

2022 - 23

ANNUAL REPORT



 **OPEnE**
Organisation of People for Engagement and Enterprise

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 @OpenHubEducation

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ABOUT ORGANISATION

About Us

As the name suggests, OPEnE, which stands for the Organisation of People for Engagement and Enterprise, we are an organisation dedicated to promoting inclusive engagement at all levels of society to foster sustainable change. Founded in 2016 by a passionate group of individuals, the organization's board members, advisors, and staff remain actively involved in its operations. OPEnE is firmly committed to enhancing systems that empower communities and fostering entrepreneurship, recognizing the significant role of businesses in contributing to the well-being of a community, especially when geared towards social good.

OPEnE focuses its efforts on working with marginalized groups in Sri Lanka, including agricultural and coastal fishing communities. By providing these communities with equal opportunities available in more developed areas of the island, OPEnE aims to facilitate their growth and development.

Our work aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including

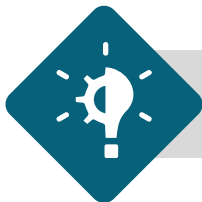
- No Poverty
- Zero Hunger
- Good health and Well-being
- Quality Education
- Gender Equality
- Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- Life below water
- Life on land

VISION, MISSION AND VALUES



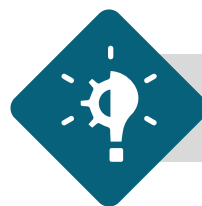
VISION

A pluralistic Sri Lanka where all are empowered and included.



MISSION

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



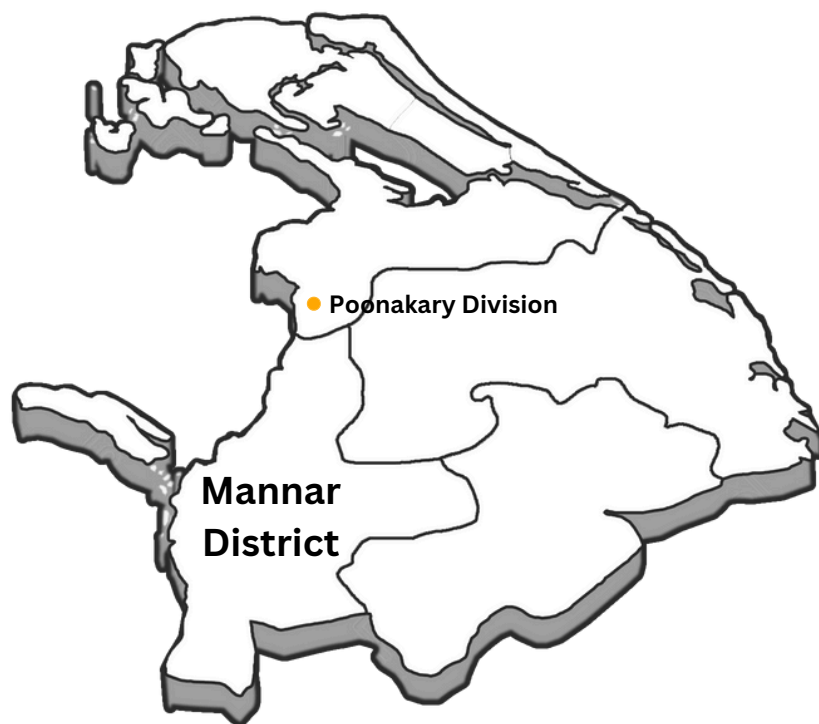
VALUES

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

WHERE WE WORK

We have implemented our programs in the Mannar district and the Poonakary DS Division in the Kilinochchi District, with a specific focus on the Manthai West and Madhu DS divisions. The Mannar district is located northwest of Sri Lanka and is predominantly inhabited by Tamil and Muslim communities. In 2022, we expanded our program to include the Poonakary DS division in the Kilinochchi district.

The regions we targeted have been severely affected by a prolonged conflict, resulting in limited opportunities for growth and development over several decades of warfare. From 1990 onwards, communities experienced continuous displacement, only to be resettled after the armed conflict ended in 2009. The consequences of the conflict and the subsequent upheaval have had enduring effects on families and communities.



