



OfERR Ceylon

MONOGRAPH



FOREWORD

S.C. Chandrahasan

Founder OfERR



OfERR Ceylon is a story of self-reliance and a testament to walking the talk. In 2023, the Sri Lankan refugees living in India gave OfERR a mandate to start its operations in Sri Lanka during the peace process. They trusted that the organization that had nurtured them for over twenty years would be a herald in preparing the ground to find the most durable solution for returning and reclaiming the rights of the long-displaced Tamils. In 2004, OfERR Ceylon was founded with the agenda to work for those who were internally displaced and to help the returnees from India reintegrate into Sri Lankan society.

This journey involves receiving the returnees at the airport, temporarily housing them, finding new places for permanent settlement, processing and obtaining civil legal documentation for citizenship, enabling livelihoods, and so on. For this to happen, efforts had to be made at multiple levels: with the governments of India and Sri Lanka, with local governments and local bodies, and with civil society in Sri Lanka. The advocacy experience of OfERR in India helped in relentlessly pursuing its goals no matter the obstacles. OfERR does not stop at a blank wall; it focuses its efforts on the protection and rehabilitation of refugees.

While OfERR Ceylon was still learning the ropes, the 2004 South Asian tsunami devastated the lives of those living in the North and East of the country. OfERR Ceylon plunged into action, rescuing, providing relief, and rehabilitating the affected communities in the Batticaloa and Trincomalee districts. As the operations were drawing to an end, the peace process dwindled, and the conflict forced hundreds of thousands out of their homes. OfERR Ceylon began working with the internally displaced and war-affected communities. Starting from the eastern districts of the country, it extended its efforts to all parts of the North and East.

Post-2009, after the end of the war, refugees from India decided to return. To welcome them, OfERR Ceylon set up systems and structures. OfERR Ceylon handled the complexities of citizenship and documentation, easing the pain for returnees in obtaining these after their lengthy displacement. Networks for returnees were created to assist them in settling in their homeland.

OfERR Ceylon is the realization of the dream of a durable solution for refugees. It demonstrates how refugees can rebuild their lives after three generations of displacement in a foreign country. OfERR Ceylon fulfills the desire of the refugees to shed the “refugee” label and transforms them into rightful citizens with a place to call their own. With the training and empowerment, they received in the camps in India, they are not only able to set their lives right but are also contributing to the nation-building process.

A NOTE OF GRATITUDE



S. Sooriyakumari
President, OfERR Ceylon
Sri Lanka

OfERR Ceylon was a leap of faith. The mandate of the refugees living in India had to be materialized. The only way to do this was to set up an organization that would be of the returnees for the returnees. This people-based organization took on the role of nurturing the dreams of the returnees by helping them to restart their lives as right bearers in their home land. In the past twenty years OfERR Ceylon has focused on an array of activities that have empowered the returnees rebuild their lives one brick at a time.

This would not have been possible without the generous efforts of the people who have unconditionally loved us and have cared for us. Our long-term donors in Sri Lanka, starting with Christian Aid that readily came forward to support us along with Dan Church Aid and the National Council of Churches of Australia (Act for Peace) who provided the initial support that affirmed their trust in us.

OfERR Ceylon wishes to thank the various layers of officials of the Government of India and Government of Sri Lanka for their understanding of the issue and proactively helping the people to meet the challenges as they come up.

OfERR Ceylon, in the past 20 years has worked closely with several individual and institutional donors of which some of them are listed below. Their contributions are evident in every page of this book and can be seen through the lives of those who are reconstructing their lives in a new environment.

I wish to place on record the tireless work of Dr Gladston Xavier and his team consisting of Ms Aneesha Babu, Ruffina Maria Dharshini, Kalpana Devi, Ms Anne Joel, and the entire OfERR Ceylon and OfERR India teams for painstakingly compiling this monograph.

ABOUT OfERR / OfERR Ceylon

INTRODUCTION

Founded by Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees, OfERR remains deeply grounded in its origins, with its inception driven by refugees for refugees. Throughout its journey, OfERR has maintained a steadfast dedication to learning, resulting in growth, adaptation, and evolution that align with the shifting global landscape. In this transformative process, the organization has extended its reach to embrace diverse communities, all while upholding unwavering allegiance to the ideals of human development, sustainable livelihoods, and the fulfillment of fundamental human rights.

OfERR Ceylon stands as a nonprofit service organization with a clear mission: to undertake rehabilitation and developmental initiatives targeted at internally displaced individuals and returning refugees from India. Throughout more than a decade of service, OfERR Ceylon has consistently demonstrated its commitment to aiding those affected by conflicts and natural disasters, delivering crucial rehabilitation and development assistance to displaced populations across various regions in Sri Lanka, effectively aiding them in overcoming periods of crisis. Working in close coordination with its parent entity, OfERR (India), OfERR Ceylon is deeply involved in championing a 'structured refugee' return program.



OfERR Ceylon

Through insightful analysis, collaboration, and foresight, this strategic plan becomes a dynamic blueprint, empowering OfERR Ceylon to adapt, grow, and thrive in a constantly evolving landscape. Much like the transformative review and re-visioning in 2003, this Strategic Planning effort aims to guide the organization in reaffirming its values, vision, mission, and approaches, especially in a post-war context. Operating in India and Sri Lanka, OfERR occupies a unique position at a crucial juncture when the potential for lasting peace is evident. As a result, this plan takes into account the refugee return scenario and outlines potential interventions. The strategic plan, designed to span a minimum of five years from 2023, serves as a roadmap for both OfERR India and OfERR Ceylon. Furthermore, it provides donors with a comprehensive understanding of OfERR Ceylon, showcasing the organization not only as a relief agency but also as a distinct entity that has steadfastly supported its community through the most challenging times, always keeping their interests at the forefront.

The shared values, goals, and mission of OfERR India and Ceylon create a strong foundation. While differences may exist in the nature and implementation of activities, a range of crosscutting issues ensures a consistent response that resonates with those returning to their homeland. Unique contextual matters are addressed based on specific situations, all while adhering to the core values.

This strategic plan is the culmination of collaborative discussions involving both OfERR India and Ceylon staff. The final draft was shared with the targeted communities and grassroots populations that OfERR Ceylon collaborates with in Sri Lanka, and their feedback was incorporated into the definitive document. In essence, this plan embodies a mandate from the people, signifying their collective endorsement of OfERR's direction.



OfERR Ceylon



STRATEGIC PLAN

For nearly two decades, OfERR Ceylon has been actively addressing the needs of refugees in India and refugee returnees, as well as internally displaced persons (IDP) returnees and host communities in Sri Lanka. Established on a self-help model, OfERR Ceylon has consistently collaborated closely with its targeted communities, adapting itself to suit their evolving needs. This consultative approach has enabled the organization to sensitively navigate the challenges posed by the refugee return context. Furthermore, in alignment with developmental trends, OfERR Ceylon has adjusted its approach as required.

In any humanitarian approaches, there are typically three stages: relief, rehabilitation, and development. However, for the communities OfERR Ceylon serves, the prolonged nature of their circumstances has necessitated simultaneous engagement across all three stages. Basic necessities continue to be provided as relief, ongoing rehabilitation involves consistent counseling and health support, and development efforts encompass vocational training, advocacy, and other program activities that address social and physical infrastructure needs. Given this unique context, OfERR Ceylon has embarked on a journey to meticulously examine its future trajectory. Developing a strategic plan is a pivotal endeavor for OfERR Ceylon, one that defines its path forward and sets the stage for its future success. This thorough process involves assessing the current state, clarifying mission and goals, and envisioning the organization's future. By identifying opportunities and challenges, aligning resources, and outlining actionable steps, the strategic plan enables OfERR Ceylon to navigate the complexities of its operational environment.



