

CELEBRATING
HelpAge
Sri Lanka
age helps
30th
Anniversary

HelpAge
Sri Lanka

age helps



EDITORIAL

HelpAge Sri Lanka - forever young

By 2041, one out of every four Sri Lankans is expected to be an elderly person. By 2030 the country is to have a population of 22% aged over 60. By 2051 the population over 60 years will be 29% and over 80 years 5%. Mortality, fertility rate and migration impact the notion of aging. The rapidly ageing population is a common regional issue. Yet, compared to our regional counterparts our elderly population is expanding rapidly. With non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer accelerating, the toll on the state economy, particularly the national health budget cannot be overlooked.

The WHO on ageing and health (<http://www.who.int>) observes that, by 2020 the number of people aged 60 years and older will outnumber children younger than five years. 80% of older people by 2050 will be living in low and middle-income countries it notes. 'Beyond biological changes, ageing is also associated with other life transitions such as retirement, relocation to more appropriate housing and the death of friends and partners. In developing a public-health response to ageing, it is important not just to consider approaches that ameliorate the losses associated with older age, but also those that may reinforce recovery, adaptation and psychosocial growth.' WHO also cites common health conditions associated with aging such as hearing loss, cataracts and refractive errors, back and neck pain and osteoarthritis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, depression, and dementia.

The health, social and economic concerns ageing entail are therefore enormous. In sensitizing ageing-induced issues in the country, HelpAge Sri Lanka's (HASL) role has been catalytic. Its role is growing relevant and valid each year especially in a backdrop of a rising elderly population and traditional family care for the elderly, requiring new strategies. HASL's cornerstones are aligned with the cardinal principles of the 1991 UN Charter on Elders: Independence, Participation, Care, Self-fulfillment and Dignity. HASL's services which cover a wide spectrum of health, social and economic needs of the elders, mirror these principles, thereby giving our elders a new lease of life. Most importantly, HASL's programmes and projects are sensitive to the national psyche. They are designed and implemented in line with the understanding that our elders still prefer the traditional family-support system.

HASL's 30-year journey has personified its vision of achieving 'a world in which all older people fulfill their potential to lead dignified, active, healthy and secure lives'. The esteem HASL has won in both private and public domains in the country, as an organization of integrity and transparency, which mobilizes support for our elders has been its success. Its story of three decades, touching the lives of the senior citizens of the nation reminds us of Mother Teresa's words- '*the miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it.*'



CONTENT	PAGE
► HelpAge Sri Lanka- forever young	01
► Who we are	02
► Board of Management	03
► Our strength	04
► Chairman's Message	05
► Executive Director's Message	06
► A journey of service	07-10
► Changing lives with love and care	11
► Our achievements in a glimpse	12
► Our network	13-15
► Our assets	16



Who We Are

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of all senior citizens in Sri Lanka. We have over two decades working experience with vulnerable Senior Citizens. We have commenced an invaluable service to improve the health and eye care of needy citizens all over the country. We also train volunteers for home care. In addition, education programmes are conducted for youth in the country, especially for school children on respecting and caring for Senior Citizens.

As we gave priority to improve the living conditions of thousands of people who were affected by the tsunami catastrophe, we continue our programmes covering empowerment, advocacy, disaster risk reduction and management, water and sanitation and livelihood support to improve the quality of life of needy elderly citizens.

HelpAge Sri Lanka (HASL) commenced operations in 1986 following the first World Assembly on Ageing, held in Vienna in 1982. Our initial services and programmes were developed according to the 62 recommendations of this World Assembly. This was followed by the United Nations Principles on older persons' namely, independence, participation care, self-fulfillment and dignity, declared in 1991. Programmes were further adjusted in keeping with other UN conventions such as the International Year of Older Persons in 1999. At present, we are developing policies in keeping with the recommendations of the Second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid in 2002.

HASL was conceptualized following a meeting Mr. H.P. Gooneratne had with Mr. John F. Pearson of HelpAge International (HAI) who was in Sri Lanka on a fundraising mission for senior citizens. During the discussion, Mr. Pearson suggested Mr. Gooneratne to set up an organisation which was fully devoted to matters pertaining to Senior Citizens in Sri Lanka. This suggestion resulted the establishment of HelpAge Sri Lanka by Mr. Gooneratne, the Founder Chairman of the organisation. The first HASL office was set up in a small building with six staff members. It has now grown up to a successful non-governmental organisation with 88 staff members that provides services to destitute Senior Citizens with a mission to improve their quality of life.

HASL was registered under the Companies Act No. 17 of 1982 and re-registered under Companies Act No. 07 of 2007 (GA 545). It was incorporated as a limited liability company. The Memorandum of Articles of the Association of HelpAge Sri Lanka was signed on 24 January 1986. Subsequently, it was registered under the Registrar of Voluntary Social Services Organisation Act No. 31 of 1980 as amended by the Act No. 08 of 1998 as a Voluntary Social Services Organisation bearing No. 11/4/1/590/86. Thereafter, the newly established HelpAge Sri Lanka was gazetted as an Approved Charity bearing No. 497 on 11 March 1998.

HelpAge Sri Lanka was privileged to be among the first of sixty global affiliates to achieve 'sister status' with HelpAge International UK.

Our Vision

"A world in which all older people fulfil their potential to lead dignified, active, healthy and secure lives."

