

Proposal for the Construction of Toilets in Homes of Needy People in Jaffna

Introduction

Access to sanitation is a fundamental human right, yet millions of people around the world still live without the basic facilities needed for personal hygiene. In Sri Lanka, despite significant progress in improving sanitation, many underserved communities, particularly in rural areas, still lack adequate facilities. Northern Sri Lanka is one such area where many families, particularly those from low-income backgrounds, are living in unsanitary conditions due to the absence of proper toilet facilities. This proposal seeks to address this critical need by constructing toilets in the homes of needy families in Northern Sri Lanka, ensuring that they have access to clean, safe, and private sanitation facilities. This proposal also enables diaspora (Expats.) to participate in helping the Northern Province Community.

Project Background

Northern Province, like many rural areas of Sri Lanka, has seen gradual improvements in infrastructure, but poverty, displacement due to past conflicts, and lack of economic opportunities have left a large segment of the population struggling to meet basic needs. Many of the households in the region still use open fields, communal latrines, or even lack any form of sanitation. This poses significant health risks, particularly for children, the elderly, and women.

The lack of proper sanitation is directly linked to various health issues, such as the spread of diseases like cholera, dysentery, and other waterborne diseases. The absence of toilets in homes also compromises the dignity and privacy of individuals, especially women, who are at risk of harassment when they are forced to defecate in open fields or in unsafe conditions.

The government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have made efforts to improve sanitation in Sri Lanka, but many needy families in Jaffna have been left behind due to the high costs of constructing proper toilet facilities. This project aims to bridge this gap by providing toilets to families who are unable to afford them, improving their living conditions and contributing to better public health in the region.

Vision and Mission

Vision:

To create a healthier, safer, and more dignified environment for vulnerable families in Jaffna by providing them with proper sanitation facilities, ensuring that they can live with dignity and without fear of disease.

Mission:

To construct sanitary toilet facilities in the homes of 100 needy families in Northern Province within the next 12 months, with a focus on ensuring sustainability, accessibility, and community involvement in the process. The project will improve public health and empower marginalized communities.

Objectives of the Project

1. **Improve Public Health:**

By providing proper toilets, the project aims to reduce the incidence of sanitation-related diseases in the Northern Province. A safe and hygienic toilet facility will significantly reduce the exposure to harmful bacteria and viruses, thereby lowering health risks.

2. **Empower Communities:**

The project will engage the local community in the planning and construction process.

3. **Enhance Dignity and Safety:**

Access to private sanitation facilities will ensure that women, children, and the elderly have the dignity and privacy they deserve. This is particularly important to the conservative community in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka

4. **Sustainability:**

The project will prioritize the use of low-cost, locally available materials and environmentally friendly (no flood risk) and Pradeshiya Sabhai building approval.

Project Implementation Plan

Step 1: Needs Assessment and Identification of Beneficiaries

The first step in the project will involve conducting a needs assessment in Northern Province of Sri Lanka. A survey will be carried out to identify households that lack access to proper sanitation facilities and are in need of a toilet. The survey will also collect data on the financial status and income, family size (including number of women and children in household), and specific requirements of each household.

Step 2: Design and Planning

Once the target households are identified, the project team will work with local surveyors, draftsmen, technical officers and Pradeshiya Sabhai planning officers (building application planning officers) to design suitable toilet facilities for each household. The designs will consider the local context, such as water availability, the terrain and distance between the well and the proposed toilet site. The team will ensure that the design is appropriate and customised for each household, with consideration for gender and accessibility needs.

Step 3: Construction and Materials Procurement

The project will procure the materials necessary for constructing the toilets, including cement, concrete block, pipes, and other sanitary fixtures. Local suppliers will be prioritized to support the local economy. The construction process will be managed by skilled labourers from the community.

Expected Outcomes

1. **Health Improvement:**

The primary outcome of the project will be a reduction in the incidence of waterborne diseases in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. With proper sanitation, families will experience improved health outcomes, particularly children and the elderly.

2. **Enhanced Living Conditions:**

Families who receive new toilets will experience a significant improvement in their

living conditions. The provision of a private toilet will increase their dignity and enhance their overall quality of life.

3. **Community Empowerment:**

By involving the local community in the construction process, the project will empower people, creating a sense of ownership and responsibility. This will foster a culture of community-driven development and job opportunities.

4. **Environmental Impact:**

The project will help reduce open defecation, contributing to cleaner surroundings and a healthier environment. The use of eco-friendly materials will also promote sustainable practices within the community.

Conclusion

The construction of toilets for needy families in Jaffna is a project that will address the critical issue of sanitation while improving the health, dignity, and safety of vulnerable populations. Through the provision of these basic facilities, the project will not only reduce the spread of diseases but will also empower communities and contribute to a healthier, more sustainable future. In addition, it will greatly improve the safety and dignity of women. The proposed project, with its focus on local involvement, sustainability, and effective monitoring, aims to bring long-term benefits to the residents of Northern Province of Sri Lanka and pave the way for further improvements in community health and well-being. This is a project that can help the diaspora's directly link with the local community and make difference within the community.