

## NaCSA TRC REVIEWS PRO-POOR GROWTH FOR PEACE CONSOLIDATION (GPC II) PROGRAMME

Commissioner Alie Badara Mansaray has assured District Council Chairpersons of government's commitment in improving the livelihoods of beneficiary communities and contributing to the sustainable development and consolidation of peace, with specific focus on employment creation and income generation for vulnerable groups (youths and women) in selected chiefdoms in the three programme districts of Kono, Kailahun and Koinadugu, under the Pro-Poor Growth for Peace Consolidation (GPCII) programme funded by the German Government through the German Development Bank (KfW), executed by NaCSA.

Addressing District Chairpersons, GIZ and other members of the Technical Review Committee of the (GPC) programme at the Commission's Boardroom, Commissioner Mansaray said the Programme which was a Financial Cooperation between the Governments of Sierra Leone and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, executed by NaCSA falls into two phases. GPC I (2006-2010) targeted four border districts of Koinadugu, Kailahun, Kono and Western Urban and provided primarily social and economic infrastructure such as feeder roads, markets, grain stores, lorry parks, and community centres based on expressed need of communities across sectors.



The Chairman of Koinadugu District Council, Sheku Kamara on behalf of colleagues expressed their profound thanks and appreciation to NaCSA for the participatory approach used in the planning, identification, implementation and monitoring of these projects. 'I hope other MDAs will emulate your example', he added.

Present were the Chairpersons for Kono and Kailahun District Councils and their respective Chief

Administrators, Representatives from GIZ and NaCSA Regional and District Coordinators North and East and NaCSA Senior Management staff.



**GOSL**



**FRG**

# NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL ACTION (NaCSA)



**SIERRA LEONE REPARATIONS  
PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER**

**October 2016**



*H. E. The President Empathizing and Interacting With War Victims*

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

- \* Commissioner's Message
- \* Introduction
- \* Programme Interventions
- \* Reparation Programme (Success Stories)
- \* NaCSA News Briefs
- \* Technical Committee Reviews GPC II

**Transforming Lives,  
Restoring Dignity of War Victims for Healing,  
Reconciliation and Peace Consolidation**



## Message from Commissioner's Desk



**Commissioner - NaCSA  
Alie Badara Mansaray**

Sierra Leone experienced a brutal war between March 1991 and March 2002, during which all parties to the conflict caused a lot of atrocities. The widespread and systematic abuse included killings, rape, torture, ill-treatment, and amputation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was part of set of instruments of transitional justice in the country. The objective of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (SLTRC) was to address impunity, break the cycle of violence, provide a forum for both the victims and the perpetrators of human rights violations to tell their story, and to get a clear picture of the past in order to facilitate genuine healing and reconciliation.

The TRC Report recommended reparations to victims whose human rights were abused as a result of the war and these include Amputees, the War Wounded, Victims of Sexual Violence, War Widows and Child Victims. Extreme poverty, terminal illness, disability, homelessness, trauma, unemployment, anger

etc. were all the pervasive effects of the war. For the survivors these effects were extremely compounding in the absence of any support.

By statutory instrument dated 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008, the Government extended the mandate of the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) to 2018. Parliament enacted the necessary amendment of the NaCSA Act 2001, incorporating Reparations into the mandate. The importance of Reparations was thus embedded in the broad agenda of our post-conflict reconstruction initiatives.

***'The successful implementation of the Reparations Programme for war victims has played a crucial role towards such stability. The treatment, involvement and empowerment of victims in the process have in themselves constituted a stable part of the reparation package'. Commissioner Alie Badara Mansaray***

This Newsletter reviews the accomplishments to date of the Sierra Leone Reparations Programme. It gives the background to the programme and describes some interventions carried out, and how these interventions transformed and restored the lives and dignity of some of these victims. Moreover, it also acquaints readers with the status of the War Victims Trust Fund (WVTF) and takes a look at what can be learned from a Sierra Leone perspective and highlights some of the commission's activities as news briefs.

## INCHR Liberia Commends NaCSA

Bartholomew B. Colley said he is thrilled at the way and manner the Sierra Leone government through NaCSA is implementing the TRC recommendations on reparations in the country.

