



Organisation of People for Engagement and Enterprise

Annual Report 2016 to 2017

Who We Are

We are an organization of people, a collective of like-minded and motivated individuals, who have come together, pooled our knowledge and expertise and are committed to strengthening systems of empowerment for the community. We believe in collaborative engagement at all levels of society, through this we will build inclusivity into what we do: promoting sustainable change. We also believe in enterprise. As an organization we are learning, we are growing and we embrace the challenges along the way with open mind.

Our Vision

A pluralistic Sri Lanka where all are empowered and included

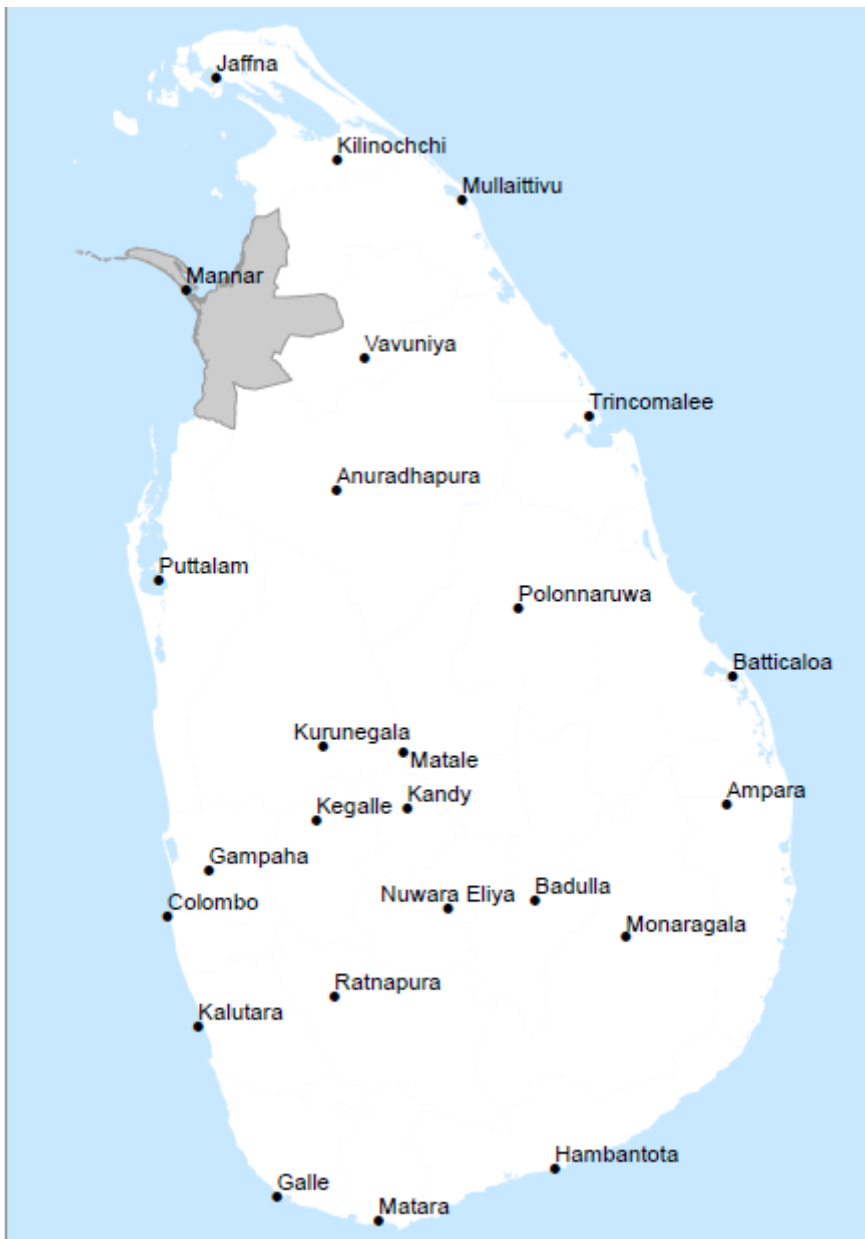
Our Mission

To empower individuals through knowledge, skills, tools and networks to make sustainable changes in their own lives and the lives of their community

Core values

- *Human dignity*
- *Transparency and accountability*
 - *Good governance*
 - *Participation*
- *Creativity and innovation*

Where We Work



Mannar district, situated in the northwest of Sri Lanka, comprises mostly Tamil and Muslim communities, and a small Sinhala speaking community.

