

## Educational Development Needs in Vanni

### Puthukudiyiruppu Roman Catholic Vidyalayam (School) renovation project

During the current visit of Assist RR to Vanni, the Zonal Director of Education, Mr Rajkumar made a request to Assist RR to visit this school. Assist RR, accompanied by the ZDE and the GA of Mulliathivu, Mr Vethanayagan, visited the school on 23 Jan 2014.

This school is located in the vicinity of Puthukudiyiruppu divisional hospital. The school was badly damaged during the war, and the photos show the extent of destruction caused by shelling. It is very clear that severe structural damage has been caused to a number of elements of the building.

According to the principal of this school Mr Anton Kulathas, the school started functioning in September 2012 after the end of war in May 2009. Currently, there are 445 students, both Hindu and Christian, from Year 1 to GCE O/L. It is a mixed School with 210 girls and 235 boys being taught by 24 teachers. In 2012, 25 students sat the GCE O/L examination after preparing for it while they were staying in the refugee camps in Vavuniya. Out of 25 students, five went on to GCE A/L. This is one of the areas where the final resettlement took place.

At present, the school infrastructure includes a temporary shelter built by UNICEF for 5 classrooms, a permanent building recently built by Child Fund (100\*25) for another five classrooms, and the badly damaged building, in which six classes are being conducted. When Assist RR asked the principal whether any advice was obtained as to the safety of the building, he said a technical officer of the education department gave him the go ahead to conduct classes in this building. Assist RR engineers who visited this school are of the opinion that the damaged building needs to be strengthened and secured at certain locations as a matter of urgency.

Assist RR believes that this school building needs to be renovated very urgently to provide a safe structure, which would also solve the shortage of classrooms.











