



ANNUAL REPORT

2018

Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere - PEaCE | ECPAT Sri Lanka

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Founded in 1991, PEaCE (Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere), otherwise known as ECPAT Sri Lanka, is a non-governmental organization that strives to eliminate child sexual abuse and exploitation in Sri Lanka. As a founding partner of the ECPAT International network, it works to protect children through raising awareness, training and workshops, pocket meetings, legal aid, advocacy, medical programs, and conferences around Sri Lanka, as well as regional interventions

INTRODUCTION: ABOUT PEACE

Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere (PEaCE) was a pioneer organisation that was formed in 1991 to protect children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation. It was created as part of the early End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism initiative, which would later become the ECPAT International Network. As such it was named ECPAT Sri Lanka. PEaCE went on to be a keystone in the Child Protection framework of Sri Lanka, and was integral in the 1995 Amendment of the Penal Code of Sri Lanka and the creation of the Children's and Women's Bureau (CWB) as part of the Sri Lanka Police.

Through the years PEaCE played a major role in protecting children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism, and online. It has brought to task several hundreds of criminals and offered legal aid and justice to the victims. The organization also became more involved in protecting children from all forms of child abuse; including child marriage, child sexual exploitation materials, neglect, and much more.

Today its work is conducted through awareness raising, training programs, walks, debates, consultations, legal aid, etc. PEaCE offers its services all over the country to protect all children of Sri Lanka

OUR MISSION

PEaCE actively contributes, primarily, to the elimination of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and strives to promote the protection of children from all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation

OUR VISION

To create a society that protects and promotes the rights of every child and create an environment in which the safety and security of every child is assured.

OUR VALUES

Respect the principles of equality, inclusion, and diversity in all communities.

Adhere to the Rights of the Child, which is the center of our concern, irrespective of cast, creed, religion and gender.

Recognize the sensitive nature and vulnerability of children and approach with care, understanding and respect.

OUR PROJECTS

PEaCE had 3 active projects which happened during the year of 2018. These were sponsored by the UK Government, Lemonaid and ChariTea, and a private philanthropist who has been sponsoring our programs for almost 20 years. Below are the briefs on the projects and their focus areas.

PROJECT NAME : END SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN ONLINE SPONSOR : THE UK GOVERNMENT

The End Sexual Exploitation of Children Online (ESECO) project was initiated under a grant of the UK government in May 2018. This two-year project is an island wide initiative in Sri Lanka to increase the nation's awareness and protection mechanisms towards online child sexual exploitation and abuse (OCSEA). The project is being conducted at 4 levels: the individual level, society level, system level and industry level.

Throughout these levels; children, parents, teachers, educational officials, community officers, law enforcement officers, the legal sector, the ICT sector, the child protection sector and many others are benefiting from programs done as part of the project. These programs include awareness sessions, training programs, TOT programs, public awareness campaigns, consultations, round table meetings, debates, competitions, and legal interventions for survivors of OCSEA.

There have also been several special training programs organized by PEaCE to provide INTERPOL and other International Police force training for the law enforcement officers and child protection officers to provide knowledge resources about investigating online child sexual exploitation cases and identifying the victim. There have also been many other foreign collaborations with international law enforcement

groups and child protection groups that will benefit Sri Lankan children and provide better online protection for them.

PEaCE is also strengthening existing child protection mechanisms and working about new laws and policy changes to deal with the great influx in new communication technologies. These can put children at risk for sexual exploitation if left unchecked. There are also several ongoing media projects that make use of the technology to attract the attention of youth and children to make them more aware of how to protect themselves.

The ESECO project is PEaCE's biggest project to date and has been received with much positivity by the local community.

PROJECT NAME : COMBATING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN
SPONSOR : LEMONAID AND CHARITEA FOUNDATION



The Combating Sexual Exploitation of Children project began in September 2015 as part of the effort to End the Sexual Exploitation of Children, and has been ongoing since that time. The activities were conducted in areas that were identified to be vulnerable according to our previous research and other projects and were mostly done with the support of the Police Department, the Zonal Education Department, or the Department of Child Protection.

