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SRI LANKA SUPPORTING REGIONAL GOVERNANCE PROGRAM (SuRG)

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2012 QUARTERLY REPORT



JANUARY 2013

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Tetra Tech ARD.

Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development, USAID Contract Number 383-C-00-08-000501-00

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Cover Photo: Women from Batticaloa, apply for essential legal documentation at a Mobile Service Delivery Clinic organized by SuRG partner

Photo courtesy of SuRG partner

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CONTENTS

- ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS II**
- INTRODUCTION I**
- I.0 CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES 4**
 - I.1 SOCIAL EQUITY 4
 - I.1.1 Grants 4
 - I.1.2 Secretary of State Office of Women’s Global Issues (S/WGI) Grant 8
 - I.1.3 Additional Partner Support 9
 - I.1.4 Training 11
 - I.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION 12
 - I.2.1 Grants 13
 - I.2.2 Secretary of State Office of Women’s Global Issues (S/WGI) Grant 22
 - I.3 LOCAL GOVERNANCE 24
 - I.3.1 Eastern Province Training and Technical Assistance 25
 - I.3.2 Language Training 27
 - I.3.3 Grants 27
 - I.4 OPEN DIALOGUE 28
 - I.4.1 Media Grants 28
 - I.4.2 Technical Assistance and Training 30
 - I.5 CROSSCUTTING ACTIVITIES 30
 - I.6 MONITORING AND EVALUATON (M&E) 31

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACLG	Assistant Commissioner of Local Government
AG	Attorney General
AU	American University
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCN	Cooperating Country National
CDO	Community Development Officer
CEaT	Community Empowerment and Transformation
CLG	Commissioner of Local Government
CLIN	Contract Line Number
CM	Crisis Modifier
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
D&G	Democracy and Governance
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DS	Divisional Secretary
EOG	End of Grant
EP	Eastern Province
FSLGA	Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities
FY	Fiscal Year
GA	Government Agent
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
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
HRD	Human Rights Defender
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KCP	Karuna Center for Peacebuilding, Inc.
LA	Local Authority
LG	Local Government
LO	Land Officer
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDTD	Management Development Training Department
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
NISD	National Institute of Social Development
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NVC	Non-Violent Communication
OD	Open Dialogue
OLD	Official Language Department
PAA	Peace Action Association
PALTRA	Partners in Alternative Training
PC	Provincial Counsel
PDI	Peacebuilding and Development Institute
PEC	Project Evaluation Committee
PGF	Participatory Governance Forum
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PPCC	Professional Psychological and Counseling Centre
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PS	<i>Pradeshhiya Sabha</i>
PTA	Prevention of Terrorism Act
Q	Quarter
QRM	Quarterly Review Meeting
RDS	Rural Development Society
RFP	Request for Proposal
RISEN	Reintegration and Stabilization of the East and North Program
Rs.	Rupees
SANGAT	South Asian Network of Gender Activists and Trainers
SE	Social Equity
SL	Sri Lanka
SLBC	Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation
SLCJ	Sri Lanka College of Journalism
SLILG	Sri Lanka Institute of Local Government
SPICE	Supporting Professional and Institutional Capacity Enhancement
SuRG	Supporting Regional Governance Program
S/WGI	Secretary of State Office of Women's Global Issues
WCDS	Sunila Women's and Children's Development Society
TBD	To Be Determined
TOR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TV	Television
UC	Urban Council
UNP	United National Party
US	United States
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UWLP	University Women's Leadership Program

WIN
WRDS
YATV

Women In Need
Women's Rural Development Society
Young Asia Television

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 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 targeted initiatives in the Northern Province.

In December 2010, USAID extended the contract base period from February 2011 to June 2012. A modification to Section C of the contract and the budget was signed in July 2011. The modification to Section C reflected 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. An additional contract modification to extend the duration of the project until August 31, 2013 was signed in June.

This quarter, SuRG continued its work with local partners, including 24 NGOs, two national government ministries, 44 local authorities in the East and Polonnaruwa, the Bar Associations representing all districts in the five districts in the North and all three in the East, and other members of the legal community. SuRG grantees reached out to women, youth, victims of human rights abuse and their families, female heads of household and ordinary citizens to provide legal advice and support, access services, obtain vital legal documents, help them raise their voices and engage with local authorities and service providers. Grantees also provided livelihoods and psychosocial support, built capacity of local organizations and community members, and strengthened ties across ethnic and religious communities in the East, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Jaffna, Hambantota and Colombo.

This report details SuRG and grantee activities during the period from October 1–December 31, 2012, along with progress on ongoing contract implementation. Highlights for the quarter include:

- Tamil and Sinhala language classes were conducted for 950 women, youth and community members.
- Language examinations were held for 284 (136 male, 148 female) LA staff from 28 LAs and one ACLG office and the CLG's office in the Eastern Province.
- Women-elected council women established the "Women's Councilor's Network" at a three-day workshop for women-elected councilors on the local government system, leadership and women's



SuRG partner

SuRG partner provides care packs for families of detainees.

participation in local government organized by the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA). The Network is the first of its kind for women elected to local government and is a forum for ongoing networking, training and promotion of women in local politics and decision making.

- Over 100 lawyers from the North, East and plantation sector were trained: 96 (65 male, 31 female) lawyers from Trincomalee and Ampara were trained on Trial Skills, and the Salient Features of Civil Pleadings and Pre-Trial Steps of Civil Litigation (SuRG); and 21 (14 male, 07 female) legal practitioners from the North, East and plantation sector attended training on legal problems arising out of the post-war conflict situation.
- Legal advice and support was provided to 165 people for issues including arrest and detention, and maintenance.
- At 12 legal mobile clinics 6,003 persons received support preparing applications for legal documents including birth, marriage and death certificates, national identity cards, and land documents. This quarter 3,113 documents were obtained.
- Livelihoods assistance valued at Rs. 785,000 was provided to 23 women.
- Family members of 57 detainees received support for travel costs to visit detainees and to provide them with basic care packages.
- Psychosocial counseling and support was provided to 155 women.
- Eighteen (07 male, 11 female) staff and volunteers were trained in Non-Violent Communication in Jaffna.
- Twenty-nine youth (11 male, 18 female) completed a four-month Certificate Course in Human Rights, and 26 (male 16, female 10) persons including government and NGO staff and university graduates completed an eight-month Integrated Skills Course on Counseling and Non-Violent Communication in Trincomalee District.
- A SuRG partner printed and disseminated 250 copies of pamphlets on adoption of the child in Sinhala, and 750 pamphlets on matrimonial rights in Tamil for lawyers, NGOs and civil society. Five hundred copies of a Tamil translation of the criminal procedure code was printed and disseminated for lawyers, police, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and judges.
- Partner organizations in the Eastern Province and Polonnaruwa District provided training and awareness sessions to over 67 CBOs including WRDSs, youth groups, children's clubs, and village



Tamil residents prepare *pongol* at an event organized by a SuRG partner at the refurbished kovil in Trincomalee District to commemorate along with Sinhala residents the revived paddy harvesting festival.

committees on a diverse range of topics such as human rights, gender-based violence, gender equity, community development, organizational management and skills development. Loans valued at Rs. 565,000 were disbursed by HDCC to five women entrepreneurs in Hambantota.

- Thirty Muslim women undergraduate students from six universities completed the first phase of a two-part leadership series. (AU).
- Twenty-five (18 male, 07 female) Muslim undergraduate students were trained on how to develop radio dramas and produced 15 dramas for broadcast. The dramas address and advocate for issues of importance to the Muslim community (AU).
- Eighty-six (48 male, 38 female; 48 Sinhala, 38 Muslim) children participated in a one-day children's camp at Medirigiriya Cultural Centre and 102 (65 male, 37 female; 18 Sinhala, 84 Muslim) children participated in five children's fairs in Madirigiriya DS Division of Polonnaruwa District.
- Religious leaders from all four major religious groups in Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts and Padaviya DS division continued their work with youth and adults on 26 community projects (21 initiated and 05 completed this quarter) that support personal and community growth while enhancing inter-faith and inter-ethnic ties among participants. These projects engaged 2,336 people (KCP).
- A SuRG partner developed two handbooks: one on community monitoring and the other on complaint mechanisms for *Pradeshhiya Sabbas* (PSs).
- Four follow-on grants valued at Rs. 5,535,280 were awarded to four SuRG partners this quarter.
- An international consultant and SuRG partner conducted an "Assessment of Corporate Social Responsibility Strategies and Potential Partnerships with Civil Society Organizations." The assessment included interviews in Colombo, Jaffna, Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, and Kandy with a wide range of private sector and civil society leaders including representatives of 11 for-profit companies; six chambers of commerce; and 15 CSOs. The report was submitted to USAID and will be finalized once comments are received and incorporated.
- President of the National Association for Court Management, USA and Vice President of the International Association for Court Administration, gave a keynote address on combatting delays in judicial processes and participated in a panel at the Junior National Law Conference held in November. During her visit, she also addressed lecturers of the law faculty at the University of Colombo on the same topic and conducted a public lecture on the Rule of Law at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies.

I.0 CONTRACT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

I.1 SOCIAL EQUITY

This quarter saw the closing of grants to three partner organizations. One partner organization obtained a one-month no-cost extension of its project, which is now scheduled to end on 31 January, 2013. A new, four-month grant was signed with a SuRG partner in December to consolidate some of its activities under the previous project. In addition, the SE team continued to support and monitor activities of other ongoing grants. SuRG also supported a lawyer's workshop conducted by a partner organization for existing and potential panel lawyers; a training of trainers (ToT) program on non-violent communication conducted by another partner organization in Jaffna for members of its staff; and a series of eight mobile clinics conducted by another partner organization to provide vital documentation to local communities in Batticaloa. The SE team conducted two, one-day training programs for lawyers in Kalmunai and Ampara on "The Salient Features of Pleadings and Pre-trial Procedures in Civil Litigation." The Ampara workshop was the first SuRG lawyers training to be conducted in the Sinhala medium; it was attended by Sinhala-speaking lawyers from the Ampara and Trincomalee districts.



