Social Solidarity Economy

Sarvodaya Experience

JMM Niswi – Director
Project Management Unit
Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement
Sri Lanka

- Total Land area - 65,525 sq km
- Life expectancy (Yrs) – 72.4 (Male), 79.6 (Female)
- GDP Per Capita – 4,065.22 USD (2017) World Bank
- Unemployment – 4.9% (2019 census)
- Older people – 7.9 (2012 census), 22% (by 2030)
- Youth Unemployment – 20.0% (2019 census)
- Urban population – 18.2%

- **Ethnicity** - Sinhalese 74.9%, Tamils of Sri Lankan origin 11.15%, Tamils of Indian origin 4.12%, Muslims 9.3%
- **Religion** – Buddhists 70.1%, Hindu 12.58%, Muslims 9.66%, Christians 7.62%
- **Economy** – Agriculture (12.8%), Industry (29.2%), Services (58.0%)
Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement

- **Sarvodaya = Sarva (All)+Udaya (Awakening)**
- Founded through *Shramadana (Gift of time, thoughts, labor and energy)* in one rural village in 1958, and ultimately expanded to 15,000 villages throughout Sri Lanka
- Presently the Sri Lanka’s most broadly embedded community-based development organization network
- Working with 5,200 *legally independent* village societies in all districts including war-torn northern and eastern provinces

*Sarvodaya physical infrastructure in Sri Lanka*
Vision:
Sarvodaya has a vision of a new social order in a society with no poverty and no affluence.

We build the road and the road will build us..
Project Management Unit
Sarvodaya village development
- Graduation from social empowerment to political empowerment..

Figure: Village development process of Sarvodaya
Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka

Sarvodaya Expansion over 61 Years

1958 1
1968 100
1978 1,000
1988 4,900
1992 6,000
1994 8,000
2000 10,000
2010 15,000
### Sarvodaya program areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit / Organization</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement</td>
<td>Enrich national policy; <strong>mobilize masses and CBOs for peace</strong>; Peace meditations and peace marches</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEEDS and SDF</td>
<td>Economic empowerment of conflict affected; <strong>micro-finance support</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarvodaya Suwasetha</td>
<td>Take care of malnourished and abandoned children; <strong>teenage mothers</strong>; uplift nutrition status of children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarvodaya Legal Services Movement</td>
<td>Provide lost documents and National Identity Cards; <strong>advocate for human rights</strong>; legal mediation at village level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarvodaya Women’s Movement</td>
<td>Livelihood development for conflict affected women; <strong>support mother-headed families</strong>; promote women participation in decision-making</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena</td>
<td>Inter-religious dialogues; <strong>youth for peace</strong>; inter-district youth exchange camps; <strong>amity camps</strong></td>
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<td>Sarvodaya Trust Fund</td>
<td>Recognize humanitarian actors and efforts</td>
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<td>Vishva Nikethan</td>
<td>Psychosocial healing of conflict affected; <strong>meditation programs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>SRTS and Sarvo-Tech</td>
<td>Reconstruction and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure; <strong>vocational training for ex-combatants</strong></td>
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Sarvodaya – relative advantage as Community-based Network

• 61 years of proven history as welfare organization
• Goodwill as politically neutral people’s organization
• Extended outreach to marginalized populations
• Decentralized decision making structures
• Island wide asset base
• Respecting the diversity and multi-lingual staff
• Holistic approach to development and volunteer resource pool
Sarvodaya Economic Enterprise Development Services (SEEDS) and SDF

- Micro-financing based on self-help
- Credit+ services
- Island-wide Sarvodaya Financial Centers
- Promotion of Small-scale and Medium-scale Entrepreneurship
- More than 1 billion SLR of loan portfolio
Sarvodaya Women’s Movement

- Social, economic and political empowerment of rural women
- Promotion of micro-enterprises and self-employment
- Women in politics – improving political participation
- Women rights and prevention of domestic violence
- Nutrition programs
Vocational Training

- For youth and ex-combatants
- Fully equipped training centers (eg. Trincomalee, Batticaloa)
- Variety of courses targeting women and job market
- Support to start vocations
Sarvodaya VT experience in North & Eastern Province

- Holistic training, personality building
- Integrated peace building activities
- Healing trauma and psychological healing
- Over 2,000 youth trained and follow up
- Learning other languages and ICT
Community Capacity Building

- Formation and registration of Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies (CBOs)
- Continuous training of officials
- Societies Ordinance
- Annual audits and other constitutional obligations
Tharunodaya -

Increase the opportunities and develop the capacities of unemployed youth to engage in income generation activities so that they become:

- Self-dependent
- Enjoy financial autonomy
- Contribute to the development of the area
- Actively participate in the development of the nation
- Provide employment opportunities to others
- Live with dignity, start a family

Established 100+ sustainable Micro & Small Enterprises – 300+ employed

SDG: 1, 2, 5, 8 & 11
Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka

Knowledge and Skills development
Seed Capital (Low interest loans + Grants)
Mentoring and Follow-up

The Process

Planning
- Orientation Workshop

Feasibility & Situation analysis
- Stake holder workshop
- Local Market Assessment

Implementation
- Awareness Creation & calling for applications
- Screening Camp
- Business Formulation Workshop – 1 day
- Provide Seed Capital
- Business Formulation Workshop – 3 day
- Marketing Assistance
- Business Follow-up
- Exposure visits
- Business Information Centre
- Youth Business Club
Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka
Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka
Present challenges and way forward

• Phasing off of donor funding

• Voluntarism

• Complex societies and behaviors – Complex problems

• Lack of communication and collaboration among State, civil society and private sector

• COVID-19 Out Break and Post COVID-19 ..?
“Sarvodaya means the Awakening of All – from an individual Human Personality to Humanity as a whole. This awakening has spiritual, moral, cultural, social, economic and political dimensions. Whatever we do in one of these sectors influences all other sectors.”

DR. A. T. ATIYARATNE – FOUNDER

www.sarvodaya.org