



AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL AID FOUNDATION LTD. (AMAF)

'A body committed to providing medical aid'

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED in 2019/20



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

A Member of Australian Council For International Development (ACFID)

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2019/20

Following are details of projects AMAF has funded during the financial year 2019/20. We also detail below, new projects undertaken by AMAF and some that are ongoing.

1. DONATION OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

A) Donation of hospital beds and equipment to Jaffna Hospital (A\$17,280)

In partnership with the Rotary Club of Australia and their 'Donations in Kind' program, AMAF organised and funded 6 shipments of over 300 hospital beds. These include electronic and mechanical hospital beds that are now in use at Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

Some of the 300 beds are in use in the eye wards that moved to the new multi-storey building while others were donated to district and peripheral hospitals in the Northern Province.



B) Orthopaedic equipment for Kilinochi Hospital (A\$121,275)

The Killinochi Hospital recently opened an Orthopedic department following the appointment of an orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Sutharshan. AMAF with the help of Rotary Club jointly funded orthopaedic surgical equipment to the value of approximately \$200,000. The new Orthopaedic unit will provide valuable service to the people in the Vanni region and the victims of motor vehicle accidents.

Patients who needed to travel to the Jaffna or Vavuniya hospitals for orthopaedic consultation and management, now have access to the same service locally.



C) Medical Equipment Chettikulam hospital: (A\$11,400)

AMAF funded the purchase of much needed medical equipment for the Chettikulam District Hospital. This is in keeping with AMAF's focus on enhancing the services of rural and remote hospitals.

D) Donation of Wheelchairs: (A\$11,240)

The Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation (JJCDR) was set up in 1987 when there was a critical need for artificial limbs for civilian victims of the war. The JJCDR was known as Jaipur Foot Programme, the Jaffna Branch of the Colombo Friend-in-Need Society. Now it is an autonomous body known as "Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation" (JJCDR). It was registered in 2001 as a voluntary social service organisation with accreditation as an NGO.

The JJCDR provides a range of services to amputees. High quality, light weight, low cost prosthesis to the amputees, quality mobility devices to help the differently abled to move independently, physiotherapy and follow up services to the amputees are some of the services they offer. JJCDR also provide micro finance/ revolving loans in an income generating project encouraging economic independence of amputees.

AMAF donated 25 wheelchairs for children with cerebral palsy early in September 2020. Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy (Director, Jaffna Teaching Hospital), Dr. Geethanjali Sathiyadas (Consultant Paediatrician, Jaffna Teaching Hospital) were among the guests who attended the ceremony where wheelchairs were handed over.







2 COVID-19 PROGRAM / PROJECTS

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a pandemic that shook the world. This is a highly infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus that spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The population in the North and East were educated in respiratory etiquette (for example, coughing into a flexed elbow).

There are over 50 million people infected globally with numbers increasing each day. Over 1 million have died. The pandemic has caused devastating consequences all over the world, particularly in developing countries, like Sri Lanka.

AMAF wasted no time in supporting hospitals that treated people in the North-East of Sri Lanka. AMAF donated Personal Protective Equipment, Ventilators and Compression Pumps to prevent Deep vein thrombosis. AMAF also arranged distribution of dry rations to those affected. Most importantly, AMAF arranged for the public to be educated in general hygiene and awareness of how to avoid being infected with the deadly virus.

A) PPE (Personal Protective Equipment): (A\$2,400)

1. 1500 N95 masks to NorthEast of Sri Lanka:

The N95 mask is a form of respiratory protective wear worn over the nose and mouth to help minimise the chance of inhaling airborne particles like viruses and other germs. It is a disposable mask made from synthetic polymer fibres produced in a highly specialised process called melt blowing. During this process, the inner layer of the N95 mask is created which forms the filtration layer capable of filtering out at least 95% of airborne particles when worn correctly.

During outbreaks of Covid 19, wearing N95 masks has been shown to help reduce the inhalation of compromised air, filtering out nasty virus which lead to illness or which can aggravate existing respiratory problems.

The AMAF donated 750 masks to Jaffna Teaching hospital and another 750 N95 masks to Batticaloa Teaching Hospital. AMAF arranged urgent delivery of these N95 masks for use by health workers at the beginning of the COVID 19 outbreak in Sri Lanka.