Volunteers assist the postal department to issue stamps for residents of Batticaloa District for their legal document applications at a Mobile Service Delivery Clinic.

A residential lawyers training workshop was also conducted this quarter for lawyers from the Northern and Eastern Provinces carefully selected by the SE team from participants of previous workshops who were identified as having shown the most enthusiasm and promise. This workshop, held in Trincomalee, focused on a range of trial skills as well as substantive areas of the law and was aimed at expanding the participant lawyers' knowledge and understanding of civil procedure, evidence, administrative remedies and interim jurisdiction.

I.1.1 GRANTS

ARD060

The SuRG partner continued to provide legal representation this quarter. In addition, the SuRG partner carried out a legal clinic and awareness program in Batticaloa and provided ongoing non-legal support to families of detainees to visit their loved ones.

A total of 51 cases (17 new) were taken up by the SuRG partner on behalf of 31 persons (including six female detainees) during this quarter. This number comprised 42 High Court cases, seven Magistrate's Court cases, and two Appeal Court cases. Eight cases were successfully concluded on behalf of four victims, including two female detainees; all four were sent to rehabilitation.

Of the 17 new cases taken up this quarter on behalf of 12 persons (all males), two were Magistrate Court cases while 15 were High Court cases. A total of 20 new cases (all males) have also been identified by the partner organization to be taken up during the next quarter. The partner organization's legal coordinator and panel lawyers also made six prison visits during this quarter.

Seven families of detainees received small cash grants to visit family members currently being held in detention centers outside their home district. The cash grant covers travel, lodging and food expenses incurred when visiting detainees.

The SuRG partner conducted a legal clinic in Batticaloa in October. The lawyers of the Batticaloa Bar Association supported the SuRG partner in this activity. A number of complaints on disappearance, migration, and loss of personal documents were received. The SuRG partner also used this opportunity to follow up on cases which it had received from victims' families via post. The partner organization will go through complaints and other information gathered, and follow up with the relevant authorities including the AG's Department, Human Rights Commission, Bar Association, Legal Aid Commission and Bureau of Foreign Employment in Batticaloa. The partner organization also directed people to make complaints to authorities, including the police, directly, while maintaining contact with the organization for further action. A total of 31 persons (27 female) attended the clinic.

The SuRG partner conducted a two-day awareness workshop for human rights defenders (HRDs) in November in Batticaloa. A total of 19 HRDs participated. The SuRG partner will organize a follow-up meeting with the same group a month from now and liaise with these HRDs on a continuous basis.

ARD061

The SuRG partner concluded its project in December. Project activities included human rights education, legal aid, non-legal support to families of detainees, and livelihood and psychosocial support for female heads of households.

During this quarter, the SuRG partner completed its Certificate Course on Human Rights. Twenty-nine participants graduated, including 18 females and 11 males; 22 of whom were Tamils, the rest being Muslim. In addition, the course included a two-day training on non-violent communication. The certificate awarding ceremony was held on International Human Rights Day on 10 December, 2012 in collaboration with the Youth for Peace Forum, made up of past pupils of a SuRG partner's human rights course.

The SuRG partner's integrated skills course on counseling and non-violent communication (NVC) was also successfully completed during this quarter. Twenty-six participants (16 male and 10 female; 23 Tamils and 03 Muslims) graduated. Following the completion of the course, participants took the initiative to promote counseling and NVC activities in the area by conducting an initial meeting to discuss future activities. The SuRG partner published 750 copies of an awareness pamphlet focusing on laws that relate to matrimonial rights in Tamil and 250 copies of a pamphlet on adoption of the child in Sinhala. In addition, the SuRG partner reprinted 600 copies of a pamphlet on maintenance applications and 500 copies of a pamphlet on the prevention of domestic violence, both in Tamil. These were reprinted as a response to numerous requests made by NGOs, lawyers and judges dealing with women's issues in the North, East and estate regions. The SuRG partner will distribute all pamphlets to NGOs, lawyers, judges, CBOs, libraries, the police (women and children's desks in particular), Probation Officers, Child Protection Officers, Rural Development Officers, Women Development Officers and SuRG grantees in the Eastern and Northern Provinces.

Five hundred copies of a book on the Code of Criminal Procedure were published in Tamil during this quarter. This is the first time a book of this nature was published in Tamil. The SuRG partner distributed copies of the book to lawyers, judges, State Counsels and law students.

During this quarter, the SuRG partner provided legal counseling and representation for 23 new cases filed in four Magistrate Courts, one District Court, 12 High Courts and one Civil Appellate Court. In addition, five cases were prepared to be filed in the Supreme Court early next year. A total of 57 court representations were made together with nine visits to prisons to collect more information to support cases and draft affidavits. The SuRG partner also continued its assistance to families with members held in welfare, detention and

rehabilitation centers. Fifty beneficiaries were supported three times with care packs and 45 people were reimbursed for travel expenses during this quarter.

“I had completed a sewing training in the first part of the year, but I only was able to sew general items and was fed up with that as it was the same type of thing everyone made and I had to compete with them to earn an income. Today I’m very happy to [apply the screen printing and] be able to produce different types of dress items and earn more. I say this from the bottom of my heart that now I’ll provide relief to my mother who has been suffering to support the family since 2006 after my father was killed. I’ll also help provide for my sisters and brothers. I really thank USAID and SuRG for taking me on board and providing livelihood support for my family.”

SURG PARTNER BENEFICIARY

The SuRG partner continued its livelihoods and psychosocial support for female heads of households with six beneficiaries receiving livelihood packages for livestock rearing. Three workshops were conducted in Trincomalee for the 30 beneficiaries on the topics of business development, handicraft creation using local and waste materials, and problem-solving techniques. Additionally, 57 children of 27 of the 30 project supported female-headed families received educational packages valued at Rs.1,500 each twice this quarter. The packs included stationery, shoes, school bags and clothes.

In December, 25 female beneficiaries also took part in a two-day screen printing workshop. Participants included female heads of households or their family members, people from IDP camps and participants from the sewing trainings.

described above, the following summarizes activities carried out by the SuRG partner under this grant during previous quarters.

The SuRG partner printed 500 copies of a translation of the Evidence Ordinance and distributed them to lawyers, judges and Legal Aid Commissions in Trincomalee, Vavunia, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. 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 other 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.



SuRG partner

A grade 8 student competes in the Youth for Peace Forum art competition on the theme of “Peace in Communities.”

The SuRG partner filed a total of 58 cases on behalf of 57 individuals. 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 the Trincomalee and Muthur Magistrates' Courts. 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. The SuRG partner also provided care packages and travel allowance for a total of 61 detainees' families.

Support was provided to 24 female-headed households for a range of activities including poultry or livestock rearing, highland crop cultivation, rice processing, sewing, and grocery shops. 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.

ARD068

- (1) The SuRG partner was awarded a second grant in December to implement its project. The project aims to build on previous grant activities in all 24 villages in Batticaloa. Activities have been broken down into two components: component one focuses on training on organizational management, participatory rural appraisals and the prevention of gender-based violence; component two focuses on linking communities with service providers from the government and non-governmental sectors.

The first PRA workshop was held in late December. A total of 30 women from three villages participated. Participants were asked to draw a map of the area which included their three villages. During the course of this exercise, several pressing issues were also identified such as the lack of adequate transportation, the lack of a nursery school and the need for livelihood support for female-headed households. The SuRG partner will organize follow-up with the participants and also coordinate with government officials with regard to some of these issues in the coming months.

- (2) The SuRG partner's project ended in October. During this quarter, the partner conducted a final awareness program on land matters before closing out the grant. A total of 35 individuals (16 male and 19 female) participated. This activity brought the total number of awareness programs to four and the total number of participants up to 141 people (104 female and 37 male).

The SuRG partner began project activities by building the capacity of WRDSs in the area. Next, working committees comprising two members from each of the 24 project WRDSs were formed. These 48 working committee members met with partner staff twice a month and assisted the organization in preparing case files for document applications. The working committee members were also entrusted with the task of overall effective administration of their respective WRDSs.

The SuRG 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 SuRG partner started its documentation efforts with four awareness workshops for local community leaders on the importance of legal documentation. The workshops were conducted with the support of NRC. NRC 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 SuRG 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 06 Sinhala) received guidance during these pre-mobile clinics. Finally, six mobile clinics were conducted and a total of 474 individuals received 516 documents.

The SuRG partner concluded its program in October, following a one-month no-cost extension. During this quarter the organization implemented three training programs for WRDSs in three pairs of villages. This was the fourth and last round of trainings for WRDSs. Trainings were on individual and community

rights, protection, legal documentation and seeking legal solutions to problems faced. A total of 61 beneficiaries (51 Muslim and 10 Tamil) participated.

In total the SuRG partner has 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 SuRG 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. During previous quarters, the SuRG partner completed 31 trainings on management, bookkeeping and finance, effective leadership, identifying critical issues within the community, advocacy and proposal development as well as rights, remedies and the importance of legal documentation.

Through the project, the SuRG 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.

A highlight of this program was the Diploma in Human Rights 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 *Pradeshhiya Sabbas* (PSs). 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.

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

ARD046

WIN continued to provide legal aid and counseling services to women and children victims of violence in the Jaffna and Puttalam districts. A total of 138 new clients (36 in Jaffna, 102 in Puttalam) and 593 repeat visitors (143 in Jaffna, 450 in Puttalam) received WIN’s support. Additionally, this quarter total of 5,285 clients accessed WIN’s national hotline while the Colombo Shelter that continues to be supported under this project housed 50 women.

“I suffered from depression though I hid it quite well for some time. I had no idea that counseling would work for me.”

WIN CLIENT, JAFFNA

A total of 131 of the new clients visited WIN Crisis Centres to access psychological counseling and other psychosocial support while 159 repeat visits were made for the same purpose.

Visits from 100 new clients and 502 repeat client visits were made to access legal services and court representation at the Jaffna and

Puttalam Crisis Centres. Twenty new maintenance cases were filed this quarter together with four new divorce cases and two cases for DNA testing, while support was also provided to a number of ongoing cases. Additionally, one new case requesting a protection order was filed in Puttalam.

