

Evaluation of the project: *HEAL BMZ Indien 16-19*

**Project title:**  
**Improvement of Living Conditions by Improving Protection  
of Natural Resources and Sustainable Resource  
Management**

Funded by terre des hommes Germany (tdh)  
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Development (BMZ)  
and  
Implemented by the organization HEAL Movement in Tamil Nadu, India

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## **I. SUMMARY**

This interim evaluation of Project number HEAL BMZ Indien 16-19 (March 2016-February 2019) aimed to find out the Outputs>Outcomes/Effects>Impacts achieved so far and analyse the same using the DAC criteria. Evaluation followed a detailed and systematic process with more emphasis of participatory and constructive interactions with the target groups and their representative local institutions. Selection of villages, activities and target groups as samples for the study was done by the evaluators, for proper representation and validity; and the sample size was large >25% overall (covering 26 of the total 42 villages). Terre des homes (tdh), the lead NGO (HEAL) and the two other Partner NGOs (LIFT and CARE-T) provided required information and the documents available at the village level were also examined.

The Project under review is continuation, and planned on the experience and external evaluation of, Phase I (July 2013-February 2016) which covered 30 coastal villages; 12 new coastal villages, mostly contiguous to those of Phase I. Objectives and activities of the Project were relevant to the needs and priorities of the target groups, and conformed to the development objectives of the country, BMZ Germany, tdh Germany, Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the Partner NGOs. Objectives and activities focused more on marginalized women and children. Activities were found to be child-friendly and gender sensitive (even though there was no clearly formulated gender strategy in the Project). Approaches of the Project were mixed – right based and welfare based, with the potential of right based approach gaining dominance (rights to water, safe food, education and clean/safe environment, and eco-rights, women’s rights, child rights and good governance of public institutions etc.)

The Phase II of the Project, under review, already directly reached out to more than 53,000 persons of the 42 coastal villages of Kanyakumari district, through the four field based sub-objectives. Among the direct beneficiaries include – 17,556 school going children (majority of them girls); 2,617 youths 7,875 women; 1,017 small farmers related to eco-farming, 2,270 uncategorized participants in waste management; 20,800 uncategorized users of the drinking and service water sources; and about 1,000 uncategorized population of the Manakudy eco-system. Indirect beneficiaries of the activities are manifold.

Outputs, outcomes/effects and impacts of the Project were as planned. Impacts of the sub-objectives contributed to the overall Project Objective. All activities produced positive results and contributed to the overall impact with variations. The relation of Activity > Output > Outcome/Effect > Impact was direct and clear in some cases (examples - ice box > income

> livelihood; quality drinking water > health improvement/reduction of drudgery > improved living conditions), in many other cases the relation (chain) from activities to impact was indirect and difficult to define and identify.

Unintended negative impacts and risks are identified in a few cases, notably in waste management practices, which can be addressed with possible changes in approaches/practices. It may also be noted that many other activities if not continued (sustained) with appropriate approaches and strategies can be counter-productive after the project (e.g. ponds not managed well become pools of waste; eco-farms not managed can destroy the relevance and participation of people in practicing organic agriculture, etc.). Waste management program need to be revised, and can be revised, with necessary changes during the project period, to ensure positive long term impact,

Partner NGOs were efficient in using the resources, evidenced by the completion of planned activities and achievement of results. During the period 01.04.2016 to 31.12.2017 Project expenses were 0.22% more than budget allocation for the period (Rs.2,23,40,122/ Rs.2,22,92,030. Over expenditure was 12.37% in the case of investments; under-expenses were 1.31% and 8.23% in the case of operational costs and personnel costs. Furniture and equipments provided in the Project are used for Project purposes. The period also witnessed one of the worst natural disasters in the region – Okhi cyclone – affecting all the project villages. Partner NGOs were able to use the allotted resources and take up most field level activities during the period; with more expenses than the budgeted (for examples – workshops/trainings on safe environment – 53%; model farms – 16%; waste management – 8%; ecological school gardens – 6%; restoration of ponds – 58%; restoration of wells – 86%). The commitment and consistent efforts of the Partner NGOs in continuing and completing more activities, during the difficult period of natural disasters is highly appreciated.

Project personnel in all the three Partner NGOs showed the required qualities – commitment, understanding of the Project, rapport with the target groups and their local institutions, accountability and transparency in their actions, openness in interactions, and willingness to listen and learn. However, capacity gaps were identified in certain areas - notably in impact monitoring, identification and documentation of best practices and key lessons, establishing constructive collaboration with some of the key government agencies and formulating strategies for sustainability. These can be addressed possibly during the remaining period of the Project.

Partner NGOs, working within a Project frame and objectives, in the same region, with the same focus areas with similar target groups and objectives got great opportunities to share their experiences and learn from each other. Regular joint meetings of the key personnel, facilitated by tdh promoted collective learning. Joint networking with government agencies, NGOs and other agencies is however yet to be made effective. NGOs were successful in organizing their own network meetings (total 46 meetings) independent of each other. Round table discussions with selected government agencies (Fisheries and Tourism) contributed to government programs in Manakudy eco-system. Similar efforts may be required in the areas of waste management, protection and development of water sources, clean food production through organic methods, promoting child rights on ecology and environmental issues, disaster prevention and management, good and pro-poor governance of local government institutions, coastal area protection and ensuring rights and development of women fish workers.

Key findings, lessons learnt and recommendations of the evaluators are presented in the last section of this report. There are two main concerns identified in this evaluation: (1) Sustaining the processes, results and relations of the Project and (2) up-scaling the created Impacts. The first focus on deepening the impacts (intensifying) – continue working with target groups with same and/or complementary activities to generate greater impact and the second on spreading the impacts (extending) – reaching out to more needy areas/target groups;. Both intensification and extension created impacts require resources, time, re-formulation of strategies (and related activities) and relations particularly with government agencies. Constructive and continued support of tdh is necessary to realize these objectives.

## **II. MAIN TEXT**

### **II.1. Introduction**

#### **II. 1.1. Objective of Interim Evaluation**

This interim evaluation Project number HEAL BMZ Indien 16-19, aimed to find out the Outputs>Outcomes/Effects>Impacts achieved so far and analyse the same using the DAC criteria. Important findings and key learnings, with recommendations for changes, are documented in this Report to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability.

#### **II.1.2. Evaluation Process**

Following steps were adopted: (a) studied important project related documents (July 20-October 2 2018); (b) interacted with Partner NGOs(July 20, 2018-September 20, 2018); (c) visited field and conducted participatory interactions with the target groups, local institutions/groups of targeted population (August 13-24, 2018); interacted with other NGOs and representatives of selected government agencies (August 24, 2018) and (d) prepared the Report using the standard structure proposed by terre des homes (tdh) and the specifying orientation questions of the sub-goals of the Project (August 24-October 2, 2018).

Participatory methods, with a constructive process (focus group discussions, interactive sessions, and semi-structured interviews) were applied during interactions with beneficiaries and key-persons (school heads, group leaders, teachers, local experts etc.). Documents available at the group level (photos, maps, activity reports, etc.) were examined. Groups of beneficiaries (children, women, farmers) enjoyed the participatory and constructive interactions and shared information (problems, activities, experiences, results, important learnings, constraints, gaps, weaknesses, strengths, threats and opportunities) relating to the Project, in an open manner.

#### **II.1.3. Method of Selection**

*Selection of villages:* Evaluators selected 26 project villages of the total 42, in consultation with the Project holders; the large sample size ensured validity. *Selection of project sub-objectives/activities:* Evaluation focused on all the four field-oriented sub-objectives (presented at II.2.1 below) and related activities of the Project, with more emphasis on Phase II activities during field visits. Field visit focused on all Project activities in the selected village. *Selection of target groups:* Large number of target groups (women, children, small farmers) and representatives of local groups/institutions participated in the interactions.

Project holder (HEAL), in consultation with other two Partner NGOs selected representatives of government agencies and other NGOs for interactions on sub-objective no. 5.

## **II.2. Project Outline**

### **II.2.1. General Outline and Key data of the Project**

The Project under review is continuation, and planned on the experience and external evaluation of, Phase I (July 2013-February 2016) which covered 30 coastal villages; 12 new coastal villages, mostly contiguous to those of Phase I were added with the following objectives:

**Table 1: Main Objectives and Sub Objectives of the Project**

<b>Project Objective/Activities</b>
<b>Main Objective (Impact):</b> Contribution to the protection to the living space and the poverty reduction of marginalised coastal inhabitants in the District of Kanyakumari, India
<b>Project Objective (Outcome):</b> Improvement of the living conditions of marginalised coastal inhabitants from 42 coastal communities of the Indian Kanyakumari District through waste disposal, preservation of the water resources, economical empowerment of vulnerable women and environment education for children and young people.
<b>Sub Objectives</b>
1. To reduce contamination through solid waste matter as well as polluting entries into the ground water and food stuff through chemical fertilising and input of pesticides from the coconut-fibre production in 42 communities.
2. To sustainably improve accessibility to drinking- and service water has sustainably in the 12 new communities, successes in the improvement of the water supply in the 30 till date in the project participating communities as well as to consolidate the first results in the area of re-naturalisation, including maintenance of the Nature Trail for sustainable cultivation of natural resources and preservation of the mangrove forests in the Manakudy River Delta
3. To improve the precarious income, health and nutrition situation in the 42 target communities through special support of the disadvantaged groups of the fishmongers.
4. Children from destitute fisher families complete successfully their school education. Children and young people have theoretical and practical knowledge regarding the sustainable use of natural resources and demand the compliance with the ecological child rights.
5. To establish Interdisciplinary Exchange between Representatives of Civil Society, Representatives of Science as well as Authorities and Departments on District Level for the Development of joint Strategies for Resource Protection.
6. To enhance capacities of the Partner NGOs and local Institutions to effectively achieve the above objectives

Following three Partner NGOs are implementing the Project in 42 selected villages, with each of them responsible for 14 villages: (1) Human Education and Action for Liberation Movement (HEAL Movement) is the lead NGO and title holder of the Project; (2) LIFE Care Trust (LIFT); and (3) Community Awareness Research Education Trust (CARE-T).

Table 2: Target groups of the Project

	<i>Focus areas (included in the sub-objectives)</i>	<i>Category of target group</i>	<i>Number covered already</i>
1	Pollution Control; Waste Management; manure from wastes	Coastal population; mostly fisher-folk	2,270 direct participants; and large number of un-estimated indirect beneficiaries
2	Sustainable Farming (Eco-Farming; organic farming; learning and sharing of resources among farmers)	Small farmers as practitioners/producers and; whole population as consumers	670 trained farmers; 340 practicing farmers and Un-estimated large number of consumers of safe food
3	Protection/development of Mangrove eco-system of Manakudy (total 150 hectares)	Children, fisher folk and others	>1,000 direct participants and large number of un-estimated indirect beneficiaries
4	Water Security – drinking (wells) and service water (ponds)	Families /persons	5,200/20,800 direct users; and large number of un-estimated indirect beneficiaries
5	Water security for children – rainwater harvesting units in schools	Children in 12 schools	>5000 (majority of them girls)
6	Women’s development – group strengthening, accessibility to entitlements from government and income generation	Women from the marginalized coastal communities in 42 villages	124 SHGs; >3400 women from marginalised coastal communities
7	Child development (education and overall development)	School going children	11,977
8	Child development through 12 Child Activity Centres (CACs)	School going children from marginalized sections	536
9	Child Eco Rights – awareness including eco-gardens	School going children	5,044 (12 eco-gardens in schools)
10	Ecology and environmental issues	youths	2,617 youths

### II.2.2. Situation Analysis and Framework Conditions

Coastal areas of Kanyakumari face the following inter-related problems: (1) damages to the coastal eco-systems due to pollution and natural (and particularly sea-related) disasters; (2) fluctuating and declining incomes from fisheries; (3) lack of alternate means of employment and sources of income; (4) shortage of basic amenities like safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, open space for children, etc. (5) shortage of clean and balanced food especially for women and children; (6) poor performance and discontinuation of children from school education; (7) exclusion from mainstream governance systems and development programs; and (8) absence of effective strategies and programs to improve living conditions.

### II.2.3. Socio-Cultural Factors

Coastal communities of Kanyakumari district have own socio-cultural norms, practices and values evolved and followed over the years, and influenced by the control and teachings of the Church, leading to distinct community identities, behaviour and responses. These densely populated and narrow habitations along the coast, with families live close to each



other, offer opportunities for more intensive interactions and need for greater inter-dependence – guided by the dominant Church related structures – promoting stronger bonds and joint/collective actions. As a result, socio-cultural integration of the coastal communities with the dominant majority living inland villages is a difficult process.

#### II.2.4. Socio-Economic and Political Factors

The distinct livelihood base (sea), occupations (fishing related) and cultural identities were found to be limiting factors for the fisher folk to get included (and participate) in the mainstream development and governance processes. Majority of men are engaged in fishing related activities; and women are responsible (and powerful) compared to their counterparts elsewhere in managing the families. With declining and fluctuating incomes of men from fisheries, women have to take up activities to supplement incomes. Household economic/livelihood security is the main concern of women

Deliberate positive action, for their inclusion, in local governance and development structures are rare. As a result, the fisher folk are compelled to formulate appropriate strategies and work hard to get their voices heard and their problems addressed by the mainstream government and civil society institutions. In the absence of effective decentralised governance and development structures in the area, it is difficult for the marginalized sections to get their specific and important problems addressed. Initiatives of local NGOs and representative groups of the fisher folk, for ensuring inclusion, are therefore very important.

#### II.2.5. Ecological Factors

The Project villages in the coastal strips of Kanyakumari have very fragile eco-systems. Climatic factors, including disasters, contributed to loss of many living organisms. Plants are lost due to sea erosion, wind, draught conditions, and pollution, reducing bio-diversity and food availability. Sea erosion has become a major threat in recent years leading to loss of different life forms. Losses of plants also lead to dwindling population of birds and animals. Sand dunes and mangroves existing in limited pockets are also threatened by different factors and forces. Rejuvenating and sustaining the fragile marine eco-system is therefore very important.

### **II.3. Relevance of the Project**

#### **II.3.1 & 2. Relevance of the Project to the Core Problems and Priorities of the Target Groups:**

The Project is found to be relevant to address the core problems and priorities of coastal Kanyakumari and the target groups. Improving living conditions and reducing poverty of the marginalized coastal inhabitants reflect fully the conditions and priorities of the people. Main focus areas of intervention of the Project – pollution control and waste management, improving water availability, socio-economic empowerment of women, accessibility of coastal communities to government institutions and programs, reducing drop outs of school children, addressing child related issues, environmental education of children and youth, protection of marine eco-systems etc. - are relevant to, and reflect fully, the problems and priorities of the target groups.

#### **II.3.3. Gender and Child Orientation of the Project**

Most activities of the Project are directly focused on specific groups (women, children, youths, small farmers, and other members of the coastal communities) with women and children forming the most important categories in terms of activities and number of persons covered. Majority of children participating in the Project are also girls. Empowerment of women is a main sub-objective. However, the Project does not adequately focus specifically on gender issues in terms of power, control over resources and sharing of incomes/benefits among men and women within the families and communities in general. Activities like waste management, collection of drinking water, ensuring food supply and earning additional income through fish marketing are assigned to women. Farming and fishing are primarily in men's control, with limited roles for women.

