



FINAL REPORT

Waste Management and Home Gardening Support to CRRP Beneficiaries in Ampara District

PROJECT DURATION	January to June 2010
REPORT SUBMITTED TO:	Jose Ravano, Head of Programs, AmCross Erangi Fernando, Partnership Coordinator, American Red Cross
SUBMITTED BY:	Manishka De Mel, Partnership Coordinator, EFL
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PROJECT COST	\$ 20,000 (SLR 2,240,000)

Background

Previous work

The Green Recovery Program in Sri Lanka was a partnership between American Red Cross, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Environmental Foundation (EFL). Under this program a project to support the beneficiaries of the Community Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Program (CRRP) in the Eastern Province through promoting waste management and home gardening was carried out from October 2008 to September 2009. Around 250 beneficiaries received home gardening support under this program, out of which 35 got a complete home garden in the their compound. The project targeted households in Pottuvil and Thirukkivil divisions where women are burdened with the responsibility of providing nutrition to the family under dire economic conditions.

Consultancy with American Red Cross

The consultancy project was initiated to expand the work carried out by the Partnership in Ampara District to work with a beneficiary base of 500 households. The consultancy agreement was signed between American Red Cross and Environmental Foundation (EFL) to carry out the activities relating to 'Waste Management and Home Gardening Support to CRRP Beneficiaries in Ampara District'. The consultancy agreement is for the period spanning from the 4th of January to 30th June 2010. The project incorporated special training on water management techniques and post harvesting techniques that can make the communities more resilient to the droughts. Women were considered to be the primary focus of the project.

The first installment of 40% was received shortly after signing the contract, while the next 50% of the fee was paid in April upon completion of initial mobilization training and home gardening material distribution to 200 households. This was based on a progress report submitted upon completion. The balance 10% will be paid after the final completion of the project and submission of the Final Progress Report.



The project was carried out in Pottuvil and Thirukkivil Divisions in Ampara District. It was expected to include the following villages/GN divisions: RM Nagar, Arugambay, Passaritchchenai, Inspectoratham, Ulla, Pottuvil town area, Komari, Thirukkivil and Urani. It will also fully or partially cover the geographical areas coming under each of the 10 CRRP CDCs. The project covered a larger geographical area, see Annex 1 for more details.

Main activities and progress

Summary against timeline

No	Activity	2010						Progress
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
1	Project Inception and Planning	■						Completed.
2	Recruitment	■						Completed.
3	Material Distribution and Home Gardening Trainings		■	■	■	■	■	Completed. Material distributed to 500 households.
4	Trainings for staff on water mgt. and post harvest techniques		■	■				Completed. Mobilizer training, water management training carried out.
5	Trainings for CDC officials on water mgt. and post harvest techniques				■	■		Completed.
6	Monitoring and Evaluation				■	■	■	Completed. Monitoring visits carried out in March, May and June.
7	Project Closure							Completed.

Project activities commenced shortly after the signing of the agreement, with the initial mobilization workshop being carried out in January.

Staff

The project was supervised by an overall Project Coordinator, while an Education and Mobilization Coordinator oversees the implementation activities. The implementation work in the East is being carried out by a field officer, with the assistance of two other officers based in the East. EFL's team (3) from Matara who are experienced in home gardening also supported the mobilization workshop, village level awareness programs and practical sessions.

Training of staff (mobilizers)

The selected mobilization staff included SLRCS volunteers and mobilizers from the CRRP project. The initial mobilization workshop was carried out on the 20th and 21st of January, and was attended by a total of 44 participants who mobilized the communities in the villages to participate in waste management and carry out home gardening activities.



Day 1 of the workshop focused on mobilization and awareness, it included talks, presentations and discussions on how to work in a village and obtain to participation of the community, community leadership, waste management, organic home gardening, techniques of home gardening, pest control etc. Day 2 consisted of a practical session where the participants were able to receive hands on experience on the topics discussed on the previous day which included home gardening techniques, pest control and composting, among others.

