



International Medical Health Organization (IMHO)

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A Second Round of Flooding Plagues Eastern Sri Lanka

In February 2011, Eastern Sri Lanka was pounded by a second round of severe flooding that again displaced hundreds of thousands and wreaked havoc across the region. This was in addition to the already incredible amount of damage that was done just three weeks prior, when Eastern Sri Lanka saw its worst flooding in decades. Responding to the crisis, several reputable local partner organizations sprang into action again, working round the clock to provide emergency relief, medicines, and medical care to those left stranded, injured, or displaced. Volunteers also helped to relocate families and their belongings to safe spaces away from the dangerously high flood waters. These partner organizations include the Kalmunai Mental Health Association (KAMHA), Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM), and IMHO Lanka. They gave special attention to the most vulnerable segments of society, including children under 14, elders above 70, agricultural farmers, fishermen, and those living close to the lakes, lagoons, and rivers.

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IMHO USA's contributions have to-date included:

- **\$1,000 to IMHO Lanka for flood relief in Kalmunai**
- **\$11,000 to CACM for emergency flood relief in Vaharai** (*northern area of Batticaloa District--serving the villages of Omadiyamadu, Mathurankulam, Kirmichchai and Kunjankulam*)
- **\$4,000 to KAMHA for emergency flood relief in Kalmunai and Valaichchenai**

IMHO Canada has also contributed the following:

- **\$3,000 to KAMHA for emergency flood relief in Batticaloa** (*thanks to several individual donors and a \$1,000 gift from YMHA-Vattukkodai*)

The Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM) is planning to provide long-term support in the affected areas by strengthening their early child care programs as well. They have noted that the repeat flooding has severely affected vulnerable communities. Already damaged houses have been further ruined, and paddy fields that had escaped the first round of flooding have been completely ruined this time. This also means a loss of income for families who work on the land, even as labourers. Individuals, communities and local organizations have already used up resources in responding to the first crisis and are quite worn down. The local emergency response has also been described as "extremely patchy", and the relief supplies provided to families have been inadequate in proportion to their loss and needs--all the more reason the relief work of groups like CACM, KAMHA, and IMHO Lanka is so vital.

Filling the Gaps: Providing Key Support to Make All the Difference

IMHO's strength has always been in its ability to not only look at the big picture in developing health services and infrastructure in underserved areas, but to hone in on the important details that can make all the difference as well. Oftentimes a simple piece of equipment or access to a certain medicine, for example, can turn things around completely for patients or make a non-functional unit into a thriving treatment center. Filling in these gaps that are overlooked by other organizations is what helps to distinguish IMHO as an important health care service provider in North and East Sri Lanka. In the past few months IMHO has stepped up to address some of these needs, including:

Ventilators for Kilinochchi Hospital: When the Kilinochchi Hospital was opened on December 1, 2009, staff had essentially only the building itself to work with. Much work was done with the government and NGOs to help properly equip the hospital and bring it up to a much better standard. Some equipment was obtained from UNICEF and the Base Hospital at Cheddikulam, but staff did not have enough to meet the high demand from patients on account of a high incidence of snake bites and road traffic accident (RTA) victims. As such, IMHO gave \$1,300 to repair adult ventilators to benefit patients at the hospital.



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Final installment on renal dialysis machine: The final installment of \$6,000 was sent to cover the cost of a renal dialysis machine at Batticaloa Teaching Hospital, following the installation of the equipment and training of hospital staff in how to use it.

Breast biopsy needles for Batticaloa Teaching Hospital: A request for support in providing reusable biopsy needles used to diagnose cancer in patients at the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital was fulfilled by IMHO with a grant of \$3,000. Many patients are often unable to afford

Work has also begun on repairing 2 ambulances at the Kilinochchi Hospital, thanks to a previous grant of \$8,500 from IMHO.



Doing Your Part: IMHO Canada Launches Several New Campaigns

Each of us has a role to play in helping those in need around the world. We all have unique skills, experiences, and interests, but what we all share is our humanity and sense of commitment to our fellow man. In an effort to help you get involved and serve those in need, IMHO Canada has launched a series of campaigns targeted at small but manageable tasks that each of us can do. Every little bit helps.

