

MOTHER & CHILD PROGRAMME – PILOT PROJECT

The programme targets families that do not have a father due to one reason or another. As the first recipient of the programme we have selected the following family to receive a monthly donation of LKR 5,000 to uplift their impoverished lives. The donation will commence from February 2020 and will continue for 6 months with the option of continuing for another 6 months. In the interim we will evaluate how best we could assist them with a self-employment initiative to gradually uplift their lives and to be self-sufficient.

Profile of Rashika Udayangani & family

She is 35 years old and is a mother of four children. Her spouse, who was a vegetable seller, was killed in 2020 in a dispute among the vendors. Her eldest son, 16 years old is due to write the GCE Ordinary Level examination this year. The second son, 15 years of age is studying in Grade 10 and the third son, 12 years of age is studying in Grade 7. The third son is suffering from a neurological ailment. Her youngest daughter is only 2 years old.

Rashika runs a small sales outlet in her home selling a few odds and ends (mainly groceries). Her brother had given her the capital to start this humble venture. She also makes breakfast and lunch parcels for about eight construction workers who reside close to her house. The meager income she earns is inadequate for their day-to-day expenses, educational related expenses, and medicine for the 3rd child.



Brief description of the self-employment scheme

She has initially started this with a small capital given by her brother. She has very few essential grocery items in this outlet. Initially the items were kept near the window on a table and on the floor. Due to their pathetic situation, a family who is residing in the neighbourhood doing a tinkering business had volunteered to improve the outlet and have done so using roofing sheets given free of charge.

We are looking at the possibility of assisting her to improve the business gradually so that one day she can be self-sufficient. The area she lives in is inhabited by low-income earners like her, mainly daily wage earners who buy whatever they need in small quantities. To do so, they need to walk more than a kilometer to the nearest shop. As such, if Rashika's little outlet is improved, these people would then be able to get their groceries from her, thereby giving her business and an income. Few photographs of her grocery given below;