Our Mission

"By working together, we ensure that people in Sri Lanka understand how much older people contribute to society and that they must enjoy their right to healthcare, social services and economic and physical security."

Board of Management



Deshabandu (Mr.) Tilak de Zoysa
Chairman



Deshabandu (Mr.) A.M. de S. Jayaratne
Deputy Chairman



Deshabandu (Mrs.) Jezima Ismail



Mr. Sanjeev Gardiner



Dr. (Mrs.) C.P. Banagala



Mrs. Anosha Subasinghe



Ms. Yasmin Raheem



Mr. N. Dias Jayasinha



Mr. Krishan Balendra



Mr. Nishantha Gooneratne



Mr. Maithri Wickremesinghe PC

Our Strength



Head Office

Seated (Left to Right)

Mr. L. Premachandra, Mr. C.J. Seneviratne, Mrs. R. Batuwantudawa, Mr. S.K. Hasthanayake, Mr. G.C. Mendis, Mr. Samantha Liyanawaduge, Mr. W.B.D. Perera, Mrs. C.N. Ekanayake, Mr. R. Juriansz, Mr. A. Kannangara, Mr. S.M.D.V. Senaratne, Mr. M.S.C. de Silva

Middle Row (Left to Right)

Mr. M.V. Wickremesinghe, Mrs. P.V.S. Peiris, Ms. K.G.D.R. Premathilake, Mrs. S. Ekanayake, Ms. M.K. Shehara, Mrs. W.T.N. Premarathne, Mrs. R.K.D. Deepika, Ms. J.A.I. Madurangi, Ms. D. Sankalpani, Ms. M. Saththivel, Mrs. M.D. Galappatty, Mrs. P.P. Bulathsinghala, Ms. Thilini Dedduwage, Mrs. K.K.D.T. Dilshani, Ms. G.V. Swarnalatha, Mrs. C. Jayawardena, Mrs. A.P. Perera, Ms. M.N.A. Fernando, Mrs. G.D.C.D. Kumari, Ms. R. Wickramanayake, Mr. N.T.S. Kodikara, Mr. C.D. Hewage

Standing (Left to Right)

Mr. T.M.P.K. Tennakoon, Mr. L.D.P.K. Perera, Mr. K.D.K. Roshan, Mr. A.J.K. de Silva, Mr. R.D.N. Ranasinghe, Mr. J.B. Gunasekera, Mr. A.G. Senaratne, Mr. K.G.V.S. Kariyawasam, Mr. A.C. Gamage, Mr. Ruchira Damith, Mr. G.D.C. Jayalath, Mr. M.A.S.D. de Silva, Mr. K.A.P. Rathnasiri, Mr. B. Nanayakkara, Mr. L.A.A. Pathmukumara, Mr. W.T.U.P. Kumara, Mr. W.E.R. Sepala, Mr. K.V.D. Juliyan



Eye Hospital

Seated (Left to Right)

Mr. C. Fernando, Dr. M.J. Ahamed Jeza, Dr. Padmini Samaratunga, Mr. Ajitha de Alwis, Dr. Jayantha Vidanapathirana, Ms. Varanga Madushani

Standing (Left to Right)

Ms. O.K.D.S. Anjali Dissanayaka, Mrs. M.L.D. Premalatha, Mrs. Kamanthi N. Gamage, Mrs. A.P. Chathurani Ariyasena, Mrs. Chamila M. Wilpathage, Ms. M.A. Nirmani Shirmila Rathnayake, Mrs. W.V. Nirosha Ishani, Ms. W.S. Samalie S. Kulasuriya, Ms. M. Ranjani E. Seneviratne, Ms. P.P. Kasuni Gayani, Ms. A.M.W. Lalitha Maralanda, Mr. Buddhika P. Kolabaarachchi



H.P. Gooneratne HelpAge Elders' Day Care Centre

Seated (Left to Right)

Mrs. A. Galappaththi, Mrs. R. Wijayaratne

Standing (Left to Right)

Mr. R.A. Ranbanda, Mrs. P.W. Chandralatha

Chairman's Message



HelpAge Sri Lanka (HASL) has completed 30 years of uninterrupted services to improve the quality of life of the aging population in Sri Lanka. On 26th January 1986 HelpAge Sri Lanka commenced its operations as a very small organisation at the Gaminī Matha Elders' Home. I would like to take this opportunity to remember with gratitude the late Mr. H. P. Gooneratne, the Founder Chairman, of HelpAge Sri Lanka and the Founder Members of the Council of HelpAge Sri Lanka.

During the past 30 years of service, HASL has earned a reputation as the most respected and premier non-governmental organization, dedicated to improve the quality of life of the senior citizens of Sri Lanka. In recognition, HASL was privileged to be invited by the current Government, together with the National Secretariat for Elders (Ministry of Social Service) and the National Planning Ministry to formulate a National Plan, to address the emerging

issues of the ageing population of Sri Lanka.

The world celebrated the 24th International Year of Older Persons on 1 October 2014, under the theme, 'Leaving No One Behind; Promoting a Society for All.' The ageing population of the world is increasing at a rapid pace. Currently, 901 million people are over the age of 60 and is expected to increase up to 1.4 billion in 2030. Approximately, 66% of the senior citizens will be resident in middle and low income countries.

