



Engaging and Advocating to Protect and Promote Women's Rights in the Batticaloa District

From 1st of March 2016 to 31st of August 2018

Project Progress Summary



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Acknowledgment

Message from the Executive Director of ESDF

It is a great pleasure for me to present this progress report of Engaging and Advocating to Protect and Promote Women's Rights in the Batticaloa District. In addition, I am happy to share our achievements through our interventions, which includes outcomes, challenges and lessons learned from the project.

ESDF believes that in the last two and half years, we have contributed positively to strengthen the provision of services in different sectors such as Health, Police, Women Development and Child Affairs, Social Service and Judicial sectors in order to cater the needs of victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence at different levels by holding activities for building the professional capacity, improving case recording and reporting systems, changing rights based case management and service provision practices with proper case references, strengthening the facilities in the service providing intuitions, developing an effective legal prosecution system and establishing a common data collection system on SGBV for the district.

On the other hand, the project has improved the strong leadership of the selected rural women in Batticaloa district to ensure their equal participation in the decision-making process at various levels including the village, division and the district in order to address the violations of women's rights and gender discrimination. Moreover, their skills and knowledge have contributed greatly to carry out advocacy for sustainable development of vulnerable women with equal access and opportunities in the formal and informal sectors.

Furthermore, I would like to highlight two key major achievements which were gained through this project, (i) Establish a common database for SGBV cases at district level (ii) Analysis of the gaps that exist on the provision of services for SGBV victims in the district. ESDF believes that these two achievements will help the stakeholders to streamline their service provision effectively and to serve better in the future.

No gain without a pain. Indeed, as usual ESDF faced a lot of challenges in achieving these milestones. The project was focused on changing the attitude towards the rights of victims and a rights based approach, which is not an easy task when we work with diverse stakeholders. We clearly see the difference between the need of stakeholders and the project goal. This gap created a challenge to involve the stakeholders in the project actively. The limited resources allocated for the project was another challenge in meeting the expectation of the duty bearers. Being a local non-governmental organization is a great challenge in facing the duty bearers to convince for a positive change.

One of the key lessons that I would like share here is that we need stakeholders on board during the design of the project/ intervention where we focus more on the attitudes of the stakeholders or capacity building. This will provide a clear understanding and support from the beginning of the project and build the trust.

I take this opportunity to thank the Government Agent (GA), the Additional Government Agent, the Director of Planning, the Assistant District Secretary, the Assistant District Secretary of Planning for NGOs' coordination and District Coordinator of Women's Development Officers of the District Secretariat of Batticaloa District who supported us from time to time through coordination, and by providing technical support and collaborating with us to successfully implement the project within the government sector in the district.

Moreover, we need to express my gratitude the MOMCH, the Senior DIG, the DIG, the SSP, the Senior Probation Officer, the Assistant District of NYSC, the District Social Service Officer and the District Coordinator of Mediation Boards of Batticaloa District who supported and facilitated us in working with their departments and in conducting the proposed activities of the project without barriers.

Finally my sincere gratitude goes to my team members for their dedication and commitment to implement this project successfully and our donor PADEM and its staff for making a strong partnership with ESDF to support our efforts and we are very thankful to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Luxembourg for financially supporting this project in partnership with PADEM – Luxembourg.

Mr. Buhary Mohamed ML

The Founder and the District Executive
Eastern Social Development Foundation
On behalf of the family of ESDF

Overview of the donor agency

Women's rights are one of the major fields which PADEM wants to support through its partnership with local NGOs. Our involvement in this topic comes not only through the support given to the projects which are dedicated towards women's rights, but also through a constant attention given in respect of the situation of women in all the projects that we support, irrespective of the main area of action: in education, we wonder how girls can access to it just as boys, in health, how girls and women can receive appropriate care, etc. Thus, in all projects, the questions are how to initiate a concrete change in their daily lives, and how to change the perception of women in the society. We always question the conditions of girls and women in all the projects that we support, because we know that in our world, being a woman is a worsening factor of poverty and vulnerability. We also know that enhancing the condition of women is an effective way to enhance the current situation of the community.

The project of ESDF was matching perfectly with our vision and concern, and various characteristics of it particularly interested us. First, it is a project that took all consequences of gender-based violence directed towards women and their family: physical, psychological, judicial and economic, into account and it worked to enhance the support given to women in all these areas. In this view, the project engaged different stakeholders who have a significant role to play in supporting the victims: women's groups in villages, elected people and officers at different levels of administration such as doctors, psychologists, police officers, etc. This approach allowed ESDF to build a comprehensive process for supporting women: support can now be found from different services functioning as a network, and including people who are adequately trained on GBV. For female victims of violence, this system

can make the difference in surviving and re-building their lives. Secondly, the project of ESDF has not only worked on the support after violence occurred, but also on prevention, through two ways: empowering women – individually and collectively – to make them less vulnerable to violence, and making people, including numerous men, sensible towards women's rights. This part of the project is a decisive path to change the society and prepare a better future for women and girls.

Changing women's conditions is a long-term process, that will demand constant efforts – to maintain and to reinforce services to female victims of violence, to change the perception towards women in the society. But we are glad that ESDF, through this project and with the dedication and perseverance of its team, marked a step forward in women's rights.

Ms. Magali Getrey
Managing Director - PADEM, France

About ESDF

Eastern Social Development Foundation (ESDF) is a rights and women based non - governmental organization, established in 2009. Our vision is "Creating a society towards rights, equality and sustainable development" and our mission is "Leading to a prosperous path for rights, equality and sustainable development by fulfilling needs in the fields of human rights, good governance, gender justice, poverty alleviation, peace building and development of vulnerable and marginalized groups among post war affected communities in Sri Lanka." The Eastern Social Development Foundation is registered under the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, as a company limited by guarantee. Its registration number is GA 2922.

