

TRANSFORMING LIVES

CAL IN ACTION



"A future of well-being, value and equality for every child, everywhere."

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*This newsletter consists of updates
on CAL activities for the months of
January, February & March 2026*

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FEATURE COLUMN

REBUILDING HOPE AFTER CYCLONE DITWA

“When disaster tears homes apart, compassion becomes the foundation on which hope is rebuilt.”

In the wake of the devastating impact of Cyclone Ditwa on Sri Lanka’s hill country communities, thousands of vulnerable families were left grappling with loss, uncertainty and displacement. Torrential rains and landslides destroyed homes, damaged belongings, and shattered the fragile sense of security many families had worked tirelessly to build.



Among the worst affected were low-income plantation and daily wage earning families living in vulnerable line-room settlements and unstable hillside areas. Many lost not only their homes, but also their possessions, livelihoods, and safe environments for their children.



Yet even amid destruction, stories of courage, compassion and restoration began to emerge.

At the heart of these efforts stood Child Action Lanka — responding not merely with emergency assistance, but with a long-term commitment to restoring dignity, rebuilding homes, and strengthening families for the future.

For families like that of 40-year-old single mother Megala* from Magasthotta Upper Division, the disaster turned an already difficult life into a daily struggle for survival. Living with her three children in an unsafe and damaged 12ftx12ft room, the family was forced to flee after landslides partially destroyed their home on 27th November 2026. Their belongings, including beds, kitchen items and clothes, were severely damaged, leaving them dependent on extended family for shelter.

Similarly, the family of Ramasamy* and Rajeswari* lost their small 10ftx10ft home completely to the landslide. Already burdened by economic hardship and personal tragedy, the family – including their 9-year-old granddaughter Keerthana – was left without a safe place to live.

In both situations, the children affected were students connected to Child Action Lanka Child Development Centres – spaces dedicated to nurturing vulnerable children through education, care and holistic development. Recognising that a child cannot thrive without the stability of a safe home and supportive family environment, Child Action Lanka stepped forward with urgent intervention.

CAL centre coordinators visited the affected communities, assessed the extent of damage, and listened closely to the needs of the families. Working closely with the Directorate, contractors were identified, quotations obtained, and construction efforts launched with urgency and care.

What emerged from the rubble were not merely structures of brick and cement, but restored spaces of hope.

For Megala's* family, Child Action Lanka constructed a secure 13x13 room with an attached toilet, enabling the family to once again experience safety, privacy and dignity.

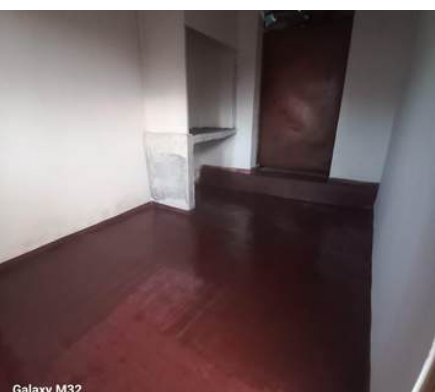
For young Keerthana* and her grandparents, CAL rebuilt a room with an attached kitchen, providing the stability and security essential for a child's wellbeing and development.



These rebuilding efforts reflect a deeper mission that defines Child Action Lanka's work across communities: strengthening families in order to build resilient communities capable of overcoming adversity together.

“Where hope is rebuilt, families rise stronger – and communities discover the courage to heal together.”

**Names have been changed for privacy.*



ACTIVITY-BASED LEARNING

ENGAGING MINDS FOR EFFECTIVE LEARNING

The recently introduced Activity-Based Learning Programme at the Galle CDC is transforming the classroom experience by encouraging teachers to design creative, hands-on learning activities and interactive classroom games. Moving beyond traditional textbook-centred instruction, the initiative aims to help children actively engage with lessons through participation, discussion, collaboration, and practical application.

Targeting students between the ages of 12–15 years, the programme incorporates a range of dynamic learning methods, including group presentations connected to academic subjects, individual student presentations, classroom debates and discussions, applied-learning assignments, and “Show and Tell” sessions that nurture confidence, communication, and self-expression.

Since its introduction, the programme has led to a noticeable increase in student attendance, participation, and enthusiasm for learning – demonstrating the powerful impact of experiential education. By creating opportunities for children to think critically, express ideas confidently, and apply knowledge in meaningful ways, the initiative is helping bridge the gap between formal education and real-world skills.

Through programmes such as this, Child Action Lanka continues to equip young people with the confidence, creativity, and practical competencies needed to build resilient futures and thrive in an ever-changing world.



