

In 2022-2023 we continued our efforts to enhance the quality of school education within the Mannar and Kilinochchi districts. Our overarching strategic objective remains unwavering: to empower school students not only with the technical tools but also with the resilience necessary to embark on their chosen life pathway.

Our primary focus areas in 2022-2023

Strengthening Digital Education: We prioritized the promotion of access to digital devices, ensuring students could harness the benefits of improved technology skills and access to more diverse and up to date information and resources.

Teacher Empowerment: We conducted comprehensive training programs for educators, covering digital resource utilization, interactive teaching methodologies, English education, and psychosocial care approaches.

Community and Environmental Awareness: We engaged communities to support our work to improve the quality of education and raise environmental awareness in schools and communities.

Key highlights from 2022-2023

Enabling Digital Education: We distributed 15 Smartboards, 18 hard drives, and 3 laptops to 15 schools in the Madhu Zone and 5 schools in the Kilinochchi South Zone, benefiting approximately 1955 students.

Enhancing English Education: We organized 10 English teaching methodology training sessions, reaching out to nearly 293 educators; and supplied handwriting sheets to 49 Primary schools in the Madhu and Kilinochchi South Zones, directly benefiting 1191 primary children. We also conducted 10 English camps in Madhu Zone, engaging nearly 429 primary students.

Community Engagement: We organized 26 community awareness training sessions on topics such as English education, digital literacy, and self-learning in 20 schools in the Madhu Zone and 2 schools in Kilinochchi South Zone, reaching around 604 community members.

Strengthening School Development Societies: We conducted 13 awareness training sessions for School Development Societies, reaching nearly 378 teachers, students, and community members. These societies will serve as a key forum to bring together the school staff, parents and alumni to improve educational outcomes in the school.

Environmental Awareness: We conducted 12 environmental awareness training sessions, involving approximately 401 teachers, students, and community members in Madhu zone; and another 10 sessions in Kilinochchi South Zone to sensitize children on coastal and marine environmental issues, reaching 430 students. We also conducted three environmental walks involving students from three schools in the Madhu Zone, engaging nearly 67 students. Our efforts extended to promoting school gardening and composting awareness programs in schools involving students, teachers and parents.

Leadership Development: We conducted secondary student leadership training sessions in five schools, positively impacting 165 students: six sessions on child rights awareness, reaching out to 235 students; and psychosocial first responders training for 28 teachers.

Outcomes and future plans

We have been pleased to see the difference these activities have made in the Mannar and Kilinochchi districts. Students are confidently using digital learning devices and benefitting from the diversity of knowledge, showing improved English handwriting and leading efforts to maintain the school environment. Teachers are effectively using the new digital resources, and parents are more actively engaged in and supporting digital education and self-learning by raising funds for digital devices.

Next year we plan to continue our focus on promoting holistic education and self-learning, improving spoken English abilities and further strengthening School Development Societies so that the local community can lead efforts to improve school education into the future.