

Oru Paanai: Newsletter 2023

Second quarter

Dear Oru Paanai (OP) supporters and well-wishers

Greetings from the OP Trustees.

We wrote to you in February notifying you of our intention to provide more frequent updates on the activities of OP. We will briefly summarise the ongoing activities of OP in each quarterly update, as well as highlighting any new developments in the preceding months.



We would welcome any comments / suggestions from you on the frequency of publishing the newsletters, as well as on the contents.



*** PLEASE NOTE: THIS PRINTED VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER IS BEING SENT TO THOSE FOR WHOM WE DON'T YET HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS IN ORDER TO SEND YOU THE DIGITAL EDITION.**

OUR DESIRE IS TO SEND THE DIGITAL VERSION TO EVERYONE.

IF WE DON'T YET HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE LET US HAVE IT BY SENDING YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO:

secretary@orupannai.org.uk

Thank you

Oru Paanai

58 Hungerford Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 3AB

Registered Charity No. 1136376

www.orupaanai.org.uk

Email: secretary@orupaanai.org.uk

Charity number: 1136376

Oru Paanai Sri Lanka

17 Yahalabedda Road,

Haputale, Sri Lanka

Ongoing activities of OP

◆ The main focus of OP's activities remains ensuring food security, which is particularly relevant in the prevailing serious economic challenges confronting people living in Sri Lanka at present.

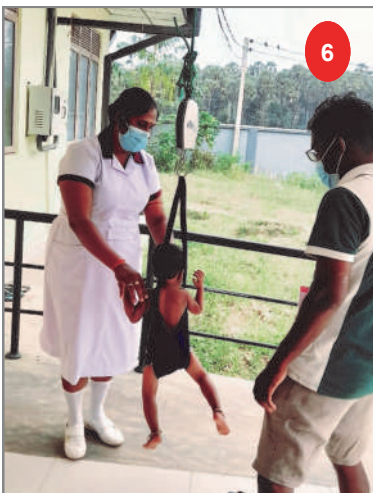
OP provides 4 weekly supplies of dry rations – rice, wheat flour, dhal and sugar. These pothis (packets) are distributed through 19 centres in the north, east and upcountry. A total of around 1,250 elderly destitute or disabled men and women receive such support.

While the majority of recipients are elderly, we also help a few younger physically disadvantaged persons or those in exceptional poverty.



1 An old destitute lady with dry rations delivered to her home
2 The elderly carry their dry rations home
3 In Vavunathivu dry rations are distributed
4 & 5 The elderly on their way home with the dry rations

◆ **Provision of Sathu Maa**, a nutritional supplement, to severely malnourished children continues through MOH offices in several parts of the Jaffna peninsula, at a cost of 1.3 million LKR per month. Around 1,000 pre-school children are provided Sathu Maa through this scheme.



- 1 This family receives Sathu ma for malnourished children
- 2 A packet of sathu maa
- 3 An MOH Clinic in action
- 4 Lily Anugoolan in MOH baby clinic
- 5 Lily and Midwife in MOH Clinic for infants
- 6 Under weight child being weighed

◆ **The construction of wells**, both conventional as well as tube wells continues apace. OP works in conjunction with Well Being, another charity involved in the construction of wells. Over 175 wells have been constructed so far and we plan to construct around twenty wells in the coming months.



*1 Young family standing beside a hole in the ground for a well
2 & 3 A well under construction*

4 A completed well

◆ **OP has been supporting educational activities** in underdeveloped areas by providing computer equipment and Smart boards on an ongoing basis. In addition, we have contributed to conducting remedial classes in maths, science and English in the eastern province.

With a steep increase in the cost of school books and accessories such as school bags and shoes, financial support was extended to identified families to protect the dignity of the school-going child. Donations from some donors specified that they should be used for this particular purpose.

New initiatives

◆ OP has started helping a new group of needy people in the last month.

We have realized that there are young families, often headed by a single parent, who are struggling to provide even a single meal a day to their young children, as a result of the huge increase in the cost of living.

The trustees decided at a recent meeting to provide dry rations to these families, two packs (pothis) every four weeks. At present, the neediest families have been identified with the help of social services, and we hope to start distributing pothis in the coming weeks.

◆ **Recently, we have started contributing a monthly sum of LKR 75,000 to a project initiated in Batticaloa** by Science Navigators, an organization headed by Dr. Arulnithy, Consultant Physician. Under this project , 18 'A'Level students from rural villages in the district, are being coached for their exams in Batticaloa, with all expenses including tuition, housing and meals being provided free of charge. It is expected that this project will run for two years.

