

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**  
1<sup>ST</sup> MAY - 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2024



**CARITAS**  
**SRI LANKA**  
**SEDEC**

Social and Economic Development Centre





## Disaster Preparedness and Search & Rescue Training

From the 23rd to the 26th of July 2024, intensive training on disaster preparedness, search, and rescue was held at the Ranminithenna Tele Cinema Village. The training brought together two to three representatives from each of the 13 Diocesan Centers (DCs) along with select National Center (NC) staff. The program was led by trained professionals, including outdoor-based training (OBT) specialists, the Sri Lankan Navy and Police, and an aerobics trainer, in partnership with the Disaster Management Center of Hambantota.

Participants were equipped with practical skills in emergency response, emphasizing the importance of coordinated action during disasters. This training also included simulated rescue operations and physical fitness sessions to enhance readiness. The successful collaboration between different sectors showcased the importance of a multi-disciplinary approach to disaster management, ensuring that communities are better prepared to face future challenges.





## Review Meetings Highlight Progress and Impact of Key Projects

Over the past months, Caritas Sri Lanka conducted review meetings to evaluate the progress, challenges, and impact of several key projects that are making a significant difference in communities across the country.

- ✦ **Mitigation of Thalassemia Disease Caring for the Neglected and the Helpless:** This project, funded by Misereor, aims to provide care and support for individuals affected by Thalassemia, ensuring they receive the necessary medical attention and assistance.
- ✦ **Facilitating Green Gold Harvesters to Reap Maximum Benefits for Plantation Communities:** Also funded by Misereor, this initiative focuses on empowering plantation communities to maximize their harvests, thereby improving their livelihoods.
- ✦ **Enhancing Food Security and Livelihood for Crisis-Affected Families:** Supported by Caritas Australia, this project is dedicated to helping families affected by crises to regain their food security and improve their livelihood prospects.

These review meetings served as an important platform to assess the ongoing impact of these projects and to identify strategies for overcoming challenges, ensuring continued success in supporting the most vulnerable communities.

## External Evaluation of the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Project

An external evaluation of the Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Project was conducted in July and August, focusing on its implementation in the Mannar and Kilinochchi districts. This evaluation aimed to assess the project's impact on children with disabilities and their communities, particularly in the areas of health, education, and social inclusion.

The insights gathered from this evaluation will be invaluable in guiding future strategies, ensuring that the project continues to effectively enhance the well-being and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in these regions.



## International Thalassemia Day Commemoration

The International Thalassemia Day was commemorated on the 8th of May 2024 by Caritas Sri Lanka at River Side Hotel in Badulla with the active participation of families of patients affected by Thalassemia. The event was further enriched by the presence of Badulla Diocesan staff, doctors from the District Hospital, and various government officials.

This occasion provided a platform to raise awareness about Thalassemia, highlight the challenges faced by patients and their families, and recognize the ongoing efforts by medical and humanitarian organizations to provide support and care. The gathering underscored the need for continued collaboration to improve treatment options and ensure a better quality of life for those affected by this condition.





## National Peace forum



The National Peace Forum was held on May 29th and 30th, 2024 at the CSL Auditorium, aimed to foster dialogue and promote peace among all communities in Sri Lanka which was organized by the SP&J unit of Caritas Sri Lanka. It was funded by CAFOD and MISEREOR, the event gathered a diverse group of participants, including religious leaders, government officials, media personnel, youth from 13 DCs, and various stakeholders. The sessions ran from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. each day and were conducted under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson Perera, the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka. The forum featured five guest speakers, contributing to the rich exchange of ideas and perspectives across cultural and racial lines.