The areas of focus were awareness programs on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC),

the training child protection officers including law enforcement agencies, providing legal aid and assistance to the survivors and their family members, the strengthening of community based child protection mechanisms, and speedy law enforcement.

Happily, due to programs being conducted in a cost effective manner, PEaCE was able to conduct more programs for the same budget than planned.

PROJECT NAME :MEDICAL AID FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED COMMUNITIES
SPONSOR : WHITE BIRD (SHIROI- TORI)



With the gracious support of the White Bird (Shiroi-Tori) of Japan, PEaCE has been conducting effective community health programmes such as medical clinics, special clinics and medical camps; educational support, and family life education programmes. The beneficiaries of these programmes are the children and the families of vulnerable and marginalized groups in high-risk areas.

It has been an extremely rewarding partnership, which has helped both parties realize their missions. Every person who was touched by, at least, one of

the interventions done under this programme has brought forth a cascading impact on their immediate family, as well as their community.

Thus, the long-term results and great outreach of this collaboration, which has been in effect since the end of 1999, are now starting to be felt by the participants who have been regular beneficiaries during this period. In addition, this project has also provided PEaCE the opportunity to further engage with the communities, and assist them and their children, through the entry points created by the project.



OUR ACTIVITIES

As part of its activities, PEaCE organizes awareness raising programs training programs, public awareness campaigns, legal aid for victims, medical aid in underprivileged communities and other events. Below are the summaries of our activities from 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018.

84 TRAINING
PROGRAMS,
BENEFITTING
8130 PEOPLE,
TOOK PLACE
DURING THE
YEAR OF 2018.

Awareness programs are an important part of the activities of PEaCE. Children, parents, teachers, law enforcement officers, government officials and corporate entities were educated in 2018 about the child sexual abuse and exploitation and became more aware of the many facets of sexual exploitation of children. There were also meetings with lawyers and community service organizations. The programs ranged between full day events to half day events, and more.

Attendees learnt more about SECTT, OCSEA and other forms of child sexual abuse, the risks in their communities, effects, ways to prevent them, reporting methods and etc.

