

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2023



HELPO

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SRI LANKA

EDITORIAL

HELP-O is a Non-Government Organization (NGO) established in 1992 by a team of professionals with commitment to make Sri Lanka a better, happier place to live in harmony with the nature.

HELP-O has the following vision:

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

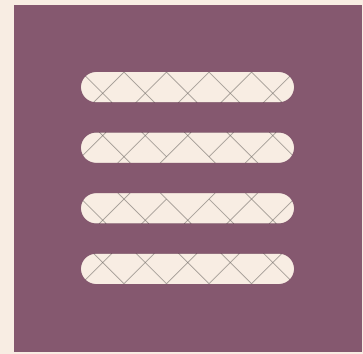
Its mission is **“To identify the need of risks confronted by Sri Lankan communities and implement effective solutions through proven integrated approaches with the participation of stakeholders”.**

The five strategies HELP-O adopts in achieving its mission include, empowering the marginalized community socially and economically, accepting the importance of community participation and leadership, dedicating for protect the environment through an integrated process, protecting the human right and justice, and ensuring sustainable development.

Mission related programs and projects launched by HELP-O focuses on the following spheres. They are Community empowerment, rehabilitation and relief assistance, Protecting human rights, Community participation in local governance, Community financing, Livelihood development, Economic resource mobilization, Nurturing biodiversity, Mitigating the impact of climate change, Pollution prevention, Waste management and Optimal utilization of marine resources Optimal utilization of forest products

Overall, HELP-O is an organization dedicated to bring about a sustainable positive impact on the environment and the lives of people in Sri Lanka through a series of interdependent activities.

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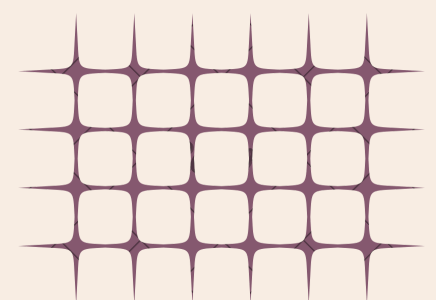
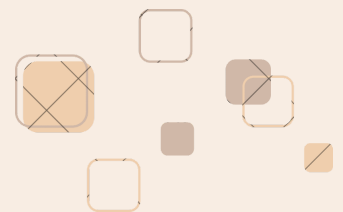
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WASTE MANAGEMENT

MOTHER EARTH NEEDS YOUR HELP



CONSULTATION SESSIONS TO DEVELOP INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN UNDER THE CACG PROJECT

Two (02) consultation sessions need to be organized with (1) GMC councilors and officials, (2) community leaders with inputs from the project team under CACG project. The first consultation session was organized for the community leaders to review and improve the draft Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan (ISWMAP) -GMC as per the National Action Plans on Plastic Waste Management and MSWM in Sri Lanka with the participation of GMC-level key stakeholder representatives on 6th of July 2023.

Second consultation session was organized for city stakeholders to review and improve the draft Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan on 07th of July 2023. The below goals were considered in the two consultation sessions,

- The decision-making process associated with the establishment of a waste management or 3R practice and it should be fully and clearly communicated to the community and stakeholders to enable their understanding.
- The consultation process adopted should enable easy public participation.
- The process of the preparing ISWMAP should be clearly inform the stakeholders and community of what the proponent has done, is doing, plans to do, and what it cannot do and why.
- The process should demonstrate and maintain credibility with all stakeholders and interest groups.

The first consultation session was conducted to assist the process of community consultation and participation in the planning, development and operation of waste management and recycling facilities. Public consultation is an integral part of the decision-making process for the establishment of waste management and recycling facilities.

The first consultation session was conducted to assist the process of community consultation and participation in the planning, development and operation of waste management and recycling facilities. Public consultation is an integral part of the decision-making process for the establishment of waste management and recycling facilities. This information should be used as a tool by planners, developers, consultants and government authorities, when considering the siting of waste management and recycling facilities and during the operation of those facilities. CACG project will be used these details to develop draft ISWMAP of Galle. The community participants represented different community groups as follows, Bombe Castle, Mohideenwatta, Katugoda housing scheme, waste aggregators in Galle, Thalapitiya, and religious leaders.

