

CandleAid Special Food Project - 2nd Interim Report



Dear Friends, Donors, Coordinators and well-wishers of CandleAid
Please browse to see the outcome of your collective kindness.



Families in Kekirawa, North Central province



Families in Kalupabana, Uva province



Families in Jaffna, Northern province

On August 23, it was revealed on television and in newspapers that 60% of our people could not afford three meals. It was stated that they skip one meal every day. I have no statistical evidence, but in my honest opinion, 60% of the people can only afford one meal. That, too, sans the essentials of a basic meal.

On June 28, CandleAid launched a special food program where selected families living below the poverty line were given dry rations to the value of LKR 10,000.

I would like to appreciate and thank the 52 coordinators who have done an outstanding job in providing dry rations to 800 deserving households to date. CandleAid's volunteer coordinators carried out the distribution throughout various provinces in Sri Lanka. There were 52 of them who selected deserving families and gave them dry rations to the value of LKR 10,000.

Photographs of some of the coordinators who served throughout the island

Reyon, a student pilot, with Koralaawella Fishing community members, Western province



Thisari, a CIS student in Colombo, Western province



Mr. Kamal in Godagama, Western province

Mr. Lasantha in Jaffna, Northern province





Mr. Kannan in Ranna, Southern province



Mr. Ranil in Pannipitiya, Western province



Mr. Prasanna in Sooriyawewa, Southern province



Ms. Inoja in Thalawakale, Central province



Mr. Rodney in Lunawa, Western province



Ms. Nayomi in Matara, Southern province



Ms. Nilmini in Kandy, Central province



Ms. Manori in Horana, Western province

THE PROJECT IS CURRENT. Please share this with anyone else who might be interested in supporting this effort. Today, there are far too many starving individuals in Paradise. The figures are gradually rising.



Vihanga Sampath is a grade 10 student from Deniyaya. His father works in a factory. His mother had left the family. Vihanga has a younger brother and sister who are both enrolled in school. Vihanga's grandparents reside with them as well. (Grandmother and the three children)

Tharuka Lakshan is from Monaragala. He is 17 years old and suffering from cancer. His father is a renal patient who works in paddy fields when he is able to. The mother is unemployed. Tharuka is the eldest of four children. He was diagnosed with cancer in 2017, and life has been a continuous struggle for the family since then.



Jennath Ameen and her family are residents of Banda-ravela. Her spouse passed away in 2016. She has three children: an elder son who works in a factory and two younger daughters who are currently attending school. She has signed up for CandleAid's Gift-a-Meal initiative. Jennath makes ends meet by selling clothes from house to house.

It was a significant amount of food for those who hardly had anything. They arrived, they saw, and they gratefully carried the food home, voicing thier gratitude.



The family resides in Handapangoda. Father Chandrapala is 77, while mother Lalitha is 61. Kadisha, the family's sole literate son, is 15 years old. Lalitha gathers and sells firewood. Chandrapala is too elderly to work. They were given LKR 10,000 as direct CandleAid recipients to buy dry rations and submit invoices. Kadisha, the son, contacted the CandleAid Office and asked, "Is it okay if we buy a packet of noodles as well?"

I say no more because noodles are a luxury they simply cannot afford on their makeshift table.



Jude, the bicycle man, is a reminiscent of Robinson Crusoe, with his unkempt hair and bushy beard. He fixes bicycles and lives in a hovel that serves as both his house and office. "If someone arrives to repair a bicycle, we'll eat something for the night," he said, sighing.

His wife turned 50 on the day he picked up the packets of dry rations from CandleAid.

Letters from coordinators across the island



I really wanted to get this across to everybody working at Candle Aid to tell how grateful all the recipients were for all the hard work you have put in to make this program a reality and for reaching out to so many needy families, especially now given the current economic crisis we are facing in Sri Lanka

I was so touched by the reactions of the recipients, they were so surprised that they received this donation so sincerely and genuinely from Candle Aid.

I am grateful to Candle Aid for extending the opportunity for me to be part of this life changing experience too! Each family that received the hamper had a story to tell; a cancer patient, a kidney patient , unemployed fathers, unemployed due to the lack of fuel and transport , unable to find employment and income to cover medical expenses, feed their families and send their children to school. For most this was going to cover many days of meals and save money for other essential expenses.

