



Serendip

Children's Home
Giving in motion...










ANNUAL REPORT 2021

CHARITY NO.1133461



Children's Home
Giving in Motion

Table of Contents

	1. INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	04
	1.1 CHAIR'S STATEMENT	04
	1.2 OUR OBJECTIVES	05
	2. LOOK BACK TO OUR 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS	06
	2.1 KEY PROJECTS	06
	2.2 KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATIONS	09
	3. OUR 2021 GOALS	10
	4. TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS	11
	5. PARTNERSHIPS	12
	6. HOW WE CAN ALL HELP	14
	6.1 DONATE TO HELP FUND VITAL PROJECTS IN 2021	14
	6.2 VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO HELP THE CHARITY	15
	7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	20

1. Introduction and Executive Summary

1.1 CHAIR'S STATEMENT

For those who may not have seen our previous reports I would like to share with you the short precis of the Charity's history.

'The Serendip charity was formed 12 years ago (both here and in Sri Lanka) in response to an urgent need created by a civil war on the island of Sri Lanka. A group of us came together after observing a violent conflict which left in its aftermath, around eighty thousand widows, a similar number of orphans, and numerous physical disabilities because of military action. We have come a long way from those dark times.

Our first project we named 'Care in the Community'. It was to help the children who lost both or one parent to the war. We decided to sponsor such children by matching them up with appropriate sponsors in the UK. With the money raised we initially supplied food to their families and later helped pay for their educational materials.

We have come a long way since then. We now employ our own field workers to help deliver our projects. We have expanded our activities to support nursing and vocational training for young adults, fine arts education e.g learning musical instruments, painting, and handicraft, help to special needs children, and supporting children with terminal illnesses. We are also helping women headed families with livelihood projects e.g seed money for small businesses, yoga for youngers at school, supporting students at open university, and digging tube wells. So many different disciplines so many projects!

This year the Covid pandemic, not only affected us within the UK, but it also had serious implications in Sri Lanka. While we experienced lockdowns here and in many Western societies, in Sri Lanka the lockdowns were longer, more common, and more stringent.

Much of our work is focused towards the most deprived families in the north & east of Sri Lanka. The chief breadwinner is typically a labourer employed on a day-to-day basis. Once Covid took hold, in and outside Lockdown, work dried up and consequently their income did too. We helped over 1,000 of these families with dry rations to cover the periods when they were unable to purchase sufficient food.

Also, under Lockdown, Sri Lankan schools were closed thus jeopardising their education. In the West we seamlessly moved from physical to virtual learning. In Sri Lanka, whilst some students have mobile phones, many could not afford a continuous connection to virtual

lessons. Serendip was able to fund connections for over a thousand students over a period of three months.

We continued to develop our Special Needs work. We have opened a new centre in Kilinochchi to accommodate Special Needs activities (shared with Fine Arts classes). This will include (previously using rented accommodation) speech, art, and music & dance therapy classes. We also run sensory rooms, yoga sessions etc too.

We also continued our successful 'Breakfast for Kids' programme amongst rural children and even increased our bi-monthly dry food provision for destitute elders.