**Table 3: Orientation of the Project on Gender Issues, Women and Children**

	<b><i>FOCUS AREAS/OBJECTIVES / ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT</i></b>	<b><i>Orientation of the Project on Gender Issue, Women and Children</i></b>
<b><i>I</i></b>	<b><i>Contamination through solid waste matter as well as polluting entries into the ground water and food stuff through chemical fertilising and input of pesticides from the coconut-fibre production are reduced in 42 communities.</i></b>	
I.1	Reduce Contamination of soil and water - Waste management	Waste generation and management at family level are considered a women's responsibility. Improved health due to proper waste management is beneficial to all, mostly children.
I.2	Conduct Workshops for a safe environment and sustainable agriculture	
I.3	Establishment of ecological model farms for trainings in the area utilisation of degradable biological waste and the preservation of food security	Farming is a male dominated activity; safe food production improves the health of all, especially the growing children; making food is at home is a women's job.
I.4	Construction of plant clarification systems for the reduction of the water contamination through coconut-fibre production	Women work in the coir industry and directly affected by pollution. Improvements benefit them directly.

II	<b><i>The access to drinking and service water has sustainably improved in the 12 new communities, successes in the improvement of the water supply in the 30 till date in the project participating communities as well as first results in the area of renaturalisation have been consolidated.</i></b>	
II.1	Restoration of ponds and wells in the new target communities	Wells are mainly for drinking water and are therefore in women's domain. Safe drinking water benefits all. Ponds are used for irrigation and other purposes, for all members of the community. More water at schools through RUS improves water security of children, especially the girl children, during school times.
II.2	Construction of rainwater utilisation systems (RUS) for the schools in the new target communities	
II.3	Maintenance of the Nature Trail for sustainable cultivation of natural resources and preservation of the mangrove forests in the Manakudy River Delta	
III	<b><i>The precarious income, health- and nutrition situation in the 42 target communities has been improved through special support of the disadvantaged groups of the fishmongers.</i></b>	
III.1	Empowerment of women in their self-help efforts to improve their income, health- and nutrition situation	Directly involves and benefits women; however women being managers of the families, improved income benefits all members, especially children in ensuring better food, health and education.
III.2	Mediation of Government Social Benefits for entitled poor and marginalised families, especially old women and widows, network formation of community leaders	
IV	<b><i>Children from destitute fisher families complete successfully their school education. Children and young people have theoretical and practical knowledge regarding the sustainable use of natural resources and demand the compliance with the ecological child rights.</i></b>	
IV.1	Activity Centres for Children (CACs) in 12 Communities	Focus on Children ; majority are girls.
IV.2	Formation and continuation of existing Eco-Clubs	
IV.3	Establishment of environment education at schools - 2.700 children from 42 schools	
IV.4	Establishment ecological school gardens	
IV.5	Qualification of the "Eco-Youth"	Focus on Youths
V	<b><i>Interdisciplinary Exchange between Representatives of Civil Society, Representatives of Science as well as Authorities and Departments on District Level for the Development of joint Strategies for Resource Protection is established</i></b>	
V.1	Conduct of a total of 4 network meetings with other NGOs who work in the area environment- and resource protection	Discussions on Fisheries and Tourism took also into account women and child related issues.
V.2	Conduct of 4 so-called Round Tables with political decision makers, staff of relevant ministries (Forest, Environment), research assistants and representatives of civil society	
V.3	<b><i>Project Supporting Measures, Coordination and Monitoring</i></b>	
V.3.1	Preparation of awareness and sensitisation materials (IEC-Materials) for the information about the project measures	Aimed at all members of the Project areas, with special focus on women and children.
V.3.2	Project supporting Measures	

#### I.3.4. Relevance of the Project to the Objectives of the Partner-Organizations

Objectives and related Activities of the Project were found to be relevant to the objectives of the Partner NGOs. The Lead Partner - HEAL - is active for many years in the two coastal districts Kanyakumari and Tirunelveli - focusing on the following areas: (1) Adapting to climate change and protection of the coastal eco-system, (2) Community mobilisation and development of selfhelp structures of disadvantaged population groups (Dalit), (3)

Compliance with Child Rights, (4) Education and (5) Research. HEAL adopts a right based approach, with limited welfare activities for selected groups. HEAL is actively involved in lobbying, advocacy and networking with various government agencies, research institutions and NGOs.

CARE-T is active in Kanyamari, with mobilisation and support of the coastal communities (especially in the work with and for women, children and other socially and economically disadvantaged groups) in environment protection and environment education. CARE T is found to be more competent with right based approaches.

LIFT is located in a coastal village, and active with fisher communities of Kanyakumari district for many years; focusing on Women Development and counselling. LIFT is found to be more competent in income generation and welfare activities of women.

As separate, independent organizations, the Partners were found to have own approaches and strategies in addressing the same problems and achieving the similar objectives. The Project also found to be adopting a mix – ranging from right based to welfare approaches in different objectives/activities. As a result, the Partners are not experiencing any serious difficulties in working together, within a single Project Frame and same coastal area, to achieve the objectives.

#### II.3.5. Relevance of the Project to Objectives of Terre de homes (tdh)

Terre de homes (tdh), Germany adopted the following four Strategic Goals for International Programme Activities for the years 2013 to 2018 (<http://tdh-southasia.de/pdf/Strategic-Planning-Final.pdf>)

- Goal 1: Participation by children and youth
- Goal 2: Spaces free from violence and exploitation
- Goal 3: Ecological rights of children
- Goal 4: Child rights in international policies

All objectives and activities of the Project are directly or indirectly related to above four goals of tdh Germany. Objectives of direct relevance are those directly focusing on Children; and objectives with indirect relevance are indirectly addressing the child related issues. For example, increased income of women will enhance food and nutritious security and better living conditions of the children in their families. Most objectives and related activities of the Project can be made more children-focused with suitable changes in approaches and practices.

#### II.3.6. Relevance of the Project to the Partner Country

The Project objectives and sub-objectives (with related activities) are of high relevance in Indian context. All focus areas of the Project - Poverty Reduction, Food Security including clean food production, Water Security, Waste Management, Sustainable Management of

Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, Eco-friendly practices, Women Empowerment, Child development, Protection of Mangroves and Marine Resources, Improved accessibility of the Weaker Sections to the services and entitlements of government agencies and multi-stakeholder collaboration and participation in development – are very much relevant to address the development problems and the declared objectives, approaches and strategies in India. In other words, none of the project objectives/activities are outside the development priorities of India.

### II.3.7. Relevance of the Project to the Objectives of BMZ

Project Objectives, and related activities, are in conformity with, and relevant to, the Objectives of BMZ. German Development policy is guided by the following five road maps (*Development Policy as Future – Oriented Peace Policy; Our World in 2030 – Five Road Maps for Global Sustainable Development*).

(a) Road Map 1: A World without Poverty and Hunger: Food production, biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, innovation, stop wastage of food and losses, restore fertility of soil, vocational training in farming, green innovation centres, innovations – production, storage, processing, transportation and marketing of food.

Focus on School children: Create awareness on healthy and nutritious food; healthy food as a topic in the curriculum; reduce consumption of unhealthy and unsustainable food; and promote climate smart agriculture.

Specific focus on target groups: marginalized communities, small holder farmers and women, with enhanced commercial viability of activities, empowering women, and strengthening human rights, equality and inclusion.

(b) Road Map 2: The new Global Imperative: Combating Climate Change, keeping with planetary boundaries

(c) Road Map 3: Promoting development opportunities, mitigating the causes of displacement, safeguarding peace.

(d) Road Map 4: Creating a fairer world economy.

(f) Road Map 5: Global partnership for the 2030 Agenda (SDGs 2030). German development programs are also focused, as part of the above road maps, on preserving biological diversity and ecosystem services in marine and coastal protected areas, sustainable use of the oceans for food and nutrition security, reducing marine pollution, climate change adaptation in order to protect people living in coastal region; protection of rights and needs of women and girls, indigenous and local communities, and poor and especially vulnerable people. BMZ launched the initiative "Save our mangroves now!" with

the aim to halt the progressive loss of mangroves. Also, German development policy is increasingly focusing on ensuring accessibility of water, food and energy to all).

Table 4: Relevance of the Project to BMZ Objectives

<b>Project Objective/Sub-Objectives</b>	<b>Relevance to BMZ Road Maps</b>
<b>Main Objective (Impact):</b> Contribution to the protection to the living space and the poverty reduction of marginalised coastal inhabitants in the District of Kanyakumari, India	Road Maps 1 & 5
<b>Project Objective (Outcome):</b> Improvement of the living conditions of marginalised coastal inhabitants from 42 coastal communities of the Indian Kanyakumari District through waste disposal, preservation of the water resources, economical empowerment of vulnerable women and environment education for children and young people.	Road Maps 1 & 5
<i>Sub Goals and Activities</i>	
1. Contamination through solid waste matter as well as polluting entries into the ground water and food stuff through chemical fertilising and input of pesticides from the coconut-fibre production are reduced in 42 communities.	Road Maps 1, 2 & 5
2. The access to drinking- and service water has sustainably improved in the 12 new communities, successes in the improvement of the water supply in the 30 till date in the project participating communities as well as first results in the area of re-naturalisation have been consolidated.	Road Maps 1 & 5
3. The precarious income, health- and nutrition situation in the 42 target communities has been improved through special support of the disadvantaged groups of the fishmongers.	Road Maps 1 & 5
4. Children from destitute fisher families complete successfully their school education. Children and young people have theoretical and practical knowledge regarding the sustainable use of natural resources and demand the compliance with the ecological child rights.	Road Maps 1 & 5
5. Interdisciplinary Exchange between Representatives of Civil Society, Representatives of Science as well as Authorities and Departments on District Level for the Development of joint Strategies for Resource Protection is established	Road maps 4 & 5
6. Capacity Building of NGOs and local Institutions	Road map 1, 4 & 5

### II.3.8. Relevance of Project to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030

Project objectives and related activities are relevant, and contributing, to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 at the local level/regional levels.

Table 5: Relevance of the Project to SDGs 2030

<b>Project Objective/Activities</b>	<b>Relevance to SDGs 2030</b>
<b>Main Objective (Impact):</b> Contribution to the protection to the living space and the poverty reduction of marginalised coastal inhabitants in the District of Kanyakumari, India	SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 & 17
<b>Project Objective (Outcome):</b> Improvement of the living conditions of marginalised coastal inhabitants from 42 coastal communities of the Indian Kanyakumari District through waste disposal, preservation of the water resources, economical empowerment of vulnerable women and environment	

education for children and young people.	
<i>Sub Goals and Activities</i>	
1. Contamination through solid waste matter as well as polluting entries into the ground water and food stuff through chemical fertilising and input of pesticides from the coconut-fibre production are reduced in 42 communities.	SDGs 11.6, 12.4, 12.5, 14.1 and SDG 3, SDG 8 & SDG 13
2. The access to drinking- and service water has sustainably improved in the 12 new communities, successes in the improvement of the water supply in the 30 till date in the project participating communities as well as first results in the area of re-naturalisation have been consolidated.	SDGs 6.1, 6.3, 6.3.2, 6.4, 6.6 and 6.b and 2.1, 2.3, 2.4 & 3.9
3. The precarious income, health- and nutrition situation in the 42 target communities has been improved through special support of the disadvantaged groups of the fishmongers.	SDGs 1, 2 & 3 & 5.a
4. Children from destitute fisher families complete successfully their school education. Children and young people have theoretical and practical knowledge regarding the sustainable use of natural resources and demand the compliance with the ecological child rights.	SDGs 4, 5, 6, 11 & 13
5. Interdisciplinary Exchange between Representatives of Civil Society, Representatives of Science as well as Authorities and Departments on District Level for the Development of joint Strategies for Resource Protection is established	SDGs 16 & 17
6. Capacity Building of NGOs and local Institutions	SDGs 16 & 17

Partner NGOs may localise SDGs by reformulating the goals in the priority sectors, based on needs and consultations with the local communities. Complementarities across different localised SDGs and related targets may be established to achieve greater synergy and effectiveness to achieve the goals.

#### II.3.9. Relevance of the Project in Promoting Collaboration and Coordination with Other Project Participants

The Project is relevant for establishing and strengthening collaboration and coordination with other project participants. Processes and results of the Projects, experiences and lessons learnt, can contribute, and necessary, for collective learning and action. Partner NGOs were able to establish positive collaboration and coordination in program activities with many local institutions and groups. Important local project participants include - Schools, Parish Committees of local Churches, Groups of Organic Farmers, Women's Groups, local government departments and agencies, researchers and other NGOs.

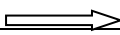
Local Parish Committees and Women's Groups are involved in waste management. However, active collaboration with the local government agencies (Panchayaths) and private sector are yet to be established. Other important categories of waste producers – public and private institutions, enterprises – are to be included. Groups of women, youths and farmers, and schools are participating in improving water security. Collaboration with local government agencies need to be established and strengthened. Government already formulated projects for Manakudy estuary/mangroves.

For livelihood, income, health and women-related issues, collaboration with groups of women and coordination among them is strong, even though the Project support is mainly individual woman focussed. Support of government agencies required to upscale the activities. Child development activities are carried out in collaboration with local institutions/ groups – Church Committees, Schools, Women’s Groups and Youth Clubs. Services of local experts used for advice and training of Project teams.

Collaboration of government departments/agencies at local, district and regional levels are mixed in most activities and need to be strengthened. Collaboration with other NGOs and civil society organizations need to be strengthened beyond sharing of information – leading to formulation of joint strategies and action plans.

**II.4. Impact (Outcome and Impact) of the Project**

For measuring and understanding impacts it is important to have clarity on the Impact/Result chain. Generally accepted Result Chain is as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SUB-OBJECTIVES	OBJECTIVES	PROJECT MAIN OBJECTIVE (GOAL)
Outputs >	Outcomes >	Effects >	Impacts
Results of Activities >	Changes as a result the outputs >	Changes as a result of outcomes >	Bigger change as a result of Effects
Qualitative/ Quantitative	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Qualitative/ Quantitative
Activity level	Sub-Sectoral level	Sectoral - objective - level	Project (Goal) level
<b>TIME</b> 			

Following basic questions were used to understand impacts:

- (a) Did the activities produce the right/intended results (outputs)?
- (b) Did the outputs contribute to the desired changes (outcomes/effects)?
- (c) Did the desired changes (outcomes/effects) contribute to achieve the bigger planned/ desired changes (impacts) of the Project?

Impacts of the Project - examined taking into account the above framework and based on information gained from project reports, interactions with target groups and project team and direct observations in the field – are presented below.



