

OMI - HAVONOS PROJECTS – REPORT

(January to August 2023)

Projects

- 1. Youth Empowerment Center in Ariyalai, Jaffna**
- 2. Education and Empowerment for the Youth and Children at the OBTEC, Kilinochchi**
- 3. SieCo Center in Mullikulam, Mannar**
- 4. Community Development Center in Kokilai, Mullaitivu**
- 5. Self-income generating project for the women headed families in Kilinochchi**
- 6. “Sieni Fund’ for the poor children’s Education**
- 7. Nesakkarnkal Farm in Iyakachchi, Kilinochchi**
- 8. Rehabilitation center in Batticaloa**

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Project partners

HAVONOS

WIDE GEESE

SEHH, ROCKIDS

1. Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) in Jaffna

Director: Rev. Fr. Sutharson OMI, Rev. Fr. Coonghe OMI

1.1 Goal: Leading youth towards a wholistic development

1.2. Present Problem among the youth

Every country has its lost generation. Some were taken away by conflict, some by economic problems, and some by cruel dictatorship. Sri Lanka perhaps the only one is taken away by too much ethnic conflict and violence and painful experiences and separation. We as nation continue to struggle with the most basic needs such as food, shelter, water, sanitation and electricity etc. In Sri Lanka, particularly North and East is being paralyzed by wide spread poverty, prevalent corruption, high level of unemployment, poor education, decaying health and social care systems, chaotic transport, communication and other infra-structure issues. Therefore, youth in Sri Lanka is considered as the *lost* generation.

Youth organizations are allegedly more involved in criminal activity in today's society. Youth are the group most frequently involved in serious violence. The leading cause of death among the young generation nowadays is suicide. The youth are perhaps the most frequent victims of violence. It is apparent that sexual issues are common among young people and upsetting for many of those who deal with them. The field of sexual health has examined problems including STDs and unintended pregnancies. Lack of life education and motivating techniques might result in kids being denied leadership roles and having few opportunities.

1.3. Activities of YEC

- To address these issues YEC organizes seminars periodically and conduct awareness programs to safeguard our young ones from the present dangers.
- The center continues the Tailoring Course and there are 17 youth (girls and women) attending the regular classes.
- There are 4 students attend for the music class.
- By Leadership Activities ensure youth participation in the development process.
- By accompanying with Youth through programs like, camp-fire provide youth-friendly ambience enabling them to deal with present situation.
- Self-learning approach is introduced.
- The center is waiting to start the new batch for the computer course.
- The center's neatness is paid attention and taken care to keep it clean and order. It begins to look attractive and prepared for the programs.







2. Education and Empowerment for the Youth and Children at the OBTEC, Kilinochchi

Director: Rev. Fr. Vijendran

Coordinator: Rev. Fr. Danistan

2.1 Goal: To create opportunities for the young people to attain self-growth, creative capacity and balanced maturity

2.2 Present situation of the young people in Kilinochchi

The lives of young people in Kilinochchi are radically altered today. With this district's young in mind, we highlight below the current traits of number of young people:

- They are puzzled by their own identity, abilities, talents, and hobbies and have no hope for the future.
- Negative responses to positive motivations
- Lack of social and personal responsibility; reluctance to assume group leadership roles; avoidance of new initiatives.
- Participating in gang fights; Addictions to drinking and drugs that cause self-gratification; Frustration over unemployment and unfair opportunities.

2.3 Activities in OBTEC in Kilinochchi

The coordinator go around the neighboring villages to persuade the youth to congregate at OBTEC. Many of them reply favorably, and the youth and children now attend the activities.

- A group of teenagers take a course on skill development, and 14 pupils regularly attend.
- The coordinator set up weekend classes for the Advanced Level students, and starting in January 2023, 40 students have been attending on a regular basis.
- The OMI-CPR crew runs animation and awareness programs for the children and teens to help them grow in their personality.
- 15 young people are enrolled in a three-month English study.
- In this initiative, 17 young people are enrolled in basic computer classes.





3. SieCo Center in Mullikulam, Mannar

Director: Rev. Fr. Harance

3.1 Goal: Provide a standard education to the affected/less privileged children

3.2 Present situation of the Children at Mullikulam

- The Mullikulam children still require assistance in order to properly exercise their rights and realize their enormous potentials.
- Pockets of extreme poverty still remain, especially in the regions impacted by the war.
- The majority of children are leaving school without the information and frame of mind necessary to survive in a fast-paced knowledge-based industry and a socially competitive market.

- They no longer have access to schools or extracurricular activities where they could hone their talents and interact with other children. Certainly, it has an impact on their personality.

3.3 Present activities in SieCo center

- The director assists the underprivileged kids in their upbringing and development. There are 48 children present for the usual classes.
- The SieCo center creates a setting that promotes the survival, safety, and growth of children.
- The recently opened classroom (Esther Education Center) is highly beneficial for the education of the kids.
- The director has donated school supplies and input materials for the underprivileged Children.
- Currently undergoing repairs, the car serves as Mullikulam's primary mode of transportation.
- The Elephant fence installation work is in progress.





