

Success Story: 01/Jan/2026

Expediting mid-day meal programme for 55 school children from the village, which was heavily affected by Cyclone Ditwah in the North, avoiding delay in going back to school and ensuring access to nutrition and safety for those who experienced the disaster impacts, living in safety centres for a week by leaving their own habitats.

“Following the recent cyclone, our school was unable to continue the mid-day meal programme, which greatly affected our students. We received timely support to restore the school's kitchen, water, and electricity facilities, allowing us to restart the provision of meals immediately, which improved attendance of all 55. It allows a positive change in children's behaviour”- N. Kuthub Sadhe, Principal, MN/Nochchikkulam Hijra G.M.M., Aruhankundu, Nanattan, Mannar

The village, namely Aruhankundu, is a new settlement where more than 400 families have found residence once they returned to Mannar from the Puttalam district, where they had been living in camps as internally displaced persons due to the expulsion in 1990 from the North, fleeing the armed conflict. Even though they are moderately successful in establishing a life with income generation, at least once a year, they face floods due to heavy rain. This time, there was no room for escape to the people from Cyclone Ditwah because these people have been resettled at location at edge of Aruvi Aru of Malwathu Oya, second longest river, stretching from the North Central Province to Mannar Gulf. This time, the flood overan the river shore went into the village up to 8 feet from the ground level. Consequently, people sought shelter at a school in the town, leaving their belongings inside their homes. They started to return home only after 1 week. The villages were in dire need of restarting their lives, including education for their children. This very school was swept away by the flood. RAHAMA received a request directly from the school principal for a range of immediate recovery support to school children and school's physical structures, including materials such as chairs for teachers and storage supplies. Though the government officially announced commencement of school in the mid of December 2025, we found that there is no kitchen, electricity and water supply to restart the mid-day meal programme at this very primary school, in which around 50 children received education



Figure 1 status of the school a week later the disaster

In response to the request, RAHAMA assesses the need and decided to ensure provision of Mid-day



Figure 2 The school kitchen restored after the disaster

meal for the children who are below 10-year-old. Mid-meal is an essential programme implemented by the government to meet nutrition

challenges of children and promote regular attendance in remote areas. This school received support to restore a kitchen with provision of utensils and support for

restoring water and electricity support by avoiding duplication of assistance in disaster recovery provisions. RAHAMA concerns is centred on child rights and child psychology through our

integrated programme strategy and thematic areas. On January 22nd, 2026, RAHAMA received the invitation to RAHAMA by the school to the 1st meal provision following our recovery support.

In addition to the immediate outputs, 2 outcomes are highlighted: (1) the community engagement to fix the kitchen by voluntary labour and (2) the emotional security of children who fully recovered receiving education as it was before the catastrophe.



Figure 3 Children after the commencement of mid-day meal provision

Recovery for Humanitarian Action Management Agency (RAHAMA) has been involved in Cyclone Ditwah disaster recovery in Northern Sri Lanka with support from our funding partners including IOGT Movement, Sweden. One of the components of recovery work, particularly connecting schools and children, we provide school kits, clean and restore schools and preschools.