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SRI LANKA SUPPORTING REGIONAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAM (SuRG)

SEPTEMBER 2011 – OCTOBER 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



OCTOBER 2012

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Cover Photo: People from 12 GN divisions in the Batticaloa District attend a Mobile Service Delivery Clinic to apply for essential legal documents. The clinic was organized by a SuRG grantee.

Photo courtesy of SuRG Partner

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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

CONTENTS

- ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS II**
- INTRODUCTION I**
- I.0 CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES 4**
 - 1.1 SOCIAL EQUITY 4
 - 1.1.1 Grants and Subcontracts 5
 - 1.1.2 Secretary of State Office of Women’s
Global Issues (S/WGI) Grant..... 14
 - 1.1.3 Training and Technical Assistance..... 16
 - 1.1.4 Program Reviews and Assessments..... 19
 - 1.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION..... 19
 - 1.2.1 Grants 21
 - 1.2.2 Secretary of State Office of Women’s
Global Issues (S/WGI) Grant..... 37
 - 1.2.3 Partner Training 39
 - 1.3 LOCAL GOVERNANCE..... 39
 - 1.3.1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING IN THE
EASTERN PROVINCE 41
 - 1.3.2 LANGUAGE TRAINING 43
 - 1.3.3 GRANTS 44
 - 1.4 OPEN DIALOGUE..... 44
 - 1.4.1 Media Grants..... 45
 - 1.4.2 Technical Assistance and Training..... 46
 - 1.5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)..... 46
- 2.0 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION..... 48**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACLG	Assistant Commissioner of Local Government
AU	American University
CBO	Community Based Organization
CC	Cross Cutting
CCN	Cooperating Country National
CEaT	Community Empowerment and Transformation
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLG	Commissioner of Local Government
CLIN	Contract Line Number
CM	Crisis Modifier
CPC	Criminal Procedure Code
CPF	Central People's Forum
CS	Chief Secretary
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DG	Democracy and Governance
DS	Divisional Secretary
DV	Domestic Violence
EOG	End of Grant
EP	Eastern Province
EPF	Employer Provident Fund
ER	Emergency Regulations
ETF	Employees' Trust Fund
FHB	Family Health Bureau
FR	Fundamental Rights
FY	Fiscal Year
GA	Government Agent
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GN	<i>Grama Niladhari</i>
GOSL	Government of Sri Lanka
HDCC	Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce
HDWEF	Hambantota District Women Entrepreneurs' Forum
HR	Human Rights
HRC	Human Rights Commission
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
INGO	International NGO
JSC	Judicial Services Commission
KCP	Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, Inc.

LA	Local Authority
LAC	Legal Aid Commission
LG	Local Government
LO	Land Officer
LTD	Limited
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MLGPC	Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSI	Management Systems International
NELSIP	North East Local Services Improvement Project
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
NIC	National Identity Card
NP	Northern Province
OD	Open Dialogue
OLD	Official Language Department
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
PC	Provincial Counsel
PGF	Participatory Governance Forum
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PS	<i>Pradeshiya Sabha</i>
PTA	Prevention of Terrorism Act
PTF	Presidential Task Force
PVT	Private
Q	Quarter
QRM	Quarterly Review Meeting
RDS	Rural Development Society
RIG	Regional Inspector General
RISEN	Reintegration and Stabilization of the East and North Program
Rs.	Rupees
SE	Social Equity
SL	Sri Lanka
SLCJ	Sri Lanka College of Journalism
SLILG	Sri Lanka Institute of Local Government
SMS	Short Message Service
SSRMC	Social Science Research Methods Course
STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
SuRG	Supporting Regional Governance Program
S/WGI	Secretary of State Office of Women's Global Issues
T.A.	Technical Assistance
TV	Television
UC	Urban Council
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund

UNOHCHR
UPFA
WG
WIN
WRDS

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
United People's Freedom Alliance
Working Group
Women In Need
Women's Rural Development Society

INTRODUCTION

In March 2008, ARD, Inc. was awarded Contract No. 383-C-00-08-000501-00 to implement the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Sri Lanka Supporting Regional Governance Program (SuRG). The initiative was designed to build on USAID/Sri Lanka's democracy and governance efforts to address development needs resulting from the then ongoing conflict. The program was intended to support regional governance in the Eastern Province and Polonnaruwa District by focusing on four program components (social equity, local governance, community empowerment and transformation, and open dialogue) with crosscutting activities that reinforce governance improvements around the betterment of human and community security. After the defeat of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) by the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) in May 2009, SuRG expanded its programming to include the Northern Province.



SuRG Partner

Residents line up to apply for essential legal documents at a Mobile Clinic organized by a partner in the Batticaloa District.

In December 2010, USAID extended the contract base period from February 2011 to June 2012. In July 2011, Section C of the contract was modified to reflect changes in the operating environment in Sri Lanka and USAID programming priorities. It also stipulated that Tetra Tech ARD award grants to the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, the American University, Women in Need and the Hambantota District Chamber of Commerce. Option year funds increased the total budget to \$13,920,762 and the contract end date was extended until February 28, 2013. In June 2012, the contract was again modified to realign the budget and extend programming until August 31, 2013.



MSI/SuRG

Youth from the Trincomalee District compete in a match during a partner Youth Volleyball.

Programming and implementation, more than three years since the end of the war, continues to move forward amidst a difficult context.

Early this fiscal year, the government released its long-awaited Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation

Report. The report made several useful observations, including with regard to forced disappearances, judicial independence and devolution of power, and also provided a host of constructive recommendations.

In March 2012, the UN passed a resolution put forward by the U.S. calling for the immediate implementation of these recommendations. Large-scale protests took place across the country during deliberations in Geneva.

The Local Authority Elections were held in October 2011 and the Eastern Provincial Council Elections held in September 2012. Votes were cast primarily on ethnic lines, consequently ensuring a similar result. Notably, in the Eastern Provincial Council Elections, although the UPFA secured more seats it did not secure an outright majority. It eventually formed a Provincial Administration with the support of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress. In return, a Muslim was appointed as Chief Minister. The five-member Board of Ministers appointed as per the 13th Amendment also included three other Muslim ministers and one Sinhalese with no Tamils, although Tamils form more than one-third of the total population in the East.

SuRG was able this year to support civil society and local government's efforts to function, and provide, as best they can, spaces for discussion, awareness-raising, services and upholding of rights.

The chart below provides an overview of SuRG activities this fiscal year.

SuRG FY 2012: Activities Overview

Grants

- ❖ Twelve new grants valued at Rs. 39,825,484 awarded including:
 - Nine new grants to regional organizations valued at Rs. 26,106,950
 - Three new grants to national organizations valued at Rs. 13,718,534

- ❖ Rs. 75,257,479 disbursed to 22 organizations including:
 - Rs. 17,451,155 disbursed to 13 regional organizations
 - Rs. 7,337,485 disbursed to seven national organizations
 - Rs. 50,468,839 disbursed to two international organizations

Training and Technical Assistance

- ❖ Training for lawyers from the North and East was conducted on the following topics:
 - Law and procedures related to land disputes in a post conflict environment (44 lawyers east)
 - Labour Law (70 lawyers, judges and law students from the Northern Province)
 - Three one-day workshops on Civil Law Pleadings conducted in Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Vavunia (82 lawyers and five judges)

- ❖ Six participants of a partner's Integrated Skills Course, a staff member from another partner together with two District Women's Network staff attended an intensive training on counseling in Batticaloa. One partner will call on the Trincomalee participants as needed to serve as local peer counselors

- ❖ Institutional development and technical training for partner organizations including:
 - General management (30 representatives of 15 organizations)
 - Negotiation skills (33 representatives of 16 organizations)
 - Understanding and mainstreaming gender institutionally and programmatically (29 representatives of 16 organizations)

- ❖ Six women from SuRG partner organizations travelled to Madurai, India to attend training on gender and development for women's and human rights activists and NGO workers from Sri Lanka and India organized by Indian NGOs

- ❖ Local government officers and elected officials from the East and Polonnaruwa attended technical training on the following topics:

-
- Building Sustainable Participatory Processes in Local Government (31 community members, 15 government officers and 7 elected officials from 11 LAs)
 - Gender Inclusive Local Government (15 elected officials, 12 government officers and 20 community members from 11 LAs)
 - Preparation of By-laws for Local Authorities (88 government officers and 31 elected officials from 40 Pradeshiya Sabhas in the Eastern Province)
-

❖ Ongoing technical support provided to 11 LAs in the Eastern Province including guidance and monitoring of monthly working group meetings and Participatory Governance Forums

❖ Two hundred eighty nine local government officers from 28 LAs in the Eastern Province and the CLG and district ACLG offices completed phase I and II of the OLD Level II Tamil and Sinhala language program

❖ Nine-month hands on training in print and radio journalism developed and initiated for female journalists in the Trincomalee District including seven women who participated in a SuRG grantee journalism diploma course, two beneficiaries in a partner's SuRG grant program and three journalists from a Trincomalee weekly newspaper

Research and Evaluations

❖ Strategic plan for the GBV Desk at the Base Hospital in Oddamavady developed after a participatory planning process which included two residential workshops with a core group of Desk staff and key stakeholders

❖ Post lawyer's training evaluation of lawyers from the Northern Province trained in August 2011, conducted in order to assess the relevance and utility of the training they received vis-à-vis their legal practice and the needs of the local communities for whom they provide services

❖ A rapid review of human rights education programs conducted by partners to evaluate the practical utility of the courses for participants and the relevance of the activities in promoting better understanding, discussion and protection of human rights

This report covers the period from October 1, 2011–September 30, 2012, and details these activities and their results and impact, as well as ongoing contract implementation and management.

I.0 CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

I.1 SOCIAL EQUITY

Activities under the SE component this fiscal year centered around grants to local and national organizations for the provision of legal aid, psychosocial support, training and awareness-raising. SuRG also conducted its series of trainings for the legal fraternity in the North and East and provided technical assistance toward the development of a strategy plan addressing GBV.

Highlights of SE activities this fiscal year include:

- The SE team conducted four training workshops for lawyers of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. A total of 111 participants (106 lawyers, 5 judges) including 17 female lawyers were present at these workshops. Trainings were on both substantive and procedural aspects of the law. SuRG also supported the Jaffna Bar Association to conduct a workshop on labor laws; 67 lawyers, judges and law students from Jaffna and Kilinochchi participated.
- Two partners provided legal aid in 114 cases for 96 clients. Twenty-six of the cases were Fundamental Rights (FR) cases filed in the Supreme Court.
- A partner provided family members of 61 detainees with a travel allowance and care packages of essential items to enable them to visit detainees; another partner also provided travel allowances to 31 families to visit their loved ones.
- Two partners provided livelihood support to 61 women for a range of activities including poultry or livestock-rearing, highland crop cultivation, rice-processing, sewing, and grocery shops.
- A partner printed 500 copies of a Tamil translation of the Evidence Ordinance and distributed it amongst lawyers, judges and Legal Aid Commissions in Trincomalee, Vavunia, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. The book has been widely appreciated as there is yet to be an official Tamil translation of the Evidence Ordinance published by the government press.



Thirty-four graduates of a partner's second Diploma in Human Rights course received their certificates and honorary plaques at their graduation ceremony held in the Ampara District.

- Two partners assisted individuals in the obtaining of 887 vital documents including birth, marriage and death certificates.
- Thirty-four students from Ampara successfully completed their human rights education and received diplomas.
- Two partners provided psychological support to 728 women affected by the war and GBV.
- A partner provided legal counseling and court representation for 907 legal cases involving violence against women, divorce and maintenance.

1.1.1 GRANTS AND SUBCONTRACTS

GRANTS AND SUBCONTRACTS COMPLETED AND CLOSED

Grant Number	ARD055
Project	Promoting Peace and Security in the Batticaloa District
District	Batticaloa
Grant Award	Rs. 1,502,000
Dates	December 01, 2011 – September 31, 2012

The partner concluded its 'Promoting Peace and Security in the Batticaloa' program in September 2012. The project aimed to promote social cohesion, well-being and security among the Tamil and Muslim communities and was built on lessons learned from a prior SuRG-funded project in the same area which ended in March 2011.

Seventy-seven cases, including matrimonial issues, abduction and disappearance, domestic violence, fraud and land disputes, from the previous project were followed up on during this project period. Sixty-seven of these were concluded. The remaining 10 cases were referred to legal aid providers including NGOs, HRC, the mediation boards, the relevant Divisional Secretariats and police.

The partner also received 38 new cases. Of these, 25 cases were heard in Batticaloa Magistrate's courts. Sixteen cases were concluded and the remaining cases are being followed up. Cases were predominantly matrimonial and maintenance-related, but also included fraud, land disputes and domestic violence. In all of these cases, the partner provided clients with referral services and coordinated with other service providers, including lawyers, government officials and the police. In some instances, the partner paid clients a transport allowance to appear in court.

The partner also assisted individuals in obtaining legal documents such as marriage, birth and death certificates, police entries and national identity cards. To date, the partner has assisted in the acquisition of 412 documents, more than double its target of 200. In July 2012, the partner held a mobile clinic at a National College at which 247 legal documents were acquired. As a result of the partner's success, they received a special request for assistance from two Divisional Secretariats to assist in the acquisition of an additional 1,368 legal documents. A list of 250 cases involving the need for land documents was also forwarded to the Provincial Land Commissioner through the DS. Ninety-nine of these cases have been approved for the issuance of deeds.

LEGAL DOCUMENTATION SERVICES			
Type of Document	No. of Applications Received	No. of Documents Delivered	Current Status
Marriage Certificate	161	161	-
Birth Certificate	118	79	Applications to recover copies of lost documents have been made and the DS offices have been following up on these. The remaining documents are awaiting the Additional Registrar General's signature
Death Certificate	05	05	-
National Identity Card	126	126	-
Driving License	02	00	Temporary licenses were issued by the DS office
Total	412	371	

As part of its efforts to form sustainable social structures to engage in community advocacy, the partner formed and trained three task forces, with five members each, comprising community leaders and RDS representatives to work with the Divisional Secretariats, *Pradeshija Sabhas* and Civil Protection Committees. Task force members met monthly with these officials to resolve issues within their communities. Furthermore, the partner conducted four training programs for task force members and other community representatives on the importance of citizen participation and civil awareness, advocacy, gender rights and land rights.

Staff believe that the task forces will continue beyond the life of the project as a result of the strong ties formed between the members and officials. These forums account for much of the very limited space available for community representatives to interact directly with local officials.

“This is a good forum for us to address issues such as drinking water and children’s education. We can talk with the relevant government officers. We have already sorted out several issues through these meetings.”