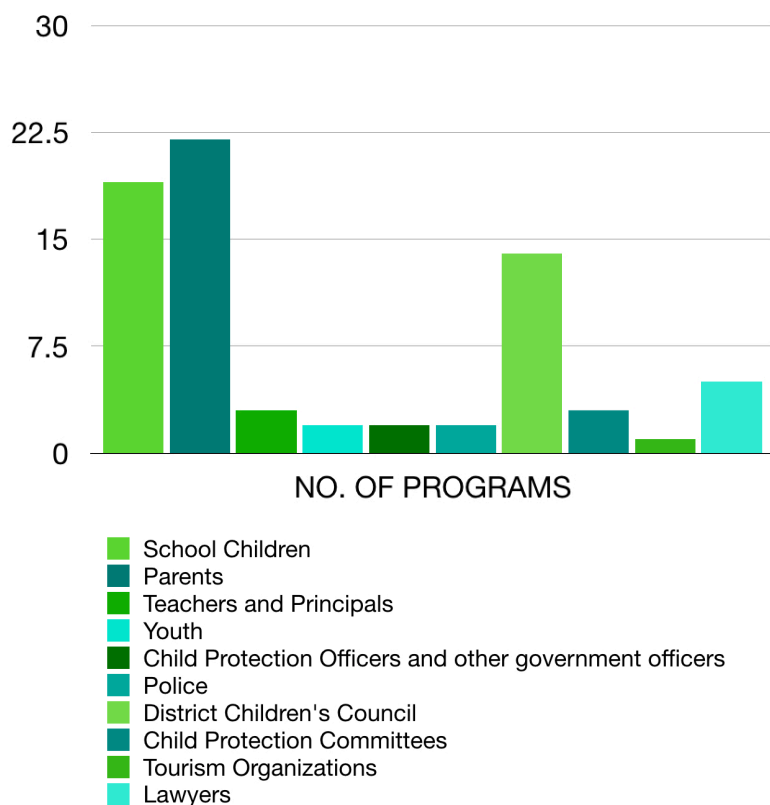
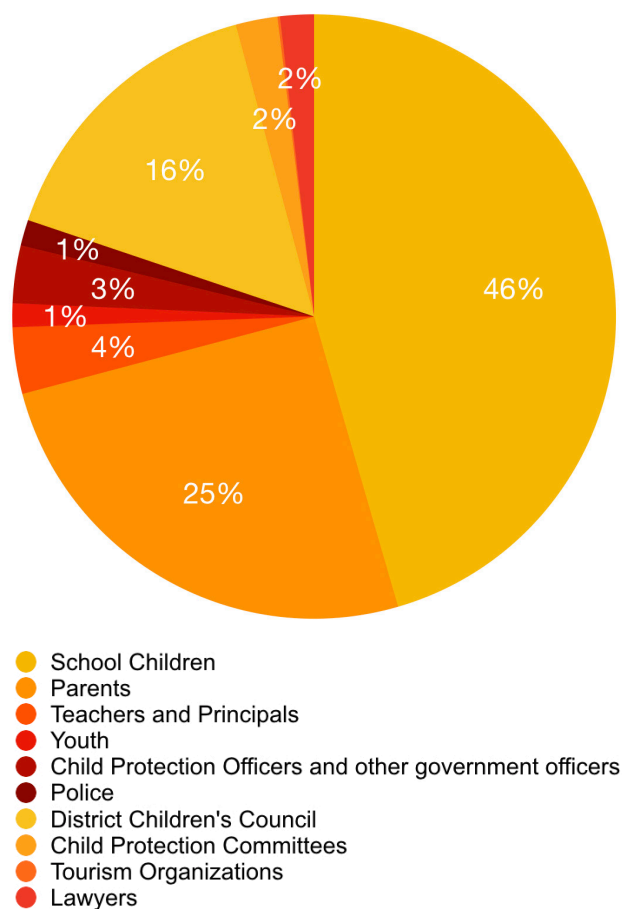
No of Programs	Beneficiary Type	Total Beneficiaries
19	School Children	3798
22	Parents	2117
3	Teachers and Principals	297
2	Youth	106
2	Child Protection Officers and other government officers	258
2	Police	115
14	District Children's Council	1306
3	Child Protection Committees	187
1	Tourism Organizations	11
5	Lawyers	151
73	TOTAL	8346



Training programs and workshop are usually conducted by PEaCE in order to provide training for law enforcement and other officials. These focus on identifying victims and investigating the crime. Many of these workshops were conducted by top local and international police force trainers. There is also training of trainer programs that are conducted by the organization, enabling the empowerment of the community as change makers.

26 TRAINING PROGRAMS, BENEFITTING **774** PEOPLE, TOOK PLACE DURING THE YEAR OF 2018.

NO. OF BENEFICIARIES



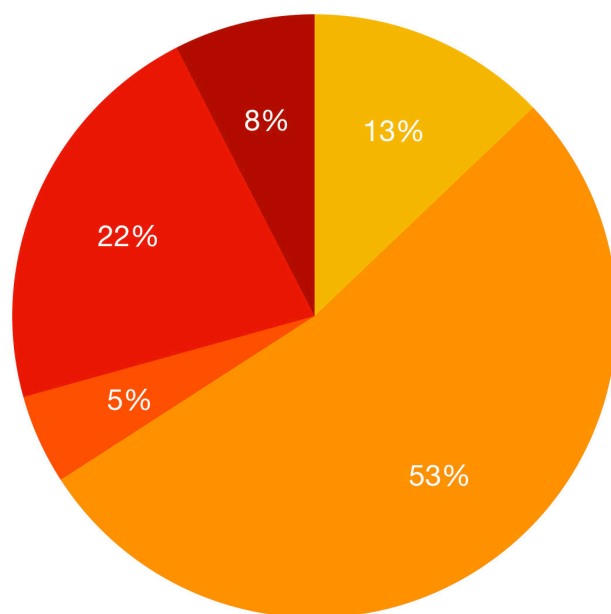
The period of the workshops and trainings differed from 1 full day programs to 3 day residential workshops.

