

## DIAKONIA SWEDEN

“BREAKING BARRIERS – BUILDING BRIDGES”

Mission -1994-2014

Peace Building Through Nonviolence

**BREAKING BARRIERS – BUILDING BRIDGES**" was a mission-driven initiative that aimed to foster peace and reconciliation through nonviolent means. This project, in collaboration with Diakonia International, was active from 1994 to 2014 and focused on addressing social, political, and ethnic divides in conflict-affected regions. Its core objectives included creating platforms for dialogue, promoting mutual understanding, and fostering cooperation among different communities in order to reduce violence and build sustainable peace.

### Key Aspects of the Project:

- **Nonviolent Peacebuilding:** The project was rooted in the principles of nonviolence, aiming to create lasting peace through dialogue, community engagement, and conflict resolution rather than through the use of force.
- **Interfaith and Intercommunal Dialogues:** Emphasizing inclusivity, the project facilitated dialogue between diverse groups, including religious, ethnic, and political communities, to bridge divides and reduce tensions.
- **Capacity Building:** It aimed at enhancing the capacity of local communities and grassroots organizations to address conflicts, manage tensions, and promote peacebuilding through training, workshops, and resources.
- **Partnership with Diakonia:** Diakonia, an international development organization, worked in partnership with local organizations, offering expertise and resources to implement peacebuilding strategies in various conflict zones.
- **Impact:** Over its 20-year run, the project made significant contributions to peacebuilding in regions affected by ethnic strife, armed conflict, and social polarization. It helped build local capacities for long-term peace and fostered understanding between previously hostile groups.

### Project Activity

NVCR skills and Methods Training  
In-depth NVCR skills and Methods Training  
NVCR for NGO Consortiums  
NVCR Training Camps  
Spiritual and Mental Development Camps  
Non Violence Camps  
Preliminary community gathering for NVPM  
Ahimsa Societies Development  
Research, Studies on CR methods)  
International and National sharing  
Result publication of case studies  
Stickers, Posters, etc on NV and CR  
Magazine, Newspapers publication  
Non Violent Cadres(NOVICA)  
Non Violent Messengers (NOVIM)  
Non Violent Action Teams (NOVAT)  
Exchange and Integration between North and East (25)  
Experience sharing by Non Violent Activists

Exposure to Non Violent & Spiritual Centres  
Non Violent Experience sharing and lifestyle camps  
NVCR intervention workshop  
Lecture, Talk shows etc  
Inter-religious programmes  
Network Training on Nonviolence  
Community Based Organisation gathering for developing the network for Community Organisation  
Forum for Solidarity, Action and Development (CONFSAD)

## USAID IDEA

**Project Title:**

Breaking Barriers - Building Bridges – towards a Strengthened Civil Society Engagement for Social Justice

**Overall Purpose:**

Build trust, integration and harmonious living among multi-ethnic communities through effective civil society activism

**Duration:**

January 10, 2019 – January 09, 2020

**Geographic Focus:**

Kandy, Galle and Hambantota Districts

With USAID/IDEA support, Samadanam will be strengthened as a CSO actor in the region to promote and raise awareness of the rights of minority religious groups

**project Title:**

Breaking Barriers - Building Bridges – Towards a Strengthened Civil Society Engagement for Social Justice

**Overall Purpose:**

The project aims to build trust, integration, and harmonious living among multi-ethnic communities through effective civil society activism. The focus will be on fostering inter-community understanding and collaboration, particularly through the promotion of social justice, minority rights, and the active involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs).

**Project Duration:**

January 10, 2019 – January 09, 2020

**Geographic Focus:**

Kandy, Galle, and Hambantota Districts

**Project Description:**

This project, with the support of USAID/IDEA, focuses on strengthening Samadanam as a key civil society organization (CSO) actor in the region. The objective is to empower Samadanam to actively promote and raise awareness about the rights of minority religious groups, with a specific focus on their social, cultural, and legal rights.

