



**(Formerly AFLAC International)  
Established in February 1995**

A Government Approved Charity  
Incorporated as a Limited Liability Company  
In Sri Lanka in April 1998

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**TWENTY SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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*"It is better by far to light a solitary candle than to curse the darkness"*

**CANDLEAID LANKA**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Founder President**  
Capt Elmo Jayawardena

Priya Cooray	-	Vice President/Director
Dil Jayawardena	-	Executive Director
Razeen Sally	-	Director
Himali Senanayake	-	Director
Mevan Jayawardena	-	Director
Yasmin Weerasuriya	-	Director
Aruna Fernando	-	Director

The Founder President and all Directors function in a voluntary and honorary capacity.

**Bankers:**

Hatton National Bank  
Moratuwa Branch  
143/1 New Galle Road  
Moratuwa  
Sri Lanka

Nations Trust Bank  
Moratuwa Branch  
89 New Galle Road  
Moratuwa  
Sri Lanka

**Auditors:**

B.R. De Silva & Co.  
Chartered Accountants  
22/4 Vijaya Kumaranatunga Mawatha  
Colombo 5, Sri Lanka

**Corporate Secretaries:**

Corporate Services Ltd  
216 De Saram Place  
Colombo 10  
Sri Lanka

**Regd. Address** : CandleAid Lanka, 45 Cornelius Place, Korlawella, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

**Office Address** : 21/4 Dharmaratne Avenue, Rawathawatte, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

**Telephone** : (+94) 11 2642526 / 2642415

**Email** : admin@candleaid.org

**Fax** : (+94) 11 2642139

**Website** : www.candleaid.org

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of CandleAid Lanka

This year too we have collectively navigated CandleAid with bellowing sails. No, we did not have any patches of bad weather except an occasional rain cloud and the progress made through the year was smooth and totally satisfying. The recipients of all the programmes we ran through the year were given the best possible assistance by the CandleAid staff and all the volunteer coordinators of our team, both local and those based abroad.

In February of 2025 the organisation completes 30 years of operations. Here I need to profusely thank all our sponsors who individually and collectively gifted the finances for us to take care of people in need. This was a world-wide group who came from all corners of this planet. It sure was kindness without boundaries, both from friends and strangers.

We come to the end of another financial year, feeling deep satisfaction for what we have achieved in serving humanity. Thank you one and all. We cannot run this race alone, but we can sure reach the finish line with the support given so spontaneously by each and every one of you.

Thank you.  
Blue skies

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elmo', with a horizontal line underneath.

Capt Elmo Jayawardena  
Founder President  
CandleAid Lanka

## **CANDLEAID REPRESENTATIVES**

CandleAid is represented in thirteen cities overseas. The primary role of these representatives is to promote the cause of CandleAid in the regions/cities they represent and source donor funds for its humanitarian programmes and projects in Sri Lanka.

### **Amsterdam**

Ms Carla Horn - Janter Gouwweg 22, 1412 DB Naarden, Netherlands

### **Calgary**

Mr & Mrs Kithsiri Perera - 10647 Shillington Crescent SW, Calgary, Alberta T2W 0N8, Canada

### **California & Other US Cities**

Mr Lakshan Fernando - 27110, Fond Du Lac Road, Ranch Palos Verdes, CA 90275, U.S.A.

### **Eastbourne**

Mr. Christopher Perera - 166 Ringwood Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN 22 8UD, U.K.

### **Frankfurt**

Ms Claudia Frey - Normannenweg 18, D63128 Dietzenbach, Germany

### **Hong Kong**

Mr. Jaliya Pilimalawwe - Flat A, Floor 11, Block 5, Caribbean Coast, 2 Kin Tung Road, Tung Chung, NT, Hong Kong

### **Melbourne**

Ms Asha de Silva - 76 Monbrae Circuit, Narrewarren North, Victoria 3804, Australia

### **Perth**

Ms Yolande de Silva - 318 Fish Street, 269 Hardy Road, Cloverdale, WA 6105, Australia

### **Singapore**

Ms Heshani Nesfield - 99 Meyer Road, # 02-01 The Sovereign, Singapore 437920

### **Sweden**

Mr & Mrs Harald Wessman - Sigurdvagen 9A, SE-182 54 Djursholm, Sweden

### **Sydney**

Ms Betty Miranda - 04 Doulton Drive, Cherrybrook NSW 2126, Australia

### **Toronto**

Mr. Godwin Fernandez - 551 Shipka Court, Mississauga, Ontario L5B 3T4, Canada

### **Vancouver**

Capt. Wayne Dannhauer - 2038 Garibaldi Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B2, Canada

## **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

**Middle East** - Mr. Menaka Viraj Fernando

**North America** - Mr. Gerard Wijeyaratne - 927 S. 2nd Street, Philadelphia, PA

**INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HEALTH (CANCER PROGRAMME)** - Ms. Sabine Dias

## **INTRODUCTION**

CandleAid Lanka (formerly AFLAC International) is a non-profit charity that commenced operations on 6 February 1995 with the primary objective of alleviating poverty in Sri Lanka by providing financial assistance in the areas of education, food, shelter, health, and community development.

