# SAMBOL FOUNDATION



## Table of content

_	_		
3.	Our	OIII.	dance
<b>U.</b>	o a i	gui	aarioo

- 4. Words from the country manager
- 5. Our journey starting from 2019
- 6. Our direct impact 4 years at a glance
- 7. Statistics & Facts
- 8. What we do
- 9. What is our intervention
- 10. Projects
   Gedara & Integration
   Students & Kindergarten
   Events & Fundraising
- 14. Success story
- 15. Operational overview
- 16. Safe-Village Impressions Safe-Village Impression Country Manager
- 19. Team

  Team Sri Lanka

  Team Switzerland
- 23. As a corporate establishment
- 24. Thank you
- 26. Summary of future goals
- 27. Contact Us



## Our guidance



## **VISION**

The vision of the Sambol Foundation is to offer a safe place for all women and children in Sri Lanka threatened by violence and to support them on their way to a safe and self-determined future.

## **MISSION**

Starting from the basic human right to live, to stand and speak up, to escape from violence and to have access to justice, the Sambol Foundation tries to secure these rights for women and children in Sri Lanka.

## **VALUES**

Accountability
Transparency
Truthfulness
Integrity
Comprehensive viewpoint
Equality

## Words from the country manager



## Dear stakeholder

The past year has brought significant growth and development. Despite the economic crisis and extreme weather conditions in Sri Lanka, we have continued to support a growing number of victims, helping them to become survivors. We aimed to expand our efficiency and ensure long-term sustainability. This report highlights our recent achievements...

Key highlights include:

- Acquiring our office space & student housing
- Securing approval for the construction of the Safe-Village in Matara
- Reuniting a child with his mother after a difficult period of probation custody
- Receiving a grant from the Swiss Embassy
- Successfully reintegrating former residents
- Launching the Sambol Gedara cookery class
- Increasing our online & social media presence
- Continuing to offer shelter and legal aid
- Maintaining a motivated and dedicated team

We thank everyone who has supported us through donations, fundraising, providing employment opportunities, participating in cooking classes, and purchasing our products. You have been an extraordinary community during these turbulent times.

Inola Camage

Inoka Gamage, Sambol Country Manager

## Our journey since 2019

In 2019, the Sambol Foundation enhanced its credibility by registering as a Company Limited by Guarantee. During the COVID-19 pandemic the foundation demonstrated resilience by adapting strategies and collaborating effectively with stakeholders. In February 2020 we established a safe shelter for women and children affected by domestic violence to provide support. Our cooperation with organizations in Sri Lanka was strengthened by a peaceful protest on International Women's Day raising awareness about our services.

By mid-2020, the shelter accommodated women and children referred by various authorities and NGOs. Despite challenges posed by the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, the foundation remained committed to supporting victims of violence.

In 2022, the foundation conducted a workshop for police officers and government officials to enhance their response to victims. Despite event cancellations due to pandemic restrictions, the foundation continued its mission, focusing on capacity expansion and recruitment to meet rising demands for our services at the safe homes.

A significant achievement at the end of 2021 was the acquisition of land in Matara to construct a secure village for survivors of domestic violence. Funding efforts intensified in 2022, along with preliminary tasks such as the architectural planning and obtaining local authorities' clearances and approvals. This progress brought us closer to realising our vision of pioneering the first **Safe-Village** in Sri Lanka and Asia.



Dorothée Müller, Architect MSc ETH and Shafeeka Hameed, Executive Personal Assistant to the MD/CEO, Baurs & Co. (Pvt. Ltd) accompanies us on site during the construction process of the **Sambol Safe-Village**.

## Our direct impact 4 years at a glance

# (+)

## Individuals directly recovered from Violence

2023 2022 2021 2020 69 63 81 23

The number represents the victims of domestic violence, who have been supported with safe refuge and legal assistance (filing of cases and court appearances). Additionally an increasing number of victims are getting help without entering the Sambol House.



