

**CandleAid Lanka**  
**Formerly AFLAC International**  
**(Government Approved Charity – Reg.No.GA 201)**  
**21/4, Dharmaratne Avenue, Rawathawatte, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.**  
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**Website : [www.candleaid.org](http://www.candleaid.org)**



**20 October 2024**

**To: All CandleAid Sponsors & Donors & Well-wishers**

**VERY IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Let us first express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all of you for supporting our various programmes to alleviate poverty in Sri Lanka. The trust and confidence all of you placed in us enabled us to carry out our work these many years. We are due to celebrate 30 years of service on 06 February 2025.

After much discussion about the future of CandleAid and considering the long-term sustainability of the organisation, we have made an important decision to shift our operating model to a Trust. This change is expected to take effect from 01 January 2027. This decision has not been easy to make, but after much consideration, we recognised that our President, Capt. Elmo Jayawardena, and our Executive Director, Dil Jayawardena, will turn 80 and 74 in 2027 respectively, and they cannot carry the responsibility of heading this organisation indefinitely. If circumstances change, the Board will reassess the situation to ensure the best decision is made for the sustainability of CandleAid Lanka.

Over the next two years, CandleAid will need to wind down most of its programmes in preparation for this transition. It is our thinking at this time that following this transition, the Trust will operate our Education Programme and back other well-established charities engaged in programmes related to Education. While education projects will be the Trust's core concern, it will consider supporting other worthy projects on a case-by-case basis.

In view of the above, we will not actively promote non-Education projects such as the library programme and self-empowerment of women programme. However, we hope to operate as long as possible our Food and Health related programmes, giving our beneficiaries adequate notice of discontinuation. Being very mindful of the generous contributions made by you, we will engage with you individually or through our branch representatives to discuss your views and intentions in this regard. Though no operational changes will take place during 2025 and 2026, renewal of existing commitments going beyond 31 December 2026 will need to be addressed with individual sponsors/donors.

There is a lot to do in the next two years, both within our existing programmes and to get CandleAid ready for this transition. It is our intention to keep all of you informed throughout this process, so you can make informed decisions and to maintain our own standards of transparency and credibility. We will write to you next year with further details of the transition process and the Trust.

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We welcome your views and ideas—they will help us make the right decisions as we move forward with implementing these changes. Please also feel free to contact us to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this announcement.

We have together lit thousands of candles to brighten the darkness of poverty over the last 30 years. All of us can be proud of the vast number of beneficiaries uplifted through our programmes, as well as the many individuals who have used CandleAid's support to raise themselves out of poverty. We can also pride ourselves on having done so with integrity and while maintaining CandleAid's untarnished reputation. We thank you all for making this possible.

With heartfelt thanks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elmo', written over a horizontal line.

Capt. Elmo Jayawardena  
On behalf of CandleAid Lanka Board of Directors

Vice President Mr Priya Cooray  
Executive Director Mrs Dil Jayawardena  
Director Mrs Himali Senanayake  
Director Mr Mevan Jayawardena  
Director Professor Razeen Sally  
Director Mrs Yasmin Weerasuriya  
Director Mr Aruna Fernando

Cc: Branch Representatives

**"It is better by far to light a solitary candle than to curse the darkness"**