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## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

### SITUATION IN SRI LANKA:

Unfortunately, the situation has become even worse. Last week the prices of electricity and water were increased again. People now have to spend almost more money on such expenses than they can spend on food. Due to abundant rainfall, vegetable prices have risen sharply. Heavy rains have partially destroyed the vegetable harvest in the higher parts of Sri Lanka. Therefore, they get very little vegetables in the area around Colombo. Education and healthcare are becoming increasingly expensive. There were many ill people recently, but no medicine available. People are referred from government hospitals to private clinics, which of course they cannot afford. Unfortunately, there is no prospect of any improvement in this sad situation.

### NEW CHILDREN:

No new children have been admitted or left the homes in recent months. However, child protection regularly asks whether they can and are prepared to take care of children for a few months. And, of course, they do.



### MAINTENANCE:

Various works have been postponed due to recent heavy rainfall. This is worrying, because roof repairs need to be carried out at two homes due to leakage. We hope the repairs can start soon. Lightning struck one home, causing the electricity system to burn out and, of course, this had to be repaired. As a result, the television is also malfunctioning. Sister Amatha explained that due to these difficult times she cannot afford to spend money on a new TV. Also, due to the heavy rainfall, they have not been able to harvest any vegetables from their own gardens. They hope to be able to plant and sow new plants soon.



### SCHOOL:

The Christmas holidays start on December 23rd. Due to the bad weather, many children have recently had the flu. Fortunately, everyone is feeling better now. Occasionally the children could not go to school due to heavy rains. The oldest girls have exams in January. The youngest children have time off until the end of January. This is not common, but due to poor government management, things often do not go as they should.





CHRISTMAS:

In all the homes they have started the preparations for Christmas decorations. They enjoy this very much and it also helps them forget all their other worries. Recently the children made beautiful Christmas cards and Christmas pendants. Sister Amatha gave them to a clergyman who went to Italy. From there they were sent to us. We are going to sell them at the Christmas market. Sister Amatha is trying to arrange that all children can celebrate Christmas together this year.



CHRISTMAS GIFT:

We are happy to announce that we can offer a Christmas gift again this year. With it they will be able to buy the necessary school supplies, cups and lunch boxes, etc., for the new school year. And, of course, a small Christmas present for each child. This will be presented by Santa Claus who will come and visit them.



WORKING VISIT:

We are pleased to inform you that we will be undertaking a working visit in January 2024. A report of our visit will be included in the next newsletter.

To all donors and everyone else who supported us during this past year:

**THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

Without your support we would not be able to do what we do. And especially in these difficult times, it is so important that we can continue to help the children. Sister Amatha, the sisters and the children are extremely grateful for all the support! We hope we can count on you again the coming year!

We wish you all

**Happy Christmas and  
the Very Best Wishes for  
2024!!**



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