The head of delegation from the Independent National Commission of Human Rights of Liberia (INCHR) made this disclosure during a meeting with NaCSA Reparations Unit at the commission's Board room as part of their study tour to share and learn lessons from the Sierra Leone experiences that will inform various programme designs and policy formulations to enhance the capacities of the INCHR in Liberia.

Liberia he lamented shared almost the same experience with Sierra Leone as a result of the civil wars in both countries. 'I am optimistic that lessons learnt from this study tour will be shared with our commission and other counterparts' he added.



**INCHR Liberia Reps. & NaCSA Staff**

## NaCSA Commissioner Meets World Bank SCD Mission

The Commissioner Alie Badara Mansaray informed a World Bank Mission that providing accessibility through feeder road networks to rural agricultural communities in the country is the major critical challenge facing the country in accelerating progress toward the goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner.

The NaCSA Commissioner made this disclosure during a meeting with the World Bank Mission for the Sierra Leone Systematic Country Diagnostic (SCD) lead by Dr. Inder Sud (Consultant), at World Bank Office in Freetown.

The objective of this meeting according to the World Bank SCD Consultant Dr. Inder Sud, is to identify the most critical constraints and opportunities facing the country in accelerating progress toward the goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner.



## IAF Reviews National Social Protection Policy

The Office of the Chief of Staff in collaboration with NaCSA organized a three day retreat (29 Sept.-2 Oct.2016) to review the National Social Protection Policy at Njala University, Mokonde campus.

The three day retreat which attracted participants from various Government Ministries, Local and International Organizations, Local Government, Civil Society organizations among others aimed at reviewing the current Social Protection Policy measures, institutional framework and implementation strategies.

The retreat agenda covered presentations on global, regional and national social protection policies, Sierra Leone policy measures and plans, Validation of policy, finalization, bill development process and plenary sessions among other issues.





## NaCSA NEWS BRIEFS

### REFUGEES FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND CASH BASED INTERVENTION DISBURSEMENT

Eighty- four exempted Refugees and Asylum seekers in the various refugee camps in the South and Eastern Regions in Sierra Leone benefitted from a day training session in Financial and Business Development and Cash based intervention.

The training exercise sponsored by UNHCR was conducted in five refugee settlements including Jerehun, Godama, Taiama, Largo, Tobanda and Jimmy Bagbor. It is aimed at enhancing the capacity of targeted beneficiaries in running and managing small businesses, sharpening their business skills and sourcing funds to boost their capitals.

It is expected that after the training participants should be able to develop business plans, manage their businesses to ensure continuity, improve their various business ventures and make them profitable and sustainable.

### Social Protection Unit Boosts Beneficiaries

The Social Protection Secretariat, in collaboration with NaCSA and partners has conducted cash payments to beneficiaries of both the Social Safety Net (SSN) and the Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) project for the third quarter of this year in the Western Rural, Moyamba, Bombali and Kono Districts.



These World Bank funded projects continue to be implemented by NaCSA in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs; Civil Society, the Anti-Corruption Commission and local communities.

### NaCSA Pays LIPW Beneficiaries in Western Area Rural District

*By: Gibrilla Bangura, IEC Intern*

Youths engaged in a 21 day labour intensive work on various farms in sixteen communities in the Western Rural District have each received cash payments Le.168, 000 from the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) under the Labour Intensive Public Works (LIPW) Program.

Funded by the World Bank, the project aims at attracting groups of young people between ages 18-35 from the sixteen communities to embark on small scale farming in their respective communities to enhance food security and reduce unemployment among the youth. Beneficiary communities provided the land and identified the beneficiaries to serve as gardeners in their various localities. Each community engaged at most 80 beneficiaries. At the end of the planting season, the proceeds of the farm is owned and controlled by the community.

The beneficiary communities include; Masantigie, Maforinkay, Bolima, Tokeh, Baw Baw and Hamilton among others.

