

**HelpAge  
Sri Lanka**

*age helps*

## **HELPAGE SRI LANKA**

### **CONCEPT NOTE**

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20<sup>th</sup> June 2012

## **HELPAge SRI LANKA**

### **VISION**

A world in which all senior citizens fulfill their potential to lead dignified, active, healthy and secure lives.

### **MISSION**

By working together, we ensure that people in Sri Lanka understand how much senior citizens contribute to society and that they must enjoy their right to health care, social services and economic and physical security.

### **INTRODUCTION**

HelpAge Sri Lanka (HASL) was set up in 1986 following the 1<sup>st</sup> World Assembly on Ageing held in Vienna in 1982. Programmes of HASL were developed based on the 62 recommendations of this World Assembly, followed by the United Nations Principles on Older Persons' independence, participation, care, self fulfillment and dignity declared in 1991. Programmes were further adjusted in keeping with other UN Conventions like the International Year of Older Persons 1999 and now we are developing policies in keeping with the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid in 2002.

HelpAge was registered under the Companies Act No. 17 of 1982 and was incorporated as a limited liability company. The Memorandum of Association and the Articles of HASL was signed on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1986. Subsequently, it was registered under the Registration of Voluntary Social Services Organizations Act. No. 31 of 1980 as amended by the Act. No. 08 of 1998 as a Voluntary Social Services Organization bearing No. 11/4/1/590/86. Thereafter the newly established HASL was gazetted as an Approved Charity bearing No. 497 of 11<sup>th</sup> March 1998.

During the year under review, HASL was privileged to be among the first of sixty global affiliates to achieve "sister status" with HelpAge International (HAI), UK.

HASL has more than two decades of experience working with vulnerable senior citizens providing health and eye care, training of volunteers for voluntary home care, youth education on respecting & caring for senior citizens, construction of houses, latrines and wells for the tsunami affected, programmes covering empowerment, rights, advocacy, disaster risk reduction, water & sanitation and livelihood support.

Currently, HASL has an overall staff strength of about 100 in the head office in Colombo and 02 regional offices in Mahaoya and Parakramapura. The regional office in Kilinochchi was closed on 30<sup>th</sup> November after successful completion of the project. These regional offices have undertaken implementation of 03 foreign donor projects funded by European Union, World Granny and CordAid.

A brief description of overall HASL services is given below. All these services are offered free of charge for senior citizens above 55 years.

HelpAge Sri Lanka's fundraising division tries to earn money to increase organization service for the elderly people. Greeting cards selling and donations by direct mail campaign are our main source of income and we are look forward to work according to new strategic plan since this year. By this new strategic plan we wish to expand our service for the Sri Lankan elderly people.

We are keeping good relationships with government bodies and institutions and working together. Therefore we are capable to work for elders in grassroots level to international level. By strengthen Senior Citizen Communities we are taking Sri Lankan elderly people's participation to the development process. Already we have been working with about 200 Senior Citizen Communities in Sri Lanka and most of them have been empowered and developed their social, economic and health status. We look forward to expand our services with more senior citizen communities in Sri Lanka. On other hand we are conducting Advocacy and lobbying programmes in grass root level to national level. In our advocacy programmes on non contributory pension for all elderly people, we were able to increase welfare facilities for elderly people. We have developed gerontology curricular for all social workers to improve quality of service for elderly people.

a. Eye / Medical Care

HASL Eye Care Centre (05 storey hospital) has the capacity to perform 75 cataract surgeries per week. When admitted for surgeries, surgical and all other facilities including meals are provided completely free of charge. All patients were followed up in clinics after surgery. Spectacles are also provided for those senior citizens who have problems with their eye sight.

In addition to the institutional services provided at the Eye Care Centre, eye camps are held in designated rural villages where vulnerable senior citizens are screened and eye & medical treatments provided. For this purpose, HASL has two Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) manned with qualified medical staff.

