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NEWSLETTER

Sri Lanka



ACTED

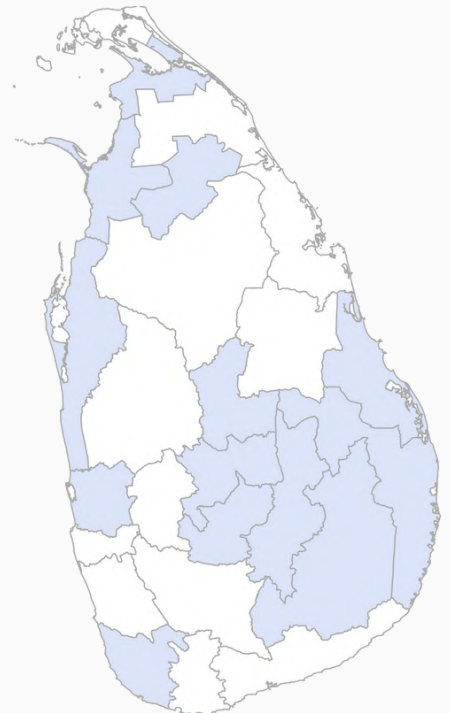
ACTED is an international non-governmental organisation working in 40 countries around the world. ACTED supports communities to build a better future in line with our 3Zero Strategy.

ZERO EXCLUSION CARBON POVERTY

Zero Exclusion because nobody should be left behind

Zero Carbon because we only have one planet

Zero Poverty because poverty should not hold back potential



Our work in Sri Lanka

ACTED began operating on the island in 2005 in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean Tsunami. Over time, ACTED has expanded its portfolio in line with the 3Zero strategy to promote **climate smart and inclusive economic growth, civil society development, ending GBV and social cohesion.**

Thanks to our donors and partners



European Union

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Federation of Sri Lankan
Local Government Authorities



THIS YEAR SO FAR...



73 million

rupees worth of assets provided to support MSMEs' growth and development



40

public officials trained on enforcing non-discriminatory regulations and accountability mechanisms



317

new members for partners FTZ&GSEU and Women's Centre following capacity development trainings



With ACTED's support, Narankotuwe Wimalawathi has mentored **50 women** on mushroom production, creating economic opportunities in her community.



21 Coexistence Societies in Eastern and Southern provinces were trained to mediate and resolve conflicts, promoting inter-religious collaboration.



10 Master Trainers identified and trained on addressing gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health.

OUR ACTIONS

Integrated Economic Development

Covid-19 has put many MSMEs under extreme pressure. With EU support, ACTED is providing tailored assistance to over 300 MSMEs in Central and Uva provinces to help them navigate the crisis. This includes a suite of activities, such as technical trainings and the provision of essential assets.



“ *With the new spice-drying machine I can now prepare up to 100kg of spices in an hour!* ”
- Akhitha Rodrigo, co-owner of Nisi Rasa Spices -



At the same time, trade fairs, like those organised in Badulla and Monaragala districts, and other actions are strengthening market linkages. All of the above supports are complemented by the project's work to improve common market facilities and the assistance offered by Business Development Service providers.

ACTED has also launched a 'Business Recovery Fund' to further support these businesses to invest in their business recovery plans and create employment opportunities for rural communities.

Inter-religious Collaboration

ACTED is working with grassroots Coexistence Societies (CS) in Ampara, Batticaloa and Galle districts to promote social cohesion. Having entered Phase II of the project, an additional 15 CSs were selected and assessed using ACTED's Grassroots Organisational Capacity Assessment tool (GOCA). In the coming months, ACTED will assist CSs to address the gaps identified via GOCA in order to improve their organisational capacities.



At the same time, ACTED's partner, the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities, engaged stakeholders to set up three citizen charter boards. These boards inform the public of grievance mechanisms and encourage authorities to foster social cohesion.

Moving forward, 21 CSs from the three target districts will receive funding to implement initiatives that bring community members together, transcending social, cultural, and religious boundaries.

'Speak Out': Tackling Gender Based Violence Against Female Garment Workers

Through this EU funded project, ACTED is assisting the Free Trade Zones & General Services Employees Union (FTZ&GSEU), and Women's Centre (WC) to protect and empower female garment workers.

Trainings for FTZ&GSEU and WC have strengthened their understanding of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual reproductive health. Earlier this year, a counselling centre was established in Vavuniya. In this safe and confidential environment, professional counsellors from FTZ&GSEU and WC can provide psycho-social support and other assistance to those affected by GBV, particularly female garment factory workers.

