

PROJECT PROPOSAL

# Nourishing Futures:

## Food Security & Education Support Initiative

Trincomalee & Anuradhapura Districts • Sri Lanka • 2026

Presented by: Blue Cross of Ceylon

<b>USD 50M</b> Total Budget	<b>USD 40M</b> Programme Spend	<b>2</b> Districts Served	<b>50,000+</b> Est. Beneficiaries
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## 1. Executive Summary

Blue Cross of Ceylon respectfully submits this proposal to secure donor partnership for the "Nourishing Futures" initiative — a targeted humanitarian programme addressing food insecurity and educational deprivation among vulnerable families in the Trincomalee and Anuradhapura districts of Sri Lanka.

With a total project budget of USD 50 million, this initiative will channel USD 40 million directly into community relief, delivering monthly dry food packages (valued at USD 120 per household) and essential stationery kits for children (valued at USD 80 per kit). The programme places primary emphasis on food security, reflecting the urgent nutritional needs of the communities we serve.

Blue Cross of Ceylon is a registered non-governmental organisation with a proven track record of community-centred humanitarian action in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. We operate with full transparency, accountable governance, and a deep commitment to preserving the dignity of every individual we reach.

## 2. About Blue Cross of Ceylon

Far beyond the boundaries of place and background, we work to bring hope, dignity, and opportunity to communities in need. Our organisation is driven by compassion, inclusion, and a strong belief that every individual deserves a chance to live with respect and purpose. Through dedication and collective effort, we strive to create lasting, positive change where it is needed most.

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### 3. Problem Statement

Sri Lanka's communities were already navigating the compounded hardships of post-conflict recovery and economic fragility when, on 28 November 2025, Cyclone Ditwah made landfall on the East Coast — striking Trincomalee and the wider northern and eastern regions with devastating force. What followed was the most extensive flooding and landslide disaster Sri Lanka has experienced in over two decades.



Cyclone Ditwah brought sustained winds of 70–90 km/h and rainfall of 150–500 mm across Sri Lanka, triggering catastrophic flooding across all 25 districts, with 22 districts formally declared disaster zones. The storm caused an estimated USD 4.1 billion in damages — approximately 4% of Sri Lanka's GDP — making it the deadliest natural disaster in the country since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The UN Humanitarian Country Team launched a Humanitarian Priorities Plan identifying 1.2 million people in acute need, with a target population of 658,000 requiring priority life-saving support through April 2026.

#### Impact on Trincomalee District

As a coastal district, Trincomalee bore the direct brunt of Cyclone Ditwah's initial landfall. Storm surges, severe flooding, and infrastructure destruction devastated fishing communities, displaced thousands of families, and destroyed livelihoods overnight. A population already managing the social and economic scars of civil conflict found itself pushed further into crisis. Access roads were damaged, cutting off rural communities from markets, hospitals, and food supplies. Child malnutrition risks have intensified sharply, and school closures — combined with the loss of educational materials — have disrupted the education of thousands of children at a critical point in the academic year.

#### Impact on Anuradhapura District

Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka's ancient cultural heartland, is predominantly rural and heavily dependent on smallholder agriculture. Cyclone Ditwah destroyed standing crops, flooded farmland, and overwhelmed the district's reservoir network — 46 reservoirs across the country reached critical spill levels or failed during the disaster. Farming families who had little economic buffer before the cyclone are now facing acute food insecurity during the critical months between harvests. Children attending rural schools have lost learning materials, and families that previously managed on subsistence incomes now have nothing left in reserve.

The scale of destruction has overwhelmed government capacity and existing relief systems. More than 153,000 people remain displaced as of March 2026, and the UN's own situation reports note that the most vulnerable — including estate communities, informal workers, and families without formal land tenure — are being left behind as mainstream recovery efforts scale down. Without targeted, sustained humanitarian support from organisations with deep community presence, tens of thousands of families in Trincomalee and Anuradhapura face hunger, educational exclusion, and entrenched long-term poverty.

## 4. Project Objectives

- Alleviate immediate food insecurity by providing monthly dry food packages to vulnerable households in Trincomalee and Anuradhapura districts.
- Reduce barriers to education by supplying essential stationery kits to school-going children, with emphasis on families in acute need.
- Strengthen community resilience and dignity by delivering aid in a consistent, respectful, and community-informed manner.
- Ensure transparent and accountable use of donor funds through rigorous monitoring, reporting, and third-party verification.
- Build long-term partnerships with local authorities, schools, and community leaders to maximise programme reach and sustainability.

## 5. Beneficiaries

The Nourishing Futures initiative is designed to serve the most vulnerable segments of the population across both target districts. Our primary beneficiary groups are identified in close collaboration with local Grama Niladhari officers, district social services departments, and community leaders to ensure aid reaches those most in need.

