



Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC

Annual REPORT 2021 / 2022

**Father,
Let my country awake!**



Cover Story:

In the face of economic challenges in Sri Lanka, both rich and poor citizens endured hardships. Amidst long queues and silent marches for freedom, a motivational plea echoes!

Father, let the leaders awaken to their duties. Embracing Tagore's spirit, let the Sri Lankan awaken collectively, seeking transformation, hope and change. In unity, may the resilience of the people inspire a dawn where leaders uphold their responsibilities, steering the country towards the brighter future.

VISION

“Realization of a Just Sri Lankan Society based on the Gospel Values of Love, Forgiveness, Peace, Unity and Equality-lived, promoted and protected irrespective of Caste, Creed and Nationality.”

MISSION

“Empowering people through animation and being in solidarity with their efforts for Integral Human Development”

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BISHOP CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Political legitimacy will be questioned and regimes will not survive unless the government secures the freedom and the common good of all people. In 2021/22, the protests in Sri Lanka against political authority, and its mismanagement of the economy, are a clear depiction of where public claims the power and authority and exerts pressure on the government against the austerity measures. From a radical democratic perspective, protest, therefore, is the genuine practice of politics.

Caritas Sri Lanka brought forth effective changes into its programs by taking into account the evolved context particularly, due to pandemic-driven economic fallout and the impact of the economic crisis, and attempted to address socio-economic vulnerabilities and improve community resilience. It did so through twofold strategies: first; by integrating envisaged vulnerabilities into development programming, and second: by advocating that the government policy interventions bear minimum adversity on the poor and vulnerable.

Caritas Sri Lanka's humanitarian assistance was provided to a carefully selected population under specific criteria in a manner to complement other support measures both government and other NGO-driven. It is evident that the impact of the economic crisis on different socio-economic groups do vary, and the government together with the support networks should ensure effective support to the crisis-affected population. Navigating the crisis requires a major overhaul in economic policies, extended international cooperation, and forceful measures to cushion the blow, but the recovery is slow, gradual, and long-term.

At last, I would like to extend my appreciation to our international partners for their continuous support and collaboration throughout. Caritas Sri Lanka attempts to mobilize resources and change its trajectories as the situation unfolds.

I believe together we can make a difference and help save many lives in Sri Lanka during this unprecedented economic crisis.

Most Rev. Dr. Justin Gnanapragasam
Bishop of Jaffna & Chairman Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Let my country awake!



Rabindranath Tagore, who was a philosopher a social retainer and a Nobel prize winner was a contextual Modernist. He once said looking at the social upheavals of his time, “Let my country awake”. He went on to say “You cannot cross the sea merely by standing and staring at the water.”

2019 – 2022 had been years that are most unforgettable because of the trajectories of a tiny little country that was once the Pearl of the Indian Ocean. The unexpected Easter Sunday bombing, the COVID-19 Pandemic and the collapse of the Sri Lankan economy had been the most outstanding boundaries of the recent past.

Caritas Sri Lanka was at the epicentre during the crisis hit period, thinking and decimating information which animated the communities to plan a way-forward. The Catholic and Christian movements were led by an inspiring solidarity campaign in the STRUGGLE which was Sri Lanka's historical major turning point led by the youth of Sri Lanka. The leadership had been taken by the Caritas Network one of the missions of its work in the liberation activities of people was significant. The prayer campaign across the country the inter-religious dialogue and the ecumenical friendship were the height of the so called “Reform Struggle”.

The worst economic collapse was mainly due to corruption, unplanned development projects and less foreign reserves and untold hardships for most of the citizens of Sri Lanka. The poverty Index shows a drastic rise, where nearly 9 million suffer owing to this crisis. The Emergency Response Programme of Caritas SL was a remarkable act of solidarity reaching out to the most vulnerable and marginalized. The prime objective of this programme was to mitigate the dire consequences of the helpless citizens of the country.

It is with great fulfilment we unveil the advocacy program of Tamil-speaking estate workers, to mark the 200th year of arrival to Sri Lanka from South India. The hidden tragedies, and the deplorable human dignity and the subtle violation of rights of this community which many have failed to realize. Therefore, Caritas Sri Lanka had made linkages with many likeminded organisations to open the eyes of the Government and the stake-holders to see justice is met.

Admit this top priority the institution has carried out its long-term programmes focusing on the war affected community and the poor rural communities to build resilience in their endeavours to see progress.

Last but not least I wish to thank both global and local partnerships for enabling all this with a gesture of solidarity standing together with the principles of humanitarian work and the integral human development.

Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunatilleke
National Director

WELCOME TO THE INCOMING DIRECTOR

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka appointed Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson Perera as the new National Director for Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC on 9th June 2022. He is a senior priest from the Diocese of Chilaw with years of experience in the administrative and management sphere, especially within the church circle.



Rev. Fr. Jayasooriya Kuranage Luke Nelson Gamini Perera was born to J. K. Moses Perera and V. W Leegiya Fernando on 14th December 1964, is the eldest son of a family consisting of four brothers and a sister.

He received his primary education from the St Joseph Vass College, Wennapuwa, and later, he joined the St Paul's Minor Seminary at Marawila where he completed his secondary education attending St Xavier's College, Marawila.

His higher education was completed at the National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka, Ampitiya, and was ordained a priest on 20th July 1991 at Mother of Sorrow's Church Nanimadama.

Fr Luke Nelson had been working as the assistant parish priest in St. Anne's National Shrine, Thalawila from 1991-1992, Nattandiya - 1992, and Borelessa -1993. Then he served as the Vice-Rector at the St. Paul's Minor Seminary in 1994 and then was appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Mary's Cathedral in 1995.

He was then Parish Priest at St. Anthony's Shrine, Kottapitiya and served as the Administrator at St. Anne's National Shrine, Thalawila.

He also served as the Diocesan Director of Lakrivi and Holy Childhood Societies. He was once the Bursar of the National Seminary Ampitiya, Kandy and later became the Procurator General in the Diocese of Chilaw.

In 2019, he was appointed as the Director of Caritas Chilaw – Janasaviya, SEDEC and the National Director for the National Catholic Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism in 2021. He was able to engage in many humanitarian programmes during his service at Caritas Chilaw building healthy relationships with the local Government Authority and like-minded Organizations.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



Most Rev. Dr. Justin Gnanapragasam
Chairman



Most Rev. Dr. Maxwell Grenville Silva
Vice Chairman



Rev. Fr. Mahendra Gunatilleke
National Director

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



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Director of Caritas Colombo



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Director of Caritas Mannar



Rev. Fr. S. Eugene Francis
Director of Caritas Jaffna



Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson Perera
Director of Caritas Chilaw



Rev. Fr. A. Jesudasan
Director of Caritas Batticaloa

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Mr. Dinesh Weerakkody

Mr Dinesh Weerakkody is the Chairman of Hatton National Bank PLC, Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce Sri Lanka and Cornucopia Sri Lanka. He holds several honorary Advisory roles in the current government. He currently serves in several of private sector and MNC boards and Chairs / Member of the Audit Committee and the Remuneration Committee in several of those companies. He is a Council Member of the Employers Federation of Ceylon and the Institute of Directors of Sri Lanka. He is a member of the CIMA Asia Pacific Industry Advisory Body. Mr Weerakkody has published widely on Economics, Banking and Finance, HR, Leadership, Management, International Relations and development issues. He is the author of six books and is a regular business speaker / commentator.



Mr. Shanaka Ranasinghe

Mr. Shanaka Ranasinghe President's Counsel, was called to the Bar in Sri Lanka in October 1986. During 1987-1995 he functioned as a member of the Attorney General's Department. He was appointed as 'Principal Magistrate' in the Solomon Islands during this period and subsequently reverted to private practice in 1995 and developed an extensive practice in the criminal field. He was appointed as a President's Counsel in 2012.



Ms. Shehara Jayawardana

Ms. Shehara Jayawardana serves as the Joint Managing Director of McLarens Group. McLarens Group is a diverse conglomerate with over 60 companies and has its core business in the shipping, marine and logistics sectors. Ms. Shehara is also the Founding President of WISTA Sri Lanka, a global network for empowering women in the maritime sector. She was also appointed as the Treasurer of the Ceylon Association of Shipping Agents. She holds a MSc. in Shipping, Trade and Finance with Honors from City University, CASS Business School, London, UK and BSc. in Economics with Honors from London School of Economics, UK."

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Mr. Yu Hwa Li

Mr. Yu Hwa Li is the National Director, Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka and an experienced NGO leader in international development and project management and brings a wealth of knowledge. Mr. Li has served World Vision and Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC previously and serves on the Boards of LEADS and Lanka Financial Services for Underserved Settlements. He is a member of the Sri Lanka Institute of Directors (SLID).



Mr. Angelo M. Patrick

Mr. Angelo M. Patrick holds an MBA from the University of Colombo and is a Fellow Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK) and a Member of the Institute of Marketing (UK). He has held Directorates and Senior Management positions over the past 45 years in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Canada. He is presently a Group Director Capital Maharaja Organisation Ltd, having previously held the positions of Managing Director NDBS Stock Brokers Ltd, Director (Carson Cumberbatch & Co Ltd, Senior Management Consultant, Bank of Ceylon. Mr. Patrick is also a Non Executive, Independent Director of Richard Pieris Exports plc.



Mr. Tony Candappa

Mr. Tony Candappa, was a banker for 35 years, 15 years at American Express Bank and 20 years at Union Bank of Colombo PLC, lastly as the Vice President - Treasury. Presently employed as a consultant at SAFE Holdings Pvt Ltd.



Mr. Victor Silva

Mr. Victor Silva is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, Fellow Member (retired) of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, U.K and Fellow Member (retired) of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, U.K. He was employed at the Ceylon Tobacco Company Limited and held several key management positions in Finance and Administration. He was elected as the Secretary of the Catholic National Association of Laity –the representative body for all Catholic lay faithful of Sri Lanka.



List of Acronyms

CBO	Community Based Organization
CSL	Caritas Sri Lanka
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DC	Diocesan Center
CESM	Community Empowerment and Safe Migration
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction Management
ECPP	Ecological Conservation & Plantation People
SAFS	Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security
SP&J	Sustainable Peace & Justice
VLVC	Village Level Vigilant Committee
IHD	Integrel Human Development
SHG	Self Help Group
GS	Government Secretary
PwDS	Persons with Disabilities
CwDS	Children with Disabilities
GN	Grama Niladari
GGH	Green Gold Harvesters
CDF	Community Development Forum
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
LLPP	Lighting the Lives of the Plantation People
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
UN	United Nations
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
VKC	Village Knowledge Centre
NAQDA	National Aquaculture Development Authority
CAFOD	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

CARITAS SRI LANKA AT A GLANCE 2021/22



Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management unit has been implementing programmes that are within the domain of Integral Human Development which is the main Goal of Caritas Sri Lanka Strategic Plan.

Manmade and natural disasters are mitigated through effective program implementation. In some parts of Sri Lanka, where the impact of disasters on the community is comparatively high, the DRRM unit has adopted a systematic approach to identify, assess and reduce the risks of disasters in collaboration with the communities of the diocesan network. Reducing risk requires identifying and reducing the underlying drivers of risk, which are particularly related to poor economic conditions, degrading natural environments, poverty and inequality and climate change, which creates and worsens conditions of hazard, exposure and vulnerability. The DRRM unit has strived to lessen the adverse effects of hazards through activities of prevention, mitigation, and preparedness initiatives.



Blood screening for Thalassemia

Climate change can be directly or indirectly attributed to human activity that alters the configuration of the global atmosphere. Since it is impossible to reduce the nature of natural hazards, the main opportunity for the DRRM team is to reduce the risk of vulnerable exposures.

