



MOVING ON
WITH RESILIENCE AND
COMMITMENT

Community
Development Services
PROJECT PROGRESS
REPORT 2021



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DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Community Development Services (CDS) is a national non-governmental organization registered under the companies' ordinance in 1978 and recognized as an approved charity by an act of the Sri Lankan parliament (vide gazette No. 15 of December 1978). Registration no.1978/A/49. New re registration no. GA295.

As a development consultancy and practice, CDS partners with district, national, Asian, and international civil society partners, donors and multi stakeholder partners in knowledge sharing and knowledge building platforms, influencing policy and in the development of knowledge tools and platforms for social justice and inclusion.

As an advocate and catalyst for policy influencing, contributing to policy change on many social and economic development platforms CDS brings a vast ground experience in shaping national, sub-regional, regional, and international engagement and practice.

For a better life

Bringing together people from all segments of society especially vulnerable, at risk and inadequately served population groups to be represented and respected as equal citizens in society through a movement that participates in the belief and practice of human rights, health rights and integrated social development through national and international cooperation.

CDS OPERATIONAL STRATEGY



Working

with inadequately served & vulnerable communities for a better life



Strategic Pillar 1

Labour Migration & Health



Strategic Pillar 2

Labour Migration & Rights



Strategic Pillar 3

Youth & Women in Development

Strategies

(Within a rights based framework)

Engage in Evidence based programming / Participatory action research / Multi stakeholder & multi sectoral engagement / Scaling up capacity enhancement skills of civil society organisations / Advocate for national policy engagement / Promote international instruments / Engage in regional and international development processes

OUR OPERATIONAL FOOTPRINT



Communities We Engage With

Youth. Sex Workers. MSMs, PLHIVs. Low Skilled Migrant Workers, Factory Workers. Women who are economically & socially vulnerable and challenged in society.



Their Issues

Vulnerable. Discriminated. Stigmatised. Shamed. Abused. Distressed. Detained. Deprived. Underserved. Marginalised. Deceived.



Knowledge, We Give

HIV/AIDS. SRH. STDs. Gender. GBV. Labour Trafficking. Safe Labour Migration. Mental Health. Human Smuggling. Entrepreneur Skills

Health Rights. Labour Rights & Protection. Equality, Economic & Social Empowerment. Legal Assistance. Psychosocial Support. Community Leadership



Our Delivery Framework

Capacity Enhancement & Development. Policy Influencing. Advocacy & Lobbying. Activism. Behaviour Change & Development Communication. Evidence Based Participatory Action Research



Our Key Stakeholders

NGOs. CBOs. GROs. Government Ministries. Local Government and sub national Authorities. Government and Private Institutions. Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries. Donor Community, Multilateral Agencies, International Partners. Sub-Regional and International Networking

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As it has been another challenging year to engage in social development practice and counsel, there was a tremendous resilience and commitment on the part of many who engaged with us in projects during the year.

The year under review brought about prolonged restrictions in meeting and activating project ideas in the 15 districts we worked in. We continued our work on hybrid working models to reach out to the communities. Partnerships and associations were of great importance to us from the lowest to the highest levels. It built strong relationships in every nook and cranny and at the district and national level.

As migrant workers were slowly recovering from their repatriation and reintegration and other vulnerable population groups also responding to the recovery, we were beginning to see that our national economy was weakening. This was a double blow to our work and the communities we work with. Worker remittances and other foreign exchange earnings were declining. This not only affected our project work, but it also required that we made some adjustments to meet economic needs of the communities we engaged with.

The many population groups showed tremendous resilience despite their socioeconomic challenges and vulnerabilities. It is a long and difficult road ahead. We had support and commitment from the sub national government officers in all the districts and divisions we worked together to achieve our project results. There are a number of committed officers who must be recognised for their dedication to the areas they work in.

We hope the national government will take note of this and depoliticize the work ethic of these officers.

Our partner organisations with whom we partnered in delivering the projects have always been a great strength to us. Our working model is to empower our partners and ensure they take ownership of the projects. It is not for us to perpetuate ourselves in a district.

We had some staff challenges in 2021. Nevertheless, the resilience and commitment shown by every colleague is worth mentioning, as all projects were delivered their results and delivered to the timelines.

Finally, our existence is dependent on the donor community who recognises our work and give us the funds and sometimes the technical knowhow. We have had both organic funding and new funding in the year, and we are committed to transparent and accountable business ethics and reporting to all of them.

Andrew Samuel
Executive Director

ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CARAM	Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility
CDS	Community Development Services
CHRCD	Center for Human Rights & Community Development
CoD	Country of Destination
CoO	Country of Origin
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSW	Commercial Sex Worker
ESCO	Eastern Self-reliant Community Awakening Organisation
FPAR	Feminist Participatory Action Research
GAATW	Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women
GRO	Grassroots Organisation
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation of Migration
ITUC	International Trade Union Confederation
MDC	Migrant Development Circle
MFA	Migrant Forum in Asia
MHPSS	Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Services
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRA	Migrant Recruitment Advisor
MRVRS	Migrant Rights Violation Reporting System
MSM	Men having sex with men
MW	Migrant Worker
NSACP	National STD & AIDS Control Programme
PLHIV	Persons living with HIV
PRNA	Participatory Rural Needs Assessment
SLBFE	Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
TG	Transgender
TU	Trade Union
VCCT	Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing
WAD	World AIDS Day
WMW	Woman Migrant Worker

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2021

Countries including Sri Lanka were still battling the covid19 effects on people's lives and the economy as it was far from over or even brought under effective control. As lockdowns continued many sectors that Sri Lanka traditionally relied on for foreign exchange earnings such as remittances from labour migration, tourism earnings and garment sector earnings were badly hit, not to mention the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks that is still haunting the tourist industry. A nation is eagerly awaiting for justice on the Easter Sunday attacks as the international community is watching. These events caused the economy to hurt on many fronts.