It is accepted that senior citizens continue to contribute to their families, communities and society as family care givers, workers, consumers, volunteers and indirect tax payers. However, they have to face significant challenges. Ensuring their income security, health maintenance and providing access to affordable and suitable health care is our responsibility, and more importantly the responsibility of the Government.

We commenced providing free cataract surgery in 2002. With funding received from the Disaster Emergency Committee through HelpAge International, UK and other donors including His Majesty the Sultan of Oman, we established a state of the art Eye Hospital in Colombo 06, in the year 2009. The Hospital has restored the vision of nearly 25,000 elders and at present perform around 15 cataract surgeries per day.

HelpAge Mobile Medical Unit programme (MMU) was introduced in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster of 2004 and since then it has continued to provide services island-wide. During this financial year, MMUs have completed 279 camps and provided medical and eye surgery/care facilities to 44,383 needy elders island-wide.

HASL's activities are described in more detail in the Executive Director's Message and the respective divisional reports elsewhere in this publication.

The UN General Assembly's Open Ended Working Group (OEWG), forwarded a proposal containing 17 sustainable development goals (SGDs) which included, ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change and protecting oceans and forests. As the world ages at an unprecedented rate, the new proposals must truly embrace all people from womb to tomb. Thus, the theme 'Leaving No One Behind,' will provide countries and societies a historic opportunity to eliminate discrimination and exclusion on the grounds of age. The world should ensure that the aspirations and needs of elderly people are incorporated into national and global, social, economic and environmental policies.

We are deeply grateful to HelpAge International, Age UK, World Granny and all other local and overseas donors for their commitment, guidance and unprecedented generosity to serve the needy elder society of Sri Lanka. On behalf of the HelpAge Council, I extend my sincere gratitude to Ms. Cynthia Cox Roman, Chair of HelpAge International and the CEO, Mr. Toby Porter, Ms. Dianne Jeffrey, Chair of Age UK and the CEO, Mr. Tom Wright, for their continued support and cooperation extended to HASL.

We are also indebted to all our corporate and individual Donors in Sri Lanka and overseas.

I deeply appreciate the unstinted co-operation received from the Deputy Chairman, Deshabandu Ajit Jayaratne and the Members of the Council. The efforts of the Council Members, working together as a team has enabled us to achieve all our objectives and goals.

I also wish to place on record our appreciation of the contribution and commitment of the present Executive Director Mr. Samantha Liyanawaduge, the former Executive Directors and the present and past HASL teams which have enabled us to achieve our objectives and goals in serving the needy elder society.

With the continued support of all our stakeholders, we can look forward to many years of dedicated service to the community.

Deshabandu Tilak de Zoysa
Chairman - HelpAge Sri Lanka
Global Ambassador - HAI UK

Executive Director's Message



Today we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of HelpAge Sri Lanka (HASL). Since our incorporation on 26th January 1986 we have travelled far in achieving our goals of creating a better place to live for our senior citizens.

HASL an approved charity NGO, has been in the forefront tying up with various sectors, more specifically, the state sector, the corporate sector, the private sector and individuals in order to provide more facilities and services to needy older people, while at the same time reflecting on how much as an organization we thrive to reach the community in accomplishing our mandate.

HASL is also proud to be referred to as the leading and the most respected non-governmental organization with a singular focus on uplifting the lives and living standards of senior citizens in Sri Lanka. Today we celebrate the platform HASL has built where older people are able to voice out their issues. We have been successful in carrying the voice of our older people to

the places it ought to reach in achieving their rights.

One of the landmark achievements of our advocacy programmes during the 30 year period, is the implementation of a government sponsored monthly allowance for senior citizens above the age of 70 years, based on a feasibility study report 'Tackling Poverty in Old Age: A Universal Pension for Sri Lanka', done with the assistance from HelpAge International and Help the Aged in 2008.

HASL has been working closely with the Ministry of Social Services, the National Secretariat for Elders, the Ministry of Health and with many other ministries, government and non-governmental organizations in providing exceptional services free of charge for the low income generating older people of this country. We have been successful in implementing programmes and projects such as Mobile Medical and Eye screening, running a state-of-the-art Eye Hospital, Youth Education Programmes to raise awareness among the school children, distribution of disability equipment, volunteer and home care training programmes, setting up and capacity building of senior citizens committees, promoting day care centre concept, construction of houses for the tsunami affected elders and their families and many other projects. HASL also implemented special schemes such as Microfinance Loans to the older population in order to lend them a hand to lead a dignified, active and healthy life with dignity.

The consequences and challenges posed by population ageing may take many forms. Broadly, they can be classified under four sectors: social, economic, health and rights. It has been demonstrated and proven the world over that advancement in life expectancy, reduction in fertility and increased migration could result in the increase of both the absolute number of the elderly as well as their share (percentage) of the overall population. In turn, this will result in several socio-economic and health consequences not only for the elderly themselves, but also for their families and the society and country they live in.

By working with senior citizens during the past 30 years, HASL has realized that it has to play a leading and innovative role in preparing older persons to lead dignified, healthy, secure and active lives.

Traditionally, Sri Lankan society has always respected its older citizens. Factors such as industrialization, urbanization, migration and new technology have considerably weakened the family support system, which in turn has created a negative impact on the care for the elderly. The concepts of 'The Age Friendly Society', 'Growing Old Gracefully', 'Building Age-friendly Environments and Cities for our senior citizens to live in dignity' are some of the projects that will be considered by HASL in the near future.

