



Project Need4Care ism ACNS projecthulp.

Stichting hulp aan Sri Lanka

Secretariaat

Gaffel 5

1648 HS De Goorn

Tel: 0229 543170

PRE-SCHOOL PROJECT OUTSIDE THE WAR ZONE

1.0 PROJECT PROFILE

- i) PROJECT TITLE:** **Support to Pre-school Children in the Border Village outside the War Zone.**
- ii) ADDRESS AND LOCATION:** Uva-Socio Economic and Community Development Centre (USCOD Centre)
St. Bede's Home,
1, Peelipothagama Road,
Badulla, **Sri Lanka.**
- iii) BENEFICIARIES:** Under-privileged children of Badulla Diocese
Ages 3 – 5 years
- iv) PROJECT TIME FRAME:** 06 months
- a) Duration
- b) Anticipated start date: 01st March 2009
- c) Anticipated completion date: 31st August, 2009
- v) FUNDING:**
- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Total Project Cost: | Rs.1,915,230.00 |
| Terre-des-hommes contribution | Rs. 102,000.00 |
| Community contribution: | Rs. 276,000.00 |
| Amount requested: | Rs.1,537,230.50 |
- vi) PARTNER:** USCOD Centre Caritas Badulla,
Diocese of Badulla
- vii) DATE:** 25th January, 2009
- viii) BANK** Hatton National Bank Limited
Account No. 01 – 0227001-2
- ix) HOLDER'S NAME:** Bishop of Badulla
in favour of USCOD Centre



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x) **NAME AND DESIGNATION
OF PARTNER:**

Dilex Shantha Fernando
Director,USCOD Centre Caritas

Rev. Fr.

Badulla.

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xiv) **WEB:**

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xiv) **ADDRESS AND LOCATION**

St. Bede's Home,
No. 1, Peelipothagama Road,
Badulla.
Post Code 90000
Sri Lanka.

2.0 DETAILS OF ORGANIZATION

The Uva Socio Economic and Community Development Centre Caritas Badulla - (USCOD) was established in 1972 and Bishop Leo Technical Institute was incorporated into USCOD Centre in 1975. USCOD Centre Caritas Badulla is the social action arm of the Diocese of Badulla, which comprises the whole of the province of Uva that embraces the two civil administrative districts of Badulla and Moneragala.

In our efforts to empower the people to fashion and participate in their growth we carry out programmes through a process of vocational training, animation, peace, pre-school, relief and rehabilitation, psycho-socio spiritual development, and capacity building. We have been doing this to be in solidarity with those who suffer and are oppressed, be it in the defense of the rights of women, the workers and the children or be it in condemning violence, corruption and violation of human freedom, rights and dignity in agitating for peace and reconciliation and the restoration and strengthening of democracy.

3.0 PROJECT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

The Province of Uva has a total population of 1,121,000 and a land area of 8,405 sq. kilometers. There are two civil administrative districts, namely Badulla and Moneragala. Badulla district is known as "Upper Uva" and Moneragala District is known as "Lower Uva". The land area of Badulla district is 2,818 sq. kilometers and it has a population of 724,000. Moneragala District has 387,000 people in an area of 5586.9 sq. ft kilometers. In Badulla the tea estates are an important

factor in the economy, whilst Moneragala district comprises traditional villages where agriculture is the occupation of its people. The resident worker population of the tea plantations is approx. 152,000 Tamils of Indian origin. There are two distinct geographical patterns in the Uva Province.

The highlands are cooler and wetter, and the lowlands are warmer

and drier, which determine the agricultural pattern and consequently

the socio-economic life style of the people. The project addresses the identified problem of inadequate educational opportunities for the poor and under-privileged of Uva Province. Inability to meet these needs has many negative effects in the life of the children and productivity. This has led to depression, lack of self-confidence, insecurity, anti-social behaviour, suicide, etc.

3.1 PRE-SCHOOL NARRATIVE

The origin of this project dates back to the latter part of 1980. USCOD Centre in its mission to reach the unreached initiated a plan to embrace the distressed children in lower and upper Uva to support, protect, and improve conditions of the most needy mothers and children through pre-school education, nutrition and related activities sought the assistance of Terre-des-hommes-Netherlands who have been assisting us ever since. The number of pre-schools gradually increased and today USCOD Centre Caritas Badulla has **55 pre-schools** in the Uva Province, in the Sinhala and Tamil languages for the children of the low-income villagers and the plantation sector workers. This project addresses the identified problem of inadequate educational training facilities, infra structure facilities and nutrition for the poor and under-privileged people of Uva Province. Inability to meet these needs has many negative effects on the growth and life of the young children and their parents. Due to the lack of these facilities the children's talents are suppressed and they are deprived of the joy of companionship, friendship, sharing and caring.