## NaCSA Recruits



L-R : Abdulai Kamara (Data Operator), Alpha Sankoh (Snr. Dir. Programmes), Emmanuel A.B. Turay (PM—IEC&V), Musa Thullah (Data Operator), Alex Bangura (Account Assistant) and Idris Turay (PM—Social Protection)

## INTRODUCTION



*Director - Reparations  
Obi Buaya-Kamara*

The protracted Civil War precipitated untold sufferings for the victims whose human rights were violated. It was a period that marked the beginning of the long journey of perceived marginalization, rejection, dejection, shame, abandonment and poverty for both the direct and indirect victims.

The war finally came to an end after a peaceful settlement was reached, culminating in the signing of the Lome Peace Agreement (Lome Agreement) with the Revolutionary United Front (RUF/SL) on 7th July 1999. The Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (SLTRC) has its origins in the Lome Peace Agreement, signed on 7 July 1999. The agreement provided for a cessation of hostilities, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of combatants, and the conversion of the UN observer force in Sierra Leone to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), a 6,000 troop peacekeeping force.

The Peace Agreement laid the basis for lasting peace, national unity and reconciliation, ratified by the Parliament of the Republic of Sierra Leone as "The Lome Peace Agreement" Act 1999 (ACT No 3 of

1999). In furtherance of Article VI paragraph 2 (IX) of the Lome Peace Agreement the Government established the SLTRC through the enactment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2000 (Act No. 4 of 2000), with a "mandate to create an impartial historical record of violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law related to the armed conflict in Sierra Leone from the beginning of the conflict in March 1991 to the signing of the Lome Agreement".

The recommendation made by the TRC for the provision of some form of compensation for the victims came in handy to address the immediate problems faced by these war victims. The creation in 2007 of the Reparations Programme under the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) was a fulfilment of this recommendation. The programme was meant to restore the dignity of victims through the provision of social services to individuals, groups and/or communities severely affected by the war.

The main beneficiaries as recommended by the TRC were placed into 5 main categories, namely: *i) Amputees ii) War Wounded iii) Orphans iv) War Widows, and v) Victims of Sexual Violence/abuse.*

NaCSA was mandated with the enormous task of addressing the emerging needs of the victims. The main areas of interventions were on health, education, psychosocial support, symbolic reparations, provision of shelter for amputees, skills/entrepreneurship trainings and payment of grants. In effect, a War Victims Trust Fund was established and launched by H.E. Dr Ernest Bai Koroma in 2009. Although the response to this Trust Fund was poor, yet it provided an opportunity for well-meaning individuals, MDAs, private and public institutions to make complementary contributions towards Government's efforts in providing assistance to the victims of the war.





**Programme Manager –  
Reparations  
Amadu S. Bangura**

The Reparations Programme is pivotal in enhancing peace and stability in the country and it has done a lot in collaboration with partners in introducing and managing programmes that are designed to meet the desired skills mix requested by victims, and that has provided the foundation for the amelioration of suffering among the War victims. However, the insatiable nature of the emerging needs of the victims continues to pose serious constraints for Government and NaCSA in the provision of demand-driven responses that correspond to the forms of support required.

Notwithstanding, the programme as a whole encompasses a broader sense of justice that has gone beyond individual satisfaction and included recognition and acknowledgement for the harm suffered, thus providing the stronger basis for a sense of civic trust, social solidarity and inclusion. The following are some of the projects supported by the UN family in collaboration with the Government of Sierra Leone and implemented by NaCSA in the process of restoring the dignity of War victims.

### 1. Psychosocial Support

The mayhem caused on victims by all the warring factions in the eleven-year civil war did not only leave physical/bodily harm on the victims but it also left psychological trauma on them. Some testified that they

## PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS

could not sleep at night because they could not erase the traumatic events and experiences they went through from the hands of the combatants. Some of their stories were shocking, stunning and dramatic.

The programme considered it a priority to provide these victims with some psychosocial training in order to de-traumatise them and provide the opportunity to enable them to re-align their thinking to normal beings before they were engaged in any productive activity. It was for this reason that NaCSA contracted the services of a variety of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) experienced in trauma healing and psychosocial counselling to rehabilitate and re-orientate the minds of the victims.



