

# SHE

Self Help and Empower



## Add's Story;

Add is 67 years old, she lives with 2 children the oldest is Bee who is 16 years old and Nom Nem who is 4. Neither of these children are related to Add she simply took them into her home after they were left by their birth parents. They have no money or food and they lived in terrible conditions. The family had a total income of 1000 THB per month (£15 or \$30) Add earns this for child minding. They rent the land their home sits on for 2500 THB per month so there was obviously a serious shortfall each month with the family expenses. This family is like so many we meet trapped by poverty, unable to sustain them selves and with no obvious way to escape.



SHE initially helped with gifts of food and help with the rent arrears but the house was terrible and a major cause of ill health as it was always wet and raw sewerage from the neighbourhood passed through the kitchen area in an open sewer. We initially thought about trying to repair the home and carried out some works but in the end felt it was best to demolish it and start again and with the help of supporters we were able to take on this project. Mark designed and managed the project hired a few local building labourers for the work to the structure and we all pitched in with finishing it off. The family was so pleased when the project was finished as they now have a clean, dry, safe place to live with running water and electricity.



After the house was completed SHE was able to continue helping with the rent arrears and other costs each month and encourage Add in her childminding work but the income generated from this alone was not enough to support the family. We started looking into what Add could do, what skills did Add have that could be utilised to provide for her family. Add used to sell food by the road side and was excited about the possibility of doing this again and we thought it would be great if we could help her establish this micro enterprise. We helped fix up the stall and also the other things associated with her new business such as cook ware, table ware and the initial food supplies and also set out a few tables for customers to use.



It is such a pleasure to see the family now, they are so happy with the way things has worked out and the project was a great witness to the wider community. Add is a Christian and it has been great to here her testimony, she had prayed every day for 2 months for God to send someone to help her.

We will continue to help Add, Bee and Nom Nem as they move towards being free from the bondage of poverty and ill health. You can see a short video of the project on our video page.