

Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW



April 2018



SRI LANKA DISPLACED CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

We believe that in order for children to reach their full potential in life they need a safe and supportive environment around them.

Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project aims to support and empower displaced children and young people through quality education (primary, secondary and tertiary), improved healthcare, adequate subsistence (food, clothing, accommodation, water, sanitation and recreation), a safe family-like living environment, and ongoing developmental support (physical, emotional, mental and intellectual). The project focuses on three main elements: empowerment, capacity building and sustainability.

Three small family-style homes provide displaced Tamil minority children with a secure family-like environment.

These homes began in 1998 with the first home housing 11 girls. Since then two new homes have been built to house more girls on the same property. A property was also purchased in order to build a new home for boys. The homes have government permission to care for up to 40 children.

The well-being, care and empowerment of these children is key. All children are referred to our care by government departments and are educated within the community. A low ratio of carers is maintained in order to ensure each child's overall physical, emotional, mental and intellectual development.

Over the next three years we are embarking on a new project to improve the homes for all of the children and staff involved.

The major objective of the new project is:

To support and empower displaced children and young people through quality education (primary, secondary and tertiary), improved healthcare, adequate subsistence (food, clothing, accommodation, water, sanitation and recreation), a safe family-like living environment, and ongoing developmental support (physical, emotional, mental and intellectual).

This project has three main goals through which the major outcome will be achieved.

Goal one is to have a functioning farm that contributes to the ongoing sustainability of the project. The outcome of this goal will be to have a fully functioning farm with crops and animals that will provide more funds to decrease the dependency of the project on outside funding.

Goal two is to establish a Vocational Training

Centre that runs short courses to train and empower young people as they transition to independent life. The outcome is that young people are provided with an opportunity to gain valuable skills that will increase their employability and livelihoods, and decrease their overall dependency on the homes.

Goal three is to empower displaced and disadvantaged Sri Lankan children through education, developmental support and a safe living environment. The outcome of this goal is that the children and staff thrive in a family-like environment, with sound care, support and education opportunities.

We have been able to secure tax deductible benefits for this new three year Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project through Global Development Group. Further information about tax deductibility can be found on pages 18 and 19 of this booklet.



GOAL ONE

The first goal of the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project is:

Have a functioning farm that contributes to the ongoing sustainability of the project.

The outcome of this goal will be:

A fully functioning farm with crops and animals that will provide more funds to decrease the dependency of the project on outside funding.

In addition to providing safe and supportive homes for displaced children as well as various educational opportunities, this project aims to have a fully functioning farm that will assist with the sustainability of the project.

In 2005, 16 acres of land was purchased in close proximity with the homes. At present

it is not operating at full capacity.

Throughout the duration of this project we are hoping to change this by investing more time, effort and resources into the farm so that it can begin to function at a greater capacity. We have a number of ways in which we plan to accomplish this.

Firstly, we would like to invest in planting more vegetable crops on the farm. We currently have various crops throughout the property, however, we would like to begin planting on a new section of the property which is approximately two acres.

Secondly, we would like to develop a coconut plantation. A section of land at the back of the farm will be dedicated to planting coconut trees. This portion of land is just under five acres.

Thirdly, we are looking into how we can plant rice on the property. There is a large

section of land on one side of the property that is currently not being used for anything. We will hopefully be able to use this area of more than five acres to plant and grow rice.

Lastly, we would like to invest in purchasing a number of animals for the farm. We are looking at cows, goats, chickens and pigs.

The whole purpose of this goal is to have a farm that will generate an adequate income that will be used to decrease the dependency of the children's homes on outside funding.

All of the proceeds generated from the vegetable crops, coconuts, rice and animals will go directly into the everyday running of the farm and the children's homes. A shop that is currently at the front of the farm property will be used to sell all of the farm produce.

We are intentional about creating a more sustainable project so that everything will become less dependent on funds coming from outside.

In the initial stages of the farm developing to a greater extent, teams with relevant expertise will visit from Australia to provide expertise in various farming areas. However, these teams will not overpower local people with local knowledge.

Farming knowledge and skills specific to Sri Lanka will be included and local staff expertise will not be undermined. Local knowledge will be sought out to better help with the overall project and the running of the farm.

Individual profiles for all of the things that we would like to do on the farm can be found on the following pages. By the end of this project we hope that all of these initiatives will be flourishing.



VEGETABLE CROPS

We would like to invest in planting more vegetable crops on the farm. As these plants continue to grow and harvest, we will be able to use the various vegetables within our children's homes. This will ensure a steady supply of food and will assist with making the homes more sustainable.

If we find ourselves in a situation where we have too many vegetables for the homes then we can sell the leftover produce in the shop at the front of the farm. This not only generates an income for the running of the farm and the homes, it also begins to involve the local community in the project.

We currently have various crops throughout the property, however, we would like to begin planting on a new section of the property which is approximately two acres.

In the photos above you can see some of the crops we have been planting. The photo in the bottom right corner shows the new patch of land that we would like to use for planting. The area behind the grey fence will be dedicated to vegetable crops.

The existing sections of land where crops have been planted will be used for the Vocational Training Centre. This means the land will need to be cleared to make way for future buildings and facilities.

We are in the process of determining the best water system to use to ensure proper irrigation all year round.

Sri Lanka struggles with various weather challenges and can, at times, experience flooding and drought. This means that it is very important to ensure proper irrigation is in place so that plants will continue to grow and prosper even when the weather is not favourable.

COCONUT PLANTATION

We would like to develop a coconut plantation. A section of land at the back of the farm, accessible through gates, will be dedicated to planting coconut trees. This portion of land can be seen in the photos above and is just under five acres.

In the areas surrounding the farm there are a number of coconut plantations that have been developed. We are currently in the process of seeking local advice and expertise from the owners and workers of these plantations. The purpose in doing this is so that we can begin our plantation in the best and smartest ways possible.

Seeking local knowledge in the beginning stages of the coconut plantation is wise because it will teach us how to develop a plantation in the local climate and weather conditions specific to this region.

As with everything else on the farm, the purpose of developing a coconut plantation is to contribute to the ongoing sustainability of the children's homes and the overall project.

As the coconut trees begin to grow and as coconuts begin to develop we would like to sell the coconuts. This will raise additional funds for the project and assist with the growing sustainability of the project.

In the later stages of the project, or in a subsequent three-year project, we may look into harvesting coconut oil and other products to sell. We have a lot going on with the farm and within the overall project for the next three years so this is not one of our pressing priorities, however, it is definitely something we are interested in looking at to generate more funds in the future.



RICE FIELD

We are looking into how we can plant rice on the property. There is a large section of land on one side of the property that is currently not being used for anything. We will hopefully be able to use this area of more than five acres to plant and grow rice for our homes and the local community.

In the past the farm has experimented with growing rice. However, due to some unfavourable weather conditions, flooding and drought, the farm no longer grows any rice on the property.

Despite the struggles in the past, throughout this project we would like to investigate how we can begin to grow rice on the property once again.

One of the most important tasks that we need to complete before growing rice is figuring out the best water system to use

that will offer the most reliable form of irrigation.

A section of land will be dedicated to planting rice that will be used within the children's homes. Providing a constant supply of rice to the homes will decrease the amount of money spent on food and will contribute to the ongoing sustainability of the project.

All leftover rice will be sold to people and businesses within the local community. This not only generates funds for the project but it once again begins to involve the community within the project.

All proceeds generated through the rice will go back into the running of the rice field and the every day costs of running the farm and the children's homes. By putting money back into the rice field, this portion of the project will hopefully become self-sufficient and self-sustainable.

ANIMALS

We would like to invest in purchasing a number of animals for the farm. The photos above show the area in which the animals will be kept when they are not roaming around certain designated spots within the property.

