

# NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER

2023



HELP-O  
SRI LANKA

# EDITORIAL

HELP-O is a non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 1992 by a team of professionals with a 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 to protecting 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: 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.

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 COSA DATA VALIDATION WORKSHOP



The COSA Data Validation workshop held on October 5th, 2023, at the Hasara Hotel involved key officials from the GMC (Municipal Commissioner, Municipal Engineer, Municipal Medical Health Officer, Municipal Accountant, Municipal Secretary, Chief Community Development Officer, Development Officers from other divisions, the Solid Waste Specialist of the CCBO program, and HELP-O staff). This workshop was conducted under the CACG project, funded by a USAID grant through CCBO.



The purpose of this workshop was to validate the data collected for the Cost of Service Analysis (COSA). Validating the data is crucial for accurately assessing the cost of solid waste management within the GMC area. The accuracy of this data is essential for informed decision-making regarding resource allocation and budgeting for solid waste management services.

The workshop covered various aspects of solid waste management, including:

Cost of solid waste collection.

Cost of transportation.

Cost of biodegradable waste processing.

Cost of building waste recycling.

Cost of landfill disposal.

Cost of street sweeping.

Human resources costs related to solid waste management.

Other costs are associated with solid waste management activities.



These workshops, such as the COSA Data Validation Workshop, play a vital role in enhancing the transparency and efficiency of public services. They are critical for the success of projects funded by organizations like USAID, as they ensure that resources are utilized effectively and that governance in the GMC area is improved. This proactive approach is a positive step towards effective governance and resource management in the region.

Written By - Thakshala Witharanage



# HELP-O AND USAID CLEAN CITIES- BLUE OCEAN, CLEAN TECH PROVIDED GARBAGE COLLECTION CONTAINERS TO GALLE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

In a concerted effort to address the pressing issue of effective waste management in Galle city limits, a significant collaborative initiative was undertaken, uniting the forces of HELP-O, USAID Clean City Blue Ocean, and Clean Tech. This strategic alliance was established at the request of the Galle Municipal Council, aiming to revolutionize waste management practices and stimulate e-waste collection in the region.

One of the pivotal strategies adopted was the provision of garbage collection containers by Clean Tech. These containers were strategically placed to bolster waste management infrastructure, encouraging responsible disposal practices and the segregation of e-waste—a critical step in addressing environmental concerns associated with electronic waste.

The recent event at the Galle Municipal Council marked a milestone in this collective endeavor. A key aspect of the occasion was distributing the garbage tax to various institutions, including the Galle Municipal Council and the Galle Police, ensuring support and resources for continued waste management efforts. The event was graced by notable personalities in the field:

Municipal Commissioner Mrs. Thushara Ratnayake - A driving force behind effective municipal governance, spearheading initiatives for a cleaner and more sustainable Galle.

Urban Engineer Mr. Sampath - A crucial figure in designing and implementing urban waste management systems, ensuring the city's infrastructure aligns with environmental goals.

Chief Community Development Officer Mr. Sawmer - Instrumental in community engagement and fostering collaborations for the betterment of Galle's waste management programs.

Major Roshan - A vital representative, showcasing the involvement and support of the local authorities in this crucial environmental initiative.

Furthermore, the event witnessed the presence and active participation of esteemed individuals from collaborating organizations. Mr. Chatura Welivitiya, Chairman of HELP-O, brought invaluable insights and support to the table. Mr. U. G. Ekanayake, a Solid Waste Expert of the USAID Clean City Blue Ocean Project, lent expertise and global best practices in waste management, offering a comprehensive perspective to the program.



Lastly, the invaluable contribution of Mr. Akila Lakshan, Engineer of Clean Tech Organization, should be duly noted. His technical expertise and dedication played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of the waste management infrastructure, truly shaping the tangible results seen today.

This collective effort signifies a remarkable stride towards a cleaner and more sustainable future for Galle. It demonstrates how collaboration between local governance, non-profit organizations, and expert bodies can effectively address critical environmental challenges. The provision of garbage collection containers and the encouragement of responsible e-waste disposal are crucial steps toward ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for the city and its residents.

This initiative stands as a testament to what can be achieved through collective action and serves as an inspiring model for other regions facing similar environmental challenges. The combined efforts of these entities reflect a commitment to making Galle a shining example of effective waste management and environmental stewardship.

As these collaborative efforts continue, it is hoped that they will pave the way for a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future, not only in Galle but as a beacon for other communities globally.





# USAID'S CLEAN CITIES BLUE OCEAN PROGRAM DONATES EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES TO THE GALLE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

USAID's Clean Cities Blue Ocean program donates equipment and vehicles to Galle Municipal Council. The USAID's Clean Cities Blue Ocean (CCBO) program, which aims to reduce marine plastic pollution, handed over an in-kind grant donation worth Rs 44 million to the Galle Municipal Council (GMC) on 17th October 2023 at the GMC premises. The donation included equipment and vehicles that will be used to improve the solid waste management (SWM) service delivery in the city.