The Ayurvedic clinic, manned by a qualified Ayurvedic doctor, also provides indigenous medical treatments for senior citizens once a week.

b. Sponsor a Grandparent (SaG)

Approximately 2,000 senior citizens and another 1,500 family members receive benefits directly or indirectly through 29 SaG projects scattered in Sri Lanka. This is funded by British public through HAI.

c. Youth Education (YEP)

YEP is to create awareness about all aspects of elderly life among the school children and also to conduct school essay competitions and give awards for best essays.

d. Training

Selected senior citizens are given an intensive residential (14 days) home care training in HASL head office who will undertake to attend most vulnerable senior citizens in their respective villages for caring. In addition, a paid home care service is initiated recently where young people are trained and placed for caring services for a fee.

e. Community Based

Community driven activities are being implemented in Eastern, North Central and Northern Provinces of Sri Lanka. Most common service delivery areas are capacity building, training, revolving livelihood schemes, disaster risk reduction & management, elder's rights & advocacy, water sanitation & hygiene. Two large scale projects were completed recently in South, East and in North Western Provinces.

Board of Directors:

	Title	Name	Profession	Function	Country of Nationality	On the board Since
01	Mr.	Tilak de Zoysa	Managing Director of Associated Motor Ways Company PVT LTD	Chairman	Sri Lankan	1987
02	Mr.	A. M. de S Jayaratne	Former Sri Lanka High Commissioner to Singapore	Deputy Chairman	Sri Lankan	1988
03	Mr.	John Mayo OBE	Former member of the board to the Help the Aged		British	1986
04	Mr.	John F Pearson	Former member of the board to the Help the Aged		British	1986
05	Mrs.	Jezima Ismail	Educationist / NGO Activist		Sri Lankan	1987
06	Mr.	Sanjeev Gardiner	Chairman of the Galle Face Hotel		Sri Lankan	1998
07	Mrs. (Dr.)	C. P. Banagala	Former Director of the National Eye Hospital		Sri Lankan	2002
08	Mrs.	N. A. Subasinghe	Director of the Tropical Seed Company PVT LTD		Sri Lankan	2004
09	Mr.	M. D. P. Gunasena	Chairman – MD Gunasena Company PVT LTD		Sri Lankan	2004
10	MS.	Yasmin Raheem	Former Secretary to the Country Representative Colombo Plan		Sri Lanka	2004
11	Mr.	N. Dias Jayasinghe			Sri Lankan	2008
12	Mr.	Richard Blewitt	CEO – HelpAge International		British	2009
13		The Baroness Greengross of Notting Hill			British	2009
14	Mr.	Nishantha Gooneratne	Former Engineer Ceylon Tobacco Company PVT LTD		Sri Lankan	2010
15	Mr.	Krishan Balendra	CEO – John Keels Company PVT LTD		Sri Lankan	2010





**CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF  
 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
 UNDER THE MONITORING OF RECEIPTS AND  
 DISBURSEMENTS OF FUNDS  
 REGULATION No. 1 OF 1993 PROMULGATED  
 UNDER SECTION 5 OF  
 THE PUBLIC SECURITY ORDINANCE CHAPTER 40**

*In accordance with the above regulations made by His Excellency the President under Section 5 of the Public Security Ordinance Chapter 40,*

I, ..... **NAWIMANA WIDANAGE EDMUND WIJEWANTHE** ..... *Director of*

*Social Services certify that* ..... **HELPAJE SRI LANKA** .....  
 (Name of the Organization)

.....of  
 .....

.....NO. 102, **PEMANANDA MAWATHA, RATHTHANAPITTIYA, BORALESGAMIWA** ..... *is*  
 (Address of the Organization)

*registered as a Non-Governmental Organization under the Monitoring of Receipts and Disbursements of funds by Non-Governmental Organizations Regulation No. 1 of 1993 with effect from* ...15.03.1994.....

*Registered No. :* ...0016.....

  
*Director of Social Services.*

*Dept. of Social Services,  
 No. 98, D. S. Senanayake Mawatha,  
 Colombo 8.*

*Date : ...22.03.1994.*

