

A. Summary

Child Empowerment International (CEI) is in the process of expanding an innovative and engaging project for the youth at our Kalapuwa Sri Leadership Academy in Pamunugama, Sri Lanka to strengthen their self-esteem and provide them with valuable life skills through the vocational fish farm project. The reason we have adopted the method of sustainable fish farming is because we can teach the practice of farming using principles of ecology, the study of relationships between organisms and their environment. It is an integrated system of plant and animal production, practices having a site-specific application that will last over the long term:

- The fish farm project was created to satisfy the children's food and fiber needs
- This project will enhance the environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the fish farming (aquaculture) economy depends
- CEI's project strives to make the most efficient use of non-renewable resources and on-farm resources and to integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls
- The fish farm project is projected to sustain the economic viability of farm operations

The project addition of a proposed fish processing facility on the Kalapuwa Sri campus will greatly increase the scope and impact of the vocational and psychosocial skills that the students have learned and developed over their years at the Academy. Innovative in its use of time-tested practices of fish husbandry coupled with a modern facility and tools and engaging hands-on teachings, CEI has designed and developed a new processing facility and learning space for our students to hone valuable vocational skills that will allow them to provide for their futures. This new unit will help facilitate the cleaning, processing, and ultimately the marketing of the fish where the children can be involved in it directly. The facility will provide training on best practices, methods on maintaining the quality and standard of the farmed fish, and packaging and final delivery of the fish. Students will also be involved in the money management aspect of this project and learn important accounting skills. The region surrounding Kalapuwa Sri derives its income primarily from a fishing industry. Providing our students with the opportunity to learn aquaculture skills and techniques will enable them to enter into the community as employable adults following their graduation from our programs.

CEI brings over a decade of experience in developing educational and vocational programs for orphaned and abandoned youth in Sri Lanka. Our organization is recognized for its successful efforts following the South Asian Tsunami in rebuilding the lives of young Sri Lankans. Our expertise, coupled with localized knowledge of the emotional and educational needs of the youth in Sri Lanka allow us to create successful and culturally sensitive programming that will promote growth and independence in our students. Our goal is to empower and to create future leaders.

B. Project Information

Construction of the new fish-processing facility that will become an integral part of the existing vocational training program encompassed in the Kalapuwa Sri Sustainable Fish Farm Project on the campus of Kalapuwa Sri Leadership Academy. The Kalapuwa Sri Sustainable Fish Farm Project is an ongoing project that began in 2009 and we hope to make it more self-sustaining by generating more revenue for the Leadership Academy. The proposed fish processing facility will be constructed in 2012 and will add greatly to the scope and efficiency of the existing vocational training program.

Kalapuwa Sri Sustainable Fish Farm Project Statistics:

- a. Total Number Served:** 195 students at Kalapuwa Sri Leadership Academy
- b. Age Range of Participants:** 85 direct participants, students aged 12 - 17 yrs.
- c. Location:** Kalapuwa Sri Leadership Academy, No. 46 Settapaduwa, Pamunugama, Sri Lanka

The Kalapuwa Sri Sustainable Fish Farm Project is an example of a hands-on learning experience that empowers our students to take on the responsibility for a successful outcome. Taking on important responsibilities is essential to building a strong self-image and is normally something that children learn through being a part of a family unit. In the case of our Leadership Academy students, who we provide 24/7 care for as a result of them being either single or double orphans, our vocational learning opportunities like the fish farm project are essential for creating healthy and successful young adults. In addition to the lesson in responsibility, our students learn practical skills that will translate into job opportunities when they graduate from our Leadership Academies. The new fish-processing facility will add to the project's capacity to provide learning opportunities and allow students to take responsibility for the management of the fish processing and business aspect of the fish farm vocation.

In country, we publicize the fish-farming project by introducing ourselves to the management of the local restaurants and hotels that would be interested in buying our harvests. The restaurants and hotels who purchase fish from our program then publicize it's origins on their respective menus so that the larger community and tourists become aware of our unique program. From our US offices, we publicize all of our projects, including the Kalapuwa Sri Sustainable Fish Farm Project, on our website's "Ways to Give" page. We also use other forms of social media to engage our community of donors and volunteers, like Facebook and Twitter, to give timely updates about the project's progress.

