

Dear friend,

Thanks to the support you gave to the *Food for Lanka* fundraiser, you have made it possible for Tara Lanka to increase its help for the villagers .

The event was a huge success thanks to Zopa Noble Park Buddhists who not only conceived it in the first place, but who also did everything else. It was a sold out night which raised \$12,000 with another \$5,000 pledged by a generous donor.

Tara Lanka can get going with those plans I shared with you there, so 49 destitute families in Gambirisgaswewa village in Anuradhapura district now have some real hope.

Work is already underway. On Monday I gave the go ahead to find cows for the three pilot families that we have carefully chosen to receive them. It is not ideal to continue the slavery of cows but they will be looked after and they will feed people. We closely considered other avenues but this seems the best under the circumstances. There are many hurdles that make livelihood training and farming difficult at present, so water and food for people must take priority.

Traditional manual milking is more humane and it leaves milk for the calves. Cows will give the families milk to sell so they can buy food. This is a Buddhist village and the local monk is working closely with Duminda and Malintha, Tara Lanka's project coordinators.

And that's not all. Just last week my brother introduced me to a man who is passionate about using food as medicine and he has great knowledge about growing plants in very small spaces. He has offered to travel to the village to give advice on what are the most practical crops that can be grown using very little water on that very dry land.

With your support and with this man's help, we will hopefully soon be growing food too. This long term project will stretch over the coming year. Funds raised will underpin planning for a sustainable future. I will provide updates as things progress.

I am also wanting to implement solar projects and water solutions that are working in other developing countries — so, if you have any contacts, please let me know.

With much gratitude

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