



Ranaviru Fund: Phase 4 Project Proposal

Improving access to appropriate sanitation and water facilities for permanently disabled Security Personnel in Sri Lanka

This document provides in-depth information to the proposed project of improving access to appropriate sanitation facilities and improved access to water for disabled security personnel in Sri Lanka.

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1 Introduction

Ranaviru Fund (English meaning *War Heroes' Fund*) is a group of volunteers operating from different parts of the world, and was established in May 2008 in Scotland aiming to provide medical and rehabilitation assistance to the valiant servicemen and women who were killed, disabled or wounded while fighting terrorism in Sri Lanka.

Ranaviru Fund has delivered 3 previous projects to facilitate the requirements at Ranaviru Sevana¹ in June 2008 and September 2008 by providing 323 Socket Gel Liners and 15 Talking Watches worth over Rs. 900,000.00 in total. Another project was delivered in April 2009 by providing medical equipment worth Rs. 1.4 million to setup a brand new operating theater to better treat the wounded and disabled soldiers. All these requirements have been identified in close consultation with Ranaviru Sevana and the Military Hospital. In addition the Ranaviru Fund has very successfully acted as facilitators for the Sri Lanka Air Force Seva Vanitha Scholarships program securing sponsors for over 200 children of fallen and disabled Airmen and Airwomen. We have facilitated further 308 scholarships for children of fallen, missing and disabled service personnel through the Ranaviru Seva Authority at Ministry of Defense and the Director of Welfare of Sri Lanka Navy.

Currently we have 17 members operating in 8 countries. We are operating a zero administration cost model throughout our projects to ensure that all donations made by our donors are completely utilized for the reason they were given to us. Our members bear the administration costs in addition to giving of their time and energy as their contribution to a cause they all believe in.

2 Project Overview

Access to hygienic water and sanitation is relatively high in Sri Lanka when compared to global trends among developing countries. Over 85%² of households have access to hygienic sanitation. These figures however, do not reflect the level of access by disabled persons. The majority of toilets in Sri Lankan households are not suitable for disabled users primarily due to the use of squatting pans, toilets being small, often with steps and built quite a distance away from the house. Such facilities are not suitable for wheelchair access or other physical disabilities. Similar constraints are reflected in disabled access to bathing water due to the extensive use of wells and natural sources such as streams and rivers for bathing and washing clothes.

¹ Sri Lanka Army's Rehabilitation Directorate, which operates 13 rehabilitation centres in the country.

² Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka.



3 Problem Identification

For close to 30 years the Sri Lankan security forces have been faced with combating severe terrorism within its national boundaries. The extensive use of land mines set by the terrorists has resulted in thousands of security personnel losing limbs during field operations, in addition to other life transforming injuries. The Government of Sri Lanka takes full responsibility of rehabilitating the disabled which include providing high quality artificial limbs, wheel-chairs and continued gainful employment wherever possible. There are however, some gaps that need the help of the citizens and well wishers. One such area of need is for disable friendly toilets and bath areas for service personnel in their homes. Despite the fact that the disabled soldiers continue to receive their salaries and hence are not among the very poor of Sri Lanka, many come from economically constrained families, and cannot afford to make the capital outlay needed to convert or construct toilets appropriate for those with special needs. There is hardly a need to justify the need for suitable toilets and bath areas in terms of its positive impact on the physical and mental health of not just the disabled soldiers but also their families.

Ranaviru Fund has learnt that there are number of permanently disabled soldiers who are constrained from retuning home to their families on monthly leave or for longer periods due to the lack of suitable water and sanitation facilities at their homes.

4 Proposed Project Model

With the experience gathered by delivering several projects for the benefit of disabled service personnel, Ranaviru Fund has decided to step in and launch a project to provide suitable toilet and bathing facilities for the disabled soldiers on a priority basis. The project was identified based on advice of qualified and experienced professionals at Ranaviru Sevana, Ragama.

While the Ranaviru Fund takes full responsibility for the project, we will work closely with Ranaviru Sevana, Ragama in identifying the priority list of the service personnel to be provided with toilet facilities. In addition, Ranaviru Fund will seek advise and assistance of the Rehabilitation Directorate at Ranaviru Sevana on any adjustments and improvements needed to this project proposal and any work to be carried out by the Ranaviru Fund in relation to this project.



4.1 Funding

Ranaviru Fund is continuously fund raising through its networks for prospected welfare projects for the service personnel. Donors of Ranaviru Fund have agreed in principal to utilise their valuable donations for any suitable and timely welfare project for the benefit of injured & disabled service personnel and their families. Therefore, Ranaviru Fund will be utilising existing and future funds for this Project. In addition, Ranaviru Fund will appeal for funds directly targeting this Project to enable us to cater to the greatest number of disabled service personnel as possible. It will also enable donors who have a special interest in this project to contribute directly.

