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## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

### UPDATE COVID-19:

Every day there are still far too many Covid-19 infections and deaths reported in Sri Lanka. The population has been asked to protect themselves by staying at home as much as possible. But for the poor that would mean that they have no income, which means no food and drink, and that is of course impossible. In addition, there is hardly any gas, and the gas that is available is unaffordable. A very troubling time, which mainly affects the poor.

### LATEST NEWS:

In Ja Ela the girls all have a job and some follow a course as well. Schools are closed here, so they follow classes on-line. Lately they have suffered extremely heavy rainfall in Ja Ela. Unfortunately, that led to damage to the roof, which was quickly repaired. We are able to lend support in these cases because we have put some funds aside for maintenance of the buildings. In addition to the high gas prices, they also have problems here with the supply of gas. Sister Amatha is going to create a spot outside where they can cook the meals on a wood fire. The sisters and the children have been busy making coconut wine (without alcohol). They give these bottles of wine away as a Christmas present to the people who help them.



In total, 8 new girls were admitted in the homes in the past year. Unfortunately, there are still many children in Sri Lanka that urgently need help!



We were sorry to hear that they had to cut down a mango tree because it was infested with a disease. But they were able to harvest delicious coconuts from the coconut palms! The coconut milk is really fresh to drink and you can also use the coconut pulp as an ingredient when cooking.



The girls from Ja Ela attended a one-day seminar in a home for the elderly in Kelaniya. This home was once set up for homeless old people. The girls and sisters regularly lend a helping hand there. In addition, they also had time to enjoy a boat trip on the lake nearby. That was great fun!



Everything is going well in the other homes. No one was infected with corona and of that we are very pleased. In Katupotha the children are allowed to go to school again, but it's different in every region. For example, in Kelaniya, the oldest girls go to school every other day and the little ones every day. In the last few weeks exams and transition tests were on the agenda. Normally the children would have a Christmas vacation of a few weeks, but this year they only have 3 days off. This, in order to make up for school arrears. Of course, birthdays were also celebrated with delicious cake, and naturally, everyone sang for the birthday girl.



## ADDITIONAL HELP:

In all the homes they have to deal with a lack of gas and/or very high gas prices and also high prices for water and electricity. Vegetables and other groceries have also become much more expensive. They definitely need our help right now!! We're going to see how we can help them even more.



## SISTER AMATHA:

We are delighted to inform you that Sister Amatha has been back in Sri Lanka since the 27th of September, after being away for 1 year and 8 months due to limited travel conditions caused by Covid-19. It was a moving and happy reunion with the children and the sisters. Unfortunately, her mother had become infected with the corona virus and she passed away just a few days after Sister Amatha's return. We were glad that she was in time to see and speak to her mother.



## THANKS!!

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us in the past year, so that we were able to continue taking care of the children. It was only at the tourist markets in Oostkapelle that we were able to earn some money. We could not generate any extra income from other markets, fancy fairs or Power-Point presentations. Therefore, we were more than happy with our regular donors, the proceeds from the collections of churches and the people who gave us one-time donations. Especially in these troubling times they really need our support in Sri Lanka! THANK YOU!!



## CHRISTMAS:

In all the homes the children and sisters are busy with Christmas decorating and making cards. Christmas scenes are made, nativity scenes are set up and Christmas trees are decorated. The girls are enjoying this immensely. Since a lockdown was not announced, the homes want to celebrate Christmas together in Kelaniya this year. How wonderful it is that Sister Amatha can now finally celebrate Christmas with the children again!



*Merry Christmas and the Best Wishes for 2022*

More updates? [www.stichtingnederlandssrilanka.nl](http://www.stichtingnederlandssrilanka.nl)



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Our four children's homes  
are situated in



Pamunugama



Katupotha



Kelaniya



Ja Ela