While HASL continues to render a vital service to the cause of the elderly within a climate of challenge, risk and growing demand, the organization needs to pursue more fund generating projects that would ensure its ability to meet future financing of its projects and programmes.

I would like to pay my tribute and remember with much appreciation our founder Chairman late Mr.H.P.Gooneratne and the past Members of the Council.

The tower of strength behind the high level of performance and success of HASL is our Chairman Deshabandu Tilak de Zoysa who have served even as the Global HelpAge Chairman within this period. During his tenure of office as the Global Chairman, HelpAge International and the affiliated net work won the world's largest and highest 'Hilton Humanitarian Award'

I extend my grateful thanks and profound gratitude to our Chairman, Deshabandu Tilak de Zoysa, Deputy Chairman, Deshabandu Ajit Jayaratne and all the Members of the Council for the ready assistance and invaluable guidance extended to the HASL family which enabled us to perform effectively to meet the objectives and goals of all the activities of the organization.

I would also like to thank all our valued stake holders, donors, well-wishes and friends for their generosity which makes it possible for HASL to continue to serve the marginalized, vulnerable senior citizens in Sri Lanka during the past 30 years.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all my past and present colleagues and all those who have served at HASL with dedication and commitment during the past 30 years to elevate HelpAge Sri Lanka to its present position.

Samantha Liyanawaduge
Executive Director
HelpAge Sri Lanka

A Journey of Service 1986 - 2016

*"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress;
working together is success"- Henry Ford*



1986/1987

Within a short period of 14 months of its formation, the Agency allocated Rs.3.0m to projects almost at improving the quality of life of quite a number of elders. The first Field Director Mr.Finlay Craig and his wife Ursula deserve our deepest gratitude for the initiative and resourcefulness displayed by them in

Fundraising. Their efforts were solidly backed up by the dedicated staff.



1987/1988

At the first ever Flag Day held on 01st October 1987, His Excellency the President, JR Jayewardene purchased the first flag. The event led to public awareness being raised about elders, who remained in a state of utter helplessness. "Elders represent maturity and wisdom and have contributed tremendously to social progress. They deserve all our care and we should thank HelpAge for motivating us to act that way" said the President.



1988/1989

On a request by the Chairman, to the concerned State Agencies, the Prime Minister, Hon. R Premadasa and the Minister of Health, Hon. Ranjith Atapattu moved actively to allocate to HelpAge a block of crown land at Gangodawila for a training complex to be constructed.



1999/1990

Fundraising through schools was vigorously pursued. Schools which supported the programme were rewarded too. Princess of Wales College – Moratuwa was awarded a set of Public Address equipment by Col. John Mayo, Director General of HelpAge UK. The Chairman attended the HelpAge Executive Committee Meeting held in U.K. It was HelpAge UK and the Commission of the European Communities which supported the construction of the new building with a grant of 168,000 sterling pounds.

the HelpAge Executive Committee Meeting held in U.K. It was HelpAge UK and the Commission of the European Communities which supported the construction of the new building with a grant of 168,000 sterling pounds.



1990/1991

HelpAge Sri Lanka Council Members met the President, His Excellency JR Jayewardene and briefed him of the organization's activities. He promised to secure for it all what the state could offer. The Chairman attended the HelpAge International Committee Meeting held in New Delhi-India. The

Prize Distribution to winners of the All Island Essay Competition sponsored by Ceylon Business Appliances Ltd, was held at Kalubowila Maha Vidyalaya under the patronage of Hon. Sunethra Ranasinghe, Minister of Health and Women's Affairs. The foundation stone was laid for the new building on 18th January 1991.



1991/1992

Dane Age Foundation gave assistance to implement a new Project on community care through Health Education. The Progress Review Report mentions with gratitude, the services rendered by Mr. Cyril Gardiner, a Council Member. As Chairman of the Galle Face Hotel, he

had been hospitable to accommodate HelpAge in the Galle Face Shopping Village for several years free-of-charge.



1992/1993

The new three storeyed building housing the Training Centre, put up on a piece of crown land was declared open on 1st October 1993 by His Excellency the President. D B Wijetunga. October 1st incidentally, is the International Day of the Elderly.

An advertisement by HelpAge Sri Lanka on Legacies in a Newspaper won a medal from the Social Advertising Category of the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing. (The Legacies programme is the brainchild of Mr. Sidat Sri Nandalochana, a dedicated and committed Member of the Council of Management.

1993/1994



Within 7 years of experience, HelpAge has reached the status of a well organized movement. Starting with assistance for infrastructural facilities in Elders' Homes, the Organization expanded into a multi-disciplinary Agency dispensing programmes in Awareness Creation Age Care Training,

Social Marketing and Community Based rehabilitation. A Car wash campaign was conducted on the Galle Face Green on 3rd October 1993 in collaboration with the students of Aleathea International School. It led to generation of an income of Rs.35,452/- The car wash materials were donated by Chgemiial industries (Colombo) Ltd.

1994/1995



The National Essay Competition was organized by a most energetic Council Member, Dr. E S Thevasagayam. Certificates for the winners of the competition were awarded by Hon. Richard Pathirana, Minister of Education and Higher Education. A Poster Competition was conducted with

assistance from the Upali Group and the winners were awarded certificates by Hon.A V Suraweera, Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs.

