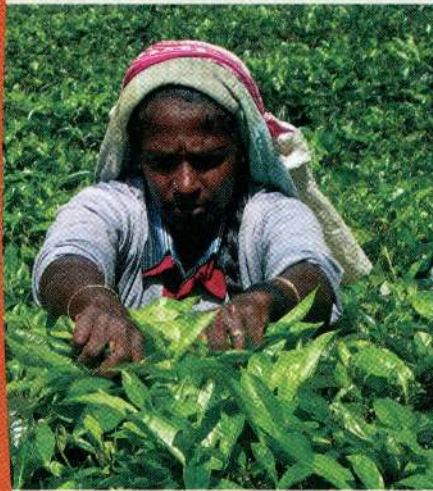


Creating a lasting change



FORUT
SRI LANKA

Annual Report 2008

*Meeting the needs of today
with the spirit of tomorrow*



Vision

FORUT's vision is a world in peace and without poverty, where all are secured human rights and social justice, and where alcohol and drugs do not prevent people's well being and fulfilment of human potential.

Mission

FORUT's mission in Sri Lanka is to fight poverty, and to mobilise for a world with more justice and solidarity. We want to enhance the quality of life of the people, through their participation in development processes, advocacy and political awareness, and the prevention of alcohol and drug related problems.

FORUT works towards this mission through programmes for Community Development and Humanitarian Assistance.

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About Us

FORUT Sri Lanka is a Norwegian/ Swedish based development agency, and has been in operation in Sri Lanka since 1983. FORUT Sri Lanka works in partnership with local communities and local government stakeholders, with its operations spread out across the country, reaching out to the three main ethnic communities in 12 districts.

FORUT Sri Lanka has a long history of working with community development approaches and building local institutions in Sri Lanka. In areas affected by conflict, FORUT Sri Lanka has a long-term programme assisting and resettling Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). This long-term commitment to Sri Lanka coupled with expertise in developing community partnerships has enabled FORUT Sri Lanka to initiate and implement a rapid and successful rehabilitation and reconstruction programme, for thousands affected by the 2004 Asian tsunami.

Our Commitment

FORUT Sri Lanka works with poor and marginalised communities through a Community Development approach, in order to capacity build and mobilise peoples' organisations to manage their own resources, in a democratic and equitable manner, and to advocate for their rights to basic services and resources.

When undertaking Humanitarian Assistance, FORUT Sri Lanka works with conflict and disaster affected communities, in order to stabilise their conditions during crises such as internal displacement and to assist in providing a safe, dignified and durable recovery from such crises.

Strategic Directions

- Integration of the promotion of alcohol and drug awareness campaigns and prevention strategies into all FORUT Sri Lanka project related activities.
- Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into community development and humanitarian assistance.
- Mainstreaming gender sensitivity and promoting equity in all aspects of FORUT and FORUT partners' work.
- Ensuring the participation of our principle stakeholders, in all aspects of FORUT's development and humanitarian work.

Our Donors

The major funding agencies currently supporting FORUT's work in Sri Lanka are the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norwegian Agency for Development (NORAD), the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). FORUT Sri Lanka also collaborates with other donors and UN agencies on a variety of local initiatives.

FORUT Norway

FORUT's Campaign for Solidarity and Development, is an independent Norwegian Development Agency founded by the three temperance and peace organisations IOGT, Juvente and IOGT Junior Association. FORUT has been involved in development assistance in Africa and Asia since 1981 and is currently operating in India, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Malawi and Senegal in addition to Sri Lanka. FORUT believes in social mobilisation of the poor and oppressed in their struggle against poverty and for human rights.

International Institute of the IOGT-NTO

The International Institute of the IOGT-NTO movement is active in East Africa, South East Asia and Eastern Europe in addition to Sri Lanka. Activities are centred around supporting local organisations to work against alcohol and other drugs as hindrances to development, and to raise awareness at all levels of society, on the connection between alcohol and poverty. The institute is owned by the Swedish IOGT-NTO movement which has been active in alcohol prevention in order to promote democratic development, since the late 19th century.

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Resident Representative / January – June 2008

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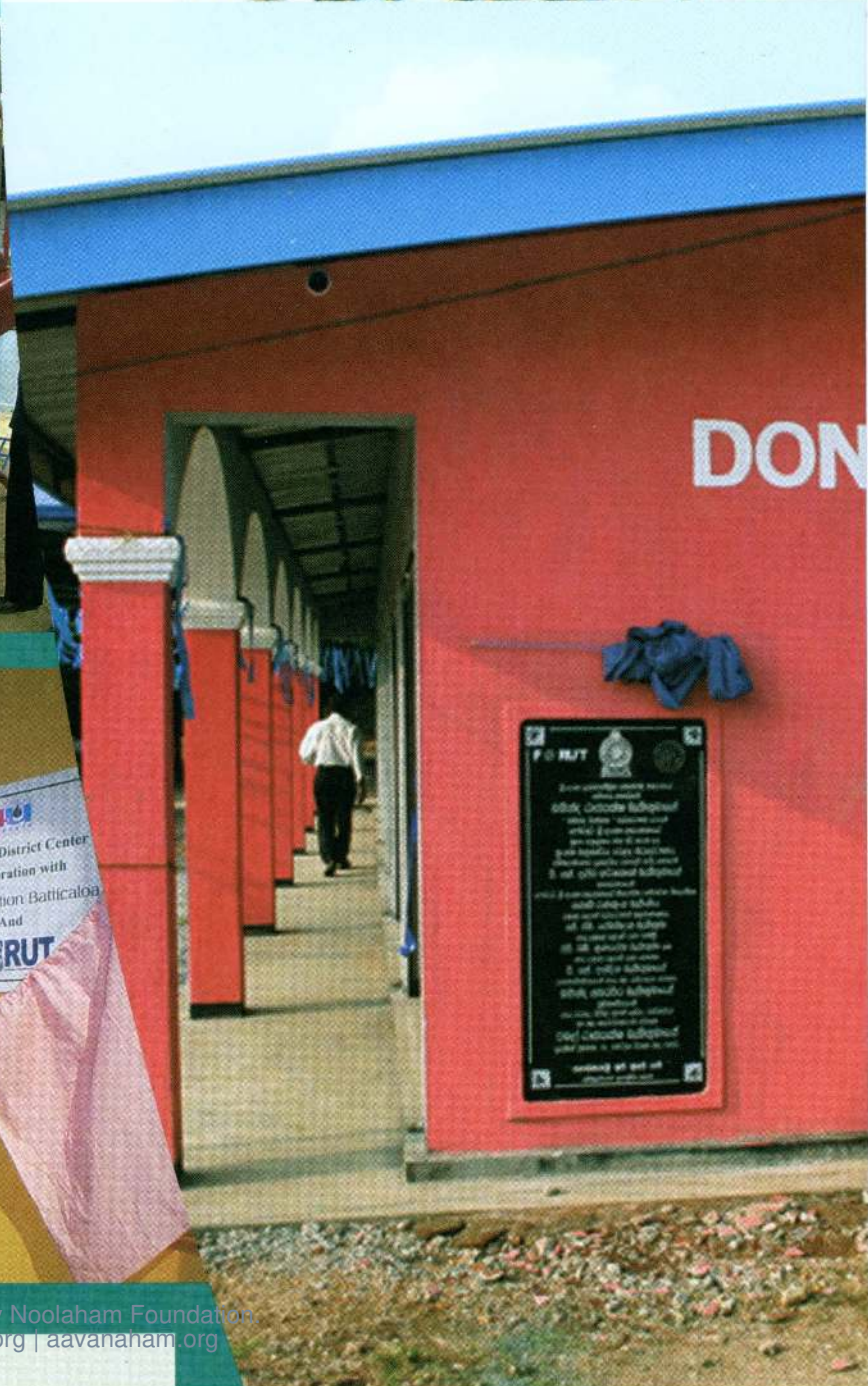
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Message from the Resident Representative

Preparing for change ...

As in the past, 2008 has been a very challenging year for FORUT Sri Lanka. During the first half of the year a lot of focus and energy went into finishing our tsunami projects. By end May, FORUT had successfully completed the delivery of all houses, infrastructure, community halls, fishing boats, fishing nets, training and supply of seeds for home gardening, sewing machines and so on. The ceremonious opening of the 'open market' in Hungama in November, symbolised the wrapping up of FORUT's tsunami operations. Phasing out also meant closing the offices in Batticaloa and Ampara and saying goodbye to colleagues. This was done early 2008.

During the year we also experienced additional natural disasters with the floods causing much destruction in the districts of Galle, Ratnapura and the Jaffna peninsula. FORUT intervened with assistance for some of the affected schools in the Galle and Ratnapura districts, providing students with books, school uniforms, shoes etc. The floods that occurred in the Jaffna peninsula, was the worst experienced in decades and left many people homeless. Our staff in Jaffna immediately initiated relief operations for those severely affected by the disaster. We have since then been working on rebuilding houses, repairing toilets, replacing household items etc.

Parallel to the phasing out of the tsunami project, FORUT also completed the 2004 – 2008, five year NORAD-programme. Revising what has been done over the last years, the management of both FORUT Norway and FORUT Sri Lanka felt that it was time for a change in approach to the development challenges in Sri Lanka. So far we have worked a lot on service delivery and particularly in strengthening civil society. From 2009, all FORUT's work is going to be concentrated around the following:

- Child Rights
- Gender, particularly focusing on Gender Based Violence and Economic Empowerment of women
- Alcohol, Drugs and Development
- Humanitarian Assistance

From 2009, all our programmes on Child Rights, Gender and ADD will be planned and monitored using the Result Based Management (RBM) approach. This is a challenge to us, since we will no longer report on output but on outcome.

The change from project to programme will also see a shift in the operational structure within the organisation. The previous decentralised structure will be replaced with a centralised system in 2009. These changes also required a reduction in the number of staff attached to FORUT, both at Head Office and project level. As a result, we were compelled to end the contracts of nearly 30 of our staff, whose term came to an end in December 2008.



Parallel to the phasing out of the tsunami project, FORUT also completed the 2004 – 2008, five year NORAD programme.

Due to the ongoing conflict in Sri Lanka, the government requested all international NGOs, the UN and the Red Cross to leave the Vanni by the end of September 2008. FORUT then had to remove all assets possible and close down the operations in the Vanni. Some of our staff came out from Vanni and joined our staff in the Vavuniya office. Others did not have the opportunity to leave the area and had to stay back. They were then seconded to the Government Agent of Mullaitivu and continued to offer their assistance to the ever increasing numbers of IDPs constantly moving eastwards. They did so first from our office in Killinochchi, later from our office in Dharmapuram and then from wherever they were, as everyone became IDPs.

Having worked in Sri Lanka for 27 years, this was the first time we have not been allowed to work in any area of the country. It is devastating to our work and to the people we are here to serve.

No doubt, 2009 will be as challenging as 2008. The influx of IDP's will require a more concerted effort in the area of humanitarian assistance. It is a formidable task for all involved to ensure their safety and their human rights. As we do our utmost to provide emergency assistance to them, we also have to implement a new development programme.

Ranveig Tveitnes

Resident Representative

Colombo,
15th March 2009.



Message from the Secretary Generals'



Morten Lønstad



Esbjörn Hörnberg

A successful tsunami phase out ...

The year 2008 has been a challenging one for FORUT in Sri Lanka. The ceasefire agreement between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE was formally brought to an end in January and our activities in the LTTE controlled Vanni district was influenced by the displacement of people. As a humanitarian organisation it was difficult to accept our inability to help when most needed.

Presently we witness a humanitarian calamity in Mullaitivu, where an estimated number of 250,000 civilians are squeezed between the Government Army and LTTE cadres. FORUT will make no stand in this conflict. Neither is it our role to distribute blame to either party in the present situation. We are, however, deeply concerned about the plight of the civil population – the innocent victims of war.

The rehabilitation programme following the Tsunami was finalised in 2008. This was the most extensive operation ever to be undertaken by FORUT. We have learnt a lot and are proud of what we have achieved. Thousands of people have benefitted from our intervention and received assistance materially as well as psychosocially in coping with their traumas in order to go on in life.

The rest of FORUT's engagement has been "as usual" in 2008. The youth organisation 4U has been strengthened with members and local clubs all over the island, recruiting members from all ethnic and religious groups. 4U may be instrumental in the reconciliation work we are facing in the years to come. FORUT Sri Lanka has also strengthened its advocacy work with regard to gender equality, child rights and alcohol and drugs prevention.

We wish to thank the staff of FORUT Sri Lanka for the accomplished efforts in 2008. As a solidarity and peace organisation it is paramount that we stand together regardless of ethnicity, religion and culture, and in spite of the challenges to each of you inflicted by the national conflict.

The year 2008 is the final year of the Norwegian and Swedish collaboration. FORUT Norway and The International Institute of the IOGT-NTO Movement in Sweden will go separate ways in a friendly spirit in 2009. The International Institute of the IOGT-NTO Movement will be the partner of ADIC Sri Lanka, while FORUT Norway will take on the financial responsibility for the Swedish projects in Matale and Colombo.

FORUT Norway and The International Institute of the IOGT-NTO Movement extend their gratitude to NORAD, SIDA and the Norwegian Foreign Ministry for a fruitful partnership and moral and financial support in 2008. We are proud of this thrust bestowed on us from our "supporters".

Morten Lønstad
Secretary General
FORUT Norway

Esbjörn Hörnberg
Secretary General
The International Institute of
IOGT-NTO Sweden

Review of Operations



- **FORUT in Sri Lanka :**
A look back at 5 years of development 2004 - 2008
- **Areas of Operation**
- **Our Core Activities**
- **Financial Highlights**

FORUT in Sri Lanka:

A Look back at **5** years of development

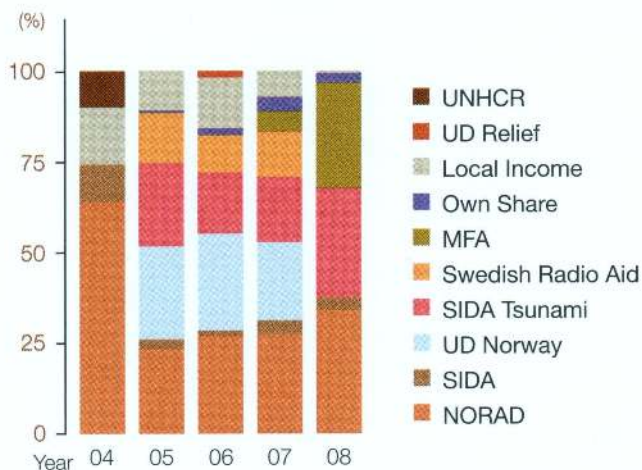
Transforming communities and learning through own interventions

“FORUT has an active and positive attitude towards evaluations and reviews and tries to use them as learning tools for itself and its partners. Moreover, target groups at community level often participate in project execution, monitoring and evaluation. Both FORUT and partners report extensively”.

