



# International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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## Lives Take Shape again with Microcredit Support

As we highlighted in our last e-newsletter, microcredit projects and other livelihoods support are crucial to rebuilding lives and communities in the war-affected areas of Sri Lanka. In addition to the several microcredit projects IMHO is supporting that we wrote about in our last e-newsletter, a further \$5,000 was sent to support several families in Kilinochchi under the leadership and project implementation of the Kalmunai Mental Health Society (KAMHA). We would like to share the stories of just a few of those who are benefiting from these efforts:

1. Mr. Mannivannan is the head of household for 4 families now taking shelter in his home. In addition to their losses, his aunt was also burned following a bomb blast, and his brother has been unable to work—both of which add extra burdens to his ability to care for all under his roof. He received Rs. 50,000 to start a cattle farm. His sister-in-law, who still does not know what happened to her husband after the chaos at the end of the war, also received Rs. 50,000 to start a poultry farm.

2. Mrs. Nagamma, who lost her husband and her two brothers, received a sewing machine at a cost



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2. Mrs. Nagamma, who lost her husband and her two brothers, received a sewing machine at a cost of Rs. 20,000.

3. Mrs. Maniyam lost her grandson and her daughter in a shell blast. She received Rs. 50,000 for poultry farming, so that she could construct shelters for the chickens.

4. Ms. Venitha is coping with a spinal cord injury, including a severely weakened left leg and loss of control of her foot. Her family received Rs. 30,000 to purchase a water pump for agriculture.

5. Mr. Rangan lost his 2 sons in a shell blast. He received a grant to purchase a sewing machine and start a small shop.

6. A bomb blast took the lives of the father and brother of Mr. Jeyakumar, and left his son deeply injured. As a mechanic, he will use the Rs. 30,000 he received to purchase new tools to continue his work.

7. Mr. Babu received Rs. 50,000 to settle the leasing of his three-wheeler, enabling him to return to work and a feeling of self-worth again.



We are extremely grateful to all those who have supported IMHO in these important microcredit initiatives across the Northeast. You are surely helping to reshape the lives of those who have been so deeply affected by personal tragedy and hardship. IMHO is committed to supporting such efforts that transform lives and improve the overall well-being of the beneficiaries and their families.

## **IMHO Donates Equipment to Batticaloa & Kilinochchi**

Continuing to help fill the void of medical equipments in high demand, IMHO has recently facilitated the donation of a portable ECHO machine and a renal dialysis machine to Batticaloa and computer equipment to Kilinochchi. The ECHO machine was hand-delivered by Mr. Jegan Thambaiyah, Board member of IMHO, to Dr. Arulnithy (Consultant Cardiologist) and Dr. M. Murukananthan (Hospital Director) at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital. Several other staff and doctors were present for the small ceremony. The portable ECHO machine is valued at 1.6 million SLR (approx. \$14,000) and is only the third of its kind now in operation in Sri Lanka. A single anonymous donor made this all possible.

Also for the benefit of patients at the Batticaloa District Hospital, IMHO has enabled the local purchase of a dialysis machine. The first installment of \$12,000 was sent in July, thanks in large part to support from the "Friends of Batticaloa". The total cost of the equipment is \$24,000.



Finally, much needed computer equipment, including a computer, printer, & scanner, were given to the Mental Health Unit at the Kilinochchi General Hospital. This equipment will be of great help for the administrative work of the organization and will contribute towards the long-term growth and overall efficacy of the unit.

### **IMHO Extends Relief Support to Flood Victims in Pakistan**



*Photo via Reuters/Adrees Latif (courtesy [www.alertnet.org](http://www.alertnet.org))*

In July & August, Pakistan was hit by devastating monsoon-related floods that affected over 1.5 million people living in the North West Frontier Province (now called Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa). There have been over 1,500 confirmed fatalities. Even while the flood waters are receding, the rains continue and waterborne diseases are now the greatest threat to those who have been displaced.

IMHO responded by giving \$3,000 to BRAC USA, an organization which IMHO has supported in the past. BRAC has had operations in Pakistan since 2007, with a significant presence in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. Their team has started distributing food packets to about 5,000 families in the affected areas, each valued at roughly \$3/each. These packets include basic food items, including rice, lentils, flour, & salt, as well as a small amount of cash (25 rupees), 2 ORS sachets, and water purification tablets. The health volunteers are also distributing oral rehydration salts (ORS) and water purification tablets, as well as generating awareness around the dangers of water-borne diseases that are emerging as a threat to survivors. BRAC plans to expand its efforts and begin rehabilitation by repairing houses and installing latrines, tube wells, and hand pumps to provide a source of safe drinking water to the community.

## Continued Nutritional Support for Orphans at Hindu Board of Education in Jaffna

Continued support for child nutrition initiatives is an important cornerstone effort of the IMHO organization. Recently, IMHO gave another \$8,000 to support one such ongoing program at the Hindu Board of Education Children's Home in Jaffna on account of the support of the Greater Cincinnati Tamil Athletic Association (GCTAA). Such efforts have had a noticeable impact on reducing rates of malnutrition and thereby enabling these children to lead healthier lives at present and in the future.

## Psychosocial Rehab & Mobile Mental Health Clinics

Pursuant to the high demand for psychosocial care amongst those living in the Northeast that have been deeply affected by the conflict, IMHO transferred an additional \$5,200 to the Tellipalai Mental Health Society to support its work in the Jaffna peninsula. These funds will be used for psychosocial rehabilitation and mental health mobile clinics. Of the total amount, \$2,500 was given by a single generous donor.

