



# MOTHER & CHILD PROJECT



**11th**

**Progress Report  
for the Period  
May to  
August 2024**

**The Mother & Child Project (MCP) was initiated by CandleAid Lanka in February 2021 and has sustained its efforts successfully for over three years. This report presents the progress made between May to August 2024, as well as details of fund utilization from February 2021 to August 2024.**

CandleAid established a fund to support helpless Mothers who are either widowed or abandoned by their spouses. These are women who bear the full responsibility of feeding, clothing, educating, and nurturing their children while earning a livelihood to sustain their households.

Through our network of volunteer coordinators, CandleAid identifies and supports families who meet the criteria outlined above. These families receive financial assistance of LKR 5,000 per month to supplement their income for a period of 12 months. More importantly, CandleAid explores the possibility of empowering the mothers by encouraging them to leverage their abilities, talents and strengths to start or expand their own businesses and improve their family's circumstances. Women who are already engaged in small-scale home-grown initiatives are assisted to improve the productivity of their endeavours through a discussed plan of action. It must be mentioned that most beneficiary families do not qualify for empowerment due to their circumstances and logistical issues.

Enrolling of families commenced in February 2021. During the period from May to August 2024, 06 new families were enrolled increasing the number of families to 155. All 06 newly enrolled families are now receiving the monthly assistance. We have screened one more family who has been enrolled to the project in September 2024.

**Summary of the Mother & Child fund is as follows:**

<b>Donations received up to end August 2024</b>	<b>LKR 9,386,536.25</b>
<b>Number of Donors</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Total amount allocated up to August 2024</b>	<b>LKR 9,300,000.00</b>
<b>Balance available for allocation</b>	<b>LKR 86,536.25</b>

Given below are details and photos of the six families (MCP 150 to MCP 155) that were enrolled during the reporting period.

CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 150  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs Anoja Fernando  
Moratuwa, Colombo

**Family circumstances:**

Anoja is a mother of four children. She lost her husband under tragic circumstance in November 2023 (he had drowned in a river). Her eldest daughter is studying in Grade 12 and due to write the Advanced Level examination in 2025. Her 2nd daughter is studying in Grade 07 and her son is in Grade 04. Her youngest daughter is a 01 year & 04 months old infant. Anoja works as a housemaid in a nearby house and earns LKR 12,800 per month. Her parents help the family whenever they can. The family receives a government dole of LKR 8,500 per month. The income earned by Anoja and the dole are inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and children's educational expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 151  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs Udara Deshani Rasaputhra  
Nupe, Matara

**Family circumstances:**

Udara is a young mother of two children. Her husband had abandoned the family 04 years ago. Her eldest daughter is studying in Grade 03 and her youngest daughter is in Grade 02. Udara is unable to engage in a fulltime employment since both her children are too small. She is also suffering from a knee problem for which she gets Ayurveda treatment. She has been seeking part-time employment without any success. Her relatives help the family whenever they can. The family income is only the dole received from the government which amounts to LKR 5,000 per month which is hugely inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and children's educational expenses.

CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 152  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs Doris Verginiya Kerner  
Vahaneri, Batticaloa

**Family circumstances:**

Doris is a mother of four children. Her husband had passed away in January 2024 due to cancer, pneumonia & respiratory failure. Her eldest daughter has written the G.C.E. Advanced level examination in 2024 & is currently pursuing an IT course at Vocational Training Center, Valaichenai. Her 2nd daughter who has written the G.C.E. Ordinary level examination in 2023, is currently pursuing a beautician course at Vocational Training Center, Valaichenai. On completion of the course, she will get further training of 06 months in order to complete the Diploma. Her 3rd child is studying in Grade 08 and the youngest son is in Grade 06. Doris' mother too is living with them. Doris is running a small photocopy shop in front of her house and offers photocopying and printing services and earns around LKR 20,000 per month. She also receives LKR 3,500 as Samurdhi dole from the government. However, since she has obtained a loan from Samurdhi bank for educational expenses of her children for which she has to pay LKR 5,000 monthly. As such she has to pay an additional LKR 1,500 from her own money to cover the full payment. The income earned by Doris is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and children's educational expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 153  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs Mary Lalitha  
Waga, Avissawella, Colombo

