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# ***MOTHER & CHILD PROJECT***

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***PROGRESS REPORT  
FOR THE PERIOD  
JANUARY TO APRIL 2023***

**Mother & Child Project (MCP) was initiated by CandleAid Lanka (CA) at the beginning of February 2021. Progress of the project from January to April 2023 and details of fund utilization for the period February 2021 to April 2023 are given below**

CandleAid established a fund to support Mothers who are either widowed or abandoned by their spouses. These are women who are required to feed, clothe, educate and nurture the children alone, while also making a livelihood to keep the home fires burning.

Through our network of volunteer coordinators CandleAid is able to source families who fall within the above criteria and give them assistance by contributing LKR 5,000 per month to supplement the family income for a period of 12 months. More importantly, CandleAid explores the possibility of empowering them to generate an income independently by assessing their abilities, strengths, and surrounding circumstances. Women who are already engaged in small-scale home-grown initiatives are assisted to improve the productivity of their endeavors through a discussed plan of action. It must be mentioned that most beneficiary families may not qualify for empowerment due to their circumstances and logistical issues.

Enrolling of families commenced in February 2021. During the period of January to April 2023, 15 new families were enrolled increasing the number of families under this project to 107. All 15 newly enrolled families are now receiving the monthly assistance. We have screened one more family and the family is to be enrolled in May 2023.

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

Donations received up to end April 2023	LKR 6,949,681.72
Allocated funds from a donor from General Project Fund in January 2023	LKR 61,335.05
Total fund as at 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	LKR 7,011,016.77
Number of donors	61
Total amount allocated up to April 2023	LKR 6,420,000.00
Balance available for allocation	LKR 591,016.77

Given below are details and photos of the fifteen families (MCP 93 to MCP 107) that were enrolled during the reporting period.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 93  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs. Niranjala P Vithanage  
Dikkumbura, Galle

### Family circumstances:

Niranjala is a mother of five children. Her husband had committed suicide in 2017. Her elder son will write G.C.E. Ordinary Level examination in May 2023 and 2nd son is in Grade 6. Her 3rd child initially did not attend school due to financial difficulties. However she has started school and presently in Grade 2. Her 4th child also is in Grade 2. Youngest daughter is attending pre-school. Niranjala is unable to undertake any work since her children are small. However she plants vegetables in her garden and use it for family consumption. The excess is sold and she earns around LKR 6,000 per month from same. They receive a government dole of LKR 3,500 per month as a low income family. The income she receives is insufficient for their living expenses and children's educational expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 94  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs I A Thilini K Senevirathne  
Udathenna, Mathale

### Family circumstances:

Thilini is a mother of two children. Her husband had deserted the family nine years ago. She has filed a court case for alimony long time ago and since he did not appear for same the case was dropped. Presently a divorcé case is going on and is at the final stage. She has been suffering from epilepsy for 22 years and due to her illness she is unable to work. Her elder child, who suffered from epilepsy and disabled, passed away in 2020. Her younger son is studying in Grade 05 and is due to write the Grade 05 government scholarship examination in 2024. Thilini's relatives help them whenever they can. She receives a government grant of LKR 3,500 monthly (Samurdhi). Her mother also lives with them. Thilini is facing difficulties in meeting their day to day expenses, medicine for her and educational expenses of her child.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 95  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs H K Malini  
Sulthanagoda, Matara

### Family circumstances:

Malini is a mother of two children. Her husband had died due to drowning in 2013. She works as a labourer in a small farm and earns around LKR 10,000 per month. Her eldest daughter has written GCE Ordinary level examination in 2019, but due to financial difficulties, she stopped her schooling. Presently she works in a communication centre in her town and earns about LKR 10,000 per month. Malani's younger daughter is studying in Grade 6. The family is in the low-income category and receives a dole of LKR 1,500 per month from the government. The income she and her daughter receive and the government dole are inadequate for their day-to-day living expenses and her younger daughter's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 96  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs P D Priyadarshani  
Senevirathne  
Damunupola, Kegalle

