



World Vision, Ministry of Education and Dialog partner to enhance education

World Vision Lanka recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education and Dialog Axiata PLC to promote education by supporting the expansion of the Nenasa education channel.

Nenasa is a gift from Dialog Axiata PLC (Dialog) to the Government of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Education (MoE), allowing the Ministry to broadcast content based on or supporting the national education curriculum to every corner of the country. The network is managed and operated by the Ministry of Education with the support of Dialog Television. The two channels Nenasa 10 and Nenasa 11 together focus on key subjects in the Year 10 and Year 11 curricula, with more channels planned.

World Vision has agreed to partner with the Ministry and Dialog by providing 250 television units free of charge to be installed in 250 schools located within World Vision's Area Development Programmes. Some of these schools do not have adequate numbers of teachers and this facility will enable children in these areas to have access to much needed study assistance through the Nenasa network.

"Sri Lanka is a middle income country and our education system too should reflect that," said Anura Dissanayake, Secretary Ministry of Education. "We need partners to work with us towards this goal. We are happy to collaborate with World Vision once again and our fruitful partnership will enable us to improve our education system."

Commenting on the partnership World Vision Lanka National Director Suresh Bartlett said, "We are pleased to strengthen our collaboration with the Ministry of Education for the wellbeing of children through this Public-Private Partnership. This will enable us to combine our knowledge and optimise our resources to further develop the education sector."

Michael de Soyza, Head of Group Corporate Office at Dialog Axiata PLC said: "Nenasa constitutes a seven year journey for Dialog, which has been a very rewarding experience for both the organisation and practitioners alike as we witness the transformation and empowerment it delivers to children all over the island. We are happy to see one of the largest NGOs supporting this venture. We look forward to expanding this collaboration further."

EDITORIAL

Making a Difference...

As a humanitarian organization, World Vision aspires to make a positive change in the lives of children and the communities we serve. Our focus is to ensure child well-being and improved outcomes across all related indicators.

Designing and commencing a Certificate Course in Hotel Management in Tamil medium to support unemployed youth from the North with the support of the Industrial Services Bureau (ISB) was a significant achievement in this quarter. The first 20 students were enrolled and are now following the course providing them more scope in employment opportunities.

World Vision also handed over a renovated agriculture tank to the farmer families in Godaulpatha, Wilgamauwa enabling them to cultivate 73 acres during both the Yala and Maha seasons.

Celebrating the National Tree Planting Day World Vision began a campaign- One Tree Per Child - to encourage children and communities to protect and sustain the environment. From November to December 76,028 environmentally and economically valuable trees have been planted by children together with their communities.

Together, let's make a difference.

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World Vision responds to landslide and flood emergencies



World Vision teams in Meegahakiula, Bogowanthalawa and Pathana Area Development Programmes (ADPs) provided Non Food Items, hygiene kits, tarpaulin sheets, blankets and Jerry Cans to families affected by the landslide that occurred in the Mariyabadde Estate, Haldamulla.

World Vision coordinated with the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) to focus on protection and psychosocial needs of children by setting up Child Friendly Spaces and mobilizing World Vision/MOH trained counselors to provide psychosocial support.

Reading books, stationery, cleaning items and playground equipment were also provided as part of the response.

At least 11 people were killed and 22 missing in the landslide which affected 150 houses and displaced over 1000 people.

World Vision also provided dry ration packs, drinking water, medical supplies and non-food items to those affected by the recent floods in the Northern, North Central, North Western and Eastern provinces. At least 30 people were killed and 6 people missing while 1,113,002 individuals were affected by floods that followed heavy rains in December.

Help us to keep them smiling...

At World Vision we are passionate about the well being of children and ensuring them life in all its fullness.