ACTED and partners are training garment factory workers who will pass their learnings to colleagues. This will support workers to advocate for improved conditions and collectively address gender-related issues in the apparel industry.



COVID-19 Third Wave Emergency Response for Female Garment Factory Workers

The third wave of Covid-19 in Sri Lanka prompted the government to re-impose public health measures. Many garment sector workers faced financial strain, food shortages and health and hygiene issues. Accordingly, ACTED and partners provided essential food and sanitary items to support 246 garment factory workers and their families, reaching 876 people in total, across Gampaha, Kilinochchi, Mannar, and Vavuniya districts during these challenging times.



COLIBRI: Community Livelihood and Biodiversity Recovery

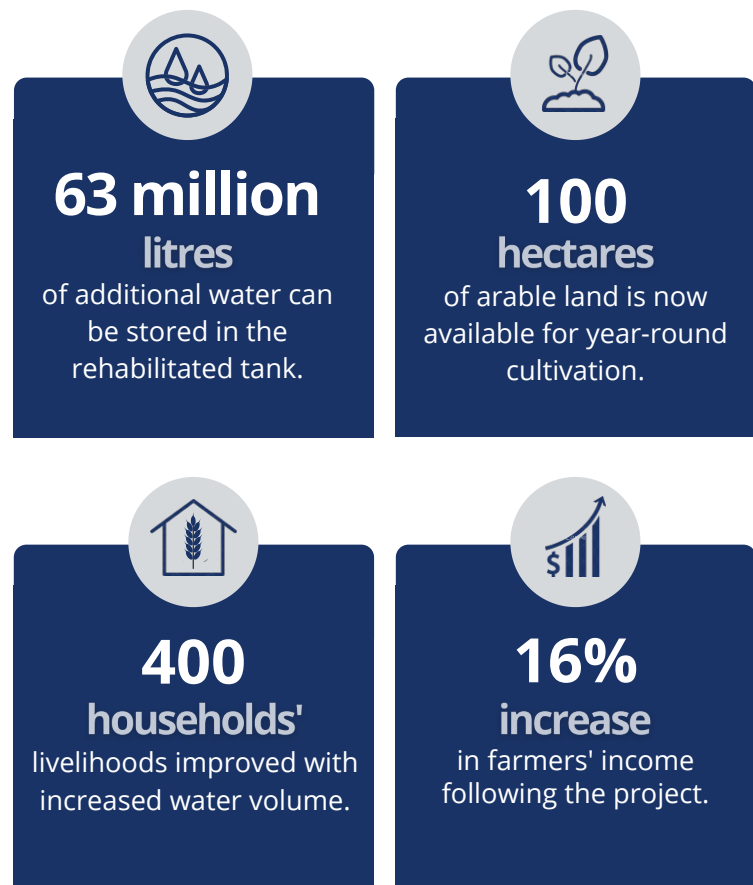
In line with its global 3Zero Strategy, ACTED launched a new EU funded project, COLIBRI, in partnership with the Blue Resources Trust, Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Ltd. and the Green Movement of Sri Lanka. The project aims to protect, preserve and restore biodiversity clusters in Sri Lanka, namely the Knuckles Conservation Forest and the Bar Reef and Kayankerni Marine Sanctuaries, while promoting the sustainable use of natural resources.

ACTED has launched the participatory GOCA process to enhance partners' capacities to implement their respective missions. At the same time steps have been taken to improve the quality and availability of data for these protected areas while links are being made to engage civil society and national authorities to develop policies that preserve the island's rich biodiversity.

Water, Agriculture, Livelihoods and Knowledge

This two and a half year project, funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation, concluded in March. The project rehabilitated the Samurdhi tank to improve farmers' access to water for irrigation in Monaragala District. Better management of this precious resource was also ensured by improving the organisational and technical capacity of the local Parakum Farmer Organisation and Ekamuthu Women Farmer Organisation via the GOCA process, technical trainings and investment.

As part of this, a Farmer Information Centre was set up at the tank to facilitate coordination as well as asset and information sharing among farmers. Additionally, a dry fish-processing hut was established on site, thereby enabling 25 women to generate additional income while creating economic opportunities for others in the community.



Through the project, farmers can now grow a variety of crops Of 105 farmers:

