

## **Caritas - Valvuthayam**

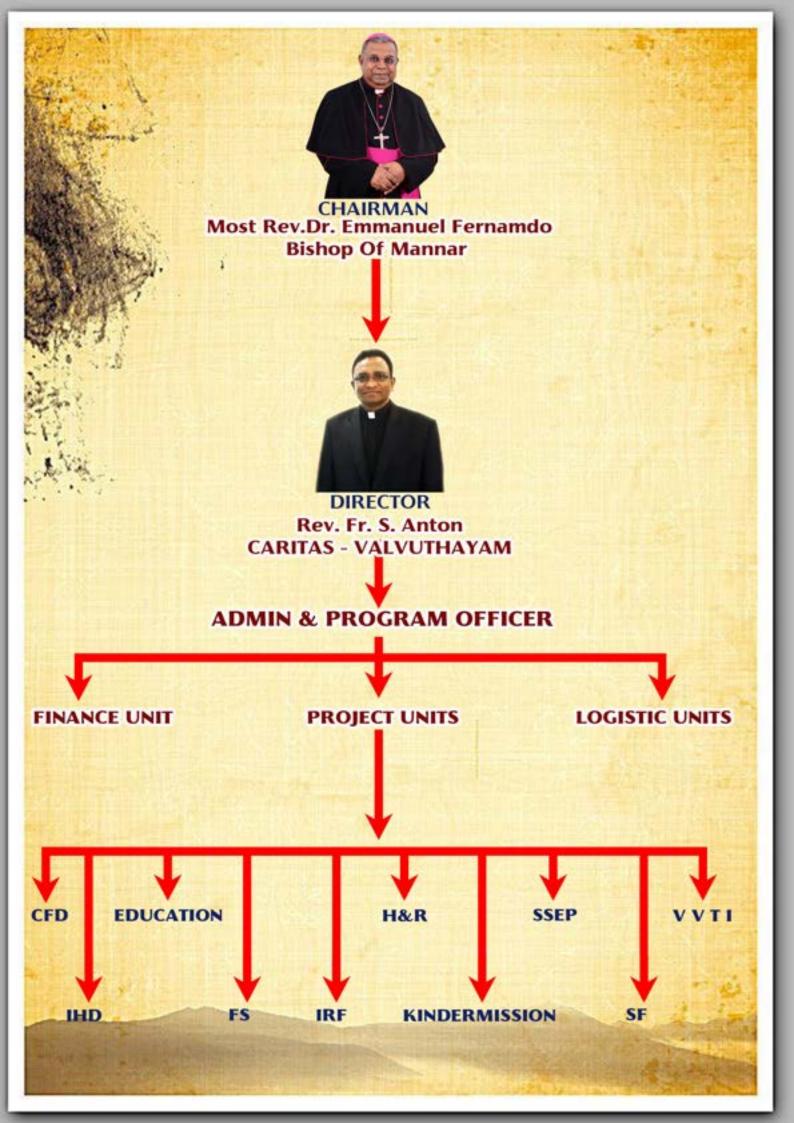


1981 - 2021

"We are deeply grateful to God, donors, directors, staff, and volunteers for giving us the opportunity to celebrate 40 years of service and for the chance to help vulnerable people. We will continue our mission to serve the vulnerable."

**40th Anniversary** 







'MANNAR DIOCESAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT'



## Centre For Disabled

The Centre for Disabled Unit in Caritas Valvuthayam has been actively engaged in a range of activities focused on early intervention and support for children with disabilities (CWDs) over the course of the last year, 2022. Some of the key activities and initiatives are summarized below:

#### Early Intervention Assessment Program:

A program on early intervention assessment was conducted by Dr. Soosai, a neurologist. This program aimed to assess children's development and identify potential disabilities at an early stage.

CBR workers were trained to conduct early assessment tests and provide immediate intervention to support CWDs.

Nine CBR workers and eight beneficiaries participated in the program.





### Awareness Meetings and Workshops:

An awareness meeting was held for mothers' club members and preschool teachers, emphasizing the importance of nutritious food for children aged 0-5.

Workshops were conducted on topics such as mental illness affecting physical health, sign language training, and birth deformities leading to disability.

The workshops were attended by CBOs, preschool teachers, youth, IRF members, and beneficiaries of rehabilitation therapy.









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#### **Collaboration with Nuffield School:**

Collaboration with Nuffield Special School for deaf and blind children in the Jaffna district.

Services offered at Nuffield School included sensory and hearing tests, sign language classes, and speech therapy.

Joint discussions with Nuffield School' teachers and speech therapists were conducted to address speech, vision, and hearing impairments.





#### Speech and Language Therapy Clinics:

Multiple speech therapy clinics were organized with the help of Nuffield Speech and Language School.

These clinics aimed to provide speech and language therapy to children with speech and language impairments.

Home-based tasks were assigned to parents to enhance speech-related issues and improve communication skills.









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### **Orthotic Devices Fitting Clinics:**

Orthotic device fitting clinics were held to provide support to children with orthotic needs.

Children with disabilities requiring orthotic devices were evaluated and provided with necessary support.











## **Developmental Devices delivred**

Developmental devices like standing frame, special chair for Children with Cerebral Palsy, prone board and Special sheeting were given to provide support to Children with disabilities. Children with disabilities required Developmental devices and they were assessed and provided with the necessary support.















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#### Observational Treatment for Speech and Language Therapy:

Continuous observational treatment sessions were organized for children with disabilities in various regions.

Treatment focused on various aspects, including articulation disorders, phonological disorders, swallowing disorders, and language skills.





#### Focus on Parental Awareness and Involvement:

Efforts were made to raise parental awareness about the importance of early intervention and speech therapy.Parental involvement and support were crucial for the success of therapy sessions.

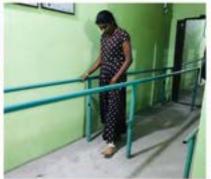
#### CFD Centre:

In the office, prosthetic & orthotic devices, mobility devices, and other assistive devices were delivered to 118 persons with disabilities, totaling 172 devices.

Awareness programme for parents, WRDS, Mother about How can creat disabilities and how to privent and manage.









#### Challenges:

Challenges included parents' reluctance to accept their child's disability, fear of societal exposure, lack of parental support for home-based clinical tasks, and the need for more frequent therapy sessions.

