LIFH (Low Income Family Housing) project.

Mr. Tissa is from Sri Lanka and brings with him 30 years of experience in construction, engineering and the last three in

Program Management. We are looking forward to a great experience working with Mr. Tissa and extend him a warm welcome to ADRA Sri Lanka and ADRA's Global Network.

We very much appreciate the support of Mr. Josue Mpayamaguru, MPH, PhD, for handling



additional responsibilities as Acting Program Director during one month.

Team BUILDING in Tissamaharama



Participants learn how to identify obstacles to effective planning and propose possible solutions.

On November 24-27, 2008, the Staff of LIFH (Low Income Family Housing) project participated in a workshop on Effective Communication for Improved Productivity led by Dr. Josue Mpayamaguru, Team Building Facilitator and Programs Officer of ADRA Sri Lanka.

Tissa Resort in Tissamaharama, set the relaxing atmosphere for the participants who were motivated through several techniques such as Johari and Sigmund Freud's

windows, Socrates' discovery method, role-play, readings and PP presentations.

In the words of Mrs. Renuka Pilanawithana, accountant to this project from our central office in Colombo: "This workshop has taught me many things I didn't know, I now feel motivated to reach goals and look into new ideas of effective communication. It also taught me the importance of every member of a work team. I recommend this workshop to all other projects and

organizations."

Dr. Josue has a vast experience conducting workshops and seminars on health and community development issues and holds a Masters degree in Public Health and a PhD in Rural Development. We are very privileged to have him as part of ADRA Sri Lanka team and learn from his experience.



Drilling Rig for ACE

On October 15, after many procedures, ADRA Sri Lanka acquired a drilling Rig that will aid in the accomplishment of the work that ACE (Ampara Community Empowerment) project is doing in Ampara District of eastern Sri Lanka.

One of the many key activities of ACE is to establish and develop a sustainable water system for tsunami affected



families. The purchase of the rig will meet the demands of the project and will also repre-

sent an investment for future projects in ADRA Sri Lanka.

After completing 74 geophysical investigations, a total of 29 locations were approved for exploratory tube well drilling. Drilling operations begun on Oct 31 and thus far, 14 of the locations have been drilled with an average depth of 40 meters and an average yield of 10 liters per minute

Mrs. Karolina welcomed the Sri Lankan way.



Mrs. Karolina Emanuelova, International Program Manager from ADRA Czech, visited ADRA Sri Lanka from September 15-23 to monitor the Low Income Family Empowerment (LIFE)

and Low Income Family Housing (LIFH) projects in Southern Sri Lanka.

During her visit, she met with the representatives of the community and local government, conducted some interviews with stakeholders and beneficiaries. She also had the privilege to cut the ribbon for

the inauguration of a new home from LIFH project and interact with staff members of both projects. We hope her stay in Sri Lanka was a pleasant one and welcome her again to our beautiful island



Anusha shares her passion for cooking

Stories from the Field

Today, LIFE Project team goes to Malgampura village for regular monitoring. In one of the training sessions, Anusha is serving snacks to the participants. She sees the project director and approaches her. With excitement she explains how happy she is now that she doesn't need to ask her husband for money to buy things for her kitchen. She loves to cook, but her husband's salary is just enough for

school and daily needs that her dream of cooking was on hold, until LIFE project came to the village and started the livelihood program.

Before the 2004 tsunami, Anusha's house was no luxury, but it was complete. She had enough kitchen equipment to cook and sell snacks and lunches in the harbor. This was not only her passion, but also an additional income for the family. When the tsunami washed away everything they had, her dreams went off with the waves. Many NGO's assisted them with money, a house, some furniture like tables, chairs and a television; she even received a sewing machine as most neighbors did.

But she remembers that no one asked her what she would like to have or would like to do. When LIFE project started its livelihood program, she attended all trainings from business planning to food technology and packaging. She was inspired to design her own business and start cooking again.

Two months after she started the business, she is earning enough money to buy what she likes for her house and feels their lives are recovering as she recovers her house back and her dreams.

The **Livelihood and Infrastructure for Family Empowerment** project is located in Tangalle, Hambantota District.

LIFE project with its UTOP (Use to Own Project) tool continues to provide sustainable livelihood to its beneficiaries, and for Anusha, some joys of life too!

A Better Diet

In a world where maternal and child malnutrition account for 3.5 million deaths and the rise in world food prices threaten to increase this figure, ADRA Sri Lanka is deeply grateful to work in Pottuvil, Ampara District, in a project to bring relief while creating sustainable solutions.

With a mission focused on train-

ings, this project works to empower mothers with small children based on Positive Deviance, a methodology which emphasizes sustainable community mobilization techniques and valuable local knowledge and resources.

As part of the program, women are trained in the value of using home gardens to feed their families.

With the help of ADRA, thousands of children are participating in nutritional programs such as this around the world.

HEARTH project receives the support of 117 dedicated volunteers to accomplish its objectives.



Mother and daughter have better nutrition thanks to ADRA's health program



Farewell and Best Wishes

ADRA Sri Lanka was very happy to have Ms. Sarah Simmons among us from April 15– December 15 of 2008.

Sarah came to help with Monitoring and Evaluation activities for two of our largest projects. She also participated in need assessment tasks

in the eastern coast of the island and contributed in the preparation of two full proposals for ADRA Sri Lanka.

Her dedication to this organization is very much appreciated and her warm smile will be truly missed by our staff. We wish Sarah the best as she looks to new horizons in her life.

Going on in Pottuvil



ADRA Sri Lanka, Country Director, Mr. Edgar Castillo, and Board Member, Mr. Werner Reith, visited ADRA's field office in Pottuvil on November 28-30, 2008. They met with ADRA's local teams implementing two projects in the area- Ampara Community Empowerment, an integrated community development project, and HEARTH, a community based nutrition enrichment project for vulnerable mothers and children. They visited ADRA Sri Lanka's new

drilling rig in action while drilling a borehole at a school in the tsunami affected village of Komari. While in Komari, they also presided over a meeting where hygiene and sanitation kits were handed over to 84 families, who completed six months of health education trainings, home visits and community clean up activities. They visited ACE target community Sengamam and handed over community engagement materials for the conflict affected community at 4th Mile Post for their Multi Purpose Center following the community's completion of capacity building trainings. While in the area they visited more than 10 water sources built by ADRA and

saw the first plants beginning to grow in some of ACE's 386 homegardens. Finally, they presided over an opening ceremony at the Pottuvil Bus Halt, which was rehabilitated by ADRA in partnership with the Pradeshiya Sabha, Medical Office of Health and Ceylon Transportation Board. More than 100 government officials, community leaders and citizens attended the event to celebrate the renovations that included the installation of sanitation facilities, running water, repaired ceiling and floors, and new tiles and paint.

Renovations included new sanitation facilities, tiles and paint.



Contact us:

37, Purana Road

Wattegedara

Maharagama

Sri Lanka

Phone: +94 112 841940 , +94 115 512920

Fax : +94 112 843875

E-mail: info@adrasrilanka.org

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is an independent humanitarian agency established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the specific purpose of providing individual and community development and disaster relief. Locally registered, ADRA serves people without regard to their religious association. It simply helps people in need, especially those most vulnerable such as women, children, and the elderly.

See you on the web!
www.adrasrilanka.org

Changing the world, one life at a time...