

SP TLIGHT ISSUE 11

A newsletter by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society

FEBRUARY 2024



We are to Support
Over 2,100 Children
Affected by the Floods
in Matara

p05

Volunteer Appreciation
Programme 2024

p01

Rebuilding
Lives for Generations

p07

First-Aid assistance at the Independence Day Celebrations

As a country this year's National Independence Day was celebrated with a collective of emotions across the Nation! Sri Lanka Red Cross - Vavuniya Branch stood alongside with our people in solidarity to support people with pride, while providing First-Aid assistance and support in concluding the events, successfully.



Volunteer Appreciation Programme 2024



Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Badulla Branch organized a Volunteer Appreciation Programme on 4th February 2024. Senior Vice President of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Mr.Jagath Abeysinghe, Chairman of Galle Branch Mr Upali Sirimanna, Vice Chairman of Monaragala Branch Dr.Anura Ekanayaka, Chairman of Badulla Branch Mr Ranjith Liyanage , Secretary of Badulla Branch Ms.M.A.D.Subadra , Director of SLRSC Mrs.Kumari Kothalawala, Former Chairman of Badulla Branch Dr.Ananda , Branch staff and volunteers were participated.



Our Volunteers, Our Strength!



Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Gampaha Branch organised an eventful day to celebrate the hardwork of our volunteers and this is a glimpse of an evening filled with laughter and appreciation

Galle Branch Felicitated

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society supports the people across the nation, in recognition of our impactful community development projects implemented in Galle, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society - Galle Branch was recognised and appreciated as the top-performing Social Service Provider at the 'Galu Disa Prawardaa' - Annual Performances Appraisal 2023.



Medical Camp in Mullaitivu



Sri Lanka Red Cross Society - Mullaitivu Branch supports the people in Mullaitivu with a dedicated Medical Camp and we were overwhelmed by the response and happy smiles of our people. We provided essential medicines, health guidance, first-aid, check-ups and more, touching the lives of over 100 people.

Blood Donation Camp in Jaffna



The SLRCS Jaffna Branch organised a Blood Donation Camp along with the Prisom Guards at the Prison Auditorium in Jaffna. Many joined with their valuable donations and it was a heartfelt camp that took place in the Jaffna district.

High Commission of Canada visits Gampaha to look into the DREF Operations

We are honoured to have the High Commission of Canada, a valued partner through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), visit our initiatives in the Gampaha District.

H.E. Eric Walsh; High Commissioner to Canada in Sri Lanka and Maldives, Linda Ehrichs; Head of Development Cooperation, Wipula Dahanayake; Development Officer of the High Commission to Canada in Sri Lanka and Maldives and our other dedicated colleagues from Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and IFRC, joined us in connecting with the amazing beneficiaries of our Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) operation in the Ja-Ela Division of the Gampaha District.



Spreading Love in Kandy



Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Kandy Branch along with 'Hope' Society spreads Love on February 14, with the patients in the Maternity, Mental Health and Cancer Wards of the National Hospital of Kandy!

We together, supported the patients with stationary, clothing kits and more, while celebrating love and spreading smiles with them.

Providing crucial support through unconditional cash grants



We are on ground providing crucial support through unconditional cash grants, to those affected by the adverse weather conditions.

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society - Ampara Branch is reaching out to households, assessing needs, and ensuring the financial assistance goes to those who need it most.

We're always striving to do better and give back to our communities!

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society's helm, the First Vice-President; Jagath Abeysinghe, National Youth Committee Chairman and Central Governing Board Member; Arjun Abeysinghe, Director General; Dr. Mahesh Gunasekara, Branch Director; Ronald Srikanth and Focal Point; Transport, Logistics and Communications, Naveendra Senarathna, visited Sri Lanka Red Cross Society's Branches in the Northern Province.

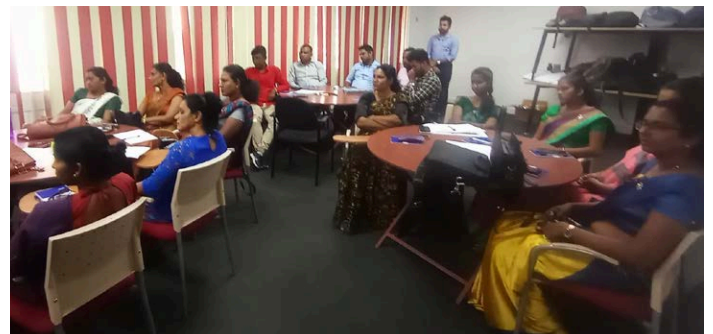


Together, they strategized for excellence in ongoing programmes, inspiring teams to surpass expectations through the 2024 Way to Excellence Programme and advised our teams in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu on how to provide the best to our communities. Our commitment to community betterment remains unwavering!

Capacity Building Training Programmes

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society along with UNICEF Sri Lanka has extended their support to over eight districts across the country to support our children suffering with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Our experienced field officers are on the ground, standing strong with these families providing the best.

This is a glimpse of the capacity building training provided at the National Headquarters of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, for the field officers on how to enforce change in a more stronger way.



