



Real impact in Sri Lanka with support OFDA USAID

Making real impact in Sri Lanka with support of OFDA USAID

With support of OFDA USAID, ZOA was able to make real impact in the lives of most vulnerable returned IDPs in Northern Sri Lanka.

The 26 year internal war in Sri Lanka displaced over 300,000 people and destroyed large amounts of physical infrastructure in the Northern Province. Menik Farm, the world's largest IDP camp, housed over 200,000 refugee families when the war was at its peak.

After the war ended in 2009 people started to return to their places of origin, where both major and small scale infrastructure had been damaged. Many people were in need of basic housing, sanitation and potable water. In addition to this, many people had lost their main source of livelihood due to a high presence of landmines, damaged infrastructure and markets as well as a loss of income generating assets.



ZOA, through funding from OFDA, conducted its assistance to specifically target families who were unsupported and highly vulnerable. ZOA worked to empower such families who had "fallen through the cracks," by providing dignified shelter, latrines and opportunities for income generation. Only when the most vulnerable feel secure can entire communities develop inclusively.



Through this project ZOA was able to provide 588 transitional shelters, 452 latrines, construct 18 new wells and repaired and cleaned 47 common wells, deliver 613 ERMS packages and assisted 993 individuals' with agricultural packages. Working with the most destitute communities, ZOA had been able to assist a total of 3,989 individuals across 5 districts with this project between July 2011- June 2012.

While this may read as just numbers the impact is far more real on the lives of these IDPs.

Feeling safe

Today a widow sits in her home with a sense of stability a hope for a new start. The war had taken so much from her; her beloved husband, her home and had left her with the painful struggle to rebuild. Yet she sits with much appreciation of all the assistance she has received, but that shouldn't discredit the fact that her journey has been, and still is so hard. When she returned to her land the effects of the war were seen everywhere. Their well was completely destroyed and filled in with scrap metal and artillery. It was no longer useable with the water contaminated and polluted. The land was uninhabitable and there was no shelter, let alone a home for her to come back to.

ZOA was able to assist the family with a transitional shelter and latrine that has been a small stepping stone to reclaiming her life. When she didn't have her own latrine this posed serious protection risks for her going to nearby bushes, and especially having no other family with her put her in a very precarious position. She now sits in her own shelter, feeling safe, protected from the elements and slowly re building a home. She shows us her latrine, which not only provides her with basic facilities but also a sense of protection and peace of mind that there is a safe place of her own. For a lady that has endured so much her smiles radiates as there is now sense of a new, fresh beginning. Such achievements would not have been possible without the generous support of OFDA USAID.



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