HELP-O SRI LANKA



AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2 0 2 3

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EDITORIAL

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

HELP-O has the following vision: "Equitable Economic Development, Social Justice, and a 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 human rights and justice, and ensuring sustainable development.

Mission related programs and projects launched by HELP-O focus on the following spheres:

They are Community empowerment, rehabilitation, relief assistance, and 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 and optimal utilization of forest products.91

Overall, HELP-O is an organization dedicated to bringing 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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WASTE MANAGEMENT

THE GAPS AND PROBLEMS IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP KATUGODA. SALAMIYA WATTA COMMUNITY



The gaps and Problems identification workshop was conducted with the Katugoda, Salamiya Wata community under the CACG project which is funded by CCBO, USAID grant on the 09th of August 2023 at Hasara Hotel.

The Gaps and Problems identification workshop was organized for the action group of the Katugoda, SalamiyaWatta, and waste supervisors of GMC in the Katugoda area to identify current practices of 3R/SWM and existing gaps/problems (e.g. resources, knowledge, attitudes, and lack of connection with GMC and other stakeholders) of the Katugoda-SalamiyaWatta.

The Gaps and Problems identification workshop was the initial step for the preparation of an Action Plan in communities with the action group of selected settlements.



Reasons:

Difficulties in the disposal of waste because of limited space, Waste collecting vehicles are not collecting unseparated waste., Lack of knowledge regarding waste management, Waste disposal from the Makuluwa area to the canal, and Lack of communication between GMC and the community. (Example: Waste collecting time and days), Accessibility issues. (Wastecollecting vehicles cannot access the crossroad in the community), Issues related to waste aggregators in the community. (Example: disposal of residual waste and waste burning).

Challenges:

The community does not have the resources (Financial) to repair the culvert, There is no system to send our issues to responsible authorities, Some community members do not like to follow the guidelines, Lack of knowledge on waste management, All houses have limited spaces.

Written By - Thakshala Witharanage



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THE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP KATUGODA, SALAMIYA WATA COMMUNITY



The Action Plan Development workshop was conducted with the Katugoda, Salamiya Wata community under the CACG project which is funded by CCBO, USAID grant on the 17th of August 2023 at Hasara Hotel.

The Action Plan Development workshop was conducted with the Katugoda, Salamiya Watta community under the CACG project which workshop was organized for the action group of the Katugoda, Salamiya Watta, and waste supervisors of GMC in the Katugoda area to develop an action plan with the identified waste problems under current practices of 3R/SWM of the settlement.

The workshop identified the solutions and responsibilities for selected waste problems in the community. Pilot Programs include activities that help to minimize the generation of plastic waste, strengthen the waste value chain by linking informal waste collectors with plastic recyclers, efficiently manage the collection and segregation, and establish the link with GMC ISWMAP.

The following solutions were identified under the selected problems as long-term and short-term solutions.

Conduct awareness and training programs for community members, establish an awareness board near drainages, enforce regulations for illegal dumpers, inform waste collection time and date to the community, establish a community compost bin in the settlement, and Use cart to collect waste in the settlement. Organize a Shramadhana campaign to clean the culvert and drainages, and distribute 02 labeled (with house number) baskets to segregate waste properly.

Written By - Thakshala Witharanage

GAP IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP FOR MOHODEEN WATTA

HELP-O organized a gap identificatuon workshop for modern waththa on the 10th of August at the Aradhana Hotel.

This workshop was conducted under the CACG project, a communitydriven initiative funded by the CCBO (Clean Cities Blue Ocean), USAID grant. The objective of the workshop was to identify gaps and problems in the current waste management practices within the Mohodeen Waththa community, and it served as the first step in crafting an Action Plan to address these issues.

The workshop brought together members of the Mohodeen Waththa action group and waste supervisors from the GMC in the area. The focus of the workshop was on comprehensively assessing the state of 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and SWM (Solid Waste Management) practices within the community. The identification of existing gaps and problems, ranging from resource limitations and knowledge gaps to attitudinal challenges and a lack of collaboration with stakeholders like GMC, was a critical aspect of the workshop's agenda.





Lack of Individual Waste Segregation Knowledge: A significant knowledge gap was identified when it came to the proper segregation of waste at the individual level. .

Outsiders Dumping Waste: The workshop uncovered a concerning trend of outsiders unlawfully dumping waste into local drainages. This not only contributed to environmental pollution but also led to drainage blockages.