This section of the farm land will need to be cleaned up a fair bit and cleared out before construction on any animals shelters and areas can begin.

Within this area we are looking at developing a piggery and a chicken coop as well as building a new structure for goats. The property currently has a cow shed but it is not in use and needs some general maintenance work before cows can begin using it.

We would like to invest in a small herd of cows and a small flock of goats throughout

this project. In the future if everything goes well with the animals we may increase the number of animals that we house and care for throughout the project.

We are looking at using the cows and goats in particular to keep the grass down around the property. This will assist with ensuring the property is well kept and will decrease the number of snakes roaming around the farm.

In addition to this, we would also like to sell animal produce such as milk and eggs. We may also look into selling animals to local butchers in order to raise additional funds.

Similar to our other ventures, all proceeds raised through the animals will go back into the costs of looking after the animals, the every day costs of running the farm and the costs of running the children's homes. This once again contributes to the sustainability of the project.



SHOP

The farm currently has a shop located at the front of the property right next to the gate leading into the farm.

This shop will be used to sell all of the produce created throughout the farm including vegetables, coconuts, milk, eggs and more.

In the future we are possibly looking into beginning a small bakery on the property. This bakery will begin by selling simple products, such as bread, rather than selling too many products and becoming more work for those involved.

If we decide to go ahead with the bakery we will need to expand the existing shop so that it is large enough to house all of the baking equipment whilst at the same time being able to sell all of the produce generated from the farm.

The bakery will be open to tourists and those within the local community. The farm is in a good location with many people passing by.

We are looking at sending young people who finish high school and leave the children's homes to do a baking course.

Those interested will have the chance to train as bakers and will be given the chance to take some form of ownership over the bakery.

Providing young people with opportunities to become more educated and equipped contributes to their ongoing empowerment and development.

In the concluding stages of this project or in a subsequent three-year project we may build a new structure so we can begin a cafe in addition to the shop and the bakery. This plan is not in motion but we are interested in developing this idea.

FARMER

There is a permanent farmer on the property. He is currently in charge of the general maintenance and security of the property as well as looking after the existing vegetable crops.

The farmer lives in a house which is located on the farm property. The house can be seen in the above photos. This is a secure and strong structure so it will not require a lot of maintenance work throughout this project.

As we develop the farm further and as more is added to the workload of the farmer, we will need to employ an additional farmer to take care of the animals.

Ideally we would like to have two farmers, one to take care of the vegetables, coconut plantation and the rice field, and the other to take care of the animals.

Having two farmers who take care of two different areas will ensure the farm runs smoother. It will also allow us to employ someone who is more specialised in animal husbandry over someone who may not have much experience with animals.

In the same way, the current farmer is more familiar with growing various crops so he can use his current expertise in his future work on the farm.

The Vocational Training Centre will be built in the fenced section of the farm property. This means that students will have the opportunity to live and work on the farm during their courses.

We are hoping to develop a course on agriculture and horticulture, including animal husbandry. This means that students studying this course will be able to assist both farmers and learn essential skills in a more practical way.



GOAL TWO

The second goal of the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project is:

Establish a Vocational Training Centre that runs short courses to train and empower young people as they transition to independent life.

The outcome of this goal will be:

Young people are provided with an opportunity to gain valuable skills that will increase their employability and livelihoods, and decrease their overall dependency on the homes.

Education paves the way for receiving adequate employment and a stable income, breaking free from the cycle of poverty, the ability to support families, assisting in the development of the community, higher health outcomes and

many more benefits.

This project aims to develop a Vocational Training Centre where children can go after they complete high school and have to leave the children's homes. As young men and women they will be able to study courses in agriculture and horticulture (including animal husbandry), and sewing.

Due to the fact that a majority of these children do not have any support outside of the homes, providing opportunities to gain an education and learn valuable skills empowers them to take control of their lives, increases employability and allows them to transition into independent life.

