



*Assistance for the War Affected -
Resettlement and Development
(AWARD) Project*

**Funded By
Sandefjord Videregående Skole**



FORUT



Vestfold
FYLKESKOMMUNE

Sandefjord (VGS)



***Recovery and Humanitarian Action
Management Agencies***

Welcome Note

We extend our warmest welcome to all readers of this project, which documents the remarkable journey of the resettlement initiative undertaken by RAHAMA in partnership with Sandefjord Videregående Skole and FORUT Norway. This project stands as a beacon of hope for displaced families in northern Sri Lanka, providing them with essential housing, resources, and opportunities to rebuild their lives after years of conflict and displacement.

Since 2017, the unwavering support from Sandefjord Videregående Skole has played a pivotal role in transforming the lives of over 246 families, ensuring not only safe living spaces but also access to education, livelihood opportunities, and community development. This initiative reflects our collective commitment to fostering resilience, dignity, and stability among the most vulnerable, with a special focus on protecting women and children.

As the project reaches its final phase in 2024, the impact of these efforts continues to resonate within the community. Despite economic challenges and external hurdles, the initiative has successfully provided displaced families with secure homes, essential services, and sustainable livelihoods. The collective strength of the resettled families, coupled with ongoing support from stakeholders, ensures that these communities are well-positioned for a stable and hopeful future.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders, supporters, and community members who have contributed to the success of this initiative. Your efforts have laid the foundation for a brighter future, and we are proud to share the outcomes of this journey through this report.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating the strength and perseverance of the resettled families. We hope this report inspires continued collaboration and support for humanitarian efforts in Sri Lanka and beyond.

Project Mapping

MAP 4503 A: GN DIVISIONS OF PACHCHILAIPALLI DS DIVISION, KILINOCHCHI DISTRICT. (154)
OVERLAYED WITH DEPENDANCY RATIO - 2012 (Percentage of Age less than 15 & over 60 Population)

Legend

- District Boundaries
- DSD Boundaries
- GND - Dependency Ratio**
- Expressways
- Main Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Tertiary Roads
- Water Areas
- Streams / Rivers

Label Descriptions

- GN Div. Name
- GN Div. Num.
- Population
- Place Names
- Diamanagama

Note:
 Used 2011/12 data sets of Administrative Division (District / DSD / GND) Boundaries and Population data sets of Department of Census & Statistics.
 Used 2020 Open Street Map Layers used for Feature Layers (Roads / Places / Water Bodies / Streams).
 Software Used: Arc Map of Esri Organization.
 Prepared by the Cartography Division of Department of Census & Statistics.

Working Locations

- Muhamalai
- Kilaly
- Vembodukeni
- Kachchariveli
- Ittavil
- Thambakamam
- Mullayaiadi
- Pulopallai
- Soranpattu
- Iyakkachchi
- Kovilvayal

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Message from the Secretary General of RAHAMA

It is a great pleasure for me to share this message on the 10th anniversary of the collaboration between Sandefjord High School in Norway and FORUT/RAHAMA in implementing a vital resettlement program for war-affected and displaced populations in Northern Sri Lanka. Reflecting on how this journey began in 2016, I recall the pivotal role played by the late Terje Heggerness, the visionary founder of FORUT.



He led a study group to the RAHAMA project areas, where we were actively working on resettlement and livelihood initiatives for war-affected communities, particularly women and landless groups, with the support of government agencies. Among the visitors was Ms. Anne Berit Semestard, the Deputy Headmistress of Sandefjord High School. Deeply moved by the program, she expressed interest in studying a settlement project in the area. After I guided her through the initiatives, she recognized the humanitarian significance of the program and decided to persuade the student union, in close consultation with FORUT Norway, to support a similar initiative. Since then, we have collaborated with Sandefjord High School, coordinated by FORUT Norway, along with the support of local government authorities. Their generosity in allocating land and providing essential infrastructure has been instrumental in establishing sustainable human settlements, ultimately helping to restore socio-economic stability for those in need.