The second consultation session was conducted with the city stakeholders as an essential part of the assessment process for the establishment of waste management and 3R practices. The city stakeholders joined from the GMC, Hospitals, Fisheries Harbour, Department of Irrigation, Private companies (INSEE Cement), Central Environmental Authority, Local Government Department, Navy, Army, and other main city stakeholders in the city.



The two consultation sessions were conducted under the main topics of waste management to incorporate with the ISWMAP. 3R waste management practices (Reuse, Reduce and Recycle), Attitude/behavior change, funds and investment for waste management, improvements for current waste management system and waste management practices in household level were discussed to get suggestions to ISWMAP.

Written By - Thakshala Witharanage







FORMATION OF SWM PILOT GROUPS IN SELECTED COMMUNITY HOTSPOTS - CACG PROJECT

In a resounding call for sustainable waste management, three community meetings took place at Mohideen Watta, 70 Houses Scheme in Katugoda (Salamiya Watta), and Bombe Castle Watta (Selected hotspots). These gatherings, aimed to address the pressing waste management challenges faced by each locality. Empowering community members and instilling a sense of environmental responsibility lay at the heart of these initiatives.

Mohidheen Watta

In a significant step towards sustainable waste management, an initial meeting took place at Mohideenwatta's Community Hall on the 17th of July 2023. The meeting aimed to introduce the ongoing waste management project and discuss the formation of action groups within hotspots.

The meeting commenced with a comprehensive introduction to the waste management project presented by Mr. Buddhika. Then, Mr. Alfiya, a respected Muslim religious leader, shared valuable insights during the meeting. He emphasized the need for effective waste management in the community.

To ensure efficient implementation of the waste management project, an action group was appointed with Mrs. Sirasa, the president of the community-based organization (CBO). The action group included dedicated individuals from the community. Then, Mr. Sawmar, the Community Development officer, delivered his speech. He explained the importance of waste management and introduced the CACG project.

The meeting concluded with a heartfelt thank-you speech by Mrs. Sirasa, expressing gratitude to all attendees for their commitment to the project.

Bombe Castle Watta

On the 19th of July 2023, a determined community gathered at Bombe Castle Watta to embark on a mission towards sustainable waste management. The meeting aimed to address the pressing waste management challenges faced by the area. The meeting was led by community coordinator Mr. Buddhika, the participants, including Mr. Faizal, the community development officer, and Mr. Chathura Welivitiya, Chairman of Help-O, engaged in constructive discussions to identify solutions for efficient waste management.



70 houses scheme, katugoda (Salamiya Watta)

Another community meeting was held at 70 Houses Scheme, Katugoda, on the 25th of July 2023. The meeting was led by Mr. Buddhika, the Community Coordinator from HELP-O, the meeting aimed to outline the objectives of the project and establish an action group for waste management in Salamiya Watta.

Mr. Chathura, Chairman of the HELP-O, took the stage and commenced by introducing the five selected hotspots for the project, including Salamiya Watta. He encouraged the community to share their challenges, and valuable insights poured forth from the residents. Then, Mr. Faizal, the Community Development Officer, addressed the community members, sharing insights into the project. After that, an action group was appointed to spearhead the waste management initiative. Under the leadership of Mr. Kamal Deen as President and Mrs. M.H.F. Mahidhiya as Secretary, the group included enthusiastic members dedicated to effecting change in their community.

Finally, the program concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from the newly appointed Secretary, Mrs. M.H.F. Mahidhiya. The event was a testament to the community's commitment to driving positive change and embracing eco-friendly practices.