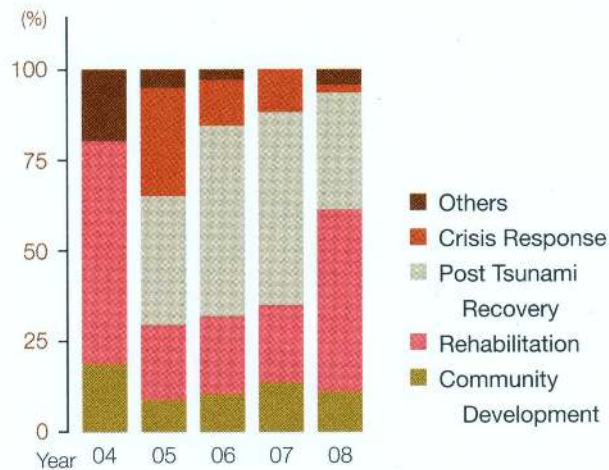
(Excerpted from the Scan team report following the organisational performance review conducted in 2008)

FORUT Sri Lanka as the largest partner for FORUT – Norway/Sweden is responsible for most of the lessons learnt in the relief, recovery and development sectors.

FORUT Sri Lanka's 5 year strategic plan for the period 2004 -2008 focused on development initiatives in the key sectors of Income Generation, Child Rights and Early Childhood Care & Development, Gender & Development, Youth, Capacity Building and Crisis Response & Recovery. The multi - year plan was reviewed during 2006. FORUT also undertook a comprehensive review of the Long-term Plans (LTPs) of its district project offices with the purpose of assessing results and enabling some lesson learning and revision of plans. With regard to activities, changes within the overall programme frame work were few; however, there were shifts in activity emphasis within project office plans, based on lesson learning and an increased appreciation of objective/results-oriented planning.



Donor Funding 2004 to 2008



Expenditure - Programme Wise 2004 to 2008

Income Generation

Objective: Increased family income for low income households

In order to achieve the overall objective as indicated above, FORUT interventions were spread across the following areas.

Micro-credit

During the reporting period 2004-2008, FORUT Sri Lanka delivered a variety of programme activities aimed at improving the income of poor and conflict-affected families.



Rural Marketing

FORUT Sri Lanka piloted several rural marketing projects as a means of increasing income levels within the target locations. These activities have been of two forms: Firstly, rehabilitating infrastructure to enable access to sites of agricultural production, through the reconstruction of minor access roads to enable producers and traders to move produce easily and in bulk. Secondly, FORUT has actively engaged in identifying opportunities to maximise the marketing of under-utilised crops, specifically lime production. Both activities have had some success in raising production and income.

A first... But yet a success

FORUT first considered direct interventions into rural marketing in the Southern part of Sri Lanka. The pilot project was initiated in the Buttala DS Division of the Monaragala district.

The annual lime production in the district was estimated at over 40,000 metric tonnes, being both farmed and growing wild and unattended. Due to very low prices in the local market of approximately Rs. 1-2 per kilo, large quantities of lime were left to rot on the trees. An estimated 60% of lime production that did make it to the local market provided very low profit margins, while bulk purchasing forced prices down further.

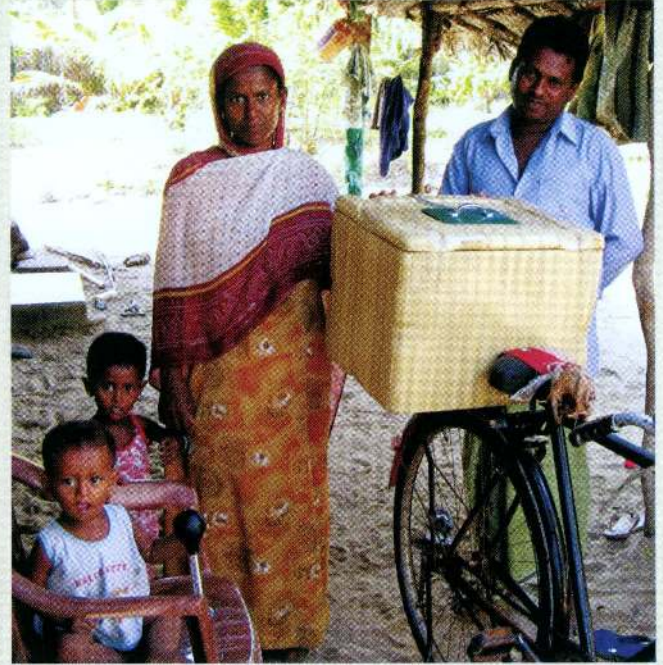
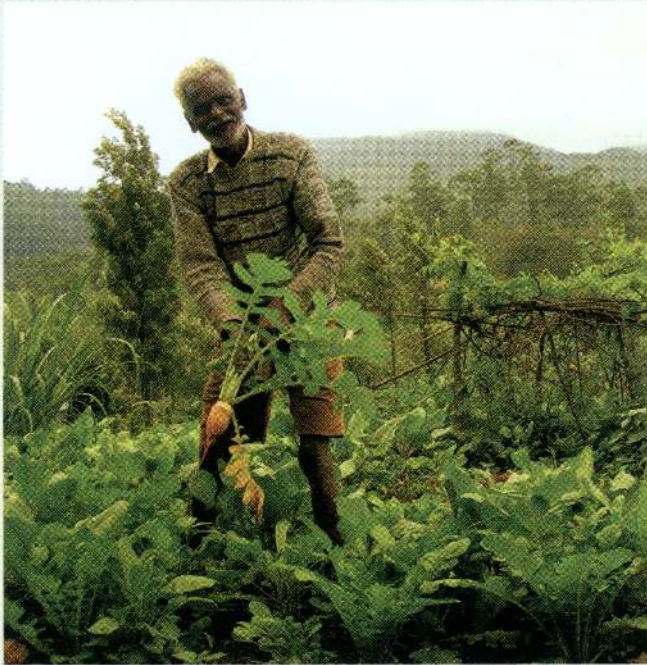
Identifying the Middle East as a potential market for preserved lime, FORUT supported a team of lime producers to venture in to this new area of business. A visit to a successful lime preservation project in the Puttalam district was then organised. FORUT also assisted in training and organising the participants into a collective, linked to local CBOs. This initiative enabled them to collectively negotiate prices with buyers, and also provided them with much needed training on kiln production, using low cost locally available resources. With the initiation of this project over 1000 kilos of preserved lime was produced and sold at a rate of Rs. 120 per kilo. The production cost for 1 kilo was Rs. 65. The overall profit gained by this initial group during their trial production period was Rs. 140,000, and in terms of individual income was Rs. 12,727 per person. As the time/labour required for processing is limited and since lime is a robust crop the risks are low and production does not interfere with other existing livelihood strategies for the families involved. It is also an environmentally friendly endeavor.

A look back at 5 years of development *Contd.*



FORUT's success in raising incomes through livelihood rehabilitation in conflict-affected districts has been mixed.

Resettlement programmes supporting the voluntary return of IDPs in the Northern districts has been successful. This has been mainly due to the combined approaches of stimulating production capacities on local cash crops such as paddy, and home gardening based production for mixed cash/subsistence cropping. During the reporting period FORUT has assisted in rehabilitating 25 minor tanks which have increased the production capacity of the local population by approximately 3,750 acres, providing employment opportunities for the poorer populations. This intervention has been combined with assistance to poor families in order to increase their home garden production through the provision of tools, seeds, and collective irrigation facilities.



Vocational and Tertiary Training

Building on FORUT's long-term experience in the field of vocational training, a large number of youth from low income households were targeted and provided with a variety of nationally recognised training programmes. During the period 2004-2008, FORUT has supported the training of over 4000 youth, of which approximately 90% graduated, including approximately 40% females. Trainings have included computer literacy, sewing, electrical wiring, masonry, carpentry, plumbing, English language skills and catering.

Capacity Building

Objective: Strengthen CBOs and partners to become autonomous deliverers of quality services.

Capacity building partner organisations to ensure future credibility and sustainability has been a priority for FORUT during this period. As a result of FORUT's interventions, all strategic partners, no matter at what state of development, now have a democratic constitution and an elected governing body that semi-professional management staff of partners are accountable to. This is an important result in terms of both the future internal credibility of these organisations, and to other non-governmental and international organisations who demand such accountability. All strategic partners are now regularly audited. FORUT Sri Lanka has also provided technical support and monitoring in order to improve financial systems within its partner organisations. FORUT's own development of financial procedures and guidelines has also been introduced among its strategic partners.



Early Childhood Development and Child Rights

Objective: Healthy development of children

Early Childhood Development has been one of the key programme areas, in FORUT Sri Lanka's long term strategic plan for the period 2004 – 2008. This takes two programmatic forms: Promotion of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), and the Promotion of Child Rights. The main results indicators used relate to children's participation in decision making, reduction in child rights violations, and an increase in the intellectual development of children.



In keeping with its long term plans, FORUT Sri Lanka focused on the improvement of pre-schools, and also supported the capacity building of pre-school teachers while promoting 'minimum standards' across the FORUT pre-school partner network. FORUT also undertook consultations on curriculum and policy development in order to improve the alignment of Early Childhood Development with primary school education, and to promote the newly created national curriculum on pre-school education. This task is of much importance as it will help children up to the age of 5 to develop the basic skills that will enable them to easily transition to formal primary education. This process is ongoing.

From the commencement of the Long term plan in 2004, to date, FORUT and partners have supported the intellectual development of over 11000 children.

Since 2005, FORUT has increasingly focused on augmenting work on Early Childhood Development with work on Child Rights. Building on the in-depth knowledge and experience FORUT has gained through its district based project offices, this period has seen the accelerated development of local child rights 'pressure groups' focusing on improving the rights of all children aged 0-18 years.

A look back at 5 years of development *Contd.*

Youth Development

Objective: Youth become responsible citizens

FORUT's youth work in the reporting period initially focused on vocational education for employment, and forming and increasing participation in youth clubs. The main objective of the programme was built around the promotion of healthy lifestyles and participation in broader community development projects. The main results indicators for 'youth becoming responsible citizens' include: number of youth contributing to household tasks and income generation; reduction in the number of youth idling, and number of youth participating in social/development activities. Activity wise FORUT focused on continuing the vocational training programmes from the previous reporting period, incorporating youth into mainstream community development activities, and raising awareness on Gender, ADD, Child Rights and other important issues.

Supporting the creation of a national democratic steering committee of youth, in 2007, 4U was formed and to date has 362 youth clubs across the country. The inaugural 4U National Congress was also held in 2007, with the participation of 450 members, at which the 4U constitution was adopted. In addition to providing training and leadership opportunities for a large number of youth, the main outcomes of 4U have been the national campaign and local action work on ADD, specifically the NATA act.

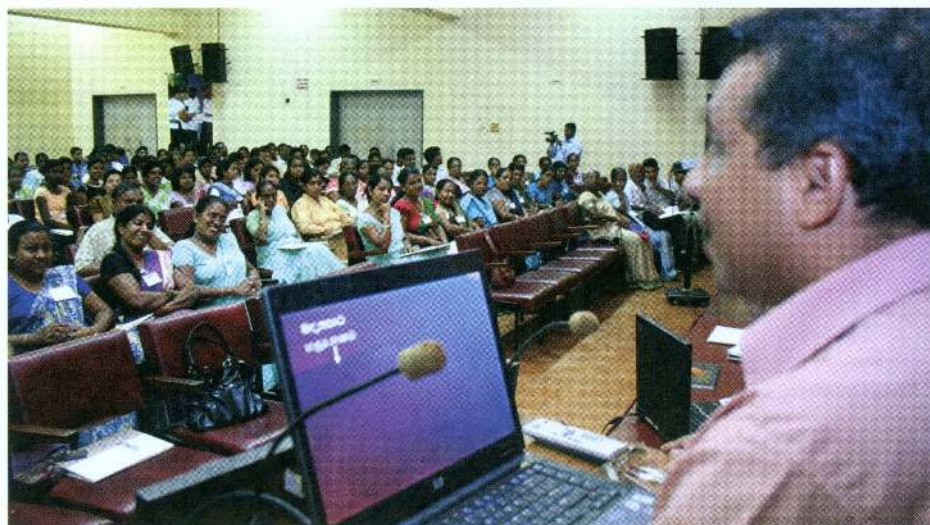


Alcohol, Drugs and Development

Objective: Reduce problems relating to alcohol and drug use

As a part of its strategic approach for the period 2004 – 2008, FORUT shifted its focus from campaigning and education programmes to a more action oriented and integrated approach of reducing consumption and associated problems. The main results indicators used to assess the performance of the programme against the objective were the decline in supply and demand and reduction in illegal supply, in order to reduce the initiation age of youth to alcohol and tobacco.

In collaboration with FORUT's long-term partner, ADIC, and the 4U youth network a series of mass campaigns, including a signature campaign with a collection of over 340,000 signatures were carried out in all FORUT's project locations. A main achievement during this period was the launch of a successful campaign that supported the government's National Alcohol and Tobacco Act (NATA), which was passed in parliament in 2006. The NATA provides enhanced government regulations concerning the sale of alcohol and tobacco to or near minors, and regulates smoking in enclosed public spaces.



With the passing of the new piece of legislation, FORUT actively engaged in educating civil society, retailers and local authorities on the act, and its implications. In some districts a more direct action approach was piloted where youth engaged in continuous dialogue with local retailers in order to influence and improve their compliance with the act.

FORUT's strategic plan for the period 2009 – 2013, will provide continued support towards the implementation of the National Alcohol and Tobacco Act.

Gender & Development

Objective: Empowerment of women and their families and communities to ensure equal rights.



