

Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People



1977 - 2017



Fortieth Anniversary Celebrations

24 Hour

Crime & Immigration Service

07939 474 342

**Immigrations Related
Applications and Appeals**

Immigration
EEA Law
Entry Clearance
Human Right claims
Asylum Claim
Citizenship and Nationality
Detention and Deportation
Judicial review

Family Matters & Property

Divorce Matters Residential
Ancillary Relief Commercial
Other family matters Landlord

- Tier 1 (High skilled workers, Entrepreneurs, investors)
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- Tier 2 (Sponsored skilled workers) (formely 'work permit')
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Crime (Public Funding Available)

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Representation at Magistrate /Crown courts

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Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People



*Standing as a pillar supporting the Tamil Community
Committed in maintaining their dignity and integrity
Originating in principles that had shaped the vision
Triggered off by instances to embark on this mission*

*Sticking to the formulated policy guideline rigorously
Concerned about pursuance of objectives vigorously
Observing transparency and accountability as a rule
Targeted dedicated individuals to the resource pool*

*Served hapless kinsfolk with diligence and generosity
Choosing worthy causes for ensuring their prosperity
Obtained feedback from recipients to check progress
Tracking proper utilisation of funds for future access*

*Setting examples to others giving them an inspiration
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Towards the cherished goal may it continue to strive*



1977 – 2017



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President's Message

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to our 40th anniversary celebrations. Members and General Council of SCOT are delighted to celebrate a continuous forty years of devoted service to the needy Tamil speaking community in the North and East of Sri Lanka.

Forty years of existence is a significant achievement for any organisation. But in SCOT's case, to continue to this day strictly along the lines and ideals selected by our founding fathers is truly remarkable indeed. These achievements by SCOT over the years were made possible by the dedicated and selfless services rendered by our Past Presidents, Officers and Members of General Councils and SCOT Members during the last four decades. We owe a genuine debt of gratitude to them, particularly to our Past Presidents, for their leadership, prudent counsel and spirit of friendship always, in managing the affairs of SCOT. We do recognise that the policies and procedures initiated and implemented by them have largely stood the test of time and guided our organisation to this day. We acknowledge with pride and gratitude the contributions and achievements of each and every one of them for SCOT.

You all are well aware that SCOT funding policy has always been in keeping with the needs and priorities of the community in the North and East. SCOT has always endeavoured to apply its available resources to where the need is greatest, and on the basis of sound value for money. I am very happy to say that we continue to do so; following extensive investigations and consultations we concluded recently that lack of proper competence in English language is a major handicap suffered by the youth in the North and East. This handicap denies good opportunities in employment not only to the school leavers among them, but even those who proceed to higher education at universities find it difficult to keep abreast of developments abroad in their chosen subjects by use of the internet. The underlying cause has been identified as due to lack of properly trained and qualified English teachers at significant number of secondary schools in the North and East. In order to remedy this, SCOT has with the co-operation of other organisations, embarked on a programme to fund training of such teachers. When the results of the first batch of these trainees are analysed shortly, it is hoped the programme will be amended, adjusted and expanded to achieve maximum value.

I wish you all a very pleasant evening and enjoy yourselves. Finally, on behalf of the present General Council, I thank all our members, their families and friends and our well-wishers for help and support towards making the Fortieth Anniversary Celebration a great success.