RDS OFFICER AND PARTNER TASK FORCE I MEMBER

PARTNER TASK FORCES

TASK FORCE	Local Authority Partners	Key Issues Raised	Key Results
Task Force I	Five Divisional Secretariats	Street lighting, public health, garbage disposal, drinking water, secondary occupation of state land and public buildings, small infrastructure development	Repaired street lights, raised awareness on dengue eradication, distributed regular drinking water, constructed public wells
Task Force II	Three Pradeshija Sabhas	Garbage collection, construction and renovation of drainages, fixing of street lamps, the distribution of drinking water and the construction and/or renovation of pre-schools and children’s parks	All issues raised are currently being addressed. In addition, the Task Force members have been incorporated in the PS advisory committees and have assisted the PSs with their work to identify and prioritize needs in order to develop a

			long-term plan to increase the community's contribution to design, implementation and monitoring of development activities
Task Force III	10 Civil Protection Committees	School dropouts, underage marriages, safety and security of community members in certain public places, sale of illicit liquor and its consumption in public places	Re-enrolled 35 students from four remote villages, lobbied for police patrol in areas prone to crime and social ills, raised awareness on the negative impacts of early marriages

Grant Number	ARD053
Project	Raising Awareness of Human Rights to Mitigate Negative Impacts on Vulnerable Women and Youth in Ampara District Phase II
District	National
Grant Award	Rs. 1,764,800
Dates	December 01, 2011 – August 31, 2012

The partner concluded its “Raising Awareness of Human Rights to Mitigate Negative Impacts on Vulnerable Women and Youth in Ampara District –Phase II” project this quarter. The goal of the program was to enable vulnerable women and youth to protect their rights and develop a social structure that supports their needs. Project activities focused on generating awareness on women’s rights and gender-based violence (GBV) while providing legal and psychosocial counseling for vulnerable women and youth affected by the conflict. The project targeted eight villages in 10 DS divisions of Ampara.

Two legal mobile clinics were held in February and March, respectively. A total of 93 people (20 male, 73 female) attended these clinics and obtained legal assistance provided by lawyers of the Legal Aid Commission. Cases included late birth and marriage registrations as well as maintenance cases and disputes over property. The partner also coordinated with a DS on 27 documentation cases. Consequently, 15 out of the 27 applicants received birth certificates at a clinic conducted by the DS office in September 2012. The success of this clinic has prompted another DS office to consider conducting similar mobile clinics; partner staff has offered support.

The partner also provided legal assistance on 19 cases pending from its previous SuRG grant and 20 new cases with the support of the Legal Aid Commission and an NGO providing legal aid. Fourteen cases were concluded including three divorce cases, a land dispute, one personal property, one financial dispute and eight maintenance cases.

Three one-day awareness workshops on land attended by 67 people (3 male, 64 female; 50 Tamil, 17 Muslim) were held this year. The workshops served to educate individuals on a host of important concepts regarding land including ownership and title registration. The partner also provided livelihood support in the form of Rs. 8,500 worth of material for 37 women. Recipients used these materials to start small businesses such as poultry-rearing, small grocery shops, paddy processing and rice sale. The income they receive is used not only to cover their day-to-day expenses and children’s tuition fees, but also to contribute to a monthly or weekly savings scheme, known locally as a “*Seetu*.” The impacts of this assistance and the women’s savings habits are already visible. Recipients have used their savings to expand their businesses, clear debt, obtain electricity connections, improve their houses and buy furniture.

The partner conducted 18 programs to improve the wellbeing and mental health of women who had been affected by adverse conditions including the war and violence at home. Twenty-seven women were identified out of the 53 participants (25 Tamil, 28 Muslim) for regular medical checkups. These women attended mental health clinics over a nine-month period at the closest Base Hospital and have demonstrated considerable improvement as well as a noticeable surge in confidence.

The partner also held 48 peer support sessions in six villages in three DS divisions. A total of 47 women (24 Muslim, 23 Tamil) participated in these meetings. The groups were initially set up by the partner but are now sustained by the community women themselves with little oversight from the partner.

As part of the skills development component of this project, the partner conducted five one-day trainings on basic accounting and business management for 74 women (46 Tamil, 28 Muslim) from eight villages. The training benefited all the participants who began to see their businesses and profit making in a new light. For example, as a result of the training, one woman whose business involved paddy processing and selling, began a side business of selling peanuts to children who came to play at a playground near where she lived. This has increased her daily profit from approximately Rs. 350 to Rs. 450. She invests this money in a local *Seetna*.

Six two-day trainings on leadership and gender equality were also conducted for 126 adolescents (64 girls, 62 boys; 77 Tamil, 49 Muslim). Another six two-day trainings on gender sensitivity, leadership and non-violent communication were conducted for youth aged between 18 and 30. The partner selected this age group to generate greater discussion and support for women's rights and help stop violence against women within their communities. A total of 117 youth (56 male, 61 female; 67 Tamil, 50 Muslim) participated in these trainings.

The partner also raised awareness on the importance of maintaining healthy relationships based on mutual respect, with 27 young married couples from eight villages (30 Tamil, 24 Muslim). The partner believes this training will help to reshape attitudes and in turn, help to reduce GBV, particularly within the family. Two, two-day workshops were conducted.

The partner believes that through this project it has been able to work on some of the root causes of pressing socio-economic problems that exist in the chosen DS divisions. Furthermore, an important and positive impact of the project has been its ability to strengthen ties between the Tamil and Muslim communities as a consequence of its mixed group activities. In one community for instance, Tamil and Muslim women belonging to project self-help groups have begun to support each other and their businesses in a mutually beneficial manner. For example, a Muslim beneficiary who processes paddy sells the husk to a Tamil woman who uses it to feed her poultry. The Muslim woman in turn buys eggs from the Tamil woman. Another Tamil woman supports an illiterate Muslim woman to write her daily accounts.

Developments are also visible amongst the youth targeted by the project. Youth who attended partner trainings are now actively involved in monthly village meetings and have ever since been supporting the partner's other activities within the villages.

Peer Group Provides Support to Homeless Member

When a Muslim widow with four children was asked to vacate her place of residence three months ago, she faced numerous difficulties trying to find another place at a rent she could afford. Although a member of the partner formed Sennal peer support group, she had not attended any meetings during this time period. The other members grew concerned and approached her to find out why she was not attending meetings. When they found out the nature of her problem they met with the GN and he found her a temporary house in the village. In the meantime, she registered to receive government support to build a house. However, the scheme requires her to make an initial investment for the house. The Sennal peer support group mobilized its members and are currently gathering financial support from villagers to help her make the initial investment needed to obtain government assistance to build her home.

NEW AND ONGOING GRANTS

Grant Number	ARD060
Project	Defending Human Rights and Justice in Sri Lanka
District	National
Award	Rs. 5,864,548
Dates	January 15, 2012 – December 31, 2012

In April 2012, there were sudden and widespread arrests and re-arrests of hundreds of individuals in the eastern districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa. Many of them were taken straight to a camp without hearings. In June 2012, following a hunger strike organized by prisoners in two prisons, 33 prisoners were transferred. Thereafter, they were re-transferred. Seven of them were admitted to hospital with broken limbs and other serious injuries. Two succumbed to their injuries. In addition to an FR case that will be filed on behalf of the deceased families, the partner will also be supporting another two victims of this attack under the project during the next quarter.

Over the course of this year, the partner provided legal aid to 39 clients (31 male and 8 female) in 56 cases. Ten of these were new cases taken up this quarter. Cases were predominantly against the arrest and detention of individuals and included 37 High Court cases, 11 Magistrate Court cases, two Appeal Court and six FR applications in the Supreme Court. Thus far, the partner has been able to conclude 17 cases successfully, while another seven cases were concluded with the indictment of the accused. A further 19 cases on behalf of 14 individuals have been identified for follow-up next quarter.

The partner conducted a legal aid clinic in the Batticaloa District in April. Sixty people attended the clinic (3 male and 57 female). Thirty cases that required filing were identified at this clinic.

In addition to mobile clinics, the partner also identifies detainees requiring legal aid through its prison visits. Eight visits were made this quarter and 29 in the previous two quarters.

A two-day paralegal training workshop was held for 21 (2 males, 19 females; 2 Muslims, 19 Tamils) civil society activists, and NGO and CBO workers. A follow-up training was held with 23 participants, 19 of whom attended the first round of trainings. These training were designed to identify individuals to assist the partner in organizing mobile legal clinics, identifying cases and ensuring case follow-up at the district level.

A total of 31 families from Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee and Matale received non-legal support in the form of small cash grants for travel, lodging and food expenses incurred when visiting detainees.

In addition, this quarter, the partner provided items of clothing, toothbrushes and paste, soap and towels for prisoners who had been transferred.

Grant Number	ARD061
Project	Towards a Democratic Society
District	Trincomalee
Award	Rs. 9,451,000
Dates	January 15, 2012 – December 31, 2012

The partner continued to provide human rights education and awareness, legal assistance and non-legal support to families of detainees and female heads of households in the Trincomalee District through its “Towards a Democratic Society” project.

The partner offers two courses. The first is a certificate course in human rights targeting young people who have successfully completed their secondary school exams and the second is a skills-building course, focusing primarily on counseling and non-violent communication and targeting officers from the government and non-government sectors as well as social activists from the region.

“Ever since my husband was killed in 2006, my children and I struggled to survive daily, but now I am in a good place. I am a very motivated lady. I have come out from a place of stress and now I earn for myself and care for my family. I’m really thankful to SuRG for giving me a chance to come out from the ditch and for releasing me from being dependent [on others].”

**FEMALE HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD,
TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT**

Although the certificate course targeted young adults, at the time of advertising, several teachers and government officials also expressed their interest to enroll, as this course was the only one of its nature available in the area. A group of 42 (34 Tamil, 8 Muslim; 27 female, 15 male) was selected to participate. The course started in April 2012 and the graduation ceremony will take place in December.

The skills building course was developed as a means to address psychosocial needs. While 30 officer-level

participants were targeted, only 25 (9 women, 16 men; 21 Tamils, 4 Muslims) participate regularly. This setback, however, has been offset by the fact that approximately 10 participants have expressed commitment to work with the partner in carrying out its psychosocial work within affected communities as well as amongst school children and youth. Six of these individuals also attended a 10-day residential training on group therapy. This group has since conducted a one-day group therapy session for selected school children from a number of local schools at a Central College. A total of 41 students (18 female, 23 male) participated.

The partner also developed translations of the Evidence Ordinance and the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC). A total of 500 copies were printed of each. The Evidence Ordinance was released this quarter and distributed to lawyers, judges and Legal Aid Commissions in Trincomalee, Vavunia, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. The recipients have expressed their appreciation for this as the Evidence Ordinance is yet to be officially translated into Tamil by the government press. Copies of the CPC will be released and distributed early next quarter.

The partner also printed 750 copies of a pamphlet on workers’ rights in Tamil and 250 copies of a pamphlet on guardianship and custody of the child in Sinhala. Copies have already been distributed to SuRG grantees and trainees, NGOs, local libraries and police stations as well as to Probation Officers and Women Development Officers. Copies were also distributed this quarter to the Legal Aid Commissions in Trincomalee, Mannar, Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts and to hill country and Jaffna-based organizations. A further 750 copies of a pamphlet on matrimonial rights in Tamil and adoption in Sinhala have been printed and will be distributed early next quarter.

Students from Human Rights Certificate Course form “Youth For Peace” Forum

Twenty five students from this year’s batch of the partner’s human rights certificate course joined hands with graduates from last year’s course to form the “Youth for Peace” forum. They will conduct sporting events, cultural activities, essay, poetry and art competitions as well as awareness campaigns on issues within their communities.

The partner filed a total of 58 cases on behalf of 57 individuals this fiscal year. Twenty were Fundamental Rights cases at the Supreme Court in Colombo, while other cases were filed in the Trincomalee High Court, District Court as well as at the Trincomalee Magistrates’ Courts and included 10 arrest and detention cases, six maintenance cases; six divorce cases, six land disputes, four bail applications, two labor disputes, and one case each involving abduction and disappearance, assault, accident and civil documentation. A total of four cases were concluded and 48 court representations had been made at the time of writing. Twenty prison visits were also conducted at which partner lawyers spoke with 44 detainees and provided them with legal advice and general counseling. The partner also provided care packages and travel allowance for a total of 61 detainees’ families this fiscal year.

One of the partner’s most successful interventions continues to be the assistance it provides to female-headed households. Thus far this fiscal year, the partner has provided support to 24 women for a range of activities including poultry or livestock rearing, highland crop cultivation, rice processing, sewing, and grocery shops. This support has enabled the women to regain a certain level of economic independence, confidence and peace of mind. Furthermore, a total of 45 women attended nine skills development workshops held this fiscal year focused on topics such as identifying and addressing women’s psychological needs and building confidence; self-employment; analyzing business ideas and conducting feasibility assessments; income management; home gardening techniques and business management. Twenty-seven of these women with young children received an educational package containing school bags, books and stationary to support and encourage their school-going children this quarter.

Grant Number	ARD033
Project	Essential Document Support to Resettled Populations
District	Batticaloa
Award	Rs. 3,061,280
Dates	August 15, 2011 – October 31, 2012

The partner continued its “Essential Document Support to Resettled Populations” project throughout the fiscal year. The project is intended to empower the resettled populations in the Batticaloa District to access government, NGO and private sector services particularly in relation to acquiring vital legal documentation.

The partner began the process by building the capacity of the WRDSs in the area after an extensive consultative process in which 79 women from 23 WRDSs participated. The partner used the information from these meetings to develop a curriculum encompassing the topics of leadership, communication and negotiation skills. They then conducted five, three-day residential training workshops attended by 93 women from 24 WRDSs.

Next, working committees comprising two members from each of the 24 WRDSs were formed. These 48 working committee members met with the partner staff twice a month and assisted the partner in preparing case files for document applications. The working committee members were also entrusted with the task of ensuring regular meetings, proper attendance and overall effective administration of their respective WRDSs. Changes were immediately visible, as the WRDSs began to function with greater purpose and drive.

The partner worked closely with these WRDSs in their subsequent efforts to help local community members obtain their legal documentation. WRDSs were key to mobilizing community members and coordinating awareness-raising sessions and clinics. The partner started its documentation efforts with four awareness workshops for local community leaders on the importance of legal documentation.



TT ARD/SuRG
The partner holds an awareness-raising session in a village of the Batticaloa District to help community members prepare their documents for an upcoming mobile legal clinic.

The workshops were conducted with the support of an INGO. The INGO also facilitated a series of 24 half-day meetings with the public and WRDS members to identify documentation needs that existed within the villages.