In conclusion, Caritas Valvuthayam's Early Intervention Program has been actively involved in various activities aimed at identifying, assessing, and supporting children with disabilities. Collaboration with professionals and institutions, as well as raising awareness among parents, has been central to their efforts in improving the lives of children with disabilities. Challenges faced in providing consistent and effective support have been acknowledged, and efforts are being made to address these challenges moving forward.



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# Case Study Master, Yohith Croos

I'm Loga Rani, and I live in the village of Thevanpiddy. My three kids and I are married.



Yohith Croos, my third kid, has cerebral palsy. I discovered this issue with my child a year after his birth. Every month I took him to the doctor, who informed me that the youngster has muscle weakness and is unable to move or keep equilibrium before sitting or standing. We finally determined that my child had a developmental delay.

In 2022, through this diagnosis, I learned about Caritas-Valvuthayam. I had the chance to attend a meeting that Caritas-Valvuthayam employees planned in my community and I had the chance to convey the actual status of my child. They gave my child a standing frame and ankle-foot orthotic devices, taking into account his acute need. My toddler started to stand and walk by himself with the aid of the tools supplied by Caritas Valvuthayam.



Later, my son gradually began to speak thanks to appropriate and varied exercises that were directed by pertinent multi-disciplinary terms. The multidisciplinary team came to my house under Valvuthayam's direction to assess my child's progress and gave us the recommendation to consult an expert.

The daily wage of my spouse, a laborer, is Rs. 500. Additionally, he won't have a regular job. His earnings are insufficient to cover our bare necessities given the current state of the economy. Due of his health, we are unable to cover his medical costs. While Yohith's father Ajithkumar was speaking, he mentioned that he works as a marine fisherman and gets very little money, which is insufficient to meet our family's daily necessities. Additionally, I find it difficult to meet the educational obligations of my other two children who are enrolled in school. On some days when I don't go to work, we have trouble providing for our kids' needs. Knowing our predicament, Caritas-Valvuthayam stepped up to provide assistance.



We were able to use our child thanks to Valvuthayam's equipment (Orthotic and developmental gadgets) and financial help. We noticed that his developmental milestone was gradually improving. The multidisciplinary term provided timely guidance, appropriate exercises, and practice techniques. As a result, my son has started to call me Amma, Appa, and Ammamma. Prior to then, he was silent. We are overjoyed to observe my son's steady growth. I was able to see God's might and Valvuthayam's compassion, and I praise God for it. When my family and I were in a desperate situation, Valvuthayam helped us. Importantly, Valvuthayam employees routinely visited our home and made the proper choice when it was needed.





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#### **Educational Assistance**

In the year 2022, Caritas Valvuthayam continued its mission to provide educational assistance and support to vulnerable students in Mannar & Vavuniya Districts, particularly in the face of an ongoing economic crisis. The following report highlights the various activities and initiatives undertaken by Caritas Valvuthayam during this challenging period.

### Education Support for 108 School Students and 224 University Students

In 2022, Caritas Valvuthayam extended its educational support to 108 students across various programs and initiatives. This support was made possible through generous contributions from both local and international sources, as detailed below:

#### Support for School Students:

Kedayam Project: 16 students received educational support. Parish Project Mannar (London): 20 students were assisted.

Education Support for the War Affected Children (under the Korea Project):

January to July: 11 students benefited. August to December: 19 students.

TCA Project: 4 students received support. Norway Project: 5 students were assisted. Canada Project: 15 students received support.

Germany Project: 12 students benefited.

Caritas Valvuthayam's Funds Project: 6 students received support.

#### Support for University Students:

Additionally, Caritas Valvuthayam provided educational assistance to 224 university students. This support aimed to ensure that higher education remained accessible to those in need, with the following breakdown:

Education Support for the War Affected Children (under the Korean Project):

January to July: 47 students benefited.

August to December: 56 students.

TCA Project: 23 students were assisted.

Lenten Fund (June 2022 to December 2022): 98 students received support.







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#### Teacher's Allowance

Caritas Valvuthayam recognized the vital role of teachers in the education system and allocated funds for teacher's allowances. In 2022, 166 teachers received support through the following sources:

Bishop's Fund - Pre-School Teacher's Payments: 164 teachers received Valvuthayam Fund - Volunteer Teachers Payments: 2 volunteer teachers received





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### **Distribution of Learning Materials**

Caritas Valvuthayam responded to the educational needs of vulnerable students by distributing learning materials through various projects:

#### Special Project 2022:

113 school students in rural areas received learning materials as per the request of their school principals.

199 individual students who approached the office directly were provided with learning materials.

#### Common Project 2022:

84 school-going children of Urban Council cleaning workers received learning materials. 496 school students in rural areas received learning materials as requested by their school principals.

111 individual students received learning materials directly.

41 Minor Seminary students were also supported with learning materials.













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## **Korea Project Activities**

Under the Korea Project, Caritas Valvuthayam organized valuable training programs, distributed hygiene kits, and provided rechargeable lamps to students receiving assistance:

Three training programs on value education, self-esteem, career guidance, and leadership were conducted, benefiting over 30 students each session.

Hygienic hand wash and face mask packages were distributed to 58 students, achieving a 100% success rate.

Rechargeable lamps were provided to 75 students in a program organized on 29th December 2022.





## Revision Classes for Grade 5 Scholarship Students.

Caritas Valvuthayam organized revision seminars for grade 5 scholarship students, resulting in significant achievements:

A seminar at Kanthapuram Vanividiyalayam in Vavuniya on 2nd December 2022 led to six students passing, including a differently-abled student.

Another seminar at St. Mary's School in Pesalai on 11th November 2022 resulted in 12 students passing the exam.

Despite challenges, Caritas Valvuthayam's efforts continued to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable students, ensuring access to education during the economic crists in Sri Lanka. We are grateful for the unwavering support from donors and partners, which made these activities possible.





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## 'Ensuring the Rights of Children with Disabilities and their Parents / Caregivers

"War affected vulnerable children with special needs and their parents are given appropriate suport to enable them to become more independent and lead meaningful lives."

## **Review Meeting**

"Ensuring the Rights of Children with Disabilities and their Parents/Caregivers in Mannar Districts" Project Review Meeting was held at Caritas Sri Lanka SEDEC in January.