ESDF is one of the leading women and rights based Civil Society Organization in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka and it has been working on transitional justice, ethnic reconciliation, sexual and gender based violence, good governance, women's empowerment, CSOs strengthening, women's rights, improving service provisions of the governmental institutions, policy development, law reforms, legal actions, institutional improvement of the government, networking, social mobilization and empowerment, advocacy lobbies, social campaign and initiatives and documentation of human rights violations with funding and technical support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg in partnership with PADEM, the Commonwealth Foundation, USAID, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Asian Community of Trust, the UN Peace Building Fund, Institute for War and Peace Reporting, FOKUS Women, Care International and Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust.

About the PADEM

PADEM is an NGO that aims to improve the quality of life of vulnerable populations; especially children in developing countries through sustainable actions based foremost on partnerships with local civil society actors. PADEM seeks to fulfill the fundamental rights of the beneficiaries under the strictest respect for their culture.

The association was founded in 2002. It is Luxembourgish and French at the same time. Its original goal was to help the poorest children in the world: that is where PADEM got its name. However, the administrators quickly realized that they could not consistently and sustainably improve the lives of children without improving that of their families. It is for this reason that today PADEM tends to foster and encourage a holistic approach.

Brief Introduction of the Project

Eastern Social Development Foundation (ESDF) has identified that the victims of Sexual and Gender based violence are facing numerous challenges in accessing diverse and streamline services to fulfill their medical, psychosocial, legal, social and economic needs. We have also observed that the attitude of stakeholders towards the provision of services to the needed victim is very flat.

On the other hand, in the post war context, rural and vulnerable women are facing many difficulties in addressing their needs with stakeholders due to the lack of their leadership skills, knowledge about service provision and lack of rights towards the duty bearers. Therefore, we found that, those women require more knowledge and leadership skills to address their issues and needs and to obtain solutions for them with a safe and common platform in order to deal with those matters and to work collectively for achieving their rights and to reach development in the post war context.

Based on the above needs and gaps identified by the ESDF, we proposed a project to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Luxembourg in partnership with

PADEM under the name of “Engaging and Advocating for Protection and Promotion of Women’s Rights in Batticaloa District” to make an intervention with the following objectives.

- a) To improve legal, medical, psychological, shelter and social services for the victims of SGBV in a right based approach and a more responsive manner among the government sectors with a proper system of reference and a reporting mechanism in Batticaloa District.
- b) To strengthen leadership of women in social, economic and political streams through divisional and district levels networking system under the concept of Women Affairs Society to strongly address and advocate for women’s rights and sustainable development in Batticaloa District.

The above project proposed for two and half years (from 1st of March 2016 to 31st of August 2018) intervention in 14 Divisional Secretariat Divisions of Batticaloa District, Eastern Province, Sri Lanka with an amount of 119 840 €.

The target groups of the project were service providers of the government sector including Women Development Officers, Police, Child Rights Promotion Officers, Probation Officers, Health Officers, Case Managers of GBV Desks, Rural Women Leaders and Members of Women Affairs Societies in 14 Divisional Secretariat Divisions of Batticaloa District.

The project was focused on the following activities such as i) Strengthening capacities of service providers for SGBV, ii) Improving institutional systems towards an effective case prosecution system and service provision, iii) Improving the SGBV coordination mechanism with case referrals and a common data system on SGBV, iv) Strengthening the network system of Women Affairs Societies, v) Building the leadership of rural women on social, economic and political streams vi) Creating public awareness on the prevention of SGBV and promoting women’s rights and Researching to identify the gaps existing in access and service delivery for SGBV in Batticaloa District. These are the activities which are performed under this project.

Implemented activities with results and lessons learned

Objective

To improve the counseling service for the female victims of SGBV by increasing the capacities of the Counseling Assistants in the government sector

Activities

- 6 Capacity building trainings for Counseling Assistants
- Improving the counseling unit of 14 Divisional Secretariats

Targets

- 14 Counselling Assistants trained in Batticaloa District
- 06 capacity building trainings conducted

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to increase the accessibility of quality counseling services to the female victims (with a particular focus on SGBV). For this purpose, ESDF selected 14 counseling assistants attached to each divisional secretariat office in the Batticaloa district and carried out a SWOT analysis. Based on the findings, a series of activities, which has been identified through participatory approach and implemented in the last 12 months, are listed below.

- Reform the counseling units at 14 divisions to cater the needs of SGBV women victims
- Improve the competencies of counseling assistants to deal effectively with case management and enhance the support of women victims in their division (SGBV) through structured workshops.
- Increase the professionalism of counseling assistants by providing financial support to follow diploma programme in counseling.
- Strengthen and improve the case recording mechanism of counseling assistants in the Batticaloa district.

Key Achievements

1. In the past 12 months 215 SGBV cases have been handled by 14 counseling assistants.
2. 63 % of SGBV victims expressed their satisfaction about the service that they have received.
3. 50 cases were registered and followed up by the counseling assistants in the last 6 months as per the case record register.
4. The systematic and scientific way of case management and case recording that is followed in place at 14 divisions.

Key Challenges and Mitigation

The key challenge that the ESDF has faced in this activity was coordination and follow up divisional counseling assistants due to the absence of a coordinating mechanism for the counseling assistants. However, ESDF engaged and got support from the District Secretariat to mitigate this challenge.

