



**DUTCH-LANKA** for people who are  
**FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION** often neglected



## Annual Report 2016

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## Foreword

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Another year has flown by!

Sarana Elders Home and Sarana Children's Home are nearly independent from our financial support, but we will continue sharing our knowledge for as long as needed. With Sarana Learning Center we set our first steps in the exit strategy. The local community embraced the project and served several meals as Dhana or showed their engagement with Srama Dhana: help in kind.

Our service for the staff and children of Bird's Nest Safe House was given on a weekly base.

Since we started with the support in 2005, we feel more and more part of the Ampara District community. We think we already adapt in so many ways to the Sri Lankan culture and the economical exposure. We have developed and expanded from a private initiative to a fully operational organization.

In working towards our goals and overall mission, the cooperation between local organizations, local government and us have strengthened over the years and turned into a beautiful collaborative partnership.

Since 2005 DLFF is a Sri Lankan NGO, with a local management. The local management set up policy and created a network.

The support from the Netherlands is more like coaching the Sri Lankan DLFF. This is one of our major aims in to achieve our exit strategy.

We would like to thank the boards of management of Sarana Children's Home / Learning Center, Sarana Elders Home and General Hospital Ampara, for their fine cooperation. We would like to thank the local authorities, who have given us the facilities to develop the organization. We are thankful to our sponsors in Sri Lanka as well as in the Netherlands, who have given us their full support. And some special thanks to the staff, who is sharing their love with the 120 beneficiaries who are often neglected.

With the all of us we can make the difference!

In 2016 we have reached several milestones: Elders Home and Children's Home were award winning, as the best Home of the District. Children of Sarana Learning Center were rewarded with the second prize island wide, for mime.

Mr. E.A.P. Ariyawansa  
Project Manager

Mrs. Kirsten Giethoorn  
Founder

## Dutch-Lanka Friendship Foundation

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Dutch-Lanka Friendship Foundation, hereafter also referred to as DLFF, is an in Sri Lanka registered NGO, FL-119616. In the Netherlands, it is also a registered NGO, CoC 3422307 / ANBI 8145 92 338.

DLFF's aim is to develop the talents of children and adults with a disability, to offer a fine old age to the elderly and to create a safe and positive environment for abused children.

Since 2005 DLFF supports the boards of:

- Sarana Children's Home (SCH) – Home for disabled women-, Uhana, Ampara District
- Sarana Elders Home (SEH), Ampara
- Sarana Learning Center for children with a disability – situated on SCH compound and under supervision of SCH board.
- Bird's Nest – a project established by General Hospital Ampara.



DLFF gives support in two lines. In first to share knowledge and in second in a financial way. We do not overrule the local responsible institution of each project, but we are as a supplement. Every step we take is well-considered. We consider to take a step when we are asked for it by the local partner organization. We ask ourselves if this request is of the interest of our beneficiaries, can we find sponsors in the Netherlands or in Sri Lanka and would it be possible to embed

it in the project in a sustainable way, which can be continued by the partner organization after DLFF has stepped back.

The management of DLFF is partly in Sri Lanka and partly in the Netherlands. The Sri Lankan Project Manager is Mr. E.A.P. Ariyawansa. He is responsible for the daily performance of the work on the sites. Mrs. Ranjani Rajapaksha is the Assistant Project Manager. She implements the activity programs at Sarana Children's Home and Sarana Learning Center.

The Dutch coordinator is Mrs. Kirsten Giethoorn. She is like a coach to the DLFF management in Sri Lanka, and has a role as supervisor and controller.

In Sri Lanka DLFF employs a team of ten people, who earn a salary which compares with the local standard. DLFF pays ETF and EPF for its laborers, according to the Sri Lankan law.

In the Netherlands a team of ten volunteers share their time and knowledge to professionalize the charity.

## Vision

DLFF's vision is to create a safe and devotedly community at the supported projects. A community in which our beneficiaries feel comfortable to develop their talents and can be as they are.

