



# TAMIL DIASPORA ALLIANCE

THE UNITY OF TODAY BREEDS THE INNOVATION OF TOMORROW.

**ISSUE 1 • SEPTEMBER 2021**  
**EDUCATION/EMPOWERMENT SECTOR**



PHOTO CREDIT: PARADISE OF EELAM

## OUR MESSAGE

### THE WHY QUESTION?

Tamil Diaspora Alliance (T.D.A) believes that as long as the Tamil people persist with a fragmented view of self, limited by existing modes of operation and varying ideologies, there will not be any significant progress made for the Tamil Nation. Therefore, our aim is to put forth and apply the innovative concept of “re-creation of self”, as the mode of future action. We will come together under a common ideology, create a united front, and act cooperatively to strengthen the collective sense of the Tamil people. We must create the necessary framework and structures to form the foundation of the Tamil Nation, put in place mechanisms to catalyze nation-building, and subsequently act to empower, protect and develop it. In addition, we must take the necessary steps to prevent future displacement of individuals from their native villages and promote resettlement initiatives to help families reestablish themselves in their ancestral lands. T.D.A. is a platform that aims to unite the Tamil people, beyond organizational or geographical divides, in order to protect and enhance the unique identity and origins of the Tamil Diaspora.

## TAMIL DIASPORA ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

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# AMPARAI

## EASTERN PROVINCE, SRI LANKA

Amparai, one of the border towns of the traditional Tamil homeland, is facing the threat of its inhabitants resettling closer to the cities, due to poverty. Farmers do not have the capital to cultivate their lands, forcing them to work as day laborers to sustain life. This trend is accelerating given the COVID pandemic. The families who are in the lowest socioeconomic classes have no alternate sources of income and with the rising cost of rice and decreasing number of jobs available, they face a dire situation.

Tamil Diaspora Alliance looks to help these families by providing the initial capital through interest-free loans and a cooperative (co-op) system, so they are not forced to resettle. Families are organizing into co-ops amongst themselves, at the village level, as they should be the primary determinants of their futures. This first step exists as part of a larger five-year plan set forth by the Alliance.

Through this, the agriculture industry is sustained and the people of the homeland will be economically empowered.

### GOAL:

To promote small holder farming in select vulnerable villages in the homeland via zero-interest loans to sustain the agriculture sector, economically empower the people of the homeland, and develop the co-op setup to encourage the collective identity of the people.



PHOTO CREDIT: PARADISE OF EELAM

## KEY FACTS

THE GROUND TEAM, THE SELECTION PROCESS, THE COST

TIME FRAME: SEPT. 1ST, 2021- MARCH 30TH, 2022

## THE COST

THIS YEAR: \$50,000.00 (USD)

NEED ASSESSMENT: FIVE-YEAR PLAN: \$514,576. 70 (USD)



PHOTO CREDIT: PARADISE OF EELAM

Working with

"The Co-operative Society of Netherlands for Humanitarian Activities" (CSNHA), who successfully established co-ops in the Northern Province and with Thrift & Credit Cooperative Societies Union (TCCSU) in the Eastern Province.

Villagers, through their own will, have joined together in the form of **sangams** in their respective villages to support one another financially. Through the co-op system, funds will be provided as grants to the co-op's administrative board, who will oversee and monitor fund disbursement to families in need. This will help the farmers develop their own lands and prevent them from resettling. These funds will be given as **interest-free loans** to the farmers who will pay back the amount to the co-op within a period of 2-3 months. These funds will then be offered to the next family in need of assistance.

Farmers were selected in consultation with The Grama Niladhari of the villagers and agriculture extension officers. They were chosen based on their land and irrigation availability, interest/experience in agriculture, family's financial situation, and recommendation by officials.



# VERUHAL

## TRINCOMALEE, SRI LANKA

For 30 years, this location existed as a "non-cleared area", which meant the government blocked all outside resources from entering the town, drastically affecting the civilian population and accelerating its devolution. 70% of its population lives in rural areas and most are small-holder peasant farmers. We need to transform these rural areas into vibrant rural economies by promoting a community-based solidarity economy.

Tamil Diaspora Alliance will now tackle the 2nd step in this larger four-part project to help farmers cultivate **250 acres** of rice paddies. This will benefit **over 140 families**. This step is part of a larger plan to cultivate a **total of 1000 acres in Veruhal**, along with cultivating lands for cash crops, and purchasing a grain dryer and storage facility for the entire town. 125 acres of land have been successfully cultivated thus far in these project.

### VISION:

Building self-sufficient, resilient and vibrant rural communities driven by socio-economic regeneration of local areas.

### MISSION:

Empower local communities to collectively build autonomous economic corridors based on cooperation, fraternity and solidarity.



PHOTO CREDIT: PARADISE OF EELAM

**Veruhal is the heart of Trincomalee.  
Trincomalee is the heart of the homeland.**

## KEY FACTS

**THE GROUND TEAM, THE SELECTION PROCESS, THE COST**

**TIME FRAME: SEPT. 1ST, 2021- MARCH 30TH, 2022**



PHOTO CREDIT: PARADISE OF EELAM

## THE COST

**250 ACRES OF PADDY CULTIVATION: \$50,732.44 (USD)  
COMMERCIAL GRAIN DRYER & STORAGE FACILITY: \$40,065 (USD)**

Working with

"Socio-Economic Development Fund" (SEDF), a registered non-profit organization in Sri Lanka and "Veruhal Economic Rebound Organization" (VERO) in the diaspora.