A special training and information sharing visit was carried out for mobilizers in the East to visit home gardening activities carried out in the South. A total of ten mobilizers and field assistants attended this visit which was carried out from the 16th to the 18th of March. The program included a visit to the Bata Atha Agriculture Technology Park run by the Department of Agriculture, visits to home gardening villages carried out under the Partnership (in Matara) and additional practical and awareness sessions.

A special training program focusing on water management was carried out prior to project completion on the 30th of June. The program utilized the assistance of two agricultural specialists from the Department of Agriculture as trainers and had both theoretical and practical sessions. The resource persons were Mr. Majeed and Mr. Ameen covered various topics, including water management techniques, coping during droughts, controlling diseases. Apart from being one of the specialized training scheduled, it was considered to be vital given that the location of project is in an area that is prone to water shortages and drought. It is expected that with climate change these impacts may worsen, and that by carrying such specialized programs communities will be better able to face future challenges.

Training for communities

In February, the staff (teams from Matara and the East) along with the trained mobilization staff carried out several awareness and practical sessions in several villages in the Thirukkivil and Pottuvil DS divisions.

The Matara team visited the Ampara district from the 14th to the 23rd of February to support the mobilizers and the team in the East to carry out awareness and practical sessions. This work was continued by the team in the East, with the assistance of mobilizers, and more practical sessions were carried out to cover the beneficiaries of the project. Over 500 community members from 27 GN divisions received training under the project.

Distribution of home gardening materials

Home gardening materials which include compost, seeds and plants have been distributed to 500 households in 27 GN divisions at the completion of the project (See Annex 1 for more details). Compost and seeds were provided to all households, while toolkits and plants were supplied to the best performing households. Materials distributed included compost, seeds (snake gourd, okra, wing beans, luffa and long beans) and



plants (tomato, brinjal, chilli, gotukola, mukunuwanna, kankung). A set of essential tools (hand fork, hand shovel and watering can), along with additional compost will be distributed to over 200 households showing the most progress. Please see Annex 1 for more details.

Monitoring

A monitoring visit was carried out on the 10th of March by Manishka De Mel from Environmental Foundation, Achala Navaratne from WWF, and the American Red Cross partnership monitoring team. The team visited Inspector Etham in the Pottuvil DS where a meeting was held with community members, a similar meeting covering several GN divisions was also carried out in the Thirukkovil DS. The monitoring visit indicated that practical and awareness sessions had been carried out, while material distribution was also on-going. The communities were enthusiastic and pleased with the activities being carried out. Even though several community members had been carrying out home gardening, they highlighted that the new techniques introduced during the training sessions were very useful and allowed their activities to be done in a systematic manner.

Buddhika Jayalath, Education and Mobilization Coordinator from EFL visited the project areas from the 15th to 18th May. During the visit several project sites were visited to monitor progress while discussions were also held with mobilizers and beneficiaries. The mobilizers were given reusable eco bags as a token of appreciation for their support to the project. Pasarichenai, Thirukkovil, Thambiluvil, Inspector Etham, Vinayagapuram, Komari, Hijra Nagar, Kundumadu, RM Nagar, Hidayapuram 1, Hidayapuram 2, Jalaldeen Square, Kalappukadu, Kanakar Kiramam. In some areas good progress was recorded, while in a few areas home gardening and solid waste management activities needed further improvement. Plants and tools were also given to Sakthi Vidyalaya in Vinayagapuram. To discuss future activities and the progress of ongoing activities a meeting was held with mobilizers. Among the issues discussed was the further improvement of home gardening and solid waste management activities, more focus on solid waste management and composting, controlling of diseases and the importance of carrying these activities to their best ability once the project ends were discussed.

