



# RAHAMA NEWSLETTER

3RD QUARTER 2024

---

## CONTACT US

### PROJECT OFFICE:

NO.60/15,  
SINTHAMANY PILLAIYAR KOVIL VIEW,  
VAVUNIYA,  
SRI LANKA.

PHONE: +94(0) 242222287,  
FAX: +94(0) 242220608 CITY OFFICE:  
NO: 25, CARLWIL PLACE,  
COLOMBO-03, SRI LANKA.  
PHONE: + 94 (0) 112577332

### CITY OFFICE

NO: 25, CARLWIL PLACE,  
COLOMBO-03, SRI LANKA.  
PHONE: + 94 (0) 112577332

EMAIL: [rahama.vav@rahama.lk](mailto:rahama.vav@rahama.lk)

WEBSITE: [www.rahama.lk](http://www.rahama.lk)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/rahamainfo](https://www.facebook.com/rahamainfo)

## OUR DONORS



Funded  
Through





# RAHAMA Newsletter



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3  
3RD QUARTER  
01.10.2024

## Events & Outcomes

### Boundary Partners Mid-Year Review Meeting

On 12th July 2024, a Boundary Partners Mid-Year Review meeting took place at Rubavathy Hall in Kilinochchi. The objective was to enhance partnerships and prepare partners for participatory planning and results-based management. Points discussed were donor expectations across six main sectors, emphasizing a shift to a need-based participatory model. A video case study highlighted issues like alcohol consumption, domestic violence, school dropouts, and ineffective legal responses. Participants prepared project proposals on topics such as gender-based violence and community challenges. Critical issues identified included high rates of alcohol use, gender violence, school dropouts, and income loss. RAHAMA committed to initiating discussions with relevant agencies for intervention and addressing these prioritized issues.

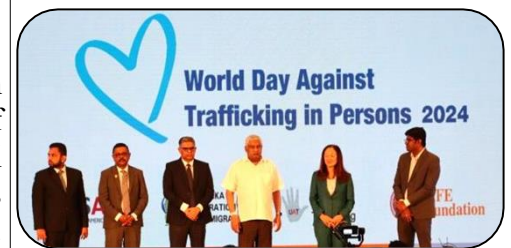


### Insights on Human Trafficking Project Management at Vavuniya University Symposium.

In August, Vavuniya University held its inaugural Undergraduate Research Symposium on Project Management, where RAHAMA's Mrs. K. Selvalaxmy delivered an impactful presentation. She addressed the complexities of managing human trafficking projects, sharing insightful strategies for navigating this challenging field with sensitivity and effectiveness.

### We Joined National Event to Address Human Trafficking

In August, RAHAMA attended the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons event organized by SAFE Foundation in Colombo. As part of the USAID "Empowering CSOs to Combat Human Trafficking in Sri Lanka" project, the event featured the launch of a research findings book, presented to the Hon. Minister of Public Security by the U.S. Ambassador. Led by our Secretary General, RAHAMA's 36-member team engaged in discussions on the latest trends in human trafficking and safe labor migration. The event offered valuable insights and learning opportunities for our team.



## Events & Outcomes



### Management Team Meeting with FORUT Desk Officer

In September, management staff met with FORUT Desk Officer Ms. Ane Tosterud Holte at Cinnamon Grand for a focused discussion. The meeting covered key updates, ongoing initiatives, and explored potential collaborations aimed at advancing community support efforts. This productive exchange strengthened partnerships and laid the groundwork for future collaborative projects.

## Projects Activities

### Irrigation Canal Renovation in Thenniyankulam.

The irrigation canal in Thenniyankulam was renovated with the help of the Thenniyankulam Farmer Society and local families. This project will improve rice production by ensuring a steady water supply. By desilting the tank and clearing 1.5 km of irrigation channels, the water retention capacity is increased. The project will enable 70 new families to start paddy cultivation on 100 acres of land, helping to improve food security for landless families.



### Business Development Training Programs – 2024

We conducted Business Development Training sessions across Karachchi, Namalgama, Puliyanakulam, Mutkompan, Pallikkuda, and Oddusuddan, engaging 176 participants, including MSME members and farmers.



The trainings focused on business plan development, SWOT analysis, and income strategies, helping participants create actionable business plans. Discussions covered goat rearing, agriculture, and marketing, equipping attendees with practical steps for business growth and local economic improvement.

### Supporting Farmers with Seeds and Agricultural Inputs

In July, nine farmers in the Manthai East division received seeds for crops like chili and groundnut, along with essential agricultural inputs under the Livelihood Assistance program. This support aims to boost food security and income generation. Looking ahead, these farmers will focus on producing high-quality seeds and maintaining a seed bank to ensure sustainable growth and resilience in the community.





## Projects Activities



### Enhanced Livelihoods through Goat Rearing Training in Poonagary and Mutkompan.

The Goat Rearing Technical Training sessions were conducted in Poonagary and Mutkompan. Facilitated by Livestock Development Officer Mr. Sooriyakumaran, the training equipped 42 participants (10 men, 32 women) with practical skills in goat care, selection, and monitoring. Participants now have improved capacities to sustainably manage their livestock, fostering economic resilience and greater self-sufficiency in their communities.



### Children's Rights and Protection Program at Vavuniya

A session on children's rights and protection was held with 50 children from Vavuniya South (16 boys and 34 girls). The session was led by the Vavuniya DS Office CRPO. They discussed the challenges children face and how to overcome them. Through group activities, they shared their thoughts and learned how to raise awareness of these important issues.