FANSA Regional Team Visit to Galle

During the session, the FANSA team, led by Mr. Kabeer, highlighted several key points related to their project and the role they play in improving water and sanitation status in the Galle Municipal Council (GMC) area in Sri Lanka. These points included:

-Platform Creation: The FANSA team has established a platform to address and improve the sanitation status in the Galle Municipal Council area. This platform likely involves various stakeholders, including government authorities, community representatives, and organizations working in the water and sanitation sector.

-Importance of Safe Sanitation: The team emphasized the significance of maintaining safe sanitation practices in the GMC area. Safe sanitation is crucial for promoting public health, preventing waterborne diseases, and ensuring the well-being of the community.

SWell-Maintained Sanitation System: The FANA team expressed their commitment to assist in creating a well-maintained and systematic sanitation process within the municipal council area. This likely involves providing technical expertise, consultation, and support to improve existing sanitation infrastructure and practices.



-As a coordination partner of FANSA on behalf of Sri Lanka, CEJ (Conservation and Environment Justice) presumably plays a crucial role in collaborating with the FANSA team and the GMC to facilitate the successful implementation of the project. Mr. Indika Rajapaksha, who briefly explained the objective of the session with the municipal council, represents CEJ's role and its coordination efforts.

Advocacy Role: FANSA aims to function as an advocacy team, addressing issues such as the misallocation of funding by the central government for sanitation-related activities. They can work towards ensuring that allocated funds are utilized appropriately for improving water and sanitation conditions in the Galle Municipal Council area.

Supporting Marginalized Groups: FANSA is committed to providing support to marginalized groups through Help-O, likely a specific program or initiative. This support could go beyond hardware (physical infrastructure) and address the need for improved attitudes towards sanitation and hygiene practices within these communities.

Stakeholder Forum: To arrange a session that involves all relevant stakeholders. This forum would serve as a platform to bring together various parties, including government authorities (Urban Development Authority, Central Environment Authority, Water Board), community representatives, NGOs, and other organizations working on sanitation-related issues. This collaborative approach can help identify common goals and plan coordinated actions.

Fecal Sludge Analysis and Investment Plan: FANSA recommends analyzing the existing situation of fecal sludge management. This assessment will provide valuable insights into the current challenges and gaps in the sanitation system. Based on the analysis, FANSA can advocate for the creation of an investment plan focused on addressing specific sanitation needs and improving fecal sludge management.



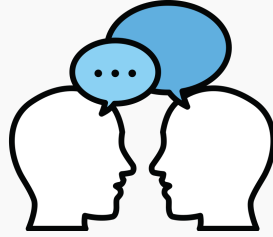
Beyond Treatment Plants: The team suggests thinking beyond treatment plants as a solution. One approach they propose is to establish community pits for households. When these pits become full, gully bowzers (vacuum trucks) can be arranged to remove the waste properly. This decentralized approach may be more sustainable and efficient than relying solely on a centralized treatment plant, especially in areas where such infrastructure is lacking.

Overall, FANSA's approach emphasizes advocacy, collaboration, and innovative solutions to address the sanitation challenges faced by the Galle Municipal Council. By involving various stakeholders and focusing on both physical infrastructure and community engagement, they aim to make a positive impact on water and sanitation conditions in the region.



Written By - Hansi Sandu Tharakla

The expression of gratitude from the Municipal Commissioner marks the conclusion of the discussion and reflects the appreciation for the efforts made by the FANSA team and HELP-O as an implementation partner in organizing and conducting the session. By showing gratitude, the Municipal Commissioner signals their willingness to work together with the FANSA team and HELP-O in the future.