Dr E Velauthapillai



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SCOT General Council

Past Executive Officials

1977-2018

| YEAR | PRESIDENT | SECRETARY | TREASURER | PROJECT OFFICER |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1977/78 | Mr. K Arumugam | Mr. A. Vairavamoorthy | Mr. C. Kathiresan | Mr. M. Bastiampillai |
| 1978/79 | Mr. K. Arumugam | Mr. C. Kathiresan | Mr. T. Ramachandran | |
| 1979/80 | Dr. S. Navaratnam | Dr. R. Thayaparan | Mr. N. S. Kandiah | |
| 1980/81 | Dr. S. Navaratnam | Mr. R. Mahadeva | Mr. N. S. Kandiah | |
| 1981/82 | Mr. C. Kathiresan | Mr. R. Mahadeva | Mr. N. S. Kandiah | |
| 1982/83 | Mr. C. Kathiresan | Mr. T. Visvendran | Mr. M. Thiagarajan | |
| 1983/84 | Dr. R. Thayaparan | Mr. T. Visvendran | Mr. M. Thiagarajan | |
| 1984/85 | Dr. R. Thayaparan | Mr. T. Visvendran | Mr. M. Thiagarajan | |
| 1985/86 | Mr. N. S. Kandiah | Dr. S. Arunachalam | Mr. M. Thiagarajan | |
| 1986/87 | Mr. N. S. Kandiah | Dr. S. Arunachalam | Mrs. S. Sivanithy | |
| 1987/88 | Mr. P. Rajanayagam | Dr. V. Paramanathan | Mrs. S. Sivanithy | |
| 1988/89 | Mr. P. Rajanayagam | Dr. V. Paramanathan | Mrs. S. Sivanithy | |
| 1989/90 | Dr. S. Arunachalam | Mrs. S. Sivanithy | Ms. K. Pathmaseni | Mr. P. Rajanayagam |
| 1990/91 | Dr. S. Arunachalam | Mrs. S. Sivanithy | Ms. K. Pathmaseni | Mr. P. Rajanayagam |
| 1991/92 | Dr. K. Sivakumar | Mr. K. Gunaratnam | Ms. K. Pathmaseni | Mr. C. Kathiresan |
| 1992/93 | Dr. K. Sivakumar | Mr. K. Gunaratnam | Ms. K. Pathmaseni | Mr. C. Kathiresan |
| 1993/94 | Mr. A. Sriharan | Mr. N. Sidamparapillai | Mrs. S. Arunachalam | Dr. K. Sivakumar |
| 1994/95 | Mr. A. Sriharan | Mr. N. Sidamparapillai | Mrs. S. Arunachalam | Dr. K. Sivakumar |
| 1995/96 | Mr. T. V. Arumugam | Ms. K. Pathmaseni | Mr. N. Ariyaratnam | Dr. S. Balakrishnan |
| 1996/97 | Mr. T. V. Arumugam | Ms. K. Pathmaseni | Mr. N. Ariyaratnam | Dr. S. Balakrishnan |
| 1997/98 | Mr. K. Sanguhan | Mrs. R. Sriharan | Mr. N. Ariyaratnam | Ms. K. Pathmaseni |
| 1998/99 | Mr. K. Sanguhan | Mrs. R. Sriharan | Mr. N. Ariyaratnam | Ms. K. Pathmaseni |
| 1999/00 | Dr. N. Poobalasingham | Dr. S. Balakrishnan | Ms. A. Sankaralingam | Ms. K. Pathmaseni |
| 2000/01 | Dr. N. Poobalasingham | Dr. S. Balakrishnan | Ms. A. Sankaralingam | Ms. K. Pathmaseni |
| 2001/02 | Mrs. R. Sriharan | Mrs. S. Arunachalam | Ms. A. Sankaralingam | Mr. J. P. Swampillai |
| 2002/03 | Mrs. R. Sriharan | Mrs. S. Arunachalam | Ms. A. Sankaralingam | Mr. J. P. Swampillai |
| 2003/04 | Dr. S. Balakrishnan | Mr. V. Indran | Mr. N. Sivapalan | Mr. J. P. Swampillai |
| 2004/05 | Mr. S. Srikanthan | Mr. V. Indran | Mr. J. Paramanathan | Mr. J. P. Swampillai |
| 2005/06 | Mr. S. Srikanthan | Mr. V. Indran | Mr. J. Paramanathan | Dr. A. H.Y. Rajendram |
| 2006/07 | Mr. J. P. Swampillai | Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam | Mr. J. Paramanathan | Dr. A. H. Y. Rajendram |
| 2007/08 | Mr. J. P. Swampillai | Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam | Mr. J. Paramanathan | Dr. A. H. Y. Rajendram |
| 2008/09 | Mr. V. Indran | Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam | Mr. K. S. Satgunaseelan | Mr. F. Swampillai |
| 2009/10 | Mr. V. Indran | Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam | Mr. K. S. Satgunaseelan | Mr. F. Swampillai |
| 2010/11 | Dr. A. H. Y. Rajendram | Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam | Mr. K. S. Satgunaseelan | Mr. F. Swampillai |
| 2011/12 | Dr. A. H. Y. Rajendram | Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam | Mr. K. S. Satgunaseelan | Mr. F. Swampillai |
| 2012/13 | Mr. F. Swampillai | Ms. V. Sankaralingam | Mr. K. S. Satgunaseelan | Mrs. J. Selvarajah |
| 2013/14 | Mr. F. Swampillai | Ms. V. Sankaralingam | Mr. K. S. Satgunaseelan | Mrs. J. Selvarajah |
| 2014/15 | Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam | Ms. V. Sankaralingam | Mr. B. Alphonsus | Mrs. J. Selvarajah |
| 2015/16 | Dr. R. G. Sankaralingam | Ms. V. Sankaralingam | Mr. B. Alphonsus | Mrs. J. Selvarajah |
| 2016/17 | Dr E. Velauthapillai | Ms. V. Sankaralingam | Mr. B. Alphonsus | Mr M. Rudran |
| 2017/18 | Dr E. Velauthapillai | Ms. V. Sankaralingam | Mr. B. Alphonsus | Mr M. Rudran |