1995/1996



Eye Care becomes a subject of concern of HelpAge. It did organize a campaign to screen 7500 persons, 6000 of whom were given spectacles. In addition, elders were directed to Hospitals for cataract surgery and refractive error corrections. The International Day of Elders was celebrated with the participation of Hon. A

H M Fowzie, Minister of Health and Social Services and Hon M Hisbullah, the Deputy Minister of Posts and Telecommunications.

1996/1997



HelpAge entered on a new programme to help elders with physical disabilities by providing them with orthopedic equipment. The Organization found a new Executive Director Mr. N W Wijewantha, who assumed duties on 01st November 1996. A former Director of Social Services, he launched

a programme of successful networking with National and International Organizations.

1997/1998



In an effort to widen the network of care giving, HelpAge Sri Lanka successfully persuaded the Minister of Health to include Age Care in the curriculum of training of its field health staff. A new Progroramme of fundraising with the title "Adopt a Granny" was initiated with great success. Under this programme, 1950 elders accommodated in 29 Elders' Homes were sponsored by HelpAge U.K.

1998/1999



HelpAge kept a vigilant eye on the spread of Alzheimer's disease, which affects most elders in old age. A Doctor from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Dr. S D Jayaratne was sent to india for training on the subject of treatment and prevention of this disease. After his return, he initiated the setting up of a Centre at Malika Nivasa, the Elders' Home in Colombo 3 to help elders affected with the disease to overcome the effects.

Visitors during the Period

Mr Judy Roberts, the new Regional Representative of HelpAge International for Asia Pacific came to Sri Lanka as a visitor in February 1998. She had several discussions on the future development of HelpAge Sri Lanka. In March, the same year, Mr.Paul Young, Director, Marketing of HelpAge UK. was present as a visitor – The others who came over were Mr. inlay Craig (May 1998), Mr. Todd Peterson (July 1998) and Mr.John Mayo (January 1999)

1999/2000



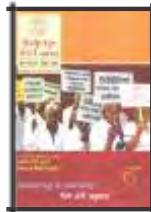
HelpAge concentrated on the training of staff on Management techniques. Some were sent abroad for training. The Sale of Greeting Cards was a grand success. Pictures in cards were reproductions of paintings by well known artists – George Keyt, Richard Gabrial and Chandra Malalgoda Bandaranayake. It was Dr. Ian Goonetileke, former Librarian of the University of Peradeniya, who gave the reproduction rights of the relevant paintings to HelpAge Sri Lanka. Mr. Hitler Wickramasinghe, a Council Member coordinated the programme.,

A Project introduced during this year was the Tree Planting campaign. The children together with their parents engaged themselves in extending the activity to Home-gardening and Environmental conservation. The Project promoted inter-

2000/2001

Service programmes including eye care services were extended to remote corners of the island. Training programmes were also expanded to promote participation of the elderly in all aspects of community involvement. Training of volunteers to provide care for homebound elders was also

launched. Preparatory measures were also taken to develop a Home Care Programmer to enable poor elders to stay with their families in their sunset years by mobilizing the resources in the community. The Youth Education Programme was redesigned and expanded to provide enhanced services for



2001/2002

HASL marked its 15th anniversary in January, 2001. HASL initiated necessary action to provide drinking water for elders affected by the prolonged drought in the Hambantota District in October, 2001. In memory of his late daughter, Dr. Akshika de Soysa; Dr. Bernard de Soysa gave a valuable property in Nugegoda to HASL on free lease for 7 years.

For the first time in Sri Lanka, a Centre for Dementia Patients was opened by HASL at Mallika Nivasa in March, 2002. HASL in collaboration with Universities of Colombo and Sri Jayewardenepura conducted orientation seminars for medical students studying Community Medicine and Psychiatry.



2002/2003

The first free Eye Care Centre for elders which was located in the property offered on a free lease by Dr. Bernard de Soysa in memory of his late daughter, Dr. Akshika de Soysa, was opened by the Health Minister, P. Dayaratne on September 18th, 2002. HASL took part in the Asia Pacific Regional Conference held at Galle Face Hotel in 2002. The International Day of Older Persons 2002 was marked by an

Elders Walk and presentation of Golden Awards to four elders who had rendered a yeoman service to the teaching profession.



2003/2004

A Silprogramme was held at Kirivehera to mark the third anniversary of the Eye Care Programme. The first ever Tamil Medium Training Programme for selected volunteers from the North and East was inaugurated. An Eye Camp was also held in Jaffna. An evaluation of 41 Adopt a Granny (AAG) projects around the island was carried out. Three Direct Mail campaigns were also launched during this period.

evaluatio n of 41 Adopt a Granny (AAG) projects around the island was carried out. Three Direct Mail campaigns were also launched during this period.



2004/2005

Second Dementia Centre was opened in Colombo 6 in August, 2004. The first HelpAge Ayurvedic Centre for elders was opened in Battaramulla. The house for this Centre was donated by Mrs. Sopiyana Caldera. HASL carried out intensive relief programmes for elders and families affected by the tsunami disaster 2004. HAI Experts in emergency disaster management arrived in the country to assist HASL organize these programmes. A special Tsunami Operations Unit (TOU) was established within HASL Headquarters to facilitate these relief and rehabilitation programmes.