During the one year period PEaCE conducted workshops for Police Officers (including officers

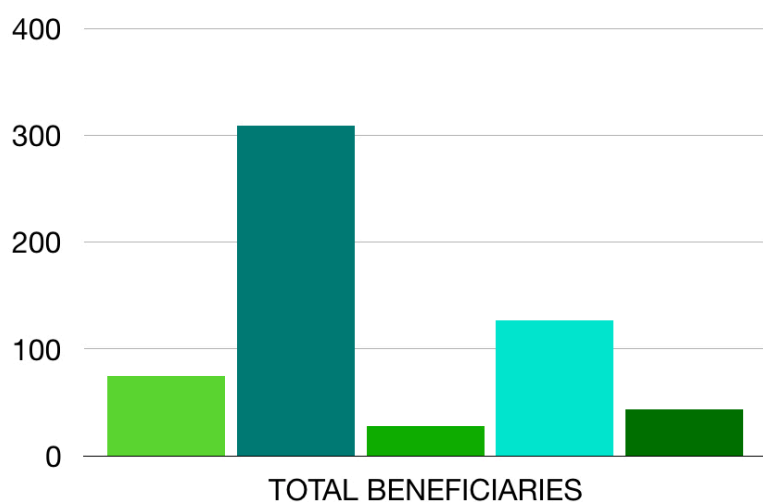
from the Children and Women's Bureau), Child Protection Officers, Youth, Village Child Development Committees, and members of the tourism organizations for follow-up action and planning to prevent SECTT

No of Programs	Beneficiary Type	Total Beneficiaries
5	Police	309
2	Youth	75
1	Follow-up and action plan workshop	28
3	Child Protection Officers	127
1	Village Child Development Committee	44
12	TOTAL	583

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES



- Youth
- Police
- Follow-up and action plan workshop
- Child Protection Officers
- Village Child Development Committee



- Youth
- Police
- Follow-up and action plan workshop
- Child Protection Officers
- Village Child Development Committee



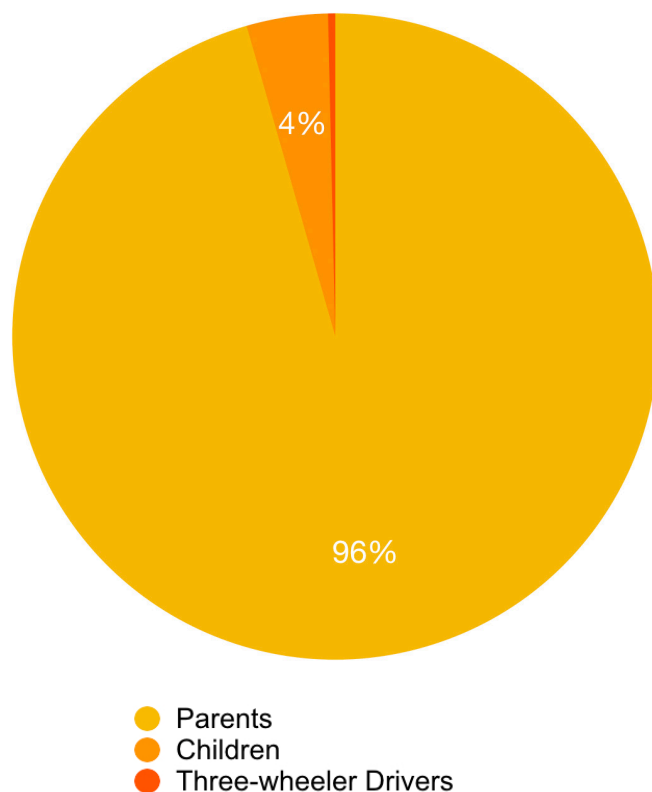


Public awareness campaigns conducted by PEaCE may include impromptu stand-up meetings for communities from vulnerable areas or larger scale awareness campaigns such as walks and media-based awareness programs. The stand-up meetings may be conducted in any place such, as a village square, a construction site, a factory, etc. The focus of these meetings are to give small groups of the general public an increased awareness about the severity and dangers of child sexual abuse, advise them that it is a criminal offence, and help them gain some basic knowledge on how to protect their children. The meetings are conducted by the Project Officers of PEaCE, and resource persons along with the assistance of the police. The attendees are also given simple brochures to read and gain knowledge from.