Through a range of community engagement activities, the project will aim to break down existing barriers between different ethnic and religious communities, providing a platform for dialogue, trust-building, and collaboration. The initiative will address key challenges such as discrimination, marginalization, and lack of representation of minority groups in decision-making processes.

Key activities will include:

- Conducting awareness programs on the rights of minority religious groups.
- Organizing dialogues and community-building workshops to foster understanding and integration among different ethnic and religious groups.
- Facilitating the creation of networks of civil society actors to advocate for social justice and the protection of minority rights.
- Promoting collaborative efforts for peaceful coexistence and mutual respect across diverse communities.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Strengthened capacity of Samadanam as a civil society actor in the region.
- Increased awareness and understanding of the rights and needs of minority religious groups.
- Improved relationships and cooperation between diverse ethnic and religious communities in Kandy, Galle, and Hambantota.
- Increased advocacy and visibility for social justice issues, especially concerning the protection of minority rights.

By the end of the project, it is anticipated that these efforts will contribute to a more integrated and harmonious society, where civil society plays an essential role in safeguarding social justice and equality for all communities.

## **Asian foundation**

Title of the project:

**Sri Lankan Civil Society Action Forum (SL-CAF)**

**Overall Goal:** To build capacity of regional/ peripheral groups of media and civil activists, and the SLCAT network to contribute to protect and strengthen oversight and activism for upholding democracy, rule of law, civil society participation, and FoE and dissent

**Sri Lankan Civil society Action Forum (SL-CAF)**

To promote public sector accountability and transparency, rule of law and civil society participation through capacity development for the (a) the already established 10,000 strong Samadanam volunteer base (called Ahinsa movement/ Ahinsa meaning nonviolence) and (b) investigative journalism platforms in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Civil Society Action Forum (SL-CAF) hereafter called “the project” has 3 specific objectives and they are;

1. To equip 10,000 Ahinsa members with required knowledge and skills through physical (1,000 participants) and online (9,000 participants) training sessions to improve their capacity on digital and physical security, national and international legal frameworks and mechanisms against corruption, documentation, reporting corruption, evidence collection, negotiation, argumentation, leadership, communication, project design, and project management in 12 months,
2. To enable capacitated Ahinsa members to effectively engage with government policy makers and general public on areas of public sector accountability and transparency, rule of law, media freedom, and democratic institutions in 12 months,

3. To establish and operate a strong and impactful democracy media platform in order for trained journalists and general public to operate as “Citizens’ Journalists” against violations of public sector accountability and transparency, rule of law, media freedom, and democratic institutions in 12 months.

Related to above 3 specific objectives, the project will implement the following 3 set of activities, and they are;

Capacitating a civil force of 10,000 through physical and online training sessions across Sri Lanka,

Capacitating members of 31 Civil society Action Forums (CAFs) across Sri Lanka to interact with local government policy makers and grassroots communities in Sri Lanka,

Establishing and operating a strong and impactful democracy media platform empowered by voluntary force of investigative journalists (to work as “Citizens’ Journalists” in Sri Lanka),

12 months

1. The project (SL-CAF) intends to contribute to advancing the core themes of the SASGP such as, (a). increase public sector accountability and transparency, (b). promoting civil society participation and media, and (c). Strengthening democratic institutions and practices. Overall, the project will also contribute to strengthening the rule of law as well.

2. Over the years – especially with the election of new government in Sri Lanka – civil society movements and organizations have experienced shrinking spaces for their activism and engagement<sup>1</sup>. In the context of COVID 19 pandemic, government’s moves have largely threatened civil rights for organization, association and freedom of expression<sup>2</sup>. Several draconian laws including the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) are still being used to prevent dissent and opposition views. In this context, civil movements require much of preparation, strategies, and safety to continue their work with local communities. Samadanam therefore intends to build capacity of its Ahinsa movement which comprises of over 25,000 strong civil activists in order to monitor and provide people's perspectives to make the government's resource distribution mechanisms more participatory, inclusive, people centric and less corrupt.

