

22nd June 2010, Colombo – UNICEF Sri Lanka handed over six new schools to local communities in eastern Sri Lanka during two days of official ceremonies.

The six schools represent a total investment of 420 million rupees (3.8 million US dollars) and will benefit thousands of pupils and families.

UNICEF Sri Lanka Representative Philippe Duamelle said: "These schools represent hope for the communities after years of being blighted by the consequences of the 2004 tsunami and civil conflict.

"UNICEF, in partnership with the Sri Lankan government, is committed to ensure every child has access to education this means addressing the needs of the more remote communities such as these."

The six schools form a ribbon along the east coast, in Ampara district. They are located in: Thirukovil, Sinnamugatuvaram, Kalmunai, Santhamaruthu, Maruthamuni, and Kalmunaikudy.

The school handing-over ceremonies were attended by pupils, teachers, parents, government and community dignitaries and the Provincial Minister of Education (Eastern Province). All were treated to performances of traditional Tamil dances, songs and marches by school bands.

Each school has been built to 'child-friendly school' specifications. This means a high quality of construction, separate toilets for boys and girls, hand-washing facilities, and access for children with special needs.

UNICEF's investment in the schools also includes providing furniture and learning materials. These schools are part of UNICEF's support for Sri Lanka in the continuing efforts to ensure the right of children to an education is fulfilled.

Source: [UNICEF](#)