



KIDNEY DIALYSIS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 01 JULY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

Since its launch in February 2021, Kidney Dialysis Assistance Programme (KDAP) has been instrumental in providing crucial assistance to patients diagnosed with chronic kidney disease (CKD) who require regular dialysis. These individuals often come from low-income families across various parts of the country. Up until now we have assisted 71 such patients, making a significant impact on their lives.

During the period under review, 1 July to 31 December 2023, CandleAid identified, screened and assisted 6 new patients whose details are given in this Report. Additionally, 4 young patients who continue to be in dire need were granted an extended period of assistance. Their stories underscore the urgency of our cause. However, the success and expansion of our programme heavily rely on the generosity of individuals like you. Your support can make a profound difference in the lives of these individuals, providing them with access to life-saving dialysis treatments. Your support is not only a donation, but also a lifeline for those battling CKD. Together we can make a positive impact on the lives of these patients and their families.

Total Donations received up to 31.12.2023:	LKR 3,807,385
Total Allocated/Disbursed:	LKR 3,501,950
Balance in the KDAP Fund as at 31.12.2023:	LKR 305,435

EXTENSION OF ASSISTANCE

We extended the period of 4 patients by another 6 months taking into consideration the state of their prolonged need for assistance and the extreme financial challenges imposed on their parents.

MASTER UTHSARA - KDAP 45



Uthsara Ranatunga (12) is a CKD patient who needed dialysis 3 times a week in the last 18 months leading up to his kidney transplant on 9 November 2023. He had to travel nearly 55 km from Makandura (Gampaha district) to the Lady Ridgeway Hospital in Colombo for treatment. He underwent many demanding medical procedures that needed constant hospitalization. Having extended the monthly assistance by another 6 months, CandleAid was also able to render him extended support due to the benevolence of a donor who wished to give additional support to children suffering CKD. He is now recuperating at home having been in hospital for over a month after transplant. His father was the donor.

MISS SEWWANDI KDAP 56



Sewwandi (28) years is partially disabled. In 2016 she entered the University to study Sociology. Sadly, it was then she was diagnosed with CKD compelling her to suspend her tertiary education. She undergoes dialysis twice a week at the Embilipitiya General Hospital and is required to travel 80 km to and from the hospital. While often she uses public transport, there are days when she is forced to hire a three-wheeler due to physical weakness. Each such trip would cost her LKR 7,000. She also needs to spend on prescribed medication whenever they are unavailable at the hospital.

MASTER DAMITH KUMARA KDAP 51 & MISS KANCHANA KDAP 50



Damith Kumara (15) and Kanchana 21 years are siblings from Avissawella diagnosed with CKD in 2019 and 2018 respectively. They both need dialysis thrice a week. Kanchana receives her dialysis at the Colombo National Hospital and at the Ratnapura Government Hospital. She underwent a cadaveric kidney transplant in November 2023 and has been in hospital since then. Damith Kumara receives his dialysis at the Lady Ridgeway Hospital and is awaiting kidney Transplant. Their brother (19) has already had a transplant but sadly, their sister (17) has succumbed to the illness.



NEW PATIENTS

MR J D JINASIRI – KDAP 66

Mr Jinasiri (61) from Arawwala had been diagnosed with CKD since 2014 and initially received free dialysis at the National Hospital, Colombo (NHSL). However, due to the unavailability of the required number of dialysis, the family has shifted him to the Kothalawela Defence University Hospital (KDU), Werahara, Boralasgamuwa. They are incurring LKR 10,500 for each dialysis at KDU.

The progression of CKD has impacted his ability to carry on his occupation as a musician. His family, consisting of his wife and three children, are currently supported by the eldest, aged 24, whose earnings are insufficient to meet their living costs as well as Jinasiri's medical needs.



MR A W DISSANAYAKE – KDAP 67

Since 2018, Mr Dissanayake (37) residing in Eheliyagoda has been undergoing treatment for CKD at Sri Jayewardenapura General Hospital (SJGH). He is undergoing dialysis 2 to 3 times a week paying LKR 10,500 per session. Additionally, he incurs a transportation expense of LKR 3,000 for commuting from Eheliyagoda to Kotte.

Dissanayake, was earning approx. LKR 20,000 p.m. as a bus conductor. He lives with his parents. His father's income as a bus driver earning about LKR 25,000 p.m. is insufficient for even their living expenses let alone the costs associated with Dissanayake's ailment.