- ✦ Mr Hejaaz Hizbullah – Lawyer/Social Activist, Discussed Law Enforcement and Violation of Law in Sri Lanka
- ✦ Rev. Fr. Hari Haran – Catholic Priest / Diocese of Ratnapura, Discussed Multi-Culturalism in a Hegemonic Backdrop
- ✦ Ven. Rahula Thero – Environmentalist/Social Activist, Discussed about Environmental Justice for Peace
- ✦ Ms Himalee Kularathna – Lawyer, Discussed Victimization and Marginalization: Barriers to Peace and Social Cohesion
- ✦ Mr. Rohana Hettiarachchi – Executive Director of People's Action for Free & Fair Elections (PAFFREL), Discussed about Election and Current Political Situation in Sri Lanka



The main objective of the National Peace Forum was to create a platform for national dialogue aimed at building peace and harmony among all communities in Sri Lanka. Also, it provided a crucial platform for stakeholders from various sectors to come together and discuss peace-related issues at the national level. The forum promoted collaboration and collective action towards peace-building by bringing together representatives from government, civil society, and other relevant sectors. These forums served as spaces for sharing experiences, exchanging ideas, and developing strategies to address conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence.



## CAFOD project's new phase commenced

The CAFOD project – "Helping People Move Towards Reconciliation" Phase 3 commenced on July 1st, 2024. This phase will be implemented in Caritas Chilaw and Caritas Batticaloa DCs, continuing until June 30th, 2025.

With the initiative of the CSL SP&J unit, Caritas Chilaw hosted the first activity of the "Helping People Move Towards Reconciliation" project's phase 3 on 30th July 2024. The activity, titled "Mapping to Identify Local-Level Conflicts and Points of Tension," took place at the Caritas Chilaw Diocesan Center in Madampe. Caritas Batticaloa (EHED) conducted a similar mapping activity on August 11th, 2024, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Batticaloa. These mapping activities targeted the direct beneficiaries, who include Muslim, Tamil, and Sinhala villagers. Participants were able to closely examine their villages and identify the main issues in their communities through this activity.

## CAFOD Market Initiative: Fostering Reconciliation and Economic Resilience

The CAFOD Market initiative has been an exciting new step for Caritas Sri Lanka, expanding our efforts from home gardening to a market-oriented approach. Both the Batticaloa and Chilaw District Centres (DCs) have embraced this concept, and it has played a significant role in promoting reconciliation among different ethnic communities.

Participants have shared how this initiative has become an effective tool for peacebuilding, bringing people together in a spirit of cooperation. Amid Sri Lanka's ongoing economic crisis, this project activity has offered valuable support to local villages, enabling them to continue their work, utilize their time efficiently, and earn extra income. This initiative truly reflects our commitment to sustainable community development and unity.



## CAFOD Donor Visit: Supporting the Journey Towards Reconciliation



As part of the "Helping People Move Towards Reconciliation" project's 2nd phase initiative, Caritas Sri Lanka welcomed CAFOD donors Ms Tory and Ms Grace, who visited the Batticaloa Home Gardens on May 15th and 16th, 2024. The visit was a significant opportunity to showcase the progress made in promoting sustainable livelihoods and community resilience.

The National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson Perera, accompanied the donors, along with the Programme Manager Mr. Priyantha & Sr. Deepa. Together, they engaged with project beneficiaries, witnessed the positive impact of the project, and discussed plans for further development.



Following this, a special progress review meeting was held with the donors on May 20th, 2024, which included Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson Perera the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, the Programme Manager, the HOU of the SP&J Unit, and Project Coordinators. This meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the success achieved so far and to discuss ways to strengthen efforts as the project continues to support communities on their journey toward reconciliation.



## Advocacy and Lobbying session



On August 6th and 7th, 2024, the SP&J unit of Caritas Sri Lanka organized an advocacy and lobbying program for Youth and VLVC with local government authorities focused on conflict mitigation. The program, funded by MISEREOR, brought together 25 participants from the Galle, Badulla, Ratnapura, Anuradhapura, Chilaw, Colombo, Kurunegala, and Kandy Dioceses including project coordinators, which was held at Fatima Retreat House in Lewella, Kandy. The resource person for the event was Mr. Rukshan Fernando.

This session was conducted with a movie named "Walkout" which gave the participants a live experience to understand the concept of Advocacy and Lobbying.