Owing to the present economic crisis, Sri Lanka stands divided into

politics and conquered by fear. There is nothing called a battle won without losses. However, the losses far outweigh the gains. The communities lack healthy social structures. With the increasing effects and aftermath of the economic crisis, the DRRM unit's objective has evolved to focus on extreme vulnerability to reduce disaster risk, lessen the impacts of climate change, and, consequently, maintain the sustainability of development.

Having the above in mind, the DRRM unit implements the following projects for the betterment of the community.

1. Mitigation of Thalassemia Disease- Caring for the Neglected and the Helpless. (Funded by Misereor)
2. Ensuring the Rights of Children with Disabilities and their Parents/Caregivers in Mannar and Kilinochchi Districts. (Funded by Kindermissionswerk)
3. Facilitating Green Gold Harvesters to Reap Maximum Benefits for Plantation Communities (Funded by Misereor)
4. Livelihood and Housing Support (Mannar) for War-affected Communities in Northern, Northcentral and Eastern provinces. (Funded by Misereor)



5. Resettlement of Sri Lankan Families returning from India (Funded by Caritas Korea and Caritas Japan)

Mitigation of Thalassemia Disease - Caring for the Neglected and the Helpless. (Funded by Misereor)

Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder that can be fatal but is preventable. Due to the high prevalence of thalassemia disease in Batticaloa, Chilaw, Kurunegala, and Badulla, the strain on healthcare resources is intensifying. Moreover, the lack of public awareness about the condition has prompted the government and other groups to step up their efforts to raise awareness.

The DRRM unit of Caritas Sri Lanka has been effectively implementing numerous programmes to reach people at various levels and help them cope with or overcome the difficulties of daily life brought on by Thalassemia. An effective awareness campaign must encompass prevention, screening, counselling, and education. Relevant efforts are implemented to reduce Thalassemia through empowerment and education in partnership with the community and health authorities. Three groups must come together in a powerful coalition to support a preventative program: the general public, policy-makers, and health experts. Even amid social, political, and economic upheaval, we have been able to reach more people due to the assistance of the diocesan directors and the communities.

Under the direction of experts and health professionals, 8 awareness programs have been carried out over the last six months in the four dioceses. Additionally, these initiatives have succeeded in raising community knowledge and awareness by 80% to 100, enabling the affected to live a secure and healthy life. There were 38 blood donation campaigns, and 35 families received financial aid to better their standard of living.

Mobile clinics and blood sample examinations were conducted in conjunction with general hospitals, private hospitals, and Cooperative hospitals. The community offered to participate in medical examinations during the blood screening activity. People outside of the target areas are now interested in blood checkups because of the awareness campaigns, especially young people. Blood testing can lower the number of new infections by 60% or more, thereby preventing the occurrence of thalassemia in young people. Hence, 90% of the patients have health cards and receive blood transfusions.

In addition, individuals are under a lot of stress because of inflation and the lack of basic commodities like fuel and gas. In this context, it is understood that even the operations of our projects have been adversely affected, but we are still making every effort in our power to assist the thalassemia patients. We have gone above and beyond to help these vulnerable people in their hour of need, even when it was challenging to organize blood screening programs, supply medical devices, or reach out to patient families and offer financial aid.

People who had no prior knowledge of the severity of the disease were grateful that awareness campaigns had been held, after learning about it. Government representatives pledged their support for the implementation of this initiative in additional villages with active thalassemia.

Ensuring the Rights of Children with Disabilities and their Parents/Caregivers in Mannar and Kilinochchi Districts. (Funded by Kindermissionswerk)

Disability is a result of the attitudinal and environmental barriers that hamper persons with impairments from reaching their fullest potential in life. The wounds of the war are still felt and sadly, the result of disabilities is still growing in the North and East. There is little intervention towards these communities by the local government especially after the pandemic that halted all government operations in the country. Though the Government gazetted some kind of services and provisions by the Acts for Persons with Disabilities including Children with Disabilities, only a limited number of PwDs and CwDs are enjoying these provisions.

The Mannar district covers Division Manthai West DS divisions which are in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The uniqueness of these GS divisions is that most houses for the war-affected and displaced communities are in the newly created settlement regions. The project area belongs to Divisional Secretary, Manthai West which covers 36 GN Divisions. The total population is 7917 families. These families have been ravaged by the war and have experienced multiple losses, leaving a high number of women-headed families, disabled people, and homeless families, vulnerable.

Beneficiary Details in Mannar

No	Description	Planned for three years	Reached within 2 years
1	Direct beneficiaries	75 CWDs + 250 PWDs	88 CDWs 286 PWDs
2	Indirect Beneficiaries	100 +650 = 750	641

In the Vanni district, the present Government transferred responsibility of civil administration to the Ministry of Defense, including the government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The government has rapidly expanded the role of the military by appointing several retired officers to civil leadership roles and creating task forces.



PwD group meeting

The Mental Health Hospital of Kilinochchi has established a good system to support the PwDs and CwDs, who are being supported well. However, in Mullaitievu, these support systems are only now being developed.

Beneficiary Detail in Vanni

No	Beneficiaries	Planned for three years	Reached within 2 years	
			CwDs	PwDs
1	Direct beneficiaries	150 CwDs + 300 PwDs	188	235
2	Indirect Beneficiaries	600 +1200 = 1800	752	780

The changes seen and identified in the beneficiary families at the end of the first year clearly prove the achievements of the outcomes and impacts. In this regard, the importance of our advocacy lobbying and consultation with the relevant authorities are seen as the most significant tasks that the programme has to do in the future. Overall, this community-based rehabilitation programme is a blessing to the CwDs and PwDs families and to the community at large. We strongly believe that the rights-based approach adopted by this programme will empower the disabled communities to advocate for their need and to achieve the expected results of the programme after three years of implementation.

Facilitating Green Gold Harvesters to Reap Maximum Benefits for Plantation Communities



Training on Communication

The Program “Facilitating Green Gold Harvesters to Reap Maximum Benefits for Plantation Community” has been an effective and timely program for the people in the estate sector. The economic setting in the estate sector is another identified negative factor. The people are employed for a daily wage, which is insufficient to meet their daily needs. The number of kilograms of tea they pluck will also have an impact on their daily wages.

This system is indeed not fair to the poor estate workers. Apart from these general conditions, the current economic crisis has made their lives worse. The skyrocketing cost of living, caused by inflation, the scarcity of essential goods and long-standing queues were very negatively contributed factors that affected the program implementation.

The GGH programme has made a huge impact on the people in the working areas. The life situation of the people in relevant estates has changed a lot. The initial unnoticed and vulnerable group selected for the program is in the process of showing an immense transformation. They have come to a level where they could approach the estate management and other relevant officials for their needs. The participation of government officials in the moments of needs of the people have improved due to this situation.

Earlier estate workers were confined only to their estate and have never spoken or approached where they should have done so. However, the program has helped them a lot to stand on their feet and to work for the well-being of their communities. The family economy of the people also has improved with the intervention of the program. The training sessions conducted on additional income generation methods were of great help for the people to improve their family economy. The provision of materials and other necessities like domestic chicken chicks have enabled them to develop their family economy and to raise the quality of their day-to-day life. The people also have become more systematic. They have identified their needs, especially for the possession of legal documents.

Apart from the above, positive changes were also seen in the attitudes of the estate workers. They have become more sensitive toward the needs of others and have become active in common

activities. They have reached better standards in community mobilization that they organize various common events. They are also mobilized and have become community leaders that who themselves take the initiative in organizing events for the betterment of their communities. The CBO members have participated in CDF meetings and have built good relationships with the relevant officials and organizations. Therefore, they have been strengthened to involve themselves with the umbrella organizations.

Livelihood and Housing Support (Mannar) for War-affected Communities in Northern, Northcentral and Eastern provinces. (Funded by Misereor)

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka has exacerbated human rights abuses, economic crimes, and corruption, which are the underlying reason for the country's collapse.

Even after the war ended in 2009, the personal debt levels of local communities in the North and East are climbing sharply. A large number of microfinance institutions have opened for business in these areas. The availability of ready credit has driven many people into indebtedness. Because of the high interest rates, a large number of families are falling into steep debt, unable to pay back the loans. There is still a need to help these families to develop their livelihoods on a sustainable basis taking into account the prevailing market opportunities.



Livelihood assistance for a Small shop

The beneficiaries are selected from the locations that have been affected by war, natural disasters and the protracted economic crisis. Through this program, more than 375 families from all diocesan centres of Sri Lanka were supported financially for livelihood development with technical knowledge to manage their business involving livestock, agriculture, and fishing activities. Due to the pandemic situation, some of our selected villages for livelihood

support were under lockdown. Such beneficiaries could not be reached. However, when the situation normalized, they were visited and activities were carried out effectively. These livelihood programs have improved the state of life of the low-income sector by giving jobs and business chances and health care support. These programs have enriched the community's capacity to address the issues of poverty.

The income-generating livelihood activities are listed below.

- Fishing-related businesses
- Aluminum scaffolding
- Home Gardening
- Paddy Cultivation
- Grocery Shop
- Poultry farming
- Tailoring
- Pots making
- Batik designing
- Coir production
- Carpentry work
- Brick Manufacturing
- Joss Stick Manufacturing
- Textile Business
- Coconut oil distillation
- Flour Production
- Pig Farming Business
- Catering Business

These additional income-generating activities have enabled the beneficiaries to repay the loans. In addition, for the promotion of boosting personal savings within the CBO, saving schemes were initiated where every member committed for saving and obtained a bank passbook. The funds are deposited in a public bank and accounts are transparently regulated by the CBO leadership. Monthly saving is developed into a CBO fund which in turn will be utilized for the urgent needs of the members in the CBO.

The Mannar Diocese has implemented the housing project successfully. The target Village Mullikulam is a quiet area surrounded by sea, forest and paddy fields. However, marine fishing is the main source of income for the entire community of the target village, and some of them are involved in both marine fishing and paddy cultivation. In the first phase, Caritas Valvuthayam carried out the construction work for 20 houses. Houses have been completed and the beneficiaries have already moved into their new homes at Mullikulam. The second phase has commenced and around 30 beneficiaries have been selected from different parts of Mannar with the support of the Divisional Secretariat. The progress is in various stages.

Even amid of Corona threats and lockdowns due to the economic crisis, the local authorities have given permitted for construction work to continue. Priority was given to newly married families who did not have separate houses. The rest of the houses will be completed by September 2022 and will be handed over to the community.



Completed house at Mullikulam

Resettlement of Sri Lankan Families returning from India and empowerment of plantation women (Funded by Caritas Japan)



Temporary shelter built for the Indian returnee family

Most of the beneficiaries who were displaced to India are returning to their home country. Since the 2nd and 3rd generation families are also returning from India, they don't own land to construct houses. Therefore, the Government provided land for the refugee returnees and the National Housing Development Authority provided money to construct houses on an installment basis. However, due to their poor economic condition community-based organizations

(CBOs) were formed, CBOs were strengthened, and livelihood training was provided to the refugees. Most of the refugees need civil documents to educate their children Eg: birth certificate, consular BC, Sri Lankan citizenship and land survey plan and some of them needed Sri Lankan marriage registration.

No	Beneficiaries	Total number	Remarks
1	Direct beneficiaries	33	The direct beneficiaries are those who directly get their documents cleared and obtain infrastructure facilities such as temporary shelters and toilets.
2	Indirect Beneficiaries	155	The indirect beneficiaries are those family members.

Eight temporary shelters were provided to the returnees, they live happily and with good health and with the support given to them, they live with satisfaction and dignity. Especially, the temporary shelter built and given to them provides them safety and privacy.

Documents provided under the programme;

- Birth certificate- 08
- Marriage certificate- 03
- Consular B/certificate-04
- Land Surveying and Registration-1
- Driving License -02
- Marriage registration-01
- Citizenship -01

Totally 20 families benefited.

