

Assist RR Projects in the East & North of Sri Lanka

Objectives

Assist Resettlement & Renaissance (Assist RR) has been formed to relieve poverty of innocent victims of war in Sri Lanka by improving their livelihood. They were originally displaced during the final phase of the civil war and spent their past few years in various refugee camps / welfare centers. They are now facing extreme hardship after they were resettled in their villages. People were being housed in temporary shelters without water and toilet facilities and are living on rare hand-outs without any work or job opportunities. Children are learning in temporary shelters, which have been leaking during rain.

The services we are providing are being selected based on the needs of people. Our charity would like to focus on livelihood projects by prioritising vulnerable and needy families. This would include helping women headed families, families with seriously disabled/injured men/women, and vulnerable children. There are thousands of widows and seriously disabled/injured people, who are living in this region without any assistance and are facing immense suffering and hardship financially, mentally and physically.

We also would like to assist the learning process of children by providing shelters at Primary and Pre-Schools. Although food is necessary, learning is also very important as it would help them to improve their standard of living in the future and to relieve their poverty. In addition to this, we also aim to provide assistance to GCE O/L & A/L students to improve their education.

Thirdly, Assist RR aims to provide assistance to improve the health care of people affected by the war. This would include helping elderly patients with their eye problems including conducting eye clinics, providing reading glasses, cataract operations, etc. This would help the vulnerable elderly people to lead independent lives at their old ages. Assist RR would also aim to improve medical facilities in the war torn areas of Vanni.

Assist RR has built/rebuilt 10 pre & primary schools in Mullaithivu district and has been providing free after school tuitions to nearly 2500 O/L & A/L students in 25 schools of Mullaithivu district. Assist RR has so far sponsored 1500 cataract surgeries with the financial support of many kind hearted individuals and likeminded organisations from around the world. Assist RR also built a female ward and a pediatric ward at Puthukudiyiruppu hospital and currently building a male ward there with the support of Children's Hunger Relief Fund and Dr Philomina Karthigesalingam. In addition to the these, Assist RR has implemented many livelihood support projects in the east and north of SL.

Since the creation of our charity, Assist Resettlement & Renaissance, in November 2012, and making our first fact finding mission to Vanni in March 2013, we have completed projects worth more than £200k (Rs 42 Million) with funds raised following appeals by Assist RR. We are proud to inform that these projects have been implemented with the assistance of Mullaithivu District Educational Development Trust Fund headed by Mullaithivu GA, Mr Vethanayagan, and Assist RR's Sri Lankan coordinator, Rotarian Henry Amalraj on a voluntary basis. Not

even a single penny or cent was used on any overheads or expenses including travels to Sri Lanka by the trustees of Assist RR. Funds raised are used 100% on assisting the needy.



Areas where Assist RR provide assistance to the needy in the East and North

The projects carried out by Assist RR, since the commencement of implementing projects in May 2013 following our needs assessment of Vanni in March 2013, are:

Educational Development Projects

- We have built three new pre-schools and repaired/renovated three pre-schools in Mullaittivu district and constructed a well to one of these schools;
- Repaired/Renovated four damaged school buildings: Veenavil Govt Tamil Mixed school; Mullivaikal West Junior High School; Iranaippalai Roman Catholic Maha Vidyalayam; Puthukudiyiruppu Roman Catholic Vidyalayam in Mullaittivu district;
- Sponsoring an "After School Tuition" programme for nearly 2500 GCE O/L & A/L students in Mullaittivu district since June 2013 at a cost of around Rs 300,000 per month and have been conducting seminars;
- Donated Rs 30,000 worth of school books to Amabalavan Pokkanai MV library as the people of this village are very poor, especially after the war;
- Renovated disabled children unit building of Wesley High School in Kalmuani and donated a Slide with Rainbow ladder to their play area;

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- Provided 450 solar powered lamps with the support of Australian charities Anbaalayam and Tamil Engineers Foundation to help children learn and save money on kerosene;
- Facilitated hostel facilities to 22 needy and vulnerable children in Batticaloa through Sivanarulliam and donations by Gnanam Foundation.
- Facilitated scholarships to 20 University students in the East and Vanni and actively looking for donors to provide assistance to more university students;
- Facilitated financial assistance to another 5 university students from Kalmunai and Trincomalee, who would have otherwise stopped their further education;
- Donated furniture to two displaced pre-schools in Sampoor, which are functioning as one in the Hostel of Seniyur Central College in Trincomalee. Around 39 children, who come from the refugee camps in Sampoor, attend this pre-school under extremely difficult conditions;
- Donated 10 bicycles, and exercise books & pens worth Rs 50,000 to students of Sampoor Maha Vidyalayam in Chennaiyur, where children displaced from Sampoor learn;
- Donated 100 sets of desks and chairs to Sampoor Maha Vidyalayam, which has been displaced since 2006 and has been functioning at the hostel of Chennaiyur MV. This was funded by Surrey Tamil Community.
- Donated 39 pairs of shoes and 3 bicycles to school children in Thunukkai and furniture to a pre-school in the same area.
- Funded a three classrooms extension at Sri Subramaniam Vidyalaya in Puthukuduyiruppu, Mullaithivu.
- Built a Pre-school in Sampoor, Trincomalee, with the financial support of Building Blocks, a registered charity in England and Wales.
- Provided a temporary building to Sri Murugan Temple in Sampoor, which was displaced and relocated to Sampoor in April 2016.
- Building a 100' long 2-storey building to Vadamarachchi East J/Manatkadu RCM School, which was destroyed by Tsunami in 2004 with the support of Building Blocks, UK, Malaysian Tamil Diaspora and Puloly Pandithar Kandiah Vinasithamby Family Trust Fund.
- Provided 40 bicycles to school children in Jaffna.

