

NEWSLETTER

"Discovering livelihood"



RAHAMA



Recovery and Humanitarian
Action Management Agency

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"Strongest women for sustainable future" – International Women's Day event in Puthukudiyiruppu, Mullaitivu.



RAHAMA together with the Divisional Secretariat office Puthukudiyiruppu organized an event under the theme "Strongest women for sustainable future" to mark the International Women's Day 2016. The event was graced by women representatives from Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu Districts' Civil Society Organizations and staff from RAHAMA and DS office whilst the key note speech was presented by Mrs. Jeyarani the Director of Planning at Puthukudiyiruppu DS office. Two dramas related to the theme "Women and Alcohol" were performed by the community groups and spread how women and children are affected by these alcohol and other substance use and how we can work together to eliminate this issue. Further a dance performance was held adding a lot of colour to this event.

In addition to all the events, we opened up a chance to share the success story of women who are contributing to empower their community as well as their family. They were awarded and honoured during this special occasion.

To conclude the event a badge was distributed to all participants to pledge their support for gender parity by calling out everyone to do their bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding.



The 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of RAHAMA.

The 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Recovery and Humanitarian Action Management Agency [RAHAMA] was held on Tuesday 29th March, 2016 at Hotel Janaki in Colombo headed by the Chairperson Ms.ChitraVithanage. The staff, Partner representatives along with Company Secretary and Board of Directors attended and presented their views to scale up our programs in the future.

“Strengthen women for sustainable future” - International Women's Day event in Poonakary.



International Women’s Day is a time to reflect on progress made, a time to call for change and to celebrate the acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in their homes, workplaces and society.

This year under the global theme “strengthen women for a sustainable future”, a joint day event organized by DS office Poonakary on 14th March, 2016 at Poonakary DS office compound in collaboration with RAHAMA, ZOA, FOSDOO and Shanthigam Non-Governmental organizations. More than 150 women together with Poonakary DS office staff and NGOs representatives took part in this remarkable event.

Several events included drawing exhibition by pre-school children, cultural events and competitions by women represented by the Women organizations, a special drama “Women and Alcohol” was presented by RAHAMA’s partner women organizations and special speeches.

The women representatives from WRDSs who actively participated for their community development were awarded and honoured during this special occasion.

Enhancing the Children Clubs’ activities in Mulankavil.



As a continuous development process of strengthening child club activities, we organized a one day capacity building follow-up session on managing child clubs for animators, child rights and child protection awareness sessions to child club members and parents of three child clubs in Mulankavil, Poonakary Division by the external resource person Mr.T.L.MMakeen, the Executive Director of WODEPT Puttalam. There were 36 parents, 4 child club animators and 36 parents attending this program.

The objectives were reviewing the progress of animators, awareness on child abuse and protection and enhance the active participation of children in child club activities.

FORUT Norway Team's Study Trip to Sri Lanka



The Study team comprising of 18 exclusive members from Norway had an extensive exposure to the Northern projects implemented by RAHAMA.

During their visit, the team had visited the Northern Districts and meeting with GA Jaffna, VOGT Point-pedro, Poonakary new settlement, preschool in Mulankavil, Jeyapuram site office, children's club program, working women forum in Kilinochchi, Visvamadu Co-operative banking for women economic empowerment, youth skill development (DVTC) in Mullaitivu, Meeting with GA Mullaitivu, etc.. Among other projects they met and reviewed the progress.

This was a good exposure and learning process for all of us.

Alcohol prevention awareness to School students – Mulankavil.



RAHAMA has conducted an Alcohol and drug prevention program for 35 students (boys-16, girls-19) studying grade 9 and 10 of Mulankavil M.V. School, Poonakary in Kilinochchi District. The objective is to create awareness and protect school children from alcohol and drug, abuse in the area. Students actively participated and given awareness.

Introductory Training on Happy Family to RAHAMA Staff.

An Introductory training on Happy Family concept was conducted for RAHAMA's staff members on 28th March, 2016 at our conference hall with the objective to understand the basic concept of what Happy Family is and how we can do wide Gender analysis before commencing a project. The resource person was Mrs. Samitha Sugathimala - Manager of FISD's Gender and Development Programme and 16 staff members actively participated.



World Wetlands Day: School level awareness and Competitions.



RAHAMA organized the certificate awarding and half day workshop on importance of Wetlands and environment at Vavuniya Saivapiragasa Maha Vidyalaya to commemorate the World Wetlands Day with objective of making awareness to students about the importance of wetlands and environment. The winners of the essay and art competitions that we organized in coordination with Zonal Education office – Vavuniya were awarded with certificates. Zonal Director Vavuniya South and other officials from the Zonal Education office along with school principal and RAHAMA officers took part in the program.

Joint hands to eliminate the consumption of Alcohol and Drugs

An awareness campaign regarding the real harm of alcohol and tobacco use was carried out by RAHAMA staff at the resettlement villages Itavil in Pachchilaipalli and Thelikarai in Poonakary Division. During this session, alcohol related issues in the villages were discussed. People shared their experiences on how some people in their villages use alcohol as an excuse for violence and misbehaviour and how much money they spend daily/monthly/yearly for alcohol and drug consumption.



After identifying the issues and the negative effects of alcohol and tobacco use, people discussed the approaches that they adopt to implement prevention activities in the villages. The village committee was formed to follow up this alcohol and drug related issues in their village level and work closely with RAHAMA and other like-minded organizations to eliminate the ill effect of alcohol and drug consumption in their villages.

Economic Empowerment of Women: Bringing hope for future



"I am grateful to RAHAMA and VFMPCS for their collaborative effort for livelihood improvement of women in our village. Now we are the proud owners of a carpentry workshop. The income now we earn from this work is well enough to meet our family expenses and able to save money for the future. We bought some household things and jewelries from the income we earned so far. RAHAMA is not only giving financial assistance and they have supported me to learn more about business skills, money management and leadership. This will lead me to expand my workshop further with give job opportunities to at least two persons in the future." Tharmini says happily.

Tharmini lives with her husband and three year old child in a village called Manikapuram in Mullaitivu District. Like thousands of others, she also was badly affected by prolonged war of the country. When she was in the IDP camp, she got married to a man experienced

in carpentry works. After they resettled in their own village, her husband engaged in carpentry works for daily wages. But, the income was not sufficient to fulfil their basic family needs as Tharminy's mother and sister also with them after her father passed away during the war.

She has been a proud recipient of RAHAMA and VFMPCS (Visuamadhu farmer's multipurpose cooperative society) collaborative assistance for livelihood development. With the funds received, she has been able to buy a new wood carving machine and equipment and started an own carpentry workshop at their home in small scale. They had to toil hard to make their business a success.



However with their hard work, dedications and deliberations of both husband and wife, they were able to get new orders and earn LKR.35, 000.00 monthly as net profit. This income is good enough to meet their family expenses and able to save minimum LKR.5, 000.00 monthly for their daughter's future.

Tharminy continues to assist her husband in carpentry works and is making a remarkable amount as profit.

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