Lessons learned and good practices

- Participatory planning and implementation are always good to have a positive impact.
- An effective monitoring and follow up mechanism are needed for the delivery of a professional counseling service.
- A support system or a professional supervision is needed to overcome the professional difficulties among counseling assistants.
- An effective case management needs a multi stakeholder approach and the counseling assistants should provide with a directory of service delivery in the division.
- An effective case recording and case management will facilitate to explore further analysis and needs.
- Regular training and coaching are needed for counseling assistants to provide an effective and professional service to the clients.



“

I increased my knowledge and skills on counseling techniques that will help me to increase my confidence to deal with my clients professionally. I think now my relationship with my clients have improved; clients are satisfied with my service. The record keeping and case management techniques are increased my professionalism and allowed me to provide a practical counseling service to my client. I thank to ESDF and PADEM for empowered us.”

- Ms. A. Ameena,
Counseling Assistant,
Eravur Town division.

Objective

To increase the capacity of legal officers and community leaders in evidence protection and effective legal prosecution for the sexual violence in Batticaloa District.

Activities

- 9 capacity building workshops on evidence protection and legal prosecution for sexual violence
- Connecting the community and the police service in legal actions and prosecution for sexual violence

Targets

- 9 capacity building trainings for case managers and legal officers should be completed.
- Capacities of case managers and legal officers including Police, Child Rights Promoting Officers, Probation Officers, Case Officers of GBV Desks, Medico Legal Officers and State Counsellors in relation to the evidence collection and protection within the legal prosecution mechanism should be increased in Batticaloa District.
- Awareness of community leaders on evidence protection and legal prosecution for sexual violence will be increased.
- The coordination and linkage between police and community leaders should be improved to prevent sexual violence and to have legal prosecution for sexual violence at the village level.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to increase the technical capacity of government prosecution officers such as Police, CRPOs, POs, GBV Desk Officers, Medico Legal Officers, State Counsellors, etc. and the community support systems such as VCRMC, women's organizations, activists to safeguard evidence of sexual violence for effective legal and court procedures, based on this the following activities were implemented in the past 12 months.

- Increase the technical capacity of government prosecution officers through 9 capacity building workshops on evidence collection, SGBV case management, judicial report preparation and psychological counseling skills. In total, 89 government prosecution officers were trained.
- Strengthened 13 Women and Child Desk of Police for easy access by SGBV victims.
- Linked the community support system with the Police to facilitate speedy remedies for SGBV victims.

Key Achievements

- 64 prosecution officers collected 209 evidences effectively on SGBV cases in the last 9 months.
- 97 cases filed in the Magistrate Courts of Batticaloa district through the trained prosecution officers.
- 308 cases on SGBV filed at Women and Child Desk in the Police Station in the last 9 months.
- 32% of SGBV victims expressed improvement in the Women and Child Desk Services.
- 09 meetings held between Police and community support system.
- 14 visits made by the community support system in order to support a speedy remedy for SGBV victims in the last 09 months.

Key Challenges and Mitigation

- Approval to work with Police Officer and Police Station: ESDF learned that the usual approval mechanism to train Police Officers will get delayed and will have an impact on the project activity. Therefore we approached the District Ssecretariat and the Superintendent of Police to extend the invitation to the respective Police Station to nominate the participants for the training programme.
- Same participants nominated for Women and Child Desk training: ESDF organized two separate trainings for the Prosecution Officers and Women and Child Desk Officers, but same participants were nominated for both training programmes. This was discovered during the training programme. To rectify this, ESDF managed to get one representative from Women and Child Desk for the follow up training programme.



Lessons learned and good practices

System change is crucial for the effective implementation of any new innovative.

- Consistent communication and engagement of stakeholders are always healthy and supportive to overcome the challenges.

“ I feel that justice for victims of women, children and the people should be ensured by providing a tangible solution. And also, all actions should be in rights based approach and the enforcement of Prevention of Domestic Violence Act – 2005 are important to protect women from domestic violence. ”

- Mr. P. Thuskanthan,
Police Officer (Women and Child Unit, Kattankudy)

Objective

To increase the capacities of service providers to strengthen legal and social service supports for the female victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Batticaloa District.

Activities

- Capacity building workshops for service providers

Targets

- 8 capacity building workshops on legal and social service provision for service providers should be completed.
- Knowledge and skills of 15 Women Development Officers (WDOs) and 7 Relief Sisters on effective legal and social service provision for SGBV victims will be improved.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to make social service support system sensitive towards the legal and social aspects of SGBV victims and make them active in providing social security assistance to SGBV victims without delay. For this, ESDF selected 15 Women Development Officers (WDO) and 7 Relief Sisters and trained them on legal framework, judicial system and procedures, understanding of SGBV, psychosocial framework for SGBV victims, basic counseling skills, economical support and sustainable development concepts. In total, 8 different one day trainings were given to these groups.

Key Achievements

- 341 cases were attended positively by WDOs in the last 9 months
- 34 cases were attended by relief sisters in the last 9 month.
- 39 SGBV cases were assisted economically by WDOs and Relief Sisters.
- 51 SGBV cases were provided with basic counseling by WDOs and Relief Sisters.
- 34% of the SGBV victims expressed their satisfaction towards the services rendered by WDOs and Relief Sisters.

Key Challenges and Mitigation

Motivation of government officers: ESDF clearly noticed that not all trained officers are committed to support SGBV victims. Some of the trained officers are good at it but most of them are not. ESDF approached each trained officers individually and motivated them to be in the loop.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

- Government officers need to attend continuously for the job training to provide an effective service to SGBV.
- Prejudgment and assumption should not be reflected in the service delivery or service provision.