3. As a part of this project, a group of citizens’ journalists will enhance their capacity to expose and deal with cases of violations of public accountability and transparency, and rule of law. A number of innovative media platforms created by the project will also enhance civic engagement and community participation towards pressurising public institutions for democratic practices.

#### ACTIVITY

- 1.1 Conducting 20 physical orientation programmes for Identification of Ahinsa members for training;

- 1.2 Conducting 20 physical training programmes on digital and physical security , national and international legal frameworks and mechanisms against corruption, documentation, reporting

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<sup>1</sup> USAID (2020) *Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) Dec 2020 – Dec 2025*

<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International (2021) *Sri Lanka: Government suffocating dissent and obstructing justice for historic crimes says Amnesty Report*

corruption, evidence collection, negotiation, argumentation, leadership, communication, project design, and project management for 1000 Ahinsa members.

1.3 Conducting 10 online advanced training sessions for 1,000 Ahinsa members (those who were trained by activity 1.2) to consolidate their knowledge and skills.

1.4 Conducting 90 sessions through online webinar format targeting 9,000 Ahinsa members (those who were not selected for activity 1.2) to cover subject areas (as mentioned in activity 1.2)

2.1 Conducting 10 citizenship mobile services to engage at the grassroots level to get feedback on government's responses in protecting people's human rights and resource allocation and distribution (this activity is similar to fact finding mission and people's commission);

2.2 Making 3 presentations at the Parliamentary Select Committee level on people's concerns and perspectives on public sector accountability and transparency gathered during activity 2.1. These presentations will be made by Samadanam's officials and selected members of the CAFs.

2.3 Conducting 10 district and national level press conferences to create visibility to issues gathered during activity 2.1

2.4 Conducting 62 meetings/ seminars to establish 31 Civil Society Action Forums (CAFs) at national (1 national apex governing council), district (5 district apex governing councils) and local government (25) levels.

2.5 Conducting 10 press conferences and district-based conferences to formally introduce the CAFs at various levels to the district based civil society, religious and political leaders, academics, professionals, and other social actors

2.6 Conducting 100 meetings and gatherings by the CAFs to initiate and continue CAF activities,

2.7 Documenting of 10 status reports on effectiveness of CAFs.

3.1 Start of Democracy TV as a web based Youtube Channel for countering misinformation and fake news against civil society activities, and human and democratic rights campaigns in Sri Lanka;

3.2 Start of Democracy APP to connect all the Ahinsa members, CAF officials, general public, policy makers, CSO and religious leaders, and activists to promote 4 areas mentioned in the SASGP,

3.3 Establishing an editorial board for screening news, dissemination and feedback through democracy TV, APP, social media platforms.

3.4 Conducting one 2-days residential Training of Trainers (TOT) programmes for 25 selected investigative journalists

#### **Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust (NTT)**

<b>Project Title</b>	“ Blending Bonds – Building Bridges” Phase II
<b>Project Location (Target Districts)</b>	Selected four Estates in Kandy & N’Eliya Districts from – Plantation Communities
<b>Duration of Project (Months)</b>	Twelfth ( 12) Months From November 1 <sup>st</sup> 2018 <sup>th</sup> to November 2019 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Amount Requested from Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust</b>	Sri Lankan Rupees Three Million ( 30 Lakhs) (LKR 3,000,000)
<b>Objectives of the Project</b>	Integration of the Estate Sector Communities with that of the General Communities of Sri Lanka towards Capacity Building and Empowerment to meet their basic Rights and Needs for better life.
<b>Target Group / Direct Beneficiaries</b>	Men and women, Youth, Children, and Students from estate and village sector
<b>Final Beneficiaries</b>	The selected estate communities and existence CBO s