The CCBO program also initiated a school championship project targeting 23 schools in Galle to promote the habit of segregating recyclables among children and introducing an economic model to sell the recyclables and generate income for the schools.

Moreover, the CCBO program facilitated private sector investment to the GMC to reduce plastic waste leakage to the environment. A city-wide solid waste action plan is being prepared with CCBO funding through grantee Help O.

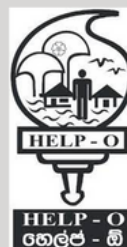
The equipment and vehicles donated by the CCBO program were handed over by its Country Director for Sri Lanka and Maldives to the Municipal Commissioner of Galle in a ceremony attended by GMC officials and other stakeholders.

The Municipal Commissioner expressed her gratitude to the USAID and the CCBO program for their generous support and partnership in improving the SWM system in Galle. She said that the donation will help the GMC to provide better services to the citizens and protect the environment from plastic pollution.

The Country Director of the CCBO program said that she was pleased to see the progress made by the GMC in implementing the SWM best practices and engaging the community and the private sector. He said that the CCBO program will continue to work with the GMC and other partners to achieve a clean city and a blue ocean.



The Clean Cities Blue Ocean program is USAID's flagship 5 years global 5 year grant that launched its operations in Sri Lanka in 2021. Since then, it has provided technical support directly to the GMC to improve capacity for effective governance of 3R/SWM systems which encompass collection efficiency, waste segregation, public awareness, collection route network preparation, worker's safety with personal protective equipment (PPE) kits, Heenpendala open landfill improvement and Kawshima compost plant operation improvement.





# SECOND RESIDENTIAL WORKSHOP ON FINALIZING THE STUDENT ACTIVITY BOOK UNDER "MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTIC"



In a concerted effort to address the pressing issue of ocean litter and microplastics, a pivotal residential workshop was convened on the 26th and 27th of October 2023 at the esteemed National Institute of Plantation Management Center (NIPM) in Athurugiri. HELP-O, was a collaborative endeavor orchestrated by the Ministry of Environment, gathering key stakeholders and officials from various ministries and organizations.

The focal Point of this gathering was to finalize the revised Student Activity Book and Teacher Resource Book, meticulously prepared by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) under the project dedicated to combatting Ocean Litter and Microplastics.



Representatives from significant ministries and institutions were present, underscoring the gravity and comprehensive nature of this endeavor. The Ministry of Education's involvement was notably substantial, with the presence of Mr. Bandula Sarath, the Additional Secretary of the Isuru Paya Ministry of Education.

Alongside him officials were including the esteemed Director of the National Institute of Education, Dr. Ashoka Silva, and his dedicated team. The collaborative effort from the Ministry of Education signified a pivotal step towards integrating environmental education into the academic sphere.

Moreover, the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Director Mr. Mahinda Werahera, alongside their respective staff, provided valuable insights and strategic direction towards the effective amalgamation of environmental consciousness into educational curriculums.

The participation of the Commissioner from the Education Publications Department, the Central Environment Authority Officials, and other respected individuals, including Dr. Inoka Suraweera of the Ministry of Health, Miss Nadika Amarasinghe, Assistant Director of the Sustainable Development Council, and Dr. Amila Abeynayake from Japan's IGES Institute, showcased a multi-faceted approach and expertise pooled into this workshop.

Furthermore, the guidance and global perspective brought by Dr. Amila Abeynayake from Japan's IGES Institute and Dr. Paul Kin, the country representative of the USAID RTI Ocean Plastic Project, shed light on international best practices and solutions. This cross-pollination of ideas and experiences is crucial for addressing a global predicament like ocean litter.

The presence of HELP-O Chairman Mr. Chathura Welivitiya along with other officials, exemplified the collective commitment and synergy among various sectors towards a shared goal—safeguarding our oceans and environment.

The culmination of this workshop not only signals the finalization of essential educational materials but also represents a significant stride in fostering collaboration and holistic strategies to combat the pervasive challenges posed by ocean litter and microplastics.

The spirit of collaboration and expertise shared during HELP-O underscores the earnest dedication of all participants towards creating a more sustainable and environmentally conscious future for generations to come. It's through such collaborative efforts that real and tangible change can be achieved in our collective fight against environmental degradation.



# PROPOSALS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## AT VIDYALOKA COLLEGE GALLE



A significant gathering convened at Vidyaloka College in Galle on October 27, 2023, focusing on developing existing proposals through a school video competition. Attended by three schools (Vidyaloka College, Dangedra Jayawardhan College, and Sacred Heart Convent) and nearly 50 students, the event aimed to cultivate innovation and advocate sustainability. The Additional Director of the Southern Province, and the Principal of Vidyaloka College were among the distinguished guests.