The most severely affected were the small, medium, and micro industries as many of them had to shut down leaving thousands in unemployment. As the virus was still spreading, the garment industry was badly affected because of its large workforce that were a threat to bring about spikes of infection. Tourism and foreign employment came to a virtual standstill as borders were closed for health reasons.

The newly elected Sri Lanka People's Front government led by a rather inexperienced president whose expertise lied in the military, was battling to face new socioeconomic challenges. The president's economic advisors led him up a gum tree with policies that were not conducive to progress and to face the global covid19 challenges.

This regime continued its highhandedness in many public and even in international forums ignoring the imminent economic collapse as

Sri Lanka was sinking into economic chaos with bad policy decisions and irresponsible governance across the board.

There appeared an obvious stance taken by the regime to follow the foreign policy and economic model of the new frontier governments led by China. The established western model was ignored. This meant that the power bases must shift to the south as China was leading the way mainly through its main economic and foreign policy model of the belt and road initiative. Poorer and developing countries saw this as a great revival and attraction to their ailing economies.

There was a belief that the government of Sri Lanka by its highhandedness antagonised the multilateral agencies and even some friendly western allies even though it advocated a nonaligned foreign policy. The China factor played a vital role in the country's infrastructure development, a development that far surpassed what the country could chew from a monitory point of view.

As China was seen as Sri Lanka's key ally, it accumulated debt at a very rapid pace, not quite realising that repayment would be a challenging and daunting task.

This was a regime that fairly blatantly demonstrated its inefficiency in governance and economic policy management, as many of their vital decisions lacked foresight. This government also demonstrated their lack and unwillingness to be transparent and accountable in economic management.

Selected highlights of the 2021 economy

- Fuel and gas prices began increasing fairly regularly.
- The SLR was fetching a little over Rs. 200 to the USD and there were all indicators that it would increase.
- Foreign reserves were declining. Sri Lanka had a little over USD 1.5 billion to manage its economic challenges from USD 5.7 billion in gross reserves in 2020.
- Food inflation was on the rise averaging 12-15 percent whilst nonfood inflation was holding at between 5-7 percent.
- Worker remittances dropped to USD5.4billion
- Unemployment rate increased to 5.5 percent in 2020 with the labour force participating rate dipping to 50.6 percent.
- The small and micro industries were rapidly crashing leaving the industry in a state of uncertainty with very little government assistance.
- Labour migration numbers fell to 122,264 compared to 203,186 in 2019. The numbers in 2020 were ridiculously low with only 53,87 leaving the country for employment.

Year	Remittances received in USD
2017	7,164.00 billion
2018	7,015.40 billion
2019	6,717.20 billion
2020	7,103.90 billion
2021	5,491.10 billion

Source: Central Bank of Sri Lanka

INTERPRETATION OF GOVERNANCE AND THE ECONOMY BY THE COMMON PEOPLE

As a national civil society organisation, we cannot hide away from the reality. We were not prepared to escape the reality either. It was our responsibility to listen to the common people we deal with on an everyday basis. The common person was of the view that the government was spending too much on infrastructure development on borrowed money and that these large projects were not monitored for their estimated values. In fact, large scale corruption and nepotism was the order of the day.

As the economy was collapsing, the agriculture sector was one of the first to take the brunt of an ill-founded decision taken by the president to ban chemical fertilizers that the sector had relied for many decades. As agriculture has been a subject at every election, with promises to bring down the prices of agro chemicals and fertilizer to win votes, the farming community were up in arms. In reality, the decision was not necessarily to make Sri Lanka an organic cultivation country, it was also because the country did not have enough foreign exchange to purchase the fertilizers from the international marketplace.

The other big concern that brought about further hardships to the people was that a handful of commodity importers who were aligned business cronies with the government were given credit lines to import food and other commodities and had their own way in pricing. They not only hoarded the goods,

but they also had a freewill to price the commodities to their advantage.

Exporters on the other hand were restricted in raising credit from the local financial market, the country was seeing a rapid decline in foreign reserves. These exporters did not transfer whole sums of foreign earnings back to the country envisioning a collapse in foreign reserves. This exasperated the foreign currency situation even further.

Last but not least of the bad economic decisions of the Rajapakse regime was that its tax policy was an atrocious one where the business sector was given considerable tax incentives, especially at a time when cash was badly needed of the country.

THE NEW DECADE AND EXPECTATIONS

2021 did not show any positive results socially or economically or even in governance. A nation and its people were bracing for an imminent economic collapse. As countries are still reeling from the covid19 pandemic, for Sri Lanka, its economic and political governance was beginning to let down the nation and its people.

The election euphoria is long over. Voters are probably beginning to realise how their vote choices went wrong and how the government was blatantly showing its inefficiency in economic and political management.

Successive Sri Lankan governments have traditionally shied away from being transparent and accountable to public funds. These governments have failed to realise that public finance is the tax payer's money and there is a right to know how it is spent.

Our governments have never been accountable from a performance evaluation point of view. No ministry has a clear cut blue print as to how their budgets will be spent and on what and what is to be expected.

Sri Lanka's governments over the years have been top heavy with large budgets required to manage their ministries and institutions. Political appointments are rampant avoiding merit based selection. It is no wonder that failure in results is imminent.

Successive governments have failed to recognise the role played by civil society movements as representatives of the general population and vulnerable and underserved communities. This regime in particular detested the role played by civil society and saw them as a threat.

Since the covid19 pandemic the way of work has changed, and it seems that employers are offering combinations of physical work and hybrid work to their employees. This work autonomy model seems to be very practical and prudent in human resource management. It is working well for the development sector.

As budgets are always a challenge for the development sector gig work or contract work is on the rise in order to have a flatter and a cost efficient work structure. The development sector will find it very challenging to sustain their projects as donors don't necessarily support post project sustenance in challenging times in particular. This has a danger for all the hard work to collapse.

These are the challenges and changes civil society wants to see in governance and government as we prepare for a post covid19 period.

