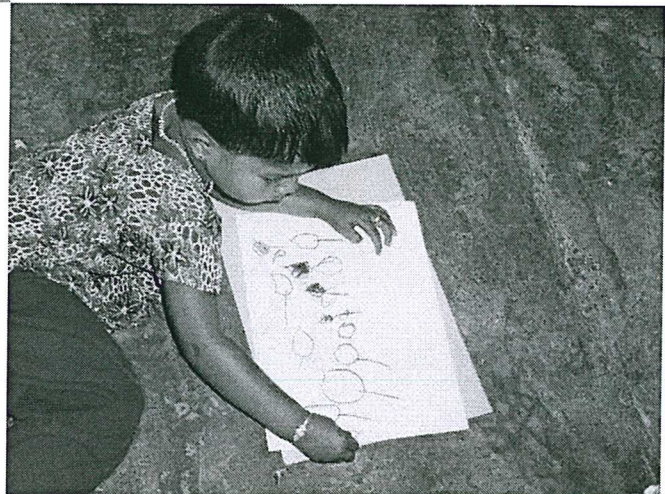
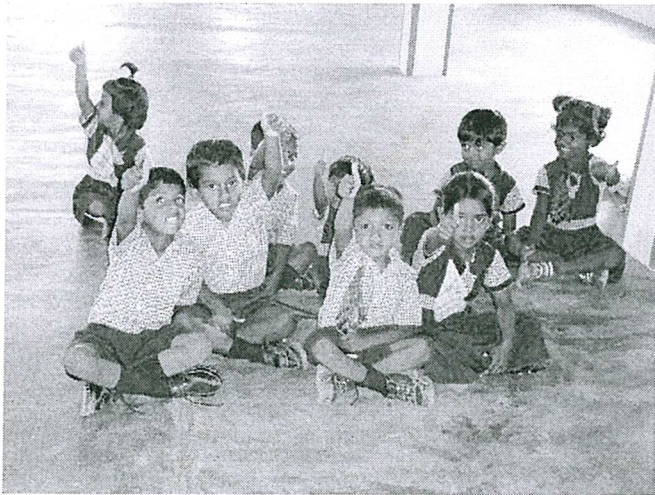




**EMANUEL
WÖHRL
STIFTUNG**



Interim Report (3 months January – April 2012)



**Funded by
Emmanuel Woehrl Stiftung through German Embassy in Sri Lanka**

**Implemented by Welthungerhilfe through
SewaLanka Foundation Jaffna**

Date of the Report: 24-03-2012

Project Summary

The project goal was to provide primary psychosocial assistance to 264 war-affected children on the island of Pungudutivu off the west coast of Jaffna. The two key objectives of the project are as follows:

- To offer children opportunities to develop, learn, play, and build/strengthen their mental wellbeing in order to recover their forgotten childhoods.
- To identify ways to respond to the particular psychosocial issues affecting resettling children in Pungudutivu, such as those with particular vulnerabilities.

Proposed Project Activities

- **Teacher Training** on Pre-school Management, Cognitive and Skill Development, and Teaching Creativity
- **Provision of indoor games for preschool children:** puzzles, counting frames, toy animal sets, toy fruit sets, toy kitchen sets, writing boards, and building blocks
- **Art Competition for the pupils:** An art competition was held for each school with the best drawings to be exhibited for the ambassador's visit. The children are also awarded prizes for participating.
- **Provision of Visual Aid Kits for teaching:** Large size animal, vegetable and bird pictures, children's story books, toy tools, white boards, wooden shapes, etc.
- **Provision of Furniture:** Cupboards for storing the abovementioned toys and teaching materials at each school

Activities, Outcomes, Benefits and Impact

During the reporting period, the Art Competition for children was conducted during which participating children demonstrated tremendous creativity. During this period the training on Preschool Management was also completed from 25th-26th February 2012. Each training session was held over a period of 3.5 hours and included the following components:

1. Preschool Management

This component focused upon training teachers on how to maintain a positive environment for children, how to maintain good relations with parents, resource management, and other basic skill for preschool teachers.

2. Child Psychology

This component of the project was conducted by an external resource person who is a Senior Lecturer at the National College of Education. Key areas covered involved training teachers on how to identify crucial elements of each child's background and how to respond to the needs of each child in accordance with their disposition and family background. Teachers also received instruction with regard to assisting pupils with special needs and vulnerabilities.

3. Physical Development Activities

The resource person for this component was the Assistant Director of Zonal Education, Valikamam who provided training on how to teach children to warm up and exercise in accordance with their age-group in order to facilitate physical wellbeing.

4. The Role of the Preschool Teacher

This component was conducted by the Director of the Early Childhood Development at the Provincial Education Ministry. Topics covered included teacher behavior, positive speech, ability to listen and how best to respond to each child. The training also provided instruction on how to calm restless children, how to introduce children to new activities, how to engage in positive conversations with parents, and how to establish a rapport with pupils.

Project Learning

Project activities during the reporting period include the Art Competition which attracted 56 child participants. The competition served to bring together children from across the island in a positive and creative environment. The Preschool Management training was also completed for 16 teachers from 12 preschools. Since teachers had never received appropriate training, this project provided them with a tremendous opportunity to interact with and learn from sector specialists from both academia and government departments, and also facilitated the creation of a teacher network.

