

# Supporting the Sangha in this Difficult Time

**In Sri Lanka, everyone is facing many shortages, including milk, rice, flour, paper, petrol, and cooking gas, as well as many kinds of medicine. Inflation is rampant, and the value of the rupee is falling further everyday. When people cannot afford sufficient food for their families, it is difficult for them to offer food to the Sangha, who are completely dependent on donations. This situation is very serious for the small temples in remote villages.**



**Buddhist Relief Mission would like to offer essential food and medicine to these monks, nuns, and novices who are in dire straits.**



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## An Update on BRM Relief during Sri Lanka's Crisis

The response to our appeal has been gratifying. Some donors have suggested that, in this time of crisis, we include families and charitable institutions of all ethnic groups, and we heartily agree! With the reimposition of the State of Emergency, a breakdown of infrastructure, food and fuel shortages, and galloping inflation, the situation has become even more dire. During the first week of the project, we were able to make deliveries of food and medicine to 4 monasteries, 3 nunneries, a school for disabled children, and about 50 food-insecure families. As soon as travel is again possible, we will deliver to another nunnery, 52 families in a village north of Kandy, 20 families in another village, and 10 orphanages. By networking and cooperating with like-hearted friends, faith groups, and local organizations, we are, every day, identifying other needy institutions and families. Unfortunately, in just this one week, the cost of one parcel has gone up more than 10% and is likely to increase even more in the coming days. The crisis is certain to continue and worsen, but we are committed to continue this relief work as long as we can. Sadhu! Sadhu! Sadhu!!! to all of our donors.

rice  
dhal  
soya protein  
sugar  
chillie powder  
curry powder  
chillie pieces  
potatoes  
onions  
garlic  
salt  
tea  
dried sprats  
chick peas  
cooking oil  
ginger  
biscuits  
laundry soap  
hand soap



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### Buddhist Relief Mission



# Continuing and Expanding Relief during the Crisis in Sri Lanka



Since launching our appeal last month, Buddhist Relief Mission has been able to distribute packets of dry rations to hundreds of families, as well as temples, orphanages, schools, and other institutions in and around Kandy, but the situation grows more dire every day. We are happy to report that our project is expanding to include three new recipient groups.

rice	onions	soya protein	ginger biscuits
dhal	garlic	dried sprats	laundry soap
salt	potatoes	curry powder	hand soap
tea	chick peas	chillie pieces	
sugar	cooking oil	chillie powder	



## Veddas

The Veddas are the indigenous people of Sri Lanka. They are an impoverished and often neglected community. Through the Kandy Cancer Society we were able to contact the leader of the village near Mahiyangana. Food will be delivered to 100 families there on June 16. Here is an excerpt from the letter we received:

Dear Buddhist Relief Mission,

We Sri Lankans have no words to thank you for your generosity in assisting the less fortunate people of this beautiful Island. May good health and cheer be with you. My sincere greetings to all those near and far who assist in this operation.

The Vedda chief suggests we come with the rations on Thursday, his 75th birthday. We are arranging to take a parcel of dry rations and 5 coconuts fo 100 families. I have invited a few Doctors to travel on this day to examine some patients who need urgent medical treatment.

We must not stop at this. Let us collectively assist whenever and wherever we can and to practice the idea of "Caring and Sharing."  
With metta, Mohan



**Veddas: The First People Of Sri Lanka**  
by Thiva Arunagirinathan

<<https://roar.media/english/life/culture-identities/veddas-the-first-people-of-sri-lanka>>

## Tea Estate Workers

With the tea industry suffering a setback during the crisis, the Tamil workers on the estates are in dire straits. Our first distribution to 30 families in this group will be on Sunday, June 12.



## Families of Prisoners

Through a Kandy policeman, we have been able to identify in the Kandy area about 30 families of whom the breadwinner is currently incarcerated. That policeman is arranging for dry rations to be delivered to each of those families.



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**Buddhist Relief Mission**

# A Joyous Distribution of Food to Needy Families



As the economic crisis in Sri Lanka worsens every day, Buddhist Relief Mission continues to distribute dry rations and vegetables to needy families. Due to the current shortage of petrol, it has become increasingly difficult to reach villages outside Kandy.

On August 31, Ashoka was able to deliver parcels to ten families in a village in Matale, north of Kandy. In his search for a vehicle and driver, Ashoka had approached a neighbor, who, at first, hesitated because he was afraid that he might not have enough petrol to go that far. As soon as he learned the reason for the trip, however, he immediately agreed to go without any charge, so that he could participate in the donation.

Some of the recipients are handicapped and have serious medical problems, so the food was life-saving. All of them were extremely grateful for the aid offered by so many people around the world.

Through donations from supporters, Buddhist Relief Mission will carry on this wonderful work.



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## Another Joyous Distribution of Food, September 2022

On September 4, Lily and her family carried parcels of dry rations for fifty needy families in Puttelawa. All of the families in that area are connected to a tea estate, but operations are currently suspended, and there is no work.

The village is in a remote area about twenty kilometers from Kandy. The road can be treacherous, but, fortunately, on that day only, there was no rain.