**Psychosocial Counseling in Bo District**

A regional approach was employed in which victims were assembled and trained in each of the regional headquarter towns of Makeni, Bo, Kemena and Freetown. A total of 16,500 victims benefitted from the training/counselling exercises.

### 2. Symbolic Reparations

The Sierra Leone conflict did not only affect individual lives, but also communities, people's belief systems and cultural heritage. Traditional meeting places and sacred institutions were demolished and desecrated. People were forced to commit sacrilege against symbols of their religion or faith. Religious houses and traditional institutions including secret societies were brought to disrepute. Many of those killed were either buried in mass graves, or in unknown graves, whilst others were left unburied and to be devoured by vultures or dogs. Even those buried were not buried in a dignified manner since there was no observance of religious or traditional rites for the dead.

### Mohamed Bangura - Bombali District Small Business Enterprise & Okada Transportation

Mohamed Bangura an amputee living at Soldier Street in Makeni, struggled to take care of his family for several years until the intervention of the Reparations programme. This support led to a quick turnaround in his life. He received grants for three consecutive times, the last of which was a bumper sum of Le 6,037,500. He invested that sum in “Okada” transportation business.

Within a few months, he diversified his business and set up a small business shop labeled “New Life Enterprise,” selling miscellaneous items including food stuff. His wife does the daily sales whilst he continues with the “Okada” transportation. Mohamed is very grateful and has this to say: “The support from NaCSA means a lot to me and my family because I am able to decide what to do and how to do it effectively. Over and above all I have the opportunity to do things on my own. I thank God, the donors and NaCSA for the intervention.”



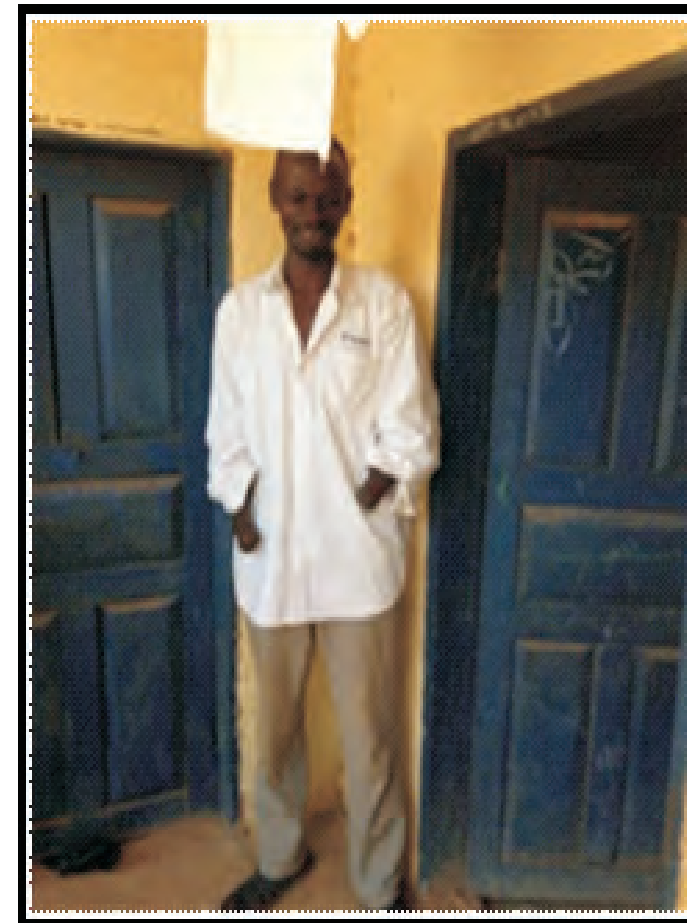
**Mohamed Bangura's Investment**

*“The support from NaCSA means a lot to me and my family because I am able to decide what to do and how to do it effectively. Over and above all I have the opportunity to do things on my own. I thank God, the donors and NaCSA for the intervention.”*

**Mohamed Bangura—Makeni.**

### Yanku Sesay – Koinadugu District Housing & Petty Trading

Yanku of Kabala Amputee Camp, a double Amputee was on micro credit facility which he used to start the construction of a six-bedroom house and store. With grants from the Reparations programme, he paid back his credit liabilities and completed the house that he now rents including the store. He has also set up a petty trading business selling food items that are in high demand in his community. He is sure of a regular monthly income to take care of his family and other relatives.