## Upcoming IMHO Events

### **\*\*\*IMHO Ohio Chapter Potluck Dinner\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 25th, 2010 from 5:00-8:00pm

**WHERE:** Northwest Christian Church, 5707 Olentangy River Road, Columbus, OH, 43235

**WHY:** The people of Sri Lanka are struggling to rebuild their lives in a post-conflict setting and are coping with many hardships. There is great need to focus on building psychosocial services, providing prostheses & physical rehabilitation for amputees, and rebuilding the basic health infrastructure and services across the war-affected areas.

Please join IMHO for a potluck dinner with friends and learn about the needs of those in Sri Lanka & the important work IMHO is doing in response. View the event flyer and more details [HERE](#).

### **\*\*\*Ethiopia Medical Volunteer Trip\*\*\***

**WHEN:** October 17-30, 2010

**WHERE:** Addis Ababa & Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

**WHY:** To serve those in need by providing quality health & medical care

**WHO:** Medical doctors & health professionals (especially those with a background in diabetes care, cardiology, eye care, primary care, & telemedicine)

**HOW MUCH:** \$995 all-inclusive, excluding airfare

For more information or to express interest, please email the IMHO Programs Coordinator at [coordinator@theimho.org](mailto:coordinator@theimho.org). You can also view the event listing on our website [HERE](#).

### **\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE: IMHO Semi-Annual Meeting\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 16, 2010; registration opens at 8:00am & program commences sharply at 8:30am

**WHERE:** Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, 700 Aliceanna Street, Baltimore, MD, 21202

\*Free breakfast and lunch will be provided

\*Rooms can be booked under a special group rate of \$179/night for standard single or double (group code: IMHO) for Friday, October 15th

\*We will be joined by visiting physicians from Sri Lanka who will share their first-hand insights, experiences, and projects

\*Presentations will cover the current situation in Sri Lanka today, IMHO's recent and planned efforts and other special guest presentations

\*Please RSVP to [IMHOconvention@gmail.com](mailto:IMHOconvention@gmail.com) This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it or 714.315.0518 so that we may get an accurate headcount

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE: April 30, 2011**



**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE: April 30, 2011  
8th Annual IMHO Convention in Houston, Texas\*\*\***

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 30th, 2011; Registration opens at 8:00am; Program starts at 8:30am  
**WHERE:** Sheraton North Houston (at George Bush Intercontinental Airport), 15700 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, TX 77032  
**WHY:** Come hear first-hand about the humanitarian needs in Sri Lanka and globally from visiting experts, doctors, and humanitarian workers. Learn about the important work of IMHO, participate in panel discussions on various topics, and get involved with our organization. More details to come! You can also view the event listing on our website [HERE](#).

Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us for our 8th Annual IMHO Convention, taking place this year in Houston, Texas. Rooms will be available for booking by phone at 281.442.5100. For reservations by phone, group nightly rates are \$79/night +tax, which does not include breakfast. The nightly group rate with breakfast for 2 included is \$89/night +tax. Please ask for the group rate for the International Medical Health Organization (IMHO). We look forward to seeing you there!

### Past IMHO Events

**\*\*\*SoCal Food Festival Sends Powerful Message to Amputees\*\*\***

In July, IMHO held 2 events in Southern California--one in Lancaster and one in Orange County. Between the 2 events, nearly \$37,000 was raised, thanks to the very generous support of hundreds of donors and the commitment of various local volunteers!

About 330 adults and children attended the "Food Festival for Mobility" fundraising event in Orange County, which also raised significant awareness regarding the needs of the people in Sri Lanka, especially the IDPs. The total amount collected was \$19,916, with a few more pledges expected. This event was only made possible by committed volunteers, driven by their love and compassion for those less fortunate and those severely affected by the war. "One hundred years from now...it will not matter what kind of house you lived in... what kind of car you drove... what your bank balance was... but what will matter is that you were important in the life of a disabled person and you helped that person to move around..." IMHO is deeply appreciative for your support!

**\*\*\*Canadian Youth Celebrates Coming of Age by Helping Others\*\*\***

"Coming of age" ceremonies for girls are a common way for families to celebrate their daughters and honor womanhood. The events, celebrated with great traditions, pomp, and feast are usually whole-day events, either hosted at the girl's home or in a banquet facility. During these ceremonies the 'little princess' will be showered with gifts of cash and jewels by her extended family and friends. But Vishali Ratnam, a 6th grade student of Thomas Wells Public School in Scarborough, ON, Canada decided to make a change in the trend. Instead of receiving gifts for herself she decided to donate all collections from her day-of-celebrations to a good cause.

IMHO stood out to the family from other mainstream NGOs due to the fact that it is almost entirely a volunteer organization and therefore it became an easy "selling point" for Vishali to broadcast her initiative. The objective of the novel idea, enabled by her parents and supported by extended family and friends, is to encourage other community members to do the same during traditional events. Vishali's day was hugely successful in collecting CDN\$8,950 towards IMHO's initiatives. According to Vishali, "I've got everything: peace, love and plenty to eat--so now it's time to assist the less fortunate

**Be the  
Difference.  
Save a Life**

During this crucial time in Sri Lanka and around the world, as we face monumental challenges in providing better access to quality medical and health care for those most at-risk populations, we need YOUR HELP now more than ever. With **just \$1/day** (or \$30/month) you can help save and improve lives in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Please consider making a donation to IMHO today. You can **donate online via PayPal as a one-time or recurring donation** (the amount & frequency of which are up to you).

**All donations are tax-deductible (tax ID code #59-3779465)**

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**TODAY!**

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