

Pre-School Projects by Assist Resettlement & Renaissance in Vanni

Trustees of Assist Resettlement & Renaissance (AssistRR) visited 16 pre-schools and a number of primary schools in Puthukudiyiruppu, Mulliavalai, Mullaithivu and Kilinochchi and witnessed the extent of damages in March 2013. Assist RR also discussed the needs of rebuilding and renovation of these schools with the GA of Mullaithivu, Mr Vethanayagan.

GA stated that UNICEF has been helping with building temporary shelters for Primary Schools. He therefore suggested that AssistRR could focus efforts elsewhere. Another organisation called JRS has built temporary shelters for some pre-schools. However, there were still nearly 10 pre-schools that were in need of shelters.

Following this visit to Vanni, AssistRR decided to build, rebuild and renovate at least a minimum of six pre-schools. AssistRR made a decision to work hard and raise funds for this purpose. AssistRR met a number of local engineers and other volunteers who agreed to help AssistRR to monitor and support our school projects in Vanni.

Using the funds raised by Dr S P Balasubramaniam shows in Birmingham and London in December 2012, AssistRR started the pre-school projects in May 2013. Chandran pre-school in Mullivaikal East was operating in a temporary small shelter with no toilet facilities. AssistRR identified a damaged permanent structure within the school premises and decided to renovate it. It is understood that this school was used as the last hospital at the end of the war in May 2009.

AssistRR considered this school as the top priority and completed the renovation of this school in June 2013. Chandran Pre-School in Mullivaikal was declared open by Mullaithivu GA on 10 June 2013. AssistRR also built two toilets for the benefit of the local villagers within the school boundary in addition to the school toilet inside the school building.



Chandran Pre-School in Mullivaikal East before Rebuild/Renovation



Chandran Pre-School in Mullivaikal East after Rebuild/Renovation in June 2013

Following the successful completion of Chandran pre-school in Mullivaikal, AssistRR made appeals for donations for the pre-school project and received donations from a number of individuals for building and renovating more pre-schools. Using these funds, AssistRR managed to build two more new pre-schools and repair/renovate another two pre-schools in Mullaithivu district. These pre-schools, which were completed in August 2013 and declared open on 29 August 2013, are as follows:

- Subramaniam Pre-School, 7th Circuit, Puthukudiyiruppu (New Build) - Built using funds donated by Veluppillai Guhananthakumar of Puloly in memory of his father Late Kanapathipillai Veluppillai & and his uncle Late Kanapathipillai Nadarajah and declared open by Mr N Vethanayagan, GA, Mullaithivu;
- Vannan Pre-School, Venavil, Puthukudiyiruppu (Repair/Renovation) - Built using funds donated by Serendip Childrens Home, and funds donated In Memory of Muthukumar Srikumar of Urumpirai and declared open by Mr N Vethanayagan, GA, Mullaithiv;
- Benazir Pre-School, Alambil, Mullaithivu (Repair/Renovation) - Built using funds donated in memory of Vinasithamby Kandiah (Pandithar) of Puloly South and declared open by Mr M Rajkumar, Zonal Director of Education, Mullaithivu.
- Kanthan Pre-School, Kaiveli, Puthukudiyiruppu (New Build) - Built using funds donated in memory of Late Mr Rajaratnam Vigneswararajah of Kondavil and Attorney-at-law Late Miss Maheswary Velautham of Karaveddy and declared open by Dr Velautham Sarveswaran.

The cost of building these pre-schools are around Rs 5 Million (around £25,000). These were built with the assistance of Mullaithivu District Educational Development Trust Fund (MDEDTF) headed by GA Mr Vethanayagan and managed by Engineers Henry Amalraj and Sriskandarajah.

Photos of the opening ceremonies of these schools are given below.

Subramaniam Pre-School



Subramaniam Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



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Subramaniyam Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13

Vannan Pre-School, Venavil, Puthukudiyiruppu



Vannan Pre-school before repair/renovation



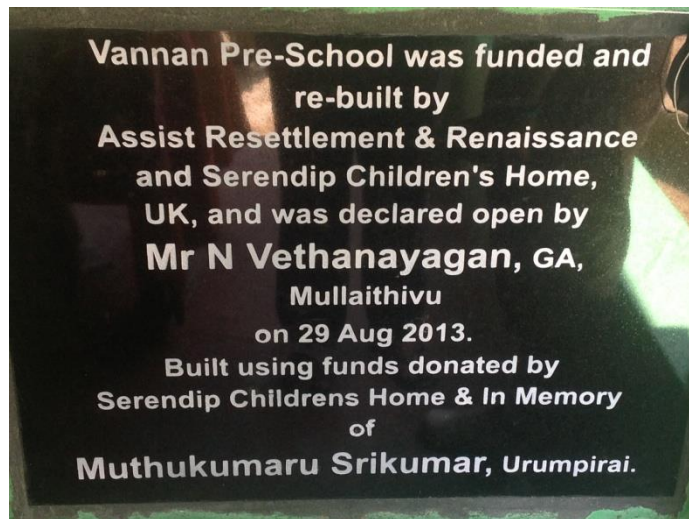
Vannan Pre-school after repair/renovation



Vannan Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Vannan Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Vannan Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Vannan Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13

Benazir Pre-School, Alambil, Mullaithivu



Benazir Pre-School before repair/renovation



Benazir Pre-School after repair/renovation



Benazir Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Benazir Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Benazir Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Benazir Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13

Kanthan Pre-School, Kaiveli, Puthukudiyiruppu



Kanthan Pre-School before construction



Kanthan Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Kanthan Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Kanthan Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Kanthan Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13



Kanthan Pre-School Opening Ceremony on 29-08/13

Further requests for assistance

Following the completion of the above four pre-schools, MDEDTF made a request that AssistRR should consider repairing/renovating the following schools:

- Venavil Tamil Government Mixed Primary School in Puthukudithiruppu, where children are learning under the trees as can be seen below.



- Kuravil Pre-School in Udaiyarkaddu South. The temporary shelter is in need of replacement as the Timber columns are not in good condition due to Termite attack which already started to destroy the columns.



- Subramaniya Vidyasalai Primary School, Puthukudiyiruppu with nearly 700 pupils - currently operates in a number of temporary shelters but desperately requires permanent buildings and a sports ground.



Damaged Buildings of Subramaniya Vidyasalai, PTK



Temporary shelters of Subramaniya Vidyasalai in need of permanent buildings

We hope you will appreciate the progress AssistRR has made within a short space of time and that you will continue to support future projects including the repair of the above three schools. Your contributions would be very much cherished by us as well as by the war affected people in Vanni.