Among these Public Awareness Campaigns, there was a Walk against Child Sexual Abuse in Nuwara Eliya (a major tourism center in Sri Lanka with a large number of underprivileged families from tea estates) that involved 1000 school children from various local schools who held placards to raise awareness about preventing sexual exploitation of children online and offline. It was a huge success with echoing positive effects.

No of Programs	Beneficiary Type	Total Beneficiaries
13	Parents	39931
3	Children	1700
4	Three-wheeler Drivers	152
20	TOTAL	41783

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES





Legal aid, counseling and rehabilitation of the survivors is one of the main areas of work carried out by PEaCE. Many child abuse victims and their families face discrimination in the court system when seeking justice. Else they are unable to seek justice due to the lack of knowledge on court procedures and the legal aspects involved. They may also have difficulty in paying for legal services, and finding and attending counseling and support services.

PEaCE provides legal aid, and intervenes in the courts and with the police on behalf of victims. We also give them psychological counseling and assist in the rehabilitation of the survivors by helping them return to a sense of normalcy. If a child survivor is unable to return to school due to discrimination or some other reason, PEaCE helps them find alternative schooling. During the year of 2018, PEaCE helped ... victims and represented ... child abuse cases at court.





MEDICAL PROGRAM

PEaCE has been conducting medical clinics and medical camps for vulnerable communities with the assistance of qualified doctors and trained medical professionals for the past two decades. Done as part of the Shiroi Tori Project, PEaCE conducted three types of medical programs: Medical Clinics, Special Medical Clinics and Medical Camps.

Medical Clinics and Special Medical Clinics:

The purpose of the medical clinics is to provide the residents of selected underprivileged (in terms of the economic level, facilities and literacy) areas with regular medical services at no cost. Special Medical clinics, on the other hand, are entirely devoted to conduct special tests such as the Fasting Blood Sugar

Test for diabetes. However, general check-ups for patients are usually done during the after hours, once the main tests are completed.

There were a total of 80 clinics of both types conducted at 8 different centers benefitting 3347 people. chart below shows the beneficiaries of the medical clinic (not including special medical clinic) by age.

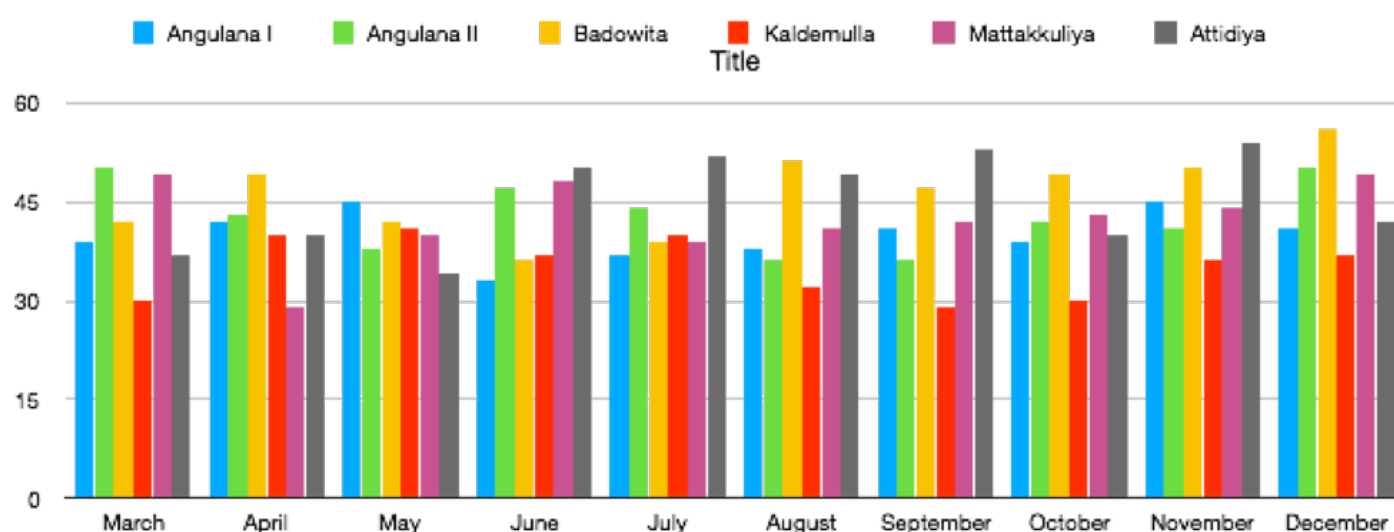
Number of Beneficiaries for Medical Clinics

