

# Buddhist Relief Mission Joins Helping Hands Ceylon in Anuradhapura



## Anuradhapura Rural School Initiative A Step Towards Hope, Education, and Humanity by Vandana Rajapakse, Founder/Director of Helping Hands Ceylon

Helping Hands Ceylon recently carried out a meaningful empowerment initiative for the children of a rural school in an impoverished and isolated village, 70 kilometers from Anuradhapura. This small school provides education for children from nursery through Grade 5. Despite many challenges, the school continues to function with a dedicated staff of only five teachers and a principal.

Most of the families in this area are struggling for survival. Many parents work as domestic laborers and have been severely affected by kidney diseases caused by the long-term use of contaminated and toxic water. During our visit, one little child quietly shared that the family's daily meal sometimes consists of only a few spoonfuls of rice with green chillies. Hearing these words was heartbreaking.

Reaching the school was rather difficult because the area surrounding the school is dangerous. Wild elephants often wander into the school premises and sometimes strike the walls while children are inside the classrooms. The road leading to the school was destroyed by Cyclone Ditwah, and children and villagers have to walk along an alternative route which borders a lake inhabited by crocodiles.

What touched our hearts the most was the innocence and hope carried by these children. Many of them have never traveled outside Anuradhapura in their entire lives. They dream of one day visiting Kandy, seeing the city, and experiencing the beauty of Sri Lanka's heritage sites through a school field trip. Such simple dreams remind us how precious and deserving these children truly are.

As part of this initiative, Helping Hands Ceylon provided every child with a

complete stationery pack to support their studies throughout the year, along with a high quality school bag to encourage and strengthen their educational journey. We were also able to extend financial assistance to every child's family in order to ease a small part of their burden during these difficult times.

At Helping Hands Ceylon, we strongly believe that every child deserves a proper education, safety, and nutritious food. In the near future, we hope to provide a parcel of dry ration for each family connected to this school, helping them overcome at least a part of their daily struggles.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Buddhist Relief Mission and to every donor, supporter, volunteer, and well-wisher who stood beside us in making this initiative possible. Your kindness has brought hope and comfort to children who are often forgotten by society. Every contribution, no matter the size, became a reason for these children to smile.

Together, we can continue creating meaningful change.



Buddhist Relief Mission is pleased to have been part of this project, and we thank all of our supporters who contributed. We admire Vandana's energy, enthusiasm, and careful planning and look forward to her future projects. Buddhist Relief Mission is always open to cooperation with other such organizations assisting the needy here in Sri Lanka and in other countries, as well.

"Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving-kindness." – Dalai Lama



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Your donations will help Buddhist Relief Mission support the Sangha in various countries, provide food, medicine, and other essentials to families, schools, monasteries, hospitals, and other institutions in Sri Lanka, assist refugees, and support U.S. prison and released prisoner programs.



## Buddhist Relief Mission

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