



## **Sarvodaya Suwasetha Community Based Rehabilitation Project (CBR)**

### **Annual Progress Report 2024**



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## **Annual Progress Report for the Project Period 01-01-2024 to 31 -12- 2024**

### **Sarvodaya Suwasetha Sewa Community Based Rehabilitation Program**

#### **Background**

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Seventeen years after Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya was inaugurated by Dr A.T Ariyaratne, Suwasetha Sewa Society came into being as its social service arm. After the initial appearance as a unit under Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya in 1975 Suwasetha Sewa developed into an autonomous organization as an approved charity delivering services to improve the lives of abandoned and malnourished infants, neglected children, young mothers subjected to rape and other sexual abuse and helpless elders in the Sri Lankan society. In 1984 it was registered as Sarvodaya Suwasetha Sewa Society Ltd, an approved charity.

Widening its scope of services in 1985, Suwasetha Sewa initiated the Community-based Rehabilitation Program. Suwasetha Sewa CBR Program operated in the two districts of Kalutara and Galle in the Western and Southern provinces of Sri Lanka, approaching the rural areas where children and adults with disabilities were much maligned and almost abandoned to their fate.

In the new year, we were able to start work on the community-based rehabilitation project with new hopes. Accordingly, we were able to increase the number of clinics conducted in the two districts of Kalutara and Galle to 128 and to increase the number of Divisions to 24. In the Kalutara District in Panadura, Kalutara, Beruwala, Matugama, Madurawela, Bandaragama, Walallawita, Horana, Dodangoda, Bulathsinhala, Palindanuwara and Millaniya. Elpitiya, Ambalangoda, Balapitiya, Karadeniya, Yakkalamulla, Akmeemana, Nagoda, Galle, Hikkaduwa, Bentota, Gonapinuwala and Habaraduwa areas in the Galle District.

The special donations made in those two districts were also increased. Moreover, two new field officers were recruited at the end of 2023 to conduct the clinics expected to be held in the new Divisional Secretaries and to make special donations. We also worked to increase the number of clinics held in the two special education units and this year we will work to provide our support to carry out their other activities more regularly than before. Accordingly, with a successful start, we were all committed to completed this year's work successfully.



## Project Objective

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To provide rehabilitation strategy to develop the differently able / special needs individuals to reach the level of independency and to achieve their rights, enabling them to change the attitudes of the society and to integrate with the community to lead a normal life.

## Activities implemented during the year

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### Physiotherapy Clinics

In the year 2024, we conducted a total of 64 physiotherapy clinics, with 32 clinics held in the Kalutara district and 32 clinics in the Galle district. All of the clinics were conducted successfully. Although we encountered various challenges in engaging the children, including discrepancies in participation rates across different sessions, we were able to complete all the sessions effectively. Over the course of the year, there has been a significant increase in children's participation in physiotherapy clinics, accompanied by a noticeable rise in parental interest. This shift appears to be largely driven by the perceived inadequacy of care at government hospitals, where parents report that the response from doctors is often unsatisfactory. Many parents have expressed that the treatment provided by therapists at our clinics is not available at the hospital. As a result, numerous mothers have discontinued hospital visits and are now referring their children to our clinics.

| Adm: District | DS Division      | No of Clinics | No of Participants |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kalutara   | I. Kalutara      | 6             | 36                 |
|               | II. Panadura     | 6             | 38                 |
|               | III. Mathugama   | 5             | 30                 |
|               | IV. Beruwala     | 5             | 30                 |
|               | V. Dodangoda     | 5             | 32                 |
|               | VI. Bandaragama  | 5             | 34                 |
| 2. Galle      | I. Balapitiya    | 5             | 30                 |
|               | II. Akmeemama    | 6             | 36                 |
|               | III. Elpitiya    | 5             | 30                 |
|               | IV. Yakkalamulla | 5             | 30                 |
|               | V. Hikkaduwa     | 6             | 38                 |
|               | VI. Galle        | 1             | 06                 |
|               | VII. Bentota     | 4             | 27                 |

During these clinic sessions, the therapist conducts a thorough assessment of the children's conditions and prescribes exercises for home practice. Each child receives 20 minutes of focused attention, with the therapist ensuring the highest standard of care and treatment. All of these physiotherapy clinics are managed by Mr. Nuwan Athapaththu, a professional physiotherapist

affiliated with Navaloka Hospital, Sri Lanka. At each of these clinics, the therapist discusses the child's progress with the parents and provides an update on the child's current condition.







