

Assist

Resettlement & Renaissance

Charity registered in England & Wales – Reg. No. 1151025



Present Sampoor and the needs of displaced people

During April/May 2014, Assist RR visited many remote villages in Trincomalee district including Kunithivu & Sulaikuda in Sampoor, Vethathivu in Muthur and Thennamaravadi. Nearly 1850 families were displaced from Sampoor in 2006. About 1200 families have been living in four Welfare Centres around Sampoor including Kiliveddy, Kaddaiparichan, Paddithidal and Manalchenai. and another 650 families have been living with relatives in the East and North. In some villages of Sampoor, resettlement is currently taking place. In January 2014, 350 families were resettled in Kunithivu, Sulaikuda and a part of Sampoor. However, there are nearly 850 families still living in camps and to be resettled.

Assist RR visited Sampoor area on 24 April to assess the needs in the area and went to Kunithivu first and saw the issues facing the recently resettled people. They also visited the school in the village, where two schools are currently functioning, as the primary school in Sulaikuda was destroyed. These two schools are functioning in a building built by an INGO and its size is 20'*60'. It was difficult to see the condition in which the children are learning. A number of buildings of this school were badly damaged and need to be rebuilt. There are a number of children who are orphans and many more have lost either their fathers or mothers.



Three Badly damaged buildings of Kunithivu Navalar Vidyalayam in Sampoor

Grades 1, 2, 3 & 4 are in one classroom of the size of 20'*20'. Whenever and wherever they find shadows outside buildings, teachers would take the children to these areas and conduct lessons. There is another class (Grade 5) that has been taking place in the Principal's office (size of 20'*10') by partitioning it with

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cabinets. Grade 9 is being conducted in a makeshift building that was badly damaged by the war. Assist RR wondered what would happen if it rains outside. There is certainly a lot of disruption to their education due to lack of space there. **Can the Diaspora Tamils help these unfortunate?** Photos are included below.



Children's education is disrupted due to lack of space in the school

Assist RR believes that there is an urgent need to rebuild at least one building at a cost of around Rs 1.6 Mn. Education Department has confirmed that they have no funds to rebuild this school in the near future. Assist RR happened to have a suitcase full of clothes and donated them to the boys of this school.

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Military has built a primary school for the children of Sulaikuda, which is expected to be opened soon. The civil coordinating officer Thilak Ranaweera made a request through Muthur Zone Education Director, Mr Manssor, for Assist RR to build a fence to this school. Assist RR provided Rs 20,000 to the principal for it.

Living Conditions in Sampoor, Kunithivu & Sulaikuda

Displaced people from Sampoor are still living in very difficult conditions in four camps. Assist RR had an opportunity to visit a camp in Kaddaiparichan and found that they are living in small sheds covered by metal sheets. Photos are given below.



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Living conditions of displaced people of Sampoor in Kaddaiparichan

Even though they have been struggling to survive, what they asked Assist RR is help for their children to learn. **They asked Assist RR to provide exercise books and pens and if possible help them with tuitions.** Children from these camps attend the schools at Chenaiyur as described below. Further to the requests of the residents of Kaddaiparichan camp, Assist RR went back to Sampoor Maha Vidyalayam next day and provided exercise books and pens worth Rs 50,000 to O/L and A/L students.



Exercise and pens donated to students at Sampoor Maha Vidyalayam



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Damaged houses in Kunithivu requiring either repair or rebuild

As the people of Kunithivu and Choolaikuda were resettled only recently, people are facing various difficulties in normalising their lives. Many houses are still without roofs and many are jobless. However, some international NGOs and rehabilitation Ministry have been providing temporary shelters and livelihood assistances such as fishing nets to needy families. **When Assist RR spoke to the this villagers, they asked Assist RR to provide water pumps and funds for planting trees such as coconut, banana, etc.** Assist RR should consider supporting these families and assist them to start their lives.

We have been informed that 22 permanent houses have been built in Sulaikuda by Habitat using funds provided by International Indian Film Academy, with the assistance of the Military. Eighty six houses were also built in Chenaiyur using funds provided by the Rehabilitation Ministry, Habitat through INGOs with the assistance of the military. A few photos taken at the village are given above. **It would cost around £2500 only to build a two-bed house and around £250 to provide a water pump.** They really need our assistance. Can we do something about it?

Assist RR also realised that these displaced unfortunate people, still languishing in the camps, would benefit from the donation of clothes to them. Assist RR has already shipped a consignment of clothes from the UK. Assist RR's Malaysian Representative, Mr Kana Thurairajah, also arranged for a shipment of nearly 1200 pieces of clothes from Malaysia to be donated to these people. **We could do with more clothes though.**

Sampoor Maha Vidyalayam & Sampoor Sri Murugan Vidyalayam

The above two schools, which served this village before the war in Sampoor, are now functioning temporarily in the hostel of Chenaiyur Maha Vidyalayam. The students are coming from the camps around Chenaiyur. Both schools are functioning in the same premises but without basic facilities such as suitable desks, chairs, teaching aids, laboratory facilities, and library. Furniture for these schools were borrowed from other schools including damaged furniture since the reopening of these schools in June 2010. Desks and chairs suitable for primary school children are being used for the secondary students which create Knee Joint pain and make it very uncomfortable for them to learn. **The principals requested Assist RR to help them purchase nearly 50 sets of desks and chairs.** After seeing how these children are learning using improper furniture, Assist RR believes that they should be helped by donating new desks and chairs. It costs only Rs 4000 per a set of desk and chair suitable for secondary students. Please see photos below.

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Students using improper furniture to their heights

When we spoke to the students during the books donation, we learnt that some of the A/L & O/L students, including 4 girls, have been walking to the school from Kunithivu, which is nearly 5 kms. Assist RR went back to Kunithivu on the way back from Amparai and donated 10 bicycles to these students from Kunithivu.



Bicycles donated to 10 students from Kunithivu

Assist RR believes that the displaced and recently resettled people in Sampoor desperately need our assistance. Could we please do something to alleviate their sufferings?

Working towards enhancing the lives of innocent victims of war in Sri Lanka
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