## **Expenditure in USD**

2023 2022 2021 2020

72,654 36,594\* 39,193 23,355

Key line items included in the above figures, are as follows

Items	2023	2022	2021	2020
Salaries of all the staff	36,003	18,539	16,865	9,971
Depreciation, repair & maintenance	6,659	1,446	1,362	760
Foods for safe home residents	5,169	4,382	3,678	1,308
Staff welfare and development	3,390	-	-	-
Rent of premises	3,273	4,882	4,058	3,844
Legal service provision	2,779	2,439	2,046	374
Other administrative expenses	2,252	458	1,675	2,145
Electricity, water & communication	2,081	995	1,329	850
Enhancement of Kindergarten	1,710	-	-	-
workshops' & awareness campaigns	1,652	3,315	2,448	1,297
Cleaning & safe home maintenances	1,526	1,607	1,323	1,211
Travelling expenses	1,338	1,577	1,095	458
Accounting, audit fees & secretarial fees	1,107	643	1,104	403
Educational and medical provisions	1,104	630	1,396	225
Reintegration of survivors	1,038	-	-	-
S. Gedara cooking class establishment	905	-	-	-
Governmental dues	454	680	1,206	-
Recreational activities and Yoga	213	204	604	384

<sup>\*</sup>Devaluation of the US Dollar against Sri Lankan Rupees has caused a reduction of expenditure.

The Sambol Foundation has grown significantly in recent years, which is now also impacting operating costs. With the employment of in-house psychologists, our kindergarten, the Sambol Gedara project, internal childcare for working women, and 1:1 support related to the work integration of former residents, staffing costs have doubled. The purchase of the office building has made investments and maintenance work necessary. Another reason is the development of the exchange rate and inflation in 2023, which primarily affected imported goods such as petrol and food. In addition to operating costs, investments of USD 155,000 were made for the office building and Safe Village property purchase and development.

The increased financial requirements have also increased the Foundation's administrative expenses in Switzerland. The financial statements are audited by E&Y Sri Lanka. We are happy to share these documents on request.

## **Statistics & Facts**

1 OF 4

HAVE EXPERIENCED
SEXUAL AND/OR
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE
SINCE THE AGE
OF 15

60%

OF PARENTS REFUSE
TO SEND THEIR
GIRLS TO SCHOOL
DURING PERIOD/
MENSTRUATION

OF SRI LANKAN WOMEN KILLED WERE ATTACKED IN THEIR OWN HOMES BY SOMEONE THEY KNOW

ONLY 5%

OF CASES CONCERNING WOMEN MURDERED BETWEEN 2013-2017 WERE EVER CONCLUDED THAN MORE 50%

OF MURDERS OF SRI LANKAN WOMEN WERE COMMITTED BY THEIR HUSBANDS

35.7%

1/3 of women who experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner have contemplated suicide



SOURCE: UNFPA, UNIVERSITY OF KELANIYA STUDY 2021, ADVOCATALK



Our mission extends beyond intervention, aiming to break societal barriers and stereotypes surrounding victims of gender-based violence.

Our primary objective is to promote the protection, healing, education, and empowerment of women and children affected by gender-based violence, helping them to achieve independence. We provide a safe home for individuals to take their first steps towards self-determined lives. We show them a secure pathway to stand up against violence and escape abuse.

We are committed to uplifting women by equipping them with the strength to confidently represent their own opinions and needs. Our comprehensive support services include therapeutic counselling, legal aid, and educational opportunities, offering an environment where survivors can heal and acquire crucial life skills.

Through education initiatives and vocational training, we enhance survivors' employability skills, helping them achieve financial independence and rebuild their lives.

Ultimately, we seek to empower women physically, emotionally, and spiritually, creating an inclusive society where no woman or child suffers silently under the burden of violence. We believe women deserve safety, a voice, and freedom from abuse, and we are committed to providing unwavering support on their journey towards reclaiming their lives.

Our work symbolises hope for women everywhere.

## What is our intervention/role in women empowerment in Sri Lanka

Our primarily objective is to protect, heal, educate, empower and pave the way back into independent lives of women and children who are affected by violence. We help affected women to take the first step towards safe independence. We are in action by Operating safe homes for victims of violence since 2020. It is a sign to all women that there is a safe way to stand up, speak up and escape violence. We give women the necessary strength to strongly represent their own opinions and needs in society. Our service are not limited to in house shelter residents, but we supports all the women who seek legal assistance for filing cases and represting them in legal cases. In keeping up with our vision of 'ensuring all women and children in Sri Lanka to have a safe and self-determined future.

## Residential

Food, accommodation, care & safety

Pregnancy care

Midwives in-house visit

Midwife center visits

Appointments for medical treatments

Hospitalization on delivery

Baby care

Follow up clinics

Family planning

Art therapy & painting lessons

Handcraft & mini pottery

Sewing lessons, gardening

## Therapy

Basic medications for physical healing and health

Psychiatric treatments

Counseling & therapies including family counseling

## Education

Admission to government schools for uninterrupted education for child victims and girls

In-house tuition

Attending to school changes for safety reasons

Facilities for online classes

Providing all the study materials including uniforms and shoes

Short hand and typing classes

In-house kindergarten service

## Reintegration

Day care service for survivors kids when mothers are working & living independently

Reintegration of survivors into the job market

Follow-ups on former residents







#### **Legal Support**

We are committed to promoting gender equality by supporting women and children affected by gender-based violence. We support our residents with legal support and contribute to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5.