I am delighted to acknowledge the unwavering support of Sandefjord High School students, who have been deeply involved in fundraising and assisting with the project. Their dedication and contributions have been invaluable in making this program a success. Their efforts serve as a shining example of how youth-driven initiatives can transform the lives of affected communities, empowering them to rebuild with dignity and secure their fundamental rights. I, an original initiator of the project, extend my heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders who have contributed to and supported this program. Looking ahead, I am confident that continued collaborations of this nature will create even greater impacts, as the needs in these communities remain significant.

Eng. M.F. Marikkar
Secretary General
RAHAMA

Message From Former Secretary General FORUT



In March 2016 I was on a private tour to Sri Lanka organized by Forut and Terje Heggernes. The main object of our visit was to see how Forut's cooperative partners were contributing to restore the northern part of Sri Lanka after years of civil war. by the way this housing project was organized: One day we had a choice of program and I asked to join Terje to a new project where former refugees were starting a new life by assisting each other to build their own houses with the support of RAHAMA.

The only thing that was there were 12-15 toilets, but the land was cleared of mines. I was so impressed by the way this project was organized: giving former refugees an address, a new house and land to grow food. In 2016 I was working as deputy headmaster at Sandefjord upper secondary school, Norway's largest, with 2000 students. The student council of the school was each year organizing a solidarity project, and they were looking for new partners for their project. I told them about what I had witnessed in Sri Lanka, Forut was invited to come and present the project to the students. The student council agreed support a three year project with Ramaha/ Forut and I think our aim was to support building 50(?) houses and the necessary infrastructure.

In September 2017 I was back in Sri Lanka with student representatives who handed over proof of ownership to the houses to the inhabitants. That was a very touching moment for us all. Since then our collaboration has continued to the benefit of both the school society and some villages in the north of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Morten Lønstad
Former Secretary General
FORUT

Message From Secretary General FORUT

FORUT has a strong and long lasting friendship with the people of Sri Lanka. We believe in locally led development and are proud partner of RAHAMA. With the common that people should have real power to change their own lives, we have worked for childrens' and womens' rights and for a fair and just world where harmful drugs and substances as well as poor mental health do not hinder people's access to safety and development.



We can not do this alone. The partnership with schools in Norway is of great importance in our work. Sandefjord videregående skole is the flagship in FORUTs portfolio. Nine years of strong cooperation, engagement and solidarity with thousands of students and their teachers makes us proud, grateful and inspired. We thank you all. Together we have made a difference.

Ms. Ida Oleanna Hagen
Secretary General
FORUT

Government Agent (GA) / District Secretary Kilinochchi

It's my great pleasure to give a message to the souvenir of RAHAMA, the "Recovery and Humanitarian Action Management Agency" on behalf of Kilinochchi District.

For the last 9 years RAHAMA is implementing a resettlement project at the Pachchilaipalli Division with the funding of FORUT / Sandefjord Vgs from 2017.



The project aiming at providing temporary shelters, toilets and dug well and home gardening for the displaced community is about to wind up their activities this year. It is much appreciated that people of this division are benefited with this project and it will definitely support the upliftment of their livelihood.

I express my sincere gratitude for RAHAMA on behalf of the people of Kilinochchi district and anticipate your continued assistance in future too.

Mr. S. Muralitharan
Govt. Agent / District Secretary
Kilinochchi

Message From Divisional Secretary Pachchilaipalli



On behalf of Pachchilaipalli divisional people, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your unwavering committed and impactful Resettlement related project work in Iththavil, Vempadukeny and Muhamalai and GN Divisions. We particularly appreciate your efforts in Resettlement project building temporary shelters, toilets

and Dug well, Home Gardening for 9 year from 2017 to 2025 with the funding of the FORUT/Sandfjord Vgs school. We believe your continued partnership is curial for building a more resilient and prosperous this division.

Thank you once again for your invaluable supporting and contributions.