## Ethno-Drama Workshop: Empowering Women for Peace and Reconciliation

On May 11th, 2024, Caritas Sri Lanka SP&J unit, organized a workshop titled "Ethno-Drama to Encourage Communities in Their Narrative of Peace and Reconciliation" in Wepathanga village, in the Kurunegala Diocese. This was an activity of the "Helping People Move Towards Reconciliation" project, funded by CAFOD. The workshop was led by Dr. Ravindra Ranasinghe, the Founder and Director of the National Diploma in Dramatherapy at the Sri Lanka Foundation in Colombo. It aimed to promote peace and reconciliation within the community by using the medium of ethno-drama to encourage both economic and psychological growth among women's groups.



The initiative focused on enhancing skills and well-being, fostering a supportive environment for women to contribute to peacebuilding and reconciliation in their communities. This initiative was an excellent step toward building a harmonious and resilient society.





## Workshop on Monitoring, Evaluation and Outcome Harvesting to the Caritas Sri Lanka Network

On 29th and 30th August 2024, Caritas Sri Lanka conducted a workshop on 'Monitoring, Evaluation and Outcome Harvesting' at the CSL-SEDEC auditorium. This workshop brought together Monitoring & Evaluation focal points from all 13 Diocesan Centers, as well as coordinators involved in projects funded by CAFOD, with the goal of improving skills in data collection, project evaluation and outcome assessment. The workshop was funded by the Civil Peace Service Project of AGIAMONDO.

As CSL continues to improve the M&E skills of the staff, this workshop was an important step forward to maintain the standard of the project reports, meeting donor requirements and increasing the success of current projects. Thereby, the workshop covered the essential tools, methods and reviewing theoretical frameworks by Ms. Amali Shamini and Mr. Sirantha Fernando from Caritas Sri Lanka. Also, focused on the practical application of M&E strategies at the field level by Mr. Udaya Kumar and the team from Achiever's Consultancy. And on 'Outcome Harvesting' which is a new approach from CAFOD to integrate into our projects. Outcome harvesting allows to capture and analysis of the results of the project activities broadly, improving the value of reporting and helping CSL better assess the impact of the activities.

On the 1st day, apart from reviewing MEAL theories and tools by Ms Amali and Mr Sirantha, Ms Goele Scheers- the resource person from CAFOD conducted the virtual session on Outcome Harvesting via Zoom. In the evening, there were discussions on the data collection techniques and mobile app usage for field surveys, laying the foundation for the field experience that followed the following day.

On the 2nd day, the group had a practical field assignment in Ja Ela, which was arranged by Caritas Sri Lanka with Mr. Udaya's team in collaboration with Caritas Colombo to conduct surveys and gather data using the tools they had learned about. This hands-on experience was very helpful in deepening the staff's understanding of M&E processes.

This workshop provided the staff not only with the knowledge and tools necessary to improve their M&E practices but also with the importance of continuous learning and development within the organization.



## Connect and Engage: CSL Communication Workshop 2024

On the 4th and 5th of July, 2024, Caritas Sri Lanka (CSL) hosted the Connect and Engage Communication Workshop at the CSL Auditorium, an innovative event to enhance staff communication skills. This workshop, funded by AGIAMONDO, brought together communication focal points from DC-level, active youth, and St. Aloysius seminarians for an engaging two-day experience.

The first day featured Mr. Prasad Purnamal, a BBC reporter with 15 years of experience in journalism. He introduced participants to Mobile Journalism (MOJO), where they learned to capture action photos and videos using mobile devices, edit with modern apps, and tell compelling stories. The hands-on activities allowed participants to gain practical skills in mobile reporting. The second day delved into the digital communication landscape, guided by Mr. Paduma Madushanka Wijewikrama, CEO of Business Third Eye. His session covered key aspects of social media strategy, including content creation, audience engagement, and effective page management. Attendees left with a deeper understanding of how to maintain a strong social media presence and amplify their messages across various platforms.

The Connect and Engage Workshop was a resounding success, offering participants practical skills and renewed confidence in their communication abilities. The interactive sessions fostered a sense of community and shared purpose, highlighting the importance of continuous learning in communication. Caritas Sri Lanka extends heartfelt gratitude to AGIAMONDO for their support and to the speakers for their contributions. This workshop marks a step forward in CSL's journey to enhance its outreach and impact, equipping its members with the tools needed to amplify its mission in the digital age.





## Norwegian Ambassador's visit to Caritas Jaffna

On May 6, 2024, Norwegian Ambassador Mrs May-Elin Stener and Mr. Johan Thomas Bjerkem, Second Secretary at the Royal Norwegian Embassy visited Caritas Jaffna to discuss the political landscape in Sri Lanka, social challenges within the Jaffna Peninsula, interreligious tensions, and the importance of religious harmony. The meeting was attended by Rt. Rev. Bishop Gnanapragasam, the Chairman of Caritas Sri Lanka Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson Perera, the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, Rev. Fr. S Eugene Francis, the Diocesan Director in Jaffna, and Mrs Nilani Tissera, the National Coordinator of the Food Security Program.

The meeting highlighted the importance of the Food Security project, supported by Caritas Norway/NOARD, in alleviating hunger and poverty among vulnerable communities in all 25 Administrative districts. Rt. Rev. Bishop Gnanapragasam highlighted the issues in the Jaffna Peninsula, such as educational disparities and challenges in the fishing and agricultural sectors. He emphasized the role of religious harmony in promoting lasting peace and emphasized the importance of initiatives like the Religious Amity Program in fostering harmony and solidarity among religious leaders, youth, and children.

Concerns were raised regarding the future of Norway's support for such programs, and Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson Perera expressed gratitude for the Norwegian government's unwavering support in addressing the challenges faced by the people of Sri Lanka.

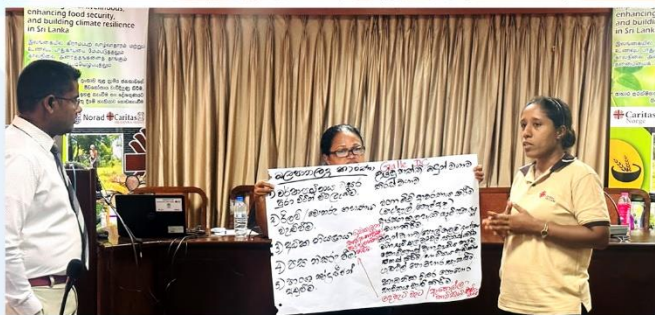




## Strengthening Agricultural Resilience: Capacity Building Training Program for Food Security Staff



On June 25, 2024, the Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC Food Security Unit held a Capacity Building Training on Disaster Preparedness in the Agriculture Field for Food Security staff in Sinhala DCs. The program aimed to discuss disasters affecting agriculture, their impact on crops, livestock, infrastructure, risk assessment, disaster-resilient farming practices, disaster recovery and rehabilitation, disaster preparedness technologies, and local and regional disaster readiness resources. Key speakers included Mr. P. Sisira Kumara, Provincial Director of the Department of Agriculture (NWP), Kurunegala, and Mrs. Anoja Senevirathna, Director of Mitigation Research and Development, Disaster Management Centre, Colombo 07.



Mrs. Anoja Senevirathna brightened the first session by sharing her skills in disaster management. And mention that the impact of a disaster is mostly determined by spatial conditions, internal and external variables, and human preparedness. She also noted that to attain climate resilience, we must evaluate several factors, including the ability to tolerate, absorb, and recover from calamity. Aside from that, she discussed a variety of disaster preparedness measures, such as prevention, mitigation, risk transfer, and risk reduction.



