



20TH

Tsunami Remembrance

"Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience"



CARITAS SRI LANKA - SEDEC

THE SOCIAL ARM OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF SRI LANKA



Foreword

Two decades have gone by since the world experienced the worst natural disaster to strike south and south east Asia when Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and India bore the brunt of the December 2004 tsunami.

Sri Lanka, the pearl of the Indian ocean and referred to as the 'Isle of Paradise', has moved on and despite further setbacks of both natural and man-made disasters - the Easter Sunday bombings in April 2019, the global COVID-19 pandemic in February 2020, the nation's worst-ever economic crisis in 2022 - demonstrating the resilience and courage of its people and now stand on the threshold of a new dawn of development & prosperity. The political landscape has changed since December 2024 with renewed hope of a nation to showcase its full potential to the world. Yet many challenges and issue remain and need to be addressed.

As a member of the Caritas Internationalis, Caritas Sri Lanka - SED&C, the social arm of the Catholic Church in Sri Lanka, having being in the fore front of human development, justice and peace for over 4 decades renews its commitment to be an able partner and contributor to nation building.

The stories of human transformation through the efforts of Caritas Sri Lanka - SED&C in the ensuing years of the 2004 tsunami testifies to the what is possible from the impossible through humble, dignified and collective action. The following pages capture the essence of how opportunities that emerge from calamity can make meaningful and lasting impact on humanity.

We hope these will inspire you to forge new possibilities as we embark on fulfilling our obligation towards the aspiration of 'a rich nation - a beautiful life'.

Message from His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith



It is with a sense of sadness that my mind goes back to that 26th December 2004 when hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives all across South East and South Asia. Personally, I was not in Sri Lanka at that time but was in the worst affected area as Apostolic Nuncio, that is Indonesia. Two hundred and fifty thousand people were killed in the Island of Sumatra at its Northern end, in the city of Banda Aceh and there was no set up of Caritas effectively organized in Indonesia at that time.

As Apostolic Nuncio, it was my responsibility to help the Indonesian Bishops' Conference to organize itself and get the necessary help so that the relief operations and the reconstruction process might take off. Indeed, Very Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando was the National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka then, while there was no one to represent Indonesia at the International Caritas meeting held in Rome, 'to which I was asked to go as Indonesia's representative. The Apostolic Nunciature in Indonesia at that time, organized the coordination efforts between the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Indonesia and the Caritas network. [visited the terrible scenes of death, destruction and suffering that had resulted in the Island of Sumatra after the Tsunami.

I refer to all of this, given the fact that had no idea of what had really happened in Sri Lanka. But only later did I witness it, after I came for a visit to this country. It was a great catastrophe for Asia and caused

much damage not only in Indonesia where it originated but also in countries like Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and some parts of East Africa.

In this situation, I should say that the help given by Caritas all over the world was staggering and the response of those who supported the victims through other funding sources including radio channels, TV stations, government assistance, all of that amounted to billions of dollars. And so, it was truly a moment of international solidarity, human beings working for other human beings in order to get over this terrible trauma that hit them so hard.

And so, I wish to thank Caritas Sri Lanka for organizing this commemoration and the message that I can give is, that in the light of the continuous pollution of our atmosphere with irresponsible behaviour on the part of many human beings, taken over by a culture of waste and the release of toxic gases into the atmosphere especially by the industrialized powerful nations and the menace of plastics in the pollution of the oceans are all going to cause further such catastrophes unless humanity decides to take decisive action for the protection of our planet.

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The Holy Father in his Encyclical letter Laudato Si says that today, *"The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth."* [LS 21]. And he affirms that, *"We are not God. The earth was here before us and it has been given to us. This allows us to respond to the charge that Judaeo-Christian thinking, on the basis of the Genesis account which grants man "dominion" over the earth has encouraged the unbridled exploitation of nature by painting him as domineering and destructive by nature."* [LS 67].

What is required is an **ecological conversion** in a move to protect the environment. The Holy Father appeals to the Christians to live their vocation, *"to be protectors of God's handiwork"* [LS 217] and that is not an optional aspect of our Christian life but one that is obligatory. Let us ensure that such disasters will not take place again due to our selfishness and sinfulness.

May God bless our planet and all its beings!