Participants included the Project Coordinator, Field Offices, Special Education Teachers, and CBR (Community-Based Rehabilitation) workers, as well as the HUDEC Team from Killinochchi District. In this review meeting, the following objectives were addressed:

Reviewing the 2nd phase of activities in Mannar and Killinochchi districts for the "Ensuring the Rights of Children with Disabilities and their Parents/Caregivers" Project.

Discussing the challenges faced by Children with Disabilities (CWDs) and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) during the COVID-19 pandemic and exploring collaboration opportunities with like-minded organizations.

Sharing and showcasing the services provided by the Centre for Disabled Activities and their alignment with the goals of the project.

Providing an orientation on the project's reporting mechanism and financial monitoring system.















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A two-day CBR training workshop conducted by Clinical Psychologist Arumaithurai focused understanding the psychological challenges faced by children with disabilities, including Autism, ADHD, and Down syndrome. Participants included Project Coordinators, Field Officers. CBR Workers, Special Education Teachers. Pre-School Teachers, vouths involved community work, and parents of children with disabilities supported by Caritas.

Assessment training conducted by Dr. Soosai, a Neurologist from Norway, covered how to assess children with disabilities, create problem lists, and plan intervention strategies.

Mobility Training led by Mr. Janan, a Rehabilitation Therapist from Caritas Valvuthavam, emphasized early identification of children with disabilities, understanding conditions like cerebral palsy, autism, and Down syndrome, and the proper use of mobility devices and orthotic supports. Developmental devices introduced, were also participants included CBR workers, parents of children with disabilities, and Special Education Teachers.













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### **Exposure Visit**

Project coordinators, field officers, CBR (Community-Based Rehabilitation) workers, children with disabilities, and their parents embarked on an exposure visit to Nuffeild School in Jaffna. The primary purpose of this visit was to gain insights into Nufeild School's approach to working with children who have hearing and vision impairments. The objectives of the visit included:

- Exploring coping mechanisms employed by Nufeild School to support children with disabilities.
- Learning about their training methods for children with hearing and vision impairments.
- 3. Understanding their communication improvement strategies.
- Fostering interaction and social inclusion between our children with disabilities and their peers at Nufeild School.

Additionally, during the exposure visit, the group also had the opportunity to visit "Karuvi," a Center for Social Resources for differently-abled individuals, where they could further expand their knowledge and gain insights into various support and resources available for the differently-abled community. This visit aimed to enhance our understanding and collaboration in the field of disability support and inclusion."

















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#### Awareness

Awareness for Nutrition In partnership with Caritas Valvuthayam, an awareness program about the importance of nutrition in preventing disabilities was organized in the Manthai West division. The program was conducted by midwives and was attended by mothers, parents of children with disabilities, and preschool teachers.









## Skill Training

Skill Training Program for SHG and CBO Members To empower Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), training sessions were conducted to teach them how to make products such as push brooms (Palmar products), home garden items, and beauty products using locally available materials. The goal was to enable them to generate income independently.











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### Intervention Plan

IQ Test Clinic: An IQ test clinic was conducted by Mr. Arumaithurai, a Clinical Psychologist in Jaffna, which primarily benefited our beneficiaries, including children with disabilities. The clinic aimed to assess cognitive abilities and provide valuable insights into individual needs.

Speech Therapy Assessment Clinic: A speech therapy clinic, facilitated by Speech Therapists from Nufield Jaffna, focused on assessing speech development delays among our target beneficiaries, particularly children with disabilities. The clinic identified areas of difficulty, planned follow-up sessions, referred cases for additional tests, and directed individuals to relevant treatment organizations.

Following the assessment, individuals in need of orthotic support received assistance from the Centre for Disabled.

Beneficiaries with low incomes received medical support to cover transportation costs to hospital clinics and to purchase necessary medicines.





















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## Pongal Celebration with Andankulam Special Education School Students

We had the privilege of celebrating Pongal with the students of Andankulam Special Education School, a dedicated institution for children with disabilities. The event was a heartwarming experience that brought together our team and these exceptional students in a spirit of unity and joy.

The Pongal celebration was a vibrant and inclusive affair, with everyone participating in various activities and festivities. It served as a platform to promote social interaction, understanding, and mutual respect among our students and the children at Andankulam Special Education School.

The day's activities included traditional Pongal cooking, cultural performances, and collaborative games that encouraged teamwork and communication. Through this celebration, we aimed to create lasting memories and promote a sense of belonging for all participants.

The event not only honored the rich traditions of Pongal but also highlighted the importance of inclusive education and support for children with disabilities. We look forward to more such meaningful interactions and collaborations in the future to foster a more inclusive and compassionate society.



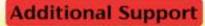












Economic Crisis Response in 2022: In response to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka in 2022, Caritas Valvuthayam provided dry ration packs and nutritional support to our beneficiaries. Additionally:









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A playground was constructed for children with disabilities who attend Andankulam Special Education School, and learning materials were supplied to enhance their educational experience.

Every month, our CBR (Community-Based Rehabilitation) team observed and provided support to 8 Self-Help Groups (SHGs). We also delivered vegetable plants to encourage establishment of home gardens for daily home use.

These initiatives represent our commitment to addressing the economic challenges faced by our community and providing support to vulnerable groups, especially children with disabilities and families in need.



































## ANNUAL REPORT December 2022 Caritas Valvuthayam 'MANNAR DIOCESAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT'