	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Angulana I	39	42	45	33	37	38	41	39	45	41	400
Angulana II	50	43	38	47	44	36	36	42	41	50	427
Badowita	42	49	42	36	39	51	47	49	50	56	461
Kaldemulla	30	40	41	37	40	32	29	30	36	37	352
Mattakkuliya	49	29	40	48	39	41	42	43	44	49	424
Attidiya	37	40	34	50	52	49	53	40	54	42	451
Total Patients	247	243	240	251	251	247	248	243	270	275	2515



71 MEDICAL CLINICS AND **24** SPECIAL MEDICAL CLINICS THAT HELPED **4317** PEOPLE AND **3** MEDICAL CAMPS AND **3** SPECIAL MEDICAL CAMPS THAT HELPED **1907** PEOPLE TOOK PLACE IN 2017

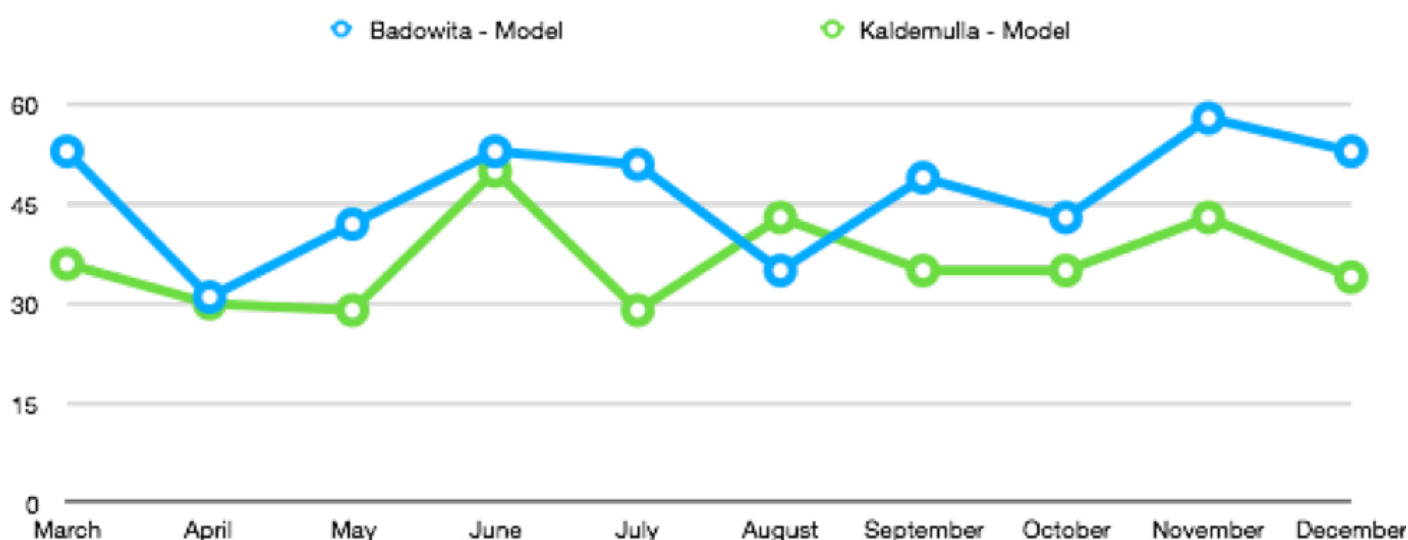
Data for Special Medical Clinics



Number of Beneficiaries for Medical Clinics

	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Badowita - Model Clinic	53	31	42	53	51	35	49	43	58	53	468
Kaldemulla - Model Clinic	36	30	29	50	29	43	35	35	43	34	364
Total Beneficiaries	89	61	71	103	80	78	84	78	101	87	832