MR M KADIRESHAN – KDAP 68

Mr M Kadireshan, (42) from Mount Lavinia has been grappling with CKD since 2019. He undergoes dialysis once a week at the National Institute for Nephrology. Despite the doctor's recommendation to dialyse twice a week, he is able to do so only once a week due to financial constraints.

Kadireshan's family consisting of his wife and two children who reside in a rented house paying LKR 15,000 p.m. His wife, a domestic helper, earns a meager income of LKR 10,000, while Kadireshan generates an income of LKR 15,000 p.m. by selling newspapers, which falls far short of their living expenses and his medical costs. The after-effects of dialysis have made it difficult for Kadireshan to maintain regular employment, adding to his financial burden.





MR K N PRIYANGA FERNANDO – KDAP 69

Mr Priyanga Fernando (47) residing in Chillaw, is an end-stage CKD patient. He is undergoing dialysis at the District Base Hospital, Chillaw. Unfortunately, the demand for dialysis being high at the hospital, Priyanga can get dialysed only once a week free of charge, even though the medical advice is to do so twice.

Having held an executive job at Brandex, a leading garment manufacturing company, he had to relinquish the job due to his debilitating illness. As such his financial situation prohibits him from seeking a second dialysis at a private hospital, where the cost is around LKR 13,000 per dialysis.

Living in a rented house, he pays LKR 22,000 p.m. as rent. Priyanga's family consists of his wife and 4 children. His two older children are awaiting employment while the younger two are in school. Priyanga's sister who lives in Italy helps him from time to time.

MS DINUSHA DILRANGANI – KDAP 70

Ms Dinusha Dilrangani (30) from Beliatta has been battling Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) since the age of 19. She has faced many health-related challenges since then. In 2017, faced with the complications of SLE, Dinusha underwent a kidney transplant, a procedure that offered hope and a chance for a better life.

Tragically, after 1 year, her body rejected the transplanted kidney. This turn of events necessitated her to get dialysed, a challenging process that she has been enduring for the last 5 years.

Her mother is also a neurological patient, requiring constant care and attention, while her father engages in small-time cultivation. The family grapples with their overall living expenses as well as Dinusha's medical care which includes the cost of traveling from Beliatta to Colombo for dialysis.



MR SRI RAJESH – KDAP 71

In September 2020, since being diagnosed with CKD, Mr Sri Rajesh (43) faces significant challenges in his daily life and the well-being of his family.

Rajesh, residing in Negombo, once an industrious welder, had to step back from his work due to the debilitating effects of his condition. Since both kidneys are malfunctioning, he needs regular dialysis for survival. Despite the doctor's recommendation of twice-weekly dialysis, he gets dialysed once once a week free at the Base Hospital, Negombo due to their heavy demand. As the breadwinner of the family, the financial implications of his illness have been severe. The family resides in a rented house. Rajesh and his spouse face severe challenges taking care of their living expenses as they have two school going daughters aged 14 and 6 as well.

CONCLUSION

All the above patients receive LKR 8,000 per month from CandleAid to defray their expenses relating to their illness. The assistance is given for a period of 6 months. If the circumstances are dire, CandleAid will extend the period of assistance depending on the availability of funds to do so. Sadly, many CKD patients who are engaged in some form of livelihood are often compelled to give up their work due to the physical conditions they face with long term dialysis and other related health issues. While patients who can find a matching donor could go ahead with kidney transplant surgery, most often these patients are enlisted for cadaveric programmes which necessitate long periods of dialysis. The national hospitals render yeomen service by giving free dialysis yet due to high demand, sometimes patients are compelled to seek dialysis from private institutions to keep up the prescribed number of dialysis per week. Furthermore, patients are often required to travel long distances to receive their free dialysis, at times compelling them to hire a three-wheeler, due to their compromised physical status.

We would like to express our gratitude to all Donors who have generously contributed to support CandleAid's Kidney Dialysis Assistance Programme (KDAP). Your contributions have made a meaningful impact in providing much needed assistance to patients suffering the consequences of chronic kidney disease (CKD). All of these patients come from low-income families who are already dealing with acute burdens due to their meagre earnings.

For more details, please contact the following.

Ms Rukmal Silva
Head-Health



healthdesk.candleaid@gmail.com



+94(0)112642526

+94(0)760538844

Ms Dil Jayawardena
Executive Director



diljay1@gmail.com



+94(0)773121989

22nd January 2024.

"It is better by far to light a solitary candle than to curse the darkness."