## Financial Review - 1st January to 31st december 2022

No	Project Name	No of beneficiaries / nos	Funded by	SF4:H19ector	Grand Received	Acual Expenses
1	Civig Dailogue & Special -	Programme	Caritas Korea	Community Development	6,337,155.00	6,337,173.55
2	Religious Amity & Youth programme	Awareness Programme	Caritas Korea	Peace & reconcilation	8,915,900.44	8,915,580.00
3	Promoting Healing	Counseling, Exposure Visit, Livelihood Support, Special Need children travelling & Nutrition, Psychosocial programme, Organic farming, Religious leders programme Art competition ,CBO's & Groups Forming, Celebration Religious Festivals, Capacity	Misereor	Peace & reconcilation	2,110,000,00	2,115,335.00
4	Empowering People (SF)  Emsuring the Rights of Children with Disabilities and their Parents/Caregivers  Semitting Religious Leaders on Sexual and Reproductive Health		Agiamondo	Peace & reconcilation	1,365,000.00	1,365,000.00
5			Caritas Norway & Norad	Sustainable & Agriculture& Food Security	12,116,478.00	12,115,277.00
6			Stomme Foundation	Community Development	2,832,500.00	2,667,500.00
7			Kinder Mission Werk Germany	Community Development	2,124,555.00	2,124,511.00
8			UNFPA/CARITAS	Community Development	143,850,00	195,780.00
9	Safe Guarding Envyvironment- SSEP		Miscreor	Safe Guarding Enveyironment-	4,859,000,00	4,799,589.00
10	Support families indian returnees- Tempoary sheleter & livelihood support	20 houses	Misercor	Resettlement	11,369,880.00	11,369,000.00
11	Computer Application Assistance	Vacational traning programme	Rockids, Wild Gamers,	Community Development & Psychosocial	7,087,900,07	7,887,900.07
12	Early Intervention	Medical Support for Children with Disabilities	Helping Hand Foundation, Havenos, and Ayubewan			
13	Tempoary Shelter & livelihood support	25 Tempoary shelter & 100 livelihood	Caritas Korea	Resettlement	17,908,750,00	17,908,750.00
14		78 Student	Caritas Korea	Education support	5,414,800.00	5,414,800.00
15	Education Assistance	129 student	Tamil Catholic Associat, Canada, London, Norway,lenten fund,Germany	Education support	2,616,000,00	2,616,000.00
16		312 Student edu.support	Caritas Korea	Education support	1,872,000.00	1,872,000.00
17	Computer Couses	Student	M.M.Foundation	IT support	3,381,000.00	3,381,000.00
18			Caritas Internationalis	Emergency Relief	12,992,760.00	12,993,550.00
19		260 Families Dry ration	Spiema	Emergency Relief	1,304,085.30	1,304,085.30
20	Emergency Relief	100 dry ration pakts	Catholic Relief Service	Emergency Relief, Missionaries of Sisiters of Charity	2,667,180,00	2,667,910.00
21		550 Families Rice	Tamil Catholic association in Swizerland	Emergency Relief	2,690,000,00	2,690,000.00
22		Medical 100 patients, 418 families dry ration	The Little way Association	Emergency Relief & medicine	2,591,700.00	2,592,144.00
23	Cyclone	Vavuniya Kannaddi	SEDEC	Repair houses	150,000,00	150,000.00
	Total			200000000000000000000000000000000000000	112,849,613.81	112,682,884.92







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## **Common Relief Details -2022**

No	Relief Details	No of patients/persons	No of Familes/Socaity	Amount
1	Medical Assistance	487		708,050.00
2	Csual	17		27,040.00
3	Funeral	9		90,000.00
5	House Repair & Cadjans	23		316,500.00
7	Donation		6	119,500.00
9	Education Help	56		140,000.00
10	Monthly Dry Ration		243	605,330.00
	Common loan		17 88 4	2,028,000.00
	Total	592	266	4,034,420.00







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## FOOD SECURITY



ADDRESSING CAUSES FOR OVERTY AND ENSURING FOOD SECURITY FOR FARMING COMMUNITIES IN MANNAR DIOCESE OF SRI LANKA.

GOAL

Improved food security and livelihoods of vulnerable households in the rural areas of Mannar Diocese Vavuniya district Srilanka.

The food security project has been in progress for the past five years. Under this program, we have extended our reach to two districts and four DS divisions within our targetezones each year. In 2022, the project continued as a follow-up to the four-year project in the designated villages

### TARGET BENEFICIARIES AND ACHEIVEMENTS IN 05 YEARS

TARGET GROUP	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	ACHEIVEMENTS
Direct project participants-Farmers	2000	2195
School children	4000	4883
School children Preschool children/Nutrition programme Nutrition programme for mothers	2000	2149
Nutrition programme for mothers	2000	2149
Total	10000	11376

Year	Target Division	SHGs	Villages	CBOs
2018	Manthai west	65	09	09
2019	Nanattan	53	08	08
2020	Vavuniya south	88	12	14
2021	Madhu	66	20	20
	TOTAL	272	49	51



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#### PRA

In the target villages, the project beneficiaries are given explanation regarding the project. Similarly people's livelihoods were underdeveloped due to lack of understanding of the villages, village resources, needs and seasonal cultivation. So, we conducted 05 PRA program (Participatory rural appraisal) in the target villages. This enabled us/ to identify the resources, strength, support system, problems, and the immediate needs of the villages.





## Capacity Building of Farmer Households

This is a most important part of this project. Beneficiaries' experience shows that this project plays an important role in the healthy life of the farmers. 18 trainings were conducted with the support of agricultural instructors. Through these trainings the farmers got a complete explanation about organic farming. They were also provided with Seeds packs, Garden tools, Visibility board, and Sprinkler irrigation systems and so on. As well as, fertilizer production units, plant nurseries, mushroom cultivation units and wormy compost units have been established. Now farmer households are consuming pure organic vegetables, fruits and other grains for their home use.











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## **Village Level Demonstration farms**

More than 2 or more demonstration farms are developed under our project in each village. Such exemplary gardening is an opportunity to encourage all the beneficiaries in the village to engage in home gardening. Through this the family income of model farmers has also increased. The creation of model farmers increased the monitoring and service of government officers.







## Village Knowledge Center (VKC)

This is seen as a new and unique method in our project villages. This VKC system was very useful for our beneficiaries. Acquiring new information for the people, learning about new farming techniques, fertilizer production methods, integrated farming systems and important contact numbers. 06 VKCs are established in our target villages.













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Capacity building of School Children on Home Gardening to create interest and access nutritious food locally

Under this program, we reached out to 4883 school children and conducted organic farming and school garden development workshop on capacity building. We taught them about the Importance of organic farming and motivating them to involve in organic home gardening. They were also provided with Seeds packs, Garden tools, Visibility board, net house, Sprinkler irrigation systems and so on. Children were very much interested in involving organic farming.





## Training & Inputs for Livestock production

Provided trainings for goat and poultry management to our livestock beneficiaries are an important best practice. These trainings were conducted with the help of veterinarian. Most of the beneficiaries have livestock rearing as their main livelihood. 23 beneficiaries received Poultry and 12 beneficiaries received goat.