Table 6: Impacts of the Projects

<b>Main Objective (Impact):</b> <i>Contribution to the protection to the living space and the poverty reduction of marginalised coastal inhabitants in the District of Kanyakumari, India</i>			
<b>Project Objective (Outcome):</b> <i>Improvement of the living conditions of marginalised coastal inhabitants from 42 coastal communities of the Indian Kanyakumari District through waste disposal, preservation of the water resources, economical empowerment of vulnerable women and environment education for children and young people.</i>			
<b>Sub Goals/Activities</b>		<b>Outputs</b>	
		<i>Planned</i>	<i>Produced (24.08.2018)</i>
<b>1. Contamination through solid waste matter as well as polluting entries into the ground water and food stuff through chemical fertilising and input of pesticides from the coconut-fibre production are reduced in 42 communities</b>			
1.1	<i>Reduce Contamination of soil and water - Waste management</i>		
	Trained persons	2100	2270
	Villages with covered wastes	12	11
	No. Of waste units (LIFT is completing the remaining 4 units)	30	26
	No. Of waste pits (LIFT is completing the remaining 8 waste pits)	60	52
<b>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participation of majority of households of selected localities &gt; reduced pollution at family level &gt; families felt safe and happy “wastes off our courtyards”;</li> <li>2. Pollution control not complete (a) no participation of other major ‘waste producers’ – shops, restaurants, schools, hospitals, manufacturing units, restaurants, markets etc; and (b) un-segregated wastes dumped in the yards pollute land and water;</li> <li>3. Organic manure produced from collected degradable wastes using the pits &gt; increased crop production &gt; food security;</li> <li>4. Pollution control and income generation through sale of non-degradable (recyclable and non-recyclable wastes);</li> <li>5. Financial sustainability through user contribution (through not enough to operate/manage the system efficiently; government agencies not supporting);</li> <li>6. Organizational/institutional sustainability through involvement of SHGs and Parish Committee; and</li> <li>7. Model not suitable for replication in Kanyakumari (as it is missing certain essential steps (segregation at source; conversion of degradable waste into manure at source etc) required for the humid/wet conditions of the area).</li> </ol>			
<b>Observation on Impacts:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced Pollution and Increased Food Production &gt; Improved living conditions and health in the coastal areas especially for women and children;</li> <li>2. Integration of waste management with food production – food crops, vegetables, fruits – observed; stronger integration possible with segregation at source &gt; conversion of degradable wastes into manure &gt; application of manure for home gardens of vegetables and fruits plants (with systems of homestead farming/grow bags/terrace farming etc.); and</li> <li>3. Pollution from dumping yards (un-segregated wastes) is unintended negative impact (need to be addressed at the earliest).</li> </ol>			
1.2	<i>Workshops for a safe environment and sustainable agriculture</i>		
	No. Of trained farmers in sustainable agriculture	540	677
1.3	<i>Establishment of ecological model farms for trainings in the area utilisation of degradable biological waste and the preservation of food security</i>		
	No. Of Model Farms	3	3
	No. Of Trained farmers practising organic/Eco farming		340
<b>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Model eco-farms established for demonstration and training &gt; Interested farmers trained on more eco-friendly farming &gt; increased awareness, knowledge and skills and improved accessibility of required inputs (seeds, seedlings, manure and plant protection agents) &gt; adopted practising different elements of eco-farming &gt; more area and crops covered in eco-farming &gt; increased production and consumption of safe</li> </ol>			

food; and			
2. Cross-learning and sharing of resources among farmers happening; can be made more systematic and effective with formation of sufficiently large and stronger groups of eco-farmers > improve impact and sustainability.			
<u>Observation on Impacts:</u> Safe farming & food production practices observed and reported during field visits; greater impact possible with more widespread practice > increased food production and consumption > food and nutritional security > Improved Health and Safer Environment.			
1.4	Establishment plant clarification system (HEAL completed already)	3	1
<u>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</u> Coir manufacturers and workers (mostly women) of one location (by HEAL) got motivated through training and supply of selected varieties of plants for planting in the area > planted and managing the seedlings > Reduce/prevent pollution > no visible improvement in quality of water and soil as the activity started only recently. Impacts not visible yet.			
<b>2. The access to drinking and service water has sustainably improved in the 12 new communities, successes in the improvement of the water supply in the 30 till date in the project participating communities as well as first results in the area of re-naturalisation have been consolidated</b>			
2.1	Restoration of ponds and wells in the new target communities		
	Repair of open wells	12	15
	No. Of ponds regenerated	3	9
	No. Of families using the wells and ponds	2306	5200
	No. of persons using the ponds	13539	20800
<b>WELLS (Drinking Water)</b>			
<u>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</u> 1. Repair of wells > maintenance and effective management of the wells by the users > increased quantity and quality of water > improved accessibility and increased availability and use of quality water >reducing drudgery of women and improving drinking water security for all (especially women, children and the aged); and 2. Water User Committees > improved participation of users > improved efficiency in maintenance, operation and management of wells > improved transparency, accountability, equity, ownership and sustainability.			
<u>Observation on Impacts:</u> Improved use of quality drinking water, reduced incidences of water related diseases and reduced drudgery of women > Improved Health particularly of women, children and the aged.			
<b>PONDS (Services, Irrigation)</b>			
<u>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</u> 1. Repair and development of ponds > maintenance and effective management by the users > reduced water pollution and increased quantity and quality of water > improved accessibility and increased availability and use of water for services and irrigation > reduced drudgery and improved convenience for women, increased crop production (small farmers) and participation of children in water related sports; and . 2. Water User Committees > improved participation of users, especially women, children and youths > improved transparency, accountability, equity (sharing costs and benefits), community ownership and sustainability.			
<u>Observation on Impacts:</u> 1. Improved Health – availability of quality water, reduced drudgery of women, water sports by children and youth and increased production/consumption of different food items (irrigation of plants); and . 2. Increased income - Increased crop production and marketing of surplus.			
2.2	Rainwater Harvesting Units (RHUs) in 12 Schools		
	No. Of schools/units	12	12
	No. Of children using the RHUs in the 12 schools (approx. No)	4,000	>4,000
<u>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</u> Increased availability, and use of water, of the RHUs by school children (particularly girl children) for washing and toilet purposes > improved hygiene and sanitation practices			
<u>Observation on Impacts:</u> 1. Improved hygiene and sanitation practices > improved health; and 2. Improved comforts/convenience/safety especially for girl children (availability of water at safe places)			
2.3	Maintenance of the Nature Trail for sustainable cultivation of natural	150	Progressing

	<i>resources and preservation of the mangrove forests in the Manakudy River Delta</i>	hect.s	as planned
<b>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</b> <i>1. Awareness building/training/mobilization of fisher folk (using the eco-system), children and local institutions &gt; improved participation of them in preservation and development of the eco-system (and particularly the mangrove forests);</i> <i>2. Production of seedlings and planting of new (suitable) varieties of mangrove plants in the area and prevention of damages to the mangrove system &gt; area covered with mangroves increasing &amp; marine (water) related eco-system (with different varieties of fish, crabs, birds, etc.) improving;</i> <i>3. Integration of the livelihood strategies of the local fisher-folk using the eco-system with the protection/development of the eco-system integrated; and</i> <i>4. Involvement of the Government agencies – as a result of networking and advocacy - to ensure preservation, development and protection of the eco-system (water, plants, soil, water based life forms, birds etc.)</i>			
<b>Observation on Impacts:</b> <i>Positive changes observed &gt; greater involvement of Government and other stakeholders &gt; preservation, protection and development of the fragile Manakudy Eco-system with the Mangroves and other life forms.</i>			
<b>3. The precarious income, health and nutrition situation in the 42 target communities has been improved</b>			
3.1	<i>Empowerment of women in their self-help efforts to improve their income, health- and nutrition situation</i>		
	No. Of SHGs of women supported		124
	No. Of women supported to organize themselves	3300	2557
<b>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</b> <i>1. Improved awareness and involvement of SHGs in Project activities &gt; improved transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency, effectiveness, participation, ownership and sustainability of project activities;</i> <i>2. Regular participation of Members in their own SHG activities (including savings and credit); and</i> <i>3. More than 300 women started micro-enterprises at Group and individual levels &gt; increased employment and income &gt; livelihood security of women and their families.</i>			
<b>Observation on Impacts:</b> <i>Activity contributed to Improved socio-economic status and living conditions of fisherwomen and their families.</i>			
3.2	<i>Mediation of Government Social Benefits for entitled poor and marginalised families, especially old women and widows, network formation of community leaders</i>		
	No. of Eligible women facilitated to get govt support		4881
	No. of Government welfare schemes covered		21
<b>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</b> <i>1. Improved awareness of marginalized women/families on different socio-economic entitlements/ schemes of government &gt; inclusion of eligible women/families in different government schemes &gt; accessibility of socio-economic benefits by more than 400 eligible women/families; and</i> <i>2. Improved transparency, responsiveness, accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, equity and participation of Government agencies &gt; socio-economic entitlements to the marginalized women/families of coastal areas.</i>			
<b>Observation on Impacts:</b> Improved socio-economic status living conditions of the marginalized women and their families			
3.3	<i>Women fish-vendors from the 12 new target communities benefit from the cooling boxes and containers to increase their income.</i>		
	No. Of villages covered for iceboxes/vessels	12	12
	No. Of women fish vendors given ice boxes and aluminium vessels	396	437
<b>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</b> <i>1. Use of ice boxes/aluminium vessels &gt; improved transportation (from auction centres) and storing (more fish, more days) of fish &gt; more income for women fish vendors and their families;</i> <i>2. Sharing of unused storage space in the ice boxes with other women fish vendors &gt; sharing benefits and improving group solidarity; and</i> <i>3. Improved availability of different varieties of fish to consumers &gt; Food security</i>			

<u>Observation on Impacts:</u> <i>Improved livelihood security and living conditions of the marginalized fish-vendors and their families and food security to the local population</i>			
<b>4. Children from destitute fisher families complete successfully their school education. Children and young people have theoretical and practical knowledge regarding the sustainable use of natural resources and demand the compliance with the ecological child rights</b>			
4.1	<i>Child Activity Centres in 12 Communities</i>		
	No. Of child activity centres	12	12
	Reduction in dropout rates of children – no. Of children supported in 12 child activity centres		535
<u>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</u> <i>1. Children from destitute fisher families motivated and provided supplementary education &gt; stopped dropping out and improved performance (school attendance and marks); and 2. Improved participation of children in all activities of the Child Activity Centres (CACs) &gt; improved inclusion/equity/accountability/community ownership of CACs &gt; improvement in capacities and skills, and change in attitudes.</i>			
<u>Observation on Impacts:</u> <i>Inclusion and development of school going children from destitute families</i>			
4.2	<i>Formation and continuation of existing Eco-Clubs</i>		
	No. Of eco clubs in schools	42	42
	No. Of children given awareness on ecology	3120	5044
<u>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</u> <i>Training and awareness building of children &gt; improved knowledge and sensitivity children on eco-systems of coastal areas and their eco-rights.</i>			
<u>Observation on Impacts:</u> <i>Improved understanding and responses of children on the need to have safer and sustainable eco-systems in the coastal areas.</i>			
4.3	<i>Environmental Education of Children</i>		
	No. Of children sensitized on environmental issues	6,180	11,977 (average.3992/year)
	No. Of schools involved	42	42
<u>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</u> <i>Training and awareness building of children &gt; improved knowledge and sensitivity of children on environmental issues of the coastal areas of Kanyakumari district</i>			
<u>Observation on Impacts:</u> <i>Improved understanding and responses of children on the need for safer environment and living conditions in the coastal areas of Kanyakumari district</i>			
4.4	<i>Establishment ecological school gardens</i>		
	No. Of schools covered	12	12
	No. Of gardens established	12	12
<u>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</u> <i>Improved knowledge of children on living organisms – plants, birds, animals - and their conditions (dependency/relation of each other, climate, soil, water, air, and practices (eco-system) of the coastal areas of Kanyakumari &gt; improved skills in establishing and managing eco-gardens</i>			
<u>Observation on Impacts:</u> <i>Improved knowledge, interest and skills of children in managing eco-systems for safer environment and living conditions in the coastal areas of Kanyakumari district</i>			
4.5	<i>Qualification of the “Eco-Youth“</i>		
	No. Of youths participating in environmental issues	840	2,617
	Eco right initiatives - organising events/meetings on environment related issues		>90 events
<u>Observed/Reported Outcomes &gt; Effects</u> <i>Improved awareness and participation in events - improved sensitiveness and knowledge of youths on issues relating to eco-systems and environment in the local, national and global levels &gt; improved</i>			

capacities and effective responses in addressing the problems relating to eco-systems and environment in coastal areas of Kanyakumari district.			
Observation on Impacts: <i>Improved knowledge, interest and skills of youths in managing eco-systems for safer environment and living conditions in the coastal areas of Kanyakumari district</i>			
<b>5. interdisciplinary Exchange between Representatives of Civil Society, Representatives of Science as well as Authorities and Departments on District Level for the Development of joint Strategies for Resource Protection is established</b>			
5.1	Conduct of a total of 4 network meetings with other NGOs who work in the area environment and resource protection <i>(Joint Network Meetings not conducted by the project team; 46 network meetings conducted separately by Partner NGOs at the District and State levels)</i>	4	(46)
Observed/Reported Outcomes > Effects and impacts <i>46 net work meetings were conducted separately by each Partner NGO at the District and State level &gt; improved sharing &gt; possibilities of collaboration</i>			
5.2	Conduct of 4 so-called Round Tables with political decision makers, staff of relevant ministries (Forest, Environment), research assistants and representatives of civil society	4	2
	Round table with Tourism Department.		1
	With Fisheries Department		1
Observation on Outcomes/Impacts (of 5.2) <i>1. Participation of key functionaries and decision makers of Tourism and Fisheries Department &gt; sharing of concerns, ongoing activities, and ideas with NGOs &gt; increased responsiveness to the demands of NGOs 2. Chances in policies, strategies and programs of other departments not observed/reported yet.</i>			
5.3.	Initiate changes – leading to development of joint strategies for Resource Protection - on political level in a non-confronting way, based on 5.1 & 5.2 (Networking by HEAL on Manakudy Estuary)	Networking by HEAL on Manakudy Estuary	
Observation on Outcomes/Impacts (of 5.3) <i>1. The Department of Tourism and Development has sanctioned Rs. 3.27 crores for initiating an Eco Tourism Centre in the Manakudy Estuary under the Swadesh Dharshan Scheme of Government of India (networking by HEAL). 2. The Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned Rs. 10 crores for establishing an Eco Protection Farm within the Nature Trail in the Manakudy village (networking by Heal)</i>			

It is also found, as presented in the above table, that the ‘vertical impact’ - impacts of the sub-objectives to contribute to the final Project Objective - is strong enough to establish relevance of the results of the Project to address the identified core problems of the Project. Impacts presented above are supplemented with briefly explanations in sections II.4.1 to II.4.7 below.

#### II.4.1. Socio-Cultural Impacts of the Project

Waste Management: Enhanced social status of participant families - cleanliness became part of socio-cultural values and waste management became a practice. . However, the system also created a new occupational group of “waste workers”; collection and handling of organic wastes is considered a socially/culturally “low” grade job even though the Project tried to improve their working conditions and social status with uniforms, gloves, salaries and facilities like carriages and resting places.

Eco-farming and coir making: Clean food production (without using chemical pesticides and fertilizers) and consumption safe food is increasingly accepted as better social practices.

Pollution control in coir making can improve the working environment and social status of the women workers.

