



## Ministry of Education and World Vision Lanka join hands for Green Harmony Schools

With the goal of achieving a cleaner environment, harmony and wellness across the country, the Ministry of Education and World Vision Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding recently to initiate the Green Harmony School (GHS) initiative in Sri Lanka.

The overall purpose of the Green Harmony School (GHS) is to build an environmentally conscious and responsible younger generation who can actively take part in sustainable development. The initiative seeks to also include the whole school community consisting of students, teachers, support staff and parents as well as the community. Partner collaborations will also be a key aspect of the program. This program will be piloted in 14 schools covering eight provinces in Sri Lanka where World Vision's development programs are present.

Secretary, Ministry of Education Mr. Upali Marasinghe speaking at the event said "Environment, sustainability and productivity are three concepts that should be interrelated with the education system. The students should be sensitized on these concepts through the education system from their childhood. The green Harmony School Concept addresses these concepts well. I appreciate the efforts taken

by World Vision to inculcate these values in school children and the whole community."

Thus, in addition to developing an environment /green conscious school community, with cleaner schools, building social cohesion and harmony, productivity and safety improvement, disaster risk reduction and, Climate change adaptation also will be addressed.

Suresh Bartlett, National Director World Vision Lanka commenting on this endeavor said "There is a global call to take real action in support of healthy, sustainable schools. Environment is a key cross-cutting theme in all of World Vision's programs. We are pleased therefore, to collaborate once again with the Ministry of Education on this vitally important initiative."

The GHS plan development for the selected schools will be facilitated by a school committee together with World Vision Lanka, under the guidance and supervision of the Provincial Education Office and Zonal and Divisional level education authorities. The pilot program will be replicated in additional schools based on lessons - learnt from the pilot phase.

## EDITORIAL

### Green Harmony...

'We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children,' says a native American proverb.

The Earth is our home and our entire life support system is dependent on the environment. We live in one global ecological system in which all living things are interdependent.

Environment is a key cross-cutting theme in all of World Vision's programmes. We not only intentionally focus on environment protection in all we do, we also help the children and the communities we work with become sensitive to the environment. Almost all our child societies help children develop habits that protect and restore the environment.

In yet another initiative, World Vision and the Ministry of Education signed an MoU to initiate Green Harmony Schools (GHSs) in Sri Lanka to build an environmentally conscious and responsible younger generation who can actively take part in sustainable development.

It is important that this generation leaves behind a protected environment for our children, so that they do the same for their children.

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## A new clinic for the community of Vaharai



World Vision's Vaharai Area Development Programme (ADP) recently completed a new health center in Kathiraveli.

The lack of health facilities in the Division of Koralaipattu North (Vaharai) caused much hardship to the community, especially in medical emergencies.

World Vision began working with the Ministry of Health and district health services to bring medical services closer to the community. A new building was proposed and half an acre of land was provided by the Divisional Secretary, Vaharai. In collaboration with the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) for Batticaloa District, World Vision constructed a new clinic at the cost of Rs. 4.8 million.

The clinic was also gifted with a scanner which will be used to screen complications in pregnant mothers. Mothers had to previously travel 30 Kilometers for this facility. Many pregnancy complications went undiagnosed due to mothers finding it difficult to travel so far. The ADP together with the community held discussions with the RDHS who agreed to provide medical personnel to visit the clinic, enabling mothers to attend the clinic regularly.

The clinic is now held three days a week, fulfilling a long felt need for the community.

## Help us to keep them smiling...

At World Vision we are passionate about the well being of children and ensuring them life in all its fullness.

If you are interested in learning more about our work or would like to join us in partnership in any of our programmes please email,

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## Australia and World Vision provide safe drinking water in Jaffna



Responding to an immediate need for safe drinking water in Jaffna District, World Vision Lanka on request from the Government of Sri Lanka commenced water distribution with funding from the Australian Aid program.

This project addressed the issue of contaminated ground water and the shortage of clean water in Uduvil and Thellipalai divisions, which is an ongoing problem. The number of affected people who received assistance are estimated at 21,668 people (6,876 families), nearly 50% of the affected population, including a large number of children. World Vision also distributed 6,600 ten litre capacity jerry cans to vulnerable families so they can transport and store the water as required.