The priest at the temple has planted many fruit trees to provide fresh food for the villagers. Lily was happy to offer him a coconut palm sapling from our garden.

As soon conditions permit, we will distribute rations to an additional thirty families.

This is only one example of the urgent need for assistance to many needy families throughout Sri Lanka. With the support from our donors, this program will continue as long as possible.



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## Another Distribution on the Tea Estate

In mid-September, Lily and her family carried many food parcels to distribute to the remaining families on the tea estate in Puttelawa. This was arranged by the priest of the Hindu Temple in the village. With this donation, we began packing the dry rations in reusable bags, rather than thin plastic bags. These were purchased from a supermarket, but the manager of the local store was so impressed with the idea of protecting the environment in this way that he has adopted the practice himself with sturdy, generic, non-branded bags.

In the midst of the ever-worsening crisis in Sri Lanka, these distributions of much needed food to destitute families are made possible by the many generous donations from our supporters. We share merit with all of them.

May all beings be happy!

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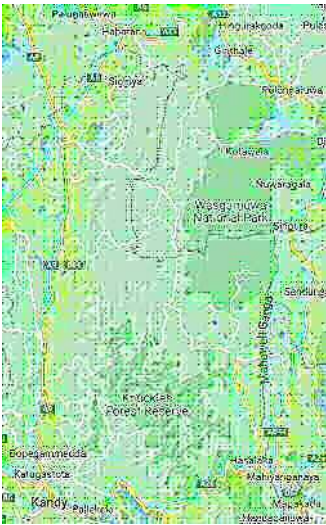


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# BRM Continues Relief Work During the Crisis in Sri Lanka

## Polonnaruwa



On August 31, Mohan Samarakoon, the Director of the Kandy Cancer Home (where we offer High Tea on the 15th of every month), went with a team of doctors, nurses, and staff to Polonnaruwa to distribute food, medicine, and other supplies and to offer out-patient treatment. Although we did not accompany them on this overnight trip, we contributed funds from our generous donors to help make their trip a success. In Central Province, we operate mainly through a network of friends and local groups, but, in cooperation with the Cancer Society, an official non-profit organization, we are able to extend our relief projects island-wide.



This special wheelchair was ordered from Colombo and donated to this boy.

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka continues unabated. Shortages of food, medicine, and fuel have caused many businesses to close, and many people have lost their jobs. Since the beginning of the year about 3000 doctors have left the country. Relief funds are still greatly needed.

## Ambepussa



On September 9, Lily went with Tissa, the driver who has worked with us for more than ten years, his son, and his daughter to a private orphanage, established many years ago by a senior monk in Ambepussa, between Kandy and Colombo. They carried 100 kgs of rice, in addition to lots of dry rations and a box of school supplies. There are fifteen boys staying there at present in this small institution which is completely dependent on donations. We had visited the orphanage several years ago, and this was our second donation of food this year. We also sent a ring-toss toy which we had brought from Japan. The boys had a delightful time learning how to play with it, and we hope they continue enjoying this safe and non-violent game.

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## A Donation to a Special School in Kandy



On September 15, as part of the celebration of the birthdays of Ken, Visakha, Lily, Mike, and Shehan, Mike and Ashoka delivered 100 kgs of rice and lots of dry rations as well as several fruit trees and pots of vegetable seedlings to the K/Senkadagala School of the Deaf & Blind. It is only in the last few months, since the beginning of the crisis, that the faculty of the school set up the agricultural project, not only to provide vegetables, but also to offer gardening training for the students. Buddhist Relief Mission was very pleased to contribute to this.

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka continues unabated. Due to shortages of many commodities, including food, medicine, and fuel, relief funds are still greatly needed.



These four photos are from our visit to the school in 2009 with the Sai Baba Association.

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## Distribution of Food Relief in Jaffna



At the end of September, Lily chose to celebrate her birthday with a special distribution of food packets to families on the Jaffna Peninsula in the extreme north of Sri Lanka. She, her family, and several members of the Ayappa Society in Kandy took a three-day trip from Kandy to Jaffna, 270 kilometers away. In Kandy, they loaded their truck with hundreds of kilos of rice and other staples which are very expensive in the north. Other necessities were purchased from local merchants.

Many people in this region are still suffering from the devastation wrought during the thirty-year civil war. As she accepted the food, one woman wept, saying she had lost her husband, had nowhere to turn, and had hardly eaten for the past two days. Lily and her party were given warm hospitality from local Ayappa Society members. All the recipients expressed their great gratitude and sent many blessings to BRM donors.

Food inflation in Sri Lanka in August hit 93.7 percent. The situation throughout the country, with growing hunger, hardship, and unemployment is severe. Conditions are particularly dire in the north, but this is rarely reported. One noteworthy exception is a recent article in Al Jazeera with touching photos.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2022/9/19/photos-war-ravaged-sri-lankan-tamils-suffer-amid-economic-crisis>



Nevertheless, many in the government have reacted strongly to the UN report that some citizens are reduced to one meal a day. These officials insist that there is no malnutrition in Sri Lanka, and one has even declared that one meal a day is actually a healthy way to live.

BRM will continue distributing food as long as we receive donations from our supporters.

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