In order to achieve the overall objective, FORUT focused on the promotion of gender equality and the rights of women. Since 2005, a full-time gender advisor was employed, and in 2007 a handbook on gender policy and strategies was published in all local languages. A dedicated 'gender focal point' was also appointed at each project location. The expected outcomes were the involvement of women in community development activities, a change in relationships between men and women with a significant reduction in sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). In accordance with aspects of SCR 1325, FORUT is now more actively promoting the employment of women in decision making positions within the organisation. As an indication of its success in this sphere, FORUT's new country management team now comprises of 60% females.

In terms of activities FORUT has continued to engage in educating and mobilising its partners to campaign against SGBV, and the formation and piloting of 'gender power teams', empowering women economically, and providing access to vocational training and micro-credit. The gender power team which was piloted in the Hambantota district is linked to a wider district level network and works towards providing protection and support services for women affected by domestic violence.

In the conflict-affected areas FORUT also worked with UNHCR, specifically targeting women headed households and providing a variety of assistance.

Crisis Response and Recovery

Objective: Durable solutions for disaster and violence affected persons

From 2004 to 2008, FORUT has focused on providing durable solutions to conflict-affected Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). FORUT's three main strategies for crisis response and recovery are: Stabilisation, Relocation and Resettlement. Although all three strategies have been adopted during this period, emphasis has been on Relocation and Resettlement.

Community Infrastructure

Objective: Better access to community based facilities

FORUT's interventions into community infrastructure are typically concerned with developing collective infrastructure that acts as a necessary pre-requisite or contributing factor to other intervention sectors. As such the results based indicators for this sector are activity specific and are borrowed from the appropriate sector. During the 5 year period, FORUT focused mainly on infrastructure development in the conflict-affected districts, where long-term IDPs required stabilisation, or where infrastructure had been destroyed due to fighting or neglect, for example access roads, or irrigation tanks. In addition, FORUT also focused on community development infrastructure such as multi-purpose community centre's, that support work on organisational development of CBO partners, space for libraries, pre-school education, vocational/skills training and youth club activities. FORUT has constructed or improved 131 community and pre-school buildings, 50 minor irrigation schemes, and 58 km internal roads throughout this period.

Improving Transparency and Accountability

Several operational changes were implemented during this period, with the introduction of a new organisational structure in mid 2007. A new management team was appointed to drive the organisations strategic long term plans, with special emphasis on Human Resource Management. To ensure good governance, transparency and accountability, in 2007, FORUT obtained the services of an internal audit firm which to date, continues to audit all its financial transactions on a regular basis. In addition, the annual auditing of accounts also continues to take place at the end of each financial year, under the supervision of the external audit firm, Kreston MNS & Company. To further streamline its operations FORUT Sri Lanka launched a Financial Procedure Manual in 2007, which has been adopted across all project offices and the Head Office in Colombo.



Our Core Activities

Child Rights and Early Childhood Care and Development

Gender and Development

Livelihoods & Economic Empowerment

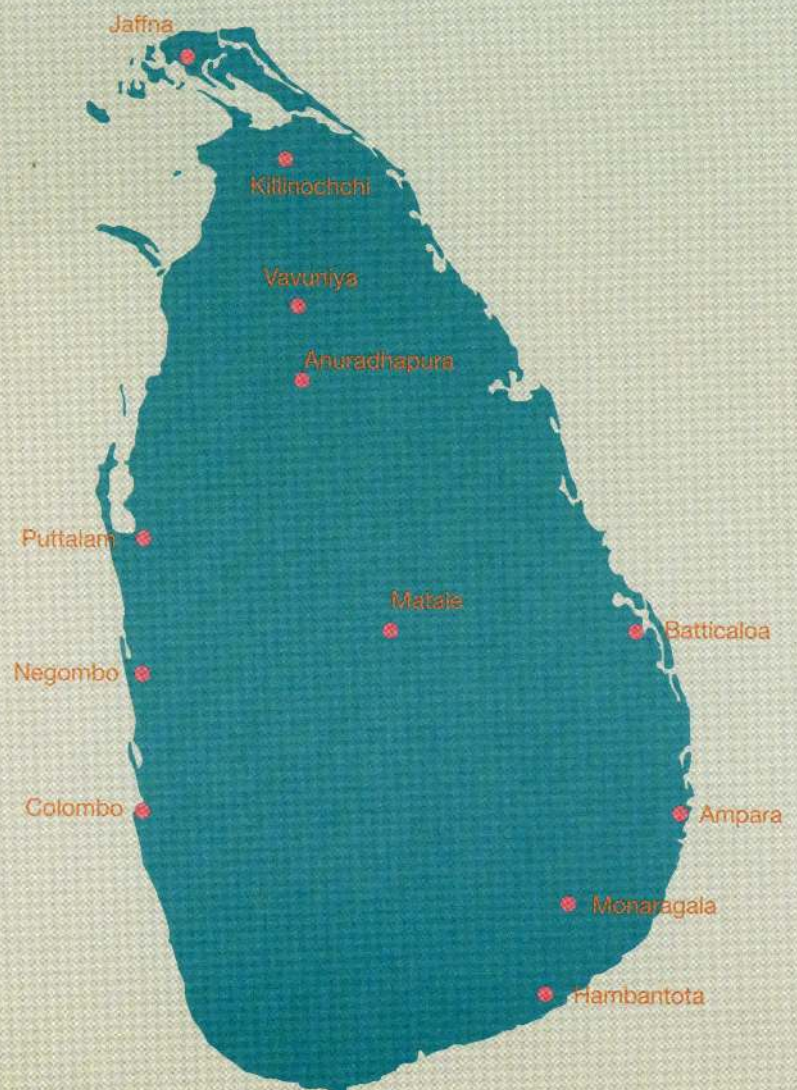
Alcohol, Drugs & Development

Youth Empowerment

Crisis Response & Recovery

Our Areas of Operation

FORUT Sri Lanka's community development drive starts from Hambantota and Monaragala in the South and extends up North, reaching out to the less privileged and war affected, in the districts of Vavuniya, Kilinochchi (until September 2008) and Jaffna. Covering the coastal belt of Sri Lanka, FORUT's development initiatives have been successfully implemented in the regions of Puttalam and Negombo along the Western coast. Further expanding its reach, FORUT Sri Lanka launched a rehabilitation and reconstruction programme covering Batticaloa and Ampara in the Eastern parts of the island, which was phased out with the successful completion of the tsunami reconstruction efforts. FORUT Sri Lanka's community development drive encompasses Anuradhapura, the estate sectors in Matale and the slum dwellers in the North of Colombo.



Kilinochchi – until September 2008

Batticaloa – until February 2008

Ampara – until August 2008

Child Rights and Early Childhood Care and Development

Overview

In some areas of Sri Lanka and among certain segments of society, children continue to face various challenges with regard to their fundamental rights and access to suitable care and development opportunities. FORUT Sri Lanka is at the forefront of efforts to ensure that the often marginalised voices of these children are heard.

The year 2008 was an important one for FORUT Sri Lanka's child related activities, with improved collaboration between government, youth and other stakeholders. The organisation achieved its two specific objectives during the year of:

- Increased community protection for children in FORUT Sri Lanka's project locations
- Increased participation of children in development activities organised for them in FORUT project areas, 25 4U Club locations and CR-ADD network locations.

Community pressure groups were strengthened in the different project locations, while action committees were also set up to strengthen/enhance the mechanism for child protection in these areas.

At national level, FORUT Sri Lanka supported the setting up of a child help-line at the Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment. A 'Network on Child Development, Alcohol and Drugs' was also established with several capacity building workshops conducted for member organisations focusing on methods of working with children affected by drug and alcohol abuse. These workshops translated into specific programmes at district level as well.

FORUT Sri Lanka's work in the area of child rights and protection span a wide range of activities. These include the construction and improvement of pre-schools and crèche facilities, training of pre-school teachers, development of home based education programmes with the aid of graduate volunteers, formation of children's clubs and the strengthening of parent teacher committees. FORUT Sri Lanka's activities also serve to strengthen local capacities and develop local child rights 'pressure groups' which consist of local government and religious leaders, parents and concerned citizens. Engaging in research is also another way in which the organisation assesses ways to strengthen the social reintegration processes of children who are currently under institutional care.

Project Highlights by district

Puttalam

In line with FORUT's objective of ensuring early childhood care and development for children, a series of activities were implemented in the Puttalam district in the year under review.

- A total of 180 children from pre-schools underwent a health screening, conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Health.
- Tuition classes were conducted for about 106 children to help them improve their knowledge and skill levels.



- FORUT Sri Lanka conducted a series of programmes for over 70 teachers focusing on children's hygiene, rights and the minimum standards that need to be maintained at pre-schools.
- The infrastructure at 30 pre-schools was developed and the indoor and outdoor facilities at 10 pre-schools were upgraded and provided with play material, benefiting a total of 778 pre-school children.
- In order to improve the literacy levels of children, additional resources were channelled towards developing a mobile library.
- FORUT Sri Lanka also facilitated various other activities such as art competitions, sporting activities and shramadana campaigns.

Over 1200 children benefited from these programmes implemented by FORUT Sri Lanka in the Puttalam district.

West Coast

FORUT Sri Lanka's programmes on the West Coast focused on improving awareness of child rights, while also tackling the issue of child abuse in the area.

- Awareness courses and training were conducted on child rights with over 150 people participating and as an incentive, awards were given to adults with the best knowledge on child rights.
- Access to educational facilities for children is an important component of FORUT Sri Lanka's activities and in this regard seven children's clubs were formed with the participation of 460 children.
- Tuition classes were conducted for about 106 children to help them improve their knowledge and skill levels.

“FORUT Sri Lanka supported the setting up of a child help-line at the Ministry of Child Development”

Promoting Child Rights through Child Clubs

Child protection has been an important area of focus for many organisations in recent years, including FORUT. However, it has been agreed that protection alone will not suffice in upholding child rights, which requires a wider, more holistic approach. In this regard, FORUT Sri Lanka initiated a programme on child rights promotion, with an activity guide book for the child clubs that FORUT Sri Lanka has set up in its project locations. The guide book contained activities based on the 10 life skills set out by WHO.

Once these activities were implemented within the child clubs, it was found that more children participated and the drop-out rate from child-clubs reduced. Children found the activities interesting and parents saw the importance of these initiatives in their overall development. The skills children develop at these child clubs helps them face their future and grow into confident adults. With the new activities, FORUT Sri Lanka saw increased participation in child-club activities unlike in previous years.

Following its success, FORUT Sri Lanka attempted to disseminate this information to other areas of the country. FORUT Sri Lanka worked with the Samurdhi Authority, which has a better outreach among the different government agencies. Discussions with the Authority paved the way for FORUT Sri Lanka to conduct capacity building programmes for Samurdhi Development Assistants in several districts. These Samurdhi officers then organised training programmes for child club leaders in nine districts so that programmes could be initiated in their respective clubs. FORUT Sri Lanka will continue this programme in the coming year.

- A total of eight differently abled children were identified for community based rehabilitation.
- FORUT Sri Lanka also conducted awareness programmes in the area on the issue of child abuse.

Hambantota

FORUT's interventions in this district have seen a reduction in the number of reported cases of child rights violations by 50%. The activities conducted during the year include:

- Pressure groups with an extensive knowledge of child rights, were introduced at community and national level.
- A total of 15 child clubs were reformed in Middeniya and Angunakolapelessa. Around 23 staff members of two partner agencies participated in a workshop on the development of a child club manual, while 63 participated in an awareness programme on the formation and management of child clubs.

- In collaboration with the Department of Education 23 pre-school teachers were trained in child psychology, attitudes, creativity and aesthetic skills development over a period of two days.
- Around 700 children from 30 pre-schools benefited through the distribution of play material and as a result of efforts by FORUT Sri Lanka, over 250 children were enrolled into pre-schools in 2008.

Matale

In Matale, much has been accomplished in the area of pre-school education, awareness building and advocacy on child rights.

- Several training programmes and discussions were held for 175 pre-school and primary teachers.
- Training on home-based education was conducted for nearly 70 parents.
- Minimum standards were improved at 18 pre-schools and crèches.
- Classes were conducted for children having difficulty with certain subjects and steps were taken to re-admit school dropouts.
- Child clubs in the area received continuous support with three clubs being improved and four new clubs formed. A total of 131 monthly meetings were also held in 27 clubs in the area, with 1067 participating.
- A leadership skills training programme was held for 98 club leaders with programmes in the area of ADD awareness held for 261 child club members.
- A total of 21 awareness programmes on child rights were held for 66 child club members and 240 adults.
- A project was introduced to provide clean drinking water for three schools in Kellabokke, Kandeketiya and Polwattakanda benefiting 1249 children.

Colombo

FORUT Sri Lanka supported children in the Colombo North region by strengthening pre-school education, improving the functioning of child clubs, providing training to develop skills and taking steps to combat the mistreatment of children due to alcohol and drug abuse.

- During the year, FORUT Sri Lanka strengthened four pre-schools through activities that benefited 120 children. The children were also provided with stationary items and steps were taken to conduct review meetings with parents on their children's progress.
- Approximately 10 child clubs have been formed and are functioning with just over 200 children as active members. FORUT Sri Lanka conducted workshops during the year for both child club leaders and members focusing on the implementation of the child club manual.

“Child protection has been an important area of focus in 2008 ”

- In order to address rising social concerns regarding the mistreatment of children as a result of alcohol and drug abuse, a child rights training programme was held for 35 child club leaders and 75 pre-school and primary school teachers.

Monaragala

FORUT Sri Lanka has identified the need for awareness creation on the issue of child rights in the Monaragala district, as well as the importance of establishing pressure groups to promote advocacy work.

- With this in mind, child clubs were strengthened in the year under review. The strength of the child clubs lies in the fact that it functions as a catalyst for activities that are not only beneficial to children but to society as a whole.
- The most needy pre-schools were provided with basic requirements, with children also participating in international Children's Day programmes at national level.

An evaluation of FORUT Sri Lanka's activities in Monaragala indicates that child rights and early childhood care and development boasts of the highest number of beneficiaries.

Anuradhapura

Given the proximity to the conflict in the North of Sri Lanka, FORUT Sri Lanka's programmes in Anuradhapura had to also factor in issues surrounding the displacement of children.

