

Dear Sponsor, Donor and Friend,

Covid 19 - 3rd & 4th initiatives

Once again Sri Lankan government implemented an island wide lockdown on 21st May 2021 which was extended week after week. On 04th June 2021 when it was further extended, we initiated the 3rd round of COVID related assistance to our 1500 over beneficiaries spread among 1369 families who were hard pressed as most of them are daily wage earners.

We decided to give an **additional donation of LKR 3,000** each to the 188 Gift a Meal beneficiary families to be followed by those in the categories of Health and Education. The first batch of disbursements were made on 07th June 2021 to the above families. We were able to give this additional amount to all 1369 beneficiary families by end June 2021. We are happy to say that all new families that were enrolled to the system in June 2021 were also given this additional amount. At this point we concluded the Covid-19 - 3rd initiative.

Pandemic was not over and the situation was aggravating. In addition, funds continued to come in for Covid assistance and we commenced the Covid-19 - 4th Initiative by giving a further **additional amount of LKR 2,500** initially to selected families in July 2021 and gradually added on more families. We are happy to say that the 4th initiative too was concluded on 01st September 2021 by giving 1390 families an additional amount of LKR 2,500.

It was YOU, our regular sponsors and donors, both individuals and entities and other individuals who got to know about the Covid initiatives through friends of CandleAid, who fattened the fund and enabled CandleAid to give these additional amounts to all our beneficiary families.

Below is the Covid 19 – 3rd & 4th initiative accounts at a glance.

	Covid 3 rd initiative	Covid 4 th initiative
Donations received	LKR 3,956,126	LKR 2,156,524
Allocated from the General fund (one donor)	LKR 150,874	LKR 1,318,476
Total	LKR 4,107,000	LKR 3,475,000
Disbursements made to 1369 & 1390 families	LKR 4,107,000	LKR 3,475,000
No of donors	75	16

Below is a snapshot of the number of families assisted.

Families of:	3 rd initiative	4 th initiative
Gift A Meal programme	193	194
Health programme	313	311
Education programme	857	850
Mother & Child Project	-	33
General projects	6	2
Total	1,369	1,390

Below are the circumstances of a few families assisted

Dhananjana & family



Dhananjana is from Kalaganwatta which is in the Nuwara Eliya district. She had written the G.C.E. Ordinary level examination in December 2019 and had obtained seven A's, one B and one C pass. She will be sitting for her Advanced level examination in the Commerce stream in 2022. Her father is a farmer and the mother is unemployed. She has an elder brother and an elder sister. Her elder brother is disabled and her elder sister is studying in grade 13. The father's meagre income has come down further during the last few months and the additional donations given to them helped them immensely in these difficult times. She is a beneficiary in the **Education Sponsorship Programme**.

Kusum & family

Kusum is living in an extremely remote village off Kandy called Rajawela, Senarathwela. She is studying in Grade 07. Her father was doing a canteen business in the free trade zone when he was diagnosed with Muscular Dystrophy. He needs his spouse's help with his daily ablutions. They have three daughters and Kusum is the youngest. Elder daughter is married and lives separately. 2nd daughter completed her Advanced Level examination recently and is desperately looking for employment. The Samurdhi grant and the disability allowance given by the government is insufficient to meet all the living expenses of the family. The father earned a small income by weaving chairs but that too has come to a standstill due to the situation in the country. The father's monthly medication alone is about LKR 9,000. Kusum is a beneficiary of the **Education Programme**, the family receives a **Gift A Meal sponsorship**, and the father receives a **monthly donation towards his medical needs**. The additional donations given to them helped them to meet their day-to-day expenses.



Hansamal & family



Mast Hansamal is a 12-year-old patient from Neluwa in the Galle district. There are 5 members in the family. Patient's father is an estate labourer earning about LKR 15,000 per month. Mother is unemployed. Hansamal is the eldest son of the family of three boys. The 2nd son is 8 years old. The youngest son is 3 years old. Hansamal was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia in July 2012 at the regional government hospital and the patient was transferred to Apeksha Hospital for follow-up treatment. He has been given 3 courses of Chemotherapy. At the end of the 3rd course he developed a nerve disorder said to be a side effect of Chemotherapy. He is able to consume only liquid foods. The father's meagre income has come down further during the last few months and the additional donations given to them helped them to meet their day to day expenses. Hansamal is a beneficiary in the **Health Programme**.

Sadew Rashmika & Family

Sadew is a 13 year old patient from Ranna in the Hambanthota District. There are five members in the patient's family. Father was a casual labourer who earned about LKR 15,000 per month. Unfortunately he had a fall and injured himself. Presently he cannot work and takes Ayurveda treatment for his injury. Mother is unemployed. Eldest son in the family is 18 years old. 2nd son is the patient. Youngest daughter is 6 years old. Sadew is suffering from acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia since 2016 and presently being treated at the Apeksha hospital, Maharagama (Colombo district). Relatives help them whenever they can to meet their food requirements. In this difficult time the additional donations given to them helped them immensely to meet their basic needs. Sadew is a beneficiary in the **Health Programme**.



Mrs Kumari & family



Mrs Kumari is from Wewatenna in the Kandy district. She is a mother of three children. Her husband is suffering from a mental disease and once a month attends clinic when an injection is also administered. Presently, she works as a cultivation labourer and earns about LKR 12,000 per month. Her elder daughter is studying in grade 10 and is due to write the G.C.E. Ordinary level examination in 2022. Her 2nd daughter is studying in grade 05 and is due to write the Grade 05 scholarship examination this year. Her Youngest son is attending pre-school. Her mother also lives with them. Kumari's income came down during the last few months due to Covid restrictions and the additional donations given helped them to meet their food requirements. They receive a **Gift A Meal sponsorship**.

Mrs Premawathie & Family

Mrs Premawathi is 66 years old and has a son who is 34 years old. He is disabled from birth. Premawathi's husband left the family many years ago. Her mother who was 99 years old lived with them and passed away a few months ago. Her unmarried sister is 74 years old and lives with them. She is a cancer patient. Premawathi is not in a position to undertake work since she has to look after her son. They get a disability allowance of LKR 5,000 and Samurdi of LKR 2,000 monthly. The total amount they receive is insufficient to meet their living and medical expenses. The additional donations given to them helped their food requirements. They receive a **Gift A Meal sponsorship**.



Conclusion:

The pandemic is still raging its havoc across the world. In our developing country it is causing untold misery among the low-income segment of society, most of whom are rendered penniless without the ability to engage in their daily wage paying livelihoods.

In such circumstances, all of you who joined CandleAid in our Covid 19 initiatives along with all of us at CandleAid can be deeply gratified that we were able to help 1369 families in the 3rd initiative and 1390 families in the 4th initiative through our combined efforts.

You will be happy to note that CandleAid has disbursed **LKR 16,539,727** up to now to serve our hapless beneficiaries in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th initiatives where over and above 1500 beneficiaries each time were assisted during the locked-down months – 4 months in 2020 and 2 months in 2021. This is over and above their ongoing usual assistance under CandleAid's monthly assistance programmes.

CandleAid extends its utmost grateful thanks to each and every one who participated in these initiatives. Please continue to walk with us in this long journey to support the people in need, people who have no means to reach you on their own.

Yasmin Weerasuriya
Director & Head of Food Programme

"It's Better by Far To Light a Solitary Candle than To Curse the Darkness"