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## Training & Inputs promoting Beekeeping

Provided trainings & Inputs for Beekeeping at household level. After workshop, some famers said they learned to collect honey without destroying the honeybees living in the forest. Increase the pollination and thus fruit &vegetable production in surrounding areas. 16 beneficiaries were received bee boxes.





## Nutrition program for mothers

Nutrition programs were organized for the mothers and preschool children. The objective of nutrition program is to support specific nutrition-related practices and to avoid the chemical food intake that contribute to poor health. We also insisted the preschool gardening and home gardening, and provided them the seeds and other materials to create organic garden.





## Training on Sustainable Agricultural techniques to PWDs

People with disabilities have a special place in our project. We give importance in the wellbeing of the specially gifted persons/ to ensure their food security. We organized training program for them/ and also they were given seed packs, and other gardening equipment. And helped them to make poultry farming and goat farming to progress in economic independence.









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### Training on Value added Product

We selected our project beneficiaries who were interested in value addition manufacturing initiated and imparted these trainings to them. In this way, trainings were given on snacks production, ground nut, milk, fruits, palm production, rice production and agricultural products. Beneficiaries learned how to convert agricultural products marketed at low unfair prices into value added products (Eg: Canning, packing, pickling, jam, juice rice flour, kurinja flour etc.) This trainings have helped the farmers to avoid losses during periods of not getting fair prices for their producer. Through this the beneficiaries earn additional income.







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## **Healing and Reconciliation**

A modern, dynamic and youth-centered approach to peace processes and conflict mitigation - Funded by MISEREOR



A modern, dynamic and youth-centered approach to peace processes and conflict mitigation project is being implemented in Mannar Diocese. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to a peaceful Sri Lanka by promoting mutual respect of both ethnicities at the Village level and at regional and national levels.

Since the communities are affected by many issues, the community structures / community leaders and the members of the community were neither aware nor willing to Promoting peace.

In the target village generally caused by various factors ranging from parents, caregivers' illiteracy and lack of knowledge on rights, illegal alcohol trade and consumption, severe poverty, gender inequity and family separation due to mothers' foreign economic migration, parents' divorce and remarriage, death and abandonment. By considering the above rationale, Valvuthayam planned and conducted an awareness program and capacity training for the target groups.







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Under this project, 02 Village Level Vigilant Committees have been created with the objective of mobilizing and forming committees, to voice against identified barriers for social cohesion, celebrated cultural program, workshop for post A/L students on gender equality, respect for gender diversity and rights, Career guidance workshop for youth and ethnic/religious harmony. These activities are carried out in Maruthamadhu village of Musali Divisional Secretariat division and Paalaiperumalkaddu village of Manthai West Divisional Secretariat division of Mannar Diocese.

The project addressed the issue of having lack of knowledge and capacity of the target communities and strengthens the existing community structures to bridge the gap while contributing to peace-building and reconciliation. 5 Issues and concerns connected to reconciliation were brought to the attention of district level authorities as well as to the Civil Society Organizations.























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### Effectiveness of the Program:

- The Students got knowledge about Human rights values, universal declaration of HR, conflict mitigation, problem tree.
- Special interest was created among the student and youths in this area of the training
- They learned that by doing NVQ level training courses, there will be more opportunities to get a permanent job opportunity in the future.
- · Participatory approached made impact on them while group discussions and presentations.
- First time they got to know about human rights declarations
- · Youth know that human beings have an equal opportunity to realize their full developmental potential.
- They are able to understand that all people have the right to live with dignity regardless of their age, sex, race, religion, social status or any other distinction.
- This activity created an opportunity to promote relationship with participants within the District and the participants of other Diocese as well.
- Also it helped to learn the religious values of other religion too.
- Got opportunities to exchange their views and ideas; problems, issues, challenges that they faced in their daily life.
- They were able to change the wrong ideas and views that they had on other Religions.
- · Children are happily spending their time together and they have new friends among other religion which ensures ever-lasting unity of future generation.
- Community development needs are commonly raised in writing to government officials and achieving their needs collectively as village level vigilant committee that has more power and identity now for such advocacy purpose also.

## Case studies:

In Marudhamadhu village school, for more than two years the principal was not appointed. It had affected the administration and disciplinary activities of the school. As a result, few children dropped from school, and the strength of the school was going down. Either the village leaders or any other community-based organizations hardly took any effort to notify the government authorities with regard to this lem.

In order to solve this problem, Our Village level vigilant committee took the initiative to resolve this issue, they prepared a very good petition collecting the signature of the common people and the representatives of other community-based organizations, and parish councils and submitted the petition at the Zonal level education office Mannar. Immediate action was taken place, the Zonal level director of education officer herself visited our school instantly and learned the situation of the school, and within a short period of time, the Zonal Director of Education processed to appoint the principal for the school. Presently the school functions very well, the parents and students are very happy.





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## **IHD-Civic Dialogue Special Project**

## Leadership training

Leadership training was organized for the members of the Federation. Through this training they are able to recognize the leadership ability in them. They are helped out to come out with their talents and ability. They are able to take up leadership in the family, community and society at large. Furthermore they are able to voice out for their needs in the community, identifying the very essentials, and approached the right government officials to bring out and fulfil their needs. Hence they brought changes in lives of the individuals, families and community at large



## **Training on Advocacy**

Through this training program we encourage the federation members to voice out their issues and very essential needs in the community. Identify the issues in the villages and come forward to solve the problem with the support of the government officials. They are also given trainings to write their requisitions based on their need and submit to the concerned government authorities









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## **Art Competition- for the Children clubs**

Art competitions are conducted in the village level. Every competition has its theme, resource persons are invited as judge for the competition. The followings are some of the themes for art competitions.

- 1. "We are children lets live happily" for children of 1st to 4th grade
- 2. Let's voice out for the child rights for 5th to 8th grade
- Children are the future leadership 9th to O/L



#### Objective of art competitions

- To bring out their talents
- To help them to set goals for their life.
- Help them understand the rights and responsibilities as children
- To trigger their thinking pattern based on the theme
- Make them grow in leadership ability
- Help them to grow as responsible citizens of the nation











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## **40 Awareness Short films**

Youth in the target villages are given training to address the social issues at village level. They are motivated live a exemplary life. Every month during monthly meetings they are given good values. Youth take up various activities on environmental protection and sustainability and maintain general hygiene in village level. Based on the good values, healthy practices in communication also on social issues they had acted creatively brought out short movies, almost 40 movies are produced and uploaded in the YouTube channels. We hope these short films will make greater impact in the society.