A community awareness program was carried out in a village in Puttalam District. Approximately 100 people participated in this program. The Social Services Officer for the Anamaduwa DS division also participated. A WIN counselor provided community members with an introduction to WIN and its services and also spoke about the importance of psychological wellbeing. Other topics covered were the impacts of domestic violence and how the community can get involved to stop such violence from occurring. Alcohol abuse and its

negative impacts on one's self, the family and the community were also discussed. The program also included and interactive forum theatre performance which depicted the ill effects of drug and alcohol abuse.

In Jaffna, staff set up the two remaining women's groups targeted under the project. A total of 35 women participated in these two inaugural meetings, which as with the other groups set up during the last quarter, focused on the services provided by WIN, the value of community action, the problems that women currently face, and ways and means to address them. In addition, monthly meetings were held in all six target villages, each meeting focusing on a particular topic such as child welfare and teenage pregnancies in October and domestic violence in November. Psychosocial officers from the National Child Protection Authority and Child Rights Promotion Officers from the DS Offices were also present at the October meetings. For the December round of meetings, WIN organized two sets of programs each consisting of women from three of the six villages. These meetings focused on home gardening and were conducted in

collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. Several women had requested a program on home gardening as many women from their villages had recently received vegetable seeds through their respective *Grama Niladharis* (GNs).

Under its staff capacity building component, the Senior Counselor from the Thellipalai hospital visited the WIN Jaffna office thrice this quarter. Staff noted that her visits have helped to reduce their stress levels greatly. Furthermore, the counselor also goes through case files and provides advice to staff on handling difficult clients and situations.

1.1.3 ADDITIONAL PARTNER SUPPORT

SURG PARTNER/BATTICALOA

Continuing its successful run of activities related to the provision of vital legal documentation to communities in Batticaloa District, the SuRG partner carried out eight mobile clinics during this quarter with the support of funds from SuRG. A total of 5,490 applications were filed and 2,742 documents issued at the clinics. At the time of writing, the remaining documents were being processed by the relevant authorities, and a majority of the applicants are likely to receive their documents early next quarter. The SuRG partner's efforts in this area have been widely acknowledged and commended by both the authorities as well as local communities.

“My son went missing or was killed 10 years ago because of the war. I was told by the Grama Niladhari that it is a long process and many forms have to be filled to get a death certificate for my son. I am not educated enough to go through this process in the DS office and I live in a very remote village which is too far from the DS. I did not think I would get a death certificate for my son today itself. I am really thankful for being able to get the certificate and without any cost or difficulties. The good thing is there were people to fill all the forms on my behalf which does not happen in our DS office. Therefore, I am really thankful to the organizers of this event.”

PARTICIPANT AT MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC, BATTICALOA



WIN Women's Group members participate in a home gardening program at the Agricultural Department in Jaffna.

The table below illustrates details of applications received at the clinics.

Legal Document Application Details

Type of Document	No. of Applications Received	No. of Documents Issued	Status of Remaining Applications
Marriage Certificate	291	291	-
Birth Certificate	2201	1492	Applications to recover copies of lost documents have been made and the DS offices are following up.
Death Certificate	262	220	Applications awaiting Assistant Registrar General's authorization
National Identity Card	2030	154	Will be issued by the Department of Registration of Persons shortly
Driving License	121	0	Temporary licenses were provided to some applicants while they wait for their licenses; others are expected to receive documents from the Motor Traffic Department shortly.
Elders Identity Card	299	299	-
Police Clearance Certificates	286	286	-
Total	5490	2742	

SURG PARTNER WORKSHOP FOR LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

The SuRG partner conducted its Fourth Annual Training for Legal Practitioners in the North, East and plantation sectors in Habarana in December. SuRG provided the bulk of the funding for this program with complementary funding from the partner. While incorporating elements of training, the primary intent of these annual workshops is to identify new panel lawyers for the partner organization's work. As such, the workshop targeted young practitioners in an effort to obtain their interest and commitment early on in their careers. A total of 21 participants (including five females) attended the workshop; three participants were from the plantation sector, while the rest were from the North and East.

SURG PARTNER TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION / JAFFNA

A SuRG partner in collaboration with the training resource provided conducted a 15-day Training of Trainers (ToT) on non-violent communication for selected staff engaged in peace building and human rights work within schools and communities in the Northern Province. The program took place in Jaffna in December. A total of 18 participants (11 female and 07 male) attended the training. The main topics covered were:

- Concepts of violence
- Communication
- Peace building and non-violent communication
- Feelings and needs
- Problem and conflict.

It is believed that this training will strengthen the SuRG partner's work in local schools and villages and ensure that the skills gained are transferrable to a greater number of people who can then take on the role of social animators within their villages.

1.1.4 TRAINING

SURG LAWYERS TRAINING

The SuRG Social Equity team conducted participatory one-day workshops for lawyers in Kalmunai and Ampara on the salient features of civil pleadings and the pre-trial steps of civil litigation this quarter. As with workshops of this nature held in other districts during previous quarters, these workshops too aimed at addressing specifically identified knowledge gaps and providing lawyers with the necessary skills to handle emerging legal issues more effectively. SuRG extended invitations to all members of the respective Bar Associations for these two workshops. The Kalmunai workshop, conducted in the Tamil medium, was held in October and targeted all Tamil-speaking lawyers from Ampara District. The Ampara workshop held in November was the first SuRG workshop carried out in the Sinhala medium and targeted Sinhala-speaking lawyers from both the Ampara and Trincomalee districts. This workshop was held in response to multiple requests made by Sinhala-speaking lawyers from the Eastern Province who form the minority among legal practitioners in this region. A total of 42 lawyers (31 males and 11 females; 3 Tamil and 39 Muslim) participated in the Kalmunai workshop, while 19 Sinhala-speaking lawyers participated in the Ampara workshop (12 females and 7 males; 18 Sinhala and 01 Muslim).

Topics covered at these workshops were:

- The salient features of civil pleadings and the pre-trial steps of civil litigation together with an overview of the Civil Procedure Code and relevant case law;
- The process of client consultation and the pros and cons of settling cases before the institution of a case during the initial stages; and
- A mock civil trial on framing issues and consideration of issues.

The chief resource person for both the above workshops was Justice A.W.A. Salam, Judge, Court of Appeal. He is known for several celebrated judgments in the Court of Appeal and is also a trainer at the Judges Institute. An important feature of his presentation was his tactful inclusion of professional ethics and duties toward the client, the general public and courts; a topic that usually encounters much resistance.

SuRG also conducted a residential lawyers' training workshop on trial skills in Trincomalee in December. A total of 41 lawyers (30 male and 11 female; 22 Tamil and 19 Muslim) from the Northern and Eastern Provinces participated in this workshop. Participants were carefully selected by the SE team based on a demonstrated



A senior attorney-at-law shared his experience after participating in a group activity on issues framing at the "Salient Features of Pleadings and Pre-trial Procedures in Civil Litigation" workshop conducted in Ampara for lawyers from Ampara and Trincomalee districts.

"I was a bit skeptical about the mock trial exercise that was incorporated into this workshop by the SuRG team, but after doing it at the workshop I realized what a useful tool it was to bring a number of issues to the forefront and to make the process an entirely interactive and productive one. I now plan to introduce this exercise into my training for judicial officers at the Judges Institute."

JUDGE, COURT OF APPEAL SRI LANKA

commitment to representing citizens with legal issues stemming from the conflict as witnessed during post-workshop evaluations and interactions. The workshop was facilitated by Retired Supreme Court Judge Justice C.V. Wigneswaran, Justice A.W.A. Salam, Judge, Court of Appeal, senior lawyer Mr. V. Puvitharan and Ellen Seats, Technical Director, Management Systems International.

Topics included were:

- Evidence and leading evidence;
- Procedural aspects in civil trials;
- Writ Jurisdiction (with an emphasis on public interest litigation);
- Interim relief (including interim injunctions, enjoining orders and stay orders); and
- Bail law (with a special focus on exceptional circumstances under special laws).

The workshop also included several practical exercises on client consultation and a mock trial.

Participant lawyers confirmed the value of the workshop and its impact on their legal careers. They also took pride in having been handpicked to participate in this workshop and engaged with the resource persons, both during and after sessions, in order to maximize the opportunity provided. Participants also valued the handout material designed for the workshop as well as the translations of the Evidence Ordinance and Civil Procedure Code produced by a SuRG partner that were distributed at the workshop.

“This is the workshop that everyone wanted to attend and I really appreciate the contribution and clear explanations given by Justice Salam. It is very helpful to our daily work at the courts. When we talk about the procedure of a case there are lots of mistakes and unwanted delays. Today I understood as a lawyer what we should do and how to avoid case delay and Justice Salam was able to give a clear picture of how case delays take place when we ignore the procedural law of the country. I strongly hope that I will take into my practice these lessons learned. Thank you so much to the USAID SuRG team for arranging this workshop.”

PARTICIPANT ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

JUNIOR NATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE 2012

SuRG sponsored the visit of the President of the National Association for Court Management, USA and Vice President of the International Association for Court Administration, as keynote speaker for the Junior National Law Conference held in November.

Her speech at the conference, held in Negombo, focused on the topic of combating delays in judicial processes. She also participated in a panel discussion the next day. Present at the conference were over 200 junior lawyers from all parts of the country. Also present were the Attorney General and the President of the Sri Lanka Bar Association. In addition to the conference, she addressed lecturers of the law faculty at the University of Colombo on the same topic and conducted a public lecture on the Rule of Law at the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies.

1.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND TRANSFORMATION

This quarter the CEaT team continued to work with grantees in the East, Hambantota and at the national level. Follow-up grants to three partner organizations were developed, signed and implementation initiated shortly thereafter. End of grant reviews were held for four partners. These reviews center on project implementation, achievements and challenges. Findings from these meetings guide partners on ways to improve their performance or to enhance the impact of future activities funded through follow-up SuRG grants or grants from other donors.

In December, the CEaT team held a Quarterly Review Meeting (QRM) in Trincomalee for 15 representatives of six partner organizations. The session provided opportunities for partners to present their work, share best practices and lessons learned, and extend their ties with each other and network.