Water security: Independent accessibility to water – from own, community or government sources is considered an indication of social empowerment of women. Wells developed, at the community level, therefore contributed to social empowerment of women of the user-families. . Women are also main users of the ponds, for cleaning clothes and taking baths in some cases. Absence of water sources at convenient places creates many difficulties for women in the culturally sensitive environment of the villages. The ponds in most cases are located in convenient places for women.

Eco-system at Manakudy: Development of mangroves and gardens at Manakudy and the involvement of children and local communities, improved the social accessibility of the location; which otherwise would have been a dumping yard of wastes and place for anti-social elements. Children and other direct target groups of the area showed social commitment to keep the place clean.

Women's Development: Organization of women, coming together, promoting self-help and supporting each other contributed to social empowerment. Sharing, collective learning and joint actions became accepted values and behaviour of the members. Advocacy of the women groups with government institutions improved accountability, responsiveness, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and equity in sharing benefits of different government schemes meant for women and other marginalized sections. Enabling disadvantaged and marginalized sections of women – widows, single women and fisher women – access the entitlements and services of government and other institutions contributed to social empowerment. Intensive and consistent demands from women from marginalized sections made these male dominated institutions more responsive and accountable to the needs of women. There is still a long way to go to make the local government institutions more women friendly and gender balanced. Cooling boxes and aluminium vessels enhanced the social status of the women fish venders by making their occupation more 'decent' and acceptable to the community. Workplaces (mainly public markets) of these women still lack basic amenities. The markets need to be made more women friendly.

Child Development: Reducing drop outs and promoting continuous education of the children among the fisher families contributed to their social empowerment. Continued education contributed to positive changes – learning – among the children and made them more socially acceptable, responsible and active. Children from socially and economically weaker sections got more integrated and included within the group and community. Protecting environment, sustainable management of wastes, natural resources and water, and preservation of mangrove forests and maintaining bio-diversity became socially accepted values and practices among the children.

#### II.4.2. Ecological Impacts of the Project

The Project had the following impacts on the living organisms and their physical environment in the project area.

Waste management: Positive and negative ecological impacts observed in waste management. Disposal of wastes improved cleanliness of the homesteads. Conversion of organic wastes into compost contributed to plant growth, and improved food and nutrition security of human beings. However, dumping un-segregated wastes in yards will produce negative impacts by promoting growth of harmful organisms creating health hazards.

Eco-Model Farms: The three model farms of the Project introduced many innovative methods of growing plants and food production using mostly organic manure and pesticides. Organically produced food is increasingly considered 'safe'; and safe food is becoming important for health. These model Farms contributed to farmers – individually and collectively - adopting organic practices in farming. Pollution of water and soil in coir producing centres destroyed most plants and water related organisms (including fish). Plant clarification system, through planting trees controlling pollution and cleaning soil/water, has contributed to improve quality of soil and water (in a small area, on a pilot basis). Based on the experiences the activity may be up-scaled.

Water Security: Increased availability of water – drinking, irrigation and other uses - promoted health of living organisms – plants, animals, birds, fish varieties, and human beings. Improved water availability from the ponds, especially during summer, contributed to increased bio-diversity and food production – fruits, vegetables and tree crops.

Manakudy ecosystem: Manakudy estuary, with a total area of 150 hectare, has different varieties of mangroves and fish varieties making protection, and development, the eco-system of the estuary very important. The Project contributed to (a) participation of children and fisher-folk in management of the eco-system; (b) draw attention of the government agencies to formulate projects for proper management of the whole estuary; and (c) prevent anti-social elements to dump wastes and destroy the mangroves.

Children's involvement in Ecological and Environmental Issues: The fragile eco-systems of the coastal areas influence the lives of people directly. The Project could improve awareness of children on different varieties of plants and other living organisms in their micro-environment through the eco-clubs and direct participation in organic gardening activities in the schools. Study of nature became part of their education. Village maps are prepared and displayed by children in many centres. Natural disasters like Okhi and Tsunami directly affected most families in the Project villages, with children directly experiencing the Okhi cyclone. They became more concerned on, and interested in, environmental issues. Project partners prepared many IEC materials and used the same for creating awareness and knowledge on eco-systems of the coastal areas.

Multi-stakeholder collaboration: Interactions with Government agencies, scientific institutions and civil society organisations improved their awareness on the coastal and marine eco-systems of the area. Formulation of joint strategies and plans are awaited.

#### II.4.3. Economic Impacts of the Project

Even though the Project directly addressed economic issues of the villagers through sub-objective 3 – strengthening women’s groups and supplying women fishmongers with ice boxes and aluminium vessels, all other goals and activities have indirect economic impacts. Proper management of waste improves health; reduces cost of health care. Also converting degradable waste into bio-fertilizer increases agriculture production. Recycling other wastes fetches income. Model eco-farms and organic farming practices of the villagers contributed to clean food production, reducing health hazards. Farmers also reported reduction in plant diseases, costs of cultivation and increasing yield.

Availability of clean drinking water reduces health hazards and costs of managing diseases. Also women may use time saved from collecting water from distant places for other economic activities at home. Water is used for irrigating plants, leading to increased agriculture production. User committees of the ponds are planning activities for fetching more income – fish production and swimming and water sports. Proper management of the estuary and the mangrove-eco system in Manakudy can increase the income of the local fisher folk through increased availability of local varieties of fish, prawns and crabs. Fees may be charged from the visitors/users – sustainable and responsible tourism - of the mangrove system may be charged for sustainable management.

Savings and credit activities are continuing in all women’s groups. In many cases amount of savings can be increased. Women have also accessibility with formal banking system through the groups and independently. Training obtained through the groups contributed to improved capacities in financial management. Project helped more than 500 women get many deserving economic entitlements of more than 20 different government schemes; however discrimination and neglect of the government agencies on real economic issues of the coastal population - fisher folk in general and women in particular - are voiced by many

Most of the women-fishmongers are above 50 years old; main earners of their homes. Male members in general stop fishing after 60 years, making way for younger generation. As such many male members are unemployed, depending on the women-fishmongers to earn for the families. All women fishmongers contacted reported increased income through use of ice



boxes. They were able to buy and store larger quantities of fish at cheaper rates, often from distant fishing centres; and sell them conveniently at local markets. Purchase and transportation of fish are often done collectively, reducing the costs. Average reported daily income of the fish-mongers varied from Rs.1000 to Rs.3000. Those with ice-boxes share their available spare space to other fishmongers of the group for storing fish.

Providing supplementary and continuous education of school going children of fisher families reduced dependence on private tuition centres. Improved education and skills will make them economically more productive in the long run. Increased awareness of children on environmental and eco-systems, use of clean water and safer food, improved their health, reduced health hazards and costs of treating health issues. Health check-ups are organised at schools, even though proper health indicators and regular measurement of the same are yet to be established for regular monitoring.

Partner NGOs are regularly interacting with government agencies on economic issues of the villages. At present local government institutions – especially Panchayaths – are less active; NGOs hope to formulate joint strategies and programs in future. Project team provides guidance and organize trainings for the target groups using services of other experts.

#### II.4.4. Intended Impacts of the Project

Intended impacts of the Project are presented in section II.4 above.

#### II.4.5 & 6. Unintended Impacts and Assessment of Possible Risks of the Project

Following unintended impacts and long term possible risks are observed.

Waste collection (dumping) centres are potential sources of pollution and health hazards. Un-segregated – degradable and non-degradable – wastes dumped unscientifically in the dumping yards, polluting soil, water and air. Proper waste management system – starting with segregation at source – may be started immediately. Segregating wastes by the women workers – after a time lapse – at the dumping yard is a hazardous and difficult job and therefore may be replaced with more healthy and decent practices.

Management of Water bodies: Ponds not effectively used and properly maintained may become pools of pollutants; people may throw wastes into water bodies. It is observed that in some cases, use of the ponds is less intensive, with greater risk of pollution. Wells are presently used intensively for drinking water, and as such do not have any unintended negative impacts/risks. But if not maintained/monitored properly by the community, wells may also become dumping pits for wastes and source of pollution and health hazard.

Sustainability of the Eco Model Farms: Sustainability of the Eco-Model Farms needs to be ensured beyond the Project period. Eco-farms if not continued to function beyond the

Project period may be counter-productive - leading to loss of interest of farmers in sustainable farming practices.

#### II.4.7. Organizational/Institutional Effectiveness (as a result of the Project)

Partner NGOs are experienced development organizations of Kanyakumari, with many years of involvement with coastal communities and collaboration with tdh. Interactions with the NGOs, beneficiaries, studying the documents and direct observation revealed the following:

(a) Project support of tdh to Partner NGOs – advice, guidance, staff, materials, training etc. – contributed to improve their effectiveness. The Project helped them to (i) take up new important development issues – waste management, organic farming, eco-rights of children, mangrove eco-systems – and (ii) improve their understanding and capacities in older issues – women’s development, water security, child rights and development, and collaboration with other stakeholders; and

(b) Partner NGOs have their own approaches and areas of core-competency, which are reflected in their institutional effectiveness in the Project. However, working together, as joint partners of the Project strengthened their cross-learning and mutual support systems.

#### II.5. Effectiveness of the Project

Tried to find out effectiveness of the Project by answering the basic question: Did we do the right thing? Defining “right” with realistic indicators is challenging. In the Project context the following two questions were taken into account for assessing effectiveness:

(a) Did the selected activities addressed the identified problems and produced the intended positive results using the available resources within the specified time?

(b) Did the activities produce any harm (unintended negative results and risks)?

Effectiveness therefore comprised of the following elements – resources, activities, results and time.

##### II.5.1. Project Planning and Preparation

It is found that the following steps were taken for planning and preparing Phase II:

- a) Consultation of the target communities during the already running project.
- b) Gathering of assessments and evaluations of the implementing staff, monitoring of the project through the so-called Core Action Group of the project.
- c) Inquiries and requests have been expressed by the vulnerable persons (women and children) at local meetings and at the independent requirement monitoring.
- d) Analysis of the need for consolidation and identification of gaps based on the results and impacts of the already implemented projects.

- e) Gathering of professional expertise (experts from environment, forest science, experts for maritime ecosystems (Marine Research Center Tamil Nadu) and social scientists); and
- f) Discussions with young people from the villages, teachers, members of the village council, responsible government departments and elected representatives.

Planning of Phase II of the project under review is found to be effective (in terms of cost and time for the above activities) as it was a continuation of Phase I and based already acquired experiences and learnings

#### II.5.1.1. Evaluation of the Target Group

As already presented in section II.3.1&2, the Project very much reflected the core problems and priorities of the target groups. In other words, the effects (results) of the Project were related to the core problems and priorities of the target groups. Interaction with the target groups, individually and collectively, also revealed that the project objectives/activities were relevant to address their problems. Evaluation of the target group for planning Phase II was found to be effective as: (a) it was based on the experiences of, lessons learnt and feedback of target groups of Phase I; and (b) Tdh and the Partner NGOs were active in the coastal areas of Kanyakumari for many years.

#### II.5.1.2. Situation and Project Goal Analysis

Analysis of the situation and formulation of goal and objectives of Phase II were based on experiences, feedback from target groups and evaluation of Phase I. Main Objective (Goal) of the Project - *Contribution to the protection to the living space and the poverty reduction of marginalised coastal inhabitants in the District of Kanyakumari, India* – is in conformity with the situation of the target villages.

The Project objective (outcome level) - *Improvement of the living conditions of marginalised coastal inhabitants from 42 coastal communities of the Indian Kanyakumari District through waste disposal, preservation of the water resources, economical empowerment of vulnerable women and environment education for children and young people* – is formulated to contribute to the Main Objective. Formulation of the Goal and Objectives of the Project followed the following steps:

*Problem analysis > Objective Analysis > Formulation of realistic/achievable Goals and Objectives > Identify the required/relevant Activities to achieve the Objectives (based on available resources) > Execution of the activities*

It is found that the goal and objectives were relevant to the problems and priorities of the target groups.

#### II.5.1.3. Project Conception

The Project was conceived – with the Target Groups, Goals, objectives and Activities – based on experiences of Phase I. Most activities of Phase I were continued in Phase II without much change in target groups/villages. Waste Management was the new component/focus area/sub-objective in Phase II. It was reported by the Project partners that the lessons learnt in Phase I were incorporated in designing Phase II.

#### II.5.1.4. Personnel/Qualifications

Project team of all Partner NGOs comprised of members with -

- a) many years of experience in working with the target groups;
- b) expertise on performing their assigned roles – project management, financial management, accounting, documentation, implementation of planned activities, facilitating, monitoring, networking, arranging resources, linking target groups with the NGOs and local organizations, sharing valuable information, documenting etc; and
- c) Volunteers and animators at the village levels – younger team members – were found to be qualified and committed.

In many cases, commitment and experience of the Project team members more than compensated their limited formal technical qualifications (degrees, certificates from educational institutions). Capacity building of project team is taken up as one of activities of the Project. NGOs have arranged many training programs, on different topics related to the Project, for the staff to improve their effectiveness in performing the assigned roles.

#### II.5.1.5. Analysis of project documents - impact chain

All Partner NGOs maintain records of activities implemented and outputs generated. Progress reports are prepared (half-year and yearly basis) and shared with tdh. Impact chain of the Project is used to assess the results. There is need to have more in-depth analysis of the higher level results – outcomes, effects, and impacts – using the impact chain. Capacity of the Project team may be enhanced in understanding the impact chain and analysing impacts.

#### II.5.1.6. Equipments of the Project

Furniture and equipments of the Project are maintained by the Partner NGOs and used for the project purpose. Partner NGOs did not report any gaps in (need for new) equipments for effective implementation of the Project.

## **II.5.2. Evaluation of the Project Implementing Organizations**

Preliminary evaluation of the three Project partners are made based on (a) interactions with the Project leadership and team, (b) quality of implementation of the Project Objectives/ Activities, and (c) Relation of them with the beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Conformity of the Project objectives with those of the partner-organizations was already discussed earlier in section I.3.4 earlier. It is found that the three Partner NGOs have the required experience, qualities and capacities for implementing the Project. Main strengths of the NGOs are the following:

- (a) Commitment to the causes of the coastal communities;
- (b) Strong relation/rapport with the communities and their institutions;
- (c) Many years of working with the communities;
- (d) Acceptance and recognition of the NGOs by the communities; and
- (f) Experience and competency in implementing the project activities (except in waste management).

### **II.5.2.1. Monitoring and Evaluation System**

The Project was monitored at the Group, NGO Partner and NGO-Network levels by the related categories of stakeholders. Levels, participants and main focus of monitoring are presented in table 7 below.

**Table 7: Participants of the Monitoring and Evaluation System**

	<i>M/E Level</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Observations</i>
1	Group level – SHGs, Children, Eco-clubs, Schools, CACs, water User committees, farmer-groups	Members of the group facilitated/ supported by the Project facilitators	Focus on (a) Implementation of planned activities; (b) sharing of costs and benefits of the Project.
2	NGO Partner-level	Project Team with or without Tdh representatives	Focus on (a) Implementation of planned activities; (b) Financial monitoring; and (c) preparation of reports for tdh
3	Partner NGOs level (3 Partners)	Leaders of the 3 NGO Partners; core action group members of the NGOs; representative of Tdh	Focus on (a) Implementation of planned activities; (b) achievement of project sub-objectives (outcomes); (h) preparation of progress reports

Group level meetings are less formal and more frequent. Feedbacks from the Groups on project related matters go to NGO partners, mainly through the concerned Project team member. Project team meets regularly – weekly and more frequent if needed – at the NGO level to review progress of implementation of activities; expenses and preparation of reports. NGO leaders, with core action groups, meet at least once in three months (more frequently if

needed) – to review progress of implementation of the planned activities; achievement of sub objectives of the project; and preparation of documents for sharing with tdh.