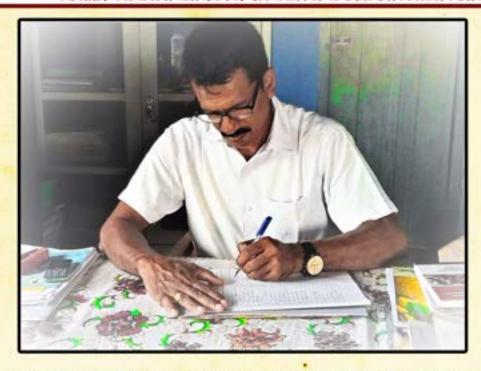








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My name is Seeman Jeeva Raj, Grama Nilathari, stationed at Parappukanthan west. I am very happy and grateful to write that the activities undertaken by the Caritas-Valvuthayam through IHD-Civic Dialogue special project for the past three years. The activities are noteworthy and it has brought out positive changes in the families, community and society at large. Here I would like to note the particular points.

The habit of Savings through SGHs and taking and repaying loans within the particular period of time.

SHG member's involvement in the income generative activities such as candle making, home garden and poultry farming.

Through CBOs people are given awareness on education, and evening study centres are initiated in the villages, the most deserving children are helped educational assistance.

Through youth clubs' youth are motivated and encouraged to come out creatively and they acted out and produced short films on various social problems such as alcoholic and drug addiction, poverty, and use of social media, these short films are uploaded in the you tube channels to promote social awareness.

I am grateful to Caritas-Valvuthayam for implementing this special project in my village. This project has brought certain significant changes in the village. I thank the director of Valvuthayam and the project staff for their hard work and commitment in implementing this project amidst the hardships due to Covid19 and the present economic crisis I also request their continuous support and guidance to my village.

Thanking You

With Kind Regards,



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## Religious Amity

### Human dignity training for new Sunday school students and teachers

In total 10 programs were conducted for School teachers and students. The school teachers participants highly appreciated the new concept called human dignity. So far, they had respected the other person based on religion, ethnicity, gender etc. These sessions had opened their eyes to respect the other person only because he or she is a human being because human dignity is far more important and valuable than other identities. It was conducted not only in the target villages but also in the villages where it was felt needed. The School students participants were enthusiastic about the training and dignity. In the beginning of the training, participants expressed that religion is more important than anything else. After the training, the same participants proclaimed human dignity is far more important than religion. It was a breakthrough in the hearts of children.



## Quarterly meeting of Diocesan level Advisory committee

05 meetings were organized. Village level issues were discussed and handled in the meetings. For example, for the drugs problem it was discussed and requested Valvuthayam for the training. Identified school dropouts and supported from their own money providing bags and books. As all the religious leaders are coming together, it is very much seen as a life witness for the faithful. Opportunity for the youth members to share their problems. Likewise, equal opportunity is ensured for the women and girls in the process of decision making. Acceptance and tolerance increased towards other religion for erecting statues. No events of statue breaking happened during this reporting period.







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### Religious amity awareness session for government teachers.

48 government teachers participated in the awareness session called 'Religious Amity' PowerPoint presentation, group discussions, one to one sessions, life sharing and motivational examples increased the active participation of all the teachers. They were proactive in the discussions and life sharing. Presentations paved way for them to come out their thoughts about religious amity and the contributions they have done in their own ways.

ISA, Mr. Ramesh in the feedback session told that I had participated in many workshops and conducted workshops but it is something different and attractive the way delivered and organized. He urged the IRF team to organize this valuable training for other teachers as well with his permission.

The principal of st, pattima school in pesalai, admitted that she had taken so much today for her own life and the life of her own students where everyone could live in respecting the other religion.

Another principal said that he had no time to come for this session so he thought of leaving the session half way. But the way it was delivered and the subject covered he could not leave the session until its end. Teachers are the models for the students so we live in religious harmony with all religious teachers first, he concluded.





### Youth activities

Training programs were conducted for youth groups on alcohol and drugs prevention, climate change, social responsibility, human rights, Non-Verbal Communication and song composition. As a result, youth from different faith got together to compose a religious amity song and celebrate a cultural program in unity.









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### Commitments of Inter Religious Forum members

In order to build relationship between the IRF members Mannar DC and Mullaitivu DC, an exposure visit was organized. Visits to religious places changed their attitudes and thinking patters. At the same time IRF groups, celebrated religious festivals. Tamil-Sinhala new year, Theepaveli and OLIVILA were organized in collaboration with government officials and IRF members. Hindus, Christians and Muslims participated with greater interest and commitment of those three festivals. Opportunity created for them to learn about other religion and the importance of those festivals. Increased understanding and acceptance of other religious beliefs and values. Religious leaders of three religions participated and delivered speeches on religious amity, life witness and future efforts.



### Dry ration and medical support to the most vulnerable people

160 dry ration packs were distributed to the most vulnerable and poor families. The beneficiaries were selected among IRF members irrespective of their religions and other barriers. Medical support was provided to the most vulnerable and the needy persons through the support of field level government officials. 200 beneficiaries got gained from this assistance. It was targeted not only for the members of target villages but also for those needy outside the project locations. Medical support was provided in the form of cash depending on their medical reports. Kidney patients were the highest number of beneficiaries under this activity.











# Enhancing Resilience of the victims of the Economic Crisis

Due to the unexpected economic crisis in Sri Lanka most of the under-poverty families facing varies kind of issues and couldn't get rid of them, this project, targeted 260 families for dry ration packages (NFRI) worth 5000 rupees per month have been provided to the poorest beneficiaries selected by parish priest and Girama Niladari in recognition of the diversity of needs of the families affected by the economic crisis in Mannar and Vavuniya districts.

