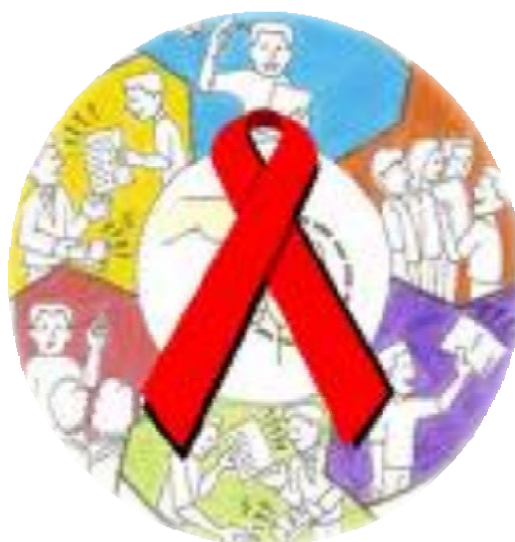


“STOP AIDS VIA BEHAVIOR CHANGE”

## HIV/AIDS Prevention Project Matara District / Sri Lanka

*Final Report*  
MARCH 2008 – MARCH 2010



Assistance:

Forum Syd – SIDA

Swedish Friends of Children's in Sri Lanka

Implementer:

Institute for Development of Community Strengths

E mail – [info@indecos.org](mailto:info@indecos.org)

Website: [www.indecos.org](http://www.indecos.org)

forum  
syd



## *Sincere Gratitude*

**Swedish Friends of Children in Sri Lanka (SFCSL)** could be introduced as a valuable asset working for the wellbeing of poor children in Sri Lanka. This reputed organization is operating with us since 2002 and would like to name as one the best foreign organizations functioning in Sri Lanka. It is very easy to work with SFCSL because of its` flexibility, transparency, clear objectives & targets and very strong Board of Directors with positive attitudes.

Initially, I like to convey our heartfelt, sincere gratitude to Ms. Christina Riddebäck Chairman of SFCSL, who visited, monitored and evaluated our projects and activities regularly. She is friendly and supportive.

STI, HIV/AIDS prevention project was closely observed by Mr. Kjell Arvidsson of SFCSL. He was able to review programs conducted for school children. Mr. Kjell became very sensitive and monitored the project with genuine supportive attitudes. Whenever possible he provided necessary guidance. Mr. Kjell and Ms. Christina both attended HIV/AIDS steering committee meetings with our board members and resource personnel.

SFCSL coordinated with Forum Syd of Sweden and assisted the project with funds. We are glad to say that INDECOS was able to upgrade the knowledge of more than 5000 persons including students, navy recruits & officers, police officers and teachers etc on the subject of STD/AIDS. INDECOS always appreciated the contribution made by Forum Syd, which was an urgent need. We received funds on time without any delay. Our sincere thanks go to Forum Syd – its` Board of Directors and Staff.

Mr. S.A. Wijethilaka then Secretary of Provincial Ministry of Education and the present Secretary of Health Ministry of the Southern Province and Mr. Karunadasa

the Provincial Director of Education approved the project and provided necessary permission to launch the program in schools. Ms. Nandawathi Wijesinghe – Former Deputy Director of Education (Executive Member of INDECOS) and Zonal Director of Education – Matara Mr. W.R. Weerakoon to be thanked for the support rendered. School principals of 47 schools gave maximum assistance to conduct training programs during school hours. This is something very special for INDECOS. They were to be thanked highly.

Support given in organizing training programs among Navy personals by Commandant of Southern Naval Command, Training Commander and all other senior officers of SLNF should be highly appreciated.

HIV/AIDS Steering Committee comprised with our Chairman Mr. S.K. Chandrasoma, Dr. S.W. Pathinayake Vice Chairman, Dr. Sanath de Silva Executive member and District Director of Health Services, Dr. P. Ekanayake Executive member and Health Advisor, Mr. L.C.K. Pathirana Executive member and Manager Commercial Bank, Ms. Pushpa Ekanayake Senior Lecture in Sociology University of Ruhuna, Senior Superintendent of Police Mr. P.B.P. Ayupala, Ms. I.H.L. Padmini Teacher. Meetings were held at MCC and reviewed progress and took decisions according to the needs. Ms. Sripali Thilakawardhana attended as a part time trainer for Navy Camp programs. We appreciate her service.

Dr. P. Ekanayake worked as an advisor for this project and served with high quality. He was a valuable resource and dedicated to improve the program. Ms. Pearl Perera Centre Manager MCC allowed to hold Steering Committee meetings at the centre and provided necessary facilities including refreshments. Her cooperation should be highly appreciated.

Whole program was Coordinated through Ms. Raseela Shamin, Coordinator and Ms. K.S. Shanthini – Field Coordinator. They completed an excellent service during the two year period. Their organizing skills helped so much for the success of this project. I was impressed with the accounting process carried out by Ms. Lakmali Ranasinghe, Finance Manager of INDECOS.

Finally once again I thank SFCSL and Forum Syd for the generous support rendered to reduce spread of STI, HIV/AIDS among vulnerable target groups in the district of Matara.

*Conrad Ranawake*  
*Director*