Monitoring is focussed more on activities (outputs) and expenses for completing the activities; and less on outcomes, effects and impacts. As a result, capitalisation and sharing of learnings from each other is not taking place to the desired levels. There is opportunity for the Partner NGOs to learn from each other (positive and negative experiences); innovate and improve the quality of their interventions in a constructive and positively competitive manner, as they are implementing more or less same activities, with more or less same categories of people, in different villages, located in the coastal area of Kanyakumari district. Such cross learnings will prevent repetition of mistakes, avoid risks, and improve efficiency (by selecting better methods and using the resources in a right way) and replicating better practices. Improved sharing and cross learnings will help NGO- partners to state more clearly what they learnt from each other.

#### II.5.2.2. Motivation

All the three Partner NGOs– leaders, staff, community level volunteers - are highly motivated and involved in the Project activities. This mainly because of their many years of experience in working for, and with, the target groups in the coastal areas of Kanyakumari. Regular support (financial, technical) provided by tdh, and the constructive collaboration with tdh, are also a strong contributory factors for their motivation.

#### II.5.2.3. Ownership and Legitimacy of the Lead Partner

HEAL Movement as the Lead Partner showed ownership of the Project. Even though all the Partner NGOs have own identifies and core competencies in their respective areas, HEAL is recognised by the other NGO partners, government agencies and local institutions (including Parish councils, Schools, Panchayats etc.) as a credible, experienced and strong development organization. Constructive and strong relation of HEAL with other donor agencies, many government agencies, local institutions, research institutions and individual subject experts are additional factors contributing to its legitimacy as the lead partner.

#### II.5.3. Execution of the planned activities

Most of the activities were implemented as planned using the activity planning matrix (However, there were adjustments in some activities – postponement and pre-ponement – mainly due demands of target groups and factors outside the control of the Partner NGOs(please see also sections 2.5.4.1 and II.2.6.1). NGOs are confident of completing the remaining activities during the remaining period of the Project. Partner NGOs did not report

dropping of any planned activities. However, it is important to have a conduct a detailed review of the pending activities and make realistic plans to complete or revise the same if required.

### II.5.3.1. Organizational implementation

Planned activities were implemented with the support of local village level institutions – women’s groups, parish committees, schools, groups of farmers etc. They are primarily involved and responsible for selecting individual beneficiaries (for family-based activities), selecting locations for and mobilizing beneficiaries for community based activities; arranging local resources, including space, for completion of the planned activities. As such, the leaders of these organizations (school heads, teachers, priests, SHG leaders, farmers and village level volunteers) are the key actors influencing quality of implementation.

It is found that efficiency (activities) and effectiveness (results) varied according to involvement of these local actors. For example, school garden were better with more committed school head; better implementation of programs in a village with a more committed priest or parish committee etc. Similarly, timely implementation, quality of work and intensity of use of water of the ponds depended much on the roles and contributions of local leaders.

Project teams of the Partner NGOs were directly involved in completion of the planned activities, with the support of the local leadership. They were responsible for budget estimates of individual activities, expenses, and documentation of required information (including expenditure). With strong commitment and years of experience, they were found to be responsible and efficient in using the funds and completing the activities according to approved plans.

### II.5.3.2. Evaluation of the applied approaches, instruments and methods

The Project had a mix of approaches, focussing different categories of target groups.

Table 8: Approach, Instruments and Methods of the Project

	Focus Area	Focus and Approach	Instruments/Methods
1	Pollution Control – Waste Management	Family focussed – activity at community level; but participation is voluntary and families can opt out if desired. Need to introduce right based approach – <i>right for clean environment</i>	Training; technical guidance; funds for pits
		Again collection at family level – storing and treatment at community level.	
	Model Eco-Farms	Local institution based – individual	Training, networking;

		farmers as beneficiaries. Need to have right based approach – <i>right to safe and nutritious food.</i>	technical guidance; funds for essential inputs
2	Water	Need to introduce right based approach – <i>water rights.</i>	
	Rainwater harvesting Units	At school level, with individual students as beneficiaries.	Funds for constructing RHU; awareness building
	Open Wells	At community level, with families as beneficiaries	Funds for development of wells; water testing; user group strengthening;
	Ponds	At community level, families as beneficiaries	Funds for development of ponds; awareness; user group strengthening;
3	Women Development	Support SHGs to ensure good governance in government programs – with principles of equity, transparency, accountability and participation.	
	SHGs	Group focussed, with individual women members as beneficiaries	Training; awareness building
	Income generation	Individual women focused – as beneficiaries. Welfare focus.	Supply ice boxes and aluminium vessels; awareness/training;
	Govt. Entitlements	Individual (eligible) women as beneficiaries; right based approach to avail welfare programs. <i>Right to deserved entitlements.</i>	Motivation; awareness; linking SHG with government programs
4	Child Development	Focus on child rights visible. Education is a right; Right to Food, Right to Water, Inclusiveness/Non-discrimination; <i>Right to safe environment; etc.</i>	
	Supplementary education for weaker children	Individual student focused. Inclusion; <i>Right to Education.</i>	Service of teachers; materials; training
	Eco Clubs	Focused on Groups of Children and Youths. <i>Right of different organisms to exist in a safer/ cleaner environment. Right to have healthy life.</i>	Awareness; training; exposures
	Environmental Education	Group focused with individual children as beneficiaries. <i>Right for safer/cleaner environment. Right to have better future.</i>	Awareness; training; support to establish demonstration units
	Child activity centre	Community based – with individual student beneficiaries. <i>Child rights. Inclusion.</i>	Awareness/training; support of facilitators

Multiple focus and approaches were found to be more challenging to the Partner NGOs in terms of implementation of the planned activities, achieving the desired results and ensuring sustainability in the long run. For example, ensuring effectiveness (getting the right results) and sustainability (continuation beyond the Project period) of community based activities are found to be more challenging compared to individual beneficiary focussed activities as it involved many intended beneficiaries with divergent interests (in sharing the responsibilities, costs and benefits). Conflicts may emerge between group and individual interests. It is found that committed and efficient local leadership supported Partner NGOs to address some of the challenges relating to multiple focus and approaches.



## **II.5.4. General Evaluation of the Project implementation**

### **II.5.4.1. Targets – planned and achieved**

In most activities the targets achieved already are more than whole planned for the Project. Planned targets are yet to be achieved in Waste Management containers (52/60), plant clarification system (1/3); and number of women supported to organize through SHGs (2557/3300). NGOs plan to complete the targets remaining targets during the Project period.

**Table 9: Targets planned and achieved**

<b><i>Sub Goals/Activities</i></b>		<b><i>Planned Targets</i></b>	<b><i>Target Achieved (August 24, 2018)</i></b>
<b><i>1. Contamination through solid waste matter as well as polluting entries into the ground water and food stuff through chemical fertilising and input of pesticides from the coconut-fibre production are reduced in 42 communities.</i></b>			
1.1	<i>Reduce Contamination of soil and water - Waste management</i>		
	No. of persons trained in solid waste management (old and new villages)	2100	2,270
	No. Of villages covered (Phase I)	12	11
	No. Of waste units (LIFT is completing the remaining 4 units)	30	26
	No. Of waste pits (LIFT is completing the remaining 8 waste pits)	60	52
1.2	<i>Workshops for a safe environment and sustainable agriculture</i>		
	No. Of farmers trained in sustainable agriculture	540	677
1.3	<i>Establishment of ecological model farms for trainings in the area utilisation of degradable biological waste and the preservation of food security</i>		
	No. Of Model Farms	3	3
	Trained farmers practising organic farming		340
1.4	Establishment plant clarification system (one location x 3 NGOs (HEAL completed)	3	1
<b><i>2. The access to drinking- and service water has sustainably improved in the 12 new communities, successes in the improvement of the water supply in the 30 till date in the project participating communities as well as first results in the area of re-naturalisation have been consolidated.</i></b>			
2.1.	<i>Restoration of ponds and wells in the new target communities</i>		
	Repair of open wells	12	15
	No. Of ponds regenerated	3	9
	No. Of families using the wells and ponds	2306	5,200
	No. of persons using the ponds	13539	20,800
2.2	<i>Rainwater harvesting systems (no. Of units/schools)</i>		
	No. Of schools/units	12	12
2.3	<i>Maintenance of the Nature Trail for sustainable cultivation of natural resources and preservation of the mangrove forests in the Manakudy River Delta</i>	150 hectares	Progressing as planned (approx. 500 people)
<b><i>3. The precarious income, health and nutrition situation in the 42 target communities has been improved</i></b>			

3.1	<i>Empowerment of women in their self-help efforts to improve their income, health- and nutrition situation</i>		
	No. Of SHGs of women supported		124
	No. Of women supported to organize themselves	3300	2,557
3.2	<i>Mediation of Government Social Benefits for entitled poor and marginalised families, especially old women and widows, network formation of community leaders</i>		
	No. Of Eligible women facilitated to get govt support		4,881
	No. Of Government welfare schemes covered		21
3.3	<i>Women fish-vendors from the 12 new target communities benefit from the cooling boxes and containers and increase so their income.</i>		
	No. Of villages covered for iceboxes/vessels	12	12
	No. Of women fish vendors given ice boxes and aluminium vessels	396	437
<b>4. Children from destitute fisher families complete successfully their school education. Children and young people have theoretical and practical knowledge regarding the sustainable use of natural resources and demand the compliance with the ecological child rights.</b>			
4.1	<i>Child Activity Centres in 12 Communities</i>		
	No. Of child activity centres	12	12
	Reduction in dropout rates of children – no. Of children supported in 12 child activity centres		535
4.2	<i>Formation and continuation of existing Eco-Clubs</i>		
	No. Of eco clubs in schools	42	42
	No. Of children given awareness on ecology and environment	3120	5,044
4.3	<i>Environmental Education of Children</i>		
	No. Of children sensitized on environmental issues	6,180	11,977 (av.3992/year)
	No. Of schools involved	42	42
4.4	<i>Establishment ecological school gardens</i>		
	No. Of schools covered	12	12
	No. Of gardens established	12	12
4.5	<i>Qualification of the “Eco-Youth”</i>		
	No. Of youths participating in environmental issues	840	2,617
	Eco right initiatives - organising meetings/events on environment related topics		>90 events
<b>5. Interdisciplinary Exchange between Representatives of Civil Society, Representatives of Science as well as Authorities and Departments on District Level for the Development of joint Strategies for Resource Protection is established</b>			
5.1	Conduct of a total of 4 network meetings with other NGOs who work in the area environment- and resource protection ( <i>Joint Network Meetings not conducted by the project team; 46 network meetings conducted separately by Partner NGOs at the District and State levels</i> )	4	(46)
5.2	Conduct of 4 so-called Round Tables with political decision makers, staff of relevant ministries (Forest, Environment), research assistants and representatives of civil society	4	2
	Round table with Tourism department		1

	With fisheries department		1
5.3.	Initiate changes – leading to development of joint strategies for Resource Protection - on political level in a non-confronting way, based on 5.1 & 5.2		
	1. <i>The Department of Tourism and Development has sanctioned Rs. 3.27 crores for initiating an Eco Tourism Centre in the Manakudy Estuary under the Swadesh Dharshan Scheme of Government of India (networking by HEAL).</i>		
	2. <i>The Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned Rs. 10 crores for establishing an Eco Protection Farm within the Nature Trail in the Manakudy village (networking by Heal)</i>		

Over achievement of targets in the following activities are worth noting: (a) Number of persons trained in solid waste management (2270/2100); (b) Number of farmers trained in sustainable agriculture (677/540); (c) Number of eligible women supported to get government benefits (4881); (d) Number of children given awareness on ecology and environment (3935/3120); (e) Number of children sensitized on environmental issues (11997/6180 – average 3992/year); (f) Number of women fish vendors supported with ice boxes and aluminium vessels (437/396); (g) Number of families using wells and ponds (5200/2396); and (h) Number of persons using the ponds (20800/13539). Instead of 4 network meetings at the Partner-NGO level (item 5.1), each NGO partner conducted the networking meetings a total 46 meetings, separately. Over achievement of the targets are mainly due to greater interest and need of the people to participate in the project and get the intended benefits.

#### 5.4.3. Involvement of the Target Group

Involvement of different categories of target groups in their respective activities is presented in the following table.

Table 10: Involvement of different categories of Target Groups

	<i>Focus Area</i>	<i>Target Groups</i>	<i>Involvement</i>
1	Pollution Control		
	Waste Management	Families	Participating – handing over wastes; subscribed cost of collection;
		Local institutions/Groups of target families	Provided land; mobilized target families; employed staff; collected fees from families; Contracted private sector.
	Model Eco-Farms	individual farmers	Participated in training programs; started practise
2	Water		
	Rainwater harvesting Units (RHU)	School authorities/ teachers	Provided space; maintaining the RHU; motivated children; awareness building on health.
		Children	Using the RHU; participated in awareness on environment and health
	Open Wells	User Families	Using water (beneficiary); participated in group meetings; Share costs of operation and maintenance.
	Ponds	Small farmers; women; children	Using water (beneficiary); participated in group meetings; Shared costs of operation and maintenance

3	Women Development		
	SHGs	Group focussed, with individual women members as beneficiaries	Participated in - group meetings, savings and credit programs, training and awareness programs, advocacy and lobbying for entitlements and women's rights
	Income generation	Individual women focused – as beneficiaries	Used the materials (ice boxes, vessels) as beneficiaries; participated in group meetings; savings and credit; training and awareness, advocacy/lobbying.
	Govt. Entitlements	Individual (eligible) women as beneficiaries	Participated in - group meetings, savings and credit programs, training and awareness programs, advocacy and lobbying for entitlements and women's rights
4	Child Development		
	Supplementary education for weaker children	Selected school going children	Participated; used services of teachers; Attend schools and study as guided by the teachers
	Eco Clubs	Groups of Children and Youths	Participated in planned activities, share information and learn
	Environmental Education	Groups of children	Participated in planned activities, share information and learn
	Child activity centre	Groups of children	Participated; use service of animators/ teachers; share and learn

#### II.5.4.2. Strengthening of Self-Help

Participation of target groups in all projects was voluntary. Most local institutions are representative – water user committees, self-help groups, eco-farming groups, and waste management committees - of the target groups. The Project has supported these groups to manage the facilities on their own. Child related activities required support of others - Child action centres by local committees and school related programs by the school authorities. Children are not empowered enough to take activities on their own and need guidance and support of others.

#### II.6. Efficiency

Efficiency is related to doing things rightly. Following questions are used to understand efficiency: (a) Are the resources – finance, personal, material, etc. – of the Project used as specified, for the purposes/activities proposed in the Project? (b) Are the resources used in a timely manner as proposed in the Project? (c) Was the quality of the resources (personnel, material) at the desired levels? (d) Was there any unintended or intended wastage/loss of resources?

