



Continuing Relief Work in Sri Lanka

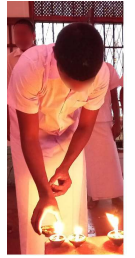
Buddhist Relief Mission continues to provide essential dry rations and medicine to Ven. Nanda in her hermitage in the impoverished tea country above Kandy, as well as to other members of the Sangha in remote locations. As often as possible, we also donate food parcels to needy families around Kandy.

On the fifteenth of every month, we offer a nourishing high tea to the patients staying at the Kandy Cancer Home, along with a supply of basic foods and supplementary medicines for them. Last month, there were 87 residents in the home.

We are heartened to be able to report that our recent appeal for funds for ECG machines for the Sri Lanka Cancer Society, Kandy Branch, raised, in a very short time, more than enough money to purchase one of the two devices requested. A bow of gratitude to our donors!



In May, **BRM** donated dry rations and medicine to the Home for the Handicapped, in Kandy, managed by Missionaries of Charity, a Mother Teresa organization. Currently, there are 97 residents there. Like all institutions in Sri Lanka, the home is struggling to cope with rising costs of essentials.



BRM provided funds for the residents of Methasevana Drug Rehabilitation Centre to purchase the supplies to make lanterns to decorate the premises for Vesak. The young men thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be creative and imaginative in constructing the decorations for the celebration.

These are just some of the institutions to which **BRM** offers regular support.



Help for Tea Estate Workers

During this economic crisis, tea estate workers are among the most vulnerable. As you can see from the box on the right, their situation is dire. **BRM** regularly provides dry rations to villages on the estates. A village is typically 100 families.

In that most of the workers are Hindu, these donations are coordinated through the Ayappa Society of Kandy.



Tea estate facts and statistics:

- Workers are housed in quarters described as unfit for human habitation.
- 57% of households have no safe drinking water; 21% have no access to sanitary toilet facilities.
- 64.6% of households are among the poorest 40% in the country.
- Wage is 1000 rupees per day, depending on the number of kilograms of tea picked.
- Monthly take-home salary is about 24,000 rupees (US\$80).
- It costs over 100,000 rupees per month for a family of four to have two nutritious meals a day. Even if both parents work, they cannot provide enough food.
- 36% of children are stunted, and 36% are underweight.
- The President announced a daily wage increase to 1700 rupees from May 2024, **but . . .**
- The Planters' Association of Ceylon condemned the hike as arbitrary, reckless, and a unilateral decision.
- The average annual income of an Estate Manager is about US\$200,000!

(Excerpted from "Tea and lack of empathy," the editorial in *Daily Mirror*, 29 May 2024)

<<https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Tea-and-lack-of-empathy/172-283565>>



https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=E4PWEXXHBG55G

Your donations will help Buddhist Relief Mission provide food, medicine, and other essentials to individuals, families, students, monastics, and institutions in Sri Lanka during the continuing economic crisis. Thank you for your generous support! Sadhu! Sadhu!! Sadhu!!!

Donations may also be made

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in the U.K., contact
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