CandleAid is modelled on the premise that most people are capable of assisting a disadvantaged person in some way or the other. In that context, it functions as the link between someone's basic need and another's generosity.

## **REGISTRATIONS**

CandleAid Lanka was incorporated as a limited liability company in Sri Lanka on 2 April 1998 bearing Registration No. N (A) 671A under the Companies Act No. 17 of 1982.

CandleAid Lanka was also registered on 21 February 2000 as a Non-Governmental Organization, bearing Registration No. FL 03701 under Voluntary Social Service Organizations (Registration & Supervision) Act No. 31 of 1980 as amended by Act No. 8 of 1998 under the Ministry of Social Services in Sri Lanka.

CandleAid Lanka (formerly AFLAC International) was declared as an Approved Charity in Sri Lanka on 12 November 2001 under the Inland Revenue Act No. 38 of 2000.

The Companies Act No. 7 of 2007 required that all existing companies be re-registered and therefore CandleAid was re-registered on 21 January 2009 obtaining new Registration No. GA 201.

## **OFFICE LOCATION AND STAFFING**

At the beginning of FY 23/24, CandleAid engaged nine employees on its permanent payroll and two on contract basis at a total cost of LKR 493,775 per month (including the statutory EPF and ETF payments). This translates to an average cost of LKR 44,888 per staff member. Also, a special staff allowance of LKR 10,000 was given to all 11 employees monthly.

There were two permanent employee resignations during the year, including the Head of Health Programme and the Administrative Assistant. One contract employee resignation that of the Coordinating Secretary also took place during the year.

The total number was kept at 10 with the recruitment of two senior staff on contract basis. By the date of this report, which is beyond the financial year-end, there were two more senior staff recruitments increasing the total count to 12.

The Executive Director functioning in an honorary and voluntary capacity as the de facto Chief Executive Officer, assumes overall executive responsibility for office administration and all operations of CandleAid. This will continue until such time a suitable full time Chief Executive Officer or Chief Operation Officer is engaged by CandleAid.

## **BANKING ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Donations:**

All incoming donor funds are received through the following Sri Lanka Rupee Current Accounts.

- 🏦 Hatton National Bank, Moratuwa Branch - Account No. 022010223682
- 🏦 Nations Trust Bank, Moratuwa Branch - Account No. 014100008377

### **Donations through Credit Card payments:**

CandleAid has established a 'Payment Gateway' at Dialog Axiata PLC to facilitate Donors opting to make payments by credit card. Proceeds are credited to the above-mentioned current account at Nations Trust Bank.

### **Disbursement of financial assistance to beneficiaries:**

CandleAid has also established a relationship with National Development Bank, Moratuwa to make investments with better interest rates for the funds maintained by different sponsors with CandleAid, where the interest has been allocated as the sponsorship payment.

### **Investment of CandleAid Funds:**

LKR 25 million was invested in Treasury Bills through Acuity Securities Limited, a central bank appointed primary dealer for Treasury Bills and Bonds. The balance was invested in Fixed Deposits mainly with Peoples Bank, DFCC Bank and Nations Trust Bank.

Short-term funds required for disbursement within a one-year time frame are invested in the form of Repurchase Agreements (Repos) at Nations Trust bank.

### **Audited Accounts:**

CandleAid has consistently maintained high standards of transparency and accountability in all its operations. The annual accounts are audited by B.R. de Silva & Co., a reputed Firm of Chartered Accountants since inception and displayed in CandleAid's website [www.candleaid.org](http://www.candleaid.org)

The detailed Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 forms part of this report.

## SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

During the year under review, total receipts mainly in the form of donations aggregated to LKR 91,673,702 compared to LKR 106,377,332 in the previous year. This included donations for the three on-going sponsorship programmes: Education, Health, and Gift-A-Meal, as well as donations/contributions for other projects, administration levy recoveries and interest earned on investments.

Total payments amounted to LKR 79,222,893 compared to LKR 88,216,624 in the previous year. This included disbursements to sponsored beneficiaries in the three sponsorship programmes and other projects, administrative expenses, taxation, and bank charges.

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

A review of CandleAid's operations and a description of on-going projects carried out by the organization during the year under review are as follows.

### 1.0 EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The student sponsorships, library project, book project and other education related projects come within the purview of the education programme. Total donations received for the education programme during FY23/24 amounted to LKR 29,477,428 compared to LKR 30,083,665 in the previous year.

