

Deinstitutionalization and Family Reunification Project for Children in Tsunami affected Galle District



May 2007 to June 2009

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

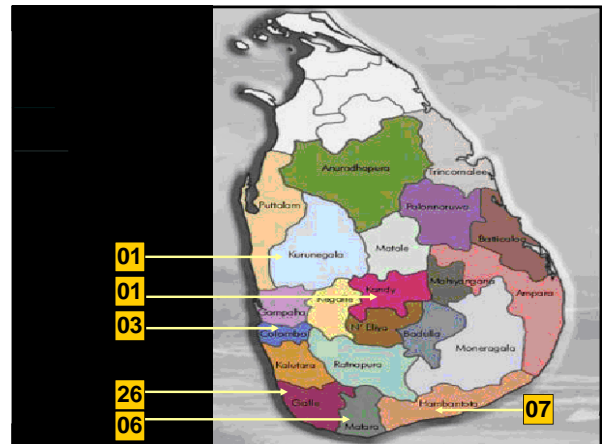
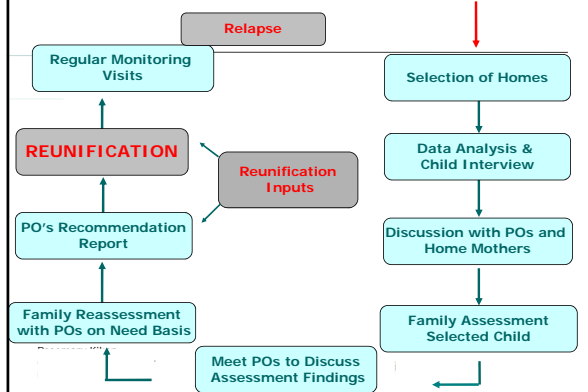
The project aims to contribute to preventing and reducing the phenomenon of institutionalization of children in Sri Lanka, commencing from Galle district.

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22nd June, 2009



METHODOLOGY: REUNIFICATION



Reunification Lessons Learnt:

Reunification is possible when.....

- ◆ *Parents/Relatives wish to take back Children*
- ◆ *Good team work between PO-Home Management-DI Staffs*
- ◆ *No complicated Legal Problems Involved*

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Reunification Lessons Learnt

- ◆ *Good Documentation in Children Homes*
- ◆ *Work closely with Local Authorities and (I)NGOs working with Local Communities*
- ◆ *Organise Regular Placement Committee Meetings*

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Reunification Challenges

- ◆ *Attitudes of Adoptive Parents (Horoscope, Looks, Gender and Health etc.)*
- ◆ *Children Homes as Boarding Schools*
- ◆ *Family Lacking of Proper Housing and Livelihood*

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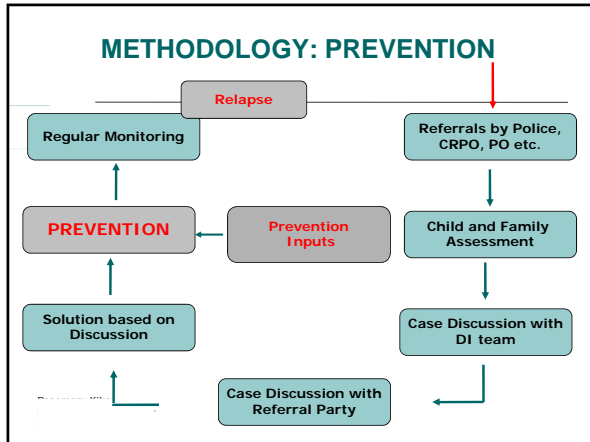
Reunification Challenges

- ◆ *Distance/ Unable to Trace Families/ Relatives*
- ◆ *Lengthy and Resource Intensive Work/ Complicated Cases (Sexual Abuse etc).*

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Prevention Lessons Learnt

- ◆ *Easier to Prevent Children than to Reunify*
- ◆ *Less Resource Intensive compared to Family Reunification*
- ◆ *Identifying vulnerable Families and understanding them*

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Prevention Challenges

- ◆ *Families without proper Livelihood and Housing*
- ◆ *Tunnel view of local officials towards vulnerable Families (thinking that child protection is the work of POs and CRPOs only)*

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Prevention Challenges

- ◆ **Addiction problems (Alcohol and Drug Addiction)**
- ◆ **Ultra poor Families with Multiple Problems: Parents Feeling of Helplessness**
- ◆ **Limited Time Frame of the Project**

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REUNIFICATION & PREVENTION INPUTS: HOUSING

- ◆ **Constructed 4 Apartments and 5 houses for 9 Families (out of 62 families of children Reunified and Prevented)**
- ◆ **Networked with Balapitiya Divisional Secretary and provided 2 unoccupied Tsunami houses to 2 vulnerable Families**

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REUNIFICATION & PREVENTION INPUTS: LIVELIHOOD

- ◆ **30 out of 62 vulnerable Families Received Livelihood Support**
- ◆ **13 Families (43%) Successfully Completed, others Dropped out at different Stages**

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EXIT STRATEGY: Community Based Deinstitutionalization (CBDI)

◆ *Dangahavila Shramadhana Society (vulnerable Division, Karadeniya selected to conduct CBDI pilot project, January 2009)*

◆ *6 Workshops organised (Community Child Protection)*

◆ *Approx. 40 Shramadhana Society (Seeds, Shanti Sena), Govt. officials attended each workshop*

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EXIT STRATEGY: Reunification

◆ *Focus on 9 Sarvodaya Suwasetha Homes in Sri Lanka to make them- Family Reunification Homes*

◆ *Train Children Home Management in DI- to prepare Children for Family Reunification through 2 Reunification Officers*

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EXIT STRATEGY: Reunification

◆ *Strengthen Links between Suwasetha homes and Probation Dept.- to organise an effective Placement Committee meetings in the Homes.*

◆ *Focus on Children above 14 years in Social Integration through Psychosocial support and workshops on Life Skills.*

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CONCLUSION

- ◆ *Reunification and Prevention Inputs: 30 Families Received Livelihood, 33 Children Intensive Psychosocial Support, 11 families received Houses/ Apartments*
- ◆ *Mainstreaming Prevention into Sarvodaya Shramadhana Societies in Sri Lanka through CBDI*

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