✠ **Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith**
Archbishop of Colombo

"Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience"

Message from President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka



I am pleased to send this message to the Souvenir marking the 20th Anniversary commemorating the Tsunami that devastated some coastal areas of Sri Lanka in 2004. This event organized by Caritas-Sri Lanka (National SEDEC), the Social Action Arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka is of special significance to me, as I was personally involved in the post Tsunami programs in my capacity as the Bishop of Galle and the Episcopal Chairman of Caritas-Sri Lanka. In both capacities, I was engaged in organizing immediate relief to the victims as well as, in spearheading the post-Tsunami rehabilitation programs.

The devastation caused by this unprecedented calamity on 26 December 2004, the day after the Christmas, was a shock not only to our country but to the whole world.

Caritas-Sri Lanka was in the forefront, in mobilizing our Caritas network to be of service to those affected, irrespective of religious or ethnic considerations. Our National Centre focused on immediate emergency aid such as food, medicine and temporary shelters and eventually organized the rehabilitation and recovery programs to rebuild the lives of those affected in many areas, by the construction of permanent housing, provision of income generating and development projects for fisheries, agriculture, and providing assistance for micro enterprises and trauma counselling. This was possible due to the unprecedented of our Caritas partners from all over the world and other Agencies both governmental and non-governmental as well as contributions from Catholic Diocese in different parts of the world.

In the work of relief and rehabilitation, Caritas-Sri Lanka played a unique role in promoting ethnic and religious harmony bringing together the leaders of different communities in rebuilding the lives of the people, which, was the immediate need.

It must also be, recorded here, that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka established a task force to lead and promote our activities and maintain the transparency to ensure accountability to the nation and to the world community. In the face of many challenges and obstacles, with unflinching trust in the Lord, Caritas-Sri Lanka successfully completed the post-Tsunami mission, for which I thank God Almighty, and Our Lady of Lanka, the heavenly patroness of our Island home.

I trust that, the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary, and the publication of the Souvenir by Caritas-Sri Lanka will help to highlight the enormous task of those who really committed to bring normalcy back into the lives of those affected by this disaster and in the service of humanity at a crucial moment in the history of our beloved country, Sri Lanka.

With gratitude and hope,

✠ Harold Anthony Perera
Catholic Bishop of Kurunegala
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka

“Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience”

Message from Most Rev. Dr. Justin B. Gnanapragasam

Reflecting on the 2004 Tsunami and Our Ongoing Commitment

Dear Friends and Partners,

As I reflect on that fateful morning of December 26, 2004, when the devastating tsunami struck our beautiful island nation, I am filled with both profound sadness for the lives lost and deep gratitude for the remarkable spirit of solidarity that emerged from this tragedy. The waves that claimed over 35,000 Sri Lankan lives also sparked unprecedented compassion and action through Caritas Sri Lanka.

In those initial critical hours and days, our Caritas network mobilized rapidly. Our teams were among the first responders in affected areas like Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee. We provided emergency shelter to thousands of displaced families, distributed essential food supplies, and offered immediate medical assistance to the injured. The generosity of our global Caritas family and international donors enabled us to reach out to many people in those crucial early weeks.

As we moved from emergency response to rehabilitation, Caritas Sri Lanka embarked on an ambitious housing program, where we were able to offer houses, and these are not just houses – they are homes where new memories were created and communities were rebuilt. Moving forward our commitment did not stop there, we provided livelihood assistance, education, and psychosocial support to

thousands of those affected, regardless of their ethnic or religious backgrounds, to find hope for the future.

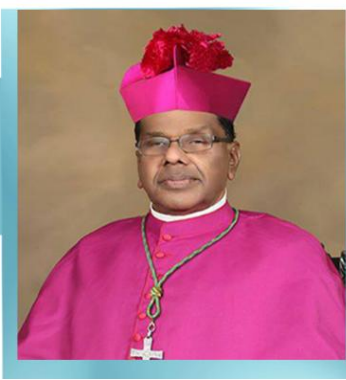
This transformation has been possible through the unwavering support of our donors, the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and most importantly, the determination of the affected communities themselves.

On behalf of Caritas Sri Lanka, I express our deepest gratitude to all who have supported our mission over these years – our international Caritas partners, local and international donors, government agencies, and countless volunteers. Your solidarity has made this journey of recovery and rebuilding possible.