- The importance of continuous education for children was communicated to parents through five awareness workshops.
- About 150 children were re-admitted to school and special education programmes were conducted for backward children.
- Basic facilities were upgraded at seven government schools in resettled areas and drinking water facilities were developed.
- FORUT Sri Lanka built libraries for children in resettled villages while students sitting for the Grade 5 scholarship and G.C.E Ordinary Level examinations were supported with educational seminars.
- Children when displaced from their families are exposed to a higher risk of child abuse. In order to combat this risk, awareness programmes on child rights were conducted for 250 school children.

Vavuniya

FORUT Sri Lanka has and continues to play a significant role in providing assistance to those children who have been internally displaced as a result of conflict, specifically targeting those who are differently abled.

- Since the commencement of FORUT Sri Lanka's activities in Vavuniya to facilitate continued education, 1600 children now attend school regularly.

- Capacity building activities were conducted for pre-school teachers in order to maintain required standards. FORUT Sri Lanka has provided extensive support to two pre-schools which currently educate 79 children and are now functioning effectively.
- Library capacities and management of children's clubs in the area was improved, providing children with improved access to educational and other facilities.
- Evening classes were held for slow learners.
- A total of 1640 home visits were made by volunteers to address child related concerns during the year.
- FORUT Sri Lanka developed a programme to ensure that 500 children with special needs are integrated into society. This was done by setting up a model school and sensitising parents on children with special needs. The core aim of this programme was to increase the capacities of parents', to protect their children in conflict-affected areas where they may be more vulnerable to adverse conditions.
- FORUT Sri Lanka also provided medical assistance for children in conflict affected areas and helped 113 children obtain birth certificates.

There was a 40% decline in reported child rights violations during the year and FORUT Sri Lanka contributed significantly to this reduction.

Jaffna

Continued education was the main focus of FORUT Sri Lanka's programme in Jaffna in the year under review.

- In keeping with the organisations commitment to early childhood care and education, nearly 603 children are now attending pre-schools.
- FORUT Sri Lanka maintained overall monitoring, maintenance and also provided teacher training for around 35 pre-schools it helped develop.
- In an initiative to promote good health and sanitation, 24 schools were provided water filters, while several schools were also provided with play materials and equipment.
- A total of 35 child clubs were also formed during the year.

Approximately 603 people benefited from activities conducted by FORUT Sri Lanka in the Jaffna province.

Case Study

New Beginnings

“I almost lost the opportunity of learning further but now I have reasons to hope and plan the pathway that would take me towards a better life”

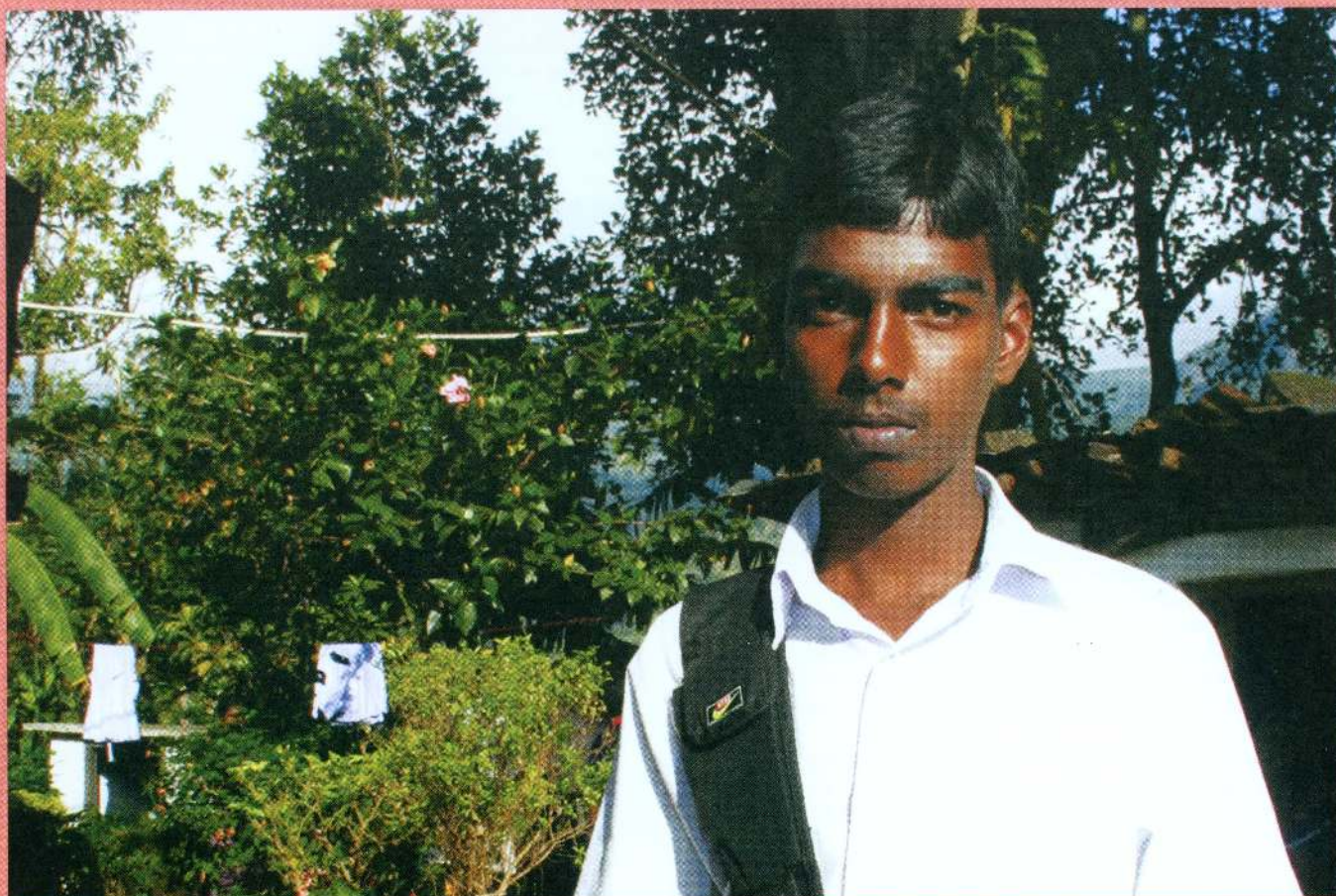
Dinesh Kumar, 15 years old, Madagala

Faced with a long walk to and back from school each day is no easy feat. Attempting the journey without shoes is another challenge altogether. When his only pair of shoes eventually wore out, Dinesh quit school. It is a well known fact that the main reason children give for dropping out of school, is that they lack basic facilities like books, shoes, bags and school fees as many of them are living in abject poverty. When struggling daily to make ends meet, for parents like Dinesh's, education is not a priority.

A sound education however is one of the most valuable resources a child will carry into his or her adulthood. Not only does it create a launch pad for future opportunities, it also builds character and ensures good and healthy traits in a person. Although free education is available in Sri Lanka, due to various factors such as in the case of Dinesh, not all children can easily access it.

Working for the Child Rights Action Committee, Rajapathirana became aware of Dinesh's plight. After alerting FORUT Sri Lanka, Dinesh was back in school in no time and without any worries of his shoes falling apart. Dinesh is thrilled that his dream of sitting for the G.C.E. Ordinary Level Exam is now a reality for him. He is no longer afraid of an unstable future or faced with the prospect of having to work as a laborer on a plantation for the rest of his life. For many like Dinesh, FORUT Sri Lanka gives hope, security and happiness.

With the support of FORUT Sri Lanka, Rajapathirana has now begun to conduct mobile classes for plantation workers, improving the literacy of women in the area.



Gender and Development

Overview

Although there have been significant advances for women in Sri Lanka in relation to health, education and employment over the past few years, there is still room for improvement. Despite all of the gains that have been made, the ability of women to fight back against gender-based violence for example, is limited with many women still denied the right to live or to have control over their bodies or to access development opportunities. Information from various countries, including Sri Lanka indicate that a high percentage of women undergo domestic violence, resulting in a need for interventions to fight negative attitudes and gender stereotyping that is institutionalised in our societies and places women in powerless situations.

Challenging gender discrimination requires establishing policy frameworks, tackling negative attitudes and educating both men and women. Awareness creation and capacity development was a key focus area for FORUT Sri Lanka in addition to strict implementation of the gender policy guidelines that were developed and launched in 2007. A gender perspective has also been integrated into FORUT Sri Lanka's interventions in all other areas of activity as well. Achieving gender equality and empowering women was FORUT's main objective in 2008. Activities focused on bringing women into the decision making process within the family and the community and reducing gender based violence against women. But since promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment cannot be achieved with the involvement of only women, both men and boys were included in the change process.

Youth attached to FORUT youth clubs in the different project areas were mobilised to participate in gender related programmes and the knowledge of boys and girls in five selected districts was enhanced. These young people were involved in analysing the types of gender based violence in their own villages, the reasons behind it and were also engaged in helping to change attitudes that led to violence in their daily lives.

Establishing strong partnerships with civil society organisations and groups and building networks at all levels have also had a significant impact on implementation of gender initiatives. Working through a network of women's organisations across the island for example, has been an effective way to reach a large number of women. The 'Alcohol Prevention and Women's Development' network established with FORUT's facilitation, has contributed to building a strong base of women who are actively involved in the prevention of alcohol abuse.

At the end of the year, network members and a range of women's organisations from around the country gathered at a national conference with the aim of establishing a national dialogue on alcohol use and related violence against women. It also encouraged expanded community intervention where the social excuses for alcohol use and violence against women was challenged.



FORUT believes that women can be positive change agents in preventing alcohol abuse among both men and women. The average consumption of alcohol by women is low, but they can be promoters of alcohol use when they support production and sales, encourage male drinking, pardon misbehaviour and participate in media promotions that glamorise alcohol and tobacco use. In this regard, women can play a role in preventing their children from getting caught up in the myth of alcohol being related to glamour, happiness and masculinity, thus effectively reducing the cycle of abuse.

The main indicators used to measure the success of FORUT Sri Lanka's work in this area are: improvements in the number of women making important family decisions, the number of men sharing domestic responsibilities, and reduced incidences of gender based violence. Other indicators include the amount of free time women have for work or leisure, opportunities for women to participate in public community development organisations and projects and the ability of women to work and control the income generated through their work. Collectively these indicators reflect the integrated nature of FORUT's community development work

Project Highlights by district

Puttalam

- Over 250 people were educated on the different livelihood opportunities and income generation methods available to them.
- In addition to the many public awareness programmes a sticker campaign was also initiated targeting three-wheeler drivers.

“Activities focused on bringing women into the decision making process”

West Coast

Among the many programmes initiated in the Gampaha district:

- An action committee was formed comprising of 20 government, NGO and community leaders, to initiate activities that uphold women's rights.
- Awareness programmes on Gender Based Violence and the Domestic Violence Act were conducted to raise gender sensitivity and equal rights awareness in communities, reducing exploitation of women, preventing domestic violence and involving men in gender workshops.
- Street dramas were conducted to promote better attitudes among the community on gender issues.
- Women were provided with alternative economic opportunities such as home gardens and doll-making which improved their financial independence and supported their families.

Hambantota

FORUT Sri Lanka's focus in this district during the year was to bring social justice to women and other marginalised groups.

- The community was engaged in gender awareness initiatives through workshops and by a survey on gender and related issues. Approximately 608 families interviewed.
- Discussions were held with youth on the importance of gender equality.

Matale

Programmes in the Matale district focused on improving the status of women in the community.

- Approximately 8 Gender action committee meetings were held and over 40 attended a gender-training programme for government officers and officials on attitude changes towards women.
- In an initiative to foster small-scale enterprises, FORUT Sri Lanka conducted training on setting up home gardens by providing seeds and distributing garden hoes for 345 women.
- Awareness programmes were developed in the area of Gender Based Violence and the Domestic Violence Act, with over 600 participants; Training on leadership development and home financial management was also conducted, with over 500 benefiting from this programme.
- A gender network group was formed in the Rattota Division that mobilised 54 people.

Among the lessons learnt, the need for more focused and integrated approaches to gender issues on the estates has been identified as an area for upcoming development programmes, in addition to improved data collection.

Colombo

FORUT Sri Lanka worked with several schools in Colombo to build awareness on women's rights, while establishing partnerships with key stakeholders that paved the way for effective implementation of programmes.

- Approximately 100 parents of three pre-schools were provided with awareness training on the subject of gender.
- Awareness programmes were conducted for youth in the area of gender based violence.

Monaragala

Initial surveys and need assessments conducted by FORUT Sri Lanka revealed that one of the major issues in the district was gender discrimination and alcohol abuse in the community. The core aims of the project activities included;

- Improving the living conditions of women, men and children in selected project areas within the district.
- Engaging CBOs to facilitate community change on the theme of gender and development.
- Conducting gender awareness and related programmes through 4 U clubs.

Anuradhapura

- In order to combat domestic violence against women, programmes on the ill-effects of alcohol abuse were conducted, at which 100 people participated.
- A poster campaign and a protest was launched against the domestic abuse of women and children.
- Grants were provided to displaced families in order to start income generation activities, while a home gardening project was also initiated targeting 50 women.

Vavuniya

Due to the large numbers of internally displaced persons in the district, one of the main target groups in FORUT Sri Lanka's development activities in Vavuniya during the year, were rural women living in temporary shelters. The core objective was to ensure that women have access to gender equality and opportunities for empowerment and equal rights not just for themselves but their families as well.

“200 families in the Jaffna district benefited from FORUT’s gender & development activities in 2008”



- To help women achieve economic independence through livelihood opportunities, 24 women were given basic training on sewing, while over 30 others were educated on how to select and begin a suitable business venture for themselves.
- Training was provided for 140 youth on gender equality.

Following the implementation of initiatives such as these, many positive changes were noted within the community. These included a keener awareness of gender roles and improved gender dynamics amongst men and women. A significant development was that 125 women are now involved in important family decisions, with 30 men sharing domestic responsibility in the project area. As heightened awareness on gender equality was created through FORUT’s development activities, more people seemed to come forward to report abuse with an increase in the number of cases recorded.

It is noteworthy that FORUT’s activities have contributed to a 25% reduction in the number of gender based violence cases being reported from this district.

