

# Reflections

The official quarterly newsletter of ADRA Sri Lanka

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*Cover Story*

**ADRA & UNICEF Promotes Hand-washing**

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# EDITORIAL

**Editors:**

**Matthew Whitty**

**Florentia Amarasinghe**

**Assistant Editor/Layout:**

**Shenal Hettiarachchi**

**Contributors:**

**Matthew Whitty**

**Devon Ebenezer**

# MESSAGE

## God's Purpose In Our Lives

As the year 2021 begins, it is common that people make resolutions to change habits that would improve health, relationships, and finances. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon that before the end of January, the majority of people have given up on their resolutions and have reverted to their old habits. Even if old habits are hard to change, a new year is a good opportunity to review goals, make new ones, and re-examine the values and purposes behind our everyday actions.

ADRA works to deliver relief and development assistance to individuals and communities in Sri Lanka and around the world. This is what ADRA does. Why we do what we do is summed up in our purpose statement: 'to serve humanity so all may live as God intended'. Reflecting on why we serve helps to refocus on a vision for all people having the necessities for wellbeing and thriving. This vision, inspired by God's love for all people, impresses our compassion and motivates our commitment to service with courage and integrity.

We should not forget that God is purposeful and that he has a purpose for ADRA and for each of us. We should reflect on the previous year with its many hardships and challenges and find the lessons we can learn from all that was experienced. Looking forward to the year ahead we can put our trust in God and seek to live according to his purposes. Let

us follow the call in 1 Corinthians 10:30, "so whether you eat or drink or what ever you do, do it for the glory of God".



**Matthew Whitty**

Country Director  
ADRA Sri Lanka

# COVER STORY

## ADRA & UNICEF Promotes Hand-washing

COVID-19 is spreading rapidly throughout Sri Lanka and around the world, devouring lives of many. It's our responsibility to strictly adhere to the prescribed safety precautions in order to protect ourselves and others from this deadly virus. Regular hand-washing with soap remains one of the major precautions to combat the virus.

Through the recently concluded Building Resilience in Communities and Societies (BRICS) project, ADRA Sri Lanka part-



nered with UNICEF and ADRA International to promote hand-washing among the general public through provision of hand-washing facilities. The project has altogether constructed 100 hand-washing stations in public locations such as railway stations, bus stands, industrial centers and economic centers within Colombo, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya and Kilinochchi districts.

As part of the project, ADRA also took the initiative to create awareness regarding the importance of hand-washing through various approaches. ADRA has displayed IEC boards in the stations to promote and reinforce hand-washing among the general public. Furthermore, ADRA conducted an awareness campaign in Nugegoda and Vavuniya towns, where a group of volunteers and staff from ADRA visited the hand-washing stations to create awareness and encourage the public to frequently and properly wash their hands with soap. Through the campaign the volunteers reached more than 50 random individuals and shared with them the importance of washing hands, and also demonstrated the proper technique prescribed by the World Health Organization.



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# STAFF TESTIMONIES



## Devon Ebenezer

Operations Manager

Back in 2009, right after I finished my Advance Level examination, I joined ADRA as a Programs Intern. It was my very first job and I learnt quite a lot. After my internship ended, I briefly worked in another organization. Later on, I got an opportunity to rejoin ADRA and I've been working here ever since. It's been a beautiful journey so far; I've worked under different positions, in different departments and for various projects. I've gained wide exposure and have met people from different walks of life along the way. I've also gained so many experiences and had faced numerous challenges while working here. These experiences and challenges have moulded me into the person I am today.

I always wanted to serve God ever since I was small. By working for a faith-based organization like ADRA, I believe I'm doing just that. I'm indirectly contributing towards changing lives of many vulnerable people across Sri Lanka.

What I like the most about ADRA is its working atmosphere. It is amazing! We start each day with a morning devotion, we have fellowship dinners very often and we also implement the ADRA FIT program, which my colleague Khayali and I started. In addition, ADRA offers a variety of perks to its staff in terms of capacity building and skill development, which makes working at ADRA even more valuable and interesting. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to work here and it's indeed a blessing!

## NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

### **ADRA Sri Lanka Welcomes New Country Director**

Matthew Whitty assumed the role of the new Country Director of ADRA Sri Lanka earlier in December. He previously served as the Country Director of ADRA Timor-Leste and also worked with ADRA Yemen, Nepal and Rwanda. His wife Mai will also be joining ADRA Sri Lanka as a Programs Officer. We warmly welcome Matthew, Mai and their daughter Mathea on board!

### **Hand-washing Awareness Campaign**

UNICEF and ADRA International funded Building Resilience in Communities and Societies (BRICS) project established 100 hand-washing stations in Colombo, Anuradhapura, Vavuniya and Kilinochchi districts to promote frequent hand-washing among the general public. The project conducted a hand-washing awareness campaign in December, where a group of volunteers from ADRA visited the stations and demonstrated the proper hand-washing technique prescribed by the WHO and explained the importance of it to the general public.

### **Capacity Building for Public Sector Staff**

The LESS III project carried out 15 capacity building trainings for the staff of four Divisional Secretariats of Kilinochchi and Vavuniya districts. The trainings covered important topics such as motivation, self evaluation, letter writing, team building, productivity, file management, law and labour rights, nutrition and health management, leadership, communication, positive thinking and public relations.

# SPECIAL FEATURE

## ADRA Sri Lanka's Year-End Get Together

With much camaraderie and cheer, the ADRA Sri Lanka team held a year end get together last December. The occasion created space for our staff members to share fellowship, commemorate the true meaning of Christmas through carols, and reflect back on God's many blessing during the past year. Moreover, the celebration allowed the team to take a brief respite from the many deadlines by enjoying a few friendly games followed by a delicious dinner.





# ADRA

NO. 37 PURANA ROAD, WATTEGEDARA, MAHARAGAMA, COLOMBO, 10280.  
[WWW.ADRASILANKA.ORG](http://WWW.ADRASILANKA.ORG)