Mr. Sisira Kumara discussed the primary causes of climate change in Sri Lanka, the barriers to climate change, and the government sector's role in supporting the agricultural sector during calamities. He introduced new climate-smart methods such as Sun hemp cultivation, Vermicomposting, Vermi-wash production, solar water pumps and sprinklers, protected house cultivation, bio-charcoal production, solar insect and pest repellent, crop diversification, and modern irrigation techniques. He also discussed different tolerant crop varieties suitable for multi-adverse conditions, organic treatments for pest and disease attacks after disaster conditions, and new fertilizer preparation methods.

This training session was a significant step towards capacitating CSL staff members and equipping them with essential knowledge and skills to mitigate the impacts of disasters in the agriculture sector and ensure the sustainability of food security initiatives in Sri Lanka.



## Workshop on Caritas Internationalis Management Standards to Caritas Sri Lanka Network

A workshop to enhance the understanding and implementation of 'Caritas Internationalis Management Standards' (CIMS) was conducted to the Caritas Sri Lanka network on 28th June 2024. All the 13 Diocesan Caritas Directors and staff of National and Diocesan Centers joined to this workshop. This session was conducted by Dr. John Arokiaraj, Thematic Lead from Caritas India.

CIMS is a global framework of standards that every Member Organization within Caritas Internationalis is required to adhere to. Therefore, these standards are designed to ensure that Caritas organizations operate with the highest levels of governance, financial stewardship and programmatic effectiveness, while maintaining their commitment to the core values of dignity, solidarity and social justice. For Caritas Sri Lanka, implementing CIMS is not only about compliance but also about enhancing the impact of its mission to serve the most vulnerable.

During the workshop, Dr. John provided a complete overview of CIMS, explaining its fundamental principles and how these standards guide the day-to-day operations of Caritas organizations. He emphasized the need for management practices, highlighting how CIMS ensures that resources are used efficiently, that projects align with the core mission of the Church and that the organization remains accountable to its beneficiaries, donors and stakeholders. One of the key aspects of the workshop was raising awareness among staff about the relevance of CIMS to Caritas Sri Lanka. As a MO of Caritas Internationalis, it is important that Caritas Sri Lanka adheres to these standards to maintain its credibility and effectiveness. CIMS is not just a set of guidelines, it is a tool that fosters trust and ensures that Caritas Sri Lanka's projects and initiatives are implemented with integrity, transparency and long-term sustainability.

Dr. John's vast experience with Caritas India, combined with his deep understanding of CIMS, made the workshop an enriching experience for everyone. The session was mainly impactful as it highlighted the practical steps that Diocesan Centers and the National Center must take to integrate CIMS more fully into the operational frameworks.



## Caritas Sri Lanka participated in the Leadership Training by Caritas Asia



On 27th & 28th August 2024, Caritas Sri Lanka participated in a leadership training organized by Caritas Asia which was on strengthening leadership qualities, compliance, accountability and safeguarding within regional member organizations.

Representing Caritas Sri Lanka were Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson- National Director, Mrs Wendy Starling-HR lead and Ms Michelle Senarathne-Head of the Community Empowerment and Safe Migration unit. The training provided important insights into improving leadership and organizational practices and strengthening Caritas Sri Lanka's commitment to Caritas Internationalis Management Standards.

## Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC and DFCC Bank Scholarship Program: Four Years of Support for Low-Income Children

The CSL SEDEC-DFCC Scholarship Program for low-income children, implemented by Caritas Chilaw Janasaviya, marked its fourth year of continuous support on May 15, 2024. The event, held at the Caritas Chilaw main hall, celebrated newly selected scholarship recipients and provided an opportunity for them and their parents to share their thoughts on the program.

Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson, Director of the National Center, and other officers joined the event virtually, highlighting the achievements of past scholarship winners who overcame challenges to reach their goals. Former recipients shared valuable advice with the new batch, encouraging them to make the most of the scholarship.

The program continues to explore initiatives to enhance educational opportunities, demonstrating CSL-DFCC and Caritas Chilaw Janasaviya's dedication to empowering underprivileged children to achieve academic success and improve their lives.