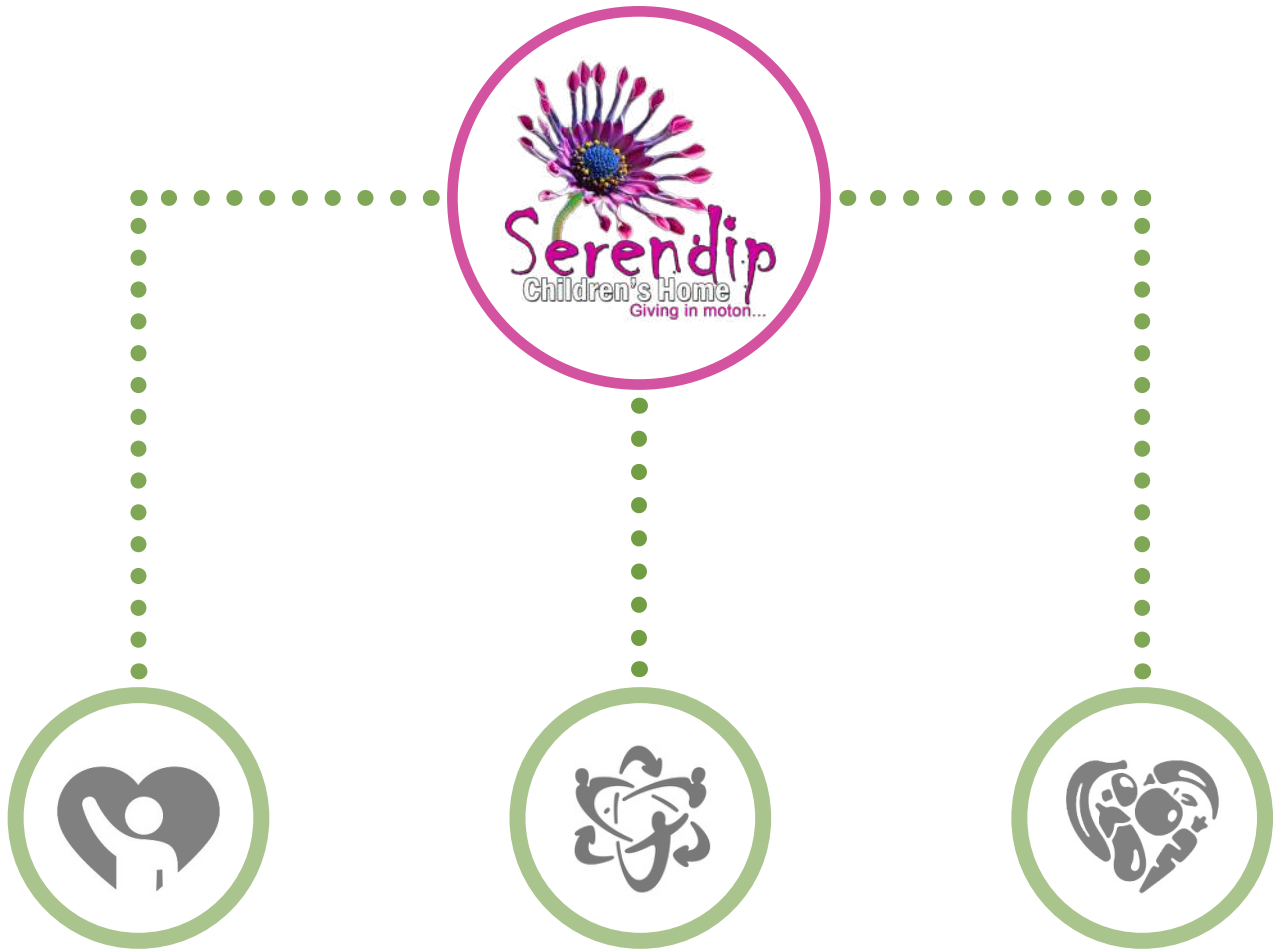
This last year has been more challenging than most because Lockdown meant some donors struggled to maintain their generosity. Thus, we have had to work even harder to secure funds to support our existing projects, let alone increase or expand our assistance. We were delighted that, despite the difficulties, we were still able to raise sufficient funds.

For 2022, we expect to maintain our existing programs. We also hope to launch our 'Education for Nurses' project that we had to shelve this year and look to expand our good work where we can. We will gratefully welcome any help, large or small, to ensure some of the deprived communities within Sri Lanka receive much needed help.

Trisha Williamson - Chairperson



1.2 OUR OBJECTIVES



Assistance to orphaned and vulnerable children in Sri Lanka by supporting them in a loving and nurturing home, addressing their immediate needs of food and shelter and their progressive needs for education, social support and eventually, work and independence.

Help women-headed families become self-sufficient. This largely consists of funding through grants to set them up as self-employed workers or small businesses.

Essential Food for the most vulnerable and elderly in society who have no other means of support.

2. Look back to Our 2021 Achievements

2.1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Covid Support

- Enabled virtual learning for over 1000 students in 14 schools
- Dry food packages for 850 extremely poor families
- Delivery of suitable PPE to the most vulnerable Elders



Empowering Special Needs

- Providing therapies (art, dance, speech, soundsory and language therapy)
- Training parents and teachers
- Start-up support to parents of Special Needs children



Care in the Community

- Breakfast for 557 pre-school children
- Bi-monthly provision of dry food for 165 elders
- Travel to essential medical appointment for the elders
- Start-up business support for 53 families



Culture & Mindfulness

- Three Fine Arts centres for 200+ children
- Yoga sessions for 185 adults & children



Education

- Scholarships for 61 students
- Educational material for 776 students in 7 schools
- Bicycles for 22 students to help them attend classes



“Every time I provide a donation to Serendip, I know that I am making an impact in our community. Each gift I give goes directly to providing a nourishing meal to children dealing with food insecurity.”