The morning commenced with an inclusive and warm welcome by Mr. Lahiru and he outlined the session's objectives, encouraging all participants to engage in an open dialogue and contribute their unique perspectives.

Ms. MIWA Tatsuno, representing the International Global Environment Strategies, delivered a compelling presentation on pivotal criteria for sustainable proposal development. Drawing from global waste management practices, Ms. Tatsuno provided valuable insights for local implementation.

Post-presentations, students were organized into three groups for an invigorating brainstorming session. Their collaboration generated an environment ripe with new and innovative ideas, with each group crafting and presenting their inventive solutions.

Subsequent discussions revolved around establishing practical time frames for proposed initiatives, ensuring a harmonious balance between ambition and practicality within each group's proposals. The successful session was marked by a group photo capturing the collaborative spirit and dedication of all participants, symbolizing a unified commitment to promoting sustainability. In essence, the event facilitated dynamic idea generation, guided by expert insights, and concluded with a collaborative commitment to transforming these proposals into actionable and sustainable initiatives.

**Written By - Hansi Sandu Tharakla**



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IGES  
Institute for Global  
Environmental Strategies



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# A MODERN SOLUTION FOR 'LOCAL' PROBLEMS

## Introducing e-Sabha; an app to bridge the gap between local government and public

BY SANUJ HATHURUSINGHE

The common conception among the public about local government systems is that they agonisingly come short in terms of delivering the desired efficiency while serving the public. Despite this small space at which these local government institutions operate has now become a norm it is inevitable that the public has the right to receive effective public service from these institutions and conversely it is the duty of the local government officials to provide that public service in an effective and appreciative manner.

One of the drawbacks in delivering an effective government service is due to the lack of communication - be it between the officials and the general public and/or between government institutions. If the public wants to bring the local government's attention to a regular, trivial matter such as a blocked drain, a road in poor condition, garbage not collected, or an unkept public park, they usually have to deliver this concern to the relevant local government office in writing which demands a considerable amount of time of the complainant. Most of the time the complainant is directed from division to division since each division seems it not their problem. Finally, when the complaint is submitted after a long and arduous process, the paperwork is shelved, long enough for it to get 'lost' or 'disappear'. This length of the process and low success rate often make the public feel as if it is futile to go through all that trouble to make a complaint and leads them to feel disappointed as well as angry at the local government institutions.

The simple solution for increasing the problem-solving efficiency of the local government institutions and for reinstating the people's trust in them, as the Human and Environment Lanka Progressive Organisation Sri Lanka (HELP-O Sri Lanka) has realised, is to instill a 'system change'. After much research and development, the tech-savvy organisation, which strives to find smart solutions for environmental and socioeconomic issues, has developed a mobile app which essentially can be the modern solution for the age-old problem of the public had.

### e-Sabha

Gone are the days when good old paperwork was the only form of communication in a government institution. With the involvement of digital and electronic technologies, HELP-O Sri Lanka has developed an app through which the public can easily and quickly reach local governments with their queries and the local government officials can provide an effective and efficient service.

Ceylon Today contacted the Chairman/CEO of HELP-O Sri Lanka Chithura Welivitiya to learn more about how the revolutionary app works. According to Welivitiya, the way the app works is



rather simple. First off, you have to download the e-Sabha app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store and register yourself. If you notice something that needs the attention of the local government such as a blocked drain, a burst pipe or a road in bad condition, you can either take a photo or a short video and upload it to the app which then notifies the relevant local government authority. The user-friendly interface of the app makes it much easier for even the least tech-savvy to navigate through the registration and the process of uploading a complaint. "There is a trained staff at the local government office who handles the online queries, they review the submission and send a reply within 24 hours informing the complainant," Welivitiya elaborated.

The e-Sabha app is under the direct supervision of the secretary of the local government institute and the chairman or the mayor of the institute acts as the head of operations, who receives from the smallest complaint made by a member of the public can now receive the attention of the highest-ranking officer in the local government institute without much hassle.

### Originated in Galle

As Welivitiya revealed the research and development of the app was started in the latter part of 2020 but the progress was rather slow due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, HELP-O Sri Lanka continued their research and the concept of developing an app was appreciated and approved by the generous donors and sponsors of the project. With the sponsorship of Asia Foundation, the app was finally developed and was officially launched on 21 March 2022.

e-Sabha app was implemented first in 10 local government offices in Galle District (eight pradeshiya sabhas and two urban council and one municipal council), namely, Akkaramma Pradeshiya Sabha, Rathgama Pradeshiya Sabha, Baddegama Pradeshiya Sabha, Yakkalamulla Pradeshiya Sabha, Nagoda Pradeshiya Sabha, Hataraduwwa Pradeshiya Sabha, Bipe-Poddala Pradeshiya Sabha, Welivitiya Divitara Pradeshiya Sabha, Hikkaduwwa Urban Council, and Galle Municipal Council.

