



MOTHER & CHILD PROJECT

***PROGRESS REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD
AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2022***

Mother & Child Project (MCP) was initiated by CandleAid Lanka (CA) at the beginning of February 2021. Progress of the project from August to December 2022 and details of fund utilization for the period February 2021 to December 2022 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 August to December 2022, 14 new families were enrolled to the system (MCP 79 to MCP 92) increasing the number of families under this project to 92. All 14 newly enrolled families are now receiving the monthly assistance. We have screened two more families and they are to be enrolled in January 2023.

Summary of the Mother & Child fund is as follows:

Donations received up to end December 2022	LKR 5,543,836.54
Allocated funds from a donor from General Project Fund	LKR 94,828.41
Total fund as at 31st December 2022	LKR 5,638,664.95
Number of donors	60
Total amount allocated up to December 2022	LKR 5,520,000.00
Balance available for allocation	LKR 118,664.95

Given below are details and photos of the fourteen families (MCP 79 to MCP 92) that were enrolled during the reporting period.

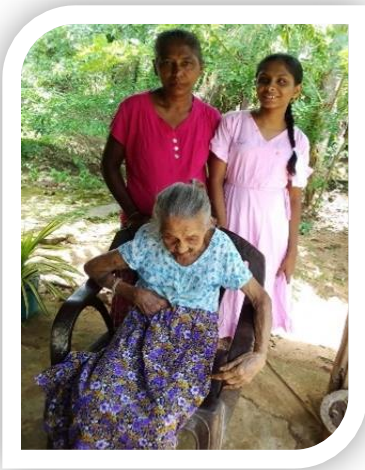


CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 79
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs A W P Harshani
Gandara, Matara District.

Family circumstances:

Harshani is a mother of three children. Her husband had passed away in March 2020 due to poisoning. Her elder daughter is studying in Grade 12 and is due to write the GCE Advanced level examination in 2024. Her 2nd son is studying in Grade 08 and youngest son is studying in Grade 02. She works as a labourer in fishing activities and earns about LKR 10,000 per month.

The family is in the low-income category and has applied to the government for a dole which is still pending. The income she earns is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 80
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs P W Rathna Manike
Pubbogama, Anuradhapura

Family circumstances:

Rathna Manike is a mother of a child. Her husband has abandoned the family in 2006 and is living with another woman. Even though he is required to pay an alimony of LKR 5,000, he does not do so. Her daughter aged 17 is blind and was studying in the School for the blind at Rathmalana. She passed her GCE Ordinary Level exam recently with good results and CandleAid is helping her to gain entrance to a school in Ibbagamuwa to do her GCE Advanced Level studies. They receive LKR 5,000 from the government as a dole for the visually impaired. Rathna is selling fresh green leaves and earns about LKR 5,000 per month.

Her 90-year-old mother who is partially paralyzed also lives with them. The income she earns and the government dole are inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and the daughter's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 81
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs M Nithyakalyani
Bogawantalawa, Nuwara Eliya

Family circumstances:

Nithyakalyani is a mother of three children. Her husband had passed away in July 2022 due to a brain stroke. Her eldest daughter has written the GCE Advanced level examination in February 2022 and is presently following a course in Information & Communication Technology. Her younger daughter is studying in Grade 12 and is due to write the GCE Advanced level examination in 2023. Her son is studying in Grade 06. Nithyakalyani has been suffering from breast cancer since 2017 and had undergone surgery in April 2017. She attends clinic once a month at Kandy National Hospital. Due to her sickness, she is unable to engage in regular employment. Her relatives and neighbors help them whenever they can. The family is in the low-income category and has applied for the government dole of LKR 3,500 per month. Due to her illness, she receives LKR 1,000 from the AG office, for transport costs to attend clinic.

The help she gets from the government, relatives and neighbors is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 82
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs W M Vineetha Ranjani
Gomila, Mawarala, Matara District

Family circumstances:

Vineetha is a mother of two children. Her husband had passed away in January 2015 due to poisoning. She has two daughters, aged 18 & 15 who are disabled from birth. She works as a labourer half a day and earns about LKR 7,200 per month. Vineetha's elderly mother also lives with her and helps her to look after her children while she is at work.

