

Project Progress Case Study 2

30th January 2020

Empowering War Widowed Women

'Empowering war widowed women' – A project which, with your support, will ensure a better future for women heads of household in eastern Sri Lanka, who were widowed during the 30 years of civil conflict. In the process, it would also assist women who are faced with Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues. The project would aim at equipping these women with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop small businesses which would bring them a satisfactory income and pave the way to being self-sufficient. Such would also ensure improved child well-being in terms of food, shelter, education, health etc. The project also focuses on strengthening the Gender Based Violence desk set up at the police station which would help these women to report cases of violence and obtain required support for rehabilitation.

PAKKIYAM – A SUCCESS STORY



"Earlier I was often discouraged, as I didn't know how to manage my livelihood during periods of flood and drought. This project initiated by World Vision to help me with the provision of poultry, not only supported me with a stable income but also provided me with the technical knowledge required to sustain the business and earn the maximum income."

Pakkiyam (45) lives in Vellamaichenai, a remote village located nearly 40km away from Batticaloa town. Her husband died 15 years ago leaving her with a one-year-old daughter and no access to an income to make ends meet.

To provide for her and her daughter, Pakkiyam began goat rearing and vegetable cultivation, both of which did not yield a sufficient income. Even though she was discouraged by her lack of success, she worked tirelessly to make her business work for her daughter's sake. However, due to the lack of skills and knowledge her efforts did not yield her a sufficient income to tend to her daughter's needs, including her education. As a result, Pakkiyam was forced to discuss with the Divisional Secretariat office and arrange to send her daughter to a child care institution when she was 12 years old, so that she would be looked after.

Through this project, Pakkiyam was provided with poultry, as well as training on business skills development and disaster resilience in livelihood. She now engages in poultry farming, as well as continuing goat rearing and vegetable cultivation through home gardening, and is able to run her business more confidently. The project also linked her with the veterinary officer and agriculture officer, who she would be able to approach for any future technical guidance and assistance that she needs to successfully continue her business.

As a result of the project, Pakkiyam's monthly income has been increased by 50%. And Pakkiyam says that, she is now able to bring her daughter home and she can finally have a family. "I hope to build a safer house for the two of us and provide for her education as well as save for her future." Said Pakkiyam.

