

## Puthukudiyiruppu (PTK) Divisional Hospital Ward Building Project

PTK hospital was serving nearly 100,000 people before 2009. This hospital covers more population in Mullaithivu district than any other hospitals and used to be the prominent hospital in this district. Before the hospital was destroyed in Feb 2009, it had an OPD, five wards and a surgical unit. Mullaithivu and Puthukudiyiruppu areas in the North of Sri Lanka are shown in the Sri Lankan maps below.

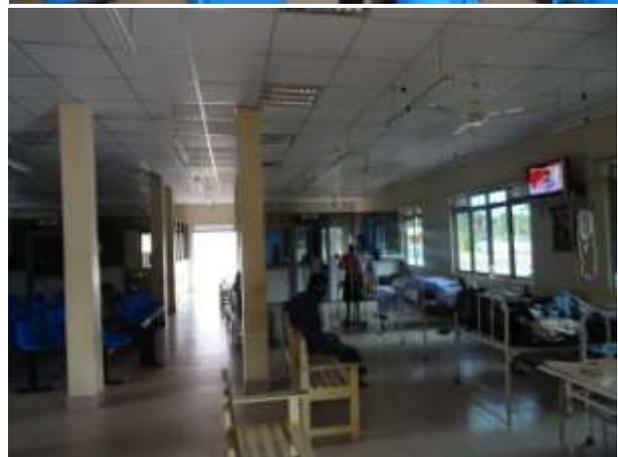


PTK Divisional Hospital was the last functioning hospital in Vanni before the end of the war in May 2009 but was almost completely damaged during the war in February 2009 compared to other hospitals in the district. This hospital was forced to move to a number of make shift hospitals following the destruction caused by the war. Photos of the damaged hospital are shown below.



*Photos of the damaged hospital and the mortuary seen in Aug 2013*

There is a need to rebuild the entire hospital as this hospital currently serves more than 60,000 people. The damaged buildings had been cleared and an OPD was built by the Northern Provincial government and started functioning with minimum basic facilities in May 2013. There were no wards in the hospital till 07 May 2014 and there were only a few beds inside the OPD building next to the out patients waiting area. In-patients were forced to sleep on the floor when there were more patients than the number of available beds. The lack of ward space meant many patients had to either sleep on the floor or forced to travel over many miles to nearest hospitals in far away as Mullaithivu, Kilinochichi, Vavuniya or Jaffna. Recently taken photos below show the difficult conditions in which in-patients have been staying in the hospital.



*Recently built OPD and the beds for the in-patients in the OPD waiting area and patients sleeping on a floor*

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USAID has been building a maternity ward at this hospital and is expected to be handed over soon. However, the hospital still require male, female and paediatric wards. Although the administration were trying to get funding through other sources, they failed to secure funding to build other wards. Mullaithivu District Educational Development Trust Fund headed by Mullaithivu district Government Agent (GA), Mr Vethanayagan, therefore approached Assist Resettlement & Renaissance (Assist RR), a UK based charity, with a request to build at least two wards (male & female) at the PTK hospital.

Assist RR had agreed to build a ward and have already completed the ground floor of a two-storied ward complex using funds raised by Assist RR and Serendip Children's Home at a cost of around £30,000. Assist RR has contributed nearly £20k and Serendip Children's Home has contributed £10k through Keiran Arasaratnam's long walk fund raising event in Sri Lanka.

The first in-patient medical ward in the ground floor that was built by Assist RR was declared open by Mullaithivu GA, MR Vethanayagan, on 07 May 2014 at a simple ceremony attended by the hospital staff and local development society representatives. Assist RR also provided furniture to the ward and arranged medical equipment worth Rs 2.5 Million through Australian Medical Aid Foundation. Local residents appreciated the assistance provided by Assist RR and said that Assist RR has been helping the war affected people in Vanni in many ways, which also help them to forget the war, as traces of war are being removed by the infrastructure projects carried out by Assist RR.



*Foundation laying ceremony on 05 Nov 2013 & progress of the ground floor at PTK Hospital earlier*



*Newly built PTK DH Medical ward*

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This ground floor was being built so that it will have the capacity to build the first floor on top of it. Assist RR is now looking for a donor/donors to assist building the first floor ward at a cost of around £19,000. Please kindly consider donating generously in order that we achieve this goal and help the needy.



*Opening ceremony on 07 May 2014 of the newly built PTK DH Medical ward*

Assist RR would like to thank Mr Keiran Arasatnam for his donation of £10k through Serendip Children's Home towards this ward project, and Mullaithivu Educational Development Trust fund for their assistance in implementing this project. Finally, Assist RR would like to express its gratitude to Rotarian Henry Amalraj, our Sri Lankan coordinator, for delivering this project at a very reasonable cost and to the contractor, Mr Vigneswaran, for completing this project in a very short period of time.

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