Australia Medical Aid Foundation (AMAF) N 95 Masks இனை மட்டக்களப்பு போதனா வைத்தியசாலைக்கு அன்பளிப்பு செய்தது. அத்துடன் AMAF, COVID 19 நோயாளிகளை பராமரிக்க தேவையான மேலும் பல உபகரணங்களை (PPE) வழங்க முன்வந்துள்ளது. கடந்த காலங்களிலும் AMAF மட்டக்களப்பு போதனா வைத்தியசாலைக்கு பலவிதமான உதவிகளை செய்துள்ளது. தொடர்ச்சியான உதவிகளை செய்து வரும் AMAF நிறுவனத்தற்கு வைத்தியசாலை சமூகம் தமது நன்றிகளை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறது.



யாழ்.போதனாவுக்கு ஒரு தொகுதி மாஸ்க்

யாழ்ப்பாணம், ஏப்.8

யாழ்ப்பாணம் போதனா மருத்துவமனைக்கென ஒரு தொகுதி 'மாஸ்க்' கையளிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளது.

அவுஸ்ரேலிய மருத்துவ உதவி நிறுவனத்தால் இந்த முகக்கவசங்கள் யாழ்ப்பாணம் போதனா மருத்துவமனைப் பணிப்பாளர் சத்தியமூர்த்தியிடம் அண்மையில் கையளிக்கப்பட்டன. (ஐ-7)



2. Full body PPE

AMAF funded and arranged delivery of 500 Full body PPE to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital and another 500 Full body PPE to the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital during the initial outbreak of COVID 19.



B) Donation of Medical equipment: (A\$85,955)

In order to prepare for the COVID 19 outbreak, the Jaffna Teaching hospital requested 4 Ventilators, 1 transport ventilator, 4 Bedside Monitors & 2 Compression Pumps to prevent deep vein thrombosis. These medical equipment were donated to the Jaffna Hospital this year.



C) Food Supply (Dry ration) for daily wage earners:

1. A. AMAF arranged for distribution of dry rations to the value of \$5,000 to those who relied on a daily wage and were affected by the pandemic. This project was facilitated by Vanni Hope.



2.The people of Vaharai in the Eastern province received dry rations also donated by AMAF. The Vivekananda Technical College assisted AMAF in the distribution of such dry rations to the value of A\$5,000.



3. SUPPORTING EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

A. Telemedicine/Tele-Radiology at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital

AMAF has funded an annual Zoom membership and Xray light box for a conference room in the Jaffna Hospital to conduct Multidisciplinary Teleradiology meetings with experts overseas. Such video conferences have been invaluable to the local doctors who are able to discuss cases with their experienced counterparts overseas. AMAF has facilitated over 110 meetings so far where over 550 cases have been discussed. Approximately 4 meetings per week are hosted discussing Abdominal, Musculoskeletal, Neurology, and Neurosurgery imaging. Our Chairperson, Dr. Pon Ketheswaran is also the Global Coordinator of the Teleradiology meetings.

These video meetings with experienced doctors overseas enable the transfer of knowledge to medical professionals in the North East who are then able to provide better medical diagnosis, and management to patients.



B. Ongoing Financial Bursaries To Disadvantaged Displaced Medical Students - University Of Jaffna (\$A 16,500)

AMAF has supported medical students from disadvantaged and war affected areas in the Vanni since 2009. 23 such students who received monthly bursaries from AMAF during their entire medical studies have now qualified and serve in hospitals mainly in the North East of Sri Lanka. The Medical Student Union was responsible for this initiative and was supported by AMAF.

AMAF is currently supporting 21 disadvantaged medical students who receive Rs. 4000 per month during their undergraduate studies. This project is run by the Welfare Department of the University of Jaffna and funded by AMAF.



C. Sharing of information and discussion on COVID 19 in a forum.

AMAF is responsible for creating a whatsapp group for the purpose of sharing information from experts all over the world on prevention of COVID19. AMAF also trains staff at the Jaffna Hospital via video link on prevention of an outbreak of the virus..



4. COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS

A. Dental Program at Schools - Mullaitivu District and Pattalipuram (\$A 24,000)

This is one of AMAF's key ongoing public health initiatives. The program is running successfully and serves students in schools in the Mullaitivu district. AMAF employs a dentist, a dental therapist and a dental assistant who serve at the clinic and in the mobile dental unit. AMAF donates toothbrushes and toothpaste to school pupils as part of the oral health programme. The program has the enthusiastic support of young Australian dentists, Dr. S. Ramesh, and Dr. Ravi.