### Family circumstances:

Priyadarshani is a mother of three children. Her husband worked as a labourer at a small advertising firm. Unfortunately, in 2020 while he was working, he had a fall from an advertising board and succumbed to his injuries. Presently, Priyadarshani works as a labourer and earns about LKR 7,500 per month. Her eldest son is due to write the GCE Advance level examination in 2024. Her daughter is studying in Grade 11 and is due to write the GCE Ordinary level examination in 2024. The youngest son is studying in Grade 07. The family is in the low-income category and receives a dole of LKR 3,800 per month from the government. Her sister helps her whenever possible. The income she receives and the government dole are inadequate for their day-to-day living expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 97  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs K D Lalani Siriwardana  
Naththuduwa, Kalutara

### Family circumstances:

Lalani is a mother of two children. Her husband had abandoned the family about 8 years ago. She does a janitorial job at the Expressway service center and earns about LKR 35,000 per month. Her eldest daughter will write GCE Advanced level examination in 2024. Her Son is studying in Grade 10. She has to spend around LKR 15,000 for tuition fees and transport of her daughter. Thus, she does not have money for tuition fees for her son. The income is insufficient for their living and children's educational expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 98  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs E P Wathsala Edirisinghe  
Palagala, Anuradhapura

### Family circumstances:

Wathsala is a mother of three children. Her husband had died in October 2022 due a heart attack. Her husband was the sole bread winner of the family and Wathsala is not in a position to work since she has to take care of her children, specially the 6 months old infant. Her eldest son is studying in Grade 6 and her 2nd son is in Grade 1. Her husband's brother helps the family, whenever possible. The family is in the low-income category and receives a government dole of LKR 1,000 per month. The government dole she receives is insufficient to fulfill their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 99  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs N M Nirupika Madushani  
Imaduwa, Galle

### Family circumstances:

Nirupika is a mother of three children. Her husband had died in October 2022 due to Cirrhosis. She is weak in hearing from her childhood. Due to her disability, she is not able to do a proper job, but she makes carpets at home and earns around LKR 5,000 per month. Her eldest daughter is studying in Grade 8, son is in Grade 3 and the youngest daughter is in Grade 1. She does not receive any dole from the government since her mother who lives with her receives a dole. Her mother and sister help the family whenever possible. The income she earns is not sufficient to fulfill their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 100  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs H L Madushani Priyangika  
Imaduwa, Galle

### Family circumstances:

Madushani is a mother of two children. Her husband had died in October 2018 due to a heart attack. Her daughter is studying in Grade 1 and her son is 4 years old. Madushani works in a shop and earns LKR 10,000 monthly. She lives with her parents and sisters. Her father is unemployed and her mother works as a labourer in cultivation activities. Her sisters are still studying. Madushani receives a government dole of LKR 1,500 and her parents also receive LKR 3,000 per month. The income she receives is insufficient to fulfill their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 101  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs K Nilani Thilakasiri  
Godagampola, Kegalle

### Family circumstances:

Nilani is a mother of three children. Her husband had abandoned the family 4 years ago. She works in the Agrarian Services Dept, Panawala as a temporary worker and earns about LKR 22,000 monthly. Her eldest son will be sitting the Ordinary Level examination in May 2023 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Her younger son is in Grade 8 and her daughter is 5 years old and attending pre-school. Nilani's mother lives with her and takes care of the children while Nilani is at work. Her salary is not sufficient to fulfill their day-to-day expenses and the children's educational expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 102  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs M B Sujeewa Lakmali  
Moratuwa, Colombo

### Family circumstances:

Sujeewa is a mother of two children. Her husband had passed away one year ago due to a brain stroke. She runs a small shop in front of her house and earns a profit of around LKR 18,000 monthly. Her eldest son is studying in Grade 09 and her daughter is in Grade 04. Her parents and brothers help them whenever possible. Her income is not sufficient to fulfill their day-to-day expenses and the children's educational expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 103  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs Sujanthi P Siriwardhana  
Galagedara, Kandy