The e-Sabha app's query system is now operating successfully in Galle and is encouraged by the success. HELP-O Sri Lanka has expanded the e-Sabha services to four other local government areas in Puttalam District, namely, Chikwulan Council, Puttalam Pradeshiya Sabha, Kalpiya Pradeshiya



Sabha, and Arachchathawa Pradeshiya Sabha, with the financial support of Ceylon Today. Welivitiya said the app is already underway to expand the online app system to the entire country by the end of this year.

### Multiple benefits

One of the main benefits of the e-Sabha app is that it saves time and money. "The common understanding in the past about going to a local government office for any type of query is a time-consuming one that takes at least a whole day. People are used to taking a day's leave and going to the local government office, willing to wait in lines and spend time sitting there until the relevant officer is available. Now with the app, all that time, energy and money can be saved since all it takes now is clicking a few pictures or recording a video and uploading it. Not only in the process now much easier with the use of the app, but it also makes the complainant feel satisfied since he gets a reply within 24 hours notifying him and when the issue will be sorted by which government authority," Welivitiya said.

Once the problem is solved, the complainant can leave feedback in terms of a rating system which in turn encourages and satisfies the officials of the local government office. When asked about how the feedback has been so far, Welivitiya said all the responses have been 'star-studded' with a smile.

Within the year or so the e-Sabha has been active in full swing, the public seems to have welcomed the technological change with open hands and have begun to like it. Giving his two cents' worth about the app the retired Additional Director of the Southern Province Industrial Development Board Ranjith Dharmasiri said that the difference in convenience between the good old way and the app's way is quite stark. "I live in the Bipe-

Poddala Pradeshiya Sabha area and I am someone who complains a lot. I used to write letters, make phone calls and visit the local government offices but now the process is made much easier with the app. Now I can just take a few pictures and complete my complaint in minutes. With the development of technology systems like these should be introduced to every aspect of Government service. This is a great service and such services are much-needed to drive the country towards development," Dharmasiri opined.

Recently, Dharmasiri observed a bent telephone pole in the area and informed the Bipe-Poddala Pradeshiya Sabha about it via the app. The matter was quickly sorted out as the Pradeshiya Sabha immediately informed the relevant authority - Sri Lanka Telecom - about the bent telephone pole.

Dharmasiri's latest solved issue via e-Sabha brings out another benefit of the app. Now, when submitting a complaint, the public doesn't have to worry about whether or not the issue is something the local government office can solve. "Just like how the bent telephone pole was mended by Sri Lanka Telecom and not by the Pradeshiya Sabha itself, the local government office is committed to directing the query towards the relevant authority even if it is not something they can directly resolve. This marks a huge step forward in government service as it essentially marks the end of using the go-to excuse, 'not my problem' or 'not our department'. A burst pipe may require the assistance of the Water Board and a potential mosquito breeding ground may require the attention of the local public health officer but all these kinds of queries can now be directed to the local government office via e-Sabha and they will be forwarded to the relevant authority to be solved."

According to Welivitiya, another benefit of the app is that one doesn't necessarily have to be living in the area to lodge a complaint via e-Sabha app. If you have the app downloaded on

your phone and if you happen to pass through a local government area where the e-Sabha system is in effect and see an issue that needs the attention of the local government, you can take a picture or a video and submit a complaint as a good Samaritan. Another benefit of the app is that you can opt to lodge a complaint anonymously if you wish. The local government officer is bound to honour your desire and protect your privacy when solving the issue.

### Government officers also benefited

It is not just the public who feel the e-Sabha app is a huge convenience but the local government officers also think the app system is very effective and makes their job easier. As Welivitiya revealed, HELP-O Sri Lanka has experienced overwhelmingly positive responses from the local government sector in their workshops to educate and train local government officers about the app. Their collective opinion is that the app helps considerably to eradicate the bad opinion the public has about local government procedures.

According to the Commissioner of Local Government at the Department of Local Government - Southern Province Ravi Wickramasekera, the e-Sabha app has also made the communication process between the local government offices and the complainants much easier and quicker.

"The public is positively adapting to this new system," Wickramasekera observed. The e-Sabha app was introduced in Galle during the tenure of the former Commissioner of Local Government - Land Commissioner of Southern Province, Senaka Paliyagamage who also shared the same sentiments with Wickramasekera. The main benefit of the app, as Paliyagamage says, is the convenience it offers to the public to connect with the local government offices.

The Municipal Commissioner of Galle Municipal Council Thushara Rathnayake, commenting on the e-Sabha app which is being operated successfully, said, "With the use of the app, not just the public living in the Galle municipality but local and foreign tourists as well can now easily connect with the Galle Municipal Council to get their queries solved. We plan to further develop the e-Sabha system to better serve the public."