The partner then conducted eight “pre-mobile clinics” in order to ensure supporting documents were in place and the chances of rejection minimal. A total of 414 applicants (408 Tamil and 6 Sinhala) received guidance during these pre-mobile clinics.

The partner’s campaign also included three awareness programs on land matters targeting village leaders and WRDS members in particular. The programs focused on topics such as land ownership and transfer, obtaining State land, the authenticity of land documents and boundaries.

Finally, six mobile clinics were conducted and a total of 474 individuals received 516 documents. At a certificate handing over ceremony in late August, the Additional Register General signed 44 missing persons’ death certificates and 32 late birth registrations. A total of 74 individuals received their legal documents on that day, which included 50 marriage certificates, 19 death certificates and five late birth certificates.

Those who applied for national identity cards received them directly while the remaining individuals (297) received their documents through their respective GNs.

PARTNER MOBILE CLINICS: APPLICATIONS FILED AND DOCUMENTS OBTAINED		
Type of Document	Number of Applications Filed	Number of Documents Obtained
Marriage Certificate	106	106
Birth Certificate	277	252
Death Certificate	55	55
National Identity Card	344	103
Total	782	516

Grant Number	ARD020
District	Ampara
Project	Raising Awareness of Human Rights in Vulnerable Communities in Ampara District – Phase II
Grant Amount	Rs. 1,955,000
Dates	December 15, 2011 – October 15, 2012

The partner continued to implement its ‘Raising Awareness of Human Rights in Vulnerable Communities of Ampara District’ project, which, after the award of a one-month no cost extension, comes to an end on October 15, 2012.

Through the project the partner raised awareness on human rights in 16 villages from eight DS divisions. In total, 400 individuals (168 Tamil, 232 Muslim) attended 32 awareness sessions focused on human rights, Fundamental Rights – as guaranteed by the Constitution of Sri Lanka, particularly the right to equality – as well as women’s and children’s rights. Participants were drawn from WRDSs, fisheries societies, RDSs, youth clubs, other local CBOs and community leaders. It is hoped that through such awareness-raising, these civil society structures would be better equipped to advocate on behalf of their communities. Members and leaders of the WRDSs, fisheries societies, RDSs, youth clubs, and other local CBOs frequently lack the necessary knowledge on human rights in general and women’s and child’s rights and gender equality in particular, to be able to address issues within their communities in an equitable manner.

Following these awareness sessions, service providers such as HRC, LAC and NGOs have noted that individuals are more ready to come forward and seek legal remedies and are also more confident when approaching the authorities.

This year the partner also conducted a second Diploma in Human Rights course. This initiative, launched for the first time with a previous SuRG grant in 2010, filled a longstanding gap identified by civil society by providing a course at the regional level, making it both physically and financially accessible to a number of people who, though demonstrated a keen interest in human rights education, would have otherwise been unable to attend such a course. The course included three days of skills building on non-violent communication and conflict resolution in addition to topics such as human rights, Fundamental Rights and laws, and mechanisms for redress of violations. The 40 students formed a diverse group of participants drawn from pools of interested students, NGO workers, community activists and public servants including a Divisional Secretary, Deputy Director of Education, Rural Development Officer, teachers, mediation board members, religious leaders and officers attached to local *Pradeshija Sabhas*. The students noted that this

classroom provided an ideal space for open discussion and interaction with individuals from a range of backgrounds. A total of 34 (20 men, 14 women; 15 Tamils, 19 Muslims) students graduated in September. Six students dropped out due to re-location, new jobs and transport difficulties.

The partner also trained 166 women (104 Muslim, 62 Tamil) from 16 WRDSs to advocate on behalf of their communities. Prior to the project, most of the WRDSs the partner worked with functioned in an unstructured manner and had often been neglected as a result of the war. The trainings were aimed at improving the operational capacity of the WRDSs which would in turn improve their ability to provide services to the community and advocate on its behalf. The partner conducted 31 trainings on management, bookkeeping and

“Members previously refused to take responsibility, but after the training there is a marked improvement. They present their views and ideas more easily and are also involved in community work. This development is a direct result of the course which successfully drove the message of the importance of our role within our communities.”

PRESIDENT OF AN AMPARA DISTRICT WRDS

The partner has been closely monitoring the WRDS members on how they have been applying their new skills and has provided further direction when required. The partner is also assisting the WRDSs to link with other organizations and government officials to assist in addressing issues of concern, particularly in relation to women and children.

Diploma Graduates Spread Awareness on Human Rights

Students of the partners Diploma in Human Rights course are actively sharing what they learned with their colleagues and communities. A Divisional Secretary, and participant of the course, published a book entitled “Laws that the Public and Public Servant Should be Aware Of” based largely on the course contents. He also conducted six trainings on human rights, public laws, labor laws and women’s and child rights for graduate trainees appointed by the government.

A participant attached to the Sri Lanka Red Cross’s Disaster Management Team, conducted eight information sessions on compulsory education, environmental rights, women’s and child rights for members of village disaster management groups.

finance, effective leadership, identifying critical issues within the community, advocacy and proposal development as well as rights, remedies and the importance of legal documentation. Since the trainings, meetings are conducted regularly, leadership is stronger and members have begun savings schemes and engaging in community activities. There have also been several examples of participants preparing and submitting project proposals. For example, one WRDS of Thirukkivil-02 prepared a proposal for UNFPA to address women’s issues and domestic violence and two other WRDSs are preparing a proposal on community development to submit to the Ministry of Economic Development.

I.1.2 SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE OF WOMEN'S GLOBAL ISSUES (S/WGI) GRANT

Grant Number	ARD046
Project	Domestic Violence is a Human Rights Issue: Expanding Prevention and Enhancing Support Services in Post-War Sri Lanka
District	National, Jaffna, Puttalam
Grant Award	Rs. 11,507,506
Dates	July 01, 2011 – February 28, 2013

WIN's 'Domestic Violence as a Human Rights Issue: Expanding Prevention and Enhancing Support Services in Post-War Sri Lanka' project supports the activities and provides legal and psychosocial counseling and the outreach efforts of their Jaffna and Puttalam centers. In addition, the project supports WIN's 24-hour crisis hotline which is accessed by clients in times of need and WIN shelters for battered women in Colombo and Matara. This fiscal year, WIN received 14,557 distress calls over the hotline while 134 women and children were housed in the shelters (53 Matara, 81 Colombo).

WIN's project was originally intended to end in June 2012. However, due to delays and the ultimate cancellation of the curriculum development program for family court counselors (described in detail below), they were granted a no-cost extension. In addition, SuRG provided WIN with Rs. 3,057,016 in supplemental funds to cover the cost of continued legal and psychological counseling to victims of violence in the Jaffna and Puttalam districts as well as additional training and outreach programs through February 2013.

WIN Awareness Raising Sessions

Target Audience	Number of programs	Number of participants
Jaffna		
Community Members	4	254
Midwives	2	57
Mid-level Government Officials	2	28
Samurdhi Officers	1	19
Grama Niladharis	1	10
Total Jaffna	10	368
Puttalam		
Community members	8	433
Health Care Workers	1	25
Samurdhi Officers	1	44
Doctors	1	28
Total Puttalam	11	530
TOTAL	21	898

A total of 907 new clients accessed WIN's legal services in Jaffna and Puttalam this fiscal year, while 728 new clients accessed WIN's psychosocial counseling services.

WIN conducted 12 community awareness programs, targeting socio-economically depressed communities in Puttalam and Jaffna this fiscal year. In addition to taking participants through the negative impacts of gender-based violence and alcoholism, WIN staff raised awareness on the avenues available for victims to seek redress. They also provided information on WIN services and how they can be reached.

Nine awareness-raising programs were carried out this fiscal year targeting government officials (including Divisional Secretaries, Women Development Officers, Child Rights Protection Officers, Samurdhi Officers and GNs) doctors and health care workers. These workshops were designed to discuss the roles, duties and responsibilities of officials with regard to identifying victims and preventing the spread of violence against women, as well as to create awareness on the legal aspects surrounding crimes such as domestic violence.

Officers and professionals who participated have since offered considerable support to WIN in identifying victims and providing services. Grassroots officers such as GNs, Samurdhi Officers and midwives regularly refer cases to WIN and also help staff in organizing village-level awareness campaigns.

WIN also conducted two paralegal training workshops for individuals in selected villages in both Jaffna and Puttalam in the second quarter of this fiscal year. A total of 54 individuals (27 men, 27 women) were trained to assist in identifying and addressing cases of gender-based violence. The programs aimed to address the gaps in knowledge of the law that existed in order for community leaders to provide better informed support to victims.

Following the success of a youth workshop held in Puttalam in April 2012, where 18 youth (10 male, 8 female) participated, a similar workshop was held for youth in Jaffna District. Nineteen male youth, including members of youth clubs and students of the Jaffna University participated in this workshop which was held in Colombo in August 2012. The workshop aimed to change negative perceptions of the role of women and girls, to deepen understanding of concepts such as gender and patriarchy and create awareness on the types and causes of GBV.

The project suffered a significant setback when the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) refused to permit the family court counselors' program. In its place, WIN proposed to use the available funds for a program targeting Assistant Counselors, in collaboration with the Family Health Bureau (Ministry of Health) and the Ministry of Social Services. A three-day program was held in August with the participation of 32 Assistant Counselors from the districts of Kurunegala, Kandy, Matale, Galle, Matara, Moneragala, Nuwera Eliya and Hambantota. A counselor from the WIN Matara Centre and a Social Worker from the WIN Kandy Centre also attended. The main objectives of this program were to enable the Assistant Counselors to better understand their roles vis-à-vis adolescents and victims of gender-based violence and build a referral mechanism between the Family Health Bureau, Ministry of Social Services and WIN as well as with health workers attached to the regional health services. SuRG is currently working with WIN to ensure that this program is expanded to include participants from the project's target areas of Jaffna and Puttalam and the broader North and East as is indicated in the grant agreement. Outcomes of these discussions will be reported during the next quarter.

WIN conducted staff capacity building workshops in Jaffna and in Puttalam. The workshop in Jaffna covered proposal writing as was requested by the Jaffna Centre staff. The workshop in Puttalam was a refresher program for WIN staff and focused on topics such as time and stress management, creative thinking, problem solving, personal development, non-violent communication and new techniques in psychosocial counseling. SuRG also supported WIN's Annual Review Meeting held in June 2012. One hundred and seventeen WIN staff members, comprising counselors, lawyers, social workers, accountants and administrative staff from all of WIN's centers across the country attended the program.

On the request of the Jaffna staff, the extended project also provides for an experienced counselor attached to the Thellipalai Hospital to visit the WIN Jaffna office twice every month to support staff. Two such visits took place during the month of September where the counselor discussed issues staff are facing and provided overall support and guidance.



AWIN Counselor, at a Women's Group Meeting held in Jaffna District.

“The USAID SuRG Program has been conducting a useful set of programs and workshops on legal matters to enhance the professional capacity of lawyers of the North and East of Sri Lanka. The fact that it is mainly conducted in Tamil, I believe, has enabled lawyers to participate in discussions more enthusiastically than if they were conducted in English. I am singularly pleased that I have had the opportunity to be with all these participants to discuss matters which are very important in a legal practitioner’s professional life.”

RESOURCE PERSON,
RETIRED SUPREME COURT JUDGE

The project extension also provides for Jaffna staff to engage directly with community women in the six villages by setting up women’s groups. During the month of September 2012, four groups were set up comprising a total of 70 women. Two more groups will be set up in October 2012 and over the next five months, WIN staff will conduct monthly meetings with each group in order to equip and empower them to address or refer issues faced by women and children in their communities.

I.1.3 TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

LAWYERS TRAINING

The SE team conducted four training workshops for lawyers of the Northern and Eastern Provinces. A total of 111 participants (106 lawyers, 5 judges), including 17 female lawyers, were present at these workshops. The trainings were of two distinct categories, a province-based residential training workshop and a series of three one-day practical workshops held at the district level. The day-long workshops were designed to be able to include a greater number of participants, particularly those who were unable to travel outside of their districts due to other commitments.

In addition, SuRG supported the Jaffna Bar Association to conduct a day-long workshop on labor laws. A total of 67 lawyers, judges and law students – predominantly from Jaffna, but also from Kilinochchi – participated in the workshop.

(i) Residential workshop on emerging legal issues on land within a post-conflict environment

Forty-four lawyers from the Eastern Province participated in this workshop which was held in March. The workshop aimed to equip lawyers with the knowledge and skills to handle land issues considered vital within a post-conflict environment and built on a similar workshop held the previous August for lawyers from the North. Topics covered were as follows:

- 66 Applications under the Primary Court Procedure Act;
- Civil Litigation relating to Immovable Property (Private lands); and
- State Land Issues.



Lawyers from Vavuniya, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Killinochchi participate in a mock trial during the ‘Training Workshop on Civil Pleadings for Lawyers’ conducted in Vavuniya.

(ii) Regional Workshops

Three one-day regional workshops were conducted in June, July and September 2012 in Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Vavunia, respectively. The trainings focused on “The Salient Features of Pleadings and Pre-trial Procedures in Civil Litigation,” and were designed to be practical skills-building workshops. A total of 67 participants, including five judges were present at these workshops. The workshops were open to all members of the relevant district bar associations, and the Vavunia workshop invitation was also extended to lawyers from the Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.

The topic of the workshop and format were designed based on feedback obtained during evaluations which pointed to the need for skills training on procedural aspects of the law. As such, the workshops dealt with a number of procedural aspects, including the drafting of complaints and answers and practical aspects such as effective client counseling and case settling. The structure of the workshops also allowed for a practical exercise on drafting complaints and answers for which selected individuals were handed over instructions beforehand in order to present their cases at the workshop.

Judges and lawyers present at the workshop noted the relevance of the topic and valued the opportunity to interact with the eminent resource person, who was himself the authority for much of the principles being laid out. One judge noted that the areas covered were precisely the areas that many lawyers, particularly the younger ones made mistakes in. He stated that if those who were not present should make these mistakes in the future, he would remind them that they no longer had an excuse because they had made a bigger mistake of not attending. He also hoped that those who were present would provide their services more effectively following the workshop.

“I can proudly say that I have recently opened up an office in Vavuniya to do legal work for the community. As I’m a very junior female lawyer in the area, I have lots of civil cases and before I came to this workshop, I jotted down all the doubts and longstanding questions I had regarding procedural laws. Today I was able to secure clear answers and clarifications to all my queries...I think this kind of workshop should be continued so that junior lawyers like me can come forward and be of help to the community.”

**ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
MEMBER OF VAVUNIA BAR ASSOCIATION**

(iii) Workshop on Labor Laws

The Northern Province has not had a Labor Court since 1987. Labor cases from the North have since been heard mainly in Anuradhapura or elsewhere on the island. As a result, a number of clients from the North have preferred not to take labor matters to court. The Bar Association of Jaffna began advocating with the Ministry of Justice and the Chief Justice for the re-establishment of a labor court in Jaffna and was granted permission by the Ministry early this year. While the infrastructure is nearly ready, the Bar Association observed that the northern legal community – lawyers, law students and paralegals – were unfamiliar with the laws applicable to this area of substantive law and so decided to conduct a special seminar on the topic. The seminar was held on 16 June in Jaffna. A total of 67 lawyers, judges and law students – predominantly from Jaffna, but also from Kilinochchi – participated in the workshop, which was facilitated by a Supreme Court Judge.

STRATEGIC PLANNING – ODDAMADY GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) DESK

After extensive talks with officials and stakeholders of the GBV Desk at a Base Hospital in Oddamavady, in Batticaloa District, SuRG commissioned two technical advisors to assist in the design of a long-term strategy for the sustenance of the Desk.

Critical to the assignment was the process through which the plan was developed. The SuRG technical team engaged staff and stakeholders of the GBV Desk in participatory consultations including interviews and two workshops. A total of 19 individuals participated in the first workshop. *Grama Niladbaris*, Probation Officers, a Child Rights Promotion Assistant, a Relief Sister, and a Teacher Advisor (In-service Advisor) in addition to GBV Desk and Hospital staff, which included the Medical Superintendent, the Psychiatrist, Medical Officers, Nursing Officers, Public Health Nursing Sister, a Public Health Midwife, the Psychosocial Assistant, and the Social Welfare Officer, members of the GBV Desk partner organizations all attended the workshop. During the workshop, participants prepared goals and objectives for the strategic planning process. These participants became the ‘Core Group’ that would directly influence the design and implement the strategic plan. Following the workshop, the advisors conducted a series of interviews with other relevant stakeholders and gathered information on the types of services currently available for victims of GBV, the opportunities available to address GBV as well as the challenges. The advisors also met with the GBV Task Force, Women’s Coalition for Disaster Management (WCDM), hospital staff and other key informants such as the police, members of the Mediation Boards and affected women who were willing to meet and share their experiences and ideas. The advisors then drafted a strategic plan to share at a second workshop with the Core Group and other local stakeholder organizations including local and international NGOs. A total of 23 individuals participated in the second workshop held in Trincomalee. Participants discussed and revised the draft. The plan was finalized in August 2012 and the GBV Desk is using it as the basis for moving forward. Key elements of the plan included formalization of stakeholder participation and network development, as well as steps to transfer leadership and coordination of the network to local government agencies working in close collaboration with the Desk, the Hospital and civil society stakeholders.



MSI/SuRG

SuRG-sponsored participants in group therapy training apply their learning by leading a group therapy session for ‘war affected’ school children from the Trincomalee district in collaboration with a SuRG partner.

COUNSELING GROUP THERAPY TRAINING

SuRG supported the participation of nine people in a 10-day training program on group therapy in Batticaloa from 26 June to 06 July. SuRG-sponsored participants included six partner Integrated Skills Course students, two Trincomalee District Women’s Network staff, and one partner counseling staff. They were accompanied by one SuRG SE Program Officer. A partner in Trincomalee plans to form a network of counselors with the nine Trincomalee-based participants after the course.

The trainees did not delay in applying the training, within a month they conducted a one-day group therapy session for 41 war-affected school children (18 female, 23 male) from local schools in Trincomalee District. The program was aimed at re-acclimatizing children traumatized by war and abuse into society by using creative counseling methods such as handicrafts, art, storytelling, games and song.

I.1.4 PROGRAM REVIEWS AND ASSESMENTS

NORTHERN LAWYER'S EVALUATION

In August 2011, SuRG supported the training of 31 lawyers from the Northern Province on land matters affecting communities within a post-war environment. In April and May 2012, the SE team met with all 31 of the participant northern lawyers of the workshop, together with seven judges, and other lawyers from the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts (who had not participated in the workshop), in order to assess the relevance and utility of the training they received vis-à-vis their legal practice and the needs of the local communities for whom they provide services.

The response to the trainings was overwhelmingly positive. Lawyers and judges in the North have even fewer training opportunities than lawyers in the East, yet have some of the most daunting caseloads substantively and quantitatively. As such, all the participants valued the training imparted as well as the opportunity provided to interact with a sitting judge and a former Supreme Court Justice.

The training materials provided, which included transcripts of the lectures as well as copies of each of the statutes and cases referenced, exemplars of affidavits, forms and pleadings were highly appreciated by not only the participants, but all the informants, who had either obtained copies through their colleagues or had opportunity to peruse through them in the bar association libraries. Many deemed the materials to be the most valuable aspect of the training, having a lasting impact.

“I appreciate the partner taking on the challenging endeavor of conducting this comprehensive Diploma Course in Human Rights for the first time in the Ampara district. It is a difficult task...as it has been a bitter topic for many. Particularly in eastern Sri Lanka which is steadily developing from the ruins of 30 years of armed conflict...I strongly believe this course will enhance the capacity of the present candidates from various sectors...and they will become campaigners for the protection and promotion of human rights.”

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

SENIOR LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL LAW, UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO AND RESOURCE PERSON PARTNER HUMAN RIGHTS DIPLOMA PROGRAM

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION REVIEW

The SE team carried out a rapid review of the human rights courses conducted by a partner in Trincomalee and another in Ampara during previous years. The objective of the review was to evaluate the practical utility of the courses for participants and whether courses of this nature serve to promote increased understanding, discussion and protection of human rights at a broader level. Details of the findings were reported in Q2.

I.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION

The Community Empowerment and Transformation (CEaT) component provided a comprehensive program of grant management, capacity building and monitoring of grantees implementing a range of activities focused on building ties across ethnic and religious communities, regenerating and strengthening local civil society and community-based organizations (CBOs) and empowering women and youth in the East and Polonnaruwa District.

Over the course of the fiscal year, SuRG awarded five follow-up grants with a total value of Rs. 9,653,625 to regional grantees in Polonnaruwa District. In addition, a follow-up grant was awarded to continue work with

Buddhist clergy in Ampara, Monaragula and Polonnaruwa. The program extended into Batticaloa at the request of participants and religious leaders.



Buddhist and Christian women from Padaviya who participated in a partner's sewing training display their products at an exhibition.

Grantees were supported throughout the year with ongoing technical assistance and training, including a series of residential training programs on negotiation, general management, and gender, as well as district partner quarterly review meetings (QRMs). The QRMs provide SuRG partners a space to network, share best practices and lessons learned while enabling SuRG staff to more closely monitor grantees and project activities. The meetings also provide a mechanism through which partners can review their work and receive peer and SuRG feedback on a regular basis. Targeted training sessions are also included in the QRMs. Topics covered this year were M&E; financial recordkeeping; the SuRG local governance model

to engage CBOs in Participatory Governance Forums (PGFs); an information-sharing session from DAI on the USAID/RISEN program and how SuRG partners might access OTI funds; communications, branding and snapshots; and lessons learned from participants supported by SuRG who attended an Indian study tour on development and gender. Eight QRMs were held throughout the year for 15 partners.

Highlights of CEaT activities this fiscal year include:

- Tamil, Sinhala and English language classes were conducted for 1,480 people including:
 - 86 religious leaders
 - 1,394 women, youth and community members.
- One hundred seventy-six CBOs including WRDSs, youth groups, children's clubs, and village and peace committees participated in training and awareness sessions on a diverse range of topics such as human rights, community development, organizational management and skills development.
- A partner approved and issued 44 loans to women entrepreneurs, ranging from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 200,000. The total value of those loans is Rs. 3,588,507.
- Sixty women in Trincomalee participated in trainings, monthly meetings, discussions with politicians and media and other activities to develop their knowledge about and the skills needed to participate in politics. Three of the women joined a PS Standing Committee.
- A partner compiled and distributed a comprehensive directory of service providers including contact information for CBOs, government offices, NGOs and others involved in social, educational, or financial services in a DS division in Batticaloa District.
- Thirty-five community inter-faith development projects managed by religious leaders were completed; an additional 11 are ongoing.
- Fifteen *shramadanas*, cultural activities and sporting events were held to bring together community members from different ethnic communities.
- Four hundred thirteen religious leaders from four faith groups took part in 20 inter-faith dialogues.
- A group of 10 junior researchers attended a training and are conducting field research on priority issues for the Muslim community as part of a partner's Social Science Research Methods Course.

- 1,762 children and youth (898 male, 864 female) benefitted from CEaT activities including children and youth group meetings, essay competitions, cultural events, sports tournaments, workshops, *shramadanas*, street dramas, and language classes to build ties among ethnic groups and communities and empower local youth.

1.2.1 GRANTS

GRANTS COMPLETED AND CLOSED

Grant Number	ARD034
Project Title	Community Empowerment through CBO Capacity Building
District	Batticaloa
Grant Amount	Rs. 3,169,000
Dates	August 15, 2011 – September 14, 2012

The partner completed its 13-month ‘Community Empowerment through CBO Capacity Building’ program which aimed to build the capacity of 33 RDSs, WRDSs and fisheries societies in seven GN divisions in Batticaloa District.

Employing a training module developed during the project, the partner conducted 49 training sessions for 592 CBO members (278 male, 314 female) on community mobilization and awareness-raising, leadership, legal documentation, finance and credit management, and office management.

The partner also organized an exposure visit in July for 35 CBO members to a DS Office in Kandy District which is known and has won several awards for its effective and efficient service delivery. Participants learned about the DS Office’s strategies for effective and efficient service delivery. They also visited a WRDS to learn about and visit their community income-generating projects.

In order to identify the legal documentation needs in the seven project GNs, the partner utilized a data collection form they prepared and employed the CBO members trained under the legal documentation workshop to help them collect the information. The partner also conducted seven pre-mobile clinics, during which project CBO members helped fill out forms and also identified additional cases. As a result of these initiatives, the partner identified 798 documentation cases in the seven project GNs and selected 176 for follow-up assistance at their final mobile clinic. The remaining 622 were forwarded to the DS Office for follow-up.

Impressed by the success of these efforts, the DS requested the partner to replicate the activities in the other nine GNs of the division. The partner complied, but was only able to cover five additional GNs due to lack of time. The partner identified an additional 147 legal documentation needs cases at pre-mobile clinics in those five GNs.



At age 57, a woman receives her birth certificate from at the partner’s Service Directory Launching Ceremony held in Batticaloa District.

In September, the partner conducted its final mobile clinic attended by 323 people (176 from 7 project GNs and 147 from additional 5 GNs). Two hundred forty-one people received their legal document certificates (118 death certificates and 123 birth certificates) during the clinic. The partner is following up with the remaining 82 people who required additional supporting documents.

The partner also published a *Service Providers' Directory* which provides the contact information of social service providers (NGOs, INGOs, government institutions) throughout the division. Five hundred copies were produced, out of which each project CBO received 10 copies; the remaining copies are being distributed among service providers and NGOs in the division.

Grant Number	ARD056
Project	Strengthening Community Co-existence through Social Mobilization of Women's and Youth Groups
District	Trincomalee
Grant Award	Rs. 2,278,475.00
Dates	December 01, 2011 – August 31, 2012

In mid-December 2011, the partner commenced its second SuRG grant entitled, “Strengthening Community Co-existence through Social Mobilization of Women’s and Youth Groups” in Trincomalee District. Based on the lessons learned and successes of their first grant, the partner planned to further strengthen the capacity of their best performing women’s and youth groups in 13 partner communities while continuing to focus on co-existence initiatives.

As they had received government approval to conduct similar activities under their first SuRG grant, the partner moved forward with implementation while approval was still pending for the second grant. The DS had verbally indicated to the partner that he was okay with the project, but that final approval would need to come from the GA. In March 2012, the partner was notified by the Additional GA that he would only support a grant which provided livelihood support to community members in place of the planned peacebuilding activities. As further attempts by the partner to gain approval were unsuccessful, SuRG cancelled the second grant to the partner and designed a new program which includes livelihood support to beneficiaries while remaining consistent with the original project and SuRG objectives. The new six-month grant will commence during the first quarter of FY13.

During the three months of implementation prior to the termination of the grant, the partner conducted 24 Youth Group and 26 Women’s Group monthly meetings in the 13 project villages where participants identified priority community issues and possible solutions. A total of 511 people (335 female, 176 male; 289 Tamils, 218 Muslims, four Sinhalese) participated in these meetings. As they did not get approval for project activities, the partner was unable to follow-up, but plans to do so under the new grant.

Grant Number	ARD038
Project	Supporting Women’s Political Candidacy in Trincomalee
District	Trincomalee
Grant Award	Rs. 3,164,000
Dates	August 15, 2011 – September 13, 2012



Tetra Tech ARD/SuRG

A Divisional Secretary from the Trincomalee District presents a Top Ten Winners Award of a partner's essay competition on the role of women in politics at an awards ceremony.

In September 2012, the partner completed its “Supporting Women’s Political Candidacy in Trincomalee” project which aimed to increase the political influence and participation of women in the two DS divisions of Trincomalee District. During the project, the partner selected 60 women (49 Tamils and 11 Muslims) from the targeted communities who had displayed interest in becoming involved in politics and helped develop their knowledge and build their capacity to participate in politics through an integrated program of skills development, monthly meetings, open conferences and round table and film discussions.

The partner facilitated a total of 14 village-level monthly discussions attended by the 60 selected women, providing a space for them to discuss women’s issues and develop strategies to improve political participation of women in their communities. These women also received a series of trainings on leadership; gender equality; the history of women in politics in Sri Lanka; and political networking strategies and participatory planning. The partner also conducted 24 open conferences, facilitated by local authority officials, and 18 film discussions which helped sensitize communities on the benefits women

can bring to politics, the importance of voting, and helped communities identify pressing issues and find solutions for them. These meetings were attended by 1,788 people (1,508 women, 280 men) including RDS and WRDS members, religious leaders, and community members.

During Q4, the partner’s women beneficiaries continued to take the lead on advocating for solutions to village-level issues raised at the monthly meetings and open conferences. For example, partner women beneficiaries encouraged community members to raise the issue of the need for rehabilitation of a pre-school road and the lack of proper drainage facilities at the community development plan meeting conducted by the PS (see box story). As a result of the meeting, and a letter sent to the PS last quarter, the road was rehabilitated and drainage system repairs are underway. Also the RDS President was not holding meetings regularly and was generally not transparent about the activities and dealings of the RDS. Together with community members partner project participants spoke to the *Grama Niladhari* and Divisional Secretary which resulted in reforms at the RDS and new leadership.