If you are interested in learning more about our work or would like to join us in partnership in any of our programmes please email,

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World Vision enables Godaulpatha farmers to cultivate all year round



World Vision Lanka recently handed over an agriculture water project to the community of Godaulpatha in Wilgamauwa. The renovated Mailapitiya Tank will enable farmers to cultivate during both the Yala and Maha seasons.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony, the Chief Guest Lakshman Wasantha Perera, Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce said, “World Vision has always assisted the community in Wilgamauwa in every way possible. They have genuinely considered the needs of the rural community in their service. We have been talking about this tank for a long time, so we are very happy that our community will be able to use this tank for irrigation. I thank World Vision for assisting this community in their need.”

Water for cultivation is a serious issue for the village of Godaulpatha. For this reason, paddy cultivation is difficult and the community struggles to cultivate a subsidiary crop to supplement their income. The Mailapitiya Tank, believed to have been constructed during the Polonnaruwa era, was in a state of neglect and disrepair. The renovation of the tank will enable farmers in Godaulpatha to cultivate 73 acres this Maha season.

The Department of Agrarian Development conducted the project planning, design monitoring and supervision while the Wilgamauwa Divisional Secretariat provided 73 acres of cultivation land.

The Godaulpatha Farmer Organization undertook the turfing and channel earth work and is also responsible for the maintenance of the system. World Vision worked in close collaboration with these stakeholders and also contributed Rupees 9.8 million towards the project.

Commenting on the project, World Vision National Director Suresh Bartlett said, “World Vision has been with the community of Wilgamauwa for 17 years and worked closely with Government and stakeholders to achieve success such as we see today. I hope that as a result of this partnership, the community is empowered and that together you will take this development forward. I would like to thank all our stakeholders for their partnership over the years.”



World Vision and Industrial Services Bureau collaborate for skills development of Northern youth

World Vision together with the Industrial Services Bureau (ISB), a statutory body established under the Provincial Council of North Western Province, recently launched a specially designed Tamil medium Certificate Course in Hotel Management to support 20 unemployed youth from Mullaithivu and Killinochchi in the North.

The new Hotel Management curriculum consists of four main areas which include training on accommodation services, food and beverage services, cookery and reception services. The students will also have extra English language classes to enhance their knowledge. The course will be conducted by the ISB in collaboration with Wayamba Development Authority (WDA) and Wayamba Institute of Hotel and Tourism Management. With the support of World Vision, the Institute has made special arrangements to provide meals and accommodation facilities for the students as well.

“Let me thank World Vision for this great opportunity to partner with them in initiating this programme, and our sister organization the Wayamba Development Authority for taking up the challenge in facilitating this course,” Neelakanth Wanninayake, Chairman, ISB said at the inauguration event held in Kurunegala, “This is a North-South relationship-building effort focusing on infrastructure and human resource.”

“There are many Hotel Management courses, but as far as I know there is no institute that has this course offered in the Tamil Language. In Sri Lanka there is a demand for about 9000 persons per year in the hotel trade, but taking into account all institutes around the country Sri Lanka only produces a total of 1500 students per year to meet the demand. So there is a good future for jobs in this industry,” said Deepthi Lamahewa, Chairman of WDA.

The residential programme will be conducted in two phases. The initial five months of theoretical learning will be followed by a period of six months practical training in reputed hotels in Sri Lanka. The ISB and WDA have taken necessary steps to make the students feel welcome and comfortable in a new learning environment.



The collaboration with the ISB is a result of the Socio Economic Empowerment of Communities and CBOs in Northern Sri Lanka (SEEC) project of World Vision Lanka funded by the European Union (EU).

“It is rarely that an idea such as this becomes a reality. We are indeed thankful to the EU for their funding and for supporting this cause,” said Amenthi Jasinghe-Dabare, HEA Manager, World Vision Lanka, speaking at the event.

WVL marks National Tree Planting Day 2014

World Vision Lanka celebrated National Tree Planting Day 2014 with the One Tree per Child campaign launched across 29 Area Development Programmes. The initiative aims to raise awareness about environmental sustainability by focusing on both children and their environment.

From November to December 76,028 environmentally and economically valuable trees have been planted by children together with their communities. By providing one tree for each child, children are encouraged and empowered to protect and sustain the environment. The key stakeholders in this initiative are government authorities, schools, Departments of Forestry and Wildlife, Palmyra Development Board, child societies and CBOs. Here are a few highlights of the campaign.