OUR VALUES

We are dedicated to our overarching goal of fortifying humanity and contributing to a more improved world, we firmly embed a set of core values into our programs. These values serve as the foundation for our endeavors.

- **Planning:** We meticulously strategize our actions to ensure precision and effectiveness.
- **Service Attitude:** Our commitment to a service-oriented mindset guides our interactions and initiatives.
- **Commitment:** We are resolute in our dedication to our mission, pursuing it with unwavering determination.
- **Management:** Employing efficient management practices, we optimize resource allocation and project execution.
- **Equal Opportunity:** We champion equal opportunities for all, fostering inclusivity and diversity.
- **Fraternity:** Nurturing a sense of kinship, we forge connections and collaboration among all stakeholders.
- **Accommodation:** We adapt and accommodate differing needs, fostering an environment of understanding.
- **Transparency:** Operating with utmost transparency, we maintain open communication and accountability.
- **Gender Equality:** We uphold gender equality, ensuring equitable treatment and representation.
- These values manifest in the following general characteristics that define our organization:
- **Employee Cohesion:** We foster unity among our employees, promoting a harmonious work environment.
- **Group Activity:** Collaborative group efforts drive our initiatives, harnessing collective strength.



- **Valuing Talents:** Recognizing individual talents, we encourage their development and application.
- **Division of Work:** Clear role delineation and task allocation enhance our efficiency and productivity.
- **Supporting New Initiatives:** We actively support innovative ideas, fostering a culture of creativity.
- **Promotion:** Merit-based promotion rewards dedication and achievement, motivating growth.
- **Documentation:** Thorough documentation ensures the traceability and impact of our actions.
- **Consolidation:** We consolidate our efforts to amplify their impact and sustain progress.
- **Confidence:** Self-assurance empowers us to face challenges and pursue bold aspirations.
- **Empathy:** A compassionate approach underscores our interactions, fostering empathy and understanding.

Guided by these values and characteristics, we advance our mission with integrity, empathy, and a profound commitment to positive change.

GOAL, VISION AND MISSION

Goal

“To create a just, equitable and peaceful society.”

The purpose of OfERR Ceylon is to empower and uplift vulnerable and marginalized individuals in Sri Lanka by facilitating equitable and peaceful solutions, enhancing community dialogue, promoting learning and active participation, upholding fundamental human values, and delivering essential humanitarian assistance.

Vision

To create a society that is socially, politically, economically and ecologically sustainable that values human dignity and rights.

Mission

Social Sustainability: Fostering a fair and inclusive society through the establishment of a developmental framework that encourages social unity.

Political Sustainability: Attaining self-sufficiency in the economic realm by identifying and harnessing both local and global resources to address collective and personal requirements.

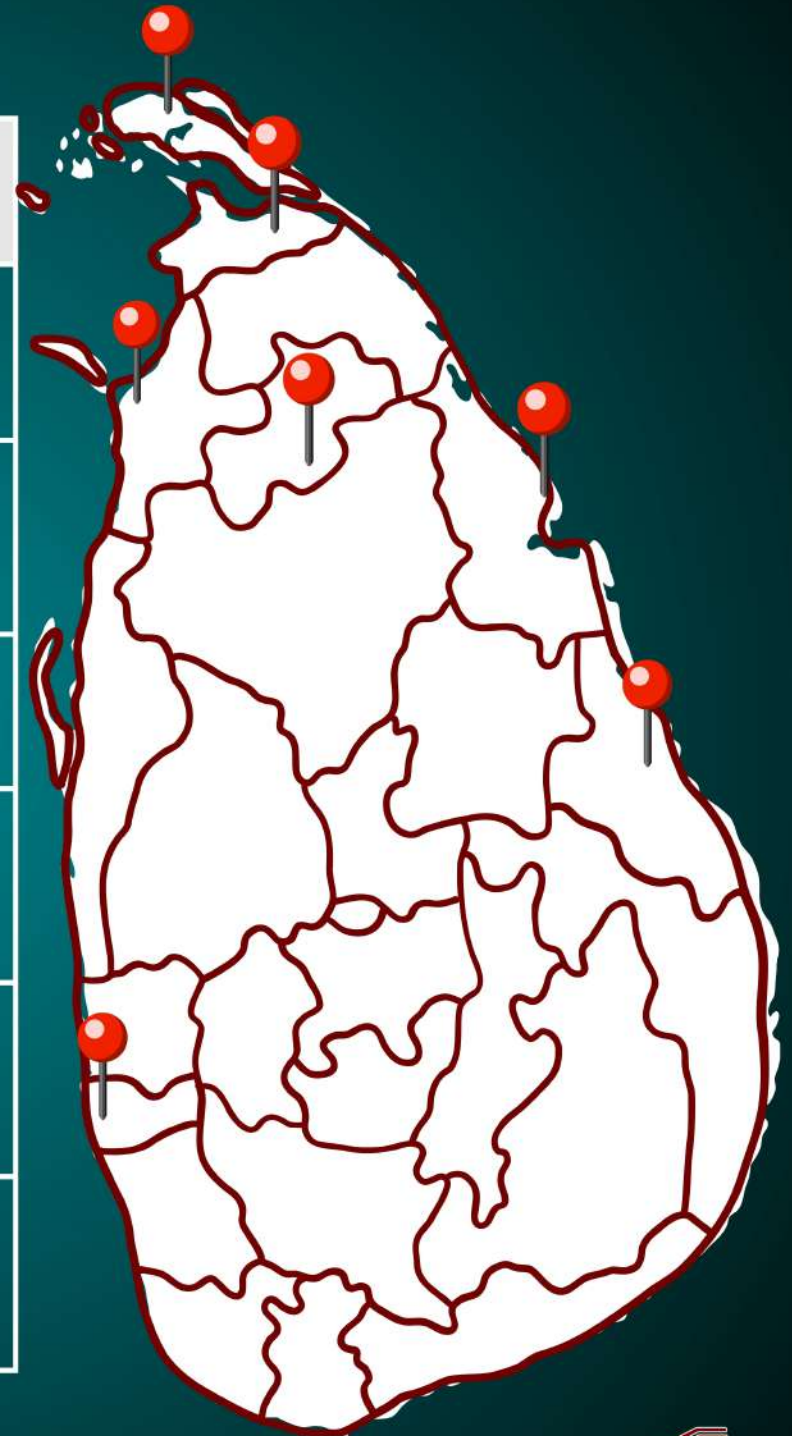
Economical Sustainability: Elected representatives, acknowledging civil liberties, and shaping policies and initiatives for the betterment of the populace.