["Share My Day" Campaign](#)

A great way to get your children involved in service work is to encourage your them to share the money they receive as part of celebrations of their "special days" with a less fortunate child in Sri Lanka. Special days are not limited to just birthdays, but can also include other celebrations such as puberty ceremonies, graduations, dance & music recitals, etc. Even a small amount will help to support children at the Gurukulam Orphanage in Kilinochchi or to help provide cardiac surgeries to young children with heart defects. The opportunities to share our celebrations are endless. The joy we get out of it is priceless.

[Wedding Favours](#)

What better way to begin your life with that special someone than to enrich the lives of those who are suffering? One way IMHO Canada would like to assist you in making your day more special is through our Wedding Favours campaign. Instead of giving wedding favours, you can donate in the name of each of your guests to one or more of IMHO Canada's many humanitarian efforts. IMHO

Canada will provide you with personalized place cards to give to your guests at your wedding ceremony or reception. The gift that you give on behalf of your guests can give someone a new limb, allow an expecting mother to deliver a healthy baby, or help a displaced family restart their lives. Whether you decide to donate \$5, \$10, or any amount per guest for each placecard, everything helps!

"Playground Project"

Another great way to get your kids involved is through our new "Playground Project", in which we will distribute piggy banks to 100 children. Simply donate \$5 upon picking up your piggy bank, then encourage your children to start collecting. Ask friends, family, classmates...anyone can contribute to the cause! Once they are done collecting, simply bring the piggy bank back to us, and we will use the funds to provide a playground for a school in Sri Lanka, starting with Tharmapuram Maha Vidyalayam in Kilinochchi, a school that was deeply devastated by the war. To honor your child's service, we will publish their photo and one or two paragraphs about them in our website, thanking them for their efforts in helping to build a play area for these children.



Left: 10 year-old Abi Sivakumar of Markham raised \$350 for the "Playground Project" campaign; **Right:** 3 year-old Navin and 5 year-old Mithran used Navin's 3rd birthday party celebration to collect \$300 to support orphans in Kilinochchi

Greeting Cards

IMHO Canada is pleased to offer greeting cards designed by Sri Lankan youth whereby all profits will benefit youth in Sri Lanka. Each pack of colorfully designed cards comes with 10 cards and envelopes for just \$5! Or you can order 5 packs for just \$20. To order, simply email Lokini, IMHO Canada Programs Coordinator at lokini@imhocanada.org and give the details of your order. The cards can either be picked up at the IMHO Canada office or can be mailed to you. You can view the images of the cards on our website at www.IMHOCanada.org.

Launch of IMHO Lanka and IMHO European Union Websites

IMHO is pleased to announce the launch of both the official IMHO Lanka and IMHO European Union websites, marking the first step in the growth and development of these two organizations. We welcome these new groups to the

IMHO family of organizations and look forward to further collaborating and working together toward the betterment of people's lives in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. You can visit the IMHO Lanka website at www.IMHOLanka.org, or the IMHO European Union website at www.IMHOEU.org.

Past IMHO Events

*****University of Ottawa TSU Basketball Tournament*****

The University of Ottawa Tamil Students' Union has held an annual Sports Meet to raise funds for a charity of their choice since its conception. In the past, they have managed to donate money to charities such as Doctors without Borders and The Red Cross. This year the uOttawa TSU decided to donate their proceeds to the International Medical Health Organization--Canada. On March 5th, 2011 the University of Ottawa Tamil Students' Union held a Basketball Tournament at the university's Lees Gym with over 130 participants and a handful of volunteers. With the teamwork of the uOttawa TSU executive team, core members, helpful volunteers, and valued sponsors, the event managed to raise \$1,000. Congrats to the student organizers and tournament winners!