The Manthai West DS division was devastated by the protracted conflict, with little opportunity for growth and development throughout the war. Communities experienced continuous displacement from 1990 onwards, only to be resettled after the end of the armed conflict in 2009. Basic services such as accessible health facilities, quality education and livelihoods assistance remain limited, making communities in the area isolated and vulnerable.



How We work

- **Develop active citizenship through promoting volunteerism**
 - Mobilise volunteers at all levels: international and national.
 - Empowers the community.
 - A means to provide valuable experience/learning, as well as service to others.
 - A gateway to future employment for the younger generations
- **People-centred approach**
 - Invest in relationships and in building trust with key stakeholders (maintaining positive relationships is a key business driver).
 - Design programmes that capture the human perspective.
- **Business in the community**
 - Increase access to markets and leverage market forces to solve problems.
 - Introduce a more commercial outlook in decision-making.
 - Support local entrepreneurship.
- **Horizontal organisational structure**
 - All volunteers and staff contribute to the success of our organisation.
 - Decision-making is non-hierarchical and collaborative
 - Innovation can come from anyone/anywhere!
- **Optimise resources**
 - Scrutinise and be thoughtful in how resources are matched to the needs of the organisation and those we serve
 - Prioritise institutional development to ensure organisational sustainability.

What we do

1. Education

The education sector suffered tremendously from the protracted armed conflict, particularly in the conflict zones in the North and East. The disruption to education has resulted in multiple setbacks compares to rest of the country. Though successive government takes all necessary steps to ensure the children under the age of 16 to attend school through the compulsory education policies, there are several challenges at grass root level to obtain the quality education. In specific, the economic constraints exist at household level, poor facilities available in the remote schools, ignorance of the parents and poor staffing in schools contribute significantly for poor performance and outcomes in education and contribute for low development of society.



In Mannar there are two education zones and they are Madhu and Mannar. The inequality in education is acute when the two zones are compared. While Mannar education zone is one of the best among 12 zones of Northern Province and is ranked second and Madhu education zone become one of the poorest and is ranked ninth.

Ten schools and respective villages in Madhu Zone were focussed by OPEnE to render educational support. Activities were designed to improve English Knowledge and IT and also to develop soft skills. In addition to that, initiatives were taken to help slow learners to improve lessons in mathematics, Tamil and science. Local as well as committed international volunteers played vital role to improve English language knowledge and IT skills among these selected school children



and 21 volunteers supported us with our education program. During the reporting period, educational programmes for children and parents were conducted to increase awareness on the importance of children's education. The awareness sessions also helped both parents and children to understand that if efforts are taken, anyone can perform well in languages and skills. English and IT Camps conducted gave them an opportunity further strengthens their English skills and IT knowledge. All child focussed programmes were designed in consultation with department of education and with experts.



IT camps too provided opportunity to the participants to understand the wider benefits of learning IT and its application to manage day to day life successfully. Soft skill programmes conducted for the same targeted beneficiaries gave opportunity to learn the importance of life skills such as team spirit, sharing, leadership, voluntarism etc. Our education program created opportunities for the disadvantaged children where there was very less access or no access to learn Especially English and IT. Through our program, many of the children gained the confident to learn and basic communicative skills improved in English.

Key outputs achieved on Education										
<i>NO. OF STUDENTS WE WORK WITH</i>	<i>NO. OF PARENTS WE WORK WITH</i>	<i>NO. OF ENGLISH CLASSES CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF IT CLASSES CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF IT CAMPS CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF ENGLISH CAMPS CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF AWARENESS PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN</i>	<i>NO. OF AWARENESS PROGRAMMES FOR PARENTS</i>	<i>NO. OF SOFT SKILL PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF BASIC LITERACY AND NUMERACY CLASSES CONDUCTED</i>	<i>NO. OF IT SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED</i>
<i>580</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>13</i>

2. *Livelihoods*

Prolonged war not only destroyed the infrastructure in the targeted areas but also the livelihood of the people. Multiple displacements and decades of camp life destroyed traditional skills and employment opportunities in their localities. The resettled displaced people at their places of origin face numerous challenges and constraints to restart their livelihoods. OPEnE worked with such unprivileged communities and build their capacities through collaborative interventions.

Farmers cultivated papaya and groundnuts were supported with basic inputs and were continuously provided with technical mentoring and advice. The 73% of farmers engaged in Papaya cultivation adopted the techniques taught for cultivation. The farmers

engaged in groundnut production improved their yield by 44% i.e from 300 Kg to 430 kgs per acre by adopting feasible technologies and 63% of Groundnut Farmers adopt the proper techniques in their cultivation.



