

# HELP-O PROFILE



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### Description of the Organization

HELP-O is an organization aimed at developing and balancing human and environmental progress in rural as well as urban areas, focusing on the low-income community. Even environment conservation with many stakeholders is one of other goal of the organization. The organization is working in all over the country specially we could expand the service to the Eastern Province and implement many programs with many stakeholders of the eastern province.

### The Vision of the Organization

**“Economic Development, Social Justice & Safer Environment for All”**

### The Mission of the Organization

**“To identify the need of risks confronted community of Sri Lanka and implement effective solutions through integrated approaches with the participation of stakeholders”**

### Objectives of the Organization

- Approaching society towards development emphasizing protecting & ensuring human and children's rights through depriving the violence and awareness rising.
- Leading low-income people and disaster victims for a sustainable development process by raising awareness, providing training, and facilitating potential environment by reintegrating and initiating income-generating activities.
- Strengthen the local level community base societies for enabling them to be meeting strong and independent entities within the development process and create an appropriate environment for the exchange of ideas, information, and materials between the city stakeholders. Disseminate the information on development issues support communities to organize small groups, and youth federations to ensure maximum community participation and participatory implementation of projects irrespective of ethnic diversity to enjoy equal opportunities to live as one Sri Lankan nation.



### Organizational Membership

HELP-O is currently holding the membership of the following national as well as international organizations:

- CITYNET, Japan, Sri Lanka Member;
- Asia Pacific – 2000 Programme, Manila, UNDP Sri Lanka Member;
- United Nations Development Program, Colombo;
- Green Movement of Sri Lanka;
- Waste net, Colombo, Secretary.

### Board of Directors

1. Chairman: Mr. Chathura Welivitiya- Chairman  
-Senior Consultant on Community Development, Founder of HELP-O and HELPO-O Eco Green
2. Mrs. Jayanthi H. Withanachchi- Secretary -Senior Lawyer, Galle High Court
3. Mrs. Ranjith Dharmasiri -Retired Deputy Director, Industrial Development Board
4. Mr. Ashoka Siriwardena- Chairman of NIPM (National Institute of Plantation Management, Retired secretary of the Ministry of Foreign affairs
5. Mr. Amarasinghe Kudagallara.-Writer
6. Mr. Nadeeka Amarashinghe. - Assistant Director, Sustainable Development Authority
7. Dr. Jayasiri Lokuge.- Ayurvedic Doctor-Ayurveda Hospital
8. Advocate. Mapalagama Wimalarathna Godagama -Senior Lawyer
9. Mr. S. Deshapriya- Former Secretary of the Ministry of Peace and Reconciliation
10. Mr. Anil Kumarasiri- Senior Labour Officer, Labour Department
11. I.V.N.P Kumudini- Deputy Director, Ministry of Sports, SP

### Fundamental Principals

- To empower the marginalized community socially and economically
- To accept the importance of community participation & leadership
- To dedicate for protect the environment through an integrated process
- To protect the human right and justice
- To ensure the sustainable development



## \ Focus Areas



### **1. Environment Conservation**

HELP-O did different environment conservation during projects last few decades able to implement many programs with highly effects also able to focus on many sectors. Implementing climate change adaptation or mitigation projects were the best examples that were carried out in the past with significant results. The expertise of the organization has been spread to many areas such as Biogas, Advocacy programs, technical research and technical improvement and tree planting are some of them.

### **2. Human Rights Protection**

HELP-O implemented Human Rights awareness programs, Human Rights Protection Activities, and supporting camps in Sri Lanka. Different project activities were organized to develop Human Rights Protection among the community in Sri Lanka by HELP-O

### **3. P.P.P for Social Responsible**

HELP-O implemented many programs in public-private partnerships for many sectors such as infrastructure development and increase accessibility among community and government institutions are key things have implemented. HELP-O got involved to secure the socially responsible. The participatory development process is the main process that is applied. Developing Preschool, Public Parks, and Canal development are a few examples of public-private partnerships for socially responsible.

### **4. Community Development**

Many motivational or community-based development projects have been implemented. Women Empowerment, Community Finance Program, and Develop community leadership were a few of the things that were carried out. After the Tsunami devastation, many sectors were developed and HELP-O got the leadership for community empowerment. Finally, organizations could develop community movements that spread in many areas. Later on, this movement has been developed as a women's cooperative.

### **5. Relief Assistance**

HELP-O could make an active contribution to many reliefs works such as Tsunami Devastation, Floods, or drought. In the past HELP-O actively got involved with many reliefs works. During the Tsunami time, people got huge assistance from organizations to develop and rebuilt their lost livelihood. This was a large diversity of programs that could help people in many ways. Not even that it included advocacy programs, psychosocial activities are a few major components.

### **6. Local Governance**

HELP-O did different project activities to develop public participation and community intervention in Local Governance. Increasing public participation, developing community involvement in local government committees, developing the Integrated Development Plan-making process, and developing public budgeting are major contributions of HELP-O in Local Governance.



