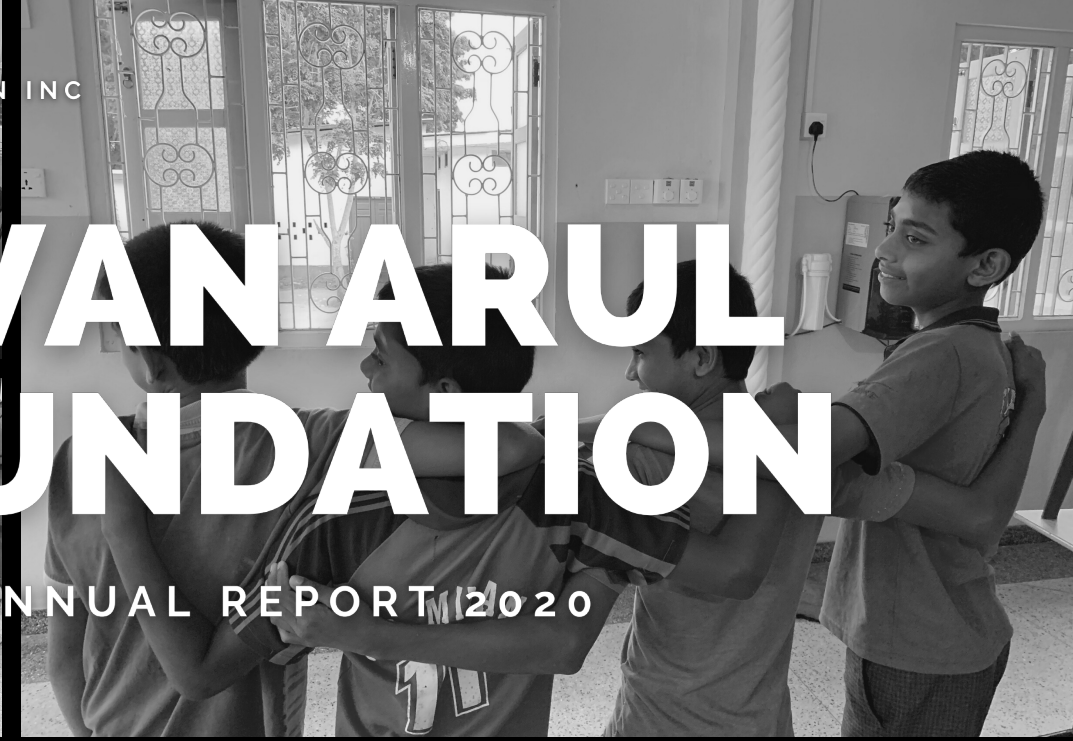


SIVAN ARUL FOUNDATION INC

# SIVAN ARUL FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020





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"I NOW HAVE HOPE AND AN EXCITING FUTURE..."

DHARSINI FROM THE FACTORY

## Summary

2019-2020 posed many challenges for the Sivan Arul Foundation due to the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters such as cyclones and floods, all of which made our relief work more challenging than previous years.

This year, whilst generous donations from supporters in the UK and Australia helped support the increase in homelessness caused by natural disasters, it was a challenge to fund all our projects as we were unable to organise fundraising events.

On a positive note, our students did well in the final year national exams and the Sivan Arul Foundation continues to strive for its mission to improve the lives of war affected women and underprivileged citizens.

### *Our Mission:*

*Providing women with job opportunities to be financially independent.*

*Educating underprivileged children to reach their full potential.*

*Giving livelihood opportunities to the poorest to escape the poverty trap.*



**Pongal Festival celebrations at the boys home**

## **Sivan Arul Illam Children's Home**

Currently, we have 58 boys and 36 girls at the Sivan Arul Children's Home. We continue to provide a school curriculum that includes sports, art and culture. Last year, 10 children from the Children's home performed well for Year 10 examinations at our local school, producing the second-best results in the district. 75 percent of the students at this local school are from our children's home.

Another important milestone last year was introducing vocational training for children completing Year 10. Ten acres of land has been given to us by the Divisional Secretary of Mannar for the children's home. We have developed this land into a coconut plantation and use this to teach our children farming. Further, six houses have been built here to accommodate the children who will be leaving the children's home as they turn eighteen. Vocational training has also been arranged for the children in our factory in Kilinochchi, as well as at our own Rudram restaurant and our dairy farms in Palampitty and Maavittapuram.

As of January 2021, we plan to start a hostel facility near the children's home to provide accommodations for children living under the poverty line so that they may stay at the hostel and attend the local school. A new building to house 25 girls is being constructed near the girls home and boys will be housed at the new houses constructed at Sivapuram. Children from rural Mannar, Eastern District and Upcountry have been selected. This year our intake has been limited to 30 but we envisage this number to increase with time. The Sivan Arul Foundation continues to strive to nurture mature, well-balanced children with good values.