Charlotte Blundell, Counsellor for Development at the Australian High Commission said “the Australian Government has stepped in to assist in this situation following requests from government officials in Jaffna and Colombo. We are proud to partner with World Vision in addressing this urgent need. We also welcome the advances being made by local authorities in the north to put in place a long term solution that ensures a safe and secure water supply for all families in Jaffna for many years to come”.

World Vision has been working closely with the District Disaster Management Unit and the District Secretariat, and the appointed Task Force to address the prevailing issue.

Two hundred - thousand litre capacity water tanks and stands have been handed over to the District Secretary. In line with the drinking water distribution plan as announced by the Divisional Secretariat, Around 15 litres of drinking water has been made available to each person daily, during the project period of three months

Speaking about this endeavor, World Vision Lanka’s National Director Suresh Bartlett said “The lack of access to clean drinking water in Jaffna has been an issue that World Vision has been looking to address through its long term development programs. The issue of contaminated water has further aggravated the situation. Thanks to the generous funding of DFAT and partnership with all arms of government, we were able to assist the affected population”

The families in the targeted areas also received health promotion information and hygiene awareness.

# PARTNERSHIPS

## 6500 more mangroves to protect Bar Reef in Kalpitiya



Under the ongoing partnership between World Vision and HSBC, 6500 mangroves were recently planted along the beaches of the Uchchamune islands in Kalpitiya recently. Staff members of HSBC, school children, youth and community members participated in this event.

Programmes were also conducted in schools and among the community to raise awareness about the importance of beach cleaning and conservation of the Bar Reef.

Last year, a similar initiative resulted in 5000 mangroves being planted along the Kalpitiya beach.

World Vision and HSBC entered into partnership in 2012 to protect and preserve the Bar Reef of Kalpitiya which is the largest and most diverse coral formation in Sri Lanka.

The programme comprises of three key components – increasing community awareness about conservation, improvement of livelihoods aligned to environmentally friendly techniques and strengthening of community-managed systems.

## TNT Express and World Vision partner for logistics in emergencies



World Vision and TNT Express recently entered into a partnership for the provision of logistical services during emergency situations. TNT Express which consists of road as well as air transportation networks, has wide coverage across the island. Under the partnership, TNT Express has agreed to assist World Vision with the transportation of goods and other emergency relief supplies to affected people in the event of a disaster.

“We have worked with many agencies during times of emergency, providing logistical support,” said Jerome Brohier, Vice President TNT Express. “We are therefore happy to contribute our expertise to World Vision and would like to engage with them more in other areas of collaboration as well.”

Adequate storage and temporary warehousing facilities for necessary relief supplies will also be provided by TNT Express.

World Vision deals with complex humanitarian emergencies and frequently responds to emergencies caused by natural disasters.

“We work with the most vulnerable communities and corporates have a great role to play in this endeavor, especially in terms of the innovations and expertise they bring to partnerships such as this,” said World Vision National Director, Suresh Bartlett. Through this collaboration, TNT Express will help us to quickly and effectively mobilise in an emergency, so that collectively we can reach affected communities in the shortest possible time.”



# GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION

## World Vision celebrates Global Week of Action 2015



The Global Week of Action, World Vision's global campaign week towards mobilising everyday people to influence policies that critically impact the lives of children, took place from the 4 – 11 May this year.

The slogan for the campaign this year is 'We will Stop at Nothing to get to Zero on Child Malnutrition and Child Abuse.'



In Sri Lanka, activities for Global Week of Action were conducted with the objective of increasing awareness and support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as commitment from local and national government staff to 'get to zero' on child malnutrition and child abuse.

World Vision Lanka's Area Development Programs (ADP) organized several events to successfully engage Government, community members and corporate partners to call to action.

Over 34,000 persons pledged their support by raising their hand and signing the pledge to encourage the nation's leaders to continue the progress started through the MDGs.



