



## Welcome to CAL News!

Welcome to the first of our CAL regular updates. Each one will provide a one-page 'snapshot' of some of the work going on in the various centres around Sri Lanka. (A second page

will provide some general background to CAL and what we do.) For additional information please visit our website [www.childactionlanka.org](http://www.childactionlanka.org). You can also 'like' our facebook page ([facebook.com/childactionlanka](https://facebook.com/childactionlanka)) where we update regularly with photos and feedback. Our centres are currently in five locations but we may not cover each centre in every update, this is designed to give you a 'flavour' of CAL News.

### New School Year

January sees the start of a new school year in Sri Lanka. This is a big occasion especially for our pre-schoolers. Children from our pre-schools in Kandy, Kelaniya and Nuwara Eliya go to school for the first time. The communities we work with often do not send their children to school for various reasons. Some do not have essential birth certificates, other parents need help to fill out the forms or go to interviews. We want to see all our children getting a good education and work with the families to make sure that this happens.

#### Kandy Centre Two (7 to 12 year olds)

In Kandy our 'Centre Two' kids had their art and dance and drama tested out to identify hidden talents and to simply have some fun. The children have the opportunity of a specialist teacher to work with them this year. They loved the activities and are excited about a talent competition that they can enter. At CAL we want to make sure our holistic approach includes creative opportunities for the children in different areas. The importance of these creative areas is often underestimated in how they contribute to a child's emotional well-being and confidence.



#### Killinochchi (Killi) Centre

**In Killi, thanks to generous donations of second-hand lap tops, our children are continuing to do well learning MS Office. This is an amazing opportunity for the kids to learn skills that will give them a great advantage in the job market as they grow up. Our project manager has also identified young leaders to help facilitate the classes and he is mentoring them in leadership skills at the same time.**

**The children in Killi are as keen as ever and this year lessons really are starting at 5.30am!**



#### Spotlight on Kelaniya School Successes

In Kelaniya, eight-year old Vinodini,\* attended our 'catch-up' classes last year because she had never been to school. This month saw her attend school for the very first time. She joins her sister (who was in our pre-school last year) in Grade One. Even though she is older, Vinodini is at Grade One level education-wise. And she still comes to us two afternoons a week for help on-going support.

Another family in Kelaniya who were not sending their children to school at all last year, has put both younger children into school and committed to keep them there. This is a poor and dysfunctional home situation and the older siblings (there are eight in the family) have not been to school at all. The younger two boys started at the centre when we opened in 2010 and we are proud to say that after a lot of hard work with the family, they are both attending school. A life-changing result!



**Above:** Kelaniya: two sisters start school in Grade One together.



## Join us to see lives transformed

Child Action Lanka began six years ago working with street children in Kandy. Debbie and Dilshan Edirisinghe opened the doors to over sixty children who were grateful for a safe place to come and learn, play and have fun. CAL has grown significantly over the last six years and we now have centres in five locations: Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Kelaniya, Killinochchi and Batticaloa.

We would love you to consider partnering with us as we develop and grow as an organisation to give maximum opportunity to the next generation. For further information and how to give time and/or resources to support this important work, please email [childaction@slt.net.lk](mailto:childaction@slt.net.lk) or contact us via our website at [www.childactionlanka.org](http://www.childactionlanka.org)

### Current Needs

In Batticaloa we are looking for help to **sponsor staff salaries** for our staff who will be selected from the local community. Currently we only have capacity for children to attend the centres once a week. With one extra staff member in each of the five centres, we would have capacity for the children to come twice a week. Many of the children turn up every day regardless and the older students end up voluntarily teaching the younger—it is very touching to see them help one another. The salaries equate to approximately UK £30 or Aus \$50 per month. We would be hoping for a **two-year commitment** to make this viable.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE MADE THIS WORK POSSIBLE—WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT AND HELP.**

Child Action Lanka

06 Power Station Road

Kandy, Sri Lanka

00 94 77 9021730 :ph

childaction@slt.net.lk :email

[www.childactionlanka.org](http://www.childactionlanka.org)

[Facebook.com/childactionlanka](https://www.facebook.com/childactionlanka)

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\* - denotes name change