



RAHAMA NEWSLETTER

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Strengthening Community Efforts in Alcohol and Drug Prevention.

The refresher workshop for the Alcohol and Drug Prevention Resource Team, held at the Vavuniya Agrarian Training Hall, focused on reviewing progress and achievements of the planned activities and its deliverables. Key achievements included successful community outreach, improved awareness, a reduction in alcohol and drug-related incidents, and positive behavioral changes in at-risk groups. The session also enhanced the team's knowledge of alcohol and drug prevention strategies.

The workshop strengthened the team's capacity with updated skills and knowledge, and participants revised their action plans to ensure continued commitment to reducing substance misuse in local communities.

Refresher Training and Review for Child Resource Persons.

A review and refresher training session was conducted for 30 trained Child Program Resource Persons at the RAHAMA office, facilitated by a member from Kalainila Kalaiyagam and RAHAMA's project leads. The session focused on evaluating the progress of child rights and development activities in the communities.

Participants shared field experiences, identified challenges, and reinforced their understanding of child rights through interactive discussions.

The session culminated in the development of a detailed action plan, with defined roles and timelines, aiming to strengthen child rights initiatives. Participants expressed positive feedback, highlighting renewed motivation and strengthened collaboration to address community needs effectively.



Schools Marked International Children's Day with Child Rights Activities.

Schools in Mullaitivu celebrated International Children's Day with events highlighting child rights, safety, and growth. Palinagar National School launched its school cooperative, with leaders signing a child rights policy to ensure safe spaces for children. Nachchikkuda Government Muslim Mixed School held special programs recognizing children's contributions, while Kumulamunai Government Tamil Mixed school organized activities focusing on education, protection, and development. Mutkompan Mahavidyalayam arranged fun events in a supportive environment, and Mullaitivu MuththayanKaddu Right Bank Mahavidyalayam celebrated students' achievements with sports and art activities. These events emphasized the importance of protecting children and giving them opportunities to succeed.

Training on Child Rights and Protection for Village Child Development Committee (VCDC) Focal Point Members in Oddusuddan.

In November 2024, a training session on child rights and protection was conducted for 47 participants, including 40 Village Child Development Committee (VCDC) focal point members and seven staff members from the Oddusuddan divisional secretariat, led by Mr. Manokaran Vinoth, Divisional Child Protection Officer. The session aimed to enhance knowledge on child rights and address child-related issues at the village level.

Participants from 19 GN divisions engaged in discussions on strengthening collaboration between the community, Divisional Secretariat, and Village Child Development Committees (VCDC), with focal points taking responsibility for managing and mitigating child protection concerns in their areas.



Awareness on climate change interventions in our communities

Six awareness programs in Climate change held in Oddusuddan, Puliyankulam North, Poonagary, Manthai East, Karachchi, and Vavuniya South divisions during October and November 2024, helped over 230 farmers learn practical ways to deal with the effects of climate change. Farmers gained knowledge about growing different crops, using sustainable farming methods, managing water efficiently, and choosing climate-resilient crops.

These programs improved farmers' understanding of climate challenges and gave them simple, practical steps to protect their farms, increase productivity, and work together as a community to stay strong against changing weather patterns.



Kilinochchi District Mega Job Fair 2024.

The Kilinochchi District Mega Job Fair connected over 40 private companies and foreign employment agencies with local job seekers, providing career guidance and employment opportunities. Special guests, including government officials and RAHAMA representatives, emphasized the fair's role in bridging the gap between employers and district-level talent.

Job seekers actively engaged with recruiters, explored vocational training options, and received career advice, from human resource officers and industry experts. The event marked a key step toward addressing youth unemployment and fostering economic growth in the region.

Strengthened Staff Capacity on Mental Health and Well-being.

Our Staff actively participated in a comprehensive two-day training on October 10th and 11th, 2024, focusing on mental health and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) manuals. The sessions provided an in-depth understanding of crucial concepts such as trauma, windows of tolerance, and stress responses. Participants were introduced to practical techniques, including grounding exercises, storytelling for emotional processing, and life-line activities to map personal experiences and resilience.

The interactive training encouraged staff to share valuable insights and personal reflections, fostering a supportive learning environment centered on resilience and self-care. Role-playing exercises and case studies helped deepen their understanding of trauma-informed care and survivor-centered approaches.

By the end of the program, participants had strengthened their capacity to address mental health issues within communities and gained the necessary skills to train civil society organizations (CSOs) and community stakeholders. Equipped with effective tools and techniques, the team is now better prepared to support vulnerable populations, advocate for mental well-being, and contribute to long-term community resilience.



In Vavuniva



In Karachchi

Strengthening Women's Leadership and Empowerment.

Leadership and capacity-building programs were conducted under the Women's Wings to promote gender equality and empower women. These sessions, held in various divisions including Vavuniya North, Poonakary, Oddusuddan, Karachchi, Manthai East, and Vavuniya South, engaged women in discussions on economic independence, leadership, Women political participation and tackling community-level challenges. The training focused on self-employment, small-scale industries, and building strong women's groups to address political, social, and economic issues. Participants gained practical tools to improve their leadership roles, enhance their financial independence, and combat issues such as violence against women, drug abuse, and migration impacts. The programs encouraged collaboration, enabling women to assert their rights, use local resources effectively, and take collective action to create stronger, more equitable communities.

