



Annual Report 2017 to 2018

Who We Are

We are an organization of people, a collective of like-minded and motivated individuals, who have come together, pooled our knowledge and expertise and are committed to strengthening systems of empowerment for the community. We believe in collaborative engagement at all levels of society, through this we will build inclusivity into what we do: promoting sustainable change. We also believe in enterprise. As an organization we are learning, we are growing and we embrace the challenges along the way with open mind.

Our Vision

A pluralistic Sri Lanka where all are empowered and included

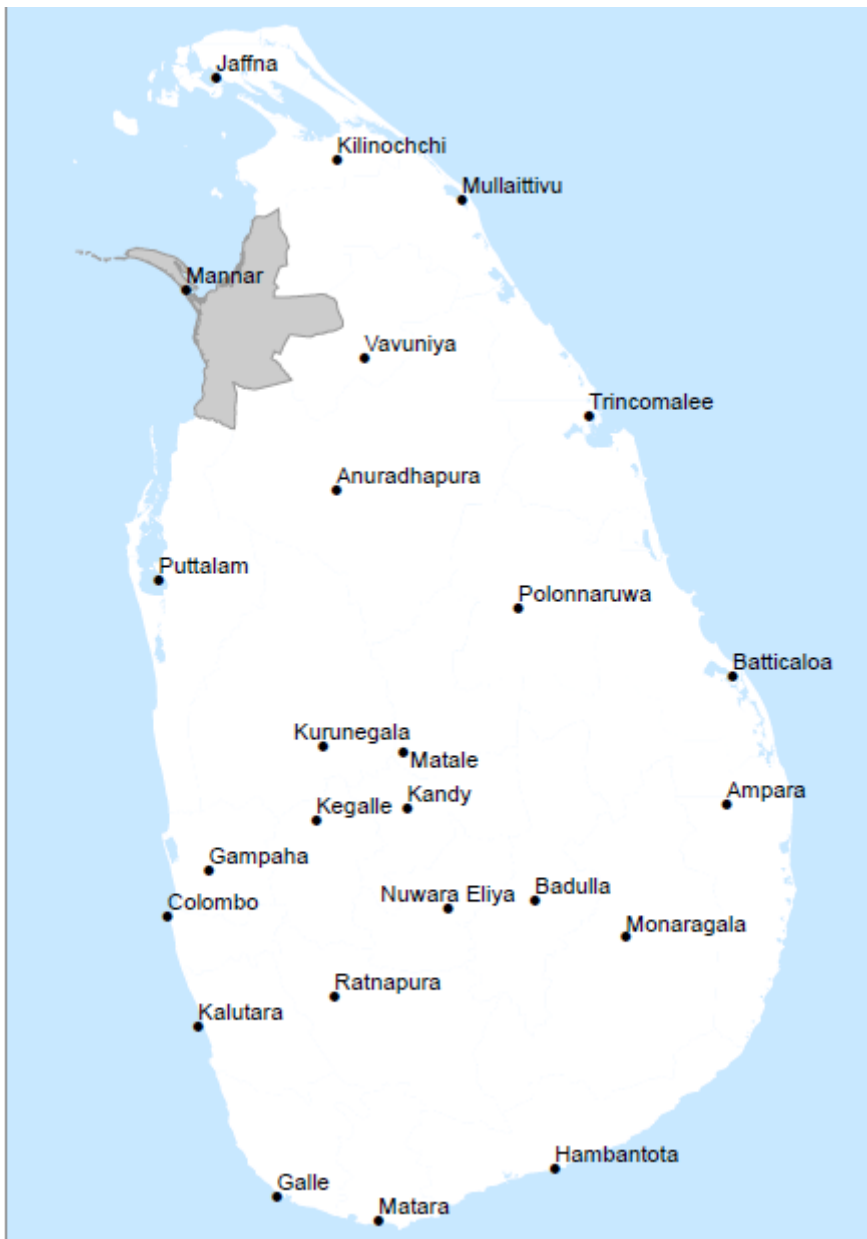
Our Mission

To empower individuals through knowledge, skills, tools and networks to make sustainable changes in their own lives and the lives of their community