To raise awareness on the roles of women in politics among youth and the general public, the partner conducted an essay competition for Advanced Level students and produced two Tamil publications authored by the partner’s President entitled *Women and Politics* and *A Toolkit for Women’s Participation in Politics*. One hundred and two students from 12 schools in the DS divisions participated in the essay competition. In September, the partner held a certificate awarding ceremony for the students during which they also released the two publications. To date, 700 of the 1,000 copies of the two books (500 each) have been distributed to grant participants, women interested in politics, RDSs, WRDSs, schools and public libraries.

During the certificate awarding ceremony, 10 partner women beneficiaries performed a drama developed by them on the theme of domestic violence and harassment women face in their communities. Upon seeing the drama, a DS, requested the women perform the drama at a festival organized by the DS for International Children’s Day.

Partner Women Beneficiaries Join PS Committees and Encourage Women's Engagement in the Local Authority

In March 2012, three participants in the partner's program to promote women's participation in politics, joined PS standing committees — two women became members of the Local Authority Participatory Development Plan Committee, and one became a member of the PS's Social Audit Group. They were nominated for the positions by a tireless advocate for women's engagement with their local authorities and frequent resource person at partner training sessions. She is also the Trincomalee Community Development Officer and one of only 15 participants in SuRG local government trainings selected as a member of the LG resource pool.

Through their participation on the PS Advisory Committees, the three partner project beneficiary committee members gained firsthand experience about how the PS functions and then, during partner meetings and conferences, informed others on issues handled by the PS and the steps needed to address those issues. Their work with the PS also helped them to understand and explain to others why active involvement by women in the PS is needed to ensure women's issues are seriously considered and ultimately addressed by the local authority.

The impact of having women on the PS Committees was quickly demonstrated when the PS conducted a Participatory Rural Appraisal and drafted community development plans. Women in the area, encouraged by the new committee members, actively participated and made sure their needs and requests were included among those prioritized and addressed. As a result, the road leading up to the pre-school was rehabilitated and drainage facility repairs began in three communities.

Project implementation and progress was not without challenges, however. Deeply engrained stereotypes that discourage women from participating in politics continued to be the partner's biggest challenge. This was especially evident at the media and political round table discussions organized by the partner in which a total of 103 people (78 female, 25 male) participated. Both round table discussions had several heated debates between the all-female partner participants and the panel members. These debates highlighted the all-male media personnel and majority male political officials participating in the round tables' ingrained biases of gender inequality, women's place in society being at home, and general lack of enthusiasm about women participating in politics or the media.

Despite such setbacks, participants are enthusiastic about the program and taking the initiative to both pursue their political ambitions and raise awareness about the importance of women's participation in politics. For example, weeks before the Eastern Provincial Council elections in September, partner participants went door-to-door in their communities with brochures detailing voting methods and the importance of voting. In June, the partner formed a women's network to strengthen the bonds created by the 60 women during the project and to help them network and share best practices with each other.

Grant Number	ARD049
Project	Deepening Buddhist Practice of Social Engagement & Inter-faith Dialogue
District	Ampara, Monaragala, Polonnaruwa and Batticaloa
Grant Award	Rs 1,724,700
Dates	August 15, 2011 - August, 14 2012

The partner's grant entitled, 'Deepening Buddhist Practice of Social Engagement and Inter-faith Dialogue' was launched late in August 2011 and completed after a year. Over the course of the 12-month project, the partner worked to empower and strengthen moderate Buddhist clergy and other religious leaders' abilities to engage in and contribute to inter-community and inter-religious reconciliation and co-existence in Ampara, Batticaloa, Monaragala and Polonnaruwa.

The partner conducted the following activities:

Partner Activities			
Activities	Number of Activities	No. of Participants	Objectives
Beginners Dialogue Forum	5	125	Introduce and provide a forum for discussion on social engagement and inter-faith dialogue for Buddhist monks and nuns
Advanced Dialogue Forum	2	24	Promote and discuss religious tolerance and co-existence
Gender Workshop	5	131	Improve Buddhist nuns and monks' understanding of gender and gender equality
Inter-faith Forum	12	743	Create a space for inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogue for religious leaders and community members
Network Meeting for Religious and Community leaders	1	42	To establish a network among religious and community leaders from all four districts to share knowledge, and identify and address common issues
Tamil Language Class	3	86	Provide a forum for Buddhist monks and nuns who studied Tamil to practice their newly acquired language skills
Lessons Learned Workshop	1	28	Religious leaders and community members from all four faith groups identify lessons learned and best practices from the program

The beginners' forums focused on analyzing how religion could facilitate peace. Participants discussed the need to understand the root causes of the conflict and find religious and socio-economic solutions to the outstanding conflict issues. The partner also facilitated discussions on how local government functions as a representative body which should provide guidance and direction about livelihood possibilities.

Two, two-day forums entitled, "Religion for Social Transformation & Inter-faith Co-existence" and "Comparing Religious Psychology and Western Psychology with Special attention to Buddhist Psychology" were held this year. The forums addressed issues of identity, social norms, and conflict resolution practices as part of efforts to discuss reconciliation.

As a means to improve Buddhist nuns' knowledge of gender equity practices and to build their capacity to address discriminatory practices, the partner conducted five related workshops. In one instance, monks were invited to join the nuns to create a space for open discussion on gender issues which prevail within the temples and the society as a whole. Participants were able to learn about and discuss highly sensitive topics that the nuns had not previously been exposed to including the definition of gender, differences between gender and sexuality, roles of men and women in society, the equal importance of men and women and structures in society in which women are treated unequally (e.g., family; educational, religious, and media institutions; state and government).

The 12 inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogues brought religious leaders from the four faith groups together to identify similarities between faiths; understand diverse values of different faiths; explore and learn about traditions of different faiths; and discuss the potential for cooperation among people of different religious traditions. The forums helped to build relationships among the Ampara and Batticaloa border communities which had weakened as a result of the war. Religious leaders were keen to mutually address problems faced by people in remote regions. One forum was held in a mosque in the Batticaloa. It was the first time a number of

the participating Buddhist monks and nuns had been to a mosque. Villagers pointed out how pleased they were to see the monks and nuns arrive and for many of their children it was the first time they had seen a Buddhist religious leader at mosque.

The partner also implemented Tamil language classes for Buddhist clergy so they could engage with different ethnic communities. This was of particular importance as their inability to speak Tamil prevented them from working with different communities. Classes were taught in Monaragala, Ampara and Polonnaruwa; the course end evaluations were conducted with the assistance of language professionals. Sixty Buddhist monks and nuns took the final exam – six received distinction passes, seven received credit passes, 12 simple passes and 35 weak passes.

At the close of the project, the partner organized a lessons learned workshop for selected participating religious leaders and community members from all faiths. At this workshop, overall learning, best practices and challenges were identified and it provided an opportunity for religious and community leaders to share their insights and provide input and feedback on the project. Four main themes guided the workshop: Knowledge and Attitudinal Change; Inter-religious Co-existence; Gender Equity; and Community Participation. Key findings from the workshop included:

- Religious leaders' learning about other faiths has helped them to think differently about common issues, and encouraged them to preach to their followers on the positive aspects found in other religions;
- Gender sessions helped to create a space for monks and nuns to discuss discriminatory practices among them, a subject which was previously taboo, and also to address issues such as sexuality, sexual violence and how to deal with cases from a legal standpoint in an open manner;
- Communities have become more aware of other religious practices through their religious leaders which will help to remove barriers as they try to reconcile and coexist;
- Participants have genuinely developed good relationships despite religious and ethnic differences, and subsequently, they all agreed to support one another by not participating in protests against other religious groups;
- Strong connections and networks have been created through this project and religious leaders and communities have been invited to come to each others' communities; and
- Participants agreed to continue the network formed during the project even without donor funding; each religious leader agreed to reach out to other faith groups by making regular visits to their communities, mitigating conflicts where opportunities arise, and pursuing ways to live together peacefully.



A Buddhist monk explains his group's artwork, titled "Knowledge and Attitude," created during the partner's Lessons Learned Workshop held in Monaragala District.

Grant Number	ARD058
Project	Engaging People's Fora and Local Authorities to Empower Communities
District	Polonnaruwa
Grant Award	Rs. 1,674,200
Dates	December 15, 2011 – September 24, 2012

SuRG awarded a follow-on grant to the partner in December 2011 for its “Engaging People’s Fora and Local Authorities to Empower Communities” project which aims to enhance participatory local governance in 28 GNs through People’s Forums (PFs) in Polonnaruwa District. The partner started the project by establishing new PFs in 18 GNs and working with the 10 PFs already established in its previous grant. Eighteen project orientation meetings were held in the new GN divisions to form PFs and raise awareness of the new project. The partner also conducted meetings with the 10 PFs formed during its first grant where the new project was discussed and new office bearers were nominated by members to replace inactive members. A total of 1,064 people (611 male, 453 female) participated in these initial meetings including 937 Sinhalese and 127 Muslims.

After the selection of members for the new PFs, the partner organized two, two-day leadership trainings in late February and April for the 18 new PF members. One hundred and sixty three members participated in the two trainings including 116 Sinhalese and 47 Muslims (117 males, 46 females) where they learned how to lead a team in promoting participatory local governance in the DS Division.

The partner also formed a new super-structure called the Central People’s Forum (CPF) in which all 28 GN divisions are represented by three members from each of the 28 PFs. Seventy two members participated in the CPF formation meeting which included 58 Sinhalese and 14 Muslims (22 men, 50 women).

Despite these activities, concerns about program implementation, the management of the partner and inappropriate involvement of local authorities in partner affairs were brought to SuRG staff. In response, SuRG conducted a mid-term program and administrative review with partner board members and staff to explore concerns about the Chairman of the Board of Directors’ (who is the authorized signatory to the grant) dismissal without proper notification and concerns about a potential conflict of interest due to an overlap among the board, program management and local authorities. The SuRG team found that there had been significant involvement of the local authorities from both the DS and PS level in the affairs of the partner which was especially evident through partner hiring practices of staff members and placement of PS members and DS officers on the Board of Directors. It also became clear that the DS had significant influence over partner staffing and financial decisions. The review also raised questions about untimely submission of reports, poor and inaccurate documentation of events and a lack of systems and supervision of staff. Due to these reasons, SuRG canceled the grant in September.

NEW AND ONGOING GRANTS

Grant Number	ARD059
Project	Community Empowerment and Mobilization for Muslim and Sinhalese Co-existence Project
District	Polonnaruwa
Grant Award	Rs 1,724,700
Dates	December 15, 2011 - November 30, 2012

The partner was awarded a follow-on grant for their SuRG-funded “Community Empowerment and Mobilization for Muslim and Sinhalese Communities Co-Existence” project in December 2011. The project continued work with village committees formed during the partner’s first grant and expanded project

activities by establishing children’s clubs in each of the eight project villages in Polonnaruwa District. Though the project was originally planned for seven villages, after requests were made by the community, the partner added the community to the program.

In the initial stages of the project, the partner brought together 621 (289 Sinhala, 332 Muslim) village committee members and children for orientation meetings to discuss implementation of the new project and to establish the new children’s clubs. The partner then followed up by conducting 58 village committee and 67 children’s club monthly meetings to discuss village-level issues and advocate for solutions, and organize activities to promote integration. The partner also brought together office bearers from each community group and provided trainings including advocacy (for village committees) and leadership, skills development and communication (for children’s clubs).

During divisional committee meetings, which bring together office bearers from each village committee, members prioritized the need to provide legal documentation support for community members. As such, village committee representatives collected data on persons needing legal documentation and identified approximately 100 people who need assistance. Mobile clinics are planned for Q1 FY13 to provide the needed support.

The partner also organized two divisional children’s club meetings for members to coordinate activities that bring Muslim and Sinhala children together. They organized a *Dansala* (alms giving) during Poson Poya day (a Buddhist religious holiday in June), and a cricket tournament in which seven of the eight children’s clubs participated. A total of 211 children (150 Muslim, 61 Sinhala) participated in the first such event organized in the area with the participation of children from both communities.

The partner continued to support children’s clubs to establish themselves as prominent organizations by supporting their club activities and promoting interaction between them. The partner provided all children’s clubs with sports equipment in March and is also conducting Sinhala and Tamil language classes for 274 children. In July, the partner supported two children’s fairs to raise funds for future club activities.

Grant Number	ARD047
Project	Technical Assistance & Capacity Building
District	National
Grant Award	US\$: 279,127
Dates	August 15, 2011 – May 31, 2013

American University Peacebuilding & Development Institute (AU-PDI) was awarded a grant for its “Technical Assistance and Capacity Building” program in August 2011. Implementation did not begin in earnest until the first quarter of this fiscal year after the local partner core staff was hired. Once a consultant was identified to act as a senior manager of the local partner, AU’s Project Coordinator and Project Director travelled to Colombo in October and December, respectively, to finalize the terms of an MOU defining AU and the partner’s relationship, and to develop and refine program strategy and plans with the partner’s Board and staff.

AU worked with the partner throughout the year to support development and strengthening of the organization, staff and activities. The partner launched programming with external stakeholders in January with its Social Science Research Methods Course, followed by Capacity Building on Rights and Advocacy and Women’s Advocacy and Policy Formulation workshops and Land Resettlement Consultations.

“We play a lot of sports in this area and we decided to get the partner’s help to further interact with the Muslim Children’s Clubs as well.”

15 year old Participant
PARTNER CHILDREN’S CLUB CRICKET TEAM MEMBER

The startup delay was followed by staffing and other challenges throughout the year which resulted in the need for a no-cost extension to complete the project as originally planned. AU requested an extension through May 2013 and a corresponding budget realignment. Both were approved in August.

Partner Institutional Development

- Board Development

During his visit to Sri Lanka in December 2011, AU's Project Director facilitated a workshop with eight members of the partner's Board at which they outlined program direction, prioritized issue areas for the partner to address and sketched out a one-year work plan. Since then, at a general board meeting held in July, the Board approved a new constitution and appointed a new Chairperson.

- Staffing

Staffing of the partner has been an ongoing challenge. In October, a temporary Senior Program and Operational Manager were appointed so as not to delay programming while the Board continued to find a permanent CEO. He took on this role, along with a Program Officer and Program Assistant, to start up the office and launch the partner's programming. Although recruitment continued, the partner was not able to identify a suitable candidate so the temporary CEO agreed to stay on as CEO to complete the AU-SuRG program.

