



World Vision

# Intermediate Care Unit Akkarayankulam Divisional Hospital Kilinochchi



**A FRIENDLY HOME**  
நட்பு இல்லம்



## Introduction

Kilinochchi is one of the main locations where child abuse and domestic violence cases have been extensively reported throughout the year. There has been a dramatic rise in the proportion of child abuse and domestic violence cases reported since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. With schools closed and children being at home throughout the day, and parents being unable to find work, families were faced with tough decisions leading to stress, isolation and economic hardships. This in turn increased the risk of domestic violence and child sexual abuse in households. Therefore, these victims were treated in the District General Hospital (DGH). However, in spite of the sensitivities of the incidents, they received treatment along with the regular patients. Hence, it was proposed to have a separate mental health care unit established in a serene place in order to look in to the victims' health and safety. Akkarayan Ministry of Health (MOH) hospital was therefore selected to establish this unit as it is located in a rural area providing the patients with the necessary safety and privacy required. The proposed hospital generally provides medical clinic services to pregnant and lactating mothers and their children.

## The Need for a Unique Intermediate Care Unit

Domestic violence and child abuse incidents occur in the community on a daily basis; however, only half of the occurrences are reported, and victims receive treatment at the Kilinochchi General Hospital. One of the main reasons for cases to not be reported is the lack of a sufficient intermediate care for the victims, in a secure location. Especially as they seek medical support after having been severely harmed both physically and emotionally, it is critical that they are housed in a secure and private environment so that they can be rehabilitated as effectively as possible. However, at the general hospital, this could not be achieved as there are no spaces/units or necessary equipment to serve them. As a result, these external impediments make it difficult for the victims to have a thorough clinical case discussion.

The way in which mental health care is provided is often a key determinant of the psychosocial well-being of victims, especially those with severe mental disorders. Absence of required environment and equipment can negatively affect patients who seek psychosocial care. Having a separate unit to treat such patients with close attention is of utmost importance as they need a peaceful environment to recover from traumatic situations that they have been through.

Additionally, more services will be provided through the mental health care unit which are listed below.

- Medication
- Psychiatric care (counselling and psychosocial support)
- Recreational activities
- Provision of three meals for the victim and the caretaker
- Legal support
- Livelihood support
- Security

## Expected Outcomes and Deliverables from this Intermediate Care Unit

- ✓ Support to address a person's emotional, social, mental and spiritual needs and all essential elements of positive human development
- ✓ Confidentiality of the abusers
- ✓ Accommodation provided in a friendly and noise-free environment
- ✓ Support towards healing from trauma and receiving rehabilitation in order to return to normal life
- ✓ Assist individuals in improving self-acceptance and self-esteem
- ✓ Provide medical care to address depression, anxiety, or other mental health conditions
- ✓ Increased awareness among survivors, leading to more survivors exercising their fundamental rights



### Inauguration of Intermediate Care Unit

World Vision received LKR 1 million from Jaffna Medical Faculty Overseas Alumni (JMFOA) to renovate the building and begin this intervention with the collaboration with the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS). Dr. Mylashan, President JMFOA Foundation, together with the RDHS, Judicial Medical Officer (JMO), Medical Officers, and Community representatives attended the inauguration event on March 23, 2022. JMO explained the importance of this intervention to the donor during the signing ceremony.

This Intermediate Care unit has been renovated to accommodate 20 victims at a time.

*“Throughout the year, there have been several reports of child abuse and domestic violence in the Kilinochchi area. These victims are treated alongside other patients at the District General Hospital, which should not be done because this is a sensitive issue. However, at a general hospital, the situation is different, and there is no such special space to serve them owing to a lack of a large structure or a room, as well as the necessary equipment. It is critical to take care of mentally ill people or those who require psychosocial assistance. These people should be treated in a distinct psychosocial unit at hospitals or elsewhere. Because children require special attention and a tranquil atmosphere to recuperate from a stressful incident. Meanwhile, our Kilinochchi medical organization attempted to get money from well-wishers in order to create this facility, but our efforts were futile. Admittedly, World Vision has aided us in establishing this section at Akkarayan Hospital owing to financial support from the JMFOA Canada. I am certain that this Psychosocial Unit will serve as an "intermediate shelter for survivors of domestic violence and child sexual abuse."*

**RDHS- Kilinochchi**



**Pictures from the Inauguration Ceremony**



## Sustainability

- ✓ RDHS, Medico-Legal Unit and Mental health unit of DGH will be responsible for its continuous function, maintenance and administration
- ✓ Medical officer will provide care and proper counselling to the patients
- ✓ The National Child Protection Authority (NCPA)/ Probation officer/ Officer from the Ministry of Women & Child Affairs will provide legal support

## Glimpse of the Journey towards Establishment of an Intermediate Care Unit



**Earlier Condition of Akkarayan Hospital**



**MOU Signing & Discussion**