# Environmental Conservation

## 1.1. CLIMATE CHANGE

HELP-O implemented many programs for climate change adaptation or mitigation programs. In 2004 started first biogas unit at Karapitiya Teaching Hospital was Asia's First Biogas unit and it is function. It was a real challenge to implement a biogas unit at the hospital and with a base of that HELP-O could develop sustainable processes in many sectors. It could expand to community biogas, industrial biogas, and domestic biogas concepts. This concept was significantly developed by the technical team of HELP-O and highly affected to minimize methane gas emissions.

We have many years' of experience in the biogas construction field. The first biogas unit we have implemented in Karapitiya Hospital in the year 2004, that day we implemented biogas units in different sectors as follows:

- Domestic level
- Community level
- Hospital sector
- Forces camp
- Hotel sector & factories
- Schools
- Government offices
- Municipal Council & Urban Council
- Religious places
- Market places

### **Make Galle Bio Energy City**

Galle is the capital city of the Southern Province and it has an ancient history and is filled with many natural resources. Many organizations have constructed many biogas units in Galle City and many people are using the biogas for their daily use. HELP-O and GMC jointly implemented the program for Make Galle Clean and Green Bio Energy City because we implemented and conducted many biogas units and waste management programs in the city even many other organizations also implemented this kind of program.

**“Assess the capacity of the biogas to mitigate the climate change and adaptation & introduce the most effective standards biogas plant with quality parameters”**

### **Project No - SGP/Grant project-SRL/SGP/OP5/STAR/CC/2013/03**

- Project Name - Assess the capacity of the biogas to mitigate climate change and Adaptation & introduce the most effective standards biogas plant with Quality parameters.
- Goal - identify the level of contribution of biogas technology to climate change mitigation & adaptation & upgrade the effectiveness of biogas technology for that with quality parameters.



- Overall Objective - To measure & upgrade the level of contribution to climate change mitigation from organic waste using biogas technology.

### Objectives

- To measure the total impact of methane reduction from organic waste with biogas technology
- To develop biogas user registry & build a technology experience sharing platform
- To formulate quality parameters & introduce an innovative model of the biogas plant
- To create & expand the bioenergy village concept to mitigation & adaptation to climate change
- To generate data & information on methane emission in waste to compare with another sector

### 1.2. Green Industrial Sector

#### MAS Holding Koggala

MAS Holdings converted into eco-friendly process and started waste management program in factory. Able to minimize methane generation and manage the generated waste. In the year 2013 constructed a biogas unit with a 22m<sup>3</sup> capacity. Use for boiling water and other purposes. Conducted several awareness programs for the management and for the workers for proper implementation. Several technical adjustments were made in the biogas unit for increasing efficiency.



#### Sri Lankan Airline

There was a huge problem with the organic waste of Sri Lankan Airlines. The waste-carrying process was not successful and faced many difficulties. Therefore HELP-O is able to solve this massive issue and minimize the methane gas emission. Methane gas is converted into a usable energy source. Constructed 35m<sup>3</sup> biogas unit. The organization conducts awareness programs as well about proper maintenance. It produces 5.2m<sup>3</sup> methane gas usually and methane gas use for boiling water.







### Youth Centre

One of major place for youth development in Sri Lanka. The perishable waste was the huge problem and there was no proper solution to dispose correctly. Not even that energy consumption was very high and needed sustainable solutions. Therefore, constructed a 22m<sup>3</sup> biogas unit in 2013. Hence got huge benefits. The most important thing is they could recover the spending cost by saving LP Gas.



### Evergreen Tea Factory - Talgaswala Galle

Evergreen Tea Factory is One of large-scale factory located in Galle District. It daily collects huge amounts of waste. On the other hand, waste became one of the very critical issues for the factory, and able to implement a biogas unit at its factory. 35m<sup>3</sup> biogas unit constructed in their factory in 2012. Now they are using biogas for cooking purpose in the factory. HELP-O conducted many awareness programs for the management and for the staff of the factory.





### Kalpitiya Navy Camp - Ellueankulama

Place - Kalpitiya Navy Camp  
Location - Elluwankulama  
Year of Implemented - 2014  
Capacity of Biogas - 45m<sup>3</sup>  
Contact No - Dr Duminda - 0772517160

#### **For more details - Video Documentary**

The Island's

[HELP - O hand in setting-up standards for bio-gas plants](#)

[www.island.lk/index.php?page\\_cat=article-details&page...code...](http://www.island.lk/index.php?page_cat=article-details&page...code...)



### Fonterra Brands Lanka (Private) Limited

In Pannala area, HELP-O constructed biogas unit for Fonterra Brands Lanka Company. The main purpose of the biogas unit was boiling water for washing cows before milk feeding. It was one of major necessary thing of the company. Biogas unit reached the highest technical improvement in here to gain maximum efficiency. The raw material for biogas feeding was cow dung of farm.





Karapitiya Teaching Hospital Biogas Program



This is the first biogas unit that constructed in a hospital, AISA. In order to address the massive problem of unsystematic disposal of solid waste in Karapitiya Hospital's inability to address this problem, the doctors



refused to work in the hospital.

HELP-O took the initiative to find a solution for the waste problem. As a result of that a Bio-gas plant was initiated. Normally hospital could save more than Rs.40, 000 monthly by reducing the LP Gas consumption. As a result of this project, the hospital is now experiencing the benefits of the biogas plant.

- \* Bio-chemicals is been used to produce bio-gas.
- \* Plastics and polythene are been sold for recycling.
- \* Organic garbage is been used for fertilizer.



This program benefits reducing the wastage issues in "Karapitiya" Hospital. Thus, they save 4 cylinders of fuel that are used in hospital kitchens and use bio-gas instead of it. Through this biogas unit hospitals can earn money from cooking previously they used LP Gas they use this extra energy for their daily requirement. This was a total solution for the waste problem of the hospital now the Hospital earns from throwing waste. The program is sponsored by USEAP.

1.3. Community Biogas Program



HELP-O has implemented many environment programs. After end of this program, we implemented the second phase of waste management program through this. We are constructing biogas plants in village wise. Dustbins were distributed areas previous project. Through this program we constructed 09 biogas plants. We constructed 12m<sup>3</sup> unit that can dump 100 K.G per day from this biogas plant. This unit provides biogas for 05 houses. The capacity is 22 m<sup>3</sup> constructed biogas for the "Mahamodara" teaching hospital.







From this project we could aware the community about important of sorting waste. Before this program, waste didn't have a value. Community used to dump the waste at the road sides, they collected it to dump biogas plant. The best thing is waste has a market now. Through this program we can decrease the village waste inside of the village. All beneficiaries pay Rs.500 per every month to People's Company from that money we have planned to construct more biogas plants and expand our program to various places.



Collected money only uses to construct more biogas plants in various areas. This program is Public Private Partnership Program that implements Central Environment Authority (CEA), Galle Municipal Council, and the People's Movement. They are the main stake holders of the program. In the past, the total waste collection of the city was 55 tons but now it has decreased to 25 tons per day.

One of the best products of the biogas unit is Organic Compost Manure. This automatically comes from the biogas unit. This is highly effective for cultivation. At this moment we have printed a label and it has a market value. The organic compost bottles sell Rs.50.00 and this is of good income for the village people's company branch. We have enough requests for this compost manure from the cultivators. Even people started organic agriculture in many places.



Now people are using this extra energy for their cooking purposes. Many people have started new self-employments from this support because they could able to get biogas energy for a low price. We implemented this program with Public Private Partnership (PPP) program and we could able to expand this with the people's movement that we formed before. We established an environment fund to expand this program in the future according to that every beneficiary should pay Rs.500 every month for getting biogas except the land donated person for constructing the biogas unit. On the other hand, this is a good solution for the grass root level community because they could able to get energy for a low price.

### **1.4. Home Garden Programs**

HELP-O started new program within the grass root level. It was home gardening with a base of a Biogas unit. In the beginning, the level started in Totagamuwa. Under the USAID SARI Energy program, we constructed a biogas unit in the Totagamuwa area. As the second stage of that we are carrying organic cultivation. The program is totally community-based. Now that program expanded to many places with a base of Biogas units. Now many of housewives started the cultivation using the organic manure of the biogas. HELP-O promoted organic cultivation through,

01. Domestic Level
02. Community level
03. Institutional Level
04. School level



The other fact is most of people do animal husbandry. There is a huge possibility to carry on this program. Currently people have started the cultivation but we need to promote the organic cultivation. HELP-O gets the support of People movement to carry on and monitor this program. Under this program village people movement branch start the selling bio fertilizer. On the other hand, this is one of the income-generating activities in the ground level and has multi benefits. The program is monitored by two stages one is CBO level and the second is village level branch. We have provided the seeds for the people who wish to cultivate in lands.



### 1.5. Solid Waste Management

#### Community Based Solid Waste management in China Garden - Pilot Project (2016 -2018)

With the experience of Yokohama City, CITYNET-Yokohama Project Office and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Galle City and the HELP-O have been implementing a community-based solid waste management project to achieve waste free city in Galle. The main objectives of the project are: It's a program with involves all related stakeholders in Galle City for waste management. This provided two recycling bags for perishable and nonperishable waste.

According to this project we did,

- To organize an Awareness program → School Awareness Program  
→ Community Awareness Program
- To organize the Cleaning Program
- To organize Stakeholders Meetings
- To conduct the Sticker Campaign
- To Exporting the collected Glass Waste
- To Diploid hand - cart for the village
- To Assigned the green leaders
- To Distribution of waste collection bags
- To Made a private public partnership
- To strengthen the partnership among stakeholders,
- To mobilize the community,
- To established monitoring systems.
-



**Tsunami Recovery – Waste Management through Clean – Up Galle Program**

Project Code Number – DAI 648

We along with USAID/OTI have set up a program in Galle City to find a solution for Solid Waste management in the city with the corporation of Galle Municipal Council.

Tsunami Recovery – Waste management through Clean – Up Galle program was focused on “Cleaning – Up” the Galle district and helping the local authorities and citizenry of Galle to establish systems and techniques in order to ensure their waste is disposed of in a hygienic and environmentally friendly way.

