



ACTED in India and Sri Lanka

Newsletter – August 2017



www.acted.org



@acted



facebook.com/ngoacted



youtube.com/ngoacted

E-mail: [colombo\[a\]acted.org](mailto:colombo[a]acted.org)

Sri Lanka Office | COLOMBO

24 Rajasinghe Road,

Colombo 06

Phone: +94 (0) 11 236 13 94

India Office | NEW DELHI

Taj Apartment 1B/1, Rao Tula Ram Marg

110022 New Delhi

Phone: +91 (0)11 26 19 60 65

Headquarters | PARIS

33, rue Godot de Mauroy

75009 Paris

FRANCE

Phone: +33 1 42 65 33 33

Fax: +33 1 42 65 33 46

E-mail: [paris\[a\]acted.org](mailto:paris[a]acted.org)



ACTED

SRI LANKA

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY, EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Strengthening fundamental rights and freedoms in the Northern and Eastern Provinces [EuropeAid - 2016-2018]

The project, now in its second year of implementation, is increasing awareness of government officials, media personnel, legal professionals and communities on fundamental rights, and bringing tailored legal assistance to communities.

- **173 journalists** attended awareness sessions on freedom of expression, media rights and the Right to Information, and ethical reporting trainings.
- **236 lawyers and judges** took part in trainings on civil and criminal law and fundamental rights to strengthen their capacities for an improved legal assistance.
- Government officials and lawyers provided legal assistance to **1,873 community members** through legal and documentation clinics.
- The **Supporting Unit to Protect Journalists**, created within the framework of this project with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, provides free legal assistance to threatened journalists.



Fostering cooperation between CSOs and government authorities for better social services [EuropeAid - 2016-2018]

The project is increasing the capacities of government officials and CSOs and engaging them in local development plans that target community needs.

- **1,771 CSO members** attended trainings on organizational development to increase their capacities on Governance and Administration, Financial and Project Cycle Management.
- About **1,753 community members** have taken part in the bottom-up design of Village Development Plans in 53 GNs.
- Batticaloa, Moneragala and Mullaitivu Districts have created **District Training Resource Centres** aimed at becoming technical knowledge platforms on institutional development.

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

Cash support for early recovery after floods in Sri Lanka [Emergency Fund of Alliance2015 – June-September 2017]

After massive floods and landslides in the South, Alliance2015 partners in Sri Lanka (ACTED, People In Need and Helvetas) are implementing a project to support the recovery of vulnerable returning communities of Elapatha and Kalawana DS Divisions in Ratnapura District.

- **500 families** are engaging in community works through cash for work grants to clear debris from damaged areas and clean public areas and wells.
- **200 families** are receiving unconditional cash grants to cover their most essential needs.



PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Integrated economic development of Central and Uva Provinces of Sri Lanka [EuropeAid – 2017-2021]

ACTED has launched a new project aiming at reducing poverty levels in Nuwara Eliya, Matale, Badulla and Monaragala Districts. 2,000 employment opportunities are expected to be created through this project.

To sustainably improve the livelihoods of the communities living in the target regions, ACTED and its partners will work for four years to achieve the following objectives:

- Leverage the development of 320 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);
- Improve the quality of Business Development Services (BDS) to sustain their development; and
- Engage Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and government authorities in local governance for socioeconomic development of the target areas.

INDIA

Improving access to information and delivery of public schemes in remote and backward districts of Northeast India [EuropeAid - 2014-2018]

Through the **Citizen Report Card**, communities were able to assess public services' quality in their districts and to identify the main gaps in terms of delivery and quality.

A second village information campaign took place across **200 villages of Northeast India** to raise awareness about **10 public schemes**. Community meetings were complemented with door-to-door visits, through which volunteers ensured that all the population received information on how to access these public services.

7 TV and 13 radio programmes were broadcasted to disseminate information on 10 public schemes, and **436 articles** were published in newspapers by **21 fellow journalists**. They reported on issues faced by beneficiaries and raised awareness on public schemes.

So far, **18,800** people have been able to access public schemes thanks to the individual support of local volunteers.



18,140 households across 200 villages have been covered directly by the second public information campaign

Lives that change: Marak and Taimiron

Marak is a 27-year-old woman who gave birth to a healthy child last January in Goalpara Civil Hospital. Thanks to project volunteers from her community, Marak was informed about a public service providing support to pregnant women during and after delivery. Rather than at home –which would have increased the risk of complications–, she gave birth in a public hospital under medical supervision. Marak smiles now, happy to have been informed about this cost-free public service. She also benefits from another public scheme that gives her 1,400 Indian Rupees (equivalent to 20 Euros) to cover the first basic costs that the birth of a child involves.



In the same district, Tairimon, a 40-year-old woman, used to live in a mud and thatch house with her two daughters and husband. During rains, water leaked through the thatch, causing damage inside the house and to her children's health. However, that changed after Tairimon attended a community meeting organised by ACTED and local volunteers, where she was informed that she was entitled to a public housing scheme providing her with 70-75,000 Indian Rupees (around 1,000 EUR) for the construction of a house. Nowadays, Tairimon and her family live in a safe brick and tin house, which they constructed themselves thanks to the fund.

A short word on country missions

ACTED in Sri Lanka

ACTED has been present in Sri Lanka since 2005. With the end of Sri Lanka's civil war in 2009, ACTED has been focusing on improving governance and enhancing the livelihoods of Sri Lankans, especially conflict-affected communities, as well as responding to emergencies and increasing communities' resilience.

ACTED in India

ACTED has been active in India since 2006. ACTED has concentrated its efforts in Northeast India, in areas that are difficult to access. In these areas, ACTED has implemented projects increasing disaster resilience, and ensuring access to equal and quality services to the communities of Northeast India.

OUR DONORS AND PARTNERS

