

SRI LANKA PEACE SUPPORT PROJECT III

Sri Lanka currently is experiencing its best chance for lasting peace since 1994: a ceasefire agreement was signed in 2002 and talks between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam have been initiated. However, neither negotiations nor any agreement reached will be sustainable unless both are based on a vision of peace shared by all stakeholders. AED's Sri Lanka Peace Support Project (SLPSP) aims to build the capacity of government and civil society organizations to engage and value the participation of all stakeholders in the peace process. SLPSP provides grants and/or technical assistance to Sri Lankan organizations in the areas of stakeholder analysis, multi-stakeholder dialogue, grassroots mobilization, public opinion, peace values, and strategic sectors.

To date project accomplishments include:

- High level negotiators from other countries have engaged the government's negotiating team, as well as political stakeholders and civil society organizations in dialogues on lessons learned from other countries' negotiations processes, providing practical models of how to deal with specific challenges negotiations and, more broadly, encouraging the development of an inclusive vision of the peace process
- AED is using KAP (knowledge, attitude, and practice) surveys as a tool for sparking dialog among stakeholders, identifying new constituencies for peace, and shaping pro-peace outreach campaigns. With AED grant

and technical assistance, the non-governmental organization Social Indicator has designed a survey that measures Sri Lankans' concerns with and aspirations for the peace process; its results are now in demand across the country, among key stakeholders.

- Development and production of a 13 part teledrama series depicting the impact of the civil war on each of Sri Lanka's three main ethnic groups. It has been aired twice on national television, as well for the Diaspora in Europe, and has been made into a feature film. The success of this program expected to continue with a second series currently under development and due for broadcast on television and through cinemas with another feature film in September 2005.

SLPSP's first phase ran from April – October 2002, the second phase from November 2002 – April 2004, and the current phase from May 2004 – September 2007. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the project's current phase is worth approximately US \$6.9 million. SLPSP is designed and implemented by AED's Center for Civil Society and Governance.

AED Washington Contact:

Chanya Charles
Deputy Director
Center for Civil Society and Governance
E-mail: ccharles@aed.org
Tel. 202.884.8814

1825 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009
Web site: www.aed-ccsg.org
Fax 202.884.8442

AED Sri Lanka Contact:

Kim DeRidder
Chief of Party
E-mail: kderidder@aed.org
Tel. 94 11 26657 63 5
Fax. 94 11 267 3364

AED
No. 207/17 Dharmapala Mawatha
Colombo 07
Sri Lanka