2021 PROJECT REACH

Reach	Solidarity Center Sub Award project	Robert Carr Fund	IOM migrant returnees reintegration project	GAATW - IS	MFA HAMSA project	Total
Communities Reached	759	13,144	337	208	N/A	14,448
Local governments officers	15	227	67	45	N/A	354
CBO's/ GRO's	N/A	53	N/A	N/A	11	64
Men	50	4500	142	42	05	4739
Women	724	8924	262	211	06	10,127
Districts covered	Kurunegala	Galle Matara Colombo Gampaha Jaffna Kurunegala Hambanthota Kandy Puttalam Ratnapura Kalutara Anuradhapura	Galle Kurunegala	Kurunegala	Ampara Colombo Batticaloa Galle Kurunegala Puttalam Anuradhapura Vavuniya Kandy	15 Districts



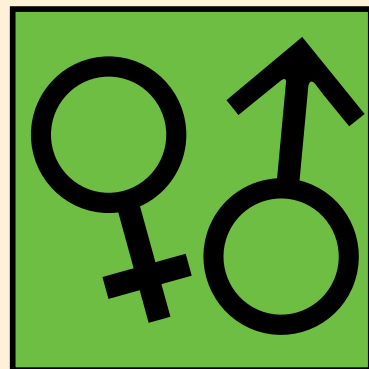
Community Reach
Total: 14,448

Local Government officials
Total: 354



CBOs/GROs
Total: 64

Men: 4,739
Women: 10,127



Districts Covered



PROJECT ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

At 43 years in the development sector, it was yet another challenging year for CDS as funding was not easy to come by. Our business model is one in which we collaborate with local civil society organisations to deliver projects. This way we strongly believe that shared commitments, resources, and knowledge will strengthen the local communities and community organisations to be fully empowered in the project deliverables with responsibility and accountability.

Community strengthening is a key responsibility and strategy of CDS in its business model. This includes strengthening the knowledge of the community, community organisations and their leaders and local government officials at the district and divisional levels. It is with this modelling concept that we believe that change and leadership go together in the community. CDS had a mix of both organic funding and new funding business from known sources that kept our work and revenue streams alive where we were able to service the populations we work with and be able to partner with local civil society organisations and local government officials and other stakeholders.

Another significant contribution we made in 2021 was that we collaborated with multilateral agencies and sources in conducting evidence based research as important advocacy strategies in the post covid19 era relating to the return and reintegration labour migrants and their families.

Following are highlights of the projects.

SOLIDARITY CENTER SUB AWARD PROJECT

Solidarity Center has partnered with CDS for three consecutive projects. This project's objective was to strengthen the already established Migrant Development Circles (MDCs) a.k.a migrant societies in five divisional secretariat divisions or sub national jurisdictions of Rideegama, Kurunegala, Ganewatta, Mawathagama and Polpithigama in the Kurunegala District. Kurunegala is a high migration district and has the highest female migrant workers leaving for employment essentially for domestic work and other low waged employment to the Middle East.

The project was implemented by Community Development Services (CDS) and its partner organization Center for Human Rights and Community Development (CHRCD). The project duration was from 1st September 2020 to 30th June 2022. The project was extended several times due to the prevailing Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting mobility restrictions in conducting project activities and the restrictions in reaching out to the communities.

ACTIVITIES

Qualitative survey among 37 returnee/repatriated female migrant workers in the district.

OUTCOMES

- This was predominantly an advocacy research study carried out to understand the loss of employment, loss of wages, the repatriation process, return and reintegration into society and any government assistance to revive their livelihoods.
- Copies were handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Employment, Ministry of foreign Affairs and the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment for action.
- The title of the study "Revealing the repatriation ordeal - Advocating for migrant workers to be respected and treated better". The research was published and distributed among key stakeholders and was made available at the Solidarity Center sponsored national convention in Colombo.

<https://www.facebook.com/1562347190739733/posts/pfbid024VrNzNDe7FyED7PKdZWDUVjLd-9nvBdHjypWUBqb1TrWq3GTTqRRj29zgaBRBfoR-wl/>

Zoom discussion workshops with migrant society leaders and mobilisers in the already established MDC's on the importance of advocacy in protecting the rights of migrant workers. A total of 5 zoom meetings were held with 125 MDC members who participated at these workshops.

- Participants gained a clear understanding about various advocacy strategies and whom they should advocate with in their divisions.
- Participants were motivated to come together as a group and do advocacy work as it was different from the regular capacity development activities and strategies.

Two day workshop on enterprise skills development. This activity was conducted for 30 MDC leaders. It was aimed at those who had already started a self-employment in order for them to improve their businesses further.

- It was observed that some self-employment businesses which had been halted due to various reasons had begun again.
- Some businesses which were not making a profit were seen to have turned into profit making micro enterprises.
- Many engaged in self-employment had accessed support services offered by the government by linking up with them.

Training on self-employment avenues and discussions on decent work opportunities in Sri Lanka and how to access them.

The objective of the program was to identify small and micro new business opportunities and to identify relevant government officers and institutions that will support such enterprises. The program was conducted for the MDC leaders and mobilisers.

- New economic ventures have begun in the MDC's
- As the MDC's have become economically stronger, they are able to continue their monthly meetings with a wider stakeholder participation.
- MDC leaders have helped their members by referring them relevant institutions and to relevant technical officers.

Workshops on Safe migration information for prospective migrants. There were 5 workshops conducted for 117 prospective migrants and MDC leaders on safe migration. These workshops were conducted via zoom.

These workshops included providing new and updated information regarding migration as well as the new laws and gazette notices which came into place after the covid 19 pandemic

- The MDC leaders had shared the updated informatio with their migrant society members and community.
- People who migrated from these areas had chosen regular channels to migrate according to the MDC leaders.

Multi stakeholder roundtable discussions with divisional level government officers, MDC leaders, and mobilisers and affected migrant communities. A total of 5 meetings were held in order to bring solutions to the various problems migrants and their families had faced during the covid 19 pandemic.

