



one world foundation

Sri Lanka

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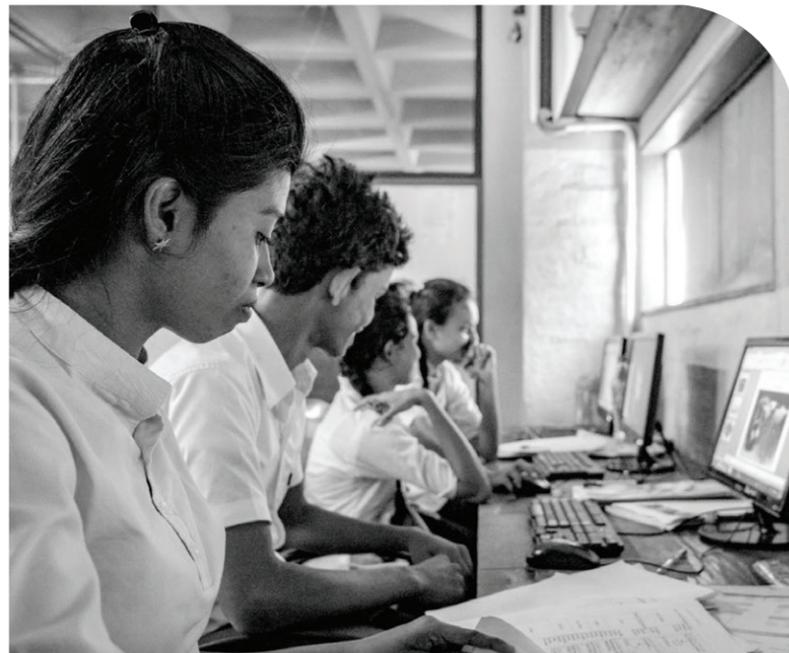
one world foundation

Sri Lanka

The one world foundation Sri Lanka is a recognised non-profit foundation founded on 10 January 1995 by Kathrin Messner and Josef Ortner in Wathuregama, Ahungalla in the south west of Sri Lanka. It offers diverse education and training possibilities for children and adolescents as a supplement to the state school system and in the last few years has also set up a Women's Cooperation.

Organisation

The one world foundation is a foundation according to Sri Lankan law, registered under no. GA99 as a charitable trust. The trustees are Kathrin Messner, Vienna; Dr Chitral and Puspa Amaratunga, Colombo; Xiane Kangela and Doron Rabinovici, Vienna. The foundation is managed by Kathrin Messner, Ms Raji de Silva, Wathuregama, Xiane Kangela and Kaspar Mühlemann Hartl, Vienna. It is audited annually by the independent auditors M/s. G and B Associates, Chartered Accountants, Colombo.



Object

The object of the foundation according to para. 3A of the memorandums of association: "To establish, develop, maintain and foster educational institutions throughout Sri Lanka mainly in rural areas for the purpose of educating, teaching, guiding, counselling and to articulate, improve and develop the potential skills and competence of all persons in general and in furtherance of these objectives to establish, promote and run kindergartens, pre-schools, polytechnics, libraries, laboratories and research centres for imparting vocational, technical, scientific or any other form of education."