The Community Development Officer at Galle Municipal Council, Soumen Adh, works in the department which is the first responder to the complaints lodged via the e-Sabha app. His job involves accepting public complaints and responding with an immediate reply. He revealed the app is functioning well in the Galle Municipality and thanks to HELP-O Sri Lanka for providing the necessary training related to the app.

### A platform for public voice

One of the reasons behind the development and implementation of e-Sabha is the lack of space for the public voice. As Welivitiya explained, for a long time the public has not been of the opinion that their voice is heard by the local government and their opinions are not accepted in an effective manner. Although there is public representation in the local government systems, more than often, the representative service for the public comes with a political bias, meaning the supporters of their political party are often prioritised over others.

Now with the e-Sabha app Welivitiya affirms that the public voice is heard without any political, social or economic bias. "Our aim is to strengthen the local government system and encourage active public participation in the local government," Welivitiya said.



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ADA NEWSPAPER 2023.10.26



" USAID's Clean Cities Blue Ocean program donates equipment and vehicles to Galle Municipal Council.

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Moreover, the CCBO program facilitated private sector investment to the GMC to reduce plastic waste leakage to the environment. A city-wide solid waste action plan is being prepared with CCBO funding through grantee Help O.

The equipment and vehicles donated by the CCBO program were handed over by its Country Director for Sri Lanka and Maldives to the Municipal Commissioner of Galle in a ceremony attended by GMC officials and other stakeholders.

The Municipal Commissioner expressed her gratitude to the USAID and the CCBO program for their generous support and partnership in improving the SWM system in Galle. She said that the donation will help the GMC to provide better services to the citizens and protect the environment from plastic pollution.

The Country Director of the CCBO program said that she was pleased to see the progress made by the GMC in implementing the SWM best practices and engaging the community and the private sector. He said that the CCBO program will continue to work with the GMC and other partners to achieve a clean city and a blue ocean. "

# USAID assists Galle MC to ensure clean city and blue ocean

The USAID's Clean Cities Blue Ocean (CCBO) programme, which aims to reduce marine plastic pollution, handed over an in-kind grant donation worth Rs 44 million to the Galle Municipal Council (GMC) on 17 October at the GMC premises. The donation included equipment and vehicles that will be used to improve the solid waste management (SWM) service delivery in the city.

The CCBO programme is USAID's flagship five-year, flagship global initiative that launched its operations in Sri Lanka in 2021. Since then, it has provided technical support directly to GMC to improve capacity for effective governance of 3R/SWM systems which encompass collection efficiency, waste segregation, public awareness, collection route network preparation, worker's safety with personal protective equipment (PPE) kits,



Heependals open landfill improvement and Kawshima compost plant operation improvement.

The programme also initiated a school championship project targeting 23 schools in Galle to promote the habit of segregating recyclables among children and introducing an economic model to sell the recyclables and generate income for the schools.

Moreover, the CCBO programme facilitated private sector investment in the GMC to reduce plastic waste leakage to the environment. A city-wide solid waste action plan is being prepared with CCBO funding through grantee Help O.

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Maldives to the Municipal Commissioner of Galle in a ceremony attended by GMC officials and other stakeholders.

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The Country Director of the CCBO programme said he was pleased to see the progress made by the GMC in implementing the SWM best practices and engaging the community and the private sector. He said the CCBO programme will continue to work with the GMC and other partners to achieve a clean city and a blue ocean.

CEYLON TODAY SUNDAY 2023.10.22



## එක්සත් ජනපද නියෝජිතායතනයෙන් ගාල්ල මහ නගර සභාවට අපද්‍රව්‍ය කළමනාකරණය සඳහා උපකරණ පරිත්‍යාගයක්

සමුද්‍ර ද්‍රව්‍යයෙන් දූෂණය අවම කිරීම අරමුණු කරගත් USAID හි Clean City Blue Ocean (CCBO) වැඩසටහන මගින් රුපියල් මිලියන 44ක් වටිනා වාහන සහ සෙසු උපකරණ පරිත්‍යාගයක් 2023 ඔක්තෝබර් 17 වන දින ගාල්ල මහ නගර සභා පරිපාලන භාණ්ඩාගාරයේ සහ අපද්‍රව්‍ය කළමනාකරණ (SWM) සේවා සැලසීම වැඩිදියුණු කිරීම සඳහා භාවිතා කරන වාහන සහ උපකරණ පරිත්‍යාගයට ඇතුළත් විය.

Clean City Blue Ocean වැඩසටහන 2021 ජූනියෝ මාසයේදී ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ මෙහෙයුම් කටයුතු දියත් කළ 'ජාත්‍යන්තර සංවර්ධනය සඳහා වූ එක්සත් ජනපද නියෝජිතායතනයේ' (USAID) ප්‍රමුඛතම හෙවෙල් පස් අවුරුදු ප්‍රදානයක් වේ. මෙම වැඩසටහන යටතේ ගාල්ල මහ නගර සභාවේ සහ අපද්‍රව්‍ය කළමනාකරණ සේවා ඵලදායී අන්දමින් සැලසීම සඳහා ධාරිතාව වැඩි දියුණු කිරීම සඳහා ගාල්ල මහ නගර සභාව වෙත සාපුරාණ නාස්මේක සහාය ලබා දී ඇත.