##### II.6.1. Budget Evaluation

NGO are keeping the financial records in order. Auditing is done properly and the reports are shared with Tdh. Quality of auditing is good. The total budget of Budget heads is

divided into three categories: (a) Investments; (b) Operational Costs and (c) Personnel Costs.

	Budget category	Budget allocation (Rs.)	%
1	Investments	7959804	24.75
2	Operational costs	9483835	29.52
3	Personnel costs	14683149	45.7
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32126788</b>	<b>99.97</b>

Effectiveness of the allocations and utilization of the funds (relating to the project objectives and results) was significantly higher than what the above statements show. For example in the case of personnel costs all staff members are involved in supporting the target groups. Among the staff Community Workers, Animators, Community Teachers work directly with the target groups to improve their capacities and implement the activities according to plans. Higher share of personnel cost is also an indication of the importance of the approach of the right based approach – with awareness generation, training, mobilization, networking and self-help promotion through target group-based institutions. Director, programme administration manager and coordinator guide and advise the staff, and involve directly at the field level if necessary. Services given by the staff (budgeted as personnel costs) are directly beneficial to the target groups like investments.

Table 11: Variance - Cumulative Budget and Expenditure – 01.04.2016 to 31.12.2017

	Budget category	Budget allocation	Expenses	Variance	Variance %
1	Investments	7134802	8017521	-882719	-12.37
2	Operational costs	5966724	5888444	78279	1.31
3	Personal costs	9190504	8434157	756347	8.23
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22292030</b>	<b>22340122</b>	<b>48092</b>	<b>-0.22</b>

The variance in budget and expenses for the three categories are not major, and therefore justifiable. Over-expenses in investments were reportedly (up to 31.12.2017) were due to pre-poning some of the major activities (ponds, wells) planned in 2018 as noted below.

	Items	Variation/Over utilization (%)	Reported reasons
1	Restoration of ponds	58.22	Activity planned for 2018 – preponed due to drought conditions
2	Restoration of wells	85.81	Activity planned for 2018 – preponed due to drought conditions
3	Workshop on safe environment and sustainable agriculture	53.15	More interest due to drought conditions
4	Network meetings and round tables	51.73	More meetings due to Okhi cyclone and the drought conditions

Under-utilization of funds reported in the following items for the period up to 31.12.2017.

	Items	Under-Utilization (%)	Reported reasons
1	Rainwater utilizations systems	16.93	Pending activity planned to be finished in 2018
2	Equipments for disadvantage women	13.97	Pending activity planned to be finished in 2018
3	Communication cost	16.75	
4	Water sample analysis and distribution	22.65	Actual cost was less than budgeted
5	Training on plant clarification systems	100	Activity postponed
6	Cost of administration manager	27.18	
7	Fees for resource persons	27.84	Activity planned to be completed in 2018

It is found that the variations in budget and expenses were not related to any inefficiency in financial planning, but more to factors beyond the control of the Partner NGOs like droughts and cyclone experienced during 2016-17. NGO Partners, together with Tdh, may revise the remaining budget, based on performance up to now and the need for future. The most needy and demanded activities (including the identified gaps) may be given more funds.

The period also witnessed one of the worst natural disasters in the region – Okhi cyclone – affecting all the project villages. Partner NGOs were able to use the allotted resources and take up most field level activities during the period; with more expenses than the budgeted Commitment and consistent efforts of the Partner NGOs in continuing and completing more activities, during the difficult period of natural disasters is highly appreciated.

#### II.6.2. Efficiency Previous cost-benefit ratio

It was not possible to work out the cost-benefit ratio of the Project in pure financial terms. However, the positive results produced by the Project justify the costs incurred.

#### II.6.3. Efficiency Deviation from planning

Most of the planned activities are completed; some activities are completed ahead of the planned time. Variance (over-expenditure) during the specified time is justified as more outputs were generated with the over-expenditure.

#### II.6.4. Efficiency Budget adjustments

Partner NGOs were able to use available funds to take up extend the some of the activities and producing more outputs, based on demand of the target groups, in the period under review as a result of possible budget adjustments.

#### II.6.5. Efficiency Project management

Management of the Project is found to be efficient. Efficiency can be improved with re-allocation of villages to NGO Partners. Project villages of the NGOs are mixed without any clear geographical grouping. In many cases, one NGO partner have to bye-pass the project area of another, involving more time and travel cost. NGOs tried to overcome this constraint by (a) recruiting local animators, community teachers and volunteers; (b) strengthening relations with the local institutions (to minimise direct interventions in all cases); and (c) using improved communication systems for interactions with the local institutions and target groups.

### **II.7. Sustainability**

#### II.7.1. Socio-cultural Sustainability

Project activities are relevant and conform to the socio-cultural norms, values and practices of the target groups (except in the case of segregation of wastes in common dumping yards). Innovative practices like eco-farming are also not contradictory to the accepted norms. Child and women rights are getting accepted; discrimination against girl-children is disappearing.

#### II.7.2. Organizational Sustainability

Most of the activities are implemented together with local organizations/groups; and many of them are presently controlled by them. For examples – water sources (water committees), school-centred activities/gardens (schools), women activities (SHGs) and child action centres (local committees). These local organizations/groups differ in terms of legal status, recognition, resources, structure and systems. Schools are well established; SHGs are also stronger compared to the water user associations.

#### II.7.3. Institutional sustainability

Project Partners – NGOs – are well established, with many years of experience. They have also established effective relations with other institutions – government, church, other civil society organizations. They expressed long term commitment to the problems of the coastal

population of Kanyakumari. However, they may be supported to formulate their own institutional plans/strategies for sustaining the initiatives of the Project.

#### II.7.4. Political sustainability

No significant change in the political conditions expected. Focus areas and problems addressed by the Project are conforming to the development priorities of the governments at the national and state levels. They are also conforming to the sustainable development goals 2030. As such the project is not implementing any activities conflicting with the national interest. Regulating/controlling the roles/activities of civil society organizations may be a threat if practised by the government. Panchayaths are weak at present. Most project activities – waste management, water, child development, eco-farming, women's development, management of natural resources at local level etc. – are in the domain of panchayath. They may emerge as the prime actors of local governance and development in future.

#### II.7.5. Environmental Sustainability

Project activities are environment friendly. Waste management can be made more environment friendly, with suitable changes. Awareness on ecology, environment, climate change, disaster prevention and management may be strengthened further to ensure environmental sustainability of the Project activities.

#### II.7.6. Technical Sustainability

Project activities are technically sustainable (except in the case of handling degradable wastes) with scope for innovations.

#### II.7.7. Economic Sustainability

Community-based activities – child action centres, waste management systems, school-based programs for children, water resources, and SHG based activities – will incur costs in future for continuation. Project partners, together with the concerned local groups, may formulate appropriate strategies to ensure economic sustainability of these activities.



## **II.8. KEY FINDINGS, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **II.8.1. Project Specific**

#### **II.8.1.1. Appropriateness of Project Design and Monitoring Systems:**

##### Key findings

- The Project reflected, and based on, the problems and priorities of the target groups; conformed to the national (Indian) development objectives, objectives of BMZ, tdh, Partner NGOs and is contributory to the SDGs 2030.
- Partner NGOs working in the same region (adjoining villages) for the same type of target groups (coastal communities) and same activities (within a Project frame) gained lot of experience and learnings from the Project; opportunity and need exist for more intensive cross learning to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the Project.
- Impact/Result chain of the Project - both horizontal (from activity > impact) and vertical (across the different sub-objectives) - have (and intended to have) many quality indicators, making impact monitoring difficult and challenging.

##### Lessons Learnt

*Group of NGOs working within one 'Project frame' in one region offers greater opportunities for collective action, cross learning and enhancement of efficiency and effectiveness of the Project.*

##### Recommendations:

- Cross learning among the Partner NGOs may be strengthened further to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the processes, results and relations established in the Project.
- Impact/result focus linking activity > goal and output > impact – may be established clearly and effectively to monitor and understand (evaluate) impacts of the Project.

#### **II.8.1.2. Target s - Planned Vs. Actual:**

##### Key findings

- Activities – outputs: Partner NGOs achieved the planned targets in most cases - in many cases outputs were more than planned - during the specified time frame.
- Number of people participated - directly reached out to more than 53,000 persons – 17,556 school going children (majority of them girls); 2,617 youths 7,875 women; 1,017 small farmers related to eco-farming, 2,270 uncategorized participants in waste management; 20,800 uncategorized users of the drinking and service water sources; and about 1,000 uncategorized population of the Manakudy eco-system.

##### Recommendation

- Remaining gaps in outputs may be addressed in the Project period.

#### **II.8.1.3. Efficiency:**

##### Key findings

- Resources (finance, materials, and human resources) of the Project were used for completing the planned activities; some activities were postponed or preponed mainly based on need/demand of the target groups and factors beyond the control of the NGOs.

These adjustments are minor and justifiable. NGOs plan to complete the remaining activities in time.

- Project teams – bottom to top – got required commitment, constructively relations with local communities, and are responsive, accountable, transparent and participatory.
- Capacity gaps (knowledge and competency in application) exist in assessing impacts, identifying the key learnings and documenting best practices/lessons.

#### Recommendations

- Postponed activities may be completed during the Project period (based on findings and recommendations relating to specific sectors presented below).
- Partner NGOs may be supported to sustain the services of the Project team (especially community level workers, young volunteers) beyond the Project period.
- Partner NGOs may re-assess the capacities, identify the capacity gaps and capacitate the Project team immediately (particularly in impact monitoring, identifying and documenting key learnings, and best practices of the Project).

#### **II.8.1.4. Effectiveness:**

##### Key findings

- Activities were relevant to the problems of the target groups; and produced the desired/ planned outputs; so effectiveness of these outputs in addressing the problems is visible in most cases.
- Important gaps – new activities are needed to improve effectiveness, not included in the Project, but emerged during implementation phase in some focus areas (noted in the sector specific findings and recommendations below); inclusion of the missing activities can improve effectiveness significantly.

##### Recommendations

- Important gaps – including new activities required to improve effectiveness and making changes in some activities – may be addressed to further enhance effectiveness of the Project.

##### Lessons Learnt

*Projects become more effective with greater conformity to the problems and priorities of the target groups.*

#### **II.8.1.5. Equity:**

##### Key findings

- The project focussed on the marginalized and weaker sections – women, children, small farmers, of the coastal communities; who were generally excluded from the mainstream development programs of the government.
- Identification of target groups and individuals (direct beneficiaries of the Project) was done in consultation with local institutions and experiences of Phase I; contributed to improve equity in participation and sharing of benefits in a specified location/institution/ group.
- Due to limitation of resources/time many needy groups/families exist could not be included the Project. Partner NGOs and groups are trying to link them with programs of government agencies.

### Lessons Learnt

*There is more equity (and less exclusion of the needy/deserved) with more active involvement of target group-based organizations/groups.*

### Recommendations

- Any needy target groups/persons, excluded from activities (voluntarily or involuntarily), in a location/community may be identified and their participation ensured, in consultation with the local institutions, in the remaining period of the Project.
- Systems for sharing costs and benefits of the community based facilities – ponds, wells, eco-farms, child action centres – equitably, particularly for the ex-Project period (sustainability) may be developed and applied in consultation with the target groups.

### **II.8.1.6. Sustainability:**

#### Key findings

- Approaches and activities of the Project (except the present system of waste management) are sustainable with active support/participation of local institutions and the target communities. Support from government will further enhance sustainability (and up-scaling) of most activities.
- Local groups and institutions associating with the Project are well-established; expressed their commitment to continue the activities and build on the results beyond the Project period. However, no clear plan for sustainability exists.

### Lessons Learnt

*Accepted approaches and practices, constructive relations with the target groups and positive results and experiences of the Project improve chances of sustainability.*

### Recommendations

- Local groups/institutions associating with the Project may be supported to develop and put into practice their strategies of sustaining the processes and results of the Project.
- Partner NGOs may formulate their own plans, with clear strategies, for sustaining the processes and results of the Project.
- Support of government agencies may be sought and obtained for further strengthening and up-scaling the activities.

### **II.8.2. Sector Specific Recommendations**

#### **II. 8.2.1. Reduction of Contamination – Waste Management:**

##### Key findings

- Waste management is a very important, needy and relevant activity to prevent pollution and health hazards in the coastal villages of Kanyakumari. Target groups are interested to participate and share the costs.
- Present practice of collecting and handling un-segregated wastes in a common place is unhealthy, costly and indecent (for the women workers in the dumping yards) in the humid conditions of coastal Kanyakumari.
- Waste management has emerged as a very important objective of the national, state and local government institutions in most parts of India (with National and State-level Missions established in most States). Many innovative/effective practices are getting

introduced in different parts of the country; experiences and lessons of these innovative practices are already available.

### Lessons Learnt

*Clearly formulated objectives and activities, if not suitable to local contexts and conformed to the widely accepted approaches/principles, can generate unintended negative results.*

### Recommendations

- The Program may be reformulated based on study/experiences of other innovative and effective waste management programmes of other parts of the country/world.
- Following generally accepted principles may be adopted:
  - (1) waste reduction – also making available degradable materials like cloth bags for storage/transportation; (2) segregation of waste source; (3) conversion of degradable waste at source (into manure, gas etc.); (4) collection, transportation and storage of only non-degradable wastes; (5) recyclable non-degradable waste may be recycled using environmentally sound practices, with the support of government, research institutions and private sector, and (6) non-recyclable waste may be managed with the support of local government officials and private sector.
- Dumping degradable and non-degradable wastes together into central yards and segregation, with a time lag, may be avoided.
- Integration of waste management with safe food production needs to be strengthened. Manure from degradable wastes may be used to enhance safe crop production in a more systematic manner, focusing on food/nutritional security of the coastal people, especially children. Appropriate practices like using grow bags for vegetable cultivation in the small homesteads of coastal areas may be introduced. (Terrace of buildings and courtyards may also be used for growing plants in the bags to improve their food availability/nutrition status).
- Participation of more families and non-family entities – institutions, markets, shops, hotels, industrial units, hospitals, etc. – and sustainability (financial, institutional, and technical) may be ensured to enhance impact. Waste management should be by all (no exclusion) in a given locality.
- Experience of the small pilot intervention – plant clarification system – in the coir processing areas, to prevent pollution of water and soil, may be studied for wider application.

## **II.8.2.2. Food Security – Clean and Nutritious Food:**

### II.8.2.2.1. Eco Model Farms

#### Key findings

- All the three Eco-model farms are well maintained. While the model farms of HEAL and LIFE-T were established as part of the Project, model farm of CARE T (at Panpanvilai) already existed with a strong and committed leadership, group of farmers and basic facilities, and the Project contributed to further strengthening the activities.
- Model Farms are functioning as demonstration cum training units; also used as platforms for sharing experiences, ideas and exchange/share planting materials of vegetables and fruit trees and organic manure and pesticides. Sharing of information by children (at the HEAL farm) and information/experiences by farmers (at the Panpanvilai Farm) on eco-farming practices were very useful and interesting. Interested farmers were trained in all

the units, with the help of experts, and many of them adopted the practices, fully or partially, at different scales in their farms.