GMC Waste Collection Challenges: Due to a crossroad issue, the GMC waste collection vehicles were unable to access the settlement. This hurdle impacted the regular removal of waste.

Drainage and Latrine Problems: The community faced problems related to drainage, which were exacerbated by improper waste disposal. Additionally, issues in latrine facilities were identified, hinting at potential sanitation challenges.

Illegal Burning: Another alarming revelation was the practice of illegal open burning of waste within the community. This led to air pollution and posed significant health hazards.



The workshop did not merely stop at identifying gaps and problems; it delved deeper to understand the reasons and challenges underlying these issues:

Improper Waste Disposal: Residents discarding household waste and nonbiodegradable items into drains and roadsides aggravated waste management problems.

ncineration of Non-Biodegradable Waste: The incineration of nonbiodegradable waste, often combined with polythene plastic, resulted in toxic emissions and environmental damage.

Improper Green Waste Disposal: The disposal of cut branches, tree trunks, and even electronic waste into drains and roadsides further added to the waste accumulation woes.

Lack of Garbage Sorting: The failure to sort garbage properly at the source significantly hampered effective waste management efforts.





The workshop marked a crucial turning point for the Mohodeen Waththa community. With the identified gaps, problems, and their underlying causes in mind, the community can now begin the of process formulating a comprehensive Action Plan. This plan will lay the foundation for sustainable waste management practices, community education, improved waste collection infrastructure, and collaboration with relevant stakeholders like GMC. The ultimate goal is to create a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable living environment for all residents of Mohodeen Waththa

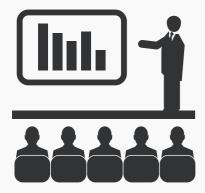
Oln the grand scheme of the CCBO project funded by the USAID grant, this workshop stands as a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives in bringing about positive change. As Mohodeen Waththa takes its first steps towards a more sustainable future, the lessons learned and the actions taken can serve as an inspiration for other communities to embark on their own journeys towards better waste management practices and a cleaner environment.





Written By - Lahiru Udumalagala







THE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP – MOHODEEN WATTA



The solid Waste Managment Action Plan of the Mohodeenwaththa waste management hotspot was drafted on the 29th of August 2023 at Aradhana hotel with the participation of all stakeholders.

This workshop was organized under the Community Action for Clean City of Galle (CACG) project, which receives funding from the CCBO (Clean Cities Blue Ocean Program) of USAID grant.

This event brought together the Mohodeen Watta action group and waste supervisors from the GMC to develop a comprehensive action plan aimed at tackling the identified waste challenges inherent to the community's current 3R/SWM (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle/Solid Waste Management) practices.



Identifying the Problem

The Mohodeen Watta community faces various waste-related challenges that necessitated a collective effort to find sustainable solutions. These challenges encompassed issues such as waste generation, improper disposal, and the lack of efficient waste collection and segregation. Additionally, the community identified the need to establish a stronger connection with the GMC Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan (ISWMAP).

Solutions at a Glance

During the workshop, a multifaceted approach was employed to identify both short-term and long-term solutions to these waste-related problems. These solutions are geared toward creating a more sustainable and environmentally friendly waste management system within the community.

essential Awareness Programs: An component of any successful waste management strategy is educating the community. The workshop highlighted the importance of conducting awareness programs targeted at both residents and local business owners. By enhancing awareness, the community aims to reduce waste generation and promote responsible disposal. Furthermore, these waste programs will inform the community about the detrimental effects of incinerating nondegradable waste and encourage them to avoid such practices.

Engaging the Community: Community involvement is crucial. One of the identified solutions is to actively involve the community in reporting waste-related issues to the GMC. Encouraging residents to report problems as complaints will enable faster response times and better waste management outcomes.

Strengthening the Waste Value Chain: To foster a sustainable waste management ecosystem, the Mohodeen Watta community plans to strengthen the waste value chain. This will involve connecting informal waste collectors with plastic recyclers, ensuring that waste materials are efficiently managed from collection to recycling.

Innovative Agricultural Practices: As part of their long-term strategy, the community plans to reduce waste by using pots for agriculture activities. This sustainable approach not only minimizes waste but also has the potential to generate additional income for the community.