Jaffna

FORUT Sri Lanka began activities in this district with the aim of improving gender awareness, reducing alcohol abuse and equipping women, their families and communities with the awareness required to uphold equal rights.

- Community level programmes on sexual harassment and gender based violence were held in 45 villages and nearly 50 pressure groups were formed.
- A total of 375 women were given micro-credit facilities to assist in self employment thereby improving income generation.
- A survey was conducted among 2000 people in order to assess the gender dynamics within the community.
- Concept books on gender were developed to build awareness among communities.

Approximately 200 families in the Jaffna district benefited from Gender and Development activities carried out by FORUT Sri Lanka.

Case Study

Fighting for Gender Equality

“Women in our village, including myself had this inbuilt impression that men were superior and the woman’s place was in the house...”

Chandani Karunaratne, Madakumbura, Matale

Fighting gender stereotypes in the rural village of Madakumbura in Matale, has been an uphill but rewarding task. Women here traditionally believed that they were inferior to men and were limited in what they could achieve.

“If I am to talk of the narrowing of the gap in gender roles, women in our village, including myself had this inbuilt impression that men were superior and the woman’s place was in the house,” says Chandani Karunaratne, secretary of the village action committee. Combating these beliefs has taken much effort.

With FORUT Sri Lanka’s help, an action committee was set up in this village, headed by strong, motivated women, to combat gender inequality. This committee known as the Swashakthi Sahayogatha Samithiya (United through Individual Strength Society), now has 126 members and is actively involved in empowering women. Several economically handicapped women were selected to undergo training in sewing and after six months, they qualified to receive a Rs. 10,000 loan with which they began their own enterprises from manufacturing rugs and carpets to children’s clothes.

FORUT Sri Lanka also organised several gender awareness discussions for the villagers, which went a long way to breaking down stereotypes, encouraging the participation of women in decision making and in contributing to their family’s livelihood. The awareness sessions also gave women more confidence to shoulder responsibility and take leadership. “It was quite a challenge and we were bombarded with snickering remarks and ridicule claiming that these things don’t work, a man’s job is to find the money to support his family while it is the woman’s task to attend to the household chores and raise children,” Chandani said. Many women were also initially reluctant to change the status quo, but since then, both men and women have actively supported initiatives to build gender equality. In fact, two men are now part of the gender awareness committee.

“I have to say that even in my own family, after my husband attended many of the awareness programmes, I began to notice a remarkable change in him. He was being more attentive to what I suggested. Now we both have a splendid relationship because we decide, plan and even tend to the vegetable plot together. We feel that by looking at us, the rest of the women and their husbands will take us as role models and reform,” says Chandani.

The fight for gender equality often takes time and effort. In the village of Madakumbura change has taken root, creating a positive environment for the next generation.



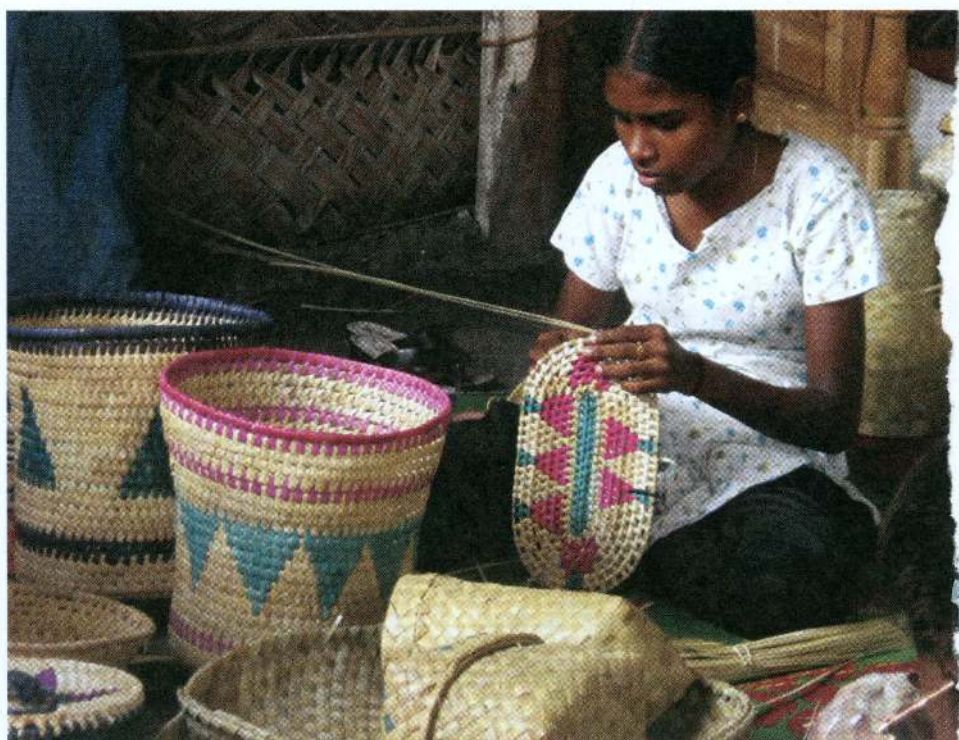
Livelihood and Economic Empowerment

Overview

Although Sri Lanka has made great strides with regard to provision of education and health services, poverty is still persistent and the poor continue to face basic welfare challenges such as malnutrition. With 23% of people living below the poverty line, the situation is aggravated by challenges such as weak linkages to markets, inadequate access to housing, clean water and sanitation, with the poor also affected by low education levels and under-employment.

In the fight against poverty, FORUT Sri Lanka continues to work towards the empowerment of marginalised communities around the country. These initiatives are significant because they are based on a market analysis to identify needs and include advocacy and skills development training.

Working with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to provide savings and credit services, FORUT Sri Lanka assists those who are often on the periphery of mainstream banking services. Initiatives in the area of livelihood development have enabled once poor families to build economic assets and develop a credit status that will help them benefit from formal banking services at later stages. FORUT Sri Lanka also assists in strengthening the financial management capacities of partner organisations. Women and youth are assisted in small business development and vocational training respectively, developing entrepreneurship capacity. Projects initiated in conflict affected areas focus on enhancing food security by rebuilding agricultural production capacities.



Project Highlights by district

Puttalam

- FORUT Sri Lanka assisted in improving market access for 320 products produced by community based organisations in Puttalam, through trade fairs and exhibitions that facilitated business linkages.
- The knowledge of partner organisations on the Micro-finance Act was improved.
- A total of 451 member organisations supported by FORUT were provided with access to micro-credit. The improved income among members as a result of the livelihood initiatives also resulted in increased savings.
- Training programmes were conducted in the area of storage, packaging and transport for community organisations, improving the quality of goods produced.

- A vocational training programme on animal husbandry, leather production, entrepreneurship, career guidance and marketable skills was implemented for youth in the area. In addition, 12 loans were issued to selected youth in order to initiate income generation activities.

West Coast

- In order to improve livelihood opportunities, FORUT Sri Lanka provided loans to member organisations for self-employment projects such as home gardening. A total of 135 members commenced domestic income projects.
- Several participants benefited from Generate Your Business (GYB) and Start Improving Your Business (SIYB) programmes as well as from accounting training conducted by FORUT Sri Lanka.
- Youth were provided with training in management, leadership, career guidance, IT, cookery and driving to improve the marketability of their skills to employers, increasing their chances of finding employment.

Hambantota

FORUT Sri Lanka's development programmes in Hambantota encouraged community participation and strengthened community based organisations. Initiatives in this area also involved mediation between the government and the broader community to improve the living standards of people. Through FORUT Sri Lanka's initiatives in this area, monthly household incomes have recorded an increase of Rs. 300 and the number of people generating an income by 5%.

“FORUT works towards the empowerment of Marginalised communities”

- The Community Services Forum, a FORUT partner organisation, received micro-finance grants from external organisations in order to support village CBOs to set up income generating projects. The CBOs were supported with a business plan and a micro-finance manual.
- FORUT facilitated an exposure tour for farmers in Hambantota, to Trincomalee in the East in order to gain knowledge on the cultivation of subsidiary crops such as soya and corn.
- About 40 participants from Katuwana received training on business planning to encourage entrepreneurship.
- Workshops were conducted on crop diversification with several CBO members also taking part in exposure tours to study micro-credit programmes in Anuradhapura.

Matale

Several programmes were launched in this district to increase the income of low wage earning families and improve the overall living standards of the people.

- Training programmes were conducted on recovery of loans and credit schemes and on setting up a business. The increased awareness among the community resulted in increased membership at community based organisations.
- In research conducted by FORUT Sri Lanka, it was identified that a high level of debt was prevalent among the community. In order to combat this, awareness and follow-up programmes were held for approximately 516 beneficiaries.
- Youth were supported with training in a wide number of areas such as sewing, carpentry, nursing, three-wheeler driving, tile fitting and tailoring, improving their employability.
- Discussions were also held with the Vocational Training Authority to register youth with a job bank, improving their chances of finding employment.

Colombo

In the Colombo north district, it is estimated that approximately 45% of people are engaged in unskilled work and do not secure a regular income, while majority of the urban poor depend on money-lenders for credit. In light of this, FORUT Sri Lanka implemented a series of programmes to improve livelihoods.

- A total of 18 women were trained in the production of hand made paper items, soap and candles, while 35 youth were provided with career guidance.

Monaragala

The majority of people in the Monaragala district lead a subsistence existence, commonly depending on Chena cultivation of paddy and sugarcane. Initial surveys and needs assessments carried out by FORUT Sri Lanka reveal that some of the major issues in the district include poverty, indebtedness and unemployment. Steps to increase family income were undertaken by way of training on entrepreneurship development, farming and industrial techniques, skills development, finance and credit management, field demonstrations and through provision of community credit funds.

Anuradhapura

An estimated 20% of the population in Anuradhapura live below the poverty line but this figure does not reflect the situation of people displaced by the conflict in the North. FORUT Sri Lanka took several initiatives to improve family incomes among affected populations in the area.

- Grants and loans were provided to families together with seed grants to encourage small-scale agricultural projects and home gardens. SIYB trainings were conducted to encourage and support small entrepreneurs.
- Approximately 50 women were trained in home gardening, which improved the financial status of women and helped provide for their families,
- A total of 35 youth were directed to vocational skills training centres and coordination with a job bank was initiated, improving their chances of finding employment.

Vavuniya

FORUT Sri Lanka's initiatives in this area targeted Internally Displaced People, (IDP's) refugees returning from India and rural women who lived in shelters.

- FORUT Sri Lanka helped people improve their credit worthiness so that they could access micro-finance facilities. Technical assistance was also provided on maintenance of accounts and book-keeping for people who were interested in setting up livelihood projects.
- Approximately 100 people commenced income generation activities with training from FORUT Sri Lanka and now receive a regular income. About 18% of people are involved in the livestock business with a Livestock Breeders Cooperative and a farmer's pension scheme also operative with savings from members. This supports livestock development activities.
- With the creation of new market opportunities, 01 retail sales centre is now open and 15% of self employed have insurance cover.
- A total of 125 youth received vocational training to find suitable employment.

“FORUT’s income generation activities benefited over 4000 people in Jaffna”



Jaffna

Some of the main livelihoods in this district are agriculture, fishing and livestock although fishing is restricted. A cyclone and heavy floods in the area destroyed crops in November 2008, affecting 30,591 families, creating an added urgency for FORUT interventions in this area.

- Small groups were provided with micro-credit facilities and training on skills and personal development as well as income generation. These activities helped enhance family income.
- Extremely vulnerable families were identified and provided with grants and 375 women were assisted with loan facilities.

FORUT Sri Lanka's income generation activities benefited approximately 4128 individuals and 139 vulnerable families.

Case Study

Helping people help themselves

“Earlier we used to spend about Rs. 3,500 a month at the local fair to buy vegetables for our household use but now we only need to step out into our garden and simply pick what ever is needed for our meals.”

Chandrankanthi, a villager from Bubula

The rural village of Bubula, just 24 km from Monaragala is so remote that it has no hospital, medical centre or school. Villagers make ends meet through vegetable cultivation by the traditional slash and burn method, but because most of them do not know how to make the best use of the land, money earned is scarce and most people are poor. Seeta, a villager said, “Even though we owned the land we did not know how to make maximum use of the available resources and cultivate. After having cultivated we still ended up having to buy our vegetable requirements from the fair, plus the fertiliser which is quite costly.”

Premalatha, a volunteer with FORUT Sri Lanka set out to help the villagers of Bubula increase their earnings by improving their cultivation practices and helping them save money so they could meet their

basic needs. A total of 50 women were selected and through practical training in the field, they were taught how to prepare vegetable plots, avoid soil erosion, methods of making natural compost fertiliser and how to provide nutrition for crops. They also learnt how to produce pesticide free of chemicals using Margosa and Gleracia leaves.

The women could hardly believe the changes through using better cultivation techniques. “When we learnt that all the dry leaves, twigs and branches could be used as nourishment for the soil, we were amazed and were talking among ourselves wondering if this method would really work” recalled Lakmini who now assures us that nothing in her garden is put to waste but only recycled for cultivation.

Now, instead of buying vegetables from the market, the women simply grow what they need in their gardens and the use of natural fertiliser also means that their children don't fall ill quite so often. FORUT also introduced them to bee-keeping, showing them how to handle the bees and collect the honey. There is a huge demand for vegetables from these gardens and other women in the village, motivated by the success they've seen, have asked FORUT for similar training.

A change has begun in Bubula and is being led by the villagers themselves.



Alcohol, Drugs and Development



Overview

The work of FORUT Sri Lanka in the area of Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD) is categorised into three main focus areas: capacity development, advocacy and networking. An integral part of these efforts is the active participation of civil society groups, government sector organisations, volunteer workers, divisional secretariats and other ADD networks.

Capacity Building

In the area of capacity development, FORUT Sri Lanka worked to improve the knowledge of all stakeholders such as civil society groups, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO), government agencies, the general public, youth, child clubs and others, in the area of ADD.

Advocacy Initiatives

Alcohol and drug advocacy work was carried out by FORUT Sri Lanka in partnership with the Psychosocial Forum (PSF), the Estate Network, a network of NGO's working with the tea plantation sector and the Sri Lanka Federation against Drug Abuse in Sri Lanka. In order to facilitate the effective implementation of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) at district and national level, FORUT together with partners ADIC and the Sri Lanka Federation against Drug Abuse also introduced several awareness projects in selected areas.

