



JAFFNA TAMIL YOUTHS, SRI LANKA

Target Group & Location

- The Sri Lanka Tamils form 11% (2 million) of the population and they predominately live in the Northern Districts (Jaffna, Killinochi, Mannar, Mulathivu & Vavuniya)
- They are recovering from inter-ethnic conflict which lasted for 26 years (July 1983 – May 2009)
- Loss of over 100,000 lives
- Displacement of families
- Migration to foreign lands

Target group:

- Below 40%
- Young people from this post-conflict situation
- Low education achievement
- Unskilled jobs
- Tamils youths from Punnalai Kadduvan and Puttur Killaku village in Jaffna



Village 1 PUNNALAI KADDUVAN

250 Tamil Families
Active youths about 35 boys in the Actor
Vijay Fan club (18 to 35 years of age)
24 boys took part in the survey
Soccer boys club



Village 2 PUTTUR KILAKKU

3,084 Tamil People
From 3 villages
64 youths took part in the youth in the
survey
Volleyball boys club





The SDGs Involved:

- SDG 8:3 – Decent job creation, entrepreneurship
- SDG 10.1 - Inequality (Bottom 40%)
- SDG 10.3 – Equal opportunities & reducing inequalities of outcomes. Eliminating discrimination
- SDG 16.3- Equal access to justice
- SDG 16.4 – Combat all forms of organised crime

Issues & Challenges

- People are not in abject poverty
- Issues of inequality and discrimination due to public policies

Surface issues :

- Underachievement in education
- Early school drop out rate (not finishing O'levels)
- Increase in crime
- Increase in substance abuse (alcohol , drugs)
- Unemployment (68.4%)

Deeper issues:

- Post traumatic stress
- Mistrust in authorities





Interventions

- Group formation
- Leadership development
- Capacity building
- Encouraging them to join Government sponsored skills training programs
- Encouraging entrepreneurship



Lessons learnt

1. Young People have the potential
2. They are self-organising.
3. Need to divert the potential into economic development, political empowerment.
4. Need to gather disaggregated data