CandleAid Lanka

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09.03.2026

To: All CandleAid Sponsors & Donors & Well-wishers

3rd UPDATE RE THE FUTURE OF CANDLEAID

Further to our last two communications dated 11 Oct 2024 and 20 March 2025, it is imperative that I convey the recent decisions made by the Board of Directors on the above subject. As clearly notified to all our stakeholders, be it donors, sponsors, well-wishers, coordinators or beneficiairies, CandleAid is set to downsize wef 01 January 2027. We have been in operation for 31 years and the time has come to limit the scope of our reach. The foremost is the fact that Dil and I now need to reduce the responsibilities we have carried in running CandleAid all these years, due to many personal reasons. Sadly, we could not find any person/s who could devote the time and energy required for this severely demanding task of taking CandleAid into the future.

We do hope our network of donors and sponsors will understand the above and continue to support us in the future with the work we intend to carry out beyond 2027. The Board of Directors have made the following decisions:

1. **The Education sponsorship programme** albeit reduced in numbers, will continue sponsoring GCE A'Level students and undergraduates. There may be changes within the programme which will be communicated in due course. Sponsors who are assisting large numbers of students have been informed and with their agreement, we are gradually reducing their commitments to maintain the desired numbers.

2. **The Special Food Fund** whereby dry rations to the value of LKR 10,000 are given to selected low-income families and the provision of mid-day meals to school children in mostly rural schools will continue on a funds available basis.

3. **The Sigiri Trust Fund** will continue as it is being done now, mainly run remotely by one of our retired staff, whereby assistance is given towards major medical needs.

4. **The Modern English Programme** too may continue as it is being done now.

5. All other programmes such as the Gift A Meal programme, Mother & Child project, Cancer patients' Assistance programme, Kidney Dialysis Assistance programme, Self-empowerment of Women programme etc will be discontinued wef 01 July 2026.

6. CandleAid office will be closed down wef 01 January 2027. As such, out of the 11 remaining staff, around 4 will be retained to run the remote operation whereby they will be working from home within a web-based office set up for the purpose.

7. All staff members who are to be discontinued have been adequately notified and letters of termination as advised by our secretaries, will be issued in the near future. Any employees who are able to secure alternate employment will receive our fullest cooperation. All employees will receive a gift of appreciation for the services rendered to CandleAid.

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8. Additionally, all beneficiaries have been notified that their assistance will come to an end by 31 December 2026, in the case of students below GCE Ordinary Level, and by 30 June 2026 in the case of all other programmes.

9. The current Board of Directors will continue to run CandleAid, while Board Director, Mrs Yasmin Weerasuriya and Executive Director, Dil Jayawardena will oversee the smooth operation of the remote office.

The above are the salient decisions that have been made at this point of time. It is certainly not an easy task physically and emotionally to curtail the scope of CandleAid especially as we have functioned for 31 solid years without blemish but with great success and personal satisfaction. Yet like all things in life, we are required to make hard yet necessary decisions to suit the evolving circumstances of life both in corporate and personal aspects. We are doing this with deep respect and utmost gratitude to all of you who kept us afloat all these years. Without your steady and unstinted support and awareness of our work we could not have steered this ship for 31 solid years and achieved amazing results beyond our imagination. Dil and I along with our Board of Directors thank you profusely for giving strength to our work.

I am sure some of you will have valid questions that need answers and concerns that merit clarification. We will be ever so willing to engage with you one to one should such a need arise.

We will continue to keep you updated of the progress as time goes by.

With thanks and best wishes.

Blue skies

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CC: CandleAid Board of Directors