QIB PROGRAMME

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES THROUGH SPOKEN ENGLISH



... nurtured confidence, self-expression and enthusiasm for learning.

Pre-schoolers from the Galle CDC Pre-School recently took part in a Spoken English Programme aimed at strengthening early communication skills and building confidence in young learners. Facilitated by QIB Campus, the programme provided 12 children with the opportunity to develop foundational spoken English abilities in a fun and encouraging environment.

Through engaging lessons, songs, games, and interactive activities, the children learned simple English vocabulary and basic conversational sentences while actively practicing their speaking skills. The programme not only introduced a new language, but also nurtured confidence, self-expression, and enthusiasm for learning. At the conclusion of the programme, students completed an oral assessment, and successful participants were awarded certificates in recognition of their achievement. The ability to communicate in English opens doors to greater learning opportunities, broader communication, and future personal and professional growth. By introducing such opportunities at an early age, Child Action Lanka is empowering children with essential life skills and laying strong foundations for brighter, more resilient futures.



BREAKING GROUND

LAUNCH OF THE NEW MOON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE IN JAFFNA

Child Action Lanka marked a significant milestone with the launch of the New Moon Youth Development Centre (YDC), named in honour of the late Mr. Balachandran, on 31st March 2026.

The milestone event, marking CAL's flagship presence in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, was graced by Mrs. Indrani Balachandran & her family, along with the Development Officer for Nallur Division and the Director of NAITA in the Northern Province.



Through a strategic partnership with the National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority (NAITA), the YDC will equip youth with industry-relevant skills and a minimum NVQ Level 4 certification—opening doors to sustainable livelihoods. At the launch of the YDC, the demand was made clear: 15 youth enrolled on-the-spot, with over 70 more expressing interest—highlighting both the urgent need and the potential for greater impact.

CAL expresses its gratitude to Mrs. Balachandran, who has made the premises available for use by the YDC. CAL is also grateful to Help Orphans Now for facilitating this project, and Handy Trust for funding this fresh initiative.

With continued support, CAL aims to scale its reach, empower more youth, and build resilient communities.



EMPLOYABLE EDUCATION

EQUIPPING YOUTH FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES

At Child Action Lanka, we believe that vocational and employable education empowers young people with the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to build brighter futures. In a context where youth unemployment continues to be a growing challenge in Sri Lanka, access to practical, job-oriented training plays a vital role in bridging the gap between education and sustainable livelihoods. For youth from vulnerable and street-connected communities, these opportunities are more than pathways to employment – they are pathways to dignity, independence, and hope.

Recently, CAL proudly celebrated five graduates from the Galle CDC who successfully completed a five-month Hospitality Certificate Programme conducted in partnership with On the Rock Villa. Combining classroom-based learning with hands-on practical training, the programme equipped participants with essential hospitality skills while also building their confidence, professionalism, and readiness for the world of work.

**Education
that equips
for life and
work.**

The graduation ceremony, attended by family members, hospitality professionals, and industry experts, was a meaningful celebration of the students' achievements and growth. Throughout the event, the graduates had the opportunity to showcase the practical skills and knowledge they had gained during the programme – reflecting the transformation that takes place when young people are empowered through relevant, skills-based education.

Through initiatives such as this, Child Action Lanka continues to inspire, educate, and equip youth with the tools they need to pursue meaningful employment, strengthen their futures, and contribute positively to their communities.





CAREER GUIDANCE

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR MEANINGFUL CAREERS

As part of the Youth IT Programme, a Career Guidance Programme was recently conducted for students from the Kilinochchi and Akkarayan CDCs, equipping young people with the knowledge, practical skills, and confidence needed to take their first steps into the professional world. Organised in collaboration with Child Aid Nation and Cholai Paravaikal Youth Organization, the programme brought together 25 youth preparing to enter employment for the very first time.



Designed to guide students on their next steps after completing the Youth IT Programme, the interactive sessions focused on essential pre-employment skills, including how to search for job opportunities, prepare a professional CV, and successfully face interviews. Participants were also introduced to workplace expectations and professional communication – helping them build the aptitude and confidence required to thrive in today's competitive job market.

A key highlight of the programme was the mock interview sessions, which gave students valuable hands-on experience and a realistic understanding of interview settings. These practical exercises helped participants overcome fear, improve self-presentation, and develop greater confidence in their abilities.



More than just career preparation, this initiative reflects CAL's commitment to empowering youth with the tools they need to shape resilient and independent futures. By combining knowledge, skills development, and practical exposure, CAL continues to nurture capable young individuals who are equipped not only to secure employment, but also to grow, contribute, and thrive within their communities.



