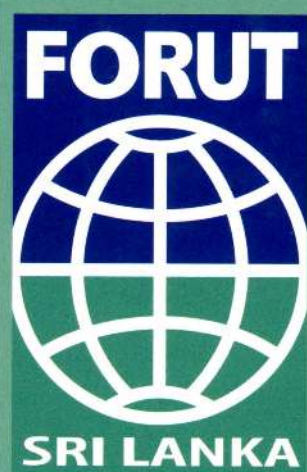


MEETING THE NEEDS OF TODAY
WITH THE SPIRIT OF TOMORROW



Annual Report 2006

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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**.

Programmes

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

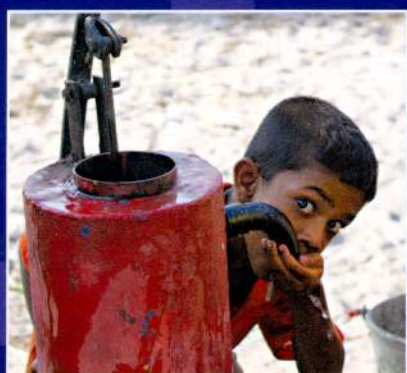
When undertaking **Humanitarian Assistance**, FORUT works with conflict and disaster affected communities in order to stabilise their conditions during crisis such as internal displacement and to assist in providing a safe, dignified and durable recovery from such crisis.

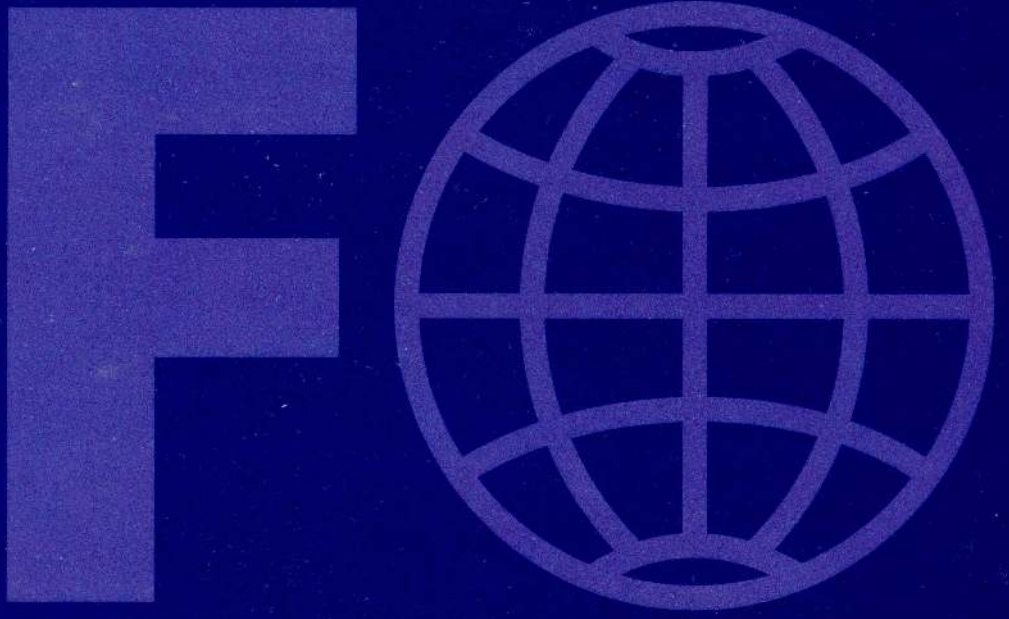
Core Activities

- Alcohol and drug education and prevention at the national and sub-national levels
- Infrastructure reconstruction and development to meet basic needs
- Livelihood strengthening, income generation and access to micro-credit
- Early childhood care and development and the promotion of child rights
- Capacity building and organisational development of partners
- Organising youth to participate in and lead development work
- Developing human resources through enabling access to education and vocational training

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 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.





Community Development



Jaffna



Puttalam



Hambantota

Tsunami Relief Post Tsunami Recovery Initiative



Ampara



Hambantota



Batticaloa

ADD & Gender



Colombo



Colombo



Matale

RUFT

“Enhancing the quality of life of the people by empowering them through their participation.”

Rehabilitation



Anuradhapura



Kilinochchi



Vanni

Child Rights, ECCD & Youth



Vavuniya



Colombo



Anuradhapura

Livelihood & Income Generation



Mullaitivu



Colombo



Jaffna

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About Us

FORUT Sri Lanka is a Norwegian / Swedish based development agency working in Sri Lanka since 1981, in partnership with local communities and in close collaboration with local government stakeholders. This work has covered all provinces of Sri Lanka and FORUT is currently operational in 13 districts working with all three main ethnic communities.

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 IDPs. This long-term commitment to Sri Lanka coupled with expertise in developing community partnerships has enabled FORUT Sri Lanka to respond rapidly to the demands of the Asian tsunami.

FORUT, 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 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.

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 centered around supporting local organisations to work against alcohol and other drugs as hindrances to development and to raise awareness at all levels of society about the connections between alcohol and poverty. The institute is owned by the Swedish IOGT-NTO movement, which has been active since the late 19th century in alcohol prevention to promote democratic development.



Our Profile

Name of the Organisation

FORUT Sri Lanka

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 also collaborates with other donors on a variety of local initiatives.

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Colombo 2





“2006 has also been a year of internal challenges, leading FORUT down a path of organisational reforms...”

with operations in the North and East, was a daily worry. A general deterioration of the operating climate of INGOs and abductions of INGO staff impacted FORUT as well as other humanitarian organisations.

Looking back, the brutal massacre of 17 colleagues in Muttur, working for the French NGO, Action Contre la Faim (ACF), stands out as the most atrocious attack on the humanitarian aid community in Sri Lanka and the entire world. We were appalled by the incident and fully supported all demands expressed by ACF as well as the international community for an independent investigation.

In spite of these overwhelming obstacles, FORUT can report achievements in all areas of activities. On the subject of the ambitious tsunami reconstruction programme, the first FORUT housing settlement, with 101 houses in Hambantota, was handed over to beneficiaries nominated

Resident Representative's Message

2006 - A year of suffering and perseverance

This annual report of FORUT is full of well documented proofs of our achievements in 2006. However, it is also an unavoidable fact that 2006 has been one of the most depressing years in FORUT's history of operations in Sri Lanka.

The repeated violations of the Cease Fire Agreement caused suffering to thousands of innocent people during the year. The thousands of men, women and children that were newly displaced, the violations of human rights, abductions, closed borders, food shortages and the general trend towards a full scale war, all contributed towards a tragic year.

In addition, FORUT and other humanitarian agencies faced a great many obstacles in fulfilling our humanitarian mandate during 2006. For months, expatriate staff faced difficulties in accessing areas of operations. Difficulties in transporting building materials caused a serious delay in building houses for tsunami victims. Security, to do

by the government in January 2006. Housing projects in Batticaloa, Ampara, Jaffna and Vanni, progressed amidst many restrictions and impediments. FORUT regrets the delays in the North and East and can only hope for a more conducive operational situation in 2007. In addition to houses, FORUT also focused on livelihood, infrastructure, social development and capacity building.

Responding to humanitarian needs due to man made and natural disasters is one area of work. A second area of work is in supporting the less privileged in their struggle to overcome poverty and this report is full of examples of different initiatives and achievements in this regard. FORUT's strategy is to help people help themselves. However, in doing so, FORUT can only play the part of a catalyst, by providing initial support. In the South we see innovative thinking coming into play in generating livelihoods based on local resources. As you see in this report lime has now become the sweetest word in the world. FORUT's project for plantation workers in Matale is showing results at family level connected to reduction of alcohol consumption. The skills development efforts have also paid off as we have seen many families, especially those affected by the tsunami in the northern parts of the country, gradually getting back on their feet.

FORUT is constantly trying to improve its approach to development, including alcohol related problems. Alcohol is the fifth leading factor of ill health and premature death globally, causing 1.8 million deaths every year and is the third leading cause of ill health and premature death in Sri Lanka. As such, we welcome the Government of Sri Lanka's prohibition on alcohol advertisements under the new Alcohol and Drug Authority Act. FORUT will also continue to support policies and community strategies in this regard and assist the youth of Sri Lanka to monitor the implementation of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol.

2006 has also been a year of internal challenges, leading FORUT down a path of organisational reforms to increase accountability, efficiency and transparency at every level. As we are accountable to beneficiaries, partners, donors and the government, there is a need to establish professionalism in the management and utilisation of development funds. The steps taken to establish a professional information and media unit during 2006 has already proved to be very useful in the dissemination of important information relating to FORUT's work and policy issues.

Having endured a challenging 2006, we are ready to fulfil all our plans and commitments with greater vigour in the coming years.



Terje Heggernes
Resident Representative

Messages from Our Secretary General's of Norway & Sweden

Stamina - our hallmark

More than two years have passed since the Tsunami and we are frequently asked about what has been done and about the present situation. In Sri Lanka, the catastrophe has not influenced the conflict between the Government and the LTTE in any positive manner, as opposed to what happened in Aceh in Indonesia. There has been no peace, but an escalation of hostility and violence in the areas hardest hit by the Tsunami.

Many of the organisations that rushed to the country early in 2005 promising large scale assistance, have left the island, some projects left behind are half-finished, others completed, but without the mechanisms necessary to sustain them.

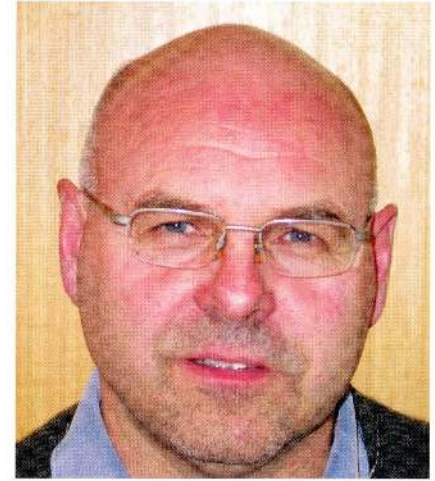
FORUT has, as ever, a long-term commitment. Our challenge is the fine line between our efforts and those of actors who respond with a speedy and - at the moment - more appetising solution. Reconstruction involves more than just building houses and boats. The re-establishment of social structures and networks requires long-term obligations and participation.

Although the cease-fire agreement from 2002 still is formally prevailing, Sri Lanka has moved closer and closer to war during 2006. FORUT's position is and will be that those who were affected by the Tsunami, as well as those who are displaced by the armed conflict, shall have equal access to assistance. Consequently our aim for 2007 is to intensify our support to the war-stricken population, if the political situation allows it. In Sweden as well as in Norway we deeply appreciate the good work executed by our staff in Sri Lanka. It grants us authority to handle future challenges in Sri Lanka and it proves that we are always prepared to acknowledge our responsibility in co-operation with all Sri Lankans striving to relieve poverty and achieve peace.