## Mission

Our mission is to offer personalized service at the projects, by sharing knowledge with the local staff, with respect for local customs and habits.

## Facts and Figures

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### Funding

In 2016, DLFF spent the amount of Rs. 5.876.954 (€ 36.750,00)

On the account of the beneficiaries:

Sarana Elders Home Rs. 201.479,00

Sarana Children's Home Rs. 326.697

Sarana Learning Center Rs. 1.980.347

Bird's Nest Rs. 41.430

Costs of local staff, Administration costs and Any other costs Rs. 3.327.001

This budget was sufficient to pay for all expenses in the joint projects. None of the funds have been spent on office costs, salaries, travel expenses or PR purposes in the Netherlands. All donations were 100% spent in the four various projects in Sri Lanka. Dutch businesses offered their services for free as a form of corporate social responsibility (CSR). The Dutch coordinator covered the travel costs herself and her employment is honorary.

### Beneficiaries

With a relatively small amount, we can support a huge number of beneficiaries.

With less than Rs. 130,00 / €0,70 per day per beneficiary, DLFF changes the livelihood of 125 beneficiaries.



Indirectly the 27 families of the pupils of Sarana Learning Center take advantage as well.

Sarana Elders Home accommodates 45 elderly people

Sarana Children's Home accommodates 35 mainly disabled grown-ups.

Sarana Learning Center facilitates education and vocational training for 27 children with a disability.

Bird's Nest Safe House gives shelter to a maximum of 20 abused children.

### Visitors

The Dutch voluntary coordinator travelled once to Sri Lanka and paid several visits and meetings with authorities and local institutions.

This year the residents and pupils of the projects could welcome various

sponsors from both, Sri Lanka and the Netherlands. Visiting the projects gave well-wishers a firsthand experience to see the impact of their contributions to the projects. We have been informed that all of them were touched by the happiness and fine environment.

## Together a strong team!

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### Dutch Corporate Governance

In the Netherlands, executive board of DLFF is monitored by the supervisory board. The supervisory board provides advice and monitors. The members contribute to increase the network as well.

The executive board is responsible for the general management, fundraising, finances, volunteers and sets the policy.

Supervisory board and executive board members meet four times a year. Executive board members meet more often, when necessary.

#### *Supervisory Board*

Mr. Edward Hendrickx – Tax-lawyer  
Mrs. Ansje Thomas – Former clerk at court  
Mr. Rob Veldhuizen -

#### *Executive Board*

Mrs. Kirsten Giethoorn – Chairperson ( profession in daily life honorary coordinator of DLFF)  
Mr. Harald Dols – Treasurer (profession in daily life Tax-lawyer)  
Mrs. Sandra de Vries – Secretary (profession in daily life educational program maker)

### Professionals

DLFF started a decade ago with bringing the knowledge from the Netherlands to Sri Lanka. For 8 years, several Dutch project managers were on site on a daily base. Now and then Dutch volunteers were send to give a helping hand. The background of the Dutch project managers and the volunteers as well as the Dutch coordinator is in the field of pedagogy, welfare or special needs.

Within the years, the scale turned from caring for to sharing with! This was a very special and precious transformation.

As our main goal is to get DLFF independent from the Netherlands, step by step the



Sri Lanka project manager, Mr. Ariyawansa, took over the responsibilities of the project managers. And DLFF found the expertise in Sri Lanka itself. Especially specialists from General Hospital Ampara share their knowledge on a voluntary base. Nonetheless, sometimes Dutch volunteers cooperate with the DLFF staff. Mainly to develop themselves. DLFF gives them a chance to share knowledge with professionals with a different culture.