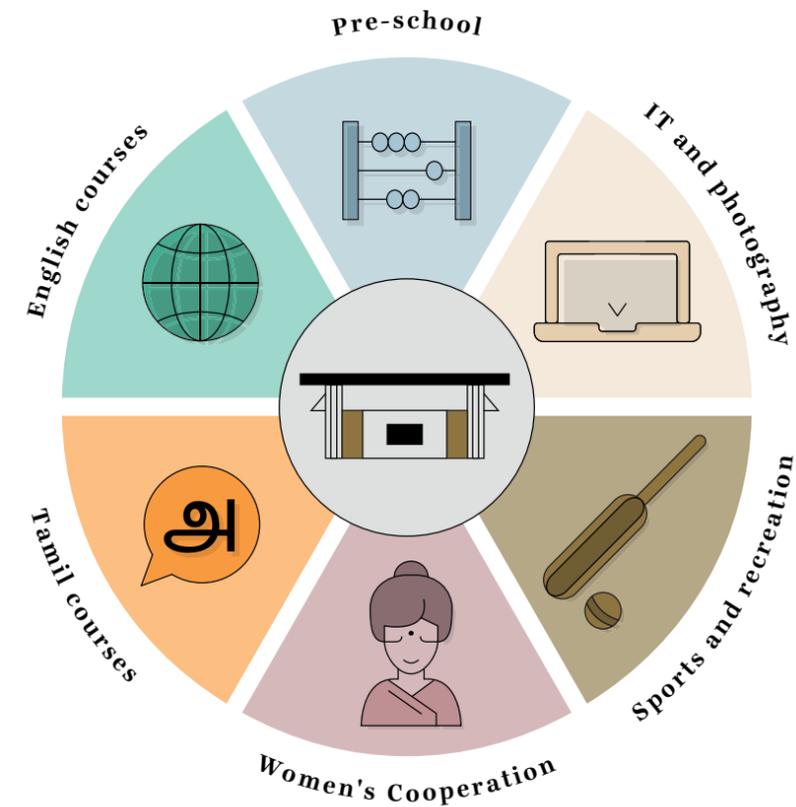
Prabath Wijesekara, Headmaster



The school in figures

In 1995 around **100** students attended the small school in Wathuregama. Today it has **1,100** children, adolescents and adults. After being completely destroyed by the tsunami in 2004, it was rebuilt on a campus designed by the Viennese architect Carl Pruscha thanks to private donations and the generous support of the city of Vienna.

It is managed by local education experts. The long-standing principal is **Prabath Wijesekara**, and there are currently 11 full-time and 26 part-time teachers.



The courses include **English, IT and photography**, a Montessori **pre-school** class, and a **Women's Cooperation** offering one-year courses in **dressmaking, batik and embroidery**, as well as leisure activities including sport, music, chess, school festivals, excursions, and advice on environmental protection and hygiene. The **Tamil language** courses are attracting increasing interest.

The students obtain **state-recognised certificates**:

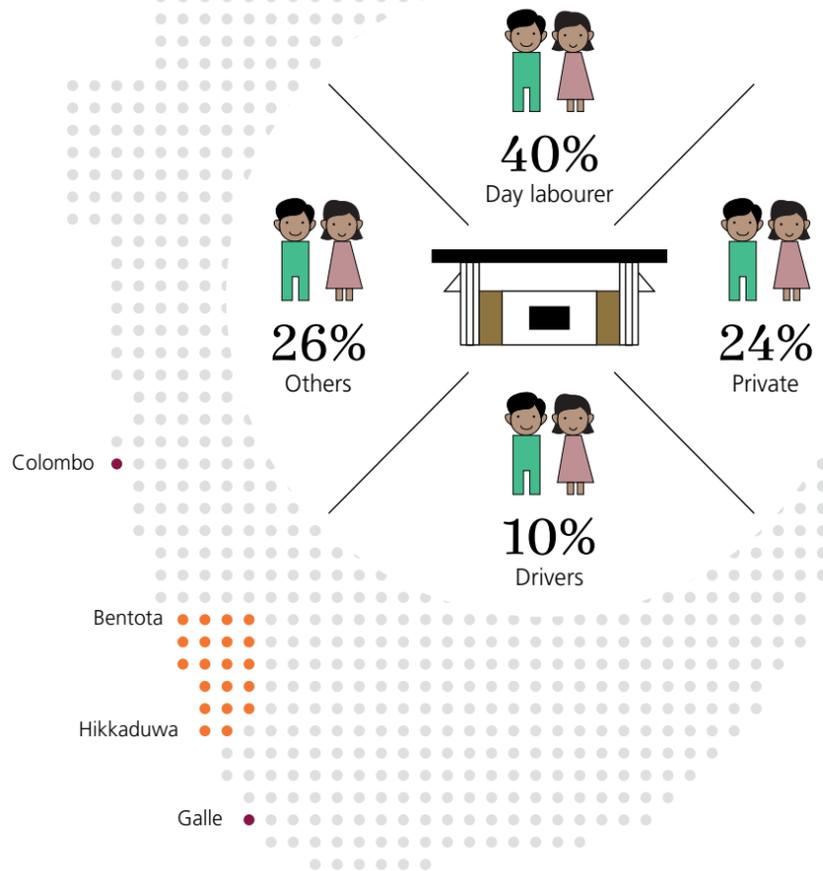
English certificate from the state TVEC (Tertiary and Vocational Education Commission), and certificates in IT, photography, dressmaking, batik and embroidery, all recognised by the state NAITA (National Apprentice and Industrial Training Authority)

