



## *Annual report 2011*



Contact details Sri Lanka  
Ms. Manon Kuin

Tel.nr. +94-(0)77-9224290

Contact details the Netherlands  
Mr. Gerard de Jong

Sterkenburg 7  
3904 JS Veenendaal  
Tel.nr. +31-(0)6-53159570  
KvK Ayesha: 09155893

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## Introduction

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### Ayesha Foundation / Sri Lanka

The Ayesha Foundation was established in 2005 shortly after its founder, Gerard de Jong, went to Sri Lanka to help out at a children's home in Galle. Main goal of the foundation was to help institutionalized children and children in difficult family circumstances. Main projects were the support to the Boossa School and to the Sahabandu Boys Home. As it is the priority of the foundation to work with local institutions, for the Boossa school the cooperation started with the Boossa Aid Development Foundation and for the Sahabandu Boys Home with the Young Men's Buddhist Association.

The, earlier mentioned, founder travels four to five times per year to oversee the projects and to stay in continued dialogue with local authorities.

Now, the Ayesha Foundation has become an integral part of Carelanka in which also the Dutch Lanka Friendship Foundation is participating.

### The presence of a Dutch country coordinator

A Dutch country coordinator manages the projects of Carelanka, Ayesha and DLFF. She is educated as a development expert in the field of disabilities. In the past years she learned to speak Sinhalese and learned a lot about the Sri Lankan culture. She works on a voluntary full time base, with a payment of allowance. Her job description is multifaceted:

It is her job to maintain the contacts with local institutions and government.

She visits the projects on a regular base and keeps a strict eye on the organization's policy.

She arranges courses given by local organizations.

She can determine the limitations of the people and children on our projects.

Without the knowledge of the country coordinator, we would never be able to book such beautiful results in our projects in Sri Lanka.



## Facts and Figures

The three foundations: Carelanka, DLFF and Ayesha raised in 2011 the amount of € 97.620,79 divided as follows:

- Carelanka: € 33.505,52
- DLFF: € 33.376,48
- Ayesha: € 30.738,79

This income was sufficient to pay for all expenses in the joint six projects. None of this income is spent on office cost or travel expenses or fundraising. All donations were spent in the six various projects.

The two Dutch voluntary managers travelled in total seven times to Sri Lanka and had numerous meetings with authorities and local organizations.

Divided over all six projects, 276 beneficiaries were involved in our projects. This comes down to € 354,-- per beneficiary. This means our support is less than € 1,00 per day per beneficiary. With a small amount we can make a huge difference!

## Method and Evaluation

All projects, both Ayesha, Carelanka and DLFF, have the aim to become independent from foreign support at some point in the future. 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. To be able to do that Ayesha works closely with local organizations, which varies from project to project.

Progress in 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 heart of each project is to improve the quality of life for vulnerable people and help to open doors to a better future.

## Marketing, Fundraising and Awareness

To be able to run the Ayesha projects in a professional manner the foundation puts a lot of effort in fundraising. Locally we create more and more awareness for the "Carelanka" brand as this is now functioning as an umbrella over Ayesha and DLFF. Fundraising is done through a variety of local activities in churches, schools and companies down to the level of individual families. Through the years a growing group of ambassadors is helping the board members with local initiatives.

Besides marketing and fundraising to help cover the cost of running the projects, our awareness program in the Netherlands is mutually important. We give lectures at schools, churches, service clubs or businesses about abilities of people with disabilities in

Sri Lanka. We also provide the audience with common information about Sri Lanka. Our awareness program is an important part of our voluntary work in the Netherlands, to create a community that is interested in, considerate towards and well educated about people living in another social-economical situation.

## Review to the projects

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### Boossa School

#### *Brief introduction*

The Boossa school is founded in 1906 and serves the village of Boossa and its surroundings. Boossa is a relatively poor fishermen's village with mostly low educated families. The school does not get much support from the government in spite of the fact that it is a government school. The project started in 2005 and since then the school grew from 60 to 150 students. The local organization that is the Carelanka partner is the Boossa Development Foundation.

#### *English school program*

- o Since 2009 we tried to support the teachers of Boossa by giving English classes, given by volunteers. We find the extra English lessons important for the students. In this way we can give them a head for a better future. The foundation tried to develop a way of continuous learning in line with the method of school. Through the regular exchange of volunteers and volunteers from another organization, it proved almost impossible to develop the program. At the end of 2011 we decided to hand over the English school program to the other organization.

#### *Volunteers*

- o This year we could welcome two Carelanka volunteers at Boossa School, Special Education Unit. The first volunteer did her internship of three months. She followed the academy for socio-pedagogical employee. She implemented at Boossa Special Education Unit a daily schedule, which is visible for the pupils by showing pictures.



The second volunteer at Boossa Special Education was a graduated occupational therapist. She organized the start of the staff training about sign language, to support the deaf-mute children.

### *Special education*

- The number of pupils in Special Education has increased sharply. The presence of the pupils is greatly improved. The two teachers developed their skills, thanks to the volunteers and the trainings they followed. In first they followed a sign language course. After they followed a one-week training, given by the Zonal Education Office, containing theory about disabilities, first aid and practical Montessori skills.

### *Vegetable garden project*

- The vegetable garden behind the school serves more than one purpose. Besides the educational aspect of the garden it also brings an income to the project as some of the harvest is sold locally. Eventually this will help to make this project independent from foreign support! The children learn to grow vegetables in an eco friendly and cost effective way. The garden is maintained by a gardener that is also a father of one of the children in the school.

### *Rainwater harvesting project*

- In 2010 and 2011 a rainwater harvesting system is implemented. In close cooperation with a local organization this system is set up to collect rainwater from all the school roofs and kept in tanks to be able to water the gardens in the dry season.

### *Library*

- One of the first activities of the foundation was to build a library. It now contains about 2500 books. A growing number of children use the library now to read and learn.

### *Computer lessons*

- An air-conditioned computer room is built in 2006. Six computers are used now to give the children some basic i.t. skills. Besides that, the computer teacher, who is paid by the Ayesha Foundation, uses the computers to support the education of other subjects such as English and Mathematics.

### *Management /Staff*

- The school is run by the principal who is managing the teachers. The president of the Boossa Aid Development Foundation is managing the extra staff that is hired and paid by the Ayesha Foundation. Also the Dutch and other foreign volunteers are managed by the local partner.



### *Financial situation*

- As in the past years the foundations has received sufficient funds to run the Boossa school project. Major investments are done as soon as the funds are received. At this point there are two projects waiting to be funded: repair of the library roof and finalization of the sports ground.

### *2012*

- We will split the Special Education Unit into two classes. A class for children with a mental disability and a class for deaf-mute children.
- We will conduct the voluntary help for Special Education Unit. This help will give special attention to the vocational training project. We would like to start with gardening and computer class for the boys and home science for the girls.

## Sahabandu Boys Home

### *Brief introduction*

The Sahabandu boys home is founded in 1995 and is run by the Young Men's Buddhist Association but falls under the authority of the department of probation and childcare. The Ayesha foundation is involved since 2006.

### *Project description*

- Over the years all buildings on the grounds have been renovated or renewed. At this point in time it is only a matter of maintenance and therefore the financial burden is a lot less the earlier years.
- Our prime goal is to help the children to grow up as independent and self-confident adults. The matron of the home is like a mother to the children and is strict, sincere and honest to the children. The foundation helps the children in their education by arranging extra lesson for weaker subjects. As children can only live in this home until they reach the age of 18, we help to prepare them for a life outside the home with vocational training. After they leave the home we follow them closely in cooperation with the YMBA to ensure that they can lead a good and safe life.