



NUREMBERG CITIZENS HELP PEOPLE IN SRI LANKA E.V.

We are members and sponsors of the non-profit association „Nuremberg Citizens Help People in Sri Lanka“. Since 2005, we have been running the „Kalkudah-booth“ at the Town Twinning Market at the Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt.

We import every year toys and gifts from Sri Lanka, including wooden puzzles, handmade plush toys, games, and hand painted elephants. The companies providing these goods are all small manufactories with fair trade certification.

Through the revenues of these sales, we support and provide funding for projects namely in the health care sector and education/ vocational training. These projects are to the benefit of the people, which are living in underdeveloped regions of the East Coast of Sri Lanka, the region that has been affected heavily by tsunami and civil war as well as by frequent climate catastrophes.

MILESTONES OF OUR HUMANITARIAN WORK IN SRI LANKA 2005 – 2007:

Violent conflicts between Singhalese and Tamil people after the tsunami catastrophe

People and companies of Nuremberg have joined the first to provide immediate support to the east coast of Sri Lanka, most heavily affected by the tsunami 2004.

First, we started our humanitarian work as members of the Round Table, founded by the Nuremberg community after the natural disaster, and supported projects in the fishing village Kalkudah and its vicinity. In this first phase we focused on emergency aid, funded by the citizens of Nuremberg, including:

- a residential area of 100 houses in the vicinity of Kalkudah for families damaged by the tsunami.
- two special purpose vehicles to safeguard the water supply in and around Kalkudah,
- one sanitary facility in a big camp for homeless families in Kalkudah,
- two kindergartens and emergency aid for fishermen and widowed women in Kalkudah.

We had to pause our activities between 2006 and 2009, due to the first violent attacks in the anew-starting civil war between Singhalese and Tamil people in the proximate vicinity of Kalkudah. Until 2009, the entire East Coast was a military blocked zone.

2008 – 2011:

New start of the humanitarian activity at the end of the civil war

Right after the end of the civil war and trough the medium of the city of Munich, we managed to acquire Dr. Ismail Fahmy, the representative of UN-Habitat in Sri Lanka, for the planning and supervision of our work.

The first success of the cooperation with Dr. Fahmy lasting through today was the opening of the Heinrich A. Litznerroth Memorial Health Center in Kalmunai, funded by GfK, in 2010.

In 2010 and 2011 our association sponsored:

- providing medical equipment and furniture for the health center
- an emergency unit in the children’s hospital of the Ashroff Memorial Hospital in Kalmunai,
- the rehabilitation of kindergartens in Kalmuna and Kattankudi
- two health camps in smaller communities around Kalmunai where there is no health care.



2011 by today:

Paving the way to sustainability, cooperation and friendship

After the forced break through the civil war between Singhalese and Tamil people, our travels to the East Coast of Sri Lanka started again in 2010. During these travels, we have been facing the continuous need of the population to be supported.

Our projects in these years span:

- The building and furnishing of a vocational training center in Kattankudi hosting a computer school for graduates and a preschool. The grand opening was in 2013.
- The building of a residential area for families who had been living in temporary housing for several years. June 2014 Little Nuremberg with 25 houses and meanwhile 200 inhabitants was inaugurated.
- With a donation of the city of Munich and own funds we financed the expansion of the vocational center in Kattankudi. Opened in March 2017, computer courses prepare students of the secondary grade for university and professional life after school.
- We started our most recent project late 2017: this is the construction of a pre-school for children living in Little Nuremberg and the neighbored residential areas. Since October 2018, about 60 children of 3 to 5 years are attending the new amenity.
- March 2019, members of the association went to Eravur to celebrate together with the residents the opening of this new amenity and visited the other projects at the East Coast as well.
- This was the 6th trip of the association to Sri Lanka. It also resulted in the proposal for the construction of a new vocational training center in Eravur- copying the center in Kattankudi in terms of purpose and activities.

FOCAL POINTS OF OUR WORK GOING FORWARD:

- Creating and supporting opportunities in vocational qualification – namely for women and young people in the underdeveloped regions at the East Coast;
- Supporting projects in health care and prevention in the region and facilitating the exchange between health care amenities in Sri Lanka and Germany;
- Sponsoring initiatives and amenities in environment, hygiene, nutrition and health care to educate the population and train the health care professionals.

We will keep the focus of our engagement on the already existing projects which we have been supporting at the East Coast of Sri Lanka.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, ASKING YOU TO GET A

Member or Sponsor of the Srilankahilfe Nürnberg

and joining us in engaging for the people in the economically weak East Coast region in Sri Lanka.



THE EAST COAST REGION IN SRI LANKA: ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD

Trincomalee district in the northeast and the adjacent districts of Batticaloa and Ampara in the south form the East Coast Region of Sri Lanka. These districts are underdeveloped with little tourism. In this part of the country Sinhalese, the majority in Sri Lanka, are the ethnic minority. The east coast is home to mainly Tamils, Muslims, and a considerable number of Christians.

Thanks to endless sandy beaches, some parts of the region could benefit from a successful tourism and an economic boom. This applies namely to Kalkudah and Passekudah, where people from Nuremberg and our association were engaging in the first years after the tsunami. Today, these places are attractive destinations for recreation and holidays.

However, this prosperity is to the benefit of only few inhabitants of the East Coast region: The majority of the people residing in the districts Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara are living from fishing and working as peasants in agriculture. They usually lack the vocational skills to profit from growing tourism in places like Passekudah and Kalkudah.

There is a high proportion of structural- unemployment and of people dependent on relief. There is a lack of infrastructure of vocational training of the population as well as of private and public infrastructure offering job opportunities for those able to work.

We are working in an area of about 50 kilometers along the coast from Kalkudah in the North to Kalmunai in the South and focus our activities mainly on the following four communities:

Kalmunai, district of Ampara:

located about 50 kilometers south of Kalkudah. Kalmunai has around 110 thousand inhabitants and hence is the largest city at the East Coast of Sri Lanka. With about 4.000 dead and a multiple of people homeless through the tsunami, this is the community the tsunami affected most of all. It is densely populated and has little chances to benefit from the tourism expected to grow at the east coast

District of Batticaloa:

Equally strongly affected by both the Tsunami and the Civil War. Here we sponsor projects in:

Kattankudy: With more than 40 thousand people living mainly from agriculture and fishing, this location is one of the densest populated cities in the world. Like Kalmunai it has little chances to grow through the prospering tourism but it is struggling with a multitude of economic and social deficits.

Eravur: With about 30 thousand people living here, thereof 60 percent with an income below the breadline of 25 US dollar per month.

East Coast Sri Lanka where we sponsor projects:



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As a matter of course, we issue certificates for incoming donations.

Cover:
Male and female pupils of the vocational training center, built in 2014 and expanded in 2017, cordially welcome us during our visit in March 2019.



Nuremberg Citizens Help People in Sri Lanka e. V.

Together we are stronger

**Kalkuda and Kalmunai for the 15th time
at the Town Twinning Market
of the Nuremberg Christkindles-Market**