

# PRITHIPURA COMMUNITIES

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## WHAT WE DO

Building lives and abilities for over 50 years, Prithipura Communities works from 4 locations in Sri Lanka to provide care rehabilitation, education and work opportunities to 240 children and adults with disabilities with little or no family support.

## AN UPDATE ON HOW WE ARE ADAPTING TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND TO ASK FOR YOUR URGENT HELP

Thank you to all of you who have been in touch to check that we are safe and well at this challenging time. We greatly appreciate you thinking of us and have been heartened by your kind messages of support and solidarity.

### CAN YOU HELP?

We've had a dramatic decrease in donations since the crisis started and have faced a 90% drop in local donations. Most of these donations usually fund our food and other essential expenses at all our locations. Please do consider a small donation to support us at this difficult time and help us keep all those who live with us safe and well.

Please see the back page for information on how to donate.

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Prithipura Communities

Prithipura Infants Home, Asokapura & Anandapura Farms and Cotagala School

Registered No's: GM/5/82, MSS/NSPD/R/23, L-52811 & WP/SSD/G/DH/2010/01

Approved Registered Charity: 7/1638



## What has changed?

**As the world battles against COVID-19, Prithipura Communities continues to provide care and support for 240 children and adults with disabilities who live at our 4 locations.**

We have all been on lockdown prior to the islandwide curfew which has been in place since 20th March. Long before schools were closed and all 'usual' activity stopped, we realised that we needed to do our utmost to protect those who live with us against the virus. Many members of our community would be particularly vulnerable due to pre-existing health conditions.

- Our gates are locked and no one is coming in or out of any of our premises at all of our locations.
- Food and supplies are being delivered from approved suppliers and left at the gate.
- Many of those who live with us have daily medication needs. We have been able to get these delivered regularly from local pharmacies.
- Some team members have returned to their families but we have managed to maintain adequate staffing levels at all our locations.
- We have put in place protocols in line with WHO guidelines to keep us all safe which includes frequent hand washing and daily temperature checks.
- We have set up isolation rooms and procedures should this be needed.

## What have we been up to?

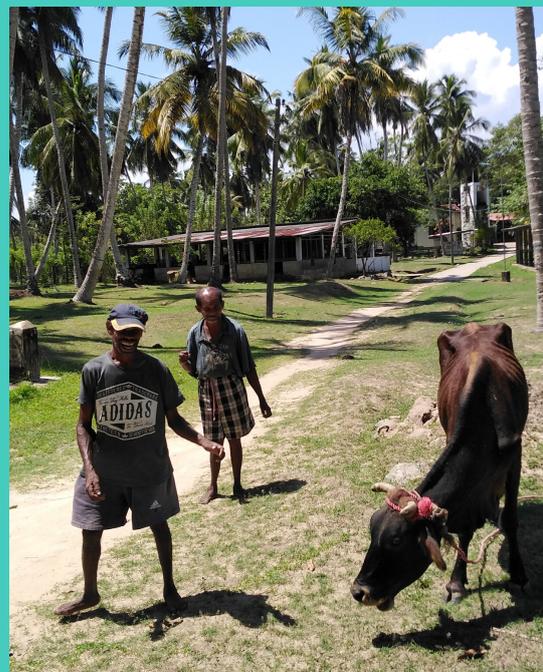
**At all our locations, daily life goes on. Care activities continue as usual with time for activities, games and fun in between.**

On Easter Sunday, we had an 'easter egg hunt' at the **Infants Home**. Everyone was rewarded with a home-made brownie.

At **Anandapura Farm**, the adults with disabilities that live here continue with farming activities - cows are tethered, pigs are fed and the land is tended. We have been harvesting manioc leaves, kankun, mango and banana to eat. Regular music and art sessions are also popular. Everyone is happy and well.

**Cotagala School** is now closed for the school holidays. The government announced school closures on the 12th March so all those who normally go home to their families during holiday periods have done so. 50 children and young people continue to stay at the school, well-cared for by the residential staff that remain on site.

**Asokapura Farm** continues with its usual farming activities so that home-grown fruit and vegetables continue to be readily available. The rains have started which is great for our food production.



## Volunteers

For over a month, travellers from abroad have not been allowed into the country. Several volunteers have cancelled their planned stays with us in the upcoming months.

We welcomed **26 volunteers in 2019** and look forward to the future when they can continue to support us.

We are happy that Debi, our long-term volunteer at Anandapura Farm, continues to live on site and help with the daily work there!



## Projects

**All our infrastructure projects are on hold at the moment due to the curfew.**

We have completed several infrastructure projects in 2019 and early 2020 including renovations of the playground at **Cotagala School** and the old school building as well as repairs to agricultural fencing. These projects make such a difference to students at Cotagala School and ensure that we maintain our farming activities and ultimately our sustainability.



The workshop at the **Infants Home** has been renovated. We also now have a dedicated medical room at the Infants Home where all medical supplies are stored.

**Anandapura Farm** has had a significant generator repair and we have been able to install CCTV equipment for security purposes.

We have purchased a van for **Cotagala School and Asokapura Farm**. As many of you will be aware, transport is essential for both Cotagala School and Asokapura Farm due to their remote locations and their old vehicle was no longer suitable for the difficult road up to the school.

[www.prithipura.org](http://www.prithipura.org)

Our new website launched in September 2019.

If you haven't seen it already please do have a look at [www.prithipura.org](http://www.prithipura.org). Our website was created by two volunteers who supported us in 2018 through the Reach Project.

**If you have specialist skills that you would like to share with us please refer to our section on volunteering on our website for more information.**



## Thank you!

Thank you to the supporters and organisations that sponsored our infrastructure projects in 2019.

52 individuals support Prithipura Communities through the sponsorship of children and adults with disabilities who live with us. Some of you have been sponsoring people for over 20 years! Thank you for this sustained support!

Finally, our grateful thanks to the numerous individuals and organisations who have contributed towards meals and other one-off donations throughout the year.

**Every rupee, dollar, euro or pound that you donate makes a difference to those who live with us.**



*We at Prithipura Communities wish all our friends and supporters good health and well-being in the coming months.*

*We look forward to better times for everyone in the future.*

## How to donate

### Donations in Sri Lankan Rupees:

Hatton National Bank – City Office  
Account number: 002010012779  
SWIFT Code: HBLILK LX  
Beneficiary: The Treasurer,  
Prithipura Infants Home

### Donations in Euros:

Commercial Bank of Ceylon Ltd.,  
Pita Kotte Branch  
Account Number: 1110010061  
SWIFT Code: CCEYLK LX  
Beneficiary: The Treasurer,  
Prithipura Infants Home

### Online via Global Giving:

<https://goto.gg/46437>



### In the UK

Account name: Prithi UK  
Account number: 91869434  
Sort Code: 40-01-13

### Online via Virgin Money Giving:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9lp5gvz>

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