This program consists of several activities such as, Awareness raising information campaign, Training on best practices, Shramadana clean-up effort and exposition, and Distribution of garbage disposal bins within target communities and key public areas to promote concepts of waste management through reduction and sorting.

Additionally, this program is comprised of a series of planning meetings with local government authorities, community leaders in the selected locations, and private entrepreneurs in the field of reuse and recycling to formulate an action plan for sustainable implementation of the solid waste management program in Galle.

This program attempted to address both physical and psychosocial aspects with regard to Solid Waste management. Awareness programs were planned before the implementation of activities through training community mobilizing officers and house-to-house awareness.

This program has planned to implement in 5 following selected villages. Dadalla, China Fort, Kaluwalla, Galwadugoda, Thalapitiya.



Training on best practice



Shramadana clean – up effort and exposition



Distribution of garbage disposal bins



Awareness raising information campaign



### Technical validation for planned infrastructure rehabilitation

Project Number - DAIC537

This grant will fund the technical validation for repair and rehabilitation of one mosquito control unit, two community health centers and one public toilet complex in the Galle Four Gravets Division Of the Galle District, which were damaged by the 2004 Asian tsunami. This validation will provide accurate information for follow up construction and will assess the sites of the damaged infrastructure and provide a detailed plan, rated bill of quantities, material flow chart, and a time line for renovation. This activity, which was identified by citizens and local authorities as a priority need, will enable the grantee to coordinate the repair and rehabilitation of damaged public health centers and toilet complexes.

### Develop the Dharmapala Children Park and Recycling for a clean city, Galle.

Project Name – Solid waste management in Dharmapala Children Park in Galle.

This project funds donated by USAID.

Since the Municipal Council has faced garbage management, they are assisted to reduce the problem. Therefore, a mini-bio weeper is being built in the gardens for garbage collection. This is being constructed by a trained team of professionals.

In order to provide raw materials to the biogas power station, a district time was taken to find waste. Specialized lanes have introduced a method to diversify garbage. Five projects will be implemented for a sustainable operation. They reduced the garbage issue to the city to familiarize themselves with the waste in their own land. Then they were brought to the park. Then the biomass used to produce biogas

To assist to reduce garbage in the market in Galle, we built another bio-gas plant by the vegetable market and the bio-chemical garbage discarded to that bio-gas plant.

While implementing this procedure for a particular lane, Street Vendors Association also have to get together involved in the procedure to introduce them “ Garbage sort out system” and to keep the street clean. Then we would be able to take suitable garbage to bio-gas plant in the park as same as in the vegetable market.

The organic sum is used to produce fertilizer and waste paper is used to produce hand paper. The bio- gas transferred to produce electricity. The lamps of the park are lighted by the bio-gas that is produced by the plant.

The lavatory system of the park will be constructed to provide laboratory facilities. And the responsibility of maintaining the laboratory gave to Municipal Council and also HELP-O will follow- up the maintenance. These three toilets repaired and another one will be constructed.

There exists a demand for toilets in the ceremony garden in the park, where ceremonies and special programs have been taking place. Therefore, two more new standard toilets were constructed in the site.



## HELP-O PROFILE

Also we distributed some media demonstration papers in the park and out side of the park on solid waste management. This influenced people to use their garbage in an effective and efficient way.

To enhance the quality of the project, training for officers who working on this project is necessary. Therefore, we conducted a training workshop for officers with the help of a university lecture.

As our intention is to demonstrate the public on the use of garbage, we gave priority for school children and aware the procedure and effectiveness of recycling. About 10 awareness programs for 20 schools have to be conducted based on one awareness program for two schools.



We conducted the waste separate collection system in China Garden ward at Galle. For that we introduced waste separate collection bag producing by out handy bags. There had two types of bags named Organic waste bag and non – Organic waste bag. These Rice bags and can be reuse to collect waste again. It has a cover inside of the bag.

First we held an awareness program to the people of China Garden ward. We discussed how to collect the bags and to get their views. Then we found the women who living at China Garden for sewing the bags as a self-employed. We paid 50 rupees per bag to her. So we think this is a win-win situation of the project.

As the main activity of the project, we have distributed the separate waste collection bag to the community of china garden in Galle. It is a very useful thing for building the new waste collection system.

The uses of this bag are,

- People can reuse this bag
- People can put garbage according to two categories such as organic waste and inorganic waste
- Can reduce the amount of waste that dumping to the yard
- This can be also developed as a self-employment

As the first step of the new waste collection system, distributed Organic Waste Separation Bag.





**Collected and Exported Glass Waste Program in the Galle City.**

At the present, our society faced to a huge problem due to not properly waste management system. These glass wastes are helping to growth health problems. So we offered a solution to the Glass waste.



Galle Municipal Area. HELP-O able to lead the program. Community basis and Municipal basis collect glass and collect in a one place, then shift to China. Now people bring glass waste and during the past there is no proper process for glass recycling but HELP-O could bring this solution to

the Galle city. During waste sorting process there was no solution to glass but we could bring sustainable solutions for it. Not even that unrecyclable glass was one of the main reason for spreading Dengue threat but now we could solve this issue in city level.