Vehicle is under Repair



4. Amathikalam in Koilai

Director: Rev. Fr. Vincent Michael OMI

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Stany Swampillai OMI

Goal: Provide a standard education to the children and youth

4.1 Children at Kokilai

- Because they lack the means to provide for their children's needs, including their education, the majority of families are unable to escape poverty, such that the most impacted are children.
- There are tendencies toward juvenile delinquency.
- Many of the households are headed by women; some children have lost both parents.
- There are no resources for the children's education.

4.2 Activities in Pre-school

- The director organizes classes for the children and there are 22 children attending regularly.
- The director visits people motivating them towards positive mindset in their lifestyle.
- There are only 4 youth attending to the language course.
- The *Amathi Threnral* counseling team conducts group sessions for the people.
- CPR organizes seminars and awareness for the children.





There were two children who participated in English competition (British English Festival in Sri Lanka) from Kokilai and one received Gold medal and other received Silver Medal.



5. Self-income generating project for the women headed families in Kilinochchi

Coordinator: Rev. Fr. Ramesh OMI

Helpers: CPR Staff

5.1 Goal: To develop the livelihood among the poor families in the North of Sri Lanka

5.2 Present situation of the women headed families

In the Northern Province, where the obligation of the women has tripled as a result of the death and disappearance of a significant number of men, there are more than 40,000 widows, according to official statistics. Each of these ladies has taken on the role of family head and single breadwinner. In the districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu, and Vavuniya, a greater proportion of homes with a female head of family have been left exposed. In particular, female-headed families are more likely to experience abuses like illegitimate remarriage and unwanted pregnancies in addition to other psychosocial despairs they experience every day.

5.3 Activities

- We have identified and help to the single women who are most impacted by the war and have taken up the role of the family's breadwinner for the empowerment program after having discussions with the women's groups.
- With the assistance of our CPR staff, who are experts in this field, we conduct an awareness session for the chosen women.
- We regularly visit them and support them as they work to improve their standard of living.
- We have already formed 8 groups each has 25 women and provided assistance for their livelihood.
- We also purchase seeds, plants, and other essentials to help them grow a home garden so they can always have access to basic foods.
- We promote the concept on FAITH (*food always in the home*) to help them out from poverty.







6. Sieni Fund

Rev. Fr. Ramesh OMI

Rev. Fr. Kamalananthan OMI

6.1 Goal: The fund is to be used for the purposes of conducting promotional activities to increase the access of children for educational activities.

6.2 Background

Through Havnos, Mrs. Sieni Schouten has devoted 13 years to extensive charitable and developmental work in the northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka. She frequently visits Sri Lanka where she spends days interacting with the underprivileged residents of the war-torn regions and distributes several gifts to the underprivileged kids. She is cherished and revered by the populace, who also hold her in high regard. OMI intended to establish a trust fund in her honor named the "Sieni Fund" to honor her humanitarian and charitable endeavors with the financial help of HAVONOS.

6.3 Activities

1. OMI has selected three Pre-schools (*Anpaham, Amathivanam* and *Annai Illam*) run proper education and play activities to the kids. There are 125 children in three schools.
2. OMI provides accommodation for 10 poor children for their education.
3. The teachers personally take care of the children and instruct to their parents about the child care activities.
4. Enhancing the creative activities of children.
5. Provide nutrition and other essential food to children for their healthy life.





7. *Nesakkarankal* Farm at Iyakachchi

Director: Rev. Fr. James Suren OMI

Bursar: Rev. Bro. Jenistan OMI

7.1 Goal: To create opportunities and enable people especially the woman headed families toward a hope-filled life.

7.2 Farm Activities

- 350 coconut trees were planted, and they are well-maintained.
- The Farm is suitable for kaju plantation and 75 kaju plants have been planted and are being well-maintained.
- The director recently planted mango plants.
- The farm is more ideal for the goats and the goats are growing in number.
- The bursar and the director intend to begin a new batch of country chicken and broilers.
- The Director is establishing a grinding mill that, with proper maintenance, is quite profitable.
- Preparing the ground for cultivation

7.3 Education

- The director has visited the nearby schools and spoken with the principals and the teachers to encourage the kids to attend the courses at *Nesakkarankal*.
- There are 10 pupils attending the language class right now.
- The English course programs have begun, and so far five young people are enrolled for the course.
- The computer classes will shortly begin with the new group of pupils.







8. Rehabilitation center in Batticaloa

Director: Rev. Fr. Yogaraj

Rev. Fr. Reval Sebastian

8.1 Goal: To enhance the capacity of the children and adults who had been badly affected by war and COVID 19, drugs and alcohol to cope with wholistic developments

8.2 Building work:

Building a community center for adolescent and child education and rehabilitation is the main goal of this project. When the building was nearly complete, we hosted an opening ceremony with Ms. Sieni, the chairman of Havonos, Geert, and Ditty. We completed the remaining finishing touches last month. The building is now ready for our project.

We began the project in June 2022, but the economic crisis caused the cost of the materials to rise, making it impossible for us to obtain some of them in time. We proceeded with the construction despite many challenges, and the building is now prepared for us to carry out the activities we had planned.

8.3 Activities

We are waiting to start the planned activities before the end August 2023. The furnishing is underway.





Appreciation:

We the OMI Jaffna would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our donors Havonos , Wilde Ganzen, SEHH, and Rockids for their assistance in helping our people, who have been terribly affected by the civil conflict and have lost everything. We humbly request you to continue helping the poor and needy so they can be protected from all the dangers around them and live peacefully. Thanks!