

HelpAge Sri Lanka completed a Successful Individual Income Generating Programme for Older Persons in Sri Lanka under the TEA programme.

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Transition in the East Alliance (TEA) - Program 2011-2015 - Empower those left behind by development to secure their basic rights through innovative approaches on civil society strengthening livelihood development and comprehensive care – TEA Programme is funded by Dutch Government (Main Partners - WorldGranny, MCNV and GIP). TEA programme coordinated by Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya in Sri Lanka. HASL is implementing programme to empower elders in Dimbulagala DS division in Pollonaruwa and Padaviya DS division in Anuaradhapura. These elders are affected by war. (TEA programme Sri Lanka Report 2012)

Sri Lanka's current population of 20.2 million (Census 2012) will grow modestly to a figure bordering 23 million by the year 2030. After that, approximate readings are that declining projections would see demographic increases in an older workforce who could be effectively productive after their formal age for retirement, says a recent World Bank report. The elderly dependency ratio, which shows an upward trend, rose from 11.5 in 1971 to 14.3 in 2001. By year 2031, every 100 persons who are in the working age group will have to look after 33 elderly persons. (De Silva and others, 2010).

HASL strategy was to provide awareness on about livelihood activities that will help improve income and living standard without being dependants, build up capacities of Senior Citizens Committees (SCCs) and provide initial capital to start a revolving fund to issue loans to SCC members to start livelihood activities. Each of 05 SCCs started a revolving loan program in year 2011. TEA programme also provided support to complete technical training and marketing training for beneficiaries of the revolving fund. With the initial fund of Rupees 600,000 (Euro 3,530), 05 SCCs provided 52 loans. By collecting repayments together with the interest and also by raising more funds from local donors, these 05 SCCs were able to provide 147 more loans as at 30th June 2013.

According to the case studies and evaluations completed by TEA programme monitoring team in Sri Lanka, 199 elders have improved their living conditions with the support of successful community driven microfinance programme under TEA programme. The initial capital of Rupees 600,000 has been increased up to Rs. 1,303,000 (Euro 7,665). Each SCC is responsible to manage its own revolving fund. The loan committee and the monitoring committee of each SCC are actively engaged in monitoring and follow-up of livelihood activities of each beneficiary. (TEA programme Monitoring report, 2013)

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