



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

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

**TWENTY SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

"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

Dayantha De Mel	-	Vice President & Director/Finance
Priya Cooray	-	Vice President/Director
Dil Jayawardena	-	Executive Director
Razeen Sally	-	Director
Himali Senanayake	-	Director
Mevan Jayawardena	-	Director
Yasmin Weerasuriya	-	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

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Website : www.candleaid.org

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We thought times were hard with Covid. We did our best in 2020/2021 to survive as best as we could to serve the people in need who depended on CandleAid. As we were raising our heads from the Corona pandemic Sri Lanka got completely wrapped in political complications. Such issues always result in battering the poor who are the main victims affected by the rising cost of living.

As I write this message the 2021/2022 period has completely ruined the country's economy and prices of food items have gone through the roof. The prime after-effect of the Covid was loss of employment for a lot of people and the daily wage earner was the hardest hit. That is nothing compared to what people are suffering today seeking a square meal.

This is the pitch we went into bat with an ever-increasing workload for CandleAid in its efforts to give some solace to the poor.

Sponsors attached to our relief programmes and donors supported all our initiatives to raise funds to tide over demanding times. I must first express my deepest gratitude to them. CandleAid cannot function without the constant and consistent generosity of our network of supporters worldwide. May you all be blessed.

Next is our brigade of volunteer coordinators, 1400 plus spread all over Sri Lanka and our Branch Representatives and project assistants from different parts of the world. They do CandleAid work without any monetary reward purely sharing their kindness to give life to the organization to help people in need.

Whichever way we look at CandleAid, everyone who is associated with this grassroots organization can feel proud of the service they provide to suffering masses in Sri Lanka.

Words fail me to express adequately how grateful I am to each and every one who is part of CandleAid. There is a student who needs a scholarship. There is a cancer patient who needs financial assistance. There is a destitute family that needs food. Apart from all these CandleAid has many other projects that function to open doors for those who knock.

Let us continue walking our path of kindness.

Thank you
Blue skies



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. Hareen Stembo - HSBC Bank Middle East, Dubai, U.A.E.

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

The office is located at 21/4 Dharmaratne Avenue, Rawathawatte, Moratuwa and these premises are made available to CandleAid on a rent-free basis.

At the beginning of FY21/22, CandleAid engaged nine employees on its permanent payroll and two senior staff on contract basis at a cost of LKR 364,425 per month (including the statutory EPF and ETF payments). This translates to an average cost of LKR 33,130 per staff member. There were two senior staff resignations during the year. The total number dropped to 10 with the recruitment of one contract employee as the Coordinating officer. CandleAid has engaged a valuable human resource at senior level on an honorary and volunteer basis. Currently staff requirements are being assessed to meet the evolving work demands.

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 HSBC, Colombo to facilitate Donors opting to make payments by credit card. Proceeds are credited to the abovementioned current account at Nations Trust Bank.

Disbursement of financial assistance to beneficiaries:

CandleAid has also established a relationship with Peoples Bank, Moratuwa to channel the greater proportion of disbursements to beneficiary bank accounts through the SLIP system.

Investment of CandleAid Funds:

Accumulated funds since inception in 1995 are currently invested in DFCC Bank in the form of fixed deposits.

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

The detailed Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 forms part of this report.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

During the year under review, total receipts mainly in the form of donations aggregated to LKR 72,562,037 compared to LKR 59,112,006 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 62,789,170 compared to LKR 55,965,565 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 FY21/22 amounted to LKR 23,431,114 compared to LKR 19,511,133 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 2022 is 4154. This included 993 active sponsorships as on 31 March 2022, of which 358 were university students. Local and foreign sponsors numbered 367, with several individuals and institutions sponsoring multiple students. There were 1263 student coordinators supporting the programme.

CandleAid received sponsorship donations aggregating to LKR18,428,242 (FY 20/21 - 18,534,881). Disbursements to students amounted to LKR18,801,196 (FY 20/21 - 17,079,100). The excess of disbursements over donations received during the financial year are mainly from the carried forward balances from previous financial years.

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 3,043,460 during FY21/22.

During the year under review, CandleAid opened eleven libraries at a cost of LKR 934,912 bringing the total number of libraries since commencement of programme to 224. Out of this 139 have been General libraries, 38 are libraries in the North and East, 21 are Maths laboratories and 26 are English Books Only (EBO) libraries.

1.3 Book Project

Donations for book project amounted to LKR 363,411. 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 LKR342,927 was disbursed in FY 21/22 to 197 students from Moratuwa, 55 from Udugama, 48 from Panadura, 128 from Mathugama and 27 from Hatton and 155 from Kalawewa. Another project was carried out in Kilinochchi where we contributed of LKR 30,000 towards Don Bosco Institute, where they held a Christmas programme which provided school bags & stationary items to the students.

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 21/22 amounted to LKR 8,532,338. A sum of LKR 9,167,745 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 2,000. The scale of the programme has expanded progressively over the years, to include 1477 cancer patients since inception.

During FY 21/22, 361 patients received assistance from 93 local and foreign donors. The programme was successfully carried out with the assistance of 307 coordinators.

During FY 21/22, LKR 7,652,911 was received as donations for the Cancer Patient Assistance programme. Disbursements to patients amounted to LKR 8,018,000.

2.2 R & D Special Fund

Established in 2015, the fund constitutes special donations aggregating to LKR 4,427,663 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 2022 was 194, while the number of new beneficiaries assisted during the period under review was 08. The total donation for the above fund since 2015 amounted to LKR 5,530,478 and we have received LKR 652,905 during the year under review. The total utilization from the special fund as of 31 March 2022 is LKR 4,692,318, while the disbursements during the year under review amounted to LKR 227,737.