<b>Expected Results</b>	<p>(i) Availability of Network and Support and the Estate Sector Community is empowered with the capacity, environment and space to work towards meeting their Basic Fundamental Rights and Needs.</p> <p>(ii) Differences between communities are reduced and diversities very much respected, whereby prejudices and stereo types are broken.</p> <p>(iii) People living in the Estate Sector and the Village Community understand the common issues of each other and work towards addressing them in collectiveness Whereby Build Bridge of Reconciliation by resolving conflicts on this own through, nonviolence, justice, equality, and integrity.</p>
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- (i) Capacity Building Training of Trainer on Rights based approach, Conflict Handling & Resolution, Integration Action and Peace Building.
- (ii) Integration Actions through Non-Violent Action Work Camps and Cultural Events “ Gemi Jana Madala”.
- (iii) Art competition on drawings, poems and essays with children.
- (iv) Media Programme entitled “ Thea Coppe Kadulu Kathawa” ( Tear Drops of the Cup of Tea )
- (v) Festival Visits and Cultural Exchanges.
- (vi) Nation Symposium and Get-together at the end of the Project.

## NLEAP Project Canadian

**Project Title:**

Promoting Official Language Policy in Sri Lanka: National Language Equality Advancement Project

**Project Duration:**

Phase 1: 2014-2015

Phase 2: 2020-2022

**Geographic Focus:**

Central Province, Sri Lanka

**Donor Support:**

Canadian Aid -NLEAP

**Project Description:**

The **National Language Equality Advancement Project** aims to promote and advance the official language policy in Sri Lanka, particularly focusing on the recognition and use of Sinhala and Tamil as the official languages. The initiative seeks to create a bilingual society, where both languages are equally utilized for public communication, governance, and in the day-to-day interactions of citizens.

The project has been implemented in two phases:

**Phase 1 (2014-2015):**

This phase focused on raising awareness and advocating for the equal status of Sinhala and Tamil as official languages of Sri Lanka. The goal was to enhance the understanding of language equality and its importance for social cohesion, government services, and inclusive development. Activities during this phase included:

- Conducting advocacy campaigns targeting policy-makers, government officials, and the general public.
- Promoting the inclusion of language equality in national policies and legal frameworks.
- Training civil servants and local government officers to provide bilingual services.

**Phase 2 (2020-2022):**

Building on the achievements of Phase 1, **Promoting Official Language Rights & Enhancing People’s Movement for a Bilingual Society – Phase 2** continues the work of language equality advocacy. This phase aims to further institutionalize language rights and ensure greater participation of communities in pushing for their linguistic rights. Specific objectives include:

- Strengthening the capacity of civil society actors, particularly in Central Province, to advocate for language rights.
- Promoting the implementation of bilingual policies at the local level, especially in government offices, public services, and education systems.
- Empowering communities, including marginalized groups, to actively engage in language advocacy and demand better access to services in both official languages.
- Facilitating dialogue between Sinhala and Tamil speakers to foster mutual respect and understanding, thereby ensuring equal treatment and opportunities for all citizens.

**Key Activities:**

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Focused on raising awareness of language rights and the need for a bilingual society.
- **Training Programs:** For public servants, educators, and community leaders on the practical use of both official languages.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Engaging with policymakers to strengthen the implementation of the Official Language Act and promote language equality.
- **Community Mobilization:** Organizing local-level movements and discussions to encourage grassroots support for bilingualism and language equity.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- **Enhanced Public Awareness:** Increased understanding of the importance of language equality among the general public, especially in Central Province.
- **Improved Bilingual Services:** Strengthened capacity of government bodies to offer bilingual services and information.
- **Empowered Communities:** Communities are better equipped to advocate for language rights and bilingual policies in their regions.
- **Institutionalized Language Equality:** Tangible progress in implementing official language policies across various sectors of government and society.

## USAID -Global Communities

### 01

**Proposed IKG Title**

Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges in Kandy

**Project Title:**

SCORE (Strengthening Cohesion, Reconciliation, and Empowerment) – Promoting a Cohesive Sri Lankan Identity

**Project Sub-Purpose:**

Promote a cohesive Sri Lankan identity through community-driven reconciliation and peaceful engagement.

## **Geographic Focus: Medadumbara & Akurana**

National/Divisional levels across Sri Lanka, with emphasis on rural and conflict-affected communities.