The 2004 tsunami taught us that in our darkest hours, the light of human compassion shines brightest. As we continue our work, we remain inspired by the courage of survivors and committed to building more resilient communities across Sri Lanka.

With profound gratitude and hope,

✠Justin B. Gnanapragasam
Chairman
Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC



“Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience”

Message from National Director, Caritas Sri Lanka – SEDEC



The Tsunami of 2004 was one of the most tragic disasters in Sri Lanka's history. In just a few moments, thousands of lives were lost, homes were destroyed, and communities were left in deep sorrow. It was a time of great suffering, fear, and uncertainty. However, in the midst of this tragedy, there was also an incredible display of kindness, strength, and unity.

Caritas Sri Lanka played a major role in helping those who were affected. As the present National Director, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all those who worked with Caritas during that difficult period. Caritas International Partners, Private donors, the Staff of Tsunami affected and non-Tsunami affected dioceses, interreligious leaders, government officials, well-wishers and volunteers came together with one goal to help rebuild lives. They provided food, shelter, medical aid, educational assistance, livelihood support, psychosocial support, and most importantly- hope. Their dedication and love for the people of Sri Lanka made a great impact, and their service will always be remembered and appreciated.

Caritas Sri Lanka was blessed to receive generous support from many donors, both locally and internationally. Their kindness and contributions made it possible for us to provide long-term assistance beyond immediate relief. Because of their generosity, many families were able to rebuild their homes, regain their livelihoods, and restart their lives with dignity. Today, we are proud to see that many of the people who received help back then have moved forward successfully.

They are now in a good place, living stable and happy lives. As Caritas, we feel truly fulfilled knowing that our efforts have helped transform lives and create a better future for so many. Even after the immediate relief efforts, Caritas remained with the affected communities, supporting them in rebuilding their homes, livelihoods, and futures. The journey was not easy, but together, we were able to bring comfort and strength to those who needed it the most.

As we reflect on the past, we also look to the future. Natural disasters and challenges may come, but Caritas Sri Lanka will always be here to support and stand by our people. Our mission is to serve with love and compassion, and we will continue to be a source of strength for communities in times of need.

I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the tsunami relief efforts and to those who continue to serve with dedication today. Your kindness and generosity remind us all of the true spirit of humanity.

With gratitude and hope,

Fr. Luke Nelson Perera
National Director
Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC

“Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience”

Message from Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis



Twenty years ago, the world watched with horror as tsunamis battered the shores of Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia. While many remembered beautiful holidays and places they had visited, they saw the death and destruction that was reeked on communities that lived along these coasts.

As ever, while the world was realising the extent of the damage, local people and communities were immediately doing what they could to get people to safety, to feed and house them, to look after them, and to find and bury the dead. From the word go, Caritas and the Church were at the heart of these efforts, bringing their care, compassion, and considerable humanitarian experience to serve their people.

Within days, I arrived with a number of international Caritas humanitarians to support the national and diocesan teams, and help them set up what was to become a colossal relief and reconstruction effort, serving more than thousands of people, building some 20,000 permanent houses, costing some US\$ 330 million.

Throughout this huge response, which drew on the whole global Caritas family, Caritas brought tenderness, love and professionalism to communities that had lost almost everything. With pastoral sensitivity they accompanied the grief, protected the vulnerable, rebuilt villages and communities, and rekindled local economies and livelihoods.

I remember my time in Batticaloa with great fondness and am proud to have been part of such an immense response.

I have many dear friends from this time, and remember with great joy Theiva and Fr Sri, who were central to the work and are dearly missed.

Thank you to everyone at Caritas Sri Lanka and in the dioceses for the incredible witness to the power of Caritas – love – and your service of your people.

Alistair Dutton
Secretary General
Caritas Internationalis

“Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience”

Message from President, Caritas Asia

Dear Board Members, Well-Wishers, Supporters, Friends, Colleagues and Volunteers of Caritas Sri Lanka

At 8:35 AM, on the 26th of December 2004, Sri Lanka experienced an unprecedented tragedy caused by a massive undersea earthquake near northern Sumatra, measuring 9.0 on the Richter Scale. The first wave struck the east coast, followed by several more, devastating vast areas and causing death of over 30,000, displacing hundreds and thousands, destructing infrastructure including homes, bridges, railways and communication networks. I was then travelling from Dhaka, our capital city, to my village home in Gazipur district.