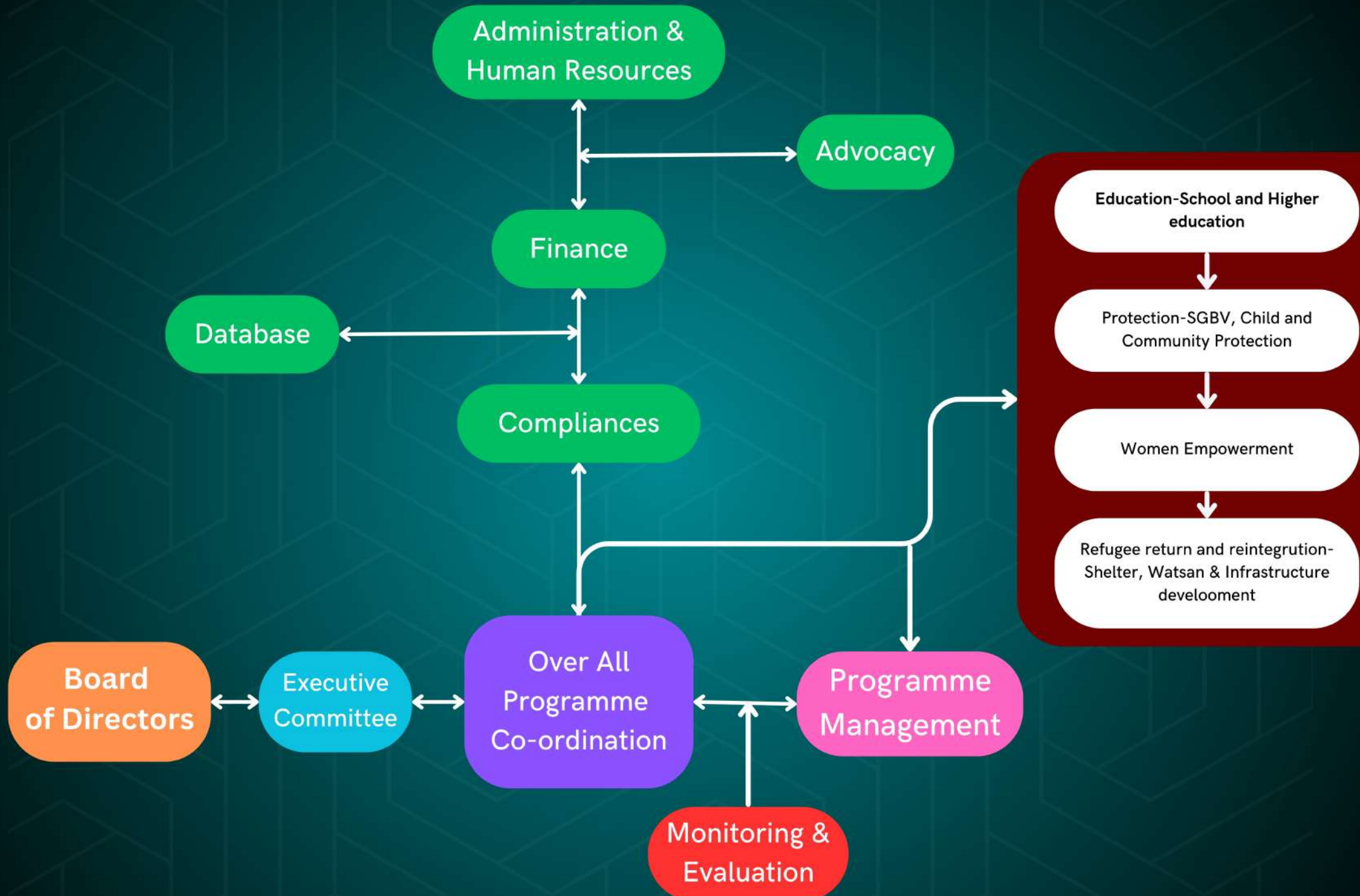
Ecological Sustainability: Promoting an environmentally aware community that harmonizes with nature, particularly addressing concerns pertaining to climate change.

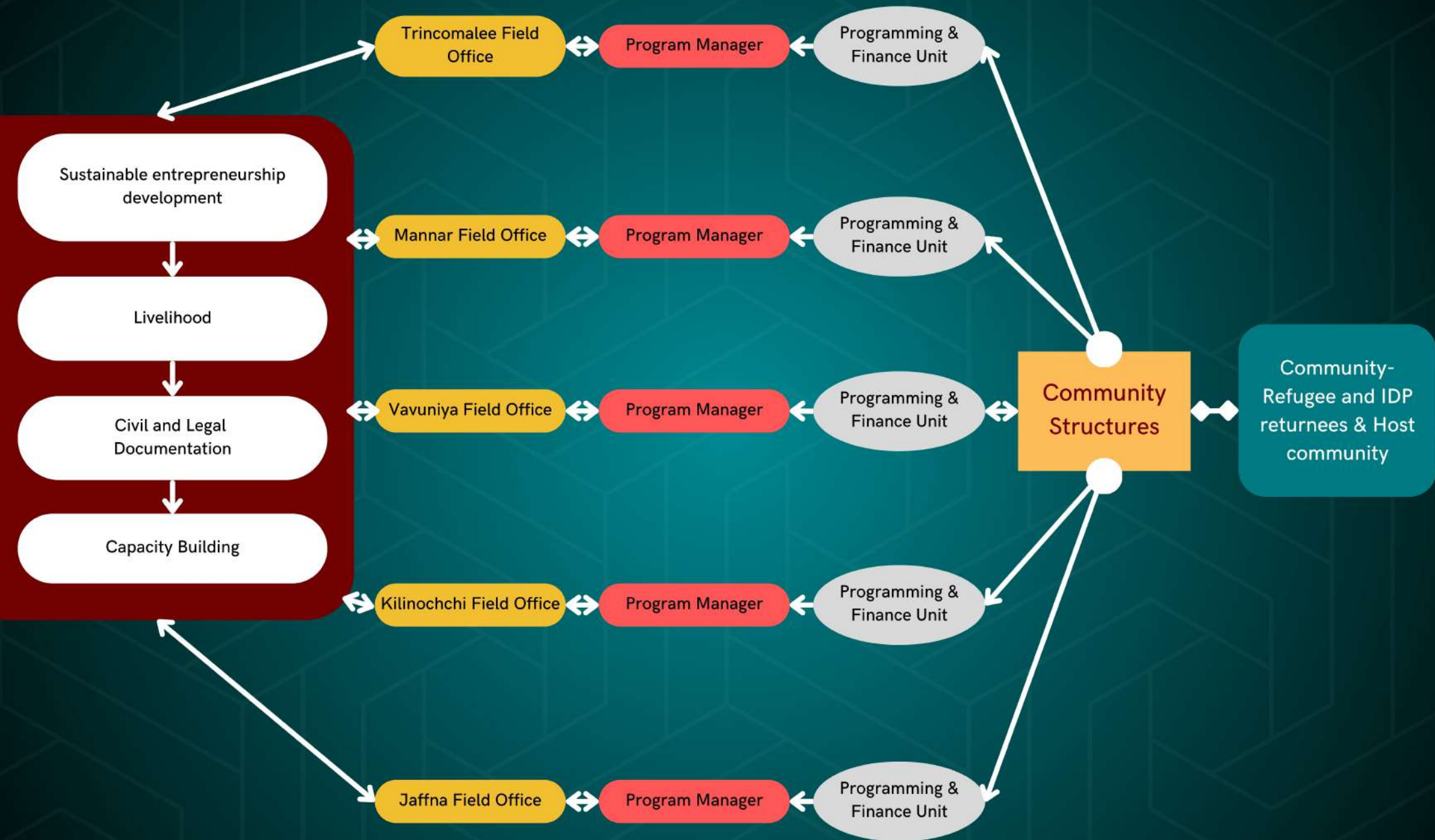


FIELD OFFICES

Field Office	Address
OfERR Ceylon – Vavuniya Field Office	No 107, Mannar Road, Kurumankadu, Vavuniyaa. Telephone – +94 24 22 25802.
OfERR Ceylon – Mannar Field Office	No 400, Moor Street, Uppukulam, Mannar. Telephone – +94 232 2505.
OfERR Ceylon – Jaffna Field Office	KKS Road, Tellipalai, Jaffna. Telephone – +94 21 22 21924.
OfERR Ceylon – Kilinochchi Field Office	No 16/1, 4th Cross Street, Kanagapuram, Kilinochchi - Mullai Thivu. Telephone – +94 228 5681.
OfERR Ceylon – Trincomalee Field Office	No 9, Arunagiri Road, Trincomalee. Telephone – +94 262222650.
OfERR Ceylon – Batticaloa Field Office	No 30, Sengunthar Street, Thamaraikerney, Batticaloa. Telephone – +94 77 359 5681.