Mr. R.T.Jeyaseelan
Divisional Secretary
Divisional Secretariat
Pachchilaipalli

Message From International Program Co-ordinator FORUT

We in FORUT believe that we can change the world, and the beauty is that we can see it too. The cooperation between Sandefjord high school, FORUT and our local partner, RAHAMA, is a great example on that change.



When we join forces with young enthusiasm and action with local knowledge and experience, we can see great changes. Well over hundred families have been able to resettle in their old communities - also thanks you their own will and efforts.

This has been a new start and a new future for many war-affected families. We are proud partners of RAHAMA and Sandefjord high school and we are hoping to continue the project for years to come so that even more families can get a new future

Ms. Ane Tosterud Holte
International Program Co-ordinator
FORUT

Former Deputy head master of the Sandefjord

In March 2016 FORUT was invited to a meeting with the management and students at Sandefjord Highschool. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the possibilities for a three year development collaboration in Sri Lanka.



In October the previous year the deputy headmaster at Sandefjord Highschool, Anne Berit Smedstad, joined a study tour to Sri Lanka organised by FORUT. She was impressed by the work of Rahama, one of FORUT's implementing partners in Sri Lanka. Rahama was and still is working to relocate internal displaced families in the Northern region of Sri Lanka. Many of the families had been displaced for more than ten years due to internal conflict.

Terje Heggernes and Morten Lønstad met with the student's solidarity committee and the management at the school and presented a plan for collaboration. Mr M. F. Marikkar, the secretary general of Rahama, had suggested a resettlement program in Ittavil in Kilinochchi district. The ambition was to build houses, toilets and a number of common wells for 60 families, 20 families each year. The students at Sandefjord Highschool should raise money and FORUT Norway should be responsible for monitoring the programme, ensuring quality reporting and information back to the school. Each year three students and one teacher should visit the project and document the progress of the work. Not only 60, but 90 families were resettled the first three years. Sandefjord Highschool was very satisfied with the achievements, and now the fruitful and successful trilateral collaboration has lasted for nine years. The impact is immense, and hundreds of families have improved their living conditions and quality of life.

Ms. Anne Berit Smedstad
Former Deputy head master
of the Sandefjord

RAHAMA's Role and Impact in Resettling Displaced Families

RAHAMA has established itself as a specialized organization in resettlement projects by providing long-term, structured support to displaced families in northern Sri Lanka. Since 2017, the organization has collaborated with Sandefjord Videregående Skole (Sandfjord Vgs) in Norway and FORUT Norway to implement a sustainable resettlement initiative, benefiting hundreds of returnee families.

One of RAHAMA's key strengths is its provision of housing solutions. Over the past eight years, the organization has built 187 temporary shelters to assist families during their initial resettlement phase. Additionally, 180 permanent toilets have been constructed, significantly improving sanitation and hygiene conditions in resettled communities.

Access to clean water has been another critical focus area. RAHAMA has facilitated the construction of 42 open dug wells, ensuring that resettled families have a reliable water source. To promote self-sufficiency, 163 home gardening projects have been introduced, empowering families to grow their own food and improve their livelihoods.

The organization has also prioritized support for vulnerable groups, particularly women-headed households and children. Special assistance programs have been implemented to ensure these groups receive adequate housing, sanitation, and livelihood opportunities, fostering a more inclusive and sustainable community. RAHAMA's success in resettlement is driven by its strong collaboration with government authorities and private agencies, ensuring smooth land allocation, legal documentation, and beneficiary selection. Continuous monitoring and impact assessments have further strengthened the effectiveness of the initiative, making RAHAMA a key player in post-conflict resettlement efforts in Sri Lanka.

Background of the Project

The prolonged civil conflict in the North and East of Sri Lanka led to nearly 2 million people experiencing multiple displacements, with around 230,000 houses being damaged or destroyed in the northern districts. After the conflict ended in May 2009, the Government of Sri Lanka launched an accelerated resettlement program in collaboration with assisting agencies. This initiative, which began in 2009, aimed to facilitate the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their original places of residence in Vavuniya, Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi, Mannar, and Batticaloa districts.