Exposure visits conducted for farmers helped to familiarize and adopt different feasible methods to improve their farming activities. Intensive trainings conducted among farmers helped too to understand and adopt modern successful techniques and technologies. Employing best practices from the lessons learned, effective application of technology and appropriate usages of fertilizers at right time allowed the farmers to get better yield.

The marketing network established locally allowed the farmers to find better place for selling their products for fair prices. The integrated mechanisms introduced by OPEnE among government, NGOs, communities and Private partners allowed the farmers to have good access for technical and technological inputs and other services continuously. A significant number of farmers, who were linked for low interest and secured loans, expanded their agricultural expansion during the period.

Key outputs achieved on Livelihoods							
GROUND NUT FARMERS	ACREAGE COVERED UNDER GROUND NUTS	PAPAYA FARMERS	ACREAGE COVERED UNDER PAPAYA	NO. OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES	NO. OF MENTORING VISITS	NO. OF LOW INTEREST LOANS linked	NO. OF EXPOSURE VISITS
19	7.5	25	10.9	4	400	29	2

3. Women Empowerment



The benefits of post-war reconstruction efforts in Sri Lanka did not reach the marginalized and vulnerable pockets in all locations of war affected areas. Significant number of women, i.e., 23% in the conflict affected areas become breadwinners of the families. Lack of assets and poor economic situation at households, do not allow the women, in specific

among the Female Head Households to start up their livelihoods soon after the resettlement at their places of origin or at relocations. The interventions undertaken by OPEnE focused such groups in the working areas and strengthened the existing structures and groups to promote self-reliance and to initiate livelihood interventions.



Self Help Groups was established and supported through various capacity building activities such as trainings and awareness programmes. The soft component imparted knowledge and helped to build skills in leadership, management, governance and in advocacy among the SHGs. All strengthening activities were carefully designed to strengthen their own interests and not to introduce any new