1.2.1 GRANTS

ARD057

The SuRG partner completed its project in October which worked with Peace Committees and Youth Groups from 15 multi-ethnic villages in Trincomalee District. This quarter, the SuRG partner conducted workshops on problem-solving techniques attended by 97 Youth Group and Peace Committee members (82 male and 15 female) including 50 Tamils and 47 Muslims. These workshops were conducted in addition to planned project activities per the request of group members who wanted to develop their ability to address social problems effectively and independently. The workshop helped participants develop the problem-solving skills needed to make sound decisions on a variety of social issues affecting their communities.

Over the course of the project, the SuRG partner employed a series of activities to strengthen the capacity of Peace Committees' and Youth Groups to address community issues and to strengthen coexistence among ethnic communities in the project area. These activities included monthly meetings, divisional-level network meetings, an exposure visit to Batticaloa, training sessions on non-violent communication, problem-solving techniques and women's and children's rights, *shramadanas*, sports festivals, cultural programs, and street drama workshops.



Women entrepreneurs participate in a group activity at HDCC's Team Building Workshop held in November in Hambantota District.

Members of the 15 Peace Committees – which include village, religious and farmer organization leaders, government officers, and members of RDSs and WRDSs – utilized the trainings they received to facilitate dialogues on grassroots socio-cultural issues and to mitigate community conflicts. Over the course of the project, Peace Committees addressed a number of community-level issues including school dropouts, dengue eradication, child labor, burglary and irrigation and water issues. They also intervened in intra- and inter-ethnic conflicts such as land disputes and inter-ethnic marriage conflicts to prevent or appease the situation.

Through the trainings and the exposure visit to Batticaloa—where they met another SuRG grantee who shared best practices for community development—and discussions with Peace Committee members, the 15 Youth Groups were able to strengthen their organizations to identify and advocate for youth-related issues, increase youth interaction within and across communities, and promote youth participation in community development, peace building and coexistence initiatives. Issues addressed by Youth Groups included lack of basic needs, youth unemployment, drug usage, early age marriage and school dropouts.

The Youth Group and Peace Committee members also worked together to address issues related to school dropouts, illicit liquor production and consumption, early age marriage and domestic violence. This collaboration has been especially important for youth who frequently require support from adults in the community to effectively carry out their activities and be taken seriously by others. For example, during the initial stages of the project, when Youth Groups approached parents of school dropouts, they were met with angry and rude comments; the parents claimed the youth are too young to be advising them on how to raise their children. By conducting these home visits with Peace Committee members, however, they were able to

build up their legitimacy in the community, and before long, Youth Groups were able to take on issues on their own.

Youth who participated in the SuRG partner's activities implemented a series of activities on their own to promote coexistence. For example, during local festivals (such as Deepavali, Ramazan, and Thaipongal), youth from ethnic communities that did not celebrate the festivals made home visits and participated in the festivities with those who celebrated them. Additionally, they organized several friendship cricket matches which resulted in Tamil and Muslim youth playing together. Several inter-ethnic *shramadanas* were also organized at the village-level to clean the area and prevent the spread of diseases such as dengue.

The SuRG partner was unable to complete all of its project activities by the end of the grant due to poor financial management and project administration and unfavorable weather conditions. As the outstanding activities—an exposure visit, *shramadana*, networking meeting, street drama performance and closeout ceremony—are important to achieve overall project objectives, SuRG will work with two former staff to directly implement the remaining activities next quarter.

ARD047

American University (AU)-Peacebuilding and Development Institute (PDI) continued to implement its technical assistance and capacity building for its local partner. Activities this quarter included the Radio as a Tool for Advocacy Workshop, the University Women's Leadership Program's first session, and the development of the first draft of the Advocacy Manual. All of these activities have been designed to build capacity and support participants as well as to enhance the local partner's outreach and network.

Radio as a Tool for Advocacy Workshop

The Radio as a Tool for Advocacy Workshop conducted in Kandy included three sessions and targeted university students. The program taught participants how to develop radio dramas that address and advocate for Muslim issues and provided the opportunity for them to produce 15 such radio dramas and to form a network of university students interested in using effective media tools for advocacy on Muslim issues.

Twenty-five participants (18 male and 07 female) were selected from 47 applications by the local partner and their technical implementers. Criteria for selection included media experience, educational degree, and other equivalent qualifications.

By the end of the training, the participants had developed 15 radio dramas on issues related to Muslim equality, rights, land, resettlement, women's migration and co-existence. Air time is being purchased to begin airing these dramas on the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation-Tamil Service. Each drama will air for 15-20 minutes in the next quarter.

Participants also formed a network to promote the use of radio as an advocacy tool to address Muslim concerns.

University Women's Leadership Program (UWLP)

The University Women's Leadership Program (UWLP) Phase 1- Basic Training was held in November in Kandy. The program aims to build the leadership skills of female Muslim university students to encourage better integration of and participation by female Muslim students on university campuses. Thirty female

“I took part as a resource person during the first three days of the workshop...These dramas expose not only the issues of Muslim communities, but also the issues faced by the pluralistic Tamil speaking community as a whole. The importance of ethnic reconciliation, the understanding among communities, the fact that we are a minority in a pluralistic society, all have been well understood by these youth. These dramas subtly talk of issues that have never been addressed by the politicians and other responsible parties before.”

ARTIST/WRITER

students were selected from a pool of 57 applicants to attend the workshop. Participants are first or second year students from the University of Colombo, the University of Kaleniya, the University of Peradeniya, the Eastern University of Sri Lanka, the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka and the National Institute of Social Development (NISD).

During the final day of the workshop, participants were asked to prepare action plans for each of the universities represented to be implemented before the next phase of the program. The plans focus on strengthening the existing Muslim Majlis (Muslim students unit at local universities) and organizing a one-day “echo leadership program” in each university.

The local partner is already following up. Initial meetings with Muslim Majlis in all five universities and the NISD were held at which Majlis members were asked to work with participants in the training to implement the action plans.

Advocacy Manual Development Workshop

The local partner commissioned a consultant to develop an Advocacy Manual which will provide basic tools and strategies for grassroots communities involved in advocacy. The Manual incorporates feedback and reports from Capacity Building on Rights and Advocacy Workshop and Women’s Advocacy and Policy Formulation Workshop held earlier in the project.

In December, the local partner invited 26 people (14 female, 12 male), all of whom had attended previous workshops or activities, to a workshop to review the draft of the advocacy manual. During the workshop, participants used five case studies to test approaches and strategies detailed in the manual.

Recommendations and input from the workshop are being incorporated into the draft manual. Once completed, the revised draft will be reviewed at a follow-up workshop.



A radio artist, poet and writer at the SLBC Tamil Service, and reporter at the Meelparvai Tamil newspaper, audition for the radio drama *Mun Waasam* written Radio as a Tool for Advocacy Workshop.

Staff Capacity Building

In order to build staff capacity and support the local partner’s institutional development, a staff training series meant to be held monthly is a key element of grant programming. To date, due to staff vacancies and turnover, sessions have been few. This quarter, at the request of USAID, the SuRG M&E staff planned to conduct an introductory session on logframes with the local partner staff. However, upon arrival, the partner requested that SuRG provide targeted assistance to help them improve their program file management system. SuRG M&E staff has since provided technical support to two staff members as they proceeded in making changes to the way reporting data is entered, where it is stored, and creating hyperlinks between data from excel spreadsheets to the source reports. SuRG and the local partner expect that the revised system will make it easier to generate important information on demand and make files easier to audit.

Throughout the life of the project, the local partner organization has struggled with finding and keeping appropriate staff, Board availability and fundraising. These challenges persisted in the reporting period as well.

- Although they advertised for and interviewed candidates for a Program Manager, they have been unable to find the right person.
- A Board retreat planned for this quarter had to be rescheduled because members were unable to commit two full days. They have suggested a one-day meeting to be held next quarter instead.

- The organization has approached the Saudi Embassy for funding, but has not yet received a response. Introductions to and meetings with Colombo-based donors and diplomatic missions are a first priority for next quarter. Individual project proposals will be sent to donors as well.

ARD069

In late November, the SuRG partner received a follow-up grant for the second phase of its project which aims to promote community advocacy in Batticaloa District.

The SuRG partner will build on the initial grant and work with the same 33 community-based organizations (CBOs), helping them to take action on the 11 project proposals they developed during the last project on community issues such as road access, small infrastructure development, livelihood assistance and raising awareness about alcohol abuse. The SuRG partner will link CBO members with relevant stakeholders (DS Office, PSs and local NGOs) in an effort to address these concerns.

Additionally, the SuRG partner will work with 57 new CBOs from the nine GN divisions honoring a request made by the Divisional Secretary based on the success of previous project activities. The SuRG partner will conduct training on leadership, program and financial management, laws and legal documentation, and office administration for those CBO members.

This quarter, the SuRG partner initiated the project with five orientation meetings between staff and relevant stakeholders (such as the DS Office, Fisheries Department and Rural Development Authority) to obtain formal approval for the project and finalize the list of CBO members to benefit from the training. Due to the December heavy rains and floods, it was unable to implement further activities this quarter.

ARD059

The SuRG partner completed its second project in the latter part of November working with four Sinhala and four Muslim villages in Polonnaruwa District. The project was originally planned with the seven villages which benefited from the first grant but the SuRG partner included another following a request from the village.

This quarter, the SuRG partner facilitated 34 monthly meetings with village committees, children's clubs, and the divisional committee and divisional children's committee; conducted three mobile clinics for legal document acquisition; conducted Sinhala and Tamil language exams; helped children's clubs conduct five fairs and distribute books to two school libraries; and conducted a children's camp to wrap up the project.

At the start of the project, the SuRG partner setup village committees and children's clubs in each village and followed up by conducting monthly meetings at which participants discussed village-level issues and advocated for solutions, and organized activities to promote integration. The SuRG partner also formed a divisional committee and a divisional children's club which, respectively, brought together the office bearers from the village committees and children's clubs. The SuRG partner provided advocacy training for divisional committee members and leadership, skills development and communication trainings for divisional children's club members. The committee meetings that followed allowed participants to coordinate activities across villages, address divisional-level needs with relevant government officials, and work together to promote community coexistence.