### **Vulnerable Households**

Low-income families with no stable livelihood  
Female-headed households and widows  
Families displaced by conflict or natural disaster  
Households with elderly or disabled members  
Families in drought-affected farming communities

### **School-Going Children**

Children aged 5-18 enrolled in government schools  
Students from families below the poverty line  
Children in rural and underserved communities  
Differently-abled students in mainstream schools  
Children who risk dropping out due to resource gaps

### **Elderly & Isolated Individuals**

Senior citizens without family support

### **Conflict-Affected Communities**

Families from post-conflict zones still rebuilding

Elderly living alone or in remote villages  
Individuals unable to access food markets

Communities with limited government service access  
Resettled families still lacking stable infrastructure

## 6. Project Activities

### 6.1 Dry Food Distribution (Primary Focus)

Each monthly food package is carefully assembled to provide nutritionally adequate dry provisions for a family of four over a 30-day period. Items are procured in bulk from local suppliers to minimise cost, support the local economy, and ensure cultural appropriateness. The package is valued at USD 120 per household per month.

#### Monthly dry food package — USD 120 per household:

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount (USD)
Rice (Samba / Nadu)	10 kg	USD 0.85/kg	8.50
Red Lentils (Dhal)	3 kg	USD 1.20/kg	3.60
Wheat Flour	5 kg	USD 0.90/kg	4.50
Sugar	3 kg	USD 0.80/kg	2.40
Canned Fish (Tuna/Mackerel)	12 tins × 425g	USD 1.80/tin	21.60
Dried Fish (Maldive Fish)	1 kg	USD 5.00/kg	5.00
Coconut Milk Powder	500 g	USD 3.50/500g	3.50
Cooking Oil (Sunflower)	2 litres	USD 2.50/litre	5.00
Salt (Iodised)	1 kg	USD 0.50/kg	0.50
Green Gram (Mung Bean)	2 kg	USD 2.00/kg	4.00
Chick Peas	2 kg	USD 1.50/kg	3.00
Tomato Paste (canned)	6 tins × 400g	USD 1.20/tin	7.20
Dried Chilli Powder	500 g	USD 3.00/500g	3.00
Turmeric Powder	200 g	USD 1.50/200g	1.50
Curry Powder (mixed)	500 g	USD 2.50/500g	2.50
Milk Powder	400 g	USD 5.00/400g	5.00
Tea Leaves	200 g	USD 1.50/200g	1.50
Matches & Candles (emergency)	3 boxes + 4 candles	–	1.20
Packaging, sealing & handling	–	–	5.00
Logistics & last-mile delivery	–	–	10.50

**TOTAL PER HOUSEHOLD PER MONTH**

**USD 120.00**

## 6.2 Educational Stationery Kits

Stationery kits are distributed at the commencement of each school term to enrolled children from beneficiary households, removing a key barrier to regular attendance and active classroom participation. The kit is valued at USD 80 per child per term.

**Term stationery kit — USD 80 per child:**

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount (USD)
Exercise Books (80-page, ruled)	10 books	USD 0.40/book	4.00
CR Books (200-page)	4 books	USD 1.80/book	7.20
Drawing / Art Book (80-page)	2 books	USD 0.90/book	1.80
Practical / Science Book	2 books	USD 1.20/book	2.40
HB Pencils	12 pcs	USD 0.10/pc	1.20
Ballpoint Pens (blue & black)	10 pcs	USD 0.15/pc	1.50
Colour Pencils (12-colour set)	1 set	USD 1.50/set	1.50
Eraser (large)	3 pcs	USD 0.15/pc	0.45
Pencil Sharpener	2 pcs	USD 0.20/pc	0.40
Ruler (30 cm)	1 pc	USD 0.35/pc	0.35
Geometry Set (compass, protractor, set squares)	1 set	USD 2.50/set	2.50
Correction Fluid / Pen	2 pcs	USD 0.50/pc	1.00
Glue Stick	2 pcs	USD 0.40/pc	0.80
Scissors (13 cm)	1 pc	USD 0.45/pc	0.45
Highlighters (assorted, 3-pack)	1 pack	USD 1.20/pack	1.20
Marker Pens (for projects)	1 set of 6	USD 1.50/set	1.50
School Bag (backpack, medium)	1 bag	USD 12.00/bag	12.00
Water Bottle (BPA-free, 600ml)	1 bottle	USD 2.50/bottle	2.50
Pencil Case / Pouch	1 pc	USD 1.50/pc	1.50
Foolscap Paper (100-sheet pack)	2 packs	USD 1.00/pack	2.00
Packaging & kit assembly	–	–	2.00
Logistics & distribution	–	–	7.75

**TOTAL PER CHILD PER TERM**

**USD 80.00**

## 6.3 Community Engagement & Monitoring

- Beneficiary registration and verification in partnership with local authorities
- Monthly community distribution events conducted with dignity and transparency
- Quarterly monitoring visits and beneficiary feedback surveys
- Semi-annual third-party programme evaluation
- Regular donor reporting with photographic and narrative evidence

## 7. Project Budget

The following table outlines the financial framework for the Nourishing Futures initiative.