“ I believe that, my capacities have increased other than what I had before, my self-confidence is enhanced to face challenges and also I feel comfortable to handle SGBV cases easily in a systematic way. In addition to that, I maintain the confidentiality of SGBV cases in my work and I use different techniques to handle SGBV cases with a recording system. ”

Ms. Vinothini – Women Development Officer (Divisional Secretariat of Paddipalai Division)



Objective

To create a case referral mechanism for SGBV within the service providing institutions in order to build a coordination and an effective service provision system among the service providers in Batticaloa District.

Activities

- Developing a case referral format
- Creating case referral system among service providers of the government and the non-government institutions

Targets

- A case referral mechanism for SGBV should be created in a formal way within the service providing institutions in Batticaloa District.
- A formal coordination system for the effective provision of services to the victims of SGBV through a case referral mechanism should be developed with a format and a follow up system at the district level.
- Service providers for SGBV should be made sensible on the importance of case referral mechanism with a coordinated system and a follow up in order to respond effectively to the victims of SGBV.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to build the capacity of service providers such as Hospitals, Social Services, Police, Divisional Secretariat Office to strengthen the case management and referral mechanism in order to support SGBV victims in the Batticaloa district. In this respect, the ESDF has developed a commonly agreed referral form through the active participation of service providers and the EDSF has printed them and distributed among the service providing institutions.

Key Achievements

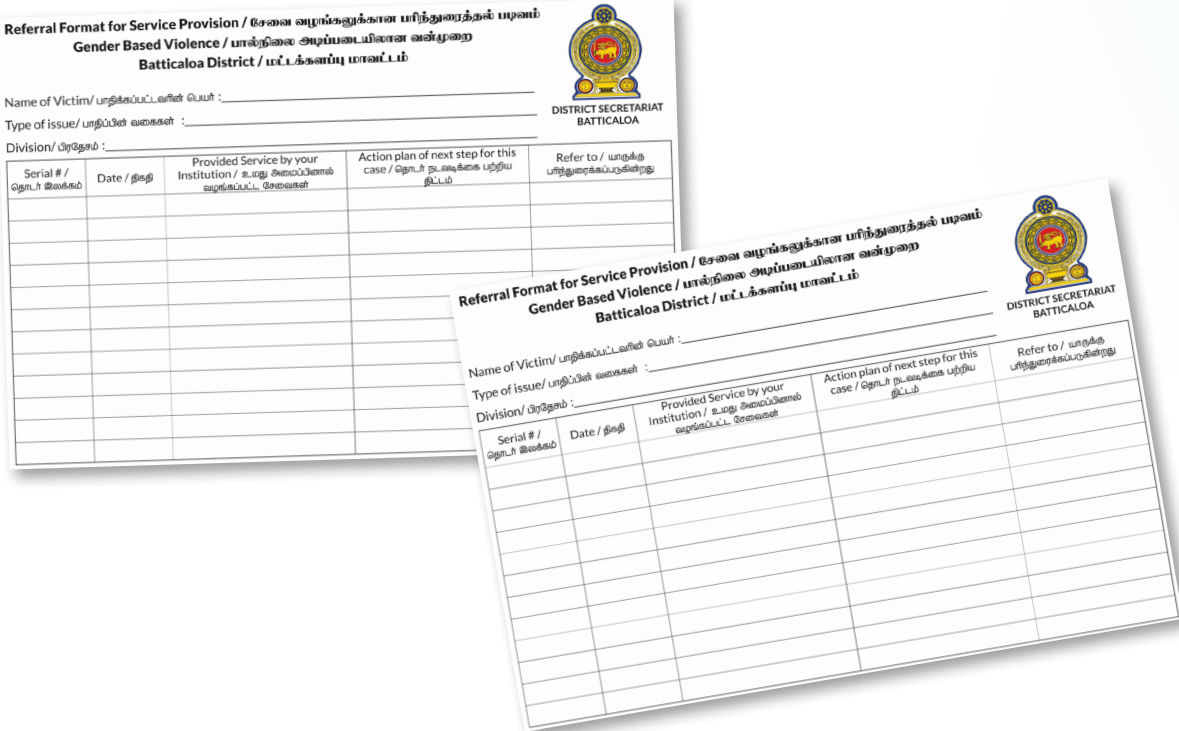
- An agreed and an acceptable common referral format was developed.
- 10,000 case referral formats were printed and distributed among 126 service-providing institutions in Batticaloa District.
- 15 institutions used the printed formats for their referral in the last 09 months.

Key Challenges and Mitigation

The great challenge was to mobilize all stakeholders in the participatory process due to their different interests and different priorities. We overcame this challenge by talking to individual organizations separately before the common consultation.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

- Any new development should be implemented with the blessing of government officials. Otherwise the developed materials will be in the shelves of the institutions safely.
- The developed forms were used by the different stakeholders during the project span and they clearly displayed the follow up history of SGBV victims.



Objective

To establish 3 GBV Desks in the government hospitals to respond effectively and to prevent SGBV with the coordination of the health sector

Activities

- Establishing 3 GBV Desks in the government hospitals
- Increasing the services given by the GBV Desk within the health sector

Targets

- 3 GBV Desks will be established in the government hospitals in Batticaloa District.
- # of victims of SGBV respond as a result of the effective provision of services which is done with the coordination of health sector.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to strengthen the centralized service provision for SGBV victims at the selected hospital in Batticaloa district. With the support of the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) and the Medical Officer of Maternal and Child Health (MOMCH) ESDF established 3 GBV desks in Vaharai, Maheladitheve and Sandively. In the meantime, ESDF supported to reopen the GBV Desk in Chenkalady. In order to mentor and smoothen the functioning of the GBV Desk, ESDF appointed a case officer to provide psychological counseling, emergency care support, case follow-up and referral for legal, shelter, medical and social care. In addition to this, ESDF linked the GBV Desks with the Divisional Women and Child Unit at the Police Station.

