

Expected outputs

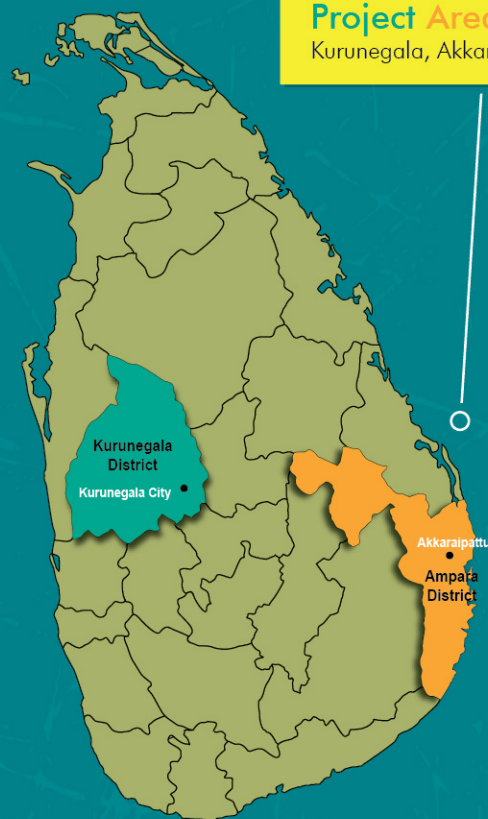
- Representative organizations of slum dwellers in two municipalities and selected slums are able to formulate, implement, review and effectively engage with Local Authorities (LAs) and other stakeholders about their participatory plans.
- LAs and other key stakeholders in two municipalities effectively use systems and adopt behaviour change which mainstreams the participation of poor communities in local decision making and resource allocation for pro poor infrastructure.
- Prioritized infrastructure services are delivered in partnership with relevant stakeholders, in ways which are community led, intended to boost income level and improve urban environment, directly benefitting the urban poor.
- Communities, LAs, National and Regional Associations and others, learn and adopt new practices through strengthened linkages at all levels.

Key activities

- Participatory planning and annual review of plans scaled up through peer learning.
- Strengthening of slum dweller federations.
- Establishment and main-streaming of structures (city level forums) for slum dwellers to engage with LAs.
- Leveraging resources for pro poor service delivery.
- Demonstrating the implementation of pro poor services at household and community levels.
- Synthesising and sharing learning at regional levels for wider adoption.

Project Areas

Kurunegala, Akkaraipattu



Project duration

The project duration is 48 months, starting April 2012 and ending on March 2016.



Practical Action

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DELIVERING DECENTRALISATION



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The global urban population is expected to increase by 2.3 billion between 2011 and 2050. In Asia alone the UN estimates an urban population growth of 1.4 billion (United Nations 2011). The growth of urban populations is closely linked to the growth of slum populations across the world, in Asia 43% of urban dwellers live in slums. In Sri Lanka the urban population constitutes 15% of the total population and slum dwellers account for 12%, figures that are on the rise as post war development leads to rapid urbanization across the country.



Kurunegala district in the North Western Province became the third most populous district in the country following Colombo and Gampaha respectively (2012 population census). The exponential population growth of Kurunegala district led to serious constraints in the delivery of basic services to its inhabitants. Accounting for 10% of the total population of Kurunegala city, slum dwellers in particular lack access to basic services such as decent employment and security of tenure due to economic, political and social exclusion that makes them even harder to reach.



Akkaraipattu, Ampara district, in the war torn eastern province of the country is currently facing numerous administrative challenges as it transitions from rural to an urban administrative system. Despite significant physical infrastructure development via various Post Tsunami and War rehabilitation programmes Akkaraipattu Municipal Council faces numerous challenges in the provision of basic services to its multi ethnic population. Social and economic equity is yet to be addressed, whilst encroachment of environmentally sensitive locations has left the city at risk of severe floods even after a light shower of rain.

Uplift the lives of slum dwellers, Practical Action co-funded by the European Union launched "Delivering Decentralisation: Slum dwellers' access to decision making for pro poor infrastructure services" Project in Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh. In Sri Lanka, Practical Action directly implements the project in Kurunegala and partners with FEED Sri Lanka to implement the project in Akkaraipattu. Kurunegala and Akkaraipattu Municipal councils are strategic partners of the project.

Objective of the project

The objective of the project is to promote systems of decentralized urban governance to empower slum dwellers to engage effectively in decision making and delivery of improved basic urban services such as Health and Sanitation, Education, Water, Solid Waste Management. By building capacity and linkages of both the slum dwellers and local authorities, the project not only aims to improve the lives of slum dwellers but also enhance the service delivery and urban governance. These slum dwellers will then be able to formulate participatory plans, address their priority needs, and ensure that the funding earmarked for the service delivery is utilized appropriately.



Target groups

Slum dwellers and representative organizations in Kurunegala and Akkaraipattu Municipalities, City-level forums, Local Authorities (LAs).