**Pongal Festival celebrations at the girls home**



Staff at the 8th year celebration of the factory and bakery

### Sivan Arul Vocational and Training Centre (Factory, Kilinochchi)

The factory continues to produce and export a variety of spices, chili powder, rice flour etc. to the UK, Switzerland, Canada and Australia. Our products are praised for their high quality and is well received overseas as well as in the local markets. Despite the success, the COVID-19 pandemic posed many challenges as the factory had to be closed for a few days.

We supported our staff during these difficult times which understandably created a lot of financial strain. We have since then emerged successfully and business is continuing as normal. We have plans to extend the factory in the next few years, enabling more job opportunities to the vulnerable.

Currently, we have 52 employees. Recently the Employees celebrated the 10th anniversary of the factory.



Visit to the factory by Dr Sandra Turner sponsor from Sydney.

### Puthukudiyiruppu Bakery

Our bakery suffered some loss during the COVID-19 crisis, but we have come out well and are back in business, producing dry products which are sold in foreign markets. Currently, we have 30 full time employees, most of whom are single woman who head their families. In 2020, we built tube wells and toilet facilities for some of the employees with disabilities.

## Integrated Farms in Palampitty and Mavittapuram



An integrated farm in Palampitty was funded by the Australian Friendship grant. SAF was one of the few organisations to be selected for the Friendship grant by DFAT. We were awarded \$60,000 Australian dollars and SAF Australia contributed a further \$50,000 towards this project. The farm was formally opened by the Australian high commissioner in Sri Lanka in February 2020. We have faced some challenges due to COVID-19 such as cyclones and floods, and are currently in the process of repairing the damages caused by the cyclone. Further, water source for the farm remains a major issue as the well that we built can still run dry during summer. Despite these challenges, the farm is functioning well and we are able to provide job opportunities to local residents.

Our plan for next year is to build a big reservoir to capture the rainwater. Two of our children who have completed their schooling have taken up residency at the farm and are in charge of monitoring the progress. The farm provides an opportunity to vocationally train interested students to do future farming.

Our main form of income from the farm in Palampitty is from poultry and dairy farming. Twenty-five acres of land in Mavittapuram has been given for lease to SAF by a philanthropic family for cultivation and to provide job opportunities to local villagers. Urid dhal, lime, Moringa and herbs have been planted and we plan to start a poultry farm in 2021. Two of the children who have finished education from the children's home are being trained to look after this farm. Locally produced vegetables are sold locally and sent to our own Rudram restaurant and Children home for cooking.





**House for the boys built in Sivapuram**

## **Sivapuram Project**

Sivapuram is a new development, 4 away from the Sivan Arul Foundation Children's Home in Thiruketheesvaram. The Divisional Secretary in Mannar has kindly granted 10 acres of land in this new development to use for our children. We have already planted 300 coconut trees and have successfully obtained electrical connection for this region. An expert from the agricultural department has implemented aloe vera farming which suits the soil type in this area. Children have been actively involved in farming, and two of the children who have finished their schooling have been given the responsibility of looking after the farm.

Six houses are being built in this land; each of these houses will be given to orphaned children leaving from the Sivan Arul Foundation Children's Home. Individual donors have generously donated to build these houses. We envisage some of our children building a livelihood by farming on and residing in this development.



**Aloe vera plantation by the senior students**

## Education Centres and Activities



**Recently built Education centre in Olumadu**

Education is a key factor in promoting meaningful change and escaping the cycle of poverty in the North and East. It is our duty to ensure that we focus and invest in early learning centres in these vulnerable areas, to establish solid foundations and to maximize our children's academic potential thereby increasing their chances of accessing tertiary education and successful careers.

Sivan Arul currently educates over 2,000 children and our Educational Centres are situated all over the North, East and Upcountry to provide educational opportunities for the wider community. In the North, we have a centre located in Kondavil which is administered by CCYE (Centre for Children and Youth Empowerment). In Vanni, there are centres in Oddusuttan and Olumadu (Nedunkerni). In the Trincomalee District, there is a centre in Paatalipuram, which is mainly for the Tribal Community. In the Batticaloa District Centre, there are four centres located in Akkaraipathu, Aligambe, Kanchanakuda and Amparai. In the Upcountry, we have two centres in Bandarawela and Nayampatta (Galgatta). We are fortunate to have the support of individual donors and organisations such as Australian Tamil Engineers foundation, World Children Organisation (Denmark), Ratnam Foundation (UK) and Mr Balendra (UK) to fund our centres.

E -Kalvi Charity Fund, also known as Jaffna University Graduates Association - Victoria, is doing excellent work by online and offline teaching and providing study material to many children all over the North, East and Upcountry districts. This year, they have been helping us run online teaching programs in Oddusuttan, Ollumadu, Thiruketheeswaram and Upcountry. SAF partly founded one of their novel projects of supplying pen drives to all deserving Year 9-11 students, enabling them to study from downloaded study material.

Sivan Arul is the first charity organization to start kindergarten centers (Paalar Paadasaalai) on a large scale and these are all located in the East. Jaffna Central College Old Boys' association from Sydney donated towards a three-year project to start a kindergarten facility in Amparai. Although this was closed for a long period during the COVID-19 crisis, we have reopened last month and hope to successfully run programs for the children next year. Our goal is to have many such centres blossoming in the East, to better prepare and motivate students for formal schooling. In addition, Sivan Arul Foundation provides study materials including school bags, books, pencils and pens to underprivileged children.