The Estate Sector has poverty rates higher than in urban and rural sectors. Women and children suffer most from high rates of malnutrition, they often lack drinking water, sanitary facilities or electricity. The quality of services in the estates is comparatively low. Due to the poor quality of education, and poor wages paid in estates, youth are increasingly leaving the sector and finding employment elsewhere.

Through the empowerment of the plantation women programme, the communities in the estate sector has been made aware to save money for their future and to lead a dignified and good life getting rid of negative thoughts in their minds. Having been engaged in community activities, they have now developed a feeling of responsibility toward their society.



Community meeting

Success Story

Mrs. K. Kuventhi, Puthukudiyiruppu, Trincomalee

Project participant of 'Livelihood for war-affected communities Programme' 322-900-1127ZG

My name is Mrs. K. Kuventhi, and I live in Puthukudiyiruppu, Trincomalee. I faced a difficult situation when my husband passed away in 2016, leaving me with two children to take care of. My eldest son is doing A/Ls in the commerce stream and my youngest is in grade 7 at the moment. It was a challenging time for us, as I struggled to find a stable source of income.

Determined to provide education to my children and secure a better future for them, I decided to work as a housemaid in Saudi Arabia. I left for Saudi Arabia in 2018. However, fate had other plans for me. During my time there, I had a terrible accident and suffered a severe injury to my back. The accident shattered my dreams and left me unable to walk. With a heavy heart, I returned to Sri Lanka in 2019, feeling helpless and uncertain about our future.

As a single mother, I faced numerous difficulties in running my family and meeting our daily needs. The expenses for my children's education seemed like an impossible burden. That is when I heard about EHED Caritas and their assistance programs for war-affected communities like ours. I gathered the courage to seek their support, hoping for a ray of hope in our lives.



When EHED Caritas visited my humble home, they witnessed our challenging living conditions and understood the struggles we were facing. They showed genuine care and empathy, assuring me that they would provide the necessary help to uplift our lives. It was a moment of relief and gratitude.

I vividly remember the day when they informed me that they would support me in setting up a small retail shop. I was overjoyed with their decision, as I believed running a shop would not only help me provide for my children but also give me a sense of purpose and independence with my disability.

With the guidance and support of EHED Caritas, I started my journey as a small business owner. It was not easy in the beginning, as I faced various challenges, such as managing inventory, attracting customers, and learning about business operations. However, I persevered and worked tirelessly to make my shop a success. I am now even able to save money in a bank account for the future.

Over time, I began to witness the positive impact of the retail shop on our lives. The income generated from the shop enabled me to meet my children's educational expenses without any worries. I was able to provide them with the books, uniforms, and educational resources they needed. Moreover, the shop's earnings also helped me cover our household expenses, ensuring that we had food on the table and a roof over our heads.

With each passing day, I gained confidence in my abilities as an entrepreneur. The retail shop not only provided us with financial stability but also instilled a sense of pride and accomplishment within me.

Today, I am filled with gratitude for EHED Caritas, Caritas Sri Lanka and MISEREOR, who believed in my potential and offered me the opportunity to rebuild my life. Their support has been life-changing, allowing me to regain my independence and create a better future for my children. I share my success story with the hope that it will inspire others facing similar challenges to never lose hope. With determination, support, and the right opportunities, we can overcome any obstacle and build a brighter future for our loved ones and ourselves.



Ecological conservation and Plantation People (ECPP)

Ecological Conservation and Plantation People (ECPP) Unit was established as an outcome of the Caritas Sri Lanka Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 as identified during the strategic planning assessment that Caritas Sri Lanka needs to vehemently focus on the needs of ecological justice issues and the rights of the plantation community.

The upcountry Indian-origin Tamil population who were brought to Sri Lanka 200 years ago will commemorate their arrival in 2023 and 2024. Both the interventions implemented by the ECPP unit will incorporate a justice lens. Hence, networking, advocacy, and lobbying are used as the main tools in realizing the objectives of the two program interventions of this Unit.

Lighting the Lives of the Plantation People (LLPP)

GOAL: DIGNIFIED LIFE for the People of the MALAYAGA TAMILS (Indian Origin Tamils) in the Plantation Community with equal opportunities for community welfare & access to basic resources & services, through NETWORKING of all CSOs & Stakeholders for an effective Intervention & Mediation.

The programme comes with a 10-year vision and is titled, “Lighting the Lives of the Plantation People (LLPP)”, which is an extension for the Caritas Green Gold Harvesters project implemented in the Dioceses of Badulla, Galle, Kandy, and Rathnapura for the welfare of the Plantation community.

The newest intervention, LLPP is implemented in six Dioceses namely Badulla, Galle, Kandy, Ratnapura, Kurunegala and Colombo. The main objective of the program is to voice the rights of the plantation community in a collectively manner with the CSOs, like-minded organizations, and individuals while implementing programs to empower this marginalized and vulnerable community in the 6 Dioceses mainly through educational assistance and awareness programs. It is expected for the grassroots level interventions to influence the policymakers and other influential decision-makers to focus more on this most marginalized community in creating access for them to enjoy the basic services delivered by the government to which the other citizens are entitled. The program is funded by Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

The following activities were conducted under this programme:

- Formation of CSO Forums in the 5 Dioceses-The CSOs are working for the welfare of the plantation community and will have a common platform to work together and to coordinate and implement joint advocacy initiatives for the issues identified and to bring solutions.
- Awareness Sessions for Clergy & Religious- conducted in the Dioceses of Badulla and Galle to educate them with information on the life & social issues of the plantation community, so that they become more involved in the justice & development issues of the plantation communities.

- Awareness-building sessions among Journalists in 5 DCs – were carried out with the objective to disseminate more information regarding the issues of the plantation community among the general public through print articles in newspapers and videos.
- 116 scholarships for A/L students of the Plantation Community – were given with the objective of helping them to enter the university.
- Nutritional Awareness Program for Local Health Officers – was conducted with the objective to share and promote knowledge on the use of locally available nutritious meals among the plantation people.

Stepping Stone to Safeguarding Sri Lanka's Natural Environment (SSEP)

“Stepping Stone to Safeguarding Sri Lanka’s Natural Environment” (SSEP) is a three-year project that is funded by Misereor. This project has been implemented in all 13 DCs since January 2022 to create empowered communities that face the effects of environmental degradation, especially through impacts of climate change, and assisting them to address the environmental issues to bring sustainable solutions while caring for our common home.

Under the program, the following major themes are covered.

1. Addressing ecological justice issues at the grassroots level through awareness creation
2. Dissemination of information and promotion of sustainable agricultural techniques and lifestyles
3. Protecting water resources while advocating and lobbying for the right to safe and clean drinking water.
4. Advocate for the relevant government ministries to focus more on environmental protection and conscientizing the general public about the effects of climate change.



Success Story

Thampanaikulam is a village situated in Madhu DS division Mannar. As a result of illegal sand mining, water resources in this village have become saline. Meanwhile, people from this village raised their voices against this illegal sand mining many times, as it also led the seawater to penetrate the land areas. However, they could not get a solution for all their suffering because of the involvement of the local politicians and influential corrupted individuals.

Though this village had a well with good quality drinking water sometimes back, the villagers have abandoned it, as it has to become unusable. Therefore, people walked to the next village, 3km away to fetch water.



In March 2022, the SSEP National Team was on a M & E visit to Thampanaikulam, Mannar and happened to visit the village. During the discussion with the villagers, they shared the drinking water problem and narrated how it is affecting their daily routines. After the identification of the issue, the village environmental team decided to find a solution. Based on the discussion, Caritas-Valvuthayam in collaboration with community and government officials first cleaned the well through a shramadana activity. With the contribution of government officials, nearby school administration and community members, the well was cleaned.

Later the SSEP project team introduced a water filtration system to MN/Thampanaikulam M.V School, which is situated in the village itself. The administration came forward to offer their building, water tank and motor for the water supply and the SSEP environmental group members from Thampanaikulam assured their support to monitor and maintain the water supply system.

With the support of all stakeholders, the installation of the filtering system was completed. The water filtering system was opened for people by Ms. Kesuma Saddak who is the program officer in charge for Asian countries in Misereor, the funding partner of SSEP during her visit to Sri Lanka in April 2022.

Thampanaikulam Environmental Group members took the turn of supplying water to the villagers for a reasonable amount and making savings for continuous maintenance. Now, community members, school children, and teachers are enjoying good drinking water through the filtering system installed by the SSEP project team.



Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security

Food security as defined by the United Nations Committee on World Food Security means that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life. The Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Unit of Caritas Sri Lanka serves and promotes sustainable agriculture to ensure food security with food access, availability, utilization, and stability in poor and marginalized farmer communities in Sri Lanka.

Currently, the SA&FS unit works with over 28,000 subsistence farmer families under the Food Security program titled “Addressing causes for poverty and ensuring food security for farming communities” with extensive funding support from Caritas Norway/NORAD in all 13 Caritas diocesan networks since January 2018 while contributing to 08 UN SDGs and also in line with the Pope Francis’ Encyclical ‘Laudato Si’.

Achievements

- CSL has so far mobilized 28,162 subsistence farmer families from 869 villages, and farmers have been trained to cultivate their home gardens by using sustainable agricultural techniques. Unproductive home gardens and paddy lands have been upgraded to secure food supply throughout the year for the poor farmer families in selected villages in all 25 districts.

The home garden units consist of the farmers who are engaged in the cultivation of vegetables, fruits, herbal plants, yams, spices, live fencing, firewood trees, trees for timber, grass, inland fisheries, and rearing small-scale livestock (backyard poultry, cattle, goat, ducks, pigs, turkey, and beekeeping) enabling the participating farmer families to consume and have access to nutritionally balanced diets.

- 2,838 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been formed and strengthened with leadership, financial management skills, and group dynamics. They have been motivated to establish domestic economic units by switching over to organic farming from inorganic agrochemicals usage.

SHGs were developed into 742 CBOs local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in which women tend to assume active leadership roles: on average, 76 percent of members are female.

- Group saving as well as the Revolving Loan Fund schemes have been started by the groups, members who have better access to credit facilities and can get instant credit up to Rs.10,000 at a 1% monthly interest rate from their CBOs.
- Farmers are made aware of the negative impacts of using agrochemicals and capacitated on organic farming techniques such as compost fertilizer preparation (Heap system, pit system, “Jeewakotuwa” method, drum system, pipe system, bin system, and flower pot system), liquid fertilizer production (fish tonic, fruit tonic, leaves extractions, “Jeewamurtha”, etc.),

preparation of vermicomposting and vermi-wash, preparation of pest repellents (Tobacco solution, onion solution, margosa leaves solution, 3G-solution (Garlic, Ginger and Green Chile), etc.

- About 70% of their daily food requirements derive from their own home gardens and as a result, participants save about an average of Rs.12, 000/- per month on food consumption bills.
- Special training was given to all program participants on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Participants were able to learn biological, physical, cultural, mechanical, and chemical methods of pest and disease control.
- 1,780 Differently abled persons were included in the food security program. Their normal bodily or mental functions or both are partially impaired, but they are skilled in different capacities. Involving in the food security program has helped them to earn an extra income, reduce stress, and depression, and experience normal life in the community.
- 55,240 School children were exposed to organic gardening and in the end, they were given small quantities of vegetable seeds and seedlings to plant in their gardens. They are also practicing climate adaptive measures by planting seedlings in bags and water-saving techniques such as bottle irrigation, and drip irrigation by using discarded empty plastic bottles.
- 70% of the farmers adhere to the disaster-resistant techniques, mulching shortage crops, less Water requirement crops, drought-resistant crops such as country beans, and improving the water holding capacity of the soil by adding compost.
- 430 farmers were trained in pond fish culture in Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Colombo, Ratnapura, Kurunegala, and Chilaw at the National Inland Fisheries & Aquaculture Training Institute (NIFATI), Kalawewa of the Government National Aquatic Development Authority. They were trained in the construction of ponds, aftercare, and in feeding fish.
- 72 Village knowledge centres have been established, whereby local experts selected from the communities are involved in spearheading the knowledge transmission within their networks and social groups and centers have been equipped with the materials for knowledge development.
- 325 Plant Nurseries have been established as a remedial action for the imminent food shortage in Sri Lanka. Each DC has promoted 25 prospective farmer households to achieve this task with the budgetary reallocation of FY 2022.
- 53% of the households are engaged in marketing. Some of the farmers take their produce to distant markets. Drought and flood conditions are the main challenges for continuous crop production in Sri Lanka. The flash flood situation during the month of May prevalent in the districts has created grave problems for farmers, whose livelihood activities have been destroyed due to flood water and wild elephant attacks on their cultivated crops and their homes.