Networking

FORUT Sri Lanka developed several networks between related project areas such as child rights, gender, 4U Youth and ADD as well as a volunteer workers programme. This ensures that work in the area of alcohol and drugs effectively reach the affected groups.

Child Rights and ADD

A network on Child Rights and ADD was established in March 2008 and currently has a membership of 14 organisations, including government officials working in this area. A draft constitution was prepared and submitted to the membership for their comments and suggestions. Members of the network also submitted several project proposals on child rights and ADD.

Capacity development activities were also undertaken for the Hambantota Kantha Maha Sangamaya - an NGO that promotes rural banking facilities and savings among women, the Divisional Secretariat of Ja-Ela and the Samurधि Development Authority.

Gender and ADD

A network on Gender and ADD was also set up in March 2008, and has a membership of 17 organisations. The network has been called 'Women's Development and ADD of Sri Lanka'. A constitution was also drafted and each member organisation has been entrusted with a project for implementation.

4U Youth

FORUT Sri Lanka has a network of youth clubs across the island which are actively involved in awareness building and other related projects across the different areas that FORUT works in. Called 4U youth, these clubs were involved in capacity building on alcohol and drug use as well as advocacy work on the NATA through their network of youth clubs.

Volunteer Workers Programme

The Volunteer Workers Programme was set up to develop the capacity of volunteers to carry out projects related to ADD at district level. During the year, volunteer programmes were implemented in Anuradhapura, Badulla, Colombo, Galle, Hambantota, Matara and Puttalam. The network was involved in the mobilisation of Community Based Organisations (CBO) and groups in dealing with the issue of drug and alcohol abuse as well as working with stakeholders, government and civil society organisations in the area of drug prevention.

Project Highlights by district

Puttalam

During the year, FORUT Sri Lanka launched a series of initiatives in the area of ADD for local government officials, youth groups, Community-Based Organisations (CBO) and schools in Puttalam.

- Awareness programmes were developed and implemented for 76 government officials during the year, while 206 CBO members were given comprehensive training on ADD.

“A network on child rights and ADD was established in March 2008”

- Action plans were developed with the participation of women in the project area, on effectively implementing the National Alcohol and Tobacco Act and eliminating certain widespread views with regard to alcohol and tobacco. For example, the abusive behaviour of people under the influence of alcohol or drugs is often excused on the presumption that the person in question was not aware of what he or she was doing and hence should not be held accountable. This view is counter-productive to tackling the issue of alcohol and drug abuse. FORUT Sri Lanka initiated a programme to dispel these views and to keep people adequately informed.
- A programme was launched in seven schools targeting over 800 children and 53 teachers on the ill effects of excessive alcohol and drug use.
- A total of 527 youth from FORUT Sri Lanka's 4U and other youth clubs were also trained on ADD awareness.
- A series of interviews on local radio stations, poster campaigns in the town and street dramas were conducted to enlighten the public on issues relating to ADD.

It is a measure of the success of FORUT Sri Lanka's programmes that 19 shops in Anamaduwa have discontinued selling cigarettes following an ADD demonstration, while many others have stopped selling cigarettes to youth and children below 21 years of age.

West Coast

- Youth groups, ADD committees and Community Based Organisations in villages were educated on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse.
- Action committees were set up in eight locations and networks were formed to ensure that awareness building programmes continue among target groups.

Due to the activities of FORUT Sri Lanka in this area, it has been reported that the sale of tobacco in shops has reduced considerably.

Hambantota

Apart from awareness programmes, FORUT Sri Lanka introduced the concept of model villages in selected areas, where participants would work as change agents to reduce alcohol and drug abuse.

- Capacity building activities were conducted for youth groups, local government officials and participants from development organisations such as Sanasa, Sarvodaya and the Samurdhi Authority in the Angunakolapelessa District Secretariat Division.
- The Alcohol and Drug Prevention Initiative (API) held a three day awareness campaign where posters, banners, stickers and handbills were circulated among the public.
- Approximately 18 members of the Katuwana Banking Union participated in a discussion to develop Keselwatta as an ADD model village.

- A village in the Angunakola District Secretariat division was declared an ADD model village by Janadura in collaboration with the Divisional Secretary and the Samurdhi Movement.

Matale

FORUT Sri Lanka designed and implemented a series of effective campaigns in this district against alcohol and drug abuse. The organisation reached youth and school children through ADD counselling, training on counselling methods for youth leaders, while awareness programmes were also conducted in 16 schools.

- Nearly 200 people participated in ADD action committee meetings and awareness programmes for Samurdhi group leaders in the Rattota and Parvila Divisional Secretariats, organised by FORUT Sri Lanka.
- Poster campaigns were held to improve public awareness, and hoardings were designed and displayed in key areas.
- Capacity building activities were carried out for NGO networks, and Divisional Secretariats working in the estate sector, with programmes also developed for youth groups and child clubs that are involved in the prevention of alcohol and drug use in their communities.
- In an innovative project, tills were provided to 70 beneficiaries to encourage them to save the money they would otherwise spend on alcohol.

Colombo

FORUT Sri Lanka's programmes in the Colombo North Area were centred on the core activities of awareness and capacity building for all stakeholders in the area of ADD.

- Information on the National Alcohol and Tobacco Act (NATA) was disseminated to police officers and family health workers. Youth clubs in the area were actively involved in projects related to combating alcohol and drug abuse. Youth action groups were also formed to improve ADD awareness in urban tenements.

Monaragala

- Government officers, 4U clubs, CBO members and school children in six villages in the Badalkumbura and Buttala AGA divisions were targeted for prevention programmes. Mass media campaigns on alcohol and drug prevention were also carried out during the Kataragama festival season.

Anuradhapura

- An education campaign was conducted for pilgrims to Anuradhapura during the Poson season, on the NATA Act.
- FORUT Sri Lanka encouraged the formation of youth groups in schools that were committed to preventing alcohol and drug use.

“Two community interventions were conducted in Manik Farm during the year”



- Capacity building programmes were conducted for members of NGOs, government sector organisations, police officers and home guards.
- Community awareness programmes on the new alcohol and tobacco legislation using signature and poster campaigns was implemented. Awareness was also created through village committees and 'door-to-door' campaigns.

Vavuniya

- An action committee was formed for the prevention of alcohol and drug use in the Vavuniya district.
- Capacity building activities were conducted for trainees of the National Youth Services Council, Sri Lanka Red Cross volunteers, local government and divisional secretariat authorities, nurses, civil protection officers, youth and high school students. Two community interventions were conducted in Manik Farm and Thampanaicholai, on alcohol and drug prevention.
- An Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD) resource centre was established at the FORUT Sri Lanka office in Vavuniya.

Jaffna

- Several pressure groups and youth clubs were formed in the Jaffna district and several field activities promoting ADD awareness were undertaken for the community.
- Awareness creation workshops on ADD were held at 38 schools with nearly 1400 students attending.
- Capacity building activities were held for volunteers in the area of alcohol and drug prevention and an NGO Forum was formed to carry out ADD work.

Case Study

Transforming Communities through ADD

"I care for children deeply and it always bothers me when I see children suffering with alcoholic fathers and mothers unable to support them"

Rajaluxmie Muniandy, 37 years old, Matale

Women and children often bear the brunt of the excessive consumption of alcohol. Not only are they vulnerable to sexual and gender based violence, but family income and overall lifestyle patterns are affected deeply. Women like Rajaluxmie have seen wives and children in her own village suffer as a result of alcohol abuse.

A bubbly and energetic woman, Rajaluxmie lives with her husband Perumal Ramachandran and their two sons in the Kavarasedi division of the Midlands Tea plantation. Following a FORUT initiative, she was appointed to head a community action committee that looked into ways to resolve family conflicts as a result of alcohol abuse, often by the men of the family. "I care for children deeply and it always bothers me when I see children suffering with alcoholic fathers and mothers unable to support them. This is what made me to give back something more valuable to the community in order to correct this situation through social service," Rajaluxmie said.

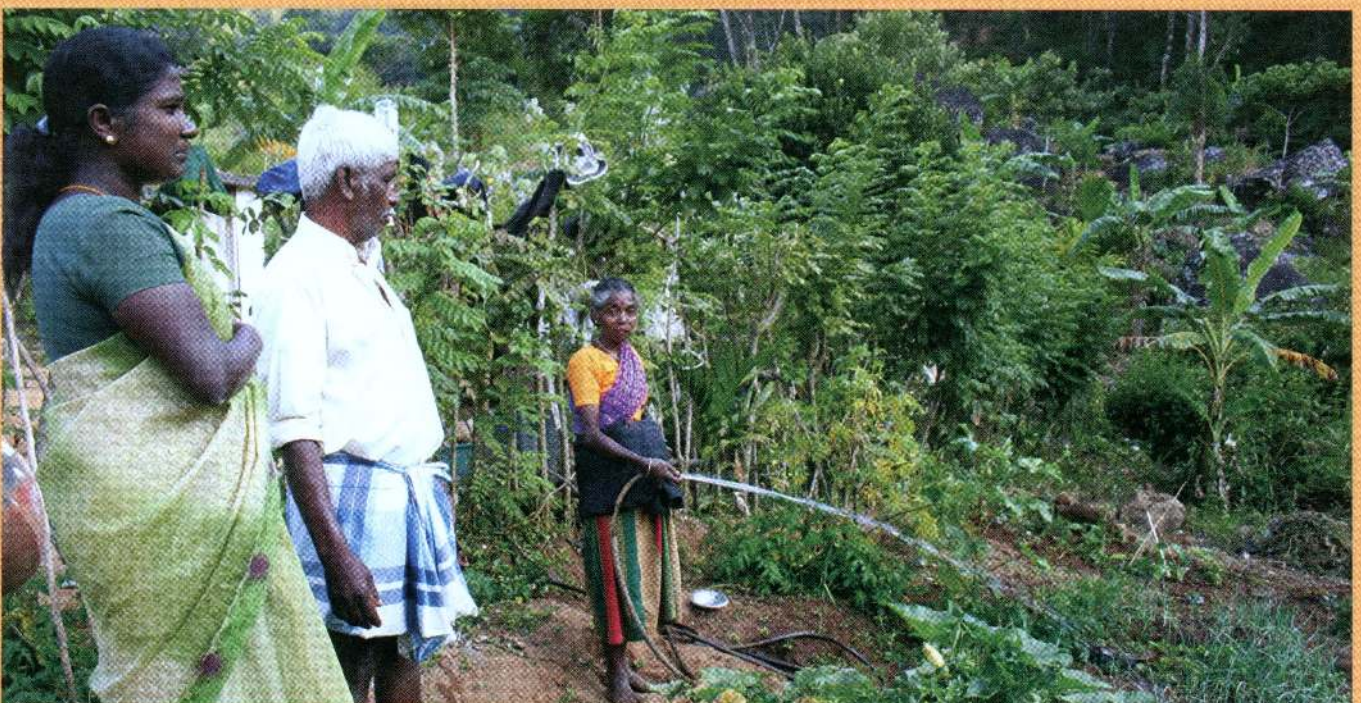
FORUT provided training on topics ranging from gender and equality, awareness on the Domestic Violence Act, managing home finances, alcohol and tobacco prevention, training in first aid, leadership skills and more.

Motivated by her role, Rajaluxmie first looked inwards at her own family. Perumal, who was unemployed, often drank and smoked tobacco towards the end of day, while his curious and impressionable eight year old son Janushan watched. Soon, Janushan wanted to copy his father. A defining moment for Perumal, he began to reduce his alcohol consumption with Rajaluxmie's help. FORUT also assisted Perumal with vegetable seedlings to begin a home garden, which he began enthusiastically.

Rajaluxmie gradually gained the confidence of the other villagers and recognising that alcohol abuse has far-reaching effects from domestic violence, negative behaviour in youth to disrupting children's education, she began to try and find solutions.

Working with FORUT, she set up a resource centre for children, keeping them occupied while coaching them in language and mathematics, encouraged children to go back to school and helped build awareness among women on dealing with alcohol abuse.

Rajaluxmie has proven that with effort and greater awareness, alcohol abuse can be fought.



Youth

Overview

Youth are often considered to be a country's most valuable resource because of the role they can play in development. Youth in Sri Lanka face several challenges however, of which economic and conflict related concerns appear to be the most significant. Unemployment among youth is also several times higher than the national average with a mismatch between existing labour skills and the needs of employers. Young people in conflict affected areas are also affected by restricted access to education and vocational training.

FORUT Sri Lanka identified the need to address these issues facing youth, as there is a distinct lack of other organised support networks dealing with their concerns. The objective of FORUT Sri Lanka's work in this area is to promote the idea of 'youth becoming responsible citizens.' To this end, project activities both in conflict affected areas and outside, focused on vocational training, involvement of youth in community development projects and participation in youth clubs to promote healthier lifestyle choices. Efforts were also made to raise the awareness of youth in other areas such as Gender, Alcohol Drugs and Development (ADD) and Child Rights.

Through FORUT's network of 4U youth clubs, young people were also given the opportunity to discuss and implement solutions to the problems they face. The youth clubs have developed into a highly effective national youth network, providing young people with numerous opportunities.

In all of its youth development projects, emphasis is placed on building knowledge awareness, improved knowledge sharing between FORUT's different areas of work and conflict-sensitive approaches to development.

Project Highlights by district

Puttalam

Over 550 youth benefited from FORUT Sri Lanka's activities in the Puttalam district in 2008, with a majority of them now a part of functioning youth organisations.

- FORUT Sri Lanka formed 20 4U youth clubs in Puttalam and encouraged participation of young people in the area.
- Over 240 youth participated in alcohol and drug awareness programmes such as poster campaigns.
- Young people were provided with livelihood training in the areas of animal husbandry, leather production and entrepreneurship as well as language classes and career guidance support. Loans were granted to selected youth on starting their own business.



West Coast

FORUT Sri Lanka provided youth in the West Coast region with career guidance programmes together with awareness building on livelihood opportunities and social issues.

- Approximately 180 youth benefited from training on career guidance, leadership, management, awareness on HIV/AIDS, alcohol and drug prevention, computer, cookery and house wiring.
- Recreational and cultural programmes were organised in collaboration with visiting student groups from Norway.
- Advanced Level examination scholarships were provided to 12 students while 20 youth received support to obtain their drivers' licenses.

