ANNUAL REPORT



2025

Vanni Hope

Be the reason someone smiles today

Be the Reason Someone Smiles Today!

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



Dear Supporters,

2025 was a defining year for Vanni Hope. With your support, we raised $858,178 AUD – our biggest fundraising year in our history, up 84% on 2024. Every dollar was put to work. From the Northern coast of Sri Lanka to the tea estates of the Central hills, from distributing medical equipment in the East to sponsoring a students in the South, we delivered programs across all 9 provinces and 25 districts of the island reaching every corner of Sri Lanka.

It was also a year that tested us. In late November, Cyclone Ditwah swept across Sri Lanka, bringing devastating floods and landslides. Within 48 hours our field teams were on the ground. By January, we had reached more than 2,285 families and over 8,300 people across 13 districts one of the largest emergency responses in our history. I am deeply proud of everyone who made that happen: our team, our community partners, and the donors who responded to our emergency appeal within hours of it launching.

Beyond the disaster response, 2025 saw us lay the foundation stone for the Palliative Care Unit at Tellippalai Base Hospital the first of its kind in the Northern Province in partnership with Paalam – Bridge to Humanity. We began construction of the Gnanapooranam Home for the Infirm in Sandilipay, a new residential facility for individuals living with severe disability. We equipped 38 rural schools with Model Mathematics Classrooms and installed 29 smart boards bringing digital learning to students who had never experienced it before. We sponsored students who graduated this year as doctors and lawyers. And we helped women start businesses, build homes, access clean water, and care for their children and elders with dignity, amongst the many things we did!

None of it happens without you. Your generosity, whether it's a monthly gift, a birthday fundraiser, a corporate sponsorship, or hours volunteered, is what makes every one of these stories possible. As we look ahead to 2026, which marks 10 years since Vanni Hope was accredited as a registered charity, we carry forward your trust with great care.

Thank you for standing with us, and for being the reason someone in Sri Lanka smiles today.

RANJAN SIVAGNANASUNDARAM
Founding Chairman



SPOTLIGHT: CYCLONE DITWAH EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Standing With Sri Lanka in Its Hardest Hours

In late November 2025, Cyclone Ditwah swept across Sri Lanka, bringing torrential rain, severe flooding and deadly landslides. Homes were submerged or buried, livelihoods were destroyed, and thousands of families were displaced into temporary shelters. Many of the worst affected communities were rural, remote or estate-based, where families were already living with limited resources and little safety net.

Vanni Hope's response began within 48 hours. Because our field officers, partner societies, school wardens and community leaders live and work within the communities we serve year-round, we were able to identify urgent needs quickly and respond where help was needed most. Our teams coordinated closely with Divisional Secretariats, Disaster Management Units and Grama Niladhari officers to ensure support was delivered fairly, efficiently and without unnecessary duplication.

Across the response, Vanni Hope supported 2,285 families and 8,303 individuals across 13 districts, delivering food relief, essential household items, maternal care support, disability assistance, hospital infrastructure support and early recovery assistance to communities affected by floods and landslides.











A PHASED RESPONSE

Phase 1 – Immediate Relief:
Dry ration packs and essential items were distributed to displaced and flood-affected families across the North, East, Central, Uva, Sabaragamuwa and Western provinces. Support reached communities in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Kandy, Matale, Nuwara Eliya, Badulla, Kegalle and Kalutara. These first distributions focused on ensuring families had food and essential supplies in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

Phase 2 – Early Recovery:
As families began returning home or moving out of temporary shelters, our response shifted to helping them restart daily life. Vanni Hope provided household restart items such as gas cookers, kettles, rice cookers, mattresses, bedding, clothing, cutlery, crockery and other essentials. We also provided targeted assistance for vulnerable individuals, including maternal care packs for pregnant women, baby supplies, and disability support.

