



Zone 4

Mt. Everest, Nepal

ZONE 4 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
Bhutan	2	120	25		
Brunei	1	95			
Cambodia	1	39	30		
Indonesia	87	4,236	1,127	1	2
Lao PDR	4	197	127		1
Malaysia	71	6,317	3,610		1
Myanmar	1	91			
Nepal	214	32,326	9,718	1	2
Philippines	3	149	25	1	1
Singapore	19	1,506	611		1
Sri Lanka	79	9,223	2,050	1	1
Thailand	8	199	61	1	1
TOTAL	490	54,498	17,384	5	10



ZONE 4

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Bhutan

SSIO members in Bhutan partnered with local Buddhist organisations to volunteer in various service activities throughout the year.



Brunei

The small sultanate of Brunei is home to a single Sathya Sai Centre that conducts numerous service and devotional activities. During Shivaratri, observed on 24th February 2017, children from the Centre put on a drama with dance performances. SSIO members regularly offer food packets and other rations to foreign workers.



Cambodia

Moved by the plight of Cambodia's disadvantaged children, a local solicitor began a programme to feed children living on the streets. His work soon evolved into Cambodia's Sai Meals programme, which currently provides food each week for about 100 of Cambodia's most vulnerable and marginalised children.



ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Indonesia

After months of rumbling, Mount Agung in Bali erupted on 21st November 2017. Under the guidance of Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency, the SSIO disaster relief arm of Bali, aptly named Sai Rescue Bali, began evacuating residents, animals and livestock from the area. Once the immediate danger passed, volunteers started rebuilding and restoration efforts, including the setting up of sanitation works, installing of water tanks complete with filtration systems, constructing temporary housing, distributing dry rations and other tasks. The team is working with the Sai Young Adults and Ladies Wings to distribute food, build tents, move residents and set up communal kitchens and clinics. Amidst all this activity, SSIO members also found an opportunity to start a SSEHV programme for the children.

The Bandung Sathya Sai Centre has been leading a Disability Care service programme as part of their community adoption work. For more than six years, they have helped maintain wheelchairs, train caregivers and distribute necessities monthly. Volunteers also serve food for children with disabilities regularly at various parts of the city. Their work attracted commendations by the Governor and Vice Governor of the city, citing the sustained support and volunteerism of the SSIO, on the International Day of People with Disabilities, in December 2017.



ZONE 4

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Lao PDR

The Lao capital of Vientiane is now home to a new Sai medical clinic. Like others around the world, it provides consultations as well as medicines and dental procedures, free of charge. A mobile medical camp along with several blood donation camps further served more than 1,000 Lao citizens.



Malaysia

The SSIO of Malaysia organised a national service initiative, encouraging all 85 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups in the country to serve the needy in the month of April 2017. The call was answered in spades, as 500 volunteers served an estimated 5,000 people in all. SSIO members in Malaysia also undertook a period of introspection and devotion, wherein for 40 days between March and April, they earnestly practised the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, with a focus on human values.

Volunteers initiated a massive public outreach initiative, the “Bhakti Revolution,” fostering collaborations with local religious groups to provide a forum to convey teachings on human values and the universality of all faiths. The programme has involved more than 4,500 participants so far, and plans are underway to bring in 13 additional faith groups, through reaching out to the Indian, Chinese and Malay communities.



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ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Myanmar

Volunteers across Myanmar made health services a priority activity, ranging from individual volunteer services to larger medical camps. The latter included trips to visit an orphanage and a school for the blind in Yangon; later, the volunteers who visited the school were so moved that they started a project to improve the facilities at the institution.

SSIO volunteers of Myanmar distributed food to patients at the San Pya Hospital on a routine basis and supported a major housing project for displaced families in Rakhine State.



Nepal

Determined to serve even the most remote communities, a group of 15 Sathya Sai Young Adults embarked on a perilous journey to the mountainous villages of Sapreni, Jaithali, and Kol Bhanjyang on 16th December 2017 and lovingly served food and distributed warm clothing to dozens of needy families.

