



THE
HUMPTY DUMPTY INSTITUTE
PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

THE HUMPTY DUMPTY INSTITUTE SRI LANKA

Monthly Report January 2010

Partners:



MPCS-VELANAI



ESCO



HUDEC-CARITAS

Funded by:



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Monthly Report for the Month of January 2010

COUNTRY SITUATION

January was election month. Sri Lankan went to the polls to elect a President. The month of January saw a lot of violence and blood shed as the incumbent President Rajapakse and the former Army General took on each other to vie for the Presidency.

President Mahinda Rajapakse won a second term at the Presidential Election with an unexpectedly big majority although this election result has been called into question by the main opposition candidate, General Sarath Fonseka. The election results telecast by the state media as they stand demonstrate a schism in the thinking and expectations of the ethnic minorities and ethnic majority populations. President Rajapakse obtained a smaller proportion of votes in the North, East and central hills where Tamils and Muslims predominate and also in the capital city of Colombo where the proportion of Tamils and Muslims is high. Elsewhere in the country in the Sinhalese-dominated areas, the margins of victory for the President were high.

Rajapakse is likely to face formidable challenges in the days ahead. The opposition parties and General Fonseka himself have threatened to challenge the election result in courts of law and through political confrontation. The utilization of the state machinery to bolster the chances of victory of the incumbent President has created an impression of a government that was determined to win the elections by all means at its disposal. The abuse of state resources that took place prior to the election to secure the President's victory has been documented by election monitoring organizations. In these circumstances it is likely that in the days ahead the opposition will endeavor to project the President's victory as an illegitimate one that was won by illegitimate means.

Adding to concerns about the overall free and fair nature of the elections was the drama that took place with regard to General Fonseka and other opposition leaders even while the counting of ballots was taking place. In the early hours of January 27, as counting was taking place, hundreds of army troops surrounded the luxury Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel where the opposition candidate had set up a temporary election office. In addition army troops took up position outside the Election Commissioner's office and independent media stations. These moves added to the rumors of possible irregularities in the election and encouraged speculation as to what was going on during the counting of votes.

In these circumstances the media reports that most of General Fonseka's security has been withdrawn and he himself is to be arrested is very much a cause for public concern. Leading members of the religious clergy have requested the government to continue to provide General Fonseka with security. The country continues to remain in turmoil with alleged arrests and people taking to the street in public demonstrations.

While this melee takes place the plight of the IDPs continues to be dire. Many have forgotten about the nearly 100,000 people still languishing in Menik Farm not to mention the IDPs who have been moved to other internment camps in the North and East. The resettlement of IDPs is at snail speed and while the government and political parties ready for a parliamentary election in April 2010 there isn't enough attention on these poor people. Clearly post conflict development poses a huge challenge for the government.

HUDEC completed its work at the end of January 2009. However from their savings of Rs. 436,218/- they were able to supply 3 more pre-school with out door play equipment and train more pre-school teachers. HUDEC has utilized the money effectively and made maximum use of the money given to them. All the pre-school teachers who were trained received Certificates of Participation which will give them an added incentive to work.

ESCO had a slow month in the month of January. The main reason for this being the adverse monsoon weather. The heavy rains made most of the project areas inaccessible. As a result many of the clinics and training program had to be postponed. However they did manage to conduct some of their activities. Non formal education classes were conducted and 69 students benefited from this. These children are now able to write their names. Illiterate parents also joined these classes that were held for two batches of children. Pre-school activities at Pondugal Chenai began with 19 children. Three training programs were conducted on health care practices in 3 locations.

HDI Sri Lanka signed the office Lease agreement for another year with the World Trade Center. They negotiated to pay the same rent as the previous year. Spiritheyon and Kothai of ESCO, Batticaloa visited Colombo and met with CD on the 15th January.

CD met with Gerhard Zank, Country Director of HALO Trust together with Ms. Pauline Wilson, Consultant who was in Sri Lanka to formulate project proposals to link de-mining with development.

The new Project Officer Jayathanan visited the HDI Colombo Office on the 28th January to accept his Letter of Appointment and to be briefed on the project.

HDI Colombo office was occupied with the USAID proposal for IDPs. CD liaised with potential partners ESCO and SEED to formulate the proposal and budget and provide relevant information for the concept paper.

ACD sent the LDS IDP Feeding report to HDI-NY.

SCHOOL MILK FEEDING IN VELANAI

The school milk feeding project in Velanai is progressing well. Project officer Jeevashanthan handed in his resignation as he was pursuing his studies overseas. A new Project officer Mr. Selvadurai Jeyathan was interviewed. Jeyathan was a Senior Extension officer with Land O'Lakes and comes highly recommended. Dr. Gnana also interviewed him on behalf of HDI and found him to be suitable for the job. He will take up duties on 1st February 2010.

HDI New York approved that Dr. Gnana visit the project once a month for which she will be compensated. An allowance for her work and travel will be paid each month. Dr. Gnana has taken a lot of interest in the feeding program and is looking at ways to measure impact that will help with objective reporting. She will also guide the new project officer and make the transition smooth by introducing him to MPCS and school Principals.

There have been requests from a few schools in the adjoining Kayts Island to extend the feeding program for them as well. HDI-NY to consider including these schools as well in the feeding program.

The number of children in the program has varied in the past months.

September - 389 students
October - 431 students
November - 483 students
December - 483 students
January - 483 students

The reason for the increases in October and November was because the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were released from the camps and some of them returned to Velanai. However it is anticipated that this number will begin to reduce as these people are returning to the Wanni. The February report will reflect this reduction.