- Farmers associated with the Units and adopting organic farming practises are not organized into any formal structures except in the case of Panpanvilai (CARE T); absence of well-defined/established group make interactions, joint planning and actions, sharing of resources among the farmers difficult and less effective. Networking among farmers attached to the Panpanvilai Eco-Farm may be studied for wider adoption.
- Partner NGOs use services of individual competent and committed experts for promoting eco-farming. Effective collaborations with regional/State/national/global level institutions and networks engaged in promoting organic/sustainable farming are yet to be established.

#### Lessons Learnt

- ❖ *Information > Knowledge > Practice is a systematic process essential for achieving the desired impacts in innovative approaches.*
- ❖ *Critical minimum number of stakeholders (learners and practitioners), with a defined structure and system to act together, is required to sustain the innovations.*

#### Recommendations

- Sustainability of the eco-model farms may be examined; appropriate strategies may be adopted to continue the farms beyond the project period.
- Association of farmers adopting eco-farming practices may be formed and strengthened to promote, continue and strengthen cross-learning, sharing of resources and collective actions in production, processing, branding and marketing of organically grown products.
- Collaboration with national and international agencies/institutions – Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Networks of Eco-Farmers, IFOAM etc for example – may be initiated and strengthened.

#### II.8.2.2.2. School Eco-Gardens (with more focus on vegetables and fruit crops)

##### Key findings

School authorities (management, teachers) and students are interested in maintaining the school eco-gardens. Most gardens are well maintained; use organic manure and pesticides, got plants of fruit trees, flower plants and vegetables. Children are actively interested and engaged in maintaining the gardens.

##### Recommendations:

- Sustainability of the school gardens may be formulated – together with the school authorities – to continue the gardens beyond the Project period.
- Other educational institutions including colleges may be encouraged to establish eco-gardens with more focus on food crops (vegetables, fruit trees).

#### **II. 8.2.3. Water Security – Open Wells, Ponds and Rainwater Harvesting Units:**

##### Key findings

- All water sources – open wells and ponds at the community level; and rain water harvesting units (RHUs) attached to the schools – are effective (being used to meet water requirements) by the intended target groups.

- User groups of wells and ponds operate and manage the structures; RHUs are managed by the schools. Quality of management of these structures good in general – with minor variations depending on quality of group involvement and leadership.

#### Lessons Learnt

*Local leadership (of users) is important to ensure efficiency, effectiveness, equity, participation, ownership, impact and sustainability.*

#### Recommendations

- Sustainability (institutional, technical and financial) of water management system of the wells and ponds may be formulated. (Also involve further strengthen the user groups, linking them with the local government agencies, and introducing systems for maintenance, operation and sharing of the costs and benefits by the user groups).
- Project experiences – processes, results, lessons – may be studied and documented; and the documents may be shared for wider application elsewhere.
- Government agencies – particularly Panchayats – may be influenced for developing other natural water sources and introducing rainwater harvesting systems in other parts of the district to improve water security of the people. (Kanyakumari district has large number of natural water bodies).

#### **II.8.2.2.4. Manakudy Eco-System:**

##### Key findings

- Initiative of HEAL in restoration of Manakudy estuary and promotion of mangrove cultivation is an important and innovative Project intervention. Main activities include: providing ecological education to children, mobilising and capacitating the local fisher-folk to protect the eco-system, introduce/plant native species like Rhizophora and Avenisia, preventing misuse (dumping of wastes, removal of plants, etc.) and lobbying and advocacy with government authorities for protecting and further development of the eco-system.
- Children, leaders and members of the community (mainly inland fisher-folk using traditional methods of fishing) showed active interest and commitment in developing and protecting the mangrove system. Fisher-folk reported increase in diversity and quantity of fish, crabs etc and convinced on the importance of maintaining the eco-system to sustain their livelihoods.
- HEAL has succeeded in advocacy and lobbying with the Government; Government of India and Tamil Nadu have sanctioned two separate projects – for Rs.10 Crores and Rs.3.5 crores respectively – for protecting and developing the eco-system in Manakudy. Implementation of the Government Projects may change present interventions and institutional arrangements of the HEAL Project.

##### Recommendations

- HEAL may be supported to continue its active involvement and constructive collaboration with the approved Government programmes in Manakudy eco system to ensure community participation, equity, effectiveness and efficiency.
- Experiences of the Project in developing/protecting the Eco-system may be documented and shared widely (as protection of fragile eco-system is an important global/national concern).

- Pollution in the Pazhayar river (watershed) system, particularly from the urban areas of Nagercovil, may be addressed, using appropriate strategies as part of protecting the Manakudy Eco –system.

### Lessons Learnt

*Consistent and committed efforts required to involve government agencies and local community.*

### **II.8.2.2.5 Income/Livelihood Security:**

#### Key findings

- Project activities to improve livelihood and income security of the marginalized coastal communities – focusing on women – were relevant, implemented efficiently and well appreciated by the target groups.
- Interventions were focused on (a) SHGs (training, awareness) and (b) individual women/families (supply of ice boxes and vessels to women fish vendors). Economic benefits from ice boxes and vessels were more direct and measurable (with incomes of Rs.1000>Rs.3000/day); group training contributed to social empowerment, with some of the member taking up economic (micro-enterprise) activities.
- Women Groups were successful in helping more than 500 marginalized families to get their deserved social and economic benefits/entitlements from the Government agencies (there are more than 20 different government schemes)
- There is more demand for ice-boxes and vessels which was obvious due to the direct and immediate economic benefits. Groups also requested financial support for establishing micro-enterprises at group and family levels.

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#### Recommendations

- Partner NGOs may support the local institutions (SHGs, Parish Committees etc.) to formulate effective livelihood strategies for the most marginalized families – women-headed, families with aged and destitute, etc taking into account particularly the SDGs of 1 & 2.
- Present activities of influencing government agencies to ensure benefits/entitlements to deserving families/individuals may be strengthened and sustained.
- Government institutions, particularly at the local level, may be influenced to improve governance – transparency, accountability, responsiveness, equity, efficiency, effectiveness and participation - to ensure inclusion of the weaker sections in development.

#### II.8.2.2.5.1. Rights of Women Fish vendors:

##### Key findings

- Women fish vendors do not have proper and safer working places (marketing fish). Most markets lack basic facilities (protection against sun/rain, drinking water, toilets, lights, resting places and safe/comfortable sale counters). Most markets are least women-friendly with domination of men.
- Local institutions (Panchayaths) and their contracted agents collect user-fees from the fish-vendors without providing the basic facilities.

#### Recommendation:

- Local government agencies may be influenced to improve the working conditions of women fish vendors in the markets – with basic facilities (toilets, water, resting rooms, lights, protection against sun and rains, and comfortable and safe places to sale counters).

#### Lessons Learnt

*Consistent and constructive engagement of marginalized people required to make the government institutions more transparent, responsive, accountable, efficient, effective, equity-oriented, and participatory.*

#### **II.8.2.6 Child Rights:**

##### Key findings:

Children, particularly girl children, were found to be aware of their rights; were active in the interactions (indicating their empowerment); came forward with suggestions for improving their conditions.

##### Recommendations

- Sustainability of ongoing activities focusing on child rights – eco-rights, rights to food/water, rights for safe and clean environment, rights to education, and inclusion of weaker children including girls - may be formulated in consultation with the concerned local institutions (schools, child action centres, Parish Committees and SHGs of women).
- Government agencies may be influenced to support activities related to child rights – including support in filling identified gaps (policies, programs) and up-scaling the present activities.

#### **II.8.2.7. Improve Education of School Children:**

##### Key findings

Most of the children attending the supplementary education programs were from the weaker sections; majority of them were girls. Most of them improved their school participation (attendance) and education (in terms of marks scored in different subjects). Chances of them discontinuing school education without support of the teachers/facilitators of the child action centres are great. Thus the activity of supporting the children was very relevant and important.

##### Recommendations:

- Sustainability of the supplementary education provided to school children from destitute families – to improve their performance and reduce drop outs – may be formulated.

#### **II.8.2.8. Child Development – Child Activity Centres (CACs)**

##### Key findings

- Most villages earlier lacked common and safe places (except the Churches) for children to come together and express themselves and therefore the CACs are vital for ensuring development of children in the coastal communities.
- CACs are found to be the common place for children to come together; share their experiences, learn from the teachers/animators on important issues – eco rights, environment, improving education, social skills, safety etc). CACs also provided space



for children to express themselves – by creating maps, pictures, and through songs, dances etc. Girl children outnumbered males in most cases.

- Local communities (parish committees, SHGs and individual families) support participation of children in the CACs. In most cases the CACs are located in places owned by the local parish committees.
- The animators/teachers/community workers/volunteers attached to the CACs were committed, interested and recognised by the children. They are child-friendly and aware of the child rights.

#### Recommendation

- Sustainability of the CACs (institutional, financial, technical) may be formulated at the earliest (as discontinuation of activities may be counter-productive - children may feel abandoned, excluded, helpless), in consultation with the local institutions.

#### **II.8.2.9. Awareness of Children/Youth on Environmental Issues:**

##### Key findings

- Children and youth are aware and more concerned (based on their experiences in recent Okhi cycle, draughts, floods and other strong indications of climate change). Most children were directly affected by the cyclone.
- Many children/youths reported practising environmental protection – stop burning plastics, started protecting and planting trees, stop dumping wastes, protecting water bodies etc. Participation of children and youth were more than targeted in environmental and ecology related awareness programs.
- Local institutions (schools, child action centres) are also supporting the activities. Project used technical experts to provide trainings/awareness on environment related issues to the children/youths.

##### Recommendations

- Sustainability of ongoing activities on addressing environmental issues may be formulated.
- Disaster Prevention and Management should be included as an important topic/activity – in the light of the recent Okhi cyclone, draughts, floods and other signs of climate change.

##### Lessons Learnt

- ❖ *Support of parents, schools and the general community required to promote positive changes in children.*
- ❖ *Children are concerned, committed and interested to understand and address problems in their environment and eco-system.*
- ❖ *Integration of child rights with the formal education system of the schools (with more active involvement of the teachers) can be more effective.*

#### **II.8.2.10. Collaboration with Government and Other Agencies:**

##### Key findings

- Partner-NGOs have established own relations with others development agencies – government, civil society, networks, research institutions etc. However, they differed in terms topics of collaboration; type of collaborating institutions; intensity and quality of

collaboration; and approach to, and relations, with government agencies. Partner NGOs came together to interact with other institutions.

- There are opportunities and need for constructive collaboration with many government agencies on ensuring greater impact and sustainability of the Project activities. There are many good practices and valuable experiences to be mainstreamed and up-scaled through government systems.
- Weakness of local government institutions (Panchayaths/urban bodies) are major constraints in constructive interactions/engagement of the Partner NGOs and their local groups with Government schemes. With improvements – elections to the Panchayaths, empowering Panchayaths in local governance and development (with more responsibilities and resources) - may offer better opportunities for the Partners to ensure greater sustainability of the project activities and up scaling the good practice of the Project.

#### Lessons Learnt

- ❖ *It is difficult, if not impossible, for NGOs to establish constructive collaboration with most government agencies, particularly at the local level.*
- ❖ *Consistent efforts with effective strategies required to establish and sustain convergence among NGOs in addressing common issues.*

#### Recommendations

- Present efforts to positively and constructively influence government agencies may be strengthened with (1) evidence-based advocacy (sharing with lessons, experiences, documents); (2) identifying the appropriate agencies/levels/officials for interactions; and (3) availing the support/collaboration of other NGOs/networks.
- Experiences – good practices - and lessons of the Project may be identified, studied and documented and shared with Government and Non-Government institutions (including academic institutions) to influence policies and programs.

### **II.8.2.11. Joint Networking of NGO Partners with Other Agencies**

#### Key findings

Instead of the planned four joint network meetings, the Partner NGOs conducted a total of 46 network meetings independently of each other on different focus areas of the Project. Experts and representatives of other NGOs and agencies participated in these network meetings.

#### Recommendations

- Partner NGOs may explore areas on which their collective networking would be more effective.

### **II.8.2.12 Capacity Building of Partner NGOs:**

#### Key findings

Partner NGOs showed commitment and competence in implementing the planned activities, establishing constructive relations with the target groups and their local institutions. However they need support in (a) monitoring and evaluating the impacts, (b) identifying and documenting the best practices and important lessons and (c) formulating effective steps for sustaining the processes, results and relations of the Project beyond the project period.

### Recommendations:

- Partner NGOs may be supported to monitor, evaluate and document the impacts of the Project.
- Partners NGOs may be supported to study and document the important processes, experiences and lessons (Good Practices, Key Lessons) of the Project for own learning and sharing/advocacy with others.
- Partner NGOs may be supported to formulate appropriate strategies to sustain (and possibly upscale the programs with suitable changes) in consultation with the target groups.

### **II.9. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Project**

Strengths and Weaknesses of the Project in general and specific to different sectors are reflected and presented in the above sections. Partner NGOs may formulate strategies to:

- Promote wider application of the innovations
- Improve the promising practices and promote wider applications of the same
- Address the identified factors preventing achievement of the intended positive results; and
- Formulate strategies to sustain the successful practices, positive results and constructive relations of the Project.

### **CONCLUSION**

Evaluators hope that their assessments, findings and recommendations will be useful for the stakeholders. Wish tdh, the NGO Partners, target groups and their local organizations all the best in their efforts to complete the activities and fully achieve the planned results during the remaining period of the Project. Cooperation extended by them in conducting this study is highly appreciated.

Varghese T.A.  
Kalpana Sathish  
October 17, 2018

### Annexure

1. TOR of the Evaluation
2. Field visits conducted for the Evaluation

## **Annexure I: Terms of Reference (TOR)**

For the Evaluation of the project: *HEAL BMZ Indien 16-19* - Improvement of Living Conditions by Improving Protection of Natural Resources and Sustainable Resource Management funded by terre des hommes Germany (tdh), co financed by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by the organization HEAL Movement, Life Care Trust and Community Awareness and Research Education Trust in Tamil Nadu, India.

Project title:	Improvement of Living Conditions by Improving Protection of Natural Resources and Sustainable Resource Management
Project Country:	India
Local support:	HEAL, with cooperating partners- CARE T and LIFT
Project period:	01.03.2016 - 28.02.2019
Project budget:	Euro 525135

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### **1. Background:**

The Project was sanctioned by Ministry of Economic Cooperation, Germany (BMZ) in March 2016 for a period of 3 years. The project is being implemented by three partners listed below, though HEAL is the legal Holder of the project:

1. **HEAL (Human Education and Action for Liberation Movement)**  
22C, Scott Nagar, Near Scott Christian College,  
Nagercoil – 629 003, Kanyakumari District,  
Tamil Nadu, South India.  
Contact person: Siluvai Vasthian  
Mobile No: +919443449943
2. **LIFT (Life Care Trust)**  
5-26D, Kodimunai & Post – 629251  
Kanyakumari District  
Tamil Nadu, India  
Contact person: A. Aloysius  
Mobile No: +919345226233
3. **CARE T (Community Awareness Research Education Trust)**  
8-A, Sahaya Villa, 1st Floor, Kesari Street,  
Nagercoil – 629001, Kanyakumari District  
Tamil Nadu, India  
Contact person: S. M. Prithviraj  
Mobile No: +919843080963

### **1. Introduction**

The project aims to improve the living conditions of marginalized coastal inhabitants from 42 coastal communities in the Indian Kanyakumari District through waste disposal, preservation of the water resources, economic empowerment of vulnerable women and environment education for children and young people. Trainings focused on capacitating 2,100 persons (fisher, farmers, women and young person) in handling waste disposal systems in a sustainable manner while restoration of water resources in the villages aimed to improve the accessibility to drinking and service water to 2,306 families in 12 villages. Special support was extended to 3,300 women affected by extreme poverty. Nearly 6,180 children were to be sensitized on environment issues and 840 young people to take a lead in addressing environmental concerns. A continuous multi-stakeholder dialogue for coastal resources protection is also one of the key components of the project.