Key Achievements

- 140 cases handled by the case officers
- 29 cases provided with emergency grants/support
- 17 cases received legal aid

Key Challenges and Mitigation

Sustainability of the GBV Desk and the case worker: Though we proved the need of GBV Desk and its functions, the government departments are very much hesitant to take over them and to provide a continuous service to the SGBV victims. This is going to be a great challenge and ESDF is in the process of advocating and lobbying with the Health Department and the Ministry to evolve a policy decision.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

Within the short span of the project, GBV Desk functions are remarkable and it should be continued by the duty bearers.

“

I feel that, the GBV Desk in Chenkalady hospital is very useful for the affected women. I say this from my personal experience. I was a victim of SGBV and I was referred by the WDO to GBV Desk. There, I felt more comfortable and secure. There was a madam to listen to my story and she gave me some directions to go. I received Rs.5000 as an emergency support to meet my immediate needs. I did not know what I will do next, but GBV Desk guided me to get free legal aid and I filed a case against my husband. I wanted to thank to GBV Desk and ESDF for their timely support. I believe that there are so many women who are facing similar problems, which I faced and they are not aware of the services of GBV Desk. My next step is spreading the service of GBV Desk in my village as a volunteer.”

- A female victim of Domestic Violence in Chenkalady Division



Objective

To strength the coordination mechanism for GBV among multi stakeholders to actively respond and prevent SGBV at the village level

Activities

- Strengthening the Divisional Level GBV Task Force
- Strengthening the District Level GBV Task Force

Targets

- Forming and strengthening 14 Divisional Level GBV Task Forces through regular network meeting at the divisional level.
- A District Level GBV Task Force formed with a developed action plan and network meetings which are done quarterly.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to mobilize ground level allies to prevent SGBV at the grassroots level and to provide integrated support for the SGBV victims at the village level. In this respect, with the support of Women Development Officers and Assistant Divisional Secretaries ESDF formed 13 divisional level GBV Task Forces in Vaharai, Valaichchenai Central, Oddamavadi, Kiran, Chenkalady, Eravur Town, Batticaloa Town, Arayampathy, Kaluwanchikudy, Paddipalai, Vellavelly, Vavunathivu and Valaichchenai divisions. In addition to that, we have conducted regular meetings for the District Level GBV Task Forces in twice a month through Divisional Secretariats.

In order to facilitate the discussion at the district level, ESDF also reformed the District level Task Force, which was already formed and had become silent, with the participation of these group members and the contribution of the ESDF, the first ever version of an action plan was drafted.

Key Achievements

- 5 divisional meetings were completed
- 4 of district level meetings were completed
- First ever version of an action plan was drafted and endorsed by 42 members
- 140 issues were handled by the GBV Task Force out of which 15 got solutions

Key Challenges and Mitigation

- Lack of policies to sustain the new system: There is not any government circular / policy on the GBV Task Force system within the country. This leads to getting support from the NGOs to either run or to financially support such a useful system.
- Lack of support from the government officers: Since there is not any government policy, increasing the enthusiasm and the motivation of the government officers to support this system is a huge challenge.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

Do not evolve any good system without any government policy and circular: We learned that some GBV Desks are functioning well and some are not depending on the interests of the individuals and the government head. This should not be in the way of approach. Therefore, even if it is a good practice, our key learning is that do not implement without any proper government policy and circular.



Objective

To strengthen the divisional level network of Women's Affairs Societies in order to address women's issues and to increase the social leadership of rural women at the village and divisional levels.

Activities

- Reforming the divisional level network of Women Affairs Societies
- Capacity building for the members of the divisional level network of Women's Affairs Societies
- Conducting a regular monthly meeting of divisional level network

Targets

- 14 divisional level networks of Women's Affairs Societies should be reformed at the divisional level.
- The capacities of 14 divisional level network members of Women's Affairs Societies should be built to address the issues of women and to take an active leadership on women affairs within their village and their division.
- Regular monthly meetings of 14 divisional level networks of Women's Affairs Societies should be conducted at the divisional level.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to establish a village level support system to give immediate support to the SGBV victims and also to create greater awareness to prevent SGBV incidents at the village level. Women's Affairs Societies which are already formed by Women Development Officers in each village and were not functioning well. Therefore, ESDF decided to empower the existing society for the above purpose. In this respect, 3 members from each society were invited for a capacity building training programme and they were trained on coordination, dialogue and networking skills. Then, we formed a divisional level network among them. In order to maintain their interest and operationalization; ESDF facilitated monthly meetings, the development of annual action plans and the monitoring system with the support of Women Development Officers.

Key Achievements

- 13 divisional level networks of Women's Affairs Societies are reformed and restructured.
- 585 members of Women's Affairs Societies from 13 divisional level networks are trained on women's rights, leadership and networking.
- 78 regular monthly meetings of 13 divisional level networks of Women Affairs Societies are organized.
- Found solutions with the support of the Divisional Secretaries and the Women Development Officers.
- 59 SGBV victims are identified and referred by Women Affairs Societies.

Key Challenges and Mitigation

ESDF faced multiple challenges during the implementation of this activity, but we would like to share 3 key challenges as follows:

1. Limitation to reform WAS: Though it is an interesting intervention, ESDF was able to reform only 14 WAS due to the lack of time and financial limitations.
2. Geographical distribution of WAS made ESDF to travel a lot for the mobilization
3. Lack of support and motivation from few WDOs. These challenges resulted in difficulties to create a strong association and network among WAS.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

- The success of any intervention depends on the individual interests and motivation.
- A high priority is given to the income generation initiative by WDOs. Therefore, the human capacity building programme should be incorporated with the IG activities or vice versa.