- 87% of the farmers adhere to the disaster-resistant techniques, mulching shortage crops, less Water requirement crops, drought-resistant crops such as country beans, and improving the water holding capacity of the soil by adding compost.
- 27,473 Mothers of preschool children have participated in Family Nutrition programs and are consuming nutritionally balanced food. More than 71% of preschool children have access to and consume nutritionally balanced diets, avoiding fast foods.
- The total number of direct program participants is 68,359 persons from January to July 2022 with the number of total direct and indirect beneficiaries (family members) reaching over 400,000 from January 2018 to October 2021.

Successful Program interventions

i Establishment and Management of Plant Nurseries

With the prevailing economic crisis in Sri Lanka, the food security of poor households faces several challenges across both the production and consumption domains. The promotion of household-level food production for daily consumption is required to achieve long-term food security among the poor and vulnerable. The best practice to achieve this is “home gardening/ family farming”. Home gardening contributes to nutrition and household food security by providing quick and direct access to different foods that can be harvested, prepared, and consumed by households.

The surpluses enable the households to generate additional income so that they may cope with shocks created by the prevailing economic crisis in the country. Under the proposed interventions, 325 prospective farmer families have been capacitated in Plant Nursery Management from respective CBOs to achieve this task with the budgetary reallocation for the FY 2022. These families have been provided with seeds, cultivation bags, and gardening tools. Furthermore, the knowledge transfer will also include entrepreneurship skill development on agribusiness over the course of time.



**Plant nursery established in Galle Diocese
(Mrs. S.T. Soomawathie, Hiyare- Galle)**



Plant Nursery at Caritas Anuradhapura

Moreover, the project has developed a mechanism to market the nursery plants from the above families and distribute them among other Project participants so that they can commence and sustain their home gardens. This intervention, ensures that the nurseries will have young plants of Chile, Eggplant, Capsicum, Tomatoes, Wing beans, Bitter gourd, Thibbotu, Long beans, and Okra that can be cultivated with organic inputs.

i Village Knowledge persons and centres

E-agriculture is evolving in scope as new Information and Communication Technologies. (ICTs) applications continue to be harnessed in the agriculture sector. As this is an emerging field focusing on the enhancement of agriculture and rural development through improved information, the SA & FS Unit has also identified the need to address the strong disconnect between farmers and knowledge holders underpinning the need for timely access to required information and knowledge services of the target communities.

Under the technical guidance of the funding Partner Caritas Norway/ Norad, Caritas Sri Lanka has introduced the concept of Village knowledge dissemination through the channels of centres and prospective farmers (village knowledge persons- VKP). The objective of VKCs is to harness the power of ICT for knowledge, skill, and economic and social empowerment of rural families based on the principle of reaching the unreached and voicing the voiceless.



**VKC at
Ratnapura
Diocese**

The centres are equipped with internet facilities including Zoom / Viber / WhatsApp accessibility Display boards, a small library, a wired or wireless public address system, a Knowledge map, and Record keeping systems to provide dynamic information necessary to the villagers based on their agricultural needs. Currently, this knowledge dissemination approach has been grasped by the diocesan Food Security staff and has been promoted. Currently, 72 Village Knowledge centres have been established and the prospective farmers have been capacitated in agronomy and livestock development in target areas.



VKC at Mannar Diocese



VKC at Badulla Diocese



VKC at Chilaw Diocese

Together we think and work towards a better future....

Through 2020 and 2021 Sri Lanka has experienced successive waves of COVID-19 infection and resulting social restrictions which have severely disrupted the lives and livelihoods of citizens. Many people have lost their income sources leading to serious social and economic problems for their families.

Further, many suicide attempts were reported and domestic violence against females increased as a result of obtaining microfinance loans. For these reasons the Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC together with Caritas Chilaw (Janasaviya), as the cooperative partner has launched a project titled “Supporting livelihood diversification and increasing communal harmony in western Sri Lanka” (Vastenactie project) in Kattaikaduwa Parish – Puttalam district since February 2021.

As part of CAFOD’s continuing solidarity with Caritas Sri Lanka, this project endeavors to support the diversification of livelihoods of the needy and most vulnerable families in three villages in Kaddaikaduwa GN Division and Manchiolei village in Koththanthe GN Division- Mundalama Divisional Secretariat, Puttalam District.

In addition, the project will contribute to improving interpersonal relationships between ethnic and religious groups in 400 families including women-headed households. Kaddaikaduwa Parish is a mixed population of all three ethnic communities, Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim.



The establishment of SHGs with comprehensive constitutional requirements and Revolving funds schemes have also been implemented for driving livelihood development in the project area. Project activities included establishing 20 self-help groups (SHG) each with the membership

of 20 families, and training the committee members on the principles of savings, loans and repayments, and basic financial management.

Simultaneously, 210 participants received a loan in the initial round of disbursements in early February and during the May 2022. The remaining 190 participants will receive their loans once the loan has been replenished through the repayments from the initial recipients. It is planned that the SHGs will be registered with the Caritas Chilaw which will further add to their sustainability as they will receive ongoing support from Caritas-related and local government officials.

The design of this project has sustainability at its core, by strengthening the capacity of the poorest and most vulnerable families to increase their household income and more effectively manage their household finances, they will have the knowledge and skills to meet nutritional, educational, and health needs in the future.

The project endeavoured for each participant to self-select the training they attended based on their interest, skills, and experience. Livelihoods training and support to project participants consisted of training in livestock management (training provided by Veterinary Office), organic home vegetable and fruit garden development including organic fertilizer and natural pesticide production, and disaster risk management the training provided by Caritas Chilaw in accordance with the recommendations of the Department of Agriculture, Crab farming (training provided by NAQDA), entrepreneurship skills (training provided by Divisional Secretariat), and handicraft production.

Participants in the organic home gardening training have received materials for cultivation due to the increased importance and high demand for home food production in the COVID-19-impacted context. Participants were provided with local varieties of seeds and seedlings to accompany the training.

The one of project outcomes of improving interpersonal relationships between ethnic and religious groups bringing together individuals to work collaboratively towards common goals. Accordingly, the activity of awareness on the identification of conflict, and early warning signs, was introduced based on self-centric and family relationships.



The component of the Leadership development was initiated with the support of local religious leaders. Apart from the initial project design following activities were implemented with the technical guidance and generous support of the funding partner CAFOD.

- Peace-building awareness programme and art competition for schoolchildren. The activity was carried out with the intention that children would be made aware of the importance of social norms, such as caring for others, sharing, and understanding their role in society.
- Provision of sanitation facilities to schools in the project area. To ensure a safe environment and to build community cohesion, hand wash units and support for the disinfection of premises were provided to the three schools in the target area. This will deliver health impacts and safer access to education.

As inclusion, the project implementation as a whole has been able to create a solid foundation for integral human development in Kaddaikaduwa Parish.

Success Story

L.W.Mallika, 53 years old is a mother of three children and one of our enthusiastic smallholder farmers from the Sudagala- Kuruwita DS division. She is a member of the Ranliya farmer group of the Food Security Program implemented by Caritas Ratnapura -Sethmini 2021 up to date. She was interested in sharing the success story of her life with us. When she joined the Food Security group, she had done cultivation on a quarter-acre small-scale tea plantation and the rest of her garden was not in order. Her husband is a carpenter. He is the breadwinner of the family. According to her, his income varies and on some days he does not have work. As both her husband and she were only engaged in tea cultivation. She got plenty of time for a worthy course and she has become a home gardener.



Entering the discussion, she stated that “I have undergone all the training conducted for the group and recently, I participated in the training on nursery management conducted by SETHMINI Organisation” (Caritas Ratnapura).

Further speaking she stated, “I progressed my home garden with vegetables, fruits, yams, green leaves, herbs, and spices such as turmeric, ginger, pepper, and cardamon. I maintained my home garden with the technical knowledge and skills I gained from the food security project. I applied different techniques to reduce damages with natural pest repellents and was much concerned about crop selection”.

With no hesitation, she stated that she has earned around Rs. 35,000 per month from the harvest of turmeric, cardamon, and Rambutantan, the production of her well-maintained home garden. Her children are engaging in gardening activities inspired her self to keep on her hard work to ensure the “farm-table” food supply. She also engaged in small-scale backyard poultry farming to entrust a nutritionally balanced diet to her family.

Under the guidance and supervision of the Caritas Ratnapura Food Security project team, she established a plant nursery and developed cardamom cultivation. with which she earns a high income at present. She admires the Caritas Sethmini (Ratnapura) for introducing this project to our village and directing them towards chemical-free food consumption. While thanking Caritas Ratnapura, she extended her sincere gratitude to the food security program implemented by Caritas Sri Lanka that was funded by Caritas Norway/NORAD. We as individuals were energized to think about our existence.

Community Empowerment and Safe Migration

At the end of 2021, based on the CSL's new strategic plan for 2022- 2025, the 'Integral Human Development Unit' (IHD) was renamed as 'Community Empowerment and Safe Migration Unit' (CESM) focussing on the new strategic priorities.

Currently, the CESM unit implements programmes and projects related mainly to education, community development and empowerment, livelihood support, women empowerment, water and sanitation, and on any migration-related concerns and issues.

Projects implemented by CESM;

No.	Name of the project	Diocese/ Partner Organization	Beneficiaries	
			Direct	Indirect
1	Civic Dialogue and Cross-community Activities	Batticaloa, Chilaw, Jaffna, Kandy and Kurunegala DCs	1,372	5,088
2	Civic Dialogue Special	Mannar DC	800	1,960
3	Micro Projects- funded by Irasil Foundation and Projects Lanka	Anuradhapura, Badulla, Boys Town, Galle, Jaffna, Jaffna major seminary, Don Bosco (Fr. Pius & Fr. William in Mankulam and Murunkan areas), Kurunegala,	More than 2,500	
4	CSL- DFCC Bank scholarship programme	Chilaw , Galle, Kurunegala	85	255
5	Primary education support for poor and vulnerable children	Chilaw, Galle, Kandy, Ratnapura	664	1992
6	Education support for the children of war-affected families	Badulla, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, Vanni	350	1100
7	Educational Support for Poor & Vulnerable Children in Rural Villages	Anuradhapura, Badulla, Kurunegala	600	1800

1. Replicating the Experience of Integral Human Development - Civic Dialogue and Cross-Community Activities

- Title: Replicating the Experience of Integral Human Development- Civic Dialogue & Cross-community Activities Project
- Dioceses: Batticaloa, Chilaw, Jaffna, Kandy & Kurunegala
- Project Period: 3 years (2nd year/ 1st January to 31st December 2021)
- Funding Partner: Caritas Korea
- During the 1st year of 2020, poor, marginalized, and grassroots-level communities were mobilized into small Self Help Groups (SHGs), strengthening them by forming Community-

Based Organizations (CBOs). In the 2nd year, 2021, the Diocesan level Federations and children and youth groups were formed with the secondary leadership of the CBOs.