Number of Beneficiaries for Medical Clinics



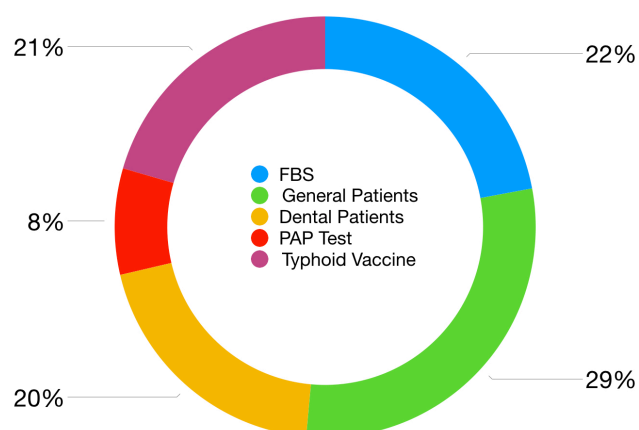
Medical Camps

There were 2 medical camps benefitting 834 people. A number of health professionals attended these and provided their expertise. There were no special medical camps this year 2018. The areas that benefitted were Attidiya and Ratmalana.

The camps are one-time only and provided special laboratory services, general medical assistance, dental care, and psychological counseling for identified underprivileged locations.

Given below are the statistics for these camps

	Attidiya	Ratmalana	TOTAL
FBS	100	84	184
General Patients	130	115	245
Dental Patients	69	97	166
PAP Test	30	38	68
Typhoid Vaccine	0	171	171
Total of Patients Treated	329	505	834





OTHER PROGRAMS

In addition to these, PEaCE also conducted some other programs as part of the ESECO project and the Lemonaid Project. There were 13 debate competitions regarding key issues in child sexual exploitation and child protection online which benefitted 1804 children, parents, teachers and members in the audience.

In addition to these, in 2018 PEaCE formed a coalition with like-minded organizations who work towards the goal of protecting children online and offline. They gave further opportunities and training to these coalition members. There were 5 monthly coalition meetings in the year of 2018, with 55 attendees.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: PEACE ATTENDS PRE-SESSION WORKING GROUP IN GENEVA

In 2016, PEaCE facilitated a participatory process by and for children titled "The World We Want". 207 Sri Lankan children listed their recommendations in a Joint Declaration. It was presented to the Head of State.

In March 2017, these recommendations were included in a submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Sri Lanka that PEaCE did cojoin with ECPAT International. The submission was an update to review the progress that has been made by the Government of Sri Lanka to end Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), to assess the level of implementation of the UPR recommendations pertaining to CSE, and to make new recommendations.

The scope of the submission was limited to CSE and its different manifestations, including exploitation of children in prostitution, online child sexual exploitation, child pornography, child trafficking for sexual purposes, and sexual exploitation of children in the context of travel and tourism. The document provided valuable insights towards a Sri Lankan child's needs for a safer childhood, from the unique and important view of the children themselves.

A Shadow Report on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Sri Lanka, which supplemented the initial

report submitted by the Sri Lankan government on the implementation of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, was also sent in 2017 by PEaCE and ECPAT International. The report was finalized and submitted before the Child Rights Committee on the 29th June 2018.

These submissions were highly welcomed due to the genuine overlook. As a result, PEaCE received an important opportunity to take part in a UPR Pre-session Working Group in September 2018 in Geneva, conducted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and made a presentation there regarding the issues on child protection in Sri Lanka and possible solutions for them.





OTHER ACTIVITIES: FLOOD RELIEF FACEBOOK GRANT VIA GLOBAL GIVING

In May 2018, PEaCE decided to get more involved in the global race for crowdfunding. The organization, Global Giving, that is highly renowned as a global crowdfunding charity was selected as the partner organization after much debate. However, partnering with Global Giving is not an easy process.

A long assessment of PEaCE and its activities were undertaken, along with a grueling test project of raising USD5,000 for a concept of our choice, from 500 different donors within 3 weeks only. This test was to ensure that the non profit partnering with Global Giving had the necessary contacts to make the partnership a mutually beneficial one.

PEaCE had a difficult time meeting the number of donors, as it mainly depends on a small number of large organization grants - and hence fewer viable donor contacts, as opposed to when using small donations from many people. However, the target was met in the end, and many new contacts were found as a result.