HOW WE WORK

Our organization is committed to partnering with communities, upholding human dignity, valuing cultural diversity, and fostering self-reliance through collaboration and capacity building.

We are committed to ensuring that the voices of our beneficiaries are heard and respected. We actively promote their participation in decision-making processes, which enhances their sense of ownership and does not lead to greater and sustained commitment toward achieving developmental objectives. We firmly believe in the importance of including the most marginalized and vulnerable segments of society in the decision-making of their development initiatives, ensuring a high level and quality of participation.

Our approach to development is one of empowerment, not charity. We recognize that individuals facing poverty possess unique strengths and resources. By building on these assets, we provide the tools and support they need to chart their path toward a brighter future.



WHAT WE DO



EDUCATION



COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT



FOOD SECURITY, RESILIENCE BUILDING, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE



WHAT WE DID THIS YEAR

Education Initiatives by OPEnE

Digital Learning:

- OPEnE successfully implemented digital English and O/L Booster programs, providing training to 65 teachers, principals, and educational officers. This included the introduction of smart boards and digital resources in five schools, benefiting 555 students.

Community Outreach:

- The organization extended its reach beyond schools, conducting English awareness sessions for various community groups like fishermen, farmers, and women's groups.

Empowering Students and Parents:

- Awareness sessions on the digital English program were conducted for parents and students, promoting self-learning at home with distributed digital resources.

Holistic Development:

- OPEnE prioritized holistic development through workshops on non-violent approaches, marine and coastal resource sustainability, and leadership skills.

Teacher Training:

- The organization invested in teacher training, including individual sessions for primary teachers and psychosocial first responders training.

Digital Learning:

- The organization invested in teacher training, including individual sessions for primary teachers and psychosocial first responders training.

School Development:

- OPEnE actively supported school development through discussions with self-help groups, training for school development committee members, and initiatives to strengthen school societies and gardens.



COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

OPEnE empowered women and fostered community development through a multi-pronged approach:

Women's Empowerment

(SHG Mobilization and Support:)

- Mobilized a total of 209 families in Manthai West and 48 families in Musali DS divisions to participate in economic and social development.
- Facilitated 48 SHGs in Manthai West and 19 SHGs in Musali to improve their accounting systems.
- Facilitated 30 SHGs in Manthai West and 16 SHGs in Musali to improve their documentation.
- Continuously visited and supported 120 SHGs in Manthai West and 30 SHGs in Musali.
- Undertook 293 SHG visits in Manthai West and 79 SHG visits in Musali to monitor SHGs' functions and resolve conflicts/ misunderstandings.
- Capacitated 21 SHGs in Manthai West and 7 SHGs in Musali.

Nutritional Support::

- Provided 2KG of samaposa to 141 families in Manthai West and 83 families in Musali.

Financial Literacy and Training:

- Conducted 11 training sessions on SHG concepts and principles in Manthai West and 5 training sessions in Musali.
- Conducted 10 training sessions on financial concepts and management in Manthai West and 2 training sessions in Musali.

Entrepreneurship Development:

- Visited and provided technical advice to 65 women entrepreneurs in Manthai West and referred 9 women in Manthai West and 4 women in Musali to relevant stakeholders.



Community Engagement and Orientation:

- SHG members from 45 SHGs in Manthai West and 12 SHGs in Musali started participating in publicly organized meetings and trainings.
- Held one orientation meeting in Manthai West and two orientation meetings in Musali at the divisional level, along with five GN-level stakeholder meetings in Manthai West.



Child Rights Awareness and Analysis:

- Conducted 5 awareness sessions in Manthai West and 4 awareness sessions in Musali on child rights.
- Conducted 6 child rights situation analyses in both Manthai West and Musali.
- A total of 172 children in Manthai West and 125 children in Musali gained knowledge of child rights during the situation analysis.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE THROUGH COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

OPEnE championed environmental justice by empowering local communities and promoting sustainable practices in coastal areas:

Equitable Access to Resources:

- Supported 46 sea cucumber farmers and 18 seaweed farmers, addressing inequities in access to technical knowledge and market information.
- Facilitated licenses for 5 dry fish and sea cucumber buyers, promoting fair market participation for local producers.
- Provided technical advice on safety and quality improvement to 39 individuals and businesses engaged in aquaculture, enhancing livelihoods while protecting marine ecosystems.
- Provided comprehensive support to SHGs, promoting sustainable practices in fishing, agriculture, and other livelihood activities.