### Fiber Factory Operations and Market Expansion at Katsilaimadhu.

The Fiber factory at Katsilaimadhu is successfully managed by a seven-member team, led by Mr. Vijayasudhan and supported by the Katsilaimadhu Working Women's Group. After completing quality fiber training, the team is focusing on expanding its market reach, with plans for exporting underway. The factory aims to produce 400-500 kg of high-quality coir/fiber this month, with Gangu collection scheduled for November. These efforts are strengthening production capacity, boosting income opportunities, and contributing to local economic development.



## Projects Activities

### Child Rights and Child Protection Awareness Programs at schools .

In July 2024, a Child Rights and Child Protection program took place at M.Muththayankaddu Right Bank Mahavidyalayam, with the principal, teachers, School Development Society, student society members, and student leaders participating. The session was led by the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) from the NCPA, Oddusuddan office. A total of 31 participants joined to discuss and learn about child rights and protection. Another session was also conducted at Palinagar Mahavidyalayam with the school union and prefects. Both programs aimed to raise awareness, encourage discussion, and deepen understanding of child rights and protection in schools.



### MSME Business Plan Review Session in Karachchi.

A business plan review session for MSMEs was held at the Karachchi Divisional Secretariat, with 48 members from 12 Gramasakthi Societies attending. Led by our Finance Manager, the session focused on effective planning for business growth. The Divisional Secretary and Additional Planning Director joined, showing strong support and cooperation for MSMEs.

### Children's Rights and Protection Program at Vavuniya.

Livelihood and economic assistance was provided to 37 women in Vavuniya South, enabling them to improve their income. This support helped enhance their financial stability, promoting greater economic independence and contributing to the overall development of their community. The initiative empowered these women to establish sustainable livelihoods and play an active role in their local economy.



## Capacity Building Programs



### Camera Handling and Post-Production Training for RAHAMA Staff.

In July 2024, RAHAMA staff attended a Camera Handling and Post-Production Training session at the RAHAMA Conference Hall, facilitated by Mr. Samantha. The training covered essential skills such as camera handling for documentaries, producing high-quality field photographs, post-production techniques, and database management. The facilitator's expertise made the session informative and valuable for all participants.



## Capacity Building Programs

### Strategic Planning Meeting at Puttalam.

The team met in Puttalam to set key strategies and actions, focusing on clear goals, defined roles, and evidence-based project success. Highlights included a session on alcohol and drug prevention led by Mr. Chamikka from Healthy Lanka and action points like improved financial monitoring, punctuality, and creating an internal ADD team. A monthly plan was also set to streamline progress. These steps aim to drive impactful community change.



### Alcohol and Drugs Prevention Consultation Session in Vavuniya.

A consultation session was held at the Conference Hall in Vavuniya, led by Mr. Chamika Jeyasinghe from Healthy Lanka. The focus was on strengthening our efforts to address alcohol and drug issues. Mr. Jeyasinghe offered technical guidance to help expand outreach in the northern region. The aim is to become a key resource hub with the skills and expertise needed to tackle alcohol and drug challenges effectively.

### Self-Organization Capacity Assessment Meeting.

A Self-Organization Capacity Assessment meeting was held with support from the SAFE Foundation. The session, facilitated by an external expert, involved 27 staff members and Board Directors. Through active participation and sharing of insights, the group gained updated information and a clearer understanding of their strengths and areas for growth. This process will help strengthen organizational capacity and improve future planning.



### Training of Trainers (TOT) on Alcohol and Drug Prevention.

Staff participated in a Training of Trainers (TOT) on alcohol and drug prevention, led by Mr. Chamika Jeyasinghe from Healthy Lanka. The training provided essential knowledge to help the team promote healthier, alcohol- and drug-free communities. This will strengthen their efforts in raising awareness and supporting prevention initiatives.

### Women Leaders Capacity Building for Community Development.

The training on gender sensitization, leadership, and decision-making empowered 36 women leaders with the skills to become more effective in their communities. By enhancing women's participation in economic, social, and political spheres, the session addressed the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles, contributing to inclusive governance and long-term community development.



## Capacity Building Programs



### Child Rights and Protection Awareness Programs.

In September, Child Rights and Protection Awareness programs successfully reached caregivers/parents, students, school committee members, and teachers across three schools: Puliyankulam Hindu College, Nachchikkuda Muslim Mixed School, and Kumulamunai Tamil Mixed School. These sessions enhanced participants' understanding of child rights, protection, and the factors contributing to school dropouts. The active involvement of the school communities helped foster a stronger, more informed approach to safeguarding children's rights and ensuring a safer, more supportive environment for students.

## Empowering CSOs to Combat Human Trafficking in Sri Lanka

### Capacitating Government Officials in Illegal Migration Case Management Skills.

In July 2024, RAHAMA held a Case Management training for district-level officers at Mullaitivu's District Secretariat. With 23 participants from departments like Social Services, CRPO, NCPA, WDO, ECDO, and Foreign Employment Development, the session focused on sharing experiences, addressing challenges, and building strengths. Led by an expert, the training covered key steps in case management, creating a valuable day of learning and teamwork.



### PMLT Team Visit & ECCT Team Quarterly Meeting.

PMLT and In September, the Program Management and Learning Team (PMLT) joined SAFE Foundation's ECCT team, PMN, OECRP Sri Lanka, and Samadhanam to visit a CSO partner under the FIRM organization. The host shared its history, structure, and ongoing work, while ECCT presented its project progress. An open discussion fostered knowledge-sharing among 18 participants, including directors and staff, strengthening partnerships.

Following this, the ECCT quarterly meeting in Vavuniya brought together staff from 12 districts to review progress and address challenges. A field visit to six community groups, including CSOs, SHGs, and MWSs, showcased the impact of current initiatives and gathered valuable feedback for continued community development.