In 2016, FORUT Norway, in agreement with Sandefjord Videregående Skole and RAHAMA in Sri Lanka, initiated a resettlement project to support displaced communities. Under this agreement, Sandefjord Videregående Skole committed to raising funds, while RAHAMA took responsibility for implementing the project. The initiative has been ongoing from 2017 to 2024.

This project, continuing the generous support of Sandfjord Vgs in Norway, holds great value in understanding the humanitarian contributions of the student union of Sandefjord's program in Sri Lanka. This marks a continuation of over 8 years of assistance from Sandefjord Vgs, through which more than 246 displaced families were able to resettle in their own homes.

Despite numerous challenges, the Sandfjord Vgs project has brought meaningful changes at the community level. A key focus has been ensuring the protection and privacy of children and women. By integrating safety measures into the resettlement process, the initiative has created secure living spaces, provided access to education, and implemented support systems for vulnerable groups. Women and children, who are often the most affected by displacement, have benefited from housing solutions that prioritize their safety and dignity. Through these efforts, the Sandfjord VGS project has played a vital role in improving living conditions, fostering social development, and supporting the long-term stability of resettled families.

Objective and Goals

The primary objective of the Sandfjord Vgs project was to extend comprehensive support to returnee families, enabling them to enhance their basic living standards and ensure access to essential needs. This initiative aimed to foster the development of a sustainable and socially cohesive community by providing temporary shelters during the initial stages of resettlement. Additionally, the project sought to facilitate the construction of permanent housing through the provision of necessary resources and assistance from the Government, thereby securing long-term stability and well-being for the displaced families.

Priorities

- Relocation involves the safe return of displaced families to their original communities, ensuring they have transportation, temporary shelters, and essential resources to support their immediate needs.
- Addressing legal and administrative challenges related to land ownership has also been a crucial part of this effort. Land cleaning remains a significant obstacle, as many war-affected areas still contain landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO).
- Beyond relocation, resettlement focuses on establishing sustainable living conditions by rebuilding homes, providing access to clean water, electricity, healthcare, and education, and ensuring economic opportunities for returning families.
- Special attention has been given to vulnerable groups, particularly women-headed households, to support their reintegration into the community and promote long-term stability.

List of main activities and programs

- A temporary community hall has been constructed in Mukamalai South to serve the local community.
- A Palmyra training program was conducted for women in Inthirapuram.
- A children's park will be constructed in Ittavil to provide a safe and enjoyable space for recreational activities.
- Materials were provided to the craft production group to support their activities and promote sustainable livelihoods through handmade products.
- A water supply system was provided for the Mukamalai Common Hall to ensure access to clean water for community events and activities.
- A study hall was constructed in Nandanam, Kilinochchi, to provide a dedicated learning space for students and support educational activities in the community.

Methodology

- The resettlement initiative has been implemented through close collaboration with government stakeholders to ensure an effective and sustainable process.
- Working in alignment with national policies and regulations, the project has coordinated with relevant authorities to facilitate land allocation, beneficiary selection, and necessary approvals.
- Government and private agencies have played a key role in demining efforts, legal documentation, and community reintegration, ensuring that the resettlement process adheres to established guidelines.
- This partnership has been essential in addressing challenges, streamlining operations, and maximizing the impact of the initiative.

Key outputs

The resettlement initiative has been carried out through a structured approach to ensure effective support for displaced families. The implementation process has focused on identifying the specific needs of beneficiaries and providing essential assistance such as housing, sanitation facilities, and access to clean water. Special attention has been given to vulnerable groups, ensuring that women-headed households and children receive adequate support. The collaborative efforts of stakeholders have enabled a smooth distribution of resources, with continuous monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the program. As a result, significant progress has been made in improving living conditions for resettled families. The following data highlights the key achievements of the initiative

YEAR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	TOTAL
Temporary Shelter	36	30	20	20	25	20	18	18	187
Permanent Toilet	30	30	20	20	25	20	18	17	180
Open dug well	05	6	06	07	05	07	2	4	42
Home Gardening	20	20	20	20	25	20	20	18	163

Resettlement in Action: A Visual Journey of Change

Suntharalingam Sujanthan Family



Sellaiya Rasitharan Family



Selvarathinam Manoraj Family



Pirabakaran Vimalraj Family



Success stories.....,

"Beyond resettlement, we fostered resilience. This is the story of how livelihoods brought stability and prosperity."