Hambantota

It is estimated that 800 youth in FORUT Sri Lanka's project areas now contribute towards household tasks and income generation to support their families. Increased participation in social initiatives has also resulted in fewer idle youth on the streets.

- Small scale business training was provided through 4U youth clubs, with 24 youth provided loans to start their own business. Ten of them launched their self-employment initiatives in 2008 and received further training and assistance.
- A Self Banking Society for youth was established in Middeniya
- Training was also provided on youth leadership, accounting and entrepreneurship.

“FORUT’s 4U youth clubs have developed into a highly effective national youth network”

Matale

Several vocational training programmes were conducted for different categories of youth.

- Vocational training was conducted for unemployed youth in areas such as three-wheeler driving, tile fitting and tailoring. This has helped them increase their monthly income to Rs.15,000 and Rs. 25,000.
- Career guidance was provided for over a 100 young people. Discussions were also held with the Vocational Training Authority to register several of these youth with a job bank, improving their employment prospects.
- Discussions were held with Development Banks such as Sanasa and Ceylinco Grameen for access to micro-finance facilities.
- Youth were encouraged to participate in FORUT Sri Lanka’s network of youth clubs. These clubs organised cultural shows and other activities during the year.
- Two new 4U district offices were opened in Matale and Kandy.

Colombo

In Colombo, FORUT Sri Lanka focused on vocational training, access to job opportunities as well as encouraging socially responsible behaviour among youth.

- Youth clubs were set up in five locations in Colombo with members participating in community activities such as keeping the environment clean to creating awareness on HIV/AIDS.
- Through training provided by FORUT Sri Lanka, 14 were employed as three-wheeler and truck drivers, increasing youth involvement in income generation.
- Vocational training was also provided in the areas of driving, house-wiring, hand-made paper production, fabric painting and sewing.
- FORUT’s projects also focused on isolated, idle youth in Colombo north region and attempted to involve them in social activities.

Monaragala

Youth clubs were strengthened, providing young people with training on community leadership, project formulation and entrepreneurship development in addition to other cultural and sports activities.

Approximately 554 youth benefited from FORUT Sri Lanka’s project activities in Monaragala.

Anuradhapura

- As many as 35 youth were directed to vocational training centers and registered with a job bank to assist them in finding employment.
- A national youth camp was organised for 25 youth club members where leadership and skills development training was conducted
- Understanding and solidarity between Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim youth was improved through community activities such as ‘shramadana’ campaigns organised by the youth clubs in the area.
- FORUT Sri Lanka supported the improvement of vocational training centers in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa.
- Several youth were provided with employment opportunities in Anuradhapura through the Department of Rural Development.
- A total of 48 4U clubs were developed in the district.



Youth Contd.

“Youth clubs were strengthened, providing young people with training on community leadership”



Vavuniya

Vocational training activities were the main focus of FORUT Sri Lanka's efforts in Vavuniya. It has been estimated that 200 youth in the project area are now contributing to household incomes, while as many as 170 young people now take part in social development activities.

- Over a 100 youth received vocational training and guidance on how to start a business
- About 06 youth clubs were revived and playgrounds rehabilitated.
- It was observed that the numbers of youth and the time spent on recreational activities has increased by 35% and 25% respectively.
- A resource centre was established for youth with several people trained as resource persons to assist and sensitize others on various social development issues.

Jaffna

Approximately 2150 youth benefited from FORUT Sri Lanka's activities in Jaffna.

- Vocational training was provided on aluminium fabrication, welding, computer, driving, handicrafts and other skills.
- Educational support was provided to 80 students from vulnerable families.
- Several events such as cultural, sports events and community development activities were organised by the 46 4U youth clubs in the region.
- Youth club members received aid for training on leadership, communication, management, proposal writing and annual planning.
- Alcohol and drug prevention awareness was integrated into youth related work such as preventive campaigns in villages and schools.

Case Study

Giving Youth Brighter Opportunities

“Because we are working in our village there is no transport or any other extra cost and we can comfortably earn around Rs. 1000 per day.”

Dinesh Chandana, 28 years

The rural village of Katuwana in Hambantota, is renowned for its carpentry and wood carving and is the main livelihood of the people who live here. Although many of them are skilled in basic carpentry, not all of them can turn out the intricate designs that customers often demand.

“Although there are lots of carpenters in our village not many know how to do a wide range of wood carvings. I heard that once a customer had wanted a lion head carved on the head rest of a chair but ended up receiving a chair with something that didn't resemble a lion head in any way,” said Saman, a 28 year old youth from the area.

FORUT Sri Lanka, working with its partner in Katuwana – the Social Mobilisation Fund (SMF), organised a six month training programme for 41 youth who were enthusiastic to learn the art. The training also gave them the opportunity to earn a living, supporting themselves and their families. Gayan Buddhika, one of the students recalls how none of them knew the proper way of holding a chisel or to set the drawings. “During the first month we were taught the different designs and drawings relevant to wood carving and thereafter the rest of the five months, we were taught how to carve them in wood”. Several youth also visited Colombo to study furniture design trends.

The course has been a huge success: 20 of the boys who completed the training now have their own wood-carving business or are employed in carpentry workshops in the area. The trained youth are also now organising workshops to guide other young people to become entrepreneurs, ensuring that more young people are given the opportunity for a brighter future and the work of FORUT Sri Lanka lives on.



Crisis Response and Recovery

Crisis Response

The Crisis Response and Recovery Programme implemented by FORUT Sri Lanka has and continues to provide emergency relief assistance to people and communities affected by crisis situations. FORUT Sri Lanka's activities in 2008, spanned four main areas of the country; Jaffna, Vanni and Vavuniya, which have been provided with conflict-related assistance, while the South of the country was supplied with aid for flood victims.

Apart from projects being implemented under FORUT Sri Lanka's five year plan, the specific and immediate needs of people in conflict affected areas were met by short-term projects funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and UN agencies and implemented by FORUT.

Vanni

An escalation of hostilities in the local ethnic conflict together with the abrogation of the ceasefire agreement in January 2006 resulted in heightened violence and raised humanitarian concerns for thousands of people displaced in the Vanni region.

- With funding from MFA, 604 families were provided with temporary shelters and other relief-items. Meanwhile 56 toilets were constructed in IDP sites benefiting approximately 1200 IDPs, while other essential infrastructure and non food relief items were also provided benefiting a further 3025 displaced persons.

- Approximately 473 families were provided with livelihood assistance in the areas of agriculture and livestock.
- Pre-school education for 2000 displaced children was maintained by training pre-school teachers and the construction of nine temporary pre-schools.
- Through its partnership with UNHCR, 60 IDP families were provided with temporary shelters and livelihood support in Kilinochchi.

FORUT Sri Lanka's work in the Vanni region had to be halted due to security restrictions imposed by the government during the latter part of the year. The organisation was compelled to suspend all activities, leaving behind local staff and immovable assets. In order to ensure security of local staff left behind in the conflict zone, and following discussions with the GOSL, FORUT seconded its staff to the government agent in the region.

Jaffna

Communities in Jaffna suffered as a result of informal warfare. The closure of the A-9 highway which is the only land route connecting the Northern peninsula to the rest of the island, and restrictions on fishing, weighed heavily on the lives of these people who had already borne the brunt of devastation. Restrictions on fishing, which was the traditional form of livelihood for people in the area resulted in a decline



“FORUT’s feeding programme supports 17,000 pre-school children in the Jaffna region”

in household incomes. Due to restricted incomes, nearly 70% of children in the project area were affected, with their families unable to provide them with three meals a day. FORUT Sri Lanka intervened by implementing a pilot feeding programme in 227 pre-schools during the year 2007, supporting over 5800 children. Encouraged by the impact of this programme, FORUT expanded its activities to support the entire Jaffna peninsula in 2008, assisting approximately 17,000 pre-school children, providing one cooked meal per day per child, for 20 days of each month. The benefits of the intervention were twofold as it created parental awareness on nutrition along with hygiene requirements, while also stressing the importance of pre-school education and improving school attendance.

During the latter part of the year, the Jaffna peninsula was affected by unusually heavy rains and cyclones which caused much devastation. FORUT Sri Lanka stepped in with support for 1500 families through the provision of dry rations and other relief assistance. This included renovation of shelters, toilets, wells and livelihood aid which was initiated in December 2008 and will continue throughout the year 2009.



“Approximately 4,500 children benefitted from FORUT’s flood relief operations in the South”

Vavuniya

Prior to the exodus of people from the Vanni during the latter part of the year, the Vavuniya district was home to many displaced persons from different areas of the North, living in welfare centers or with friends or relatives. A considerable number of them had been displaced multiple times.

- FORUT Sri Lanka provided assistance to 74 families living in temporary shelters by relocating them to semi-permanent houses.
- In order to ensure the sustainability of the settlement project, FORUT also facilitated other agencies to provide water, sanitation facilities and other infrastructure.
- Livelihood assistance was provided, with opportunities for livestock rearing and small business development.

The project is now a model resettlement housing scheme with organised community networks.

Southern and Western Provinces

Flash floods in the Southern and Western provinces of the country affected approximately 418,000 people during early June, causing much damage to property and directly affecting a vast section of the population in the area, including children.

- FORUT intervened to support the continuous education of the children in Galle and Ratnapura, based on priority and organisational capacity.
- This relief operation targeted 4,500 children, supporting them with a package of learning materials and school uniforms worth Rs. 4,500 each. This assistance was provided to children in selected schools following a joint assessment by FORUT and the Department of Education.

As a result of these initiatives, school children from the most affected districts managed to continue their schooling uninterrupted.



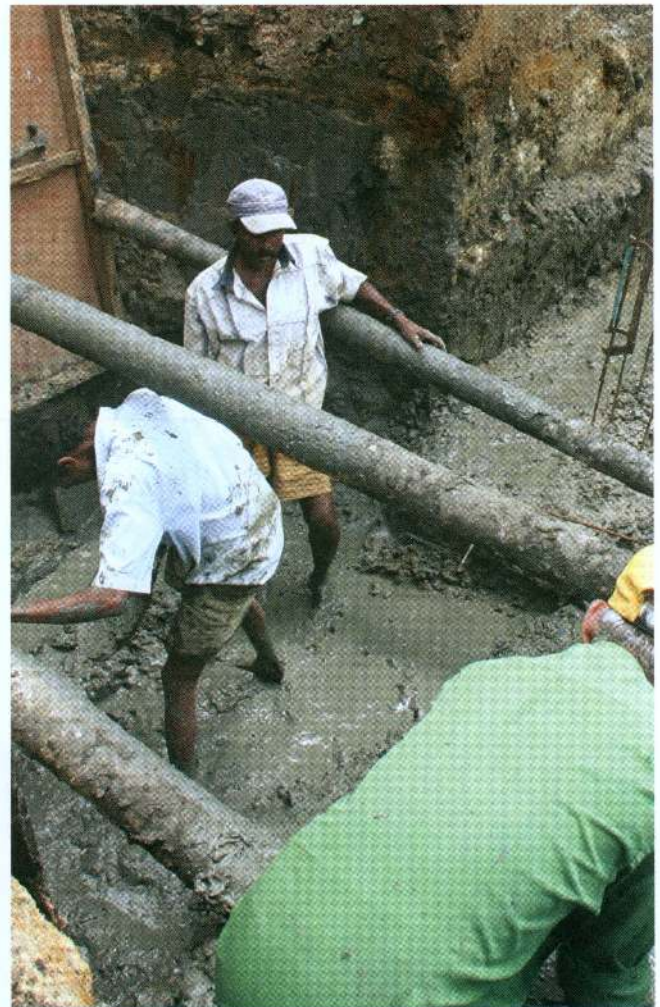
“FORUT’s reconstruction efforts covered the North, East and Southern parts of the Country”

Post-tsunami Recovery

Being in operation for more than 15 years in many of the tsunami affected districts prior to the disaster, FORUT was one of the few agencies that was able to offer immediate relief assistance when the disaster struck Sri Lanka in December 2004.

The initial relief and recovery initiatives termed as “Phase I” and “Phase II”, covered immediate and transitional community recovery in Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa, Ampara, Hambantota, Gampaha and Anuradhapura.

The Post-tsunami Recovery Initiative (PRI) was launched in May 2005, and continued through 2008, focusing on long term community recovery. The third phase of the project covered long term interventions in the areas of permanent housing, livelihoods and income generation, community buildings/infrastructure, social development and capacity building, strategic development, advocacy and innovation. Phase 3 covered the geographical areas of Jaffna and Vanni in the North, Batticaloa and Ampara in the East and Hambantota in the South of Sri Lanka. Phasing out of the tsunami projects was carried out in stages, with the Batticaloa project phasing out in February 2008, the South, Jaffna and Vanni projects in April 2008 and the Ampara project in July 2008.



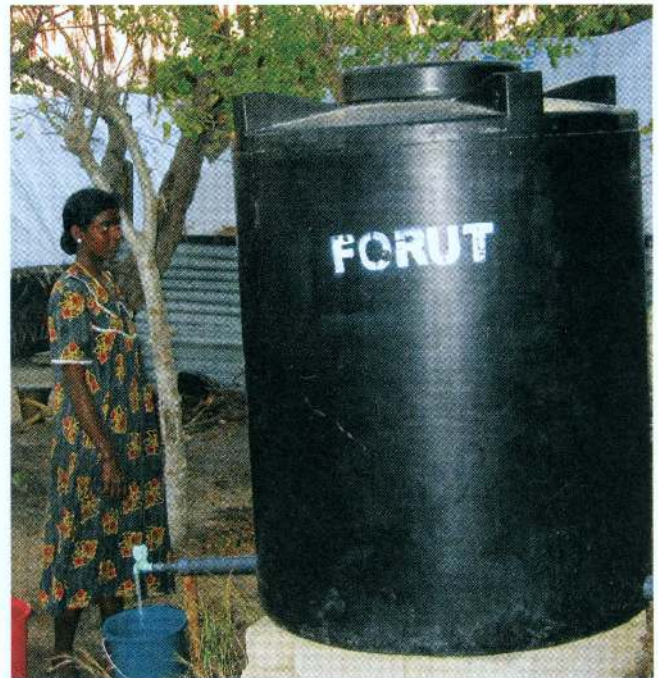
Crisis Response and Recovery *Contd.*

“Over 1000 acres of abandoned paddy land was re-cultivated in the Hambantota district”

Livelihoods and Income Generation

FORUT has invested considerably in improving livelihoods of affected communities in all five districts.