Courses offered:

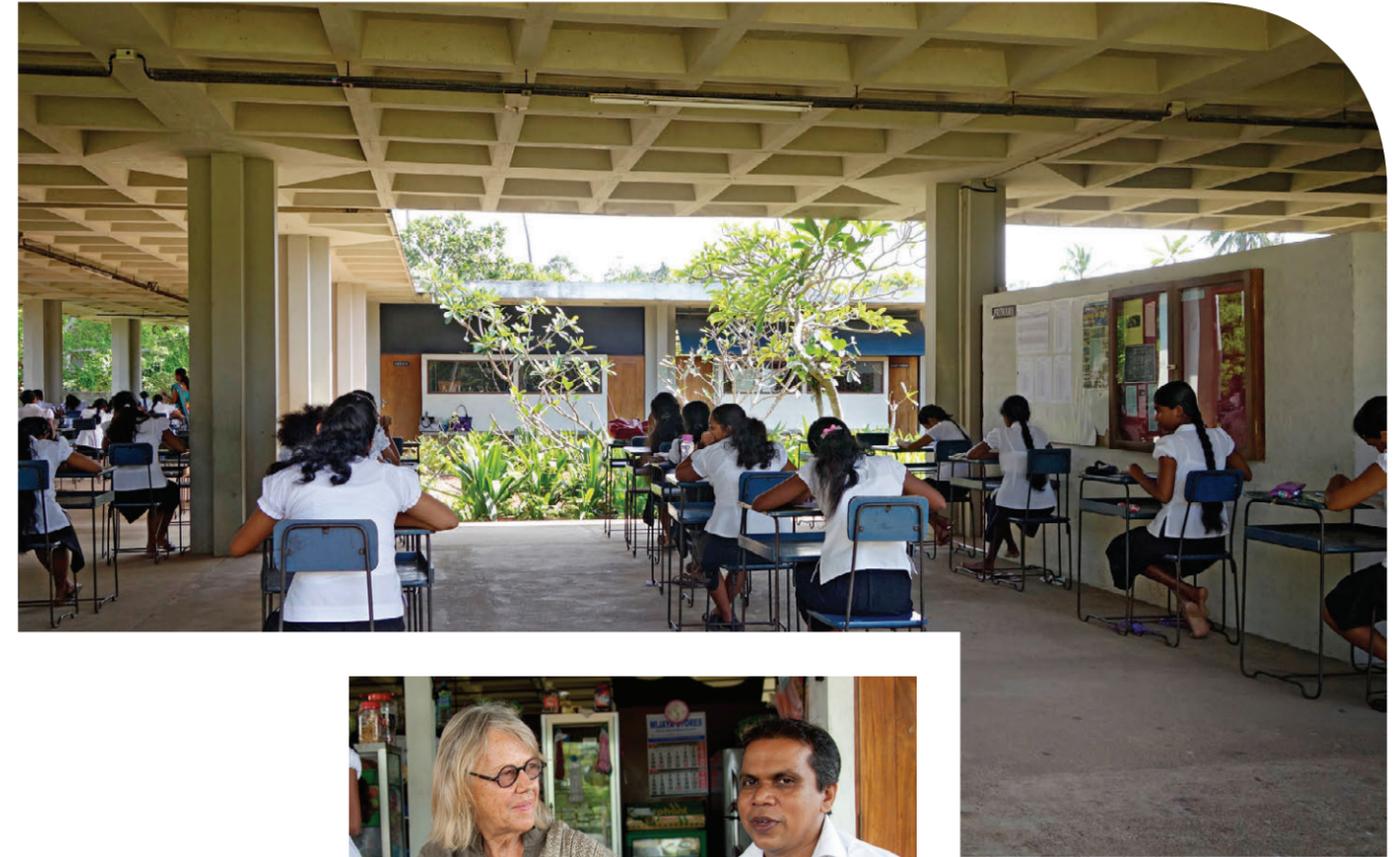
Montessori pre-school classes	200 children aged 4 to 6 years
English courses	Over 600 students from level 1 to 11 (TVEC)
IT and photography classes	300 students with up to grade 4 qualification (NAITA / TVEC)
Women's Cooperation	with one-year courses