2017 - "From Displacement to Determination: Denthini Jeyakumar's Journey to Stability"

Denthini Jeyakumar from Indrapuram shares her journey of displacement and resettlement. Forced to leave her village in 2000, she lived in a refugee camp in Jaffna, where she married in 2002 and became a mother of two. After years of hardship, her family returned to Indrapuram in 2017 when the government cleared landmines and issued official land deeds.



Through a partnership with RAHAMA, they received temporary shelters, sanitary facilities, and access to clean water. Facing financial struggles, Denthini's husband worked as a mason, earning a minimal income. Determined to support her family, she started a small grocery shop in 2019 with Rs. 30,000 but soon realized it wasn't sustainable. In 2021, RAHAMA offered a vital opportunity a Rs. 100,000 loan with flexible terms. With this, her shop flourished, generating Rs. 15,000 monthlies, with Rs. 5,000 as profit. She responsibly repays the loan while managing household expenses, reducing the balance to Rs. 60,000.

Denthini expresses deep gratitude to RAHAMA and the Norwegian donor school for their life-changing support. Today, she stands proud of her growing business and financial stability, overcoming income poverty with determination and community backing.

2019 - "Empowered Through Skills: Kanthaiah Pushparani's Path to Financial Independence"

Kanthaiah Pushparani, a 56-year-old hardworking woman from Indrapuram, was displaced during the war and faced financial struggles, relying on her husband's income. After resettling in 2016, RAHAMA supported her with a temporary shelter and a water-shed toilet. Pushparani actively engaged in home gardening, cultivating vegetables like tomato, brinjal,



chili, and bitter gourd. With RAHAMA's help—providing a fence, barbed wire, and seeds—she expanded her garden and earned Rs. 1,000 daily during a local exhibition. Pushparani, trained by RAHAMA in palmyra crafting, creates baskets, garlands, and gift items. During lockdowns, she earned Rs. 3,000 monthly by selling palmyra leaves. Since receiving a permanent house in 2019, she has improved it using her income. Now financially stable and self-reliant, she inspires other women, demonstrating how land and skills can generate income. She credits RAHAMA for the support that transformed her life.

2020 - "Rebuilding with Resilience: Bareedha Umma's Journey to Self-Sufficiency"

Bareedha Umma, displaced from Puttalam due to the war in 1990, lived in a welfare camp for 30 years, struggling to survive with her husband and five daughters. After the war, she returned to her native Indirapuram in 2020, only to find her home completely destroyed. Having lost her husband in 2019 due to financial struggles preventing proper



medical care, she became the sole breadwinner. With no basic facilities, she built a cadjan hut and sought help from the Pallai Divisional Secretariat. RAHAMA supported her with a temporary house, a toilet, and home gardening assistance. Despite challenges, she cultivated chili, brinjal, tapioca, and pumpkin, initially relying on a neighbor's well until she later received a tube well from the authorities. Her efforts now help her save Rs. 2000-3000 per month. Though offered a permanent house, she declined, believing her current shelter and livelihood were more sustainable. Grateful for the support, she expressed heartfelt thanks to RAHAMA for helping her rebuild her life with dignity.

2021 - "Strength Beyond Limits: Kinoshan's Journey of Resilience and Independence"

Kinoshan's family was resettled in 2019 after 25 years of displacement, a period marked by uncertainty about the future. The DS Palai, after listening to Kinoshan's family's grievances, provided a temporary shelter to Kinoshan, a differently-abled youth, in 2019. The shelter proved to be a great advantage, allowing his parents to construct a permanent house nearby. Despite his disabilities, Kinoshan manages all essentials



independently. When assessors visited, Kinoshan shared his story, expressing gratitude to RAHAMA, Sandfjord Vgs, DS, and the DS office staff. He completed his education up to O/Level at a government school and joined a vocational course in plumbing. However, a sudden illness over the last three years left him disabled. To manage his living, he approached the DS, who approved a Rs. 5,000 monthly grant for him. With support from the government and RAHAMA, he now owns a shelter. Kinoshan has also started two poultry sheds and hopes to overcome his disability in the future.