FORUT Norway and The International Institute of the IOGT-NTO Movement in Sweden want to express our gratitude to NORAD and SIDA for the trust shown to us by way of financial and moral support in 2006. We proudly observe that the governments of Norway and Sweden have the same patience as FORUT, despite the fact that their efforts in bringing peace to Sri Lanka have suffered multiple setbacks. A severely afflicted population needs our continued support, in all parts of the country.

Morten Lønstad
Secretary General,
FORUT Norway

Esbjörn Hörnberg
Secretary General,
IOGT International
Institute, Sweden



Morten Lønstad
Secretary General,
FORUT Norway



Esbjörn Hörnberg
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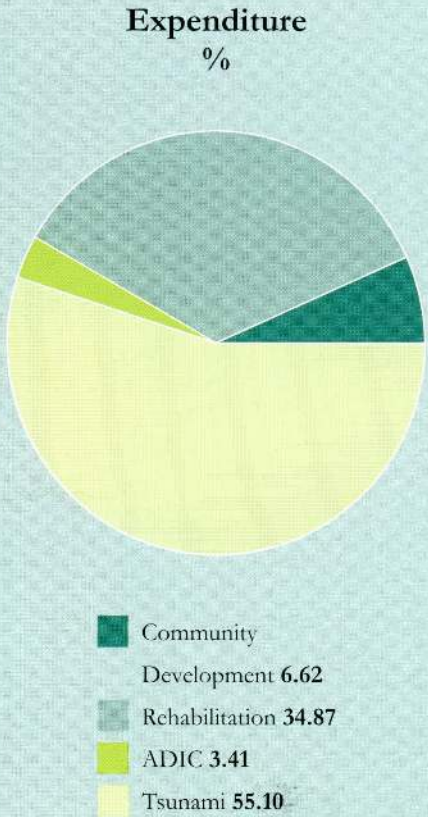
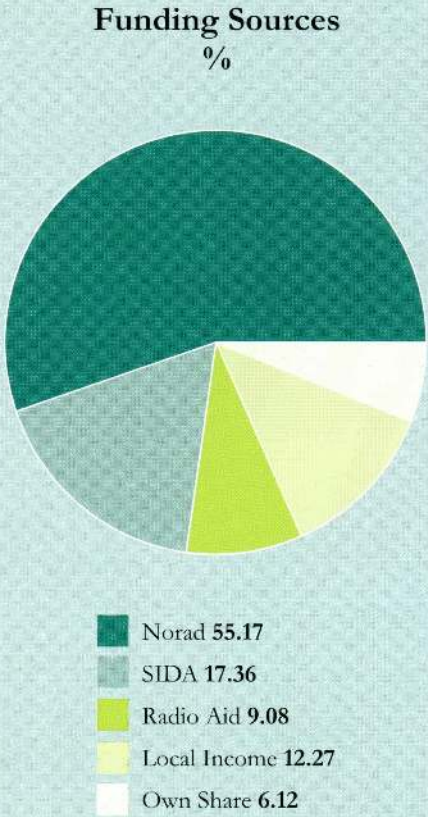
*“FORUT has,
as ever, a
long-term
commitment..”*



Financial Highlights

Financial Highlights

Funding Sources - Donors		Expenditure	
	LKR '000		LKR '000
NORAD	447,185	Community development	53,694
SIDA	140,798	Rehabilitation	282,694
Radio Aid	73,674	ADIC	27,562
Local Income	99,460	Tsunami	446,730
Own Share	49,563	Total	810,680
Total	810,680		



A serene sunset scene over a calm body of water. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a vibrant orange and red near the horizon. A small, bright sun is visible on the right side of the horizon, casting a reflection on the water. In the middle ground, two silhouetted figures are in a small boat, one standing and one sitting, both holding long poles. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Our Core Activities

Our Core Activities

FORUT places priority on several core areas of policy and project activity: Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD), Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD), Child Rights and Youth, Gender, Capacity Building and Micro-finance. FORUT endeavours to promote aspirations in all these core areas and to develop professional competence to enable this. To some extent these core areas will be addressed in all FORUT project locations regardless of whether the overall focus is humanitarian - responding to conflict or natural disaster - or development assistance and national level networking and advocacy.

Alcohol Drugs and Development (ADD)

FORUT sees that in many societies there is a strong correlation between poverty and alcohol and drug consumption. There is also a growing body of evidence clearly linking alcohol and drugs to health problems, sexual and gender based violence, social insecurity and a myriad of other challenges to people-centred development. However, alcohol and drug consumption is often un-seen and neglected when considering barriers to people's development or recovery from disaster. It is simply not part and parcel of the 'language' of development or humanitarian assistance. FORUT aims to take a leading role in working on this issue.

In 2006 the FORUT Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD) unit focussed on three main areas:

- Reducing alcohol abuse among tsunami victims
- Campaigning for the effective implementation of the Sri Lanka National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) law
- Promoting a national workshop on alcohol policy in Sri Lanka

In addition, the ADD unit also worked on advocacy, capacity building, project initiation and networking and research in FORUT project areas.

Reducing alcohol devastation among tsunami victims

A programme to reduce consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs among tsunami victims was developed based on the findings of a joint survey by FORUT and ADIC in 2005. The programme was conducted in the districts of Ampara, Batticaloa, Hambantota, Jaffna and Vanni.

Core-groups were formed in communities and trained on how to deal with alcohol related problems and how to develop and disseminate preventive messages using cost-effective methods such as hand painted posters; where necessary FORUT also provided material support for



these groups. Monitoring has focused on behavioural changes in the target communities. For instance women participants in Hambantota convinced their spouses, who are fishermen, to allocate more money for family needs and reduce money spent on alcohol. Another example comes from Akkaraipattu where families in tsunami temporary shelters were able to collectively prevent drunken men causing disturbances in their neighbourhood.

Alcohol; No Ordinary Commodity

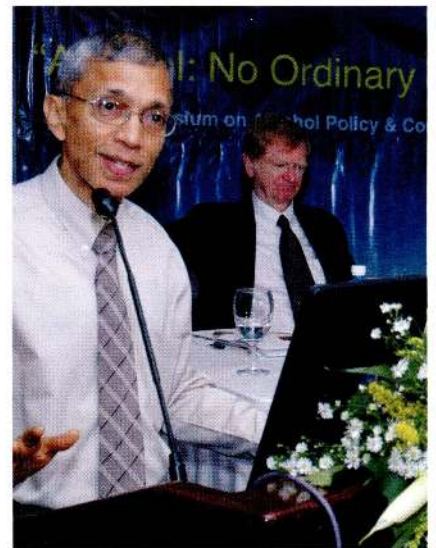
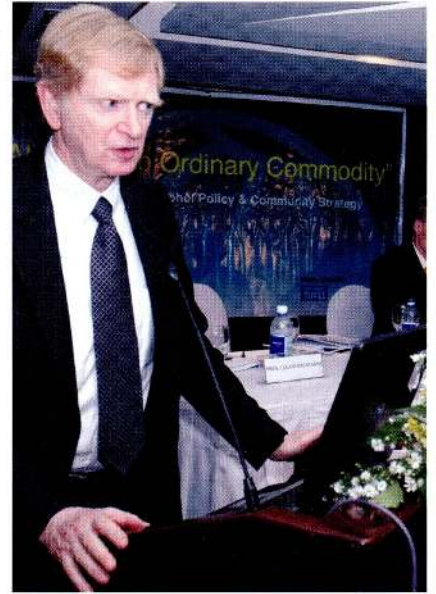
FORUT Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), under the FONT collaboration, held a national symposium titled 'Alcohol; No Ordinary Commodity' on December 5 and 6, 2006 at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo. The symposium was organised to encourage national and international NGOs to support alcohol and drug prevention as a part of their development work.

Inaugurating the event, the Chief Guest, Hon. Sarath N. Silva, the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, stated that the Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol was a national requirement given the economic and social damages caused by tobacco and alcohol. The Chief Justice recognised the role played by NGOs in containing alcohol and tobacco abuse and encouraged further activities until satisfactory outcomes are ensured.

Professor Thomas Babor, Chairman of the Department of Community Medicine and Health Care, University of Connecticut, School of Medicine, USA was the key note speaker and the main resource person for the workshop. He spoke of effective alcohol policies as set out in his award winning publication, 'Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity - Research and Public Policy'.

Professor Diyanath Samarasinghe from the University of Colombo spoke of community strategies that could reduce alcohol abuse. These strategies are explained in his book 'Strategies to Address Alcohol Problems in Communities,' published by FORUT in 2005.

The symposium was attended by over 130 invitees from the Government, national and international NGOs, the donor community and by the staff of FORUT and ADIC. The event received wide media attention.



Our Core Activities contd.

FORUT and 4U

In July 2006, a law on alcohol and tobacco was approved by Parliament and enforced from December 1, 2006.

The National Authority for Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) law regulates the public consumption of alcohol and tobacco through the prohibition of smoking in certain public places, raising of the legal purchasing age of alcohol and tobacco to 21 years and promoting punishments to the supplier as well as the consumer of illegally purchased alcohol. As with all laws its effectiveness will be governed by the ability to monitor compliance and enforcement. So far a national focal point in the Ministry of Health and a national authority has been established to implement this law. Outreach to rural areas is also seen as a significant challenge.

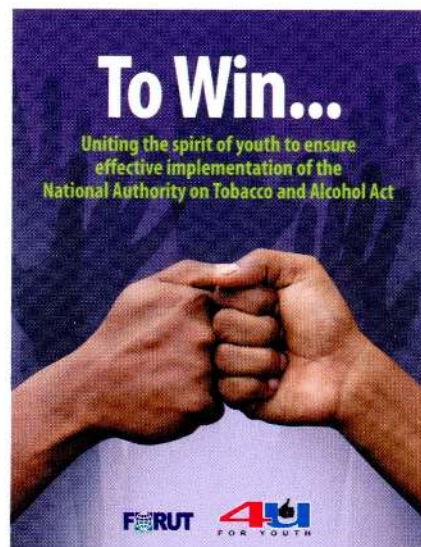
In order to address this, FORUT and its youth organisation 4U have taken the initiative to develop the capacity of civil society to augment the state structures in developing awareness on the law and monitoring compliance. 4U has conducted advocacy and awareness campaigns in rural villages to educate people about the NATA law. FORUT and 4U have also started a signature campaign for the effective implementation of the Sri Lanka National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol (NATA) law.

4U has set an overall target of 1 million signatures to be obtained through projects and partners - meaning that one out of every 20 people are aware of the new alcohol and tobacco law and are supporting the effective implementation of the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol.

The first phase of the signature campaign was made up of training programmes where participants were trained on the NATA. Role plays, presentations and group activities were used as training methods. More than 140 young people participated in the first signature collection campaign in Anuradhapura in June 2006. FORUT project offices in the South of Sri Lanka, Puttalam, Batticaloa, Colombo North, West Coast and Matale are in the process of mobilising support for the campaign. FORUT has also developed a poster and leaflet in all three languages.

