### Hela Sarana Flood Relief - May 2003

In May 2003, devastating floods swept through Sri Lanka, destroying towns and villages across Ratnapura, Galle, and Matara. The disaster claimed over 500 lives and left more than 100,000 people homeless, with poor farming families bearing the greatest burden.

Hela Sarana responded immediately, releasing £2,000 for emergency relief and issuing an appeal to fellow Sri Lankans. The response was heartfelt—many compassionate and generous individuals contributed money, materials, and clothing. Relief work on the ground was carried out voluntarily by Mr. Weerasinghe, a retired food control officer in Ratnapura. To ensure accountability and oversight, Mr. Leelasena, a London-based social worker, travelled to Sri Lanka on 15 June to



ons. Reports confirmed that the initial arried out successfully, bringing muchse affected.



## Flood relief appeal

A devastating flood in May 2003 destroyed many towns and villages in Sri Lanka including Ratnapura, Galle and Matara. The floods claimed over 500 lives and over 100,000 were made homeless. The most affected were the poor peasants. Hela Sarana released £2000.00 for immediate relief work and sent out an appeal asking for help from fellow Sri Lankans.



Many Compassionate and generous people responded by sending money, material and clothing. Mr. Weerasinghe, retired food control officer in Ratnapura, voluntarily carried out relief work on behalf of Hela Sarana. Mr. Leelasena, a London based social worker, left UK on 15<sup>th</sup> of June to oversee the work undertaken by Mr. Weerasinghe. We have been advised that the initial work has been successfully completed.





#### Tsunami Relief (2004)

# The 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was a defining moment for Hela Sarana's disaster relief work:

Released £4,000 for immediate emergency relief.

Supplied a truckload of dry rations to 500 families in Galle and Matara.

Funded Rs. 200,000 for medical supplies at Matara General Hospital.

Donated Rs. 200,000 to the Government Medical Officers' Association (GMOA).

Provided 10 water storage tanks to refugee camps in Galle. Supplied refrigeration units to Galle General Hospital.

Committee members personally contributed over Rs. 500,000 for urgent essentials.

This rapid response demonstrated Hela Sarana's ability to mobilize resources and directly assist affected communities.

### Hela Sarana Flood Relief - Sri Lanka's Most Devastating Floods

The floods that struck Sri Lanka were among the most devastating in the nation's history, affecting 15 districts across the North, North Central, and East. More than a million people lost everything, with children suffering the greatest hardship. Parents, despite their own struggles, were most concerned about restoring their children's education.

In response, Hela Sarana immediately released £5,000 for relief operations. Among the most valued contributions were 2,000 exercise books, which gave children hope and motivation to return to school. Essential items such as sleeping mats, pillows, towels, soap, pain relief balm, candles, plastic buckets, and drinking water were also distributed.

Thanks to the dedication of three Hela Sarana officers and local volunteers, relief goods reached **over 1,050 families**. Supplies were transported from Colombo to major camps in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, and Batticaloa, then distributed onward to nine smaller camps—often by jeep, three-wheelers, or even carried by hand. Despite torrential rain, poor infrastructure, and journeys spanning over 1,000 km, the volunteers persevered.

This relief effort brought comfort and dignity to families in desperate need. We extend heartfelt gratitude to all supporters whose contributions enabled Hela Sarana to provide care and hope during this national tragedy.

### Emergency Flood and Landslide Disaster Relief Project - 2016

In 2016, vast areas of the country were struck by devastating floods and landslides, resulting in the tragic loss of many lives and widespread destruction of property. As part of our relief efforts, we established a clean water supply system—installing pipes and storage tanks—to support a village in Kegalle that had been severely impacted by the landslides.





July 2020

Hela Sarana donated dry rations to over 100 needy families in surrounding villages at Baddegama . These people were struggling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rev. Eardely Mendis who made the request can be seen handing out the goods

Donations from Hela Sarana was used to renovate a kitchen, to cook food for communities affected by recent floods

### DRY FOOD PROVISION TO 75 FAMILIES IN MILDENIYA - BANDARAGAMA ORGANISED THROUGH CINNAMON GROVE

















DRY FOOD PROVISION TO 75 FAMILIES IN GAMPOLA COORDINATED KOBBEWALA SUMANARATHANA THERO OF SRI PRIYADHARSHANARAMAYA, GAMPOLA