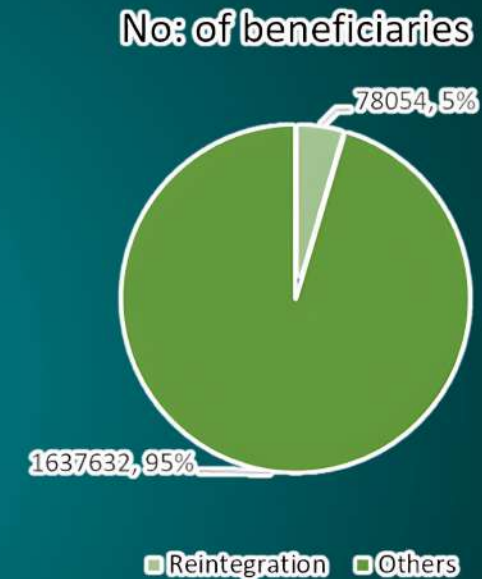
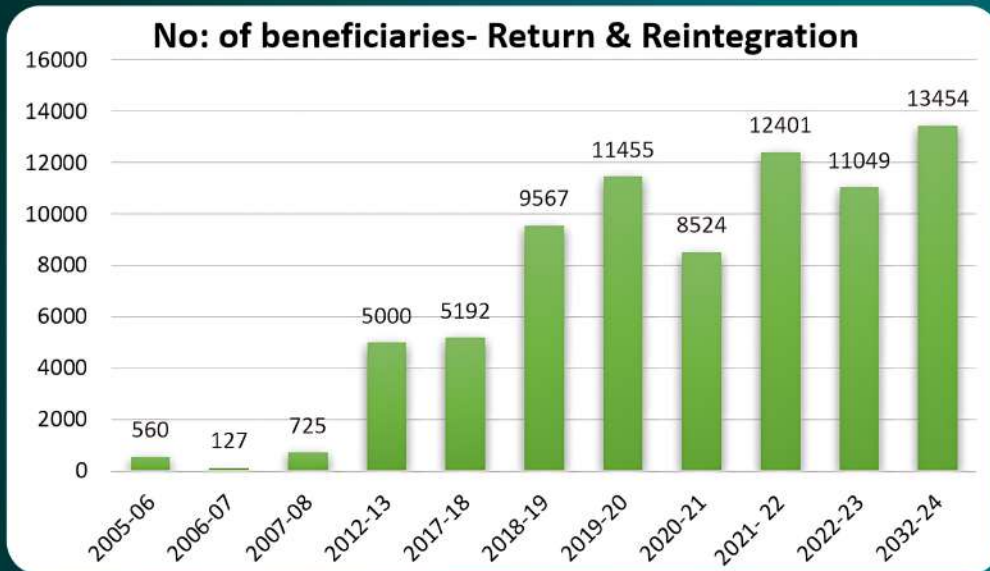






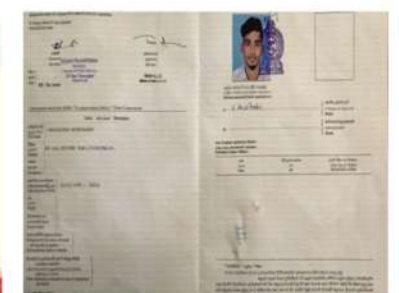
RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Reintegrating the lives of the refugees to the social, cultural and ethnic patrimony and rebuilding it from where they had left it years ago can be a humungous task. OfERR, Ceylon has been playing an indispensable role in easing this transition through resettlement assistance, revival and reconstruction projects subsequently recuperating the lives of the repatriated and previously displaced persons.



Case Study: Arunprabhu (Trincomalee) - Getting Nationality Card Among Adversities of Repatriation

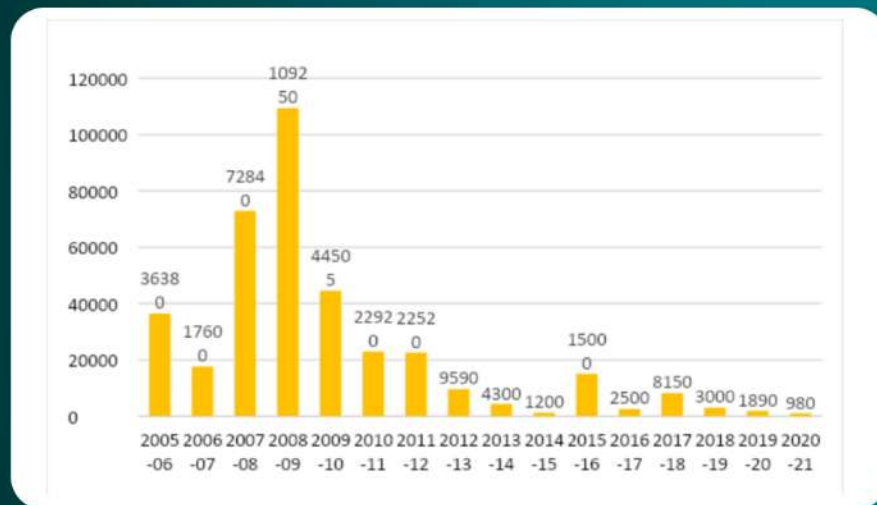
Arunprabhu, from a refugee family, returned to Sri Lanka after 24 years in a Madurai camp to reclaim his identity. His parents had fled due to war, and he faced challenges in securing employment and citizenship. After gathering documents, enduring a three-month police investigation, and taking an oath at the Colombo immigration office, he finally received his national identity card. With OfERR Ceylon's support, he paid a fine to obtain his citizenship certificate. Now a citizen, Arunprabhu registered his marriage and is committed to helping other returnees navigate repatriation challenges.



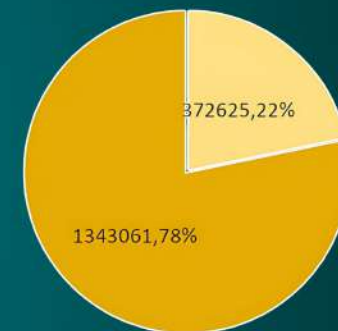


HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing and community infrastructure has been a primary focus of OFERR Ceylon from the time work was initiated in Sri Lanka in 2004. Working with the internally displaced population and returnees from India has enabled OfERR Ceylon to look for resources to build temporary shelter, semi permanent houses and permanent houses based on the requirement of the people. In the post-Tsunami and post-war interventions the major priority was to provide a safe place to stay immediately after the rescue. Temporary shelters were seen as viable alternatives. However the life of a temporary shelter is meant to be only 6 months. Based on the availability of resources, temporary houses are constructed in their own lands in order to end displacement. Once they settled in their land, based on the housing approval of the housing scheme permanent houses were constructed. The community infrastructure also included, community halls, common wells, renovating markets, and places of public interaction.