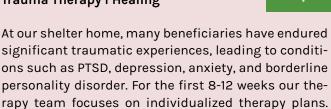
We recognize the importance of quality legal assistance in gender-based violence cases. Many individuals lack the necessary resources or knowledge for these proceedings. Our financial aid program for justice including compensation and divorce, aims to alleviate this burden and ensure equitable access to justice.

Our partnerships with reputable law firms specializing in family law allow us to connect survivors with skilled attorneys who protect their rights empathetically.

By paying for legal fees incurred during case filings as well as representation throughout the process, we aim not only at providing avenues towards obtaining restraining orders but also securing rightful compensations when applicable under the law.

#### Trauma Therapy I Healing

and recovery.



Subsequently, we shift our emphasis towards family therapy and societal reintegration as a cohesive unit.

We predominantly utilize Cognitive Processing Thera-

py (CPT), a specialized form of cognitive behavioural

therapy, to address trauma. Additionally, we incorporate a variety of effective methodologies, including psychodynamic approaches, Reiki healing, art therapy, movement therapy and music therapy. These diverse therapeutic interventions have proven to be highly successful in supporting our residents healing









#### Sambol Gedara

The Sambol Foundation promotes innovation, and infrastructure through its Sambol Gedara project. This initiative provides survivors of violence with vocational training in cooking, handcrafts, and other skills, enabling them to achieve financial independence, by offering structured courses and creating market opportunities for their products,

By participating in Sambol Gedara's cookery classes, guests not only get a taste of authentic local cuisine but also contribute towards a positive impact on society. Each booking helps us to provide support and opportunities for more survivors.

Sambol Gedara fosters economic growth and sustainable development. These efforts support Sustainable Development Goal 9, which focuses on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation.









#### Reintegration

When individuals escape traumatic circumstances and find refuge in our safe home, their journey towards healing and independence begins. Survivors are offered various training programs tailored to their needs, including vocational courses in computer literacy or culinary arts and personal development workshops focused on confidence-building and communication skills.

#### **Guidance Towards Employment**

Our dedicated team provides guidance on job searches, resumé writing, interview techniques, and professional networking. We connect survivors with potential employers or support them in starting small businesses, ensuring they have access to sustainable livelihood options.

#### Sponsorship of Initial Expenses

Leaving our safe home can be daunting, so we extend financial assistance for the initial three months' rent and basic necessities like food and clothing. This support helps survivors focus on rebuilding their lives without immediate financial worries.









#### Student home

In our society, domestic violence remains a pervasive issue affecting many, especially women and children. While safe homes exist, some cases need alternative solutions. We have initiated a program to provide young girls over 16 with protection and freedom while they continue their education.

The downstairs area of our administrative office has been transformed into a safe home for these girls. Unlike typical safe homes where mothers accompany their children, this setup offers more independence and security for the girls' educational pursuits.

This unique arrangement allows them to pursue education while staying safe from harm. We aim to create an atmosphere conducive to both academic growth and emotional healing, with trained professionals available around the clock for psychological support and counseling tailored to address trauma from domestic violence.







#### Kindergarten

Providing a secure and nurturing environment for children is our top priority. Operating a kindergarten within our premises allows us to create a haven where children can flourish with confidence. The Swiss Embassy's donation enabled us to establish a well-equipped learning space with highly qualified staff dedicated to exceptional early childhood education.

Empowering Working Mothers: Our Day Care Centre Our day care center supports working mothers by providing reliable care, giving them peace of mind. Thanks to the Swiss Embassy's support, we have a state-of-the-art facility where children can thrive under professional supervision.

#### **Quality Education and Nurturing Environment**

We believe every child deserves access to quality education from an early age, regardless of their parents' financial situation. Our daycare center prioritizes both academic and emotional support, addressing separation anxiety with personalized attention for each child.





#### **Events / Markets**

In 2023, the Sambol Foundation actively participated in various events and markets in Switzerland to raise funds and awareness for its projects. Highlights included the Sambol Soliparty, Feministischer Streik, Züri Fäscht "Platz für mehr," Reeds Festival, Charity Event in der Barfussbar, "Cooking with friends" in Rhybadi and the Enfant terrible Stand "Support your locals."