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**SDG 6 ඔ අදාය තෙර්කාසියාවලී සිවිල සමුක
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**Strengthening Civil Society Network in
South Asia to achieve SDG 6**



HELP-O (Human and Environment Link Progressive Organization)

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NATIONAL

NEWSPAPER

ARTICLES

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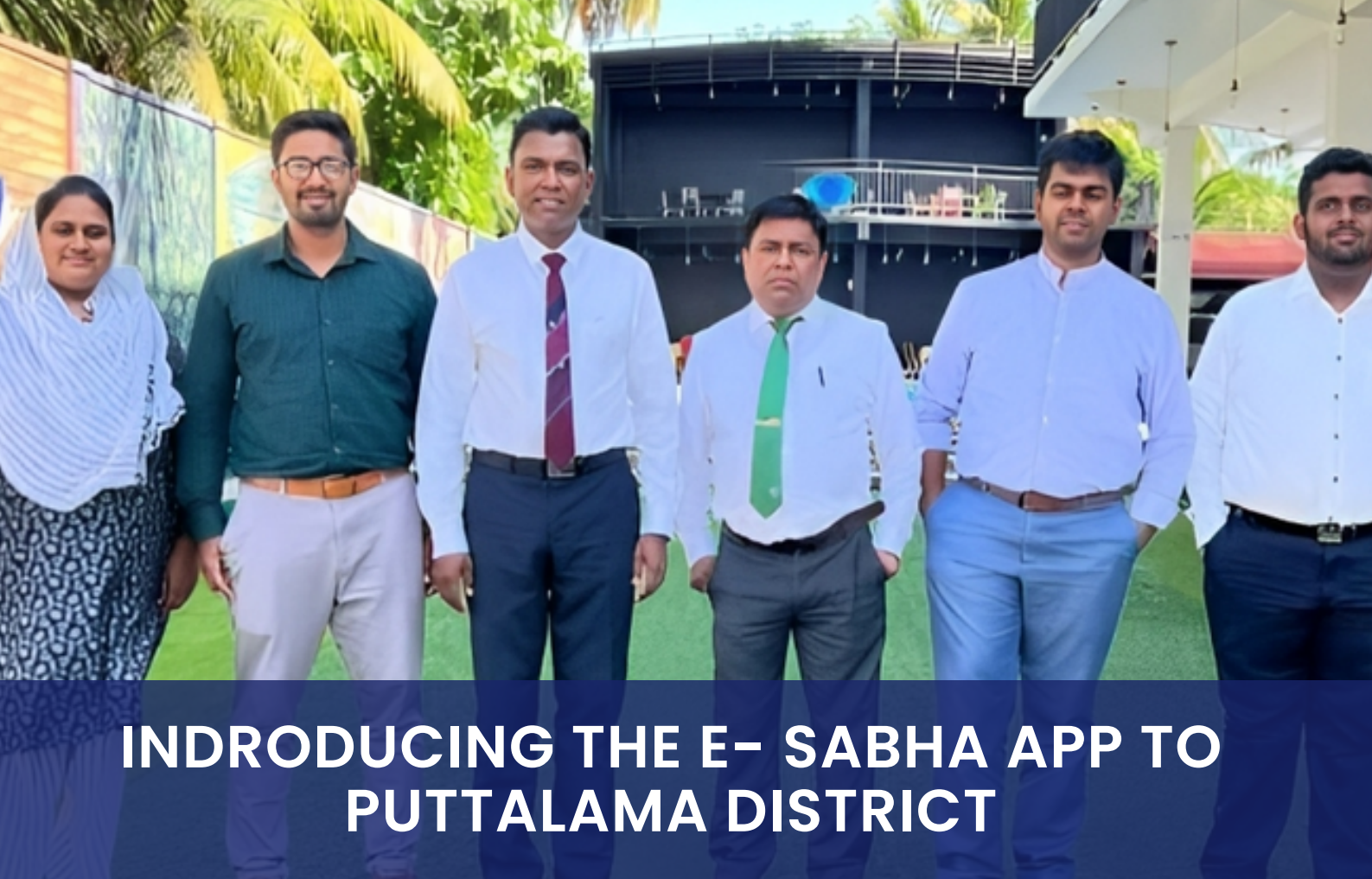
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Diwana 2023.07.25



LOCAL GOVERNANCE





INDRODUCING THE E- SABHA APP TO PUTTALAMA DISTRICT



Mr. Senaka Palliyaguruge (Former Commissioner of Local Government, Land Commissioner of Southern Province) , Mr. Chathura Welivitiya (Chairman of HELP-O), Mr. Sahan Boadaragama (Director-AKWASOFT), Mr. Lahiru Maduranga (Project Coordinator) were participated for the intial training program of E-Sabha application as resource persons.