## Cooperation between local authorizations and DLFF

DLFF works in close relationship with local partner organizations. Sarana Children's Home, Learning Center and Elders Home are managed by the Sri Lankan government. Bird's Nest is under the supervision of Ampara General Hospital. The local authorities are final responsible for the day-to-day operations at the projects. DLFF is only a guest on the projects. The local boards have given DLFF a task to give temporarily support to certain topics that aims to increase the life circumstances of the beneficiaries.

## Local Project Manager

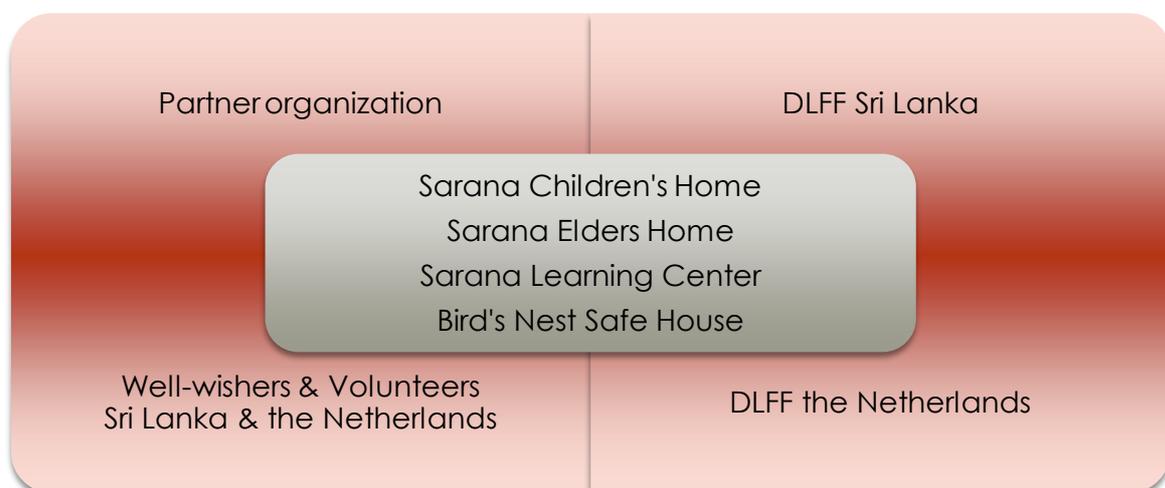
Our local project manager, Mr. E.A.P. Ariyawansa, is working for DLFF since 2008. He started as a counselor at Sarana Children's Home, followed by his position as an assistant project manager, in which he used to work closely with the Dutch project manager.

As of 2011 Mr. Ariyawansa is our project manager and responsible for the administration, policy, staff and the social network.

There is a tied connection between DLFF-SL and DLFF-NL. They set policy and goals in mutual consultation. Every week Mr. Ariyawansa sends his report by e-mail to Mrs. Kirsten Giethoorn. Twice a month Mr. Ariyawansa and Mrs. Kirsten Giethoorn have a conference call about the progress of the projects, policy and related issues. Now and then, the assistant project manager, Mrs. Ranjani Rajapaksha, sends a report to DLFF-NL as well, or she joins the conference call, to share her details.

