



ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FLAG RANK OFFICERS (ARFRO)
(Affiliated to the World Consultative Association of Retired Generals, Admirals and Air Marshals) –
(WCARGA)

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Hony. Treasurer	: Brigadier K. A. Gnanaweera USP	

PROJECT REPORT
RANAVIRU FAMILY COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES (RFCSS)

INTRODUCTION

- The Ranaviru Family Counselling and Support Services (RFCSS) is an organization affiliated to the Association of Retired Flag Rank Officers (ARFRO). The Chairman of RFCSS at present is Major General Dr. K D P Perera USP. The membership of RFCSS consists of families of servicemen killed in action during the internal strife of over three decades that plagued Sri Lanka. Together, they are identified as ‘Ranaviru families’. Presently, the RFCSS has a membership of over 3000 Ranaviru families. The Organisation has established six branches in Anuradhapura, Kurunegala, Kandy, Colombo Galle and Matara. Many more Ranaviru families have requested membership. Hence, new plans have been drawn to accommodate maximum numbers by establishing more branches across Sri Lanka.
- The parent organisation, ARFRO, consists of Retired Flag Rank Officers of the three services ranking above Brigadier/ Commodore/ Air Commodore. Presently ARFRO is chaired by Air Chief Marshal D C Perera VSV, a former Commander of the Sri Lanka Air force. The ARFRO is affiliated to the World Consultative Association of Retired Generals, Admirals & Air Marshals (WCARGAA). Please see www.rfcss.org and www.arfro.org for more details.

OBJECTIVES

- The RFCSS was formed in 1998 with approval of the Ministry of Defence and the three Service Commanders. Its first Chairman was Late Air Chief Marshal Harry Goonethilleke VSV. It was formed to achieve the following objectives covering Economic, Social and Cultural needs of Ranaviru families.
 - To rebuild the confidence and morale of Ranaviru families.
 - Address their grievances and counsel them to find solutions in liaison with the three Services.
 - Look into and assist in the welfare and education of Ranaviru families.
 - To provide opportunities to interact with other Ranaviru families, share thoughts and experiences and re-structure their future

ACTIVITIES

- RFCSS conducts following activities to achieve the above objectives.

- **Counselling:** Being a Counsellor to the needy. A team of Volunteers counsel the War Widows and their families periodically at Regional level to reinstate their morale and confidence.
- **Education in self employment:** Provide education in self employment. Courses are conducted by experts who voluntarily train Ranaviru families on various self employment projects to earn an additional income by utilizing their free time productively.
- **Educational Scholarships:** Provide educational scholarships to Ranaviru children. Ranaviru Children who excel in studies are provided with scholarships to further their higher education.
- **Interaction with Ranaviru families across Sri Lanka:** Be a facilitator for Ranaviru family members to interact with other Ranaviru families across Sri Lanka. Visits to different parts of Sri Lanka are organized for Ranaviru families to meet their counterparts, share their thoughts and build inter personal relationships. Usually over 300 families participate at any of these visits.
- **Organizing educational workshops:** Quarterly workshops are organized to educate Ranaviru families on managing their family and Finances. Day to day problems faced by them are discussed and solutions found by officers of respective services. Children are given opportunities to display their talents and advised how to improve them.

FUTURE PLANS

- Due to increasing demand to obtain membership by large numbers of War Widows; following plans are considered.
 - Establish four more branches in Polonnaruwa, Rathnapura, Gampaha and Kalutara.
 - Improve the data base of Ranaviru families and their needs.
 - Enhance welfare facilities & activities to cover the larger segment.
 - Provide more educational assistance to Ranaviru children.

ADMINISTRATION

- The three Services have been most supportive in assisting in administration of the RFCSS. The staff provided by the Army attends day to day administration and organizing activities under guidance of the Chairman. Other two services provide assistance as and when needed.

FUNDING

- Presently RFCSS activities are carried out for the most part through funding and contributions made by a few Donors and well-wishers. However, with proposed plans to enhance activities in the future more funding will be essential. The estimated budget for year 2011 is as follows.
 - **Counselling: Rs. 100,000/-** The expected expenses are only for logistics, in providing transportation and meals for participants. Resource personnel provide their services at no cost to the organisation.
 - **Education in self employment: Rs. 200,000/-** A minimum of 01 program per branch has been planned for the year, making a total of 10 programs. The expenses envisaged are for procuring necessities for each program, which will be in the region of approximately Rs. 20,000/-

- **Educational Scholarships to Ranaviru Children: Rs. 420,000/-** Two categories of Scholarships are proposed. Those children who pass GCE (O.L) with merit and qualify to do A.L. will be provided with a purse of Rs. 750/- per month and those who qualify to enter universities or professional institutions after passing G.C.E (A.L) will be given Rs. 1000/- per month. A minimum of 20 x 750/- and 20 x 1000/- is envisaged by taking two students per branch initially.
- **Interaction with Ranaviru families across Sri Lanka and workshops: Rs. 700,000/-** A field trip/workshop is planned once every quarter. The expenditure in this case is only to provide meals for the participants as transport is provided by the three services. Accommodation is found in Schools or temples in respective areas. As experienced so far, approximately 300 members participate in each Field trip/workshop.
- Total estimated funds required for year 2011 is approximately **Rs. 1,420,000/-**

HOW YOU COULD PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM

- We most earnestly request you to assist us by undertaking any of the following.
 - By participating in our counselling programs and workshops as resource personnel.
 - By organizing training in self employment projects.
 - By undertaking to provide full or part scholarships.
 - By undertaking to sponsor meals at field visits/workshops.
- Please visit www.rfcss.org or contact Major General Dr. K D P Perera, the Chairman RFCSS by e-mail drdudley26@yahoo.com for more details.
- All contributions to be sent by account payee cheque in favour of ‘Ranaviru Family Counselling and support Services’ to the following address.

Major General K D P Perera USP,
 Chairman, Ranaviru Family Counselling & Support Services,
 C/o RHQ, Sri Lanka Corps of Military Police, (SLCMP)
 Army Camp,
 Kirulapone,
 Colombo. 6

- The details of our Bank account are as follows:
 - **Name of the account: Ranaviru Family Counselling & Support Services**
 - **Account No: 9673479**
 - **Bank: Bank of Ceylon**
 - **Branch: Borella**
 - **Swift Code: BCEYLKLX**

CONCLUSION

- RFCSS, during the past 12 years has done yeomen service towards the families of those fallen heroes. We feel that the well-being of these families is our responsibility, as those departed heroes have made the supreme sacrifice to usher peace to our motherland. We are committed to assist in whatever way possible to continue to look into their welfare and add a little comfort to their lives. Towards this end, we plan to develop the activities further, and widen our scope to include more and more families.
- We remember with gratitude the assistance given by those patriotic friends, donors and well-wishers in the past. We seek your generous contributions and continued support in this noble endeavour.

“The Peace and Freedom we enjoy today is due to their sacrifices yesterday. But their families will carry the loss of their loved one so long as they live. The contributions we make will only help those families to endure the loss and pain in a better frame of mind.”