

# Compassion 575

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly report

### for 2015

Name of CFCDP	No of Children	District / Province
Poolankaadu	42	Thoppigala / East
Tharavai	42	
Naripul Thorttam	110	Batticaloa / East
Vaharai	95	
Indagala	128	Badulla / Uva
Murippu	56	Mullaitivu / North
Pooneri Maththuwilnaadu	42	Kilinochchi / North
Paranthan G.M.T	54	
Elephant pass G.M.T	138	
Colombo Ministry Center, Wattala	65	Gampaha / West



**Uncle we Love you, we are praying for you, you are our inspiration were the words spoken loudly in all the CFCDPs across the Island for the last 2 months.**

Children got highly excited and also little nervous when they heard about their uncle's preparation for the bicycle ride for 2015. We informed children in April about the ride. From then on, the preparation and excitement was increasing day by day. We encouraged the children to be in prayer until the journey was completed. As much as the rider prepared himself, the supporters too got thoroughly excited preparing various activities to encourage the rider. The children drew pictures, went on cycle parade, did daily devotions and staged various skits to show their solidarity with Uncle Argabright.

The teachers too joined the children. They helped children with skits and various activities. However, all these happened close to their monthly evaluations. Usually, during this period children are more confined to their books than at any other time; but this time, nothing seemed to stop the children from cheering for their uncle. They've seen the person whom they are cheering for, they know the purpose of this journey and they know how difficult it would be. This made it easy for the children to really feel what they were doing. They were able to feel how much they are loved and on the other hand it was very easy for the staff too to explain how much God loves them through the simple act of love shown by uncle Argabright. "God loves us unconditionally, so do we" this was our explanation to their many questions as to why we help them. Now, children are eager to know about the ride. They wouldn't ever forget how God saved uncle from the dangerous tiger and the bear. These testimonies have tremendously touched children and caregivers. Children are excited and longing to hear many more stories from the recent ride.

### **NCM responds to the cry of poor widows in Naripul Thorttam.**

It has been NCML's long-awaited desire to uplift the living standards of the poor people it ministers to in different parts of Sri Lanka. Even if NCML has remarkably progressed in helping its beneficiaries to adapt to difficult situations and environments, it had failed to lay the proper foundation to the many income generating projects it executed; especially home gardening. Although, the fundamentals were right, for unknown reasons it failed to sustain; did not keep going. This was one of NCML's foremost concerns. Studying further about the collapse, it was learnt that it had several reasons, such as: inadequate water supply, being unable to protect vegetable gardens from undomesticated animals, especially cattle, goats and elephants, draught and loss of interest. Though followed-up regularly, NCML did not have proper plans to mitigate some of these threats. This is probably why we couldn't reach the desired target.

Through all its previous slip-ups, NCML learned many lessons. It never looked upon them as failure, instead made them opportunities that taught proper handling of projects. With lessons learned, NCML called on the staff directly involved in the field to participate in a workshop exclusively arranged for them to increase knowledge on livelihood and income generating projects. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Local Economic Development Officer, Livelihood Officer, Veterinary Officer and officials from the Department of Agriculture. A complete study on beneficiary selection, commencement of livelihood projects, monitoring, sale of products and saving was done during the 4-day workshop. 3 months later an advance study on the above subjects was done. With adequate knowledge gained, the team then moved to the field to train the beneficiaries. Though these trainings were completely handled by the NCML local staff, it was supervised by the relevant Government authorities.

By means of both parties gaining a fair amount of information, the Livelihood program began in Naripulthorttam for the parents of the CFCDP children; mainly for female-headed households.

Naripulthorttam is the new CFCDP we began early this year. 25 most vulnerable families among the CDC children were selected; each family receiving 12 chickens (11 females and 1 male). The initial agreement with the beneficiaries was that the construction of the cage be done by them. Prior to the distribution of the chicks, the local NCML staff together with the livelihood officer visited every home to ensure the cages were built according to the recommendation of the veterinary officer. With all areas scrutinized carefully the distribution was done on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2015. The parents who received the livestock were extremely happy as they step into a new beginning. The chicks are a little older than one month and they begin to lay eggs in 6 months. It is estimated that in roughly 6 months from now, the families will have eggs for consumption and perhaps have some extra eggs to be sold.

After laying eggs for a couple of months, the hens will be ready for hatching. This will certainly increase the numbers immensely. Our hope is that within the next year, the families will have reasonable income that will somewhat meet the needs of the children and the family.



NCML has planned to very carefully monitor the project. Very practical monitoring methodologies have been designed possibly leaving no room for error this time. This is again another project that gives more power to the SHGs; in terms of monitoring. The SHG will have close observation on the project to prevent chickens from being sold, consumed or given away. It has been agreed that each household will give 10% of their monthly earning to the SHG. This money will be used for the development of the village, community and of course saved for the sustainability of the CFCDP.

### **Other CFCDPs**

Livelihood projects for the other CFCDPs too have been planned. We are in the process of conducting trainings, educating beneficiaries and obtaining necessary approvals. Once training and obtaining the necessary approval are completed and the beneficiaries are conversant, they too will have projects to generate extra income to meet other needs.

The afterschool classes function as usual; definitely more advanced than it used to be. Children look happy, they enjoy being at the CFCDP. Hard work is being done by the teachers and the caregivers out in the field. Children do fairly well in all examinations and definitely have impressed the school staff and the parents. Their engagement in outdoor, class room and extracurricular activities too has been impressive.



## Story

A child (name withheld) from the Elephant Pass CFCDP was gang raped a couple of weeks ago while she was on her way to school. The staff of NCML is terribly disturbed by this unfortunate incident. The child was hospitalized immediately after this incident. After receiving treatment and having to do various tests the child has now been sent home. Since the case is not completely over, we are restricted from visiting the child. However the Police, Department of Education, Women and child protection bureau and the Department of probation are actively pursuing the case. NCML fully backs them and is presently working very closely with them to create a child safe environment. Our primary goal is to enhance community awareness and provide psychosocial support to the innocent children victimized within and outside NCML work areas. It was learned that 14 rape cases have been reported within the last 3 months.

The panic among other children in schools is increasing as they could also face similar harassments. Having worked with some of them for nearly 4 years NCML has been successful in diverting their focus. Children are reacting differently this time. Their absolute helplessness has made them put their trust in God for protection. The children are taught to seek help from their father in heaven. “There is no one more powerful than our father. Praying and being close to him is the only way to be protective from danger” is our teaching to the children presently. Children have responded to our request unconditionally. No religion, caste or the different language they spoke has kept them from holding hands together to seek help from their father. It was amazing to see little children praying and asking God for protection while praying earnestly for the little girl who has already faced the tragedy.

We’ve planned to share the story of Daniel whom God protected from the hungry Lions to make them understand how powerful our God can be if they only seek him. We are convinced that this little story will touch and change the hearts of many listeners. Our utmost objective is to be with children; especially at times when they need us most. The local staff adhering to their call is working very closely with children; giving them protection, love and mostly hope.

We invite all Nazarenes around the world to join hands with the children of Sri Lanka as they pray for protection, strength and their rights.

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**NAZARENE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES OF LANKA.**