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| Hari Children's Home, Batticaloa - Orphanage. | Ozanam CMRC, Batticaloa – Mentally Disabled. |
| Thilagavathiyar Magalir Illam, Batticaloa. | RC Girls Home, Ilavalai – Orphanage |
| Vipulanada Children's Home, Akkaraipattu. | CORD – Women's Development Project |
| Hindu Council – Mangayar Mandram. | Vivekananda Girls Home, Valaichchenai . |
| Assist Resettlement & Rehabilitation | AEDU Trincomalee. – Vocational Training Centre, |
| Mallkam. REDO, | Hatton – Livelihood Projects for Widows . |
| Family Rehabilitation Centre, Colombo . | YMCA School for Visually Impaired, |
| Batticaloa . Human Development Centre, Jaffna | St. Patrick's, Jaffna – Children from Vanni . |
| Ahavoli Family Service centre, Jaffna | Centre for Women and Development, Jaffna |
| Caring Hands Centre – Disabled Children | Rehabilitation Project of Bishop of Mannar. |
| Association for visually Handicapped, Jaffna | TIDE – Nuffield School for deaf, Kaithady . |
| Nectar Dairy Farm Project, Batticaloa | Holy Family Convent, Uruthirapuram . |
| Jaipur Foot Program for War Victims. | OFERR – For Srilankan Refugees in Tamil Nadu |
| NAHRO Health Project in Killinochchi | Hindu Samaya Abhivirutti Saba, Trincomalee. |
| TRO – Nursery School in Athikovilady. | YMHA Batticaloa – IDP Relief & Flood Relief . |
| Ramakrishna Mission, Colombo – IDP relief. | VOVCOD Trincomalee – IDP Relief. |
| Catholic Relief Organisation . | Gurukulam, Killinochchi– Vocational Training |
| Gods Own Children, Jaffna | SYNERGY, Batticaloa – Community Project |
| .Mahadeva Ashram, Killinochchi – Orphanage | Siddha Hospital, Kaitady – Herb Garden Unit |
| Jaffna Medical Faculty Gold Medal in Obstetrics | Moolai Co-op. Hospital – Repair of Ambulance |
| Sri Shanmuga Trust, Trincomalee - Orphanage. | St. Joseph's Home for Elders, Columbuthurai |
| St. Lourdes, Vavuniya. | Federation of Youths – Relief to IDPs in Vaharai. |
| ISLF of USA – Demo Farm, Kanakarayankulam | Nanattan Maha Vidyalayam – Lab Equipment |
| St. Mary's Boys Home, Kalmunai . | Grace Home for children, Cheddikulam . |
| Vasantham Home for children, Vaddukkottai. | Shakhti Social Welfare Centre, Batticaloa |
| St. John's Centre, Batticaloa – Orphanage . | FOSDO Vavuniya – War displaced |
| Holy Family Sisters, Jaffna – War affected. | Selva Sannathy Temple – Health Facility . |
| God's own children, Jaffna – Education project | Jaffna Hospital Development Association |
| Vanni Eye Camp – Jaffna Hospital | Hartley College – Education Project |