Early Childhood Care and Development

A key concern for any development strategy is the generations to come - the children of today are the citizens of tomorrow. FORUT places priority on developing people's access to quality education and services in early childhood care and development. We consider this an



entitlement and therefore it is a core component of our development strategy, focusing on parents, pre-school teachers and children.

Building stronger parents for stronger children

A home based parental education programme was launched in the urban slum areas through the Colombo North project by training 12 volunteers from the same location to educate 40 parents in the neighbourhood.

The home based education enables parents to care for their children within their own home environment and has given parents the self confidence to speak out for their children. While the benefits for children may not be always immediately apparent these benefits can be noted through parents' perceptions of changes in their children. Therefore, the same activities will be replicated in different locations in 2007.

Child Rights

FORUT is currently building advocacy capacities of local organisations and partners to uphold the child rights convention. A national policy document by the Government of Sri Lanka has given added force to FORUT interventions in this area. In addition, combined activities were conducted to facilitate a conducive and stimulating environment for children from 0 to 8 years of age. The activities were aimed at meeting a target of 30% of the national minimum standards in pre-schools and building the capacity among local stakeholders to meet and maintain this. FORUT has also conducted workshops for the education authorities, grade 1 teachers, principals and pre-school teachers on how to 'bridge the gap' between pre-school and grade 1 primary school requirements and to train volunteers on home based education to transfer knowledge to the parents and care givers.

Dreams can come true

In early 2006, Världens Barn which is one of the largest fund raising campaigns in Sweden, conducted in collaboration with the Swedish television and 12 development organisations stepped in to support Sri Lankan youngsters, with an offer to build 4 play grounds in 4 FORUT locations. The FORUT staff in Katuwana lost no time in getting started.

A small school located on a steep hill in the village of Udagomadiya in Katuwana was selected as the most suitable location for the new play ground. The school has 578 children between 5 to 18 years of age



Our Core Activities contd.

coming from very poor families and the school itself has very limited facilities for sports activities.

However, despite a lack of facilities, the children of Udagomediya school competed in track and field events with children of larger schools, by practicing on the road beneath their school. The road is hilly and windy and children were at risk of being hit by vehicles. Therefore, a proper playground was positive news to both the school and its students.

The children of Udagomediya got involved in the play ground project from its inception by drawing pictures of what they wanted from a playground. Eventually, with the involvement of the village community, a suitable patch of hilly land was found and levelled out to host the play ground.

The entire community including parents, teachers and the priest of the village temple participated in building the play ground and finding more funds when the budget of Rs. 500,000 ran out.

Today, Udagomediya school has a play ground of its own.



Gender

FORUT recognises equality of men and women as an important development goal in itself and also a powerful strategy for reducing poverty. Providing equal rights and access to resources and opportunities to women and girls is crucial to reducing vulnerability and empowering communities.

However, achieving gender equality requires a focus and analysis of both men's and women's roles. Therefore, in FORUT assessments and evaluations during 2003 and 2004, the need was felt to move away from the 'women and development' approach to a 'gender and development approach'. Therefore, FORUT began gender mainstreaming in all projects and programmes as an essential component of activities aimed at sustainable development.

Joint initiative - GBV forum

FORUT joined in a collaborative effort to address gender-based violence on 25th of November 2006, commemorating the international day for the elimination of violence against women. The GBV forum comprising bilaterals, INGOs, NGOs and government, came together to launch a special programme under a common theme 'Act now to end violence against women'. The event started with a walk followed by a public event, exhibition, dramas and interactive sessions.

With the participation of men and women from its project areas, FORUT organised forum theatre drama groups to perform on this occasion and also led the media working group, inviting all media organisations to support the campaign.

Gender mainstreaming, the way forward

In 2006, FORUT began developing a new gender policy and strategy document for the coming years. A 'Gender Handbook' was also developed to introduce the new policy and strategy.

The goal of the handbook is to incorporate gender considerations into FORUT Sri Lanka to ensure that all practices are sensitive to the needs of women, men, girls and boys. The handbook will be a practical resource accessible by all FORUT staff to assist in the identification and addressing of gender related issues within the organisation and at project level.

FORUT will take up the challenge of introducing and implementing the policy and the strategy from 2007 onwards.

Capacity building

The French philosopher Michel Foucault famously stated 'knowledge is power'. The aim of FORUT's capacity building is to increase knowledge to inform what to do and how to do it. It is therefore a cross-cutting priority in all areas of FORUT's work. FORUT is striving to enable learning from new knowledge with learning from knowledge acquired from experience - something all FORUT staff is rich in.

FORUT's capacity building strategy saw some changes in 2006 with the development of an overall capacity building plan for FORUT staff and partners. The new capacity building plan comprises sector wise and non-sector wise capacity building activities.

Under sector based capacity building, centralised, common training programmes on FORUT's focal areas were planned and conducted periodically. Common needs of projects and new initiatives by the resource pool were taken into consideration while ensuring that FORUT's policy guidelines on each sector were maintained in all the projects.

Under non-sector wise capacity building initiatives, the resource pool focussed on addressing specific project needs and professionalism of FORUT staff and partners.



Our Core Activities contd.

Areas of capacity building

In 2006, FORUT continued its Community Development Professional Trainees (CDPT) programme from the previous year and absorbed 5 newly recruited youth into FORUT's regular cadre.

A community based disaster management programme was conducted for FORUT partners in the East to increase the capacity of FORUT projects.

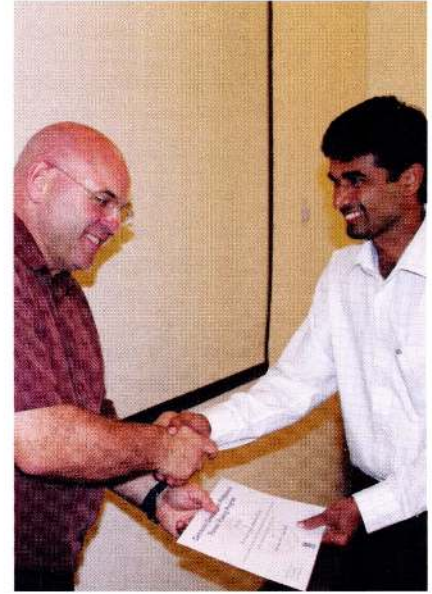
Leadership programmes for youth were conducted in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. The programmes were aimed at sustaining the 'Human Resource Development and Civil Society Programme' conducted by FORUT in the previous year, while supporting other projects that also conduct leadership programmes.

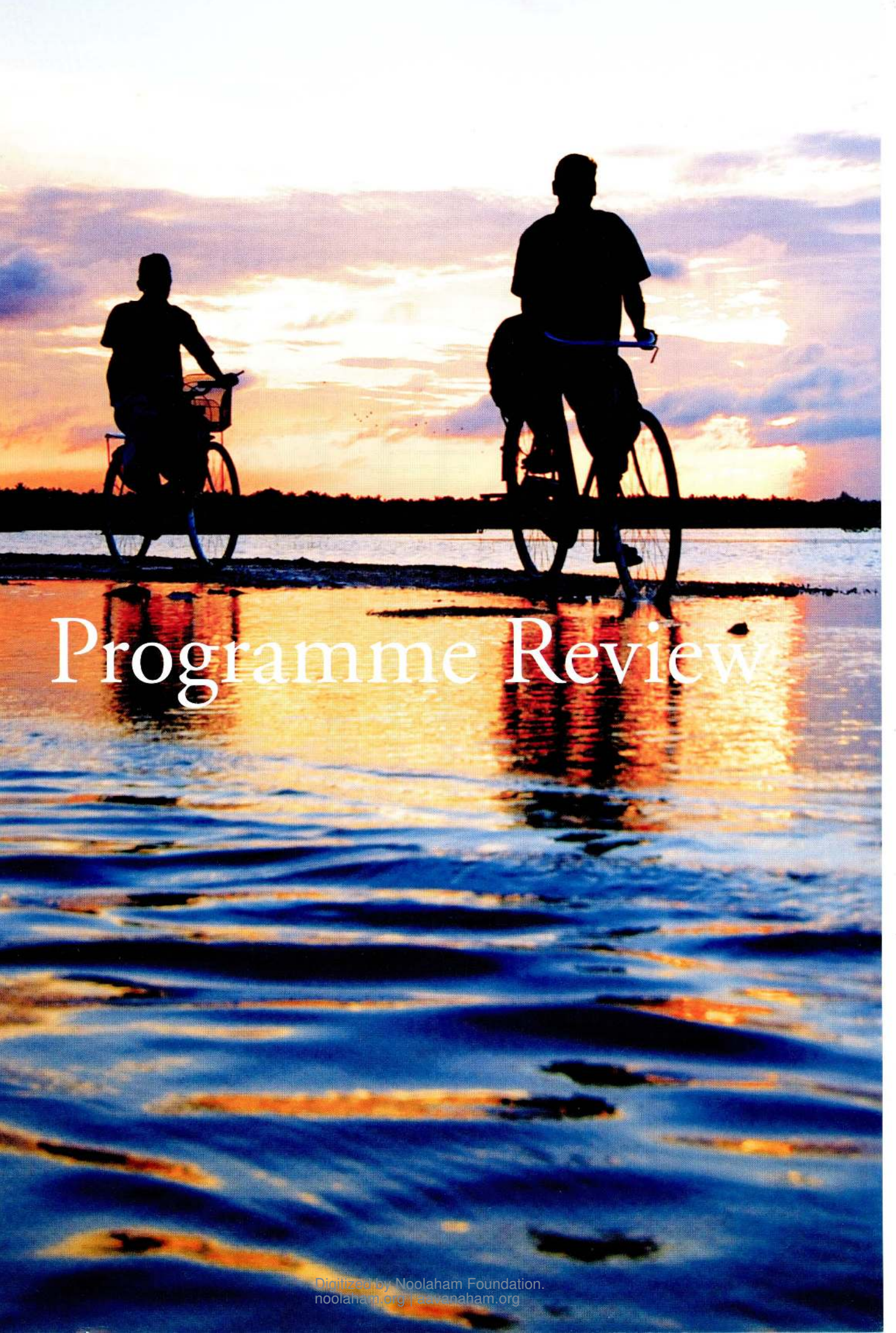
Despite the new challenges arising from unstable domestic conditions, FORUT managed to build capacities of its stakeholders at all levels.

Micro Finance

FORUT has been involved in micro-credit activities since 1986 as an essential component of FORUT's community development efforts. This is a long-established core strategy of FORUT's work in reducing poverty. As such, micro finance has constituted both the major livelihood intervention for communities participating in FORUT programmes and the major tool for mobilising people to act collectively. By the end of 2006, FORUT's involvement in micro finance has extended to 346 village level people's organisations and 33 larger apex institutions.

Poverty in Sri Lanka remains a challenge with the escalating conflict, slow economic growth in several districts, rising costs of living and widening urban-rural inequalities. Therefore, in 2006, FORUT paid attention towards improving the policy and legal framework to encourage support to micro finance institutions and diversified financial products for the poor. FORUT has begun work to facilitate the provision of a business planning service and a mechanism for pro-poor marketing to be included as services offered by people's organisations. The initiative also supports institutionalising the national regulatory framework for micro finance and promotes organisational sustainability. This priority will continue in 2007 and innovative approaches will be explored to enable this.