Core values

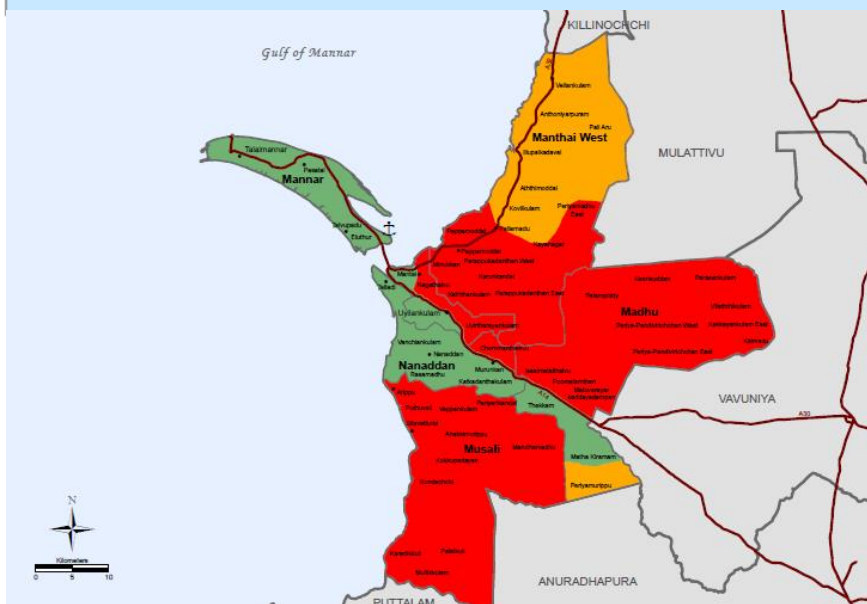
- *Human dignity*
- *Transparency and accountability*
 - *Good governance*
 - *Participation*
- *Creativity and innovation*

Where We Work



Mannar district, situated in the northwest of Sri Lanka, comprises mostly Tamil and Muslim communities, and a small Sinhala speaking community.

The Manthai West DS division was devastated by the protracted conflict, with little opportunity for growth and development throughout the war. Communities experienced continuous displacement from 1990 onwards, only to be resettled after the end of the armed conflict in 2009. Basic services such as accessible health facilities, quality education and livelihoods assistance remain limited, making communities in the area isolated and vulnerable.



How We work

- **Develop active citizenship through promoting volunteerism**
 - o Mobilise volunteers at all levels: international and national.
 - o Empowers the community.
 - o A means to provide valuable experience/learning, as well as service to others.
 - o A gateway to future employment for the younger generations
- **People-centred approach**
 - o Invest in relationships and in building trust with key stakeholders (maintaining positive relationships is a key business driver).
 - o Design programmes that capture the human perspective.
- **Business in the community**
 - o Increase access to markets and leverage market forces to solve problems.
 - o Introduce a more commercial outlook in decision-making.
 - o Support local entrepreneurship.
- **Horizontal organisational structure**
 - o All volunteers and staff contribute to the success of our organisation.
 - o Decision-making is non-hierarchical and collaborative
 - o Innovation can come from anyone/anywhere!
- **Optimise resources**
 - o Scrutinise and be thoughtful in how resources are matched to the needs of the organisation and those we serve
 - o Prioritise institutional development to ensure organisational sustainability.

What we do

1. Education



Education is one of the important indicators of any country to measure the development of that nation and advancement of its population. Sri Lanka is one of the country always perform well in education in South East Asia and the enrolment rate at national level is very high. But the disparity is wider among periphery and in rural areas. Unequal resource allocation including human resources and others physical resources make big difference in the educational performances. Though the statics revealed that the teacher's cadres are filled fully, the schools in rural and peripheries do not have trained and qualified teachers to match the cadres existing.