It was held on 27th of July, 2023 in Aurora Hotel, Puttalam. Selected E-SABHA Admins, Secretaries of LA and Community Development Officers were participated for this program. Mr. Sahan conducted the training session.

HELP-O and AKWASOFT collaboratively introduced e-Sabha application to Puttalam district with the financial support of Crysalis. It was introduced to 4 local government authorities in Puttalam district. Puttalam Pradeshiya Sabha, Kalpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha, Arachchikattuwa Pradeshiya Sabha and Chilaw Urban Council were selected as model local government authorities for this application in Puttalam district.



Written By - Lahiru Udumalagala





E-SABHA



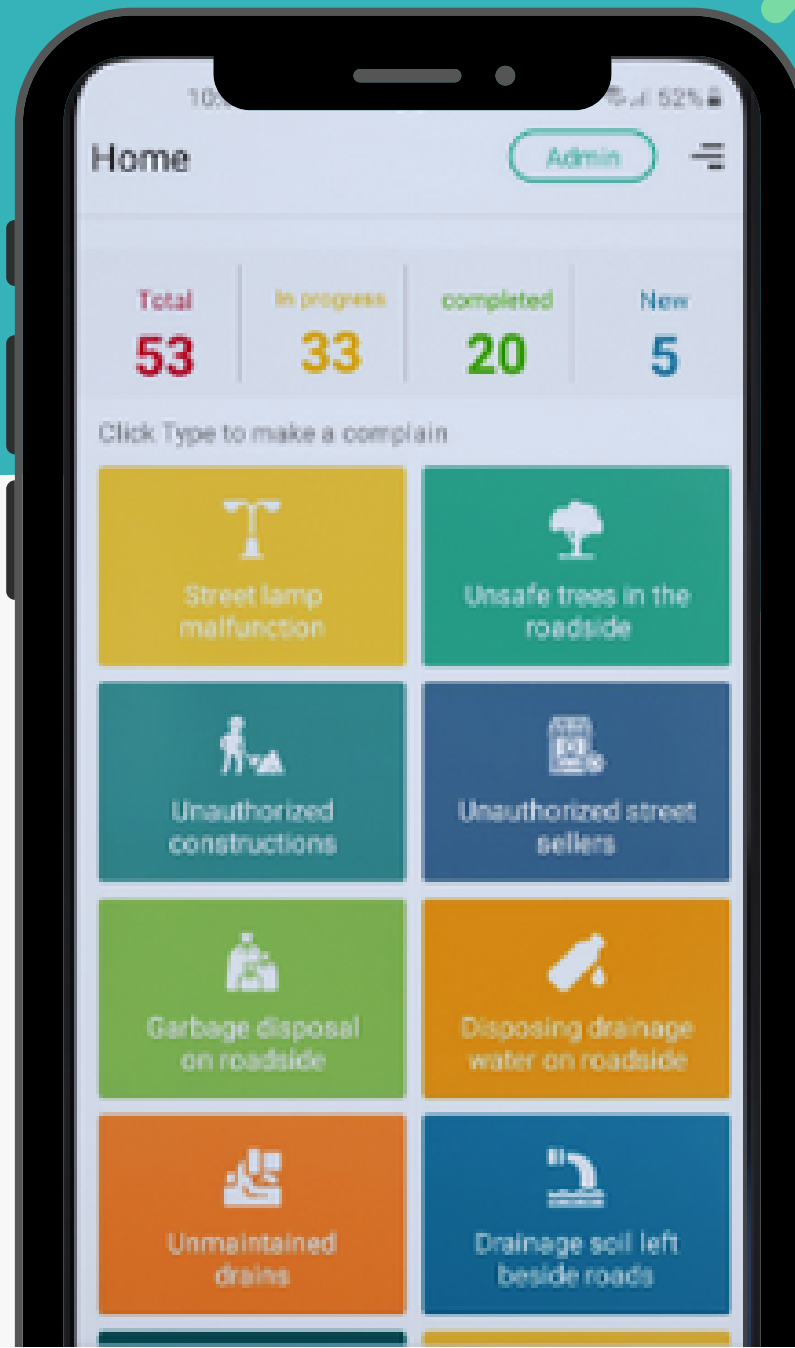
With feedback from our stakeholders, further improvements were made to the e-Sabha mobile app.