Programme Review

Hambantota

Hambantota is one of three districts belonging to the Southern Province of Sri Lanka, covering an area of 2,609 km² with a population of 525,370. The district has an agricultural economy mainly based on paddy, highland crop, animal husbandry and fisheries. A predominantly drought prone area Hambantota has often been subject to floods and landslides.

FORUT has been active in Hambantota since 1993 with a series of programmes on community development and social mobilisation aimed at enhancing the living conditions of the marginalised poor. FORUT is supporting 7500 such families. FORUT's activities are currently focused in income generation, education and capacity building.

Under its micro-credit programme, FORUT provided 46 families with loan facilities for income generation activities. As part of the livelihood development plan a programme to dry lime for export markets was initiated and 750 kilos of processed lime was exported in 2006. Through the Community Services Forum, 3.5 acres of land was cultivated with vegetable, fruit and permanent crops such as coconut and lemon. A home gardening programme saw 158 women engage in pot planting. An inland fishing programme was conducted targeting 96 families while a tie-up with Hayleys Limited will boost the income of 26 families trained in the manufacture and supply of coir products.

Investing in early childhood development, FORUT provided 18 pre-schools with outdoor play materials and set up 3 model pre-schools and a play ground. Awareness on child rights was increased through several training and awareness programmes and the formation of pressure groups consisting of government officials, CBO leaders and partner organisations.

FORUT's alcohol and drug prevention campaign got underway with an awareness and signature collection campaign in Kataragama. This programme saw the participation of 85 youth from the Hambantota district in a bid to collect signatures and to educate people on the new Tobacco and Alcohol law. Over 30 youth of the district also participated in the National Youth Camp and alcohol & drug prevention campaign.

Upgrading the infrastructure facilities, 2 community buildings and 2 drinking water wells were constructed to benefit the village communities. Reaching out further, a mobile service was provided to assist those without National Identity Cards and Birth Certificates to obtain both.

Capacity building of partners has been given priority during the year. Training was provided on issuing shares and registering organisations under the Company's Act, on accounting, book keeping and maintaining records, administration and leadership, roles and responsibilities as community leaders, participatory development, gender issues and child rights.

In addition, annual plans were developed for Community Services Forum (CSF) and Social Mobilisation Foundation (SMF) bank unions and Rs. 750,000 was released to four CSF and SMF branches as a members' income generation fund.

Case Study

Iranganie Grows Money On Trees

A mother of two, Iranganie Hewavitharana is eager to support her husband in his efforts to keep the home fires burning.

Her search for an additional source of income was not in vain since she soon discovered that FORUT funded home gardening projects. "I am a member of the Kiruwanagoda Self Banking Society. The Social Mobilisation Foundation started a home gardening programme for the benefit of members of the Banking Society. FORUT provided the financial assistance while the technical support came from the Agrarian Services Centre in Katuwana," explains Iranganie.

To start up, Iranganie was trained in organic farming, pot planting and producing natural fertilizer (compost manure). She was also given vegetable seeds and polythene. Today this mother of two earns more than Rs. 5,000 per month from her gardening.

"My income has improved a lot since I started my home gardening. I plant up-country vegetables like cabbage, beans, beet and carrots and my produce is bought up by the villagers," adds Iranganie

The quality of life has now improved for Iranganie and her family. It has also made her more independent. "I spend the money I earn on my children's needs and social events. Earlier I was dependent on my husband for everything and could spend only according to what he says. Now I am earning a reasonable amount so I can decide what to spend on and how to spend it. This additional source of income has eased our financial burden," says Iranganie.



Collaborating Partners

Social Mobilisation
Foundation (SMF)

Community Services
Forum (CSF)

“My income has improved a lot since I started my home gardening”

Iranganie Hewavitharana, a mother of two whose home garden project is funded by FORUT.





*Chandraratne Mapa
of Ulugala, who
now earns a good
income from the lime
processing project
funded by FORUT.*

“Lime’ is now the
sweetest word in
the world...”

Collaborating Partners

17 village-based
Organisations

Wellassa Development
Forum (WDF)

Monaragala

Case Study

Lime is not sour anymore

The district of Monaragala is famous for its lime cultivation. Over 2,000 hectares in the district is covered by lime plants and annual production of the fruit is over 40,000 metric tons. The large output during the season however, caused a glut in the market and brought down the prices of lime. As a result farmers could not make a profit by selling their harvest. Lime cultivators complained that they spent more money on marketing the fruit than their earnings from sales. So the fruits were left on trees or allowed to spoil on the ground.

Hearing the woes of these villagers, FORUT immediately stepped in with support to address the issue. Through community based organisations (CBOs), training programmes on lime processing were organised with exposure visits to a lime processing plant in Anamaduwa. FORUT's efforts soon bore fruit with 11 villagers starting up the processing and packaging of limes that could not be sold raw. In 2006, the group produced 5.5 metric tons of processed lime under its pilot project and earned Rs. 660,000 by selling to an exporting company.

"Lime used to be a word that brought a sour and bitter taste to the mouth. Now it is the sweetest word in the world. We are looking forward to continuing the production of processed lime this year too," says Chandraratne Mapa, a CBO member from the village of Ulugala.

The sudden demand for lime, for processing, also pushed up the price of raw lime by as much as eight to ten times its original price, benefiting farmers that were not in the processing business.

"When we started processing limes it also increased the demand for lime and the price of a kilo of raw lime went from Rs. 1.00 to between Rs. 8.00 and Rs10.00. So now the lime fruit is bringing a good income to small entrepreneurs like us and to hundreds of lime farmers in the area," says Mapa.

Monaragala's population is predominantly rural, with 73.4% of its labour force in agriculture.

Poverty rates in the district are well below the national average and the district records the second lowest average household income in the country and the lowest average household expenditure.

Following a preliminary assessment in 2004, FORUT expanded its community development activities in the southern region to encompass 76 villages in the DS divisions of Buttala and Badalkumbura within the Monaragala district. FORUT activities focussed on improving living conditions, strengthening civil society, increasing access to resources and controlling alcohol usage for the peaceful cohabitation of the district's multi-ethnic populations.

2006 commenced with training programmes for Community Based Organisations and government officials on management training, capacity building, book keeping and credit management. 7 libraries were provided with library books and 30 pre-school teachers were trained on ECCD, while five pre-schools were upgraded to meet basic standards and 28 others were provided with play materials. Educational facilities were also provided to disabled children prompted by an alarming discovery of 500 children in this category. 285 mothers received training on child development with a total of 685 persons being made aware of women and children's rights. Over a 1,000 persons were educated on basic healthcare and nutrition, contributing towards strengthening preventive health in the villages. Women empowerment and counselling programmes were also conducted in order to improve family life among these villagers.

Under its youth programmes, FORUT provided leadership training and conducted national and divisional youth camps providing opportunities for the young people of Monaragala to interact, learn and exchange views with each other in an environment of camaraderie. Though alcohol and drugs did not surface strongly as a factor in this society, village and school awareness programmes together with training of government and local NGO officers, formation of 18 drug prevention committees and a general awareness campaign were conducted to combat its increase.

Other projects included the provision of 9,157 plants for environment conservation, while 9 new environment conservation committees were established to manage these plantations and the environment at large. Supporting livelihood and income growth, FORUT provided vocational education for 39 persons, enterprise development training for 75 small entrepreneurs and training on new farming techniques to 224 farmers in the district. 61 loan facilities were granted under its micro finance programme.

Matale

The FORUT Matale Community Development Project targets the plantation populations of the 5 estates of Midlands, Nicholoya, Kelebokka, Hagala and Gomera and the rural population from the 2 villages of Madakumbura and Kirimetiya. The target estate population is 3,028 families while the village population comprises another 172 families. Uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the village and estate population is the main aim of this project.

In an effort to improve the quality of life in the project areas, vocational training programmes on sewing, leather footwear manufacturing and computing skills were carried out for the youth. Further, courses on food processing were conducted benefiting over 100 individuals while savings and credit training for estate workers saw the participation of 26 members from 10 estates.

Alcoholism is a problem in these areas. This issue was addressed through awareness creation among youth and the community and the reduction of illicit liquor selling points within the estates. A signature campaign to raise awareness on the new alcohol and drug laws and a protest march against the sale of illicit alcohol was conducted with the participation of over 4,500 people and support from police, government officials and other stakeholders.

Improving access to water and sanitation, 96 families were provided with access to safe drinking water under the Madakumbura water scheme while 101 toilets were also constructed. A number of health programmes to improve access to medical facilities and promote preventive health measures was initiated with a Health Clinic at Madakumbura benefiting 105 people and a Health Mobile Clinic conducted with the assistance of the Ministry of Estate Infrastructure benefiting 456 estate persons. A Dengue prevention parade and a health volunteer training programme for 35 trainees were also organized during the year.

Under infrastructure development a 3 km road was constructed in Kirimetiya with community and government support. Addressing the need for immediate shelter FORUT constructed a new house for an underprivileged family in Madakumbura while repairing 4 houses that were damaged by storm.

FORUT's intervention through workshops, awareness programmes and dramas has helped increase awareness on gender based violence while promoting the concept of gender equality in the project areas.

In addition, together with the Estate Workers Co-operative Societies several projects from the construction of childhood development centres, seminars for senior students to training programmes for teachers and the reactivation of youth clubs were initiated with a view to develop the literacy levels of the marginalised. In total, over 50 task based projects were identified and successfully completed in 2006 encompassing all areas from establishing identities by facilitating the issue of birth certificates to training on running estate based societies.

Case Study

Investing in home gardening to keep away from the tavern

Its pay day at the Midland Estate and Panchawarnam (24) has just collected her pay and is on her way home. Husband Kandiah Sivaraja (26) has collected his pay but is yet to return home. When he does return an argument ensues as Panchawarnam inquires about his salary from a drunken Sivaraja. If not for his tavern stopovers after work, they would together have a net income of around Rs. 4,000 a month. This was the story of their life a few years ago.

Today, Sivaraja instead stops by at an agricultural shop to purchase fertilizer and other essentials for his home garden of 40 perches. "I am grateful to FORUT for having intervened in my life and helped me to drop my alcohol addiction" says Sivaraja. In addition, FORUT also provided him vegetable seeds and agricultural know-how to manage his home garden. This has helped his family with a nutritious supply of vegetables and an additional income of around Rs. 2,000 from the sale of some of its produce.

He speaks of how his life has changed by just a simple factor as he looks at his new house under construction while listening to music from his newly purchased cassette recorder. A happy Panchawarnam with a year old toddler in her arms joins in "We don't argue over money anymore. He even finds time to help me in the kitchen" she quipped.

The future is looking brighter.