“

I feel that, I can identify the issues of women at the village level and find solutions for them through this network. Also, if we can provide this type of trainings for women to motivate them to face her challenges in her life, it will result in promoting an equal list of women who are self-reliant.”

Ms. Kalavani
(Member of Maha Society of Paddipalai Division)



Objective

To strengthen the district level federation of Women's Affairs Societies in order to protect and promote women's rights by motivating women's participation at the district and national levels.

Activities

- Reformation of district level federation of Women's Affairs Societies
- Building the capacity of members of the District Level Federation
- Conducting regular monthly meetings at the district level
- Organizing exchange visits for the members of the District Level Federation

Targets

- The District Level Federation of Women's Affairs Societies should be reformed with 28 members from 14 divisional level networks of Women's Affairs Societies.
- Capacities of 28 members of District Level Federation should be built through 6 trainings.
- 12 regular monthly meetings for District Level Federation will be conducted at the district level.
- One exchange visit for 28 members of district level Federation should be conducted.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to bring all women activists, organizations and institutions under one umbrella for a common goal. In this respect, ESDF decided to support the existing District Level Federation of WAS, which does not have enough membership and proper functioning. In this action, ESDF facilitated the reformation of this District Level Federation by nominating 2 active women from 14 divisions. Then, a series of trainings were given to these selected members on women rights, women empowerment, advocacy skills, economic development, coordination and networking skills. Further, ESDF facilitated to develop an annual action plan for the Federation and monitored their progress through regular meetings with members. In addition, an exchange visit was arranged to get exposure and experience from the North.



I strongly believe that, when I compare with earlier, my self-confidence and leadership skills to identify women's issues and address them within the government and the private sectors by using the advocacy and lobbies techniques are very strong.

Ms. Shirani, Secretary, District Level Federation



Key Achievements

- 28 active members were selected and trained for the District Federation of WAS.
- 14 regular monthly meetings were facilitated.
- A common platform was created for women to raise their voice and issues.

Key Challenges and Mitigation

Absence of a coordinating body: A Federation like this needs a coordination body to facilitate meetings and discussions but the selected women are from rural WAS and they are not in a position to take the role of a coordinator in absence of ESDF.

Lack of support and commitment from WDO: The key responsible person to coordinate this activity is WDOs but they are overwhelmed with other duties and not giving priority for this coordinating mechanism.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

The need of such a Federation should be evolved from the Federation members and they should be aware of the term of reference of such a Federation. This should be initiated from the beginning of the action to create an ownership of the activity.

Objective

To promote women's rights and gender equality through social initiatives at the district level with the support of the District Level Federation.

Activities

- Celebrating international women's day
- Conducting 16 days campaign against sexual and gender based violence

Targets

- Educating the public and inducing youth and men on women's rights and gender equality to eliminate SGBV and to increase equal access and opportunities for women in the society.
- Organizing and celebrating two international women's days and two 16 days campaigns at the district level.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to provide an opportunity for the District Level Federation to experience few common activities that can be implemented in partnership with other WAS members. (Joint programme). During the project span, ESDF identified 2 common activities in consultation with the Federation and implemented them in Batticaloa district. (i) International women's day: to promote women's rights and dignity, honouring women achievers and sharing positive stories (ii) 16 days activism : campaign against sexual and gender based violence and for the safety of women. The Federation members experienced the planning of an event, stakeholder's analysis, budgeting, implementation and monitoring techniques throughout the programme.

Key Achievements

- More than 3,000 including women, youth and men are educated on women's rights and gender equality in Batticaloa District.
- Two international women's days and two 16 days campaigns are conducted at the district level.
- 31 rural women leaders from various sectors are identified and honoured by ESDF at two international women's day in Batticaloa District.

Key Challenges and Mitigation

Mobilization of boys and men: ESDF faced a great challenge in mobilizing boys and men's groups for this activity due to their different interests and priorities. We overcame this by involving our existing networks and personal contacts.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

Working with men and boys on the gender and women's rights need a careful approach and a strategy and also it needs little time to engage them in the positive path.



Objective

To increase women's active leadership on social, economic and political streams in order to ensure women's participation and contribution for the sustainable development of the post war communities in Batticaloa District.

Activities

- Identification of 70 rural women leaders from 14 divisions (5 women per division)
- Creating a network under the name of Women Action for Independent Development (WOMENAID) at district level
- Providing 8 capacity building trainings on leadership of social, economic and political streams
- Conducting regular monthly meeting for Women's Action for Independent Development (WOMENAID)
- Providing network identification and promotional materials including uniform and batch.
- Providing financial support for the selected members of the network.

Targets

- 70 rural women leaders from 14 divisions (5 women per division) should be selected to the leadership programme
- A district level network will be created among selected 70 women leaders under the name of WOMENAID
- Leadership skills and capacities of the selected 70 women will be increased on leadership of social, economic and political streams
- Regular meetings of WOMENAID network should be conducted in every month at the district level.
- WOMENAID network identification should be increased through a common identity mechanism.
- The best 8 economic leaders should be identified and finically supported to improve their small businesses.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to establish a network of solidarity and support for the women's group to overcome their day to day issues relating to social, economic and political issues at the village/divisional/district level. For this, selection of members is very crucial. Therefore, ESDF invited interested women to apply for a leadership programme. In response, ESDF selected only 70 applicants after carefully screening and interviewing all applicants. Then all selected women leaders were gathered and their leadership needs were discussed, based on the discussion, a training plan was evolved. All 70 women leaders participated for 8 different capacity building training programmes on the following areas of women's active social leadership, women's political and economic participation. At the end, the Women's Action for Independent Development (WOMENAID) district level forum was created. ESDF supported this network to organize regular monthly meetings to share their hardships and experience to their fellow members.