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❖ *SCOT is the oldest charity serving the Tamil speaking community in Sri Lanka since 1977.*

❖ *The objectives are relief and rehabilitation of our people.*

❖ *SCOT is continuing to serve without any political interference or involvement.*

❖ *SCOT will continue with their service and keep flag flying for many years to come.*

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SCOT – Genesis and Progress

Dr S Navaratnam

In the aftermath of 1977 riots in Sri Lanka with loss of lives and property and displacement of a large section of Tamils towards safer areas in North and East, a protest march took place in London where a petition was handed over to Prime Minister's office. After the demonstration, more than hundred people of various Tamil organisations gathered in Liberal Party HQ hall and SCOT was formed as an umbrella organisation. Committee consisting of Dr. Arumugam as President, Mr. Vairavamoorthy as Secretary and Mr. Kathiresan as Treasurer was elected. Mr. Sabapathipillai drew up the Constitution. It was registered as a UK charitable trust in 1978.

Although the main aim of the association was poverty alleviation among Tamils of Sri Lanka, during the initial few years SCOT concentrated in settling displaced Tamils especially of upcountry, in Vanni areas in collaboration with Tamil Refugee Rehabilitation organisation (TRRO) and Ghandiyam, both registered charities in Sri Lanka. There were several farms set up in Vanni, and SCOT disbursed most of the funds in supporting them. SCOT also took part in a project initiated by a firm manufacturing pumps and drilling tube wells, by paying for the drilling and subsidising the cost of wells and pumps, in providing water to those settlers and farmers.

SCOT general council felt that in addition to addressing humanitarian causes, they should espouse Human Rights violations affecting Tamils also, and sent Mr. Rajanayagam to take part in UN Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva, together with delegates from other Tamil organisations in other parts of the world. In the aftermath of 1983 riots in Sri Lanka the worst against Tamils, SCOT joined other activists in a protest march in London. SCOT members Mr. Arumugam and Dr. Navaratnam led a delegation of Tamil representatives from other parts of the world to meet Indian Prime minister and received her assurance of protection of Tamils.

SCOT promoted arts and culture in UK, by staging of music and dance programmes by leading Indian artistes like Chitra Visveswaran, Sirkali Govindarajan, Sudha Ragnathan & Bhushany Kalyanaraman, at the same time raising funds for the association. In addition to that, social events were organised several times a year which also brought in revenue. Due to the activities of SCOT, membership grew and at one stage there were nearly 300 of them, and their subscriptions formed a fair proportion of the funds of the association. SCOT has acted as a catalyst in bringing about changes, in collaboration with humanitarian agencies serving needy Tamils.

One commendable feature of SCOT is that it has survived continuously for forty years, which speaks volumes of the integrity of the association. This is due to not only observing democratic values and cordiality among the members, but also maintaining transparency and accountability in transactions. SCOT has always supported worthy causes after vetting funding requests and insisting on feedbacks from the recipients about utilisation of the allocated funds. For the future, SCOT must enrol young members embracing them into the committee to groom them for the leadership role, and also take up major projects to enhance livelihood of Tamils.



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SCOT – Mission and Strategy

M. Rudran

We are grateful to our members, well-wishers and patrons for helping us to support our fellow Tamil kinsfolk in hardship. Situation for Tamils in north, east and central areas of Sri Lanka remains dire still, without significant change educationally, economically or socially. Percentage of people living below poverty line are the largest in Tamil areas – 18% in Killinochchi, 13% in Mullaitivu, 11% in Batticaloa, 10% in Trincomalee and 8% in Jaffna compared to 1% in Colombo and 3% in Galle.

Our involvement in the humanitarian crisis of these innocent victims is bound to go on due to lack of support from the authorities. One special category of people who came into our spectrum is widows who had become breadwinners. Our women's empowerment projects in association with other leading organisations have made some of these women self-reliant. SCOT had also supported orphanages, conducted health camps and helped in the rehabilitation of disabled persons and provided relief to flood victims.