The mobile dental unit visits schools each term and runs workshops for teachers in dental hygiene demonstrating effective ways of brushing one's teeth. These trained teachers then pass on their knowledge and information to other teachers and students while distributing toothpaste and toothbrushes donated by AMAF. The students are encouraged to brush their teeth during their morning break at school.

In the last financial year, the dental health program was expanded to serve the remote area of Pattalipuram. A total of 800 students in all eleven schools in the area were supplied with toothbrushes and toothpaste while educated on the important of dental health.





AMAF expanded its school dental program to the remote region of Pattalipuram where toothbrushes and toothpaste donated by AMAF were distributed amongst school children while educating them about the importance of good oral healthcare.



B. Campaign to prevent drug and alcohol abuse

This is an ongoing project in partnership with the Rotary and Lions Clubs in Sri Lanka. AMAF provides ongoing funding for a public health campaign to raise awareness about the dangers of alcoholism and substance abuse amongst the youth in North, East and Central provinces in Sri Lanka. There has been an alarming increase in the use of alcohol and illicit drugs among several youth in North East Sri Lanka. The alcohol and drug awareness program is aimed at school children aged 15 to 19 years and has been rolled out at selected central locations including Batticaloa, Jaffna, Killinochi and Vavuniya. The Public Health Inspectors Service runs a 'Train the Trainer' programme for selected members of the community. The Rotary club and NGO's who work on this project identify and train students and community leaders like teachers from affected areas to combat this growing problem.

This program was rolled out in Batticaloa during the last financial year with the help of Rotary and Lions Clubs in Sri Lanka. AMAF has committed to funding regular reinforcement sessions in Jaffna, Batticaloa and in the Central province



Students attending the drug and alcohol prevention campaign with their drawings hanging on the wall.



5. EMERGENCY AID

A. Mosquito nets for Eastern Province through Sivan Arul Illam during the Dengue season (A\$4,993)



AMAF'S LOCAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. DONATION TO NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Bushfires have been blazing in Australia since September, and they've intensified to "apocalyptic" levels, as more than 15.6 million acres have burned so far. The fires have killed at least 25 people and destroyed 2,000 homes. Experts also estimate that over 1 billion animals have died since the fires began in September 2019. The NSW rural fire service did a commendable job to stop fires and save lots of lives and properties. The AMAF donated \$10,000 to the NSW Rural Fire Service to support their efforts. Well Done Fires.



2. AMAF's Monthly radio program:

AMAF members Dr Paran Sithamparakumar and Dr Chitra Harinesan run awareness programs over the Tamil Radio on a regular basis. This is very well received by listeners who benefit greatly. Contributors this year have been Dr Janani Thillainadesan, Dr Thanaraj Suthersan, Dr Vanathy Sooriyakumar, Dr Sivaruban, Dr Mayuran, Dr Sivakumar, Dr Nalayini Sugirthan and Dr Sasiharan.



3. Special COVID-19 awareness program:

During the initial outbreak of COVID 19 in Australia, AMAF conducted a series of radio programs raising awareness and teaching preventative strategies to avoid falling victim to this deadly virus.

4. Cervical screening for survival:

AMAF has arranged to host an event with the Pink Sari Project to raise awareness of the importance of cervical screening in vulnerable communities. Arrangements for this event will be finalized as soon as Covid 19 restrictions are eased in NSW.



Five Ways YOU Can Get Involved and MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- 1. VOLUNTEER....Opportunities are available that are sure to match your knowledge, skill set, interests and experience.**
- 2. MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT...to AMAF PROJECT to help fund the delivery of desperately needed medical supplies and equipment to hospitals and clinics.**
- 3. DONATIONS of medical equipment...from your hospital, clinic or surgery. Contact AMAF to learn more about our Medical Equipment Donation Program.**
- 4. PARTICIPATE in a health information program...to disseminate important health information to people from non-English speaking background.**
- 5. SPREAD THE WORD...tell others in your network and community about our work.**

Connect with us on

our web page www.ausmedaid.org.au

and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianMedicalAidFoundation>





AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL AID FOUNDATION LTD. (AMAF)

'A body committed to providing medical aid'

Together we can make a difference