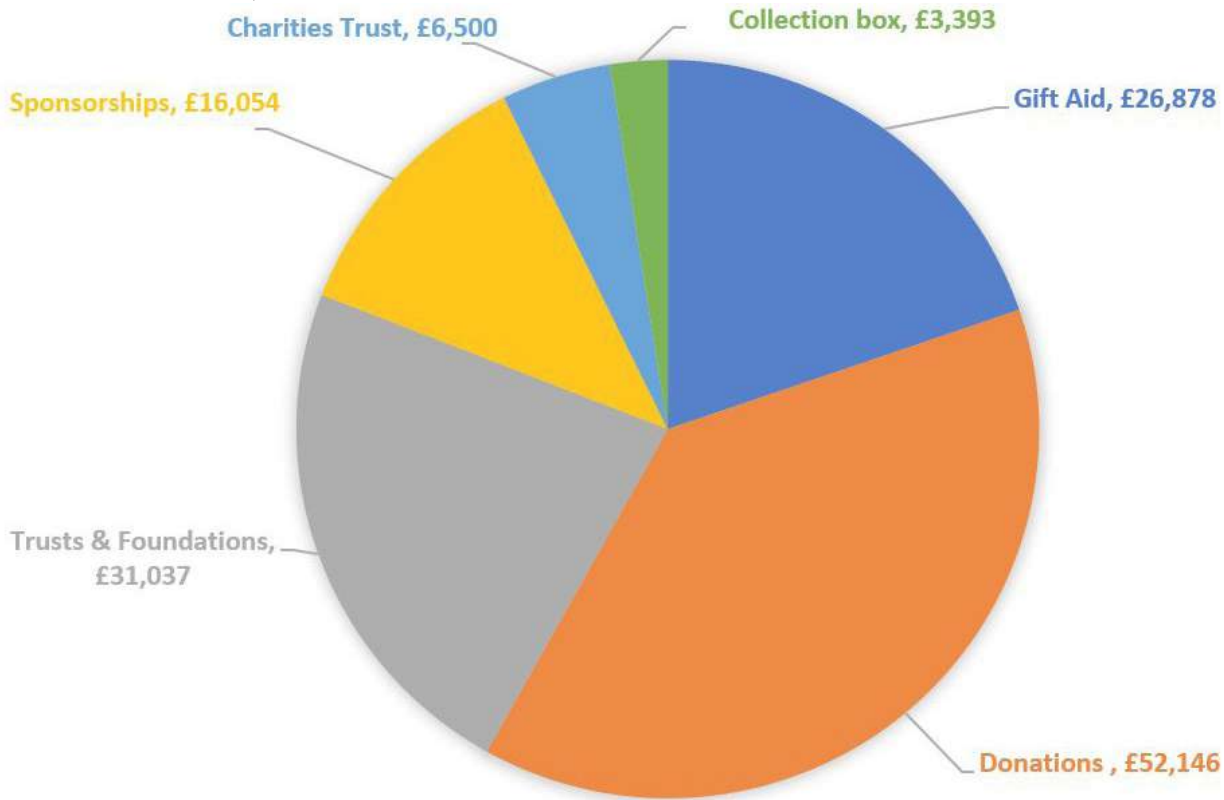
- Eileen White, Leicester



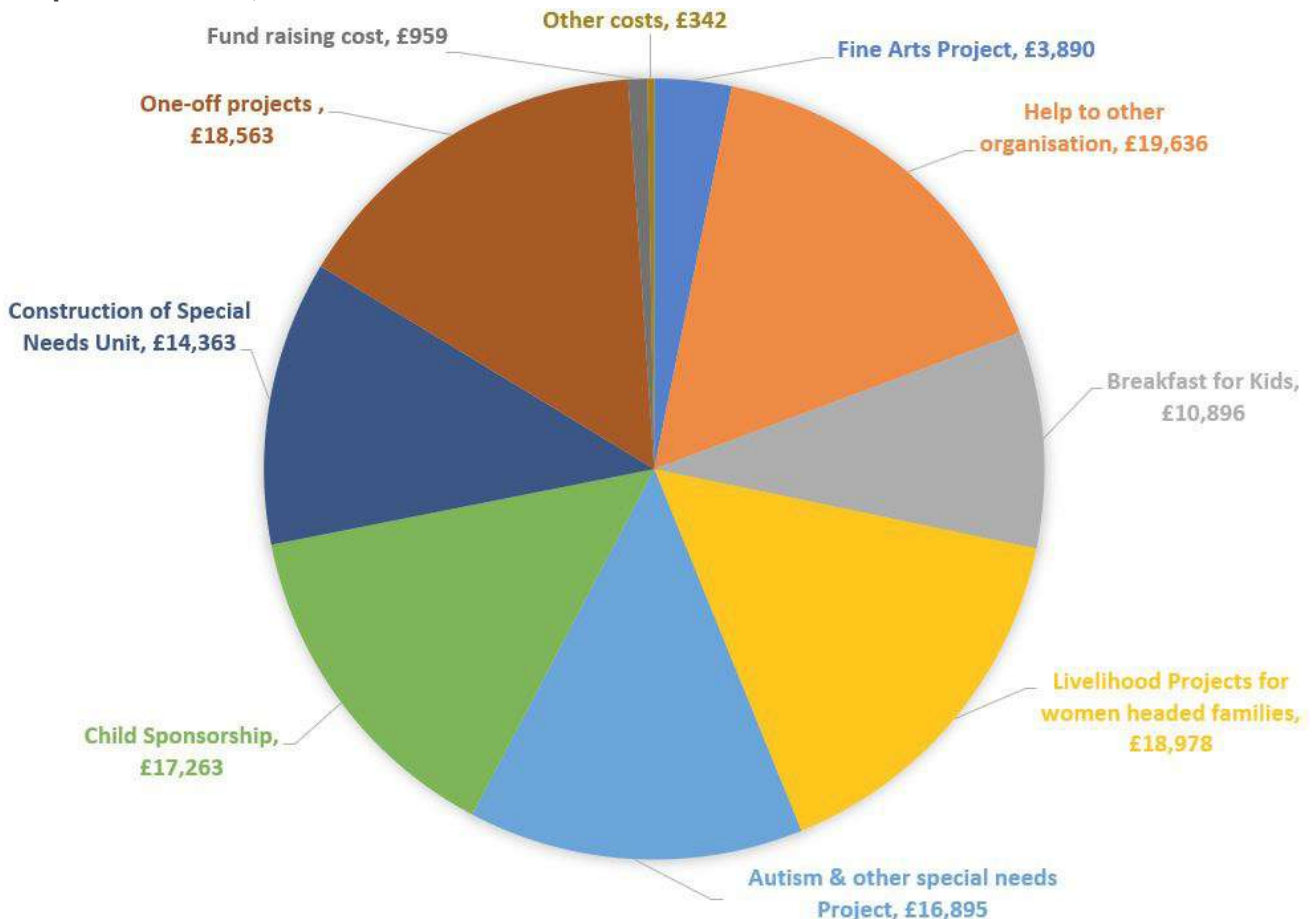
2.2 KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following Financial Statements are for Financial Year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Total Income - £136,008.00



Total Expenses - £121,785.00



*The balance of £14,223 raised from 2021 is being carried forward into projects for 2022

3. Our 2022 Goals

Our 2022 Objectives are based on continuing and expanding the fantastic work our volunteers and fieldworkers have undertaken, to fulfill our general objectives.



Assistance to orphaned and vulnerable children in Sri Lanka.



Help women-headed families become self-sufficient



Essential Food for the most vulnerable and elderly in society.

In 2022, we will build upon the success of 2021 and will broaden the geographic area and number of beneficiaries of our existing projects. For example, although we are providing group therapy to children with special needs, especially young autistic people, we are planning to expand this to provide a tailored therapies to individual children.



Last year, we had intended to add a fourth objective, 'Education of Nurses', but due to Covid it was not possible to do so. However, we hope to support 20 young girls from underprivileged backgrounds to enrol as Health Care Nurses.

We will also add a fifth objective:- **Educational material support**

We have provided such to very poor children on and off in the past. We now hope to make this a regular and on-going project.