Therefore, always there will be lack of teachers to teach the special subjects. In specific, there will not enough teachers to teach subjects such as Science, Maths and English. Even the experience teachers are appointed to those remote schools, lack of facilities such as poor accommodations, very poor transportations, poor road conditions and other facilities influence negatively and they manage to get transfer to the convenient places. Therefore usually the newly appointed teachers with lack of trainings have to teach in those areas.

The prevailing conditions do not allow even the newly appointed teachers to stay there and most of the time they are compelled to travel daily. Travelling to long distance daily and poor transportation do not allow the teachers to deliver services with full potentials. Madhu Education Zone is one of such difficult area where children and teachers face lots of constrains in studying and teaching respectively. OPEnE as an organization takes initiatives to minimize the negative effects of external influences mentioned above through locally introduced workable mechanisms in the sector of education in specifically to uplift the stand red of educational facilities and services.

The educational interventions had been the continuous efforts of last year with lots of changes in the programme based on the lessons learned to make the programme more appropriate to the targeted beneficiaries.

Two hubs, those were supporting children to improve English Language, IT and soft skills were connected to existing schools during this reporting period to increase the sustainability and continuity. This move also helped the school management to take ownership and became accountable.



The available statistics illustrate that there is a great vacant for English Teacher. In specific, almost all the primary schools do not have English teachers. In this situation, 25 primary teachers were selected from Madhu Education Zone and they were provided with comprehensive training. The training mainly gave opportunity to the teachers to familiarize best child friendly teaching techniques and practices. Soon after the training, teachers also were encouraged to optimize the available resources to deliver the best service those learned in the programme.

19 Local as well as committed international volunteers continued to play the vital role to improve English language knowledge and IT skills among these selected school children. During the reporting period, educational programmes for children and parents were conducted to increase awareness on the importance of children’s education. English and IT Camps conducted gave them an opportunity further strengthens their English skills and IT knowledge. All child focussed programmes were designed in consultation with department of education and with experts. IT camps too provided opportunity to the participants to understand the wider benefits of learning IT and its application to manage day to day life successfully. Soft skill programmes conducted for the same targeted beneficiaries gave opportunity to learn the importance of life skills such as team spirit, sharing, leadership, voluntarism etc. These all programmes gave opportunity to the most disadvantaged children. Our assessment results revealed that 63% of students noted an improvement in their English scores, 44% of students felt they were ‘fairly confident’ in English language, while 18% felt ‘very confident’

Key outputs achieved on Education											
<i>NO. OF STUDENTS WORK WITH</i>	<i>NO. OF PARENTS WORK WITH</i>	<i>NO. OF ENGLISH CLASSES CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF IT CLASSES CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF IT CAMPS CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF ENGLISH CAMPS CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF AWARENESS PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN</i>	<i>NO. OF AWARENESS PROGRAMMES FOR PARENTS</i>	<i>NO. OF SOFT SKILL PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF BASIC LITERACY AND NUMERACY CLASSES CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF IT SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF TEACHER TRAINED</i>
<i>947</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>25</i>

2. Livelihoods

The consequences of protracted war still exist and hinder the economic development of the war affected people, specifically among the marginalized communities. Soon after the resettlement started, government has focused mostly on infrastructure development in the war-affected zones. These activities did not give more space for the rural communities in rebuilding. While the economically poor people are not freely access to credits from government institutions, they seek for private financial institutions for such services. Whereas, getting loan from such financial institutions make the vulnerable to become more vulnerable.

In addition to this, the extreme weather and existing climatic conditions negatively impacted the agricultural and farming activities.

OPEnE continued to work with such unprivileged communities and build



their capacities through collaborative interventions.

Farmers cultivated papaya, Chilli, turkey berry and groundnuts were supported with basic inputs and were continuously provided with technical mentoring and advice. The field based results revealed that their yield in papaya was increased by 17%. It also revealed that 63% of farmers engaged in Papaya cultivation adopted techniques given to them. The yield of groundnut producers also was increased from 300 Kg to 680 kg. This



was 126% whereas 72% of groundnut producers adopted the techniques for improvements. The yield increased among the chili producers was 32% and it was increased from 1500 Kg to 2275 kg per acre. It had been noted that 78% of chilli farmers adopted techniques and technologies for improvements.