**Yanku Sesay**



### 9. War Victims Trust Fund

In November 2009, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, launched a War Victims Trust Fund to sustain the Reparations Programme. The Trust Fund was a mechanism to encourage voluntary contributions from individuals and organizations to support war victims in Sierra Leone. Regrettably, contributions towards the Trust Fund were not forthcoming, and although several individuals and organizations pledged to contribute, very few honoured their pledges. (see Annexes for contributors). The total amount contributed was US\$50,000, used to pay grant (Le300,000 /victim) to 330 victims, and the balance was used for Emergency Medical Assistance wherein 14 victims benefitted.

## Sierra Leone Reparations Programme (SLRP – Success Stories)

The major donor of the Reparations Programme, the United Nations (UN), released a team of experts in 2012 and 2013 to conduct an assessment of the process of implementation to determine whether it was in line with TRC recommendations cum international standards or not. During and after the consultations, the UN team discovered that the programme was being handled with unique skilfulness and a sense of purpose, thus the team was very impressed with the strategies and delivery mechanisms employed in addressing the emerging needs of the victims—though this was the first time such a programme was implanted in the country. In addition, the Sierra Leone Reparations Programme was reckoned as playing a pivotal role in the restoration of peace, unity and stability in the country.



Experience sharing session between NaCSA Reparations Staff and UN Team

However, the overall success of the programme still hinges on Government's commitment to complete payment of Rehabilitation Grants to War Widows and Victims of Sexual Violence. NaCSA is presently undertaking physical Re-verification exercises of the last two categories nationwide to determine the actual caseload before delivery of cash grants to enable them become self-reliant.

### Musu Farrow – Western Rural Weaving

Musu of Grafton community (extreme right), and the other women were trained in weaving. After the training they were able to set up their mini weaving industry and started producing “country clothes”. This weaving industry has been very lucrative through hard work and commitment. They are grateful to NaCSA and the donors for the intervention as her life has continued to be transformed.



Musu Farrow



Former TRC Chairman, Conducting Symbolic Reparation in Bomaru, Kailahun District

The TRC intervention was a necessary tool to heal communities, as it played a vital role in providing a forum for perpetrators and victims to re-unite, retrospect and visualize the hazards of the civil conflict, thereby recognising the need to reveal the truth and denounce war as a means to seek redress. In addition, the intervention was specifically designed to help communities restore civic trust, as the lack of trust on the Government was an ingredient in some of the antecedents that led to the war. This symbolic reparation was held in 40 out of the 149 chiefdoms in the country (at least 3 per district) and it brought together both religious and traditional leaders in observance of the symbolic consecration of communities, sacred places and the dead believed to have been desecrated during the conflict. The symbolic cleansing of the community, the confessions by perpetrators, the vigils and the symbolic burials of the dead were the main highlights of the ceremony in every community/chiefdom.

### 3. Health

A number of interventions were undertaken to address the health needs of the victims. To this end, the programme signed MOUs with a number of health delivery service providers like Mercy Ships and Connaught Hospital for the provision of specialized health services. Fistula Operations were done by

Mercy Ships on women who, because of either being gang-raped or lack of proper medical care during child delivery, ended up in critical health condition.

Most of these victims were abandoned by even their loved ones, as many husbands and certain family members could not bear to live with them.

Many of these victims of Fistula were identified, moved to Freetown, and given free surgical services facilitated by the Programme. A package which included a small grant, clothing, and transport fare was provided for each discharged patient. A total of 235 women benefitted from the fistula surgery. These women who had lost their status and were stigmatised, discriminated against, rejected and left in shame had their dignity restored after the operation. Most of these women went back to their communities in happiness and correct state of mind.



Consultant Surgeon and team preparing to perform surgical operation for removal of bullets and fragments from a victim

Another health intervention was the Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA) which included the removal of foreign metals (bullets or fragments) from victims who could not afford to have these removed from their bodies because of the cost involved and the treatment of other serious ailments of the war-wounded. For this, the programme signed an MOU with Connaught Hospital.