The divisional committee prioritized villagers' legal documentation needs and provided support to address the issue. They collected data on local needs and helped the SuRG partner organize three mobile clinics this quarter. A total of 288 legal documents were obtained by 255 people (111 women, 144 men; 222 Sinhala and 33 Muslim) including 21 marriage certificates, 47 land-related documents, 65 birth certificates, 91 national identity cards, 54 elder's identity cards, nine death certificates and one passport. During the quarter, divisional committee members also supported flood victims—who are SuRG partner livelihood loan recipients—by connecting them with government and NGO relief work.

The divisional children’s club organized a *dansala* (alms giving) during the Poson Poya day (a Buddhist religious holiday in June) and a cricket tournament to bring children from the Muslim and Sinhala communities together. This quarter they distributed books to School libraries which are attended by both Sinhala and Muslim students. This was the first time such activities had taken place.

The SuRG partner also supported the individual children’s clubs to establish themselves as prominent organizations and to strengthen ties between ethnic communities. During monthly meetings and divisional children’s club meetings, the SuRG partner discussed fund-raising mechanisms, encouraged individual savings, and guided children on how to conduct inter-ethnic activities, and how to sustain the clubs beyond SuRG partner support. During this reporting period, the SuRG partner helped five children’s clubs (four Muslim and one Sinhala) conduct fairs at which children displayed and sold products such as locally grown vegetables, fruits, homemade foods and snacks, in order to raise funds for future club activities. A total of 102 children (65 male and 37 female) including 84 Muslims and 18 Sinhalese participated in the five fairs.

In November, the SuRG partner conducted a children’s camp as the final activity of the project. A total of 86 children representing all eight children’s clubs participated including 48 males and 38 females (48 Sinhala and 38 Muslim). During the camp, children were able to further strengthen their relationships with each other, and improve their understanding of the others’ religions and cultures. The event was facilitated by school teachers and SuRG partner staff. All the expenses for the event—which included the children being provided transport to the camp, an educational field trip to Kauddulla Lake and back to their homes—was borne by the SuRG partner as part of their cost-sharing for the project. Parents of the children prepared and served food.

This quarter the SuRG partner held the final examinations for the Tamil and Sinhala language classes conducted for Sinhala and Muslim students. A total of 158 students (95 female, 63 male and 91 Muslim and 67 Sinhala) sat for the exam with 135 passing.

ARD048

The Karuna Center for Peacebuilding (KCP) continued implementation of project in partnership with a local partner. During the quarter, KCP’s grant was extended to continue through February 2013.

KCP launched 21 new community projects and completed five projects that had been postponed from the previous quarter. Altogether over 2,300 community members participated in the projects and related events. The 26 projects were implemented by inter-faith religious groups led by religious leaders and included 21 new language, computer, and women’s handicraft classes that built on previous projects and the five projects that were delayed from last quarter: three cultural programs, a *shramadana*, and a home gardening program.

“Today is a very important day as we got an opportunity to speak Sinhala with our friends and improve unity among children from both ethnicities. The children’s camp was organized for Sinhala and Muslim children and we participated in many activities and shared our thoughts.”

MUSLIM MEMBER OF CHILDREN’S CLUB AND PARTICIPANT AT SURG PARTNER CHILDREN’S CAMP



Muslim Mowlavi Mohamad Azar participates in a KCP inter-faith *shramadana* at a Buddhist temple in Trincomalee District.

KCP: Community Projects

Project Breakdown	Trincomalee	Batticaloa	Padaviya	Total ongoing	Total Completed
No. of projects implemented during quarter	14	4	8	21	5
No. of projects implemented to date	36	9	19	21	43

District Inter-faith Councils

Three District Inter-faith Councils were organized during October, one in each district. Each council developed its own governing structure with a core group, which meets frequently to plan activities. The members of each council have taken responsibility to lead two new community projects during the months of January and February. These are planned as one-time events.

Each council decided as a first step to create a document about their experience of working together over the past year, which could be shared with other organizations at the district and national level. Councils will seek to work in partnership with other organizations and networks.

The Batticaloa inter-faith council was setup with the objectives of strengthening reconciliation processes within the district. An 11-member core group, whose members were nominated by the wider group, was given the responsibility as decision makers. Three co-chairmen were selected, including a Hindu, Muslim, and a Christian, as well as a secretary and a treasurer. There are six additional core members, two from each of the three religions.

Trincomalee District's and Padaviya Division's inter-faith councils have one chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary, a vice secretary, a treasurer, and six other core group members. Again, the religious leaders were careful to ensure a balance among the faith groups.

Training Program for Religious Committee Members

One three-day peacebuilding workshop focusing on youth was conducted this quarter for religious committee members from Padaviya, to supplement similar workshops held in Trincomalee and Batticaloa last quarter. The workshop, led by the local partner, focused on peacebuilding skills and the constructive role young religious leaders can play to improve inter-group relations in the East. The facilitators used training exercises and materials from KCP's previous workshops. Participants were nominated by members of the core group of religious leaders. A total of 27 participated, including 13 males and 14 females. The group consisted of 21 Buddhists, five Muslims, and one Christian.



A Hindu priest who will be featured in KCP's "Rescue Story Project." Against the wishes and orders of his superiors, he hid and protected at his temple Buddhists who were fleeing Tamils.

The Rescue Story Project

During the quarter, KCP launched the "Rescue Story Project" which involves the collection and dissemination of stories of rescue and narratives that could help to counterbalance negative stereotypes and

promote reconciliation. KCP has partnered with Proof: Media for Social Justice to collect these stories from conflicts across the globe.

In December, the Executive Director of Proof led a one-day training for selected religious leaders and district project staff on the collection and use of rescue stories. The goals of the workshop were to introduce the participants to the meanings of being either a “bystander” or an “upstander” in the Sri Lankan context, to define criteria for what constitutes a rescuer, to learn basic interview techniques, and to share stories of rescue.

In order to develop the rescue stories, 22 interviews were conducted in Trincomalee and Batticaloa with the support of project staff, the religious leaders, and a professional photographer who volunteered his time.

ARD056

The SuRG partner started its project, implemented in Trincomalee District in December 2011. However, SuRG had to temporarily suspend the project midway due to problems with obtaining permission to conduct the remaining activities unless livelihood support was incorporated into the project. As such, SuRG and the partner staff revised the project to include livelihood assistance for women while also remaining consistent with the original project’s objectives. In October 2012, the SuRG partner commenced the revised six-month project.

The SuRG partner conducted an orientation meeting bringing together the leaders of the project’s 13 Women’s and Youth Groups, government officials (DS, GNs, Samurdhi Officers and a Social Service Officer) and graduate trainees. The meeting allowed the SuRG partner to discuss project activities and objectives with all stakeholders. A total of 68 participants including 40 men and 28 women (37 Tamil and 31 Muslim) participated in the event.

The SuRG partner also conducted 39 Women’s Group meetings where participants identified priority community issues and possible solutions. A total of 337 people including 269 women and 68 men (168 Tamil, 161 Muslim and 08 Sinhala) participated. The SuRG partner also conducted 39 Youth Group meeting this quarter where a total of 316 people participated including 278 men, 38 women and 115 Tamils and 201 Muslims. While the monthly meetings conducted by the SuRG partner provide the Women’s Groups and Youth Groups a space to discuss community issues and plan for necessary action, group members independently do the necessary follow-up with relevant community members and government officials and departments.

In November, the SuRG partner conducted a one-day awareness session on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) for Youth Group members and graduate trainees working at the DS Office. A total of 40 people (23 male and 17 female) including 24 Tamils and 16 Muslims participated.

Finally, to select livelihood beneficiaries, the SuRG partner conducted a series of meetings in the 13 project villages bringing together women, the GN, a Samurdhi Officer and a graduate trainee from each village. After SuRG partner mentioned the criteria for selection—those from low-income families who have not previously received livelihood assistance, or female-headed households—the women in each village nominated three women from their village to receive livelihood support. The 39 women selected were then provided a one-day skills development training by the SuRG partner covering topics such as local market analysis, cost-benefit analysis and bookkeeping methods. In December, 17 of those women received Rs. 25,000 each of in-kind support to start or strengthen their livelihood activities which included small shops, mobile textile businesses and tailoring.

ARD066

In October, the SuRG partner completed its project and in November, commenced a follow-on five-month project working with the same CBOs in six Sinhala and Tamil communities in Trincomalee District. The new project will continue to support CBO capacity building, promote coexistence (with a special focus on youth)

and conduct advocacy initiatives to address new community issues as well as those identified during the initial grant.

Though the original project got off to a slow start, with SuRG suspending it three months into the project due to administrative and financial management problems, the SuRG partner was able to address SuRG concerns—thereby lifting the suspension—and complete all project activities on time. The SuRG partner implemented a series of needs assessments and trainings which helped strengthen the nine project CBOs to function regularly and efficiently and to identify community problems and link with relevant service providers to address them. Following these trainings, the WRDS began charging a small membership fee and collected Rs. 5,000 for future activities. They also took steps to build a community center in the village through collaboration with others in the community—WRDS members from brick-making families donated the necessary brick, while others donated sand and wood, and the PS Chairman promised to give metal sheets. The WRDS is currently working with the PS to get approval for land to build the center.

During the project, the SuRG partner conducted 10 monthly meetings—conducting the final two this quarter—which brought the office bearers from the nine CBOs together where they prioritized 23 community issues and discussed advocacy strategies to address them. Collectively they were able to address issues including the lack of teachers and doctors and school dropouts in the area. To address the communities’ essential legal documentation needs, the SuRG partner conducted a series of village-level pre-mobile clinics followed by a final mobile clinic held this quarter at which 139 people (83 women, 56 men; 121 Sinhala, 18 Tamil) applied for 52 birth certificates, 64 national identification cards, and one marriage certificate, and also sought advice for 20 land and two Samurdhi-related issues. National identity card and marriage certificate applicants received their legal documents on the same day. In mid-December, 18 of the birth certificate applicants received their legal documents. The SuRG partner will follow up with the remaining pending documents next quarter.