The marketing network established locally continuously allowed the farmers to find better place for selling their products for fair prices. The integrated mechanisms introduced by OPEnE among government, NGOs, communities and Private partners allowed the farmers to have good access for technical and technological inputs and other services continuously.

The farmers were supported with technical inputs to cope the climatic changes such as introducing drought resistant crops, water conservation methods.

<i>Key outputs achieved on Livelihoods</i>							
GROUNDNUT FARMERS	ACREAGE COVERED UNDER GROUND NUTS	PAPAYA FARMERS	ACREAGE COVERED UNDER PAPAYA	CHILLI FARMERS	ACREAGE COVERED UNDER CHILLI	NO. OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES	NO. OF MENTORING VISITS
25	11.25	13	4	14	3.5	14	900

3. Women Empowerment

The interventions undertaken by OPEnE continuously focused the empowerment of the women in the targeted areas through promoting the self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods of targeted groups.

The Self Help Groups established earlier were supported through various capacity building activities such as trainings and awareness programmes. The soft component activities also were continued during 2017/18 and they imparted knowledge among groups in leadership, management, and governance and in Annual Report 2017 / 2018



advocacy. Independent functions of SHGs were ensured, at all-time through effective mechanisms. The concept of “Women to Women Support” enabled vulnerable women groups to cope day to day challenges they come across.

Key outputs achieved in Women Empowerment				
SELF-HELP GROUPS	WOMEN IN SHGS	TOTAL SAVINGS IN LKR	NO. OF LOANS PROVIDED by SHGs	NO. OF TRAININGS PROGRAMEMS
12	115	740,243.00	45	35

