

CURRENT REPORT: COVID 19 SITUATION IN SRI LANKA & IMPACT TO MEMBERS

01.Introduction

World Health Organization has declared that Coronavirus disease 2019 as public health emergency of international concerns on 30th January 2020 and as pandemic on 11th March 2020.

Sri Lanka identified its first covid 19 patient on 27th January 2020, who is 44 years old Chinese women from wuhan, Hubei province. She was treated at National Institute of Infectious diseases and fully recovered and discharged on 19th February 2020. To face the situation Sri Lanka government had established presidential committee and followed by the presidential taskforce to face the growing health risk and distribution of essential goods in the country. Key bodies currently operating are,

Presidential committee on preventing covid 19 disease.

Presidential taskforce on distributing essential goods to the public.

By 16th April 2020, entire country under curfew, several villages were locked down, 238 reported patients, 65 recovered and 7 deaths. WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus commended sri Lankas preventive and public safety measures by his twitter message to the president of Sri Lanka.

“I had a good call with @Gotabaya R, President of Sri Lanka on covid 19 today. We discussed health and economic impacts of Covid 19 can have on his country and the whole region. I thanked him for mobilizing the whole of government in the fight against of the Corona virus together”

In fact, it is obvious that the government along can't achieve the target without the support of the public in responsible manner. Further engagement of civil society organizations could play an important role. Therefore, with the experience of Sanasa movement in humanitarian operations, particularly to safe guard its 1.3 million membership island wide step up to support members as well as economically vulnerable communities,

02.Impact and Response of COVID 19 to Members and Credit Unions

Due to island wide curfew and lockdown in certain areas, day today social behavior has been restricted Due to island-wide curfew and lock down in certain areas, day-to-day social behavior has been restricted. Micro, Small & Medium Scale enterprises has lost their businesses and supply chain across the region was restricted. Even though government provide certain essential items to needy communities, the contributions are limited and short-lived. SANASA Members

with daily wage employments and daily cash base business people are running out of essential daily requirement for sustain their families. As socially responsible organization inspired by cooperative principles and values under the direction of Leader of SANASA Movement, Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya, special disaster relief operation committee was established on 25th Mar 2020.

Committee consists of 25 members from SANASA affiliated companies and institutions. Committee had immediately decided to assist needy members under locked down by providing essential food rations. A Covid 19 fund was established through by donating one-day salary of all employees of affiliated companies. Fund named as “SANASA Sabandi Athwela” Fund, which means SANASA beloved hands. Committee members’ voluntarily donate to SANASA Sabandi Athwela” Fund.

In brief, following objectives listed for the “SANASA Sabandi Athwela” (SANASA Beloved hands) Fund.

- Provide assistance to low income communities
- Priority will be given to daily base business people who are most vulnerable at emergencies and loss their livelihood.
- To distribute relief ration packs to economically handicapped families in the villages through SANASA Societies.
- Provide assistance to government Covid 19 prevention program by providing necessary healthcare equipment’s to hospital staff (E.g.: N 95 face masks)

Committee decided to reach 1,000 SANASA Primary Societies (Credit Unions) and shortlist 100 societies in first stage of its relief assistance due to limited funds. In fact, overwhelming requirements, on field decision taken to outreach more societies and members. Necessary authorization from government security personnel was taken. All staff members were equipped with necessary health precautionary measures. During the curfew period, SANASA provided essential food ration to SANASA members as well as economically handicapped individuals through its SANASA society network. Further, SANASA planned to donate essential health kits to health officials in National Hospitals of the country.

02.1 Briefed Progress as at 16th April 2020

Dry Ration packs distributed to 450 numbers of SANASA Societies
Individual Beneficiaries about 8,646

And also the below table shows the panned distribution of ration packs to the customers though out the channels and those are identified customers who lost their business due to prolonged curfew and finding difficult to meet their daily needs.

District	No. of Towns/Villages	No. of Customers/Beneficiaries
Anuradhapura	6	151
Kegalle	6	128
Puttalam	6	126
Matara	7	118
Kurunegala	7	97
Colombo	4	87
Rathnapura	3	82
Kandy	4	73
Nuwaraeliya	3	62
Hambantota	2	51
Vavniya	2	40
Kaluthara	3	38
Pollonnaruwa	3	35
Badulla	3	33
Ampara	2	25
Gampaha	4	20
Trincomalee	2	18
	67	1184

Following pictures shows events at the field.



**Kakkale Sanasa Society –
Pallewela, Gampaha District**



Essella Matikotamulla Sanasa Society



Bemmulla Mudagamuwa Sanasa Society





Yatyanthota Sanasa Society



Goods Distribution to Kurunegala Area



Kegalle Area



Galyaya Sanasa Society



Nagenahira Batuwatta Sanasa Society



Weligampitiya Sanasa Society

And also we were supported to the hospitals with Personal Protective Equipment's and necessary items/equipments.



Donation to National Cancer Hospital
Maharagama, Sri Lanka



Donation to Kidney Transplant Hospital
Sri Lanka



Donation - PPE to De Soysa Maternity
Hospital Sri Lanka



De Soysa Maternity Hospital – Separate
Partitioning to protect from Covid 19.



Donations - PPE to Gampaha Hospital –
Sri Lanka.

03.How we see our Services going forward after the pandemic

Even though there are large number of families who needs our support at this moment it's difficult to full fill all of their requirements at this moment as we do not have sufficient funds.

Therefore going forward to face this kind of situations and to strengthen the members and the societies we are planning to build up the Stabilization fund according to the cooperative principles we believe in working together for uplift members to achieve our vision of developing a society based on cooperative principles and values.

And also as a long term strategy we encourage our members to do domestic food cultivation and farming and we are planning to introduce new loan scheme especially for agriculture sector too.



Abundant Paddy Land Cultivation ceremony – Kegalle District with the leader of SANASA movement Dr. P.A. Kiriwandeniya and Deputy Chairman W.A. Walisinghe.

The above shows the ceremonial event which the leader participated and given a message to members to follow him for new beginning of food cultivation process.

At the meantime Central Bank declared 4% interest loan scheme to support small scale entrepreneurs who have lost their business during this period throughout the banks system in Sri Lanka.

Most probably due to the situation in Sri Lanka we hope that lockdown restrictions will be move out soon and we can accelerate our services to members

We take this opportunity to openly welcome our international member organizations to support us on strengthening the stabilization fund to give more service to needy communities in Sri Lanka.



Manori Ambanwala
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Sri Lanka