Furthermore, as programming was ramped up, he found that the original staffing pattern was not sufficient to effectively implement all the activities. In response, the Board approved his request, and their budget was realigned so that two additional staff could be hired. One Program Assistant to work on the strategic plan, training and other program activities and a new Program Assistant to focus on management, finance and administration were hired in September.

- Capacity Building

AU worked with the partner to build the capacity of its staff on both organizational as well as programming issues throughout the course of the year. In addition, the partner staff holds regular meetings at which a staff member leads a discussion to help the team's understanding of key development terms, issues and challenges. Three such meetings have taken place to date.

- Proposal Development and Fundraising

Throughout the year, AU has been working with the partner to develop a funding proposal. AU's Project Director worked with the Board and staff in December to hone in on their long-term vision, strategy and plan. The partner then drafted a four-year proposal for activities around the following issues: Internally Displaced People, Land and Resettlement/Relocation; Discrimination and Minority Issues; Intra- and Inter-Religious Harmony; Migration of Women for Employment; Policy Reform and Constitutional Reform; and Eviction of Slum Dwellers from Colombo. It was finalized in August.

The proposal is written so that one donor can step in and fund it in its entirety, or divide it into separate projects which can be funded by multiple donors. Next fiscal year, the partner plans to present the proposal at two donor forum meetings—one with Arab and Muslim donors and another with other international donors and diplomats.

Program Activities

The partner held a series of training programs with a wide range of stakeholders throughout the year as indicated in the chart below.

AU – Partner Training Programs FY 2012

Title	Participants	Dates	Outcomes/Status
Social Science Research Methods Course (SSRMC)	15 junior researchers	January 19 – November 2	Support to researchers including classroom training, field research and mentoring on the following topics: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The impact of mothers' migration on girl children's education 2. Consequences of social trends in transforming to English medium education 3. Impact of the mosque massacre on women-headed families in Kattankudy
Capacity Building on Rights and Advocacy	21 NGO workers, civil society activists, teachers, government officials, journalists, religious workers, researchers	February 24 -29	Campaign plans developed on the following issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resettlement of northern Muslims in Sri Lanka 2. Militarization 3. Land issues in Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka 4. Implementation of Tamil language
Women's Advocacy and Policy Formulation	25 university students, NGO workers, civil society activists	April 5 – 8	Three advocacy plans developed on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The empowerment of psychological and economic status of deserted women in a DS Division in Trincomalee District 2. The social and economic development of women in Batticaloa District 3. Marriage and divorce practices in Ampara District
Land Resettlement Consultation - North	29 government officials, civil society activists, religious leaders, politicians, teachers, Quazi, coordinator to minister, NGO workers, fishermen, mosque trustees, IDPs, senior citizens from 5 districts	May 25 – 27	Prioritized following issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-demarcation of boundaries of Divisional Secretariat divisions 2. An unbiased solution for the inadequacy of settlement lands 3. Hold land kachcheri in Muslim majority Divisions 4. Re-demarcation of boundaries of personal lands with legal documents
Land Resettlement Consultation - East	35 government officials, civil society activists, religious leaders, teachers, coordinators to ministers, NGO workers, farmers, mosque trustees, senior citizens from 3 districts	June 1- 3	Prioritized following issues: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An unbiased solution for the inadequacy of settlement lands 2. Hold land kachcheri in Muslim majority Divisions 3. Re-demarcation of boundaries of personal lands with legal documents 4. Dialogue with Tamil community to resolve land issues

In addition, the partner and AU began development of upcoming programs. In October, the partner will launch its “Radio as a Tool for Advocacy Workshop.” The workshop is intended to provide 25 university students from five universities the skills necessary to develop radio dramas as tools to advocate for Muslim

issues. By the end of the program, participants will produce 15 radio dramas to be used to advocate for priority issues affecting the Muslim community.

The partner cast a wide net to recruit participants – advertising in four Tamil newspapers, on university notice boards and through SMS messages to undergraduate students. They received 46 applications and selected 25 participants.

The partner had also planned on conducting a University Women’s Leadership Program in September. It has been postponed until ongoing university strikes throughout the country come to an end. The program will target first-year female students from the University of Colombo, University of Peradeniya, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Eastern University of Sri Lanka, University of Sabaragamuwa, University of Jaffna and the National Institute of Social Development. The program is designed to build the leadership skills of female Muslim university students and help promote integration of female Muslim students on university campuses. This program will also form the basis for the development of a pilot leadership program for Muslim students with the University of Colombo.

The partner has been working with a Senior Lecturer at the University of Colombo to design the program. They will also reach out to the All University Muslim Students Association and the Muslim Majlis, organizations with much influence in the Muslim community that do not generally support women’s active participation at universities. The partner hopes that through this program they will be able to demonstrate the potential and value of women university students.

Grant Number	ARD057
Project	Strengthening Peaceful Co-Existence through Multi-Ethnic Community Participation
District	Trincomalee
Grant Award	Rs. 2,093,650
Dates	December 15, 2011 - October 31, 2012

In December 2011, the partner commenced its “Strengthening Peaceful Co-Existence through Multi-Ethnic Community Participation” project which works with Youth Groups and Peace Committees in 15 multi-ethnic villages in Trincomalee District.

The partner facilitated 199 monthly meetings with Youth Groups and Peace Committees along with two network meetings, which brought together presidents of the project groups and various government officials, allowing the 802 participants to identify community issues and advocate for solutions. Three two-day workshops on non-violent communication, problem-solving techniques, and women and child rights, and an exposure visit to Batticaloa District where a SuRG grantee shared best practices for activity implementation and service delivery for community development, complemented these advocacy initiatives. The table below details issues identified during Q4 and actions taken to address them by each project group:

Group Type	Issue Identified	Action Taken	Outcome
Youth Groups	Lack of drinking	Sought advice from Peace Committee members Together, discussed issue with Muthur PS	Drinking water bowser service provided through Muslim Aid, an INGO, with fuel expenses paid by PS
Peace Committees	Land encroachment issue between Sinhala and Muslim family	Discussed issue with RDS members and Mosque leaders	Successfully convinced Sinhala family that Muslim family owned the land

Q4 Issues Identified and Actions Taken By Project Groups

Group Type	Issue Identified	Action Taken	Outcome
		Together, conducted several discussions with the two families	Sinhala family agreed to handover land to Muslim family
	Lack of participation of women in Muslim areas due to cultural practices	Tamil women from three communities visited a Muslim community to discuss issue and identify solutions with Muslim women	Decided to organize a cultural/special event solely for women encouraging them to gradually participate in community development activities
	Garbage buildup	Requested garbage to be collected regularly by PS	PS employed garbage collectors to collect garbage on a weekly basis
Network Meetings (Joint Youth Groups and Peace Committees)	Lack of drainage facilities	Issue discussed with PS members	PS approved construction of drainage facilities

The partner's efforts to strengthen integration between communities bore fruit during a *shramadana* where 34 Tamils and eight Muslim Youth and Peace Committee members worked together to clean a Muslim cemetery. Appreciating the gesture, Muslim Youth Group members initiated another *shramadana* at an IDP site located in a Tamil village.

The partner's activities, which targeted youth, have promoted the integration of Muslim, Tamil and Sinhala communities, and have helped youth work together, understand other cultures and form new friendships. For example, 37 youth (14 Tamil, 12 Muslim, 11 Sinhala) participated in three street drama workshops where they learned about the basics of street drama and creative play and worked together to develop street dramas that they will publicly perform next quarter. The sports festival and cultural event the partner organized in September attracted 280 youth and their families from all ethnicities throughout the region. Following the sports festival, participating youth organized a volleyball tournament in a Sinhala village for Muslim and Sinhala youth, and a cricket tournament in a Tamil village for Tamil and Muslim youth.

Grant Number	ARD048
Project	Inter-religious Cooperation for Community Development and Social Empowerment in Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts, and Padaviya Division
District	Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and Padaviya Division
Grant Award	US\$ 458,070
Dates	August 01, 2011 – December 31, 2012

The “Inter-religious Cooperation for Community Development and Social Empowerment in Trincomalee and Batticaloa Districts, and Padaviya Division” program has been active since August 2011, empowering 80 religious leaders to foster community reconciliation through conflict transformation skills building, inter-faith dialogue, community development, and social empowerment projects that engage a variety of community members.

Inter-faith Training Workshops

Throughout the year, six inter-faith training workshops were held for the core group of 80 religious leaders along with 14 youth representatives (22 Buddhists, 25 Hindus, 21 Christians, 26 Muslims). The workshops focused on building skills in dialogue facilitation, basic mediation and conflict resolution, while promoting “Do No Harm” principles through the community projects. Participants engaged in discussions on the teachings of each religion, religious similarities, as well as issues of identity which pose as obstacles to reconciliation.



Muslim religious leaders from Padaviya, Batticaloa and Trincomalee meet for the first time and engage in a relationship building exercise at the Introductory Peacebuilding Workshop in Trincomalee.

Inter-faith Dialogues

Two rounds of two-and-a-half-day inter-faith dialogues were also held throughout the year for the core group, jointly led by facilitators from KCP and their local implementing partner. A total of 247 people participated, including 57 Buddhists, 71 Hindus, 59 Christians and 60 Muslims. The objectives were to develop empathy and mutual understanding on the impact of the conflict for each group; raise current and future concerns; build trust and discover common ground as peace builders; and develop dialogue facilitation skills to prepare the religious leaders to run inter-faith and inter-communal dialogues in their respective communities. Through a series of exercises, members of each group spoke openly of the personal impact of the war. Many reported afterwards that it was the first time they had spoken to members of another ethnic group about the war or realized the extent to which all groups had suffered. Participants practiced facilitating their own dialogues in inter-faith teams on subjects of their choosing that they deemed pertinent to current tensions.

Peacebuilding Training for ‘Lay’ Religious Leaders

In August, three peacebuilding workshops were held for 80 lay religious leaders who are members of temple, mosque, or church committees. The purpose of the workshop was to engage a broader group of people in the projects. These 80 lay leaders support the core group of religious leaders in their community projects and the district-level inter-faith councils. As recommended by the core religious leaders, most of the participants are young committee members.

District-level Inter-faith Council Meetings

One district-level inter-faith council meeting took place in July in all three districts (one per district). At the district meetings there was strong interest in establishing ongoing district-level inter-faith councils. Committees were established to prepare for district-level summits that would involve a much larger group of religious leaders and help prepare for a national conference to be held at the conclusion of the project. A total of 80 people (23 Buddhist, 19 Hindu, 21 Christian and 17 Muslim) participated in these meetings.

Community Development Projects

Project religious leaders have been working in inter-faith teams to implement 46 inter-faith/inter-ethnic community projects, of which 35 are now complete. Projects include language classes and exchange programs, women’s vocational training, computer classes, community awareness programs, cultural exchanges, and inter-faith sports festivals. The language classes are among the most popular projects.

Twenty, six-month language classes in English, Sinhala, and Tamil have been successfully completed. While these were mostly attended by young people, in some instances, religious leaders, government officials, and other interested adults attended as well, and one class in Trincomalee specifically targeted religious leaders. Inter-faith committees of religious leaders visited the classes, regularly spoke about the importance of building inter-faith understanding and cooperation, shared aspects of each faith that pertain to peace and reconciliation, and offered advice to the teachers on working with inter-faith groups. All students have or will participate in either one-day language camps or in half-day exchanges in which one community hosts another. Language students have also actively

“I never imagined that such a thing would happen in my [Buddhist] temple. The Mowlavi [Muslim religious leader] who came today helped me set up the food tables and other activities which brought me great happiness.”

**BUDDHIST LAYPERSON,
PARTICIPANT AT PARTNER SHRAMADANA
PADAVIYA**

participated in *shramadana* events, which provide another venue for language practice and relationship building.

Religious leaders are visiting one another’s community projects, and supporting one another’s efforts. These projects provide platforms through which religious leaders are becoming agents of social change, bringing together diverse and previously separated communities.

Exposure Visits

In March, 56 religious leaders including 18 Buddhists, 13 Christians, 12 Hindus and 13 Muslims participated in an exposure visit to Galle. Sixteen religious leaders from the Galle District Inter-faith Peace Foundation and the local partner’s Galle Inter-faith Peace Council hosted the delegation. This visit was followed up with a two-day visit to Batticaloa by 16 religious leaders from Galle representing all four faith groups. The exchange, launched by the Batticaloa Governing Agent was attended by project religious leaders along with 100 additional civic and religious leaders from Ampara, Monaragala, Polonnaruwa and Batticaloa districts.

Buddhist Monk Initiates Inter-faith Project

A village located in the north of the Trincomalee district, was abandoned at the start of the war after an attack by the LTTE killed six villagers. Villagers returned only after the war ended in 2009, almost 30 years later. So when a Buddhist monk organized a computer training program in his temple for Buddhist and Hindu students, it was a milestone for the community. It is the first inter-faith initiative in the area. Currently 43 Buddhist and Hindu students regularly attend the course and plans are in place to incorporate students from a nearby Muslim village. The host temple supplements the cost of the course

Grant Number	ARD036
Project	Creating Co-existence
District	Trincomalee
Grant Award	Rs. 2,150,250
Dates	August 15, 2011 – October 14, 2012

In August 2011, the partner was awarded a grant to implement its “Creating Co-existence” project; however, in December, due to administrative and financial management problems, the project was suspended. After the partner responded to SuRG demands for administrative and programmatic changes in February 2012, the partner continued project implementation working with Youth Groups and WRDSs in six Sinhala and Tamil divisions in Trincomalee District.

The partner helped reorganize the nine project CBOs by conducting needs assessments, evaluating their legal status, ensuring their registration with the DS was in order, and assisting them to find staff to fill vacant officer positions. The partner also helped strengthen the capacity of the CBOs by conducting trainings attended by 59 CBO members (35 Sinhala, 24 Tamil) on the roles and responsibilities of CBOs and how they engage in community development; leadership; effective communication; identifying community problems; and service delivery to help engage relevant service providers to address those problems.