- The government and community network which had been established before the pandemic to resolve migrant worker issues and which had become dysfunctional was reinvigorated by these meetings.
- Due to the strong links developed with government officers, more migrant issues are being referred to them by the MDC leaders and mobilisers. This practice continues to date.

Workshops on C189 Domestic workers convention for migrant society leaders. Five workshops were conducted for 112 migrant society leaders and mobilisers through zoom. The objective of the workshops were to educate them regarding domestic worker rights and MDCs to join the larger coalition of unions, CSOs, migrant networks in demanding the rights of domestic workers and protection against violence and harassment at work and to come together as a collective ground network to lobby the government to ratify the Convention.

- It was the first time many had learned about the C189 convention and participants said that it opened their eyes to the wide range of domestic worker rights.
- The MDC's suggested that they together with CHRCD and other stakeholders should come up with a strategy to lobby stakeholders to ratify this convention.
- MDC leaders had educated their respective migrant society members at their monthly meetings regarding the C189 convention and empowered them on its importance.

Advocating for a standard domestic worker contract. The objective of this activity was to lobby the government and the relevant state institutions to develop a binding contract document for domestic workers with necessary rights protection clauses.

- CDS developed, designed, and printed the PROPOSED MODEL CONTRACT FOR DOMESTIC WORKERS seeking employment in the Gulf Corridor and handed it out to key government stakeholders for a discussion and action.



Recording...

Wenuka sanhida	CDS SL	Nirfana	SamsunNiza
Thushari	Manikecde	chrd kurunegala	+Fausiya+
Galaxy M02	සීලා රත්නායක	Asoka Malkanthi	Umesha hansani
m.s.s sarifa and rajap...	Galaxy M02	Nifrasa	Naleefa umma

Participants (19)

Find a participant

- CDS SL (Host, me)
- chrd kurunegala
- m.s.s Sarifa and rajapaksh...
- +Fausiya+
- Amaya
- Asoka Malkanthi
- Galaxy M02
- Galaxy M02
- Indra Dissanayaka
- Manikecde
- Naleefa umma
- Nifrasa

MIGRANT'S HIV ISSUES, ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES, PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HIV POSITIVE MIGRANT'S RIGHTS

This project was funded by Robert Carr Fund through CARAM Asia. The overall project duration was from January 2019 to 31 December 2021. The project was carried out in four countries – Sri Lanka,

Bangladesh, Philippines, and Pakistan. Below are the key achievements and outcomes of the activities conducted in the year 2021.

Objectives

- Objective 1 – To advocate on migrant workers HIV/AIDS related issues with national government
- Objective 2 – Enhancing migrant workers access to health services
- Objective 3 – To promote and protect the rights of HIV positive migrant workers

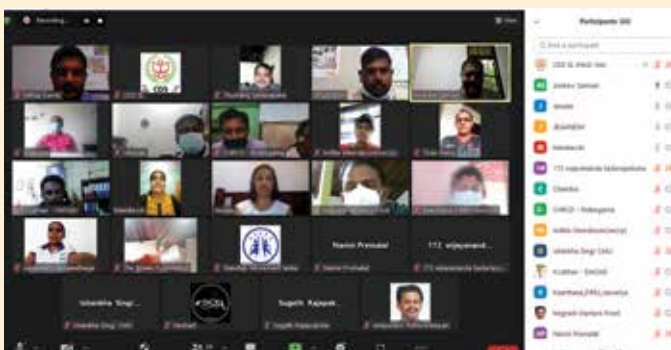
Under the project the following communities were also provided with HIV prevention knowledge through workshops

HIV awareness Program	Number educated
8 HIV prevention programs were conducted for CSW's, TGs and MSM communities	194
8 workshops conducted for youth in vocational training institutes and drug rehabilitation centers	178
3 workshops were conducted educating MSM potential migrants on prevention of HIV	61
9 workshops conducted for potential migrant women	164
9 workshops conducted for sub national government officers	221

Activities and outcomes of the project

ACTIVITY	OUTCOMES
<p>1. Assessment of PLHIV membership to identify economic self-employment and up skilling needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helped PLHIV groups to improve their research skills Provided them with a report to advocate for more funding <p>https://www.facebook.com/1562347190739733/posts/pfbid0t17dEhKsNtfLW9FPeimSj1HvXjz-PRygMGXL9uTTi6HZkb2Ru3DGpEpXEV1yYK2nKI/</p>
<p>2. Workshop on entrepreneurship, financial management and positive thinking to economically empower PLHIVs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resulted in 5 PLHIV utilizing the training out of 10 to further their businesses
<p>3. Mobile phone counselling by two PLHIV organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 105 PLHIV were given counselling. This activity is being continued as it has been immensely beneficial to the PLHIV. Furthermore, there is no counselling service especially for PLHIV in Sri Lanka.
<p>4. Under the Aidsfonds project two research studies titled 'Survey with PLHIV during the height of the Covid 19 in Sri Lanka' and 'Report on the findings and recommendations from interviews conducted with STD clinics and the NSACP' were carried out. The research findings were discussed at a stakeholder consultation meeting.</p> <p>Objectives of the two studies Survey with PLHIV during the height of the Covid 19 in Sri Lanka'</p> <p>A telephone survey among 50 PLHIV across the country to identify their economic, psycho social issues and access to services</p> <p>Report on the findings and recommendations from interviews conducted with STD clinics and the NSACP' Research with the National STD/AIDS Control Program and regional STD clinics in order to assess the provision of services, challenges, and key recommendations to improve services for PLHIV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director and Deputy director of the NSACP acknowledged the research and stated they would consider the recommendations UNFPA requested the report to use for future funding requests FPA stated that the two research reports have already been useful for them to write the project proposal for the Global Fund C19 RM <p>Survey with PLHIV during the height of the Covid 19 in Sri Lanka'</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/1562347190739733/posts/pfbid09jMC-9GohA5J5cpXStk4vVxba1X6qq1B69UG-BRSExMRwzvY2BdF2qa9Lq4vuuuk7JI/</p> <p>Report on the findings and recommendations from interviews conducted with STD clinics and the NSACP'</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/1562347190739733/posts/pfbid02eZgX-ZWAPrKVq9C5J269B18anpuPaWk5iYP-1MtqoHJH47WBkdEqy63T3x6hczWJphl/</p>