Supervision of OP activities

◆ **The trustees of OP actively monitor how our activities are conducted in the various areas by personally visiting them on a regular basis.** In the first few months the OP Centres were visited by Dan and Leela Muthuveloe, Devendra, Shyamala Devendra, Kathirgamanathan and Ranjit Thambyrajah – all trustees of OP UK, and Somasunderam Skandakumar, chairman of OP Sri Lanka. The following pictures illustrate some of the trustees visiting our centres in the last few months. It is also worth mentioning that the expenses incurred on these visits were borne by the trustees themselves.



- 1 Dr. Sam Muthuveloe helping with dry ration distribution in Killinochchi
- 2 Dr. Thambyrajah and Dilu at Maavadi dry ration distribution
- 3 Dr. Devendra and Shyamala inspecting a completed well

Contributors to OP

◆ We would like to thank some of the organisations and individuals who have contributed to Oru Paanai in the past.

- First and foremost, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to Serendip Foundation from the United States, who have been contributing to OP large sums of money on an ongoing basis for over a year and a half now. It would not be an exaggeration to state that their substantial contribution sustains OP in its efforts to help the needy in Sri Lanka.
- Our regular contributors, numbering around 130, have been supporting us from the very beginning. We acknowledge their consistent support for our charity and thank them. Their encouragement spurs us on.
- Occasional contributors, some of whom donate large sums of money to us, in particular two generous supporters, one from the finance sector in the UK, and the other a philanthropist businessman from Sydney, Australia. We are refraining from naming these donors as they prefer to remain anonymous.
- Canberra Tamils, under the guidance of Chelva Kumaranayagam, have been sending us monies on a quarterly basis for several years. We are most grateful for their help. Their latest donation has just reached us as we go to press.
- The church of St Michael and All Angels in Stourbridge, who in the past few years, have given regular annual donations to both our feeding program as well as the wells project. Our sincere thanks to them
- Several fundraisers have walked and cycled across the country to raise monies for OP from their colleagues, friends and families. The two most recent ones were Sam Muthuveloe (August 2022) and Ramesh Swaminathan (May 2023). Many thanks to them .

Forthcoming fundraising event

◆ **A Bharatha Natyam concert by three students of Puskala Gopal:** Suresh Swaminathan, Sashvitha Swaminathan and Abirami Namasivayam - is to be staged in on Saturday 16th September 2023.

It promises to be a very exciting event, and we would welcome the support of all OP wellwishers for it.

More details like ticket prices, venue etc will be circulated to all in our database in the near future.



Annathanams and Oru Paanai

◆ **OP has been arranging thanksgiving Annathanams for 50 or so people at 3 different sites.** Prayers / blessings are said in memory of loved ones or thevarams sung before the meals. These annathanams have proved popular and many OP supporters have availed of this facility to mark birthdays, death anniversaries, wedding anniversaries etc.

The charge for providing a vegetarian meal for 50 people has been £50 up to now. However, with the rising cost of rice and vegetables in Sri Lanka, this will need to be revised upwards in the coming months.

Please contact Dr. Devendra (07703 854866) or Dr. Thambyrajah (07745 537432) to arrange an annathanam.



1 Annathanam meals 2 An annathanam

Giving to Oru Paanai

Overleaf you will find the OP Standing Order Mandate, which can be detached from this update and completed with the details requested.

Thank you.

You can also donate securely online via JustGiving:

You can donate to Oru Paanai easily and securely online, including using GiftAid

Donate with **JustGiving**

Just visit:

www.justgiving.com/orupaanaai



Standing Order Mandate



Your name

AddressPost code

Your Bank details

To the ManagerBank, plc

Branch address.....

Sort code..... Your Account Number.....

Please pay **monthly / yearly** [delete as appropriate], until further notice

The sum of **£**..... Amount in words, **Pounds**.....

Starting on [date of first payment].....

Beneficiary's Name **Oru Paanai**

Beneficiary's Bank **Barclay's Bank, plc**, Stourbridge Branch
81 High Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands
Bank Sort code **20-82-70** Account Number **53279685**

Reference.....[your name]

Please cancel any previous standing order in favour of the beneficiary

Your Signature[s] Date

.....

Cut here



Please send this portion to your bank

Please return this portion to Oru Paanai

Treasurer – Oru Paanai
c/o 58 Hungerford Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 3AB

Either

I have instructed my Bank to pay my donations by **S/O** [amount £..... monthly/yearly].

Or

I do not wish to pay by **S/O** and enclose a cheque [amount £.....] made payable to 'Oru Paanai - Feeding The Hungry in Sri Lanka'

Your Name and Signature

Tel Number E mail:

Gift Aid: I would like to GiftAid my giving and confirm that I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities and community amateur sports clubs that I donate to will reclaim from my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax for every £1 that I have given.

Please inform us if you have any changes in your address details, want to cancel this declaration or no longer pay sufficient tax.

Oru Paanai Registered Charity No. 1136376