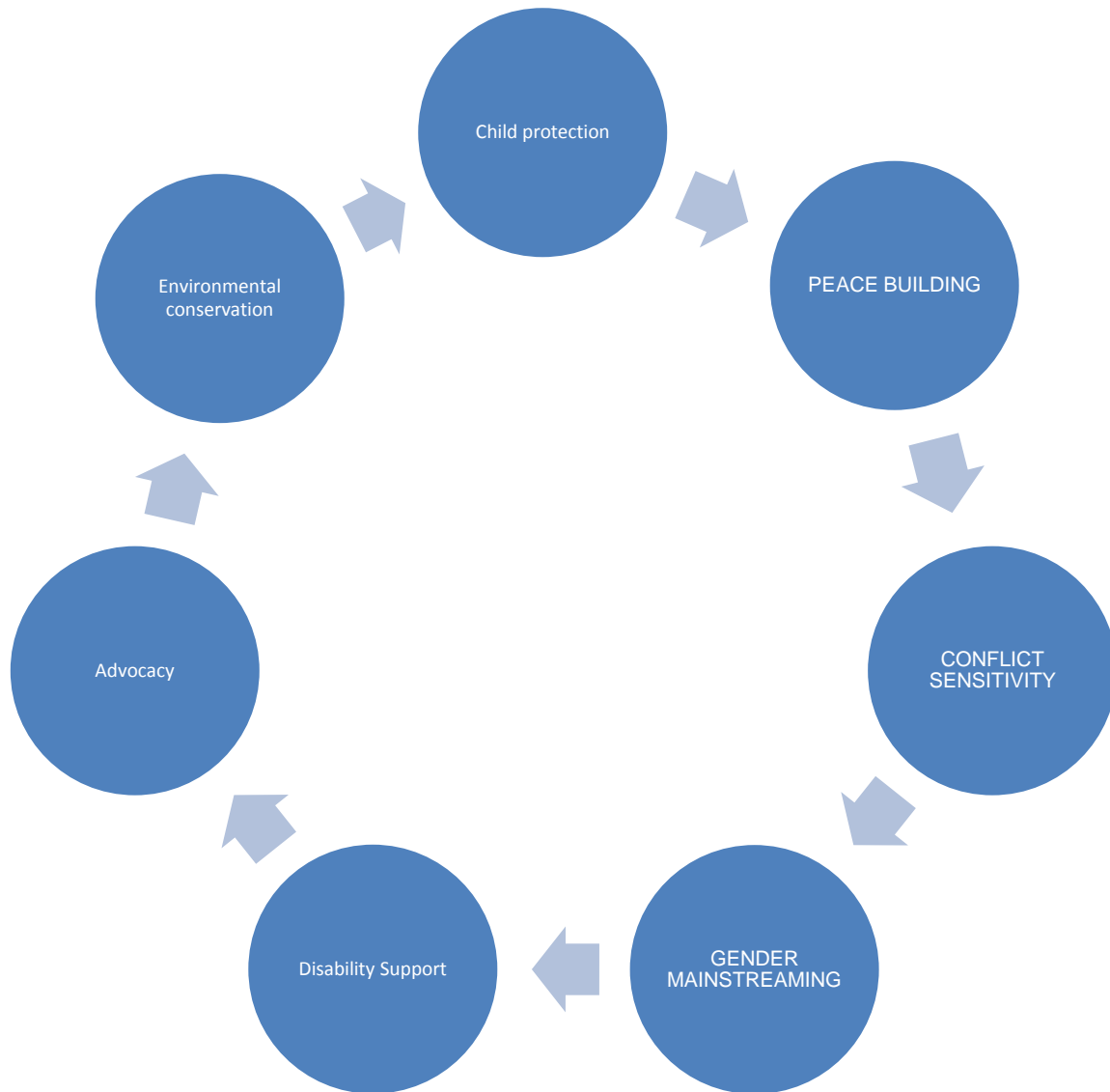


concept to change their fundamental ethos and modes of operation. Though the new SHG are formed based on ground reality and demand, they were connected to the well-established existing once. Therefore while the independent functions of SHGs ensured, all supports were given for them to function efficiently through effective mechanisms.

Women are motivated to take part in common meetings and become forward even to contribute for the development of their communities and to taking part in School Development Society.

Key outputs achieved in Women Empowerment					
SELF-HELP GROUPS	WOMEN IN SHGS	TOTAL SAVINGS IN LKR	NO. OF LOANS PROVIDED by SHGs	NO. OF TRAININGS PROGRAMEMS	No. OF EXPOSURE VISIT
12	96	209,090	51	12	1

