

Mullaitivu Kukulawa (Kokkilai)

Kokkilai is a Sinhala village located in the Muhudhubadapattu Divisional Secretariat Division of the Mullaitivu District in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The village is situated within the Kokkilai East and West (Mu/77 – Mu/78) Grama Niladhari divisions.

This village is one of the remaining Sinhala villages along the northeastern coastal belt, extending from Point Pedro up to the seashore. The Kokkilai lagoon, which is located close to the village, forms the boundary between the Eastern Province and the Northern Province.

This village has a very long history. Its history dates back to the period before Sri Lanka gained independence, extending to the time when the country was under British rule. The village possesses a recorded historical heritage, and it has been continuously inhabited by descendants of past generations from ancient times.

The villagers mainly reside near the Kokkilai lagoon and the coastal mouth area. Fishing is their primary and main livelihood. People belonging to Catholic, Christian, and Buddhist religions live together in harmony in this village. Approximately 300 families currently reside in the village. During the long period of terrorist conflict that lasted for more than 30 years, the villagers did not abandon their village. Instead, they voluntarily served in village security units for nearly fifteen years to protect their village.

The village has a school. This school was destroyed during the 2004 tsunami disaster. Later, with the assistance of the Italian government, the tsunami damaged school was rebuilt as a fully equipped school building. On this occasion, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Italian government and the people of Italy.

The school provides education from Grade 1 up to Grade 11. However, there is a shortage of adequate teachers. Teachers are reluctant to come to this area, mainly due to the severe remoteness of the region.

Children in the village lose opportunities for higher secondary education after completing the Ordinary Level examination. Although they have the possibility of attending Sinhala medium schools for Advanced Level studies, there are no adequate transportation facilities available for that purpose. Due to these difficulties, many children drop out of education and become involved in early marriages and household responsibilities.

Even today, the majority of villagers continue to live in temporary sheet roofed houses that were provided to them after the tsunami disaster. These houses are in a highly dilapidated condition. Many of them have been damaged or destroyed due to strong winds, cyclones, and floods. The residents do not have sufficient financial capacity to rebuild or renovate these houses. In connection with the above mentioned facts, we kindly draw your compassionate attention and respectfully request your assistance in repairing or reconstructing at least a number of the houses that have been destroyed.