From 1999 to 2004, I was the Disaster Management Director and from 2005 to 2016 the Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh. Following an Emergency Appeal, on behalf of Caritas Sri Lanka, of Caritas Internationalis (CI) for members of Emergency Support Team (ERST), we then decided to send two of our most experienced staff – Mr. James Malakar of Caritas Barishal Region/Diocese and Mr. John Biswas of Caritas Khulna Region/Diocese – to Sri Lanka. They joined the ERST in Sri Lanka as soon as it was formed by Caritas Internationalis. In his experience report on Working in Sri Lanka as an ERST Member, Mr. James Malakar wrote, “We were scheduled to arrive in Colombo on the 4th of January 2005 to join the ERST of Caritas Internationalis. Due to a very big bird’s strike at the time of takeoff, our flight was delayed by two days, we finally arrived there on the 7th of January, 2005.”



Mr. Malakar, in the above-mentioned report, continued, “In response to Caritas Sri Lanka’s Emergency Appeal, Caritas Internationalis quickly mobilized resources and formed the ERST which was divided into three Sub-teams to cover – 1. Colombo and Galle; 2. Jaffna and Vanni; and 3. Batticaloa and Trincomalee. From Bangladesh, I was a member of this 3rd Sub-team for Batticaloa and Trincomalee, and the other members of the 3rd Sub-team were from Caritas Austria, Caritas Belgium, CAFOD–England and Wales, Caritas France, CRS–USA, CORDAID–Netherlands, Caritas Switzerland and Trocaire–Ireland.” The 3rd team was led by the Representative of Caritas Sri Lanka. Our other Bangladeshi colleague – Mr. John Biswas - was a member in the 2nd Sub-team to cover Jaffna and Vanni. I was always in touch with our two colleagues and Caritas Internationalis’ Emergency Department during the time they were in Sri Lanka to perform their role as ERST members.

Mr. James Malakar, later in 2006/2007, visited Tsunami affected areas twice to conduct the mid-term evaluation of Tsunami Recovery Projects implemented by Caritas Sri Lanka. The Evaluation Team comprising three members – James Malakar from Bangladesh, Mr. P M Philip from Carita India and Munish Kaushik of ASK, India – identified many strengths including speediness of responses, appropriateness of items distributed, quality of housing materials, rightness of selection of beneficiaries, etc., of Caritas Sri Lanka.

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beneficiaries, etc., of Caritas Sri Lanka. The Team, among other points, recommended for the community-based disaster management program focusing community preparedness with the components of sensitization and mobilization for building community awareness on threats of hazards, vulnerability and risks; people's participation in the process of disaster preparedness and mitigation; and risk reduction to reduce the future vulnerabilities of people. The lessons learned from the implementation of Sri Lanka's Tsunami Responses, and findings & recommendations of the evaluation of the same projects were used by the Humanitarian Advisory Committee of Caritas Internationalis for the further improvement of its EA processes and responses.

As one of the attendees of the 10th Tsunami Commemoration Programs, I witnessed how carefully and successfully all the events were organized by the colleagues and friends of Caritas Sri Lanka. All Government's, Donors' and Church's representatives present there from home and abroad very much appreciated and gratefully recognized the widescale and meaningful service that Caritas Sri Lanka provided through relief and rehabilitation aids to the families affected by Tsunami. I am excited about my participation in the coming 20th Tsunami Commemoration Programs and assure you of my continued prayers for a joy and peaceful celebration, and renewal of commitments.

"Caritas is the caress of the Church to its people, the caress of the Mother Church to her Children, her tenderness and closeness." -says, Pope Francis. May Caritas Sri Lanka continue to care and walk with all people in need on the joyful path of love and service!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Benedict Alo D'Rozario
President, Caritas Asia

"Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience"

Message from Former National Director during Tsunami Period



Twenty years ago, Sri Lanka witnessed one of the most devastating tragedies in its history, the 2004 tsunami. The catastrophe claimed thousands of lives, leaving an permanent mark on our nation and other affected countries. The destruction was immense, ravaging the coastal belts of the Southern, Western, Eastern, and Northern Provinces.