Community-Led Conservation:

- Engaged with local fisher community societies on sustainable fishing practices, empowering them to protect their resources.
- Trained 95 community members, including children and teachers, on environmental conservation and the negative impacts of illegal fishing, fostering a sense of stewardship for the environment.

Empowerment of Women and Communities for Environmental Resilience:

- Conducted 7 participatory rural appraisals (PRAs) in villages to identify local environmental concerns and empower communities to address them.
- Formed 7 new self-help groups (SHGs) and trained 142 existing SHGs, enhancing their capacity to advocate for sustainable livelihoods and environmental protection.
- Provided comprehensive support to SHGs, promoting sustainable practices in fishing, agriculture, and other livelihood activities.

Raising Environmental Awareness and Protecting Ecosystems:

- Organized joint training on marine sustainability for 20 people, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human well-being and ecosystem health.
- Conducted awareness programs on marine life cycles, breeding ground protection, and the environmental consequences of unsustainable practices.
- Collaborated with the Central Environmental Authority to establish environmental clubs in schools, fostering the next generation of environmental stewards.
- Conducted baseline surveys and awareness sessions on environmental issues, building community knowledge and capacity for advocacy.

Integrating Social Justice and Environmental Stewardship:

- Addressed child rights issues alongside environmental concerns, recognizing the interconnectedness of social and ecological well-being.
- Provided psychosocial well-being support and parental skills training through SHGs, promoting community resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

- Conducted training on social cohesion, acknowledging that environmental justice requires collaborative action and conflict resolution.

Economic Empowerment Through Sustainable Practices:

- Supported 20 fisherwomen with materials for sea cucumber farms, promoting gender equity and sustainable livelihoods.
- Conducted awareness sessions on sea cucumber cultivation in multiple villages, increasing knowledge and participation in sustainable aquaculture.
- Facilitated licenses and training for 72 fishers in sea cucumber
- cultivation, ensuring legal compliance and environmental sustainability.
- Provided mentoring, technical support, and livelihood assistance to 97 fishers and families, promoting sustainable fishing practices and economic resilience.



FOOD SECURITY, RESILIENCE BUILDING, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE.

OPEnE implemented a multifaceted approach to enhance food security and build resilience among communities, particularly farmers, through:

Farmer Support and Training:

- Provided technical support and monitoring to 137 farmers for seed production and 25 farmers for perennial crops.
- Trained 11 farmers in organic cultivation and climate-smart agriculture techniques.
- Supported 9 farmers in preparing natural liquid fertilizer and compost.
- Facilitated seed security for 18 farmers for the next season and promoted the use of bio-liquid fertilizer among 29 farmers.

Home Garden and Nutrition Initiatives:

- Supported 150 families with seeds, compost, and agricultural inputs for home gardens.
- Provided drip irrigation systems to 5 families.
- Conducted 3 agricultural training sessions with 66 participants, and 5 additional training sessions on home gardening.

- Distributed home garden leaflets and videos to 51 beneficiaries.
- Provided technical guidance on compost and repellent preparation to 35 families.
- Distributed Samaposha nutritional food to 224 families.