## Monitoring and Evaluation Visits: Strengthening Education, Empowerment, and Child Nutrition Projects

Between May and July 2024, the Caritas Sri Lanka CESH unit conducted several monitoring and evaluation visits across Mannar, Vanni, and Rathnapura Dioceses to assess ongoing projects in education, empowerment, and child nutrition.

In Mannar, Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson, National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka, reviewed the "Education Support for War-Affected Children" project funded by Caritas Korea. Positive feedback highlighted the project's impact on education and livelihood. Similarly, in June, the team visited Caritas Vanni to assess the Child Nutrition and Well-being Project. Engaging with beneficiaries, they gathered insights on child health and project impact.

On July 16th and 17th, the team visited Caritas Rathnapura, meeting key stakeholders and visiting preschools and schools to assess the Child Nutrition and Well-being Project's impact. Discussions with local government officials explored opportunities for future collaboration. These visits reflect Caritas Sri Lanka's dedication to sustainable development and child well-being across communities.





## National CSO forum Press Conferences

On July 31, 2024, Caritas SETIK in Kandy hosted a press conference to address the challenges faced by Sri Lanka's plantation community. Organized by the Caritas Sri Lanka ECPP unit under the "Lighting the Lives of the Plantation People" (LLPP) project, which is funded by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the event aimed to highlight the hardships of plantation people and call on relevant authorities and organizations to take action.

Key attendees included the Bishop of Kandy, the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC, and directors from 13 dioceses. Discussions centered on livelihood issues, land ownership, and rights, emphasizing the urgent need for practical solutions and support from both governmental and non-governmental sectors to improve the situation in the plantation industry. The event garnered significant media coverage, with numerous journalists reporting on the proceedings.







## In collaboration with Agiomondo, a program has been organized for women

The two-day workshop, "Breaking Barriers: Empower Women for a Better Tomorrow," focused on empowering youth and women leaders from Sri Lanka's plantation community by educating them on their economic, social, and political rights. The plantation community faces severe challenges, including discrimination and deprivation of basic needs, with women being particularly vulnerable due to a lack of awareness about their rights and advocacy tools.

The workshop's primary goal was to introduce participants to the concept of advocacy, its significance, and how to effectively engage in it to secure their rights. Key topics included:

- Understanding gender-based violence affecting women and girls in the plantation sector
- Legal pathways to address these violations
- Strategies for networking and amplifying their voices against injustice

Participants were equipped with various advocacy techniques and methods to address these issues and were guided in creating action plans to prioritize their concerns. This approach aimed to deepen their understanding of their rights and empower them to advocate for meaningful change in their communities.





## Provide basic inputs to motivate CSAP adaptation

The 'Empowered Households' project saw the core activity from May to August of project time, in developing selected households into commercial farmers for the future. In the five dioceses, 164 male and 110 female farmers in total benefited from this project. A total of 7,860 coconut plants, 4,385 mango plants, and 180 cashew plants were distributed among farmers. Likewise, in the Kandy region alone, 2,369 plants were distributed including Gini Waraka, guava, and lime, with the planting of 14,794 trees.

The joint contribution has been that farmers covered 10% of the value of resources, and this project has been endorsed by beneficiaries. Farmers were trained to prepare the lands according to guidance from Agriculture Instructors, while diocesan staff monitored the activities until the farmlands were prepared. Distribution ceremonies were held in each diocese and attended by religious leaders, government officials, Caritas staff, and the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries also covered plant distribution and transport costs while preparing their farmlands.





## Formation of Village level Environmental & Saving Associations

There were 154 village-level environmental groups formed under SSEP covering the entire Sri Lanka focusing on regions vulnerable to climate change and ecological degradation in the first year of the implementation period. As per the learning during the two years of implementation, a strategy was designed to ensure sustainability and to seek more impact of these formed environmental groups which emerged as imperative. Since the year 2024 will be the final year of this project, the third-year activities for this project were designed to focus on the sustainability of the implemented activities. Therefore, Caritas Sri Lanka scaled up two formed village-level environmental groups in each DC by empowering them to adopt a saving mechanism.