No: of beneficiaries



■ Housing and community infrastructure ■ Others

Case Study: Dharmalingam Krishnamoorthi (Vavuniya)

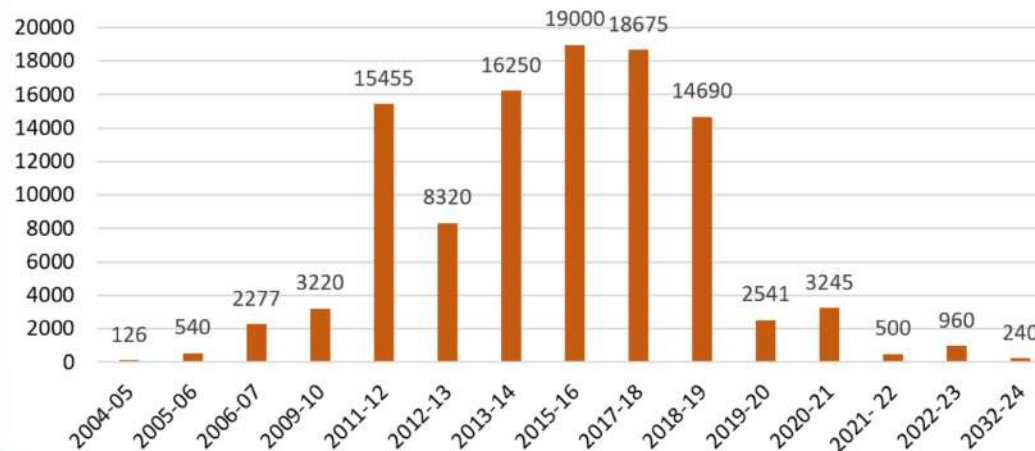
Rathinam Thangarasa, a former refugee from the Uchapatti camp in Tamil Nadu, India, worked as a mason to support his family until paralysis forced their return to Sri Lanka in 2019. Initially living in his son's small house, Rathinam later built a thatched hut with assistance from UNHCR and the Ministry. Despite facing hardships, OfERR provided a temporary house, and they gained access to water for vegetable farming. Now, they are constructing a permanent home under a government scheme. Grateful for government support, Rathinam manages his kidney disease with community assistance, living with dignity.



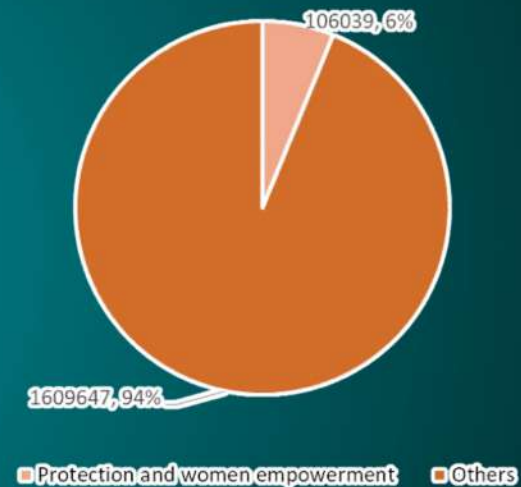
PROTECTION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Women, older individuals, people with disabilities, socially excluded individuals, and those who are most vulnerable often face exclusion from development benefits due to cycles of social marginalization. In addition to executing projects that directly target these vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, gender interventions encompass a range of strategic efforts aimed at addressing gender inequalities and promoting equitable opportunities for all genders that include LGBTQIA+.

No: of beneficiaries- Protection and women empowerment



No: of beneficiaries



Case Study: Kisali (Trincomalee)-Overcoming Adversity Through Community Support

This case study follows a young girl and her family after the loss of their father, seeking help from the Organization for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR) in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. OfERR, with the Divisional Secretary, secured housing and school enrolment for the daughters. Despite initial challenges, the older daughter excelled academically and began teaching Tamil to elementary students, boosting her confidence. Now pursuing Advanced Level studies and a member of her school's kabaddi team, she dreams of becoming a Tamil teacher. The family's fears have eased with OfERR's continued support, highlighting the power of community and education in overcoming hardship.





HOUSING AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Case study: Kogiladevi (Batticaloa)- Becoming an Entrepreneur Among Adversities of Repatriation

This case study highlights Kogiladevi's transformation from a displaced refugee to a successful entrepreneur. After 15 years in India, she returned to Sri Lanka in 2015, settling in Batticaloa with an MBA from Bharathiar University. She started her business by packing and selling local grains, later launching her brand, "Naga Pasumai," offering 37 spice varieties. With support from OfERR and the Sri Lankan Refugee Returnee Reintegration Program, her participation in the 2024 International Industry Expo boosted sales, earning her up to Rs. 120,000. Kogiladevi also creates employment for women-headed households, demonstrating resilience and inspiring other returnees.

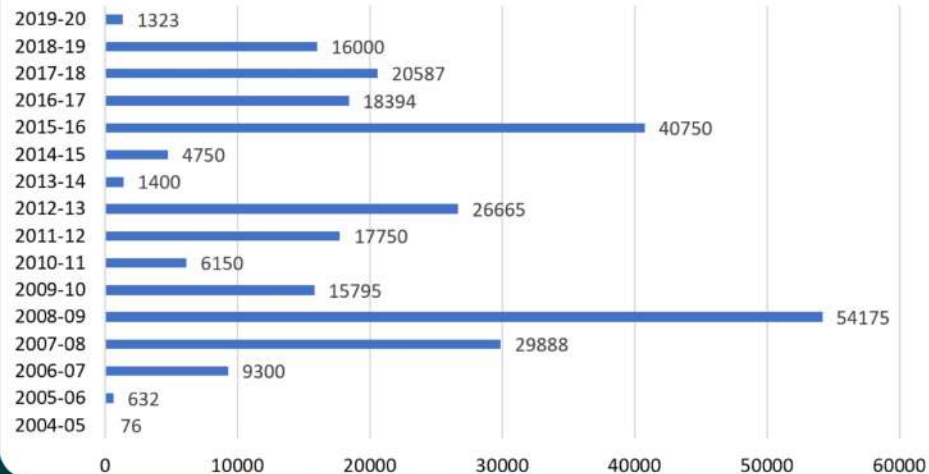




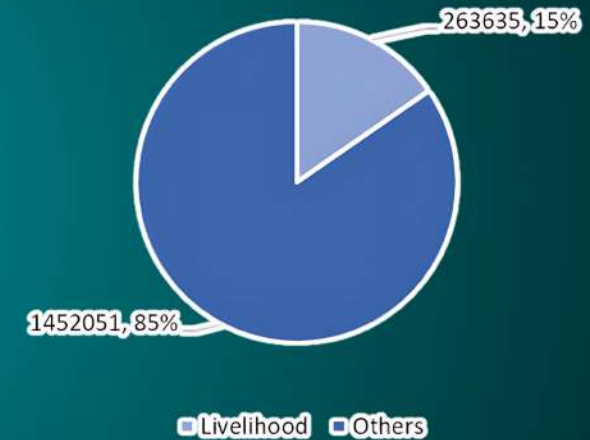
LIVELIHOOD

For a significant portion of vulnerable and marginalized individuals, agriculture constitutes the primary livelihood source, including small-scale farmers and agricultural labourers. Additionally, micro-enterprises and the limited employment opportunities within rural settings are relied upon by others. Enhancing and safeguarding livelihood security entails multifaceted actions, such as asset development, skill and knowledge enhancement, reinforcement of self-help groups and social networks, improved access to land and resources, and the advancement of an enabling policy environment. Through collaboration with vulnerable communities, OfERR Ceylon endeavors to fortify livelihoods by fostering self-help groups, facilitating skill development, and advocating for equitable access to land and resources.

No: of beneficiaries- Livelihood



No: of beneficiaries

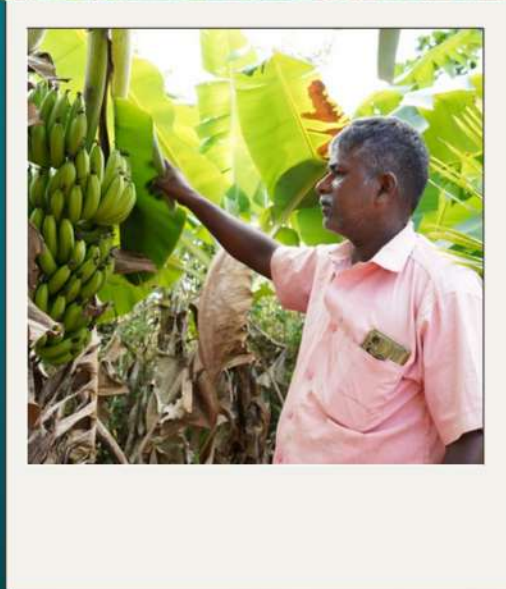


Case Study: Marimuthu Puvaneswaran (Vavuniya)- Journey from Self Doubt to Self Confidence

In 1990, Marimuthu Puvaneswaran fled Ponnasarakulam, Vavuniya, with his family to escape conflict, eventually settling in the Tharamangalam refugee camp in India. Survival was his priority, and although his children's education was limited, he felt content as long as their basic needs were met. In 2018, after reports of improving conditions in Sri Lanka, he returned with help from OfERR and UNHCR, leaving extended family in India. Through hard work, he saved money, purchased five acres of land, built a permanent home, and started a farm. With continued support, he improved his family's life and created jobs for locals.