With this in mind the purpose of training young people is to empower them to reach their full potentials in life. As they become equipped with valuable skills their overall livelihoods improve. Ultimately the long-term goal is for all of our children to

become independent young adults who are no longer dependent on the project. We want to provide them with a strong foundation for the future.

The Vocational Training Centre will be built on this farm property. This means that students will have the opportunity to work and live on the farm during their courses.

Vocational training is the primary means of capacity building in the project. It will allow each young adult to expand their skill set and gain specific knowledge that will aid them in either gaining employment or establishing a sufficient livelihood that will enable them to care for their future families.

For this three-year project our agriculture and horticulture course will only be available to young men coming out of our boys' home. In the future this course may open up to others within the local community, however, this is not a focus for

the time being.

On the other hand, over time we are looking at opening up our sewing course to women within the local community surrounding the farm property. The major focus will be looking after and creating opportunities for young women coming out of our girls' home, however, we are looking to increase community participation through opening up the course to additional local women in a subsequent three-year project or in the later stages of this current project.

The vocational training courses will be run by local Sri Lankan staff. In the initial design of the courses, teams with relevant expertise will visit from Australia to provide expertise in running formal vocational training courses. Farming knowledge and skills specific to Sri Lanka will be included and local staff expertise will not be undermined.



GOAL THREE

The third goal of the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project is:

Empower displaced and disadvantaged Sri Lankan children through education, developmental support and a safe living environment.

The outcome of this goal will be:

Children and staff thrive in a family-like environment, with sound care, support and education opportunities.

As mentioned previously, we believe that in order for children to reach their full potential in life they need a safe and supportive environment around them.

Our children's homes ensure all children under their care are sent to primary and secondary schools within the community,

assures all medical and healthcare needs are met, provides all subsistence needs (i.e. food, clothing, shelter, water, sanitation, recreation etc.), and commits to continually supporting their overall physical, emotional, mental and intellectual development.

These homes do not seek to simply provide welfare for the children that are suggested to us; they seek to empower children to be all that they can be.

One of our greatest focuses within the children's homes is ensuring that all of the children have access to quality education. In addition to sending the children to school, each home provides training in computers and English classes, and the boys home will provide additional agriculture training.

This project aims to strengthen these activities through investing more time, money and resources into them

because we recognise that receiving a quality education and learning essential skills can greatly empower the lives of children.

Essentially this project is about improving the livelihoods of displaced children. Various organisations have recognised the disadvantaged state many children faced following the civil war in Sri Lanka. Although we cannot assist in improving the livelihoods of every displaced child in the nation, we have been able to improve the lives of many.

We have not only assisted in improving the lives of children at a basic level, our homes are assisting children in reaching their full potential in various ways. For example, two of the children within our homes have recently won national academic awards.

In addition to this, our children's homes maintain a high standard and are viewed

in a positive light by local authorities. In this sense, our homes have become an example for other children's homes in the area.

In recent years local authorities have declared our homes the most well managed children's homes in the region where they are located. This region comprises of approximately 25 children's homes.

As we continue to maintain a high standard this has the potential to lift the standard of these other children's homes. It also provides us with a good foundation to measure the future growth and development of our own homes.

We have recently begun a child sponsorship program to assist with raising funds for the children within our homes. More information about this can be found on the following pages.



OVERVIEW OF CHILD SPONSORSHIP

The Child Sponsorship Program provides a way to raise support for the children supported through the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project.

We run two children's homes: one for boys and one for girls. The girls' home currently houses 21 girls and the boys' home currently houses 13 boys.

All of our children have been affected in some way by the war and civil unrest in Sri Lanka. This has resulted in them being displaced, physiologically affected and discriminated against.

These children have been displaced for a number of reasons including death of parents, parents working abroad, and parents not being able to provide for their families.

There are currently 25 sponsored children within the homes.

