

HELLABEEM SRI LANKA

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2019



January

The repair of the roof of the long school was finally finished. Thanks to an anonymous sponsor, we replaced all the rotten sheets by Eco boards, which we hope are more durable.

A start was made to replace the gutters of the long school with durable galvanized material funded by the same sponsor.

February

We started with the business training for the students in their final year and would continue this thorough training until the students were finished in December.

Lots of boys got sick with the flu and some had chickenpox. We sent them home as soon as they had any signs of chickenpox, so we kept the outbreak under control.

March

The Hostel was connected to the sun panels. Now we have no more problems and accidents in the rooms and bathrooms.

Twenty pepper and papaya plants were planted, but not all of them survived the hot dry weather.

Annual trip to Nuwara Eliya on 15th and 16th March (Diyaluma Falls, Gregory Park, Victoria Park & Ambewela Farm)



On 31st March we had a special lunch for staff at The Doctor's House – Matara. It was a prize we had won at a fundraising raffle held by the Ecsat organization.

April

On Easter morning 21 April, bombs exploded in churches and hotels in Negombo, Colombo en Batticaloa. The attacks were from Muslim extremists wearing bomb vests. About 290 people died and many were wounded. This had a great impact on the country.

Helène Heijen and Jan van Beek (Trustees and founders of Hellabeem Sri Lanka) had a meeting with the Dutch board. Helène is also a board member of Hellabeem NL.



Meeting with Ecsat.

Board and advisers of Hellabeem NL

May

We started with the hydroponics poly tunnel construction after the start of the holiday.

On 17th May we had a nice meeting with our staff and boys and staff of Ecsat. We talked about child policy and the experience of our boys in the community. Through drama we showed what it was like to be stared at.

June

First aid training for staff and boys (done by Mr. Kumarasiri, an experienced nurse and trainer from Karapitiya hospital).

We had a visit from Synergy, a manufacturer of prostheses.

We also had a visit from Tineke and Susiri de Silva and their son Mudithe of the Dr. Reijntjes School for the Deaf in Moratuwa.

July

On 8th July 2019 we introduced banana fiber training for girls with the Nawarathna foundation of Kegalle. This was the first of a series of trainings for which the girls come and stay at Hellabeem for two days every month.



Making nice handbags.



Training for girls.

August

Two students, Pyal and Sanka, finished their bicycle repair training. Sanka will now have a training for servicing motorbikes.

Our old student Tharindu, who married Sanduni last year, got a job in Colombo as an assistant prosthetic and orthotics technician. He will be working with Synergy. His studies were sponsored by the Rotary Club from Hockenheim and after working with us for a while Tharindu has now moved on.

Helène Heijen and Jan van Beek had a meeting with the Dutch board.

September

Cor Niks, the professor of our Psycho Motoric Therapy students of the University of Windesheim in Zwolle in the Netherlands, came by to advise them on their minor 'Sport, Therapy for Empowerment'.

October

Fifty chicks were bought.

A pipeline was made from our next land well, to provide water for our home garden.

November

8th November: Food processing training at the Cathy Rich Foundation in Embilipitya for ten of our boys.

On 12th November a new female calf was born.



First Aid training



Sanka as a trainee in motor service shop.

We organized a parents' meeting for pass-out boys. The boys made a PowerPoint presentation to explain to the parents what they would be able to do after finishing the training.

On 12th November the boys about to pass out had a Business experience discussion with three former students, Sampath, UU Pradeep and Suranga, who have had a shop for three years now. It was very interesting and useful. On 30th of November we had the diploma ceremony for eight boys who finished their training. It was a great event with parents, invitees and old boys who have their own businesses.



Boys singing



Trustee Mr. Anuradha presenting diploma to Kalinga.

December

13th December was the wedding of Shanika, our daily operation manager, and our old student Sanath.



Wedding Sanath and Shanika.



Opening of Kaveesha's house.

18th-19th December, trip to Butkanda with passing out boys for a small holiday.

Opening of Kaveesha's house, where he will live with his mother on Hellabeem premises. It was sponsored by Stichting Limbra.

On 20th December we were invited for a Christmas lunch with boys and staff by the Marriott Resort in Weligama. Everybody enjoyed it. This marked the start of the holiday.