Key Achievements

- 70 rural women leaders are identified from 14 divisions (5 women per division) in Batticaloa District
- 18 regular monthly meetings of Women Action for Independent Development (WOMENAID) completed.
- 8 capacity building training are concluded.
- 12 women are involved in the local government election and 6 women are elected to local governments in Batticaloa district.
- 15 women are actively involved in small business activities and they are fairly generating incomes at the village level.
- The rest of the women are playing a leadership role in government and non- government sectors at the society level including Mediation Boards, Quazi Courts, NGOs, CBOs and Women's Movements.

Key Challenges and Mitigation

Geographical challenges: ESDF faced challenge in mobilizing women leaders from different part of district to one place due to their geographical locations. Sometimes the participation of women leaders were less due to the transport problem. Sometimes it limited their participation. They come late and leave early to catch the bus in the middle of discussion.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

- We need to have a support system incorporated within the project to assist women who need such a support to empower themselves. We learned that most of our women leaders found difficulties in mobilizing resources to apply their learning into practice due to their vulnerability.
- Continuous intervention is necessary: Social change is a continuous process. The project can begin the primary step of it, but this should need at least 3 years commitment to really make the change the life of women.





“

I participated in the leadership programme of ESDF and developed my leadership skills such as public speaking, effective communication, to be an initiator of any event without fear. It led me to be a member of the local government at Eravurpattu Pradeshiya Sabha in Batticaloa district, before the training programme, I did not feel confident to contest for the election but the motivation and support provided by the WOMNAID network made me to decide to involve in the political life. Now I can support WOMANAID network to develop women like me in the future and I can support the needy women as a local member of women to the Local Authority. I think that, I need to develop my leadership skills further and I hope that the WOMENAID network and ESDF will continue their solidarity and support.”

**Ms. Shanthi, Member of Local Government,
Eravurpattu Pradeshiya Sabha.**



Objective

To identify the gaps in access and service delivery for SGBV among service providers in Batticaloa district through a study in order to strengthen the service provision system for female victims of SGBV.

Activities

Conducting a study on identifying gaps in access and service delivery for SGBV in Batticaloa district

Targets

A study on identifying gaps in access and service delivery for SGBV in Batticaloa district will be conducted and the findings of the study should be disseminated within the selected service provision sectors with specific and faceable recombination in a scientific manner.

A Short Description of the Activity

The purpose of this activity is to document the existing service delivery for SGBV in Batticaloa district and then compare and analysis the needs and gaps in supporting the better service provision in the district. Since it is a scientific approach, ESDF approached an expert to conduct this study. The tools and methodology were developed by the consultant and reviewed by ESDF. Then ESDF identified a research team of 14 persons to collect the data according to the research methodology. In this respect ESDF reached 122 victims to collect data. Then the collected data were analyzed and the draft report was prepared.

Then ESDF organized individual meeting with each service delivery institution and the findings of the study was presented to them and their inputs and recommendations were collected. Likewise, the consultant finalized the findings and recommendations. The final version of the books is now on your hand for further study and recommendation purpose.

Key Achievements

An inclusive, holistic well documented article about the needs and gaps in the service provision in Batticaloa has been published.

Key Challenges and Mitigation

Lack of cooperation and coordination from the service provider: ESDF faced a huge challenge in getting the involvement of the service providers in this study. This had an impact of limiting our samples on certain victims.

Lack of knowledge among the victims: 16 out 122 victims' inputs are not included in our database due to empty or no useful information from them regarding the service delivery. But it is an alert for us to think and include a question about the knowledge about the service provision.

Lessons Learned and Good Practices

Building a positive attitude among the service providers is important because most of the service providers felt that these kinds of studies are not necessary for them. Therefore, the corporation and collaboration received in conducting the above study was very minimum. The mutual understanding and positive feelings are much needed among service providers to see this type of work of NGOs/ CSOs as a space for them to analyze reality of their services and to identify the gaps existing within their service provision at all levels.

Financial summary of the project

| FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE PROJECT EASTERN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (ESDF) THE PERIOD OF FINANCIAL REPORT (MARCH 2016 TO DECEMBER 2018) | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Notes | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | Total |
| Incoming Resources | | 5,402,790.00 | 6,753,700.65 | 8,198,028.95 | 20,354,519.60 |
| Project Expenses | | 6,202,522.54 | 7,367,877.38 | 6,784,119.68 | 20,354,519.60 |
| Program Results 1 | 1 | 1,211,432.00 | 1,651,570.00 | 1,468,924.00 | 4,331,926.00 |
| Program Results 2 | 2 | 2,294,136.97 | 1,068,958.00 | 1,132,590.00 | 4,495,684.97 |
| Human Resources Expenses | 3 | 1,531,985.58 | 2,282,710.05 | 1,703,142.06 | 5,517,837.69 |
| Transport Cost | 4 | 833,301.00 | 1,846,547.51 | 1,801,919.82 | 4,481,768.33 |
| Audit Fee | 5 | 63,000.00 | 38,500.00 | - | 101,500.00 |
| Supplies & Equipment Expenses | 6 | 129,305.99 | 204,115.82 | 494,507.80 | 827,929.61 |
| Space & Utility Expenses | 7 | 139,361.00 | 275,476.00 | 183,036.00 | 597,873.00 |
| Fund-Surplus/(Deficit) | | (799,732.54) | (614,176.73) | 1,413,909.27 | - |