Phase 3 – Rebuilding and Restoration:
Recovery work then moved towards restoring essential services and livelihoods. This included support for hospital infrastructure, emergency education assistance for children affected by the cyclone, irrigation and livelihood recovery, and climate-resilient home gardening initiatives with women-led community groups. These projects were designed not only to help families recover, but to build stronger resilience for the future.

2,285	8,303	13	49	$150,000+
Families Supported	Individuals Supported	Districts Reached	Distributions Completed	AUD Funds Raised



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening the Foundations of Rural Communities

In many rural and underserved areas across Sri Lanka, basic infrastructure is either not available or in a state of disrepair. Poor access to clean drinking water leads to serious health risks, while families without stable housing live in unsafe and unhygienic conditions. Children in institutional care and the elderly need consistent, dignified support throughout the year.

In 2025, Vanni Hope's Community Development initiatives focused on improving essential services and infrastructure to create thriving, resilient communities. From providing year round care for children and elders in our homes, to delivering safe shelter, clean water and sanitation through our W.A.S.H. and Shelter for Life programs, we worked to meet diverse community needs across the island. We also continued strengthening communities through sports, cultural programs and grassroots empowerment initiatives.

This pillar reflects our belief that long term development begins with dignity, safety and belonging. A secure home, reliable access to clean water, and strong community spaces can transform daily life for families who have lived for years without these basic supports. By working with local partners and community leaders, we are able to identify needs that are often overlooked and respond in ways that are practical, respectful and sustainable.







PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

✳ Shelter for Life

Through our Shelter for Life program, Vanni Hope continued supporting vulnerable families with safe and dignified housing. In 2025, this included building and renovating homes for families living in unsafe, incomplete or severely damaged conditions. Each project was guided by local need, helping families gain the security, stability and dignity needed to rebuild their lives.



✳ W.A.S.H.



Vanni Hope's W.A.S.H. projects continued to improve access to safe water and sanitation for schools, homes and wider communities. These projects included toilet facilities, Water for Life initiatives, tube wells, taps and clean water access, helping reduce health risks, improve hygiene and create safer learning and living environments for children, families and communities.



EDUCATION SUPPORT

Investing in Future Generations

Access to quality education remains one of the most powerful tools for breaking the cycle of poverty. Yet for many children in Sri Lanka's rural and estate communities, geography, infrastructure and financial barriers stand in the way. Vanni Hope's Education Support initiatives work to close that gap, from early learning through to university, across coaching programs, model classrooms, school resources and student sponsorships.

In 2025, we delivered our most ambitious education program yet. Our Model Mathematics Classrooms, Model English Classrooms and Smart Classrooms programs reached schools across 12 districts, bringing better learning environments and technology to communities that need them most. We also continued funding students through our sponsorship program, with supported students this year achieving degrees in medicine and law.

Beyond infrastructure, our education work is about restoring confidence and opportunity. A well equipped classroom can inspire both students and teachers, while long term sponsorship can give a child the stability to stay in school, complete higher education and pursue a professional career. Through these programs, Vanni Hope is helping young people believe that their circumstances do not have to define their future.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

✳ Model Mathematics & Smart Classrooms

Model Mathematics Classrooms were established in 38 rural schools across 12 districts, giving students dedicated learning spaces and resources to strengthen numeracy, problem solving and confidence. Alongside this, 29 smart boards were installed and computers were provided to school students, helping bring digital access, interactive learning and modern classroom tools to communities where these opportunities are often limited.



✳ Student Sponsorships



The Student Sponsorship Program expanded to support more students facing financial hardship across both school and university pathways. In 2025 we began sponsoring an additional 79 students, taking our total active sponsorship to 177 students. New sponsorships included students pursuing medicine, law, science, technology, nursing, mathematics, biosystems technology and A Level studies, helping ease pressure on families while giving students the stability and confidence to keep working towards their future.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Providing Swift Relief and Supporting Long-Term Recovery

Natural disasters continue to pose severe challenges for vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka. From flooding and landslides to storms and economic shocks, these crises disrupt lives, destroy homes and leave families without essential resources. Vanni Hope's Emergency Response initiatives focus on delivering immediate humanitarian aid while also working towards long term recovery.