Aims and impact

local base and support



Thanks to its long-standing presence and local management, the school has developed into a regionally supported initiative. Most of the students come from very modest families (workers, tuk-tuk drivers, fishermen) or from families without a fixed income. Sri Lanka has compulsory schooling and a high level of literacy compared with other Asian countries, but there is often insufficient funding for rural schools, and the quality of the teaching suffers as a result.



Kathrin Messner, Director one world foundation
Prabath Wijesekera, Headmaster

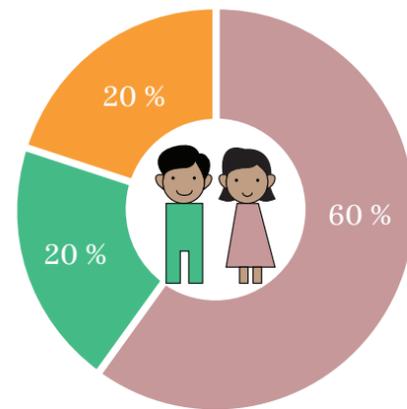


Helping people to help themselves

This is the basic aim of the one world foundation school. Through its pre-school education programme, it improves the opportunities for children in the state school system. The language, computer and photo courses give adolescents greater prospects on the labour market.

The training courses in the women's cooperative offer young mothers the possibility to go back to work and contribute in this way to the development of a slowly emerging middle class and hence to the country's future.

Most of the students obtain jobs immediately after leaving school, and around one fifth continue their education at university.



- 60% Labour market
- 20% Higher education
- 20% Unknown

Promoting peace and sustainable development

Through its Tamil language classes and diverse culture-mediation programme for children and adults, the school, which is located in the Sinhalese and hence Buddhist part of the country, performs an important peace-promoting function. It also focuses on environmental protection awareness, supported as a cross-cutting theme at various levels: waste separation, collection of waste from beaches, special exam and essay topics, etc.

Financing and financial requirements

With its current size, the school requires EUR 180,000 per year, of which around two thirds is for teachers' salaries.

Guesthouse € 35'000	Self-financing € 10'000	Sponsoring association Vienna € 50'000	Sponsoring association Switzerland € 25'000
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Total € 120'000

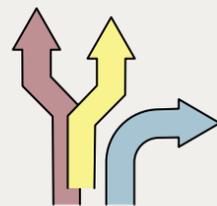


Salaries
€ 120'000



Financing shortfall
€ 80'000

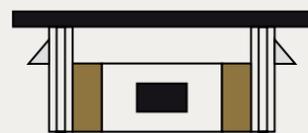
Total € 200'000



Write-offs
Unforeseen costs

currency risks
climate damage, etc.

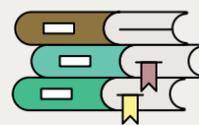
€ 20'000



Operating costs

maintenance,
electricity and water,
administration,
insurances, etc.

€ 40'000



Reserves

investments
and other
projects

€ 20'000

School financing

Since its establishment the school has been financed mainly from the proceeds of the Bogenvillya Ayurveda guesthouse in Wathuregama, also constructed in 1995 by Kathrin Messner and Josef Ortner.

Bogenvillya is an art and Ayurveda resort in a palm grove next to the sea with five bungalows built by Austrian and Sri Lankan architects containing thirteen residential units, and an artists' workshop managed by a gallery in Vienna.

The school has been financed in recent years by the following:

Bogenvillya Ayurveda Guesthouse:

Thanks to the good booking situation and stable euro, the one world cooperation, which manages the guesthouse, earns net income for the school. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has hardly been possible to receive guests for a year and a half.