*****"Charity Chow" Dinner in Michigan to Benefit Ethiopia*****

On Saturday, March 12th a charity dinner was held at a private residence in Ann Arbor, Michigan to raise funds for a mental health project in Ethiopia. IMHO is currently working on a project to develop a Master's in Clinical Psychology program at the University of Gondar Teaching Hospital in Gonder, NW Ethiopia. The funds raised from this event will help to purchase medical equipment & supplies and psychological/psychiatric teaching materials for this purpose. Thank you to the organizers and all who attended.

Upcoming IMHO Events

*****IMHO Canada Greeting Card Sales*****

IMHO Canada is pleased to offer [greeting cards designed by Sri Lankan youth](#) whereby all profits will benefit youth in Sri Lanka. Each pack of colorfully designed cards comes with 10 cards and envelopes for just \$5! Or you can order 5 packs for just \$20. To order, simply email Lokini, IMHO Canada Programs Coordinator at lokini@imhocanada.org and give the details of your order.

The cards can either be picked up at the IMHO Canada office or can be mailed to you. If you are picking the cards up at the IMHO Canada office, simply bring a cheque or cash as payment. If you prefer to have the cards mailed to you, please make a donation online [HERE](#) and make sure include \$5 extra for shipping. In either case, please coordinate in advance with the IMHO Canada Programs Coordinator by email or phone.

*****IMHO Canada OHM Wedding Show*****

WHEN: Saturday, March 26th, 2011 from 11:00am-9:00pm

WHERE: Markham Event Centre, 95 Duffield Drive, Markham, ON L6G 0A8

IMHO Canada will have a display booth at the OHM Wedding Show to promote our "Wedding Favours" campaign. We hope you will stop by and learn about this fun way to help those in need on your special day. OHM Wedding Show is the leading wedding event serving the Tamil and South Indian community around the greater Toronto area. Located at Markham Event Centre and with many wedding-related products from leading exhibitors, the show unites leading vendors in the wedding industry under one roof, all ready to service the needs of

brides and grooms to be.

*****Annual MA Fundraiser 2011*****

WHEN: Saturday, April 23rd, 2011 at 6:00pm

WHERE: VFW Post 2498, 20 Junction Street, Needham, MA 02492

WHAT: Annual fundraiser for the MA Chapter of IMHO to support flood victims and help provide continued health and medical services to the needy people in the North and East of Sri Lanka. We will have an update of IMHO's activities over the past year, plus a raffle, the annual sari auction, and more!

RSVP: Nanda (massachusetts@themho.org; [617.965.9233](tel:617.965.9233))

*****"Light Musical Night & Fashion Show" in New Jersey*****

WHEN: March 26, 2011 from 6:00-10:00pm

WHERE: West Windsor-Plainsboro High School (North Campus), 90 Grovers Mill Road, Plainsboro, NJ 08536

WHAT: A benefit concert featuring renowned musical artists C.S. Ainkaran and Anitha Krishna joined by a live band. A fashion show and dinner will follow.

COST: \$25/general; \$20/students; kids under 10 are free

Please save the date and support us with your presence and participation. You can view the event flyer and event posting on our website [HERE](#).

*****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](tel: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). Hotel reservations must be made by Friday, April 22nd if you wish to get the group rate. We look forward to seeing you there!

*****Online Shopping Campaign*****

WHEN: Now! This is an ongoing campaign taking place online.

WHERE: Go to <http://cafegive.com/?cause=IMHO>

WHAT: Now you can make purchases from your favorite online stores and earn money for IMHO! Simply login to cafegive.com and shop your favorite stores...Target, Barnes & Noble, Expedia, Macy's, Home Depot, iTunes, and hundreds more. A percentage of all your purchases will go back to IMHO. Just use the following link and start shopping today!:

<http://www.cafegive.com/?cause=IMHO>

Be the
Difference.
Save a Life
with just
\$1/day!
[DONATE](#)
[TODAY!](#)

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).

You can also donate via mail by sending a check made out to "IMHO" to the following address:

IMHO Treasurer
PO Box 61265
Staten Island, New York 10306
U.S.A.

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

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