## Speech Therapy Clinics

In the year 2024, we conducted a total of 64 physiotherapy clinics, with 32 clinics held in the Kalutara district and 32 clinics in the Galle district. All of the clinics were conducted successfully. Despite encountering various challenges, we successfully conducted speech clinics for children with special needs. While participation from some children was initially limited, the dedicated efforts of our officers and therapists ultimately enabled us to engage the children in the sessions and foster interest among the parents. These efforts also led to successful outcomes for the children. Many parents have expressed that the treatment provided by therapists at our clinics is not available at the hospital. As a result, numerous mothers have discontinued hospital visits and are now referring their children to our clinics.

| Adm: District | DS Division       | No of Clinics | No of Participants |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kalutara   | I. Kalutara       | 05            | 30                 |
|               | II. Panaudra      | 06            | 36                 |
|               | III. Horana       | 05            | 28                 |
|               | IV. Millaniya     | 05            | 30                 |
|               | V. Bulathsinhala  | 06            | 38                 |
|               | VI. Palindanuwara | 05            | 32                 |
| 2. Galle      | I. Ambalangoda    | 05            | 30                 |
|               | II. Karadeniya    | 05            | 32                 |
|               | III. Habaraduwa   | 06            | 36                 |
|               | IV. Nagoda        | 05            | 30                 |
|               | V. Gonaponiwala   | 05            | 33                 |
|               | VI. Galle         | 05            | 30                 |
|               | VII. Bentota      | 01            | 6                  |

During these sessions, the speech therapist primarily focuses on the child's progress, and it is through this that the child's development in the exercises provided for home practice is assessed. Furthermore, the speech therapist and our staff face significant challenges and exhaustion in carrying out these tasks. Efforts were also made to encourage parents to actively participate in referring children to hospitals for developmental care. Furthermore, the speech therapy clinics for the Kalutara and Galle districts are conducted by speech therapists Shivanthi Mangala and Vidumini Lakvijaya.





## Counselling and Awareness Program for Parents

Parents of children with special needs often face significant distress and feelings of regret. This is primarily due to the fact that their child is different from others. As a result, many parents tend to restrict their child to the home and come to believe that their child is incapable of accomplishing anything. Due to these reasons, in addition to providing treatment for the children, we also initiated a series of counseling and awareness programs this year to help support and heal the parents. Accordingly, six such programs were conducted in the Kalutara and Galle districts.



Moreover, some other parents facing this situation are filled with regret, unable to take the necessary steps for their children due to their financial difficulties. During these programs, the facilitator aimed to help heal the parents' minds, motivate them, and encourage them to increase the attention they give to their children.

## **Special Donations**

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### **New Self Employment Opportunity**

#### **Providing Sewing Machine**

Vinumi Radinsa and Thenumi Dahamsa are 17-year-old twin sisters who actively participate in our speech clinics. Their mother reached out to request our assistance in providing the girls with an opportunity to receive professional training and start their own businesses. Specifically, she asked for a sewing machine. This year, we were able to purchase the second-hand sewing machine they selected. Due to the high cost of modern sewing machines in the current market, we thoroughly inspected the condition of the machine they chose and made arrangements to provide it to them.



#### **Providing Financial Support to buy Fabric**

Hesandu Sasmitha is a 10-year-old child from the Millaniya division. Her family does not have a steady income, but her mother is skilled in sewing and requested support to help her start her own business. In response, we provided the necessary funds to purchase fabric, enabling her to begin her self-employment venture.





### **Providing raw materials for ongoing self-employment**

We provided financial aid to a mother who is self-employed in growing small plants, assisting her in building a greenhouse in her garden. This support will help enhance her business and enable her to expand her plant cultivation efforts.



## **Providing Tent Fabric**

We provided much-needed tent fabric to a mother to help her start her fruit juice shop. This support allowed her to set up a protective and functional space for her business, offering her the opportunity to provide fresh, healthy juices to her community while also supporting her family.



## **Purchase of Handicap Equipment and Devices**

### **Provision of spectacles**

Thathsara Gimhana, a 7-year-old resident of the Galle division, has been wearing spectacles due to weak eyesight. Recently, the doctor advised that her glasses needed to be renewed, but her family did not have the financial means to afford the necessary repairs or replacement. In response, we arranged to have her spectacles repaired and provided them to ensure He could continue to see clearly.