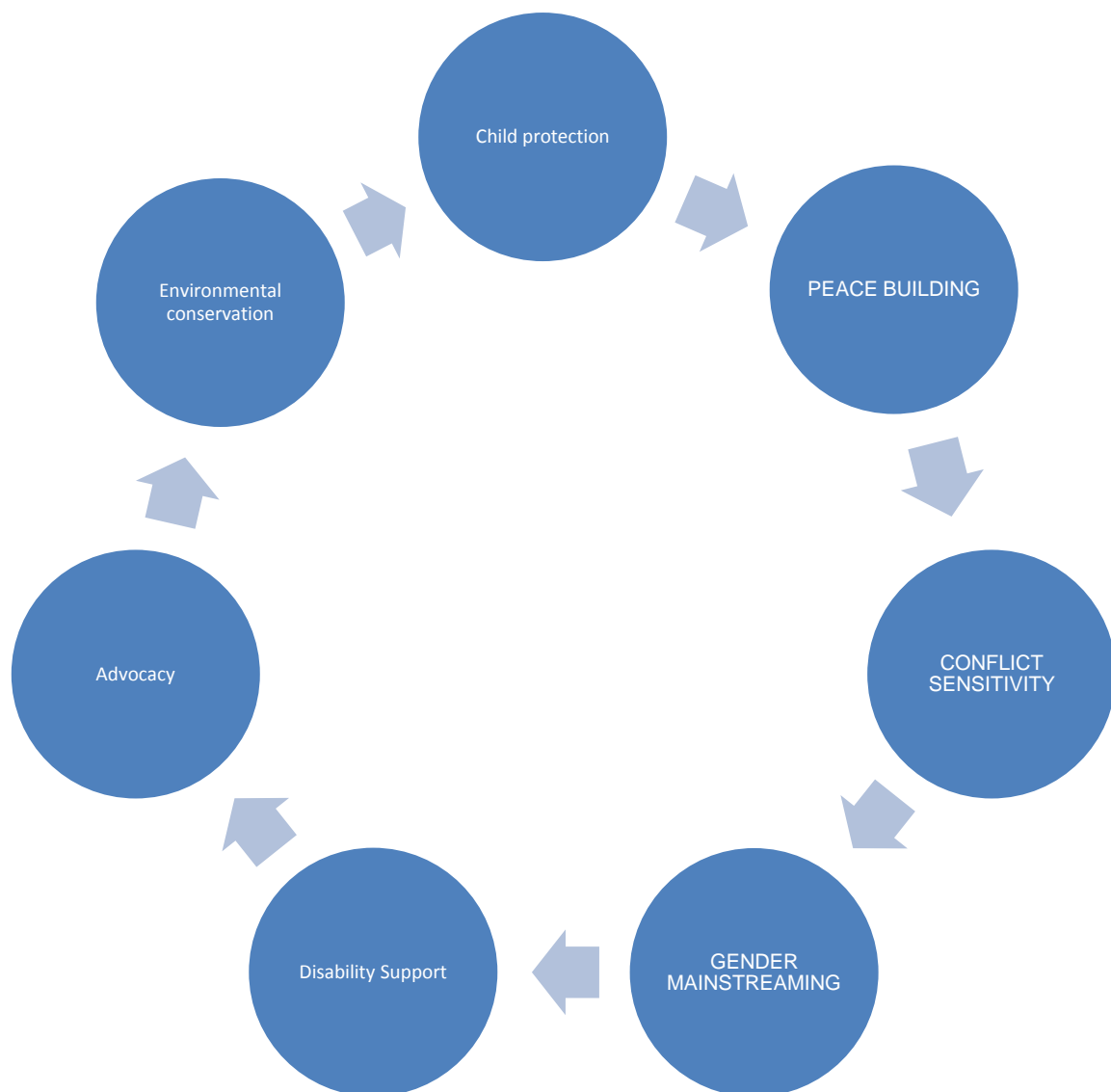
4. Peace building

OPEnE is partnering with National Peace Council to promote peace and reconciliation among multi ethnic societies through various community based activities. Religious leaders, media groups, women groups, physically challenged and youth groups deeply engaged to build peace and reconciliation among the communities.



Key outputs achieved in Peace Building				
NO. OF DISTRICT INTER RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE SUPPORTED	NO. PERSONS BENEFITED IN DIRC	NO. OF SUB GROUP SUPPORTED	NO. OF PERSONS BENEFITTED IN SUBGROUPS	NO. OF TRAININGS PROGRAMEMS CONDUCTED
1	34	5	104	3

Our other Crosscutting Themes of the Programme



Financial Information

Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure

(All amounts in Sri Lankan Rupees)