<p>5. Capacity and knowledge building program for 10 CSO's on HIV and migrants issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 19 participants were educated and are integrating HIV & SRH in their programs ● 3 organizations joined the Life Integrators Coalition
<p>6. VCCT clinics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Through the VCCT clinics 72 drug users were educated on HIV and voluntary tested for HIV. They were also sensitized on the HIV rapid test and showed a willingness to use it in the future.
<p>7. Life Integrators Coalition (LIC) formed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CDS formed a civil society network to advocate for the rights of migrants and underserved communities most at risk to HIV comprising 22 CSO's
<p>8. World AIDS Day 2021 (WAD) activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 12,300 pocket calendars with key HIV messages were distributed by 22 CSO partners in 11 districts to their communities for WAD 2021 besides having brief discussions with targeted populations and the general public.



SUPPORTING SOCIO - ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS REPATRIATED DURING THE COVID - 19 OUTBREAK 2021- 2023

This project funded by the Government of Japan through the IOM aims to contribute towards the sustainable socioeconomic reintegration of returnee migrant workers. The project period is from 1st May 2021 to 31st January 2023. CDS is working in the Galle and Kurunegala districts to implement this project through funding and technical assistance by IOM.

The project specifically contribute to the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Migrant returnees impacted by COVID-19 have sustained or restored their livelihoods through community infrastructure or access to employment opportunities and are able to take ownership of their recovery processes along with their communities and local administrations.
- Outcome 2: Reduced vulnerability of returnee migrant workers through enhanced skills development for future employment opportunities.

Achievements so far

Re-Integration Of Returnee Communities:

- Successfully completed the project introductory meeting in the Galle District and gained the support of the District secretary and relevant government officers.
- Completed collecting the high migrant returnee data from the Kurunegala and Galle districts in collaboration with the District and Divisional secretariats.
- Organized Participatory Rural Needs assessments (PRNA) workshops with the participation of 171 migrant returnees and community members and other local govt. officers in the Galle and Kurunegala districts to identify livelihood projects.
- From the PRNA 3 projects were selected and they are currently being supported

District	Divisional Secretariat	Project/ livelihood
Galle	Galle Four Gravits	Mini garment unit
Galle	Bentota	Upgrading of reed cottage industry
Kurunegala	Rasnayakapura	Coconut husk processing project

- (e) Capacitating 34 Galle district government officials (counselling officers, psychosocial officers etc.) on providing effective mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) to returnee and migrant communities and on preventing stigma and discrimination due to COVID-19.
- (f) 83 youth have been educated on career guidance from technical colleges from the Galle district.

The project aims to cover two important components in labour migration resulting from the covid19 outbreak and the many implications it left behind.

1. As thousands of workers lost their jobs and were denied their full wages and other entitlements, many came home emptyhanded and in debt. The project supports livelihood development at the cooperative or community level with the support and engagement of the district and divisional sub national secretariat offices.
2. The project also supports a skills development program for prospective migrants through the district level skills training institutions. To strengthen this activity, a comprehensive knowledge on safe migration is given to migrants.



IMPACT OF COVID - 19 ON LABOUR MIGRATION IN SRI LANKA - FOLLOW UP STUDY.

CDS conducted a follow up study under the ILO REFRAME project 'Impact of COVID-19 on labour migration in Sri Lanka'. The research was carried out in the districts of Batticaloa, Gampaha and Kurunegala, three of the highest labour migration districts in Sri Lanka. The research was undertaken from July 27 to October 15, 2021. CDS was entrusted to coordinate the entire research study, collect the data, translate, and code data into coding sheets and provide it to the ILO consultant.

Objectives:

In order to complement and elaborate on the rapid assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 on Sri Lankan migrant workers undertaken in 2020, the ILO Country Office commissioned this follow-up study. The objectives of which were to:

- Assess support provided by government and non-government sectors to protect labour rights and welfare of migrants in both CODs and in Sri Lanka
- Assess support provided by government and non-government sectors to economical and socially reintegrate migrants focusing particularly on livelihoods, jobs, and social protection
- To understand how labour recruiters are adapting and responding to the challenges resulting from COVID-19.

The key respondents of the study comprised the following.

District	Interview targets and numbers	Remarks
Batticaloa district	43 repatriated MWs (21 female and 22 males)	Total number of interviews - 49
	3 government officials	
	1 sub agents, 2 agents	
Gampaha	43 repatriated MWs (14 female and 29 males)	Total number of interviews - 48
	2 senior government officers	
	2 Agents, 1 sub agent	
Kurunegala	44 repatriated MWs (20 female and 24 males)	Total number of interviews - 49
	3 government officials	
	2 agents	

WOMEN'S LABOUR MIGRATION IN THE SOUTH ASIA - MIDDLE EAST CORRIDOR- FUNDING BY GAATW-IS, 2020 - 2023

The project seeks to amplify women migrant workers' participation and visibility in labour migration processes in countries of origin (CoO) in South Asia with the larger aim of influencing policy change. Utilizing participatory research and action, the project will create robust feminist analyses of the impact of the current migration and development frameworks on women migrant workers (WMWs)– specifically on the support and services available to departing migrant workers, and the social inclusion and sustainable reintegration options for returning migrants. This analysis will be used to jointly influence national, regional, and international policymakers, as well as undertake community actions with women migrant workers.

In particular, through this project, WMWs will be critically analysing:

- Factors that influence social reintegration of returnee women migrant workers
- The availability of safe and fair labour & migration choices to women in CoO

The major components of the project are

- i) feminist participatory action research and analysis and
- ii) evidence-based advocacy.

