

EDUCATION WITHOUT HUNGER

CREATING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS
FOR FOOD SECURITY IN SRI LANKA



BI-ANNUAL REPORT - PUTTALAM DISTRICT



INTRODUCTION



The Education Without Hunger program, launched in October 2022, is a transformative initiative addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in Sri Lanka.

By empowering students, teachers, and parents with agricultural and environmental education, the program creates lasting change and promotes community-driven sustainability.

With proven success in Jaffna District, benefitting over 10,000 children, the program has expanded to Puttalam District, paving the way for national scalability.

GOVERNMENT APPROVALS



To ensure a structured and official rollout of the project, the Foundation first secured approvals from the relevant education and agriculture authorities. Formal permissions were obtained from:

- **Provincial Education Department of North Western Province**
- **Zonal Education Office Puttalam**
- **Divisional Education Offices (Puttalam North, Puttalam South, and Anamaduwa)**
- **Provincial Agriculture Department of North Western Province**
- **Puttalam District Agriculture Department**

AUTHORIZATION LETTER

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		2025.01.29
Provincial Director of Education North Western Provincial, Kurunegala.		
<p>Permission for the pilot School Gardening Project in Puttalam District Schools</p> <p>According to the District Secretary's approval, they have contacted the District Non-Government Organization Coordinator to implement the School Gardening Pilot Project in Puttalam District School and SBTCF has been received the permission from the District Secretary.</p> <p>Serendip Be the Change Foundation Senior Program officer Mr. Thiyagarasa Vasanthagumar with permission letter and on 20th Jan 2025, discussed with zonal Director of Education. We have submitted a list of names of 15 schools as per the criteria of the organization to Zonal Education Office Deputy Director of Planning based on discussion with Zonal Director of Education.</p> <p>A consultation meeting was held on 22nd Jan 2025 to assess the need for the project and get a proposal for the project under the leadership of the Zonal Education Office Planning Unit by calling a representative from the submitted schools.</p> <p>Along with this, we have submitted a final list of 25 schools based on rapid need assessment of participating schools and schools recommended by the Divisional Director of Education to implement the pilot School Gardening project in Puttalam District Schools.</p>		
Zonal Director Education- Zonal Education Office Puttalam	 Mr. A.H.M. ARJUNA ZONAL DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION PUTTALAM	
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NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Following these approvals, SBTCF's COO & Senior program Co-ordinator along with the SBTCF team conducted a needs assessment across schools in the Puttalam District, guided by the zonal and divisional office.

Based on the assessment findings, ten schools were carefully selected for the first phase, ensuring that the most suitable and deserving institutions were included.



STUDENT-LED GARDEN DESIGN

Our new Puttalam staff have been working closely with the schools and students through a participatory approach—where the children themselves decide what to grow, where to plant, and how to care for their gardens. This gives them a true sense of ownership and responsibility from the start. The enthusiasm and joy expressed by both children and teachers reflected their eagerness to begin this hands-on journey toward sustainability.



SCHOOL COLLABORATION

Recognizing the importance of minimal disruption to academic schedules, the ceremony date and time 23rd April at 11:00 am were selected after analyzing the school calendars and academic-activities. Mampuriya Roman Catholic Sinhala Tamil Maha Vidyalaya was chosen as the central venue as it is geographically well-positioned among the ten selected pilot schools, ensuring accessibility for all participants.

The principal and staff of Mampuriya School and other 9 schools provided full support for the event's preparation. Two dedicated teachers, and the students themselves took leadership roles in organizing the event. Responsibilities were effectively divided among staff members, and students ensuring smooth event management.



NUTRION GARDENS INAUGURATION EVENT

The inauguration of the Education Without Hunger school gardens in Puttalam took place on April 23rd, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Mampuriya Roman Catholic School.

The event marked the official launch of the program, with 10 selected schools receiving organic nutrition garden kits—signaling the start of their journey toward growing their own food. Each kit was thoughtfully tailored in consultation with school teams to meet their specific needs. These resources will help students and teachers establish their gardens and apply their learning through hands-on experience.



A VIBRANT CELEBRATION OF SUSTAINABILITY

Students led the way with inspiring speeches, traditional dances, and natural decorations, including a hand-painted banner. They spoke about the importance of organic farming and how gardening can improve their health, well-being, and reduce screen time. Teachers, parents, and community members also joined in with strong support.



EQUIPPING CHANGE MAKER'S GARDEN : SBTCF'S CONTRIBUTION

As part of the Gardening Initiation program, SBTCF successfully distributed all essential gardening tools and materials requested by the school in Puttalam. The distribution included items such as watering cans, hoes, rakes, spades, seedlings, and compost materials. The handover was carried out in coordination with the school staff to ensure proper delivery and documentation. This initiative supports hands-on agricultural learning and encourages students to engage in sustainable gardening practices within the school environment.



GARDEN STARTER KIT CONTENTS

EWH SCHOOL GARDENING PROJECT LIST OF INITIATION KIT-(2025/05/16)

No.	Item Description	Unit	Quantity
1	Raddish	Bag (2g)	2
2	Tomato	Bag (5g)	2
3	Chilli seeds	Bag (5g)	2
4	Bitter gourd	Bag (50g)	2
5	Okra	Bag (5g)	2
6	Wingbeans	Bag (1g)	2
7	Snake gourd	Bag (10g)	2
8	cooking melon ("Kekiri")	Bag (4g)	2
9	Avari beens	Bag (5g)	2
10	Wing beens red	Bag (2g)	2
11	Long beens	Bag (5g)	2
12	Compost	Bag (40kg)	2
13	Seedling tray	(72 cell)	5
14	Pump Spray Bottle	2L	2
15	Digging fork	10cm x 8cm	1
16	Hoe	6*6	1
17	Hoe	16*7	1
18	Pruning shears	small	1
19	Gardening Gloves	M	3
20	Measuring tape	Max 5m	1
21	Watering can	7L	2
22	shovel	16*7	1
23	Rubber Hose	50 ft	1
24	Hand Tool Garden Set	3pc	3
25	wheelbarrow	12.5in x 2in	1
26	Growbags	16*16	40
27	Logbook	400 pages	1

SCHOOL GARDENS TAKE ROOT AFTER DISTRIBUTION

Following the recent distribution, schools have successfully initiated their school gardens. Each school has allocated a dedicated space within their premises and begun cultivating their gardens. This marks a significant step forward in promoting hands-on agricultural learning and fostering environmental responsibility among students.



UNITING SRI LANKAN CHILDREN FROM DIFFERENT ETHNICITIES AND RELIGIONS

Children of Jaffna, empowered through SERENDIP BE THE CHANGE FOUNDATION's Education Without Hunger program, have become young leaders and champions of unity. Moved by their experience, they expressed a heartfelt wish to extend the program to other vulnerable children—regardless of ethnicity or religion—and pledged to mentor peers across Sri Lanka.

The Puttalam/Kalpitiya chapter brings this vision to life, uniting Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim children—Buddhist, Christian, and Hindu alike—to grow food, dignity, and self-reliance. Funded by local donors through the Be the Change campaign and events like Dine for a Cause, the initiative shows how communities can nourish children while empowering them to build sustainable futures.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT & GRATITUDE



A heartfelt thank you to all our donors, partners, and supporters. Your generosity helped us expand to Puttalam and deepen our impact on child nutrition and education. Together, we are creating lasting change.

Thank you for being a vital part of this transformative journey!

-The Senendip Team

If you have questions or for any other information, reach out to us at: **Email: contact@sbtcf.org or call/WhatsApp: 076 667 4441.**