Background

Pre-schools in the coastal areas were one of the most devastated of educational facilities impacted by the tsunami. Unlike primary and secondary schools, construction, maintenance and running of pre-schools does not come under the Sri Lankan Government's Educational System policy and there is no governmental budgetary allocation for development. Hence this vacuum has to be filled by the non-governmental organisation (NGO) sector.

Research has shown that over 80% of mental development takes place between the ages of 0 to 5 years. In order for children to fully develop their emotional, physical, intellectual, and social skills, increase their pre-reading and pre-writing abilities, and learn correct physical health and behavioural habits it is essential that new pre-school infrastructures be built and staffed in these areas. This is a crucial aspect of re-building the lives of those affected by this natural disaster.

The **objectives** of this project are to:

1. Construct a child friendly pre-school, (approx. 40' by 20') equipped with appropriate teaching and learning materials, as well as adequate sanitation and furniture.

2. Construct adjoining play facilities, making up a universal play park for recreational purposes, which will include play items and basic sporting equipment.

3. Set up a maintenance plan for 1 year - employment of 1 or 2 teachers, 1 cook/cleaner/watcher, supply exercise books and stationery, food and water, and provision for sundry expenses.

Needs Assessment

The importance of pre-schools cannot be overly stressed. In surveys and direct consultations with parents affected by the tsunami, parents and community elders have together identified the following issues:

- (i) there is a paramount importance set for educational development and schooling which will in turn provide a prosperous life for the future of the children. As a result of 25 years of war and the effects of the tsunami parents find security, solace, and peace of mind in knowing that their children are attending schools, giving hope and direction for the future.
- (ii) There is a definite need for post-tsunami children to be given an area which caters especially to their needs. Children are very efficient in that they will use almost any natural resource as play items. The community elders and parents have dealt with many accidents as a result of children playing on unsafe equipment and are anxious for a change. It is necessary to keep the children safe and away from playing in areas that are too dangerous for them.
- (iii) children deserve and would benefit from a unique area filled with play items designed with necessary regulations in mind.
- (iv) Qualified teachers, with an understanding of war and tsunami affected communities, need to be available to teach and nurture pre-school children.

A pre-school will provide children with a "safe space" that will allow them to grow, learn and play in a secure, nurtured environment.

Pre-School Project Description

This project entails the following components:

1. Construction of the Pre-school infrastructure, play facility and procurement of necessary furniture, facilities, and educational and teaching resources (refer Table 2 below); and

2. Maintenance and up-keep expenditure for 1 year, including salary for 2 pre-school teachers, 1 cook/cleaner/watcher, provision for books and stationery, provision for food and water, and provision for sundry expenses (refer to Table 3 below).

3. Building a play park within the pre-school infrastructure which meets the required safety, and wear and tear regulations for the usage of children of the 0-5 age group.

Budget: Total Cost of Construction, Up-keep & maintenance

Construction of Pre-School (Refer Table 1)	\$US 24,539	/ LKR 2,449,668
Maintenance& Up-keep for 1 year (Refer Table 2)	\$US14,986	LKR 1,496,000

TOTAL

\$US39,525 LKR 3,945,668

Outlined in the table below (**Table 1**) are the estimated costs for the construction of a pre-school.

Construction of building (including planning, site clearing, excavation, erection of walls, concrete work, roofing, flooring, erection of doors, windows and electrical wiring, and including manual labor costs) and 2 water & sanitation units	Sri Lankan Rupees Exchange Rate as at 20 May 2005: 0.010017 1,424,168
Construction of Well	120,000
Drinking water facilities (to connect with main pipe line & distribute through three stand pipes	181,500
Yamaha (or Honda) 2kv Generator (diesel or kerosene)	50,000
Small cooking area	35,000
Play park (clearing of land, foundation, procurement and erection of play facilities)	459,800
Learning circles (10 x Rs 11,000) (with wall painting & library)	110,000
Children's chairs (Rs 1,100 x 32) (Class II timber)	35,200
Small tables (Rs 2,200 x 8) (Class II timber)	17,600
Big table (1) (Class I timber)	8.500
Chair (1) (Class I timber	3,500
Box of learning materials	4,400
TOTAL	LKR 2,449,668

Description of Learning Circles:

There will be 10 learning circles in the preschools in different parts of the classroom. Each circle will have materials suitable for children aged 3 - 5. The general concept is that the children will learn through activity and play.

- 1. Mathematics: basic numbers
- 2. Language: Alphabet
- 3. Science: Beginning concepts plants, colours, leaves, nuts, nests, robots, animals
- 4. Water
- 5. Sand
- 6. Cultural
- 7. Drama
- 8. Dance
- 9. Music
- 10. Story Telling

Outlined in the table below are the costs for the maintenance and upkeep of the preschool for 1 year. To ensure the sustainability of pre-schools constructed, we invite donors to provide funding for the maintenance and up-keep for more than one year.

TABLE 2: Maintenance and Up-keep of Pre-school for 1 year

TOTAL	1,496,000
Provision for sundry expenses (approx.)	200,000
Provision for food and water (approx. but subject to number of children	800,000
Stationery (board, books & writing materials)	40,000
1 Cook/Cleaner/Watcher@ Rs 8,000 / month	96,000
2 Teachers@ Rs 15,000/ month x 12months	360,000 LKR

Construction of a pre-school takes approximately 2 - 3 months to complete.

(Please note that these costs may vary slightly depending on the accessibility of the construction site, fluctuations in the market price of raw materials, and other unknown factors)

Source : Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation