



## SARVODAYA SRI LANKA: THE PAST AND FUTURE

[www.sarvodaya.org](http://www.sarvodaya.org)

### *Introduction*

Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement of Sri Lanka had a vision to create a “Society with no poverty and no affluence” back in 1958, long before the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Not limiting itself to an ordinary development organization, Sarvodaya introduced a universal philosophy based on the principle of the Middle Path, very much in line with today’s concept of sustainable development following the noble principles of Buddhism and the teaching of Mahathma Gandhi. In this way it created a unique people’s movement for development. Sarvodaya’s inclusive, integrated, development approach encompassed:

- Spiritual
- Moral
- Cultural
- Social
- Economic and
- Political development of individuals, families, villages, cities, the nation and subsequently the world.

Sarvodaya rightly tapped into the social capital of the day, and guided communities towards sustainable development thorough self-help models. From the beginning, it advocated for consciousness, economic and power determinants of development, demanding that the benefits of development be equitable to all. Dr AT Ariyaratne, founder of the Sarvodaya Movement said the goal was to have an “awakening of all”. That development should not merely address the benefits of development to humankind, but should also address the positive and negative consequences on the overall ecosystem.

Through out its six decades of service, while piloting and adapting globally accepted

development strategies and tools, Sarvodaya itself introduced tools based on local knowledge and values. These include shramadana and community-kitchens to innovatively and scientifically address the issues of eras. Some of the original local pilot programmes have now become national, and development partners and practitioners have successfully adapted many other ones, including the early childhood development programmes, micro financing and “credit plus” services.

The following table illustrates how Sarvodaya’s previous and present work can be related to and placed on the SDGs, and the organizations forward thinking on role of a Sri Lankan civil society organization to contribute to the successful achievement of the SDGs during the next 10 years.

## GOAL 1: END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Micro-finance and micro-credit schemes for poor</i>	Campaign and advocacy for access to basic services and resources for all through Sarvodaya's participatory democracy, good governance and reconciliation program (Deshodaya)
<i>Livelihood support programs for marginalized</i>	Dealing with land issues of conflict affected and third/forth generations of farming communities in Mahaweli region – Deshodaya and Sarvodaya Legal Services Movement (SDFC - sarvodayalegal.org)
<i>Economic asset restoration for conflict affected</i>	Introduce appropriate new technologies in agriculture / small and medium industries - Sarvodaya Institute of Higher Learning (SIHL)
<i>Economic empowerment of community-based organizations</i>	Provision of entrepreneurship skills – Sarvodaya Economic Enterprise Development Services (SEEDS - seeds.lk) and provision of financial services – Deshodaya Development Finance Company (DDFC - ddfc.lk) and SDFC  Training farmer communities for climatic shocks and disaster resilience - SIHL  Advocacy with GoSL for better poverty alleviation strategies and models; beyond the welfare State models

## GOAL 2: END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Campaign for breast feeding; exclusive for 1,000 days</i>	Exclusive breast feeding - Sarvodaya Women's Movement (SWM)
<i>GOBFF (Growth monitoring; Oral rehydration; Breast feeding; Food supplement; Family planning)</i>	Low external input and alternative agriculture technologies (in response to unidentified Chronic Kidney Disease – CKD in the central and northern farmlands) and promotion of conventional techniques in weeds and pest control – SIHL
<i>Nutrition programs for rural poor and Nutrition Handbooks; Common kitchens in the times of food shortages</i>	Hunger Fighters in nutrition lag regions to combat prevailing stunting and wasting - Sarvodaya Community Health Unit (CHU)
<i>Nutrition enhancement for conflict-affected children in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps with UNICEF and Mother support groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mother support groups in conflict affected regions and nutrition lagging regions – CHU</li> <li>• Urban agriculture / home gardening to combat food security and urban malnutrition - SIHL</li> <li>• Providing technological solutions and financial services for agriculture, food processing, value addition – SEEDS &amp; SDFC</li> <li>• Preservation of indigenous seeds and genetic resources - SIHL</li> <li>• ICT innovations in agriculture and marketing – Sarvodaya Fusion (The Information and Communication Technology unit of Sarvodaya)</li> </ul>

### GOAL 3: ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELLBEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Community health interventions in communicable and non-communicable diseases control and prevention</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the mother support groups - CHU</li> </ul>
<i>Global Fund Round 8 and 9 interventions in combating malaria and HIV AIDS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility of continuing Global Fund work (Sri Lanka will be Malaria-free by 2016) - CHU</li> </ul>
<i>Survival and Development (SDDP) with UNICEF in health lag behind / conflict affected regions and mother support groups</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reproductive / adolescent health programs</li> </ul>
<i>Improving GoSL health facilities (Gramodaya Health Centers) and training GoSL health staff in conflict affected regions</i>	Combat CKD (unidentified Chronic Kidney Disease) which kills thousands in vulnerable farming communities in multiple angles and advocacy for national policy to combat CKD
<i>National partner of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN)</i>	
<i>Adolescent and reproductive health interventions with UNFPA</i>	