In 2025, we responded to two significant emergencies. In June, a landslide in Nuwara Eliya's hill country left estate families without food and essential supplies. In November, Cyclone Ditwah, one of Sri Lanka's most significant disasters in years, struck communities across the island. Our Cyclone Ditwah Emergency Appeal raised over $150,000 and our response reached thousands of families across 13 districts.

Our emergency work is strengthened by our year round presence in Sri Lanka and the trusted relationships we have built with local communities, women's societies, schools, hospitals and government officers. This allows us to move quickly when disasters strike, while still ensuring support reaches the most vulnerable families first. Just as importantly, our response does not end with immediate relief. We continue working with affected communities as they rebuild homes, restore livelihoods and regain stability.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

✳ Cyclone Ditwah

2,285 Families, 13 Districts Three phases of response: dry rations, household restart packs and infrastructure restoration reaching 2,285 families and 8,303 individuals (and counting) across Sri Lanka.



✳ Langtle Estate Landslide



Nuwara Eliya Emergency dry food relief delivered to 28 families in Langtle Estate following a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall a rapid response to a remote community with no safety net.



HEALTH ENHANCEMENT

Bridging Gaps in Rural Healthcare

Healthcare disparities in remote regions mean that many individuals suffer from preventable diseases, undiagnosed conditions and limited access to specialist care. In parts of Sri Lanka still carrying the long term impacts of conflict, the gap between need and available care remains wide. Vanni Hope's Health Enhancement work focuses on closing these gaps, through building facilities, donating equipment and bringing free healthcare directly to communities.

In 2025, we made our largest ever investment in health infrastructure, laid foundation stones for two landmark facilities in the Northern Province, donated medical equipment to rural hospitals and expanded our community health programs in partnership with the Aram Initiative to also include dental and eye checkups, reaching hundreds of individuals who would otherwise have had no access to care.

This pillar is driven by the understanding that health is the foundation for every other opportunity in life. When hospitals lack equipment, when families cannot access basic screening, or when vulnerable patients have nowhere to receive specialised care, entire communities suffer. By investing in both infrastructure and outreach, Vanni Hope is helping strengthen local health systems and bring compassionate care closer to those who need it most.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

✳ Palliative Care Unit and Gnanapooranam Home

Foundation stones laid for two landmark facilities serving the Northern Province – a palliative care unit at Tellippalai Base Hospital with partner Paalam, and a residential home for individuals with severe disability in Sandilipay, made possible by the Gnanapooranam Trustees.





✳ Medical Equipment, Screenings and Disability Support



Over half a million USD worth of Medical equipment donated to Vanni Hope to distribute across rural hospitals through our Project C.U.R.E partnership.

✳ Rough Terrain Wheelchairs

121 boxed 'Rough Terrain' wheelchairs created using recycled material such as road bicycles and school chairs, as well as 7 refurbished "normal" wheelchairs and 19 pairs of crutches shipped and donated by the Rotary Club of Surfers Sunrise to Vanni Hope to distribute to vulnerable individuals.





SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Creating Economic Stability for Rural Families

Economic insecurity remains a significant challenge for many families in Sri Lanka, particularly those in rural and estate communities with limited employment opportunities. Many households rely on seasonal or daily wage work that fails to provide stability. Vanni Hope's Sustainable Livelihoods initiatives empower individuals with the resources, skills and support they need to establish reliable, independent incomes.

In 2025, we strengthened livelihoods through inland fisheries, home gardening, small business support and skills based self-employment, working across coastal, rural and estate communities to provide targeted support that gives families a genuine pathway to financial independence.