Subsequently, 25 village-level ecological groups out of 65 groups are scaled up as saving associations under SSEP during the first six months of 2024 as a by-product of the project. Through this intervention, the organization expects the communities to be resilient to sudden economic shocks as well as to sustain the project implementations independently. Early indications from this initiative are promising, showcasing significant positive outcomes thus far.





## Perennial Tree Plantation Campaigns at the Diocesan Level

Caritas Sri Lanka promoted perennial crop plantation to ensure communities are resilient to adverse climate impacts and to establish sustainable, diversified income at the household level. Because, Perennial crops, unlike annual crops, have longer growing seasons and root systems that extend deeper into the soil. This allows them to sequester more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in the soil and biomass over extended periods.

Moreover, Perennial crops can offer greater resilience to extreme weather events, helping to safeguard food sovereignty and rural livelihoods. Each Diocesan Centre selected 100 farmers according to the contextualized selection criteria developed by the diocesan centers with the help of NC to initiate this process. Several training sessions including land preparation, climate-smart agriculture practices, agroforestry, and agro ecology were conducted for the selected farmers to enhance their skills. Consequently, 1150 farmers who have adequate land have been selected for this intervention. Subsequently, each of the selected farmers facilitated 50 perennial crops such as cashew, coconut, and Mango based on their regions. The farmers were given 57,500 perennial crops to plant in their farm lands.





## The World Environmental Day commemoration by Dioceses

The Dioceses commemorated World Environmental Day in June 2024 along with the direct beneficiaries from each Dioceses. This year, the celebrations were held in multiple locations including Jaffna, Trinco, Batticaloa, Badulla, Colombo, Ratnapura, Mannar, and Kurunegala.

The Dioceses conducted tree planting campaigns, clean up campaigns, solidarity campaigns to address ecological conservation, and awareness sessions for schoolchildren during the celebrations.





## Annual CSL Finance Workshop 2024



The Annual CSL Finance Workshop was successfully held on the 31st of May 2024, bringing together all finance officers in the Caritas network. The primary goal of this workshop was to strengthen the skills, knowledge, and capacity of all finance professionals within Caritas Sri Lanka.

The workshop covered several crucial topics, including the importance of audits, policies, procedures, and recommendations. Discussions also focused on internal controls, the anti-corruption policy, and the finance manual, emphasizing the need for transparency and adherence to best practices within the organization.



By providing valuable insights into these key areas, the workshop ensured that all finance officers are well-equipped to manage financial processes efficiently and maintain high standards of accountability. This initiative is a testament to Caritas Sri Lanka's commitment to continuous learning and capacity building within its network.

# Get Involved: Join Hands with Caritas Sri Lanka

*Are you passionate about making a difference in the lives of those in need?*

***Caritas Sri Lanka invites you to be a part of our mission to serve communities and uphold humanitarian values across the nation.***

*Here are some ways you can get involved:*

- 1. VOLUNTEER:***  
*Become a volunteer and directly contribute to our projects and programs aimed at uplifting the underprivileged.*
- 2. Donate:***  
*Your generous donations enable us to reach more individuals and families in need. Every contribution, big or small, makes a significant impact.*
- 3. SPREAD AWARENESS:***  
*Help us raise awareness about our initiatives and campaigns by sharing our stories on social media platforms or organising awareness events in your community.*
- 4. JOIN EVENTS:***  
*Participate in our events and fundraisers to support our ongoing projects and connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for serving others.*
- 5. PARTNER WITH US:***  
*If you represent an organization or business interested in collaborating with Caritas Sri Lanka, reach out to explore partnership opportunities.*

**Together, let's create a more compassionate and equitable society.  
Join hands with Caritas Sri Lanka today and be a part of positive change!**

**To all our supporters, volunteers, donors, and partners,  
thank you for your unwavering commitment  
to Caritas Sri Lanka's mission.**

**Together, we make a difference.**

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