I was in Negombo, a coastal town in the western part of the island, when the tsunami struck. As an eyewitness to the towering tidal waves and the sheer terror and desperation of the people, I was overwhelmed by the scale of devastation. My immediate thoughts turned to the coastal dioceses : Galle, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Jaffna and Colombo, where lives and livelihoods were shattered. Among them, Galle and Batticaloa suffered the worst, with the Diocese of Galle bearing the most severe impact.

In response, Caritas Sri Lanka swiftly mobilized National Center Teams for an observational missionary visit to the affected areas. This experience reinforced our mission to uphold human dignity and create a society where all people live in harmony with one another and with nature. As the National Director during the Post-Tsunami operations, I was humbled by the opportunity entrusted to us to serve on such a large scale. Caritas Sri Lanka launched a massive emergency relief operation across the country, positioning itself as one of the foremost humanitarian agencies recognized by the government and other leading organizations.

With the generous support and technical expertise of Caritas International partners, we effectively managed the emergency response, ensuring that vital assistance reached the tsunami-affected families.

Our global partners played a massive role in mobilizing international aid, while our facilitating partner sectors, Catholic organizations, Caritas member organizations, other Church institutions, and dedicated expatriates, worked tirelessly alongside us in the dioceses. Together, we faced the devastation of the tsunami with courage, compassion, and commitment.

As we commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Tsunami, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all past and present Chairmen, National Directors, Diocesan Directors, staff, and volunteers of Caritas Sri Lanka. Your dedication and service have uplifted countless lives over the years. The theme of this anniversary perfectly reflects the impact of our Relief, Reconstruction, and Rehabilitation Program, which has empowered communities and strengthened their resilience.

This booklet stands as a testament to our collective efforts and serves as a source of pride for the entire Caritas Network. As we reflect on this journey, may we continue to illuminate the lives of those in need, carrying forward our mission of love and service.

May God bless you all!

Fr. Damian Fernando
Former National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC
(2001 to 2009)

“Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience”

Message from Former National Director during 10th Year Commemoration of Tsunami



It has been 20 years since the devastating tsunami of December 26, 2004, yet the memories of that tragic day remain deeply etched in our hearts. We remember the thousands of lives lost, the families shattered, and the coastal communities left in ruins. It was one of the most painful chapters in our nation's history. However, amidst the suffering and destruction, we also witnessed extraordinary resilience, unity, and compassion: qualities that defined our journey of recovery and empowerment.

From the very beginning, Caritas Sri Lanka stood alongside the affected communities, bringing immediate relief and hope. We understood that true recovery was not just about rebuilding homes but about restoring dignity, livelihoods, and the strength of the human spirit. During my tenure as National Director, our mission was to carry forward the Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation efforts, ensuring that those impacted had the opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity and self-sufficiency.

Through the continuous support of the global Caritas family, we launched one of the largest humanitarian initiatives in our history. We provided safe housing, helped families regain their means of livelihood, and ensured children could continue their education. More than physical rebuilding, we focused on emotional healing, offering counselling and psychosocial support to help survivors reclaim hope and move forward with renewed strength.

Looking back, I am humbled to have been part of this remarkable journey. The courage and perseverance of the tsunami-affected families, their determination to rise from adversity, and the excellent solidarity shown by so many remind us of the power of resilience. The tsunami tested us as a nation, but it also revealed our ability to stand together and uplift one another in times of crisis.

As we mark the 20th anniversary, let us remember those we lost and honor their memory by continuing to nurture a spirit of love, service, and solidarity. Let us carry forward the lessons learned and remain committed to empowering those in need. In every challenge we face, may we always stand together, just as we did then, stronger and more resilient than ever.

With prayers and gratitude,

Fr. George Sigamoney

Former National Director of Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC
(2009 – 2016)

“Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience”

A time for weeping and a time for laughing...

“Losing my husband and 3 children was painfully unbearable, but with time, love and caring shown by those entrusted with human wellbeing, I am able to continue with life enriched with a safe home, new livelihood skills, social harmony and the undying memory of my loved ones”

Juliet
Selvapuram, Mullaitivu



Making every opportunity count...

