# **Tamil Canadian Food Relief Support for Trincomalee District**

புலம்பெயர் கனடிய உறவுகளின் உதவி திருகோணமலை மாவட்டம்



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**April 24, 2020** 

# **COVID-19 Emergency Food Relief**

## Trincomalee District, Sri Lanka.

Sponsored By: **Tamil Canadians** through the efforts of **Canadian Tamil Congress** and **North and East Economic Development (NEED) Centre** 

Implemented By: Trincomalee District Welfare Association

Food Relief Distribution Date: April 9, 2020

Final Report Date: April 24, 2020.

### **Background**

COVID-19 pandemic has caused immense hardship for everyone globally. People in Sri Lanka, particularly the war affected regions of the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka, faces challenges due to the continued lockdown. These regions are the highest unemployment recorded in the country for many years.

The Sri Lankan government has imposed a complete island wide lockdown to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The lock down in Sri Lanka which began on March 20<sup>th</sup> with almost continues curfew has now lasted for more than a month.

The daily wage earner families have been impacted the most without any income for several weeks now. They have been struggling for their basic food needs and some are in the brink of starvation.

### North and East Economic Development (NEED) Centre

https://www.needcentre.org/

The NEED Centre, established in 2017, is a platform to develop local economic development initiatives between local communities of the Northern and Eastern provinces of Sri Lanka, is well positioned to execute the emergency COVID-19 food relief for the most vulnerable families in the war affected Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. It has reached out to its donors and friends inside and outside of the country for support to distribute food packages. Each package valued between LKR 1000 (US\$ 5.25) and LKR 1100 (US\$ 5.75) will consist of very basic food supplies sufficient for a family of 3 to 5 for one week. NEED Centre will implement the food relief efforts in most of the districts directly with the help of it reliable volunteers and supporters. In some other districts NEED Centre will facilitate the food relief distribution with carefully identified, reliable local district partners.

#### **Canadian Tamil Congress**

http://www.canadiantamilcongress.ca/

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) has committed to support with emergency COVID-19 food relief for 2,500vulnerable families in total which would equal to 250 or more families in each of the 8 districts in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. CTC has approved NEED Centre to facilitate/implement and report on its food relief efforts in the North East Sri Lanka.

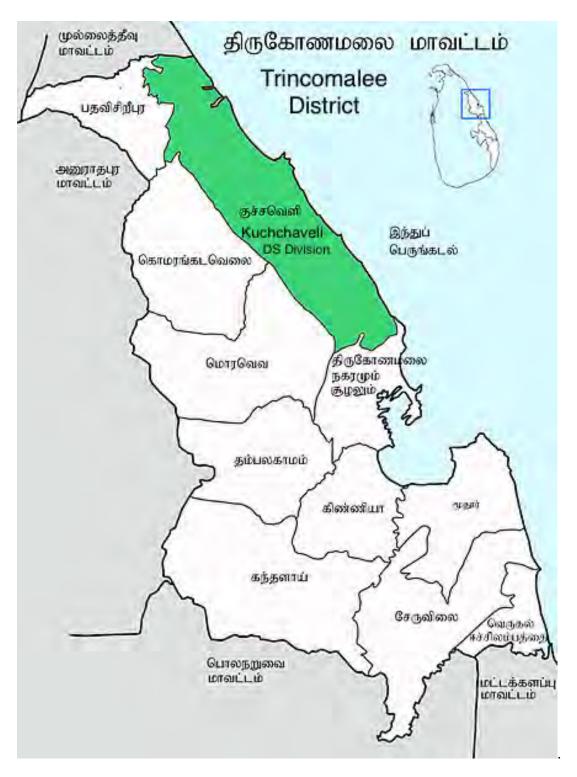
## **Funding**

The Canadian Tamil Congress (CTC) launched its fundraising efforts among Tamil Canadian community to support the COVID-19 emergency food relief in the war affected Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka on April 1, 2020. The CTC transferred funds to Trincomalee District Welfare Association (TDWA) and this was facilitated by the NEED Centre and the food supplies for Trincomalee district foo=d relief by Tamil Canadians was purchased.

#### **Trincomalee District**

The district's total population is 420,502 (Dec.2018). Tamils –136,547 (32.47%)

Land area is 2,727 Sq. Km. It has twenty (11) DS divisions, namely Trincomalee (T&G), Padavisripura, Gomarankadawala, Kinniya, Muthur, Seruwila, Kanthale, Kuchchaveli, Morawewa, Thambalagamuwa and Verugal



# Beneficiary Family Identification, Food Supplies and the Distribution of Food Relief in the Trincomalee District

Beneficiary families have been carefully identified with the help of Grama Niladari, Rural Development Societies and Women Development Societies. Emphasis was made, attention was given to ensure the families selected are the most vulnerable as differently-abled people, women headed families, family have more family members and most in needs and not receiving any other relief.