**Family circumstances:**

Mary's husband had passed away in October 2022 after suffering a brief illness at the age of 69. Her only daughter is studying in Grade 09 at the Convent of Our Lady of Victories, Moratuwa and she is boarded at the school hostel. Mary needs to pay LKR 10,000 per month as hostel fees apart from the quarterly school fees of LKR 8,700. She lives in one room of a house she owns while renting out the rest of the house for LKR 5,000 p.m. She also works as a tea plucker for two days per week earning around LKR 8,000 and LKR 6,000 every three months from 10 coconut trees in her compound. In addition she earns LKR 2,000 per month by selling betel leaves which is grown in her own premises. Her two grown up nephews help her whenever they can. Her overall income is inadequate for her day-to-day expenses and the daughter's educational expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 154  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs Yasintha Lakmalie  
Agulugaha, Galle

**Family circumstances:**

Yasintha is a mother of two children. Her husband had passed away in September 2022 due to rat fever. Her eldest daughter is studying in Grade 06 and her youngest daughter is 04 years old. Yasintha makes small hair bands and some other handmade items which she supplies to book shops and earns around LKR 4,000 per month. Soon after the death of her husband, her in-laws had forced them to leave their house. She was compelled to move into her mother's house temporarily where her brother too lives. Her younger child being too young to go to school, Yasintha is unable to seek employment. Her mother who works in a tea factory and her brother, a casual labourer helps the family whenever they can. She receives a government dole of LKR 350 which is given for widows every month. The support she gets from her family is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and children's educational expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 155  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs Priyani Fernando  
Moratuwa, Colombo

**Family circumstances:**

Priyani is a mother of two children. Her husband had passed away in 2016 due to a heart attack. Her twin sons are due to write the Advanced level examination in 2024. One child is studying in the Maths stream & the other is studying in the IT stream. Priyani is working as a housemaid and earns LKR 20,000 per month. She is a diabetic patient and attends the clinic at Kalubowila hospital once in 02 months. There are times when she has to purchase her medicine from retail pharmacies. Currently they are living in her eldest sister's house and they are helping the family whenever they can. The income earned by Priyani is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and children's educational expenses.



## **Self-Empowerment of Women (SEW)**

CandleAid is committed to enrolling some of its Mother & Child beneficiaries in the Self-Empowerment of Women (SEW) programme. This initiative aims to provide these mothers with not only a sustainable livelihood but also the dignity that comes with self-accomplishment.

However, the challenging economic situation in the country has hindered progress in this area during the reporting period. Despite these obstacles, we continue to carefully review the profiles of our beneficiaries and engage them in discussions to assess their suitability for future empowerment opportunities. Our goal remains steadfast: to uplift and empower these women, providing them with the tools and confidence needed to improve their lives.

## **Acknowledgement**

We have no doubt that our donors who collectively enabled CandleAid to initiate and run the Mother & Child Project for over three years, will be gratified to read and learn the outcome of this initiative. Within this short span we have successfully enrolled 155 families to the project. The mothers enrolled go through severe trauma in bringing up their children amidst all the challenges of poverty. CandleAid's pledge to contribute LKR 5,000 per month for an assured period of one year to each of these families has given them much relief. They are grateful and comforted that unknown people have cared and come forward to lend a hand in uplifting their sorrowful and despairing lives.

This project would not be possible and will not be progressing well if not for the generosity of our kind hearted donors. It is heart-wrenching to hear about these mothers' struggles and witness their perseverance in providing necessities for their little ones. Our project's vision is to support these impoverished mothers in fulfilling their responsibilities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of the donors who have contributed to the success of our project.

The mothers we assist are very grateful for what they received from CandleAid as what seems 'little' to us is indeed 'a lot' to them. For some of them that is the only income they are assured of to sustain their family expenses every month.

CandleAid takes this opportunity to express our gratitude once again for the donations made to the fund and even more, for the trust and confidence placed in CandleAid in doing so. It is such gestures of goodwill and concern that have enabled Candleaid to carry out the many meaningful projects and programmes in its endeavor to alleviate poverty. Thank you one and all.

**Yasmin Weerasuriya**

**Director**

**CandleAid Lanka**

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**Tel. +94-112642526/+94-760534404**

**Email: candleaid.food@gmail.com**