



**ACTED**

ISSUE 10 • JULY TO DECEMBER 2020

# NEWSLETTER

Sri Lanka

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

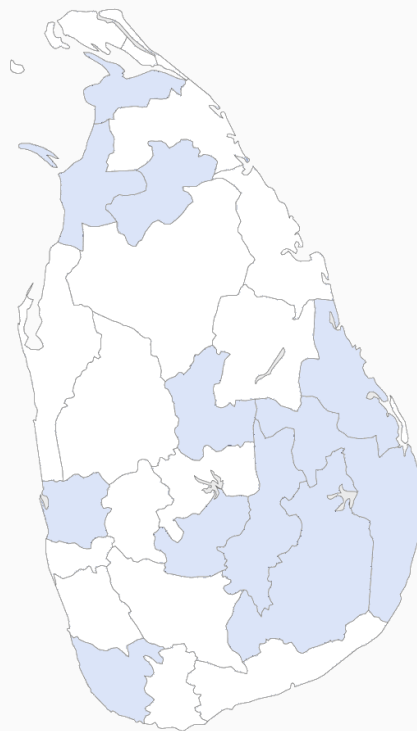
**Zero Exclusion** because nobody should be left behind

**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.**



Thank you to our donors and partners



European Union

இலங்கை, ஐ.ஓ.க. வு. பி. பெ. நே. சி. எ. யு. ஐ.ஓ.க. வு. பி. பெ. நே. சி. எ. யு.



Federation of Sri Lankan  
Local Government Authorities





# OUR ACTIONS

## Integrated Economic Development

With European Union funding, ACTED and partners have provided equipment, machinery and buildings to over 200 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Central and Uva provinces as per their risk sensitive business plans. Having also received technical support and assets, Business Development Service providers are offering better supports to MSMEs and common market facilities are coming on stream. This has strengthened the resilience of MSMEs and the local economy.



Despite the Covid-19 context, MSMEs have found solutions, diversifying their produce and products, providing door-to-door delivery services and expanding into e-commerce to keep their businesses operational under the 'new-normal'.

And now there are signs of recovery with jobs returning and, by year's end, exceeding the levels of February 2020. With fresh trainings and mentoring planned and further construction underway, the project will ensure that BDS providers and other stakeholders work together with all 320 target MSMEs to contribute to the recovery.



## Water, Agriculture, Livelihoods and Knowledge

ACTED, in partnership with Coca-Cola Beverages Sri Lanka Ltd., is improving farmers' access to and management of water for irrigation in Monaragala.

ACTED has distributed water pumps to help farmers in more uphill areas access water from the Samurdhi Tank rehabilitated by the project. To enhance local skills and knowledge, innovative cultivation practices were demonstrated to farmers. Construction also began on a Farmer Information Centre (FIC), which will be a space for the two farmer organisations (FOs) supported by the project, to transparently manage local resources and run their activities.

The FIC will receive income generating assets and host a women-led dry-fish making facility, thereby enhancing the sustainability of the FOs and boost livelihoods in the locality.





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

With funding from the European Union, ACTED, the Free Trade Zones and General Services Employees Union (FTZ&GSEU) and Women's Centre (WC) are working to protect female garment workers in Sri Lanka. The importance of this initiative has been underlined by Covid-19 as garment workers faced stigmatisation in the media when they were blamed for the second wave of the pandemic. Further, as fresh lockdowns closed factories, the main source of income for workers and their families were stripped away. In response, ACTED, FTZ&GSEU and WC organised an emergency distribution of food for garment factory workers and their families.



In parallel, staff at FTZ&GSEU and WC benefited from counselling training to improve the psycho-social support they offer to survivors or those at risk of GBV. Referral pathways were also created for both organisations to streamline internal processes. A new service provider handbook will, in turn, assist female garment factory workers to access these and other support services.

To mark the '16 Days of Activism against GBV', the project hosted an online discussion between female garment workers and stakeholders to promote dialogue on addressing challenges in the sector and, more broadly, on ending GBV.

## Inter-Religious Collaboration

This project works with grassroots Coexistence Societies (CES) to encourage social cohesion in Ampara, Batticaloa and Galle districts. ACTED's Grassroots Organisational Capacity Assessment (GOCA) tool helps target CESs to bridge gaps in their institutional knowledge and operational capacity. Master Trainers are also cascading technical trainings to CESs on religious freedom, conflict mitigation and early warning systems.



Concurrently, ACTED's partner, the Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA), is working with local authorities to establish citizen charters. This will formalise the protection of inter-religious collaboration and the inclusion of civil society in the process. FSLGA setup civil-public committees to spearhead this and play an active role in monitoring their implementation.

15 new project locations and 15 new CES were identified to further expand the projects reach.