Our approach is centred on practical, income generating support rather than short term assistance alone. Whether through fishing equipment, agricultural inputs, tools for trades, or support for small enterprises, we aim to help families build income streams they can sustain themselves. These projects not only improve household finances, but also restore dignity, independence and hope for families striving to stand on their own feet.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

✳ Inland Fishing and NAQDA Partnership

In partnership with the National Aquaculture Development Authority, our inland fishing initiatives supported rural fishing communities through freshwater fingerling stocking, technical guidance and livelihood development. By strengthening seasonal tank fisheries and supporting families involved in fishing, breeding, tank management and selling harvested fish, this work helped improve food security, generate income and build more sustainable local economies.



✳ Tools and Equipment for Livelihood Growth



Targeted livelihood support helped individuals and small businesses grow by providing practical tools they could immediately use to earn an income. This included welding machines for welders, sewing machines for tailors and a grinding mill for the Kalvilan Mothers Club in Chulipuram, giving families and community groups the equipment needed to expand their work, improve productivity and build greater financial independence.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Helping Women Achieve Economic Independence

Women in Sri Lanka continue to face barriers to economic participation, limited access to employment, entrepreneurship opportunities and financial independence. Many women, especially in rural and estate communities, lack the resources and training to establish sustainable income sources. Vanni Hope's Women's Empowerment initiatives are designed to bridge this gap through entrepreneurial support, skills development and access to finance.

In 2025, we supported women through orientation and skills programs, interest free revolving loans for rural women's development societies, and direct entrepreneurship support. When Cyclone Ditwah struck, the women's societies we have invested in for years stepped up to lead emergency relief distributions in their own communities, a powerful demonstration of the leadership our programs help build.

This pillar recognises that empowering women strengthens entire families and communities. When women have access to training, capital and community support, they are better able to earn an income, make decisions, educate their children and respond to crises. By investing in women led groups and local leadership, Vanni Hope is helping build a future where women are not only beneficiaries of development, but drivers of change.







PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

✳ Orientation Sessions for Rural Women

Orientation sessions in Polikandy and Valvettithurai South brought women's groups together to begin a new pathway towards economic empowerment, skills development and community leadership. These sessions created space for women to share their priorities, understand available support and take the first steps towards building sustainable income opportunities in their own communities.



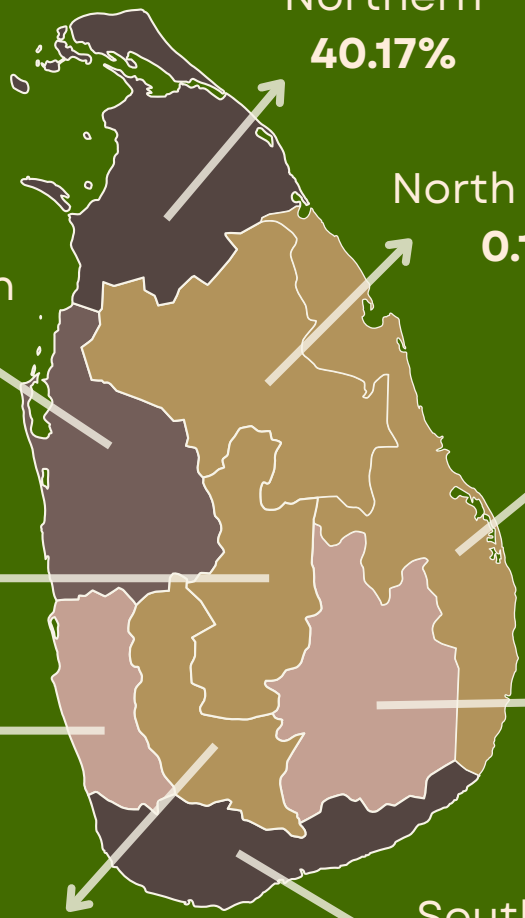
✳ Revolving Loan Initiative for Women's Rural Development Societies