Additionally, we participated in numerous markets in the south of Sri Lanka. Highlights included Café Ceylon, The Doctors House, Nest for Living, Surfing Wombats Pizzeria, Angel Beach, Outspot, Soul and Surf Hotel, and the Sambol Garden House. At The Doctors House and Surfing Wombats, we also showcased and sold our products. These events helped expand our reach and raise awareness about our mission.

#### Fundraising / Social Media

In 2023, the Sambol Foundation made significant strides in fundraising and enhancing its social media presence. Through a series of campaigns and strategic engagement, we successfully increased our online following and community participation. Our social media platforms were used to share impactful stories, updates on projects, and ways to contribute, effectively driving donations and support. We are deeply grateful for the diverse support from individuals, companies, and renowned foundations, which has been crucial in advancing our mission and projects, including the Safe-Village project.

#### Join Us in Making a Difference

We continue to seek support to secure the remaining funds needed for the Safe-Village project. If you or your organization can help, we would love to connect with more foundations and corporates willing to contribute to this vital initiative. Your support can make a significant difference in the lives of women and children affected by gender-based violence.





I am Sulochana. I am currently 33 years old and come from a southern village. After completing my Ordinary Level exams (O/L), I stayed at home for 2 years without pursuing Advanced Level studies (A/L). During this time, I sold flowers to an uncle in our village who transported them to Pooja City.

At the age of 18, I joined the Army and later married my boyfriend when I turned 20. Despite his occasional drinking, our marriage was fine. However, conflicts arose when he insisted I quit my job after our child was born. Despite his objections, I continued working, leading to our eventual divorce. My mother took care of our son while I resumed working.

During this period, I entered into a relationship with someone from close by and married him after about 3 months. My son and me faced violence daily. When I had another child with him, I had to leave my job as there was no one to care for the children. This abusive situation adversely affected my eldest son, who developed ADHD.

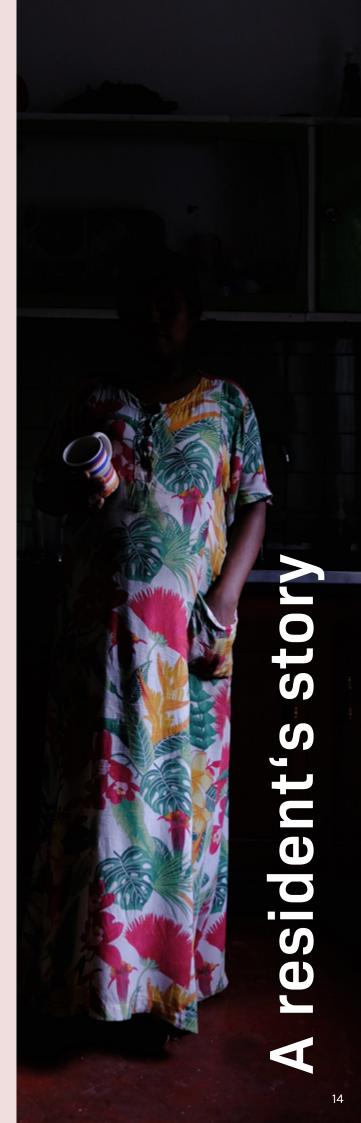
About 1 year after the birth of my second child, my husband came home drunk and beat me severely. In a moment of crisis, my eldest son attempted to defend me, but the situation escalated, and fearing for our lives, I fled with both children to the forest by the lake past 10 p.m.

The next morning, I filed a complaint with the police. However, my mother refused to accept me and my children, leaving us with no choice but to place the children in governmental homes and for me to find employment. We were temporarily housed in a Matara care home by the Divisional Secretariat while we arranged our affairs.

Unable to complete the necessary documentation within a week, we were transferred to Sambol Foundation. Here, our lives changed significantly. We received proper care, meals, and other necessities. However, my eldest son's behavioural issues persisted, requiring psychiatric treatment at Sambol Home, where he gradually showed improvement.

After receiving counselling and professional training, I secured a job with the help of the institution within three months. We were able to establish a stable life. Today, thanks to Sambol, I can work and live with my children comfortably and safe.

I am immensely grateful to everyone who helped us overcome the hardships we faced in three different places. My eldest son has returned to school and achieved excellent marks in his semester exams, scoring over 85 in all subjects.