All funds will be monitored and the project will be overseen by a complex team consisting of VERO reps, SEDF reps, producer village committee reps and social investor reps. There will also be an external financial auditing team and an external cold review team.

Let's be smart on how we donate & to who we offer our aid. We must act in ways that allow our fellow brothers and sisters to be self-sufficient and be economically liberated. Let's rewire the Tamil people's dependent economy.

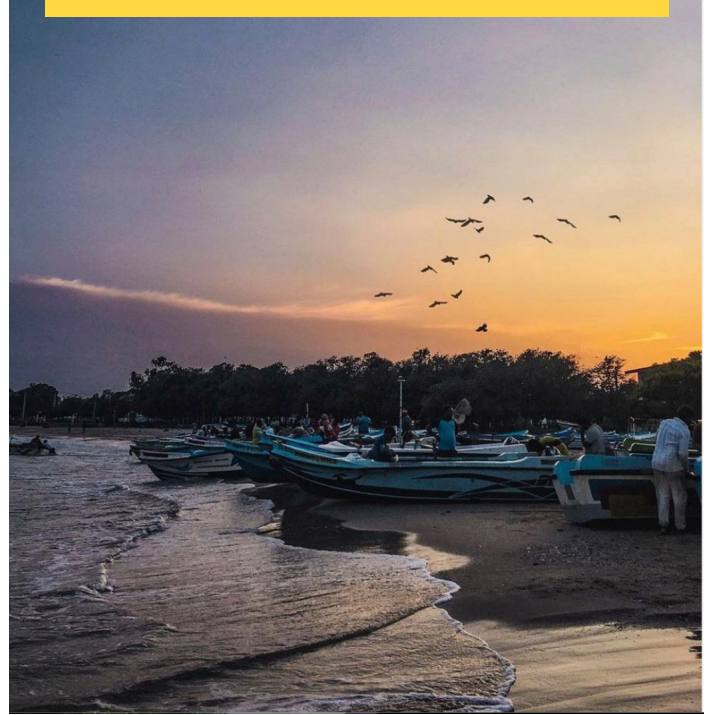
# MULLAITIVU

## NORTHERN PROVINCE, SRI LANKA

After 30 years of being internally displaced, the families originally from Mullaitivu are looking to return back to their homes. However, because of a lack of infrastructure, employment opportunities, facilities such as bathrooms and wells, and resources to clear the fields to regain access to their homes, this initiative is at a standstill. Of the 750 families trying to return back to their native villages, 250 of them are led by single mothers.

Tamil Diaspora Alliance is now in the process of conducting case studies to understand what steps need to be taken and in what order to ensure success for these families, particularly those that are led by women, as they are trying to resettle in Mullaitivu. Over the course of the next two to three years, these families will be given the right resources and aid to move back into their homes and employment opportunities for them to thrive in these villages.

**EMPOWER THE FAMILIES LOOKING TO RETURN TO THEIR NATIVE VILLAGES AFTER YEARS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT. ONE FAMILY AT A TIME...**



# COMMUNITY STUDY CENTERS

## TO CONNECT OUR PEOPLE TO THE GLOBAL NETWORK

**PROJECT STARTS JANUARY 2022**

Tamil Diaspora Alliance wishes to build "Community Study Centers" in every village in the North and East that will offer opportunities for the less fortunate to network and engage with the global market. Individuals will have to access to Information Technology (IT) courses and volunteers will be trained on how to teach the community to use the latest technology. Students will be coached in English, IT, and other necessary subjects that are required to pass secondary school exams to enter higher administrative positions in society. In addition, entrepreneurship-focused courses, co-operative training, and other vocational training courses will be offered to less privileged students. Let's use technology to connect our people on the world stage.







PHOTO CREDIT: PARADISE OF EELAM

## SUPPORT THE CAUSE

### THE BANK DETAILS

#### BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS

##### **Bank of America**

Account Name: **Tamil Diaspora Alliance Inc.**

Account Number: **4830 7792 5492**

SWIFT Code: **BOFAUS3N**

Address: Bank of America, NA 222

Broadway, NY 10038

Routing Numbers: Electronic: **021000322**

(for Direct Deposit and Automatic Payments)

For Wire Transfer: **026009593**

### INTERESTED IN JOINING THE TEAM?

Please email us at

**[tamildiasporaalliance2021@gmail.com](mailto:tamildiasporaalliance2021@gmail.com)**

to find out how you can join today, ask any questions or give us your feedback!

### WEBSITE OPENING SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2021

Our website **[tamildiasporaalliance.org](http://tamildiasporaalliance.org)** will be LIVE on September 1st, 2021.

*For more information about our team, vision/mission, other projects we are involved in, and member organizations, please check out our website on September 1st!*



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EMAIL: **[tamildiasporaalliance2021@gmail.com](mailto:tamildiasporaalliance2021@gmail.com)**

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