



Arobanam Children Fund Newsletter - June 2026



Arobanam Children Fund

www.arobanam.co.uk

Charity No. 1082803



Dear Sponsors, Supporters & Friends of
Arobanam Children Fund

The ACF committee is delighted to welcome you all to
its

28th Annual Charity Dinner

on
Saturday, 19th September 2026.

To be held At

Yiewsley & West Drayton Community Centre
228 Harmonsworth Road
West Drayton
UB7 9JL

We hope you will keep this date free of any other
engagements, and
look forward to welcoming you on the day.

Dear Sponsors, Supporters & Friends

Welcome to Arobanam Children Fund's June 2026 newsletter.

We are pleased to share updates from our ongoing projects in Sri Lanka & kindly request you to save the date for this year's annual charity dinner, on Saturday, 19 September 2026 to be held at the

Yiewsley & West Drayton Community Centre
228 Harmonsworth Road
West Drayton
UB7 9JL

UPDATE ON THE DITHWA CYCLONE / FLOODS RELIEF WORK

ACF began this urgent relief work, through its project partners, as soon as it received pleas of help from the families who were affected. During the months, when this disaster was causing heavy flooding and landslides,



ACF managed to mobilise and send (often in very difficult situations & locations) urgently needed basic requirements, where it was needed.

Dithwa struck between 26 November and 4 December 2025. ACF started relief operations from 3 December 2025 and assisted desperate families across Sri Lanka.

Our first relief distributions started on 3 December 2025. Although the Hill Countries were the most affected, due to inaccessibility, resulting from affected roads, our relief efforts in the Hill Countries, began on 7 December 2025.

With your generous donations towards our appeal, we delivered dry rations, hygiene products, clothing, and fertilisers to farming families (to restart their livelihoods) and these deliveries are to name but a few. Items were delivered through hospitals, schools, camps, and door to door.

Our partners worked tirelessly to identify deserving beneficiaries and their needs and distributed goods, accordingly. Some current and former university assistance beneficiaries, were among those who participated in the packaging and distribution of goods, primarily within the Hill Countries.

In February and March 2026, ACF's Chairperson, during his annual visits along with the Operations Manager, visited most projects and also witnessed the devastation caused by Dithwa.

The table below is an illustration of our Dithwa relief assistance:

Date	Village	District	No of Families	Distributed Items	Cost LKR	Total Cost
03.12.2025	Nanattan	Mannar	203	Dry rations & Hygiene products	199,695.00	
12.04.2026	Seethuvinayagarpura	Mannar	50	Fertilisers	500,000.00	
		Total Mannar	253			699,695.00
04.12.2025	Amman nagar	Mutur	100	Dry rations & Hygiene products	244,250.00	
14.12.25	Mutur	Mutur	87		203,667.00	
		Total Mutur	187			447,917.00
06.12.2025	Kallaripuram	Batticaloa	50	Dry rations & Hygiene products		
	Kathiraveli		50	Dry rations & Hygiene products		
13.12.2025	Sethukkuda	Batticaloa	54	Dry rations & Hygiene products	140,400.00	
		Total Batticaloa	154			140,400.00
07.12.2025	Carolina			Dry rations	200,000.00	
	Diyagala					
	Rossella					
	Mountjean					
	Trepelguart					
	Wattawala Estate					
	Ahgroya					
	Wicton					
12.12.2025	Ginegethena	Pragnt ladies	50	Dry rations & Health products	100,250.00	
12.12.2025	Fordyce	HC	50	Dry rations & Hygiene products	100,000.00	
19.12.2025	Monaragale - Navam	Kothmale	245	Dry rations & Hygiene products	490,000.00	
27.12.2025	Paragalla	Nawalapitiya	100	Dry rations & Hygiene products	200,000.00	
5.01.2026	Paragalla	Nawalapitiya Clothing	116	Clothing	35,420.00	
5.01.2026	Monaragale - Navam	Kothmale Clothing	558	Clothing	164,480.00	
19.01.2026	Paragalla	Nawalapitiya	128	Dry rations	261,120.00	
29.01.2026	Raganwatte		93	Dry rations		
	Highforest		120	Dry rations	426,000.00	
		Total Hill Country	1,460			1,977,270.00
	Puthukkudiyiruppu	CDI	17	Dry rations & Hygiene products	42,500.00	
		Total CDI	17			42,500.00
	Distributions and Transport Cost					129,400.00
	Total beneficiaries		2,071	Total spent SLR		3,437,182.00
				Total spent £	8,486.87	
				Total collection £	8,510.00	

Delivery of Clothing and Dry Food Rations in Kothmale, Nuwera Eliya



Delivery of Clothing and Dry Food Rations in Paragala, Nawalapitiya District

In Paragala, 128 families were supported. These deliveries were implemented by our Hill Country partners in late December 2025.



Restoration of Water Supply in Mount Jean Estate, Wattawala (outside Hatton)



ACF undertook a mini project to restore the water supply to 6 houses. The water service was damaged, and water supply was cut off by the Dithwah cyclone. Before the destruction, residents had to pay SLR 2,500 per family, per month, amounting to SLR 15,000 per month, in total. This project restored water supply to them on a permanent basis, and provides tap water. This investment, costing SLR 85,000 (£201), means residents are able to access water, free of charge.