The SuRG partner also helped people interact across ethnic communities—thereby building and strengthening inter-ethnic relationships—by conducting a series of activities, including the rehabilitation of two public buildings (a medical clinic and kovil) used by both communities, reviving the local annual paddy harvesting festival, conducting a volleyball skills camp and tournament, and conducting language classes for youth. For



Tetra Tech ARD/SuRG

Participants list societal attitudes towards men and women as part of a group activity at a SuRG partner awareness session on gender equity and gender-based violence held in Trincomalee District.

most of the participants, this was the first time they had interacted in a meaningful way with someone from another ethnicity.

The first project concluded with the opening of the rehabilitated kovil and a *pooja* commemorating the revived paddy harvesting festival. A total of 36 people (16 men, 20 women) including 24 Tamils and 12 Sinhalese participated in the event. Per tradition, all the food for the *pooja* was prepared at the kovil; as such, the Tamil participants taught the Sinhala participants how to prepare the food and were able to share their cultural practices with them.

The SuRG partner commenced its new project in late November by conducting an orientation meeting with 21 leaders from the nine CBOs. During the meeting the SuRG partner had participants fill out a questionnaire that will serve as a baseline survey to assess the qualitative impacts of the new project.

In December, four awareness sessions on gender equity and gender-based violence (GBV) were conducted for community members at which a total of 209 people (149 women and 60 men) including 102 Tamils and 107 Sinhalese participated. Having people from multiple age categories at these sessions along with unmarried and married people—all of whom readily shared their personal experiences—allowed for participants to understand the various aspects of gender and GBV as relevant to them. For most of the participants, this was the first time they attended such a session.

ARD054

The project assisted farmers' groups with advocacy and acquisition of land documents, capacity building for WRDS members and language classes for youth. The SuRG partner worked with eight neighboring villages in the Kalkudah electoral area (comprising four DS divisions) in Batticaloa District and paired them into four groups of Tamil-Muslim villages when conducting activities in order to ensure that the two communities worked together.

During the project period, the SuRG partner established four farmers' action groups in the paired villages to identify and address village-level land documentation issues. The SuRG partner conducted land awareness workshops for 124 villagers (56 Tamil, 68 Muslim) in which participants identified their land issues and verified their land documents. Through group meetings and a planning workshop, action group members helped collect the relevant land documents from villagers, helped them write letters where necessary, and prepared files for each person. This preparation was especially useful when the SuRG partner organized two meetings—one conducted this quarter—for action group members and selected villagers with the relevant Land Officers (LO) and Divisional Secretaries (DS). A total of 56 people participated in these meetings, including 19 Tamils, 37 Muslims, and 21 women and 35 men.

The SuRG partner conducted four Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) trainings for 79 (37 Tamil, 42 Muslim) WRDS members followed by three (two conducted this quarter) coordination meetings between the participants and the PS officials allowing WRDS members to present their village development plans to the PS members. As a result of the meetings, the PSs agreed to look into road and drainage renovations, construction of toilets and wells, street light acquisition and proper garbage collection, and provide educational support for school children from poor families in three villages.

The SuRG partner also provided WRDS members with leadership, financial management, and gender and gender-based violence trainings. These collective efforts have strengthened interaction between Tamil and Muslim WRDS members who discuss with each other good practices to develop their societies' activities and advocate for village issues. For most of the women, this was the first time they engaged in such village development activities. A clear change is visible: in the past these women would rarely participate in village development activities, but now they readily participate and advocate for issues on behalf of their communities.

With the completion of two beginners' and one advanced Sinhala course this quarter, the SuRG partner completed its Sinhala language training for Tamil and Muslim youth. A total of 72 students (29 men, 43 women and 26 Tamil, 46 Muslim) sat for and passed their final exams during the project period. The SuRG partner was unable to conduct all of its planned activities by the end of the grant due to staff turnover and the Eastern Provincial Council elections that took place from August–October 2012 which made it difficult for the SuRG partner to organize meetings with the PS as they were involved in the elections. Additionally, the SuRG partner received approval from two DS divisions only in July and August 2012, respectively, which delayed activities.

“During my life, I have been someone who has greatly abused my wife. I did that due to my ignorance. Today I learned a lot of things. From today onwards I will never abuse my wife again.”

PARTICIPANT IN GENDER EQUITY AND GBV AWARENESS SESSION

ARD065

In October, the SuRG partner commenced its second project on building on the first one which concluded in September. The project aims to increase the political influence and participation of women in Trincomalee District.

During the reporting period, the SuRG partner held six monthly meetings during which participants decided to have a separate women's network per division, as opposed to having a collective one as was decided at the end of the first project. As the network does not receive financial assistance, participants were facing practical difficulties such as incurring travel expenses, which is what led them to decide on the split. Though the women will meet separately, when needed they will collaborate with those from the other networks.

The December monthly meetings were conducted jointly for all the women beneficiaries to commemorate International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women and South Asia Women's Day. The SuRG partner staff who participated in the SANGAT "Gender and Development" training in India with support from SuRG in March 2012, organized the event. The history and victories of international women's movements and the status of women in Sri Lanka were discussed during the event. The District Coordinator at the Social Service Department in Trincomalee served as the resource person and talked about women's issues in Trincomalee and the activities carried out by her department to provide a safe and healthy living space for women and children. A total of 114 women, including 91 Tamils and 23 Muslims, participated.



SuRG partner

Beneficiaries commemorate International Day for Eliminating Violence Against Women and South Asia Women's Day at a joint monthly meeting held in December in Trincomalee.

With the support of its women beneficiaries, the SuRG partner conducted six open conferences in selected villages. Migrant mothers and their children's issues and the increasing incidences of girl child abuse and protection for victims were the main themes of the meetings. Community Development Officer of the Trincomalee ACLG Office and District Coordinator at the Social Service Department were the resource people for these meetings. They made sure to also discuss the importance of having women political leaders or representatives from the participants' communities in order to bring diversity of ideas, values, and behavior to enrich local politics and help address the issues women face. A total of 358 participants (33 male and 325 female) including 328 Tamils and 30 Muslims participated in these meetings.

In December, 55 women (45 Tamil and 10 Muslim) participated in two, two-day residential trainings on "Understanding Local Government Structure and Community Participation" in which they learned about the structures, functions, financing mechanisms and stakeholders of local government and women's participation in it. The session also included in-depth discussions about the role of local government in public service delivery.

1.2.2 SECRETARY OF STATE OFFICE OF WOMEN'S GLOBAL ISSUES (S/WGI) GRANT

ARD050

HDCC continued to implement the Secretary of State/Women's Global Issues grant entitled "Promoting Entrepreneurship and Empowering Women in the Hambantota District" program. During the quarter under

the “Promotion of entrepreneurship among disadvantaged women and female youth” component, HDCC conducted one awareness meeting to recruit and identify loan recipients. Sixty-four women were screened, and nine loan applications were forwarded to HDCC’s Project Evaluation Committee (PEC) for approval. Five of these applications were approved and disbursed with an additional loan approved and not yet disbursed after not meeting the PEC criteria. The total number of loans disbursed for the entire project period is now 59. The total value of the five loans disbursed during this quarter is Rs. 565,000. Two women entrepreneur loan beneficiaries departed Sri Lanka, reducing the overall number of businesses receiving support to 57.

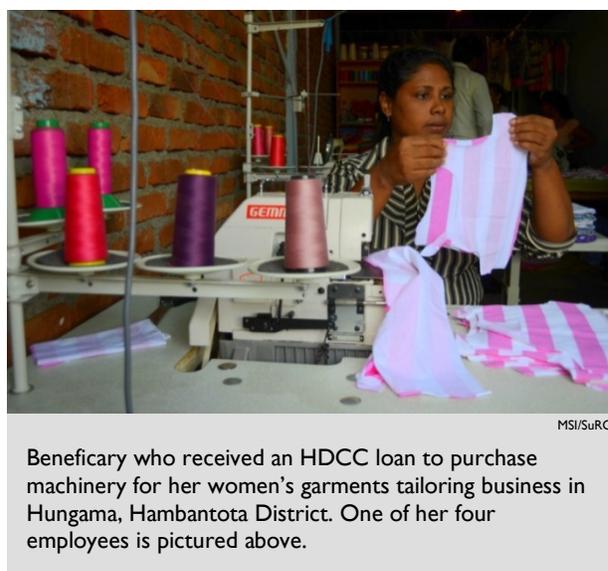
HDCC Loans Issued to Women Entrepreneurs October - December 2012

No.		Residential Area	Type of Business	Loan Amount (Rs.)
01		Hambantota	Produces spices	90,000
02		Ambalantota	Produces spices and sweets	75,000
03		Tissamaharama	Produces battery acid	150,000
04		Hambantota	Communication shop	200,000
05		Hambantota	Produces ornamental wood products	50,000

Four new mentors and one existing mentor were appointed to provide guidance to the five loan recipients. Monitoring visits were conducted to review the progress of loan beneficiaries. Loan recovery visits were also conducted to encourage the beneficiaries to repay their loan installments on time. In October, HDCC also conducted a customer care workshop and a sewing training program (saree jacket making training) for 26 loan recipients.

HDCC staff conducted field visits to compare business activities against the business plans, and to ensure loan conditions were being met. The 54 loan recipients from the months pre-dating this quarter were visited. The visits revealed that relationships between beneficiaries and mentors appear positive and mentors are providing the necessary feedback to loan recipients. Standard bookkeeping practices and business practices are reportedly proceeding smoothly and marketing practices are improving while standard business ethics are being adhered to.

The recovery rate for the loans has dropped significantly since June 2012, when the rate was at 94 percent. The current recovery rate is 74 percent. The drop is a direct result of flooding in the area during the quarter resulting in the inability of entrepreneurs to find materials, produce items for sale, and to market products. Two businesses were closed altogether, without the repayment of the loan, after businesswomen went abroad to find work.



Beneficiary who received an HDCC loan to purchase machinery for her women’s garments tailoring business in Hungama, Hambantota District. One of her four employees is pictured above.