Project officer also visited farmers to ensure the supply of clean milk. He also visited MPCS on every school day to ensure that the milk is delivered on time. The children look forward eagerly to their milk drink. We have been told that if the milk is slightly delayed to arrive the children keep looking toward the gate of the school for the MPCS milkman to arrive!

Parents have said that the children have shown improvement in their school work and play activities. They seem more energetic. They also said that the color of their once brown hair is now becoming black. Brown hair is a sign of malnutrition. Children also tell their parents that they don't have to worry about looking for breakfast for them as they will have their morning milk in school. The school, is happy too as they are able to provide a nutritious drink to each of their students. MPCS has taken ownership of this project and take on the responsibility of providing good clean milk. The farmers, MPCS, Schools and students are all part of this successful program and work together to make it happen.

REPORTING FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY – 2010

	SCHOOL	NO. OF CHILDREN		NO. OF CUPS OF MILK SUPPLIED	SCHOOLS VISIT DATES	FARMERS VISIT DATES	REMARKS
1	Saraswathy MV	160	150	2250	04/01/2010 06/01/2010 11/01/2010 15/01/2010 28/01/2010	05/01/2010 08/01/2010 18/01/2010 25/01/2010 28/01/2010	Reduction of 10 children
2	Velanai Saivapragasa Vidyalayam	50	64	960	05/01/2010 07/01/2010 12/01/2010 15/01/2010 21/01/2010 28/01/2010		Increase of 14 children
3	Chettipulam GTM School	50	70	1050	04/01/2010 08/01/2010 13/01/2010 18/01/2010 28/01/2010		Increase of 20 children
4	Saravanai RCTM School	74	87	1305	05/01/2010 07/01/2010 12/01/2010 15/01/2010 21/01/2010 28/01/2010		Increase of 13 children
5	Velanai East Maha Vidyalayam	75	112	1680	04/01/2010 08/01/2010 13/01/2010 18/01/2010 22/01/2010 28/01/2010		Increase of 37 children
		493	483	7245			

ESCO. - BATTICALOA

Project: Rehabilitation & Empowerment of Disaster Devastated Families and children

Implementing Partner: Eastern Self-reliant Community Awakening Organization (ESCO)-Batticaloa

Duration of project: September 2009 to February 2010

Reporting Period: January 2010

Target Group: Vulnerable families in selected villages

1. Non-formal Education Assistance at Akurani and Minuminithavelly:

69 children participated in the non-formal education program. 32 Children between 3 to 6 years (19 Males and 13 females) and 37 children between 7 to 16 years (18 males M 18 & 19 Females). Two teachers have been appointed along with two ESCO Field Officers to conduct these classes. A variety of activities were conducted including play activities. The children who had absolutely no formal education are now able to write their names. Illiterate parents also joined these classes. They are also able to do mathematics and other subjects well.

2. A Pre-school at Pondualchchenai:

19 children attend the pre-school in Pondugal Chenai. A teacher has been appointed to take care of the children. ESCO is working towards encouraging parents to enroll their children in the pre-schools and educating them on the value of Early Childhood development (ECD)

3. Well Maintenance Committee:

The two well maintenance committees function actively at Minminithavelly. They clean the wells regularly and maintain it so that cleaning drinking water is available. They have also cleared the surrounding area and keep the environment clean. 36 families make use of the wells. .

4. Health Care Practice:

Three training programs were organized

11 Jan 2010	Santhively	50 participants (M 07 & F 43)
19 Jan 2010	Kalkudah	50 participants (M 05 & F 45)
30 Jan 2010	Minminithavelly & Akuranai	50 participants (M 14 & F 36)

150 participants benefited in this program. Awareness programs were held on personal hygiene, clean environment, disease control such as dengue and other viral fevers. They also had some basic training on first aid.

Some of the positive outcomes of the programs conducted by ESCO have been:

- People are seen to be maintaining a clean home environment.
- Increased awareness and practice of personal hygiene.
- Children maintain good health practice and are keen in their education (The Zonal Director of Kalkudah made a visit during the month and promised to provide text books for the children).
- There are less complaints about cholera and diarrhea. This is because the people are drinking clean water (now they are able to draw water from the wells and follow the practice of boiling for drinking purposes).
- People regularly attend the monthly clinics (when it is possible to have them) and make use of the opportunity.
- The people regularly meet the Family Health Officer and follow the medical procedures.

As mentioned above it was not possible to complete the entire complement of work assigned for the month of January. They Included:

Medical clinics : Akkurana & Minuminithavely- Flooding and inaccessibility due to the roads being damaged. Vehicles were unable to get to the village as a result the Doctor , Nurse and midwife could not be transported. This clinic will be conducted as soon as the roads are passable.

ENT, EYE Clinics - The clinic planned for the month of January '10 was done in December '09 as there was a great need with the people being sick due to heavy rain and floods and climate change

Construction of Clinic Centre – Akkurana- The construction work that was to start in January has been postponed till February 2010 as building materials could not be transported.

Nutrition programme at Akkurana and Minuminithavely has been postponed to March and April '09 as the resource person is unable to travel due to the damaged roads.

Mental Health Clinic for mothers –Minuminithavely. Roads not passable. Resource person cannot be transported and the programme could not be conducted.

Mental Health clinic at Paddiyadychenai: The plan has been revised to conduct this programme in March' 10 as the Doctor has fixed the date.

Child Friendly spaces: The preschool teachers continue with their work here. Materials will be transported in March 2010.

Jeanne Samuel
Country Director
The Humpty Dumpty Institute- Sri Lanka
Colombo, February 25, 2010