

Oru Paanai

Feeding the Hungry in Sri Lanka



Dear Friends

We hope that you, your family and friends have all coped well with the past 6 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. We feel it is time to touch base with all of you, the people without whom Oru Paanai (OP) would not have been able to render invaluable help to our less fortunate brothers and sisters in our homeland.

We thank you for your continued support and prayers for the ongoing work in Sri Lanka.

What has Oru Paanai done to help those affected by Covid19 in Sri Lanka?

When Covid 19 first hit Sri Lanka, and as an island wide curfew was imposed, all the dry ration distributions and annathanams (rice meals) we had been providing to the elderly destitute came to a halt. The curfew meant that many breadwinners were suddenly unemployed and could not put food on the table. **OP, responding to an appeal from a group of Jaffna medical students distributing dry rations to the most needy in the north, contributed LKR 500,000 to help their wonderful work.**

In response to a request from the chairman of OP SL, Mr. Skandakumar, who had seen first hand how badly affected the upcountry people were, **OP contributed LKR 150,000 to help those worst affected.** These were emergency humanitarian steps and we were glad to be able to help.

Has Oru Paanai resumed its normal activities?

We are very glad to report that when the GoSL had started to relax its restrictions, OP promptly resumed its much needed work of feeding the hungry. We are now providing dry rations again to all the 500 elders we were supporting in the north and Wannu, and we have now even extended our program to include 200 more elders in the eastern province, as well as two estate areas in Nanu Oya. These elderly or disabled people we provide dry rations to, are marginalised and vulnerable, and most of them are over 75 years old. They have no regular income. **In other words, our assistance is critical to them and gives them hope for survival.**

Our provision of sathu ma, a nutritional supplement, to malnourished children of preschool age has also been resumed at the same level it was at before the pandemic. */... over*

Shared heritage, humble beginnings

a sense of communal responsibility in sharing life's most basic need - food - our food, from OUR PAANAI (pot), with those who are less fortunate



Recipients with dry rations bags

Feeding the hungry is a greater work than raising the dead.

*Chrysostom, St. John
A. D. 349 - 407
Archbishop of Constantinople*



Left: Elders enjoying annathanam

Right: Dry rations distribution in Covid era



Oru Paanai
a UK Registered Charity No: 1136376

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Construction of much appreciated wells also continues apace and we hope to construct 30 more wells in 2020.

How can Oru Paanai sustain its activities in the current circumstances?

Due to the social distancing restrictions following Covid, our fund raising events have to be halted. **Friends, we have to admit it is going to be a huge challenge - a struggle to raise funds post Covid. We need £60,000 a year to keep up the work of feeding. The construction of 30 wells each year cost us an additional £25,000 .**

Donations from our regular donors amounts to about £ 20,000 per year. We used to bridge the gap until now by holding fund raising events – dances, concerts, sponsored bicycle rides – etc. All such events have come to a grinding halt due to the social distancing requirements and we cannot foresee when they can be staged again - probably not in the next 18 months at least.

OP has limited reserves to dip into to help us to continue our activities. Like every charity, OP is also facing a serious crisis in fund raising.



Recipient by side of well constructed by Oru Paanai

How you can help us through this crisis and continue to support the poor in Sri Lanka

While we recognise peoples' constrained financial circumstances at present, we in OP are hoping that you may be able to help us through the present crisis in one of the following ways :

- If you are a regular donor, you can consider increasing your monthly donations.
- If you are not a regular donor, we earnestly request you to become one.
- If you have been a one off donor in the past and wish to make a donation, please give generously.

You could write a cheque to Oru Paanai and post it to Oru Paanai Admin, No 58 Hungerford Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY8 3AB UK.

- If you wish to amend a standing order or make a donation online, please refer to the Oru Paanai bank details given on the enclosed Response Form.
- If you are a UK tax payer, you can enhance your contribution by signing the Gift Aid form and posting it to the Oru Paanai Admin address above.
- If you wish to donate from a Sri Lankan bank account, you can do so by transferring money into the Oru Paanai Jaffna account

Account name: Oru Paanai

Commercial Bank, Jaffna A/C No.: 1060084024

- If you have set up a new standing order or made an on line donation, please let us know by writing to us at the Oru Paanai Admin address given above.

- If you wish to make a donation in the name of a departed relative, or celebrate a special birthday or anniversary, you can do so by sponsoring **an annathanam for 50 elderly people at a cost of £25**, or by sponsoring the cost of **dry rations for 4 weeks for 50 people at a cost of £300**.

Please contact us and we will be glad to arrange it.

Please help us, and through us, those who need help desperately in Sri Lanka – their need has never been greater than now. Thank you so much.

Prof. R. Swaminathan, President

**Dr. S. V. Devendra, Joint Secretary
Oru Paanai**

PS: The OP website is currently being updated to reflect recent developments. Please visit it at www.orupaanai.org.uk after September 2020 to learn more about Oru Paanai's activities.