



News from the Field

February 2010

Work out here in Sri Lanka is going well. Following the New Year the weather is a lot cooler, the rainy season is nearly over and so community participation is especially strong.

This month we have just started an exciting new project in Galewala, which will really get going in the next few months. Our first programmes involve the establishment of a community library for the children and basic healthcare training.

Last month, in Rikillagaskada, I visited during a children's competition. It was fantastic to see so many children of all ages gathering on a Saturday and Sunday to compete in writing and art. The entries were good and hopefully I'll be able to update you on the winners in the next news bulletin. Activities this month include a children's educational trip for 150 members of the children's clubs; a great opportunity for the children to get a broader experience of Sri Lanka and to enthuse them about education, a particularly difficult task on the tea plantations where education is still not considered an important aspect of a child's development.

Our work in Kalpitiya is slowly coming to an end. The last credit instalment for the microfinance project has just been delivered, so low interest loans will be offered this month to those whose applications have been considered most worthy by the leaders of the women's groups there. It is always encouraging to see what entrepreneurial activities are pursued with this money. I will be monitoring the activities here closely in the coming month and will be sure to update you on this.

Furthermore with the close of the project in Kalpitiya, I'm currently investigating options for a new project. As ever there are plenty of needy causes, so it is no easy task! Nevertheless it is an exciting time, and a delight to see so many good organisations working throughout Sri Lanka. Hopefully next time I write, I'll be working closely with one of these to develop a new project!

As always, your support is very much appreciated.

Jane Slocombe
Field Director, SLCT.