CASE STUDY: NISHANTHINI RAJARATINAM (VAVUNIYA) - CREATING A PROSPEROUS LIFE

A family living in the Kullursandai refugee camp struggled daily, with the husband's low-wage jobs barely covering their needs. Though the camp in India provided safety, it lacked long-term stability. After coming to know that the conditions in Sri Lanka had improved, they decided to repatriate in 2020 with support from OfERR India and UNHCR. Upon returning to Kandankulam, Vavuniya District, OfERR Ceylon helped with their children's school admissions, civil documentation and land recovery from the Forest Department. They built a temporary house, began farming, and became self-sufficient. The family now thrives, and their hope is for others in refugee camps to do the same.



CASE STUDY: SATHYA KEERTHI SANTHAKUMAR'S JOURNEY

My name is Sathya Keerthi Santhakumar, and this is the story of how my family and I rebuilt our lives. We lived in the Uchapatti refugee camp in India for a long time. During this time, I worked in gardens and took on any small jobs I could find. But it always troubled me that, despite coming from a farming family, we had to do such work in India. Things started to change when I received agricultural training at a farming college in Perungudi, Madurai, with help from the OfERR organisation. However, life in the refugee camp was still very challenging. After discussing this with my wife and children, we made the difficult decision to return to Sri Lanka. We initially stayed with relatives in Mannar, but we couldn't stay there for long. So, we moved to my wife's relatives' house in Vavuniya, where we rented one acre of land and started growing vegetables.

Just when we thought things couldn't get any harder, the Coronavirus pandemic hit. It was a very stressful time, and I worried a lot about my children's future. During the lockdown, OfERR once again came to our aid. They saw our difficult situation and helped us get a piece of government land. With their support, we built a small hut, and they even helped us construct a toilet. Since we didn't have a water source, OfERR also helped us dig a well so we could continue farming.

Together with my wife and children, we started growing crops like sweet potatoes, brinjal, chillies, beans, and beetroots. The income we earned from these crops helped us meet our needs. Over time, I started to believe that with hard work, we could improve our economic situation. Thanks to OfERR's guidance and support, my family and I are now happy, living on our own land in our own country.

This experience taught me that with determination and the right support, we can overcome even the toughest challenges.

CASE STUDY: MY JOURNEY FROM REFUGEE TO A HAPPY LIFE IN SRI LANKA

I'm Sivaroopan, 47 years old, and this is my journey from being a refugee in India to building a happy life in Sri Lanka. This path was challenging, but it taught me resilience, hope, and the value of timely decisions. At 15, my family fled Sri Lanka to India, where we lived in the Uchapatti refugee camp. Life was tough, but I discovered a passion for photography, which became a small job and a source of hope. At 28, I married Vigneshwari, and we had two daughters. Life in the camp was not ideal, so we decided to return to Sri Lanka with UNHCR's help. Although returning after 29 years was daunting, the OfERR organisation helped us settle, and we built a new home. Lacking photography tools, we turned to farming. With OfERR's assistance, we started growing vegetables, gradually earning money and building a stable future. Now, we have a permanent home, and our children are thriving. I'm proud to work on my own land and to finally be on the voter's list. My wish is for other refugee families to return to Sri Lanka and rebuild their lives. This is my story of hope and renewal in Sri Lanka.



CASE STUDY: RAJESWARI NATARAJAN (VAVUNIYA) - RECLAIMING A LIFE WITH DIGNITY

In 1990, I moved to India with my family. My husband, Natarajan, was instrumental in the refugee camp, working with officials for nearly 30 years to help refugees and lead the camp. Our son returned to Sri Lanka in 2015 to live with relatives in Mudaliyar Kulam, Vavuniya. We planned to go back to Sri Lanka in 2020 and had registered with UNHCR. However, my husband unexpectedly died from a heart attack in July.

His sudden death was devastating. With my son in Sri Lanka, I felt isolated and lost, as I had relied heavily on my husband. Grieving, I couldn't travel until October 2022, when I finally returned to Sri Lanka. Staying with relatives was difficult, and our neglected land was overgrown. We contacted OfERR Ceylon, who had previously helped my son with citizenship documents.

OfERR assessed the land, found it unsuitable, and helped clear it. They managed the paperwork and worked with local officials to get the necessary permits. They then built us a temporary house and latrine, giving us a place to live independently.

Having my own home has been transformative. It restored my sense of independence and dignity, helping me cope with my husband's loss and regain confidence.

CASE STUDY: RATHINAM THANGARASA'S JOURNEY TO A NEW BEGINNING

My name is Rathinam Thangarasa. I lived as a refugee in Tamil Nadu, India, at the Uchapatti camp in Madurai district, where I worked as a mason to support my family and ensure my children could study and marry. Six years ago, I developed paralysis and, hoping for full recovery, returned to Sri Lanka on September 12, 2019, with my family. We stayed at my son's small house in Nelukkulam but soon needed more space. I built a small thatched hut on my land in Parayalankulam using funds from UNHCR and the Ministry. Despite the challenges of living without basic facilities like a toilet, electricity, or water, and dealing with pests, our situation improved when the organisation Oferr helped by constructing a temporary house and toilet. With additional support from UNHCR and local leaders, we received a well, water pump, and pipes, which enabled us to grow vegetables for income. We are now building a permanent house through a government housing scheme. At my age, peace of mind is crucial, and I'm grateful for the dignity and security we now have. The government also provides me with 5000 rupees for my kidney disease, helping manage expenses. I'm proud to live with self-respect in my homeland, supported by the community and government. My journey from refugee to reclaiming my life in Sri Lanka has been challenging yet resilient.





CASE STUDY- SUBBAIAH SURESHKUMAR (VAVUNIYA) - LAYING FOUNDATION FOR A NEW LIFE

In 1990, Subbaiah and his family fled Sri Lanka due to conflict and sought refuge in India. Over the years, Subbaiah lost all his immediate family members and had to drop out of school in the fifth grade. Despite marrying and having a son, financial struggles prevented his son from continuing education beyond high school. In August 2023, Subbaiah returned to Sri Lanka through a UNHCR repatriation program, facing significant challenges, including finding a stable income and securing housing.

Initially, Subbaiah and his family stayed with his elder sister, but the overcrowded conditions made this unsustainable. Determined to rebuild, he used financial assistance from UNHCR and his sister to purchase four acres of land. He sought further help from OfERR Ceylon to construct a home, build a toilet, and establish an income stream using his skills in animal husbandry.