Our Other Relief Efforts in the Hill Country



In Nanattan - Mannar



The Work Team & ACF Members in the Hill Country



Our partner organisation's key representatives Suresh, and Sujeewa, who are our primary contacts in the Hill Countries, travelled with the ACF team, evaluated beneficiaries, and inspected areas affected by Dithwa. We are grateful for Sujeewa's and Suresh's efforts in supporting ACF and actioning all ACF activities, including coordinating and executing relief efforts during the Dithwa period.

Dithwa Assistance in Seethuvinayagarpuram in Mannar

Farms in Seethuvinayagarpuram, a small village by the Seethuvinayar river were badly affected by the breach of the river that resulted from Dithwa.

50 families who rely on small ground nut farming were provided with fertilisers to start farming again. The progress updates confirm that this essential assistance is yielding and will help such devastated families.



Wheelchair Distribution to ASSETS



As requested from ASSETS, after much exploration into the appropriate design and costs, ACF was able to purchase a new wheelchair, for a teenage resident of ASSETS.

Volunteers from Sydney, Mithula and Saiesan raised funds for this purpose and for other enhancements they felt appropriate to be carried out, at ASSETS and Sivapoomi Special Needs School.



ACF CHAIRPERSON'S PROJECT VISITS 2026

As ACF's Chairman's visits this year, coincided with the school holidays, most of the homes were less occupied as some of the children had left for their relatives' houses.

Dry Food & School Start Up Distributions for Foster Care Beneficiaries in the Hill Country



Visit to ACF's First Hill Country Graduate



The Hill Countries projects currently support foster care, elders and university assistance. The university assistance in the Hill Countries has grown to 11 students and include medical, engineering, science, and business studies students.

ACF team met with its first university graduate, who read double Maths and Physics. In February 2026. Mithusha Chandrasekaran from the Bearwell estates, from Valaha in the Talawakela division graduated from the South Eastern university. ACF is delighted with Mithusha's achievement.

Our Chairperson and Operations Manager, along with our Hill Countries partners' representatives Sujeewa and Suresh, visited Mithusha at the Holbrook Tamil Maha Vidyalayam, in Holbrook, in Talawakela, where she started tutoring as a temporary A'Level Maths teacher straight after her graduation.

In addition to teaching at the school, Mithusha is currently tutoring students in her local area. Those who are able to pay for tutoring pay a nominal amount, and students with financial difficulties receive free tutoring from Mithusha.



Distribution of Exercise Books at Ireby Tamil Maha Vidyalayam in Norwood, Nuwera Eliya

During the chairperson's projects visit to Sri Lanka in 2025, ACF accepted the school's request for support and subsequently, funded the supply of 350 exercise books to 58 selected students at Ireby Tamil Maha Vidyalayam. Our Hill Country partner representatives implemented the delivery of these items, to the students, at the school.



The Provision of Dry Rations to Elders in the Hill Countries

Through the funding of an Australian supporter, dry rations were delivered to 26 additional elders in Bogowantalawa & Wattawala in the Hill Country, during our Chairman's visit in February.



Update on Coombewood Nursery, Talawakela

In an earlier projects visit, in 2024, the urgent need for proper toilet facilities for the pre-school children, was immediately noted and the necessary construction work was carried out in 2025. This facility is proving to be an essential basic asset to the children, who currently attend this pre-school.



New Foster Care Project in Batticaloa

A further requirement was identified in the Batticaloa area, and subsequently, a new foster care project was started in January 2026, with 16 beneficiaries. The second distribution of rations to the foster care beneficiaries, and a special distribution to elders (at the request of a long-term supporter of ACF) took place at our partner organisation, St Josephs' special needs School, during our chairman's visit to Batticaloa.



Visit to Annai Illam (DWF), Mannar

The chairman along with two of his friends visited Annai Illam, in Mannar, and spent time with the children. Also, time was spent reviewing new applications for university assistance.



Visit to Sr Nichola (CDI), in Vavuniya



Sr Nichola is our partner in Vavuniya, and she manages the Child Development Initiative (CDI) project. A request was received for a new foster care project there as potential beneficiaries were identified. The chairperson and the team visited her in March and interviewed some potential beneficiaries. A new project is likely to be started in July / August 2026.



Visit to Good Shepherd Home, Mankulam

ACF members met with the sisters and the children of this home. The computer room is continuing to be in operation with 12 computers and are regularly used by the children. They were also able to meet with the operators of Welcome House, whilst there.



The ACF assisted garden initiative is proving invaluable at Mankulam GSH and other places. A new initiative was inaugurated in Mutur during the Chairman's visit



Visit to Good Shepherd Children's Home, Valaichenai



ACF visited the children and the newly appointed sister in charge at the home. They are in the process of preparing to move to a purpose built home facility, 2 KM away from the current home, and are expected to move to the new facility in August / September 2026.