#### 1.1 Student Sponsorships

This is CandleAid's flagship programme where financial assistance is extended to students from low-income families. Monthly disbursements under this sponsorship programme are credited directly to students' bank accounts.

The cumulative total number of students sponsored under this programme from inception to 31 March 2024 is 4669. This included 981 active sponsorships as on 31 March 2024, of which 370 were university students. Local and foreign sponsors numbered 353, with several individuals and institutions sponsoring multiple students. There were 1669 student coordinators supporting the programme.

Candle Aid received sponsorship donations aggregating to LKR 26,876,463 in 2023/24 (FY 22/23 -27,785,815). Disbursements to students amounted to LKR 24,987,174 in 2023/24 (FY 22/23 - 23,035,006). The excess of donations received over disbursements represent donations received during the financial year and are due for disbursement in the following year.

## **1.2 Library Project**

CandleAid launched this programme in 1998 to supply books and other items required in setting up libraries in schools and community centres, mostly in rural areas. Several individuals and corporate entities have funded these libraries. Such donations have amounted to LKR 180,138.00 during FY23/24.

During the year under review, CandleAid opened 05 libraries at a cost of LKR 359,782.68 bringing the total number of libraries since commencement of programme to 258. Out of this 142 have been General libraries, 38 are libraries in the North and East, 21 are Maths laboratories and 57 are English Books Only (EBO) libraries.

## **1.3 Book Project**

Donations for the book project amounted to LKR 1,280,868. This has been an annual event where exercise books and stationery items are distributed to students in Moratuwa and a few other locations. A sum of LKR 1,118,168 was disbursed in FY 23/24 to a total of 493 students. Which covered students from Moratuwa, Panadura, Mathugama, Mannar, Ranna, Matara, Ippologama, Medawachchiya, Kurunegala, Deniyaya, Polonnaruwa and Hatton.

## **2.0 HEALTH PROGRAMME**

The health programme consists of the Cancer Patient Assistance Programme, R&D Special Fund, Sigiri Trust Fund, and Kidney dialysis assistance programme. There were a few other health related disbursements outside these four segments.

Donations received for the health programme during FY 23/24 amounted to LKR 10,684,154. A sum of LKR 12,992,620 was disbursed during the year under review. The excess of disbursements over receipts represents donations received during the last financial year but disbursed during this year.

Details of the different initiatives are outlined below:

### **2.1 Cancer Patient Assistance Programme**

This programme identifies and assists poor cancer patients to procure at least some of their essential needs through a monthly donation of LKR 3,000. The scale of the programme has expanded progressively over the years, to include 1706 cancer patients since inception.

During FY 23/24, 267 patients received assistance from 93 local and foreign donors. The programme was successfully carried out with the assistance of 262 coordinators.

During FY 23/24, LKR 9,782,918 was received as donations for the Cancer Patient Assistance programme. Disbursements to patients amounted to LKR 10,497,000.



## **2.2 R & D SPECIAL FUND**

Established in 2015, the fund constitutes special donations aggregating to LKR 5,530,478 received from a family closely associated with CandleAid since inception. The donors wished the funds to be utilised to serve the needs of cancer patients and in special cases their immediate family members, over and above the Cancer Patient Assistance Programme.

The total number of people assisted under this special fund as of 31 March 2024 was 210, while the number of new beneficiaries assisted during the period under review was 06. The total donation for the above fund since 2015 amounted to LKR 5,530,478. The total utilization from the R & D Special Fund as of 31 March 2024 is LKR 5,509,492.

## **2.3 SIGIRI TRUST FUND**

CandleAid in partnership with the Sigiri Trust, has established a project to financially assist patients receiving treatment from government medical institutions for lifesaving surgical and medical interventions. All patients are thoroughly screened to authenticate their medical condition, family background and financial status.

Since its inception in July 2018 up to end of March 2024, total donations received to the fund amount to LKR 25,320,658. During the same period financial assistance aggregating to LKR 23,049,000 has been disbursed to a total of 157 patients.

During FY 22/23 LKR 7,154,000 was received as a monthly contribution from one of the Trustees. LKR 6,740,683 was disbursed to 39 patients suffering various life-threatening ailments from different parts of the country. These patients have undergone lifesaving medical procedures such as bypass surgery and organ transplantation. Some patients were assisted to procure prostheses and assistive equipment to improve the quality of their lives.

While a few patients have succumbed to their illnesses, many others are leading healthier lives having overcome the debilitating effects of serious health issues.