DETAILED RECEITS AND EXPENSES ACCOUNT

| | Years | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | Total |
|---|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Program results 1 | 1,211,432.00 | 1,651,570.00 | 1,468,924.00 | 4,331,926.00 |
| | Capacity building and improvement of counselling system of the government sector in order to improve the counselling services. R1.1 | 29,890.00 | 114,212.00 | 143,380.00 | 287,482.00 |
| | Capacity building and awareness creation on evidence protection and legal prosecution for sexual violence to judicial officers and community members. .R1.2 | 636,924.00 | 264,985.00 | 353,631.00 | 1,255,540.00 |
| | Capacity building of the stakeholders on case management, service provision and fundamental rights of victims. R1.3 | 49,591.00 | 274,481.00 | 289,624.00 | 613,696.00 |
| | Strengthening referral system of the service providers. R1.4 | | 2,260.00 | | 2,260.00 |
| | Supporting to 4 Gender Based Violence Desks with District and Divisional Level Task Force networks mechanisms. R1.5 | 495,027.00 | 754,796.00 | 298,975.00 | 1,548,798.00 |
| | Building a common date entry system on SGBV cases for Batticaloa district R1.6 | - | 151,551.00 | 314,754.00 | 466,305.00 |
| | Training for the project team of ESDF R1.7 | - | 89,285.00 | 68,560.00 | 157,845.00 |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2 | Program results 2 | 2,294,136.97 | 1,068,958.00 | 1,132,590.00 | 4,495,684.97 |
| | Reforming women's affairs societies at the village level. R2.1 | 2,000.00 | - | 4,250.00 | 6,250.00 |
| | Rebuilding 14 divisional level women's affairs societies' federation at the divisional secretariat level with trainings R2.2 | 36,890.00 | 126,620.00 | 539,790.00 | 703,300.00 |
| | Strengthening district level women's affairs societies' network to promote women's rights. R2.3 | 18,435.00 | 63,450.00 | 58,941.00 | 140,826.00 |
| | Building capacities of district level network through exposure visits, knowledge sharing and trainings.R2.4 | - | 145,400.00 | 62,230.00 | 207,630.00 |
| | Supporting the network to monitor women's rights violations, unequal access to justice and advocate for justice and rights. R2.5 | 126,311.00 | 345,031.00 | 148,507.00 | 619,849.00 |
| | Women leadership programme on social, economical and political streams for 70 women.R2.6 | 785,561.00 | 278,162.00 | 82,157.00 | 1,145,880.00 |
| | Conducting a study on identifying gaps and challenges in access to service provision for the female victims of SGBV. R2.7 | 456,892.00 | 60,295.00 | 94,615.00 | 611,802.00 |
| | Capitalization and dissemination of good practices trough a symposium R2.8 | 736,067.97 | - | - | 736,067.97 |
| | Communication and promotion of the outcomes of the project. R2.9 | 131,980.00 | 50,000.00 | 142,100.00 | 324,080.00 |
| 3 | Human Resources | 1,531,985.58 | 2,282,710.05 | 1,703,142.06 | 5,517,837.69 |
| | Project Director | 468,600.00 | 511,200.00 | 433,500.00 | 1,413,300.00 |
| | Programme Manager | 333,164.48 | 363,580.00 | 302,016.67 | 998,761.15 |
| | Project Officer R1 | 55,450.58 | 333,332.80 | 234,954.42 | 623,737.80 |
| | Project Officer R2 | 49,559.06 | 317,657.66 | 305,800.00 | 673,016.72 |
| | Finance & Admin Manager | 333,300.00 | 363,600.00 | 303,000.00 | 999,900.00 |
| | Documentation & Communication Officer | 291,911.46 | 393,339.59 | 123,870.97 | 809,122.02 |
| 4 | Transport Cost | 833,301.00 | 1,846,547.51 | 1,801,919.82 | 4,481,768.33 |
| | Vehicle Rent | 330,000.00 | 930,000.00 | 930,000.00 | 2,190,000.00 |
| | Fuel & Maintenance | 235,748.00 | 546,425.00 | 518,723.00 | 1,300,896.00 |
| | Project staff's Per diem | 44,100.00 | 29,705.25 | 53,808.49 | 127,613.74 |
| | Vehicle driver allowance | 223,453.00 | 340,417.26 | 299,388.33 | 863,258.59 |
| 5 | Audit Fee | 63,000.00 | 38,500.00 | - | 101,500.00 |
| | Audit Fee-Payable | 63,000.00 | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 6 | Supplies & Equipment | 129,305.99 | 204,115.82 | 494,507.80 | 827,929.61 |
| | Camera | | | 63,500.00 | 63,500.00 |
| | Computer | | | 128,000.00 | 128,000.00 |
| | Scanner and Printer | | | 34,500.00 | 34,500.00 |
| | Photocopy Machine | | | 141,500.00 | 141,500.00 |
| | Stationery | 88,833.00 | 136,715.00 | 83,970.00 | 309,518.00 |
| | Internet and postal charges | 12,290.89 | 1,815.00 | 2,186.51 | 16,292.40 |
| | Telephone charges | 28,182.10 | 65,585.82 | 40,851.29 | 134,619.21 |
| | | | | | |
| 7 | Space & Utilities | 139,361.00 | 275,476.00 | 183,036.00 | 597,873.00 |
| | Office Space Rent | 85,995.00 | 153,212.00 | 120,290.00 | 359,497.00 |
| | Office Welfare costs (Water, Electricity, Gas) | 53,366.00 | 122,264.00 | 62,746.00 | 238,376.00 |



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