## **Operational overview**





Sambol Student's Shelter Running since 2023





Sambol Women's Shelter Running since 2020



Sambol Gedara Cooking classes for tourists, and manufacture of spices





Community
Awareness
programms for
rural villages



Rice & Carry Manufacturing site of the fabrics and shop items

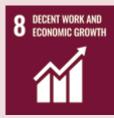




















In the past year, we obtained all the necessary approvals for constructing Sri Lanka's largest Safe-Village for victims of gender-based violence. In November 2023, construction of the main safe home began.

#### Approval Process:

After acquiring the land, we sought approval for construction, navigating challenges due to the unique nature of a Safe-Village. We educated officers on its importance and met compliance requirements.

#### **Clearances:**

We obtained necessary clearances from utility providers and urban councils, ensuring all safety measures were in place.

### **Urban Development Authority Approval:**

In June 2023, after meeting compliance requirements, we received approval from the Urban Development Authority, allowing us to commence site operations.

#### **Construction Partner Selection:**

We evaluated several reputable companies and selected Udaya Construction Private Limited based on quality and commitment to women's empowerment. Our partnership with Udaya Construction marks a significant step towards constructing Sri Lanka's largest Safe-Village for gender-based violence victims, fostering hope and positive change.

#### The Safe-Village aligns with multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG 1 (No Poverty): Provides shelter, food, and resources.

SDG 2 (Zero Hunger): Offers nutritious meals.

SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being): Provides medical care, trauma therapy, and counseling.

SDG 4 (Quality Education): Ensures education for children.

SDG 5 (Gender Equality): Empowers women with legal assistance and vocational training.

SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Promotes inclusive and sustainable economic growth and employment.

SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure): Develops sustainable infrastructure.

SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): Reduces inequalities within and among countries.

SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities): Creates a resilient living environment.

SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions): Provides legal assistance and collaborates with authorities.

## Impressions of the construction site





Our Country Manager explains the comprehensive plan that has been meticulously designed to cater to the diverse needs of residents, therapists, teachers and caring staff.



## Sri Lanka board of directors

We are a Non-Profit Oriented Organization and Registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (Charitable Foundation) under the Companies Act No 07 of 2007.









## Devika Salomon (Chairperson)

A qualified Art Director by profession and former employee of the girls shelter in Zurich. Born in Sri Lanka in 1985 and adopted to Switzerland. In 2017 she moved back to Sri Lanka with the intention to form an entity for women protection and empowerment which is beneficial to her mother country. Now shaping the future of Sri Lankan women as managing director of Sambol Foundation.

Milani Salpitikorala

A lawyer, an Attorney At Law with a demonstrated history of working in the legal services; skilled in Conveyancing, Legal Writing, Corporate Law, Family Law, Human rights, Corporate Governance, and Legal Research. She's the founder of the Child Protection Force Sri Lanka and has been handling and supporting cases involving children since 2013.

#### Nabeela Yaseen

Entrepreneur and digital marketing manager by profession who is passionate about writing, debating, public speaking, and managing organizations. She has a Muslim background and has learnt what it means to emancipate herself as a young woman in a patriarchal society like Sri Lanka. With her project Not Your Nangi, she actively contributes to giving young girls a voice and to drawing attention to public harassment. Like other social media activists she has a good reach and a high impact on drawing attention to discrimination.

#### Luca Salomon

After studying Management & Economics at Uni versity of Zurich and beeing head of administration of FC Zurich he decided to move to Sri Lanka and have his own business as consultant and running the small family tourism. As co-founder of Sambol Foundation he covers the financial and administrative fields and currently supervises and coordinates the construction of Sambol Safe-Village.

## Team Sri Lanka



Inoka Gamage Country Manager



Sachini Abevikrama Manager Shelter Unit



Buddhi Randeniya Manager Psychological Unit



Thimasha Dilmini Manager & Teacher Child Care Unit



Jayani Thilakawardene Counselor



Kithmini Abeysekara Office Assistant



Shiriani Mudiyanselage House Mother



Deepa Sanjeewani Kindergarten Assistant Teacher



P Jayaseeli House Mother

## **Team Switzerland**



Rochelle Allebes President Sambol Foundation Social Worker FH



Rebecca Angelini Managing director ProCoRe



Anu Sivaganesan President of the centre for forced marriage



Roland Thomann Head of Communication & Fundraising, Pro Infirmis



Naomi Osada Project Manager TX Group Social Media & Fundraising Events & Webshop



Eliane Kunz Founder Elivate GmbH Fundraising



Jessica Lehmann Events & Webshop



As a resident of the Sambol Foundation, she feels safe and at peace. The darkness of her past is replaced by the warmth and security of this sanctuary. The foundation has given her hope, strength & the support to rebuild her life. Surrounded by well-trained staff, her smile reflects the profound impact and bright future ahead.