- The sole focus is to empower and animate the target communities to be able to voice their rights and to achieve personal, family, and community development through a rights-based approach.
- During the 1st and 2nd years, the activities implemented under the project have made the CBO and Federation members were aware of the importance of organizing themselves, building relationships, identifying common issues and working for community development. The villagers have gradually been empowered to identify their needs and issues through the activities of the project. In return, they are also trying their best to design solutions by themselves through the linkages and trust built with local government agencies and other stakeholders.
- Amidst the challenges and hardships faced, the CBOs have already made significant achievements in obtaining to address their community issues with the help of the Dioceses.

For example;

- In Chilaw, a survey was conducted on the problems faced by the beneficiaries in the 05 villages and it was identified that many families had been deprived of even basic rights. About 20 marginalized families living in shanties without permanent housing, 22 families without toilet facilities, and 131 families without facilities to store drinking water were identified. A preschool at Asirigama was renovated by the members.
- In Jaffna, the engagement of CBO members in “Batik” garment-making gained recognition from the Divisional Secretariat, the State Ministers and the businessmen. Thereby with the support received by them, in Maniyamthotam a batik factory, in Annakodai a batik training center and in Columbuthorai a Sales center was opened to improve their business skills and expand their income generation activities.
- In Kandy, the Yatawattha estate for over 40 years didn’t have a water supply but after the advocacy initiatives by the CBO, youth and the community, the Yatawattha estate received a water project under a State mega water project (Wisal Mathale Project). And the estate has been included in the State Saubagya Dekma project where the whole community receives about Rs. 3.8 Million for animal husbandry.



Exhibition at Annakodai CBO



At the Batik Center



At the Coir and Batik production



Deepavali celebrations



Focussed group discussions at a Chilaw CBO



Cleaning the Asirigama pond by the CBO members



Sewing training



Making of cotton wicks

2. Replicating the Experience of Integral Human Development - Civic Dialogue Special Project

- Title: Replicating the Experience of Integral Human Development - Civic Dialogue Special Project
- Dioceses: Mannar
- Project Period: 3 years (3rd year/ 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022)
- Funding Partner: Caritas Korea
- Civic Dialogue Project for Mannar is an integrated human development programme of 3 years focussing on the aspects of social and economic development of the 8 war affected villages in the Districts of Mannar & Vavuniya.

Achievements

There are 08 CBOs mobilized under this project.

2 federations were formed focusing on the 02 districts, Vavuniya and Mannar, and they have been strengthened with capacity-building training on leadership, advocacy and sustainability. Children's groups and youth groups in each CBO have been formed. The youth received leadership, non-violent communication and video documentary-producing training.

From the knowledge gained at the training, the youth has completed about 40 video documentaries on their social issues and other aspects of the project such as gender equality and sharing responsibilities on drugs/alcohol or on domestic violence, success stories, important events like promoting ethnic harmony, the life story of exemplary living persons etc. They have been uploaded on the Caritas Mannar official YouTube page which is "Caritas Valuthayam" for advocacy and for wide community support.

Children groups



Youth training



3. Micro Projects- funded by Irasil Foundation and Projects Lanka

Project type	Projects during this period
Livelihood	Caritas Anuradhapura(1st and 2nd interventions), Caritas Badulla(1st and 2nd interventions), Boys Town, Caritas Jaffna, Jaffna major seminary, Caritas Galle, S Siri Nidhana organization-Andigama, Don Bosco (Fr. Pius & Fr. William in Mankulam and Murunkan areas)
Water	CODESEP- Galle, Caritas Mannar, Caritas Vanni (1st and 2nd interventions), Caritas Kurunegala- Orphanage and schools (15 schools), Caritas Chilaw
Sewing	CODESEP- Galle, FMM- St. Anthony's Convent
Construction	Caritas Badulla- nursery- (under the name of late Rev. Fr. Raveen Perera), Fr. Anthony Sosai- Mannar, St. Anne's elders home- Kelaniya

Caritas Sri Lanka in partnership with Mr. Gerard Chitty initiated the Australian Micro-Projects in July 2020. As of now, there are over 40 micro projects implemented under this programme with Diocesan centers and other partner organizations and the above table shows the projects implemented during the concerned reporting period.

The interventions were mainly focused on clean drinking water/agro wells or livelihood options to support the beneficiary families and sewing ventures to generate an income.

4. Caritas Sri Lanka –SEDEC/ DFCC Scholarship Programme 2020- 2025

Caritas Sri Lanka- SEDEC with the DFCC bank in Sri Lanka started this scholarship programme from October 2020 till September 2025. This scholarship programme is being implemented in Chilaw, Galle and Kurunegala Dioceses.

This project provides a monthly scholarship to children who are talented and excellent in their higher studies from grade 10th above. Children from grades 10 – 11 are getting Rs.4000 as a monthly scholarship allowance while A/L, HND, and University Students get Rs.5000. So far 85 children are being benefited from this project.

Diocese	No. of students
Chilaw	28
Galle	28
Kurunegala	28

5. Supporting Primary Education For Poor & Vulnerable Children in Sri Lanka

- Funding Partner: Caritas Korea
- Duration: 01.01.2021- 31.12.2023
- Implementing Dioceses: Chilaw, Galle, Kandy & Ratnapura
- Target Group / Number of Beneficiaries: Grade 5 Scholarship Children & Pre School Children (Direct – Grade 5 students 450, Pre School children 200 (Chilaw), Teachers 14)
- Main Activities: Extra Classes for Grade 5 students, Education Materiel for Grade 5 students, Nutritional Food Pack for 450 Children, Seminars for grade 5 students, Salary For 14 Teachers (Chilaw) and Awareness programme for Parents
- Major achievements:
- This particular project was implemented to facilitate the poor, children of crisis-affected and vulnerable children of Sri Lanka by providing educational support and nutritional packages to help them to join regular schools, fulfill their nutritional needs etc.
- In this project, Caritas supported 650 students from Preschool (200) government schools of different districts comprised of Three Tamil medium schools and grade 5 Sinhala medium schools. During this year out of 450 students, 47 students got through the Grade Five scholarship exam 2021.



6. Education Assistance for War-Affected Families

'Education assistance for war-affected families and poor and marginalized families' project funded by Caritas Korea is being implemented in the Dioceses of Badulla, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee & Vanni since 2019 supporting 350 children.

This project provides a monthly scholarship to children who are talented and excellent in their higher studies from Grade 10th above. Children receive monthly assistance of Rs. 3,000 for their education. Meanwhile, Badulla, Batticaloa and Trincomalee dioceses as a good practice guide the children to save Rs.500/= every month and it is monitored. And to enhance their psychosocial status, psychosocial and counselling programmes are being conducted quarterly by the implementing DCs.

Diocese	Number of Children	Covering District	Scholarship Category
Badulla	58	Badulla 49 Monaragala 09	Primary (1-5) - 11 Secondary (6- 11)- 36 University 11
Batticaloa	58	Ampara 23 Batticaloa 35	Primary (1-5) - 01 Secondary (6- 11)- 44 A/L - 11 University 02
Jaffna	59	Jaffna 59	Secondary (6- 11)- 54 A/L - 5
Mannar	58	Mannar 55 Vavuniya 03	Secondary (6- 11)- 10 A/L - 01 University - 47
Trincomalee	58	Trincomalee 58	Secondary (6- 11)- 24 A/L - 09 University - 24
Vanni	59	Kilinochchi 40 Mulathivu 19	Secondary (6- 10)-46 A/L -14



7.Educational Support for Poor & Vulnerable Children in Rural Villages

- Funding Partner: Caritas Verona
- Duration: 20.09.2021- 19.12.2021 (Three months- short intervention)
- Implementing Dioceses: Anuradhapura, Badulla & Kurunegala
- Target Group / Number of Beneficiaries: Grade 5 students, O/L & A/L Students (600 students)

Activities:

- Provided schoolbooks, stationeries & past papers to 600 children
- Distributed health & hygiene packs(masks, soap, sanitizers etc.)
- Conducted awareness sessions for parents

The COVID-19 Pandemic had an impact on the country economically and socially. As per the health guidelines, restrictions were imposed on public gatherings, tuition classes, group



meetings, and collective economic activities. People who had been relying on daily wages lost their income sources. Small-scale business owners had to close their businesses. People in the private sector lost their employment with the restructuring process initiated by the companies with the impact of COVID-19. Ordinary people were greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic compared to those who were affluent.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the education of children was interrupted to the extent that some of them had to abandon their educational needs. Children had to be involved in income-generational activities to assist their parents in overcoming economic hardships. Though schools were closed, government teachers started teaching via online platforms. But, most of the poor parents had to borrow money from the local moneylenders to buy internet facilities and smartphones for their children to follow those online classes. However, due to technical issues, some children in rural areas could not reap the full benefits of online education.

After some time, the teachers in government schools went on strike demanding the government to rectify the anomalies of their salary structure and other issues related to it. The government did not pay much attention to the demands of the teachers. Therefore, the teachers withdrew from online education and declared a nationwide strike. The teachers' strike continued without a solution, and it had a negative impact on the education of especially the poor children in the rural sector.

However, children from the upper middle classes with the help of private tutors continued education through online platforms. This again showed that the affluent class is exerting a direct influence on the education of children and that the disruptions caused by the pandemic on education disproportionately affected rural children.

This situation has a negative effect on children who are facing grade 05 scholarship, O/L and A/L examinations. Against this backdrop, the benefits of this project were aimed at assisting children who have substantially lost educational opportunities in this pandemic situation.

In addition to distributing the schoolbooks, stationeries, past papers and health-hygiene packs, the following were achieved under this project,

- Parents were informed how to save small amounts of money for the education of their children.
- Contributed to improving the subject knowledge of children through the distribution of past papers and magazines.
- Increased the confidence of children to continue education with the supply of preventive health material from the pandemic.
- Instilled enthusiasm among rural children for education by providing new exercise books and school materials.

Success Story

My name is Shanjika Kandeepan. I live in a village called Selvanayagapuram. My father Pothichandran Kandeepan was abducted on 29.10.2008 by unknown persons. My mother remarried. My twin sister Miss Saraniya Kandeepan and I are taken care of by our grandmother Mrs. Maheswary Murugaiya.

My grandmother is a widow who lost her husband. She has been doing housework for us and maintaining other expenses. In such a situation, EHED Caritas, Trincomalee, offered to help me. The institution has been continuously assisting me since 2019. They have been giving me Rs. 3,000.00 every month. They deposited Rs.500.00 into my bank and gave the remaining Rs.2,500.00 for my education.

I was educated at T/ Selvanayagapuram Hindu Maha Vidyalaya from Grade 1 to Grade 11. I got this help when I was studying in Grade 10. That is why I have obtained 6A, 1B and 2C results in the G.C.E Ordinary Level Examination and I am studying at the T/ Sri Shanmuga Hindu Ladies' College in the Advanced Level in Maths stream.



Not only that but they hold meetings and we also go to seminars. Staff at EHED Caritas visited our home and got to know about our conditions and needs. Not only that but they also visited the school, reviewed educational activities, and discussed with the school principal and teachers.

With the help of this organization, there has been a massive improvement in the academic performance of students like me.

With the help of the institution, I have made progress in my educational activities. As I have lost my mother and father, this is very helpful to me. It helps me to purchase materials for educational activities and attend special classes each month. It has changed not only my education but also the educational activities of many. This help is a blessing. Even during the COVID - 19 financial and material assistance were provided to us by this institution. It also helped us to carry out online education during the lockdown period.

This helped add strength to pursue my educational endeavors. With the help of the institution, we are trying to change the course of our lives. With the help, we were able to take part in other extra-curricular activities such as competitions and tournaments. The institute has given life to me and to other students like me who are struggling to pursue educational advancement. Thus it is an inspiration to pursue my future success. In addition, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Caritas Korea for helping to us. There is no doubt that the students who thrive in education will indeed help those struggling in life for education.