Meanwhile even as this effort was occurring, the seasonal monsoons were wreaking havoc in Southwestern Sri Lanka. Many areas were affected heavily as the rains increased as never before. Bridges and dams broke and flooded villages, stranding them with no help and at risk of their lives. Thousands of families were displaced and lost all their belongings. During this period Facebook's disaster response program was constantly active, providing a method for checking the safety status of users in the affected

areas, assisting as a mediator in providing necessary relief in marked regions as requested by the needy, and collecting donations to give as a grant for the flood affected.

The funds collected by Facebook were not distributed immediately. Instead, two months later in late July, Global Giving contacted PEaCE to check if they provide assistance for flood relief as there was a Facebook grant coming in. As it turned out, these were the collected funds from Facebook that was taken from the disaster management program at that time.

PEaCE accepted, as they had done something similar in 2017. The grant was just short of LKR300,000.

While the amount was not huge, there were many communities that needed some extra assistance to get out of the sinkhole of despair that the floods had pushed them into. The funds arrived in late August. By November 2018, PEaCE had done all the preliminary project efforts; found an appropriate location which had still not received relief, contacted the authorities in the area to select 50 children who were most in need, purchased all the goods for the relief pack, and did all the packaging.

On Universal Children's Day, the project was undertaken to provide 50 relief packs for flood affected children to help get back to school. The packs included a brand new good quality school bag, school uniform, text books, notebooks, stationery, school shoes and underwear. The relief was given at two different locations.

INTERPOL TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS ON INVESTIGATION AND VICTIM IDENTIFICATION ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN ONLINE

The training program for the Police Officers with the experts of INTERPOL was part of the project to End Sexual Exploitation of Children Online (ESECO).

The program had its roots in the 1st International Human Rights Conference in Istanbul that took place in February 2018. At this time, the Executive Director of PEaCE had the opportunity to meet up with Cecilia Wallin, the Criminal Intelligence Officer from the Crimes Against Children Division in INTERPOL and discuss the capacity building needs of Sri Lanka. They discussed about the difficulty faced by the various divisions from the police forces when they had to handle crimes related to SECO.

The rapid growth of internet users due to the many high-tech devices flooding the market, has caused a huge increase in crimes against children conducted using online means. While children continue to be exploited through the internet, the law enforcement agencies flounder from a lack of training and technical support required to tackle such crimes. At that time the Executive Director Mahuruf and Officer Cecilia started considering the possibility of a training for the police done by INTERPOL experts.

It was a huge undertaking. However, PEaCE determinedly took it up. The team visited the Police Headquarters, but were told that necessary clearance had to be obtained as it was a foreign agency. This was the first time in Sri Lanka that a nongovernmental organization brought in the INTERPOL or any such international law enforcement agency for training. So obtaining clearance was a difficult task. Meanwhile the INTERPOL team had booked tickets, cleared their

dates and only waited confirmation. Finally, during the last week of July, clearance was obtained and things swiftly proceeded.

The program occurred from 5th to the 7th August at Hotel Topaz in Negombo. It was inaugurated by the Inspector General of Police Pujith Jayasundara and the Acting Ambassador of Netherlands Evan van Woersem. There were 52 participants, mostly from the Children and Women's Bureau of Police (CWB).

Once the training began, it became quite clear that a majority of the participating police officers had little or no knowledge of computers, though the CWB had tried to include many of those who had as much knowledge as possible. This was because there are very few police stations using computers over the entire island. Even those who were familiar with the internet were mostly only accessing it on their phones. Almost half of the police officers had no knowledge or were still unclear about IP addresses.

The participants faced a bit of a struggle due to this lack of knowledge. However, they were still able to gain a lot. One of the main benefits was a better understanding and empathy towards survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation Online, as the officers were treated to the raw reality of what happens to those children who were preyed upon. The videos and images became embedded in their minds and were taken back as important information that would help them become more empathetic towards the survivors, and make them prioritize such cases. They also gained an average understanding of further techniques to be used during investigations.



**PEaCE hopes to have
many similar training
programs in 2019**