In November 2017, senior SSIO leaders inaugurated a series of infrastructure projects, including more than 50 newly constructed homes, community drinking water programmes, an Institute of Sathya Sai Education building and an orphanage. These efforts come on the heels of disaster relief projects undertaken since



ZONE 4

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

the earthquake of 2015. Despite the progress, however, access to safe drinking water remains a challenge in Nepal. This year, the SSIO initiated a new project to bring water to 150 households of the disadvantaged Chepangs community. Several deep-water wells, commissioned this year, will provide water to an additional 200 households.

SSIO volunteers also provided educational materials for some 1,500 students, including desks and chairs.



Philippines

The SSIO of Philippines welcomed four new Sathya Sai Centres this year. The ever-growing membership also hosted nine medical, dental and vision camps, serving more than 2,900 patients. The Ladies Wing conducted 12 projects to feed the hungry, and their tireless advocacy introduced more than 100 students to Sathya Sai Education this year.

In observance of Aradhana Mahotsavam, on 23rd April 2017, SSIO members served a sumptuous meal at Casa del Niño Science High School in San Pedro, to about 300 students and adults. Volunteers further distributed household groceries and clothing to 350 families. Simultaneously, Sathya Sai Young Adults organised a programme to share their spiritual journeys and experiences in service. This proved so successful they returned a week later to continue their discussions.



Philippines

ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS



Singapore

Students of the Sathya Sai Kindergarten of Singapore have become regular visitors to the Chinatown Senior Activity Centre. Once more, 45 students along with their teachers returned to the Centre for an entertaining cultural performance on 24th April 2017. The students also served 70 seniors with handmade paper fans as mementos of their visit.

SSIO members from Singapore participate in various international service projects, including medicals camps in Myanmar and Laos, and contribute monthly to public service initiatives.



Sri Lanka

In May 2017, Cyclone Mora brought extreme rains, flooding and landslides to this island nation. In response, the SSIO of Sri Lanka immediately set to work. In Colombo alone, 1,600 meals were served, along with 5,000 litres of bottled water. Supplies provided by the SSIO were airlifted by the national Air Force and distributed in the hardest hit and most inaccessible regions.

The SSIO has consistently aimed to serve Sri Lanka's impoverished communities. The long-running Village Improvement Programme (VIP) continued to expand this year, and on 8th December 2017 formally brought the villages of Inpacholai and Selvapuram into the existing service platforms. Villagers at these sites re-



Singapore



Sri Lanka

ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

ceived education in human values, along with housing/water infrastructure and community development tools through the programme.

Other initiatives commenced this year include a fresh water project, to supply more than 2,000 litres of clean water daily to the villagers of Visvamadu, and a new senior care facility housing 40 underprivileged elders in the suburban town of Meegoda. Sri Lanka's hospice centre serving patients with various forms of cancer for many years celebrated its 15th anniversary this year, having brought comfort to hundreds.

Sri Lanka's Walk for Values on 23rd April 2017 brought the theme of service once again to the forefront of national consciousness, attracting more than 800 participants in the heart of Colombo. The walk gained national media attention, along with the participation of several senior government ministers.



Thailand

The SSIO of Thailand undertook a mission to care for some of the nation's most isolated villages. After initial surveys on 27th January and 10th February 2017, devotees identified residents of multiple villages in the Lam Narai and Baan Daan Chaan regions as most in need of assistance. Food and personal care products were supplied, in addition to a commitment to adopt the villages as a permanent service initiative.



ZONE 4 COUNTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Similarly, on 26th November 2017, SSIO members travelled to a facility in a small community north of Bangkok that houses orphans diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. Young Adults from the Sathya Sai School entertained the children with games and activities, while others distributed personal effects and learning supplies.

Children began participating in this year's SSIO service initiatives. They joined adults in distributing supplies to the Pakkret Babies Home on 23rd July 2017, which cares for some 100 infants. Later, on 17th December, they performed in a Christmas carol and dance concert to herald in the festive Christmas holiday season. More than 80 children also took part in the now-famous sports day held on 13th January 2018. Divided into three teams, the students participated in a series of enthralling sports ranging from cricket to hula-hooping.

Other projects undertaken this year include a collaboration with the Good Shepherd Sister's Home on 4th June 2017, where nearly 30 SSIO members helped care for at-risk teenage girls housed in the facility.

At a green initiative on 4th and 5th November 2017, Sathya Sai volunteers handed out more than 900 reusable cloth bags to discourage the use of harmful plastic products.



Thailand



Thailand