Strengthening Communities

The Akkarayan CDC recently hosted a special Mathematics Seminar for students preparing to sit for the Ordinary Level Examinations.

Recognising that education has the power to uplift families and transform futures, the seminar was intentionally opened to students beyond the CAL community, welcoming youth from neighbouring schools and areas. By extending this opportunity more widely, CAL continues to foster inclusive community development, ensuring that more youth have access to the support they need to succeed.

A total of 69 students participated in the interactive programme, which provided valuable guidance, strengthened subject understanding, and supported students in their examination preparation.

CAL continues to invest in the educational growth of young people while building stronger, more resilient communities where children and youth are empowered to thrive.



HOW TO BECOME A SPONSOR

- Donation of \$15.50 (Rs. 4,700/-) will cover the monthly educational expenses of one child
- Donation of \$187 (LKR 56,400) will cover the yearly educational expenses of one child

SPONSORSHIP OPTIONS:

- Make a one-time donation
- Sign up as a sponsor for 12 months, with monthly donations
- Choose to sponsor one child or more

To sign up as a sponsor, kindly email mihiri@childactionlanka.org with the subject, 'Sponsor for HMF'.

A ONE-YEAR SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT WILL BE ENTITLED TO:

- A quarterly update from the centre to which your sponsorship has been assigned to
- A CAL Newsletter subscription
- A personalized 'thank you' card made by CAL kids



To become a sponsor, scan the QR code and send us your details.



HEAL. EMPOWER. LOVE. PROTECT

PRE-SCHOOL UPDATES

BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES FROM THE VERY BEGINNING

Child Action Lanka Pre-Schools are nurturing spaces where the foundations for learning, discovery, and holistic development are carefully laid from the earliest years. With a strong emphasis on whole-child development, CAL Pre-Schools foster curiosity, confidence, and a love for learning—equipping children with the essential building blocks for lifelong learning and success.

This year, 94 preschoolers across six CAL Pre-Schools proudly completed their early learning journey. These bright young graduates have grown through joyful exploration and meaningful learning experiences, and now step forward with readiness and excitement into primary education.

At CAL Pre-Schools, the journey to transformation begins early—where strong foundations are built today to shape capable, confident, and future-ready individuals for tomorrow.





NEW BEGINNINGS

BRINGING HOPE & LEARNING TO RURAL UTTUPULAM



... a step toward breaking cycles of poverty and building stronger futures for the next generation.

The launch of the Uttupulam Village Pre-School by Child Action Lanka earlier this year marked a significant milestone for the rural Uttupulam community, bringing new hope and opportunity to children and families in an underserved area with limited access to early childhood education.

Established with the vision of providing quality early learning experiences, the pre-school is helping lay a strong foundation for lifelong growth, learning, and development.

More than just a classroom, it has become a safe and nurturing space where children are encouraged to explore, learn, and thrive during their most formative years.

To date, 30 children have been enrolled in the programme. Each day, they arrive with eager smiles and bright anticipation, ready to engage in joyful learning, creative play, nutritious meals and snacks, and meaningful social interaction. Through CAL's support, the children also receive essential school supplies, helping remove barriers to education and encouraging consistent attendance.

For many families in Uttupulam, this initiative represents far more than access to preschool education – it is a step toward breaking cycles of poverty and building stronger futures for the next generation. By reaching underserved rural communities with compassionate, child-focused initiatives, CAL continues to create opportunities where they are needed most, empowering children with the tools, confidence, and support they need to pursue brighter futures.





STATIONERY DISTRIBUTIONS

Access to essential school supplies plays a vital role in ensuring that children remain engaged in education and are able to learn with confidence and dignity. At CAL centres, regular school supply distributions are carried out – often in partnership with generous sponsors – to support children from vulnerable communities and reduce barriers to education.

Children receive essential items such as school uniforms, shoes, bags, and stationery, encouraging regular school attendance. CAL continues to create opportunities for every child to access quality education and pursue a brighter future.



CELEBRATIONS

CAL CDCs are safe and inclusive spaces where children and youth from diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds come together, building meaningful relationships. By fostering mutual respect, cultural understanding, and unity in diversity, CAL actively nurtures environments where harmony can flourish across communities.

Cultural celebrations play a vital role within the CAL community, creating opportunities for children and youth to discover, appreciate, and celebrate the richness of diverse traditions and beliefs. Through shared experiences, young people learn empathy, acceptance, and collaboration – strengthening bonds and laying the foundation for more peaceful, resilient, and united communities that can work together toward lasting development and transformation.