For \$100 per month you can sponsor one child and play a vital role in their life. Your financial support provides the following for a child:

Education

- School fees
- School uniforms and shoes
- School stationary, books and bags
- Extra tuition
- Excursions

Health

- Education on hygiene
- Medication
- Immunisations
- Medical checkups

Subsistence

- Clothing and shoes
- Food
- Accommodation
- Recreation
- Sanitary needs
- Transport

Development

- Physical
- Mental
- Emotional
- Intellectual

How does child sponsorship work?

Once you have nominated either a girl or a boy to support, you will be assigned one of the children. You will be provided with a photo and brief background information of the child. You will be given a Sponsorship Code (eg: BCH01). You will be the sole sponsor of the child assigned to you.

Can I communicate with my child?

There are opportunities for you to communicate with the child you are sponsoring. However, to protect the children from discrimination and other sensitivities you may only communicate through our office. All letters will need to be checked before they are sent to the children.

If you wish to communicate with the child you are sponsoring, our office will ensure your communication reaches your child. Any correspondence from the child will

also be forwarded onto you through our office.

How do I sponsor a child?

If you would like to discover more about sponsoring a child please email mike@adelaidechristiancentre.com.au

A person from our office will send you a response form. Once filled in, email your response form back to our office.

As mentioned at the beginning of the booklet, we have been able to secure tax deductible benefits for this project through Global Development Group. Further information can be found on pages 18 and 19 of this booklet.

Child sponsorship support is eligible for tax deductibility. However, all communication regarding child sponsorship must be done through our office using the above email address.



TAX DEDUCTIBLE PROJECT INFORMATION

Empowering children through education and providing a safe environment holds so many benefits. Education alone is one of the most crucial factors influencing an individual's ability to develop to their full potential in life. Providing children with a safe environment with opportunities to become educated and trained will greatly assist them as they journey into adulthood and independent life.

We are excited to begin work on the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project in order to contribute to the ongoing empowerment of displaced children and young people within Sri Lanka.

If this project is successful and if our goals are able to be met, we will most likely

experience a smooth transition into a new subsequent three-year project that will contribute towards the ongoing development and expansion of our project within Sri Lanka.

In addition to working towards providing the greatest opportunities for the children who come into our care, it would be great to see an expansion in the work of the project, especially in regards to the farm and the Vocational Training Centre, so that we can open up some of our programs to other vulnerable members within the local community.

We have been able to secure tax deductibility for the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project through Global Development Group (GDG).

GDG is an Australian Non Government Organisation (NGO) approved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. They provide

long-term solutions through quality aid and development projects with approved partners to relieve poverty.

If you would like to donate towards the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project with the benefit of tax deductibility please follow the instructions below.

Step 1: Direct Bank Deposit (online)

Direct Deposit tax deductible donations can be made using the following details.

Account Name: Global Development Group

BSB: 064118

Account Number: 10200094

Reference: e.g. J. Smith J982N

Please make sure you include your initials (e.g. J. Smith), followed by **J982N** in the reference section so GDG can trace your deposit.

Step 2: Email GDG your donation details

Email info@globaldevelopment.org.au with the following details.

- a) Your name and address
- b) Amount and date of donation
- c) Project number - **J982N**

GDG will send you a receipt for your tax deductible donation.

If you would like to contribute to the Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project on a regular basis you will need to set this up with your bank and then let GDG know that it will be a recurring donation.

We look forward to seeing the progress that will be made throughout this project over the next three years.

We would like to thank everyone for your support towards the work in Sri Lanka.

PARTNER INFORMATION

Door of Hope International is a partner for project J982N Sri Lanka Displaced Children Development Project with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian NGO approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for this approved development project will be issued by Global Development Group for project J982N. If funds raised exceed the requirement for this project, funds may be directed to another approved activity.

Please note, no non-development (evangelistic, political or welfare) activities are a part of, or funded by, GDG projects.

For more information about Global Development Group please visit:

www.gdg.org.au

For more information about the project please visit:

www.gdg.org.au/InfoJ982N

For more information about child sponsorship please email:

mike@adelaidechristiancentre.com.au

