

CandleAid Lanka

(Government Approved Charity – Reg.No.GA 201)

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Landslides and flooding caused by cyclone in Sri Lanka – 3rd Update – 05.01.26

Further to our previous updates, CandleAid Lanka continues its disaster relief activities across the country, reaching affected families in shelter centres, devastated communities, and individual households. Sri Lankans both at home and abroad, together with foreign nationals, have come forward to support these relief efforts. Through its network of volunteer coordinators and referrals from local community leaders, religious institutions, and schools, CandleAid has to date reached affected families in the following areas: **Bandarawela, Anuradhapura, Medawachchiya, Chilaw, Kurunegala (Mahawa, Hiriyala, and Giriulla), Kandy, Mahavilachchiya, Puttalam, Haputale, Mahiyangana, Ampara, Matale, Badulla, Kegalle, Gampaha and Colombo.**

Bandarawela



Through our Director, Mr. Aruna Fernando, in coordination with Rev. Jagath Fonseka in Bandarawela, CandleAid was able to provide assistance to families severely affected by the floods. This support included school uniforms and shoes for children, as well as bedsheets, towels, and other essential household items for affected families.

Anuradhapura

Further assistance was given to affected families in Kalawewa, Anuradhapura through our coordinator, Reverend Vajiragnana Thera by way of dry rations.



Puttalam

Approximately 145 students studying at Rajakadaluwa Junior College in the Arachchikattuwa area in Puttalam District, lost their homes including their belongings and schoolbooks. Through Rev. Fr. Dhanushka Hettiarachchi, Parish Priest, Holy Family Church, Rajakadaluwa, CandleAid provided 417 CR Books for the students.



Puttalam - With a donation from **Mr Mahadevan** channelled through our longstanding sponsor, **Mr. Suren Swaminathan**, dry rations and other essential items were provided to 30 affected families in Gangewadiya in Eluwankulama. The coordinators for this project were **Mr Laksiri de Silva** and **Mr George Paldano**.



Kandy

More than 200 families in Kandy were identified by our Coordinator, **Fr. Nadeep Sanjeewa**, in the remote areas of Ankumbura and Sarasavigama, which were severely affected by landslides. The affected communities consist primarily of daily wage earners engaged in tea plucking, whose livelihoods have been significantly disrupted. Dry ration packs were provided in bulk to support these families. The following excerpt is taken from Fr. Nadeep Sanjeewa's field report:

"Today we visited Sarasavigama in Kandy, the site of massive landslides. Many houses have been destroyed, and people are still buried under the enormous debris. The area is unfortunately full of the smell of corpses. We were able to provide 45 provisions to the affected residents."



Kurunegala

Students of **Wickramashila Madhya Maha Vidyalaya, Giriulla** whose families lost everything due to the floods in Giriulla, were identified by our Coordinator, **Mr. Tony Rodrigo**, and were provided with 69 pairs of shoes.



Galewela

Through our Coordinator, **Rev. Sumanarathana Thero** in **Galewela**, CandleAid provided support in the form of dry rations and other essential items to families who lost their belongings due to the floods in the area. These families are currently without a source of income as a result of the damage caused.



Mahiyangana

CandleAid provided 30 families with essential dry rations and 25 school children with exercise books through **Rev. Fr. Dilshan Fernando, Methodist Mission House, Nannapurawa, Bibile**. These families in Mahiyangana were severely affected by the recent floods.



Hingurana

Though our Coordinator, **Rev. Hingurane Siridhamma Thero**, CandleAid provided support by way of dry rations and other essential items required for school-going children from flood-affected families in Hingurana area who have been displaced due to the recent floods.



Chilaw

Approximately 1000 individuals/families in Daduru Oya in Chilaw have been affected and through **Rev. Fr. Sujan Nissanka, Parish Priest, St. Jude's Church, Daduru Oya-Chilaw**, CandleAid provided dry rations to those who needed assistance, irrespective of their religion, race or background.



Haputale

25 Families in Haputale identified by our Coordinator **Mr Anpalagan, Principal of BD/Pitarathmalie No. 2 Tamil Vidyalayam**, who were severely affected in Muthuyana, Kalkana and Glenore Estates, and who lost most of their belongings, livelihoods and access to basic necessities, were provided with essential dry rations and other non-perishable items.



Chilaw

CandleAid provided financial assistance to paint the walls of **Bandarawatte Primary School in Kakkapalliya**, which were damaged as a result of the recent cyclone and floods. This initiative was referred to us by **Mr. Ramesh Wannakuwatte**, and the coordinator is **Rev. Fr. Niranjan Fernando**, Chilaw.



Mawanella

Through our coordinator in Mawanella, **Ms Krishanthi Herath**, CandleAid provided dry rations to the families affected by the recent floods in and around Mawanella.



Our assistance was also extended to several individuals affected in **Mawanella, Seeduwa, Pelawatte, and Badulla** through the provision of dry rations to those affected by the cyclone. This assistance is ongoing.



Mr. Kumarasiri is an intern at SDB Bank, Mawanella. His residence was severely affected by a landslide. According to the information received, both his house and land are now buried under more than **20 metres** of soil and mud, and the area has been officially designated as a high-risk zone, rendering it unsuitable for future residential use. He lost all his belongings and CandleAid provided him with clothing to enable him to continue his work at the Bank.



Chanaka Deshapriya of Gallanamulla, Pelawatte, received a bag of dry rations from CandleAid. His family was asked to evacuate their home as it was unsafe to live in, and they are now residing in temporary accommodation.



Referred by Fr. Noel Dias, CandleAid assisted Mr. Nihal Joseph of Seeduwa with a bag of dry rations after his house was damaged by the cyclone.



Osanda Gimsara from Badulla, a beneficiary under our Health Programme, was affected when his family was stranded due to a landslide caused by the cyclone. Access roads were blocked, confining the family to their home. CandleAid provided a bag of dry rations as his parents were unable to find daily labour due to the conditions in the area.



The house of Hettiarachchige Kanthi from Mathugama was totally destroyed due to a landslide and she lost all her belongings. She currently has no place to live and is taking refuge in a neighbouring house. CandleAid provided a bag of dry rations to help her survive for a few days until alternative arrangements can be made.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

CandleAid is humbled by the overwhelming generosity of our benefactors since the initiation of the disaster relief fund over a month ago. To date, we have disbursed nearly **LKR 3 million**, and our work is ongoing.

We sincerely thank each and every contributor who supported us, either through donations or by assisting with the distribution of dry rations and other essential items. We place on record our deep appreciation for their kindness and for the trust they have placed in us. Although reaching the victims of this tragedy continues to be challenging, we remain committed to doing so with diligence, compassion, and full accountability.

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