In addition, we are keen to maintain some flexibility to respond to emergency needs with As with last year, we still wish to be able to respond to emergency needs. . For example, we have already supported families affected by COVID-19. Sri Lanka often suffers from serious flooding and we wish to provide the necessary support, as and when required. This also means, we will continue to offer one-off support upon request e.g. tube wells, school equipment etc.



4. Trusts and Foundations

On behalf our beneficiaries; we would like to sincerely thank the following Trusts and Foundations for their generous awards amounting to £14,850.

**The Music Sales
Charitable Trust**

**The Leaver
Family
Charitable Trust**

Charity Number
1117745

**The Bascule
Charitable Trust**

Charity Number
1127475

**The Siddons
Charitable Trust**

Charity Number
266716

**The Ward
Family
Charitable Trust**

**The Trelix
Charitable Trust**

Charity Number
1124952

**William Howarth
Charitable Trust**

Charity Number
1167013

**Marsland
McAdoo
Charitable
Settlement**

Charity Number
1126249

**N Smith
Charitable
Settlement**

Charity Number
276660

CH & HH Taylor

**Peter Stebbing
Memorial
Charity**

**The Lorimer
Trust**

**The St Mary's
Charity**

Charity Number
1087687

**The Randal
Charitable
Foundation**

Charity Number
1176129

**The Father
O'Mahony
Memorial Trust**

Charity Number
1039288

**The Farthing
Trust**

Charity Number
268066

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

**Mel
Maruvathur
Manram
(London)**



5. Partnerships

Serendip believes in working together with other organisations on joint projects, can help achieve more beneficial results. We have previously partnered with other UK and Sri Lanka based charities, Corporate Companies and with individuals on successful projects. We are always looking to partner with organisations in the UK, Sri Lanka and indeed all across the world. Please contact us if you would like to discuss any opportunities to partner.

Partnerships in previous years have included: Fundraising, one-off donations, media coverage, collaborate to deliver a project, share skills and knowledge, provide training, share facilities etc.

CURRENT PARTNERS

We are currently partnering with Amazon Smile and For Good Causes. Please check our website page below on how you can help Serendip Children's Home through purchasing via Amazon Smile (at no additional cost to you) or donating your unwanted reward points through 'For Good Causes'

<https://serendipchildrenshome.com/get-involved/>



SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK

Did you know that you can support Serendip Children's Home through your everyday purchases? Shopping online at AmazonSmile is a fantastic way to support Serendip Children's Home at no extra cost to you



FOR GOOD CAUSES

Did you know that you can now support children by donating your loyalty and reward points? Serendip Children's Home can now receive income in exchange for loyalty and reward points at no extra cost to you

"We believe that our funds provided to Serendip makes a profound and positive difference in the day-to-day lives of some of the kids and families with autism in Sri Lanka"

- Radhika & Gobi, Bristol



6. How We Can All Help

Our ability at Serendip Children's home, to support the most vulnerable, children and elderly in the North and East of Sri Lanka is only possible (1) due to generous donations of our donors, (2) the support of our partner organisations and sponsor businesses, (3) the hard work of our fieldworkers in the North & East of Sri Lanka and (4) the tireless effort of our volunteers.

We would love your help through the following means (1) Donate to help fund vital projects in 2022 and (2) Volunteer your time with the charity.

6.1 DONATE TO HELP FUND VITAL PROJECTS IN 2022

Please donate generously to help those in the greatest need in the North and East of Sri Lanka through regular monthly donations, a one-off donation, and many other methods which can be found on our website (Donating Vouchers, Amazon Smile, etc).

1. Set up a Monthly Standing Order Donation:

Name : Serendip Children's Home
Sort code : 60-04-36
Account no : 11637749

2. One-off donation via Justgiving:

<https://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome/donate>

3. Other methods to donate can be found on our website:

<https://serendipchildrenshome.com/>

Every £1 you donate will be put to great use in 2022 to help the most needy and vulnerable. Below are some examples on how every £1 helps.

1. Breakfast for Children

Around 3 years ago, Serendip Children's Home, launched the Breakfast Project to ensure that the most vulnerable children in rural areas of North Sri Lanka, receive a breakfast each and every pre-school day. So far, we are providing breakfast for 220 pre-school children in 20 schools.

- Feeding 1 child costs as little as £1 per week.
- Feeding 1 child costs £48 per year.