Collaborative Efforts with GMC: Establishing a strong link with the Greater Mohodeen Watta Corporation's Integrated Solid Waste Management Action Plan (ISWMAP) is vital. This collaborative effort will enable smoother coordination between the community and the GMC, resulting in more effective waste management strategies.









Written By - Lahiru Udumalagala

THE GAP IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

BOMBE CASTLE WATTA



The GAP Identification workshop was conducted with the Bombe Castle Watta, under the CACG project which is funded by CCBO, USAID grant on the 16th of August 2023 with the participation of HELP-O, Galle Municipal Council, and the committee members of the action group of Bombe Castle Watta at the Hotel Hasara

The objective of this workshop is to identify problems in waste management within the community and collaboratively develop an action plan to address these gaps. There, we conducted two group activities to identify the gaps among the locals and then we gave them the opportunity to present themselves to the audience. These are the main problems identified throughout this session.

·Improper waste disposal

•The tractor does not come to the village and people do not know about the time of its arrival.

Lack of space to keep waste at home. Ignorance and carelessness of the people on waste management.

•Dumping waste into the canal from both Karapitiya shops and outsiders.

Presence of odor Not draining water from the old canal

After the group activities, Mr. Chathura, the chairman of the HELP-O led a discussion on waste management, addressing plastic bottle collection, the dangers of burning plastic, and emphasizing effective waste practices and ended the workshop.













Written By - Amasha Kavindi

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THE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP – BOMBE CASTLE WATTA

The Action Plan Development workshop took place on August 23, 2023, with the Bombe Castle Watta community, as part of the CACG project funded by CCBO, USAID grant. The workshop involved the participation of HELP-O, Galle Municipal Council, Divisional Secretariat office, Grama Niladari, and members of the action group committee from Bombe Castle Watta. This event was held at Hotel Aradhana with the primary objective of identifying solutions and assigning responsibilities for addressing specific waste management challenges within the community.

The community has come up with both short-term and long-term solutions to address their challenges. In the short term, they propose that each household separates their waste and delivers it to the municipal council. They also suggest providing special bins for waste segregation and conducting awareness programs to educate everyone on proper waste disposal. Additionally, they suggest doing a community Shramadhana campaign with HELP-O and GMC and a set of rules against diverting water pipes into canals and feeding animals everywhere. Looking to the long term, there's a suggestion to cover the canal with a net for cleanliness, remove sandbags from the new canal, utilize excavators for canal cleaning, and repair the canal edges.

At the workshop's conclusion, Mr. Chathura, the chairman of HELP-O, delivered a presentation on his experience and shared insights on beautifying the community through effective waste management.



Written By - Amasha Kavindi

INTERNATIONAL LEARNING SERIES ON CITYNET CLIMATE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM 2023



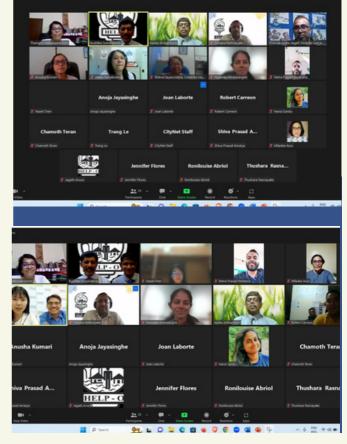
HELP-O proudly hosted a learning session on "Climate Change and Solid Waste Management in Developing Cities" as a part of the Climate Leadership Program on August 10th, conducted virtually in collaboration with CITYNET, IGES, and Galle Municipal Council. The session aimed to disseminate practical knowledge to cluster members and city leaders, allowing them to gain insights into the ground realities and strategies implemented in their respective cities. As the Co-Lead of the Climate Cluster, HELP-O has a responsibility to share knowledge and experiences with other cities and foster dialog among CityNet members and within Sri Lanka as well.



This thematic session provided the opportunity discuss to the main components of the Galle city waste management profile, policy-level implementation strategies, collaborative partnerships, and government support and presented success stories as case studies provide to а better understanding.

City leaders, government officials from the city administrations, as well as environment officials responsible for formulating environmental policies, urban planners, think tanks, academic institutions, and international development partners participated representing all the countries of the South Asian Region.