- FORUT assisted fishermen and other skilled workers by replacing lost assets. A total of 134 new boats and 112 new engines were distributed in the affected districts, and over 220 boats and 225 engines were repaired. Skilled workers such as masons, electricians and carpenters who were affected by the tsunami were also assisted with equipment.
- FORUT also helped set up small scale income generating activities such as mobile businesses, paddy, vegetable, seed cultivation and home gardening.
- Home based enterprises specific to particular locations, were encouraged, such as mat weaving in Batticaloa, rice pounding in Ampara, drying fish in Jaffna and making of traditional handcrafts out of cane and coir in Hambantota. This has also afforded women the opportunity of being actively engaged in income generation activities.
- Over 1000 acres of abandoned paddy land was re-cultivated in the Hambantota district by farmers in the area, with the assistance of FORUT, through new harvesting technologies and paddy banks.



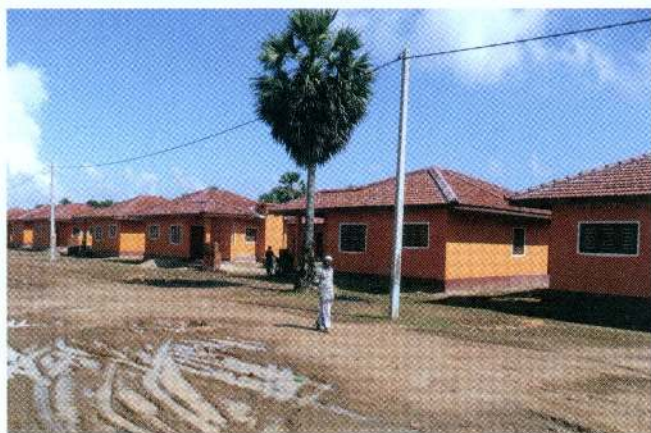
“A total of 550 houses were constructed under FORUT’s post-tsunami recovery initiative”

Housing

In response to emergency needs, FORUT was initially involved in provision of shelters and camp management.

- The organisation commenced the provision of permanent housing in mid 2005 with the initial resettlement project being completed in Hambantota. A total of 101 houses were constructed by the organisation and handed over to the beneficiaries identified by the government.
- In Jaffna, Ampara, Batticaloa and Vanni, FORUT chose the most eligible beneficiaries and involved them in the designing of their own homes, which were handed over only after water supply, electricity as well as drainage/sewerage and waste disposal systems were in place.

Construction was closely supervised by FORUT and government authorities to ensure the highest standards of quality. A total of 550 houses were constructed under FORUT’s post-tsunami recovery initiatives.



Infrastructure Development

- FORUT played a key role in the construction of pre-schools, market centres, multi-purpose buildings, fishermen’s rest houses, health centres, community buildings and restoration of damaged roads and culverts in many of the districts.
- FORUT also supported 10,000 families in the East by providing water purification and distribution facilities.
- A total of 351 rainwater harvesting tanks were constructed in Hambantota and a dilapidated tank was restored by FORUT, supporting 451 families living in the resettlement village established by FORUT.



Social Development & Capacity Building

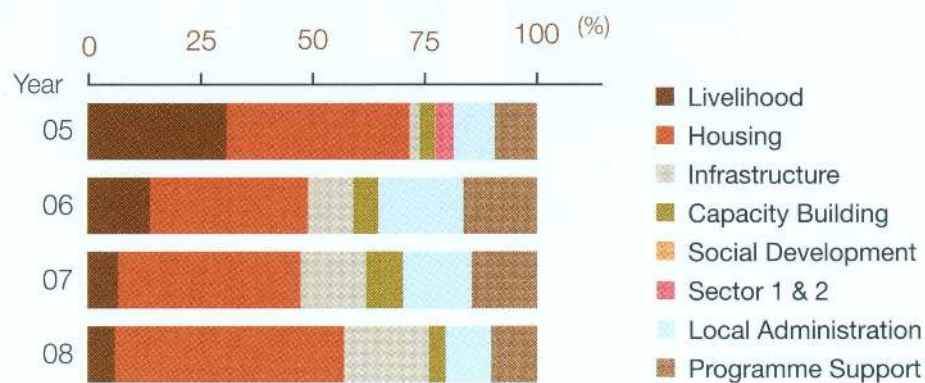
FORUT’s strength as a development organisation has always been its approach to integrated community development. It has been instrumental in assisting many tsunami affected populations to rebuild their lives not just by providing homes and income generation opportunities but also social development activities.

- Apart from physical infrastructure, social mobilisation, psychosocial interventions mainly for women and children, raising awareness on cross cutting issues such as environmental protection, alcohol, drugs and gender have also been initiated in all five districts.
- FORUT Sri Lanka assisted in the training of pre-school teachers and volunteers and supplied educational material, meals, books and furniture to pre-schools.
- Surveys were conducted on the influence of alcohol among the tsunami affected populations and it was found that there is a drastic increase in the consumption of alcohol in the affected populations. This will guide FORUT interventions in this area in the coming years.

Post-tsunami Recovery Programme 2005 - 2008

	2005 LKR	2006 LKR	2007 LKR	2008 LKR
Livelihood	88,622,132	52,364,267	29,089,839	17,021,323
Housing	116,826,317	132,074,190	171,444,808	143,037,012
Infrastructure	6,717,019	38,140,497	62,278,416	53,024,997
Capacity Building	9,326,700	20,696,656	34,351,904	10,340,505
Social Development	316,240	-	-	-
Sector 1 & 2	11,645,614	-	-	-
Local Administration	26,492,998	71,572,195	64,974,321	28,543,610
Programme Support	26,869,700	61,521,108	61,380,878	28,746,904
Total	286,816,720	376,368,913	423,520,166	280,714,351

Post-tsunami Recovery Programme 2005 - 2008





Financial Highlights

Income - Donor Wise 2004 - 2008

	2004 LKR	2005 LKR	2006 LKR	2007 LKR	2008 LKR
NORAD	205,688,355	190,327,200	193,891,073	220,027,549	274,739,787
SIDA	32,372,569	20,543,232	10,347,024	29,168,170	26,434,884
UD Norway	-	206,075,262	190,532,248	169,702,952	-
SIDA Tsunami	-	186,003,080	121,533,216	143,895,532	240,677,377
Swedish Radio Aid	-	112,032,000	73,674,487	100,002,171	-
MFA	-	-	-	42,995,557	233,306,024
Own Share	-	6,358,280	13,721,416	32,232,558	22,048,052
Local Income	50,479,252	87,090,077	99,556,341	57,589,620	3,413,255
UD Relief	-	-	13,660,156	-	-
UNHCR	32,039,948	-	-	-	-
Total	320,580,124	808,429,131	716,915,961	795,614,108	800,619,379

Expenditure - Programme Wise 2004 - 2008

	2004 LKR	2005 LKR	2006 LKR	2007 LKR	2008 LKR
Community					
Development	54,186,000	70,691,927	73,916,792	108,629,077	88,184,263
Rehabilitation	177,558,462	167,961,838	154,981,512	169,299,000	401,943,641
Post Tsunami Recovery	-	286,816,720	376,368,912	423,520,166	258,281,745
Crisis Response	-	242,546,328	91,339,031	94,165,866	18,620,475
Others	56,795,715	40,408,329	20,309,720	-	33,589,255
Total	288,540,177	808,425,143	716,915,967	795,614,108	800,619,379

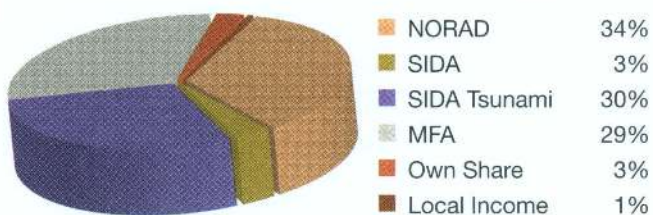
Note : Community Development Programme includes ADIC, and the six main sectors ; ie. Child Advancement, Gender, ADD, Capacity Building, Youth and Livelihoods.

Income - Donor Wise 2008

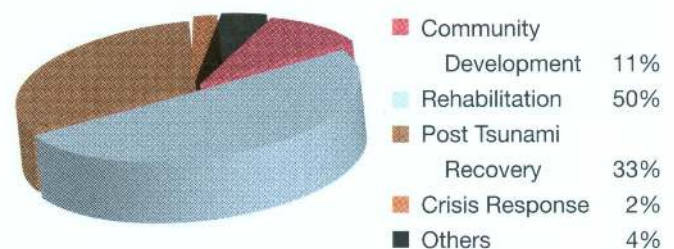
	2008 LKR
NORAD	274,739,787
SIDA	26,434,884
SIDA Tsunami	240,677,377
MFA	233,306,024
Own Share	22,048,052
Local Income	3,413,255
Total	800,619,379

Expenditure - Programme Wise 2008

	2008 LKR
Community Development	88,184,263
Rehabilitation	401,943,641
Post Tsunami Recovery	258,281,745
Crisis Response	18,620,475
Others	33,589,255
Total	800,619,379



Income -
Donor Wise 2008



Expenditure -
Programme Wise 2008

Looking ahead ...

FORUT's development plan for the next 5 years

Building on the considerable success of FORUT Sri Lanka's activities in selected districts across Sri Lanka, the organisation has developed a comprehensive five year strategy that will be implemented from 2009-2013. FORUT's work will reflect the guiding principles of forward accountability, transparency, advocacy and emphasis on organisational learning. The main areas of activity in the five year plan focuses around Child Rights Promotion & Protection, Gender & Development, Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD), Crisis Response and Recovery.

The main objectives of the development plan are:

- Improvements in the fulfilment of the rights of a child
- Reduced harm from alcohol and substance abuse
- Advancement in the status of women and gender equality
- Reduction in the suffering associated with conflict, disaster and displacement and to increase the conditions necessary for sustainable recovery of crisis affected populations.

Guiding the entire strategy will be the promotion of a culture of transparency and accountability both with partners and the target population, through tools such as community action planning, transparency boards and public hearings. FORUT also aims to assume a more rights based approach to its projects, strengthening its capacity on social, cultural and economic rights. FORUT will also experiment with mechanisms to link project based challenges with national concerns within a rights based framework. The period 2009-2013 will be considered a period of piloting advocacy approaches.

Civil society groups and networks are an integral part of FORUT Sri Lanka's work, significantly expanding access to vulnerable communities. As such, several strategies are to be adopted in order to strengthen the capacity of civil society groups working across the different project areas, in this 5-year period. These strategies include: strengthening community based organisations and youth groups so that they can work on social and behavioural changes (such as alcohol usage and gender issues) and have adequate knowledge on rights and strategies to organise and advocate on specific areas; reducing the urban-rural gap in professional services that support local civil society action such as legal assistance in promoting human rights; bringing together local groups to participate in national campaigns and advocacy efforts.

Child Rights Protection & Promotion

FORUT Sri Lanka aims to develop a viable model to improve the accountability of public and other institutions in Sri Lanka responsible for protecting child rights, over a 5-year period. This is expected to benefit up to 12,000 families and 24,000 children in selected target locations. To this end, youth groups will also be strengthened to participate in child-rights monitoring and the professional capacity of voluntary groups developed to conduct research and prepare cases for advocacy and legal processing.

Success of FORUT's activities will be measured by the reduction in the overall number of cases of violations in the target areas and increased number of legal processes taken in order to provide protection and reach a resolution.

Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD)

The negative effects of alcohol and drug consumption on the social fabric of Sri Lanka are extensive but not extensively reported or socially acknowledged. Consumption for instance is often cited as an excuse in sexual and gender based violence and also creates an unhealthy environment for children.

The main purpose of FORUT's programmes in this area is to improve the overall performance by state and civil society actors in managing supply and demand of alcohol (tobacco and other drugs) to youth, in 15 districts across Sri Lanka. The programme will also develop a model for successful implementation of the National Alcohol and Tobacco (NATA) legislation. This will combine civil society action in prevention of alcohol and drug abuse among youth together with legal enforcement of the law.

The success of FORUT's activities in this area will be measured by an increase in the number of completed and successful actions against illicit supply of alcohol and other drugs, a reduction in gender based violence, a drop in the initiation of youth and children in selected age groups to alcohol and drugs and a reduction in incidents of health problems associated with alcohol and drug use.

Gender and Development

Initiatives in the area of gender have three main objectives:

- Empowering women to become involved in decision making
- Encouraging men to share domestic responsibilities and enabling women to become economically empowered
- Reduction in and protection from sexual and gender based violence

The next 5 year plan will focus on increasing the number of women who earn a regular income and have control over their financial resources, improved gender relations, confidence and skills in women. The project is expected to benefit 2500 economically inactive females from extremely poor families in selected locations over 5 years. Gender values and perspectives will also be incorporated into all aspects of FORUT's work.

In terms of reducing gender based violence, FORUT Sri Lanka seeks to develop a viable model for increased empowerment of women vis-à-vis domestic violence, with localised advice and support networks made available. The anticipated impact by 2013 is a 10% reduction in the number and severity of incidents of violence by men against women in domestic disputes, in selected programme locations.

Crisis Response and Recovery

From 2009-2013, FORUT will contribute towards the safe and dignified return, resettlement and economic reintegration of 3% to 5% of the conflict-affected internally displaced persons in the Northern districts of Sri Lanka. It will also support the establishment of basic infrastructure, community services and livelihoods functioning within 24 months, and sustained after that period. Until such time they are resettled, the organisation will also provide for the basic needs of crisis affected groups.

The capacity of FORUT's partners is to be strengthened to improve their ability to design and manage programmes in line with international standards and to work according to humanitarian principles. Accountability will be prioritised and FORUT will also take responsibility for advocacy on humanitarian issues.

With the next 5 year plan in place and ready to take off ground we are quite optimistic that we can brave the challenges and take FORUT to new heights, expanding our reach among the communities, advocating for and on behalf of the people of Sri Lanka, to be a truly committed partner in development. Our working mechanisms in 2009 will also include close collaboration with the government of Sri Lanka, as we have done in the past.

M.F. Marrikkar

Policy Unit

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