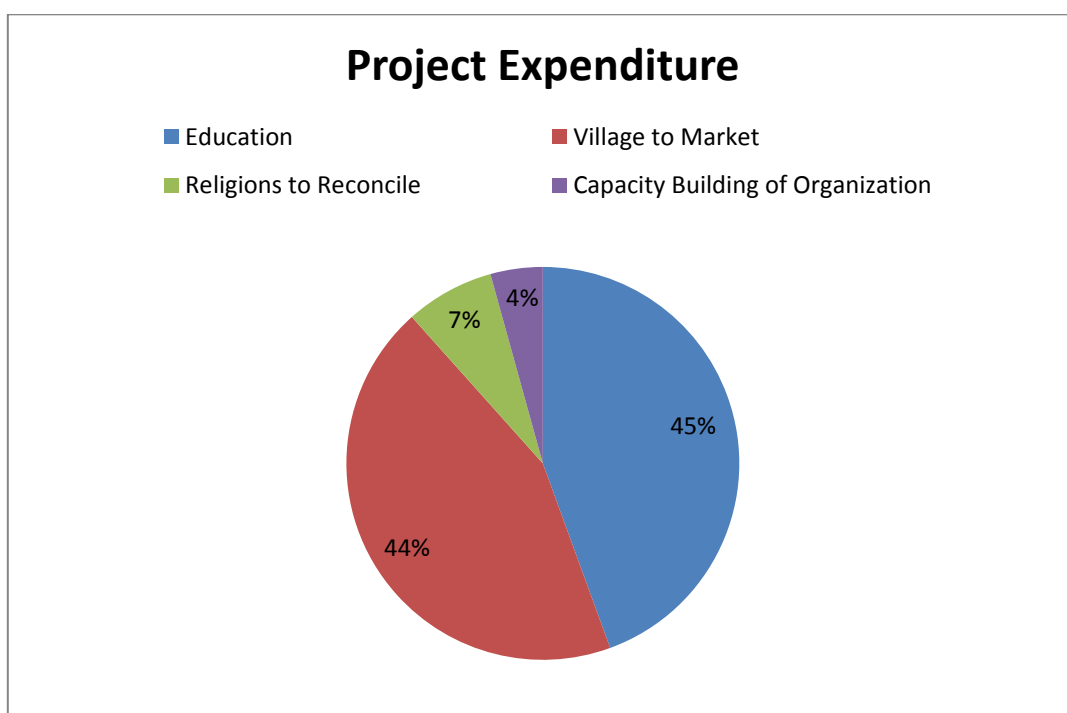
		2018	2017
Incoming Resources		8,953,090.10	8,635,602.00
Less: Project Expenditure		(8,953,090.10)	(5,674,732.22)
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on Project		-	2,960,869.78
Revenue Earned			
Vehicle Rent Income	1,190,000.00	-	-
Less: Expenses	(191,015.83)	998,984.17	-
Other Income		248,777.62	95,760.13
House Rent Income		169,000.00	271,490.00
Interest Income		90,312.44	30,404.93
Students Contribution		7,050.00	32,900.00
Total Income		1,514,124.23	430,555.06
Less: Expenditure			
Administration Expenses			
House Rent		169,300.00	-
Staff Salary		-	102,848.00
Employee's Provident Fund		-	16,272.00
Employee's Trust Fund		-	4,068.00
Electricity		-	31,125.00
Water		-	32,381.46
Communication		-	24,220.00
Audit fee		40,000.00	35,000.00
Office Supplies, Consumables		155.89	9,456.88
		209,455.89	255,371.34

Finance Expenses			
Bank Charges		30,363.63	10,206.05
Overdraft Interest		21.48	458.32
		30,385.11	10,664.37
Total Expenditure		239,841.00	266,035.71
Excess of Income Over Expenditure for the before tax		1,274,283.23	164,519.35
Taxation for the period		(43,162.90)	(72,539.06)
Excess of Income Over Expenditure		1,231,120.33	91,980.29

*Bird's View of Projects
Implemented
During the Year April 2017 - March 2018*

Donor	ZOA Sri Lanka and Gecko Sri Lanka	Palmera- Australia	National Peace Council	ZOA Sri Lanka
Title of the project	Strengthening the education sector in post-conflict zones	Village to Market Program	Religions to Reconcile	Capacity Building of Organization
Project cost in LKR	3,978,033.08	3,934,994.02	654,855.00	385,208.00
Project status	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
Major activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English skills development classes • Computer skills development classes • English and ICT camps • Basic literacy and numeracy development classes • Soft skills development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHG formation and strengthening • Cluster formation and strengthening • Improved practices for improved yield: Papaya, Groundnut and Chilli • Facilitation of market linkages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of District inter religious committee • Capacity building training on pluralism and transitional justice for sub groups (women, youth, Person with disabilities, local politicians/comm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional development • Organizational development

	workshops and seminars <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness for Parents and students on importance of education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation for capital linkages 	unity leaders and Media personnel)	
Targeted populations	947 students and 98 parents	236 Families	140 Individuals	
Geographical locations	Manthai west DS division, Mannar district	Periyamadhu village, Mannar district	Mannar District	Mannar District