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ARTICLES



BY SANUJ HATHURUSINGHE

BY SANUJ HATHURUCHMENE In terms of producing minimaged plastic wards, some of the big names in the word economy such as the USA, Chan, india. Semay and norm Japan plastic polluter in the word -myortedly producing almost plastic polluter in the word -ingentedly producing almost plastic polluter. If the word -ingentedly producing almost plastic polluters. If the southers – including The Philippines. That and the donesis, Vietnam, and Malaysis – aliad dominant the last of the word's top largent ocean polluters. Compared to have guards of plastic polluters, then as managed plastic words the lastice of the southers and interplanes of plastic bit considering the extent of the southers as alignment for a control to plastic wards for plastic polluters. So i Lanks is breng a financial foos is and in the meng a financial foos is and the terming a financial foos is and

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action

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Help O helping Galle

Help O helping Galle Records: parallel to the World Environment Poly doarwation this yeak, a special training and policy-making session was held in Calanda. Or genised by the Environment Polyton. Control and the Minostry of Environment on calaboration with the Environment on calaboration with the Environment on Stackholm conventions, the event was participated by the reference of the reference of the International organisations, the Stackholm control and Chemical Management Division Minoda Management Division Minoda Management Division Manda Management Division Manda





The Al system is able to not just monitor and detect plastic waste but also to categorise them for the latter convenience of researchers and policymakers. The different types of waste the system can separately calculate are; cups, cans, cartons, face masks, glass bottles, plastic bottles, Styrofoam, straws, plastics, polythene bags and a few

other types of plastic-related waste

ware expresentatives from US AID, GCBO, IGES, and other relevant Government and pirute authorites. The highlight of the event was the feld water which was the last free on the session agends. The prop of diputations the set of the last is without the twent plastic waster mitigation propert in the eventry which happened to be the Making Galle to P Plastic Waster Fore propert, instand by the local eco-canservation argument into the D Eco-Gene Liented.

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monitoring system

In a nutshell, the 'Moda Ela' project is a system of CCTV project is a system of CCTV cameras that monitor the water flowing in the canal real time and calculate all the plants water that flows in it. The Al system is able to not part monitor and detect plants water but also to categories them for the latter somewinence direstanders and policymakers. The different types of water the system can separately calculate are; cups, cans, startists, face makin, glass bottles, plants toottles. Dividions, straws, plantics, polythese bases and a leve other types of plantsc-velated waste. As Weinington mentioned the types of partic-restrict water. As Weldinitys mentioned the data gathered via the CCTV monitoring are free for anyone to see. By violing the Partic Litter official websits, pitter org, anyone can see the Twe data as

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Why monitor plastic waste?

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unknowingly contribute to environmental pollution but environmental poliution but we try to-acoffice our convenience as much as we can and strive towards eco-conservation. This nature of

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ENVIRONMENT C3

Projects such as 'Moda Ela' come in. The data gathered via these projects are scientific, dependable, and accurate: and therefore, they come in handy when it comes to making policy decisions in the future

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Future plans of Help O

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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 - August 30]

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



We can get a detail anlysis through <u>www.plitter.org</u> website.

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SEGREGATION PROCESS OF COLLECTED DISCARDED FISHING NETS

PARALIYA FISHING NET COLLECTION CENTER



It's great to see that four volunteers and five HELP-O staff members came together to work on the segregation process at the collection center. Working with a team of nine individuals can indeed make the process more efficient and productive, allowing for a larger quantity of discarded nets to be processed and prepared for recycling or disposal.



The decision to select samples for segregation from each set of four bulk bags is a practical approach. It helps save time and resources compared to sorting through the entire collected amount. Additionally, working with bulk samples provides valuable insights into the composition of the discarded nets, which can be useful for planning the recycling or disposal process effectively. This method allows for a balance between thorough analysis and efficiency in handling a significant amount of discarded nets.

To ensure accurate segregation, experts, likely fishermen who specialize in identifying different net types, confirmed that all the samples consisted of Nylon fishing nets. It was noted that while there were variations in patterns and sizes, all the nets in the samples were made from nylon material. Overall, this process involved the selection of representative samples, cleaning them to remove impurities, and verifying the material type before further segregation or recycling efforts. It's an essential step in the responsible management of discarded fishing nets to minimize environmental impact and promote recycling or proper disposal.