The family is in the low-income category and has applied to the government for a dole which is still pending. The income she earns is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 83
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs R D Sirani
Mahiyanganaya, Badulla District

Family circumstances:

Sirani is a mother of two daughters. Her husband had passed away in September 2022 as a result of a brain stroke. Her eldest daughter is married and living separately. Her younger daughter is 28 years old and had met with an accident in 2017. She is unable to walk without the aid of crutches. Once in two months she has to attend a clinic at Peradeniya Teaching Hospital. Her husband worked at a brick manufacturing factory and with his death their income stopped. Due to difficulties faced she has gone to work at the brick factory as a labourer and earns about LKR 13,200. Her elder daughter helps Sirani whenever she can.

The family is in the low-income category and receives from the government a dole of LKR 1,500 per month. The income she receives, the dole and the help she receives from her eldest daughter are inadequate for their day-to-day living expenses and medical expenses of her younger daughter.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 84
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs R A Sithara Hasitha
Mahawa, Kurunegala District

Family circumstances:

Sithara is a mother of two children. Her husband who is a drug addict has abandoned the family in 2018 and is living with another woman. Although she has filed a case in order to get alimony from her husband, he has failed to appear in court. Her daughter is studying in Grade 03 and the son is four years old and will commence preschool only in 2023. She works as a labourer at a small grocery shop and earns about LKR 8,000 per month. Sithara's parents live separately but help her to look after her children while she is at work. The family is in the low-income category and has applied to the government for a dole which is still pending. Her daughter received LKR 400 from the AG office, for educational expenses.

The income she earns and the educational dole are inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and the elder child's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 85
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs D Himali Thanuja
Dodangoda, Kalutara District.

Family circumstances:

Thanuja is a mother of three children. Her husband had passed away in November 2018 due to Kidney disease. Her eldest son is due to write the GCE Advanced level examination for the 2nd time in January 2023. Her elder daughter is also due to write the GCE Advanced level examination in January 2023 and youngest daughter is studying in Grade 05. She sat for the Grade 05 government scholarship examination in December 2022 and is awaiting results. Thanuja is working at a small garment factory and earns about LKR 18,000 per month.

The family is in the low-income category and has applied to the government for a dole which is still pending. The income she earns is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 86
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs Sandya Wedage
Netolpitiya, Hambantota District.

Family circumstances:

Sandya is a mother of two children. Her husband, who is a drug addict, had abandoned the family in 2019. He has filed a divorce case and has also requested money from her. Since she does not have money to pay for lawyers a government lawyer is acting on her behalf. Her elder son is studying in Grade 09 and the younger son is studying in Grade 03. She works as a laborer and earns about LKR 12,000 per month. The family is in the low-income category and receives from the government a dole of LKR 3,500 per month.

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 87
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs S Logimalar
Diyathalawa, Badulla District.

Family circumstances:

Logimalar's husband had passed away in March 2022 due to a heart attack. Her son is a 4 month old infant and she is unable to undertake any job since she has to look after the baby. Her sister, who is a house maid, helps them. The family has no other means of income and has applied to the government for a dole which is still pending. The help from her sister is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 88
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs R G Greta Jayalath
Siyambalawa, Polonnaruwa District.

Family circumstances:

Greta is a mother of two children. Her husband and the two daughters had met with an accident in August 2019 and her husband succumbed to his injuries. The elder daughter escaped with minor injuries and is studying in Grade 12. Her younger daughter who is 13 years old had major injuries to her head and had undergone surgery in 2019. Her brain nerves were severely affected due to the accident and since then she is bed ridden. Greta is unable to do a job since she has to look after her younger daughter. She is also slightly visually impaired from birth, has undergone surgery and has studied at a blind school. Her relatives, school teachers, and the neighbors help them whenever they can. The family is in the low-income category and receives the government dole of LKR 2,000 per month.

The help received from her relatives, school teachers, neighbors and the dole received are inadequate for their day-to-day expenses, and the elder child's education related expenses and health related expenses of her younger child.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 89
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs Nirosha Dharshani
Galewela, Matale District.

Family circumstances:

Nirosha is a mother of four children. Her husband had passed away in October 2022 due to poisoning. Her elder daughter is awaiting University entrance. Her younger daughter is studying in Grade 10 and is due to write the GCE Ordinary level examination in 2025. Her elder son is studying in Grade 07 and younger son is in Grade 04. Presently her relatives are helping them whenever possible. The family is in the low-income category and has applied to the government for a dole which is still pending. She wishes to grow Anthurium plants in the future to earn an income.

