

## **Veenavil Government Tamil Mixed School Repair/Renovation Project**

Veenavil GTM school is in Puthikudiyiruppu (PTK). The population of this village mainly consists of people displaced from the Central Province after the 1977 & 1983 racial disturbances against Tamils of the Island. There are nearly 200 children in this school at present. However, this number is expected to increase if improvements to the school infrastructure can be undertaken. All school buildings were badly damaged during the war and had become uninhabitable, as can be seen below.



**Before Renovation work of the building that was being repaired**

A temporary building, shown below, was built since the end of the war. This building had been used for some of the classes. However, some classes were being conducted under trees. Another temporary building, which is in a damaged status, is currently being used to provide for four classes (see below). The roof of this structure is covered by tarpaulin, which was unlikely to withstand strong wind and rain.



**Learning conditions before renovation work**

The Zonal Director of Education of Mullaithivu, Mr Rajkumar, made a request to Assist RR to help support the repair and renovation of at least one of the two buildings, which had no

roofs, and partially damaged. This need was discussed with Mullaithivu GA, who was exploring possibilities of getting funding from International NGOs. Since he was unable to succeed, it was agreed that we will sponsor the renovation of at least one building. Assist RR therefore decided to raise funds and implement the project.

As a result, the renovation project was jointly funded by Solihull Junior School, UK, and Mr T Kanagarajah Thuryrajah and siblings from Malaysia in memory of his late parents Sinnappoo Thuryrajah, Pakiavathy Saravanamuthu (migrated from Jaffna to Malaysia in the 1930s) and late brother Subramaniam Thuryrajah and late sister Pakiarani Thuryrajah. The cost of the project was almost equally funded by the above two donors.

Although, we planned to start the work on 11 Nov, there was an interruption but the work has started in earnest on 18 Nov. As planned, the repair/renovation project was completed before the new year and was re-opened on 17 Jan 2014. We would like to thank the contractor and our representatives in Sri Lanka for their hard work and sincere efforts in completing this project in a month. We would also like to thank the donors for helping the pupils of this school to learn in a safe and acceptable environment.









**Renovated building was re-opened on 17 Jan 2014**