Thank you to all of you who put a smile on the faces of all the families who received these hampers. attached are photos of the recipients and their families.

Wishing you success in all your future programs !

Best regards,
Upeka Kariyawasam



முகாமையாளர்,
கென்டில் எய்ட் லங்கா,
மொரட்டுவ.

கனம் ஐயா,

முதற்கண் எனது வணக்கத்தை தெரிவித்துக் கொள்வதோடு தங்களது அனைத்து செயற்றிடங்களிலும் என்னை தலவாக்கலை நுவரெலியா பிரதேசத்தின் இணைப்பாளராக இணைத்துக் கொண்டமையையிட்டு எனது மனமார்ந்த மகிழ்ச்சியையும், நன்றியையும் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கின்றேன்.

சமீப காலமாக தங்களால் முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்டு வரும் உலர் உணவுப் பொதிகள் விநியோகிக்கும் செயற்றிட்டமானது இக்காலத்திற்கு மிகவும் அத்தியாவசியமானதொன்றாகும். அந்த வகையில் எனது பிரதேசத்திலும் முதற்கட்டமாக தேவையுள்ள 10 ஏழைக்குடும்பங்களுக்கும், அடுத்த கட்டமாக மேலும் 05 குடும்பங்களுக்கும், இறுதி கட்டமாக மேலும் 10 குடும்பங்களுக்கும் மொத்தமாக 25 குடும்பங்களுக்கு ரூபா. 10,000.00 பெறுமதியான உலர் உணவுப் பொதிகள் என்னால் வழங்கி வைக்கப்பட்டது. அக்குடும்பங்கள் தங்களது நன்றிகளையும் மகிழ்ச்சியையும் கடிதங்கள் மூலமாக தங்களுக்கு அனுப்பி வைத்துள்ளமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

கென்டில் எய்ட் நிறுவனத்தினால் மேற்கொள்ளப்படும் அனைத்து செயற்றிட்டங்களையும் வெற்றியடைய செய்வதற்கு என்னால் முடிந்த பங்களிப்பை எதிர்காலத்திலும் முழு மனத்தோடு செய்வேன் என்று கூறி தங்களுக்கும் தங்களது குழுவினருக்கும் எனது வாழ்த்துக்களை கூறி இக்கடிதத்தை முடிக்கின்றேன்.

இப்படிக்கு,

.....

(ப. இனோஜா)

[Tamil-English translation]

Dear CandleAid,

I write this to express my gratitude for making me a coordinator for the Special Food Project in Nuwara Eliya. I first gave dry rations worth Rs 10,000 for 10000 each for 10 families and again for 5 families and again for 10 families, altogether we covered 25 families who deserve the ration through this food project. These packs of dry rations were distributed by me and all the families expressed their gratitude to Candle Aid Lanka through their thanking letters.

Further I state that I will provide full support to Candle Aid Lanka to make sure your projects are successful.

Kind Regards,

P. Inoja, Teacher



Original

වර්තමානය වන විට අප ශ්‍රී ලාංකික ජන සමාජය අධ්‍යාපනික හා ආර්ථිකමය වශයෙන් මුහුණ දී තිබෙන පරිහානියේ තරම තේරුම් ගෙන එම අභි-සක මිනිසුන්ගේ ජීවිත සුවපත් කිරීමේ ඒකායන අරමුණ කරගනිමින් දිවයිනේ බොහෝ දුෂ්කරතා සහිත ප්‍රදේශ කේන්ද්‍ර කරගනිමින් විවිධ සත්කාර වැඩසටහන් සාර්ථකව දියත් කරගෙන යනු ලබන ඔබ සැමට ප්‍රථමයෙන් දීර්ඝායුෂ ලැබේවායි ප්‍රාර්ථනා කරමි. ඔබ සංවිධානයේ එම යහපත් කටයුතු සඳහා මා සම්බන්ධ කර ගැනීම පිළිබඳවද මා තුළ ඇත්තේ ඉමහත් සතුටකි.