Our Change

New Hope

“Now my children and I have a hope for our future” Ramsa says

Ramsa is from Priyamadhu, became an entrepreneur now and perceives her successful future. Ramsa’s family was settled in Periyamadhu in 2009. She has five children and all are aged between 1 to 14 years. Her husband does not have



any promised jobs. Therefore she struggled a lot, even to feed her children and most of the time they had to skip one or two meals a day. In end of 2016, Ramsha was encouraged to join in a Self Help Group “Roja” and was encourage to engage in home gardening. This was

helpful for her to improve her meals at home. Even, some times she managed to earn little by selling excessive vegetables from her garden. She became an active member of “Roja” and the groups supported her with Rs.5000.00 worth of 100 young turkey berry plants, knowing her vulnerability. Turkey berries have high demand at the national market and comparatively higher price than the other highland crops. Ramsha has received her first yield in April 2018 and she sold 12 kg at the rate of Rs.85.00 and received Rs. 1020.00. She spent already a part of her earning to buy some food items for the family. The price can go up to Rs.300 per kg and her income also can be increased in the future.

Soon after her first harvest, she states happily as bellow.

“Now only, I have money in my hand, as I had 10 years before when I was in Middle East. Now I can feed my children with all three meals and also think of serving. I thank the Roja to bring me to this level

Found the Way

I am Sahibu Abdul Najib, live in Periyamadhu with my son and wife. I belong to traditional chilli cultivators and since the resettlement; I have been cultivating Chilli for last 07 years. As I was depended only on the traditional practices, I used to get yield 02 or 03 times for a season and the yield was maximum of 200 kg. The poor yield was because of leaf curl and as the plants did not last for long. At the end of 2017, I was selected as one of the beneficiaries under pilot Chilli - V2M programme.



The close guidance and technical inputs given by OPEnE helped me to concentrate on plant spacing, soil preparation, usage of fertilizers and irrigation systems. The adopted approaches brought a positive change. I harvested six times in different intervals and received already 550 kg. I expect to go for few more collections and the plans are still healthy. I am really happy about the progress and it motivated me to expand chilli cultivation. I am also prepared to have a nursery for seedlings for the next season

Education is all about character



I am Roxan, in my family I have two brothers and a little sister with my parents. . My father is a fisherman and mother is a house wife. I had an opportunity to come to the HUB with my friend Thusiyanthan. He is good in all the subjects, and especially in English. I always wanted to speak English, but I never got a chance for that. As I have the responsibilities to help my mother, I had to miss classes conducted at HUB at times.

I really wanted to come to the HUB regularly and my mother also helped me for that. I have improved a lot in English and IT now and I do not want to miss any classes at the HUB.

With the support of my mother I come regularly to this HUB and now I can understand and speak English better and do well in IT. I also wish to score more marks in English exam at the school and to improve my speaking English.

The HUB teacher states that Roxan comes to the HUB nearly for 2 years. When he came to the HUB, he had very hard time in associating with other children and he isolated himself from taking part of any group activities. . Rather he was happy to make fun of others. The activities conducted in the HUB gave him an opportunity for a great changer. Sharing and bearing with others helped him to learn adjustments and acceptance. It has been a surprise that he helps his peer groups in studies and helps his younger sister at home in her studies. We are also happy that the HUB environment helps many children to build their life skills.

Our Team

Board of Directors

Mr. Adaikalam Lesley Jesurajan –Chairperson

Mr. Eliyathamby Christy Jeyaruban –Member

Ms. NishikaCherineFonseka –Member

Staff Members

Mr. ArulpragasamSuthagar, Team Leader

Mr . VarunaRagavanandaAlphonsus –Advisor

Mr. FrancisPrathabhan- Caretaker cum Admin/ Finance Officer

Ms. VanniyasingamKalpana - Hub Co-ordinator

Mr. JesuthashanAnexly - Admin Assistant

Ms. AbdeenJanooriya Begum – Project officer

Mr. PathmanathanThavapiragasam - Project officer

Mr. Sareef Mohamed Saheer - Project Assistant/ Instructor

Ms. JohalinkamVijitha - Project Assistant/ Instructor

Ms. Francis Mary Niranjana - Project Assistant/ Instructor

Our Donors

ZOA Sri Lanka



Palmera



National Peace Council



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