මෙහිදී සහ අපද්‍රව්‍ය ඵලදායී කාර්යක්ෂමතාව වැඩිකිරීම, ජනතාව වන මහජනතාවේදී අපද්‍රව්‍ය වෙන්කිරීම සඳහා මහජනතාව දැනුවත් කිරීම, සහ අපද්‍රව්‍ය ඵලදායී මාර්ග ජාලයක් සැකසීම, ඵලදායී කාර්යක්ෂම උපකරණ සැලසීම වැනි වැඩසටහනේ පවත්වා ගැනීම සහාය ලබා දී ඇත. හින්දුස්ථාන විවෘත කසළ බැහැරකිරීමේ ක්‍රමයේ කාර්යක්ෂමතාව වැඩිදියුණු කිරීම සහ කඩිනමින් කොමිසන්වලට ඉහලින් මෙහෙයුම් කටයුතු පවත්වාගෙන යාම



සඳහා අවශ්‍ය උපකරණ ලබා දී ඇත. CCBO වැඩසටහන මගින් පරිත්‍යාග කරන ලද වාහන සහ උපකරණ පරිත්‍යාග කිරීමේ උත්සවයේ දී USAID/CCBO වැඩසටහනේ ශ්‍රී ලංකාව සහ මාලදිවයින සඳහා වන අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් මහා විදේශනායක මහත්මිය විසින් ගාල්ල මහ නගර සභාවේ නාගරික කොමසාරිස් R.M.T.K. රජනායක මහත්මිය වෙත හාර දෙන ලදී. මෙහිදී ගාල්ල මහ නගර සභාවේ සහ අපද්‍රව්‍ය කළමනාකරණ දැරියාව වැඩිදියුණු කිරීම සඳහා කාන්තා ශිලි සහායෝගය සහ නවුරුවන ලද ලබාදීම වෙනුවෙන් නාගරික කොමසාරිස් කුමරිය විසින් USAID සහ CCBO වැඩසටහනට සිය කෘතඥතාව පළ කළාය.

මෙම පරිත්‍යාගය මගින් පුරවැසියන්ට වඩා හොඳ සේවාවක් සැපයීමට සහ ද්‍රව්‍යයෙන් දූෂණයෙන් පරිසරය ආරක්ෂා කිරීමට මහ නගර සභාවට උපකාරී වන බව ඇය පැවසුවාය. මෙම අවස්ථාවට ගාල්ල මහා නගර සභාවේ නියුතු නගරාධිපති මුසන්තර් ජී. සහතින්ද්‍ර මහතා, නාගරික ඉංජිනේරු සම්පත් කුමාර සහ HELPO ආයතනයේ සහායකී එසුර වැලිවිටිය මහතා ඇතුළු හතර සහතික කිරීමට සහභාගී වූහ.

DIWAYNA 2023.10.24



# PLITTER CCTV

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

The estimation and flux monitoring of floating plastic in the river requires stationary cameras for continuous image capturing at locations with recording evidence of floating plastics.

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

P Litter Plastic Detection Galle So Far [ April 22 - November 01 ]

Plastic	- 465224
Plastic Bottles	- 14217
Straws	- 51131
Trash Bag	- 1376
Styrofoam	- 6939



We can get a detail analysis through [www.plitter.org](http://www.plitter.org) website.

The screenshot shows the Plitter.org website interface. The browser address bar displays [plitter.org/cctv/Sri%20Lanka/Galle/Galle/Galle%2001](http://plitter.org/cctv/Sri%20Lanka/Galle/Galle/Galle%2001). The website header includes the Plitter and GIC logos, and navigation links for HOME, STORYBOARD, and ABOUT US. The main content area is titled "Galle 01" and features a large live video feed of a river scene. A blue overlay on the video indicates detected plastic items. To the right of the main feed is a grid of smaller image thumbnails. Below the video feed, there is a "Composition of floated litter detected" section with a pie chart and a "Litters by Date" section with a slider. The left sidebar contains filters for Location (Country: Sri Lanka, Province: Galle, City/Town: Galle, CCTV: Galle 01) and a "DETAILS" section for "Galle 01" showing a dataset size of 72,607 images and coordinates (Lat: 80.214589, Lon: 6.038425).



