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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2023

SITUATION IN SRI LANKA:

Unfortunately, the situation has not improved. Especially for the poor people it is becoming increasingly difficult to survive. Children cannot go to school because parents cannot afford the necessary school supplies. A very sad situation. Surgical operations cannot take place because the necessary means to put people under anaesthesia is not available. There is still an enormous shortage of medicine and food, and if it is even available it is extremely expensive. For the rice fields and tea plantations the mandatory biological fertilizers are too expensive. The fishermen have little or no petrol, so they cannot set sail to go fishing. It's getting more hopeless by the day.....

LATEST NEWS:

Fortunately, there are also pleasant stories to tell. At the homes, the birthdays of the children and the sisters are celebrated together. The sisters bake a cake, they sing to each other and of course there is dancing. The sisters also arranged a wonderful picnic in the garden. Some of the children also participated in a talent show. Recently they celebrated "Full Moon Day" together with dancing and games. The sisters even made ice cream for everyone. What a great party! We are pleased and very grateful that the sisters take the time to do fun things with the children.



NEW BOARD MEMBER:

We are very happy to have been able to welcome a new board member as of 1st of January 2023.



A short introduction:

My name is Eljo Gubbels, on January 1st, 2023, I became a member of the board of the Foundation. In the early years the situation of the orphans was brought to our attention by Theo Schouwenaar and since then I have been following all activities via the newsletter and the website. When Tanja asked me to be part of the board, I was immediately enthusiastic and after her explanation about the objectives of the Foundation, the maintenance of the children's homes and the support of the children and Sister Amatha, I said "Yes", at once. Along with my daily job as an administrative assistant, I would also like to contribute to the good work that the foundation does for the orphans in Sri Lanka.

Kind regards, Eljo

WORKING VISIT TO ITALY

(INCLUDING A REPORT ON THE HOMES):

We wanted to go to Sri Lanka in March, but after consultation with sister Amatha we decided not to go. We would then not be able to visit all the homes because of the fuel shortage. We now went to Italy because Sister Amatha was there for health checks. It was very nice to see and talk to her and Sister Michelle and Sister Maria. We could now talk extensively about the children and the homes together.



Fortunately, the children are doing well. They harvest a lot of fruit and vegetables in their vegetable gardens. They also regularly bring extra food to school to distribute among the children who have no food. It is nice to hear that they can help other children.



Three new children have been admitted in recent months. And during the day a few children who had problems at home and/or no food, are also taken care of.

Sister Amatha thinks that in the coming period there will be more and more requests from child protection asking if there is room to take care of more children.

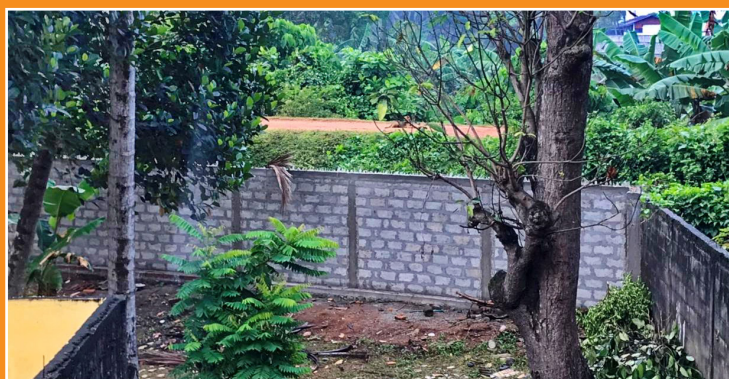
The schools are regularly closed because there is no electricity and also because the teachers are on strike, due to the fact that they are only paid half their wages or not paid at all. The new school year started in the month of January.



The oldest girls in Ja Ela are doing fine. They "run" the home independently. Every now and then one of the sisters goes there for a few days. They do have daily contact with the sisters. They all have a job and earn some money. They also make the school clothes for the other girls, and other clothes too. Good to hear they can take care of themselves.



We also talked about the maintenance of the buildings. There is some deferred maintenance, but it is currently very difficult and expensive to have anything repaired. However, the broken garden walls in Kelaniya and Katupotha have been repaired. That is important for safety.



PowerPoint Presentations:

Would you like to know more about our children's homes in Sr Sri Lanka? We would be pleased to come and show you our PowerPoint presentation!

Expenses:

Would you prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail instead of by post?

Then please send a message to the secretary:

secretaris@stichtingnederlandssrilanka.nl

We would very much like to cut costs as much as possible!

With kind regards. the board:

Chairman
Elsbeth Sanderse- van den Berg

Secretary
Tanja Uitterhoeve- Geene

Treasurer
Jos Uitterhoeve

Board member
Eljo Gubbels - Heijnsdijk



Our four children's homes in Sri Lanka are situated in:

 Pamunugama

 Katupotha

 Kelaniya

 Ja Ela