The overall objective and outcomes are:

Overall objective: Empowered Women Migrant Workers (WMWs) benefit from sustainable,

inclusive and gender-sensitive labour migration processes, and maximize the benefits of migration.

Outcome 1: National Level labour migration policies and practices are improved based on the research evidence in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka

Outcome 2: WMWs influence policy dialogue and propose positive changes through increased participation and representation at the national and regional levels

In Sri Lanka the FPAR work was carried out in the districts of Kurunegala and Batticaloa, two very high migration districts. Two civil society organisation representing the districts, namely CHRCD in Kurunegala and ESCO in Batticaloa participated in the research and the follow up advocacy work with CDS.

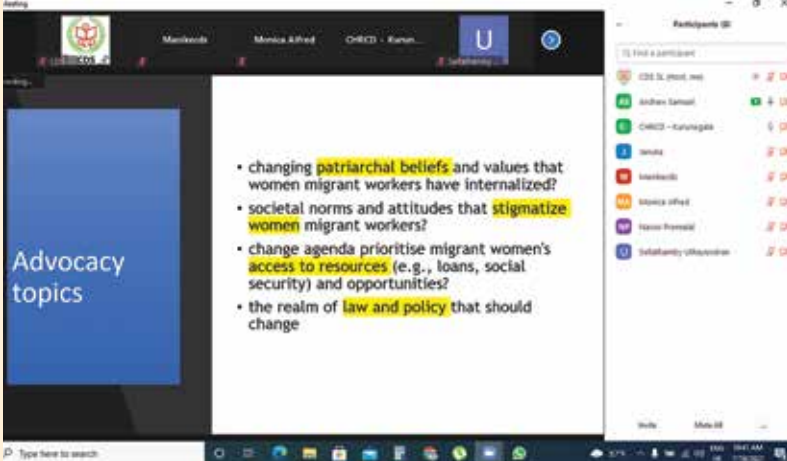
Achievements so far

- Following the training on FPAR conducted by GAATW-IS and after finalizing the research questionnaires CDS in partnership with CHRCD conducted interviews and focus group discussions with 48 returnee women migrants in the Kurunegala District and other relevant stakeholders. The research was conducted during July 2020-March 2021 in areas with a high concentration of outward temporary migration. The research was conducted with a mix of FGD's and one to one depth interviews.

- This data was then incorporated by GAATW-IS into a regional research report titled “Sustainable Reintegration - What Do Women Migrant Workers in the South Asia-Middle East Corridor Say?”
- CDS developed and printed a research advocacy brief based on the key findings in Sinhala, Tamil and English and made the document available among district and national level key stakeholders.
- CHRCD organized an event to commemorate International Migrant’s Day 2021. The event was to sensitize both local level government officers and migrant communities on the advocacy research brief. There were 13 meetings conducted in 5 DS division reaching a total 253 government officers and community members.

Outcomes of the meetings

- > Government officers and the migrant communities were sensitized on what should be done to ensure a better return and reintegration for migrants.
- > Both groups became strong supporters and allies to advocate on this issue.
- > Some of the development officers of foreign employment stated they would raise this issue at their level with the Ministry of Foreign Employment.



HAMSA CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECT TO PARTNER CSO'S

Migrant Forum in Asia in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) have worked in partnership since 2016 in developing a functioning online complaints mechanism linked to the ITUC Migrant Recruitment Advisor (MRA). The online complaints mechanism, Hamsa Migrants Rights Violations Reporting System (MRVRS) was formally launched in 2018 together with the ITUC MRA. Hamsa is a Sanskrit / South Asian Term for bird of passage. It was chosen as the name of the MFA Migrants Rights Violations Reporting System. (MRVRS) to symbolize migration and identify an easier term to remember the reporting system. This project assignment with MFA was a short capacity and knowledge development project from 4 February until 20 March 2021.

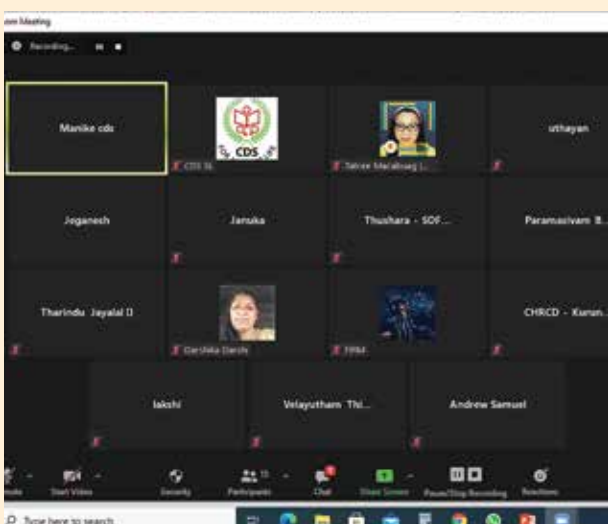
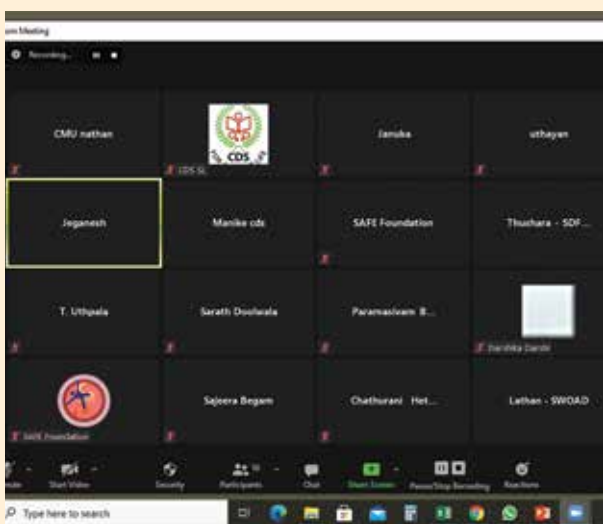
The first phase of the project focused on developing and testing both the MRA and the Hamsa complaints mechanism and getting workers to use the system. Both systems are now stable and working. The first part of the project focused on launching Hamsa in the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal and Malaysia.