GOAL 4: ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY  
EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Early childhood development and pre-school program (used to have ~4,000 preschools around the country)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of ECD program – Sarvodaya Early Childhood Development Unit (ECDU) and rural / children libraries to promote reading</li> </ul>
<i>Safe learning spaces for conflict affected children (education and protection of vulnerable children)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational training – outreach, training, diversification, entrepreneurship and financial services to trainees - Sarvodaya Rural Technical Services (SRTS) specialized in providing affordable water, sanitation facilities and construction work and SDFC (currently a national partner of WUSC's ASSET project)</li> </ul>
<i>Catch-up education and support for conflict affected children</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of Sarvodaya Rural University (moving beyond SIHL) to provide a variety of alternative courses for youth and practitioners left behind by formal university system</li> </ul>
<i>Vocational training for unemployed youth (mainly with WUSC)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generation to generation; knowledge transfer from elder to younger generations, effectively using the social capital of ever increasing elderly population</li> </ul>

## GOAL 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Gender-based violence prevention programs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening women in politics - SWM</li> </ul>
<i>Female community leader training with Community Capacity Building Unit</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand adolescent and sexual health programs</li> </ul>
<i>Women in politics with SWM in response to less than 2% of female in active politics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaigns to stop violence against women and harassment in public places – SWM and Deshodaya</li> </ul>

## GOAL 6: ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Thousands of community water projects by SRTS around country</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New strategic water use to combat CKD – filtering technologies</li> </ul>
<i>Building of protected water wells and toilets for conflict affected populations – SRTS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting hygiene for populations affected by conflict, with improved infrastructure</li> <li>• Fight/campaign against environmental and water pollution – Deshodaya and community monitoring teams</li> </ul>

GOAL 7: ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Alternative energy for cooking (for firewood) in rural Sri Lanka</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the efficiency of firewood usage (still more than 70% households use firewood as primary cooking source) - SWM</li> </ul>
<i>Piloted the use of solar energy in low income households in the first ever eco-village built in Damniyamgama</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign for minimum energy life styles – Deshodaya</li> </ul>
<i>Expanding use of solar energy with the World Bank</i>	

GOAL 8: PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT, AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Income and employment generation work with SEEDS at the community-based organization level</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation and better outreach with micro-finance and micro-credit programs – SEEDS, DDFC, SDFC</li> </ul>
<i>Micro-finance and micro-credit programs to get the poorest of the poor in to mainstream economy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based social security system for marginalized population coupled with the livelihood development programs</li> </ul>
<i>Cash for work activities for conflict affected populations</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of livelihood development programs for marginalized, vulnerable, conflict affected and youth</li> </ul>

*Volun-tourism (tourists that volunteer) by the Sarvodaya International Unit*

- Vocational training to entrepreneurs; promote entrepreneurship and small and medium scale enterprises with youth VT trainees
- Provide flexible term – low interest financial services to marginalized women / women groups for livelihood development
- Campaign for Zero-child labour (inline to GoSL objectives)
- Female unskilled migrant workers to Middle-Eastern countries; better training, family preparation, and assist with follow up investments – DDFC, SDFC
- Promotion of eco-tourism (tourism + ecology) and volun-tourism (tourism + volunteerism) initiatives to diversify tourism, and to make tourism eco – social – friendly

## GOAL 10: REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

<i>Sarvodaya’s prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Within the country; economic development and economic empowerment for the poorest of the poor</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative economic development / income generation projects to continue - SEEDS, DDFC, SDFC</li> </ul>
<i>Community development and community building through Shramadana and institutional development (forming legally recognized community based organizations)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration /promote coexistence in war-torn Sri Lanka: reconciliation and peace building – Deshodaya and Shanthi Sena</li> </ul>
Sarvodaya Deshodaya campaigns and people’s interventions for inclusive, people-centered development and protection of rights including Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuation of implementation of LLRC recommendations (move in to the deep recommendations)</li> </ul>

*Implementation of Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission's (LLRC) recommendations to address minority grievances*

- Partnerships with local governance structures (Local government authorities) for collaborative local development plans – Deshodaya

Interfaith dialogues and programs; and campaigns for minority rights (language, religious and economic rights)

- Fully exploring the potential of inter-faith leaders' and faith-based organizations' capacity and strength in economic development, promote inclusive development, disaster response and disaster risk reduction etc. – Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena

Mobilizing youth for peace with Sarvodaya Shanthi Sena

- Protect democracy, human rights and democratic values; continue election monitoring and campaign for clean politics (March 12 Movement) – Deshodaya

## GOAL 11: MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Making communities more resilient to disaster</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community-based disaster risk reduction and disaster resilience with Sarvodaya-AJJDC Disaster Management Centre</li> <li>• Regional and global partnerships in DRR and to combat global climatic change</li> <li>• Food security and resistance to climatic / disaster shocks in food chains</li> <li>• Disaster / conflict response plans to enable immediate responses in natural and man-made disasters (ethnic-religious conflicts)</li> </ul>

## GOAL 12: ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Visionary guidance for middle path; sustainable consumption patterns</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection/preservation of local seed varieties and technologies; seed banks and gene pools - by re-established Environment Unit</li> </ul>
<i>Promote and support local production and local knowledge in agriculture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote low external input agriculture (also to combat CKD), specially in farming regions</li> <li>• Promotion of urban agriculture and home gardening among all populations</li> <li>• Waste recycling projects and composting by community-based organizations – DDFC, SDFC</li> <li>• Continue with the visionary guidance / use of Social Media to change the people's consciousness including changing adverse attitudes</li> </ul>

## GOAL 13: TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS (TAKING NOTE OF AGREEMENTS MADE BY THE UNFCCC FORUM)

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<i>Disaster risk reduction programs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue with DRR</li> <li>• Climate change adaptations - SIHL</li> <li>• Promote crop diversification and market facilities – SIHL, DDFC, SDFC</li> </ul>

GOAL 15: PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION, AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

*Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs*

*Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years*

*Deshodaya community action to safeguard the environment; to stop pollution and exploitation*

- Continue with community action and campaigns to protect environment - Deshodaya
- Reforestation programs
- Seeds banks and seed gene pools
- Promotion of local crop varieties / preserving the biodiversity of the local environment – SIHL
- Networking with like-minded regional and global organizations to advocate for the Kyoto protocol and other international tools, and join other global campaigns including WhyDoICcare from the Paris 2015 Summit of Conscience
- Advocacy; eco-friendly village development plans and district development plans

GOAL 16: PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

*Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs*

*Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years*

*Reconciliation and peace building activities*

- Continue with Deshodaya for a system of participatory democracy and good governance; strengthening the Deshodaya forums island-wide – Deshodaya

*Community awareness against bribery and corruption*

- People's action and campaigns to protect HR, and democratic space – Deshodaya and SLSM

*Consensual politics and participatory decision making ; bottom up approaches*

- Fully achieving the Right to Information

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|---|---|
| <i>Campaign for Right to Information</i>    | • Continue with interfaith initiatives                            |
| <i>Interfaith cooperation and dialogues</i> | • Youth leadership development and youth for peace – Shanthi Sena |

**GOAL 17: STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

<i>Sarvodaya's prior work related to SDGs</i>	<i>Way forward with SDGs in next 10 years</i>
<p><i>Domestic resource mobilization and mobilize financial resources from different sources: Sarvodaya has mobilized financial resources from different sources (including its own income generation activities) in the past ix decades, only being seconded to the GoSL in various development activities, benefitting poorest of the poor. The sources included multi-national and bi-lateral development agencies, international development partners and philanthropists</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being a Middle Income Country, Sri Lanka has been less competitive in mobilizing international financial resources, but Sarvodaya continues its efforts to mobilize resources for the benefit of the un-served populations in Sri Lanka to meet their basic needs</li> </ul>
<p><i>International cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhanced knowledge sharing: Sarvodaya has been partner in many regional and global initiatives in disaster risk reduction (Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network: ADRRN), and agricultural and land reforms (Asian Non-Government Organization Coalition: ANGOC) etc. where it contributed to this objective.</i></p>	<p>Continue partnerships with international thinktanks, technical experts and organisations, facilitating enhanced innovation and sharing of knowledge.</p>

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*Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building to implement all the sustainable development goals and multi-stakeholder partnerships: Sarvodaya is a national partner in the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiative and civil society cooperation between North and South (Commonwealth People's Forum) etc. where it contributed to this objective. Sarvodaya is also a strong partner in regional and global interfaith cooperation with Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) and the United Religions Initiative: (URI), and also in promoting ethics for children (Global Network for Religions for Children: GNRC) and its End Child Poverty Initiative.*

- From its inception Sarvodaya has been a strong advocator for sustainable development through people-centric approaches. Its founder Dr AT Ariyaratne, is a great visionary and globally appraised personality towards achieving this. Sarvodaya will continue its efforts in many areas, including Community Monitoring to implement and monitor the implementation of the SDGs