Ayush Danuwan, a 6-year-old resident of the Gonapinuwala division, is a child with multiple disabilities. Due to the condition of his eyes, the doctor recommended that he wear a pair of spectacles. In response to this need, we arranged to provide him with the prescribed glasses to support his vision and overall well-being.



### **Providing a wheelchair with commode**

A wheelchair was provided to Senuka Tejan, a child with special needs residing in the Dodangoda Division. This support was essential in helping Senuka move around more comfortably and independently, improving his quality of life and mobility.





### **Providing commode set**

A commode set was provided to Kaveen Netsara, a child with special needs who is suffering from obesity. This essential aid was given to improve his comfort and help manage his daily needs more effectively, enhancing his quality of life and promoting greater independence.



### **Educational Assistance**

#### **Providing Stationaries for the Relative**

Osada Eshmitha is a 5-year-old child from Hikkaduwa who suffers from a significant foot problem and lives in challenging conditions of deprivation. Despite these hardships, Osada exhibits remarkable musical talent and excels in both his academic studies and extracurricular activities. His dedication and skill have earned him recognition, having won several competitions, which highlights his resilience and immense potential.



Sasiri Dhimani, a 13-year-old schoolgirl from Elpitiya, has been diagnosed by doctors with a slow-growing mind. Despite this challenge, her mother is committed to supporting and guiding her in her education. Understanding the importance of access to the right resources, Sasiri's mother approached us for assistance in providing a set of schoolbooks, ensuring that her daughter has the necessary tools to continue her learning and development.



## **Distribution of Diapers**

The distribution of Diapers can be recognized as a significant initiative carried out through the CBR project. During this program, the supplies were provided to children and adults with special needs from low-income backgrounds. It is also important to note that many of these children actively participated in our clinics, further contributing to the success of the initiative. Furthermore, during the provision of these services, our officers took necessary steps to gather accurate information and verify its authenticity through home visits. As a result, we were able to empower many selected low-income children with special needs. The details of a few of them are provided below.

### **Sandaru Kaushika**

Sandaru Kaushika, a 13-year-old child from the Palindanuwara division, has special needs and suffers from neurological disorders. He faces significant challenges in performing certain physical functions, and both he and his parents struggle with these difficulties. Due to financial constraints, they are unable to afford the diapers Sandaru requires. In light of this, we took prompt action to provide them with the necessary diapers.



### **Peshala Sewwandi**

Peshala Sewwandi, an 11-year-old child from the Akmeemana division, is affected by multiple disabilities, which present her with significant challenges in performing physical activities. These difficulties impact her ability to carry out daily tasks, requiring continuous support and care.





### **Mohammed Umar Halid**

Mohammed Umar Halid, a 10-year-old child from the Beruwala division, suffers from neurological disorders that cause difficulties with physical activities, necessitating the frequent use of diapers. Due to financial constraints, his parents have struggled to meet this need. In response, we made efforts to provide the family with as many diapers as possible to support them. The parents expressed their gratitude, noting that the assistance was extremely helpful and that the child experienced some relief as a result.



### **Providing Urine Bags**

Shevon Nilendra, a 16-year-old child from the Bandaragama division, comes from an economically disadvantaged family and lives without his father. As a child with special needs, he requires a substantial number of urines bags each month. Due to the financial strain, his family struggles to afford these essential items. In light of this, we took steps to provide the necessary quantity of urine bags to support their needs.



### **Providing Sanitary Napkins**

N.H. Thanushi Kavindi, a 21-year-old girl from the Hikkaduwa division, is hyperactive, and her mother reached out for assistance in providing her with sanitary napkins. Coming from a low-income background, the family faces financial difficulties, making it challenging to afford these essential items. In response, we took the necessary steps to provide the required sanitary napkins to support them.



## **Financial Assistance for a Nutritional Meal**

Another initiative implemented under the CBR project was the distribution of dry food parcels. This program was launched to support children and elderly individuals with special needs from low-income families. The main objective of this service was to assist those in critical need, and we were able to successfully accomplish this task. Dry rations were provided to 42 low-income children and adults with special needs residing in the Kalutara and Galle districts. The details of a few of them are provided below.

### **Tharuni Methsarani**

Thruni Methsarani is a 9-year-old girl from the Kalutara division, living in a family with no steady income. Her family faces very challenging conditions, making it difficult to meet their daily needs. Despite these hardships, Thruni and her family continue to persevere, and the support provided through the dry food parcel program aims to alleviate some of the struggles they face.