On the 30th of June, at the completion of the project, Manishka De Mel, Project Coordinator visited the project sites and held discussions with staff, mobilizers and some beneficiaries. The GN divisions visited included Sinnai Ullai, Pasarichenai, Sarvodayapuram, Thirukkovil, Vinayagapuram 1,3 and 4, Komari, Hijra Nagar, RM Nagar, Hidayapuram, Jalaldeen Square, Kalappukaddu, covering over 20 households. A school, Sakthi Vidyalaya was also assisted in home gardening in Vinayagapuram and was also visited during the visit.

In many areas the progress was satisfactory, especially given the short time scale of the project. Solid waste management and composting remained an issue in some areas. Some home gardens were initiated several years ago, and have improved due to this program, while many were initiated during the Partnership program or under the current



program. A large majority of the households have established home gardens with many using its produce and with some selling produce.

During the meeting with the mobilizers, EFL requested them to carryout composting and waste separation. The Pottuvil Pradeshiya Sabha is in the process of initiating and collecting polythene from households under a project by UNOPS. This provides an excellent opportunity for closing the loop in waste management in the areas of this project.

The visit also coincided with the final training program on water management. The mobilizers and participants were once again briefed on the objectives, project partners and donors, conclusion of the project, and were also informed that EFL will continue to seek funds from donors to continue home gardening and solid waste management projects in the East.

Please see Annex 2 for photos from training sessions and monitoring visits.

Conclusion

As highlighted in the report, the activities listed in the consultancy have been completed. Given that the entire time period of the project was 6 months, good progress was achieved in reaching a beneficiary base of 500 households. Home gardening materials including compost, seeds, plants and tools, training and monitoring activities were carried out to ensure that project activities are effectively implemented. A large majority of the households have established home gardens with many using its produce and with some selling produce. The many of the beneficiaries and mobilizers have stated that they will continue to carry out the activities. EFL will seek other donors to continue and expand this program.



Annex 1: Details of materials distributed

DS	Name of GN Division	Beneficiaries trained	Households (toolkits)
Pottuvil	Sarvodyapuram	5	2
Pottuvil	Kundumadu	22	8
Pottuvil	Inspector Etham	20	7
Pottuvil	Vattively	4	4
Pottuvil	Pottuvil Town aria	24	5
Pottuvil	Kalappukadu	10	4
Pottuvil	VictorThoddam – I	16	4
Pottuvil	VictorThoddam - II		
Pottuvil	Sinna Ullai	10	8
Pottuvil	Pasarichenai	57	28
Pottuvil	Hithayapuram – I	34	16
Pottuvil	Hithayapuram – II		
Pottuvil	Komari – I	25	14
Pottuvil	Komari – II		
Pottuvil	Kanakar Kiramam	27	10
Pottuvil	Razaak Moulana Nagar	50	11
Thirukkivil	Thambiluvil 1 East	25	14
Thirukkivil	Thambiluvil 1 South		
Thirukkivil	Thambiluvil 1 West		
Thirukkivil	Thambiluvil 2 East		
Thirukkivil	Thambiluvil 2 North		
Thirukkivil	Thambiluvil 2 West		
Thirukkivil	Thirukkivil 1/2/3	50	27
Thirukkivil	Vinayagapuram	25	4
Pottuvil	Jalaldeen Square	31	28
Pottuvil	Hijra Nagar	55	21
Pottuvil	Pothuvil 2, Unit 2	10	
		500	215*

* Please note that 200 toolkits were made available and distributed. The slightly higher number of 215 was recorded as a few well performing households already had some tools and therefore some tool kits were split and distributed.



Annex 2: Photos



A beneficiary in her home garden – June 2010.



The water management seminar – June 2010.



The principal at Shakti Vidyalaya – June 2010



A successful home garden - June 2010



Mobilizers and staff – June 2010



Discussion with mobilizers – June 2010



A practical session carried out in February 2010



Another practical session carried out for community members



Field assistants and mobilizers during the visit to Matara – March 2010



Monitoring visit, Inspector Etham - March 2010



Distribution of compost – March 2010



Visiting a home garden – March 2010