



Desperate Need for Water in Vanni - Appeal for Donations to Construct New, Deepen and Refurbish Wells

It is known that there has been little rain in the Northern province since January 2014, which was not sufficient for farming activities there. As a result, farmers lost not only their crops during Maha season cultivation but also could not able to engage in highland cultivation (crops other than paddy). Due to little or no rain since January 2014, farmers were also not able to carry out Jala season cultivation (paddy cultivation using tank water).

It is understood that drought caused by lack of rain this year is worse than the drought experienced in 2012. This year's drought is causing extreme hardship to farmers as they are unable to engage in their farming activities and support their families. It is also forced families to struggle for drinking water. Many wells have dried up and have become unusable, as can be seen in photos below. Although NP has been supplying water using bowsers to many villagers, it is understood that NP is struggling to cope up with the demand due to lack of funds.

The current drought has increased the need for more new wells, deepening wells and refurbishing existing war damaged wells. Hundreds of families have requested their respective District Secretaries in the Northern Province for financial assistance to have access to water by providing wells. Children's Hunger Relief Fund (CHRF), UK, recently were forwarded these requests and were requested to help the people of Nedunkerni in Vavuniya district. The request includes assistance to build 55 new wells, deepen 59 wells and refurbish 46 war damaged wells in nedunkerni alone. There are also requests from Mullaithivu district to assist similar number of wells.





Further to discussions with CHRF and due to the overwhelming demand for wells in Vanni, Assist RR have decided to join forces with CHRF and participate in providing wells to families who desperately need them. Assist RR in partnership with CHRF therefore would like to appeal to Diaspora Tamils to consider helping the unfortunate people in Vanni by helping to have access to water. These people have already suffered enough as a result of the war and are suffering further due to lack of or no water. Could we please help them by providing water?

The cost of providing new wells and improving wells are as follows:

- Constructing new wells - Around £1000 / well;
- Deepening and Refurbishing wells that were built without inner walls - £500 - £750 / well
- Deepening wells that were built with inner walls - Around £200 / well
- Refurbishing war damaged wells - £200 - £750 / well

Based on the above estimates, we are hopeful that Diaspora Tamils will provide support to help help the needy in Vanni. Please kindly consider and donate generously. If a well was funded by a single person/family, a plaque can be installed in memory of their loved ones.

Typical Families selected as beneficiaries for new and deepening wells in Vanni

Requests for this assistance have been received from hundreds of families from Vavuniya and Mullaithivu districts with various backgrounds including families headed by widows / widowers, families with disabled members, and able families living below the poverty line. As the demand is huge, it would be extremely difficult to assist all the families in need. It is therefore decided to deepen wells in the first instance. However, if the necessary funds are raised, new wells will also be considered. Photos of some families are attached below.





Wells funded in 2013 by CHRF and its Benefits

CHRF funded nearly 200 wells since 2012. The result of this assistance in the past two years can be seen in the photos below. Your assistance will certainly make a difference to the lives of many needy and unfortunate families in Vanni as seen from the photos below of a beneficiary family in the past.