### **Sadew Adithya**

Sadew Adithya is a 3-year-old child from the Bulathsinhala division, living in a low-income family with four children. The family faces significant challenges in providing enough food for all the children, as neither the mother nor the father has a steady source of income. The support provided through the dry food parcel program offers much-needed assistance to this family, helping to ease their difficult circumstances.





### **Dinithi Kavindya & Pramod Rashmika**

Dinithi Kavindya and Pramod Rashmika, both 7 years old, are siblings from the Balapitiya division who are affected by neurological and multiple disorders. Due to their special needs, the family faces significant financial challenges in meeting the children's care and basic needs. The support provided through the dry food program helps alleviate some of the financial burden and ensures that the children receive the necessary assistance.



### **Vishal Sandaluka**

Vishal Sandaluka, a 6-year-old from the Elpitiya division, was brought to several doctors by his mother due to severe leg pain. As the treatments proved ineffective, arrangements were made based on received information to refer Vishal to our physical therapy clinics. Our therapist diagnosed his

condition, and treatment is currently ongoing. Vishal's mother has reported significant progress with the therapy, providing hope for his continued improvement.



## Center Management

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To ensure the continued success of the CBR project, the Sarvodaya Suwasetha Sewa Society provided two offices in 2023 to operate in the Kalutara and Galle districts. The office for the Kalutara district is located in Kalutara city, while the office for the Galle district is situated in Balapitiya city. Currently, these offices offer speech therapy, physiotherapy clinics, psychological counseling, and awareness programs to support the community. In 2024, we carried out several maintenance activities at these offices. The details are as follows.

### **A ramp was built for easier wheelchair access to the office.**

Initially, there was no proper access for disabled children in wheelchairs to enter the center. As a result, our officers, therapists, and parents faced many difficulties during the early stages. In response to requests from our staff and therapists, we took action to create a path that would allow children to easily enter the center.





### **Repairing the gate at the Kalutara office entrance.**

The main gate at the Kalutara office was significantly damaged, rendering it unable to close securely. As a result, unauthorized individuals gained repeated access to the office premises. In response, we took immediate action to repair the gate.

**Before**



**After**



### **Repairing the restroom.**

The Kalutara office currently has one restroom, which is used by our officers, therapists, security staff, children, and parents. However, no maintenance had been conducted on the restroom until 2024, causing certain facilities to become difficult to use. As a result, we took necessary measures to carry out repairs to the restroom.





In addition, maintenance activities for both offices, along with the payment of utility bills and other related services, are managed through the CBR project. Furthermore, it is important to note that both offices employ two security guards.

## Home based training/ Home Visits

Every month, our field officers conduct visits to assess the condition of the children. To ensure transparency in this process, a record book is maintained, where details such as the child's name, the division they belong to, the guardian's name, National ID number, telephone number, and the guardian's signature are recorded. Additionally, it is important to note that our officials are dedicated to carrying out these activities in a manner that protects the identities of both the children and their guardians.

As of 2024, a total of 380 home visits have been conducted. Through these visits, we were able to assess the progress of the children's health conditions and observe improvements in their illnesses. Additionally, parents who attend our clinics but are unable to complete the prescribed exercises at home are referred to home visits for further guidance. These visits have also enabled us to identify more individuals in need of our services and determine the most appropriate way to provide assistance based on their specific needs. As a result, we were able to provide special donations in both districts last year and this year.

### Kalutara District





## Galle District







# **Sarvodaya Suwasetha Ariyawansa Weerakkody Memorial Center, Warakagoda**

## **Annual Progress Report 2024**



A special program to rehabilitate persons with disabilities in two selected administrative districts of Kalutara and Galle in the Western and Southern provinces of the country respectively was launched by Sarvodaya Suwasetha in 1985. From the inception of the program it was funded by Sarvodaya Netherlands enabling Sarvodaya Suwasetha to implement a successful intervention in the lives of persons and children with special needs.

As a project under this program a school was established in Warakagoda in the Kalutara District to empower and improve the skills of children with special needs. The special education unit was housed in the premises situated within the Madurawela DS division and donated by Mrs. Ariyawansa Weerakkody. Over the last twenty years the school with a staff of two specially trained teachers has served to empower children with special needs in the area.