The revolving loan initiative supported Women's Rural Development Societies by providing access to small loans, business training and ongoing guidance for women starting or expanding income generating activities. As loans are repaid, the funds can be reused to support more women, creating a sustainable model that strengthens household income, confidence and long term community resilience.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

TOTAL EXPENDITURE = $841,256 AUD



PILLAR EXPENDITURE

- Education Support **24%**
- Community Development **21%**
- Sustainable Livelihoods **2%**
- Health Enhancement **45%**
- Women's Empowerment **2%**
- Emergency Response **6%**







LOOKING TOWARDS 2026

As we enter 2026 – **the tenth year since Vanni Hope was registered as an ACNC accredited charity in Australia** we carry forward the strongest foundation we have ever had: a growing community of supporters, an experienced field team, trusted partnerships across Sri Lanka, and a set of ambitious projects already underway.

Completing our flagship health facilities. The Palliative Care Unit at Tellippalai Base Hospital and the Gnanapurnam Home for the Infirm in Sandilipay are both progressing towards completion. When they open, they will serve some of the most vulnerable people in the Northern Province – patients with life-limiting illness, and individuals with severe disability who have nowhere else to turn.

Cyclone Ditwah Phase 3 and 4 recovery. Our emergency response continues into 2026, shifting from relief to rebuild. Priorities include restoring livelihoods for flood-affected fishing and farming families, repairing homes and water infrastructure, and establishing climate-resilient home gardening projects with women-led societies in partnership with Empower Projects. We are also investing in disaster preparedness so we can respond even faster next time.

The Chavakachcheri Community and Vocational Training Facility. In March 2026 we will hold the Foundation Laying Ceremony for a new community and education facility in Chavakachcheri, Jaffna District – providing skills training and education to thousands in the region for years to come.

Continuing what works. Our Model Mathematics Classrooms, Smart Classrooms and Student Sponsorship programs continue to grow. Our Shelter for Life, Water for Life and sanitation programs remain core to our community development work. And our children's homes, elders homes and moral development schools continue to provide consistent, dignified care. Alongside all the rest of our projects across the 6 pillars.

Strengthening governance. We continue working towards accreditation with the **Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)** reinforcing our commitment to transparency and international best practice.

2026 will be a year of consolidation and completion, and of celebrating ten years of impact together.



VOTE OF THANKS

As we reflect on 2025, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made it possible.

To our partners and supporters, thank you for standing alongside us throughout another remarkable year. We are grateful for the support and collaboration of **World Vision Lanka, Berendina, Anbaalayam Australia, ChildFund Sri Lanka, the Aram Initiative, Paalam – Bridge to Humanity, VINVA Investment Management, Empower Projects, SMEC Foundation, TVR Trust, Tamil Foundation Movement, the British Tamil Medical Association, the British Tamil Dental Association, the Emergency Medicine Symposium, and Gandhi Illam New Zealand Trust.**

We also extend our sincere appreciation to the many schools, hospitals, government agencies, community organisations, corporate partners, philanthropic trusts and individual supporters who continue to make our work possible. Together, your generosity, expertise and partnership are creating lasting change for vulnerable communities across Sri Lanka.

To our **staff and volunteers** – in Sri Lanka, in Australia and around the world – your dedication was never more visible than in the days after Cyclone Ditwah, when many of you worked through nights and weekends so that families would not go without. You are the heart of this organisation.

To our **donors and supporters** – your generosity in 2025 was extraordinary. You gave more than ever before. You responded to our emergency appeal within hours. You sponsored classrooms, students, homes and hospital wards. You trusted us with your birthday, your workplace giving, and your monthly direct debit. Every single dollar went to work.

Thank you for being part of this journey – together, we are creating hope for those in need across Sri Lanka!

"To be asked to give is bitter too, until seeing the smiling face of the recipient."
– Thirukkural








Discover our Impact!

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