

FINDING A FUTURE IN SRI LANKA

Categories: Agricultural Assistance/Community Development

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Agricultural Assistance

Striving to Develop After Displacement



Above: Beneficiary in front of their house in the village of Thangavelyuthapuram

During the internal civil conflict that occurred throughout Sri Lanka, many families were displaced. However, a relatively large proportion often returned to their original homes, only to find that they had to rebuild their livelihoods.

One such family from the village of Thangavelyuthapuram spoke to JEN about their experiences. There are six members in the family: a mother, three daughters, a son, and a father who is unable to do any work because he suffers from Diabetes.

Because the father cannot do any heavy work, the mother ends up doing the labor work such as farming, making a relatively small (and only source of) income for what she does. However, this income essentially depends on rain water. When rain falls, the family is able to cultivate foods such as maize, but if there is a lack of rain, the family must opt to move to other villages to seek jobs in order to make money. Thus, income is not sustainable. The mother is currently

trying to provide her children some form of education, which is rare among many families in similar situations. Her wish is to give her children the best education they can receive.

She hopes that she can grow a small home garden in order to grow vegetables that she can sell using the water supply provided by JEN. She hopes that her children can understand the tremendous amount of adversity that their family is going through, and realize that they must study hard in order to seek brighter futures for themselves.

This family's current situation is not uncommon. It is important to note that many other families throughout the region are in similar circumstances,

Community Development

Elephants Cause Fear in Community

In the eastern part of the region, communities have not been able to function on a daily basis without having to worry about their socioeconomic status. However besides this constant worry, another problem that subsists is the threat of wild elephants.



Above: Elephant footprints on a JEN project site

COUNTRY: SRI LANKA

While elephants usually do not appear during the daytime since they tend to stay within the jungle, they often make their mark during the night. Although elephants may seem harmless, they can in fact create damage within communities. Many communities have set up lookouts on top of trees, with volunteers keeping watch for the arrival of the elephants. Although they are sometimes able to scare away the elephants using loud crackers, it is not always effective. If an elephant is not scared away by the crackers, it can often times enter villages, causing residents to flee to a nearby elementary school made of concrete.

Thus, the local people often cannot sleep soundly at night without having to worry about the constant threat of elephants. Their hopes are to be able to eventually build durable, concrete homes using the income generated by their agro-wells.

themselves. However, wild animals often destroy their cultivated products, thus the benefit they receive from their work is usually less than what they should deserve.

However, with JEN recently reaching out to such families, the widow has opened up about how she realized for the first time that outside organizations had the power to support them. After JEN built an agro-well in their village, this family, along with many others, have benefited from the construction. They no longer lived with constant doubt as to how they would collect water in order to provide for their agricultural products.

Building something as simple as a well can go a long way in supporting community members in a variety of methods. It not only gives them an opportunity to cultivate their crops year round, but also gives them the psychological willpower to continue to rebuild their livelihood with hope.

Agricultural Assistance

Agro-Well Provides Hope

In Kanchikuduchchiaru Village in Thirukkivil Divisional Secretariat in the Eastern province, there lives a widow with a twenty year old daughter. Their family was displaced during the internal civil conflict, and had returned to their village in 2010. In 2012, the husband had been killed in a wild elephant attack while he was keeping watch at night in order to safeguard his family and the rest of the village.



The 7 EN's of JEN

- Engage
- Entrust
- Encourage
- Endeavor
- Enjoy
- Encounter
- Enable

DONATE NOW AND HELP THE CAUSE!

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Above: Interview with a beneficiary

Like many other families in similar situations, this family does not have a wide array of options laid out for them. Their only hope is to continue their livelihood, cultivating crops during a four month rainy season in order to provide for