



HUMANITARIAN ASSOCIATION



SRI LANKA

The **Sujeeva** Association, founded in Verbier, Switzerland in 1999, is dedicated to bringing direct aid to destitute children or orphans, without regard to political, religious or ethnic background. Sujeeva supports various projects undertaken by Sonja Burri since 1985 in Sri Lanka.

Sujeeva is a non-profit humanitarian association operating under Swiss law. The members of the Association (board members and others) work on a voluntary basis (without salary, administrative and travel reimbursements) so that the totality of all contributions is used directly in Sri Lanka.



REPORT 2013

Sujeeva is still sponsoring nearly 190 children and financing various projects considered both necessary and urgent in many parts of Sri Lanka. As every year, we went on site to meet the children and their families to reassess their needs.

In **Batticaloa**, the Sujeeva Girl's Home obviously got our first visit where we found both our coordinator Mr. Anton Selvarajan and our girls in excellent health. Some of them passed the O/Level in December 2012 and 8 obtained the rating required for access to higher education. They will therefore continue their studies to A/Level (maturity). This result is wonderful and we owe much to the extraordinary guidance of Selvi our «house-mother» as well as the quality of teaching at the attended college. We spent a wonderful time together and shared a delicious curry prepared by Selvi. The Sujeeva Girl's Home still has 21 girls. Also there are some children in short-term care placed by the social services. Some of these children are toddlers, so the situation is very strenuous for Selvi and difficult for our own girls during their studies. As these children are imposed on us and we must also bear the costs, we have decided to close the home in late December 2014 when our girls will have reached the end of their schooling.

Kalmunai

We have supported the St. Mary's Boys Home run by Brother Thaya for the last 15 years. It is a great pleasure that the resident boys welcome us with a song and dance show that ends in a great explosion of joy. Brother Thaya brilliantly manages his home and takes great pains to make ends meet. This year again, as he encountered financial difficulties in finding new sponsors and balancing the operating budget, we were willing to finance CHF 5'000. -. This one-time aide is in addition to sponsoring 14 boys and supporting tuition classes, which we are already financing.

Pandiruppu

Over the years, the number of post-tsunami families whose children we sponsored has happily declined. Only a dozen remain today. It is an opportunity for us to review each child's school report and determine whether the aid should be maintained. While we had almost finished this series of meetings, we received some bad news: An adorable father who lived alone and took care of his daughter had just died. We learnt that the child was being raised by an aunt and tried to find her. We finally managed to get in touch and decided, in addition to the continued sponsorship, to provide the aunt with immediate assistance.

Batticaloa

Returning to Batticaloa, we gather for a day at Sujeeva Home, the families we have long supported through the local NGO Koinonia. This year, we also organized bus transport for the ten children of the Sampoor refugee camp, whose progress we have been following since 2012. We then took these 39 families shopping in small groups for clothes, etc. We were very moved to see the shining eyes of these children and whose gratefulness deeply affected us. That was a magical moment!

The day after leaving Batticaloa, we stopped off to meet a family whose dramatic standard of living we had heard of. Following the sudden death of her husband, a young woman was obliged to live alone with her three children and her parents. They live in a hut made of palm leaves on the grounds of a man who agreed they could settle down and in exchange for which they would keep an eye on the property. During our visit, we also learned that the owner generously agreed to give up a piece of the land so that they could build a house. We decided that it was essential to accept this proposition. Philippe launched via Facebook, a fundraiser for the money required to build a simple but functional home and in a few days we were able to raise about CHF 4'000, which was sufficient. In late August, the family was able to move into it's new home. An act of great solidarity with extraordinary results.

Trincomalee

As in previous years, we met sponsored children not part of institutions as well as students receiving timely assistance and those of the Methodist and Marian's Hostel. We only sponsor 7 children in these homes and will not be funding any new cases.

Apart from the institutions our local coordinator, Anton, still helps 38 children and students in precarious situations. These families receive monthly financial aid and we also buy their school supplies, uniforms and shoes.

Regarding the Nursery of Ananthapuri, we decided to fund the connection to the local water mains to avoid every child having bringing his own water bottle.