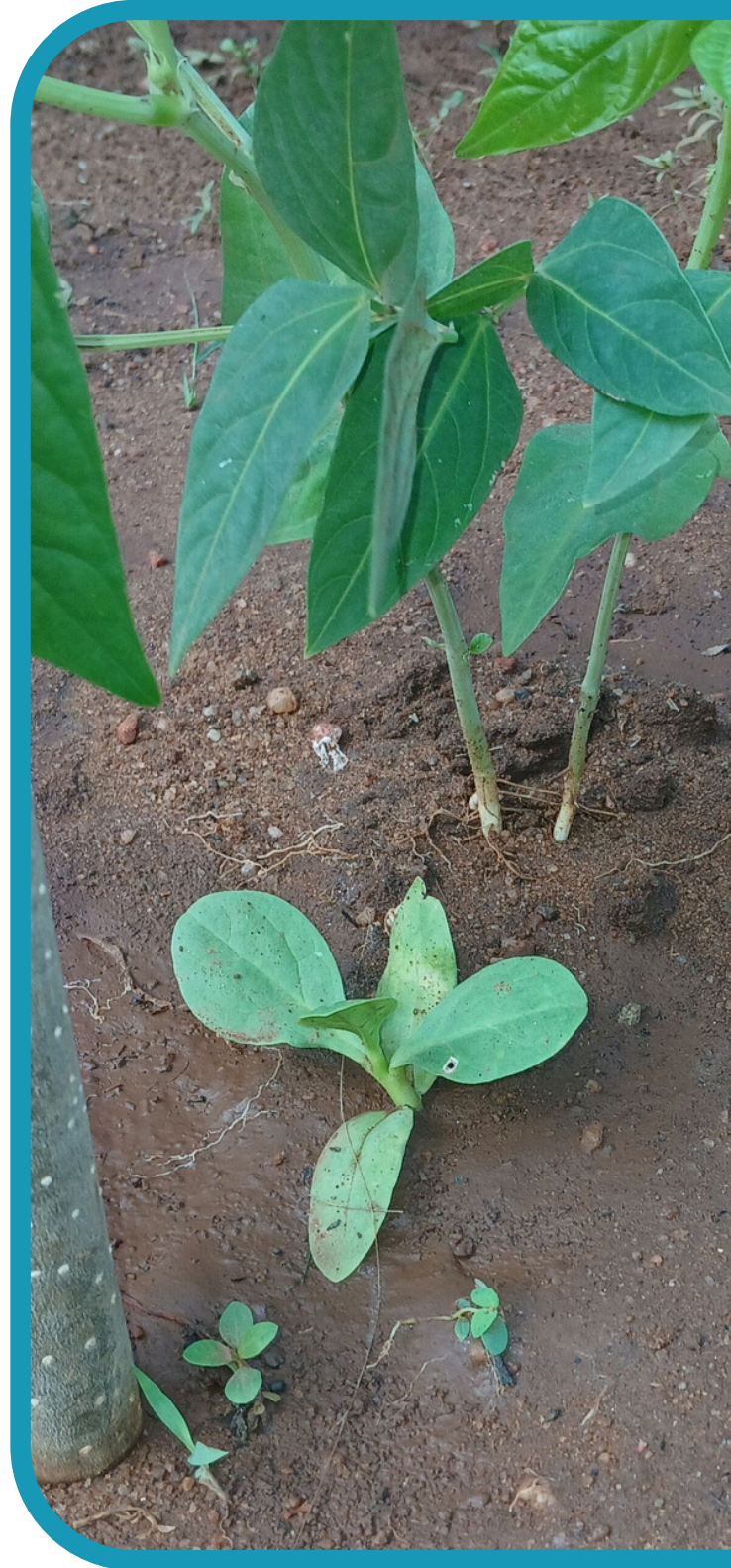
Food Security Assessments and Interventions:

- Conducted field visits to assess the impact of the economic crisis on food security, identifying 220 vulnerable families.
- Distributed food security packages to 42 families, including home garden/agricultural packages, livestock packages, and small business packages.
- Supported 20 farmers in compost-making and provided training on organic cultivation and plant protection.



Organic Cultivation and Food Forestry:

- Provided technical support to 88 farmers for resilient seed production and perennial crops.
- Distributed bio-liquid fertilizer preparation materials to 23 farmers.
- Trained 233 farmers in organic cultivation and food security practices.
- Supported land preparation and provided compost, seeds, and king yams to selected farmers.
- Distributed king yams, elephant foot yams, and manioc for seed/cutting production and food security.
- Provided country bird chicken and pulses to beneficiaries and farmers.
- Conducted training sessions on organic cultivation and food forestry, distributing fruit trees, drumsticks, and glycerides.
- This summary highlights OPEnE's comprehensive approach to strengthening food security and resilience through a combination of farmer support, training, nutritional interventions, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Doner

Private Donors, ZOA,
Australian Volunteers
International,
Hope4Child, SLCDF



Area of focus

Education

Targeted population reached

1808 children and 24 teachers in 08 schools in Pooneryn, 5303 children and 72 teachers in 49 schools in Manthai West.

