

Organization Overview

Save a Life is a registered youth organization in Sri Lanka, primarily working in the fields of health and environment. Founded in 2014, Save a Life initially focused on organizing blood donation campaigns. In 2016, we expanded our scope to include health and environmental initiatives. Since 2018, we have been advocating for the rights of differently-abled people under our "Rights to Life" campaign, promoting inclusivity and equality for all.

About the Project: "Change the Life of Differently Abled in Sri Lanka"

Our project aims to address the unique challenges faced by differently-abled individuals in Sri Lanka, particularly in rural areas. We focus on improving education, healthcare, economic opportunities, and access to essential services for these individuals.

Challenge

Differently-abled youth in Sri Lanka, especially those in rural areas, face numerous challenges, including limited access to inclusive education, inadequate school infrastructure, and financial constraints. These obstacles contribute to their economic dependence and reduce their opportunities for personal growth. The ongoing national economic crisis exacerbates their vulnerability by limiting access to essential services like assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs, hearing aids) that are crucial for their mobility and communication.

Solution

This project aims to assist 1,000 differently-abled individuals, particularly children and young people, through the following interventions:

- **Educational Sponsorships:** Providing access to quality education.
- **Vocational Training:** Offering skill development opportunities to enhance employability.
- **Mobility Aids:** Distributing essential assistive devices like wheelchairs and hearing aids.
- **Mental and Healthcare Support:** Ensuring comprehensive care to enhance well-being and independence.

The overall goal is to empower differently-abled individuals by equipping them with education, skills, and resources that promote independence and self-reliance.

Long-Term Impact

The project will contribute to the long-term economic empowerment and independence of differently-abled individuals. By developing skills tailored to their interests and abilities, the initiative will improve career prospects and ensure their financial and social security. Access to assistive devices will enhance mobility and enable them to live more independently, positively impacting their quality of life.

Budget Breakdown

We seek donations to support various aspects of the project:

- **\$15 USD:** Provides educational materials for a differently-abled child.

- **\$50 USD:** Funds for physiotherapy and medication for a differently-abled individual.
 - **\$100 USD:** Covers the cost of vocational training for one differently-abled person.
 - **\$300 USD:** Provides assistive devices to differently-abled individuals.
 - **\$500 USD:** Offers livelihood support to a differently-abled youth.
 - **\$1,000 USD:** Helps develop inclusive sanitary infrastructure in academic institutions for differently-abled individuals.
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Past Projects

1. **Improve the Educational Activity of Differently-Abled Women**

We supported differently-abled female students in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, by enhancing their access to education. This project focused on providing educational resources, ensuring accessibility within school premises, and improving the walkways to facilitate mobility for differently-abled students. Our efforts aimed to create an inclusive learning environment that empowered differently-abled women through better access to education.

2. **Provide Air Beds to Spinal Cord Special Children**

In this project, we provided medical treatment and air beds to children with severe spinal cord disabilities. These air beds helped prevent pressure sores and provided comfort, significantly improving their quality of life. The project addressed both immediate medical needs and longer-term health benefits for these special children.

3. **Advocacy to Change the Term 'Disabled' to 'Differently Abled' in Sri Lanka**

Recognizing that language matters, we advocated for a change in the terminology used to describe people with disabilities in Sri Lanka. The term "disabled" often carries negative connotations and reinforces stereotypes. We successfully campaigned for the adoption of "differently abled," a term that emphasizes abilities rather than limitations, and pushed for this change to be recognized at the governmental level.