In the year under review [2024] the school had worked with 18 children whose age ranges from 6 to 18 years. In addition, the center runs a small-scale vocational centre where 05 persons with

disabilities within the age range of 19 to 45 years receive training in handicrafts like making rugs and envelopes and producing wicks for oil lamps

## **Project Objective**

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To provide facilities to Children with special needs to develop their physical and mental conditions to enable them to be active as a normal person in the society.

## **Activities implemented during the year 2024**

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### **Outcome 01**

#### **Promote Healthy Development of Children**

##### **Activity 1:1**

##### **Speech Therapy Clinics**

The first speech clinic for the children of the Warakagoda Special Education Unit was conducted on 26th March 2024, as part of the planned speech and physiotherapy clinics for the year. During the session, the therapist assessed the children's speech development and reported an improvement in their speech skills. The therapist also advised the parents and teachers to continue with the relevant exercises to further support the children's progress.



##### **Activity 1:2**

##### **Physiotherapy Clinics**



Physiotherapy clinics for the children of the Warakagoda Special Education Unit was held at the unit. During the clinic, the doctor assessed all the children and, as part of the process, discussed their progress and areas of concern with both the parents and teachers. This session provided important feedback on the children's development and outlined the necessary steps for continued improvement.



### Activity 1:3

#### Primary Health Clinics

Primary Health clinic was conducted with the collaboration of the Medical Officer of Public Health, Madurawela Division, the Public Health Inspector, and the Family Health Officer of the area. During the clinic, fifteen children participated, and their height and weight were assessed, while their teeth and skin health were also observed. Additionally, the nutritional levels of the children were evaluated. The teachers and parents were briefed on the specific nutritional needs of

children with special needs, providing essential information to support the children's health and well-being



## Outcome 06

### Purchase of Dry Rations

#### Activity 6:1

#### Dry Rations for a Nutritional Meal

In the Warakagoda Special Education Unit, 20 children with special needs are currently receiving education. These children come from low-income families residing in rural areas, facing significant economic hardships. In response to this, efforts were made to provide nutritional support for the children. Accordingly, relevant officials coordinated the preparation of nutritional food packets for all the children, which were then delivered and distributed at the unit.





## Outcome 07

### Uplifting of Talents – Art and Craft

#### Activity 7:1

#### Skill Development program targeting to Self-Employment

Since November, a series of new self-employment programs have been introduced for the children studying at the Sarvodaya Suwasetha Special Education Unit. Through these programs, the children have had the opportunity to learn various skills, including the creation of necklaces, bracelets, earrings, sari pins, and other items using beads.



Through these programs, the children have learned to create items such as necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and sari pins using beads. To date, three sessions have been successfully conducted, with the remaining sessions scheduled to take place in the upcoming days.



## Outcome 08

### Religious and Cultural Program

#### Activity 8:1

#### ‘Thaipongal’ Day Celebration

On January 16, 2024, a Thai Pongal celebration was held at the unit under the initiative of our wardens, with the active participation of the children. This event is celebrated annually by the teachers, with the aim of providing the children with an understanding of the differences in religious festivals, the ways in which they are celebrated, and the variations in traditional attire associated with these festivals.



### Activity 8:2

#### Independence Day Celebration

On February 1, 2024, the 76th National Independence Day was celebrated with unity at the unit. On this occasion, all the children wore national attire and participated in raising the national flag to commemorate the significance of Independence Day. The celebration aimed to instill a sense of patriotism and national pride among the children.



### Activity 8:3

#### Kiddies Fair

A Kids Fair was organized on February 27, 2024, under the initiative of the teachers. The event saw active participation from all the children, with significant support from the parents, which contributed to the successful execution of the activities. The fair provided an opportunity for the children to engage in various tasks and showcase their talents.



### Activity 8:4

#### Annual Excursion



The annual educational trip for the children is organized by the teachers each year to provide a break from their routine and offer new learning experiences. This year, the trip is scheduled for March 29, 2024, with visits to the Kelaniya Temple and Water World. The trip aims to enrich the children's knowledge and provide them with an enjoyable and educational experience outside their regular environment.



### Activity 8:5

#### Celebration of Sinhala Hindu New Year Festival

The Sinhala Tamil New Year celebration was organized by our teachers on April 8, 2024, to provide the children with a diverse cultural experience. On this day, all parents gathered at the unit to celebrate the New Year with their children. The children participated in traditional folk games and received gifts, while also engaging in the various New Year rituals, fostering a sense of cultural appreciation and togetherness.