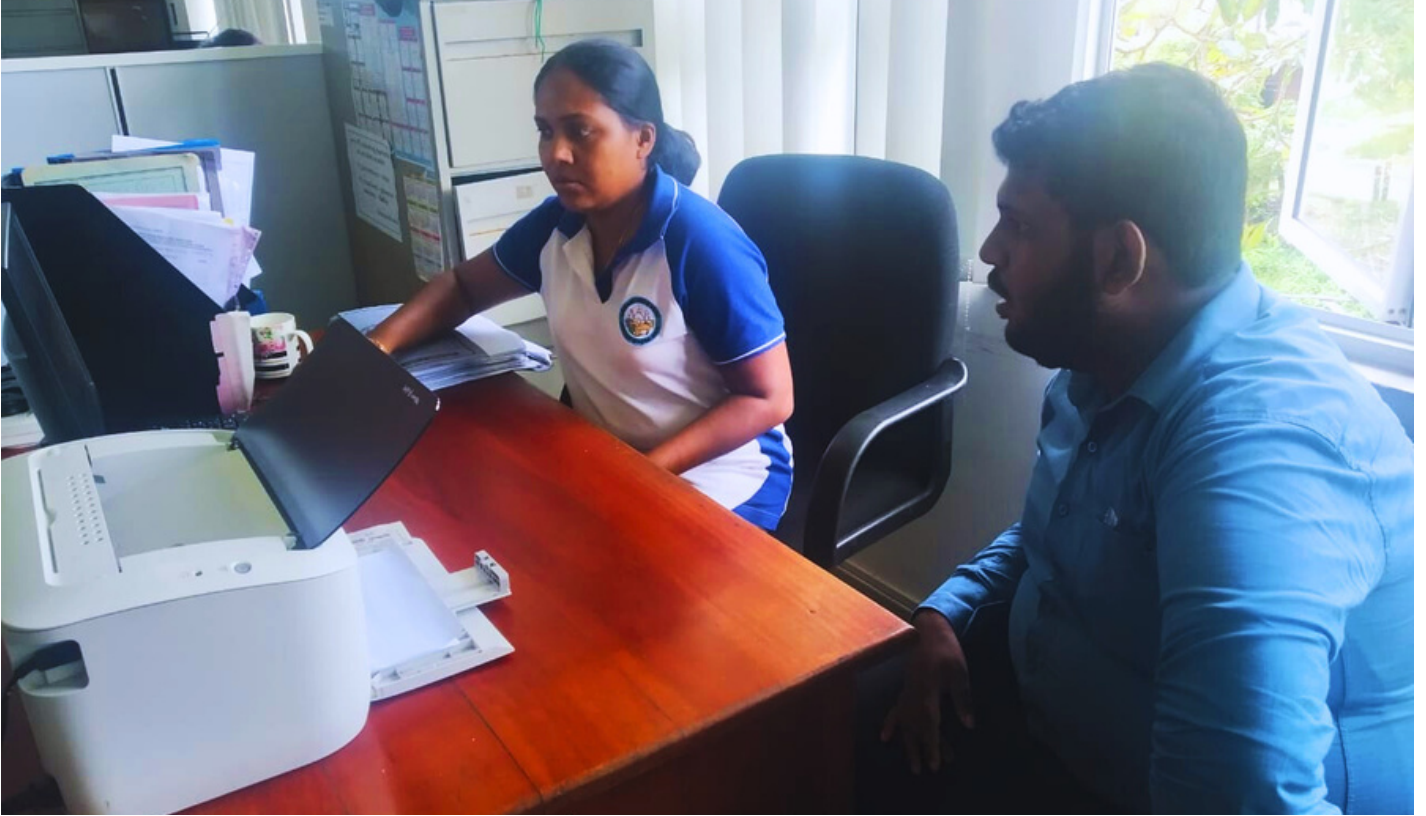
# LOCAL

# GOVERNANCE





## VISITED TO HABARADUWA PRADESHIYA SABHA SEE THE PROGRESS OF THE E - SABHA APP



The project team of HELP-O visited Habaraduwa Pradeshiya on the 6th of October, 2023 to check the progress of the e-Sabha Application under the guidance of the Commissioner of Local Government Department, southern province.