In line with expanding the program, MFA launched Hamsa complaints mechanism in Sri Lanka through the support of the International Labour Organization under its Reframe Program. MFA worked with Community Development Services (CDS) to launch the project in Sri Lanka. The following were the objectives of the project:

- Objective 1: Provide assistance to migrant workers victim of abusive and fraudulent recruitment practices through the Hamsa online complaints mechanism
- Objective 2: Raise awareness about the complaint mechanism website among migrant communities to increase participation.

Activities undertaken by CDS

- Developed a rapid response team in Sri Lanka that will support migrant workers in distress;
- Translated the Hamsa Case form, case studies and promotional materials for use in Sri Lanka
- Participated in an online training program on Hamsa organized by MFA;
- Conducted virtual refresher training on fair recruitment practices and safe migration by developing a 4 part knowledge exercise to selected CSO/TU partners;
- Conducted virtual training on complaints mechanisms, documentation process to 11 selected CSO/TU partners;
- Distributed materials on Hamsa and MRA among local CSOs, trade unions and migrants in Sri Lanka



ADVOCACY AND LOBBY WORK IN 2021

In a country where there are governance issues, political instability and unaccountability, and where the political leadership has scant regard to civil society and people's movements and peoples representation, developing advocacy dialogues is very challenging and difficult.

There were many uncertainties and unaddressed issues that arose from the covid19 outbreak in the lives of migrant workers and their families both at home and in destination countries. Significant among them was the delay by the Sri Lanka government in addressing the workers repatriation for fear that there could be an exodus of infections in the country and in the community.

The Sri Lanka government also put an expensive price tag on repatriating workers by charging exorbitant fees for a 14 day mandatory quarantine period, including having to pay for their air passage. This caused a massive financial burden on migrant workers on top of unpaid wages they had to deal with. This brought about a huge debt burden on the migrant workers where there was absolutely no state assistance.

In 2020 we addressed the unfair decision taken by the government to downsize the diplomatic and labour section cadre in our embassies and mission offices at a time when a full strength of personnel was needed to address the pandemic and related labour issues.

We advocated for HIV financing of migrant workers with the Ministry of Health and the NSACP through a key stakeholder research as migrant workers are not recognised as a key affected population in the HIV & AIDS response in Sri Lanka. This is despite the high incidences of infections arising from migration.

We captured important migrant related media news reports in the subregion, Asia and the Gulf and reported on them on a weekly basis to a wide network of national, regional, and international stakeholders. A total of 39 reports were released in 2020.

In 2021 we advocated for the government to remove the heavy price tag put on migrant workers for their repatriation.

We advocated that government looks at its bilateral and MoU agreements with labour receiving countries in the light of the covid19 pandemic.

We designed and developed our own evidence based research as advocacy assignments.

- PLHIV livelihood skills assessment study
- Returnee migrant worker study titled "Revealing the repatriation ordeal – Advocating for migrant workers to be respected and treated better".
- Contributed to a regional research report titled "Sustainable Reintegration – What Do Women Migrant Workers in the South Asia-Middle East Corridor Say?"

We developed an evidence based advocacy project on the need for a binding labour contract for domestic workers and have requested the relevant authorities to develop one based on a rights protection model.

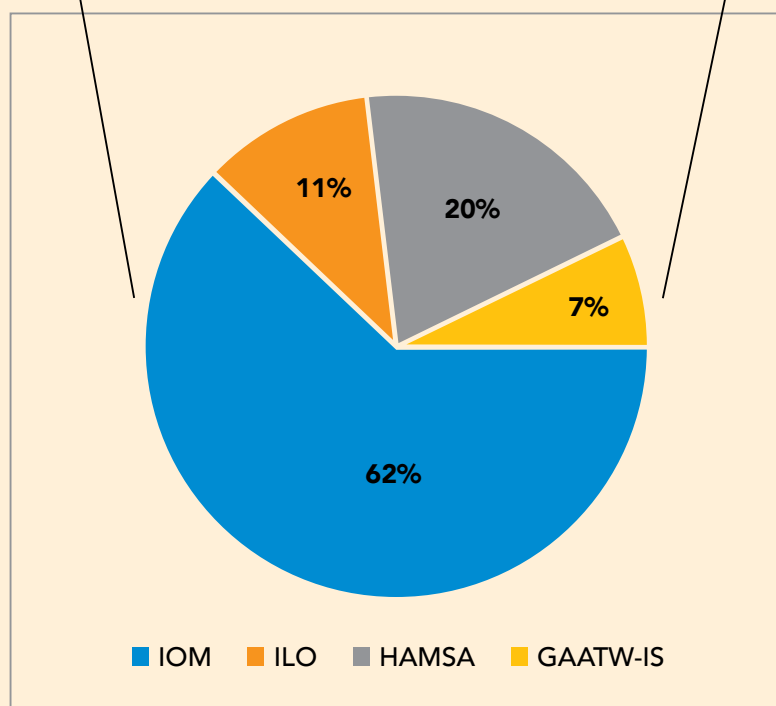
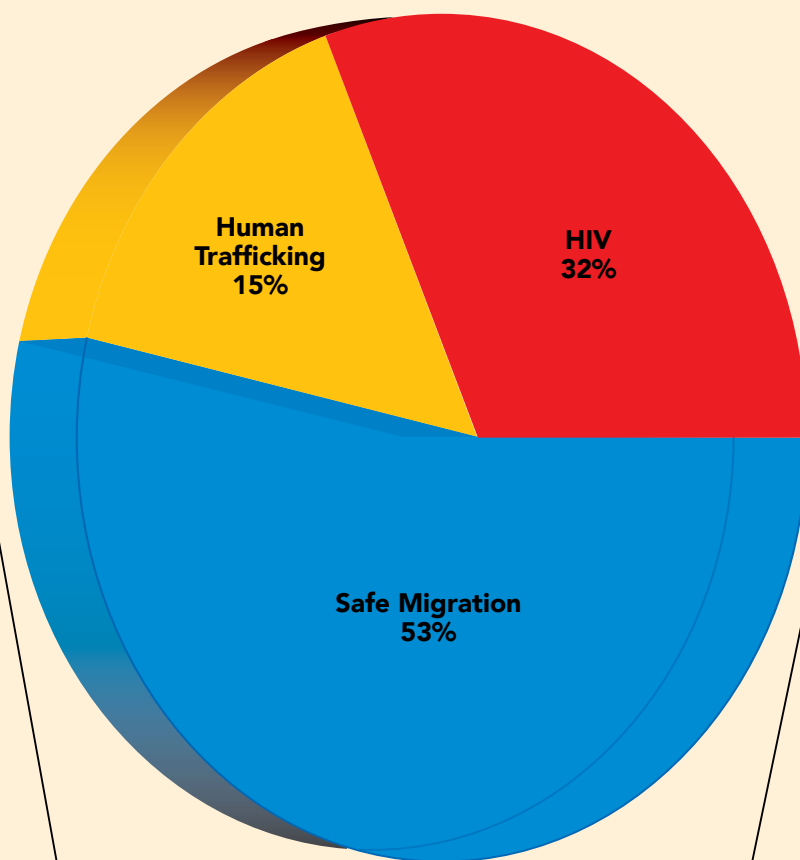
We covered a total of 46 weekly media reports to a wide international multi stakeholder community on migration issues in 2021.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