2005-2006

In November, 2005 Sri Lanka was selected as the host country to hold the Regional Tsunami Planning Meeting in Colombo with the participation of the leadership team from HAI and several other affiliated organizations. Deshabandu Tilak de Zoysa, Chairman, HASL was appointed to the HAI Board. Foundation laying ceremonies for the Cluster Housing Project for the tsunami-affected elder headed families was held in Kalawanchikudy in the Batticaloa District and Kahandamodara in the Hambantota District. "Adopt A Granny" Scheme was renamed as 'Sponsor A Grand Parent Project' (SaG). Two HASL regional officers were established in Matara and Batticaloa to implement the Tsunami rehabilitation programme.



2006/2007

The first HelpAge Mobile Medical and Eye Care Unit was established on October 1st, 2006. With the assistance of the National Institute of Education, Maharagama, a booklet was compiled on ethical and spiritual values for primary school children. Voluntary Home Care Service was expanded to cover Southern and Eastern Provinces. 160 Senior Citizens Committees (SCCs) were established to engage in community activities.



2007-2008

In October, 2007 the Co-Chairs of HtA and HAI visited Sri Lanka. HASL was represented at the Asia Pacific Regional and Tsunami Conferences and several staff members of HASL received training at the HAI and HtA offices in the UK. The development activities undertaken by the TOU were taken over by the HASL Community Development Department. Several Tsunami Housing Projects were completed in Matara, Ampara, Batticaloa, Tangalle, Hikkaduwa and Ambalantota. 35 SCCs were selected from the East and the South to for capacity building and empowerment programmes.

2008-2009

 HASL marked a significant milestone when it opened its new Eye Care Centre in Wellawatte. It was opened by the Minister of Health, Hon. Nimal Siripala De Silva and CEO, HAI-UK, Mr. Richard Blewitt. Mr. Jamie Pugh, Assistant SAG Programme Manager from HAI visited Sri Lanka and conducted a two-day seminar for SAG Project Managers. SAG Programme was extended to the elders in the hill country plantation sector. HASL Paid Home Care Service recommenced in April, 2008. A Project for empowerment of vulnerable and marginalized older people to realize their rights and entitlements, funded by the European Union was launched. The network of Collection Tills was extended to leading restaurants and bookshops. With the assistance and expertise received from HelpAge International (HAI) a feasibility study was done and a report was submitted to the government of Sri Lanka under the theme 'Tackling Poverty in Old Age: a Universal Pension for Sri Lanka'.

2009-2010

 HASL was privileged to be among the first of 60 global affiliates to achieve 'sister status' with HAI-UK. The IDPs of Vavuniya were delivered medical and optometric services by the MMU. The Eye Hospital succeeded in performing a significant number of cataract surgeries. HASL's Voluntary Home Care Programme policy was reframed to training 'young-old' volunteers aged 55-65. The traditional Essay Competition was replaced with an All-Island English Short Story Competition among schools.

2010-2011

 The maiden All Island Short Story Competition was organized by the Youth Education Division. Flood Response Projects were organized in the Eastern and Northern Provinces funded by the Consortium of British Humanitarian Agencies and Age UK respectively. A new HASL regional office to implement the Emergency Response Project in Vavuniya was opened in Kilinochchi on the A 9 Road. Chairman HASL Deshabandu Tilak de Zoysa was also appointed as the Chairman of HelpAge International (HAI)

2011-2012

 Chairman, HASL and HAI, Deshabandu Tilak de Zoysa represented HAI/HASL in Washington DC, USA in April 2012 at the ceremony which conferred Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize on HAI, which is the world's largest Humanitarian Award. The YEP conducted pilot seminars for school principals (ToT) in Mahaoya and Dimbulagala Education Division.

2012-2013

 On October 1st, 2013 during a public event organized by the Ministry of Social Services in collaboration with HASL to mark the International Day for Elders, the Global Agewatch Index and Report 2013 was launched. This Report is the first ever in depth overview study of the well-being of elders in 91 countries, covering 89% of the people over 60, globally published by HAI with the support of the UNFPA. HASL also launched an island-wide art exhibition sponsored by the European Union. HASL also initiated another cataract programme, jointly with the Ministry of Health under the Vision 2020 Programme. Medical equipment worth Rs. 1 Mn was also donated to several state hospitals by HASL. The Big Dial mobile phone supported by Dialog Axiata PLC was launched in March, 2013. SaG Project was redesigned to enhance its beneficiary base.

2013/2014

 The Programme Division launched a Student's Handbook on Gerontology. HASL and the Lanka Microfinance Practitioners Association (LMFPA) of Sri Lanka jointly organized a forum in January, 2014 to encourage more MFIs to promote lending facilities for persons over 60 years. Several new fund raising programmes commenced including the Door to Door Fundraising Campaign and the Pen Project.

2014/2015

 The Eye Care Centre was expanded with additional facilities. HASL was represented at several global forums including the South Asia Summit on Youth and Human Rights. An annual Newsletter was also launched by the Editorial Committee. A Mobile Medical and Eye Care Project funded by a Foreign Donor titled 'Securing Healthy Lives of Senior Citizens of Sri Lanka through Mobile Medical and Eye Camps' was launched in February 2014. In November, 2014, HASL also signed an agreement with the UN HABITAT Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Japan for the establishment and empowerment of 144 Women's Community-Based Savings Groups in Batticaloa, Killonochchi, Mannar and Mullaitivu.