Sustainable Peace and Justice

The Sustainable Peace & Justice Unit falls within Caritas Sri Lanka's current Strategic Plan, specifically under Outcome 03, titled "Fostering Tolerance, Justice, Lasting Peace, and Harmony." This unit is dedicated to build mutual understanding, raising awareness, and promoting respect among the diverse ethno-religious communities in the country. Simultaneously, the unit adopts a participatory approach to collaboratively address and resolve national-level conflicts, working closely with other church-based organizations and like-minded Civil Society Organizations. Presently Sustainable Peace and Justice Unit of Caritas Sri Lanka is implementing 4 projects in collaboration with the Diocesan Caritas Centers:

No	Name of Project	Partner	DCs Involves
01	A modern, dynamic and youth-centred approach to peace processes and conflict mitigation	MISEREOR-Germany	All 13 DCs
02	Promoting A Common Vision for Tolerance and Harmony Among All Religions in Sri Lanka	Caritas Norway / NORAD	All 13 DCs
03	Helping People Move Towards Reconciliation	CAFOD- England	Chilaw and Batticaloa
04	Civil Peace Service Programme	AGIAMONDO-Germany	Galle, Badulla, Ratnapura, Kandy, Chilaw, Colombo, Anuradhapura, Mannar, Vanni, Kurunegala, Trincomalee, Kurunegala

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The year 2021 began with the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mobility of the general public was limited and the vaccination process was accelerated with the support of the health care authorities and the military. Therefore, most of the programmes that were conducted in 2021/22 were in a blended model (virtual or in-person) with the guidance of health officials.

1. A Journey of Friendship from South to the North; carrying gifts of green; a project to plant 1500 saplings in Jaffna

A Tree Planting Campaign was initiated by Caritas Sri Lanka, the social arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka. The plants from South to Jaffna were a symbol of restoring the lost friendship between the north-south, Sinhala-Tamil communities during the thirty years of war and to maintain the peace.

Measures were taken to plant a vast variety of 1500 plants that would embrace medicinal, fruits and food crops. The plants were obtained from various regions of our Motherland and will be planted across a mammoth area of 300 acres. The project was launched by the encyclical, "Laudato Si", issued by His Holiness Pope Francis, to protect nature, our home.

The Tree Planting Campaign was presided over by His Eminence Bishop Justin Gnanapragasam, Bishop of Jaffna and attended by a majority of Inter-Religious Leaders, Clergy and Laity and Army Personnel.



Tree Planting campaign at Jaffna

2. Virtual Workshop on “Challenges of Climate Change and the Role of Religious Leaders to mitigate them”.

Caritas Sri Lanka is an organization which reaches out to uplift the lives of people in a holistic approach. We are concerned about the financial, social, psychological and spiritual aspects of every individual we serve and right now there is an urgent need to respond to the cry of the planet which is being destroyed drastically and causing severe changes in the climate and affecting our environment.

Being open to the appeal of our mother nature Caritas Sri Lanka initiated virtual workshops on the 22nd and 23rd of June 2021, under the title “Challenges of Climate Change and the Role of Religious Leaders to Mitigate them”, in Sinhala and Tamil languages. There were four such sessions organized to create awareness among various religious leaders throughout the country with the participation of 54 Catholic priests and sisters, 26 Islam Maulavis, 23 Buddhist Monks, 20 Hindu Kurukkal (Hindu Priests) and 9 Christian religious leaders in total 114 religious leaders. Mr. Gayan Rajapaksha and Mr. Remo Shihaan facilitated the sessions and led the audience into the greater consciousness on:

- Challenges of climate change and how we contribute negatively to this change in our daily life
- Best practices to adapt to the changes
- The possible ways and means to mitigate these issues



Virtual Workshop on Climatic Change



It was a successful programme where the religious leaders of all the districts were able to gather on one platform to discuss on effects of climate change and its causes. Religious leaders were also able to come up with a social activity plan to implement in their locality.

3. Revitalization of Interreligious dialogue in the light encyclicals: Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti.

Sustaining interreligious dialogue persuasively has been a pressing need of the time. Examining the trends of interreligious dialogue requires continuous review, learning, and reflection. Hence, Caritas Sri Lanka in consultation with the Secretariat of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue convened a lecture and experts' discussion, on 23rd January 2022, on the theme: "Revitalization of Interreligious Dialogue in the light of Encyclicals Laudato Si and Fratelli Tutti"

The guest lecturer – Msgr. Indunil Janakaratne commenced his lecture by defining interreligious dialogue in the light of the Church's mission. He underlined that the new directions of interreligious dialogue are determined by the changes in the socio-economic sphere that inevitably change the context of the Church's mission in the century.

Msgr. Indunil referred to two trends of interreligious dialogue in Sri Lanka: Catholic Bishop, Leo Nanayakkara (1917-1982) and Methodist theologian, Rev. Dr. Lynn Alton de Silva (1919-1982). These two forerunners, Msgr. Indunil underlined, could effectively adopt contextual theological and missiological approaches to dialogue because they were first inspired by the teachings of 'human fraternity'.

Inspiration emanates first from 'learning', 'internalizing', and 'reflection'. Approaches adopted by the forerunners (the trendsetters of interreligious dialogue) are a bold expression of internalization of the theology of dialogue. Hence, the action plans of the two encyclicals particularly aim at a process of educating individuals for universal solidarity and welcoming societies. The common starting point of all religious reflection is the human person, the meaning of life, and the ultimate mystery beyond human explanation. The different answers given to these problems in various religions make us enter into interreligious dialogue. Caritas Sri Lanka looks forward to taking 'the mission of dialogue' across various religions and cultures.

4. Jaffna Forum

Caritas Sri Lanka, the social arm of the Catholic Church has been instrumental in promoting sustained relationships through justice, peace & reconciliation in Sri Lanka. Our initiatives have focused on ensuring greater inclusion of vulnerable communities in social, political and economic life; access to quality basic services; freedom without exploitative practices; ability to voice their concerns and influence decisions that affect them, while ensuring access to information and resources to achieve self-reliance.

In this context, Caritas Sri Lanka understands and realizes the importance of recognizing various initiatives were taken by different stakeholders in the church network for the same purpose of peace and reconciliation, organized a Virtual National Forum for Church Actors on Peace and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka on the 8th, 9th and 10th of September 2021. The purpose of this virtual forum was to create a common platform for different stakeholders representing religious congregations and church-affiliated institutions to share their experiences and contributions

towards the national reconciliation process and plan a common way forward to act together in addressing the issues pertaining to the same. The virtual forum organized in September was the initial (first) phase of the National Forum for Church Actors on Peace and Reconciliation.



As an outcome of the first phase of the forum, the participants emphasized that the continuation of fora as such for dialogue is imperativeness. Hence, based on the identification of peace actors that work in the areas of peace and reconciliation among religious congregations, church-affiliated institutions, civil society organizations and state organizations.

The second basis was to initiate progressive dialogue among the identified stakeholders, where Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC and the diocesan networks created the space for such interactions. The Jaffna Forum, the second phase of the National Forum for Church Actors on Peace and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka, took place on the 31st of January and the 1st of February 2022 at the Pandatheruppu Retreat House in Jaffna, with the presence of Rt. Rev. Dr. Justin .B. Gnanapragasam, Bishop of Jaffna and Chairman of Caritas Sri Lanka, Rt. Rev. Dr Maxwell Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo and Vice-chairman of Caritas Sri Lanka, GA Representative from the district of Jaffna, Caritas national and diocesan centres, peace actors from the regions of the north and east and the south together with Justice and Peace Commission members from diocesan secretariats.

The theme of the 2-day forum, facilitated by two versatile and active individuals, Mr. Rukshan Fernando (Civil Activist) and Rev. Fr. Jude Sutharshan (American Mission), was “The UNHRC Resolution, Accountability for Rights Violations and Reconciliation in Context of the Ethnic Conflict”.

The objective of providing the space at Jaffna for the people of the regions of the north and east, revolving around the above theme, was to understand the seen and mostly the unseen difficulties faced by the people of the north and east regions, particularly as a result of the ethnic conflict. The second objective was to further the already identified peace actors during the first phase. The Jaffna Forum was created as a platform for the identification of peace actors mainly from the north and east regions, and providing space for dialogue among the identified stakeholders, together with peace actors from the rest of the island. The forum was guided by concrete and evidence-based dialogue, where a wide range of historical concerns faced by communities of the regions, and probable recommendations were documented.



The Jaffna Forum, the second phase of the National Forum for Church Actors on Peace and Reconciliation in Sri Lanka, came to a close with a solid understanding that continuation of such fora to provide space for dialogue and to foresee a tangible outcome for continued dialogue, among a greater number of peace actors is possible through the togetherness of all related actors. Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC and the diocesan centres have created a roadmap for such fora, where phase 3 being the next step, would target a wider religious community for progressive dialogue.



Jaffna Peace Forum with Church actors

5. Caritas Sri Lanka stands in solidarity with people in this time of unprecedented economic crisis

Sri Lanka, a country that suffered a recent genocide (2019 Easter Terror Attack), two major youth insurrections, and 30 years of civil war, is now facing an unprecedented set of economic challenges. The causes of the present economic crisis are primarily attributed to the collapse of revenues generated from tourism that was completely deterred by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as a decline in foreign worker remittances. However, analysts argue that the causes of the present crisis were set in motion, well before the pandemic stroke, in the form of accumulated sovereign debts, rising fiscal and current account deficits as well and declining investor confidence.



Depletion in foreign reserves has curtailed the Sri Lankan Government's ability to account for the import of essential items. As a result, long queues at grocery stores, fuel stations, and pharmacies have now become the new normal. Local authorities have also imposed rationing of electricity which resulted in power outages. Banning the import of chemical fertilizers has severely affected the production of agricultural goods and escalated food insecurity in the country.

Opposition parties organized several protest campaigns advocating the ruling party to step down and call for presidential and general elections. These campaigns often carried sentiments

of violence, hate speech and disturbance in social order causing in fear, anxiety and despair, especially among children and vulnerable groups. None of these campaigns has neither been able to provide workable solutions nor practical measures.

Caritas Sri Lanka endeavours to stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable groups by enhancing their resilience to cope with the situation. It does so through twofold strategies: first; by integrating envisaged vulnerabilities into development programming, and second: by advocating that the government policy interventions bear minimum adversity on the poor and vulnerable.



Caritas Sri Lanka together with its constituencies (Diocesan Centers), first, endeavoured to bring revisions to project activities making them 'crisis sensitive' and 'crisis responsive'. These revisions were to enhance responsiveness in terms of enhancing 'food security', 'restoration and sustenance of livelihoods' and 'building resilience capabilities'.

In addition, Caritas Sri Lanka organized a 'Silent Solidarity Campaign' all around the country under the theme, "Father, let my country awake". This was as a gesture that the Church stands in solidarity with the people and that the Church is responsive in mobilizing resources to build and enhance resilience to cope with economic shocks and vulnerabilities.



Success Story

I am Ilandheepan Jereena, a member of the Maamoolai IRF, of Caritas Vanni HUDEC. I was born in Jaffna. After my marriage, I moved to Mullaitivu. My husband is a professional photographer and I do poultry as a hobby. I have one daughter and a son who are schooling. When I moved to Maamoolai in 2012, one of my friends from the neighbourhood invited me to join 'Vinnoli', a small group in the village formed by Caritas Vanni HUDEC as a SHG. The group had a self-saving mechanism which helped the members to fulfil their needs on a lending basis. The members of the groups were also capacitated on income-generating activities and skills. I found this very useful to lead a successful family life.

Subsequently, in 2018 project was introduced in our village on the title "Creating a conducive environment for religious amity". We were oriented on the goal and expected outcome of the project by the Caritas Vanni director and the project team. I too joined the IRF and took part in the monthly meetings and group activities such as Shramadana, conducted by our IRF.