The help she receives from the relatives are inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 90
Name of Beneficiary : Mrs W A P Deepika
Kirillapone, Matara District.

Family circumstances:

Deepika is a mother of three children. Her husband who was a carpenter and the sole bread winner of the family was diagnosed with cancer in March 2021. He succumbed to his illness in September 2022. Her elder daughter is studying in Grade 07 and younger daughter is studying in Grade 03. Her son is a 03 ½ year old infant. Her mother-in-law, 82 years old, also lives with them. From the time her husband was ill their relatives helped them whenever they could to fulfill their basic needs. The family is in the low-income category and has applied to the government for a dole which is still pending. She wishes to start a small business i.e. manufacturing of spices and expect to earn an income from it. At present she does not have any income other than the assistance received from their relatives which is inadequate to meet their day-to-day expenses, let alone the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 91

Name of Beneficiary : Mrs K P Renuka

Galle, Galle District.

Family circumstances:

Renuka 44 years is a mother of three children living in a remote village, 27 Km away from Galle. Her husband had passed away in April 2022 due to poisoning. Her elder daughter is 18 years old and is in Grade 13 and is due to write the GCE Advanced Level examination in 2023. Her 2nd daughter is studying in Grade 7 and the youngest is an infant daughter of 2 years and five months.

Renuka works as an Assistant in a preschool and earns about LKR 15,000 per month and she has applied for government assistance but has not received it yet. The income she earns is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.



CandleAid Ref. No. : MCP 92

Name of Beneficiary : Mrs V A Nadeeka Lakmali

Ahangama, Galle District.

Family circumstances:

Nadeeka is a mother of three children. Her husband who was a mason and the sole bread winner of the family met with an accident and succumbed to the injuries 8 years ago. Nadeeka is presently working at a garment factory and earns about LKR 23,000 per month. Her elder daughter is waiting to enter a vocational training center. Her son is studying in Grade 06 and younger daughter is studying in Grade 04. Her mother-in-law, 68 years old, also lives with them. The family is in the low-income category and receives a government dole of LKR 3,500 per month.

The income she earns and the government dole are inadequate to meet their day-to-day expenses and the children's education related expenses.

Self-Empowerment of Women (SEW)

As mentioned earlier, CandleAid endeavors to enroll some of these mothers in its Self-Empowerment of Women (SEW) programme thereby giving them a much needed livelihood and even more importantly dignity in self-accomplishment.

Although the economic situation of the country has not been conducive to making much progress in this respect, we have empowered Ranjani, (MCP 65) during the reporting period of September to December 2022. Additionally, the profiles of Mother & Child beneficiaries have been scrutinized to ascertain the suitability of these women for future empowerment.

S.E.W. Project - Mrs. M.Ranjani (MCP 065)

Ranjani is a 54 year old Mother of two daughters. Her spouse had passed away about seven years ago. Her elder daughter who wrote the GCE Advanced Level Examination in February 2022 has failed the examination and intend to sit for the examination for the 2nd time in January 2023. Her younger daughter is studying in Grade 9. Ranjani has no permanent job and she is making string hoppers and earns around LKR 15,000 per month. Also they receive a government dole of LKR 2,500 per month. In addition she has a home grown nursery of Orchid and Anthurium and earns appr. LKR 12,000 for a quarter year. However, the income she earns is inadequate for their day to day expenses and the educational related expenses of her daughters.

She was keen to develop her business by having another greenhouse. CandleAid assisted her by giving LKR 23,000 to finance the construction of the 2nd greenhouse. She is now able to increase her income by expanding her productivity. The pictures taken of the 2nd greenhouse built with the help of the SEW project and plants are below.



Acknowledgement

We have no doubt that our donors who collectively enabled CandleAid to initiate and run the Mother & Child Project, will be gratified to read and learn the outcome of this initiative. We are grateful that even when funds specifically received for the Mother & Child Project run out, we are able to 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. 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.

Yasmin Weerasuriya

Director & Head of Food Programme

CandleAid Lanka

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Tel. +94-112642526/+94-760534404

Email: candleaid.food@gmail.com