SOURCE & DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

key Intervention	Name of Project	Funding Organization	Funds received (%)
Safe Migration	Support the socio-economic reintegration of migrant workers repatriated during the COVID-19 outbreak	International organization for Migration (IOM)	33%
	Impact of COVID-19 on labour migration in Sri Lanka- follow up study	International Labour organization (ILO)	6%
	Women's Labour Migration in the South Asia - Middle East Corridor	Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW-IS)	4%
	HAMSA capacity building project	Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)	10%
Human Trafficking	Solidarity Center Sub Award Project	Solidarity Center	15%
HIV	Advocacy on Migrant's HIV Issues, Enhancing their Access to Health Services, Promoting and Protecting HIV Positive Migrant's Rights	CARAM ASIA funded by Robert Carr Fund	32%
Total Funds for 2021			100%

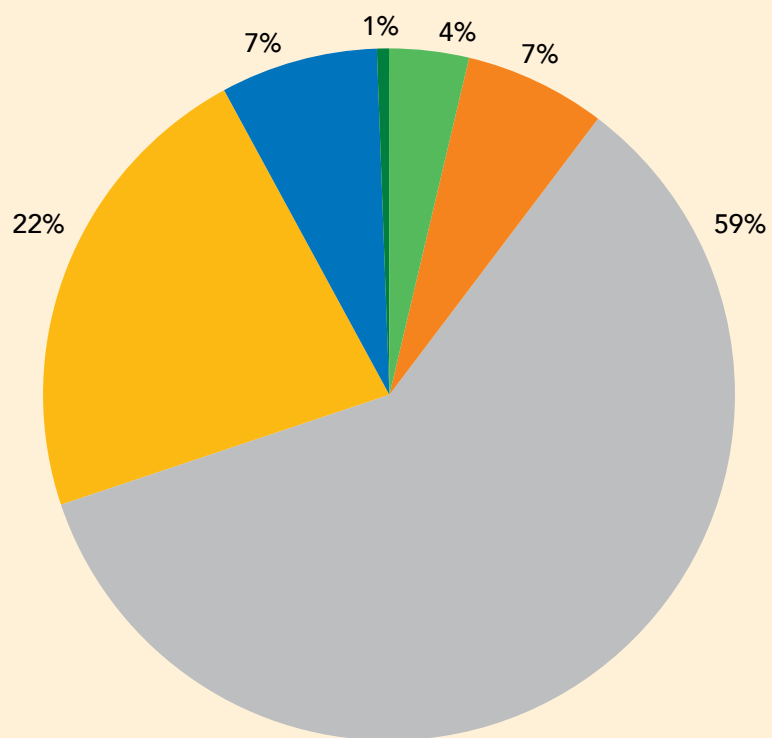
53%



BREAKDOWN OF FUND ALLOCATIONS

Name of Project	Funding Organization	Funds received (%) for following areas					
		Institutional Building	Infrastructure Support	Capacity and Knowledge giving	Advocacy	Case management, referrals and support	Research
Support the socio-economic reintegration of migrant workers repatriated during the COVID-19 outbreak	International organization for Migration (IOM)	0.2%	5%	5%			
Impact of COVID-19 on labour migration in Sri Lanka- follow up study	International Labour organization (ILO)			3%			3%
Women's Labour Migration in the South Asia - Middle East Corridor	Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW-IS)				5%		
HAMSA capacity building project	Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)	4%	2%	7%		1%	
Solidarity Center Sub Award Project	Solidarity Center			10%	5%		2%
Advocacy on Migrant's HIV Issues, Enhancing their Access to Health Services, Promoting and Protecting HIV Positive Migrant's Rights	CARAM ASIA funded by Robert Carr Fund			34%	12%		2%

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS



- Institutional Building
- Infrastructure support
- Capacity and Knowledge giving
- Advocacy
- Research
- Case management, referrals and support

PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUCCESS

As an organisation we truly believe in engaging with stakeholders at all levels in the discourse of our work. This dialogue is a critical factor in building relationships with communities, state and non-state institutions, and public and private partnerships. It is such a dialogue that keeps the discourse active and alive.

We believe that the recognition of our work is based on evidence and evidence-based research. That we are alive on the ground, listening, empathising and touching lives in many ways than one.

That we build capacities and develop our advocacy strategies based on evidence and ground experience and realities.

We thank our donors, technical partners, regional allies, government and government institutions communities and community partners for the continuous support and solidarity we have received through the years as we look forward to nurturing these partnerships in our future endeavours.







COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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