## **2.4 Kidney Dialysis Assistance Programme**

This is a new initiative that was launched in January 2021 to assist chronic kidney disease patients (CKD) needing regular dialysis. Patients are compelled to get dialysed in the private sector hospitals over and above the free quota given by Government hospitals. CandleAid donates the cost of one round of dialysis per month per patient for a period of six months at a cost of LKR 7,000 - LKR 9,000 per session. The feasibility of continuing beyond 6 months for any patient will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis based on several factors.

CandleAid has disbursed LKR 1,352,000 for the F/Y 23/24. A total of 76 patients have been facilitated through the kidney dialysis assistance programme and LKR 3,453,950 has been disbursed among them out of the total donation of LKR 3,987,768 received for the programme.

### **3.0 FOOD PROGRAMME**

#### **3.1 Gift-A-Meal (GAM) Sponsorships**

The Gift-A-Meal Programme supports destitute families who struggle to provide daily meals for their children due to extremely low-income levels. Many of the beneficiaries are daily wage earners, while others face unforeseen crises that have severely impacted their ability to sustain their families.

Through this programme, CandleAid offers a monthly disbursement of LKR 3,000 to each family, providing support for a period of one year. Since the programme's inception, a total of 871 families have received assistance as of 31st March 2024. During FY 23/24, 178 families were supported by CandleAid on a monthly basis, thanks to the generosity of 101 local and foreign donors and the dedicated efforts of 141 coordinators.

During FY 23/24 CandleAid received donations totalling LKR 7,032,092 for the Food Programme, and disbursed LKR 7,008,434.

#### **4.0 SPECIAl FOOD FUND (DRY RATIONS PROJECT)**

In July 2022 CandleAid launched a special food program where selected families living below the poverty line were given dry rations to the value of LKR 10,000.

During the financial year we have given 299 families the gift of dry rations that sufficed for many days. All the distributions were handled by volunteer CandleAid coordinators spread across Sri Lanka, who ensured all CandleAid procedures were adhered to, accounting for every rupee spent.

Additionally, CandleAid gave meals to school children, a cooked meal mostly prepared at the school itself. The schools that received meals were from Ambagaswewa, Ampara, Moratuwa, Waikkala, Mirissa, Kilinochchi, Vovuniya, Weligama, Imaduwa, Mawanella, and Kandy.

During FY 23/24 CandleAid received donations totalling LKR 3,285,594 for the Special Food Programme, and disbursed LKR 3,886,950.

### **5.0 MOTHER & CHILD PROGRAMME**

The Mother & Child Project (MCP) initiated by CandleAid Lanka in February 2021, has successfully provided ongoing support for over three years. This initiative offers financial assistance to mothers who are widowed, abandoned by their spouses or single helping them supplement their income with a monthly grant of LKR 5,000 for a duration of 12 months. During the financial year 2023/24, generous donations amounting to LKR 2,248,870.52 were received, enabling 45 families to be enrolled in the project. With a total commitment of LKR 2,540,000 for this period, the MCP has supported 147 families since its inception up until 31st March 2024.

## **6.0 ELDERS WE CARE PROGRAMME**

The Elders We Care Project (EWC) was initiated in April 2023 by one of CandleAid's staunch / devoted supporters. The EWC fund was established to provide assistance to elderly citizens facing challenging circumstances, including those without children, those abandoned by their families, parents whose children are genuinely unable to provide full support due to low-income situations, and elderly individuals with poor health requiring medical care. Enrolled families receive a monthly allowance of LKR 5,000, initially for a duration of one year.

Donations of LKR 1,672,531.95(with LKR 1,500,000 FD) have been received for this project for the FY 23/24 and 05 families have been enrolled to the system during this period with a total commitment of LKR 300,000. A total of 05 families have been assisted from inception of the project up to 31st March 2024. Total payment of LKR 225,000.00 was paid to the families within the FY 23/24.

## **7.0 OTHER GENERAL PROJECTS**

Broadly grouped together under this category are several small projects that do not warrant special mention except the below two funds, Dr & Mrs William Chan Fund, with considerable amount of donations and disbursements and the R&D Fund which is described more fully in section 2.2.

### **7.1 DR WILLIAM CHAN & MRS CHAN TSOK FAH FUND**

This Fund was established with a view to address the needs of under privileged people in Sri Lanka who do not fall within the scope of CandleAid's sponsored and ongoing programmes. The year under review caused grave financial issues in view of the critical economic downturn and the political instability Sri Lankans faced and continue to face.

The above fund assisted many people from low-income backgrounds to fulfil their crying needs in areas of education, health, food, and other spheres of activity. Namely, financial assistance to patients needing specific medical requirements, students needing financial assistance to meet their expenses such as tuition fees, boarding and lodging costs etc. Further, poverty-stricken families with serious unemployment issues and dwindling livelihoods, were assisted for their daily quota of food.

During FY 23/24 LKR 913,263 was received as donations while LKR 1,343,696 was disbursed to beneficiaries.