#### 4. Educational Support to Child Victims and children of victims.

The immediate impact of the war on child victims was that many abandoned school either because the parents/breadwinners of their families were dead or because the heads were amputees and could not afford the cost of schooling for the children. Moreover, the amputee/disabled relatives were using the children as guides as they go about begging in the streets. Other hard-hit families in Freetown and other parts of the country were even sending the children into the streets to beg for money for the survival of the rest of the family. Virtually, the children became breadwinners in their families. The initial registration of child victims by the Reparations Programme served as a catalyst to initiate the enrolment of child victims who subsequently benefitted from the government educational programme.

The programme have initiated an understanding with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) to waive the tuition fees of children of victims, many of whom are now in universities. However, this trend was however a bi-lateral arrangement with the Ministry and has never been made a rule.



*Educational Support to a Child Victim*

#### 5. Skills/Entrepreneurship Training

Skills training was provided for sexually abused women who were trained by implementing partners (IPs) in a number of livelihood skills like driving, soap making, gara-tie dyeing, tailoring, computer technology, etc. for at least three (3) or six (6) months, at the end of which they were perceived to be equipped to start some business on their own or to continue apprenticeship for better knowledge of the trade/skill. During the training, the trainees were provided with monthly stipends but on condition of regular attendance. At the end of the training, the trainees were each provided with start-up kits based on their skills. On graduation day a certification ceremony was arranged for the trainees and a micro grant of \$500 was provided by NaCSA through the Rokel Commercial Bank into 650 beneficiary's accounts.

#### 6. Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship

Another form of training conducted by the programme was the entrepreneurship training for beneficiaries/recipients of grants prior to the disbursement of the grant. This was conducted in collaboration with implementing partners on account of the objective of equipping beneficiaries in basic financial management and business skills so that they would be adequately prepared to invest what they received as grant. This one-day training workshop was effective for potential beneficiaries of the grants issued out by the programme. Many who received grants are now in some form of business and over 60% have success stories to tell about the grants they received as can be observed in the proceeding narration.

##### NaCSA Reparations

**Our strategy is to provide social service packages and livelihood enhancing skills training for these victims with the view of restoring their dignity.**

#### 7. Grant Payments

The payment of grants was the most anticipated activity by beneficiaries because of the cash transfer. The initial cash payment took place in 2009, when most if not all registered beneficiaries benefitted from an initial flat rate cash transfer of Three Hundred Thousand Leones (Le 300,000) for all categories of victims.

After the initial flat rate payment of Le 300,000 the issuance of grant was later based on the severity of harm and category of victims. Sexually affected women, victims of rape, war widows, amputees and the severely war-wounded supported were

The grants are meant to be invested in income generation activities after effective complementary training on how to manage their finances. Grant given out to war victims has in diverse ways made immense contribution in rebuilding their lives; though it has also got its own associated disadvantages. For those who are hardworking and enterprising, the grants have indeed made tremendous impact in transforming their lives and restoring their dignity.



**Beneficiaries from all 5 categories queuing for Interim Cash Grant**

#### 8. Housing/Shelter Support

In collaboration with the Norwegian Government which was represented by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the Norwegian Friends of Sierra Leone (NFSL) and the Catholic Mission, a total number of 888 houses were built in all 14 districts to provide shelter for Amputees, War Wounded and Victims of Sexual Violence. Each house contains 2 bedrooms, a living room, an outside kitchen and an outside toilet with a washroom. For each cluster of houses, a hand pump water-well was constructed to solve the problem of lack of safe drinking water for the victims and their families. The dignity of most of these categories of victims had eroded as many were either living in the streets or in the displaced camps with no permanent places to call a home. Many were heads of families but the conflict had rendered them homeless, miserable and helpless.

It was in response to this acute need faced by victims that the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Norwegian Friends of Sierra Leone (NFSL) and the Catholic Mission collaborated with Government to provide such facilities which have reduced teenage pregnancy and enhanced schooling amongst children of war victims.



**Sample of a cluster of shelters for war victims (Built Nationwide)**