“The opportunity to have access to a safe home, a sustained livelihood gives us hope and a sense of fulfillment for the rest of our lives”

*Joseph Shelton
North Payagala, Kalutara*





'Home' is key...

"The rescue, relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and restoration of life and property will be an unforgettable cycle. I am at peace and filled with hope, possible through a safe & secure home".

Jensiya Noorhan
Kaathankudy, Batticaloa

It only takes a spark...

“With the one ‘Karavalai Vallam’ or ‘deep sea boat’ I returned to my profession determined to dream big. Today I employ 20 fishermen from my village and earn a decent income enough for all”

Nagalingam
Vakarai, Batticaloa

Together we can overcome...

"Displaced and re-settled in a new village, we formed the 'Minimuthu Small Enterprise Society' an eleven member women's Self-Help Group which provides access to financial assistance to member families through micro loans ranging from \$33 - \$833 and contributes to community engagement and sustainability".

Dilini Deepani - Hon. Secretary
Minimuthu Small Enterprises Society
Ranna, Hambantota

A family of four is standing outdoors in front of a colorful boat. The boat has a yellow upper section with the text 'OFRP-A-2244 TLE' in black, and a blue lower section with white and red stripes. The family consists of a man in a light blue polo shirt and khaki shorts, a woman in a blue floral dress, a young boy in a red and white striped shirt, and a young girl in a white t-shirt with a red heart and the word 'them' written on it. They are standing in front of a lush green background with trees and a black metal fence.

A path to progress...

"I am blessed with a complete family, a growing asset-base and sustained household income and a secure home environment - This is progress for me"

*Sugath Prasanna
Kalametiya, Hambantota*

Challenges bring new opportunities....



“Family bondages, caring and compassion for each other, a livable income and a promising future for our children are all blessings we don't take for granted”

**Shanika Maduwanthi
South Payagala, Kalutara**

A time for sorrow and a time for joy...

“The sadness and hopelessness did not deter us, our determination to overcome helped us to fulfill our obligations and live in contentment for the rest of our lives”

L A Sumanawathie
South Payagala, Kalutara



Perseverance pays off...

"I overcame my psychological and physical scars to rebuild my life and that of my family. The new home ensured my three children had the best environment for their education - one is now a medical student, the second is a seminarian and my youngest is in high school. I have a thriving business"

Puniyamoorthy Jesuthasan
Maruthankery, Jaffna



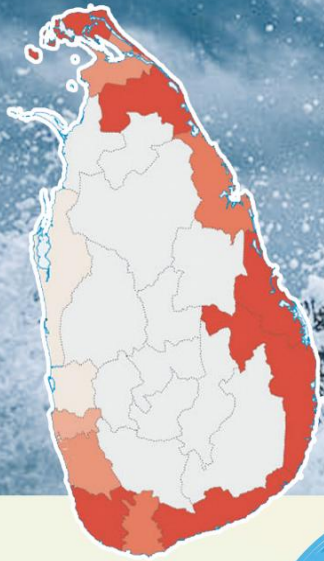
New beginnings with new skills...

“Household income of our community of fishermen has been greatly enhanced due to the new skills which were gained through livelihood support training. We have moved away from traditional fishing methods and adopted the “drag net fishing” system, which has given each of the fishermen new skills, increased income, greater unity, happy families and hope for a brighter future for our children”

Majeedkaan
Kinniya, Trincomalee



SALUTATIONS...to the former Reverend Father Directors of the All Diocesan Center during the catastrophic December 26 tsunami in 2004.



Rev. Fr. C.G. Jeyakumar

Rev. Fr. Francis Jayakodi

Rev. Fr. Jude Raj Fernando

Rev. Fr. Sritharan Sylvester (Late)

Rev. Fr. Herman Fernando

Rev. Fr. Damian Arsakularatne

Rev. Fr. G. Peter (Late)

Rev. Fr. Francis Xavier Dias



CARITAS SRI LANKA SERVICES FOR THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Transitional Shelters

- Northern Province 995
- Eastern Province 5,144
- Western Province 166
- Southern Province 580



Infrastructure

- Community Centres 30
- Religious Buildings 5
- Workshop Buildings 4
- Hospital renovated 5
- Orphanages 4
- Markets 6
- Harbour renovation 1
- Culverts 37
- No. of Toilets 4,161
- Wells 2,325