### Family circumstances:

Sujanthi is a mother of two children. Her husband had abandoned the family 3 1/2 years ago. Her eldest son is studying in Grade 03 and her youngest son is 04 years old and is in preschool. Her youngest son is malnourished and the child has difficulty in breathing too. This child attends the clinic at Kandy National hospital. Sujanthi has to take care of the child and therefore cannot undertake regular employment. However she works as a labourer whenever she can and earns a meagre income. Her mother too lives with them and she receives a government dole of LKR 3,500 per month. The income she earns and the dole received by her mother are not sufficient to fulfill their day-to-day expenses and the children's educational and medical expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 104  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs N Chandani Rathnasekara  
Moratuwa, Colombo

### Family circumstances:

Chandani is a mother of two children. Her husband had committed suicide in 2016. She is suffering from Pemphigus disease that causes blistering of the skin and the inside of the mouth, nose and whole body. Now her left kidney is also failing. She attends clinics (pemphigus, kidney, other) at Colombo General Hospital four times a month. Due to her health problems, she is unable to earn a living. Her eldest son studies in Grade 09 and younger son in Grade 02. School teachers and parents of students known to them helps the family whenever they can. They receive a government dole of LKR 1,500 per month. The dole received and the help they receive are not sufficient to fulfill their day-to-day expenses and the children's educational and Chandani's medical expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 105  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs W M Indra Nilanka  
Ja-Ela, Gampaha

### Family circumstances:

Indra is a mother of three children. Her husband had passed away in 2019 due to a nerve problem. Her eldest daughter is studying in Grade 09, her son is in Grade 04 and her youngest daughter is in Grade 01. She makes string hopper parcels and sells through nearby shops. She also works as a housemaid on Saturday and earn an additional income. She earns around LKR 9,000 per month from these sources. Her Mother-in-law too lives with them. She also receives a government dole of LKR 3,500 per month. Her relatives too help them whenever they can. The income she receives from all sources are not sufficient to fulfill their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 106  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs U G Subashini  
Imaduma, Galle

### Family circumstances:

Subashini is a mother of four daughters. Her husband had passed away in 2018. Her eldest daughter, temporarily works as a clerk in the Divisional Secretariat and earns a monthly salary of LKR 15,000. Her 2nd child is studying in Grade 13 and her 3rd child is in Grade 09. Her youngest daughter is in Grade 06. Since 2016, Subhashini had been suffering from a skin disease called Systemic Sclerosis, a rare disease causing hardening and tightening of the muscles. She also has hypothyroidism interstitial lung disease which cause respiratory muscle weakness and decrease pulmonary function. Once a month she needs to go for medication at Karapitiya General Hospital. Subashini is really weak and unable to do any work. The family's only income is her elder daughter's monthly wage and the government dole of LKR 3,000 per month. Their relatives help them whenever they can. Their income is not sufficient for their living expenses, her medical expenses and the children's educational expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 107  
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs M M Dhammika  
Imaduma, Galle

### Family circumstances:

Dhammika is a mother of three children. Her husband had abandoned the family in 2020. Her eldest son is studying in Grade 10, the 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter is in Grade 07 and youngest daughter is in Grade 05. They had to leave the husband's house due to mistreatment but lives in a small hut covered with plastic sheets in the same compound. Dhammika works as a tea plucker and earns LKR 15,000 per month. She receives a government dole of LKR 2,500 monthly. Her income is not sufficient for their living expenses and her children's educational expenses.

## **Acknowledgement**

We have no doubt that our donors who collectively enabled CandleAid to initiate and run the Mother & Child Project for over two years, will be gratified to read and learn the outcome of this initiative. Whenever there is a shortfall of funds in the Mother & Child Project, we use monies in our general project fund to help these impoverished single mothers who are facing acute hardship due to the ever-increasing cost of living. During the reporting period we received a substantial contribution from a donor to be utilized during the year 2023 which enabled us to assist more families. The families 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 to come forward to assist them in uplifting their sorrowful and despairing lives.

This project would not be possible if not for the generosity of our donors. What is being done may seem 'little' to us, yet to these mothers it is a lifeline.

We express our gratitude to all the donors for their contributions and more so, 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 many meaningful projects and programmes in its endeavor to alleviate poverty in the last 28 years of its existence. Thank you one and all.

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