

Case Studies

School Feeding Program

Case Study: School Feeding Program in Nuwara Eliya

Background

Nuwara Eliya, known for its vast tea estates, harbors a significant population of estate workers' children who are often vulnerable to malnutrition due to the socio-economic conditions of their families. The economic crisis has further strained these communities, making it difficult for children to access sufficient nutrition, which is crucial for their physical and cognitive development.

Intervention

The SLRCS initiated a school feeding program specifically designed for the students in Nuwara Eliya's estate sectors. This program aimed to provide daily nutritious meals to students, ensuring they receive the necessary dietary supplements to support their health and educational performance.

Implementation and Challenges

- **Selection and Assessment:** Schools were selected based on the vulnerability of the student population, with a focus on children of estate workers.
- **Community Engagement:** The program faced initial resistance from local communities due to a lack of awareness. SLRCS conducted community meetings to educate parents and school officials about the benefits of the program, which gradually increased community acceptance and participation.
- **Food Preparation and Distribution:** Meals were prepared by local suppliers who were trained to maintain high standards of hygiene and nutrition. The logistics of food distribution were carefully managed to ensure meals were served fresh and warm.

Impact and Lessons Learned

- **Improved Health Outcomes:** Regular nutritional support helped improve the health indicators among children, as reported by school health monitors and local health officials.
- **Community Empowerment:** Engaging local suppliers not only boosted the local economy but also empowered parents by providing them with a direct role in supporting the school community.
- **Lesson Learned:** Active community involvement and transparent communication are crucial in overcoming initial resistance and ensuring the success of community-focused programs.

Annex V



Case Study School Feeding Program in Monaragala

Background

Monaragala is one of the poorest districts in Sri Lanka, with many children suffering from chronic undernutrition. The economic hardships faced by families in these areas often lead to school absenteeism and early dropouts.

Intervention

Recognizing the acute need for nutritional support in Monaragala, the SLRCS launched a school feeding program aimed at improving the nutritional intake of children, thereby encouraging regular school attendance.

Implementation and Challenges

- **Selection and Assessment:** Schools with high rates of absenteeism and undernutrition were prioritized. Assessments were conducted to identify the specific needs of each school.
- **Meal Planning and Supply:** The program provided diverse menus tailored to the local dietary preferences and nutritional requirements. Local suppliers were involved in meal preparation to ensure cultural appropriateness and support the local economy.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** The program included a rigorous monitoring system to ensure meal quality and assess the impact on student health and attendance.

Impact and Lessons Learned

- **Increased Attendance:** The provision of free meals significantly increased school attendance rates, as children were motivated to attend school regularly to receive meals.
- **Educational Performance:** There was a notable improvement in the students' overall academic performance and participation in school activities.
- **Lesson Learned:** Ensuring the cultural and dietary appropriateness of meals is key to the acceptance and success of feeding programs in culturally diverse regions.

Multipurpose Cash Grants

Colombo Community – Daily Workers

The unconditional multipurpose cash assistance program in Colombo provided crucial economic support to daily wage workers, significantly alleviating the immediate hardships faced by these communities. The program's success underscored the importance of flexible financial aid in urban economic crises, promoting resilience among vulnerable populations. Future interventions could benefit

Annex V

from integrating more robust financial literacy and management support to enhance the long-term benefits of such cash assistance programs. In Colombo, funds were utilized mainly for educational expenses, showcasing the priority given to schooling despite economic hardships.

In response to the severe economic crisis impacting Sri Lanka, particularly the daily wage workers in Colombo, SLRCS implemented an unconditional multipurpose cash assistance program. This initiative aimed to provide immediate financial relief to individuals and families struggling with the drastic reduction in daily earnings due to economic constraints and job scarcities in urban areas.

Intervention

The cash assistance program was designed to address the immediate and flexible needs of the beneficiaries, allowing them to allocate funds towards essential living expenses such as food, medicine, and education.

Implementation Strategy

Selection and Beneficiary Criteria

Target beneficiaries included daily wage workers, particularly those employed in the informal sectors like construction, market vending, and small-scale manufacturing. Priority was given to households identified as highly vulnerable, including female-headed households, families with children or elderly members, and those facing severe financial difficulties.

Cash Distribution

The SLRCS facilitated direct bank transfers to ensure quick and secure financial support. This method was chosen to maintain social distancing measures during the pandemic and enhance the convenience for recipients. Community leaders and local NGOs were engaged to ensure accurate targeting and registration of beneficiaries, overcoming barriers to accessing formal banking services.

Outcomes and Impact in Colombo

- **Economic Stability:** Beneficiaries reported a significant reduction in economic strain, with many able to cover essential expenses without resorting to high-interest loans.
- **Community Feedback:** The flexibility of cash grants was highly valued, as it allowed recipients to prioritize spending based on their most pressing needs. This autonomy was particularly appreciated in the context of varying family obligations and expenses.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Disbursement Challenges:** Some beneficiaries experienced delays in receiving funds due to banking issues or incorrect account information, highlighting the need for robust verification processes pre-disbursement.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuous monitoring was crucial for assessing the effectiveness of the cash transfers. Feedback mechanisms were established to gather insights from beneficiaries on the utility of the funds and any ongoing needs that were not met.

Annex V



Puttalam Community – Floods Affected

The community in Puttalam highlighted the challenges posed by flooding, which severely impacted their agricultural activities. Despite these challenges, the cash transfers enabled recipients to quickly resume farming by purchasing essentials like fertilizer for their gardens. Medication and household repairs were significant areas of expenditure, showing that the cash was essential in addressing immediate health concerns and maintaining living conditions.



Kalutara Community Feedback – Economic Crisis

In Kalutara, the primary use of cash transfers was for medical needs, especially for chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. This points to a widespread need for better healthcare services and financial support for medical expenses.

Conditional Cash Grants for Livelihood and Social Protection

Case-Study: Conditional Cash Grants for Livelihoods

Kurunegala Community

In Kurunegala, cash grants were primarily used to enhance livestock assets and improve agricultural infrastructure. For example, a dairy farmer could use the grant to buy additional cows and build better housing for them, leading to increased milk production and income. Participants utilized cash grants to enhance dairy farming and poultry capacities, leading to increased production and income.



Vavuniya Community

In Vavuniya, the focus was more on diversifying income through different agricultural activities. Beneficiaries invested in peanut farming and goat rearing, which are sustainable sources of income but require different strategies and timeframes to realize profits. Beneficiaries invested in goat farming and peanut cultivation, demonstrating long-term investment strategies, despite some challenges in immediate profitability.



Annex V

Outcomes

- Economic Impact: The grants have led to increased income for many participants by enabling them to invest in their agricultural practices.
- Social Impact: Training provided alongside the financial aid has helped improve both the agricultural skills and financial literacy of community members.