In addition, there are 21 beneficiaries has been receiving 5000 rupees per month as a monthly medical allowance for transport expenses for visiting the hospital and medicines obtained from private institutions for those from poor families who are suffering from diseases for a long time and receiving continuous medical treatment. And also, there are 45 students have been provided learning materials worth of 2500 rupees, per month as education promotion allowance for students from poor families besides group level counselling at village level has been carried out in 15 villages and individual counselling has been done for 48 people. This project has created an opportunity to the vulnerable economically trapped people to recover from their critical situation to some extent and carry out their daily normal life.























'MANNAR DIOCESAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT'

### "ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY STRUCTURE TO CONFRONT ECONOMIC CRISIS.®

### Project Overview:

The project aims to enhance the capacity of rural communities in the Madhu Secretariat Division to confront economic crises through targeted interventions and capacity building activities. The primary objectives include improving financial literacy, diversifying income sources, and Building community resilience to withstand economic shocks. This report provides an update on the progress made thus far.





### Key Achievements to Date:

Needs Assessment: A comprehensive needs assessment was conducted across twenty target villages, focusing on their economic vulnerabilities and existing coping mechanisms. This assessment provided crucial insights into the specific challenges faced by each community. The need assessment was effectively conducted by a consultant.

Livelihood Diversification: We successfully initiated various livelihood diversification activities, including livestock rearing, small-scale agriculture, home-based businesses, the importance of branding, and adopting current marketing tactics. The project aimed to benefit over 200 families in the target communities from these initiatives, leading to increased income and food security. As the activities were started in December 2022 we were able to cover only around 30 families.

Community Engagement: Strong community engagement has been established, with the Social Service Officer from the Divisional Secretariat and Corporate Development Officer actively participating in project planning and implementation. This has fostered a sense of ownership and sustainability among the communities.

### Challenges and Mitigation:

Logistical Hurdles: Frequent roadblocks and transportation disruptions have hampered our field operations, causing delays in project activities.

Health and Safety Concerns: The COVID-19 pandemic, though under control, has necessitated additional safety measures, impacting the scheduling and conduct of community gatherings and training sessions.

### Conclusion:

A program to improve the capacity of Sri Lanka's rural communities to cope with economic crises is on track. Despite the challenges, we remain committed to building sustainable economic resilience in these communities.



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### Stepping Stone to Safeguarding Sri Lanka's Natural Resources

### Formation of village level environmental protection groups

During the year of 2022, Caritas Valvuthayam under the funding assistance to Missereor implemented the environmental project at five villages in Mannar district namely Thampanaikkulam, Veppankulam, Madukkatai, Palaiperumalkaddu and Keeri. To promote environmental protection initiatives in those target areas, village level environmental protecton groups for elders 05 groups with the membership of 125, for youth 03 groups with the membership of 72 and for children 04 groups with the membership of 159 were formed in collaboration with government officials. These groups had their bimonthly meetings, discussed the environmental issues and collaborated with Caritas-Valvuthayam to address them. For example, 100 plants were planted with the support of these groups in their target villages.

























PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INITIATIVES



MANNAR DIOCESAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



### Commemoration of Environmental day

In order to create public awareness on environment Caritas Valvuthayam in collaboration with village level environmental protection groups, Central Environmental Authority, Mannar Urban Council, Divisional Secretariat, field level government officials and local media personals launched different activities such as beach cleaning, public campaign, tree planting and awareness program in Mannar district.









### Promotion of drinking water and entrepreneurship

During field assessments and stakeholder meetings, government officials reported the increased number of kidney patients in certain villages due to water and chemicals. By analyzing the water issues faced by community members and the common practices of anti-organic farming in the target villages, Caritas-Valvuthayam provided water filtering system for Thampanaikkulam School, renovated drinking water wells at Madukkatai and distributed inputs for 13 entrepreneurs for organic seeds production and compost making. Agriculture Instructors supported very much Caritas-Valvuthayam to train the farmers and to provide disaster resilient local variety seeds and seedlings to the farmers.









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### vocational training Centre

We Caritas- Valvuthayam have a special interest in children who are marginalized socially, economically, and also in the field of education. There are hundreds of children eager to learn but they do not get enough support from their families due to poverty. In our vocational training Centre, we focus on students in women-headed families, economically poor students, school dropouts, and real interest in seeking job opportunities. Both boys and girls, under the age group of 18 to 30. Three batches of trainees successfully completed their studies every year. This computer course is very beneficial to the students, with this certificate, they have job opportunities, some have got online job prospects and earning considerable income.

### Major Achievements - Year 2022

### Inauguration ceremony Vavuniya branch.

The five Dutch foundations provided endowments to the e-learning center in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The first e-learning centre was established in the year 2019 with the partnership of Caritas-Valvuthayam, Mannar. The courses have been effectively carried on by the IT unit. It is a joint venture of Dutch funding partners (A Helping Hand Foundation, Rockids Foundation, Havanos, and Wild Ganzen)

The second e-learning computer center was established to reach out to the students in the remotest villages of the Vavuniya District. It was officially inaugurated on the 1st of February 2022, by the Helping Hand Foundation Chairman Mr.Piet Houtenbos & His Wife Mrs.Lydia, in the presence of Rev.Fr.S.Arunthas (Assistant Director) Caritas- Valvuthayam, and Mr.R.V.Antonythas Fernado (Administrative & Programme Officer) and Mr.J.Thavanerojan (Course Coordinator).











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### Introduced Tablet class for Kids in Vavuniya

Caritas-Valvuthayam Vocational Training Institute has started the tablet class for the Kids at the new Centre in Vepankulam, Vavuniya district. The class commenced on the 7th of March 2022. 18 students from grades 6 to 9 are participating in this three-month course. This course is designed to give pre-knowledge about computer and instill interest of learning computer among students. These children are from interior rural villages, they are very happy and excited to learn computer. their happiness is our success and satisfaction.













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### Visit of Donors from the Netherlands

On 6th April 2022 Mrs. Marjolein Meijer, and her friends visited the children at Nochchikulam and also, they visited the computer Centre at Vavuniya on 8th of April 2022. The donor representatives were pleased to witness that the deserving rural village children and the students are being benefitted from the Computer Centre as well as tab class.

