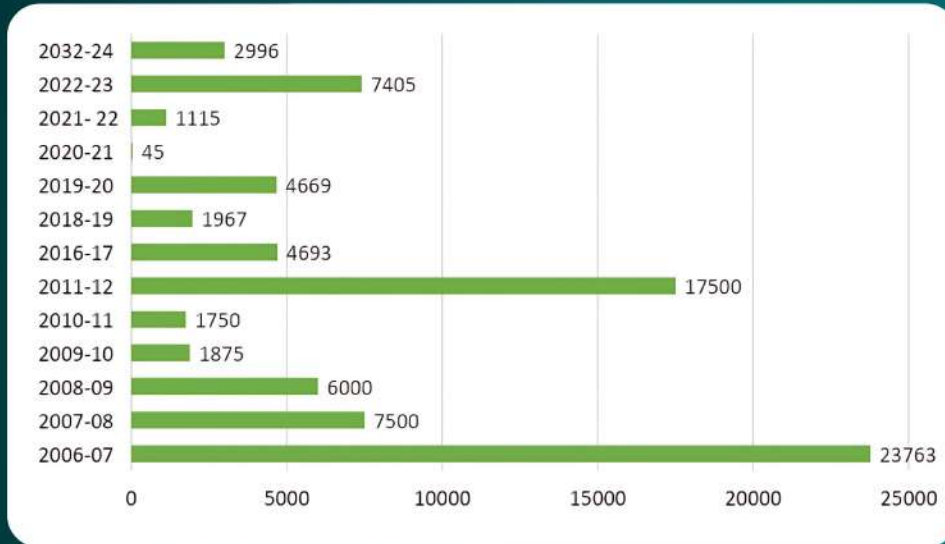
OfERR Ceylon assessed his situation and assisted with clearing land, constructing a goat shed, and providing Subbaiah with a goat to begin his business. They also built a temporary house and toilet, allowing Subbaiah to move in and start working towards financial independence.

After 33 years of displacement, Subbaiah now lives in his own home and supports his family through his animal husbandry venture. The aid he received from OfERR Ceylon has given him renewed hope and confidence in his future. His story highlights how community support can provide stability and opportunity, even after decades of hardship.

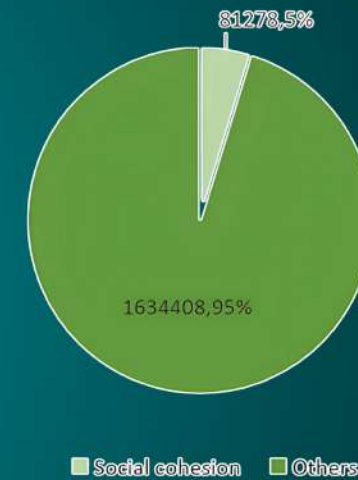


SOCIAL COHESION

Communities manifest as intricate webs of diverse interests, stemming from factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, religion, occupation, or differing opinions, including political ones. These interests find channels of expression through both formal and informal community groups. The essence of development lies in the fortification of these community groups, allowing them to transcend disparities and construct a common foundation to propel the overall welfare of the community. OfERR, Ceylon is committed to supporting an array of community groups dedicated to contribute for the social cohesion and communal harmony especially in a post war context.



No: of beneficiaries



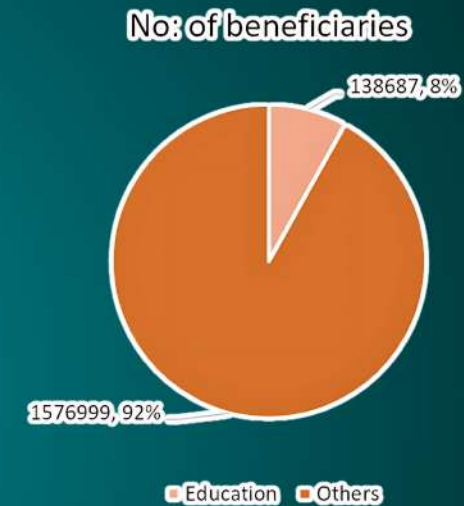
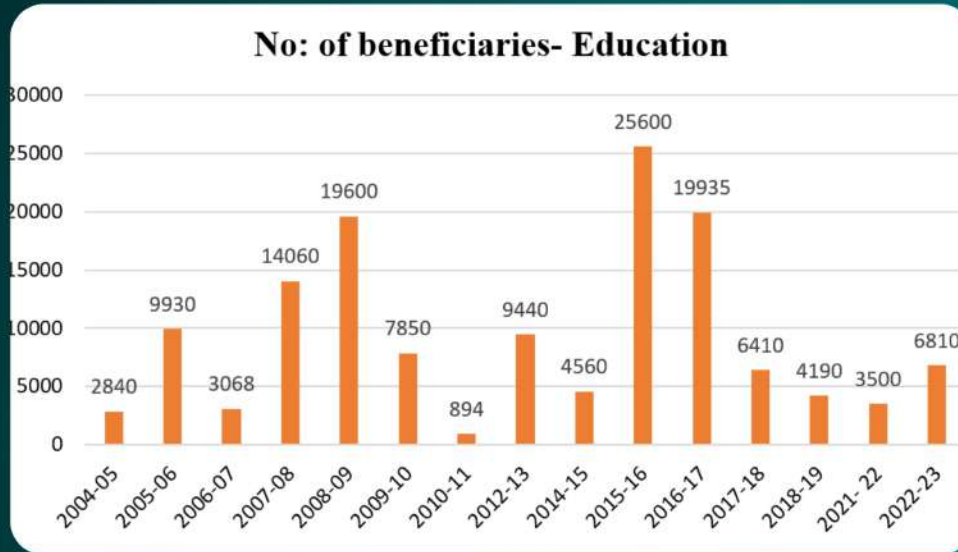
Case study: Rijoy (Mannar) - Unity is life

At the Mannar safe house, two-year-old Rijoy became severely acutely malnourished (SAM) due to inadequate feeding and Menaka's (mother) inexperience. Initially identified as a SAM child during nutrition month in June 2023, his treatment began after joining his grandparents' household in Vavuniya. Menaka had breastfed Rijoy exclusively for six months but lacked knowledge of complementary feeding. After reuniting with her family in August 2023, Rijoy's condition improved rapidly with treatment. Menaka's mother, who was also pregnant and recovering from a high-risk pregnancy, now helps care for Rijoy. Menaka, optimistic about the future, plans to work in a garment factory and has applied for her national identity card.



EDUCATION

Displacement and migration can disrupt children's education, leading to significant setbacks that may impact their lifelong prospects. OfERR is committed to collaborating with education authorities in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu to mitigate the adverse effects of migration on children's educational journeys. The goal is to Ensure uninterrupted continuation of students' education during migrations between India and Sri Lanka.



Case study: Ravichandran (Trincomalee)- Story of a Multifaceted Approach in Re-enforcing Education

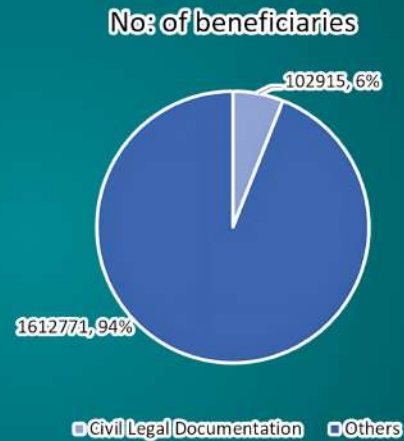
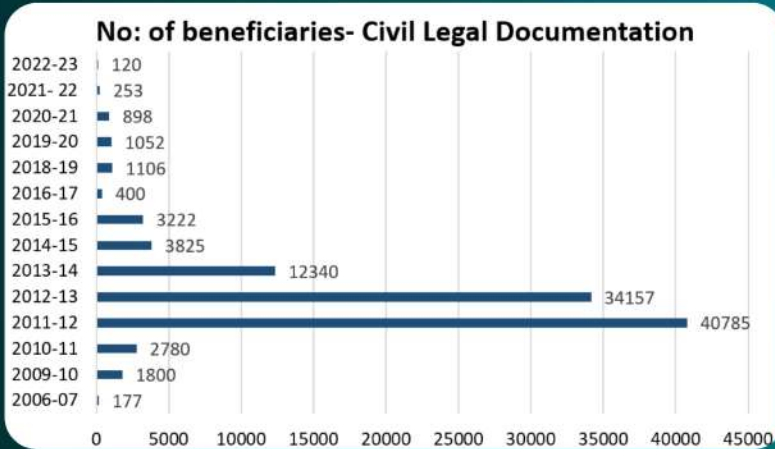
Ravichandran's journey reflects resilience and dedication. After fleeing the Sri Lankan war and seeking refuge in India in 2006, Ravichandran returned to Sri Lanka in 2008, settling in Anandapuri with his mother amid severe poverty. In 2012, they moved to Thiriya and later to Kallampathi, a village struggling with poverty and drug abuse. In 2018, Ravichandran became a pre-school teacher and in 2022, was elected secretary of the Village Child Protection Committee, addressing school dropouts and domestic violence. Inspired by leadership training in 2023, Ravichandran plans to start a women's savings group with OfERR's support, aiming to improve education and opportunities for the community.