**“Karapitiya” Hospital Solid Waste Management Program**

The Karapitiya hospital which is rendering immense service is going to a large mass of people daily and collects a large number of solid wastes. As this was a big problem, we were able to build a waste collection center to manage this solid waste management.







### Local Action to Mitigate E waste

The growing amount of E-waste is creating a major impact on the society. Although the total amount is 1-2% it has the higher potential in polluting 75% of drinking water. The Southern province environment Authority has initiated the E- waste Collection Program and the HELP-O has taken action under the CITYNET funded Community based Waste Management Project to encourage the project by providing side support in collecting E-waste and encouraging small businesses and households with potential in waste generation.

### Project Case Studies

➤ Community – based Solid Waste Management in Galle City  
(A Pilot Project in China Garden)

- They made hand – cart by their own self

Into village roads are very small also municipal council vehicle cannot travel on the roads. Also we gave the hand – cart. After few days that hand – cart getting the damage. But villagers re – made by their own self, because of that they feel this project as their project not only our project. It is a one of the measurement in the project, Because of that community people being with project.

- This project sponsored by CITYNET yokohoma. So, they wrote the news articles and published by own them self. If you can follow this link.

<http://citynet-yh.org/english/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Galle-Report.pdf>



### 'Making Galle City Plastic Free City' Project

HELP-O started this project under the supervision and guidance of the ministry of environment. This project started on 1<sup>st</sup> of June, 2022. IGES is the financial partner of the project and UNEP (United Nations Environment Program) provides technical assistance to the project.

Main Objective- Developing a resource book for educational sector, textile sector, fishery sector and hotel sector on plastic waste management.

Under the following objective, project activities were planned and started orientation Programs for the project.

### Collaborative Action for Clean City Galle

**Project Goal:** City is cleaner and the volume of plastic waste entering to the ocean is minimum.



**Project Purpose:** Enhanced and efficient Solid Waste Management system to reduce generation of plastic waste and promote recycling.

**Project Objectives:**

*Result 1:* Improved coordination among city stakeholders for participatory decision making

*Result 2:* Increased understanding of the current waste management system and 3R/SWM practices

*Result 3:* Integrated SWM Action Plan available and policy to implement the plan strengthened

*Result 4:* Components of Integrated SWM Action Plan piloted and lessons documented for replication in GMC

**Main Project Stakeholders:**

- Galle Municipal Council
- HELP-O
- “Clean Cities and Blue Ocean” Program

**Project Benefits:**

- Conducting a waste audit and assessment for the Galle Municipal Council
- Preparation of an Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan for the Galle Municipal Council
- Preparation of necessary plans to make the city of Galle a clean city without waste
- Preparation of a Stakeholder Forum for Waste Management in Galle City
- Use an Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan to solve the waste management problems within Galle Municipality area

### 1.6. Tree Planting

During the last few decades HELP-O could implement many tree planting programs. The first program implemented under UNDP SGP GEF grant and second tree planting program implemented under USAID SARI ENERGY Program. The first program implemented in 1994 and second program implemented on 2010. When HELP-O implements second program could develop city level program. It is called Make Galle Clean and Green Energy City. It was one of significant thing in HELP-O to convert organization into city level program. Under this component have conducted many awareness programs, campaigns, experience exchange programs implemented. Not even that able to construct many biogas units in city level where highly waste generate areas.





### School Program

“Our Bio Diversity is Our Life”

Amid growing concern over urban pollution in cities across Sri Lanka, there is a dire need for active based environmental education targeting young students. In response and under the auspices of City Net Yokohama, a programme to bring unique learning and lifelong environmental awareness in students between the ages of 8 –12 years was conducted over a two year period. A curriculum directed by the Yokohama based Tsurumi River Network with the close coordination of City Net civil society partners, Colombo-based Sevanatha and Galle based, HELPO, was developed and implemented for students belonging to Eco Societies and Clubs in selected schools. Approximately 160 students participated in the programme that focused on the collection of bio-diversity through field work followed by observation and discussion in the classroom. The activity based knowledge gathering process has raised deep curiosity and awareness among the participating youth and has resulted in students taking their own actions to conduct environment protection measures. For example, conducting active discussion with the community and parents about their neighborhood bio-diversity and appreciating the importance of that flora and fauna for their living. Other actions taken by students included cleaning waste in the school neighborhood, growing herbal plants in the school and also a project to develop a landscape for their school garden through the selection of native plants to protect the natural eco system.



# Human Rights Protection

## 2.1. Human Rights Awareness Raising in Galle.

Project Code Number – CLMB/2014 2015/15

This project funds donated by Australian High Commission.

The Project of Human Rights Awareness Raising in Galle has been started successfully as planned on 27th of July 2015. We started this project in steps. As the first step, we organized a discussion with the commissioner in the Prison of Galle and Prison welfare officers. We planned how to proceed with the project and create the Time Frame and manage the Budget in the first week. Then arrange all required things (Stationery, equipment, Banners & stickers, Furniture) for this Vocational Training project.