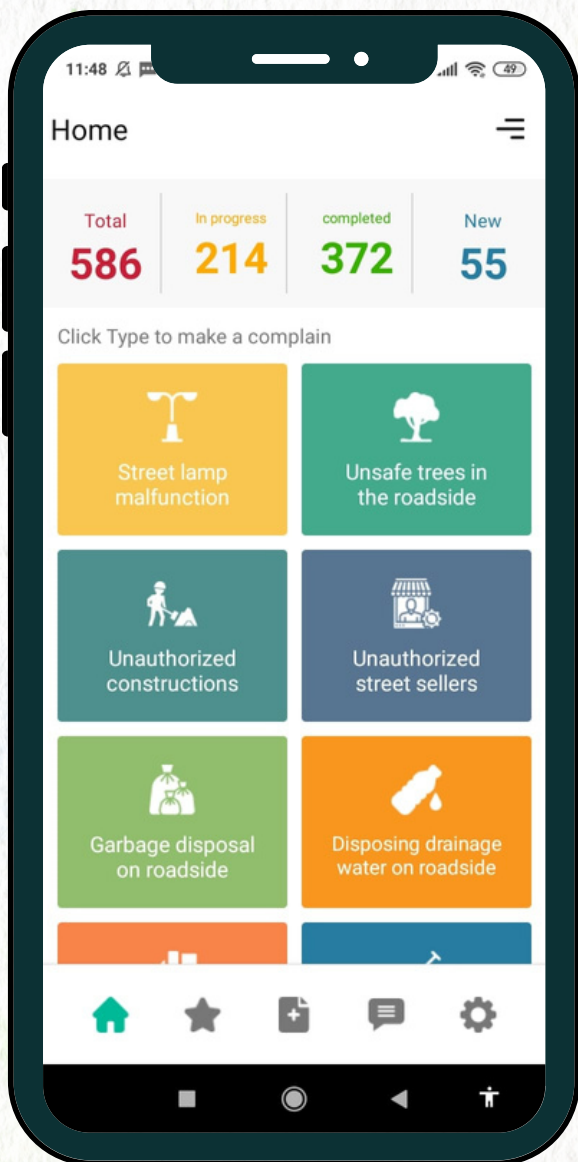
Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha e-sabha technical issues were solved by the project coordinator, Mr. Lahiru Maduranga, and trained staff on the e-Sabha app's updated features. Also, He met the secretary of Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha and discussed their e-sabha complaining process. At the end of the visit, Project Coordinator Mr. Lahiru reported the progress of Habaraduwa Pradeshiya Sabha to CLG.

Written By - Lahiru Udumalagala



# E-SABHA

The e-Sabha mobile app is a Sri Lankan government initiative that allows citizens to send complaints, feedback, and information regarding public day-to-day issues to local government offices in the relevant area. It is a free app that is available for download on the Google Play



# HELP-O DIRECTOR BOARD MEETING

14.10.2023 at Galle Hasara Hotel

The Board Meeting commenced at 9:30 a.m. with Mr. Chathura Welivitiya, Chairman of HELP-O, extending a warm welcome to all participants. The previous meeting's minutes from June 24, 2023, were confirmed with minor adjustments, proposed by Mr. Asoka Siriwardena and seconded by Mr. Mapalagama Wimalarathna.

The progress reports for various projects were presented:

- CACG project by Ms. Thakshala K. Withanage
- IGES project by Ms. Hansi Sandu Tharaka
- Newly submitted and pending approval project proposal by Mr. Lahiru Maduranga.

To enhance organizational success, the Chairman recommended assigning specific responsibilities based on expertise. The proposal outlined responsibilities for individuals within their respective areas:

- Mrs. Jayanthi Withanachchi: Secretary and/or Corporate Lawyer
- Mr. Amarasinghe Kudagallara: Director (Media Relations)
- Mr. Asoka Siriwardana: Director (Admin and Finance)
- Mr. Mapalagama Wimalarathne: Director (Legal Advisor/Media)
- Mr. Anil Kumarasiri: Director (Labour Relations and Occupational Health and Safety)
- Ms. Nadeeka Amarasinghe: Director (Environment and Urban Planning)
- Mr. Ranjith Dharmasiri: Director (Technical Affairs)
- Mr. M.S. Deshapriya: Director (Social Integrity and Foreign Relations)
- Ms. I.V.N.P. Kumuduni: Director (Planning and Projects)
- Dr. Jayasiri Lokuge: Director (Treasurer/Health and Sanitation)



# Volunteers of HELP-O



## Justin Mueller

I am Justin Mueller, a student hailing from the University of Paderborn in Germany. My journey led me to the vibrant landscapes of Sri Lanka, where I had the privilege of volunteering with Help-O for a six-week period.

Throughout my stay, I had the opportunity to develop a deeper appreciation for the vital importance of addressing excessive waste production. I immersed myself in practical activities that left an indelible impression on my experience. Engaging with the local community, I shared my knowledge of waste management and the broader waste policies in my homeland, Germany. The insights I gained from these exchanges were not only enlightening but also led to a profound understanding of the cultural complexity of Sri Lanka.

In my dedicated role, I played a pivotal part in crafting project proposals to support Help-O's ongoing and future initiatives. Moreover, I actively participated in a range of activities, including teaching English and German classes, and fostering cultural exchange in neighbouring schools. This multifaceted involvement culminated in a profoundly rewarding experience, one that expanded my horizons and allowed me to relish the exceptional warmth and hospitality extended to me by the gracious local community.



# NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023 HELP-O SRI LANKA

## CHIEF ADVISIOR

Chathura Welivitiya

## ADVISIORS

Asoka Siriwardana  
Dr.Rohana Rathnayake  
Padmasiri Moonamale  
P.A. Gunathilaka  
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Lasitha Udaya  
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