

# Reaching Disabled People in Sri Lanka



## Project Summary

In Trincolamee and Batticaloa, post-conflict areas of Eastern Sri Lanka, disabled women and men face extreme poverty and discrimination. Following Civil war, many families were left without land or assets and are unable to access loans. People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable and are in acute danger of becoming ever more marginalised and entrenched in poverty.

## Needs Assessment

The need for better inclusion for people with disabilities was established through a needs assessment by our partner organisation CBTD (Community Business and Technology Developers) working at grass roots level. Methods used to establish need include focus groups,

community consultation and key informant interviews, discussion with stakeholders, evaluation of current service provision from other organisations and market assessment.

## Project Aims

- ⇒ Demonstrate the potential of people with disabilities through developing employment and enterprise,
- ⇒ Establish independence for people with disabilities through developing a source of income,
- ⇒ Increase inclusion in community life by demonstrating achievements and economic contribution.
- ⇒ Increase inclusion in community decision-making by raising awareness of rights.
- ⇒ Enable people with disabilities to demand and secure equality of access to services.

## Project Activities

A clear understanding of the project aims and expected outcomes will be established among participants, raising awareness of rights and legislation. Assistance will be provided for disabled people to identify opportunities for livelihoods according to market demand and taking into account skills and interests while engaging with providers to secure inclusion. This may include community based rehabilitation, trauma counselling, access to state grants and other inputs. Appropriate short term training will be sourced as required, linking with apprenticeships as well as employers and will include follow-up mentoring, counselling and support. Self-help groups will be developed where they are not currently available and will be assisted to develop their own plans and training, assisted by manuals in local languages.

## Project Outcomes

 By the end of Year 4

- ⇒ 2,200 people with disabilities will face less discrimination and more opportunity to participate in social and economic activities.
- ⇒ 10 will be in decision-making positions and influencing reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes.
- ⇒ 500 (40% women) will be productively employed and demonstrating their employability, trainability and creditworthiness. 40 of these will be promoted as star advocates.
- ⇒ 30% increase in accessing services.
- ⇒ 6,000 people reached through publicity and promotion, increasing their awareness of rights and potential
- ⇒ 8 Disabled People's Organisations and Community Based Organisations strengthened to secure services for people with disabilities
- ⇒ 10 service provider organisations demonstrate change in the quality and range of services provided

**Evaluation** APT has an excellent track record of project monitoring and evaluation. We conduct regular field visits, mid-term reviews and an independent external evaluation where progress is monitored against objectives with qualitative and quantitative data. Financial management includes quarterly reviews with funds released in stages and financial returns from overseas partners checked by our fully qualified accountant.

**Partners** Our partners are key to our success. They are experienced at working with the local community. This project will be implemented by CBTD (Community Business and Technology Developers) Shakthi, Kinniya Vision, Eastern Community Resource Development Foundation and Techno Action which operate with different communities. APT offers guidance, technical advice, mentoring, monitoring and capacity building. Big Lottery Fund are our main funder but we need to raise £18,405.

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