

PROVISION OF MOBILE MEDICAL & PALLIATIVE CARE SERVICES

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Despite advances in modern medicine, there are countless diseases and conditions which cannot be cured, but rather only "managed" and treated to reduce symptoms and patient discomfort. Many diseases cause chronic pain and suffering, some of which are terminal and for which palliative care is absolutely essential. Even when a cure is impossible, much can be done to ease the suffering of patients.

Since January 2016, the International Medical Health Organization (IMHO) has supported CANE Jaffna Hospice to conduct field-based palliative care services to cancer patients who reside in the Tellipalai, Uduvil and Nallur Ministry of Health divisions of the Jaffna District. So far, 375 patients have been registered and received services.

A team, which consists of a nursing officer and two health assistants, regularly visits individual houses by three-wheeler and supports and educates the patients and their family members on how to keep the patients' condition as good as possible. The details of the patients are collected from the Social Service Department and the hospitals.

The team takes partial responsibility in many of the day-to-day tasks of the patients, such as giving medications, providing transportation, assisting with daily activities, offering emotional support, helping with finances / social assistances and talking with doctors.

Thanks to IMHO for helping enable this incredible service towards providing relief from the symptoms, pain and stresses of serious illness for patients and their families.