Our other Crosscutting Themes of the Programme



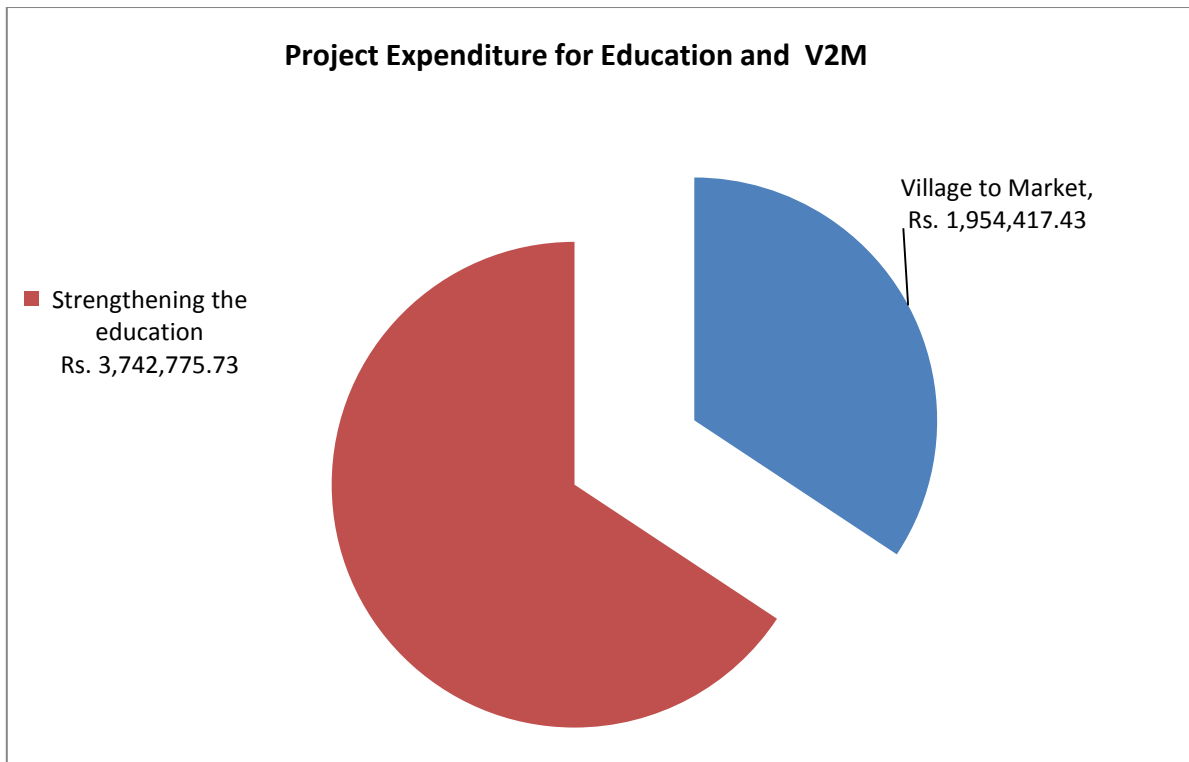
Financial Information

<i>Statement of Income and Expenditure in LKR</i>		
Incoming Resources	8,635,602.00	
Less: Project Expenditure	5,667,240.04	
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on Project		2,968,361.96
Revenue Earned		430,555.06
Less: Expenditure		
Administration Expenses		255,371.34
Finance Expenses		10,664.37
Total Expenditure		266,035.71
Excess of Income Over Expenditure for the before Tax		164,519.35
Taxation for the period		(72,539)
Excess of Income Over Expenditure for the Year		91,980.29

Bird's View of Projects Implemented

During the Year April 2016 - March 2017

Donor	ZOA Sri Lanka and Gecko Sri Lanka	Palmera- Australia
Title of the project	Strengthening the education sector in post-conflict zones	Village to Market Program
Project cost in LKR	3,742,775.73	1,954,417.43
Project status	Ongoing	Ongoing
Major activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English skills development classes • Computer skills development classes • English and ICT camps • Basic literacy and numeracy development classes • Soft skills development workshops and seminars • Awareness for Parents and students on importance of education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHG formation and strengthening • Cluster formation and strengthening • Improved practices for improved yield: Papaya and Groundnut • Facilitation of market linkages Facilitation for capital linkages
Targeted populations	580 students and 150 parents	150 Families
Geographical locations	Manthai west DS division, Mannar district	Periyamadhu village, Mannar district



Our Change

Good guidance led me to Right Path

Opportunity and motivation at right time changed my life”- Says Nisthar



Arman Salih Nisthar, 30 years old young man lives with his wife Asra in Periyamadhu from 2015. Though the well known livelihoods for the place are cultivation and animal husbandry, Nisthar was not interested in any of those and just depended on casual labour which was not

assured for everyday earning. The reasons behind that were lack of capital and motivation. Under the V2M programme Nisthar was identified as a candidate in 2017 by OPEnE for

some inputs to start his sustainable livelihood. He was provided only with ground nut seeds and fertilizer to startup. But Nisthar was guided fully with necessary technical inputs for successful cultivation.

With those inputs and guidance, he cultivated groundnut in quarter acres of his one acre land. His wife was very helpful to him in all works. Their efforts brought a positive change in their life. In their 1st harvest, they received 272 kg of fresh groundnuts which has been a good yield. They also secured seeds for next season. With the income they received, they bought a cow for rearing.

In addition of getting income and good yield, the recent engagement in agriculture changed their live and their identity in their community. They are confident enough to face their challenges and ready to continue ground nut cultivation for the next season.

I Can Change

Lithusan was a grade five student and he attended evening classes at the Hub in Illupaikaduvai. Soon after his mother passed away, he had to live with his grandmother with the financial support of his father. He has two sisters. He performed well in education, and in other extracurricular activities such as in drawing and carrom. While he was very proud of his educational achievements, his family situation made him to be isolated from his peer groups. He was unable to associate with children in school too.

He was not happy if he was commented for his mistakes by the peer groups. He also was reluctant to share toys while playing. But coming to HUB gave him a good opportunity to understand the importance of sharing, understanding, playing together, team spirit and so on. Within three months he himself started realizing the values of norms he was fully ready for change.

When he left the HUB, Lithusan was one of the best and most wanted child by his friends and peer group. In addition to the reorganization gained he himself feel very happy for his change.



Our Team

Board of Directors

Mr. Adaikalam Lesley Jesurajan – Chairperson

Mr. Eliyathamby Christy Jeyaruban – Member

Mr. Robert Antony Caleesious- Member

Ms. NishikaCherineFonseka – Member

Staff Members

Mr. ArulpragasamSuthagar, Team Leader

Mr. VarunaRagavanandaAlphonsus – Advisor

Ms. VanniyasingamKalpana - Hub Co-ordinator

Ms. AbdeenJanooriya Begum – Project officer

Mr. PathmanathanThavapiragasam - Project officer

Mr. FrancisPrathabhan- Caretaker cum Admin/ Finance Officer

Mr. JesuthashanAnexly - Admin Assistant

Our Donors

ZOA Sri Lanka



Palmera



Contact Us

Office Address: OPEnE, 08, Hospital Lane, Chavatkattu, Mannar, Sri Lanka

Email: opene2016@gmail.com

Phone: +94 23 205 1604

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OpenHubEducation>