Health Care Projects

- Our trustee, Dr Jeyapooranabala conducted several eye clinics in the north;
- Donated 900 reading glasses to needy elderly people;
- Organised and part funded six cataract surgery camps, three in Mannar, two in Mullaithivu and another one in Batticaloa, for nearly 600 patients. This resulted in restoring vision in at least one eye to nearly 30 elderly people. Another 200 surgeries, which were funded by a Colombo based Charity, Youth Progressive Foundation, and by an anonymous donor, were carried out in a camp in Colombo on 17/18 August 2014;

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- Friends of Assist RR, Engineers Sriskandarajah from Vavuniya and Henry Amalaraj from Kalmunai sponsored a free surgery camp for 150 needy patients in Matara;
- Donated 200 foldable lenses and other necessary consumables for regular cataract surgeries at hospitals in Kalmunai, Batticaloa, Trincomale, & Puttalam;
- Organised a cataract surgery camp for 100 patients in Mullaithivu in Nov 2014;
- Donated 25 foldable lenses and other necessary consumables for the benefit of walk-in patients to the offices of Vision 2020;
- Organised another cataract surgery camp for 99 patients in Kilinochchi in July 2015;
- Provided essential medical equipment worth Rs 1.5 Million to Puthukudiyiruppu hospital;
- Repaired and renovated the mortuary of Puthukudiyiruppu hospital;
- Built a medical ward at Puthukudiyiruppu hospital and provided furniture to this ward at a total cost of £34k. The ward was opened for use on 07 May 2014;
- Arranged medical equipment to the female ward at PTK hospital: to be used as paediatric ward;
- Built the first floor of the above ward at PTK hospital, The above ward complex comprising of the female and paediatric wards was ceremonially opened by the Northern province Governor and the Chief Minister on 05 March 2015;
- Arranged furniture and medical equipment worth Rs 1.65 Million to the paediatric ward with the assistance of Medical Institute of Tamils (MIOT), UK.
- Built a 25-bed male ward at Puthukudiyiruppu hospital in Mullaithivu and furnished and equipped the ward.
- PTK hospital project consisting of construction of three wards and furnishing and equipment were funded by: Assist Resettlement & Renaissance; Serendip Children's Home, UK; Children Hunger Relief Fund, UK; Aavarthana, UK; MIOT London & Wales; Australian Medical Aid Foundation.
- Conducted a Cataract Surgery Camp for the benefit of 75 patients in Ratnapura with the financial assistance of Solihull Junior School, UK.
- Conducted a mass Cataract Surgery Camp in May/June 2016 for the benefit of 500 patients in Vavuniya for patients from Mannar, Kilinochchi, Mullaithivu, Vavuniya North and South with the financial assistance of Kaarai welfare Society, UK, Anbalayam, and Gods Own Children Foundation both from Australia, Solihull Junior School, UK. and Assist RR, UK.
- Conducted two Cataract Surgery Camps for the benefit of 200 patients in Mullaithivu with the financial assistance of Solihull Junior School, UK in July 2016 and Saiva Munnetra Sangam, UK in March 2016.

Livelihood Assurances

- We have provided livelihood assurances to a number of families in Mullaithivu;

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- Donated nearly 60 bicycles to families and students in Batticaloa, Trincomale and Mullaithivu;
- Distributed clothes to nearly 120 families in Mullivaikal East and another 100 families in Valayarmadam near Mullivaikal;
- Distribution of clothes received from Malaysia and UK to displaced people living in four camps in Sampoor;
- Built two toilets in Mullivaikal East for the benefit of local villagers;
- Ramakrishna Mission supplied solar powered lamps through Assist RR at Mullivaikal pre-school opening ceremony;
- Facilitated building commode toilets and providing livelihood assistance to disabled people in Mulliathivu district;
- Built a two-bed house to a family in Mullivaikal, who have been living in a tent;
- Constructed a well in 38th Colony, Batticaloa for the benefit of the villagers;
- Built a house for a family in Mulliyavalai and was handed over on 07 March 2015;
- Donated 500 solar powered lanterns to families who had no access to electricity in Vanni.
- Built 5 toilets and renovated 3 wells in Sampoor.
- Built 55 semi-permanent shelters and toilets for the IDP families of Sampoor, who were being re-settled in their villages in Sampoor in September 2015. These were funded by Shri Kanagathurkkai Amman Temple, Ealing, Middlesex (20), TTVK, Singapore (12), Assist RR, UK (19), Sivanarulillam, UK (4).
- Completed 100 permanent toilets in Sampoor during the 2nd phase of resettlement with the support of Diaspora. IMHO USA funded 50 toilets, Saiva Munnetra Sangam funded 8 toilets and MIOT Wales funded another 13 toilets. Assist RR funded the remaining 24 toilets.
- Constructing another 100 shelters in Sampoor with the support of IMHO USA, Ceylon Tamil Sangam, USA, and many Diaspora Tamils from the UK and Singapore.