



Project Kalapuwa Sri-Lanka

November 2016

Once again, we (Theo and Paul) have been back in Sri-Lanka, 26 October - 9 November, to further our project.

The woman in the photo was one of the first to receive a sewing machine three years ago and has started working for a textile company in Colombo. She receives pieces of clothing and sews them into finished garments. She started with 100 pieces a week and has now 8 women working for her, some at her home and others in their own houses. Their output has now increased to 1200 pieces a week. All the machines have been supplied under the micro-credit system and we arranged training for the seamstresses. We have now been in contact with the company in Colombo and they have requested a further expansion to 3000 pieces a week. To be continued.



This is a photo of the fish distribution point on the Kalapuwa peninsula where, once the catamarans have landed their catch at 6am, the fish is laid out and sold to the highest bidder. The vendors who will sell the fish door-to-door wait to make their bids.

School requirements for the children.

Now, on the Kalapuwa peninsula, all the children can go to school but we are closely following some of the families with problem situations and will continue to give extra support to these children when we are there. We continue to receive large numbers of requests for help for school children from outside the peninsula. Often these children live in bizarre situations and we have visited many during this visit. Wherever possible we have been able to supply some of the basic requirements such as a school satchel, learning aids and have measured each child for a new school uniform. (Cost € 25 per child).



Teaching aids for school.

We have been able to arrange a significant up-grade in the facilities for this school with the purchase of computers, games, library books, note books, pens and white-boards. We have also arranged that the toilet facilities be improved and a separate location to be used as a computer room. Also a simple fencing has been placed so that the smaller children are able to play safely outside.



Business starters

During this trip, we been able to help 3 small businesses to get up and running.

On the Kalapuwa peninsula:

A crèche (photo: the woman who will running this project) investment 220,000 RS (€ 1300)

Production of wedding boxes and similar items: 100,000 RS (€ 600)

Further extension to an existing shop: 80,000RS (€ 500)



English School (photo)

In June, we started the English School. 75 children, in various classes, are now being educated in the English language. Further, 2 classes for 10 adults have been arranged in the evenings.

General situation on the peninsula

A separate arrangement has been made for the boats that had previously been supplied utilizing the micro-credit system. Two years ago, it was possible for the fishermen to ply their trade for 8 months of the year. Because of climate change, (El Ninjo), the ocean has become more hazardous for small boats and they are now only able to put out to sea during a 6-month period.

The arrangement is now that only in the months that fishing is possible are the fishermen required to pay off their micro-credit.

As for the rest, bicycles, Tuk Tuks, sewing machines and business starters, generally speaking all is going extremely well. Not all the projects are a 100% success but only 4 out of the 44 have had problems and this has been due to understandable developments. For example, one woman whom we helped in March 2016 with a starting capital suffered a stroke and one Tuk Tuk driver a heart attack. For both these cases we have put a pause on repayments until the situation improves.

Stichting Kalapuwa Sri-Lanka

Website: www.kalapuwa.nl

KvK: 61002550

Website: www.kalapuwa.nl

KvK: 61002550

E-Mail: info@kalapuwa.nl

Iban: NL04RABO0190466855

ANBI Nr: 8541.59.861

Veenestraat 21, 3751 GE Bunschoten Spakenburg

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