## Activity 8:6

### Vesak and Poson

The teachers of the Warakagoda Special Education Unit organized a series of special programs to mark the Vesak Full Moon Day. During this time, the children, alongside their teachers, created Vesak cards and crafted Vesak lanterns as part of the celebration. In addition, a Sil observance program was conducted within the unit to observe the significance of the Vesak Day. Furthermore, the chief monk offered the children a unique opportunity to sell the incense sticks they had made at the temple in celebration of the Vesak Full Moon Day.

- Making Vesak Lanterns



- Making Vesak Cards





- Observing Sill



- Selling Incense Sticks





### Activity 8:7

#### Alms Giving

Every year in September, the teachers of the unit organize a charity event, and this year, the event was successfully held on September 23rd. The charity event is organized in memory of the house donation, and we express our gratitude for the support provided by Sarvodaya Netherlands and Wilde Ganzen. With the assistance of parents and neighbors, we were able to achieve great success in this initiative, further strengthening our community efforts.



### Activity 8:8

#### Ayurveda Health Clinic

On the occasion of World Adult and Children's Day, the teachers of the Warakagoda Special Education Unit initiated an Ayurvedic clinic within the unit. This clinic was attended by the children of the unit, their parents, and some elderly members of the community. The initiative aimed to promote wellness and provide valuable health services to the participants, fostering a holistic approach to care for both children and adults.



### Activity 8:9

#### Annual Exhibition

To enhance and recognize the creative skills of the children, the teachers organized an exhibition showcasing the handicrafts made by the children throughout the year. All of the children's designs were featured in the exhibition, which attracted several local residents who came to admire and appreciate their work. This event provided an opportunity to highlight the children's talents and encourage their creative development.



The successful implementation of all these programs can be primarily attributed to the dedicated efforts of the Head Teacher, Ms. Sheela Pattiarachchi, and the Assistant Teacher, Ms. Renuka, who have worked tirelessly to ensure everything runs smoothly. Their commitment to the children and the unit has been instrumental in organizing and carrying out the various activities. In addition, the project officers play a crucial role in maintaining communication with the head office, ensuring they are regularly updated on the progress of these initiatives. The project coordinator, on the other hand, ensures that all necessary resources are made available for the smooth execution of the programs while also keeping the management informed and actively involved. This collaborative effort highlights the teamwork and coordination required to make these programs a success, benefiting both the children and the community.



# **Sarvodaya Suwasetha Ananda Grero Memorial Resource Center, Thalpawila, Matara**

## **Bi Annual Progress Report 2024**



Sarvodaya Suwasetha growing with time established a project with funding from Sarvodaya Netherlands to rehabilitate and empower persons and children with disabilities in the two Districts of Kalutara and Galle. The Special Education units for children with special needs are a part of the CBR project. The Special Education units aim to take service delivery into the rural areas to empower and develop skills of children with special needs to lead a meaningful life as independent persons in the community.

The Special Education Center housed in a premises donated by Mr. Ananda Grero is situated in Thalpawila in the Matara District. It was inaugurated in the year 2004 and has been funded by Sarvodaya Netherlands to date.

This year, 15 children with special needs of ages ranging from 06 to 24 years are attending this school. The children come from low income earning families who cannot afford or do not have the knowledge to care for their children with special needs. Two specially trained teachers train these children to carry on their day-to-day activities independently and to improve their skills so

that they can upgrade themselves and join the main stream education units for children with special needs.

### **Project Objective**

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To provide facilities to Children with special needs to develop their physical and mental conditions to enable them to be active as a normal person in the society.

### **Activities implemented during this year**

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#### **Outcome 01**

#### **Promote Healthy Development of Children**

#### **Activity 1:1**

#### **Speech Therapy Clinics**

Currently, there are 10 children enrolled in the Thalpavila Special Education Unit. Over the course of the year, three speech therapy clinics have been held for these children. The clinics are led by Chathuri Fernando, a skilled and experienced speech therapist, while Miss Rajitha Gammanpila, the Galle District Field Officer, handles the coordination. All the children in the unit take part in these clinics, and it's wonderful to see the active involvement of their parents as well.



## Activity 1:2

### Physiotherapy Clinics

Physiotherapy clinics were conducted at the Thalpavila Special Education Unit, marking the inaugural session of this service at the unit. Seven children in need of treatment, accompanied by their parents, participated in the clinic. The event was further supported by the assistance of Suwasetha officials and the unit's teaching staff.