2.3 Sigiri Trust Fund

CandleAid in partnership with Sigiri Trust, carries out a project aimed at financially assisting selected patients receiving treatment in government owned/operated medical institutions for the more serious illnesses.

Total donations received into the fund from inception to 31.03.2022 amounts to LKR 12,166,658. This includes LKR 4,678,000 being donations received during FY 21/22. During the same period, financial assistance aggregating to LKR 9,450,114 has been disbursed to 79 patients. This includes 24 patients receiving assistance totalling LKR 3,505,996 during FY 21/22, based on recommendations of medical specialists. These patients underwent lifesaving medical procedures such as heart bypass and organ transplantation. Some patients requiring prostheses and assistive equipment needed to lead an active life were also accommodated.

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 LKR7,000 - 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 967,600 for 25 patients up to 31st March 2022 out of LKR 1,908,665 received by way of donations. The allocation for 25 patients was LKR 1,087,600. This includes 23 patients for a period of 6 months and 2 patients for a period of 12 months.

3.0 FOOD PROGRAMME

3.1 Gift-A-Meal (GAM) Sponsorships

Selected destitute families lacking nutrition are given a monthly basic food supplement valued at LKR2,000. A total of 787 families have been assisted from inception of the programme up to 31 March 2022.

During FY21/22, 205 families received assistance from CandleAid on a monthly basis. There were 93 local and foreign donors, and 154 coordinators supporting the programme.

During FY 21/22 CandleAid received donations totalling LKR 4,897,236 for the Food Programme, and disbursed LKR 5,353,760.

4.0 COVID -19

With the implementation of an island wide lockdown once again in May 2021 which was extended week after week, we initiated the 3rd initiative of Covid 19 assistance programme in June 2021. CandleAid disbursed an additional payment of LKR 3,000 to 188 families of the Gift A Meal programme (GAM) on 7th June 2021.

With more donations pouring in, the scope of CandleAid assistance was expanded to Health programme and Education programme. By end of June 2021 the additional amount of LKR 3,000 was disbursed to all 1369 families (around 1500 beneficiaries). A total sum of LKR 4,107,000 was disbursed.

Pandemic was not over, and the situation was aggravating. In addition, funds continued to come in for Covid assistance and we commenced the Covid 19 - 4th initiative by giving a further additional amount of LKR 2,500 initially to selected families in July 2021. Gradually we added on more families and concluded the initiative on 01st September 2021 by giving all 1390 families. A total sum of LKR 3,475,000 was disbursed.

We have assisted three government hospitals to purchase ventilators, hand dryers, and cleaning materials by paying total amount of LKR 1,643,460.00

5.0 MOTHER & CHILD PROGRAMME

This is a new initiative launched in March 2021 to assist financially handicapped single parent (mother) families. Pilot project commenced in February 2021 with one family. They receive LKR 5,000 per month to uplift their impoverished lives initially for a period of one year. During this period CandleAid will also look out for ways to empower the mother to generate a livelihood through a homegrown initiative under its Self-Empowerment of Women programme.

Donations of LKR 3,038,747.73 have been received for this programme up to 31st March 2022 and 49 families have been enrolled to the system with a total commitment of LKR 2,940,000.

6.0 SELF-EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (SEW) PROGRAMME

This holistic programme is aimed at empowering women carrying the responsibility of being the sole breadwinner to sustain themselves and their families with financial independence. CandleAid extends multifaceted assistance to set up and manage a home-based income generating micro business. We managed to assist four women in the year 21/22 with a total disbursement of LKR 125,000. A total of 42 families have been assisted and LKR 955,577.50 have been disbursed upto 31st March 2022.

7.0 SECRET SANTA

This is an annual programme executed in December where selected beneficiary families with children are gifted their essential needs that may range from food, clothing, and repairs to houses to medical needs and settlement of debts.

Donations amounting to LKR 392,000 from 15 donors were gifted to 56 families in December 2021. The disbursement per family amounted to LKR7,000.

8.0 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.

8.1 DR & MRS WILLIAM CHAN FUND

This Fund was established by one of our star donors in the name of her parents. This fund facilitates a broad spectrum of financial assistance to the marginalized and under privileged persons across Sri Lanka. In the year under review the fund has provided financial assistance especially to a number of patients needing special medical requirements. Students from families facing severe economic difficulties were also provided with monthly financial assistance to meet their expenses such as tuition fees, board, and lodging costs etc.

Further, poverty-stricken families faced with unemployment or reduced income levels due to the aftereffects of the pandemic and Sri Lanka's drowning economy and political instability, were also provided with essential dry rations. CandleAid has disbursed LKR 828,950 from the WCF up to 31 March 2022 out of LKR 2,065,823 received into the Fund. The excess is due to slow utilization of this fund as a result of the many interim short-term programs CandleAid undertook to give ad hoc assistance to its host of beneficiaries during the years of the pandemic.

8.2 SPECIAL FUND

During the Covid pandemic, students in Sri Lanka were faced with very challenging circumstances as the schools were compelled to conduct online classes. The Special Fund was formed mostly with extra funds remitted by one of our star donors when she made her quarterly donations for all the beneficiaries, she supports under our three sponsored programs.

The fund was used to give assistance mainly to students who were compelled to follow online education during the long period of time they were unable to attend school. The fund facilitated the donation of mobile phones, routers, and internet data that students had to purchase in order to attend the Zoom based classes from their home. CandleAid has disbursed LKR 677,625 from this fund for the above purposes up to 31 March 2022 out of LKR 1,305,277 that was channeled to the fund.

31 July 2022