Collaborating Partners
Estate Workers Housing
Co-operative Societies
Kirimetiya Community
Organisation
Suwashakthi
Sanwidanaya
Madakumbura

“I am grateful
to FORUT for
helping me to
drop my alcohol
addiction”

*FORUT funded
Kandiah Sivaraja to
purchase agricultural
items for his home
garden, giving him
hope and better
prospects for his
family's future.*





Anulawathi was able to re-start her shoe factory thanks to a loan scheme provided by FORUT.

“Before this loan scheme was introduced, we had to face many hardships”

Collaborating Partners

Partners In Development (PID)

West Coast

Case Study

Anulawathi gets back on her feet

Life is a struggle for Anulawathi and her family. Occupying a barely furnished small house in Samurdigama Akkarapanaha, Anulawathi's family earned a living by manufacturing shoes. But, soon financial difficulties surfaced. Anulawathi was compelled to sell her machinery and lay off her workers.

Unwilling to accept failure Anulawathi shopped around for a solution. Through the UNITED Women's Organisation she finally approached FORUT for assistance to restart her business.

"We survived on the income we got from the business and when the business collapsed everything seemed so bleak. But I was determined to get back on my feet again. My search for a solution to achieve my goal led me to FORUT. They provided a loan of Rs. 10,000.00 to reopen my shoe making business. After I paid back the loan I took two more loans to buy more equipment for the business," says Anulawathi.

Today, Anulawathi employs 13 workers at her shoe factory and another 17 people earn an income through her business venture. Many of these workers are members of the UNITED Women's organisation.

Anulawathi plans to increase her workforce as her business grows. "Before this loan scheme was introduced we had to face many hardships. Initially, we had only one machine, but now we have purchased two additional machines from the loan facility granted to us by FORUT,"

"I and my family members are very happy about the progress from this shoe making industry. I am very happy to say that we have enough orders. But we need to get more machines to meet these orders. We are now trying to buy some new machines. Then we will be able to provide employment to another 20 - 25 new workers,"

FORUT's West Coast Community Development programme is in the Gampaha district of the Western province. The locations in this project are recent settlements where poverty is high. The project covers 8 villages in 2 DS divisions and works towards improving the socio-economic status of 1,460 families. While trying to improve the quality of life FORUT is actively promoting alcohol and drug prevention and gender equality to Free Trade Zone workers, alcohol & drug addicts, street children and migrant workers.

Economic development was the main focus during 2006, with the initiation of programmes to encourage the savings habit among the target population. The number of savings units increased to 8 from the single unit that was operational in 2005. The number of participating members increased to 1,700 compared to the 360 participants in the previous year, while the total savings fund grew to Rs 1 million from Rs 0.3 million in 2005. Loans were given for agriculture, small businesses and housing.

The project has also provided assistance for the construction of a community building, the strengthening of library facilities and the development of an organisation. In 2006, library membership grew from 1,230 to 1,300. A network organisation was set up with 8 community based organisations - Partners In Development. Cooperation between various stakeholders also improved in 2006 making joint activities with government and non governmental organisations easier.

Focusing on youth development, 07 youth clubs were established in 2006 with a view to improve interaction and capacities among the younger generation. Over 100 youth participated in the activities organized by these youth clubs during the year 2006, contributing to community development through 'shramadana campaigns', a blood donation camp and a dengue prevention programme. Also, through FORUT's intervention, 52 perches of land were obtained from the government for the construction of a youth centre. In an effort to control alcohol and drug abuse, 22 temperance campaigns were conducted with 7,000 participants. A pilot group was set up for alcohol, drugs and development initiatives and after discussions 25 hotels and shops have now agreed to stop the sale of cigarettes.

Meanwhile, the project also constructed 2 temporary shelters benefiting 9 needy members. Stepping beyond the boundaries of rehabilitation and economic development the project also focussed on child protection and primary education. Two child protection committees were established in Kandasurindugama and Samurdigama while funding was provided for upgrading 3 schools benefiting 52 youngsters. FORUT also initiated 8 gender awareness programmes targeting 750 men and women and was instrumental in forming 2 women's rights committees.

Colombo

The urban poor of the city are mainly concentrated in areas of slums, shanties and flats. More than 80% of the families depend on casual labour for a living. The 12% self employed are engaged in small trades such as sewing. An examination of incomes indicates that at least half are below the poverty line.

FORUT started the Colombo Slums Upgrading project in 1987 with IOGT/SIDA support. The project is now in its third phase and two settlements in Mattakkuliya and Mahawatta with over 4,000 families have been identified for assistance. The project activities are aimed at increasing income, developing basic amenities and infrastructure, eliminating indebtedness and building capacity with emphasis on alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

FORUT has been promoting the concept of using social collateral for an effective credit programme. In 2006, the number of community saving centres that were operational increased to 72, compared to 28 in 2005 and the total savings fund grew to Rs 4.1 million from 3.1 million the previous year. Using the revolving fund 178 loans has been disbursed.

Empowering the needy families was a focus for 2006. The projects capacity building efforts focused on planning, project implementing, organisational management and good governance in order to build capacity in 8 community organisations representing 1,000 families. Assistance was also provided to upgrade the quality of pre-school education through the provision of equipment and training benefiting over 200 youngsters. In addition, an early childhood care and development pilot project was conducted promoting better parental care and a child rights programme was organized targeting 600 youngsters. 87 school drop outs were also helped to restart their education.

Addressing the need for health and sanitation facilities in the area, a series of education programmes and health camps were organized in collaboration with Ministry of Health officials. These included a school health awareness programme, 6 health clinics and 2 dental clinics for children. Community leaders and young adults were also trained in reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases while First Aid training was provided to over 25 youth.

Women's empowerment and gender equity was another area of focus during the year 2006. Eight women's clubs were formed and over 10 workshops and awareness programmes conducted benefiting 100 families.

Identifying the need for infrastructure development, the project undertook the renovation of 30 temporary houses, 13 common & individual toilets and 3 community centres. In addition, 3 new community centres and 80 individual piped-water connections were also provided to these residents.

Case Study

Manoj gets new play mates

Manoj Kumara was a shy and lonely boy; he had no playmates. Both his parents work as casual labourers in a tea factory. They leave home early in the morning and return at dusk. 5-year-old Manoj is left behind with his 8-month-old brother and older sister. Manoj had no contact with other children his age or people other than his neighbours and family. As there was no one to take care of him, he was always in dirty clothes and had a bath only once a week. This was Manoj, the youngster FORUT made contact with just a year ago.

"A FORUT volunteer often visited our home with the permission of my parents. It took a while for me to relate to her and make friends with her. But I soon realized that she was a nice and talented person. She introduced me to lots of other children and taught me songs, dancing and games" say Manoj.

The FORUT volunteer also spoke to Manoj's parents about looking after him better. Now Manoj's parents try to spend more time with him and his brother and sister. They involve the children in household activities and spend more time talking with them; Manoj now gets more attention from his parents. His mother has also started participating in community child development.

Today, Manoj is an active and outgoing child and has become more sociable. He also likes going to school and has made friends with other children.

"I enjoy spending time with my friends and family. I feel loved and appreciated and most of all I enjoy the time my parents spend with me. I am not lonely anymore" adds little Manoj with a huge smile spreading across his little face.

Manoj is one of 40 children selected for the FORUT Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programme in Colombo North targeting children and their parents.



Collaborating Partners
Human Self Reliance
Promotion Foundation
(HSRPF)
Sithumina Women's
Organisation

“I feel loved and appreciated and most of all I enjoy the time I spend with my parents.”

Manoj is a five year old who has benefited from the FORUT Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD) programme in Colombo.





The FORUT Savings Programme helped the women of Mylankadu to start saving and improved their lives.

“When I started telling the women to save money, some men ridiculed me.”

Collaborating Partners

Vadamarachy
Organisation of Good
Templars (VOGT)

Community &
Technical Education
Centre (COMTEC)

Youth Temperance
Movement (Deepam)

The Relief &
Rehabilitation
Organisation (TRRO)

Active Theatre
Movement (ATM)

Deputy Provincial
Director of Health
Services (DPDHS)

Community Based
Organisations

Jaffna

Case Study

The women of Jaffna learn to save

Lack of steady employment and poverty was previously a barrier to saving in the village of Mylankadu. With proper support and education the women of the village are now learning to save for a rainy day and are also benefiting from the credit made possible through increased savings. The savings programme was spearheaded by Ms A. Jeyagowri, with the aid of FORUT.

Initially no one took her seriously...

"When I started telling the women to save money some men ridiculed me. They said 'it doesn't dawn when a hen roosts'," says Jeyagowri. Being made fun of however did not stop Jeyagowri and 33 women group leaders that worked hard to introduce the saving habit to a village that never had any savings in a bank before.

"In less than 30 months of FORUT's intervention we are proud to have saved Rs 1,563,749. The total credit given out to 167 members accounts to Rs 3,412,500," adds Jeyagowri.

With the commencement of the saving habit gradual changes, for the better, can be seen in the village. The quality of life of the villagers has improved with many investing in improving their lifestyle, health and sanitation, food and children's education. The women participants in the banking scheme also feel more secure about their current and future situation.

FORUT plans to take the savings habit and its benefits to other villages in the coming year.

The total population in the Jaffna peninsula is approximately 188,266 families. The escalation in violence had displaced 32,803 families by August 2006 and later another 10,480 families. Many families have become dependent on dry food rations from the government as the peninsula has become cut-off from trade and local livelihoods production reduced. Businesses are closing and the cost of living has also increased dramatically. This has led to immense challenges in working during 2006.

FORUT has continued its rehabilitation programme in Jaffna which was started in 2004 targeting 1,586 families from 6 DS divisions. In 2006, the targeted number of families doubled reaching 3,000. The project aims to improve social, economical and cultural conditions of those affected by the ongoing war. Water and sanitation needs are identified as urgent requirements while savings and credit, organisational development, child & youth, alcohol & drugs and preventive health also receive attention on the socio-economic side.

Addressing the water and sanitation needs, 140 new wells were constructed and 64 renovated providing 1,500 people with access to clean water. The project also invested in the construction and renovation of 47 toilets. Under the health facilitation programme, the number of health volunteers in the field increased by 19% to 76 from 64 in the previous year. The number of health clinics that were conducted also increased with 256 clinics in 2006 compared to 145 in 2005. In addition, 12 preventive health and 26 HIV/AIDS awareness programmes were organised with the number of participants in preventive health activities increasing from 203 in the previous year to 3,588 in 2006.

Vocational training and skills development was another key area of focus in 2006 with 119 youth benefiting. Meanwhile, FORUT also invested in the construction and renovation of 9 community buildings, pre-school development, teacher training and the provision of library facilities with the membership indicating a growth of 77% from 1,248 to 2,210 in 2006.

The gender and democracy programme helped improve income earning capacities of 283 women and increased awareness of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and family planning among 3,588 men and women. The number of women members in community based organisations increased from 1,409 in 2005 to 2,383 in 2006 and the number of women leaders increased from 182 to 363. In the area of micro-credit development the number of village banking centres indicated a growth with the number of beneficiaries increasing by 32% to 3,137. The total savings fund also grew from Rs 6.1 million in the previous year to Rs 13.2 million by end 2006 with 685 loans disbursed within the year.