CIVIL LEGAL DOCUMENTATION

The years of conflicts and political distress forced the people to flee the nation with whatever they had. A vast majority of the displaced refugees lost their civil documents and proofs in transit which posed concerns in re-establishing their legal status. Refugees who came in under voluntary repatriation found themselves in grueling circumstances. With the legal documentation completely obliterated, the people lacked any sort of authentication confirming their national identity. This led to them being denied all humanitarian rights and basic services from the governing bodies. OfERR, Ceylon was detrimental in drastically reducing the series of steps and time cycle involved in attaining the new National Identity Card and also in providing technical assistance and imparting knowledge to re-acquire the various certificates (birth certificates, marriage certificates, educational certifications, death certificates etc.).



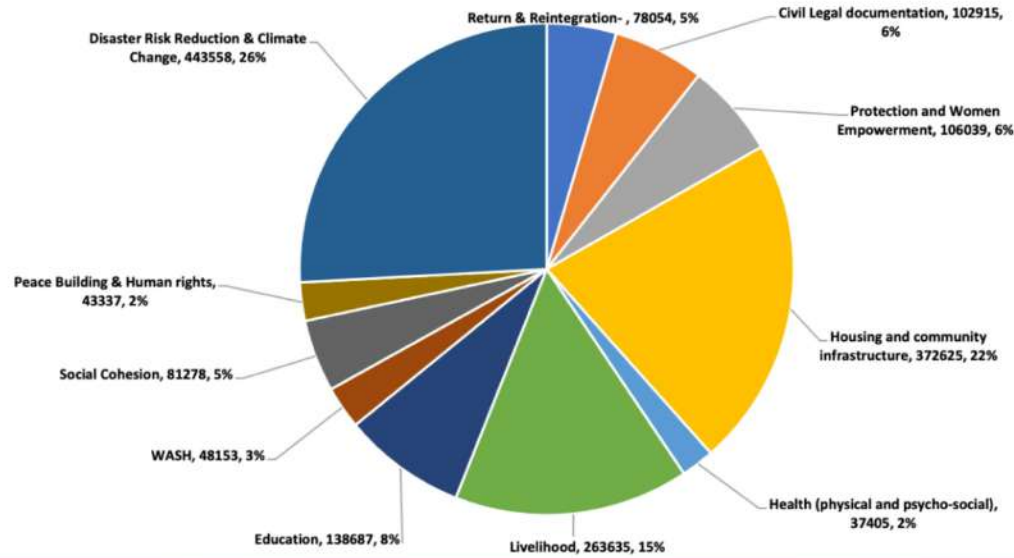
Case Study: Sharmila Nagaraj (Vavuniya)-Building a Life with Unity and Hard Work

In 1990, Manickam Nagaraj fled riots in Vavuniya, Sri Lanka, and settled in a refugee camp in Salem, India, where he married Sharmila and they had four children. Nagaraj worked as a painter while Sharmila focused on their children's education. In February 2019, the family returned to Vavuniya's Manipuram village with UNHCR's help, initially living in overcrowded conditions without essential documents. They secured a plot, built a temporary shelter, and obtained necessary documents with OfERR Ceylon's assistance. Using UNHCR funds, they started vegetable farming and received a goat and local financial aid. Nagaraj and Sharmila now manage a small farm and have stable jobs.

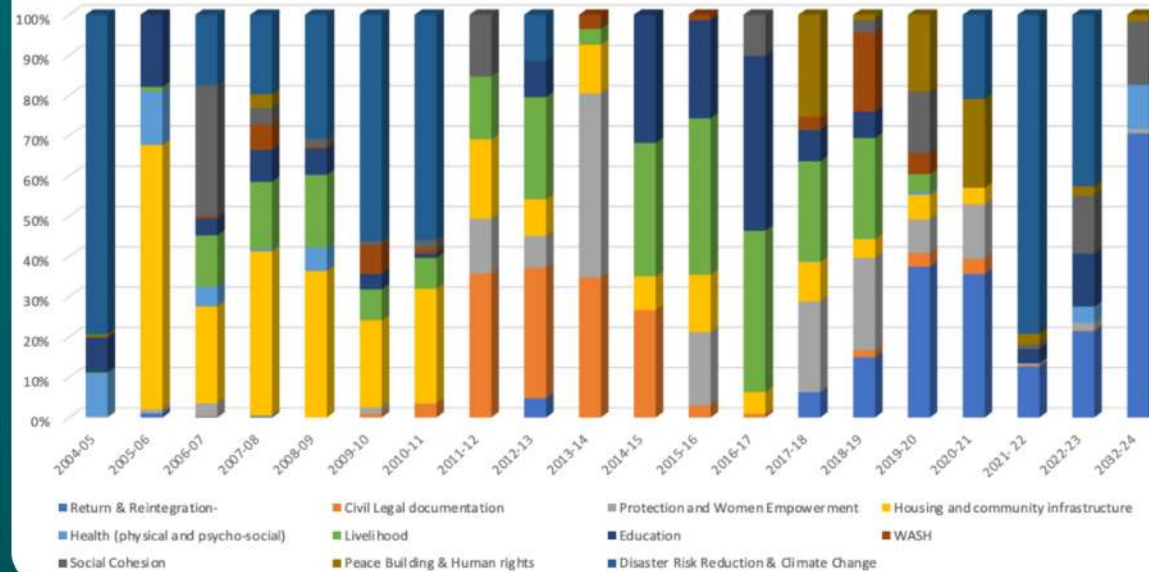


A BIRDS EYE VIEW OF OUR WORK IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

Total no: of beneficiaries under different areas of intervention (2004- 2024)



BREAK- UP OF AREAS OF INTERVENTION- YEARLY



OFERR CEYLON THANKS OUR COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS

Act For Peace	Japan Embassy
AmeriCares	Medical Association Inc.
Australian High Commission	National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka
Australian Sports Commission	National Peace Council
Australian Well wishers	NECORD
British Asia Trust	Norwegian Refugee Council
Canadian Tamil Congress	OXFAM
Catholic Relief Program	PALMERA
Chelvanayakam Charitable Foundation	PDA
Christian Children's Fund Canada	PWRDF
Christian Aid	SCISL
Church of Sweden	Solidar
Community Focus International Zurich, Switzerland	Terre des hommes
CRS	UMCOR
Dan Church Aid	UNDP
FOA	UNHCR
Forest Hill Uniting Church	UNICEF
GTZ Germany	US Consulate
ICCO	USHA International
ILO	
IOM	



Livelihood Project - 2008
Selvi Stores
Mathurankernykulam
Funded by: Jersey Overseas Aid

HEALTH TRAINING WORK SHOP
C-Aid
OFFER CEYLON

Sanitation Project ~ Toilet
Implementing Partner: OFFER CEYLON
Funded by: Jersey Overseas Aid

PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECT
Funded by: ICCO
Implementing Partner: OFFER CEYLON
Partner to enterprising people





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