The Mannar ADP together with the Central Environment Authority (CEA) and CBOs provided mango seedlings to 1856 families. The ADP provided training for the environment enumerators while the CEA provided the technical knowledge and orientation for the children and community, along with 100 optimum fertile plants and trees.



A total of 1100 plants were distributed through the Ganga Ihala Korale ADP. Child Society leaders from 12 villages, leaders of local religious establishments, community members and representatives of the DS office and WVL staff participated in the main event held at Meeyanagolla Temple.



The Padiyathalawa ADP celebrated the event by distributing 1500 mango plants to the children of the area. Also participating were community members and the venerable priests of some of the local temples.



Over 6000 mango, jack and guava plants were distributed by the Paddippalai ADP. Children of 13 villages received these plants. Joining the children and WVL staff were school teachers, police, governments officers and community members.

VisionFund Lanka Celebrates 10yrs of Empowering Lives through Microfinance



VisionFund Lanka, the microfinance arm of World Vision, recently celebrated its 10th year of empowering small businesses in rural villages. To celebrate its mission of paving the way for families to provide improved lives for children, VisionFund organized a number of child-focused activities for its borrowers islandwide.

An art competition to help children appreciate their family's small businesses saw over 500 participants drawing colourful hopes of a brighter future for the family. Branch offices also provided necessary items for borrowers with special needs children. Gifts will also be presented to borrowers' children who excelled in this year's scholarship examination.

"We are proud to complete our tenth year of offering microfinance services in Sri Lanka and celebrate the positive transformation that has taken place in communities," says Mr. Prince Nayagam, Executive Director, VisionFund Lanka. "We are also proud of the growth we've achieved during the past decade – currently we manage a portfolio in excess of Rs.1bn. Our journey forward will include value-additions to the service we provide in order to do more for the families we serve," he added.

VisionFund Lanka presently serves over 48,000 borrowers through 21 branch offices in 15 districts. Having operated in Sri Lanka since 2004, the organization is now part of a global network of microfinance organizations governed by VisionFund International - present in 36 countries.

A farmer for all seasons...



Abeyratne Bandara (50) lives in Tissapura – a remote area in Rideemaliyadda. Farming and cultivation has always been an interest for Abeyratne although he did not have any knowledge about how to engage in it systematically.

“We had about a quarter acre of land and I used to grow some vegetables here and there. As cultivation was based on rainy seasons, I had to spend almost eight hours a day to water the plants during dry seasons,” Abeyratne says. When World Vision introduced the permaculture programme to enhance farming methods and cultivation skills, Abeyratne was encouraged.

“The training we received was very useful. We cleared our land and laid vegetable plots constructing small bunts to retain water for the crops. I also learnt methods of making natural insecticides and organic farming methods for chemical free vegetables,” Abeyratne explains.

World Vision provided the farmers with seeds/seedlings of vegetables that are suitable to be grown in the area such as capsicum, beans, bitter gourde, carrot and cabbage as well as the garden tools. Abeyratne also participated in a livestock rearing training in Galle and World Vision provided him with a milking cow through the permaculture project.

Abeyratne’s hard work paid off when he received the first prize for the best home garden in Tissapura and was awarded a water pump. The home garden is now a model garden to many children in neighbouring schools.

When World Vision discussed the possibility of piloting a biogas project Abeyratne was willing to try it. At this initial stage biogas is only used in the kitchen for cooking. Yet, plans are in progress to extend this project and use the energy for lighting as well.

Once a struggling farmer who cultivated for just six months a year, Abeyratne is now cultivating the whole year round. The produce of the garden is also shared with neighbouring families.

“According to my experience, World Vision is an organization close to the people. They don’t just provide us the equipment but also improve our skills and knowledge which cannot be taken away. The children who visit my garden have shared what they see with their parents and they come to me to learn more about it – especially about the biogas system,” Abeyratne says with pride.



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Our **Children** so They Can Walk **Freely**