Now you can go to play store and update e-sabha mobile app.

Now you can enjoy the new experience.



Google Play



AWARENESS PROGRAM AT SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE IN GALLE ABOUT BIOGAS SYSTEM



Help O Eco Green Ltd is involved in different environmental activities to generate income by ensuring the company is Eco friendly. Among them, Biogas production is a great example to prove it.

Today we are facing problems with producing power and energy for the day today life, and disposal of waste. Therefore, the organization come up with new concept to set up with miracleof organic waste, which will provide biogas, electricityand bio-fertilizer by utilizing organic waste. The biogas can be used directly for lighting and cooking purposes and bio-fertilizer can use for gardening and cultivation.

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With the many benefits of Biogas, HELPO ECO GAS SOLUTIONS concept was created. Biogas is a renewable energy source that is produced through raw materials like agricultural waste, Kitchen waste, and sewage without polythene and plastic

On last 13th of July, Help O Eco Green Ltd planned an awareness program at SOS Children's Village to inspect the Biogas Plant & consult about the maintenance of the plant.

For that program, the director Mr.Hettige and staff members of SOS, children in secondary education & Help O Eco Green Ltd staff members participated. At the awareness program, Mr.Chathura Welivitiya has explained more about the Sustainable environment. He highlighted that everything we were considered as waste, is renewable sources. Further, he gives the knowledge of how the process in the Biogas plant and how it is useful in daily life.

Lastly, the program has given me the chance to visit the Biogas unit. Throughout the way, Mr.Chathura Welivitiya has proven its effectiveness by burning the cooker.

Written By - Pathum Maheshi



Explaining the function of manometer



PLITTER CCTV

Rivers are one of the major pathways of plastic debris into the ocean. These plastics in the rivers may dispose through direct dumping into the river flow, catalysed by the rain and exacerbated by the flooding events.

For the estimation and flux monitoring of floating plastic in the river, it requires stationary cameras for continuous image capturing at location with recording evidence of floating plastics.

