

Briefing notes May 2011

Dan Muthuveloe

I am back in UK. Leela and I returned a week ago and are just about getting over the tiredness and jet lag. As you know I have been away since late February.

The first 4 weeks was spent visiting places in the Vanni.-Omanthai, Nedunkerni Mulliyawalai, Mullaithivu, Alampil, Puthukudiyirruppu, Killinochchi, Kandavalai, Pallai, Poonakary and Adampan, Ooyilankulam and Madu in the Mannar district.



These were the areas that were devastated by the final days of the war. The people were herded and forcibly evacuated by the incessant artillery and rocket fire from the advancing troops and the people were ultimately kept in the infamous Chettikulam camp.

The people are now being “resettled” in their villages and the schools are being reopened after a closure of almost 2 years.

I was able to visit the some of the reopened “resettlement” schools. (Vide below for list of schools). In each school I met the Principal and the teacher in charge of the mid day meals. The kitchen and cooking facility was also inspected in each school. In some schools I was given the privilege to talk to students in the class room.

I met with the Zonal Directors of Education for Vavuniya North, Killinochchi, Mullaithivu and Madhu.

I also had meetings with Principals from Mullaithivu, Killinochchi and Madhu. These meetings were organised by the offices of the Zonal Directors. They were opportunities to explain to school heads the aims of Oru Paanai and the monitoring and accounting arrangements.

The recently reopened schools number about 80 and attract about 8000 children. They come from very vulnerable families. They are mostly into farming and in small time cultivation. Their crops have not begun yielding any produce to feed their own families. The children are at serious risk from starvation and malnutrition. It is expected that these hard working people will become self sufficient with home grown food in a matter of 2 years with a benevolent mother nature.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is helping with the usual mid day meal programme despite several threats to curtail.

This group of children are the neediest and most deserving I have seen and it is imperative and it behoves us to include them without delay into Oru Paanai list of schools.

As recommended at the last committee meeting, on the strength of new donors willing to give regular donations we have added 74 more schools all from Vanni since May 2011.

- We are now helping to feed 20,431 students from 175 schools.
- Our cost is presently £2500/- month.
- This is made possible by regular donors such as yourself.
- We need more regular donors in order to sustain our commitment and work.

- Please continue to support Oru Paanai and please talk to your friends about the work of Oru Paanai. We need to keep going for another two years at least. It is hoped that by then the people would have recovered economically and will be able to feed their children.
- These children are the future Tamil generation and it is very important that these children who have suffered much will grow up to be healthy and be able to face the future with confidence.

That is it in a nutshell.

Hope you are all well and May God bless you.

May your own Paanai be always full and overflowing

Dan Muthuveloe

Schools visited in March 2011

Vavuniya

V/ Puliyanikulam Hindu College	V/Kanakarayankulam MV
V/PuliyanikulamArasinar Tamil Kalavan Vidyalayam	
V/Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalayam	V/Pandara Vanniyan Vidyalayam
V/Mathiyamadu Vivekananda Vidyalayam	V/Vigneswara MV
V/Nedunkerni MV	V/Olumadu GTMS
V/Pattikudiyiruppu GTMS	

Mannar

Mn/KurunkandalRCTM	Mn/Adampan RCTMS
Mn/Adampan MMV	Mn/Marathy Kannady RCTMS
Mn/Pallaiyadi Puthukulam RCTMS	Mn/Vattakkanadal GTMS

Killinochchi

Kn/Skanthapuram No1 GTMS	Kn/Vannerikulam MV
Kn/Iyanapuram GTMS	Kn/Samipulam GTMS
Kn/Poonakary Nallur MV	Kn/Chelliyatheevu GTMS

Mullaithivu

Mu/Mullaithivu RCTMS	Mu/Kallapadu GTMS
Mu/Uddupukulam Tamil Vidyalayam	Mu/Silawathai Tamil Vidyalayam
Mu/Thanniroothu CCTMS	Mu/Vidyananda College