



WIPE OUT HUNGER

Implementing Organizations :

01. Rotary Club of Gemcity Ratnapura
02. Rotaract Club of Faculty of Medicine,
Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka.

*Giving is the greatest
act of grace*



BACKGROUND

Sri Lanka is an island nation located in the Indian Ocean, in close proximity to southern India. Due to its precise placement and geography, it was a quiet and prosperous country before the economic crisis started in 2019. Before that, the main income streams of the country were through tourism, tea export, apparel, textile, rice production, and other agricultural products, with the majority of the populace employed in the service sector.

CURRENT SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

Due to the effects of COVID-19 as well as the following economic depression, the country is currently in a violent situation. Most of which can be attributed to the lack of foreign currency as well as the collapse of the agricultural sector, where rice production dropped by 20% within 6 months of the nationwide agrochemical ban. This has affected the purchasability of several essential items including but not limited to petroleum gases and food imports, on which the Sri Lankans are much dependent.

This has caused severe economic inflation, from a ~2% to ~38%. To put it in a more practical perspective, a bag of groceries worth 3500 Rupees in 2019 would now cost close to 16000 Rupees. To Elaborate on the current food situation, we shall consider the agricultural data from the national census. Sri Lanka's primary food crop is rice. Rice is cultivated during two seasons. According to the data Rice production in Sri Lanka has dropped from 3,196,752 metric tons to 1,857,872 metric tons between the years 2019 to 2022. Its effects are starting to show with the increase of the food inflation rate from 2.9% (in 2019) to 80.1% (in June 2022) resulting in the malnutrition rate rising rapidly in the same period of time according to a WHO census.

Past experiences in other countries have showed that rapid agricultural revolutions such as the change seen in Sri Lanka can bring about death by starvation to a great fraction of the population. We, as Rotaract aim to minimize the impact of the crisis on households with income below the poverty line. this project has been proposed with the aim to ease the burden of at least a fraction of people, by the provision of a meal for school children for a year

THE TOLL ON SCHOOL CHILDREN

Several children especially the younger can be identified to be among the most vulnerable in the current situation. It is a common story for several children to collapse due to hunger during school times. It also correlates with the common simulation that many families find themselves in, where due to the economic situation they will only consume a single meal per day, and among the especially vulnerable only one meal per several days. This has many direct and indirect negative effects, ranging from malnutrition causing hindrance to growth to the students being unable to proceed with their education due to the physical and mental toll it takes on them. Prolonged malnutrition among children can even lead to a lowering of the intelligence quotient (IQ) and increase the susceptibility to contracting diseases.

“Speaking to ABC Australia, the UNICEF representative said that while Sri Lanka had one of the highest rates of child malnutrition in South Asia, the economic crisis has only exacerbated the child malnutrition crisis. According to the UNICEF, 7 out of 10 families are cutting down their food intake to mitigate the crisis, Swangin said. Accordingly, those who were having three meals had decreased to two, while those who were eating two meals had declined to one. While Sri Lanka has the second-highest rate of acute malnutrition among children under 5 in South Asia, at least 17% of children are suffering from chronic wasting, a disease that carries the highest risk of death. The quality of the food has recorded a severe decrease as will, he said.”

(<https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/06/18/sri-lanka-second-highest-in-child-malnutrition-in-south-asia-says-unicef/>)

THE TOLL ON SCHOOL CHILDREN

Although a permanent solution to the crisis cannot be met by our project, we hope to give solace to the parents by providing at least one nutritionally rich meal to their children and give our contribution to ending malnutrition in school children.

The project will be carried out via the Rotary club of Ratnapura Gem city with collaboration of the community service avenue of Rotaract Club of Faculty of Medicine, SUSL to make it a great success.

Through this project, we aim to provide breakfast to students of 10 schools at 0.5\$ per meal per student, in accordance to the nutritional requirements recommended by the ministry of health, for the duration of 180 days, which is an academic year.

PROJECT DURATION : 1 YEAR



OBJECTIVES

To provide a well-balanced nutritional meal, which includes a fully balanced diet for children is recommended by the health authorities in Sri Lanka.

To provide the meal for all students of 10 selected schools from Rathnapura Districts, where the situation is especially dire.

To continue this effort for the duration of 1 academic year (180 days) at a rate of .5\$ per meal.

IMPLEMENTATION

Funding

Procuring

Distribution



FUNDING

For breakfast per day per child - 0.5USD (180LKR)

Your support of \$5 will provide 10 children with one school meal because no child in our county should study hungry.

You may donate via;

Account No. - 003360000523
Rotary club of Ratnapura Gem City
Bank Name - Sampath Bank
Branch-Rathnapura
Swift Code - BSAMLKLX

or

Account No. - 003360000531
Community Development Foundation (CDF)
Bank name- Sampath Bank
Branch-Rathnapura
Swift Code- BSAMLKLX

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<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/342173/9789290227847-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/06/10/growing-risk-of-malnutrition-among-sri-lankan-kids-and-adults/>

<https://www.newsfirst.lk/2022/06/18/sri-lanka-second-highest-in-child-malnutrition-in-south-asia-says-unicef/>



THANK YOU



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