Description of major components, According to Project we started Awareness programs in the Galle area as the second step. Awareness workshops are brief fundamental human rights for the combination of prison officers, Police officers, Teachers & Pupils, the Private Sector, the Government sector and Media. Then according to the proposal opened the New Vocational Training Center under the courses named with Barbers Training: and Beauty culture, Wood crafting, Masons Training, Sewing, Shoe Making, and Aluminum Fittings. We supplied the equipment for all the training.

Under the project context, we distributed the tool kits for several released prisoners. Other tool kits were distributed end of the training. We are continuing some activities in present. They were few awareness programs, a few toolkit distributions and supervise about released prisoners' progress.



# P.P.P Social Responsible

## Tsunami Displaced Celebrate the New Year.

This particular New year Festival was held on 17<sup>th</sup> of April 2006 is specially held for the Tsunami victims. This festival mainly organised for the people who resides between Ambalangoda and Goviyapana, Help-O community groups who were affected by this Tsunami disaster. The time allocated for this new year Festival was insufficient. First of all we had to make the community aware of this. Therefore through community leaders, we made the communities aware of this and we had to exhibit the posters. Further, we had to seek the volunteer's support as well. Their assistance was essential.



Usually, the new year festival is celebrated by, Sinhalese and Tamil people but this time new year festival was for all four religions Sinhala, Tamil, Muslim, Burghar and Malay. All four



religions participated for this festival. This New Year Festival unexpectedly a massive crowd was present.

## Celebrate Posen Festival with all Religious"

HELP-O conducted Posen festival with the participation of all Nations in Sri Lanka. The vision of the program is any religious can celebrate poson festival for implementing this program every religious member involved actively. As a part of the program we conduct Buddhist carol songs with the participation all religious. Through this program, we could able to increase the mutual understanding between all nations and through this they learn how to work cooperatively. Other religions could able to get a clear idea about what this festival and its worth.



When we implement this program country needs peaceful situation but it was very hard work to do it. Our organization could able to use this program as a platform to fill this gap. As a result of the program we could able to establish a community network with the involvement of all religions and after this program people are working very friendly and peace. Every religious presets were participate to this event and they appreciate this program according to their comment this is best way to improve the peace between other nations involving children and elders like this program.



### Channel construction at Katugoda



Lack of proper formation of infrastructure plan raise many issues that face people into difficulties. People in the subjective area had been facing lots of problems due to wastewater discarding channel system in Katugoda village in the Galle district. There was no proper water flow in the channel due to several facts so the waste water which gathered from several parts of the village was steadfast for many weeks.

Therefore, people have been facing various serious problems with mosquitoes, bad smells, risk of diseases, flooding and soil erosion by the channel due to the above conditions of the water flowing. It was one of the program that implements with Galle Municipal Council and IUCN. The community also contributed to this program in a very active way. Many threat have been solved through this way able to increase the infrastructure facility of people.



### Reconstruct Project of “Dharmapala Park”

After the Tsunami disaster many assesses were destroyed the major assesses is Dharmapala Park this is the main park of the Galle Town. After destroyed the park the peoples of Galle had to face many problems. Those problems we identified and Galle Municipal Council too so we made a plan to reconstruct this beautiful park for the peoples of Galle. The USAID was helped to rebuild it. Through this program we have planned to develop the child as well as elders through this we could able to forget their bad memories which happen because of the tsunami.

## Community Development

### 4.1. Weekly Radio Program through Lakhanda “Kadathurawa”

Their initiative is fruitful to capture voice cut of the villagers to be broadcast over the “Lakhanda “ Kadathurawa program aired every Friday at 3.30 p.m to enable people of all walks of life to express their independent views about the ethnic conflicts and the peace process. Three of our trained peace care guards on a goodwill mission to Jaffna when afforded the opportunity through the voice cut of the above program express the views of the Tamil community whom they converse with the people of Jaffna irrespective of age or sex are anxious about a sustainable peace and peaceful co-existence. Our peace care guards are expected to take part in their cultural and religious activities in Jaffna and encourage the youth of Jaffna to join cultural ceremonies in the South.

Intellectuals such as clergy; Principals of schools including leaders of NGO networks through the above program appreciated the notion of HELP-O. That political party difference should be minimized for the sake of National Peace. In remote locations of Tissamaharama where either Television or National News Papers are not within the reach of the low income villagers’ radio is the most popular media of information. As the Kadathurawa program specify the most vital issue of our areas. We find this Radio Program is of paramount importance to impress the importance of the Peace Process.

### 4.2. Livelihood Development Project

Lives and properties have been sacrificed to the Indian Ocean due to recent Tsunami disaster. The livelihoods of citizens in Sri Lanka have been destroyed against their sights. Therefore, we had to go towards them to assist with their survival. Thus, HELP-O started, initially, to collect real information of affected people and property. Then, they are divided into two separate categories in order to distribute relevant benefits.