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### NVQ Level 3 Certificate awarding ceremony

Valvuthayam Vocational Training Institute Vavuniya for the Computer Application Assistant (CAA) NVQ\_L3 course students who successfully completed the course from January to December 2022. 130 students who fruitfully accomplished (Computer Application Assistant (CAA) NVQL 3-course) were honored with NVQ level 3 certificates in 2022. Altogether we distributed 278 NVQ certificates in our Centre. This computer application assistance project was funded jointly by 5 donor Dutch Foundations (Rockids, Wild Ganzen, Helping Hand Foundation, Havonos, and Ayubowan).















'MANNAR DIOCESAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT'

# EXPERIENCE SHARING Mr.U.Sarankan

U.Sarankan 97/5, Lakshabana street Thonickal Vavuniya

My name is Sarankan, living in Thonickal village, Vavuniya district. I completed my school education and was waiting for the job opportunity. While I was waiting for the job, I had the contact of Caritas-Valvuthayam, and I was informed about the commencement of computer vocational training at Valvuthayam regional Centre at Vepankulam. It was a great opportunity for me to enroll myself in the computer course.

At this present scenario, computer knowledge is mandatory for any job. CAA NVQ Level 3 training classes were conducted at Valvuthayam regional Centre at Vavuniya. I did the course from 01.02.2022 to 31.05.2022. it was three months program efficient and well-trained computer instructors were appointed for the course. I got through the examination and successfully completed the trainings. I was awarded with the national level certificate for my studies.

With this certificate and the experience, I got online job opportunity. Now I am working from home. It fetches considerable income for my family. Keeping this as my base I can go for university studies. My heart is filled with gratitude for this great chance to do this course. I take this occasion to thank Rev.Fr.Anton, director of Caritas-Valvuthayam and Rev.Fr.Arunthas the Assistant director for providing me this opportunity to do this training in this prestigious institution. I also thank the coordinator and the staff of vocational training institute for their gesture of love and concern that I experienced throughout the course of my studies.

My special thanks for the donors who generously support this project. It is indeed a valuable backing for all the poor students like me. I greatly appreciate and treasure this training. This training is a turning point for my life. Thank you very much for your kind support. May God bless you.

Yours Sincerely, U.Sarankan





'MANNAR DIOCESAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT'

### **Women Empowerment**

Improving Community based micro-credits practices among SHGs members in the former war area of Mannar Diocese.

Valvuthayam has been working with these people for a long time and is interested in the development and well-being of these most vulnerable and needy communities. It will make efforts to provide the required Micro credit package assistance for a holistic development and continue to work with these communities.





### Project Justification on Holistic Development Approach

The Micro finance (Revolving loan) programme opened an avenue towards a holistic development approach. Though this programme contributed mainly in certain sectors like livelihood, community mobilization and basic rights of the people in the identified villages, Valvuthayam through other means, contributed to water and sanitation, education of children, improvement in health and nutritional standards, infrastructure development and gender equality and children rights. Caritas-Valvuthayam intends to focus mainly on strengthening the micro finance practices ( revolving loan) and CBO strengthening initiatives to sustain its function.

### Sustainability

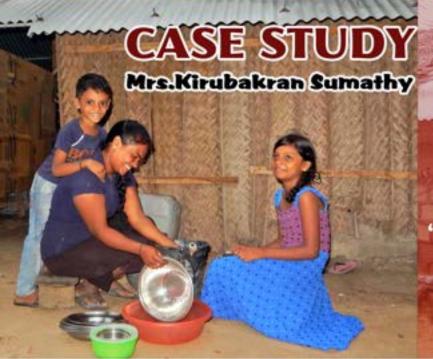
During the project period of year 2022, CBOs were strengthened and the responsibilities gradually were transferred to the communities through CBOs. At the end of the year intervention, communities were made to stand on their own and to manage their revolving funds and saving through a well-established financial system with the help of established links with Caritas-Valvuthayam so that they will continue to oversee the further developments of the communities.



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"There is Something permanent And Something Extremely Profound in Owning Home"

I am Kirubakran Sumathy a 29 years old young lady from Shanthipuram village in Mannar district. I was living in a temporary shed which was provided Caritas - Valvuthayam with my husband and three children more than 10 years. I went to India in 2007 with my parents due to the ethnic war in Sri Lanka. Due to the cultural change in refugees camp in India, I was induced to marry in my very young age. After two years, having a child, I returned to Sri Lanka in 2009, and lived with my parents at their old house at which we did not have a separate room for my family. However, we managed our life at the same house for one year. The life was stressful, fearful and not independent as we were depending for shelter on my parents.

As per the advice and recommendation of Grama Niladary (a village level officer) and the parish priest, I approached Caritas-Valvuthavam with my worries and expectations for one my basic needs for shelter. The staff at Valvuthayam treated me with dignity and accepted my request. After a visit to our house by a Valvuthayam officer, they provided a temporary shelter immediately in which we are still living. It is not much comfortable but we enjoy the independency of our life as an individual family.

Our main goal was a permanent house which was not SMART due to the low income. My husband is a daily wages labour mainly engaged with construction works. I along with my husband prepared a rough budget for building a small house and understood it was not achievable with our current income.

I joined with a SHG functioning at our village and keenly involved in saving. My saving was step by step increased but as much as the amount budget for building a house was also increased. We got tired by planning for our future house.



Since, my request was recorded under the requestee's name list of housing scheme at Valvutha-Lapproached Valvuthayam again and they selected my family for this housing project. With my small saving in SHG we have expand the house which is with enough space for our family members. It is miracle that we achieved our goal with the mercy and compassion of Valvuthayam.

I have allocated a separate space for education and my children are enjoying their education and performing well. We really joyfully thank Valvuthayam for providing a dignified life for us.



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# Enhancing Resilience of the victims of the Economic Crisis

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### **Pongal Celebration**









# Appreciations

Caritas-Valvuthayam and the Bishop of Mannar Diocese happily appreciate the cooperation, assistance and encouragement we received from all the funding partners and well wishers who support our endeavors;



FIGHTING



"MANNAR DIOCESAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT"



# **Book advisory committee**

Annual



Rev.Fr.S.Anton Caritas - Valvuthayam

Report



R.V.Antoneythas Fernando Caritas - Valvuthayam



Patricks Janan Caritas – Valvuthayam



# Caritas Valvuthayam

"MANNAR DIOCESAN CENTRE FOR JUSTICE, PEACE & HUMAN DEVELOPMEN"

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# Staff list for year 2022