Twenty four office bearers from the nine CBOs were brought together in eight monthly meetings conducted by the partner during which they were able to prioritize 23 community issues that needed attention. The partner worked with CBO members and relevant government officials to address some of these problems. Highlights include:

- *Lack of teachers in schools:* Together with CBO members, the partner collected details (such as number of students and teachers, and subjects lacking teachers) from six schools, one in each village. CBO members then spoke with the principals of their respective communities’ schools which led the principals to get in touch with the respective Divisional Education Directors and Zonal Directors. For one school, this resulted in a new English teacher appointment. CBO members and partner staff also joined a protest that was organized by community members to demand teacher appointments for all schools in the division.
- *Lack of doctors in hospitals:* With the help of CBO members the partner gathered information on the population covered and number of doctors present at the three main hospitals in the area which cover a total of 19 GNs. The partner requested a meeting with the Trincomalee Provincial Director of Health for CBO leaders to discuss these findings. The Director committed to meet with them after the September Eastern Provincial Council elections.
- *Lack of essential legal documents:* The partner conducted a series of pre-mobile clinics to identify documentation needs in each of the six project GNs and counseled prospective applicants on which forms and supporting documents they will need to apply for their legal documents. Approximately 200 birth and marriage certificate, national identification card and land deed cases were identified. The partner will follow up with a mobile clinic in early October.



The partner project CBO members participate in a protest organized by community members to advocate for teacher appointments for all schools in their DS division.

To promote integration and co-existence, the partner organized *shramadanas* where CBO members came together to rehabilitate a medical clinic and a Kovil, both public buildings used by the Tamil and Sinhala communities. The health clinic was opened in July and the partner will open the Kovil in October along with a *pooja* to celebrate the annual harvest season.

The partner also organized a volleyball skills camp and tournament and Sinhala and Tamil language classes for youth. A total of 77 youth (42 male, 35 female) including 45 Sinhalese and 32 Tamils participated in the volleyball tournament. Language classes were supplemented with two interactive events that allowed youth to practice their language skills, interact with each other and build relationships. By the end of September, the partner completed its six-month language program and a total of 91 youth (48 Sinhala and 43 Tamil) sat for and passed the Sinhala and Tamil language final exams.

“Prior to this Sinhala class we didn’t know the letters and I ran away whenever I saw a Sinhala speaking person and ignored people when they spoke in Sinhala...Now I speak with the people who speak Sinhala.”

TAMIL STUDENT IN SINHALA LANGUAGE CLASS, THANGANAGAR

Grant Number	ARD054
Project	Relationship Building between Diverse Social Groups in Tamil and Muslim Communities
District	Batticaloa
Grant Award	Rs. 1,882,600
Dates	December 01, 2011 – November 30, 2012

The partner was awarded a follow-on grant in December 2011 for its “Relationship Building between Diverse Groups in Tamil and Muslim Communities” project which works with farmers’ groups, WRDSs and youth in eight neighboring villages in Batticaloa District. When conducting its activities, the partner pairs the villages into four groups of Tamil-Muslim villages, ensuring that the two communities work together.

The partner established four farmers’ action groups in the paired villages to follow through with advocacy initiatives. As land-related issues were a prominent concern, the partner conducted four land awareness workshops, attended by 124 people (56 Tamil, 68 Muslim), at which participants identified their land issues and verified their land documents. To date, the partner has received 35 land issue cases. In response, the partner organized a meeting between farmers and the Land Officer (LO) and Divisional Secretary (DS). Seventeen of the 35 people at the meeting had issues with land permits which did not include boundaries. The LO and DS claimed they would be unable to provide help quickly due to a lack of government surveyors who are needed to make boundary allocations. The officials pointed out, however, that they could collectively pay Rs. 6,000 to the DS Office to hire a private surveyor to conduct the necessary analysis. The 17 people concerned chose not to delay the process further and agreed to collect and pay the fee for a private surveyor.

Seventy-nine WRDS members (37 Tamil, 42 Muslim) from project villages participated in trainings on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA). Following the training, the partner conducted a coordination meeting at the PS Office where WRDS members presented their village development plans to PS members. As a result of the meeting, the PS committed to renovate roads and drainage systems, construct wells and toilets, fix bulbs in street lamps, and collect garbage regularly in three communities. Additionally the PS agreed to provide educational support for poor children in one community, renovate a nursery in another and provide water to main road residents and find a place to conduct the Sunday school in yet another.

The partner also provided WRDS members with training on leadership, financial management, and gender and gender-based violence. In addition, the partner continued to provide advanced and beginners’ Sinhala and Tamil language courses for youth. A total of 40 students (26 female, 14 male) including 29 Tamils and 11 Muslims sat for and passed their final exams. Three classes are still ongoing and are scheduled to be completed and exams held early next quarter.

I.2.2 SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE OF WOMEN'S GLOBAL ISSUES (S/WGI) GRANT

Grant Number	ARD050
Project	Promoting Entrepreneurship and Empowering Women in the Hambantota District
District	Hambantota
Grant Award	Rs 12,085,302
Dates	July 01, 2011 – January 31, 2013

HDCC was awarded a Secretary of State/Women's Global Issues grant for its "Promoting Entrepreneurship and Empowering Women in the Hambantota District" program in July 2011. The project covers the eight DS divisions of Hambantota District in the Southern Province and is aimed at empowering women in the district through entrepreneurship and increasing new and existing businesswomen's capacity to engage in business. In July, HDCC was granted a two-month no-cost extension and in September, a five-month extension with an additional Rs. 2,687,233. The supplemental funds will allow HDCC to award another 10 loans to women entrepreneurs and conduct further technical training, group training for mentors, two customer care workshops, an experience sharing visit to the Chamber of Commerce in Kandy, and a networking session.



Tetra Tech ARD/SuRG

A Board of Directors member of the Hambantota District Women Entrepreneurs' Forum is the Sole Proprietor of Shellview Paint House in Hambantota District.

During the fiscal year, HDCC reached out to prospective women beneficiaries within the district holding 16 meetings with government and non-governmental offices and organizations focusing on women's issues. Twenty-two recruitment sessions were then held in an effort to identify perspective loan recipients. A total of 759 women participated in these recruitment sessions; 44 women were ultimately approved for and received loans, ranging from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 200,000. The total value of those loans is Rs. 3,588,507. Applicants used the loans to start up a range of businesses including mushroom production, manufacturing and selling coconut oil, manufacturing garment products, beauty parlor and salons, bridal dressing and children's garments sales, manufacturing and selling ladies hand bags and shoes, and poultry farming.

In June, HDCC organized the "Hambantota Navodaya 2012 Industrial and Trade Exhibition" in Ambalantota. The fair housed a total of 122 stalls occupied by small and medium-scale entrepreneurs providing various products and services. Thirty-four women entrepreneurs of the HDCC-S/WGI project were provided stalls free of charge to exhibit their products and were also compensated for transportation costs to bring their products to the fair.

HDCC also provided a range of trainings to prospective and approved loan recipients, as indicated in the chart below.

HDCC Training Programs to Promote of Entrepreneurship of Disadvantaged Women and Female Youth During FY12

Training Program	Number of Participants	Topics
Start Your Business	25	Business start-up, identifying legal issues, maintaining records, the value of a positive attitude and customer relations
Improve Your Business	50	How to establish costs for manufacturers or service providers, business records management, customer satisfaction, buying and selling, business planning, controlling stock, and linking people and productivity
Technical Training on Pottery Industry	140	Techniques of pottery making, costing, promotions and marketing
Personal Skills Development	94	Successful entrepreneurship, winning over the business world, and using the 4Ps—product, promotion, place and price

After disbursing the loans, HDCC staff conducted regular field observation visits to compare business activities against the business plans, and to ensure loan conditions are being met. Over the course of the fiscal year, HDCC staff conducted 154 field visits to 44 loan recipients. Recovery officers regularly visit the homes or business places of the beneficiaries who do not meet the deadlines to inquire about delayed payments. In addition, during FY12, 37 mentors were appointed to assist 44 loan recipients. Mentors provide assistance to loan recipients on standard bookkeeping and business practices, business registration and marketing, and improving business ethics.

As part of the program, HDCC has prioritized providing opportunities for businesswomen to take a more active role in the district business community. There are a limited number of women HDCC members, and those women have had little to no opportunity for business and entrepreneurship training. In an effort to fill this gap, HDCC offered the following training:

Training Programs for HDCC Members to Improve Women's Participation in Business

Training Program	Number of Participants	Topics
Managing a Business	54	Business management practices, business registration process, taxation, ETF and EPF contributions
Motivation and Positive Thinking	60	Retaining, managing and motivating staff to improve their efficiency and retain customers
Leadership Training for Potential Leaders	12	Leadership, communication, presentation, public speaking and team work

After the trainings were completed, HDCC facilitated the establishment of the Hambantota District Women's Entrepreneurs' Forum (HDWEF) to create opportunities for women entrepreneurs from the district to network with HDCC members and to learn from one another. The only requirement to be part of the Forum is that the person be an entrepreneur. The HDWEF includes all members of the HDCC as well as businesswomen from the district who were identified during the SuRG grant. The Forum works to overcome cultural barriers, increase the representation and lobbying power of women in business, and harness the potential of women by empowering them, economically and psychologically, to make creative and informed life and career choices through integrated interventions. This Forum is intended to be a long-term networking platform to empower economically marginalized women. It will also provide a mechanism through which women entrepreneurs can more effectively access HDCC members, activities and resources and participate in its decision making.

During HDCC’s Annual General Meeting in September, 25 people were elected to the Board of Directors, including four female entrepreneurs out of six nominated. Prior to the election, there were three women directors on HDCC’s Board. In September, six women were nominated to the Board—the three previously serving directors and three new members. The three already serving Board Members were re-elected along with one new woman director. All four women are also members of the HDWEF, including the President.

“As part of this USAID project we were able to establish the ‘Hambantota District Women Entrepreneurs’ Forum.’ We have to continue this Forum to empower women entrepreneurs in the Hambantota District. Now it is up to us, with the assistance of HDCC, to continue this while building the capacity of our women entrepreneurs.”

MANAGING DIRECTOR, CHANAKA METAL (PVT) LTD. / PRESIDENT OF THE HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS’ FORUM

1.2.3 PARTNER TRAINING

During the latter part of FY11, SuRG conducted an informal survey of grantees and partners to determine priority training needs. Results overwhelmingly reflected the need for training in negotiation and general management. To fill this gap and as part of SuRG’s ongoing work to build the capacity of partner organizations, SuRG organized residential training programs for grantee representatives in negotiation and in general management. In addition, SuRG continued its series of gender training with partners begun last year by organizing a second phase training for partners and by sending six partner staff members on a gender study tour for Sri Lankan and Indian women activists and NGO workers in Madurai, India. The chart below provides details on these training programs.

SuRG Training for Partner Organizations

Training Program	Number of Organizations Represented	Number of Participants	Objectives
Negotiation Skills	16	33	Provide participants with an introduction to negotiation models, concepts and definitions and the basic skills and techniques needed to manage negotiations and conflict that arise in the workplace, community and daily life
General Management	15	30	Improve participants’ general understanding of key issues in organizational management and build management skills
Gender Workshop	8	29	Increase participants’ understanding of gender equality and provide tools for mainstreaming gender through programs and organizationally
Gender Study Tour	6	6	Build the capacity of women’s rights defenders and strengthen conceptual clarity around issues of gender and development; examine how gender analysis methodologies and the formulation of policies and programs can contribute to gender justice and equality; and strengthen advocacy networks in the region

1.3 LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The SuRG Local Governance (LG) component was poised this year to conclude its program in the Eastern Province and expand to 17 LAs in the Northern Province once elections were held. A comprehensive technical assistance and training program for the North was designed, LAs were surveyed and

criteria mapped out to select the LAs with which SuRG would engage, meetings were held with regional officials and a preliminary selection of language teachers conducted. USAID introduced the idea to the Governor of the Northern Province in August of 2011. Once the program details were ironed out and elections concluded, USAID returned to the Governor for his approval. Similarly, SuRG liaised with the Ministry of Local Government to secure their support and approval for the program.

Although at each meeting with the Governor, the Presidential Task Force, and the Ministry, SuRG and USAID were assured that the program was important and approval forthcoming, USAID and SuRG did not obtain the necessary approval by the end of this fiscal year. The USAID Mission Director is scheduled to make a final attempt to secure approval in a meeting with the Governor of the Northern Province the first week of October. The chart below provides details of USAID and SuRG attempts to obtain approval.



TETRA TECH ARD/SuRG

Elected officials and government staff draft a by-law on “Management of Roadside Vendors” during the “Formulation of By-Laws for Local Government Authorities Training.”

LG Technical Assistance and Training Program in the Northern Province – Request for Approval from the GOSL by USAID and SuRG

Date	Action
9 August 2011	Meeting between Governor of the NP and USAID
7 September 2011	Meeting in Jaffna between Chief Secretary of NP and SuRG
10 October 2011	Program Concept Note submitted by SuRG to USAID
14 November 2011	Program Concept Note submitted to MLGPC by SuRG
20 November 2011	Proposed list of LAs and details on selection submitted by SuRG to USAID
29 November 2011	Letter requesting concurrence sent from USAID to PTF
11 January 2012	Letter from MLGPC sent to SuRG indicating its concurrence for the project
8 February 2012	Letter requesting concurrence sent from USAID to PTF
14 February 2012	Meeting between CLG and ACLGs in the North and SuRG held to discuss implementation strategy
27 February 2012	Meeting between CS NP and SuRG held to discuss PTF approval and MOU
28 February – 1 March 2012	Meetings between ACLGs from Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Mannar and SuRG held to discuss implementation strategy
19 March 2012	Letter from SuRG sent to MLGPC requesting they inform the PTF of their concurrence of the SuRG program
22 May 2012	USAID and SuRG meet with the MLGPC Secretary who agrees to inform the Governor and CS of the NP of the Ministry’s concurrence of the SuRG program

LG Technical Assistance and Training Program in the Northern Province – Request for Approval from the GOSL by USAID and SuRG

Date	Action
9 July 2012	MLGPC sends letter to the Governor of the NP requesting he meet with SuRG regarding his concurrence for the SuRG program
12 July 2012	SuRG sends a follow-up letter to the Governor of the NP requesting the meeting indicated in the MLGPC's letter to the Governor
26 July 2012	USAID and SuRG meet with the Secretary of the PTF who indicates he needs an official request from the Ministry in order to approve the program
10 August 2012	USAID and SuRG meet with new Secretary of the MLGPC and request he write the PTF

1.3.1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE

Throughout the fiscal year SuRG continued to provide technical training and assistance to LAs in the East. SuRG conducted three technical training programs this year as indicated in the chart below.