The activities done through the IRF brought about remarkable attitudinal changes among the IRF members and the rest of the villagers. Some activities gave us unforgettable experiences.

When the religious festivals were celebrated, we could witness the unity of religious leaders and understand the importance of respecting all religious values and customs. It was also the very first time I witnessed all religious leaders gather together for a common cause. It truly set a great example of togetherness and unity for the whole village. Further, the IRF conducted many awareness sessions and dialogue sessions on promoting peace, reconciliation, religious harmony and human rights, which were very useful for the participants to take up the role of peacemakers. These sessions also helped to enhance and strengthen the efforts of our IRF to work towards creating religious harmony.

As a striking encounter under this project, I would like to mention the exposure visit, where we were able to meet different Sinhalese communities, stay with them and also invite them to our village. This completely changing our frame of mind towards Sinhalese people. Due to the bitter experience we had to undergo during the civil war, we always had a negative feeling towards the entire Sinhalese community. However, these exposure visits helped us to overcome the negative thoughts and perceptions we had towards them. It helped us to create stronger bonds and relationships with the visitors and some of them are in contact with us even to date.

We also got an opportunity to visit various religious worship places, which was also an enriching experience where we learnt about religious customs and traditions. I joined the IRF as a member and today I am continuing to be a part of the IRF as the treasurer. Being a part of this group has changed my life, my perspectives and attitude towards other religions and also has developed leadership skills in me. I am thankful to Caritas Vanni HUDEC for having selected our village to implement this project and for taking us all through an unforgettable and life-changing experience.

I also request this project to be continued in other villages so that a larger community will learn good values and transform to be peaceful!

Partner Visits

Visit of Ms. Kesuma to Mulikulam, Mannar

On April 28, 2022, Ms. Kesuma Saddak, Programme Coordinator, Asia department, Misereor and Franziska Koch, Coordinator of Sri Lanka Advocacy, Misereor visited Mannar Diocese to monitor the project titled 'Livelihood and housing support for war-affected communities' implemented at Mullikulam, Mannar District.



They met the Diocesan Director, Rev. Fr. Anton and the programme staff of Valvuthayam in the auditorium. The project coordinator of Caritas-Valvuthayam described the project framework including the problems, challenges, mitigation and implications of the program.

On April 29, 2022, Caritas-Valvuthayam organized an opening ceremony programme at Mullikulam village. During the programme, the coordinator Kesuma Saddak had discussions with the beneficiaries. In addition, they met all the beneficiaries in their new homes and heard about their experiences and challenges while building their houses. The beneficiaries shared their stories with heartfelt gratitude and tears of joy. They expressed how happy they were to live with dignity, freedom, and joy in their new homes.

Later, the team visited the livelihood beneficiaries at Kokupadayan village and also at their homes to communicate and confirm whether the activities were carried out according to the project schedule. They discussed about the beneficiary's livelihood projects, the resources available for their business, and the market demand for their produce.

On the same day and in the evening a discussion was held with the programme staff with the coordination of the Diocesan Director. Miss Kesuma Saddak expressed her satisfaction about the project activities carried out. She further stated that there was a positive impact felt and that the funding was worthwhile. She thanked the CSL Director and the staff for their dedication towards this project.



The Visit of Caritas Norway



Mr Aron Halfen, Senior Advisor, Caritas Norway visited Caritas Sri Lanka from 17th – 22nd November 2021. During his visit, he visited to the diocesan centers of Chilaw, Mannar, Jaffna, Vanni and Kandy on Caritas Norway-funded projects namely, Food Security and Religious Amity. He was accompanied to the filed by Rev. Father Mahendra Gunatilleke, National Director and the SEDEC Officials.

During his visit, witnessed home gardens, Village Knowledge Centres and Marketing centres. Mr Aron was delighted to meet the members of the farmer families and chat with them. The villagers heartily welcomed him and shared their gratitude with him as they can consume chemical-free vegetables and fruits and be able to consume a nutritionally balanced diet with their family members. Overall, it was a very memorable day as the Senior Advisor from Caritas Norway visited the program locations.





Financial Review

PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1st APRIL 2021 to 31st MARCH 2022 (Partner Wise)

Agency	Project	Amount (Rs)	Total (Rs)	Sector
AGIAMONDO	Caritas Civil Peace Service Programme	10,175,000	10,175,000	Peace Building & Reconciliation
British Council Sri Lanka	COP 26 - Active Citizens Programme	593,312	593,312	Climate change through leadership and participation
CAFOD	CAFOD SLK 307 - Helping People Move Towards Reconciliation	8,490,000	8,490,000	Justice, Peace Building & Reconciliation
	Supporting Livelihood diversification and increasing community harmony in Western Sri Lanka.	13,915,092	13,915,092	Justice, Peace Building & Reconciliation
	Support for the people affected by Covid 19 pandemic situation	13,895,000	13,895,000	Disaster Risk Reduction
Caritas Diocesana Veronese	Educational support for poor and vulnerable children in Anuradapura, Badulla and Kurunegala.	2,133,256	2,133,256	Education
Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS)	Empowerment of Student Programme	5,336,059	5,336,059	Education
Caritas Korea	Replicating the experience of Integral Human Development - Civic Dialogue and Cross Community activities in 5 new DCs	26,221,852	26,221,852	Community & Livelihood Development
	Civic Dialogue and Cross Community Activities Special Project	9,364,264	9,364,264	Community & Livelihood Development
	Educational Support for War Affected Children	18,651,679	18,651,679	Education
	Resettlement and Reintegration of Sri Lankan Families returning from South India in the Diocese of Mannar	6,022,960	6,022,960	Re-settlement & Livelihood Assistance
	Supporting Primary Education of Poor & Vulnerable Children in the Dioceses of Chilaw, Galle, Kandy & Ratnapura in Sri Lanka	23,008,574	23,008,574	Education
Caritas Norway	Addressing Causes for Poverty and Ensuring Food Security for Farming Communities	79,061,826	79,061,826	Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security
	Promoting a Common Vision for Tolerance and Harmony among all Religions in Sri Lanka	64,241,323	64,241,323	Interreligious Harmony, Peace Building & Reconciliation
Caritas Slovenia	Work towards a decent life support for poor families in Sri Lanka.	1,741,542	1,741,542	Economic Development
Catholic Relief Services - USCCB	Institutional Capacity building programme.	4,974,585	4,974,585	Capacity Building
	Empowering of Sri Lanka's Tea plantation communities	4,974,585	4,974,585	Advocacy & Economic Development

Financial Review

PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1st APRIL 2021 to 31st MARCH 2022 (Partner Wise)

Agency	Project	Amount (Rs)	Total (Rs)	Sector
Centre for Humanitarian Affairs (CHA)	Support for the people affected by Covid 19 pandemic situation	56,250	56,250	Disaster Risk Reduction
Kindermission	Strengthening of special needs children and their families in Mannar & Vanni in Sri Lanka. - D 17 0312 001	7,065,240	7,065,240	Re-settlement & Livelihood Development
	Promoting, Healing & Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace	11,860,000	11,860,000	Peace Building, Reconciliation & Youth Empowerment
Misereor	A modern dynamic and youth centered approach to peace process and conflict mitigation.	11,548,440	11,548,440	Peace Building, Reconciliation & Youth Empowerment
	Mitigation of Thalassemia in the Dioceses of Kurunegala, Batticaloa and Chilaw through Awareness and Empowerment	4,735,698	4,735,698	Health and Awareness
	Mitigation of Thalassemia Disease – Caring for the Neglected and the Helpless	9,830,130	9,830,130	Health and Awareness
	Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters by Strengthening of Workers Rights 322-900-1109	15,221,032	15,221,032	Advocacy & Economic Development
	A stepping stone to Safeguarding Sri Lanka's Natural Environment 322-900-1149	27,705,148	27,705,148	Environment & Climate change
	Livelihood Support & House Construction for the War Affected Families in the Northern, North Centre & Eastern Province of Sri Lanka	47,672,468	47,672,468	Housing & Livelihood Development
MSC Mission Overseas Aid Fund	Micro Project	11,852,651	11,852,651	Economic & Livelihood Development
Mr. Mark Cutter	Sundry Donation	162,291	162,291	Justice, Peace Building & Reconciliation
Mrs. S. Pillenayagam	Education support for the students affected by Easter Bombing in Sri Lanka.	36,000	36,000	Education
Russel's (pvt) Ltd	Scholarship Project for Diocese of Badulla	262,500	262,500	Education
United Nations Population Fund	Sensitizing Religious Leaders on Sexual and Reproductive Health.	2,388,000	2,388,000	Justice, Peace Building & Reconciliation
Zonta Club	Education Support for the Easter Victim Children in the Diocese of Batticaloa	2,010,000	2,010,000	Education
		445,206,758	445,206,758	



Financial Review

PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1st APRIL 2021 to 31st MARCH 2022 (Project Wise)

Project	Agency	Amount (Rs)	Total (Rs)	%	Sector
<i>A modern dynamic and youth centered approach to peace process and conflict mitigation.</i>	Misereor	11,548,440	11,548,440	2.6%	Peace Building, Reconciliation & Youth Empowerment
<i>A stepping stone to Safeguarding Sri Lanka's Natural Environment 322-900-1149</i>	Misereor	27,705,148	27,705,148	6.2%	Environment & Climate change
<i>Addressing Causes for Poverty and Ensuring Food Security for Farming Communities</i>	Caritas Norway	79,061,826	79,061,826	17.8%	Sustainable Agriculture & Food Security
<i>CAFOD SLK 307 - Helping People Move Towards Reconciliation</i>	CAFOD	8,490,000	8,490,000	1.9%	Justice, Peace Building & Reconciliation
<i>Caritas Civil Peace Service Programme</i>	AGIAMONDO	10,175,000	10,175,000	2.3%	Peace Building & Reconciliation
<i>Civic Dialogue and Cross Community Activities Special Project</i>	Caritas Korea	9,364,264	9,364,264	2.1%	Community & Livelihood Development
<i>COP 26 - Active Citizens Programme</i>	British Council Sri Lanka	593,312	593,312	0.1%	Climate change through leadership and participation
<i>Education support for the students affected by Easter Bombing in Sri Lanka.</i>	Mrs. S. Pillenayagam	36,000	36,000	0.0%	Education
<i>Education Support for the Easter Victim Children in the Diocese of Batticaloa</i>	Zonta Club	2,010,000	2,010,000	0.5%	Education
<i>Educational support for poor and vulnerable children in Anuradapura, Badulla and Kurunegala.</i>	Caritas Diocesana Veronese	2,133,256	2,133,256	0.5%	Education
<i>Educational Support for War Affected Children</i>	Caritas Korea	18,651,679	18,651,679	4.2%	Education
<i>Empowerment of the Green Gold Harvesters by Strengthening of Workers Rights 322-900-1109</i>	Misereor	15,221,032	15,221,032	3.4%	Advocacy & Economic Development
<i>Empowering of Sri Lanka's Tea plantation communities</i>	Catholic Relief Services - USCCB	4,974,585	4,974,585	1.1%	Justice, Peace Building & Reconciliation
<i>Empowerment of Student Programme</i>	Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS)	5,336,059	5,336,059	1.2%	Education
<i>Institutional Capacity building programme.</i>	Catholic Relief Services - USCCB	4,974,585	4,974,585	1.1%	Capacity Building
<i>Livelihood Support & House Construction for the War Affected Families in the Northern, North Centre & Eastern Province of Sri Lanka</i>	Misereor	47,672,468	47,672,468	10.7%	Housing & Livelihood Development