## **Project Narration:**

The **SCORE Project** focuses on fostering a cohesive Sri Lankan identity through citizen-driven initiatives, aimed at bridging divides between ethnic, religious, and community groups. A core element of the project is strengthening networks and civil society organizations (CSOs) to actively promote social cohesion, peace, and reconciliation across divided communities.

## **Key Components and Activities:**

1. **Citizen-Driven Initiatives & Networks Strengthening:** The project will work on enhancing citizen participation by supporting the establishment and strengthening of local-level initiatives. This includes networks composed of community leaders, civil society organizations (CSOs), youth, women, and religious representatives, all working together towards resolving communal issues and promoting peace. These initiatives will focus on strengthening interpersonal and intergroup relationships, with an emphasis on the importance of social inclusion and harmony.

### **Indicators for Tracking Progress:**

- **1.2.3. Number of individuals receiving civic education through USG-assisted programs:** This tracks the outreach and effectiveness of the civic education programs designed to increase public awareness of peaceful coexistence, conflict resolution, and reconciliation.
  - **1.2.4. Number of CSOs receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy interventions:** Measures the number of CSOs actively working on promoting peace, human rights, and reconciliation through advocacy.
  - **1.2.2. Number of USG-supported events, trainings, or activities designed to build support for peace or reconciliation:** This will assess the effectiveness of various peace-building and reconciliation events, including intergroup dialogues, workshops, and training sessions aimed at fostering mutual respect.
2. **Divisional-Level Reconciliation Action Teams:**

At the divisional level, reconciliation action teams will be formed consisting of interreligious representatives, community-based organization (CBO) leaders, youth, women and girls, and CSO leaders. These teams will work together to address specific communal issues and promote peacebuilding efforts, focusing on community-driven solutions for preventing violence and promoting harmony. Through regular meetings, local engagement initiatives, and conflict mediation, these action teams will tackle divisive issues and help build trust among communities.
  3. **Social Inclusion and Harmony:**

Social inclusion will be a key theme throughout the project, with particular attention to marginalized groups such as women, youth, and religious minorities. Youth will be encouraged to become active community citizens, engaging in critical discussions on



issues affecting social cohesion and peace. Activities will include youth-led campaigns, clean-up drives, interfaith dialogues, and community service projects. These initiatives will not only resolve communal issues but also empower youth to become advocates for positive social change. The involvement of youth in these activities is expected to reduce the potential for future conflict by offering young people alternative ways of engaging with their communities and building a sense of belonging.

4. **Support to Religious Minority Groups:**

As part of the project's emphasis on inclusivity, religious minority groups will receive special support. This will involve the creation of safe spaces for dialogue, interfaith discussions, and community activities that ensure religious minorities are heard and their concerns are addressed. The goal is to promote religious tolerance and harmony, reduce religiously motivated violence, and ensure that all communities feel equal in their rights and opportunities.

### **Cross-Cutting Themes:**

- **Youth Participation:**

Youth will play an integral role in this project. Through the IKG (Intergroup Knowledge) initiatives, young people will be equipped with the tools to confront serious social problems, become proactive citizens, and contribute to peaceful solutions at the local level. These efforts will be supported through peer education, mentorship, and leadership development activities.

- **Gender Equality:**

Ensuring gender equality and the active participation of women and girls in peacebuilding is a key aspect of this project. Women will be encouraged to take leadership roles within the reconciliation action teams and will be actively involved in all project activities. By prioritizing women's voices, the project aims to create more inclusive and sustainable solutions to communal tensions and violence.

- **Peaceful Coexistence and Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE):**

The project will integrate strategies for preventing violent extremism (PVE) by promoting mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect among communities. By addressing the root causes of division and discrimination, the project will work towards long-term peace and stability, contributing to national unity.

### **Expected Outcomes:**

1. **Strengthened Civil Society and Citizen Engagement:**

Empowered CSOs and citizens actively participating in peace and reconciliation initiatives, creating a robust network of local-level action teams.

