



World Vision provides clean drinking water for Meegaswewa Community

World Vision Lanka recently handed over a drinking water project to the community of Meegaswewa in Thanamalvila. From an overhead tank with a capacity of 30,000 liters, the project distributes clean drinking water to 91 families living within a 6 Km radius.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony, the Chief Guest Hon. Jagath Pushpakumara, Minister of Coconut Development and Janatha Estate Development said, “Development work of an area cannot be fulfilled by the government alone. The contribution of other organizations like NGOs is essential. World Vision has done a lot for the development of this area and has already provided drinking water to the communities of Mahawewa, Kahakurullanpelessa in addition to this community of Meegaswewa. As a man of the soil, I know how important water is to these communities.”

Access to clean drinking water was limited and scarce for the community of Meegaswewa, a rural village in the Bodagama GN division in Thanamalvila. Out of the available wells, only one provides suitable drinking water. Diseases due to consumption of unsafe water are common in the area. The project will therefore address a long-felt need.

The land on which the overhead tank is constructed has

been provided by the Government Divisional Secretary, while a community member donated land for the construction of the intake well. The total cost of the project was approximately LKR 6.2 million. World Vision contributed LKR 5 million while the Uva Provincial Council contributed LKR 1 million and the community contributed a further LKR 150,000.

A Water Consumer Society has been formed by the community to ensure the maintenance and sustainability of the project.

Commenting on the project, World Vision National Director Suresh Bartlett said, “World Vision partnered with the community of Thanamalvila for fourteen years and worked with Government and all stakeholders to bring about sustainable development. I hope that as a result of what we have been able to accomplish together, your children are healthy, well nourished, have opportunities for full education, have access to clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, and you are enjoying better livelihoods.”

He also stated, “Even as this World Vision Area Development Programme comes to a close in the next couple of years, we trust the gains made will be preserved and continued by your empowered communities.”

EDITORIAL

Partnered for the wellbeing of children...

The wellbeing of children is at the heart of all our work. Our desire is to see them grow healthy; receive nutritious meals; have access to clean water and sanitation facilities; receive a good education; are loved and protected; treated with dignity and provided hope for the future; that their families become economically stable.

But we don't journey towards it alone. To make this a reality, we receive the support of many stakeholders.

In this issue of Kathika you will read about some of our partners, the highlights of a few of our programmes and what we have accomplished together in uplifting the wellbeing of children and their communities.

Meegaswewa families no longer have to walk in search of water; underweight children in Bogowanthalawa will soon begin to gain in health and weight; households and schools in Nagasena now have access to water and sanitation facilities; families of Six villages in Paddipalai received livelihoods support for a sustainable income and plantations community received health and nutrition awareness.

All this - a result of collaborations and we will continue to partner for the wellbeing of children. Our hope is that EVERY child enjoys life in all its fullness.

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World Vision responds to flash floods in Neluwa, Kalutara and Wattala



World Vision Area Development Programmes (ADPs) in Neluwa and Wattala provided cooked meals, drinking water and non-food-items to families affected by floods that followed the heavy monsoon rains in the area.

In coordination with the local government authorities and World Vision's Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs (HEA) unit along with the ADPs distributed 1334 Hygiene packs and 334 Non Food Item packs to 1334 families residing in Wattala and Kalutara as well as three deep well suction pumps and 1000 5ltr water bottles to affected families in Neluwa and Nagoda.

At least 26 people were killed and over 100,000 were affected by floods and landslides in the Southern and Western Provinces of Sri Lanka due to heavy monsoon rains in May. The rains completely destroyed nearly 300 houses and displaced over 7000 people from their homes into schools and other places of shelter.

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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Model Garden combats malnutrition in Bogowantalawa

Recent surveys have shown that the highest number of malnourished children under five years is in the Bogowantalawa area. To address this issue, World Vision's Bogowantalawa Area Development Programme (ADP) has initiated a Nutritional Model Garden on Campion Estate in order to provide nutritious food to the children in the estate's crèches.

“In order to completely address malnutrition, a long term, targeted intervention is needed,” explains Jude Thavarajah, Manager of the Bogowantalawa ADP. “We together with the Medical Office of Health (MOH) proposed a model garden, and the Estate Management offered their support towards this initiative.”

The Estate Management provided the 50 perch land and water facility, while the Agriculture Unit of the Divisional Secretariat provided advice and training on the types of plants to be grown and also landscaped the garden. The Environment Protection and Scientific Exploration Organization (EPSEO) provided advice on preparing the soil for cultivation.

Currently, 142 children in five crèches on Campion Estate are benefitting from the model garden. Before the project commenced, the children were given mostly starch based food with a vegetable which was purchased from the market. A balanced diet was not provided.