C. Organization Information

Child Empowerment International (CEI) has worked since 1998 to create bright futures for marginalized children in regions of civil unrest. CEI started by providing holistic care for children in war zones and displacement camps throughout Sri Lanka, which was at the time, a country in the midst of civil war. As an international partnership developed, the impetus was to recruit and train Sri Lankan teachers and counselors to work specifically with sexually abused and other traumatized children. Child Empowerment International initially started with 17 schools, but the number has grown currently to 62 schools in Sri Lanka, 3 schools in Uganda and plans for new school projects in Nepal and our first Ugandan Leadership Academy in 2012. We are an education-based nonprofit organization, currently providing educational opportunities for over 6,000 underprivileged children and orphans. We care for and provide leadership development for the nearly 200 orphans currently at our two Leadership Academies (children's homes) a few miles north of the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo. We provide a living and learning environment of stability and healing for children rescued from or vulnerable to sexual exploitation, poverty and child soldier abduction. Children in CEI schools and Leadership Academies are also provided with nutrition programs and primary healthcare services. CEI is focused on the future success of our students and therefore place a priority on essential vocational training programs like ESL classes and computer classes in our Kalapuwa Sri computer lab or mobile computer lab that moves among our 62 schools. CEI is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with an overall staff of 290 teachers and employees. Operating under the name **Asiana Education Development** in South Asia, and **Africa Education Development** in Uganda, CEI projects are positioned to create lasting change in the recently post-conflict communities we serve.

The **Kalapuwa Sri Sustainable Fish Farm Project** grew out of the necessity of transforming the swampland where the Kalapuwa Leadership Academy was built. Kalapuwa Sri Leadership Academy opened in May 2008 with a capacity to house 400 children. This five-acre home for boys was an arduous labor of love made possible by support from Mission of Mercy, Architects Without Borders, Engineers Without Borders, and the Moyer Foundation, as well as countless other donors and volunteers from around the world. Engineers Without Borders designed the lagoon system that is now the site of the sustainable fish farm project that raises and harvests 3,000+ Tilapia, Milk Fish and Sea bass. CEI's successes since beginning the program in 2009 have been numerous. One success has been to provide more affordable nutrition at the Leadership Academies, as a portion of the harvest is used in meals for children in our care. CEI has also been able to bring awareness and additional income to all of our projects through the sale of the majority of the fish harvest to local hotels and restaurants in the nearby communities. The most important success for CEI has been the provision of invaluable vocational training opportunities for our students. By taking on the various responsibilities of proper feeding, cleaning of the ponds, monitoring of

pH levels, maintaining a harvest calendar, students are learning valuable skills as well as benefiting from the satisfaction of a successful harvest.

D. Market Information

Currently we harvest three varieties of fish: Milk fish, Tilapia and Sea bass. Milk fish is the fastest to harvest among the three. This breed of fish is harvested in approximately three months. Sea bass is harvested in five months and Tilapia in about six to seven months.

Category	weight per fish	wholesale price (US \$)	retail price (US \$)
Tilapia	1.7 pounds	US \$3.50	US \$4.00
Milk fish	2 pounds	US \$ 2.50	US \$3.00
Sea bass	1.8 pounds	US \$3.00	US \$3.50

Presently we have a profitable market with these three varieties. Tilapia is the most popular among them. We provide the fish to the tourist hotels and restaurants in the neighboring locations to the leadership academies, like in the town of Negombo that is a tourist destination and fishing village. Some of the hotels and restaurants are listed below:

Catamaran Hotel, Negombo
Camelot Hotel, Negombo
Palm Village, Uswetakeiyawa
Pegasus Reef Hotel, Wattala
Waterloo Hotel, Negombo
Rani Village, Negombo
Silvas Beach Hotel, Negombo
Jetwing Beach and Blue
Sea crab Restaurant, Negombo
The Boat, Negombo
Ostrich Restaurant, Negombo

In April 2012, we will be replenishing the ponds with 1000 nos. of red Tilapia, 1000 nos. of Milk fish and 2000 nos. of Sea bass – the harvesting of these fish will begin over the next three to seven months per the schedule above. Every month the ponds are fertilized in order to produce varying sizes of the fish per the buyer's demands.

The fish farm expert, Mr. Maximus Fernando, who manages the farm, is excited about the project and brings 30 years experience in fisheries with him. When asked about the personal impact that the project is having and why he is invested in the

project's success and outcome, his response was, “this is a profitable venture and it has a significant social contribution to the well-being of the children at the leadership academies and contributes to the awareness and general understanding of self-sustainable methods of farming”.

E. Financials

Budget for Proposed Fish Processing Facility: Labor & Materials

Fish Processing Unit	
Plumbing	\$142.30
Electrical	\$777.06
Construction	\$2,757.35
Roof	\$594.15
Total	\$4,270.86

Monthly Budget for Sustainable Fish Farming Project

Details	Amount
Fish Feed	\$235.00
Salary for Fish Farm Advisor	\$150.00
Maintenance of the ponds	\$320.00
Providing shade to the ponds	\$250.00
Purchase of nets and other accessories	\$110.00
Transportation	\$80.00
Fingerlings	\$330.00
Total	\$1,475.00