- Microbusiness
- Handicraft
- Street vendors

Then we have formed small groups including 15 maximum numbers of members in each group. And they are encouraged to save their income for sustainable development. This small savings groups will instruct to form a co-operative society called



“Micro finance & Housing co-operative Bank society”. We have distributed goods 645 people for Micro business and 400 vendors and Street vendors they have started their own business. HELP-O has been following a special procedure of distributing goods. That is to provide training programs for beneficiaries before distribute aid. Those are as follows:

### 4.3. Rehabilitation Project & Cleaning Project

In 2004 many of districts were badly affected by the Tsunami. Galle and Matara are two districts badly affected. HELP-O implemented cleanup program with the affected people and we able to rebuild their minds for a positive way and this is psychosocial program activity. Cleaning the city was very essential and necessary task that we had to undertake prior to start relief and rehabilitation programs.

We have organized a cleaning program with a large number of employees to secure the health of the people and to rehabilitate people who are affected by Tsunami. This performance was helped people to initiate their rehabilitation and assisted other organizations to work in the cleaned areas. This program was funded by USAID OTI. It was a great opportunity for affected people to have an income for their survival after the disaster as this was a “Cash for Work” project. There are about 16,000 people employed in the project.



#### Awareness program on,

- Marketing Strategies
- Book keeping and managing their day to day finances
- Invention of new products
- Savings System
- Expand the business
- Marketing of sales items and presentation
- How to get loans and repay them?

People will receive tool kit to restart their livelihood only after successfully completing those trainings. Another special procedure that HELP-O undertake is “follows up” after donation. 50% of the values people have received for their livelihood have to be repaid to the small savings group





that we have formed. They will be able to take loans for their livelihood development or housing necessary.



We also involved forming Street vendors Association in Galle city and distributing tool kits for them to develop their businesses. Street vendors Association have been conducting weekly meetings in their business place to discuss their issues and needs. HELP-O also assists to conduct an exhibition in order to introduce International Market for everyone who receives aid from HELP-O.

We are seeking to expand this program for other districts too. Handicraft makers who benefited by livelihood projects is being instructed to form the "Handicraft Association". Local and International buyers are capable of ordering crafts through this Association, so that they can ensure the quality of the products.

### 4.4. Fisheries Project for Livelihood Development

The people living in coastal area were the seriously affected community by the Tsunami disaster on 26<sup>th</sup> of December 2004. It is about 60% of them subjected to fisheries. Their one and only source of living was destroyed. Their Land, resident and properties were destroyed and also some of valuable lives of family members. Despite all of these, the loss of their source of income and insistence of lives were directed to raise a numerous issue on break downing their mentality. Having observed all those issues that fishermen faced, British High Commission and HELP-O started a process to assist fisheries to enhance their development.

#### ➤ Bicycles Donation

The fish sellers affected due to tsunami had no way to start their business. Therefore, we decided to distribute 100 bicycles with tools and fish selling box.

#### ➤ Boats Donation

We have distributed 25 boats with nets in order to assist fishermen, who were affected by the tsunami disaster, in order to initiate their source of income.

#### **Objectives of the project**

01. Strengthen the fisheries community
02. Assist to rehabilitate several families instead of rehabilitating one family
03. Strengthen them to successfully face disasters





### 4.5. Housing Project for Upgrade the Living Conditions

We have been constructing about 29 new houses in Galle district for homeless families who have affected due to the tsunami disaster. We are oriented the affected people who don't have land or property ownership. Government and Some Non-Government Organizations have been providing houses for some affected people. Nonresidential house owners, whose houses were destroyed, will receive houses. But people, who didn't have their own land and destroyed their rented house by the disaster, will not receive houses.

Therefore, we hope to assist that homeless people by providing them house and the land. The land also will be given to the beneficiaries on loan basis. The value of the land will be used as the revolving fund in the community through savings group. The funds of the land will be used in the future among saving groups that we have formed, for providing housing loan.

Japanese Housing Association, ACHR also assists to purchase a land. This land will be used to construct about 29 houses. These 29 houses will be constructed by HELP-O with the sponsorship of ANPAS.

Extent of the land.....131.40 perches  
No of Houses.....29  
No of families.....35

Plan, estimates and design of houses would prepare with the beneficiaries. The construction is taking place under the supervision of HELP-O. Only labors are contracted, raw materials have been providing to the site. There are some spaces to construct more houses.



### 4.6. Sanitary Project for Better Life



Most of infrastructural facilities in Galle district have destroyed by Tsunami disaster. Roads, Channels, Water supply, Electricity & many other common needs were demanded for people. The main issue that arises through all of these is the difficulties of providing water and sanitary facilities. Therefore we have been implementing projects to facilitate these necessities. This was an integrated effort for providing the best sanitation facilities for the grass root level community.



No of Toilets.....300 (ANPAS)  
No of Toilets..... 33 (ACHR) complete  
No of toilets.....08 (Japanese Housing Association) No  
of common well.....18 (ANPAS)  
No of Tube well.....46 (ANPAS)



More than 200 toilets have been constructed in Tsunami affected areas. Construction would take place on an installment payment basis. Many of this Toilets constructed in tsunami-affected areas and some of them in Housing Scheme.