The model garden, is completely chemical free and grows a variety of fruits, vegetables, green leaves and herbs to cover the required range of nutrients. The Crèche Committee distributes the produce from the garden amongst the five crèches, while the Community Development Forum ensures the sustainability of the project by selling the additional produce and using the income to maintain the garden.

World Vision provided the crèche attendants with training on proper food preparation under its Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Positive Deviance Hearth (PD Hearth) nutrition programmes.



The MOH staff monitors the growth of the children while the Public Health Inspector often visits the crèches to ensure the food is hygienically prepared and that the model garden is properly maintained.

“My one year old son Kabilash was 7.5 Kg in the month of May, but after he began receiving the healthy food in the crèche his weight has gone up to 8.5 Kg in June,” says one mother, Thayagini.

The success of the model garden has prompted surrounding estates to seek the assistance of the Bogowantalawa ADP in replicating the project. “It is also encouraging to see many parents with their children visiting the garden, and they have even started their own small model garden. These families are now paying more attention to consuming balanced meals,” says Jude Thavarajah.

Currently, this best practice is also being followed in the ADPs of Pathana, Devon and Ambagamuwa.

Partnership brings clean water to Nagasena community



The Nagasena Water Supply System of the Rural Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project (RIWASH) funded by Australian Aid, was recently declared open by Hon. Sarath Ekanayake, Chief Minister of the Central Provincial Council. The Water Supply System distributes drinking water through individual tap connections to 110 families in Bearwell Estate, Lindula. The project also provides water to three schools (Saraswathi Tamil Maha Vidyalam, Royal College and Lindula Sinhala Vidyalaya), serving over 1000 students. Three places of worship (a temple, a kovil and a church) too have been provided with water through this project.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Ekanayake stated, "Although there are many water sources in this area, the water cannot be used for drinking. We are therefore grateful to World Vision and to Australian Aid for bringing this project not just to the community but to the school children as well. This is very important as children are the future. We believe that by being partners in programmes such as this we can provide our services to the community."

The Nuwara Eliya Pradeshiya Sabha obtained the necessary approvals for the land allocation, arranged for pipelines and household water connections. They will also be responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance of the water systems.

Speaking at the event, Steven Warwzonek, First Secretary, Development Assistance at the Australian High Commission in Colombo, stated, "Increasing access to safe water and sanitation is one of the development objectives of the Australian Aid programme. We are pleased to note that in this particular project, a partnership was formed between Government, civil society and the community. Australia hopes that this project will make the lives of women easier and improve your family's health and well-being."

World Vision Lanka works in partnership with the Central Provincial Council, Pradeshiya Sabhas and Plantation Management of the respective areas in the implementation of the RIWASH 2 project.

"World Vision has several programmes in the Nuwara Eliya District and will continue to work in partnership with all stakeholders to improve the wellbeing of children and the community as a whole," World Vision National Director, Suresh Bartlett said. "I want to thank all our partners and government counterparts. Special thanks to the people and government of Australia for making available the funding to undertake these projects for the children of Sri Lanka."

Livelihoods support brings change for Bavani

When Bavani (37) lost her husband in the civil war six years ago, life was very bleak. With three children to support, Bavani was losing hope. The only thought that kept her going was that she needed to do her best for her children.

Bavani was compelled to let her parents support her and her children. She felt sad that she was a burden to her parents. She tried to support them by starting a home garden, while her father engaged in goat rearing. Yet, their income was barely enough for them all.

When her two younger children were included into the World Vision programme, Bavani was very relieved.

Through World Vision, Bavani was also able to participate in several training programmes which included other field crop cultivation and goat rearing. She was then selected for the goat rearing project conducted by World Vision in Paddipalai.

“I already had a little experience with goat rearing, so I felt very happy to be selected. I was provided more training by World Vision and was encouraged to build a goat shed,” explains Bavani. “I felt that now we can improve our lives.”

Through the goat rearing project, World Vision has provided assistance to 180 families in six villages in Paddipalai. Three of these villages were border villages during the conflict and another two are villages that have been recently resettled.

Initial surveys showed that while the community possess the experience of livestock rearing, they lacked sufficient technical knowledge. World Vision therefore provided the beneficiaries with the technical training on goat rearing, while livestock health management programmes are being conducted by the Veterinary Department of Paddipalai.

An active participant in the project, Bavani found her fortunes changing.



“I faced so many challenges and I was unable to attend to my children’s needs, especially concerning my eldest son’s A/L education. But now I am able to earn an income and use that to educate my children,” she continues.

