



**New Community Profile**

Hello Mr. Urichuk,

Your generous contribution to Free The Children's projects in Sri Lanka is directly helping to support the delivery of high-quality primary educational opportunities in a rural community.

<b>Community:</b> Palangaturai Village	<b>Location of community:</b> Palangaturai Village, Negombo Division, Gampaha District
<b>Area profile:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Population:</b> 3,500</li> <li>• <b>Ethnic composition:</b> 90% Sinhalese; 8% Tamil; 2% Muslim</li> <li>• <b>Literacy rate:</b> Men 85%; Women 73%</li> <li>• <b>Main occupation:</b> men are primarily fishermen; women work as daily wage earners in a variety of subsistence occupations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Beneficiaries:</b> 200 students – 107 boys and 93 girls from grades 1 to 9.  The vast majority of students are from poor families deriving income from fishing.  The student drop out rate is high at 30 students per year due to poverty and the dilapidated state of the existing School	<b>Literacy rate:</b> Men 85%; Women 73%
<b>Main source(s) of income:</b> The main occupation and skill sets in the community are in animal husbandry, agriculture and small-scale entrepreneurship	<b>Monthly family income:</b> \$70 US
<b>Beneficiaries</b>  200 students – 107 boys and 93 girls from grades 1 to 9.  The vast majority of students are from poor families deriving income from fishing.  The student drop out rate is high at 30 students per year due to poverty and the dilapidated state of the existing school.	
<b>Description of School &amp; Proposed Development</b>  Palangaturai Sinhala Mixed Primary and Junior Secondary school is over 30 years old.  Currently, the school consists of two blocks: Block 1 contains grades 1-3 and is in relatively good condition; Block 2 contains grades 4-9 and is in need of major restoration.	

Block 2 is in fact an old church that is now being used as classrooms for 150 students. There are no wall partitions between the classrooms and few blackboards. The roof is collapsing and has gaping holes; and the exterior support walls are cracked and in need of urgent repairs. In fact, the building is so structurally unsound that engineers from the Ministry of Education fear the building may collapse at any time endangering the children.

The proposal is to build and furnish a new school block of four classrooms, in addition to four latrines. Each classroom will be 500 square feet with a 5 foot verandah.

**Construction for the school will begin in the middle of 2008, however, Here are some pictures of a current school in Sri Lanka**