As people couldn't find pure water in many Villages, we wish to construct Common Wells and Tube Wells in particular Communities. The Sanitary facilities for private use have been providing on half loan basis. This is just to train people to make familiar with savings. Any of these payments will not be granted to HELP-O; these grants will be the capital and property of people.

### 4.7. Micro Finance Program for Community Empowerment

HELP-O's microfinance unit issues small loans to the rural poor who cannot qualify for traditional banking credit. Micro-finance is often seen as the only way they can establish a business and lift themselves out of poverty. In 2006, we received two loans from Norwegian NGO, The Stromme Foundation, totaling 12.2 Million rupees. As a result of this, we have issued loans to 884 individuals this year and our default rate is less than 1% so far.

To be eligible for a micro-finance loan from HELP-O, individuals must be members of a small community saving group, part of the Housing and Livelihood People's Company, set up by us. The individual applying for the loan needs to be certified by other members of the small savings group who act as guarantors if the individual fails to repay the loan. They then undergo a needs assessment to determine the financial risk associated with the loan. Loans are issued in amounts of 5,000, 10,000, 15,000, 20,000 and 25,000 rupees to the villagers and are generally used to buy equipment or raw materials for their business. If someone defaults on the loan, everyone in the savings group is responsible. The microfinance project has been implemented in Matara and Weligama and is run through the HLDPC.

Alongside the loans, the Stromme Foundation provides funding for resource officers to assess the financial status of an applicant. They fund workshops to build up the skills and capacity of HELP-O staff in areas such as office management, technical aspects of micro-finance and project reporting and writing.



# Local Governance

## 5.1. 'Right to Voice' Project

'Right to Voice' Project is very important for community development in Sri Lanka. But this project is developed to increase public participation in Local Government authorities. Project team selected 10 local government authorities as a sample for the project.

Project Objectives-

- To establish a broad-based inclusive campaign to bring in participation, transparency and accountability to public decision making processes in local authorities.
- To establish 20 local level watchdog forums to demand transparency and accountability from local governance.

Following successful outputs were gained by the HELPO using this project.

- Established 5000 active citizen groups in Galle district to observe the local governance process while promoting civil society participation.
- Printed 1,500 orientation manuals
- Conducted Orientation workshops
- Established a "Right to Voice" 100 people's campaign task force groups for development planning and public budgeting at LA level.
- Printed 1000 monitoring tools for two task force groups
- Conducted 02 training programs on monitoring tools and manuals
- Conducted 32 Input sharing sessions
- Conducted 16 Public hearings
- E-Sabha Mobile APP
- Broadcast 15 Radio Programs





# SNAPSHOT OF THE PROJECT

**Pocket Meeting for identifying watch dog groups- 15**  
**LA 10 + Youth 02 + Senior Citizens 01 + Women 01+ Disable Community 01**  
**Total Participation - 750**







**Orientation Meeting to introduce the project- 32**  
**LA 10 + Media Personals 01 + NGOs 01 + Community Development Officers 01+ Pre School-Teachers 01 + Senior Citizens 01 + Fisheries Sectors 01 + Youth 01 + Women Councilors 01 + GMC 01 + Samaja Wimarshaka 01 + Mobile App Training 10**  
**Total Participation – 1,600**



**Watchdog Forum & Training Sessions – 02**  
 (Training on Community Participation in Local Governance, Participative Budgeting, Local Governance Law, and Participatory Development Planning)  
**Youth 02 + Senior Citizens 01 + Women 01+ Disable Community 01 + Fisheries/Plantation Sector 01 + Leadership 02 + Sinhala 01 + Muslim 01 + Tamil 01**  
**Total Watchdogs - 125**





**Input sharing sessions for the preparation of Integrated Development Plans - 34**  
**LA 25 + Women 08**  
**Total Participation – 1,800**



**Public Hearing for identifying development issues - 16**  
**LA 25 + Women 08**  
**Total Participation – 1,800**



**Radio Programs to meet public representatives and officials with community - 15**  
**LA 10 + Watch dog 01 + Women 01 + Disable Community 01 + SDGs 01 + Youth 01**



**E Sabha Mobile App to report development issues For LA 10**





**E-Sabha Mobile Application**  
to report development issues to the local authority in a flash

**YOUR COUNCIL IS IN YOUR FINGER TIPS**

Now you can send your public issue within your area to the councils in a flash

To register visit by your mobile and download eSabha App

Then input your personal information

Now you can visit the app and send your problem with related photos

Your issue will direct to the council within seconds

The Council will responsible to giving solution to your issue

For technical support - 091 22 30 818/ 077 37 37 824

Implementation by - Department of Local Government  
Sponsored by - Help-O Right to Voice Project

Total	In progress	Completed	New
64	42	22	1

Click Type to make a complain

- Street lamp malfunction
- Unsafe trees in the roadside
- Unauthorized constructions
- Unauthorized street sellers
- Garbage disposal on roadside
- Disposing drainage water on roadside





# HELP-O PROFILE