2. **Increased Social Cohesion:**

Improved relationships and cooperation among ethnic, religious, and social groups through strengthened networks and direct engagement activities.

3. **Youth and Gender Empowerment:**

Greater participation of youth, women, and marginalized communities in reconciliation processes, leading to increased social inclusion and reduced vulnerability to violence.

4. **Sustainable Peacebuilding:**

Long-term improvements in social harmony and conflict resolution mechanisms, with increased community resilience to ethnic and religious tensions.

**USAID -Global Communities**

**02**

**PROJECT TITLE:**

**YES (Youth Engagement in Society) for Social Cohesion** in Kandy District

**Project Proposal: Creating Inclusive, Youth-Friendly Spaces for Social Cohesion in Central Province**

**Project Title: Promoting Youth Engagement and Social Cohesion in Central Province**

**Project Objective:**

The objective of this project is to create alternative, inclusive, and youth-friendly spaces for engagement in society to promote social cohesion. The exclusion faced by youth in Central Province, driven by structural and psychological factors, cannot be effectively addressed without providing opportunities that are interesting and meaningful to them. These spaces will enable greater interaction, discussion, deliberation, and mutual activism, fostering an environment of inclusion and collective action for positive social change.

**Target Group:**

- Youth (aged 15-30) from various socio-economic and cultural backgrounds in Central Province.
- Government and non-government stakeholders at the regional level.
- Community leaders, youth leaders, NGOs, CSOs, schools, and other relevant institutions.

**Project Activities:**

1. **Project Introduction and Stakeholder Engagement**

**Objective:** Establish strong linkages and collaboration with regional government and non-government stakeholders.

**Activities:**

- Conduct 4 meetings with regional government and non-governmental stakeholders to introduce the project, discuss the approach, and ensure cooperation.
- Strengthen partnerships with key community organizations and youth networks.
- Establish a framework for ongoing collaboration throughout the project.

## 2. **Pocket Meetings with Youth**

**Objective:** Engage youth in every division to create awareness and encourage active participation in the project.

**Activities:**

- Conduct 4 pocket meetings per division (20 pocket meetings in total) to discuss youth-related challenges and opportunities for engagement.
- Foster a sense of ownership and inclusion among youth in the project.

## 3. **Review Meeting for Selection of Youth Forum Members**

**Objective:** Select 100 youth forum members to represent the project and participate in subsequent activities.

**Activities:**

- Organize a review meeting to finalize the selection criteria for youth forum members.
- Select 100 youth who will actively participate in the Jana Karaliya events and other activities.

## 4. **Jana Karaliya (Forum Theater) Events**

**Objective:** Create a platform for youth to express their concerns, explore solutions, and promote social cohesion through artistic expression.

**Activities:**

- Conduct 8 Jana Karaliya events over a period of 3 days in different communities within the divisions. Each event will involve about 25-50 youth.
- On the first day, participants will receive training on peacebuilding, leadership, rule of law, and social cohesion.
- On the second day, youth will engage in group work and investigative experiences to deepen their understanding.
- On the third day, the youth will perform a final drama presentation to highlight community issues and solutions, working alongside community members.
- Develop action plans based on the findings and discussions, and encourage youth to take concrete steps toward social cohesion.
- Identify practical community spaces for interaction, such as schools, NGOs, community leaders, CSOs, and local associations (e.g., 3-wheeler drivers).

## 5. **Sub-Activities for Jana Karaliya:**

- **Work Camps:** Conduct 4 work camps in different GN divisions, focusing on community-driven projects such as renovating a village tank, school buildings, or roads. These work camps will provide a platform for youth from diverse backgrounds to collaborate and make tangible improvements to their communities.
- **Folk High Schools:** Organize 8 Folk High Schools for youth (25-50 participants per programme) to deepen their sociological understanding of social issues. These informal education programmes will use experiential learning methods to enable youth leaders to critically analyze and address local challenges.
- **Cultural Visits:** Arrange 4 cultural visits for youth to experience the forms of exclusion within the province, particularly among low caste groups and Adivasis (aboriginal communities). Each visit will involve 20-30 youth and aim to foster empathy and a better understanding of exclusion in the region.