Uniting humanitarian organisations for impactful change



Sri Lanka Red Cross Society continues to be in the forefront in spearheading Anticipatory Action (AA) efforts, uniting humanitarian organisations for impactful change. The first meeting, in collaboration with World Vision Lanka and International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and many other humanitarian organisations was held with an aim towards building the National Technical Working Group and Action Plan for Sri Lanka's AA.

We are to Support Over 2,100 Children Affected by the Floods in Matara

At the Sanasa Hall in Matara gathered over 750 school children and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society - Matara provided children with a school pack to resume their educational journey with a smile.



These children were affected by the impact of the adverse weather conditions, creating havoc in their lives and halting their journey to school. We wanted to be your strength!

Kekulu' Red Cross Society in Matara

Humanitarianism and the development of the country is in the hands of our children. Sri Lanka Red Cross Society - Matara Branch launched a 'Kekulu' Red Cross Society in Malimbada Division, Matara to develop the communities and pursue compassion among the young communities in the area.



Distribution of essential relief packs in Killinochchi

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society rallied together to provide essential relief packs (Non-Food Relief Items) to over 77 families in Killinochchi at the Mayalapuram Community Center.

With hearts full of compassion, we continue to stand by those affected by the floods, ensuring they have the support they need.

The distribution took place with the presence of the Divisional Disaster Management Centre officer, Village Incharge Officer and Members from our Central Governing Board and Management.



Badulla Branch implements a special programme!

Our volunteers in Badulla met at the Mawussagolla Temple in Badulla for a Labour Intensive Support Programme.



Spotlight Story: Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Rebuilding Lives for Generations



Image: Nandani with her flock of chickens

In the heart of Sri Lanka, from Homagama belonging to the Colombo District, amidst the trials of an economic crisis, Nandani Weeraratne (52), a resilient mother of two, found herself grappling with adversity. With a blind son and an ailing health, while battling illnesses, their once-stable livelihood crumbled under the weight of economic turmoil and natural disasters. However, amidst the chaos, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) stepped in as hope.

When the waves of uncertainty threatened to engulf their family, SLRCS stepped in with unwavering support. As part of SLRCS's Livelihood Development Initiative, SLRCS in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), extended a lifeline to over 2,000 families with LKR 75,000, including Nandani's, through conditional cash grants and invaluable guidance on business proposals.

For Nandani, the assistance was not merely financial aid but a lifeline to rebuild shattered dreams. "We have been highly affected by the economic crisis...Sri Lanka Red Cross Society was with us through it all", she recalls with gratitude. Amidst the turmoil, SLRCS became more than an aid organisation; they became family, offering transparent processes and unwavering support.

With the cash assistance of LKR 75,000 received, Nandani's Family ventured into poultry farming, a newfound opportunity amidst adversity. "Now we have commenced our own business with the money we received, bringing up chickens," she beams with pride. The journey was not without its challenges, but with SLRCS's guidance, they navigated the complexities of poultry farming, ensuring the safety and well-being of their newfound, feathered companions.

Nandani's husband, ever the protector, stood guard over the fledgling chicks, embodying the spirit of resilience and dedication. "My husband used to sleep in front of the coop, protecting them till they grow", she recounts, a testament to their unwavering commitment to a brighter future.

Through perseverance and the guiding hand of SLRCS, Nandani's family found hope amidst despair. Her story serves as a beacon of resilience, reminding us that even in the darkest time, the human spirit prevails, and with a helping hand, communities can rise above adversity, forging paths to prosperity and renewal.

Cover Story: A Sustainable Transformation with the UNDP and the Australian High Commission



In a remarkable showcase of impactful progress, the Australian High Commission of Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society embarked on a field visit to Buduruwakanda, Galgamuwa. Here the much-anticipated inauguration of the Cereal Processing Centre unfolded, marking a significant milestone in community development.



Implemented in partnership with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, the Green Climate Fund's (GCF's) Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP), along with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of Thailand and Citi Foundation, extends support to 200 beneficiaries in the Kurunegala district. Collaborative efforts of the GCF's CRIWMP, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Kingdom of Thailand, and Citi Foundation, serves as a catalyst for positive change.

Central to this initiative is the "Mee Oya Green Entrepreneurs' Forum," a dynamic platform fostering sustainable development across five key value chains: Handicrafts, Processed Food, Slow Food, Seeds and Plant Materials, and Ecological Agri Products.

From the lush expanse of home gardens to the vibrant offerings of the roadside market, the Buduruwakanda Mee Oya Green Market emerges as a beacon of hope, designed to uplift the community through innovative Climate Smart Solutions. By enhancing agricultural practices, boosting productivity, nurturing entrepreneurship, and fostering a robust market ecosystem, this endeavor aims to transform lives and build resilience in the face of climate challenges.

OUR SEVEN FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

HUMANITY

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours, in its international and national capacity, to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.

IMPARTIALITY

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.

NEUTRALITY

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

INDEPENDENCE

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain. service.

UNITY

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country. It must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

UNIVERSALITY

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society

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