Permanent Shelters

- Northern Province 1,520
- Eastern Province 3,707
- Western Province 2,030
- Southern Province 1,402
- North Western Province 54



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CARITAS SRI LANKA SERVICES FOR THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Psychosocial Support

- No. of Beneficiaries attended in Psychosocial support programs 39,830
- No. of Beneficiaries receiving Psychosocial group/ individual counselling 5,043
- No. of Cases referred to Professional Counselors 949

Livelihood Assistance with Persons

- Northern Province 11,450
- Eastern Province 17,377
- Western Province 11,258
- Southern Province 6,899

Livelihood Assistance – Fisheries

- Fishing boats 753
- Outdoor motor engines 825
- Lagoon & sea canoes 196
- Fishing net sets 12,121
- Fishing accessories 12,919
- Peddle cycles 153

Livelihood Assistance – Agriculture

- Home gardening kits 393
- Seed & seedlings 11,356
- Organic farming assets 433
- Agriculture tools & equipment 3,362
- Irrigation facilities 11,735
- Water pumps & accessories 21
- Small business kits 5,277
- Sewing machines 185
- Cash vouchers 1,497

“Memories of an Empowering Journey of Resilience”

Tsunami Theme Song

ගසාගෙන ගිය හීන ඇතුළේ
උදුවපෙන් උණු කඳුළු හැලෙන
නටබුන්ව ගිය කැලලි අස්සේ
තුවාලය පෂරෙමින් තිබුණා
විසි වසක් උණුසුමක්
පණ අදින හදවතට දැණෙන
සයුර කළ හදියට
සයුර සේ නුඹ අපව රැක්කා

සෙබෙක් අම්මා සෙබෙක් අම්මා
මෙතෙක් විසිරුණු කැලලි රැක්කා

ගලින් ගල බැඳ ආයේ හැඳුවේ
ලේ කිරට බැඳි ප්‍රේමයයි
පොත පතින් නුඹ ආයෙ බැන්දේ
පොඩි උන්ගේ හෙට හීනයයි
නිසරු පොළොවට බීජ ඉස්සේ
අපේ කඳුලුලි වැස්ස වෙන්නයි
මුහුදටම අප ආයෙ යැවුවේ
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සෙබෙක් තායෙ සෙබෙක් තායෙ
இதுவரை சிதறிய
கூடு காத்தாய்...

எம் காயம் வலிக்கையிலே நீயும் துடித்தாய்
எம் கண்ணீர் காண்கையிலே நீயும் அழுதாய்
வீணான வாழ்க்கையிலே இருளான சாபத்திலே
ஒளி ஏற்றி வைத்தமைக்கு நன்றி நன்றி

If you cant fly then run
If you cant run then walk
If you cant walk then crawl
Whatever you do...
Keep moving
Keep moving forward
You taught us your life
Unending love of Christ
God's face we see here on earth in your light

Ubi caritas est vera
Deus ibi est //

Lyrics & Melody
Rev. Fr. Shiran Chamaka Perera
and Caritas Sri Lanka Team

Music
Sachee Madhuranga

Translations
Rev. Bro. Michael John
Pavithra Jaanu and Caritas Sri Lanka team

"Dear Partners,

*Your remarkable contributions have transformed the lives of those we serve,
leaving an indelible mark of hope and inspiration.*

*We are truly grateful for your kindness and generosity,
which light the path for others and create a ripple effect of positivity in the community."*

Caritas Internationalis

Caritas Asia

Caritas Argentina

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Caritas Bangladesh

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Caritas Brazil

Caritas Benin

Caritas Canada

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Caritas India

Caritas Ireland-Trocaire

Caritas Jerusalem

Caritas Japan

Caritas Luxembourg

Caritas Macau

Caritas Malaysia

Caritas Malawi

Caritas Mexicana

Caritas NewZealand

Caritas Norway

Caritas Nigeria

Caritas Netherlands -Cordaid

Caritas Peru

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One Heart One Body Movement

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Sri Lanka Hope Trust Diocese of

Tyler of USA

CIDA

European Commission (EC)

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Mr. Yu Hwa Li (Editor)

Former National Directors

All Diocesan Directors of Tsunami affected Dioceses

Caritas Network in Sri Lanka

