



A Happy Meal

Feeding Program for Preschool Children
Emergency Response Initiative

Monthly Report

22nd August 2022

1. Background and Objectives

Kandawalai is a Divisional Secretariat in Kilinochchi District, of Northern Province, Sri Lanka. It consists of 16 Grama Niladhari Divisions (GND) and overall population of 26,926. World Vision Lanka (WVL) operates in 7 GNDs which have been identified among the most vulnerable communities. Majority (69%) of the community are farmers or work in farms. Statistics says that the 15% of Kandawalai households fell below the poverty line in 2016.

Most parent of the preschool children cannot afford nutritious meals for their children due to their poverty conditions. As a result, most preschool children are weak and hungry and unable to actively and attentively participate in education.

Preschool children are in a crucial age in which nutritious food develop their physical and cognitive skills. Also, lack of nutritious food at this rapid growth period of their lives contributes to serious physical conditions such as stunting or wasting which affect growth of their brain and physical health in future.

2. Project Description

The national school meal program, established by the Women and Children Ministry, allocated RS. 30 per meal in order to enable children to have at least a nutritious meal a day. However, with the current economic condition of the country, it has become a challenge to the preschool management society to provide meal for this amount.

Through this six-month project WVL intends to support 476 preschool children those who do not receive even the daily meal provision.

Meal plan approved by the MOH for the preschoolers is as follows.

1. **Monday** – Rice with dhal, spinach and sprats curry
2. **Tuesday** – Chickpea, cowpea or mung beans with coconut scrapes
3. **Wednesday**- Milk rice prepared with mung beans, sambol and piece of fish
4. **Thursday**- Noodles with egg and vegetables
5. **Friday**- Mixed vegetable rice prepared with at least two vegetables, egg and dhal or soya curry

A fruit was given as dessert every day.

To make this initiative sustainable, WVL will aid households that engage in agricultural activities in order to support them to improve their livelihood. This will enable families in the community to contribute nutritious vegetables to the Preschool Management Committee ensuring the continuity of meals for preschool children.

3. Project Implementation

Similar to month of June, children were provided with a meal at their preschool during the month of July as well. However, with the government declaration of school closure due to the fuel crisis, number of preschool operating days were reduced during the month of July.

Following positive outcomes were observed during the month.

- Higher rate of attendance across all preschools during operating days.
- Children actively engaging in class room activities while enjoying their preschool environment.
- Children belonging to families who are who are unable to afford a meal at home have the opportunity to enjoy a nutritious meal at the preschool.

Challenges:

- Due to the ongoing fuel crisis many preschool teachers were unable to attend their respective schools. However, preschool administration has instructed the teachers to attend pre-schools closer to their residency, and similar instructions were given to preschool children as well. These measures had a significant impact on the attendance of children.
- Due to the prevailing situation, monitoring has been limited by the DS office staff, Zonal Education office and MOH staff. However, WWL field office in Kandalawai has utilized the service of Sponsorship Field Volunteers to do the regular monitoring.
- New student admissions and drop out have been observed during the reporting period that impacts the ongoing monitoring process of the project.



4590

Meals provided



476

Children Benefitted



18

Preschools

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

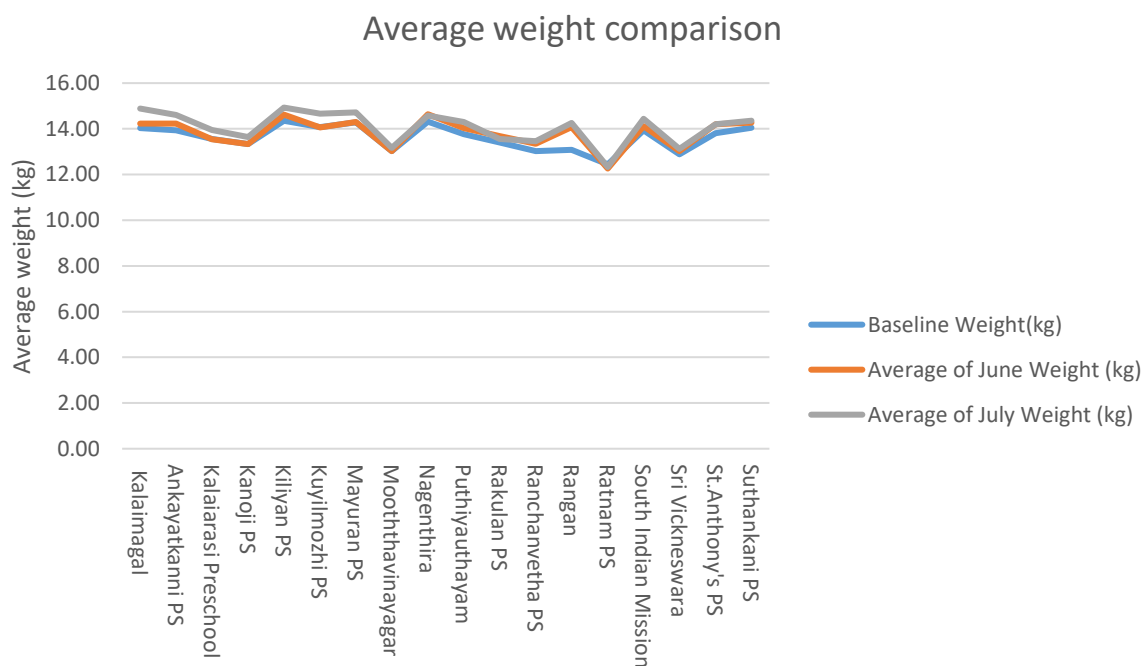
4.1 Output 1 – Number of Meals provided during the month