“Before I got financial assistance from the USAID project I had only one employee and my goods were not of the best quality. Even customers commented on the bad quality of my products. But after I purchased a cutter machine and other equipment, I feel that now the quality of my products and efficiency of my work is gradually improving. Now customers are satisfied with my finished goods...I greatly appreciate HDCC’s work, not only in providing financial assistance to the entrepreneurs but also for the guidance they gave and the trainings provided in order to improve our lifestyles.”

HDCC LOAN RECIPIENT

HDCC also conducted recovery mobile mentoring visits in October to 12 businesses located in four DS divisions with the participation of three members of the PEC. The objective was to observe the status of businesses and find the reasons for delay in loan repayments.

In October, HDCC conducted a training session on customer care for 60 loan recipients (this includes the one prospective loan recipient who is due to receive a loan next quarter). The objectives of this training were to improve customer interactions, effectively communicate for sales, and develop management and leadership skills.

In December, HDCC conducted a mentor clustering session with the participation of nine mentors including chairpersons and coordinators of mentor’s forums. The objective of this event was to train volunteer mentors.

Under the “Enhancing the capacity and role of businesswomen” component, HDCC implemented customer care training for the 29 entrepreneurs in the district (non-loan beneficiaries). In November, HDCC conducted a team-building workshop for 20 entrepreneurs. The learning outcomes of the workshop included the identification of differences between groups and teams and how to build teams from within a group.

The Hambantota District Women Entrepreneur’s Forum (HDWEF) conducted three committee meetings in three locations. Leaders from the HDWEF discussed how to identify and enroll new members and plans for future activities including a networking session and a study tour to the Central Province Women’s Chamber of Commerce. They also discussed how to collect applications and membership fees, and the sustainability of the network after the SuRG project ends.

1.3 LOCAL GOVERNANCE

SuRG continued to provide support to its partner LAs in the East’s working groups and Participatory Governance Forums (PGFs). In addition, language exams were held for Level II language training participants. Two hundred eighty-four local government officers sat for the exam. The LG team surveyed, via questionnaires and focus group discussions, members of the SuRG trained LG resource pool to determine whether they were facilitating training in their own and other LAs. The SuRG LG team also held a three-day residential capacity building workshop implemented by the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA) for women councilors throughout the country.

USAID and SuRG continued to attempt to obtain GOSL approval to conduct training for local authorities in the Northern Province. The Governor issued a letter on October 10 to the Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils (MLGPC) authorizing them to work



Hemanthi Gunasekara, FSLGA

Ms. Shanthini Kongahage, Chairperson of Lak Vanitha Peramuna and Provincial Councilor of the Central Province, shared her experiences and challenges as a woman councilor representing minority communities in Sri Lanka at the FSLGA Capacity Building and Networking Event for Women Councilors in Sri Lanka held in Polgolla, Kandy.

with SuRG. In response the LG team worked with the Ministry to draft and sign an MOU detailing plans for training and capacity building of LAs in the North.

The Secretary of the MLGPC signed the MOU on October 31. However, the Chief Secretary of the Provincial Council's signature was also required for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to take effect. At a meeting with SuRG LG staff on December 4, she stated that she could not approve a training program for LAs and that she would only sign the MOU if revised to focus on infrastructure, equipment or livelihoods. USAID then directed SuRG to reprogram funding set aside for the North to the East.

LG RESOURCE POOL MEMBERS' SUBJECT EXPERTISE

Subject Area	No. of Resource Pool Members
Participatory / Good Governance	07
By-law Preparation - Constitution	05
Public Redress System	01
Participatory Planning and Budgeting	06
Accounting System / Final Accounts (software)	03
Proposal Writing and Project Cycle Management	03
Preparation of Citizen Charter	04
Office Administration	01
Gender Sensitivity	01

1.3.1 EASTERN PROVINCE TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Twenty-two PGF meetings and 22 working group meetings were held in SuRG's 11 partner LAs this quarter. Damage caused by heavy rains and flooding in partner LAs in Batticaloa and Ninthavur, Alayadivembu, Seruvila, Verugal and Muthur was a primary topic in their PGF and working group meetings. Working groups developed a joint plan with the DS for relief, while PGFs organized community support for victims. In addition, working groups in all 11 LAs completed their final accounts for 2012 and forwarded them to the Council for approval, and revised long-term participatory plans for submission to NELSIP and JICA. In eight partner LAs that received their allocation for office construction, preliminary meetings were held with contractors to discuss the LAs' contribution to the construction.

PGFs discussed community priorities for the 2013 annual budget. In addition, both NELSIP and JICA are now using PGF meetings as a forum for reviewing their project progress. Stakeholders from the projects and project beneficiaries together with the PGF conduct social audits and assess community involvement in project implementation. These reviews are now routine items on the PGF agenda.

SuRG LG Resource Pool Survey

When SuRG completed its technical training series in the Eastern Province in 2011, the CLG requested SuRG conduct a ToT for select participants who showed particular promise and made a noteworthy contribution to at least one training program. The idea was these 15 staff members would form an Eastern Province-based resource pool of trainers to facilitate future training in their LA and in others. The ToT was held in May 2011.

After a little over a year had passed, the SuRG LG and M&E teams designed a detailed questionnaire to be used as the basis for discussion among the members of the resource pool about whether and how they have used the ToT and other LG training in the past year. One session was held in Ampara and another in Trincomalee. All 15 people trained attended one of the two survey sessions.

Each resource pool member has expertise in more than one LG subject. Subject areas of expertise are listed in the chart above. All but one of the resource pool members has facilitated training since the ToT.

- Thirteen have conducted at least one training in their own LA on one or more of the following topics: participatory planning and budgeting, accounting system and final account preparation, and formulation of by-laws.
- Six have conducted training programs at the request of the CLG and ACLGs on participatory planning, participatory/good governance and the PS accounting system.
- Ten members have conducted one or more training program in other LAs within the province for organizations. Topics covered were formulation of by-laws; public redress system; good governance; roles and responsibility of the PS; participatory planning; proposal writing; women in the LG system; and PS accounting system.

Overall, the resource pool members were pleased they had been given the opportunity to attend the ToT and other technical trainings and expressed much interest in additional training to further their facilitation and presentation skills. Further details on the resource pool members are included in Attachment I.

Capacity Building for Local Government Women Councillors

In December, SuRG sponsored a three-day residential workshop implemented by the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA) for elected women councillors. The purpose was to enhance participants' knowledge about the local government system, existing governance structures, powers, and functions, and the role and functions of an elected councillor. Furthermore, the workshop provided a platform to establish a first of its kind "Women's Councillors Network" to promote more and better participation of women in local politics and decision making.

Although participation was lower than expected—31 of the 86 elected women councillors in the country attended—all nine provinces and major political parties were represented. Low attendance was due in part to weather conditions which caused flooding and road closures throughout much of the island on opening day—62 women had confirmed their attendance as late as the day just prior to the start of the training.

The program was conducted in both Tamil and Sinhala and was inaugurated by Provincial Minister of Industries, Sports, Education (Tamil), Estate Infrastructure, Women's Affairs, Rural Development, Hindu Cultural, Youth Affairs and Chairperson of Lak Vanitha Peramuna (a women's subcommittee of the UNP) and Provincial Councillor of the Central Province. Both women shared their personal experiences as women councillors and politicians. Resource persons included the ACLG from Galle and the ACLG from Trincomalee, among others. Participants also visited the Matale PS to observe a council session and hear from the Chairman, Councillors and other invited guests their experiences in local government leadership and service delivery.

At the end of the workshop, the participants elected office bearers for the "Women Councillor's Network." Office bearers elected represent all of the country's major political parties and ethnic groups. The FSLGA is committed to continuing support for women councillors and the Network with follow-up meetings and training. For many of the women present, the workshop represented the first training of this kind they had attended and they are looking forward to continuing to work with the Network and FSLGA to increase their capacity as councillors and promote women's participation in local politics and decision making.

"We are newly elected councillors and the program is very fruitful and helps us to understand local government acts and regulations. We learned a lot about the local government sector. As women politicians we face much hardship related to the general political platform. Further, as members of the opposition at the council we do not receive enough resources to deliver our services to the public. But this program empowered us with knowledge to stand on our own feet amidst these challenges. In the future, the network should carry out activities to benefit women councillors in the country."

COUNCILOR, MAHARAGAMA UC

1.3.2 LANGUAGE TRAINING

SuRG wrapped up its Tamil and Sinhala Official Language Department (OLD) Level II training last quarter. A post-evaluation examination was held in November at which 284 government officers from 29 LAs sat for the exam as indicated in the adjoining chart. Results from the OLD are expected to be announced in February.

LANGUAGE TRAINING LEVEL II EXAM CANDIDATES			
Language	Total Participants	Male	Female
Sinhala	186	85	101
Tamil	98	51	47
Total	284	136	148

1.3.3 GRANTS

ARD051

The SuRG partner was awarded a grant for its work in Polonnaruwa and Ampara in February 2012. The program was scheduled to end in December but was extended until 15 January 2013 in order to allow time for printing advocacy handbooks.

During the quarter, the SuRG partner held five regular monthly PGF meetings in Ampara (three) and Polonnaruwa (two). The *Pradeshya Sabha* 2013 budget process was the key topic in these meetings along with existing grievance redress mechanisms. The SuRG partner took the opportunity to share drafts of their advocacy handbooks on grievance redress mechanisms with the participants and elicit their feedback.

The SuRG partner also discussed with PS staff how PGF members could be included on PS standing committees. There was initially resistance from some of the staff and elected members. However, through discussions at the PGF meetings, resistance was eliminated and PGF members were incorporated on standing committees in each of the two PSs. Six PGF members now sit on the finance and policy committee and five PGF members sit on the technical committee in each PS.

During the quarter, the SuRG partner also completed the development of two advocacy handbooks. The first, "Local Governance Institutes and Complaint Redress Mechanisms" provides basic information and tools for the public about the services they should expect from their PS and proper mechanisms they can use to lodge complaints.

The second handbook deals with community monitoring of construction by PSs. The topic was chosen due to numerous concerns raised at PGF and other project meetings regarding poor road conditions resulting from substandard construction and maintenance. The handbook is intended to provide communities with basic knowledge and tools to monitor PS construction projects. It is hoped that this will also promote more effective utilization of public funds by the PS as well as mitigate corruption on PS construction projects.