## Participants

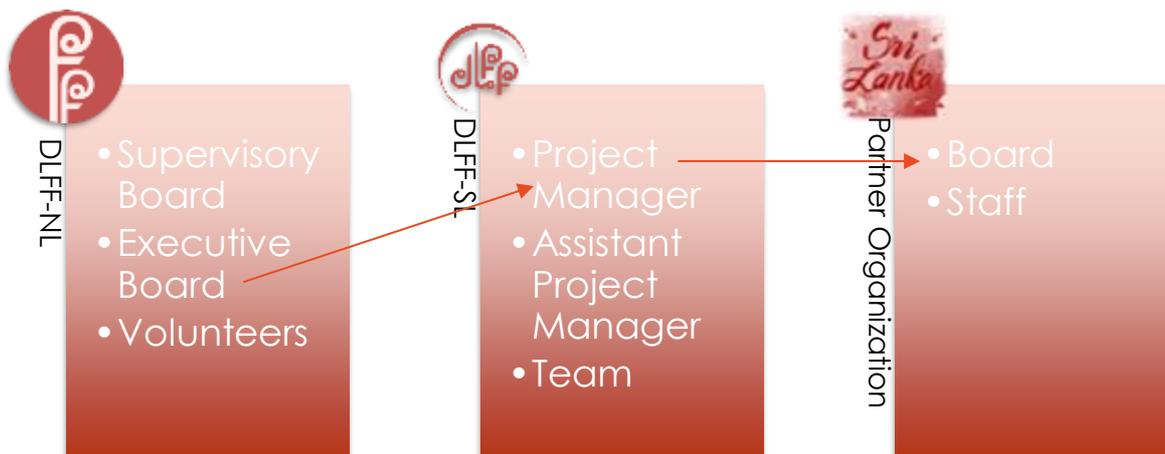
In mutual consultation the Partner Organization, DLFF-SL, DLFF-NL and Well-wishers work closely together, to improve the life circumstances of the beneficiaries in the projects.



## Organogram Sri Lanka and the Netherlands

Teamwork is a keyword in our organization. DLFF-SL is in the middle of the process. DLFF-NL gives financial support and coaches DLFF-SL. At the end, DLFF-SL must be independent from the Netherlands and has to continue the support to the local partners.

The partner organization is the responsible party and the final decision maker. The partner organization works closely together with DLFF-SL. In mutual agreement, with DLFF-NL as well with the local partner, DLFF-SL acts.



## Our Strategy

### Method and Evaluation

All DLFF projects have the overarching goal to become independent from foreign support at a certain point in the future, and to continue the solid basement that is built.

The so-called exit strategy is defined in each project plan, which is constantly updated.

All projects are conducted in a manner that relates to the local culture and with respect for the local religion and ethnicity. To achieve this, DLFF works closely with the local organizations, which varies from project to project.

Progress of the projects is carefully monitored and matched with the objectives set out in the project plan. If necessary, the project plan is adjusted. The objectives vary from project to project, but the core of each project is to improve the quality of life for the residents and children, which will ultimately open doors for a better future.

### Marketing, Fundraising and Awareness

To be able to run the DLFF projects in a professional way, the foundation puts a lot of effort in fundraising in the Netherlands, and more and more in Sri Lanka as well. Fundraising is done through a variety of local activities in schools and companies down to the level of individuals.

Besides marketing and fundraising to help to cover the costs of running projects, our awareness program in the Netherlands is mutually important. We give lectures about the capabilities and potentials of people with a disability in Sri Lanka. We also provide the audience with information about Sri Lanka.

Communication lines are set out through our website, social media, namely Facebook, our digital news letter, paper flyers and our annual paper update. Fundraising in Sri Lanka is equally important, perhaps even more important! One day, the support by DLFF-NL will come to an end and DLFF-SL and the local partner organizations must manage the source of income themselves. DLFF gives a helping hand to start the fundraising by creating a network of benefactors for each project. In addition, the local project manager trains the management to maintain this network and to maintain a transparent administration.

**Exit strategy**

Even before we start a project, we already have the exit strategy clearly in mind. A project starts at the request of a local organization. The local partner organization will be responsible for the project, its daily policy and the beneficiaries. DLFF only takes temporarily responsibility for just a small part of the job, which will have given in return in the near future.