Name of Preschool	Number of Children	Number of Meals provided during the month (21 preschool days per month)		
		June	July	August
Kalaiarasi Preschool	18	252	187	
Mooththavinayagar	20	177	133	
Nagenthira	26	490	254	
Kalaimagal	26	399	203	
Kanoji PS	24	382	288	
Mayuran PS	30	360	297	
St.Anthony's PS	22	360	262	
Ankayatkanni PS	22	340	198	
Rakulan PS	44	564	452	
Suthankani PS	21	312	183	
Ranchanvetha PS	14	202	105	
Rangan	14	232	118	
Kiliyan PS	23	320	204	
Ratnam PS	20	349	237	
South Indian Mission	78	1178	707	
Puthiyauthayam	52	904	571	
Kuyilmozhi PS	13	150	113	
Sri Vickneswara	9	120	78	
Total	476	7091	4590	

4.2 Output 2 – Growth monitoring of preschool children

Below table and graph presents the average weight of the preschool children and how it has fluctuated over the period of time. It was observed the average weight of preschool children has gradually increased each month since the project commenced.

Row Labels	Baseline Weight(kg)	Average of June Weight (kg)	Average of July Weight (kg)
Kalaimagal PS	14.04	14.23	14.89
Ankayatkanni PS	13.94	14.22	14.60
Kalaierasi Preschool	13.55	13.54	13.95
Kanoji PS	13.34	13.34	13.64
Kiliyan PS	14.35	14.63	14.93
Kuyilmozhi PS	14.07	14.06	14.66
Mayuran PS	14.28	14.29	14.71
Mooththavinayagar	13.03	13.03	13.17
Nagenthira PS	14.31	14.64	14.58
Puthiyauthayam PS	13.77	14.03	14.29
Rakulan PS	13.41	13.68	13.56
Ranchanvetha PS	13.02	13.34	13.45
Rangan PS	13.09	14.07	14.26
Ratnam PS	12.44	12.26	12.33
South Indian PS			
Mission PS	13.93	14.12	14.44
Sri Vickneswara PS	12.89	13.03	13.12
St.Anthony's PS	13.81	14.20	14.20
Suthankani PS	14.05	14.27	14.36
Grand Total	13.73	13.93	14.15



5. Budget

No.	Name of the Preschool	Meal Costs		
		June	July	August
1	Kalaiarasi	25,200	18,700	
2	Mootha Vinatagar	17,700	13,300	
3	Nagendra	49,000	25,400	
4	Kalaimagal	39,900	20,300	
5	Kanoji	38,200	28,800	
6	Mayuran	36,000	29,700	
7	St.Anthony's	36,000	26,200	
8	Ankayarkanni	34,000	19,800	
9	Ragulan	56,400	45,200	
10	Suthankani	31,200	18,300	
11	Ranjan Vetha	20,200	10,500	
12	Rankan	23,200	11,800	
13	Kiliyan	32,000	20,400	
14	Ratnam	34,900	23,700	
15	South Indian Mission (CSI)	117,800	70,700	
16	Puthiya Uthayam	90,400	57,100	
17	Kuyilmozhi	15,000	11,300	
18	Sri Vickneswara	12,000	7,800	
Total		709,100	459,000	

Summary

Cost of Meals - June	709,100
Cost of Meals - July	459,000
Total Cost of Meals	1,168,100
Administration Cost - June	70,910
Administration Cost - July	45,900
Total Administration Cost	116,810
Total Cost of the Project	1,284,910

6. Images & Testimonials



Image 1: Meal served on Thursday with locally sourced fruit



Image 2: Chickpeas for Breakfast with dates



Image 3: Children enjoying their meal with friends



Image 4: Children enjoying a meal at the preschool



Image 5: Teaching children good sanitation practices



Image 6: Children washing hands before the meal

Project Happy Meal provides a nutritious meal for a child every day. Here are few thoughts shared by children about the meals they are receiving,

"I enjoy having my meal here in Preschool rather than at home."

"Food is very tasty!"

"I like fruits, fish and noodles the most"

"I am happily coming to preschool"

Parents shared few thoughts on the meal their children are receiving,

"Food that they don't want to eat at home, they start eating at the preschool with their friends. Also, they eat more than what they eat at home."

Thoughts from a preschool teacher,

"I observed that children are much more active in classroom activities compared to before and I'm happy to see this change in them".

A member of the Preschool Management committee said,

"I observed that the meals are provided according to the meal plan and we are happy to see that".

Thank You!

For partnering with World Vision Lanka to change the lives of
most vulnerable children!

