

Update on Microfinance project in Thới Lai commune

The MF project in Binh Dai district, Ben Tre province was funded by MCNV started in Ben Tre since 2009. Hulza Foundation funded this project to expand to Thoi Lai commune. After handing over this project to Ben Tre Women's Union in 2021, this project run smoothly and contributed to help poor women to develop their home businesses and improve their incomes. Especially, after COVID-19, more women are finding suitable loans to invest in order to improve their livelihoods and finding new opportunities. This project plays the role of a friendly and effective resource for this segment of families in rural area.

Data of Microfinance project in Thoi Lai commune as of September 2023

Loan purpose	Number of borrowers	Outstanding loan amount (VND)
Trading	24	233.811.000
Animal husbandry	55	525.240.000
Garment processing	12	91.861.000
Cultivation	14	69.278.000
Water and hygiene facility	1	5.421.000
Other	13	68.979.000
Total	119	994.590.000

Case 1 of beneficiaries in Thoi Lai commune

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Chua was born in 1957, now is living in Cho hamlet, Thoi Lai commune, Binh Dai district, Ben Tre province.

She and her husband live with their 4th son's family. They are poor and do not have land for cultivation. Her family is rated as poor family in the commune. Her husband has health problem, his legs are painful and make him hard to move. Her son



and daughter in law earn their hard living by selling their labor for seasonal and part-time jobs. Mrs. Chua do the trading (knives and metal tools for family and agricultural production) in the local market and earn 50,000-70,000VND per day. In the afternoon she has to stay home to look after her grandchildren. With their low income, it is not easy for them to manage monthly expenditures.

From 2019, Mrs. Chua was introduced to Thoi Lai Women's Union and from that time she accessed to the micro-loans from Binh Dai Microfinance project funded by Hulza Foundation through MCNV Vietnam. Her first loan was VND 5,000,000 which helped her to invest more to her business. She felt happy with her credit group and she was always paying her monthly installment on time. In 2022, she got her second loan of 8,000,000VND to expand further her business. At the moment, she earns about 150,000-250,000/day, a big leap comparing to her daily income before. This helps to improve her family financial situation a lot and she could spend more for medication for her husband.

Case 2 of project beneficiary

Mrs Huynh Thi Ha, was born in 1966, now living in Giong Ho hamlet, Thoi Lai commune, Binh Dai district, Ben Tre province. Her family is purely farmers and met with a lot of difficulties. Her husband and her son are seasonal labor, who earns their daily income from anyone who need and hire them. She is doing fruit trading in local market but in a very small scale. Their income and their lives are not stable.

From 2021, with the introduction of commune Women's Union, she accessed to the first loan with MF project. Her loan was 10,000,000VND. With this loan, she and her husband decided to raise chicken in big scale. From their hard working and with lucks, they earned 20,000,000VND from her first batch. She is a good and active member of her credit group.



In 2023, she has her second loan of 25,000,000 to expand chicken raising business and a part of it for expansion of her fruit trading work. Her family income changed. She could earn 300,000-400,000VND/day and in holidays it could be higher.



Her son now also got a stable job in a company. All of the together changed her life in a very promising way.

The MF project with the support from Hulza and many other donors is changing lives for many poor women in rural area of Ben Tre province. Ben Tre Women's Union on behalf of all women would like to send our sincere thanks to Hulza and donors who dare to set a very effective foundation for women development in Vietnam.