Sponsoring association, Vienna:

The Vienna-based association one world foundation free education was founded with the object of collecting money for development aid, in particular the promotion of school education in Sri Lanka, so that donations from Austria are tax deductible. In Germany, donations can also be claimed on presentation of an official receipt.

Self-financing by the school:

Since 2017 the school has offered fee-paying English and computer courses for workers, particularly those in the hotel and catering business. Revenue of EUR 5,900 and a profit of EUR 3,300 have been achieved to date. In 2018 the one world foundation introduced a small monthly school fee.

Sponsoring association, Switzerland:

Because of the growing number of visitors to the guesthouse from Switzerland and the positive and affirmative feedback, a number of leading figures in Zurich have founded a Swiss sponsoring organisation. Since 2017, contributions to the one world foundation Sri Lanka, a sub-foundation of the umbrella organisation Fondation des Fondateurs, have been tax-deductible.

The donations from the Austrian association and Swiss sub-foundation are collected in Vienna and Zurich and transferred to Sri Lanka.

Financing shortfall:
If the financing requirement remains unchanged, the school will require an addition EUR 85,000 per year.

Summary and outlook

The one world foundation in Sri Lanka has been a success. Founded in 1995 as an Austrian initiative, the school was rebuilt after the tsunami, continuously enlarged to meet the growing demand, and the management transferred to Sri Lankan Tamil education specialists.

The number of students has increased more than tenfold in twenty-five years. The teachers' salaries are adapted and the classroom equipment, particularly for the computer classes, is state-of-the-art. Until 2017, the school was financed through the proceeds from the guesthouse, the association in Vienna and its own reserves.

To ensure the school can survive in future, the following aims have been staked out:

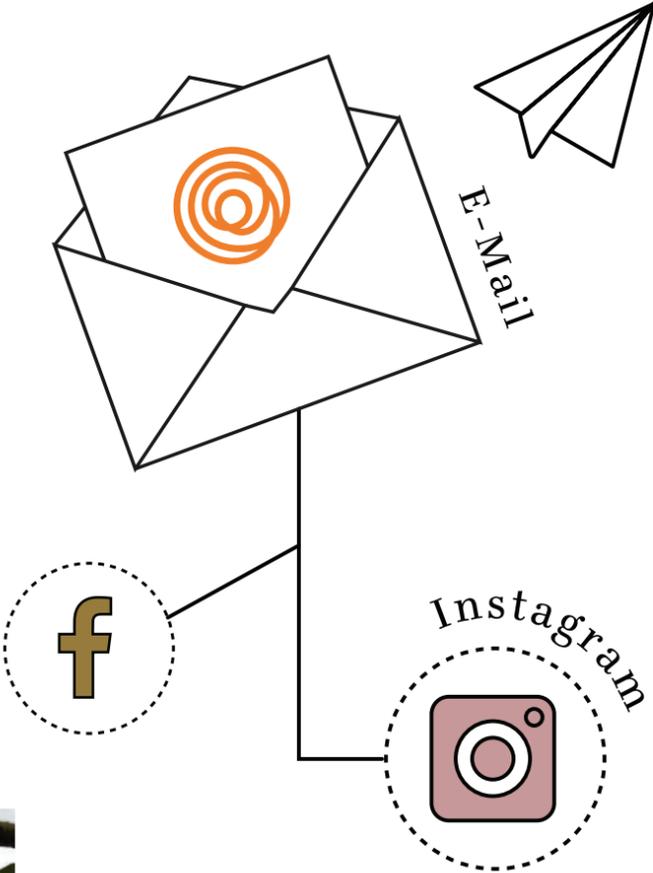
Request for state subsidy

The promising exchange between Kathrin Messner and the Ministry of Education in Colombo did not lead to any results due to the Corona crisis. A state contribution is not possible in the current situation and only conceivable in the medium term.

Increase in self-financing of the school through fees from courses.

Annual fund-raising of EUR 80,000 for a transition period.

The original goal was to put the school on a financially independent footing from 2022 onwards with government contributions, own contributions, donations from the guesthouse and smaller private donations from guests. Due to the Corona crisis, the income from the guesthouse has collapsed and the financial strategy has to be realigned.



Space for a first encounter

We would be glad to answer your questions and provide further information.

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