We have a pre-school staff consisting of four monitors, a pre-school co-ordinator, and pre-school teachers. The monitors come directly under the supervision of the co-ordinator, and they visit each pre-school twice a month, spend time with the children and teachers, check on the syllabus, attendance and progress of the children. The pre-school co-ordinator is in overall charge of the pre-schools, he checks the reports of the monitors, visits each pre-school once a month, monitors and evaluates the programme.

The co-ordinator priests visit the pre-schools under their jurisdiction regularly, and if any improvements need to be initiated they take remedial action and report to USCOD Centre.

Payments for pre-school teachers, the nutrition programme, and other activities are made through the co-ordinator priest.

An intensive live-in Teachers' training programme is conducted by qualified and experienced Officers based on a wide curriculum including child health and nutrition, aesthetic skills, child psychology, development of language skills, etc., and all teachers and pre-school staff participate in this training. The expenditure for this training is met by Terre des homes-Netherlands.

Terre des homes provides for the salaries of the monitors, co-ordinator and two teachers for each pre-school. Besides this, they also assist us to organize parents' awareness programmes, exposure programmes, cultural programmes, etc., and to provide educational and infra-structure facilities for



the pre-schools. The co-ordinator priests are also paid a travelling allowance for their visits to the pre-schools.

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4.0 LEGAL POSITION OF ORGANIZATION

USCOD Centre is a non-profit making charitable organization of the Diocese of Badulla vide **Roman Catholic Archbishop and Bishops of Ceylon (Amendment) Act, No. 28 of 1980 (Certified on 7th August, 1980)**. We reaffirm our commitment to the under-privileged people of Uva and take seriously our responsibility to be open and transparent in our management of the resources entrusted to us, as the social arm of the Catholic Church of Sri Lanka with more than 33 years of humanitarian service.

5.0 DETAILS OF MANAGEMENT

USCOD Centre Caritas Badulla functions under the Chairmanship of the Bishop of Badulla, who appoints a Director for a period of five years. The Director is responsible for the staff and the management of the Centre. There is an Advisory Board comprising of the Director, two religious persons and six laity from different professions. The Advisory Board meets once in three months with the Bishop to plan out the whole mission of USCOD Centre Caritas Badulla and share experiences and future goals.

6.0 PROJECT LOCATION AND TARGETED BENEFICIARIES

Kataragama Pre-school is situated in the Buttala area in the Uva Province and comes under the Moneragala district in the border line of the eastern and southern region and the Yala sanctuary.

For security reasons and to enable the people to get about freely without fear this area has been cleared by the Government, however, in the recent past the terrorists have been hiding in the jungles and carrying out sporadic attacks on these villagers. In the past year and in the early part of January 2009, there have been four attacks, and the people of this area are living in continuous fear. The villagers are very poor and live below the poverty line.

They engage in chena cultivation and they depend mainly on the seasonal rains. If the rains do not come on time, and very often they do not, their crops are ruined and they suffer great losses. In order to meet their daily basic needs during the drought season in they are engaged in all types of labour work as and when needed.

There are **100 children** in this pre-school, and these children do not have sufficient space to move about freely. Also, many more children are on the waiting list seeking admission to this pre-school. We are unable to admit these children to this pre-school due to lack of space. Terre des homes-Netherlands through USCOD Centre has been helping this pre-school for the past 15 years, and the salaries of two teachers are paid by them and also a travelling allowance for the co-ordinator priest for regular visits. From 2008, however,



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the salary of only one teacher is being paid, and by the end of 2010 this school will be able to meet the salary of this teacher too. At present there are four teachers teaching in this pre-school, and the community contributes towards the teachers' salaries and the nutrition programme.

The present building is approx. **40 ft. x 20 ft.** and we need to extend this building to accommodate the children comfortably and admit the children seeking admission.

The proposed Extension would be 50 ft. x 22 ft. with two toilets for the children.

This is a real dry zone area and during the drought period water is very scarce and most people have to walk a long distance to obtain water. Therefore, it is proposed to build a **Rain Water Storage tank** for this pre-school, so that during the rainy period they could store the rain water which would be useful during the drought season for general washing purposes.

NO. OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES: 105

OUR GOAL: To ensure the four basic needs of a child:

Love,

Protection,

Nutrition:

Opportunity: To create opportunities to develop a healthy body, mind, skills, attitudes and values required to live and work in dignity, and to put peace into practice, both in the educational setting and in the wider community.

CONCLUSION

Our Pre-school programmes have contributed immensely to developing the talents of little children between the ages 3 -5 years, which are the most formative years of a child's life. Children need a healthy mind, body and a clean environment to grow and develop their talents to succeed in life. Through our pre-school programmes we help these little ones to grow with confidence and love from one stage to the next in their own unique way with the hope that they in turn will be able to reach out and give to the community what they have received. We seek your generosity and goodwill to help us to provide a more spacious, comfortable and safer environment for these children, as children are our most precious resource for the future.

Thank you for your kind support and generosity.

Yours sincerely in service,

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Rev. Fr. Dilex Shantha Fernando
Director – USCOD Centre

21st January, 2009