**Children attending weekend class in Kondavil**



**Bananas ready to be sold in the market**



**Successful onion harvest**

## Revolving Fund Projects

This is administered by CCYE in Jaffna and supported by Sivan Arul. Many organizations and individual donors help us to fund this well deserving and successful project which provides a livelihood opportunity to many women-headed families to start small businesses such as home farms, small scale catering businesses from home, banana plantations, goat and poultry farming. To date, 1,584 women had benefited from this program. Similarly, we have built 65 tube wells and 432 bicycles -all with revolving funds through Sivan Arul Foundation. The major advantage is that the projects continue to revolve without the need for ongoing funding except for a small administrative charge.

From last year, the Revolving Funds Program has commenced in the Eastern districts. Recently, many of the land parcels were returned to the villagers but they have no means of farming there, thus Sivan Arul Foundation is helping to fund the farming. We also buy the produce from the producers and export to our factory in Kilinochchi. This helps to cut costs affiliated with having a middleman to sell their products. We also have revolving funds for poultry and goat rearing for poor families in villages near the Amaparai district, with these projects being monitored by the field workers.



## School Children Feeding Project

“Navapasha”- To address undernutrition, this nutritious flour mix made from 9 grains is made in our factory and distributed free to schools attended by children from poorest families with malnutrition. We identified such schools from Kilinochchi, Muthur district, Vanni and Akkaraipathu. This year, we plan to supply Navapasha to 2,500 under nourished children in the Eastern districts. We are grateful for individual sponsors who donate generously to this school children feeding program. Another added advantage is that this produce in our Sivan Arul factory provides further job opportunities to our war affected ladies.

## Family Support, University Scholarships and Paraplegic Support Programs

There are many families where both the husband and wife are disabled due to war related injuries and are unable to make a living as they cannot secure employment. SAF looks after their children’s education and assists them financially by giving them a monthly allowance. SAF provides monthly funding for 50 university students from poor families to continue their education. It's heart-warming to see some of these students do exceptionally well and complete their exams in first class. In addition, SAF also provides regular funding to 15 paraplegics and 30 families. However, in the future, we strive to reduce the funding and find employment opportunities for these individuals.

## Building of the Library

A reference and reading library has been built at the children home to encourage children to read books. Daily newspapers are available for the children to read. Regular time has been allocated for boys and girls to spend time in the library. New books in Tamil and English are added regularly.



Recently built library at Children's Home

## Rudram Vegetarian Restaurant

“Our vegetarian restaurant has been functioning well. Four of our senior students who have graduated from the children’s home have taken over various duties. However, we had a major setback with the COVID-19 crisis as we had to close the restaurant indefinitely causing financial difficulties.



**Palmyra juice for export**



**Fried curry leaves for export**

We are now using the premises as a major production centre for Palmyra products, pickles and other savoury items. The restaurant has re-opened to the public from December, but we are only selling food parcels, as in-dining has been temporarily stopped until it is safe to resume. We intend to keep this production centre as a separate business enterprise.

## Dry Food Distribution during COVID-19 Crisis and Floods

During the COVID-19 crisis, many labourers and farmers lost their work and had no means of feeding their families. Similarly, during floods, plantations and houses were destroyed. To provide relief, the Sivan Arul Foundation launched a massive dry food distribution to remote villages. Dry food ration packs including rice, lentils, tea, sugar and soya meat as a source of protein were supplied to the affected individuals with the help of divisional secretaries of the villages. We thank all the donors in Australia and UK for their generous donations.



**Dry food packs being prepared by volunteers**



**Supply to the flood victims in a remote village**

## Special Meal (Anandhanam) provision



"Anandhanam"

Donors living abroad regularly donate funds to provide meals to the needy on their special occasions such as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, death anniversaries etc. We organise these events, "Anandhanam" (partaking of meals to the poor), at the children home in Thiruketheeswaram and also in many remote villages in the East.

We also provide parcels of dry rations to the poor families living under poverty line so that they can keep using this to provide food for their families for a few days. We thank all our sponsors, donors and supporters for their ongoing financial and moral support. Without your support, we could not have achieved any of these milestones.

We hope to have your ongoing support in the coming year so that we can continue to provide the assistance and care for the underprivileged kith and kin in Sri Lanka. We are grateful for many organisations who have worked with us and funded many of the activities. Tamil Engineers Foundation Australia, Gandhi Illam New Zealand, and Ratnam Foundation UK have helped us generously.

Please contact us at [sivanarulillam@gmail.com](mailto:sivanarulillam@gmail.com) if you need this arranged on your special occasion. We provide feedback and photos of the events.



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*IT'S NOT HOW MUCH WE GIVE, BUT HOW MUCH LOVE WE PUT INTO GIVING*

MOTHER TERESA



THANK YOU