



Habitat home partners Vijitha, her husband Sahaynathan and their three children live in Thiraimadhu village, Batticaloa. Vijitha learned how to make a Solar Box Cooker with Habitat and began boiling eggs and cowpeas. Soon she was cooking full meals of rice and vegetables in her cooker- even baking cakes for dessert! Thanks to the Solar Box Cooker, Vijitha no longer has to collect firewood every day and has time to tend to other things. She took classes at a local Handicraft Center and learned how to make crafts. Vijitha now earns an additional USD \$8- \$10 per month selling her handicrafts. Recently, she decided to take out a no-profit loan with Habitat to build an additional room for her house. Vijitha is able to repay the loan using the extra money she earns from selling her handicrafts.

Sri Lanka Solar Box Cooker

Habitat for Humanity Sri Lanka's Solar Box Cookers provide low-income families a way to increase their savings for home improvements and home repairs by utilizing resources they can readily access.

Habitat for Humanity works with communities to maximize local resources by providing families with training on how to build and use their own Solar Box Cooker. The Solar Box Cooker is made with available materials such as cardboard, aluminum foil and glass. The total cost for one Solar Box Cooker is only USD \$8 and can save a family on average USD \$8 per month in fuel costs. Families can then use these monthly savings towards home repairs and home improvements.

In addition to the overall health and environment benefits due to smoke reduction and improved kitchen safety, families using the Solar Box Cooker have more time to garden and participate in income generation activities. Families also are able to reduce the cost of soap (as it is easier to clean pots and pans); to bake and boil items at same time; and children are able to cook without the support of their elders.

A traditional Sri Lankan meal of rice and curry cooks in just 2.5 hours using the Solar Box Cooker.