2. Assisting Special Needs Children

Serendip provides specialist facilities, therapy and equipment to schools in the North and East of Sri Lanka to support children with special needs and autistic children. This includes sensory rooms, speech & language therapy, yoga sessions, and also music & dance therapy in our fine arts centres.

- A speech therapist costs £150 per month, totalling £1800 per annum.

3. Provisions for Elders Project

The Provisions for Elders Project seeks to help 1186 elders in villages in the districts of Mullithivu, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya and Jaffna. Elderly individuals are provided with at least two meals per day, medicines, medical care, bedding, basic clothing and transport to attend medical appointments.

- Just £8 will feed an elderly person for one month.
- Just £96 per year will feed 1 elderly person for the full year.

6.2 VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME TO HELP THE CHARITY

We are a small charity run by friendly volunteers across all ages from university students to retired people. We are always looking for caring, passionate people who can contribute with ideas and time for our fund-raising activities, organising sponsored events as well as helping to communicate with our donors.

We normally meet once a month via video-conference to update each other on the progress of our projects, fund-raising activities and the events we organise.

Please contact us if you wish to join as a volunteer of Serendip Children's Home. Thank you.



HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you would like to HELP us in our charitable work why not JOIN our facebook group on <https://www.serendipchildrenshome?fref=ts>

VISIT our website on <http://www.serendipchildrenshome.com/>

or why not give us a DONATION via <http://www.justgiving.com/serendipchildrenshome>

My contact details

Full Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Mobile Number:

Email Address:

My donation

Amount (in figures): £5/ month £30 /Month Other Amount

£10 /month £50/Month £ /Month

Amount (in words):

Date of first payment: / /

and thereafter every month until further notice and debit my account accordingly

Payee Bank Name:

Payee Account Name:

Payee Account Number: Sort code:

My bank details

Account name:

Account number:

Sort code: - -

Bank name:

Bank branch address:

Signature:

Date: / /

Gift Aid Declaration



I would like tax to be reclaimed on my donation under the Gift Aid Scheme. I am a UK taxpayer and pay an amount of income tax/or capital gain tax at least equal to the tax that can be reclaimed on my donation. Yes No

<p>Please send your completed form to: Serendip Children's Home 34, Brightling Road, Brockley, London SE4 1SQ</p>	<p>For more information: www.serendipchildrenshome.com trisha@serendipchildrenshome.com Call: +44(0) 7799756158 www.facebook.com/SerendipChildrensHome</p>	<p>© 2009 Serendip Children's Home Registered with the Charity Commission Of England and Wales (1133461) Serendip Children's Home is a registered trademark</p>
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7. Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our volunteers, our field workers in the North and East of Sri Lanka, and the members of our Board for their support throughout the year to achieve our goals. We had some challenges this year, particularly COVID-19, which affected our fund-raising activities. Our determination and hard work helped us to find alternative ways to raise funds and to manage and deliver our projects successfully.

We are grateful for our donors and sponsors for their generosity, their trust and most importantly their commitment to our mission. On behalf of the Charity, We would like to make a promise that we will continue to work hard, always having the best interest of our beneficiaries in our hearts.

Thanking You
Trustees of Serendip Charity

List of Trustees (UK)

- Peter Carroll
- Trisha Thevika Williamson
- Yvonne Selvaratnam
- Nireesh Rajah
- Vanathy Niranjan

List of Trustees (Sri Lanka)

- Ariyakutty Kandasamy
- Trisha Thevika Williamson
- Thampipillai Thangarajah
- Ivon Tharmathas

List of field works in the North & East Sri Lanka

- Vijendran Johnsan
- Pranavan Pulanthirarasa
- Varnan Sachithanathan
- Gunabalasingam bharathramanan
- Nivethini Thanabalasingam
- Thamiliniyan Thamilchelvan

List of key volunteers in 2021

- Indhumathi Vijayaraghavan
- Sujeevan Nandagopal
- Kowarathanan Ganesha
- Edna Cyril
- Kandeepan Nadarajah
- Ahalya Sahadevan
- Raja Thiripuran
- Shovan Sargunam
- Abinaya Vijayakumar
- Giny Kumar
- Melisa Selvaratnam
- Bharathi Prashannah
- Aran Mohan
- Abirami Pararajasingam
- Ravaniya Pararajasingam
- Mathy Menon
- Sanjay Kirubaharan
- Graham Williamson
- Para Selliah
- Easwary Selliah
- Velautham Sivalingam



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