Written By - Hansi Sandu Tharakla

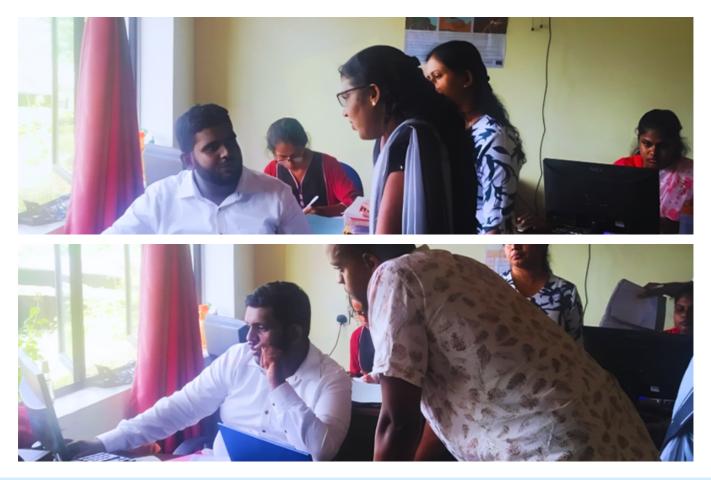
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AKMEEMANA PRADESHIYA SABHA VISITED TO SEE THE PROGRESS OF THE E - SABHA APP



Project team of HELP-O visited Akmeemana Pradeshiya Sabha and Yakkalamulla Pradeshiya Sabha on the 2nd of August, 2023 to check the progress of the e-Sabha Application under the guidance of the Commissioner of Local Government Department, southern province.

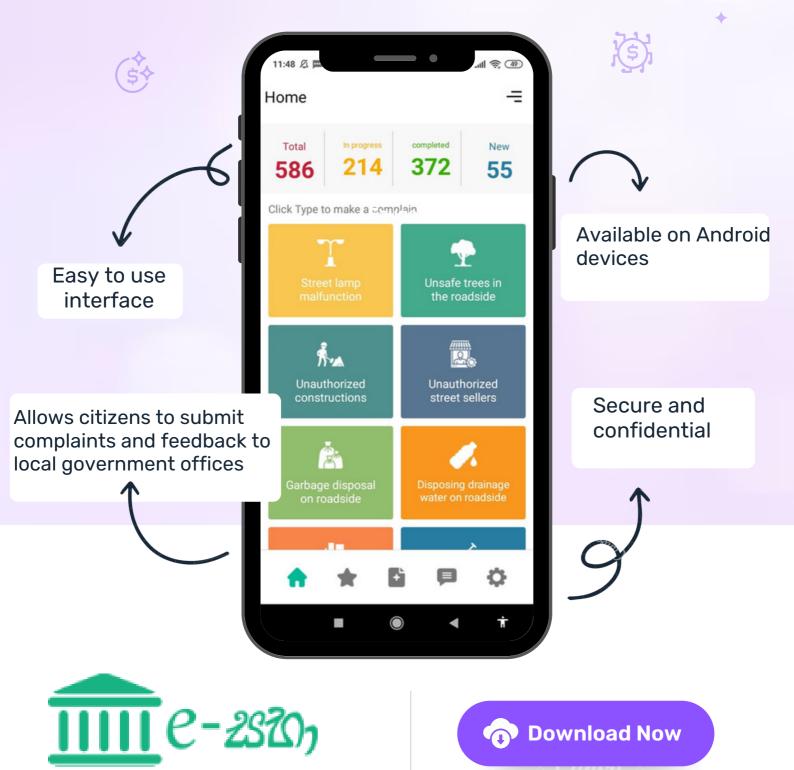
Akmeemana Pradeshiya Sabha e-sabha technical issues were solved by the project coordinator, Mr. Lahiru Maduranga, and trained staff on the e-Sabha app's updated features. Also, He met the secretary of Akmeemana Pradeshiya Sabha and discussed their e-sabha complaining process. At the end of the visit, Project Coordinator Mr. Lahiru reported the progress of Akmeemana Pradeshlya Sabha to CLG. After the Akmeemana Pradeshiya Sabha visit, Project team visited Yakkalamulla Pradeshiya Sabha to check the progress of Yakkalamulla e-Sabha application process. During this visit, e-Sabha application issues were solved. Also, awareness posters of E-Sabha applications were distributed to Yakkalamulla DS office.





e-sabha is a mobile application that allows users to submit complaints, feedback, and information regarding public day-to-day issues to local government offices in Sri Lanka.

e -Sabha



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COMING SOON

SEPTEMBER 2023