කොස්ගහහින්න වජිරඥාන හිමි
බමුණුගම -පලාගල

[Sinhala - English Translation]

Understanding the level of educational and economic decline that our Sri Lankan society is currently experiencing, I pray that you all, who are successfully launching various care programs focusing on the island's many difficult areas with the sole goal of healing the lives of those innocent people, will live a long life.

I am also delighted and I highly appreciate you for contacting me and making me a part of the organization's excellent work.

Thank you CandleAid.

Kosgahahinna Vajirajana Thero
Bamunugama - Palagala



Original

මේ දින වල අප රට තුල උද්ගතව ඇති දැඩි ආර්ථික අර්බුදයෙන් පීඩා විදින ජනතාවට අත් වැලක් වෙමින් ආරම්භ කරන ලද විශේෂ ආහාර සලාක ව්‍යාපෘතිය සඳහා මා සම්බන්ධ කරගැනීම පිලිබදව ප්‍රථමයෙන් ස්තූතියි වන්න වෙමි.

මෙම ව්‍යාපෘතිය යටතේ මා ජීවත් වන ප්‍රදේශය වන මහව ප්‍රදේශයේ අසරණ පවුල් 30ක් සඳහා රු.10,000 ක් වටිනා බඩුමලු බෙදා දීමට මට ඔබ ආයතනය සමග සම්බන්ධ වීම තුලින් හැකි විය.ඒ සඳහා මා හට උපදෙස් ලබාදෙමින් කටයුතු කල ඔබ ආයතන කාර්ය මණ්ඩලයටත් ,ඔබ තුමන්ටත් එම අසරණ පවුල් වෙනුවෙන් ඉතාමත් ස්තූතියි වන්න වන අතර මේ හා සම්බන්ධ වූ සියලු දෙනා හට දීර්ඝායුෂ ප්‍රාර්ථනා කරමි.

ප්‍රියංකර හිට්බණ්ඩාර (ශ්‍රී ලංකා ගුරු සේවක)

[Sinhala - English Translation]

To CandleAid

These difficult days where the country is suffering with an economic downturn, it is a blessing that CandleAid is extending a hand to the poor. I am privileged to be selected as a coordinator for this food project. I am from Mahava and with CandleAid's help I have given Rs 10,000 worth of dry rations to 30 very poor families.

I simply cannot express how grateful these families were in praising the kindness of CandleAid

Coordinator Hitibandara, Teacher

We work also with two schools in addition to the 800 families. One in Kalutara, Adikarigoda Kanishta Vidyalaya and another in Panadura, Diamond Jubilee School. The Panadura School has 198 students, whereas Kalutara School has 121. Every day According to the Principals, attendance is down by roughly 25%, with hunger being the primary cause. The meal is prepared at school. The Panadura meal costs LKR 15,000 (about USD 40) per day. Kalutara meal costs LKR 10,000. (USD 30 approx). Those were the costs in July when we started. They has now risen somewhat, by roughly 10%.

The school situated in Kalutara



The school situated in Panadura



Though the plan was to give a lunch, the Principals start feeding the children at 1030. The reason is simple. Most children come to school on empty stomachs. They cannot last till noon. So far, we have managed to gift 30 days of food to both schools. CandleAid cannot afford to continuously feed them. We do what we can and keep the door open for someone's kindness to flow through so we could enhance our commitment. CandleAid's Special Food Project has completed its second phase. 800 families who received dry rations may have had several hunger free days. I have no yardstick, but I know for sure the kindness of the donors and CandleAid's coordinators' efforts did not go to waste.

Finances of Charitable Contributions	
Donations received for the project	LKR 9,418,590.40
Payments for 800 families	LKR 8,000,000.00
Payments for 2 schools (30 days)	LKR 760,000.00
Funds remaining for phase 3	LKR 658,590.40

Donations have already come for the third phase, and we have commenced gifting families from Madavachchiya (North Central province), Wanathamulla (Western province) and Kandy (Central province). CandleAid at its best may not be able to eradicate even a smidgen of the hunger problems in Sri Lanka. But it is vitally important that we do what we can. Throwing a few star fish back to the sea is certainly better than turning our heads and walking away.

Thank you

Capt. Elmo Jayawardena (Email: elmojay1@gmail.com)