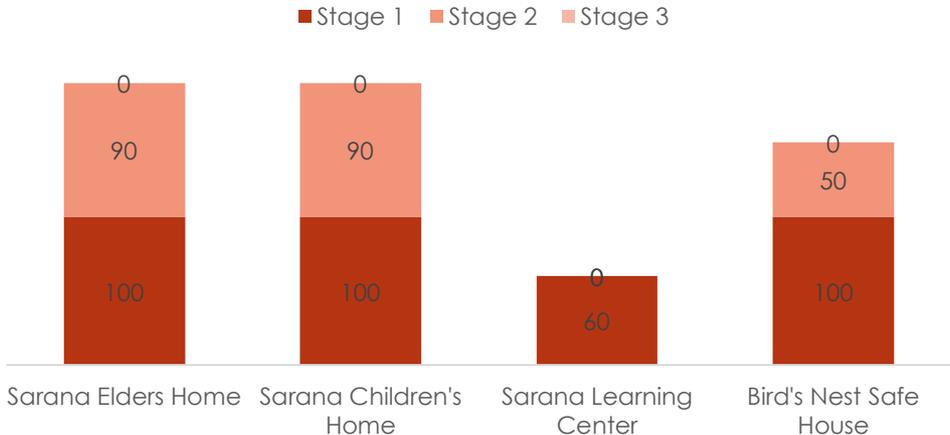


*Stage 1:* DLFF gives its full support by giving financial and sharing knowledge. Sarana Elders Home and Sarana Children's Home both achieved stage 1 for 100%. Sarana Daycare Center has achieved 60% within 5 years. Bird's Nest achieved 100% within a year. *Stage 2:* The local partner organization and DLFF determine a high degree of satisfaction about achieving the objective. We start with local funding in cooperation with the board. We give the

tasks, which were temporarily under DLFF's supervision, in return to the partner organization. Sarana Elders Home achieved around 90% of stage 2, within 10 years. Sarana Children's Home achieved 90% of stage 2, within 11 years. Bird's Nest achieved 50% of this stage, within 2 years.

*Stage 3:* The project has been given back to the partner organization and DLFF keeps an eye on it from a distance.

**Exit Strategy**



# 2016 Annual Report

## Written by Mr. Ariyawansa, Project Manager

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### A brief introduction

Dutch Lanka Friendship Foundation (DLFF) is a Holland based Ngo helping for often neglected people and differently abled children including abused children. DLFF has been registered in Sri Lanka as a Non-Governmental Organization with the registered No. FL- 119616 in 2007 April 19.

It is rich with four projects named

Sarana Children's Home

Sarana Learning and Education Center

Sarana Elders Home

Bird's Nest.

These projects are situated in Ampara district.

Sri Lanka head office is situated in Ampara.

Contact details DLFF office:

Senior Psychological Counselor and Project Manager Mr. E.A.P. Ariyawansa

Sarana Elders Home / Dharmapala Mawatha

Ampara

E-mail address is [eapariyawansapm1@gmail.com](mailto:eapariyawansapm1@gmail.com).

Telephone number is 077-3900197.

### Our vision is...

Seeing the beneficiaries in our projects are living happily and healthy with improving their inner potential and experiencing the life.

### Our mission is...

Launching the high-quality activities, programs and creating a good environment for better life to fulfill the vision.

### Local partner organization

There are three board of managements responsible for these four projects.

One board of management is for children's home and day care center

Another board of management is for elders home. The projects are under the responsibility of the government.

Other board of management at General Hospital in Ampara manages the Bird's Nest.

Dutch Lanka Friendship Foundation is helping to these board of managements in various ways for the well-fare work of residents and children.

### Financial situation

During 2016, all projects received Rs 5,876,954.00 from Netherlands. No any local financial funds. According to our Action Plan DLFF spend the money and justified it in the Progress Reports. All these are approved by NGO-secretariat.

## Activity program

There 58 differently able children and residents in children home and day care center. They can't absorb any type of lecture deeply. Our one aim is training them for day to day activities. When same activity is continued many times it



automatically registered in their minds as habits. Then those habits become character. As those are useful characteristics they can have good fate through it.

That means they can get independence in their daily work. In one side through these activities teachers try to make sharp their five organs. Like that their life skills also increase step by step. Those are so valuable for better independent life.