6. **Leadership Training (Nayaka Madu)**

**Objective:** Equip emerging youth leaders with the skills needed to lead inclusive, democratic, and socially cohesive initiatives in their communities.

**Activities:**

- Conduct 4 leadership tents (Nayaka Madu), each lasting 2 days, for 25 youth leaders per programme. These training sessions will focus on enhancing leadership skills in the context of diversity, democracy, human rights, social cohesion, and the rule of law.
- Provide participants with tools to implement their leadership roles effectively and foster a sense of responsibility towards their communities.

7. **Sub-Activities for Nayaka Madu:**

- **Democracy TV and Social Media Campaign:** Leverage the existing YouTube TV channel, “Democracy TV,” along with a parallel social media campaign, to broadcast interactive, live, and frequent programs aimed at engaging youth in discussions on democracy, governance, and social issues.
- **Mobile Clinics:** Organize 4 mobile clinics in collaboration with trained youth leaders, to serve marginalized and needy communities across the province. These clinics will address pressing issues in health, education, and social welfare, in partnership with government and other local actors.

**Expected Outcomes:**

- Increased youth participation in community-driven initiatives and the promotion of social cohesion.
- Enhanced leadership skills and democratic engagement among youth leaders.
- Improved inter-group interactions and understanding, especially among youth from different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds.
- Strengthened links between government, non-government organizations, and youth groups, fostering sustainable collaboration.
- Practical improvements in community infrastructure (e.g., renovated village tanks, roads, and schools) through youth-led work camps.
- Increased awareness of exclusionary practices and a greater understanding of marginalized communities, particularly Adivasis and low caste groups.

## **Empowering CSOs to Combat Human Trafficking in Sri Lanka**

### **ECCT (2022-Present)**

ECCT project activities are implementing within the Central Province intends to contribute to the ECCT Project's overall stated impact of "to initiate, facilitate and strengthen the collective effort of civil society and grassroots communities to support the government of Sri Lanka in achieving inclusive, democratic

and economic governance mechanisms in relation to combat human trafficking in the country". The ECCT project with its 3-pronged strategy of consolidating, capacitating, and collaborating intends to engage government, non-governmental, and private sector stakeholders, victims and affected communities in order to collectively address issues of TIP, and safe migration as they are negatively impact towards enjoyment of human, democratic, and labour rights of the people.

SAMADANAM will have 3 specific program strategies namely,

(1) Capacity building of key actors,

(2), strengthening community platforms and structures towards sustainability

(3) Advocacy and lobbying on family development plan, strengthening the forum by securing government recognition, and regulate the social media to enforce social policies and integrated data on migrant workers. These strategies will operate within the context of ECCT's overall 3 pronged approaches of consolidating, capacitating, and collaboration.

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	DIVISIONAL SECRETARIAT AREA
Central Province	Kandy district NuwaraEliya district	08 DS divisions in Kandy <b>Pathdumbara, nawalapitiya, galagedara ududumbara, pathahewaheta, doluwa, yatinuwara, panvila,</b> district and 5 DS divisions in Nuwaraeliya district  thalawakale                      norwood, nuwaraeliya,                      walpanae kothmale hanguranketha

## Key Activity

District/Divisional Anti-Trafficking and Migration Forums. Ex. How many Forums are running independently with government ownership?

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) Ex. How many MWSs can run independently without our support?

Migrant Workers Societies (MWS) Ex. How many MWSs can run independently without our support?

Victim Redress Mechanism including referral system.

Community Outreach on Human Trafficking and Safe Labour Migration.

Media Outreach on Human Trafficking and Safe Labour Migration.

## Organizational Developments

Successful Lobbying initiatives at divisional, district, and provincial levels.

Innovations under the ECCT Project