Dissemination

The project has highlighted significant gaps with regard to the preschool education system in the project area. It is apparent that a number of these have been addressed through this project, and that the training received by preschool teachers will invariably bring about systemic improvements within this sector in the long-run. These improvements will be reinforced as more teachers from the area enrol and complete formal education courses on preschool teaching. The appeal from the Director of the Early Childhood Unit that projects of this nature address vital gaps in the area's education system indicates that there is significant scope for implementing similar projects in future and Sewalanka will endeavour to do so.

Future Activity

The provision of furniture and the training programme in Cognitive and Skill Development as well as Teaching Creativity is scheduled to take place in April 2012 as the lengthy holiday will enable teachers and resource persons to attend.

Sustainability

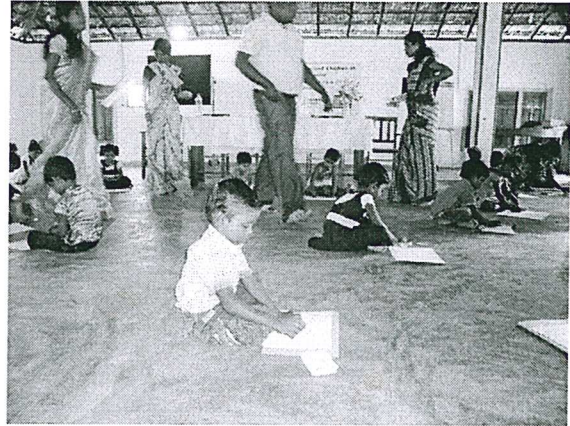
In order to implement project activities, discussions were held with the Director of the Early Childhood Unit at the Provincial Education Ministry. The Velanai Zonal Education Office also provided support toward training and coordinating preschool teachers. In accordance with new rules stipulated by the Provincial Ministry of Education, the preschools assisted under this project fall under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education which assumes responsibility for the maintenance of all teaching aids and furniture provided by the project. As a result of this project, participating teachers have also been encouraged to enroll in formal preschool teaching courses following the end of the project period. As a result of this, it is anticipated that the number of children enrolled in the preschool programme will increase due to both improved facilities and positive improvements to the approaches adopted by teachers.

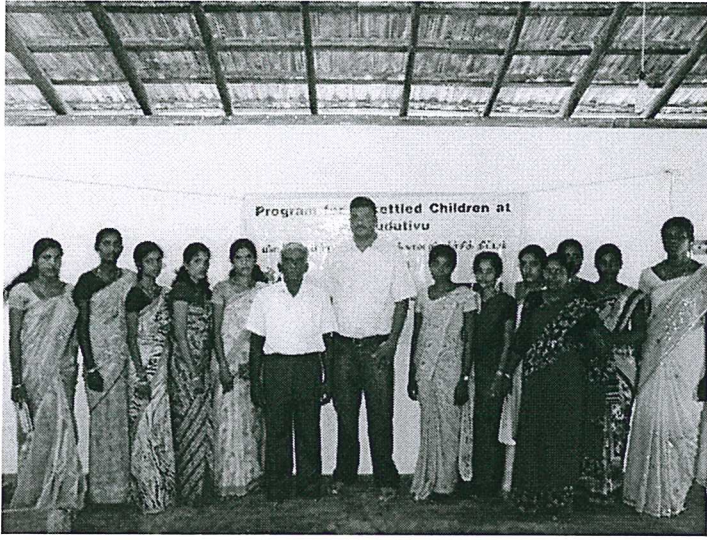
Other Reflections

During discussions, the Director of the Early Childhood Unit encouraged projects of this nature, highlighted a number of gaps in the preschool sector, and appealed to Sewalanka to continue implementing such programmes in the area.



Art Competition





From the heart of the teachers

Ms. Thayananthan Vijitha, 27 years old- Thondar Thrunavukarasu Pre school teacher

“Since the resettlement started our German partner Welthungerhilfe and Sewalanka Foundation had witnessed the growth of panic, worry, desperation and depression amongst children and youth. In Punguduthevu, Jaffna three decades of conflict, as well as the area vulnerability, has brought about shortages of food, medical supplies and water, but the psychological toll is just as devastating. Children in particular, are suffering from a large range of problems such as fear of the unknown, disturbing dreams, headaches and pain.

They are also very emotional and nervous and have difficulties in learning. Constant memories of painful events have been identified as affecting them the most. Parents, schools and other caregivers are often unable to cope with these issues and do not have resources and opportunities to recognize and handle the affected kids.

We are really thankful to the donating body to give at least a opportunity to our kids to start to go back to the normalcy. We appreciate the good heart and praying for them to have peaceful life. Through helping our kids they will be blessed to satisfy their meaningful life.”

Ms. Savarimutthu Mervin Dayana- 24 Years old- Sarathjeevan Tharisanam Preschool teacher

“On behalf of the teacher community, I would like to thank you for sponsoring our training programs. Your support will open many new opportunities for these young kids as well as help develop their peaceful mind.

Your contribution will enable the teachers to promote updated skills to the children to these villages, and these events will broaden their discipline and character, on and off the field, Your contribution is not just a charitable contribution, but is also input to the resettled community. Without the support of people like you, we would not be able to reach our goals. Thank you once again for your generous support of our team.”