Changing lives with love and care



"I am grateful to HelpAge Sri Lanka for the livelihood assistance programme which helped me to increase my paddy harvest"

D N Nandasinghe (71 Years)
Vitharandeniya, Netolpitiya



"We are very much thankful to HelpAge for the livelihood assistance programme which helped me to increase our Income"

Alhaj M N N Avun (65 Years)
5/16, Palliyawatte, Cheenakoratuwa



"I am grateful to HelpAge for their assistance and guidance, which have helped me to gain insight and develop my business activities"

Andra Hendige Massinona (66 Years)
Pokunagoda, Rekawa



"HelpAge assistance has given me the strength to increase my production"

G G Siripala (56 Years)
Alutwatta, Netolpitiya

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them humanity cannot survive"

- Dalai Lama -

Our achievements in a glimpse



The Founder Chairman Mr. H.P. Gooneratne laying the foundation stone for the HelpAge Head Office building in 1991.



For the first time HelpAge International Board Meeting was held outside the UK in Sri Lanka - 2010.



HASL Chairman, Deshabandu Tilak de Zoysa handing over the keys of a house located in the first HASL Housing scheme at Kahandamodara, Tangalle 2006, to a tsunami victim.



HelpAge Sri Lanka was the recipient of the Silver and Gold Award in the global non-profit category for 2010 and 2011 Annual Reports respectively
Awarded by the League of American Communications Professionals (LACP) USA.



Hon. Minister of Health Mr.Nimal Siripala de Silva declares open the HASL new Eye Hospital at Wellawatta 7th May 2009



Tilak de Zoysa (Chairman HelpAge International), Richard Blewitt (CEO Helpage International), Steven M. Hilton (President & CEO Conrad N. Hilton Foundation) at the ceremony which conferred Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize on HAI, which is the world's largest Humanitarian Award.
16 April 2012 - Washington DC, USA

Our Network

MOBILE MEDICAL AND EYE CARE UNIT (MMU)

This is HASL's premier project which reaches the extremely destitute older citizens covering the most rural areas in all districts of the country where medical care is not developed and reachable. The MMUs do health screening, eye screening, spectacle distribution and medicine distribution free of charge. This 'clinic on wheels' is equipped with a pharmacy, health screening section and an eye screening section. Over the years MMU has catered to elders suffering from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and provided necessary medicine and advice to manage them.



HELPAGE EYE HOSPITAL

HASL's flagship Eye Hospital in Wellawatte, Colombo 6 offers free eye screening and cataract surgery to needy elders over 55 years of age. The Hospital is fully equipped with a modern operating theatre, a pharmacy and several wards. It's manned by eminent eye surgeons, trained nurses and competent administrators. We have successfully performed nearly 25,000 cataract surgeries at this Hospital to date.

VOLUNTARY HOME CARE

With the objective of strengthening societal elderly care support, HASL has designed and implemented a Voluntary Home Care Training (HVC) Programme. Due to many challenges faced by HASL in retaining young volunteers, HVC Programme was redesigned to train the 'young old' (55-65-year age group) members who belong to Senior Citizens Committees (SCCs).



HASL HOME CARE ASSISTANTS PROGRAMME

HASL has been engaging in training care givers and providing this service at an affordable price to senior citizens in order to assist them in their daily living and to help to continue living with their families. This service benefits both elders and their working-offspring.

THE YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMME (YEP)

The YEP Programme focuses on creating awareness among school children, teachers, principals and provincial education authorities on the need to care for all older persons in the family and the community. This programme labors to minimize inter-generational gaps in the Lankan society through a broad spectrum of activities.



Our Network



SPONSOR A GRANDPARENT (SaG)

This programme is funded by HelpAge International (HAI) where HASL has been able to reach an untouched segment of the elderly population in the country. The programme focuses on elders' rights to enjoy necessary healthcare, social services, economic and physical security.

TRANSITION IN THE EAST ALLIANCE (TEA)

This project which was initiated in 2011, focuses on empowering senior citizens to secure their basic rights by strengthening the civil society, livelihood development and comprehensive care. The project provides facilities and services to needy elders in Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa Districts. The programme is funded by 'World Granny', a HelpAge affiliate of the Netherlands.



HELPAGE MICROFINANCE FUND

This programme was implemented initially with the funds received under the SaG Programme to grant income security to the older population who are capable of contributing to the economy. Through this programme, HASL has tied up with Berendina Microfinance Institute (BMI) and grant microfinance loans to senior citizens who are 60 years and above. HASL has also tied up with Microfinance Practitioners Association of Sri Lanka (LMFPA) to conduct further lobbying in the hope that other micro finance institutions will also join in this worthy cause.

H.P. GOONERATNE HELPAGE ELDER'S DAY CARE CENTRE

This Day Care Centre at Borupana Road, Ratmalana was established with the objective of providing non-residential day care facilities for needy elders in the vicinity. It is open to any elder who needs support, either social support, health or nutritional support. Blind, bedridden and housebound elders are provided with lunch through the 'Meals on Wheels' project implemented by the Centre. At the Day Care Centre, elders engage themselves in small-scale income-generating projects such as making lamp wicks, flower pots, envelopes etc.



AYURVEDA CENTRE, BATTARAMULLA

Located in Battaramulla, this Centre is open to older persons on every Thursday and ayurvedic treatment is provided free of charge. The Centre is run in partnership with the Faculty of Ayurvedic Medicine of the University of Colombo. This centre is housed on the property gifted by the late Mrs. Sopiana Kaldera of Koswatta, Battaramulla.