## As a corporate establishment

As a legal entity, the Sambol Foundation operates with a commitment to transparency, accountability, and integrity. Our status as a registered organization enhances our credibility and allows us to effectively manage resources, engage with partners, and implement our programs with the utmost professionalism. Being a legal entity enables us

to secure funding, form strategic alliances, and comply with regulatory requirements, ensuring that our mission to support survivors of gender-based violence and build the Safe-Village is carried out efficiently and ethically. Our legal framework underpins all our activities, fostering trust and confidence among our stakeholders and beneficiaries.

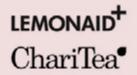




## Thank you

We are grateful for the generous support we receive – both from private individuals, companies as well as from renowned foundations. These various forms of support contribute equally to the advancement of the Sambol Foundation and our Safe Village project.

Below is an selection of the companies, foundations and organisations that have continously supported Sambol.







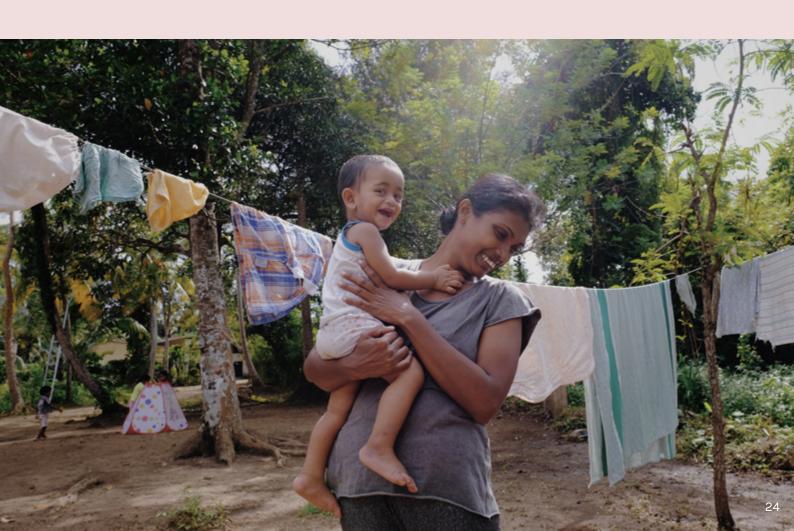


ChariTea & Lemonaid+

ABZ

Swiss Embassy

Swiss Soroptimist





## Summary of future goals

The Sambol Foundation is committed to expanding its impact in Sri Lanka by focusing on protection, education, and empowerment for women and children affected by gender-based violence. Our future goals include:

### \*Complete the Sambol Safe-Village in Matara\*

To provide a secure environment for up to 20 women plus their children by the beginning of 2025. Together with the existing houses, we expect to be able to accommodate around 75 people once the Safe Village has been built.

### \*Initiate a new project in Jaffna\*

To support the Tamil community with safe housing, legal assistance, and educational programs.

### \*Expand vocational training and educational support\*

Ensuring continuous education for children through the Sambol Gedara project.

#### \*Enhance legal and therapeutic services\*

To aid survivors in healing and rebuilding their lives.

#### \*Launch awareness campaigns and workshops\*

To improve community response to gender-based violence.

#### \*Secure additional funding and partnerships\*

To support our operations and growth.

#### \*Develop our professional capabilities and organizational structures\*

To improve efficiency and effectiveness.

Our long-term vision is to be the leading organization in Sri Lanka, ensuring all women and children to have a safe and self-determined future. Your support is crucial in achieving this vision. Thank you for your commitment to our mission.

**Copy:** Inoka Gamage, Naomi Osada I **Proofreading:** Ronnie Gundelfinger, Eliane Kunz, Hazel Tetteh **Art Direction:** <u>Devika Salomon</u> (curryproduction.ch)

Photos: Noémie de Bellaigue (https://noemiedebellaigue.com) I steffany @stefsteffany

All of the people photographed are either employees or former residents who have given their consent for the images to be used.



## **Sambol Foundation Corporate Office:**

As No.37, Karuwalagas Road, Walgama, Matara, Sri Lanka +94 (0) 77 677 28 48 info@sambolfoundation.org www.sambolfoundation.org



facebook.com/sambolfoundation



instagram.com/sambolfoundation



SAMPOL FOUNDAILUN

supporting women and children in need