Standing Against Gender-Based Violence in 16 days Activism.

Awareness sessions were conducted in Vavuniya South and Menikfarm as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

At the Vavuniya South DS Office, Attorney at Law L.H. Lakmali Priyadarshan led discussions on legal aspects of women's rights, including maintenance cases, divorce laws, domestic violence, and referral services. Participants gained valuable insights into legal support available for affected individuals.

In Menikfarm, around 120 women took an oath to support each other in building a safer community. The event featured testimonies from women leaders who overcome domestic violence and substance abuse challenges, inspiring others with their resilience. A street drama by Kalainila Kalaiyatham highlighted the risks of human trafficking and unsafe migration, resonating with over 100 attendees. Officials, legal experts, and support service providers emphasized the importance of legal measures and mental health services for women and children.



Flood Recovery Initiative 2024-2025: Supporting Disaster-Affected Communities.

In collaboration with local authorities, flood recovery initiatives were carried out to support children and families affected by recent flood. The efforts included distributing educational support such as 31 school kits and play materials in Sirattikulam GN, 17 school bags in Therankandal GN, 75 school bags and notebooks in Oddusuddan DS, and 68 school kits and stationery at Thadduvankoddi School in Kandawalai. Additionally, learning materials were provided to 68 families in Aninjiyankulam GN, Thunukkai DS. In terms of household and community support, Oddusuddan DS received six tarpaulin sheets for rebuilding efforts, while 32 tarpaulin sheets were given to families in Therankandal. Sirattikulam also received 10 tarpaulin sheets, cleaning materials, and sanitary items for 11 families. The initiatives involved local officials, staff, school principals, teachers, parents, and community members. Children shared their flood experiences and expressed gratitude for the support they received.



Resettlement of Returnees in Jaffna – 2024

The Resettlement of Returnees project in the Thenmarachchi and Chavakachcheri divisions of Jaffna district, funded by Sandefjord Videregående School in Norway in 2024, aimed to support families returning to the area. Beneficiaries were carefully selected from one Grama Niladari division, based on their specific needs, with government coordination.

As part of the project, 11 transitional shelters, 11 permanent toilets, and two tube wells were constructed to assist the resettled families. To date, 8 shelters and 7 toilets have been completed. This project plays a critical role in ensuring the resettlement of long-term displaced families while also addressing land rights and related issues.



Resettlement and Reconstruction Project in Pachchilaipalli Division.

The Assistance for the War-Affected Resettlement and Development (AWARD) Project in Pachchilaipalli division, funded by Sandefjord Videregående School in Norway in 2024, focused on supporting resettled families. Beneficiaries were carefully selected from five Grama Niladari divisions based on their needs, with government coordination.

As part of the project, 18 transitional shelters, 17 permanent toilets, and 4 wells were constructed. Home garden seeds and seedlings were also provided to help families establish sustainable livelihoods. Recently, 7 families have permanently settled in their new homes, utilizing the land for their living. This project plays a key role in ensuring the resettlement of long-term displaced families and addressing land rights issues.



Strengthening Advocacy for Safe Migration and TiP Prevention.

RAHAMA's ECCT team joined the Bi-Annual Civil Society Organizations (CSO) meeting to strengthen efforts against Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and promote safe migration. Organized by the SAFE Foundation at Northway Hotel, Vavuniya, the event brought together 51 participants, including civil society leaders, SAFE Foundation representatives, and RAHAMA staff.

Discussions focused on advocacy priorities and strategic actions. The Project Coordinator and MEAL Coordinator shared project updates, while an external expert led a session on new insights and approaches. Participants worked in groups to develop action plans FOR strengthening the national advocacy initiatives on Trafficking in Persons (TiP) prevention and safe migration.



Empowering CSOs to Combat Human Trafficking Sensitization Programs for Youth and Adolescents.

The ECCT (Empowering CSOs to Combat Human Trafficking) internal training team conducted a one-day sensitization program on trafficking for youth and adolescent children at the Agrarian Training Center in Vavuniya. A total of 30 youth members (20 boys and 10 girls) participated, fully engaging in the interactive session on October 19, 2024.

On November 9, 2024, the RAHAMA ECCT team organized another sensitization program at the DATC Hall in Oddusuddan, Mullaitivu. This program, supported by internal resources, focused on raising awareness about trafficking among youth and adolescent children. The session covered a range of topics, including the objectives of the project, insights into human trafficking, steps for safe labor migration, and strategies for victim protection.

These initiatives are part of RAHAMA's ongoing efforts to raise awareness and provide essential information to young people about human trafficking and its prevention.



Building Media Capacity for Ethical and Investigative Journalism- Enhancing Ethical Reporting and Mobile Journalism.

The RAHAMA ECCT (Empowering CSOs to Combat Human Trafficking) Team conducted a one-day capacity development program on ethical reporting, investigative journalism, and mobile journalism for district-level media teams on October 13, 2024, at the Agrarian Training Centre in Vavuniya.

The session was led by Mr. Nixon, a journalist and visiting lecturer at Jaffna University (Media Unit). The training focused on strengthening journalists' capacity to conduct media outreach and awareness activities that support Trafficking in Persons (TIP) prevention.

A total of 20 journalists participated, representing Vavuniya Mainstream Press Media and This initiative equipped journalists with the skills needed for responsible reporting and effective media engagement in addressing TIP-related issues.