Youth activities involved the continuation and strengthening of 45 youth clubs in the district. An educational support programme engaging 600 youngsters, 58 child rights awareness programmes and 26 temperance campaigns involving 1,188 persons were also conducted.

Vanni

FORUT Vanni project is involved in rehabilitation activities in the two districts of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. FORUT targets 5,000 families who were farmers and displaced repeatedly due to the ongoing ethnic conflict. The project also targets households headed by women and marginalised families with disabled family members. The project focuses on livelihoods, children and youth, capacity building, vocational training, health activities, resource management and infrastructure development. Having launched a three year rehabilitation programme for the region, in 2006, FORUT invested 52 million rupees in its rehabilitation efforts covering 13 villages.

Livelihood activities are essential to securing a reasonable standard of living, yet extremely vulnerable families cannot afford the initial capital layout to restart their lives. FORUT has stepped in with support for livelihoods development in the region. Income was improved last year with 822 people finding employment and training provided for 100 entrepreneurs. Fishing and cottage based industries too showed growth and the production of milk and eggs increased.

In addition to income generation, water, sanitation, health and shelter were the other core areas of focus in 2006. Access to drinking water and sanitation improved with the construction of 10 wells and 145 toilets. 225 shelters were rehabilitated for returning displaced families. A comprehensive health and HIV /AIDS awareness programme was initiated to increase awareness on health issues and preventive measures. 1,440 copies of a health magazine was published and 54 health volunteers were supported in 2006.

The projects rehabilitation efforts also spread to the area of alcohol and drug prevention. Many families rely on illicit liquor brewing and the sale of liquor as a livelihood. Awareness of the ill effects of alcohol and drugs is also low. In 2006, FORUT actively promoted alcohol and drug abuse prevention programmes in the project areas. Awareness creation programmes were conducted among village leaders and health volunteers to spread knowledge. Income generation projects of 2006 also included people that are reliant on alcohol.

Under children and youth initiatives, 2 new pre-schools were constructed and another renovated. Furniture and play materials were also provided to 6 youth clubs. Children in assisted communities have also benefited from income generation projects through improved nutrition and greater access to education. Youth employment also improved through vocational training, self employment activities and jobs in construction work. In addition, leadership and conflict mediation training was provided and young people were encouraged to participate in community oriented projects. A youth camp was also organised and conducted during this year. Gender awareness programmes were conducted in 8 project villages. Stepping up its environmental protection activities, 7 awareness programmes together with environmental tree planting and perennial tree planting campaigns were conducted with the support and participation of the villagers.

Case Study

Santhimalar sewing her success

Santhimalar, is the bread winner of her family. She is also one of the 30 students that received training in dress making at KiliTECH, a FORUT partner organisation for vocational training and education in Vanni. In addition to the training, FORUT also donated a sewing machine to support the start up of a small business venture. Today, Santhimalar has her own tailoring shop at her home and earns enough money to feed and take care of her young family.

“My daily income is around Rs 300 which I am using for daily living expenses and to spend for the education of my children. I can now eat three meals a day and my children have school uniforms and books. I was also able to buy a mosquito net,” says Santhimalar.

A single parent herself, Santhimalar has also contributed towards creating employment in her neighbourhood. “I am so proud that I have been able to give a job to another widow in my tailoring shop,” she says.

With her income improving Santhimalar is now making plans to grow her business. “With my savings I have renovated my house and I now plan to develop my business with two additional skilled workers,” she says.

FORUT has been implementing projects to empower the poor and internally displaced persons in the Vanni region through skills upgrading and employment creation. The Kilinochchi Technical Institute (KiliTECH) works in collaboration with FORUT in its efforts to create and build small entrepreneurs.



Collaborating Partners

Consortium of local NGOs

Government

“I can now eat three meals a day and my children have school uniforms and books.”

Thanks to FORUT's training in dressmaking, Santhimalar can now provide an income for herself and her family.





Collaborating Partners

Cheddikulam Federation for
Community Development
(CEFCO)

Rural Womens' Forum
(RWF)

Manipuram Community
Development Organisation
(MSDO)

Menik Farm Social
Development Organisation
(MFSDO)

Organisation for Rehabilitation
of the Handicapped (ORHAN)

Child Protection Committees
(CPCs)

Livestock Breeders Co-
operatives (LIBCO)

Community Technical
Education Centre (COMTEC)

Centre for Womens'
Development and
Rehabilitation (CWDR)

“At one time he had to
sell alcohol to get
money.”

*The Vadai business
improved
the quality of life
in Theivanai's home.*



Vavuniya

Case Study

Empowering families

“We have the strength now to withstand the impact of a war ravaged economy” says Tharmalingam Theivanai from the village of Periyarkulam, a suburb of Vavuniya town. A mother of two, Theivanai is a FORUT beneficiary supported through the Rural Women’s Forum.

Theivanai’s family was displaced in 1996. After months in refugee camps she and her family re-settled in the suburbs of Vavuniya as they could not return to their former home. Her husband did odd jobs to feed the family but his addiction to alcohol meant loss of income and alcohol induced abuse.

“At one time he had to sell alcohol to get money. Then the drinking became worse and he become abusive to me and our two daughters. So our grown up daughter was sent to my mother’s place in Kandy for her safety” recalls Theivanai.

Things changed after Theivanai joined the Rural Women’s Forum. She became one of 143 beneficiaries to receive training and credit to start her own micro-enterprise. Theivanai went into the business of making and selling Masala Vadais.

“The Rural Women’s Forum gave loans to improve our income. They also helped to build a well in our garden so that we have clean water. This assistance made it possible for me and my husband to become co-partners of our enterprise. Now my husband and I jointly prepare Vadais for sale. Now we get a regular income everyday,” says Theivanai

The Vadai business improved the quality of life in Theivanai’s home. “Now I control the household and business finances. So I am able to spend money on my daughters’ education in addition to our household expenditure,” she says.

The on-going armed conflict has created, among others, ‘capacity gaps’ in terms of organisational and human resources among the internally displaced population of Vavuniya district. The majority of Vavuniya’s families are victims of repeated displacements. The civil war has also resulted in destruction of health and education facilities impacting mainly on the children and women of the region.

Under its rehabilitation efforts for the Vavuniya district, FORUT has invested over 72 million rupees targeting 2,549 affected families since 2004. The project activities focus on improving living conditions and strengthening civil society.

In 2006, 275 IDP families were relocated and resettled with assistance to resume a normal life. To help improve income and standards of living FORUT initiated a number of livelihood and income generation activities in Vavuniya. 400 farmers received assistance to improve technology in agriculture while 3 Model farms were established during the year. In addition, a plant nursery was established and 5,000 plants distributed among resettled families. To support the livestock industry in the area the project helped revive and strengthen the Livestock Breeders Co-operative (LIBCO). Managerial capacity for micro finance activities was also increased.

Since commencing its development activities in Vavuniya, the project has worked with 800 children from the Poonthottam welfare centre. In 2006, 1,500 children from internally displaced families were supported in order to restart their education. Over 18 volunteers and 695 parents were educated on child rights and early childhood development and child protection committees formed in the villages to promote protection and advocacy issues.

Opening up opportunities for the youth of the district, vocational training programmes were organised for over 188 youth in sewing, computers and electronics while 140 young persons were trained in human rights, gender and conflict resolution. 250 youth were also supported in sports activities. In an effort to reduce alcohol and drug abuse FORUT conducted awareness programmes for 500 youth and students.

Focusing on one of the most neglected areas of health and sanitation, FORUT provided advanced training for 59 Community Health Volunteers with a view to promote health and well being in the area. 524 children with special needs were identified and provided medical rehabilitation, which has been lacking since the outbreak of the ethnic conflict.

The deteriorating security situation is the main challenge faced by FORUT programmes in Vavuniya. The poor security situation has resulted in security barriers and increased numbers of security check points on the roads contributing to transport difficulties and increasing commodity prices.

This will be a challenge for 2007!

Puttalam

Fishing and salt mining are the traditional occupations of the people of Puttalam. Other income generation activities include agriculture, cement production and prawn farming. Despite the relatively good location of the district and its above average access to amenities such as water, sanitation, electricity and transport, the majority remains rural and poor. Puttalam is also the temporary home of 45,513 internally displaced persons from the north.

FORUT carries out its activities in 5 DS divisions in the Puttalam district with the aim of improving living conditions and promoting peaceful co-existence among all. Since 2004, in collaboration with partner organisations, FORUT has invested over 27 million rupees in its rehabilitation efforts.

Working on livelihoods, FORUT disbursed 228 loans through micro finance programmes in 2006 and set up 40 savings centres in the district. The total savings fund in the savings centres more than doubled in 2006 to Rs 1.35 million from Rs 0.67 million in 2005. Assistance was also provided for 70 people in animal husbandry, 39 people in agriculture, 11 fishermen and another 108 persons to start small businesses.

Under infrastructure development, 2 community centres were constructed providing a location for meetings and other community activities. 42 toilets and 16 wells were constructed improving the health and sanitation facilities of 310 persons, while the renovation of 2 water tanks benefited 800 persons.

Reaching across the child and youth segment, over 1,200 children and youth benefited from support extended in 2006 and 30 training programmes were conducted to improve vocational skills and build capacity among 3,538 young people in the project areas. In addition, FORUT enabled computer training courses for 26 young people and book-keeping courses for 25 village banking centre officers. An additional 13 new libraries were set up with 696 people benefiting.

Through a series of planned programmes, 650 school children, 40 village leaders, 100 community based organisation members and 165 government officials received basic training on alcohol abuse reduction strategies. With the support of FORUT, 220 youth formed an activist group to control alcohol abuse in their areas. 20 alcohol and drug prevention campaigns were organised with the participation of 1,175 youth from the district. Meanwhile, support was also provided in order to increase the reporting of sexual abuse and gender violence in Puttalam, particularly in the camps for internally displaced persons.

Focusing on human rights and peace building, the project supported a number of educational courses on human rights. In 2006, 78 participants completed the Diploma in Human Rights while 36 persons completed the Certificate course on Human Rights. Promoting peace and harmony among the different ethnic groups in the region, the project has helped set up a Peace Committee which recorded a membership of 155 in 2006.

Case Study

Neville kicks the alcohol habit

Neville Asokaratne is from the village of Paramankanda. A driver by profession Neville has been addicted to alcohol for many years. He spends his daily wages at the tavern in the company of his boozing buddies. The large proportion of income spent on alcohol means that he has less money to spend on his wife and three children. This was the life story of Neville just one year ago.

Today, Neville is a changed man. He has managed to kick the habit that drove him in to debt. With the support of his wife and the Organisation for Social Development Through Rural Action (OSDTRA), Neville has finally learned to re-live his life.