We also filled in the courtyard that was regularly flooded during the rainy season. Both «Nurseries» which we support 100% (salaries, equipment and uniforms) mainly host children from the refugee camps in the north and who can therefore benefit from our infrastructures.

Nuwara Eliya

We meet up with our volunteer coordinator Tanad and make a first visit to the Julius family (referred in a previous report) where three girls live with their mother in tragic circumstances and where their father recently went to work in the UAE. They live in a one-room shack made of wood with a sheet on the dirt floor. This year, despite family problems and thanks to the generosity of friends of the Association we decided to rebuild their homes.

Our route then took us to meet little Venuri and her family. Born prematurely to a mother who died giving birth this little girl clung to life. Venuri, who is now 10, is in great shape. More slender than girls her age, she is however proof of a phenomenally strong character.

The last tour then took us to the quadriplegic father who lives with his family in what looked



like a garden shed. Since our first meeting there two years ago, he is regularly treated at home by a physiotherapist. Both his children are doing well are coming along well at school and surround their father with a lot of affection. The family then presented us with a plan they had prepared with the help of Tanad to refurbish the house. This means adding a room and a toilet so as to improve the comfort of all and allow the father to have a room of his own. This project has already found funding through one of our sponsors who organized a fundraiser. The work should be completed in late October 2013.

Kandy

During our brief visit to Kandy, we unfortunately were not able to meet the Johns family as the children were in school. We will have more information from them later.

Again, we would like to single out the exceptional work of Anton and Tanad, our two local coordinators, who take care of the various families and children in our programs and who provide financial monitoring of the different projects.

We would like to thank all the sponsors and donors through whom we are able to accompany all these children towards a better life.

Sonja Burri and Philippe Boissonnas



Before



After



GENERAL AID

Thanks to our "Christmas Collection" all the children that we sponsor receive a gift each year, generally a dress for the girls and a shirt and pants for the boys. A big Thank You to all sponsors for their generosity.

In addition to direct aid, we always encourage regrouping of families. Thanks to special contributions we support reconstruction programs for families in need.

If you would like additional information concerning the programs we are running please consult our site: <http://www.sujeva.org> in French or in English. A big thanks to Petri who voluntarily takes care of our site and keeps it for us.

We also thank the firm, OA-Textiles in Granges-Paccot, for their contribution of caps, sold in favor of our association in a business in Verbier. A great big thanks also to all contributors without whom we could not accomplish our projects. We sponsor more than 300 children today and the continued commitment of each sponsor is essential to enable these boys and girls to complete their education and be assured of a better future.

COMMITTEE

Mrs. Sonja Burri, Verbier
Mr. Philippe Boissonnas, Communication Consultant, Geneva
Mr. Roger Bruchez, Martigny
Me. Jean-Pierre Guex, Lawyer, Le Châble.

AUDITOR

Mrs. Dominique Lusti, Chartered Accountant, Verbier.



Would you like to help? There are three ways:

- SPONSORSHIP:** A child can be taken care of for just 300 Swiss francs a year and it is possible to sponsor any number of children. Sponsorship can be either anonymous or one can contribute nominally to a single child or group of children and receive regular reports.
- DONATION:** Your financial assistance, however small it may be, will provide a future for these children.
- STANDING ORDER:** A monthly donation can do so much to help return these children to a stable life they so badly need.

Please send your contribution to the following address: Credit Suisse, 1936 Verbier, Switzerland, Account Sujeeva, no. 754526-90

Note: If sending from Switzerland, the 'BANK CLEARING' number is 4835 and from abroad, the SWIFT number is CRESCHZZ80A IBAN: CH48 0483 5075 4526 9000 0. **Many thanks**

HUMANITARIAN ASSOCIATION « SUJEEVA » SPONSORSHIP / DONATION / STANDING ORDER FORM

Name: _____ First name : _____

Address: _____

Country: _____ Telephone : _____

Date : _____ Signature : _____

- SPONSORSHIP I wish to sponsorchildren at 300 Swiss francs a year for each child.
- Please tick here if you wish to sponsor anonymously.
- DONATION My donation is Swiss francs.....
- STANDING ORDER I will arrange for a monthly standing order of Swiss francs.....