Within a year, Bavani has increased the number of goats to 22 from the 5 that were provided to her by World Vision. Through the additional training she received, she is also careful to manage her income and monitor her business.

“My plan is to expand my goat shed. In the next few months I will be able to sell some of the older goats,” explains Bavani. “I will use that income to expand the shed for more goats.”

In partnership with the Divisional Secretariat, the project is being monitored under the Divi Neguma programme. The Veterinary Department of Paddipalai conducts a mobile clinic in one village each month to monitor the health of the goats.

World Vision has also formed savings clubs with the communities so that they can efficiently manage their profits and will be encouraged to develop their business.

“I am so thankful that World Vision supported me through this project. Not just me, but so many others too have benefited,” says a grateful Bavani.

Madhavi – Painting a bright future for herself

Madhavi's (16) passion for drawing began when she was little. She would lose herself in the colourful world she created for herself. Although she lived in the beautiful surroundings of Maskeliya, in reality Madhavi's life was far from colourful. She was abandoned by her father when she was three months old. In order to provide for her, Madhavi's mother sought employment abroad, leaving her behind with her grandparents.

Madhavi took solace in her art. "Just like all children I too loved to draw," says Madhavi. As a result of being a part of the World Vision programme from the age of three, Madhavi regularly received school supplies and she would sometimes use these for her drawing. When she wrote to her sponsors, she would always include a special drawing for them.

Earlier this year, Madhavi heard about a competition through World Vision. To commemorate International Women's Day, the Delegation of the European Union to Sri Lanka and the Maldives in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy and Agenda 14, invited amateur and professional artists to participate in a poster competition on the theme 'Woman.' The theme would explore the different roles of women in Sri Lanka in the public, political and social spheres.

Madhavi knew other students would participate too. But her own difficult life and that of the plantation community had given her enough inspiration to work with. She decided to take part.

"I saw this competition as an opportunity to speak about the importance of gender equality," explains Madhavi. Her final drawing was of a man and a woman pulling a cart together; in the cart was their family. "Coming from the tea estates, I see both men and women working equally hard to make a living, and this is what I wanted to show through my drawing."

From amongst hundreds of entries, Madhavi's drawing won third place in the children's category. "I was extremely happy, I never expected to win" she says, beaming.

All posters selected for the final round were displayed at a public exhibition at the Colombo Public Library. This was followed by the award ceremony graced by Ambassador to the European Union in Sri Lanka David Daly and Swiss Ambassador to Sri Lanka Thomas Litscher.

Accompanied by the staff of World Vision's Ambagamuwa Area Development Programme and a few community members, an excited Madhavi travelled to Colombo to receive her award. "I was afraid of large gatherings and that I will be asked questions," she says. "But after this experience, I am not afraid anymore."



Madhavi's ambition is to become a teacher and she wants to continue with her art. "I will not stop drawing, I will follow a professional course in art and enter more competitions and win more prizes," she says.

WVL marks National Nutrition Month 2014



National Nutrition Month is commemorated in June each year with the intention of improving the nutritional status of communities through awareness to change attitudes.

Iron deficiency anaemia is one of the most critical nutrition deficiencies in Sri Lanka. Therefore, the theme for National Nutrition Month this year was “Iron rich food for Health, Strength and Intelligence.”

To mark National Nutrition Month, World Vision Lanka (WVL) conducted a mass awareness programme in Hatton which was organized in collaboration with Plantation Human Development Trust (PHDT). Nearly 300 participants consisting of WVL staff and mobilizers, PHDT staff, estate health officers, child development officers, children and their parents were at this event.

Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Ravi Nanayakkara, Director for Health at PHDT, highlighted the current health and nutrition status of the plantation communities in Sri Lanka. “Nutrition programmes like this should not be limited to nutrition month only, but it should continue throughout the year for the well-being of children in the plantations,” he said.

A highlight of the day's programme was the drama performed by children portraying the daily practices of the plantation community and how it affects the nutritional status of the children.

World Vision together with the Ministry of Health, conducted several other awareness campaigns through its Area Development Programmes, community based organizations, mother's groups and schools. Awareness programmes about iron rich food and preparation were held for pregnant and lactating mothers, mothers of children under five and for schoolchildren. Anaemia screenings were also conducted. Two HemoCue devices and strips were donated to the Puthukudiruppu Medical Office of Health to screen and identify anaemic children.

Through ongoing health and nutrition programmes, World Vision aims to create awareness about the importance of iron rich food, motivate the community to increase the intake of iron and to improve their knowledge about good nutrition practices. Advocacy programmes are being conducted to identify the responsibilities and duties of non-health sector officials in reducing Iron Deficiency Anaemia.





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