Few years ago we took a decision to move away from a reactive mode meeting the random demands from local organisations to proactively participate in livelihood projects, so that we could assist them in enhancing their quality of life, and wean them off from the custom of dependency. SCOT started an agriculture project in Vanni to help farmers in northern province using modern technology of precision farming as in Tamil Nadu, reducing cost and increasing yield and thereby profit.

We have already embarked on a game changing project in collaboration with EDFSL of training 730 teachers of English in the northern province as it was found that the standard of English among teachers and students was low compared to southern Sri Lanka. Cost of the program conducted by British Council Jaffna is about £56,000, towards which we had received support from individuals and organisations in the UK and abroad, as well as organising cultural and social events to raise funds.

For the future, we have short listed our projects in fisheries, livestock breeding, IT and retailing. Prior to the commencement of the conflict, north and east were self-sufficient in rice and exporting marine and agriculture products to the south. Now all those are in shambles with military occupying lands and preventing people to engage in their livelihood activities which they had done in the past. SCOT is working with other charities in resettling these fishermen and farmers in their own lands.

SCOT strategy in going forward is to prioritise education, employment and following on them empowerment and pooling all resources by working together with other organisations in UK and abroad. It is important to have a structured approach and focus on key issues affecting Tamils. We need your help to execute our strategy, monitor projects, bring organisations together and access institutional funds. Please join in our mission to make a lasting difference to our people.



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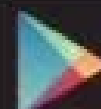
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CHILDREN'S PROJECT

Involvement of SCOT in supporting institutions caring for orphans and destitute children in several parts of northern and eastern Sri Lanka has been going on since its inception, in order to help these children to grow up with satisfactory education and integrate into the society as useful citizens in gainful employment. Regular visits to the orphanages were made by members of SCOT to monitor activities regarding utilisation of SCOT funds in providing facilities.

Unfortunately after the war, there was an increase in number of these children in need as many of them were orphaned and an equal amount becoming destitute despite being left with one or both parents, who could no longer care for their children due to financial difficulties or rendered disabled. Strong financial position of SCOT as a result of generosity of its members and well-wishers, made it possible to meet all requests for financial assistance from these institutions.





EDUCATION PROJECTS

It was found that knowledge of English among teachers and students in northern province was low compared to that in pre-war years. As acquiring competency in English would open up the path for students in education in science subjects as well as securing employment in Sri Lanka and abroad, it was decided to upgrade the standard of English by training teachers of English, with help of British Council, and the first set was funded by Dr. Rajchandran, a member of SCOT.

After his demise, SCOT took up the program teaming up with Education Development Forum Sri Lanka – UK (EDFSL) and Department of Education of northern province (DOE), formulating a plan to train 20 English language teachers as trainers by British Council personnel. SCOT entered into an agreement with British Council to implement this project, estimated at £56,000. This is coordinated on behalf of SCOT by Dr. Navaratnam and Mr. Paramanathan, both council members.

Project began in June with selection of teachers of English, 29 from Jaffna and 11 from Vanni. Training commenced in August in two groups of 20 for three months. Best 20 of them would then be monitored in their own teaching sessions for three months from January, to be groomed as trainers. DOE has committed itself in training balance 730 teachers of English in the province subsequently in the next two years with these trainers using their own funds under a separate scheme.

SCOT has also from time to time supported financially, various schools in northern and eastern provinces to upgrade the facilities in the schools such as for purchasing of books for the libraries and equipment for the laboratories. SCOT funded school for deaf and blind Kaithady to establish a new library with books for the deaf and audio-books for visually handicapped, as well as for conducting in house training programs in upgrading the teaching standards in partnership with TIDE.





MEDICAL PROJECTS

Since its inception, SCOT has not been involved in many medical projects other than funding from time to time, for the purchase of some equipment to the major hospitals in the northern and eastern provinces. However in the last few years, this has changed due to lack of facilities provided by the government. One of the last funding of SCOT was towards purchase of tread mills with ECHO cardiograph machines to Mannar and Killinochchi hospitals for the benefit of local patients.