A total of 300 families in the Kuchchaveli DS Division in the Trincomalee district received the food relief packages for a total value of Sri Lankan Rupees 1000 per package. Each food package contained the following items 5 kg Rice, 2 kg Wheat Flour, 1 kg Sugar, 1 kg Lentils, 250 g Soya meat and 100 g Tea.

The Trincomalee District Welfare Association implemented the food package distribution and for most part was done by door to door delivery and in some cases in a location very close to the beneficiary family's homes.

DS Division	# of Beneficiaries	Date of Distribution
Kuchchaveli	300	April 9, 2020
Total	300	·

Trincomalee YouTube video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-s3SEVeHnI

# **Budget / Cost**

Food Supplies and Packing Cost for 300 families - LKR 300,000 (US\$ 1,579)

Administration and Logistics Fee - LKR 20,000 (US\$ 105)

Total Cost for Trincomalee District distribution for 300 families LKR 320,000 (US\$ 1,684)

## **Challenges and Recommendations**

The long curfew hours presented immense challenges in purchasing the necessary food supplies and also the food packaging and distribution.

One week of the very basic food supplies in not sufficient for these struggling families. Food supplies for two weeks for these struggling families will reduce the burden on volunteers and also reduce the logistics cost and the administration costs.

The food items supplied are very basic and not sufficient; more food items need to be considered. For example, flour, soya meat, oil, salt, tea and soap bar. An increase in the budget for a food package should be considered.

There are continuing requests for COVID-19 food relief support in these most vulnerable regions. Also support for post COVID-19 recovery is very critical for this war affected region.