Project Cost in LKR

LKR 16,527,160.52

Geographical locations

Poonakary DS Division in Kilinochchi District; Manthai West, Madhu DS Divisions in Mannar District.

Doner

Woord en Daad



Area of focus

Community Capacity Building, Environmental Justice, Food Security & Economic Empowerment

Targeted population reached

2064 members of fisher organizations, 390 aquaculture farmers including 162 women.

Project Cost in LKR

LKR 23,043,034.00

Geographical locations

Poonakary DS Division in Kilinochchi District; Manthai West, Madhu DS Divisions in Mannar District.

Doner

Diakonia

Area of focus

Community Capacity Building, Environmental Justice, Emergency Response & Economic Empowerment

Project Cost in LKR

LKR 13,837,402.22

Geographical locations

Manthai West, Madhu DS Divisions in Mannar District.

Targeted population reached

251 teachers including 160 female teachers, 1152 female and 1147 male students, 880 SHG members, 431 SDS/SDEC members, 9 persons with disability, 87 female-headed households.



Doner

The Asia Foundation

Area of focus

Community Capacity Building & Economic Empowerment

Project Cost in LKR

LKR 5,307,880.00

Geographical locations

Poonakary DS Division in Kilinochchi District; Manthai West, Madhu DS Divisions in Mannar District.

Targeted population reached

521 female and 196 male including 269 youth, 71 children, and 20 female aquaculture farm owners,



Doner

Kindernothilfe (KNH)



Area of focus

Community Capacity building

Targeted population reached

206 SHGs, 1788 women and 10,016 children

Project Cost in LKR

LKR 19,380,541.24

Geographical locations

Manthai West, Madhu, and Musali DS Divisions in Mannar District.

Doner

World Vision Lanka



Area of focus

Food Security

Targeted population reached

140 resilient home gardens and 70 perennial orchard farmers.

Project Cost in LKR

LKR 453,490.42

Geographical locations

Manthai West, Madhu DS Divisions in Mannar District.



OUR SUCCESS STORIES

Mary Margret Kanikkainathan

I am **Mary Margret Kanikkainathan** and have lived in Moor Street Mannar for the past 15 years. I moved here from Kaththankulam during the war, after my husband who was working as an ambulance driver was killed in an attack in November 2007. Since January 2008 I have lived in Mannar in a rented house with my two sons and two daughters.

I was initially providing boarding facilities to school children, then a catering service at home on a very small scale. After my son finished A/L in 2016, he helped to look after the family with his income from the mechanic shop. More recently I started a small home garden to help feed the family.

This was the time when OPEnE workers joined with the Government Development officer to visit our home garden. They appreciated my effort and interest. Although I had several varieties of vegetables planted at high density, I was not aware of natural pesticides or compost.

The OPEnE staff invited me to join the home garden program and explained the following things to me on their regular visits:

- How the pests and diseases affect the plants and how easily they could spread and cause harm to the garden,
- instructions on how to control pests and diseases and how to produce pesticides at home at low cost,
- how to add nutrients to plants in a simple way that will help the plants to grow and prevent pests and diseases, and other advice on how to improve soil fertility.

All their advice was very helpful and the things they gave such as seedlings, seeds, polybags, sprayers, seeds, compost, and fish tonic encouraged us to continue and develop our gardening.

I am practicing the advice on things such as fish tonic, 3G solution, mulching, nursery management, seeds production, and compost. Our home garden now supplies 50% of the vegetable requirement of the household. I thank OPEnE and their donors for helping us to achieve this.



OUR SUCCESS STORIES

Gnanam Jeyanthimalar

"**Gnanam Jeyathimalar** is a 49-year-old woman who lives in Anthoniyarpuram village. She got married when she was 17 years old, to Sebamalai Gnanam and has one daughter and 3 sons. Her husband was a fisherman and the breadwinner of their family. Gnanam Jeyanthimalar's husband went missing for 3 months in 1993 when he went to India for business purposes. Gnanam Jeyanthimalar decided to be involved in fishing as she didn't have any source of income to feed her children.