Based on estimates done by our team in consultation with those with expertise in the field, our aim is to complete each wash room within a maximum of Rs.150,000.00. However, there may be instances of variation in either direction. The upper limit may be pushed due to individual requirements, special location issues such as remote villages and price increases. On the other hand, less may be spent due to facilities the family already has (eg. water connect, cess pit) or access to free raw material such as sand or stones (metal).

4.2 Coordination

Ranaviru Fund will coordinate and manage the Project. We will not target a finish date for this project, but will keep it as an on-going project until we have fulfilled the requirement of as many service personnel in need as we can.

As funds allow us, time to time Ranaviru Fund will inquire from the Sri Lanka Army's Rehabilitation Directorate based at Ranaviru Sevana regarding the requirement of disable-friendly toilets.

While the priority selection criteria will be the disability and need for a facility at home, Ranaviru Fund will also take into account coordination criteria such as location clusters to facilitate member visits for coordination and transportation of raw material sourced from Colombo.

The Ranaviru Fund team will closely liaise with the service personnel and his/her family as well as suppliers, builders and transporters when needed. As each facility will be designed to meet the needs of the individual service personnel, close on site communication by the Ranaviru Fund team is essential. The Ranaviru Fund team has made a special effort to learn about the international best practices in providing disability facilities as well as adaptations needed to be appropriate to the Sri Lankan socio-economic context, as well as the context of injury based disabilities, as against born disabilities.



4.3 Principles and Approach

Ranaviru Fund will have the following approach in coordinating the Project. We work on the principles of:

- Developing a close relationship with the service personnel and his/her family is essential to ensure the success of the project. The Ranaviru Fund team will visit the home of the service personnel and be directly involved planning and designing the facilities, as well as keep in close touch with the family during construction.
- Ranaviru Fund will seek the advice and assistance of the Ranaviru Sevana and other professionals as much as possible, and Ranaviru Fund team will be accompanied by a Ranaviru Sevana staff member when they visit the family and home of the service personnel.
- A maximising cost-benefit approach will be followed and every effort will be made to make maximum use of the funds and resources made available by donors, to provide the most appropriate facility to the service personnel.
- Ranaviru Fund will work together with the service personnel and his/her family to ensure the most appropriate and cost efficient product. We will accept the wishes of the service personnel through out the process, as well as provide space for him/her and family to contribute towards the improvements as they wish.
- Ranaviru Fund will work with the service personnel and family in the spirit of gratitude and honour, befitting a Hero of Our Time.

In delivering the Project, a systematic step by step approach will be followed to ensure smooth functioning of the Project and an outstanding final outcome.

Preparation phase:

1. Request a list of service personnel from Ranaviru Sevana currently needing disability toilet facilities in their homes.
2. Prepare a shortlist and Ranaviru Fund team personally meet with each service personnel at Ranaviru Sevana or any other appropriate place, i.e. hospital or home they are based in and discuss their requirements in detail.
3. A team from Ranaviru Fund will then visit chosen service personnel at their homes to gather further information required, finalise the selection and initiate the design and construction process.



4. Based discussion on the requirements, design and other relevant issues, the service personnel and family will provide the Ranaviru Fund with a bill of quantities and cost estimate prepared by the identified builder. The team together with the service personnel will check these against a standard and finalise the construction and cost plan.
5. The service personnel will nominate a family member to take ownership and responsibility of coordination with Ranaviru Fund in his/her absence.
6. Ranaviru Fund will be provided with the Bank Account to which the service personnel's salary is credited by the GoSL.
7. To ensure accountability we request each of the service personnel/family to keep records and receipts of any item, material they purchased or paid for where possible.

Construction Phase

8. On agreement with the service personnel/family member Ranaviru Fund will transfer an initial amount of funds to the given bank account to initiate the construction. Each family will purchase the materials to initiate the construction.
9. The Ranaviru Fund team will keep in close touch via telephone and visit the home at appropriate intervals. During the visits we will assess the progress, provide any necessary suggestions to the family and/or builders where applicable. Ranaviru Fund visits to the home will be scheduled as much as possible when the service personnel is at home. In instances where he/she may not be, the assistance of Ranaviru Sevana will be sought to facilitate his/her leave and transport.
10. Based on the progress, and provision of expenditure accounts, we will provide further funding within agreed limits to continue/complete remainder of the work.
11. Ranaviru Fund will purchase sanitary ware, floor & wall tiles, and specialised equipment required. We will search the market for the best reasonable prices before purchasing these items, and negotiate with any organisation to receive special offers and discounts for the required goods. Goods purchased by Ranaviru Fund will be delivered to each construction site as appropriate.
12. We will update our website from time to time as the construction work progresses.



5 Project Completion

The Ranaviru Fund team will carry out the final visit once the toilet and related facilities have been completed and operational. Ranaviru Fund will compile a full project completion report for construction of each toilet which will include all estimates, expenditure accounts, all available invoices, photographs as well as special issues faced during the project. The Report will be published in our website, and e-mailed to any donor on request. The Ranaviru Sevana and service personnel and family will also be shown the Report and provided a copy should they request it.