Both handbooks were developed in Sinhala and Tamil. They will be printed early next quarter.

As indicated above, the grant period was due to end this quarter. SuRG granted the partner a two-week no-cost extension for the sole purpose of printing the already developed advocacy handbooks. Although a significant number of planned activities had not been implemented, no further extension was considered. The SuRG partner claimed that start-up was more complicated than expected and thus it took them a full eight months to get activities underway. This meant that two-thirds of the grant period had passed before they were able to get things moving in a meaningful manner. Internally, the SuRG partner, soon after signing the grant and up until recently, underwent a management transition leaving them without an Executive Director for an extended period of time. This no doubt affected its ability to implement the SuRG grant activities as planned. However, given the low level of implementation, questionable quality of the minimal work to date and inattention to results, SuRG determined that no further extension or revision of the grant agreement would be appropriate.

I.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 partner scholarship recipients continued their studies at the Sri Lanka College of Journalism (SLCJ) 2012 Diploma in Journalism Programme. This quarter, the SuRG M&E team completed a review of scholarship recipients from previous years to provide an overview of graduates' experiences and perceptions of media as a profession and how well the SLCJ diploma program prepared them to work in media.

SuRG also continued its training program for young women journalists in Trincomalee with three two-day workshops on print media. The trainees initiated their field work and practical assignments this quarter.

I.4.1 MEDIA GRANTS

ARD062

SuRG recipients of scholarships for the Sri Lanka College of Journalism continued their classes and completed two semesters this quarter. The students began their first internship in early December at the following media organizations: Shakthi TV; Shakthi FM; Sooriyan FM; Thinakkural Newspaper; and Virakesari Newspaper.

SuRG Journalism Diploma Scholarship Program Assessment

SuRG has awarded a grant each year to a partner organization to provide scholarships to 79 students to attend the SLCJ Diploma in Journalism Programme from 2009–2012. To date, 58 of those scholarship recipients have successfully completed the program; 15 students received their scholarships to attend the still ongoing 2012 program and six recipients did not complete the program. The chart below shows a breakdown of the grants awarded by program year.

SLCJ Diploma Programme Year	Value of the Grant (Rs.)	No. of Scholarships Awarded	No. of Scholarship Recipient Graduates
2009	2,538,000	22	16
2010	3,900,000	22	22
2011	3,719,000	20	20
2012	4,059,000	15	Course ends May '13
TOTAL	14,216,000	79	58

In an effort to assess the impact of the grant and value of the scholarship to the recipients, SuRG conducted a survey of graduates. The SuRG M&E staff worked with the SuRG partner to contact all 58 scholarship graduates from 2009–2011. They were able to reach and conduct in-depth interviews with 25 graduates (43 percent of all scholarship recipients who have graduated to date). The interviews were based on a survey developed by SuRG and conducted in-person at the graduate's workplace or residence or by telephone. The chart below provides details on the sample group.

SuRG Journalism Diploma Scholarship Program Assessment Sample Group

District	Gender		Ethnic Group			Course Stream			Interview Type	
	Male	Female	Sinhala	Tamil	Muslim	Press	Radio	TV	In Person	Telephone
Ampara	5	3	2	2	4		2	6	7	1
Batticaloa	1	3		3	1	2	2		4	
Trincomalee	2		1		1	1		1	2	
Jaffna	2	4		6		1	3	2	5	1
Moneragala		2	2				2		1	1
Mannar		1		1		1				1
Colombo	1			1			1		1	
Kilinochchi		1		1				1		1
Total	11	14	5	14	6	5	10	10	20	5

The survey focused on how graduates are faring since they left the program, their involvement in journalism or other professional pursuits, their perceptions of the value of the SLCJ program and the scholarship and their thoughts on the opportunities and challenges of pursuing a career in journalism as well as the overall state of journalism in Sri Lanka today.

Of those surveyed, 16 (64 percent) are working in journalism. All 16 claimed that their experience with or connection to SLCJ helped them obtain their jobs; of particular value was the internship program, both in terms of the practical experience it gave them as well as in terms of the contacts and entry to professional media houses. Nine of the surveyed graduates are working as journalists full-time and seven are working part-time or on a free-lance or voluntary basis.

SuRG Journalism Diploma Scholarship Program Graduates Surveyed Working in Journalism

Type of Media	Media House		Employment Status		Gender	
	National	Regional	Full-time	Other	Male	Female
Print	4	2	2	4	2	4
Radio	3	1	2	2	2	2
TV	3	1	4	-	3	1
On-line	2	-	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	12	4	9	7	8	8

Twelve work for the national media and four work for regional media houses; six are working in print; four in radio; four in television; and two are pursuing on-line media work. The average monthly salary is Rs. 16,111 and ranges from Rs. 10,000–29,000. Three of those who obtained a job in media after graduation left their jobs to pursue further studies and one female graduate quit her job after marriage.

Six of the remaining 25 graduates surveyed are currently enrolled in degree programs; the remaining three surveyed are employed in unrelated fields.

Satisfaction with the course was unanimous. All 25 graduates rated the course as excellent (48 percent) or good (52 percent); the program exceeded the expectations of 68 percent and met the expectations of 32 percent of those surveyed.

As mentioned above, the internship was considered a highly valuable component of the program. A number recommended that the internship be extended. Graduates also appreciated the opportunity to learn English, to live in Colombo and to study with students from all over the country and representing all of the country's major ethnic and religious groups. Respondents noted the value of the course's emphasis on journalism and professional ethics and values, and the need to do thorough research as well as follow-up on stories. All indicated that without the scholarship they would not have been able to afford the program.

SuRG Media Trainee Airs Radio Dramas

A participant in SuRG's media training program for female journalists in Trincomalee and a 2011 graduate of a SuRG-funded Diploma in Journalism course, was recently hired by YATV to write, record and edit a series of radio dramas to raise awareness on pressing community issues. To-date, two of her dramas – "Kannagipuram" which encourages building a peaceful multi-ethnic society and "Thirai" which discourages illegal immigrants from sailing to Australia – are airing on three local radio stations: Thendral FM, Yarl FM and Pirai FM.

There was general agreement on the challenges of journalism. Jobs are hard to come by, and pay is limited.

On the whole, the survey revealed the graduates to be dedicated and well suited to journalism. They showed pride in their accomplishments to date and commitment to reporting on the concerns of their communities. They also clearly appreciated the opportunity SLCJ and SuRG afforded them to enhance their professional qualifications and better provide for themselves and their families.

The survey also showed that SuRG scholarships, by opening up the SLCJ program to a group of students who would otherwise not have been able to afford the cost of the program and hailed from remote provinces, diversified what had previously been a primarily urban, middle to upper class Western and Southern student body, which enriches the experience of all of the students and adds much value to the quality of their education.

1.4.2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

SuRG continued its training program for 12 young women journalists in Trincomalee with three two-day training programs conducted in October and November 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.

1.5 CROSSCUTTING ACTIVITIES

At the request of USAID, SuRG commissioned a team of consultants to carry out an assessment of corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives and to make recommendations programming around CSR activities involving democracy and governance (D&G) actors and initiatives. The Mission designed the assessment with the following four key objectives:

1. Explore common areas that exist between USAID/Sri Lanka's development goals and private sector strategies, particularly willingness to support D&G initiatives;
2. Assess the relationship between companies and CSOs;
3. Recommend a strategy to link private sector programs with USAID/Sri Lanka development efforts; and
4. Identify ways that the private sector could collaborate with CSOs, specifically for D&G activities.

The assessment team was led by an independent consultant from the USA with research and implementation experience related to CSR and private sector engagement in development activities and with civil society. She worked with a team from a SuRG partner and Sri Lankan management consulting firm, to conduct the assessment in Sri Lanka from October 29 to November 22, 2012. At meetings in Colombo, Jaffna, Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, and Kandy, they held interviews with a wide range of private sector and civil society leaders, including representatives of 11 for-profit companies; six chambers of commerce; and 15 CSOs.

The team used a four-step approach that included a review of key CSR and D&G documents; interviews with for-profit companies, to understand their CSR programs and their willingness to work with CSOs; interviews with chambers of commerce, to understand their CSR programs and their willingness to work with CSOs; and interviews with CSOs, to understand their programs and if they have had any experience working with the private sector. The assessment was based on a framework that looks at what companies do with their pre- and post-profit funds.

The assessment pointed out that CSR efforts were largely introduced in Sri Lanka through international buyers. Much of this work began with philanthropic efforts that were further reinforced through the tsunami response, where businesses and their employees/families were directly affected. Although some companies embedded their CSR efforts into their core businesses, few if any have good monitoring systems to understand how these efforts are benefitting their business and society. As a result, it is hard to know how well these efforts are utilizing inclusive business models, ensuring that marginalized groups are benefitting from economic opportunities, which is a key development objective.

The assessment team believes that, for a more open and transparent society, it is important that issues-based (e.g., environmental or gender issues), multi-stakeholder dialogue be started through careful facilitation. It will probably be easier to start these discussions in one of the regions where there is greater receptivity of businesses and CSOs, possibly through facilitation by the chambers and CSOs. The assessment provides programming recommendations for engagement with the private sector and for civil society organizations separately and together.

1.6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

The M&E team conducted data quality assessments and program file reviews of two grantees this quarter. Overall, the partners maintain effective systems for accurate reporting. However, one partner's backup documentation system is relatively weak. The M&E team provided recommendations for improving it and the partner has since begun upgrading it.

As reported in the Open Dialogue Section above, the M&E team completed its assessment of the SuRG partner scholarship program. The team interviewed 25 (11 male, 14 female; 14 Tamil, 6 Muslim, 5 Sinhala) graduates from eight districts for the report.

After completing the FY 2013 work plan in September 2012, SuRG revised the PMP to ensure that monitoring reflects actual programming and corresponds to the extension of Tetra Tech ARD's contract for the project until August 31, 2013. The revised PMP has not been submitted as the SuRG COR recommended we wait until USAID and the D&G Office finalize its indicators so that SuRG indicators are consistent.

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