LG Technical Training in the Eastern Province FY 2012

Training Program	LAs	Participants			Training Objectives and Outcomes
		Staff	Elected	Community	
Building Sustainable Processes in Local Government Authorities	11	15	7	31	Increase elected members, Secretary, Management Assistant, Program Assistant, Local Government Assistant and community members' understanding of legal framework related to community participation and involvement in local government; understand the importance of participation in the decision making process of local government. Operating guidelines for PGFs developed as draft in the workshop and 11 PGFs implemented reforms as agreed in the workshop. The operating guidelines will be finalized and printed with a materials resource package to be developed at the close of the project.
Gender Inclusive Local Government	11	12	15	20	To provide participants with a better understanding of participatory governance and gender equality in order to promote incorporation of gender concerns in local governance and increase women's participation in the same. Recommendations to promote meaningful participation of women based on case studies in two PSs and on the workshop being developed.
Formulation of By-laws by Local Government Authorities	40	88	31	0	To provide participants with an understanding of the importance of by-laws and the benefits to operating under a set of ratified and approved by-laws, as well as the skills needed to draft by-laws on priority issues in their community. Information provided on the process of approval, application and enforcement of by-laws by LA heads and senior staff. Thirty-six by-laws drafted and submitted to the ACLGs for finalization, translation and submission to the PC.

Technical assistance was provided to SuRG's 11 partner LAs through participation and monitoring of monthly LA Working Group (WG) and Participatory Governance Forum (PGF) meetings. This year, SuRG's partner LAs convened 132 WG meetings and 81 PGF meetings. PGF meetings were put on hold this year in a number of LAs due to local authority elections held in October 2011. After the elections, with changes in LAs, PGF membership was adjusted to incorporate new members and regular meetings started up again.

Technical assistance also included assisting LAs to apply learning from technical training sessions. For example, in the "Building Sustainable Processes in Local Government Authorities" training held in February for PGF members, all 11 PGFs committed to reforms based on the draft guidelines. Currently all 11 PGFs have developed a vision, mission statement and basic operating guidelines.

At the "Formulation of By-Laws for Local Government Authorities" training, LAs drafted, and the course resource people reviewed, 36 by-laws. Once the by-laws were finalized in each LA, they were submitted to their CLG/ACLG office for final revisions and translation. Once complete, the by-laws will be submitted to the Provincial Council for approval. The chart below lists the by-laws submitted to the CLG/ACLG offices.

SuRG FORMED PGFs SUPPORT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Participatory Governance Forums set up in SuRG's 11 partner LAs are being increasingly used by local officials and development actors to support their efforts at citizen engagement. LA staff held briefings with PGFs to provide information to the community on their projects, their 2011 income and expenses and issues and challenges as they move their current plans forward.

At the CLG and ACLGs direction, each LA set up a Social Audit Committee to oversee their NELSIP projects. In SuRG partner LAs, these committees are comprised of five PGF members.

LA By-Laws Drafted and Submitted to the CLG/ACLG

District	By-laws
AMPARA	
	Controlling cattle sheds
	Cleaning abandoned bare lands
	Maintenance of libraries
	Maintenance of three wheeler parks
	Public health
	Regularizing sale of meat, fish, vegetable and fruits
	Controlling roadside mobile vendors
	Management of advertisers
	Maintenance of cemeteries
	Management of private businesses
	Maintenance of bridges and culverts
	Mosquito and dengue eradication
	Removing unwanted trees
	Assets and business tax
	Weekly fair management

LA By-Laws Drafted and Submitted to the CLG/ACLG

District	By-laws
BATTICALOA	
	Maintenance of food and hygiene promotion
	Maintenance of public markets
	Controlling stray animals
	Regulation of cattle sheds
	Sudden fire extinguishing
	Maintenance of street lights
	Temporarily closing roads under construction
	Registration of pawning business
	Management of social services and disaster relief services
	Maintenance of roadside vendors
TRINCOMALEE	
	Management of construction of roads and drainages
	Regularizing loading and unloading materials on roads
	Solid waste management
	Selling fish
	Unauthorized road side construction
	Management of bakeries
	Cleaning streets
	Controlling dangerous and hazardous businesses
	Maintenance of three wheeler parking
	Maintenance of barber shops
	Maintenance of roadside unauthorized construction

I.3.2 LANGUAGE TRAINING

SuRG continued its work with the Official Language Department this year providing Tamil and Sinhala language courses for local government officials in the East. Level II training was provided in two 108-hour phases. Phase one was completed in March and phase two in September. SuRG will hold the Official Language Department's (OLD) official phase two examination in November. Details of the participants are provided in the chart below.

SuRG LANGUAGE TRAINING: LEVEL II PARTICIPANTS			
Language Class	Total participants	Male	Female
Sinhala	188	86	102
Tamil	101	53	48
Total	289	139	150

1.3.3 GRANTS

Grant Number	ARD051
Project	Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Mitigate Corruption and Enhance Good Governance
District	Polonnaruwa and Ampara
Grant Award	Rs. 3,969,228
Dates	February 02, 2012 – December 31, 2012

The partner was awarded a grant for its “Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Mitigate Corruption and Enhance Good Governance” project in a PS in Polonnaruwa and in a PS in Ampara in February. They launched the program with participatory assessments of each PS to better understand the dynamics of the PS, its engagement with the local community, the community’s perception of the PS, and successes and challenges of the PGF to date. In addition, these assessments provided an opportunity for the partner to build relationships with the project participants and PSs.

Information from these meetings and assessments were fed into the design of two training sessions (one in each PS) for 46 local government officials entitled “Promoting Citizen Participation for Enhancing Good Governance” and two training sessions for 55 CBO members on best practices in participatory governance. The partner has since then conducted a dialogue on citizen engagement in one PS and they monitor PGF meetings in both PSs as part of their process to develop a citizen grievance mechanism.

In addition, the partner is developing educational and advocacy materials in the form of a handbook to be circulated among the community members of both PSs. The handbook will focus on community monitoring and grievance redress mechanisms. The partner has engaged the Sri Lanka Institute of Local Government (SLILG) to provide technical assistance for the development of these materials.

The partner is significantly behind in its implementation of the project due to a variety of reasons. Although funds are included in the budget for field staff, the partner has been unable to fill these positions. This has seriously hampered the partner’s ability to mobilize participants both at the community and PS level. The number of participants attending training is significantly less than projected and follow-up is weak. SuRG has discussed these issues with the partner and requested an adjustment of the program accordingly. A program and budget realignment is expected early next quarter.

1.4 OPEN DIALOGUE

SuRG continued to focus its Open Dialogue component on educating the next generation of journalists, particularly those from the North and East. SuRG again supported a partner with full scholarships for qualified candidates from the North, East and hill country to attend the Sri Lanka College of Journalism 2011 and 2012 Diploma in Journalism Programmes. At the end of the year, SuRG initiated a review of the 58 scholarship recipient graduates to date. Preliminary findings show an extraordinary commitment to a difficult, risky and low-paying field and the value of these scholarships for the recipients, underscoring SuRG’s ongoing commitment to the program.



Media Resource Person, SuRG Media Training

Students practice interviewing and recording techniques in radio journalism at the SuRG media training course held in Trincomalee.

In addition, SuRG followed up on a previous media training for aspiring female journalists in Trincomalee conducted last year by a CEaT grantee. Based on beneficiaries' requests and assessment of local needs, SuRG launched a follow-up training program including classroom and practical learning in print and radio journalism.

I.4.1 MEDIA GRANTS

Grant Numbers	ARD045 ARD062
Project	Journalism Diploma Scholarship Program 2011 and 2012
District	2011 — Mannar, Jaffna, Batticaloa 2012 — Jaffna, Vavuniya, Mulla
Grant Award	2011—Rs. 3,719,000 2012 — Rs. 3,999,000
Dates	2011—February 2, 2011– December 31, 2011 2012 —February 2, 2012 – January 31, 2013

SuRG continued its Journalism Diploma Scholarship Program for aspiring journalists from the North, East, hill country and border districts to attend the Diploma Programme at the Sri Lanka College of Journalism in Colombo. This fiscal year, 20 scholarship recipients graduated from the 2011 program. Of the 20 graduates, 14 are pursuing journalism at local and national media houses or as freelance reporters.

SuRG awarded an additional 15 scholarships for the SLCJ 2012 program. In 2012, SLCJ extended the academic period for the diploma program from 12 to 18 months to include additional skills development courses and internships at national media organizations. New courses focus on computer skills, social media and Tamil, Sinhala and English languages. In addition, a course that would provide space for students from all three languages to interact and learn together was added to the curriculum. The common seminar class was introduced in place of a second computing class and guest lecturers addressed topics including “Media Freedom and the Legal Framework,” “Mental Health Reporting” and “An Introduction to Cartoons.” Students also had the opportunity to interact across language and subject streams during a field trip to Jaffna in August 2012. The trip provided students the opportunity to engage in three days of intensive reporting. Divided up into six groups, mixed by language and reporting stream, students were given assignments as groups and as individuals in an assigned topic area. The assignments included traditional reporting as well as reporting via social media. This, too, was carried out in all three languages. The groups were also asked to develop “group blogs” on which students are required to post all individual assignments as well as any other elements they wish to include.

2012 SLCJ Diploma in Journalism Programme: SuRG Scholarship Recipients by District

District	Gender		Ethnic Group			Course Stream		
	Male	Female	Sinhala	Tamil	Muslim	Press	Radio	TV
Trincomalee	1				1			1
Batticaloa	2	1		2	1	1		2
Ampara	2			1	1	1	1	
Vavuniya	0	2		2		1		1
Mullaitivu	1			1		1		
Jaffna	1	1		2			1	1
Badulla	2	2		4		1	3	
Total	9	6	0	12	3	5	5	5

SuRG Journalism Diploma Scholarship Program Assessment

SuRG is conducting an evaluation of the SLCJ program in an attempt to assess how the scholarship recipient graduates are applying their learning, whether they are practicing journalism and why or why not, as well as to solicit scholarship recipients' feedback on the course and opportunities and challenges facing young journalists. To date, 79 students have received scholarships and 58 scholarship recipients have graduated from the SLCJ program. The review is being conducted based on phone, personal and focus group interviews with graduates. Last quarter, SuRG staff conducted interviews with 17 students. The assessment is expected to be completed in Q1 FY13.

I.4.2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

SuRG launched a training program in journalism for 12 young women journalists as a follow-up to its grant to a Trincomalee partner which ended in July 2011. The grant included a Diploma in Journalism program for aspiring female journalists. The course was the first of its kind in the district. At the request of beneficiaries, SuRG agreed to develop a program to continue media training activities for these women.

After consultation with potential beneficiaries and journalists and training providers in Trincomalee, SuRG developed a training program comprised of three two-day workshops on print media entitled, "Understanding Journalism and News Reporting," "Journalism and Modern Technology," and "Understanding Journalism in the Context of Sri Lanka," to increase participants' understanding of trends and current practices in print media, particularly as they pertain to Sri Lanka, and to enhance writing, interviewing and investigative skills. The program will also include a three-day radio journalism workshop focusing on investigative journalism and how to use an audio studio for radio broadcasting. Each student will then go to the field to develop and investigate two stories to be printed in newspapers and two stories to be broadcast over the radio with ongoing supervision and mentoring from program resource people.

"We realized that media and political parties are male dominant structures and those are still 'a man's business' with women holding very few jobs with a far lower profile than men. No media is truly free unless women are represented. I hope that one day the newsrooms will reflect the society. I am willing to take on this role to bring out news coverage of women's issues and success stories to the media and let it reach out to inspire and influence communities and become a tool to empower the oppressed, like women who are interested in politics."

**PARTNER BENEFICIARY AND PARTICIPANT IN
SuRG PRINT/RADIO JOURNALISM TRAINING
PROGRAM**

The three-day radio journalism training entitled "Investigative Journalism and Using a Radio Studio" launched the program and was conducted for 12 women trainees at the SuRG office in Trincomalee from September 28-30. Participants include seven women graduates of the PSC diploma program, two participants in a SuRG grant for women interested in politics and two journalists at a local Trincomalee weekly newspaper. Two local resource persons led the training. The program will continue through May 2013.

I.5 MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

SuRG M&E staff continued to carefully monitor program activities and grantee reports to ensure accurate and timely documentation of results and impact. This included support to SuRG technical staff and technical assistance to grantees during visits to their activities and offices and at Quarterly Review Meetings.

The M&E team also conducted data quality assessments and an M&E review of 11 partners in the East. For the most part, the M&E team found that partners had put in place effective systems for accurate reporting. No major discrepancies between actual and reported numbers were discovered.

SuRG also completed a review of its Performance Management Plan (PMP) which incorporated program and indicator adjustments made since the development of the first SuRG PMP at the start of the program in 2008 as well as requests from USAID to include new F indicators and Mission PMP indicators. The revised PMP also incorporated targeted qualitative assessments of general program areas (e.g., human rights education) and of specific activities (e.g., Northern lawyers training). The revised PMP was submitted to USAID in April. The M&E staff then conducted workshops at each office with all SuRG technical staff on the PMP and systems for reporting on indicators.

Throughout the year, the M&E team worked with program staff to conduct qualitative evaluations and program reviews, including an evaluation of the northern lawyers training and a human rights education review (see Section 1.1.3 above). In addition, the M&E team designed and initiated an evaluation of SuRG's scholarship program through interviews with graduates of the program as described in Section 1.4.1 above.

In March, USAID's Regional Inspector General's (RIG) Office conducted a performance audit of SuRG to determine whether the SuRG program was achieving its objectives. The audit covered program activities through December 31, 2011 under all four SuRG components. The two-person team met with SuRG staff from all three SuRG offices and partners in Colombo, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Polonnaruwa. The team used the SuRG Colombo and Trincomalee offices as their operating base and SuRG staff provided translation and logistical and transportation support throughout their visit. The final report submitted to USAID in July indicated that SuRG was "generally achieving its objective despite having to operate in a restrictive environment" and made two recommendations to the Mission for follow-up. It recommended that USAID work with GOSL officials to ensure that the PS officials in Batticaloa District no longer be required to submit a manual version of their financial reports so that SuRG financial software is used as intended. And, they recommended USAID take steps to ensure that the unfinished initiative to develop an electronic M&E system for a national partner by a local IT firm be completed.

"After working on the SuRG grant, we learned to analyze our programs on our own. The SuRG M&E system led us in that direction. We are going to adopt the SuRG M&E system to other projects as well...the SuRG grant has influenced every aspect of our organization in a positive manner. We learned how to do proper accounting, reporting, presentation and M&E."

PRESIDENT, SuRG PARTNER, AMPARA

2.0 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

In June 2012, USAID approved a budget realignment and extension of the project end date until August 31, 2013. This modification to the SuRG contract allows Tetra Tech ARD to ensure that programming delayed over the course of the project as a result of GOSL delays in approval, restrictions in the operating space or political constraints would not diminish the impact of project activities. The realignment will also allow Tetra Tech ARD to phase out field offices and activities over the last nine months of the project. As such, the Ampara field office will close at the end of February 2013 and the Trincomalee field office in May 2013.

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