The evaluation is based on the usual DAC criteria (efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, impact and sustainability) as well as on the standards of DeGEval. The terre des hommes standard terms of reference consist of two elements: (i) the standard structure for the evaluation report (see point 5.) and (ii) the specifying orientation questions (see point 6.).

## 2. Objective of the mid-term review

The primary objective of the independent evaluation is to use participatory impact analyses and a target/actual comparison based on the project proposal and indicators to determine the project results and impacts achieved so far (direct and indirect, short and medium-term, intended and unintended). The evaluation is based on information provided by terre des hommes and the local organization HEAL Movement, Lift and CARE-T as well as on project visits, discussions with all participants in the project (stakeholders) and the evaluation by the experts.

The external interim evaluation is intended to assess the implementation status of the project in the areas of community participation in establishing effective sustainable waste management system, access to drinking and service water, economic empowerment of marginalized women, improvements in the understanding of ecological rights among children and the participation of children & youth in protecting the coastal environment.

The focus is also to assess the effectiveness of the project in improving government and other stakeholder's responsibility to improve & protect the natural resources in the coastal region of Kanyakumari by using the method of a multi-stakeholder dialog and assess the best practices that can be replicated in other needy areas for similar output and outcomes.

## 3. Period of evaluation:

The start date of the evaluation will be 13<sup>th</sup> of August, 2018 and submission of the final report by 20<sup>th</sup> of September, 2018.

## 4. type of evaluation:

Intermediate evaluation with participatory evaluation methods

### **Assessment of Programme Implementation and Impact; Evaluation**

<b>Appropriateness of Design and Monitoring systems</b>	To determine how well the program was designed and monitored, against the objectives, benchmarks and processes established in the program design document.
<b>Target versus actual</b>	Assess the progress made towards achieving each Project Goal (or technical sector) based on the current design, reports and data.
<b>Efficiency and Effectiveness</b>	To determine whether the resources (financial, human & materials) have been used economically and wisely for the well-being of the community.
<b>Equity</b>	To determine how the program involved and benefited different genders, ethnic minorities, children and the disabled throughout the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and ongoing management of the program.
<b>Capacity</b>	Staff capacity to undertake the development initiatives. Assess the status of stakeholders to design, implement, monitor and evaluate activities[Evidence of shift in emphasis towards a rights-based approach for inhabitants]
<b>Ownership and Sustainability</b>	To assess the overall management and structure of the program, particularly focusing on the potential for the program to be owned by local people and for benefits to continue after the program close.
<b>Participation</b>	Assess the level and quality of participation by women, children, people with disabilities, and the poor.

<b>Impact</b>	Determine the impact and/or potential impact of the program. <b>Impacts of infrastructures/assets created for community development</b> - Any measure planned and undertaken to hand over the assets to the community? How will assets be managed and maintained by the community?
<b>Strengths/ Weaknesses</b>	Determine strengths (including successful innovations and promising practices) and weaknesses (factors impeding progress) of the program planning, design, implementation M&E, and ongoing community management in the program.
<b>Recommendations</b>	Provide specific, actionable, and practical recommendations for focus on key sectors during the next phase.

## 5. Structure of the evaluation report

The language of the evaluation report is English. The report is structured as follows:

### I. Summary 3 - 4 pages

### II. Main text (up to 35 pages without attachments)

#### Introduction

- Objective of the interim evaluation, evaluation process and method selection

#### Project outline

- Key data of the project, situation analysis and framework conditions, socio-cultural, socio-economic, political and ecological factors

#### Relevance

- Relevance with regard to the core problems of the target group, orientation to the priorities of the target group, gender and child orientation, relevance for the objectives of the partner organization and terre des hommes, relevance for the partner country and for the objectives of the BMZ, coordination with other project participants.

#### Impact (outcome and impact)

- Socio-cultural, ecological and socio-economic impacts, intended and unintended impacts, assessment of possible risks, organizational and institutional effectiveness at the organizational and target group level

#### Effectiveness

- Project planning and preparation, evaluation of target group, situation and project goal analysis, analysis of project documents (impact chain) and project conception
- Evaluation of the project implementing organization, personnel / qualification, equipment, administration / financial administration and M&E system, motivation, ownership and legitimacy of the lead partner.
- Execution of the planned activities (quality and quantity), organizational implementation, evaluation of the applied approaches, instruments and methods
- General evaluation of the project implementation, involvement of the target group, strengthening of self-help

#### Efficiency

- Budget evaluation, previous cost-benefit ratio, deviations from the planning and, if necessary, budget adjustments, project management

#### Sustainability

- Socio-cultural, organizational, institutional and political sustainability

#### Recommendations

- project-specific, sector-specific and overall recommendations

#### General findings (lessons learnt)

**Appendix** (TORs, project planning matrix, evaluation protocol, schedule, list of interview partners, literature and other sources, pictures and maps, etc.)

## 6. Particular Subject

The evaluation, in particular, should throw light on:

- The reduced level of contamination through solid waste matter as well as polluting entries into the ground water and land through the sustainable waste management units and plant clarification system.
- The improved access to drinking and service water for the community members and the conserved marine coastal resources through the restoration efforts.

- c. Economic and social empowerment achieved by the marginalized women and other members of the disadvantaged groups.
- d. Completion of school education by the children from the destitute fishing families and the improvements in the knowledge level of children and youth on ecological rights which is substantiated by environment and natural resources management initiatives.
- e. Effective interdisciplinary exchange and Multi-stakeholder dialogue that resulted in developing of joint strategies and policy changes in coastal resource protection with substantial levels of responsibility taken by the officials from concerned Government Department.

## **7. Organization of the evaluation**

The interim evaluation is planned for the month of August, 2018 for a total period of 20 days (including reporting). It comprises the following phases:

### 1. Preparation / study of documents (2 days)

Meetings with the responsible staff at the terre des hommes office to discuss the evaluation after reviewing the documents (respectively. relevant project documents such as applications, reports, visit protocols and other background information), discussion and clarification of special questions and the special focus of the interim evaluation, as well as clarification of logistical questions. Contact and clarification of further or current questions with the zonal office of terre des hommes in Bangalore and establishment of contact with the partner organization can be made.

### 2. Field phase (8 - 10 days, including 2 days of travel)

Conceptual planning of the field phase with the local project partners, collection of the relevant data using participatory methods (semi-structured interviews, discussions with focus groups, participatory analysis of the achieved results, evaluation of the effects achieved, workshops) involving all project participants from all levels. The results are verified by field visits, participating observations, on-site inspections and technical assessment. The integration and interpretation of the evaluation with the responsible stakeholders takes place in a final workshop.

3. Reporting (max. 8 days, including final meeting for the principal evaluator and five days for the co-evaluator). It is the responsibility of the principal evaluator to consolidate the report.

A short report on the preliminary evaluation results, the final workshop and the most important recommendations will be handed over to the partner organization in English.

The first draft of the evaluation report in English (including a summary) will be presented at the terre des hommes office for a final discussion at the latest four weeks after the end of the project visit. Obvious defects in the report must be remedied without further compensation. The final version of the evaluation report is submitted as a file (Word and PDF).

## **8. Expert profile (requirements for the assessor)**

- University degree or comparable degree in the field of community development or coastal natural resources management.
- More than 10 years of experience in international development cooperation with a focus on community building, child rights, gender, environment protection and natural resources management.
- More than 5 years of experience in the implementation of impact oriented evaluations of projects and programmes in the field of community based development in the international and/or Indian context.
- Excellent knowledge of participatory evaluation methods, experience with child rights-based project approach and experience with project implementation through local project partners
- Knowledge of the conditions, guidelines and quality requirements for projects funded by the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Good knowledge of the country and practical expertise on India

## Annexure 2: Field Visits of Evaluators

<b>Evaluation of the project: HEAL BMZ Indien 16-19</b>						
<b>Field Visits of Evaluators (August 13-24, 2018)</b>						
<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Village/ Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Target Groups</b>	<b>No. Of participants</b>	<b>Methods Applied</b>
<b>HEAL (August 13, 14 &amp; 16, 2018)</b>						
1	13.08.18	Nitravilai	Women Empowerment	Women head load fish vendors	6	SSI & direct observation (DO)
2	13.08.18	Chinnathurai	Waste Management	Waste Segregation Workers	15	FGD, DO & verify records (VR)
				Village Committee	5	FGD & DO
				Beneficiaries (school gardens)	5	FGD, DO & VR
3	13.08.18	Chinnathurai	Rainwater Harvesting Units (RHU)	School children	30	FGD & DO
4	13.08.18	Chinnathurai	Child Eco Rights	School Eco Club (Children)	30	FGD & DO
				Teachers	5	FGD
5	13.08.18	Kizhe Midalam	Well Restoration	Beneficiaries including users' Committee	20	FGD, DO & VR
6	13.08.18	Midalam	Women Empowerment	Women head load fish vendors	19	FGD & VR
7	14.08.18	Manakudy village	Water - Ponds	Beneficiaries	10	FGD & DO
8	14.08.18	Kizhe Manakudy	Women Empowerment	Women head load fish vendors	15	FGD, DO & VR
9	14.08.18	Manakudy - Eco-system	Initiatives in Environmental management	Estuary beneficiary	12	FGD & DO
10	14.08.18	M.Manakudy & Kizhe Manakudy	Eco-rights of Children	School Eco Club	30	FGD, DO & VR
11	14.08.18	Manakudy	Program general - processes, impacts, sustainability etc.	Village Committee	5	FGD
				Teachers	4	FGD
12	14.08.18	Pallam	Children on environment and ecological rights	School children	52	FGD, DO & VR
14	14.08.18	Pallam	RHU	School children	52	FGD & DO
15	14.08.18	Pallam	Youth ecological issues	Eco Youth Club	10	FGD
16	14.08.18	Pallam	Women Empowerment	Women head load fish vendors	10	FGD & DO
				Women SHG members	30	FGD & DO
17	14.08.18	Pallam	School Activity	School children	30	FGD, DO & VR



			Centre	Facilitators	3	SSI & VR
18	16.08.18	Elanthavilai	Eco Farm	Farmers	50	FGD, DO & VR
				Trainer students	9	FGD, DO & VR
				Facilitators	5	FGD, DO & VR
19	16.08.18	Elanthavilai	Child Eco Club (Pallam)	Children	25	FGD, DO & VR
20	16.08.18	Thekurichi	Plant clarification system	Coir Workers/ beneficiaries	10	FGD & DO
21	16.08.18	Periyakadu	Women Empowerment	SHG members	20	FGD & VR
				Women head load fish vendors	12	FGD & VR
22	16.08.18	Periyakadu	Waste Dis. Unit	Users	5	FGD
23	16.08.18	Periyakadu	Village Committee	Members	5	FGD

### LIFE TRUST (August 17, 18 & 20, 2018)

24	17.08.18	Kadiya-pattanam	Waste Management Unit	Users/ participants	15	FGD & DO	
25	17.08.18	Kadiya-pattanam	Women Empowerment	SHG members	15	FGD & VR	
				Women head load fish vendors	10	FGD	
26	17.08.18	Colachal	School Eco Club	Students	30	FGD, DO & VR	
				Teachers	3	FGD	
27	17.08.18	Muttom	Waste Management Unit	Users/ Committee	10	FGD	
28	17.08.18	Muttom	Women Empowerment - Self Help Group	Members/ Committee	15	FGD	
29	18.08.18	Kurumpanai	Eco-Farm	Project team	6	FGD, DO & VR	
				Farmers	8	FGD	
30	18.08.18	Kodimunai	School Eco Club	Students LP School	19	FGD & VR	
				Teachers	3	FGD	
31	18.08.18	Kandarvilagam	Water – Ponds	Users/Committee	15	FGD & DO	
32	18.08.18	Pudhoor	Women Empowerment	SHG Members	15	FGD & VR	
				Women head load fish vendors	10	FGD & VR	
33	20.08.18	Melmidalam	RHU (at School)	User students	30	FGD & DO	
				School Eco Garden	Practising students	20	FGD, DO & VR
				Environmental Education	Students	20	FGD & VR
				All the above topics	Teachers	4	FGD
34	20.08.18	Kodimunai	Women Empowerment	SHG members/ Committee	17	FGD & VR	
				Women head load fish vendors	12	FGD & VR	
35	20.08.18	Marthandomthurai	Water – Ponds	10 members	10	FGD & DO	
36	20.08.18	Vallavilai	Children Activity Centre	Children in the CAC	42	FGD, DO & VR	
				Teachers/facilitators	3	FGD	
37	20.08.18	Neerody	Water - Well	Users (women)	10	FGD	

<b>CARE Trust (August 21-23, 2018)</b>						
38	21.08.18	Poothurai	School – Eco Garden	Practising students	30	FGD, DO & VR
			Environmental Education	Students	>50	FGD & VR
			RHU – water	User/students	>50	FGD & DO
			Teachers/ Facilitators		4	FGD
39	21.08.18	Thoothoor	Women Empowerment	SHG members/ Committee	35	FGD & VR
				Women head load fish vendors	15	FGD
40	21.08.18	Eryumanan -thurai	Children Activity Centre	60 children	60	FGD, DO & VR
			Teachers/Facilitators		4	FGD
41	22.08.18	Enayam- puthenthurai	Water – Wells	Members/ Committee	30	FGD, DO & VR
42	22.08.18	Enayam- puthenthurai	Women Empowerment – SHGs	Members/ Committee	30	FGD & VR
43	22.08.18	Helen Nagar	Water – Ponds	Users/Committee	35	FGD & DO
44	22.08.18	Sivanthaman Muttom	Solid Waste Management Unit	Users/Committee	20	FGD & DO
				Workers	5	FGD
45	23.08.18	Pampanvilai	Field Visit to farm	Three farms	3	FGD, DO & VR
46	23.08.18	Pampanvilai	Eco-Farming	Farmers Practising Organic methods	45	FGD, DO & VR
47	23.08.18	Kovalam	Solid Waste Management	Users / Committee members	30	FGD
48	23.08.18	Arokiapuram	Water – Ponds	Member/Users	5	FGD & DO
<b>INTERACTION WITH NGOs NETWORK, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEETING WITH PROJECT TEAM OF PARTNER NGOs (24.08.18)</b>						
49	24.08.18 (9.30 am to 1 pm)	Animation Center	Interaction with NGOs Network and Govt. Officials		16	Discussions
50	2 pm to 4.00 pm	Animation Center	Interaction with the three implementing organization teams		22	Discussions