Based on the event outcomes, key recommendations were made to add value to discussions held nationally and internationally on the post- 2015 SDG agenda. It was recommended that Sri Lanka prioritizes Child Health and Child Protection in the post-2015 development agenda. The other key recommendation was that political, financial and social commitments be translated into action that reaches children for improved nutrition and protection.

The events conducted by the ADPs successfully engaged all segments of society to make a compelling call to action.



## World Vision supports E-learning initiative in the North.



World Vision's Area Development Programme in Chavakachcheri is providing assistance towards an e-learning initiative in the North.

The e-learning modules for science and mathematics were developed by SERVE e-learning Institute. The modules were handed over for grades 10 and 11 of 92 schools in the Northern Province.

However, teachers found it difficult to evaluate the student's skill level and knowledge. World Vision therefore, undertook to facilitate capacity building for teachers by helping them to develop a question bank using the Moodle open-source learning platform.

37 teachers underwent the initial training, after which they spent nearly 6 -7 days on each module, preparing the online evaluations. The subjects offered so far through e-learning are science for Grades 6 and 9 and Mathematics and Information Communication Technology for Grades 10 and 11.

This intervention aims at giving teachers the opportunity to be familiar with open-source learning platforms and evaluation methods which will enhance the student's e-learning experience.

## Life-skills programme for children in Chankanai



With the intention of developing essential life skills in children, a programme titled Life School was organized by the Chankanai Area Development Programme (ADP). Children aged 12 to 17 years from four children's societies in Araly Grama Niladari Division, participated in the event.

The two-day programme was facilitated by 25 youth from the Eastern Province, whose training was supported by World Vision's Navithanvely ADP. 295 children actively took part in the event, learning about childhood nutrition and protection, setting goals for themselves, protecting the environment and community interactions. The Life School encouraged the children through songs, dance and group learning to enable them to get the best out of the programme.

The main highlight of the event was the incorporation of the Global Week of Action into the programme. The children exhibited drawings to Government officials and parents, conveying their thoughts and expectations concerning child wellbeing.

At the end of the Life School programme, each child prepared an action plan for themselves to practice all they learnt at home.

The programme was a success as the children were able to learn from the youth in their own communities, making it a more interesting and meaningful experience for them.



# SPECIAL PROJECTS

## RIWASH-2 implements 3rd cycle of Fiscal Transfer Mechanism



As the name implies, a fiscal transfer mechanism (FTM) means a financial transfer from a central authority to a local authority in the government structure. World Vision Lanka has worked closely with the Central Provincial Council in strengthening local governance and implementing many projects using this decentralized policy mechanism.

World Vision's Rural Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project 2 (RIWASH) which commenced in 2010 and covers the Nuwara Eliya District, incorporates many FTM projects in water and sanitation.

RIWASH is aimed at connecting disenfranchised communities with the local government authorities as well as achieving objectives of Good Governance, Conflict Sensitivity and Gender Equity using water as a connector.

An MoU initially signed with the Provincial Council (PC) became the gateway for implementing the FTM through the RIWASH project in May 2011. Community water projects in three local authorities of Nuwara Eliya, Ambagamuwa and Walapane Pradeshiya Sabhas were identified.

Currently the FTM is in its third cycle, implementing four water and two sanitation projects. The first two cycles implemented from 2012 to 2014, included 11 projects.

After conducting a capacity assessment of the local authorities in expediting WASH projects, several capacity building programs were conducted for the local authorities with the participation of the PC.

Areas covered in the training programs included the legal framework of Local Authorities, ongoing legal and policy reforms, principles of good governance, citizens in participatory decision making, good financial management, conflict resolution and social mobilization and gender mainstreaming.

World Vision Lanka has already financed 525 million rupees on various interventions in the Central Province. These include the FTM, strengthening of Divisional Level Coordinating Committees, health, education and economic development activities, capacity building programs and notably Sanitation Advocacy Programs.



Ministry of Education  
Sri Lanka

# GREEN HARMONY SCHOOL INITIATIVE

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**“Eco Friendly Schools for a Sustainable Future”**  
“ තිරසාර අනාගතයක් සඳහා පරිසර හිතකාමී කාසල් ”  
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