



Community Livelihoods Support Programme: EU-FUNDED. IOM-IMPLEMENTED. COMMUNITY-DRIVEN.

IOM's EUR 10,000,000, European Union-funded Community Livelihoods Support Programme (CLSP), launched in December 2006, implements more than 100 projects across Ampara District in Eastern Sri Lanka.

It provides both community infrastructure, such as schools, clinics and irrigation, and livelihood training in poor communities affected by the area's two decades of conflict.

The projects target over 250,000 people in the district, including 45,000 direct beneficiaries. A further 205,000 people benefit indirectly through family members or community groups.

The programme, which aims to bring long term benefits and development to the district's most vulnerable communities, was recently awarded an "A for Impact" by the European Court of Auditors.



Socio-Economic Development in Ampara

The CLSP framework works with government, community and other partners to provide infrastructure, including irrigation systems, reservoir (tank) reconstruction, schools, clinics, markets, community buildings and agricultural facilities. The CLSP Value Added Training (VAT) programme then provides livelihood training to help communities to generate income from the new infrastructure.

Equal Access

Given the sensitive, post-conflict environment in which it operates, CLSP puts special emphasis on providing equal access to Ampara's different ethnic groups.

It also targets impoverished and vulnerable inland communities, as well as higher profile coastal communities affected by the 2004 tsunami and the long-running conflict.

Programme Complexity

The complexity and scale of CLSP meant that a streamlined model was needed to ensure efficient project implementation. Two resource banks or menus were therefore established.

The **Design Bank** comprises a range of established designs for infrastructure projects such as schools or agricultural facilities. These can all be adapted, at the request of a community, to meet its specific needs.

The **Options Menu** offers communities a set of training options linked to each new infrastructure project. CLSP asks communities to select their most vulnerable members, who are then trained in relevant income-generating activities.

Training options include: *Accessing Formal Credit Systems, Organic Home Gardening, Modern Dairy Farming Methods for Small Scale Farmers, and Peer-to-Peer Enterprise Development for Community Organizations.*

All packages include a core training component of minimum two days, with peer group training shared learning sessions, exposure visits to see Best Practice in action. Support kits are provided to reinforce and enhance learning.

More than 2,500 CLSP beneficiaries will receive one of these training packages, benefiting an additional 10,000 individuals, including family members.



Working in Partnership

CLSP works closely with a range of stakeholders including the Government Agent for Ampara, local government departments of irrigation, agriculture and livestock, banks and other EU-Ampara Partnership implementing agencies such as UNOPS.

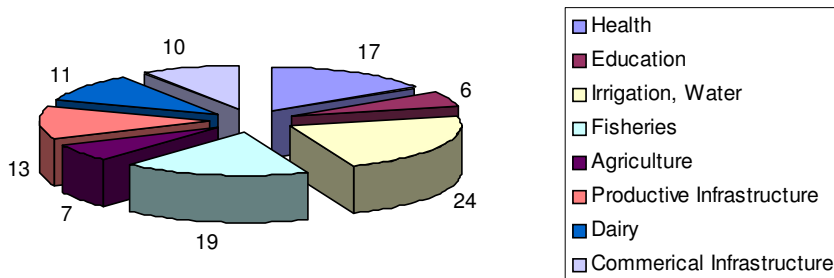
It also received political support at the highest level when President Mahinda Rajapakse formally inaugurated the CLSP-built Vakarai School in Batticaloa in 2009.



Positive Impact

Program	Training	Exposure Visit	Peer Learning Modules	Support Kit	# Direct Beneficiaries
Access to Credit	2 Days	1 Day	Yes	Free Land Valuation, Transport to Credit Fair, How To Manual	1,080 +
Dairy Devt	1+2 Days	1 Day	Yes	Cow sheds, CO3 (feed) Start-up Seedlings, Cows	140
Home Gardening	4 Days	1 Day	Yes	Tools & Seeds, Basic Equipment to Set Up Nurseries	945
Enterprise Devt	2 Days	1 Day	Yes	Not Applicable	405

CLSP Projects by Sector



Photos (clockwise from top to bottom): Pathmanathan, a dairy farmer in Kannagipuram, harvests his cattle feed. Beneficiaries in Esenkanichchemai village use boreholes provided by the CLSP. Children at Kaliyantheevu primary school enjoy their new school building.

Photos: IOM Sri Lanka



Making a Difference

Pathmanathan, a small-holder in Kannagipuram community and beneficiary of CLSP's Dairy Development program has more than doubled his income as a result of the project. When interviewed in June, he described the economic impacts:

"With the CO3 (seedlings) IOM gave us to plant, we can feed the cows. Because it has grown really fast, it is more than enough, so we are saving LKR 450 a month on feed expenditures.

With the good nutrition, the new cattle shed and new knowledge from the trainings about how to care for our cows better, the milk yield has doubled and our household income has increased from LKR 2000/- to LKR 4000/-.

I am dividing the additional money into two parts. One part is for the education of my children. The other part I am putting in the bank. The savings will be used to buy more cows in the future. But right now my kids' education is the most important thing for me."

"Prior to the renovation we cultivated 396 acres out of 696 acres available. But after the renovation we are now able to cultivate 516 acres, an increase of 120 acres."

- M. Thavarasa, Secretary, Vipulanantha Farmers Organization, Navithanveli Irrigation Restoration Project