“My wife was among the many village folks who joined OSDTRA when they commenced activities in our area with the support of FORUT. She was keen to find out how to increase the family income and improve our family’s quality of life. OSDTRA showed us how much money I spent on alcohol and then it was left to me to either continue with my habit or fight it” says Neville.

“I decided to stop the drinking habit little by little. First, I decided I will drink only on Sundays. Later, I realised even this was an unnecessary expense. So I decided to stop taking alcohol entirely,” says Neville.

When Neville’s drinking reduced, their family situation began to improve and with the financial situation improving, Sujeeva started her own business of poultry farming. “With my poultry farming, I am earning sufficient money to spend on the children’s education. So they are able to continue their studies in Anamaduwa Central College,” says Sujeeva.

Today, Neville is employed as an unskilled labourer in a carpentry workshop and earns a daily wage of Rs.400. However, Neville has his own plans for an independent income. He plans to start his own carpentry workshop when they save enough money.



Collaborating Partners

Womens' Organisation
for Development,
Equality, Peace
and Temperance
(WODPET)

Organisation for
Social Development
Through Rural Action
(OSDTRA)

SUREKEMU

Vanni Cultural
Foundation (VCF)

Puttalam District
Reconciliation
Centre
(PDRC)

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drinking habit little by
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*FORUT's
Livelihood
Assistance
Programme
brings new
income
generating
methods to a
small village.*

“I had
to face threats
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outside”

Collaborating Partners

Rajarata Participatory
Development Foundation

Rajarata Praja Kendra

Sivumaga Organisation

Arunodaya Maha Sangamaya

Rajarata Janodaya

FORCE - Sri Lanka

CSRO

Manawa Foundation

Anuradhapura

Case Study

Investment in young people paying off in Anuradhapura

Aliwanguwa is a village of 12 families displaced due to hostilities in the Welioya area. When FORUT entered the village through its partner organisation Janodaya, the villagers were in desperate poverty. The youth suffered the most. The lack of education, prolonged periods of living below poverty level and low opportunities for skills development had demoralised them. The situation was made more complex by issues such as teenage marriages and teenage pregnancies, conflicts generated due to alcohol usage and unwholesome practices such as illicit liquor production.

Shantha Kumara is one young man that came forward to find ways of addressing these conditions in his village. Shantha, who lived by doing odd jobs, had not even received a formal education due to unstable conditions in the area. However, he organised the community and proceeded with FORUT Anuradhapura to ensure a better future for their children. At first it was a difficult task to convince the community:

“I had to face threats from my own community as well as from outside, when I tried to demarcate land blocks to stop fights over land and when I tried to tell people that they should reduce alcohol and drug usage,” says Shantha.

Gradually however, the community could feel the difference and gathered around his leadership. Now all 12 families in the village of Aliwanguwa have separate houses with standard sanitary facilities. Livelihood assistance has helped start new income generating methods. Women and children have safety and privacy. Home gardens are emerging with vegetables and other crops. All the children are now schooling. The feeling of ownership has given the villagers new hope for the future.

FORUT's rehabilitation and resettlement work in the district is spread out among both the internally displaced population as well as settled villages. The project has been active in 5 DS divisions of the Anuradhapura district since 1996 and in 2005 extended its operations to the district of Polonnaruwa as well. The deteriorating security situation in 2006 adversely impacted project implementation but targets were met despite increasing security concerns. The main focus of the project for 2003-2007 was the resettlement of 755 internally displaced families. Currently 655 such families have been resettled.

Working in close collaboration with community based umbrella organisations, the project mainly focussed on providing shelter and housing for internally displaced families, developing livelihoods, improving the education of children and restoring infrastructure. Activities were also undertaken on gender, health and alcohol and drug prevention.

As part of its ongoing programme to resettle internally displaced families, 70 families in resettlement villages received shelter materials for housing. 1 community building was constructed and a 5 ½ km road was repaired. FORUT also constructed 5 wells and 69 toilets benefiting 189 families. Three water tanks were also renovated providing 160 families with access to safe drinking water.

The restoration of livelihoods for resettled families was given high priority. Micro finance activities showed strong progress during 2006 with the establishment of a sustainable institution in partnership with the Rajarata Participatory Development Foundation (RPDF). In 2006, the total revolving loan fund amounted to Rs. 6.1 million. The largest credit out flow was for the agricultural sector with 861 loans to the value of Rs 4.7 million. Self employment initiatives accounted for 47 credit lines worth Rs 0.49 million, 22 housing loans were provided worth Rs 0.66 million and 17 loans were given for animal husbandry initiatives.

Alcohol and drug prevention, gender and child rights were some of the other core areas of focus during 2006. Under alcohol and drug prevention activities a temperance awareness programme was conducted targeting 200 villagers while another 100 youth joined the national youth camp organized by FORUT. Meanwhile, in the area of gender equality 9 awareness programmes were conducted in 2006 benefiting 208 families. 40 women were provided skills development training, while several others received legal assistance. 02 general law awareness programmes were also organized for the women in the district.

Enhancing the literacy levels in the region, the project supported 5 schools with 3,551 youngsters benefiting from this investment. A further 88 school drop outs were readmitted to schools in the project areas. In addition, 5 child rights awareness campaigns, 2 vocational training and 9 health awareness programmes were conducted with a view to uplift the living conditions of the people in these districts.

FORUT and The Tsunami: A Heroic Response to Tragedy

On December 26, 2004, tragedy struck the coastal line of Sri Lanka, when an underwater earthquake in the Indian Ocean triggered off a massive tsunami wrecking thousands of lives and causing devastation to the island that has already borne the brunt of a two decade old war. FORUT responded immediately, mobilising an all-out relief effort to keep the survivors alive. Having initially focused on immediate and transitional community recovery under phase 1 and 2 of the recovery process, in 2006, FORUT continued its tsunami rehabilitation activities under the Post-tsunami Recovery Initiative (PRI). This initiative aims at providing durable solutions for the tsunami-affected in the districts of Jaffna, Ampara, Batticaloa, Hambantota and Vanni.

Recovering Jaffna

FORUT's Post Tsunami Recovery Initiative in Jaffna extends to the six villages of Thumpalai East, Inparuddy, Satkoddai / Thikkam, Polikandy East and Polikandy West. FORUT invested Rs. 115,125,946 in its re-building efforts for the district targeting 1250 affected families. Under its housing support, 87 houses were completed in the first quarter of 2006 and construction commenced on another 75 despite the difficulties in purchasing building materials. Work on infrastructure such as multi-purpose buildings, a health centre and market building, which could not get underway due to lack of land, commenced in the first half of 2006. In addition, a pre-school building in Thumpalai East is nearing completion and an internal access road for Polikandy West is also being developed.

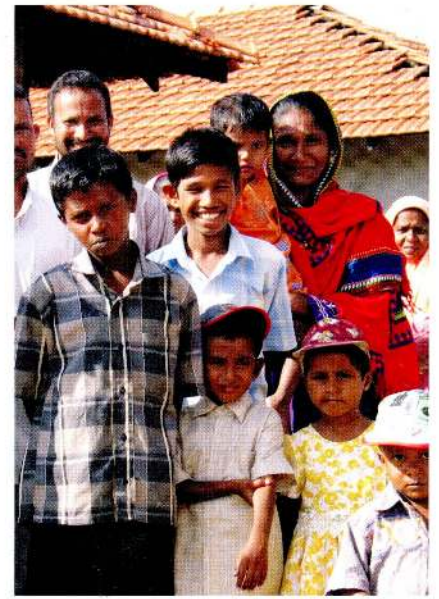
Information and mobilisation activities have been ongoing in all locations to prepare and facilitate future micro-finance activities. Fishing gear and FRB boats were provided to 5 more families in 2006. Training for community based organisations was given priority during the year. The tsunami recovery activities in 2006 also included new projects such as child and youth development, educational support and health and sanitation, together with projects that commenced in 2005. Alcohol and drug prevention programmes, gender issues, child, youth and educational support were introduced into project activities in 2006. However, achievements in these sectors have been limited due to the unstable security conditions. There have been delays due to curfews, the closure of the A9 road and frequent transportation difficulties.

Ampara - the road to recovery

Ampara was one of the areas most severely damaged by the tsunami. In 2006, over 3,965 tsunami victims of Ampara continued to receive



livelihood, housing, community and infrastructure support under FORUT's tsunami recovery initiatives for the district. In the areas of infrastructure development, work on 110 permanent houses in the two DS divisions of Mandanai and Alimchenai is in progress and 6 semi-permanent pre-schools have already been completed. Work was also completed on a play ground at Thirukkovil and rehabilitation was completed on the St. John's school in Alayadivembu. Meanwhile, a health centre and 3 water purification plants were also constructed during the year. Water is now being distributed by bowsers in the areas of Thirukkovil, Addalaichenai and Akkaraipattu.



Under livelihood development programmes, 50 members from 12 fishermen societies were trained in marketing and 12 boats with outboard motors were issued to families that lost their equipment. Another 60 families were also provided nets by FORUT and 25 families were provided with equipment to start dry fish processing. In other areas of livelihood development, 175 families received training on animal husbandry and 75 families were trained in home gardening. 10 agricultural wells were constructed benefiting a further 25 families. Another 80 persons were trained on basic accounting and 310 families benefited from FORUT's initiatives to develop small businesses.



FORUT also supported 35 youth clubs in 5 DS divisions and the FORUT Task Force was set up with young people to campaign against alcohol and drug abuse and to promote peace and reconciliation between different communities. Although tsunami recovery activities in Ampara are ongoing, the security situation is adversely impacting income generating activities of the people.

Rebuilding Batticaloa

Batticaloa was another district severely damaged by the tsunami. FORUT continues to provide rehabilitation assistance to the areas of Kattankudy, Arayampathi, Kalawanchikudy and Manmunai.

During 2006, six model houses were completed and another 73 are reaching completion in Palamunai. Investing in community infrastructure a fisherman's rest house was constructed supporting 581 fishing families by providing them with a location to store and protect their fishing assets. In addition a 2.4 kilometre road was rehabilitated to enable farmers to improve their marketing while also supporting the housing construction work in the area. Focusing on livelihood development, FORUT renovated 58 water pumps, and provided 16



FORUT and The Tsunami contd.

new water pumps, 30 bicycles and weighing scales to farmers to restart their livelihood activities. Fruit plants were also distributed among the villagers. Support was also extended to train youth in sewing, computer, doll making and fishing gear usage.

Through FORUT children's programmes, 13 temporary pre-schools were built benefiting 631 children and 2 pre-schools were repaired benefiting another 95 children. 6 permanent schools were also constructed providing a favourable study environment for 333 children. An anti-alcohol and drug campaign was conducted in the village of Kattankudy to control alcohol and drug abuse. FORUT also conducted training programmes for youth on alcohol, drugs and development. The FORUT Peace Volunteers group was formed in three villages and members were trained on disaster management in case of future disasters like tsunami, floods and cyclones.