## Activity 1:2

### Primary Health Clinics

Primary Health clinic was conducted with the collaboration of the Medical Officer of Public Health, the Public Health Inspector, and the Family Health Officer of the area. During the clinic, fourteen children participated, and their height and weight were assessed, while their teeth and skin health were also observed. Additionally, the nutritional levels of the children were evaluated. The teachers and parents were briefed on the specific nutritional needs of children with special needs, providing essential information to support the children's health and well-being





## Outcome 06

### Purchase of Dry Rations

#### Activity 6:1

#### Dry Rations for a Nutritional Meal

All students with special needs in our unit come from low-income families, with 13 children currently enrolled. These children face significant financial challenges, which have resulted in poor nutrition for many of them, and some are even experiencing malnutrition. In response, we have organized the provision of essential dry rations for each child, aiming to support their families and address their nutritional needs to the best of our ability.



## Outcome 08

### Religious and Cultural Program

#### Activity 8:1

#### ‘Thaipongal’ Day Celebration

On January 12, 2024, a Tai Pongal Day celebration was organized under the leadership of the unit’s Wardens. The event was held to honor the cultural significance of the festival and provide an opportunity for the students and staff to come together in celebration. Through this celebration, the teachers aimed to provide basic knowledge about the differences between religious festivals.

They also taught the importance of promoting religious equality and how to respect and value different beliefs.



### Activity 8:2

#### Kiddies Fair

Both of our teachers worked to inspire the children by introducing a new activity designed to break the monotony of traditional education and connect them with nature. As part of this initiative, on February 21, 2024, they organized a Kids Fair at the unit. Through this activity, the teachers aimed to provide knowledge about the nature of a fair, including how to sell products, handle money, and give change to customers. Most importantly, this activity focused on teaching the children how to communicate with others. Recognizing that the children have special needs, the goal was to ensure they learn at their own pace and ability. This is the core aim of our initiative.





### Activity 8:3

#### Vesak and Poson

Month of May, special programs were organized in celebration of the Vesak full moon day, which holds significant religious and cultural importance. The programs included a meditation session aimed at promoting mindfulness and a parental homage ceremony, where families could come together to pay respects. What made these events even more meaningful was the participation of all parents alongside their children, fostering a strong sense of community and shared experience. This involvement not only deepened the connection between the children and their families but also highlighted the importance of religious and cultural observances in their lives.



### Activity 8:4

#### Annual Excursion

An annual excursion was organized by the teachers of the Talpawila Special Education Unit, with an invitation extended to the children and their parents to join the trip. During the excursion, several notable locations around the Aluthgama area were visited, including the Kande Viharaya Temple, Samanala Park, and Unawatuna Beach. This trip provided a wonderful opportunity for the children and their families to explore new places and enjoy a memorable experience together.



### Activity 8:5

#### Annual Exhibition

To nurture the creative skills of the children and recognize their efforts, the teachers organized an exhibition showcasing the handicrafts created by the children throughout the year. All of the children's designs were featured in the exhibition, and several local residents attended to view the display. This event provided an opportunity to celebrate the children's talent and creativity while engaging the community.





The successful implementation of all these programs can be primarily attributed to the dedicated efforts of the Head Teacher, Mrs. Sheela Geethani, and the Assistant Teacher, Ms. Gayanthi Gatamanna, who have worked tirelessly to ensure everything runs smoothly. Their commitment to the children and the unit has been instrumental in organizing and carrying out the various activities. In addition, the project officers play a crucial role in maintaining communication with the head office, ensuring they are regularly updated on the progress of these initiatives. The project coordinator, on the other hand, ensures that all necessary resources are made available for the smooth execution of the programs while also keeping the management informed and actively involved. This collaborative effort highlights the teamwork and coordination required to make these programs a success, benefiting both the children and the community.



## **Project Impacts and Outcomes**

In the year 2024, we have been able to successfully achieve our goals, despite facing several challenging situations. One of the key reasons for this success is the full commitment and contributions of our project officers and teachers, who have worked diligently to overcome obstacles. Even amidst the ongoing economic crisis in the country, we have consistently strived to provide the best possible service to our clients, ensuring their needs are met to the highest standards. Moving forward, we remain hopeful that our continued efforts will lead to even more successful outcomes, further benefiting our community and those we serve. This resilience and dedication reflect our unwavering commitment to the mission, and we are optimistic about achieving even greater results in the future.