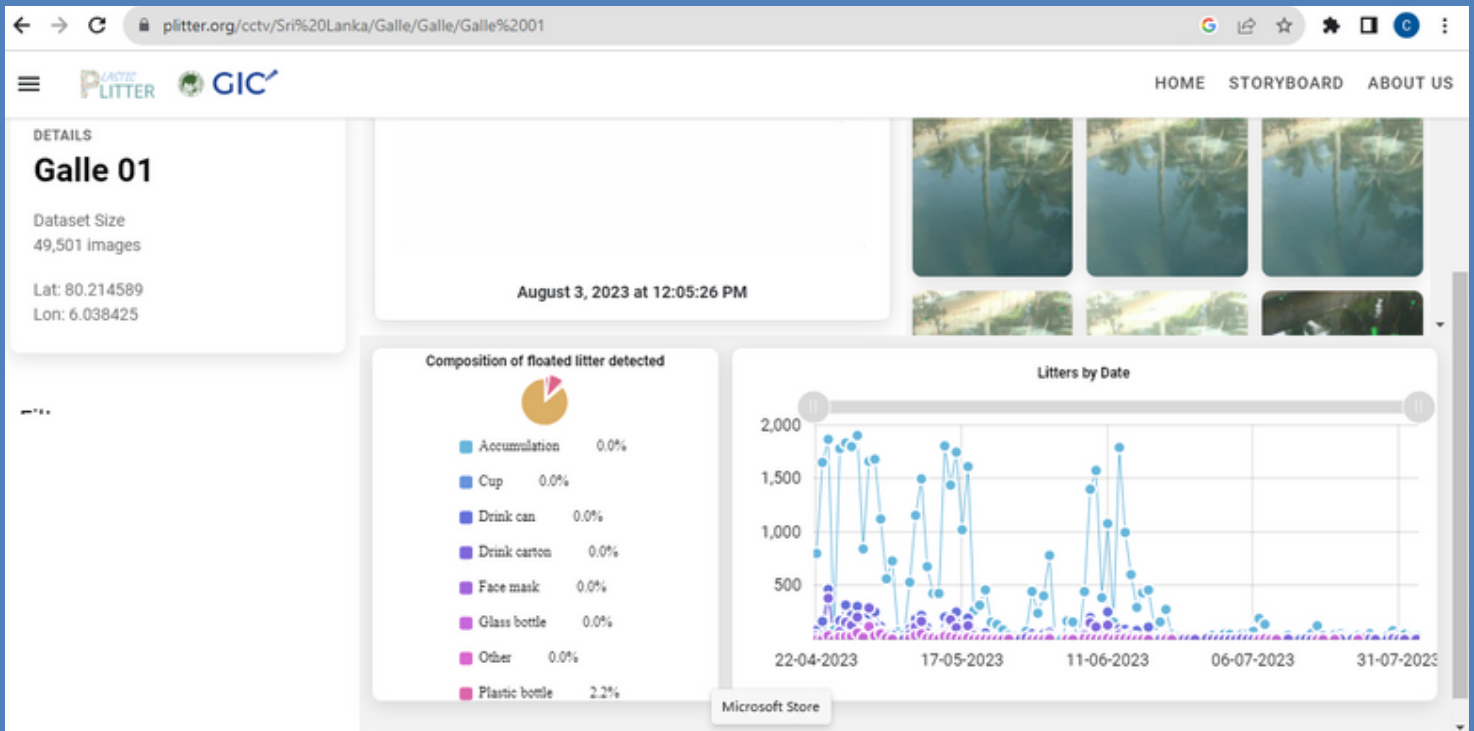
We installed multiple cameras on the Mekong River near the golden triangle in Chiang Rai of Thailand and our cameras are in continuous function from November 2021 to till date. The advantage of our cameras is AI enabled to automatically detect the floating plastics and low cost.

P Litter Plastic Detection Galle So Far [April 22 - July 30]

Plastic	- 357417
Plastic Bottles	- 9223
Straws	- 40801
Trash Bag	- 1063
Styrofoam	- 5518



We can get a detail analysis through www.plitter.org website.



VOLUNTEERS OF HELP-O



Bryan Habimana

I am Bryan, a student from the University of Antwerp (Belgium). I had the wonderful opportunity to be able to work together with the Help-O organization in Sri Lanka for 1-5 months. During my stay here we were focusing primarily on waste management. On this topic my Help-O co-workers explained to me the usual procedures the local governments take and at the same time I also explained, from my knowledge what the usual procedures in Belgium are and if there are any differences between them. Sharing our knowledge about the same topic and how it can differ from different cultures was really interesting and insightful, it made me learn a lot. After learning about the country and its procedures I was expected to come up with some type of sustainable project proposal in order to improve the situation in the Galle district. Eventually we decided to start up a crowdfunding so that the organization can receive funds that they can use to realize future projects.



Kouters Daan

My name is Daan Kouters and I am a 24 year old student from the Netherlands. Currently I participate in the Eco city project from AIESEC as a global volunteer. During this project, I work together with HELP O, to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable communities & lifestyles. So far, I thoroughly enjoy working together with HELP O on a variety of topics. For example, I analyze waste management practices in the Galle fort area, which is really interesting. In addition to this, I also help with other activities, such as providing football and english classes in the surrounding area. All in all, it is a very valuable experience for me to do this volunteering work together with HELP O.



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COMING SOON

AUGUST 2023