Children's Outing to Unnichchai, Trincomalee

The children from Good Shepherd Children's Home, in Valaichenai, participated in a day trip to Unnichchai, in Trincomalee.



Visit to ASSETS, Kilinochchi



The ACF team met with the Director and the Operator in March and planned actions and possible remedies on some of the difficulties that are faced by the resident children, and staff members. The plan was then further developed in conjunction with the Australian volunteers and fund raisers Mithulaa and Saiesan, for implementation.

Visit to Arobanam Boys Home, Kilinochchi



The ACF team met with the Director Rev Fr Sasi and discussed various aspects of the wellbeing of the occupants, and the environment.

Meeting with Current and past University Students in Jaffna



The ACF team met with past, and current university students and enjoyed tea with them. Pictures are:

Sharini from the Hill Countries - studying Music

Thenuja from Mannar studying - Bharathanatyam

Babu Salojan from Mankulam - entered University while he was a foster care child

Kagen from Mannar - Law student

Niruban a former Management student is currently an entrepreneur working as a partner of ACF

Sivapoomi Special Needs School Exhibition

The Sivapoomi Special Needs School held a 3-day exhibition. Through the exhibits that the children displayed, the ACF members could see definite signs of improvement.



The opportunity also arose for a meeting with the Sivapoomi Kilinochchi teachers, for the first time.



Dry Rations Distribution & Visits to Foster Care Beneficiaries in Mankulam



The team visited the 73 beneficiaries, of the Mankulam foster care project. This is the first opportunity for the chairperson to meet the beneficiaries and understand their situations first-hand.

He also took this opportunity to visit several residences of beneficiaries, and reported it as a humbling exercise.

The distribution and visits were held in March.



Advanced Level Results for 2025

Details of Advanced Level (A/L) Result-2025

ACF UK Sponsorship Program

Name of the child	Home/Project	Result	Stream
R.Roshani	AGH Mannar	3A	Arts
A.M.Pirancika	AGH Mannar	2C,S	Arts
K.Vinodhan	Hill Country	2A,C	Bio
L.Kayalvily	Mankulam Foster Care	2A,B	Arts
K.Thanusiya	Mankulam Foster Care	3C	Arts
V.Iyavi	Mankulam Foster Care	3C	Maths
K.Laxshika	GSCH Valaichenai	2A,C	Arts
A.Piratheepa	Annai Illam	2A,B	Arts
K.Kansika	Annai Illam	A,B,C	Arts
P.Salista	Annai Illam	3C	Arts
S.Komathy	Annai Illam	2C,S	Arts
H.Naseema	Annai Illam	B,2S	Arts

No of Children Sat for the Exam: 14

No of Children Passed the Exam: 12

No of Children qualified for University: 05

Above is a summary of the recent GCE A/L results of the ACF assisted / ACF related students.

It is encouraging to learn that 5 of the 14 students who sat for the exams are likely to enter university ... this ratio indicates that our children achieved a much higher pass percentage compared to the island wide ratio.

Last year, 5 students out of 17 entered university

Vinodhan, from the Palmeston Estates in Talawakela, in the Hill Countries ... although obtaining 2A 1C again, has moved forward to position 51 in the district. According to his teachers, he is likely to enter the medical school.

Vinodhan is currently tutoring GCE A/L students in his local area. Those who are able to pay for tutoring pay a nominal amount, and students with financial difficulties receive free tutoring from Vinodhan.

As stated at ACF's annual event last year, acknowledging our predecessors' and the current team members' commitment; we are convinced that ACF assistance not only works, but improves with every new project that is started.

Let us continue assisting with a view to bringing the society to a much higher educational level.

Tribute to Mr Malavarayan Vijayabalan (Vijay)



We were saddened to learn about the demise of Vijay in April this year.

The Tamil community owes a debt of gratitude to Vijay for producing documents that are a testimony to its traumatic history of Sri Lanka.

Vijay worked for Central British Fund for Tamil Refugee Rehabilitation Organization – (Tamil Information Centre), London, UK, during the 1980s; and worked closely with our founder Patron Rev. Father James Pathinathan

Vijay's primary tasks were research and documentation. Whatever he wrote was thoroughly researched and supported by official documents.

When the TIC wound down in 1987 and became dormant for a while, Vijay was recruited by the British Refugee Council as the editor of its monthly journal *The Sri Lankan Monitor*. Here again his work was so professional and credible that the relevant authorities respected his documents as authentic.

Behind all this work and the credibility of the documents, Vijay was simple, humble and sincere with an eminent degree of commitment to his mission. He always radiated peace with a gentle smile.

Though Vijay has departed from our midst, he will continue to live in grateful hearts.

ACF Contact Email Address -

We kindly ask all ACF contacts to add arobanamchildrenfund@gmail.com to their address book, to avoid ACF emails from being pushed to the **spam** box.

New Support Needed for Arobanam Children Fund

We need volunteers and supporters who can help us achieve our strategic growth plan.

If you or your friends can help us, please contact our chairperson, Mr Varathan, via his email address: vthiagarasa@aol.com or via the contact details on the Contact Page on our website

<https://arobanam.co.uk/>