## Vocational programs

We know coconut tree gives coconut, while tamarind tree gives tamarind. That is the nature of nature. Like that each child has separate inner potentials. Some are good for academic education while some are good for singing or dancing.

When thinking about differently abled children we can divide them into three groups including low level, medium level and high level.

Thinking their wish through discipline of activities and observing their skills at home and daycare center we can motivate them to participate in activities according to their inner potentials.

We use pottery program, holding vegetable markets, gardening and cooking work, paintings and some other things.

We believe these vocational trainings directly help them for their future livelihood. For better independent life.

## Social program

Through these vocational program, social mobilization and socialization also happens in an indirect way. Mankind is a grouped being. In addition to the individual activities we give more chances for participating in team work. In group dancing item they have to move, dance together. We train them for having lunch through self-service method. Through that they learn team feelings. They know when getting food to think of others and to get enough quantity of food for him.

Teachers carry them for trips and to temples for blessing items. Sometimes teachers carry them for public vegetable market for social training.

Sometimes when alms giving families come children move with them. DLFF has given more chances for them to get into the public stage in various ceremonies. It has helped them to reduce or lost their stage phobia.

In playing time, children are allowed to do team games. Teachers celebrate each child's birthday ceremony with the participation of all other children to improve their social feelings.

## Reconstruction/ maintaining

One DLFF great aim is doing relevant reconstruction and maintaining works in Sarana projects. Specially we have done huge reconstruction works in children's home and elders home.

DLFF always has been doing maintaining works of the construction works done by DLFF earlier.

## Health program

DLFF has given the priority to health condition of residents and children. It pays attention from simple thing up to huge thing relevant to health. As an example, from nail cutting, brushing teeth, haircuts, Washing hands before and after the meals.

DLFF arranges medical clinics for children's home and daycare center residents and children. Some of them are Mental health clinic, Dental clinics, and normal doctors' clinics. DLFF has arranged once a month regular doctor's visit on every Poya day.

We give financial assistance to children's home and elders home for getting



medicine and transport facilities to general hospital. Sometimes we hold medical awareness program for the staff and parents too.

In addition to that doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and other medical officers visit here from Netherlands for working in our projects.

If the medical facilities are not available in Ampara area we had taken them to Kandy, Badulla and Batticaloa also bearing the all expenses by DLFF.

## Future program

In 2005 DLFF came to Uhana children's home and started doing supporting process to children home in millions. In 2008 with the invitation of government agent and senior minister Mr Dayarathna we started launching the helping process to elders home also.

In 2013 with the concept of Ms E.M.R Rajapaksha and with the guide line and approval of senior minister Mr Dayarathana DLFF started the daycare center for differently able children.

In 2016 DLFF aimed its support to Bird's nest too.

We have given various support in various ways to these all projects. But one day DLFF should go. Keeping this in our mind ...

We have explained the board of management about our exit strategy. Before leaving of DLFF completely from the projects we have asked board of management to start fund raising system for better future in the hope of to be independence.

Step by step we have started leaving the projects.

Very early for any construction work we supplied materials and labor powers freely.

But now as exit strategy we supply only materials. Labor power should be given by the board of management. As another example from 2013 we have been giving cooked food to daycare center. But now we have asked daycare center to find alms giving families for getting alms.

Very early we gave money for gas cremation of elders home residents. But now the board of management does it by their own effort with the support of town council. Early DLFF gave all the uniforms to daycare center children. But now daycare center managed it by their own from local donors.



In early days board of management had no more money for applying to do a lot of construction work. But DLFF supplied that huge capital. Now board of management has to do little little things. Now DLFF gives them chances to do it by local fund raising. While giving energy to the board of management DLFF is stepping back slowly.

So, although one day DLFF leaves Sri Lanka too beneficiaries in our projects can continue their lives happily and healthy experiencing the vision of Dutch Lanka Friendship Foundation.

Progress has been anything but rage continued on the chosen path. Stand still occasionally.

R. Meijer