

Palangathurai Community Profile

<p>Community: Palangathurai Village</p>	<p>Location of community: Negombo Division, Gampaha District, Sri Lanka</p>
<p>Area profile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The population of the community is 3,500. ○ Ethnic composition: 90% Sinhalese; 8% Tamil; 2% Muslim ○ The literacy rate is 85% for men, and 73% for women. ○ 82 persons, mostly women and children, were displaced in Palangathurai Village due to the 2004 tsunami. Free The Children is working to support the community is rebuilding their educational infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods. 	
<p>Educational Profile:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The former Palangathurai Sinhala Mixed Primary and Junior Secondary school was more than 30 years old. ○ The old school had no wall partitions between the classrooms and few blackboards. The roof was collapsing and had gaping holes; and the exterior support walls were cracked and in need of urgent repairs. In fact, the building was so structurally unsound that engineers from the Ministry of Education feared the building would collapse at any time endangering the children. ○ The school hosts 200 students, 107 boys and 93 girls from grades 1 to 9. The majority of students are from poor families deriving income from fishing. ○ One block of classrooms has now been completed and our work in the community continues as more classrooms and both educational infrastructure and programming are needed. 	
<p>Alternative Income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The average monthly family income is \$70 US, far below the poverty line, with people living on below \$1 US per day. The community is in need of programs which will provide sustainable livelihoods for families. ○ Main occupation: men are primarily fishermen, an industry which was impacted greatly by the 2004 tsunami; women work as daily wage earners in a variety of subsistence occupations. 	

Palangathurai Photos:



Students attending school in the new classrooms



First block of classrooms built in 2007