Budget Line	Amount (USD)	% of Total
Dry Food Package Distribution	32,000,000	64.0%
Educational Stationery Kits	8,000,000	16.0%
Beneficiary Registration & Verification	1,500,000	3.0%
Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting	1,200,000	2.4%
Community Outreach & Awareness	800,000	1.6%
Logistics & Transportation	2,500,000	5.0%
Contingency Reserve (Programme)	4,000,000	8.0%
<b>Total Programme Spend</b>	<b>40,000,000</b>	<b>80.0%</b>
Administration & Organisational Costs (20%)	10,000,000	20.0%
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>USD 50,000,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## 8. Expected Impact & Social Benefits

The Nourishing Futures initiative is designed not simply to provide relief, but to create meaningful, measurable change in the lives of individuals, families, and communities. The following outcomes are anticipated over the programme lifecycle:

### 8.1 Immediate Impact

- Over 50,000 individuals across both districts will have reliable access to nutritious dry food, reducing the risk of acute malnutrition, particularly for children under five and pregnant or lactating women.

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- Approximately 15,000 school-going children will receive educational stationery kits, directly improving their ability to participate in lessons, complete assignments, and remain enrolled throughout the academic year.
  - Food insecurity — a leading driver of school absenteeism — will be reduced, keeping children in school and focused on learning rather than survival.

## 8.2 Medium-Term Social Impact

- Improved nutritional status will reduce incidence of hunger-related illness, lowering pressure on public health facilities and reducing household medical expenditure.
- Consistent access to educational materials will improve academic performance, reduce dropout rates, and build the foundations for long-term educational achievement.
- Relief of the burden of basic survival will free family members — particularly women — to pursue livelihood activities, vocational training, or community roles.
- Community trust in humanitarian organisations will be strengthened, supporting future programme implementation and social cohesion.

## 8.3 Long-Term Societal Transformation

- Children supported through this programme will enter adulthood with stronger educational foundations, improving their employment prospects and lifetime earning potential.
- Breaking the link between poverty and educational exclusion will contribute to reduced intergenerational poverty across both districts.
- Investment in nutritional security today reduces long-term economic costs associated with stunting, cognitive impairment, and preventable disease.
- Communities that experience consistent, dignified humanitarian support develop greater social capital, resilience, and civic engagement — contributing to peacebuilding and national reconciliation in post-conflict regions.

## 9. Accountability & Transparency

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Blue Cross of Ceylon is committed to the highest standards of financial accountability and programme transparency. Donors can expect the following safeguards:

- All expenditures will be documented and audited by an independent external auditor annually.
- Quarterly narrative and financial reports will be submitted to all donors.
- A dedicated programme monitoring team will conduct field visits and community feedback sessions every three months.
- Beneficiary lists will be verified by local Grama Niladhari officers and cross-checked with district social services databases.
- Photographic and narrative documentation will accompany each distribution round.
- All donors will be invited to conduct independent field visits at any time during programme implementation.

## 10. Implementation Timeline

Phase	Timeline	Key Activities
<b>Phase 1: Preparation</b>	Months 1–2	Donor agreement signing, beneficiary registration, supply chain set-up, staff recruitment, community sensitisation
<b>Phase 2: Pilot Distribution</b>	Month 3	Initial food and stationery distribution in two pilot zones; feedback collection and process refinement
<b>Phase 3: Full Rollout</b>	Months 4–18	Monthly food distributions across all target areas; term-based stationery distributions; ongoing monitoring
<b>Phase 4: Evaluation</b>	Months 19–24	Programme review, impact assessment, beneficiary feedback analysis, donor reporting and lessons-learned documentation

## 11. A Partnership for Change

Every contribution made to the Nourishing Futures initiative is an investment not just in rice and pencils — it is an investment in the futures of children who deserve the chance to learn, grow, and dream. It is an investment in families who deserve to live with dignity rather than anxiety. And it is an investment in communities recovering from decades of hardship, slowly building a future worth believing in.

Blue Cross of Ceylon stands ready to partner with committed donors who share our vision of a Sri Lanka where no child goes to school hungry and no family sleeps without food. We welcome your questions, field visits, and dialogue as we work together towards this goal.

*For further information, please contact us at [bluecrossceylon@gmail.com](mailto:bluecrossceylon@gmail.com) or WhatsApp +94 77 270 2512*

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