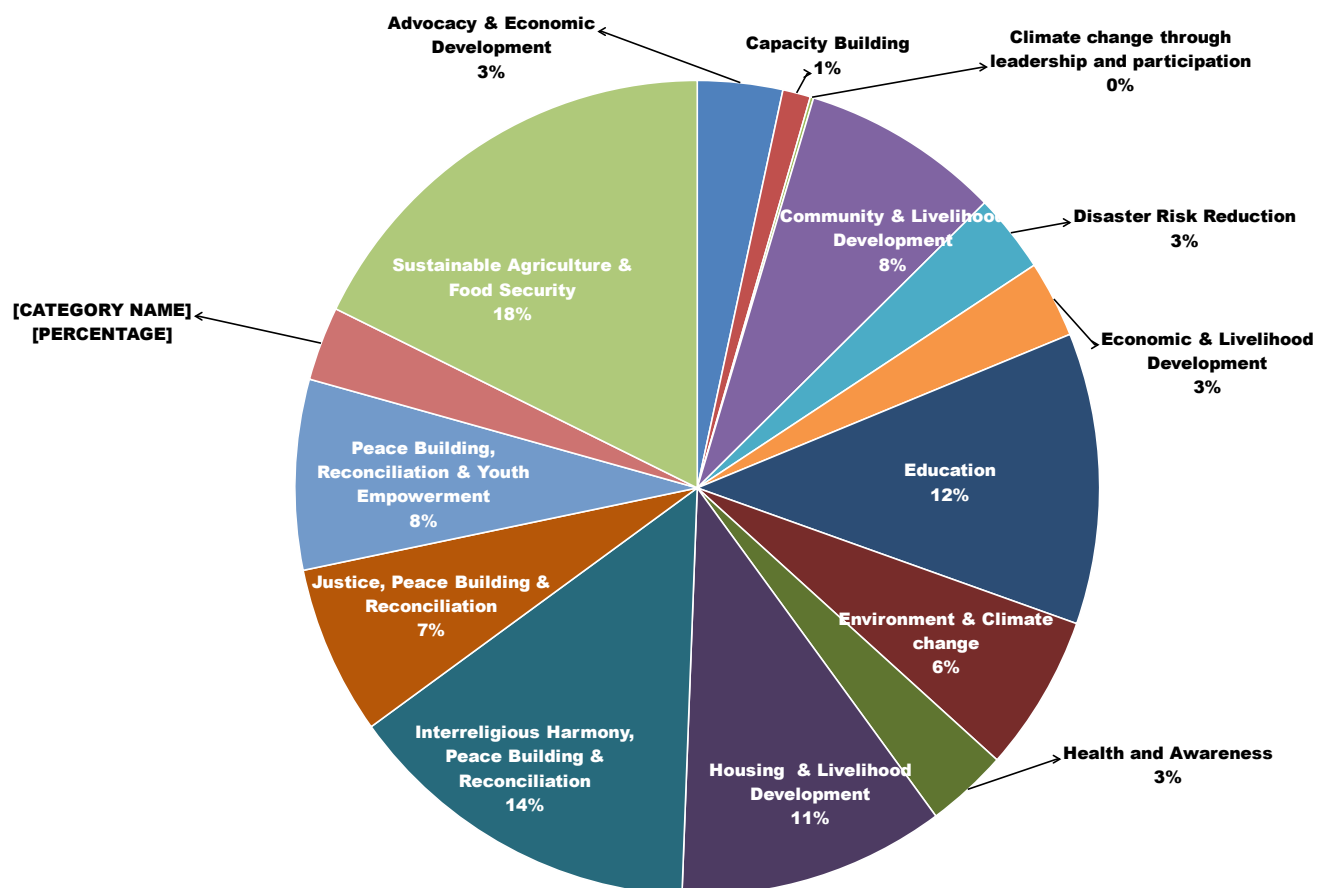
Financial Review

PROJECT OVERVIEW - 1st APRIL 2021 to 31st MARCH 2022 (Project Wise)

Project	Agency	Amount (Rs)	Total (Rs)	%	Sector
Micro Project	MSC Mission Overseas Aid Fund	11,852,651	11,852,651	2.7%	Economic & Livelihood Development
Mitigation of Thalassemia in the Dioceses of Kurunegala, Batticaloa and Chilaw through Awareness and Empowerment	Misereor	4,735,698	4,735,698	1.1%	Health and Awareness
Mitigation of Thalassemia Disease – Caring for the Neglected and the Helpless	Misereor	9,830,130	9,830,130	2.2%	Health and Awareness
Promoting, Healing & Reconciliation for Sustainable Peace	Misereor	11,860,000	11,860,000	2.7%	Peace Building, Reconciliation & Youth Empowerment
Promoting a Common Vision for Tolerance and Harmony among all Religions in Sri Lanka	Caritas Norway	64,241,323	64,241,323	14.4%	Interreligious Harmony, Peace Building & Reconciliation
Replicating the experience of Integral Human Development - Civic Dialogue and Cross Community activities in 5 new DCs	Caritas Korea	26,221,852	26,221,852	5.9%	Community & Livelihood Development
Resettlement and Reintegration of Sri Lankan Families returning from South India in the Diocese of Mannar	Caritas Korea	6,022,960	6,022,960	1.5%	Re-settlement & Livelihood Assistance
Scholarship Project for Diocese of Badulla	Russel's (pvt) Ltd	262,500	262,500	0.1%	Education
Sensitizing Religious Leaders on Sexual and Reproductive Health.	United Nations Population Fund	2,388,000	2,388,000	0.5%	Justice, Peace Building & Reconciliation
Strengthening of special needs children and their families in Mannar & Vanni in Sri Lanka. - D 17 0312 001	Kindermission	7,065,240	7,065,240	1.6%	Re-settlement & Livelihood Development
Sundry Donation	Mr. Mark Cutter	162,291	162,291	0.0%	Justice, Peace Building & Reconciliation
Support for the people affected by Covid 19 pandemic situation	Centre for Humanitarian Affairs (CHA)	56,250	56,250	0.0%	Disaster Risk Reduction
	CAFOD	13,895,000	13,895,000	3.1%	Disaster Risk Reduction
Supporting Livelihood diversification and increasing community harmony in Western Sri Lanka.	CAFOD	13,915,092	13,915,092	3.1%	Justice, Peace Building & Reconciliation
Supporting Primary Education of Poor & Vulnerable Children in the Dioceses of Chilaw, Galle, Kandy & Ratnapura in Sri Lanka	Caritas Korea	23,008,574	23,008,574	5.2%	Education
Work towards a decent life support for poor families in Sri Lanka.	Caritas Slovenia	1,741,542	1,741,542	0.4%	Economic Development
		445,206,758	445,206,758	100%	



FUND RECEIPTS 2021/2022





APPRECIATIONS

Caritas Sri Lanka and the Diocesan Centres are grateful for the support, assistance, and encouragement we have received from all of our Partners:

1. AGIAMONDO
2. British Council - Sri Lanka
3. CAFOD
4. Caritas Diocesana Veronese
5. Caritas Humanitarian Aid & Relief Initiatives, Singapore (CHARIS)
6. Caritas Korea
7. Caritas Norway
8. Caritas Slovenia
9. Catholic Relief Services - USCCB
10. Centre for Humanitarian Affairs (CHA)
11. Kindermission
12. Misereor
13. MSC Mission Overseas Aid Fund
14. Mr. Mark Cutter
15. Mrs. S. Pillenayagam
16. Russel's (pvt) Ltd
17. United Nations Population Fund
18. Zonta Club



OUR NETWORK IN SRI LANKA

ANURADHAPURA

Rev. Fr. Bennette Mellawa, Director - Caritas Anuradhapura (Seth Saviya)
A9 Road, Maradankadawala.
Mob: 071-8384353, Tel. : 025-2265295, Fax no. : 025-2265295
e-mail : caritasanuradhapura@gmail.com

BADULLA

Rev. Fr. Jude Nishantha Silva - Caritas Badulla (USCOD)
Bishop Leo Technical Institute, Peelipothagama Road, Badulla.
Mob: 075 - 4243799, Tel. : 055 - 2222635, Fax no. : 055 - 223574
E-mail : caritasbadulla@yahoo.com

BATTICALOA

Rev. Fr. A. Jesudasan, Director – Caritas Batticaloa(EHED)
Jeyanthipuram, Kumarathan Kovil Road, Iruthayapuram, Batticaloa.
Mob: 077-6220168, Tel. : 065-2222125, Direct : 065 - 2225458, Fax no. : 065 - 2227017
E-mail : ehed@caritasbatti.org / ehedcaritas@gmail.com

CHILAW

Rev. Fr. Luke Nelson Perera, Director – Caritas Chilaw (Janasaviya)
Kurunegala Road, Old Town, Madampe.
Mob: 076 - 6727769, Tel. : 032 - 2247638, Fax no. : 032 - 2247638
E-mail : caritaschilaw@yahoo.com

COLOMBO

Rev. Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake, Director – Caritas Colombo (Sethsarana)
No.20, Jubilee Hall, Archbishop's House, Colombo 08.
Mob: 077-7899116/071-8624236, Tel: 011-2688999, 070-3200466, FaxNo. 011 2445316
e-mail : ccaritas@sltnet.lk, sethsaproject@sltnet.lk, sethsafinance@sltnet.lk

GALLE

Rev. Fr. Lasantha Fonseka, Director - Caritas SED Galle
No: 2/1, Templers Road, Mount Calvary, Kaluwella, Galle.
Mob: 077-7899116, 071-8624236 Tel. : 091 - 2244138, Fax no : 091 - 2233710
E-mail : directorcaritassed@gmail.com

JAFFNA

Rev. Fr. S. Eugene Francis, Director – Caritas Jaffna (HUDEC)
No.14, Deogue Street, Mathew's Road, Jaffna.
Mob: 077 - 9282672, Tel : 021 - 2222571, Fax no. : 021 - 2222571
E-mail : hudec@sltnet.lk, caritasjaffna@gmail.com



OUR NETWORK IN SRI LANKA

KANDY

Rev. Fr. Desmond Perera, Director – Caritas Kandy (SETIK)
255/50, R. C.D.L. Fernando Mawatha, Katugastota Road, Kandy.
Mob: 071 - 4950409, Direct : 081 - 2222775, Fax no : 081 - 2222775
E-mail : setik@sltnet.lk

KURUNEGALA

Rev. Fr. Thusitha Priyanga, Director - Caritas Kurunegala (Janasetha)
St. Anthony's Church, Pallandeniya, Maspotha, Kurunegala.
Mob: 076-3455003, Tel. : 037 - 2237147, Fax no. : 037-2237147
E-mail : jkurunegala@gmail.com, janasethacaritaskurunegala@yahoo.com

MANNAR

Rev. Fr. S. Anton, Director – Caritas Mannar (Valvuthayam)
Main Street, Mannar.
Mob: 077 - 264 3763, Tel. : 023 - 2232140, Fax no. : 023 - 2232893
E-mail : valvum@sltnet.lk, caritasmn@sltnet.lk, info.valvum@gmail.com

RATNAPURA

Very Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, Director – Caritas Ratnapura (Seth Mini)
Hospital Road, Eheliyagoda.
Mob: 077 - 7728967, Tel. : 036 - 2258410, Fax no. : 036 - 2258495
E-mail: sethminir@yahoo.com

TRINCOMALEE

Rev. Fr. Dunstan Fredrick Joseph, Director - Caritas Trincomalee (EHED)
295, Dockyard Road, Trincomalee.
Mob: 077 - 3716292, Tel. : 026 – 2222204, Fax No. : 026 – 2222474
E-mail : ehedcaritas@yahoo.com

VANNI

Rev. Fr. S. Sebajeevan, Director – Caritas Vanni (HUDEC)
Hudec Office, Kilinochchi.
Mob: 076-0716734, Tel. : 021-2285805, Fax No. : 021-2285805
E-Mail : caritasvanni09@gmail.com