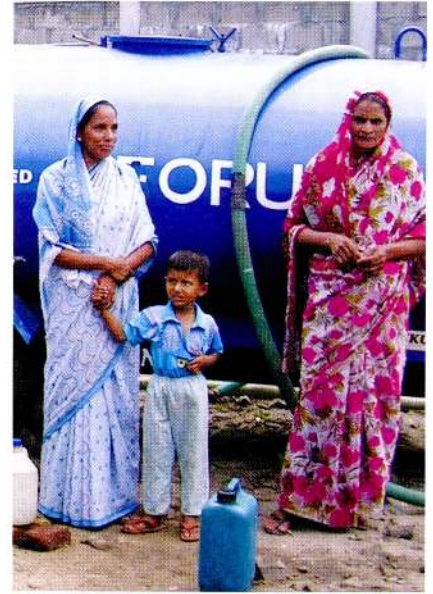
Rejuvenating Hambantota

The tsunami affected 18,806 families in Hambantota and displaced 3,394 families. In addition, employment and incomes of the coastal population were severely impacted with many losing their means of livelihood. The FORUT project covers 2,500 families in Ambalantota, Tangalle and Hambantota DS divisions and activities are carried out with 21 community based organisations including Fisheries Co-operative Societies, Farmer Organisations, Women Societies and Community Development Organisations.

The project activities encompass the areas of shelter and livelihood development while also focusing on the needs of women and children and building community harmony.

In 2006, FORUT helped construct a housing scheme with 101 houses to resettle tsunami victims. The home owners have now formed a community based organisation to maintain the housing scheme and its facilities. A dilapidated tank was also reconstructed to increase access to safe water. As water shortages are a problem faced by communities in the region rainwater harvesting tanks were also built for each house.

Tsunami affected fishermen were provided with boats, engines and fishing gear. Training and capacity building programmes were conducted to facilitate income recovery and income generation activities such as coir and dress making. Micro-finance programmes were implemented through women's societies to help livelihood recovery.



Early childhood development programmes covering 12 pre-schools, youth programmes, alcohol and drug prevention and gender awareness campaigns were conducted as a part of FORUT's development initiatives for the region. A multi-purpose community hall was built for community activities and a pre-school building was constructed with the required equipment.

Vanni-Living Again

The overall goal of the tsunami recovery project in Vanni is to improve the socio-economic standards of the tsunami affected population. The FORUT tsunami recovery project in Vanni is working in Theerthakarai north and Silawatthai in the Mullaitivu district. FORUT is also working in Chempiyanpattu north which is in the Jaffna district but under the administration of Kilinochchi. In 2006, FORUT Vanni was engaged in rehabilitation activities in the selected areas of livelihood, housing, water, sanitation, community infrastructure and capacity building.

FORUT supported the purchase of 132 boats and also provided inputs for small businesses in sewing and carpentry.

In housing reconstruction, 41 houses are currently being built amidst many difficulties due to the ongoing conflict. To ensure access to safe water, FORUT supported the supply and construction of 64 Hume pipes, 51 Hume wells and 10 open dug wells. The construction work on 4 kilometres of road was also completed. However, construction work on a guard room and a rest room for fishermen were temporarily suspended with 90% of the work completed.

Alcohol and drug prevention, gender equality, health and environmental protection were other key areas of activity in 2006.

During 2006, the unstable security situation in Vanni and the shortage of construction material have impacted negatively on the project activities resulting in suspension of some activities, changes to plans and project delays.



ADIC

The year 2006 was an important year at ADIC as the National Authority on Tobacco and Alcohol Act came in to force. This provided ADIC with the challenge on implementing the act, by taking action through empowerment of communities. Along with this development, ADIC continued to work by mobilising and pressurising the government to strengthen the prevailing policies and to work towards new policies.

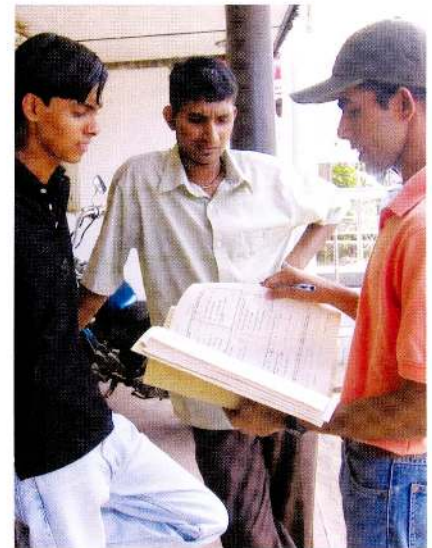
The outstanding achievements for 2006 were the practical implementation of the existing smoke free policies in the relevant authorities. This involved the further strengthening of such policies within the authorities of the Postal Department, Railway Department, Ports Authority, National Transport Commission and Labour Department.

Prevention is an important component in ADIC's comprehensive drug control programme.

The School Programme educates groups of students to carry out innovative, technically correct interventions to change the behaviours of their peers. In the year 2006, interventions were targeted in 19 districts among which direct interventions were carried out in 15 districts among 815 schools and indirect interventions were carried out among 4 districts through out 4,500 schools. Direct interventions were based on prevention camps, where the schools played a leadership role in organising and finding the necessary resources for these camps. Indirect interventions were based on distance mode interventions using materials, letters and leaflets.

During 2006, community based interventions were carried out in 22 districts of the country aimed at raising awareness and reducing consumption. ADIC used strategies such as working directly through youth groups, working through NGOs, CBOs, schools, government sector structures and development organisations. ADIC also continued to work with the PDP - Ministry of Plantations.

Campaigns and strategies in the year 2006 were focused on counteracting and neutralizing the trends of beer use among communities. A wide variety of educational aids are produced and used in these campaigns, which in turn increased the awareness among the general public in a productive manner.



FONT

The 'FONT' collaboration between FORUT and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) continued in 2006 with the aim of improving post-crisis recovery interventions through capacity building and advisory services. Activities of 2006 included:

Start and improve your business (SIYB) training of trainers

The purpose of the programme was to build the capacity of FORUT staff in Business Management Services to support income generation/livelihood projects.

Developing FORUT's livelihoods approach

Workshops were conducted to address key concepts and issues of livelihoods frameworks, lessons learnt by other organisations and the Government of Sri Lanka. Group work addressed specific concerns related to what livelihoods should mean to the organisation and how livelihoods should be conceptualised at different levels and among different types of staff.

Real Time Research (RTR)

As part of the FONT project, research has been undertaken at several of FORUT's tsunami recovery projects in order to provide critical feedback on performance and recommendations. This work will continue in 2007 as this provides a unique opportunity to monitor staff, partner and target population perspectives in order to improve FORUT's work in the future.

Diploma in Humanitarianism

The objective of this activity was to facilitate higher learning in the organisation, enabling FORUT management staff to become updated on debates within the humanitarian literature.

Visit to the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

Under the FONT programme FORUT staff also had the chance to visit the innovative Women's Organisation SEWA, in Ahmedabad, India.

Alcohol, Drug and Development (ADD) conference

A major 2 day conference was organised in Colombo to better understand policies and ways of addressing drug and alcohol abuse.



Approaching 2007 & Beyond...

It has been a challenging year in 2006, no question. The forthcoming year promises to be equally challenging for FORUT and its work in Sri Lanka. The recent escalation in violence looks likely to continue and the number of persons requiring humanitarian assistance will rise accordingly. This is the context that will shape much of our work. On a practical policy level we are increasingly concerned with how we are to work more effectively in this context. During 2006 we have been actively searching for new ideas; inputs that will help forge new directions and new ways of working.

One of the challenges of practicing humanitarian and development work is to stay abreast of ideas, trends and the policy directions of our donors and host country governments. Another challenge is to take note of the learning that happens through our practice, often going un-noticed, lost in the perpetual process of action. As we strive to be a 'learning organisation', to improve our practice and ensure the relevance of our policies, we need to develop methodologies that can capture and share such experiential learning.

During 2007, one of the policy priorities for FORUT in Sri Lanka will be to increase our practice based learning; to make what is informal formal and to better identify our best practices. This will be particularly important for the development of further competency in the core areas of FORUT's work. Therefore one of the principle policy concerns for the forthcoming year will be the piloting of the Strategic Action Planning (SAP)¹ methodology. We have already received some exposure to this through the FONT collaboration. The challenge now is to make it work for FORUT.

Another initiative we in Sri Lanka are keen to move forward with is participation in the learning networks being initiated by FORUT head office in Norway. Alcohol, Drugs and Development (ADD) learning will be a particular priority.

Also of concern in 2007, but with one eye on the future, will be to undertake a thorough assessment of FORUT's local partners and the strategies we currently use in each of the project locations. Combined with project evaluations this will provide critical information on where we are in order to determine where we are going in our next five year long-term plan for Sri Lanka. We aim to start the planning process for 2009-2013 during 2007.

"...2007 will be a major year in mainstreaming gender equality"

Finally, 2007 will be a major year in mainstreaming gender equality in FORUT projects. The impact of this initiative will reach far into the future and should inform both our learning on ADD and our more general humanitarian and development practices.



Simon Weatherbed
Policy Advisor

¹ This is a practical methodology developed by Professor Nabeel Hamdi of the Centre for Development and Emergency Practice in Oxford.



Simon Weatherbed
Policy Advisor

NGO FACTOR

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER



Terje Heggermo has made his last-ditch appeal for the international community to support Sri Lanka's post-war reconstruction.

Terje Heggermo, head of the Norwegian NGO FORUT, explains the organization's presence in Sri Lanka with a short history lesson. He says that Norway's aid to Sri Lanka began in 1967, when the country was still a British colony. Norway's aid was initially focused on social development and education, but it shifted to reconstruction after the end of British rule in 1972. Heggermo says that his organization has been working in Sri Lanka since 1995, when it was established as a joint Norwegian-Sri Lankan organization. He says that the organization's work is now focused on reconstruction, particularly in the areas of housing, health, and education. He says that the organization's work is now focused on reconstruction, particularly in the areas of housing, health, and education. He says that the organization's work is now focused on reconstruction, particularly in the areas of housing, health, and education.

STRENGTHS

- 1 Sri Lanka has abundant natural resources like water, to restore the lack of which is a serious issue for many countries.
- 2 Sri Lanka has many well-aided among the veteran war generation. It is one of few countries to have the genuine interest of many countries.
- 3 It is an attractive tourist destination which needs to be better developed to boost its foreign exchange earning capacity.

WEAKNESSES

- 1 The war does not allow any real development to take place.
- 2 The country's civil rights record.
- 3 The war has caused ethnic violence and a relative lack of social freedom.

OPPORTUNITIES

- 1 Sri Lanka can't depend on foreign aid alone in developing its economy. "Sustainable housing" is what the country needs to do. In Sri Lanka, a better built house with electricity, water, access to health facilities, better education facilities, and a better environment is what the country needs.

THREATS

- 1 A heavy military police the extra conflict that is an opportunity for the country to see the real potential.
- 2 The armed country situation does not help the planning and the peace process needs to be put back on track, as any such an opportunity is being disappearing.



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“Meeting the needs of today with the spirit of tomorrow.”



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