2022 - "From Uncertainty to Stability: lyathurai Vijendrakumar's Journey Home"

After the war, lyathurai Vijendrakumar and his family were allocated land and a home by the government in 2019. However, due to a lack of continued funding, the construction of their house remained incomplete, leaving them without proper shelter. Struggling to meet their daily needs, the family faced uncertainty and even considered relocating in search of a better life



In 2022, RAHAMA stepped in, providing a temporary shelter, a toilet, and support for home gardening. This assistance transformed their lives. Vijendrakumar shared, "The government gave us land, but we struggled daily. We thought of leaving, but RAHAMA gave us the basic facilities we needed. Now, we proudly own our land."

Thanks to RAHAMA's intervention, the family found stability and a fresh start.

2023 - "Rebuilding Hope: Kanesha Moorthi Mathusothanan's Path to a New Life"

After years of displacement, Kanesha Moorthi Mathusothanan and his family finally returned to their native land in 2023, hoping for a new beginning. However, with no basic facilities provided by the government, daily life became a struggle. Faced with hardship, the family even considered leaving once again.



At this critical moment, RAHAMA stepped in, providing them with a shelter, toilet, and support for home gardening. This timely assistance changed their decision to leave, allowing them to stay and rebuild their lives.

Over time, as they remained in their land, the government eventually provided them with a permanent home. Today, they are happily settled in their native place. Grateful for the support they received, Mathusothanan shared, "RAHAMA helped us when we had nothing, making it possible for us to rebuild our lives. We are truly thankful for their support."

2024 - "Resilience and Hope: Suppiramaniyam Sanmukaraja's Journey to Stability"

Suppiramaniyam Sanmukaraja, a 51-year-old electrician from Kachchaveli, Palai, has faced countless hardships but never lost hope. Forced to flee his home multiple times due to conflict, he finally resettled in Vembodukeni in 2015 after landmine clearance. In 2019, he was granted a 20-perch



plot of land, but without basic facilities, settling there was difficult. That same year, he found joy in marriage but soon faced a devastating challenge losing his eyesight. Despite his struggles, Sanmukaraja remained determined. In 2021, he moved to Killali, still holding onto the dream of a stable home. Finally, in mid-2024, with support from RAHAMA, his dream became a reality. The organization provided a shelter, toilet, and home garden, transforming his life. Even with his health challenges, Sanmukaraja continues to work hard and repairing electronic items. Using donated livelihood tools, he now helps irrigate gardens over 350 meters, supporting both his family and the community. His story is one of resilience, proving that with the right support, even the toughest challenges can be overcome.

Challenges

The resettlement initiative has faced several challenges that have impacted its progress and effectiveness.

- The economic crisis increased costs of construction materials, transportation, and essential supplies, causing financial strain, project delays, and reduced support for beneficiaries.
- The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted operations, restricted mobility, and delayed construction and field visits, while lockdowns and health regulations created logistical challenges and heightened economic instability.
- The beneficiary selection process was complex, requiring careful assessment to ensure aid reached the most vulnerable, with land ownership disputes and community concerns causing delays and dissatisfaction.
- Slow demining activities in the North and East delayed land clearance, preventing families from returning to their original lands and impacting overall project timelines.
- Despite these challenges, the initiative progressed through strategic planning, persistent efforts, and collaboration with key stakeholders, ensuring lasting benefits for affected communities.