Our Network



HASL AGE CARE TRAINING CENTRE

The HASL Age Care Training Centre located at its Head Office at No. 102, Pemananda Mawatha, Raththanapitiya, Boralesgamuwa, has the capacity to provide accommodation facilities for 54 participants. Each bedroom is furnished with four beds, wardrobes, mosquito nets and ceiling fans. The Training Centre is equipped with modern lecture halls and in-house kitchen and cafeteria facilities.

DIRECT MAIL APPEAL

The Direct Mail Campaign which was initiated in 1991 with a database of around 5000 prospective donors has today expanded to around 120,000 donors. The Direct Mail Appeal is HASL's second largest fundraising project.



GREETING CARDS

The Greeting Cards Project which has been in existence since the inception of HASL in 1986 is HASL's main revenue channel. From the humble art board, the print material has graduated to Ivory Linen Board today. The designs consist of paintings, photographs and graphic designs. Several eminent photographers and artists in the country have generously provided their work of creativity free of charge for these cards. Its product range has today expanded from seasonal cards to non-seasonal cards including Birthday cards, Thank You cards and Get Well cards. These cards are available at leading super markets and bookshops.

TILL PROJECT

A wooden box charity till was introduced in 1990 and around 100 tills were in circulation among bookshops, food outlets and a few supermarkets. In 2009 the quality of the till box was improved to the standard of Acro Glass and wood base till. The placement of tills have expanded island wide. Presently a total of 1234 tills are placed at leading supermarkets, bookshops, restaurants and state and private banks island wide.



FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Annually HASL organizes a range of fund raising activities including raffle draws, car wash, charity musical shows and door-to-door fund raising campaigns. Tele Calling Campaign, Mobile Cash Programme with Mobitel (Pvt) Ltd and Pen Project are among the recent additions.

Our Assets

**The following members of the HASL family are honoured
for their long standing service**

Anula Galappatty

M N A Fernando

P Priyadarshani Bulathsinghala

C E Fernando

P W Chandralatha

W E Ranjith Sepala

Anoja Perera

Kamanthi Gamage

G V Swarnalatha

Chathurani Ariyasena

T M Palitha Kumara

Charlet Jayawardana

W G T U Padma Kumara

Lalitha Maralanda

Sujeewa Gamage

T Anura Peiris

Buddhika Nanayakkara

Chinthaka Hewage

Mihitha Wickramasinghe

Chathuranga Jayalath

K Nilantha Silva

W M Ranbanda

Disna Kumari

P N S K Liyanawaduge



Registered Office
HelpAge Sri Lanka
P.O. BOX 09, 102, Pemananda Mw, Raththanapitiya, Boralesgamuwa,
Sri Lanka. (Adjoining Sri Jayawardenapura University Premises)
Telephone :0094 11 2803752,2803753,2803754
Facsimile : 0094 11 2801147
E-mail : helpage@sltnet.lk Website : www.helpagesl.org

For enquiries about HASL contact the
Officers listed below:
Manager, Communications
Information and Publications

Programmes Director
Projects for Development of Community- Based Programmes
Senior Citizens Committees
Foreign donor-funded projects

Manager, SaG
Sponsor a Grandparent (SaG) Project
Projects for Development of Day Centres and any Income Generation
Projects

Manager, HelpAge Eye Hospital
Eye Hospital services
Provision of other Eye Care Facilities

Head of Human Resources and Administration
Inclusion of HelpAge in your 'Last Will'
Information about any other administrative matters

Manager, Training
Home Care/Age Care Training and other Training
Programmes
Reservation of Training Venue and Facilities
Paid Home Assistance Service

Director, Youth Education Programme
Youth Education Programme and Participation
Annual All Island Schools Short Story Competition/Art
Competition
Training of Trainers (TOT) Programmes for
Directors, Principals and Teachers

Manager, Fundraising
'HelpAge' Greeting Cards
Direct Mail Campaign
Placement of Collection Tills
Share-As-You-Earn Programme
Donations in Kind
Corporate/Individual Donations

Manager, Special Project
Sponsorship Support for Special Programmes
Sponsorship/Reservation of Mobile Medical Units (MMU)
Pay Roll Giving Programme
Dialog Star Points Programme

Members of the Council
Deshabandu Tilak de Zoysa (Chairman)
Deshabandu A.M. de S. Jayaratne (Deputy Chairman)
Col. John Mayo OBE
Mr. John F. Pearson
Deshabandu (Mrs.) Jezima Ismail
Mr. Sanjeev Gardiner
Dr. (Mrs.) C.P. Banagala
Mrs. Anosha Subasinghe
Ms. Yasmin Raheem
Mr. N. Dias Jayasinha
Ms. Silvia Stefanoni the Baroness Greengross of Notting Hill
Mr. Nishantha Gooneratne
Mr. Krishan Balendra
Mr. Maithri Wickremesinghe (P.C.)

Hony. Advisors
Dr. Leel Gunasekera
Mr. N.W.E. Wijewantha
Senior Management
Mr. Samantha Liyanawaduge (Executive Director)
Mr. Geethal Mendis (Director, Youth Education)



HelpAge Sri Lanka
P.O. Box 09,
102, Pemananda Mawatha,
Raththanapitiya, Boralesgamuwa, Sri Lanka
Tel : +94 11 2803752 - 54
www.helpagesl.org