It was found that several people in northern and eastern provinces were having problems with their sight due to cataracts, and they were unable to get surgical treatment to correct it as there was a long waiting list due to shortage of doctors and lack of equipment. SCOT decided to allocate funds for this project of cataract surgery supporting the initiative of Dr. Logendran a member of SCOT, who has sacrificed his time and money to conduct operations and bring relief to the poor people.

Eye camps have been held in Batticaloa, Vavuniya and Jaffna, where patients were first chosen from their respective areas and transported to a major hospital where surgeries were performed by a team of doctors and nurses from various parts of Sri Lanka. On each of these occasions over 100 of them had received surgical treatment spanning over a period of three days. This venture is not only a success but also been beneficial to vast section of the community considering expenditure.

SCOT funded medical screening programmes in Poonagari and Karaichchi of Killinochchi district that were conducted in association with NAHRO, with the help of doctors and para-medical personnel. Patients were given free transport to attend the clinic. They were examined, tested and given medicines and advice. It is noteworthy that over 150 people with disability benefited from this, and they were given certificates about their condition so that they could claim allowance from the government.





AGRICULTURE PROJECTS

Several farmers in northern and eastern provinces in Sri Lanka are dependent on agriculture income for their livelihood. It was found that after the end of the war, these families were unable to re-establish their livelihood adequately due to various reasons such as loss of farm tools and lack of financial resources. Another important aspect is that the practices they use are outmoded, resulting in low production thereby affecting profit, which SCOT felt was needed to be addressed.

SCOT embarked on a pilot cultivation project in northern province adopting lines of precision farming model for cultivation of high value crops developed by agriculture university of Coimbatore. It was led by Mr Paramanathan and Dr. Sooriyamoorthy council members of SCOT, with assistance from experts in the field of agriculture and hydrology and university of Jaffna, aimed to reduce cost, increase yield and obtain higher profit, considering the conditions prevailing in the area.

After carrying out field assessments by International sustainable livelihood foundation of USA together with SCOT, an initial demonstration farm on the above method was started to give farmers in the area an opportunity to learn and practice this model, in a five acre plot of land leased out from Sevalanka for a period of three years. It also gave employment to women in the area during seeding and harvesting, as well as being of interest to undergraduate and postgraduate students.

At the next phase, ten farmers from northern province at two per district were chosen to take part in this program. The project schedule conformed to monsoonal pattern with cultivation done by each farmer in two stages from January to September, using their own resources. Each of them were issued with drip irrigation system on a lease agreement, and given training in operating it. They were also educated on application of fertiliser in scientific manner and the progress monitored.





LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS

SCOT has been supporting needy Tamils in Sri Lanka throughout its existence either on its own or in partnership with other non-governmental organisations. Years of war in Sri Lanka had left with several widows, orphans and disabled persons who are often not provided with adequate support by the authorities. In order to make these hapless people to be self-reliant, SCOT embarked on projects to enhance the livelihood of the individuals in addition to granting financial relief to them.

Women who had been left widowed due to the war, were placed in an unfortunate situation of having to take up the role of bread winners of their family. These people needed financial assistance to practice a vocation which is familiar to them, in order to fulfil their new found responsibility. Most of them being in a low educational state could not enter into any established career and had to rely on self-employment venture such as dress making, home gardening and life stock breeding.

SCOT entered into partnership with organisations that were working with these women, such as Centre for Women and Development (CWD), Mangayar Mandram of Hindu Council and Chinmaya Organisation of Rural Development (CORD). Though major part of the funds for these projects were provided by these organisations themselves as well as other international agencies and micro credit scheme of the banks, SCOT had also contributed substantial amount toward these projects.

One category of destitute persons who are often overlooked is the disabled. Unfortunately the number of these among the Tamil community has increased exponentially due to the effects of war. While there had not been many beneficiaries of SCOT funding among disabled, a few years ago SCOT provided funds to associations caring for visually handicapped people in Jaffna and for rehabilitation of physically handicapped people in Vavuniya together with ORHAN, and in Kaluwanchchikudi.



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