**Thai Pongal
Celebrations**



Independence Day Celebrations





Ramazan Celebrations



SPORTS & RECREATION

IRON KIDS COLOMBO

At Iron Kids Colombo 2026, 35 children from Child Action Lanka centres showed the nation what determination looks like—securing 1st through 7th place in the marathon. With limited resources, some ran barefoot; but all ran with courage. Their victory is proof that when children are given opportunity, encouragement and belief, they can achieve extraordinary things.



CAL PREMIER TROPHY

Child Action Lanka's first-ever Hard Ball Cricket Tournament was launched – the CAL Premier Trophy!

This tournament is more than just a competition – It is a pathway for emerging talents, a platform to identify potential players, an opportunity to build confidence, discipline & teamwork and a stepping stone toward bigger sports dreams.



SPORTS MEETS

Sports Meets were held across our centres—celebrating teamwork, sportsmanship, fitness, and plenty of fun along the way! These moments go beyond play—they build confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging in every child.



SHE PLAYS

Cricket selections conducted by the Batticaloa District Coach and Provincial Coach of Sri Lanka Women's Cricket resulted in 7 skilled sportswomen from the Batticaloa CDC being chosen to train with the District Cricket team.

These young ladies were marked by their skill, their sportsmanship and their willingness to develop in the sport, inching them closer to their biggest sports dreams.



INDOOR SWIMMING & FUTSAL

Children & youth from the Gampola Special Needs Centre enjoyed indoor Futsal & Swimming sessions on a monthly basis. This initiative was launched to improve coordination, balance, teamwork, and confidence in the children, while also encouraging social interaction.

Both sports activities were carefully adapted to suit the individual abilities and needs of each child, ensuring their safety and confidence. This initiative would not have been made possible without the generous support and contributions of family members of the students and the community around the SNC.



MEETING THE ENGLAND CRICKET TEAM

Cricket enthusiasts from CAL enjoyed an unforgettable opportunity to meet the England Cricket Team during their recent stint at the ICC Men's World Cup in Sri Lanka. The team took time to warmly interact with CAL's aspiring young athletes – sharing encouragement and memorable moments.

Our young players, inspired by the experience, returned to the field with renewed passion, determination, and belief in what they can achieve.



Join us and **SHARE A MEAL**

Scan the QR code to donate



PARTNER APPRECIATION

EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN SRI LANKA

Child Action Lanka is deeply grateful to the Embassy of Japan in Sri Lanka and the Government of Japan for their generous support under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) scheme.

Through a generous and substantial grant, Japan is supporting the construction of a new Child Development Centre in Kilinochchi, complete with kindergarten classrooms, an IT room, and a safe residential shelter for vulnerable women and girls. This project will directly benefit around 200 children and young people, while reaching over 750 individuals in the wider community.

Through this partnership, CAL is not just building a center—we are creating a safe, nurturing home for learning and protection, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow, thrive and reach their full potential. Together, we are Transforming Lives.



DIMO & AITKEN SPENCE TRAVELS

In celebration of International Women's Day, 20 young girls from Child Action Lanka were treated to an inspiring and empowering programme hosted by the teams from Aitken Spence Travels and Diesel & Motor Engineering PLC (DIMO).

Through engaging conversations and interactive sessions, the girls were introduced to a range of future career pathways and opportunities. The programme encouraged them to dream boldly, broaden their horizons and build confidence as they look ahead to their futures.



PARLEY OCEAN SRI LANKA

In line with Child Action Lanka's commitment to environmental sustainability, Parley Ocean Sri Lanka recently conducted a 6-week Ocean Education Programme for students at our Galle CDC.

Through engaging, hands-on sessions and interactive learning, students explored pressing environmental challenges, deepened their understanding of ocean conservation, and discovered the vital role they can play in protecting our planet. The programme inspired a growing sense of responsibility and a strong commitment to sustainable living.

Through such partnerships, we continue to empower our children and communities to become passionate ambassadors for a more sustainable world.





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The Impact of Donations

Your donation gives our children hope for the future and ensures that their nutritional & health requirements are met, and their primary and higher educational journeys are supported. It also enables protection from violence & abuse and the empowerment of girls & women. Children are the starting point in breaking the cycle of poverty and your donation will help make this a reality.

Donate through the CAL charity page by scanning the QR code below.

Scan the QR code to donate.
Help us reach the target of providing 10,000 meals.

Join us and **SHARE A MEAL**



Donate through Star Points



Support us by donating your Star Points directly via the MyDialog app or text #141*6*10# CAL