She gathered some interested women from that society and went fishing. Gnanam's neighbor Selvi taught her to catch prawns. Initially, she struggled to catch prawns as she was the youngest woman in the group and inexperienced. She was able to catch only about 1 Kg of prawns while others caught about 10 Kg of prawns. Through the income generated from catching prawns, she was able to feed her children and look after her family's expenses. Jeyanthimalar's husband returned home after three months.

Due to the civil war, they migrated to India as refugees in 1999 and lived there for 14 years. They returned to Sri Lanka in 2013 and settled in the coastal side of Anthoniyarpuram village. Jeyanthimalar went abroad as a housemaid to earn in 2013. She came back in 2015. Once she was back, she went fishing again. She realized that women must be self-sufficient. Her earnings supported her family and helped them run smoothly.

Jeyanthimalar is now an experienced fisherwoman who was one of the first few to form their own fishery women's association. The men who didn't like women going into the sea against the traditional setup, are now not against it. Jeyanthimalar feels that the income of families has increased, and the men of the village have become more supportive of the fisherwomen of the village as well.

OUR STRATEGIC PARTNERS



FINANCIAL REPORT

PROJECT NAME	DONOR	EXPENDITURE (LKR)
STRENGTHENING THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN POST-CONFLICT ZONES	INDIVIDUAL DONOR	LKR 1,659,049.50
STRENGTHENING THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN POST-CONFLICT ZONES	MM FOUNDATION	LKR 894,021.23
STRENGTHENING THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN POST-CONFLICT ZONES	HOPE4CHILD	4,171,167.67
STRENGTHENING THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN POST-CONFLICT ZONES	WNS	119,051.97
INSTILLING HOPE THROUGH FOOD SECURITY	HOPE4CHILD	1,671,362.91
HOPE FOR CHILDREN THROUGH HOLISTIC EDUCATION	HOPE4CHILD	400,844.45
SUPPORTING HOME-BASED LEARNING IN THE MADHU DS DIVISION	STREET CHILD	32,550.00
FISHERIES SRI LANKA	WOORD EN DAAD	9,599,867.87
STRENGTHENING LOCAL PARTNERS TO CONTINUE EMPOWERING AND EDUCATING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	ZOA	882,972.15
COMBATING COVID-19 SPREAD AND CAPACITATING COMMUNITIES TO COPE IN MANNAR, SRI LANKA	WOORD EN DAAD (EMERGENCY)	6,378,444.59
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE	WORLD VISION LANKA GUARANTEE LTD	610,813.70
ENHANCING EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN THROUGH INNOVATIVE DIGITAL EDUCATION	AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEERS INTERNATIONAL	1,244,182.00
SOCIAL COHESION IN SRI LANKA	THE ASIA FOUNDATION	8,024,880.60
EMPOWERED WOMEN - HOPE FOR CHILDREN	KINDERNOTHILFE	15,016,210.75
DHIRI-POSHAKU	SLCDF	104,220.00
CAPACITY BUILDING	ZOA	438,223.69
CATCHING TOMORROW - FISHERIES VALUE CHAIN	WOORD EN DAAD	4,081,055.81

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	2023	2022
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
PROPERTY PLAN & EQUIPMENT	20,089,506.25	15,744,280.00
	20,089,506.25	15,744,280.00
CURRENT ASSETS		
CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS	39,740,301.36	30,427,313.66
ACCUMULATED FUND	27,409,263.03	21,227,832.86
PROJECT FUND	32,162,389.53	30,467,313.66
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
TAXATION	1,555,503.11	929,878.16
PROVISION FOR SALARY	2,928,079.90	2,606,327.79
ACCRUED EXPENSES	1,287,099.72	180,000.00
TOTAL FUND & LIABILITIES	65,342,335.29	46,661,593.66

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PROVISION FOR SALARY	2,928,079.90	2,606,327.79
ACCRUED EXPENSES	1,287,099.72	180,000.00
TOTAL FUND & LIABILITIES	65,342,335.29	46,661,593.66



Contact Us

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