## Beneficiary Families List - Trincomalee District

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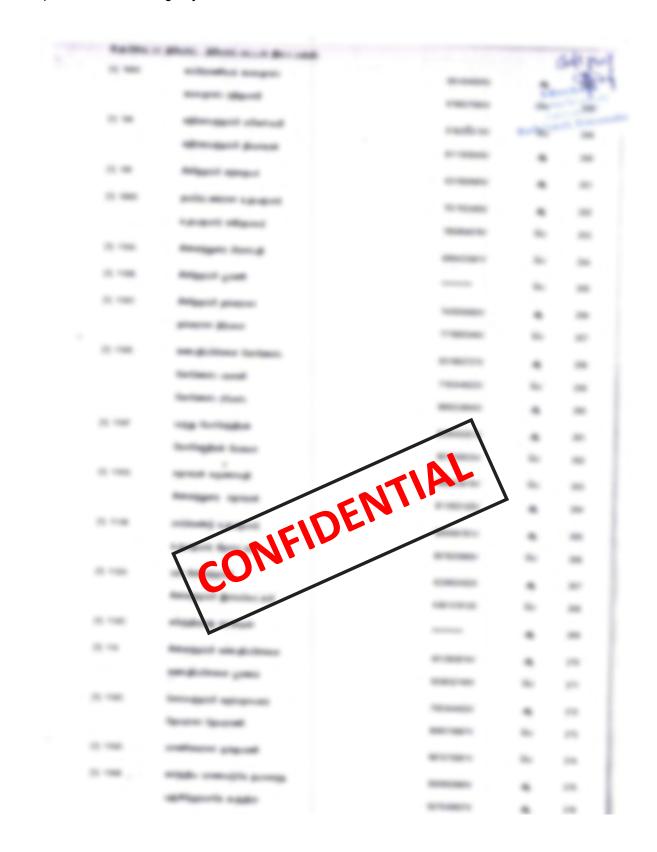
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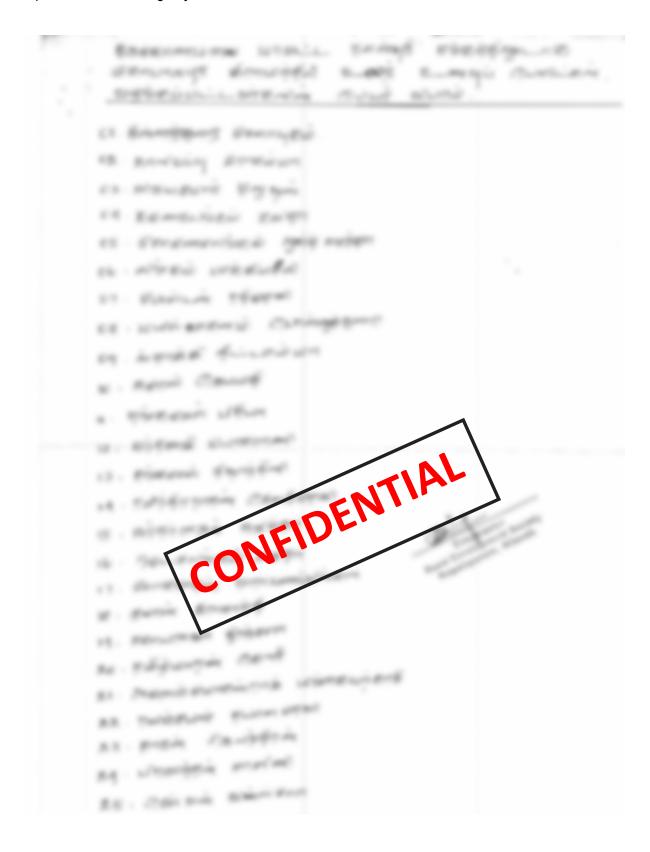
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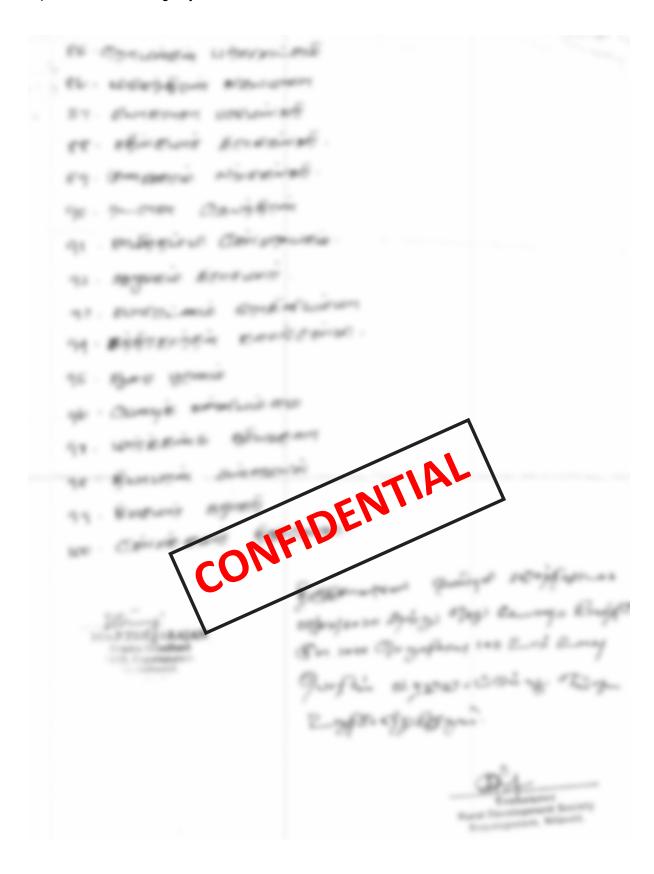
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# Trincomalee District Welfare Association & Food Supplier Receipt

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# Photos of food packaging, transport and distribution







Report: COVID-19 Emergency Food Relief | Trincomalee District, Sri Lanka.

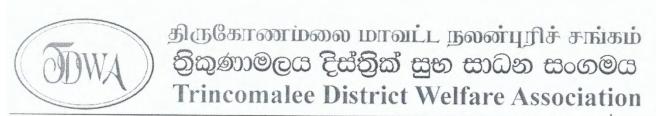








#### Thank you letter from Trincomalee District Welfare Association



No. 161, Power House Road, Arasady Trincomalee. Sri Lanka. 076 - 8301 217

20/4/2020

**Executive Director** Canadian Tamil Congress Scarborough, Ontario Canada

Dear Sir,

Thank you so much for your timely donation of Rs. 300,000.00LKR to the Trincomalee District Welfare Association for the purpose of COVID-19 Relief Supplies in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.

Your donation has helped300 families in the villages of Kallampathai, Kattukulam, Thiriyai and Gopalapuram in the Trincomalee District.

The receipt for the donation is enclosed along with the list of beneficiaries and photos of the relief distribution.

Thank you for your support.

Secretary

Secretary **Trincomalee Dist** Welfare Associa

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- திருக்குறள் 102

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- Thirukural 102

