

Example of Youth and Work in (post) conflict Sri Lanka: Livelihoods Project

Context: conflict, climate and loss



Context – Anojan, 19

- Supporting 8 family members, since the age of 13. His father was paralysed and sister's husband killed in the conflict, so now supporting her kids too.
- My day starts at 6pm in the evening to go fishing. I come back at 5 or 6 in the morning and sleep a little. Then I go to the beach and try to mend the fishing nets. Then I do things for my family, like pluck coconuts or collect firewood.
- Income is my priority so I can send my sisters to school



Approach and tools: Asset mapping



- HEAD:** knowledge. Things I know something about, and would enjoy talking about, or teaching to others, e.g. local history, conservation, savings etc.
- HANDS:** Practical skills I know how to do and enjoy, e.g. organisation, gardening, ric pounding, sign language etc.
- HEART:** Values and things I care deeply about, e.g. environment, intergenerational activities, women's rights etc.
- CONNECTIONS:** groups / committees / clubs I am a part of



Results



Meet Sujata

One example of the positive impact on female youth is illustrated by the 22 year old president of the Community Board at Naripulthottam. She attended training on mushroom cultivation and was supported by her community and an agriculture instructor to build a shed for the mushrooms. After the first month, she harvested 59kg, and in the subsequent harvest, collected 75kg. She spent some of her profit on improving the shed, and is now able to purchase a refrigerator through instalment payments. Previously she had no confidence in her future, and now feels secure in being able to make a living and pass her knowledge to others in her village. She feels great pride in what she has achieved.