Recommendation

- Increase income opportunities through livelihood programs, microfinance options, and support for small-scale businesses to promote financial stability.
- Encourage community-based economic activities such as cooperative farming and handicraft production to boost local economic growth.
- Expand vocational training programs in fields like carpentry, tailoring, information technology, and agriculture to enhance youth employability and foster entrepreneurship.
- Establish partnerships with local industries to create job placements and apprenticeship opportunities, providing practical work experience.
- Improve access to quality education, after-school programs, and adult literacy initiatives to empower both children and adults.
- Conduct awareness campaigns on health, sanitation, and environmental protection to promote community well-being and positive behavior changes.
- Ensure the provision of clean water, proper sanitation facilities, healthcare services, and safe housing to meet basic needs.
- Focus on addressing immediate challenges while building a foundation for long-term community development and self-sufficiency

Project Sustainability

The sustainability of the resettlement project is built on multiple pillars, focusing on long-term asset building, behavior change, and the protection of land rights. A key aspect of sustainability is the empowerment of resettled communities through the creation of physical and social assets. This includes providing secure housing, access to clean water, and basic sanitation, which directly contributes to improving the living standards of families. Alongside physical assets, the project has also focused on behavior change by promoting community participation, collaboration, and resilience. Through livelihood training and education, beneficiaries have developed new skills that enhance their economic independence, fostering a sense of self-reliance and community solidarity.

The project has also emphasized the importance of land rights, ensuring that displaced families have legal ownership or secure tenure of the land they return to, preventing future disputes and ensuring stability. This has provided families with a sense of security and long-term hope for their future. The continued involvement of government stakeholders and community leaders has ensured that these rights are upheld and that legal processes are followed.

In terms of future hope, the resettlement initiative aims to foster a sense of optimism by focusing on long-term development goals. As communities rebuild their homes and their livelihoods, the project envisions a future where families are not only relocated but also thrive in sustainable environments. The ongoing support for economic, educational, and social development ensures that the positive changes initiated through the resettlement program will have a lasting impact on the communities involved, contributing to their overall stability and prosperity.

Way forward

A primary focus will be on ensuring land security by supporting legal ownership processes and resolving disputes to guarantee that resettled families have permanent rights to their land. This step is crucial for providing long-term stability and preventing future displacement.

Efforts will also be directed towards facilitating the transition to permanent housing, ensuring that families currently in temporary shelters can move into safe and durable homes.

Another priority is to ensure access to basic facilities, including clean water, sanitation, and healthcare services. Meeting these fundamental needs is vital for maintaining the health and well-being of the resettled communities. Additionally, steps will be taken to improve educational facilities by expanding access to quality education and providing learning resources, ensuring that children and youth have opportunities for academic growth and personal development.

Special emphasis will be placed on supporting women's empowerment through skills development programs, leadership training, and opportunities for entrepreneurship. Promoting women's active participation in decision-making processes will contribute to building stronger and more inclusive communities.

"The demining process is still ongoing in the Pachchilampalli Division, and many families are awaiting resettlement. These ongoing efforts are essential to ensure safety and allow displaced families to return to their homes and rebuild their lives."

By focusing on these future implementations, the project aims to promote long-term growth, community resilience, and sustainable development for all resettled families.

Thank Note

On behalf of the RAHAMA team, would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Sandefjord Videregående Skole (Sandfjord Vgs) for their generous support and G.A. & D.S. who donated and dedication to the resettlement initiative. This project, which has had a transformative impact on the lives of displaced families in northern Sri Lanka, could not have achieved such success without your continued partnership and belief in the cause.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to FORUT Norway, whose collaboration with Sandfjord Vgs has been essential to the success of this initiative. Their commitment to the welfare of vulnerable communities, particularly women and children, has played a pivotal role in ensuring that the displaced families received not just housing but the hope and opportunity for a better future.

Together, Sandfjord Vgs and FORUT have demonstrated a true commitment to social justice, bringing tangible changes to the lives of many. Your combined support, through the provision of housing, basic amenities, and crucial resources, has given families the foundation to rebuild their lives. We are deeply moved by your dedication and look forward to the continued success of this initiative and further cooperation in the future.

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