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## SCHOOL ROOM COMPLETION REPORT

*Prepared for: Caroline and Robert Stephan*

### Overview

Project ID #: **LK-SR-08-0028**  
Name of School or Community: **Child Development Centre (Nuwara Eliya)**

### Location

**Village/City:** Mayfield Estate  
**District/Zone:** Nuwara Eliya  
**State/Province:** Central Province  
**Country:** Sri Lanka

**Description:** The Mayfield Estate is located in the hill country district of Nuwara Eliya, approximately 145 km (4 hours by car) from the Room to Read office in Colombo. Travel to this region is limited by narrow and bumpy roads that, though offering incredible views, are in poor condition.



Map of Sri Lanka showing the major cities

### Student / Teacher Information

NUMBER OF STUDENTS/CHILDREN	NUMBER OF TEACHERS
Female: 15	Female: 2
Male: <u>15</u>	Male: <u>0</u>
TOTAL: 30	TOTAL: 2

**GRADE/LEVEL OF STUDENTS:** Grades Lower Kindergarten through Upper Kindergarten

## Community / School Profile

The Mayfield Estate is part of the plantation sector in the heart of the Sri Lankan hill country. The center for cultivation of the famous Ceylon tea, the rolling mountains of this area are carpeted with velvety green tea plantations planted under British colonial rule, interspersed with gushing streams and tumbling waterfalls. Coffee was initially the main crop, but after an epidemic during the 1870s, the whole area was replanted with tea. This estate, which is managed by Kotagala Plantation Limited, has been leased by the government since 1992.

The lifestyle of the villagers, all of whom work for daily wages on the plantation, is very poor. For many people in this area conditions have not improved much since the plantations were first established. There is a lack of most basic facilities including housing, running water, electricity, toilets, roads, medical care, and schools. The plantation sector has some of the worst living conditions in Sri Lanka and the people here have been extremely underserved if not abandoned.

## Current Situation and Reason for Support

The Child Development Centre in Mayfield Estate is owned by the Kotagala Plantation Company that uses the building as a day care center. Only 145 square feet in area, this room does not provide enough space for all the children. The lack of play equipment further reinforces the need for a new location.

Despite requests to the Hatton Plantation Human Development Trust, the teachers have not received any support to construct a new school building. The community hopes to construct a permanent building with the help of Room to Read.

## Date Established

April 22, 2009

## Project Details

The Child Development Centre Preschool is a spacious, 700 sq. ft. building that has lots of light and good ventilation. The building has one classroom, one office, a storeroom, and a bathroom with two toilets. The classroom is furnished with 8 tables and 32 chairs for children, one table and two chairs for the teachers, and a variety of learning materials (drawing books, color pencils, crayons, etc.). Room to Read also provided a playground and furnished it with a swing set, a slide, a seesaw and a merry-go-round. The new school building, which is attractively painted in blue, green, purple, and yellow, stands out in the area and draws a great deal of attention from the community.

Two teachers from the preschool received training from Room to Read's teacher education program in Colombo in 2008.

## Resources Provided

### **Challenge Grant Provided by Community - 15% of Total**

Building Maintenance; Construction Materials; Desk - Students; Desk - Teacher; Land; Obtain Legal Clearances and Titles; Sponsor Groundbreaking Ceremony; Sponsor Opening Ceremony; Volunteer Labor

### **Provided by Room to Read – 85% of Total**

Blackboard; Building Design; Chair - Students; Chair - Teacher; Clean Water; Construction Materials; Cupboard; Desk - Students; Early Childhood Supplies; Educational Materials; Electricity; Monitoring and Support; Playground Equipment; Skilled Labor

### **Trainings**

Early Childhood Education  
Basic Construction Techniques; Building Maintenance; Early Childhood Education; Financial Management; Water And Sanitation

## Comments

At the opening ceremony, Mrs . Bisomenike, the head teacher, said that this preschool was previously operated together with the day care centre and the space available was insufficient for the children. She noted that they had requested assistance from several organizations to help build a dedicated preschool for these children. The only organization that came forward to meet their request was Room to Read. Until now, the children have only had access to day care before moving on to primary school. But now they have the opportunity to attend preschool, which will have a very positive impact on future generations. She thanked Room to Read for providing a child friendly preschool environment and expressed her gratitude to RtR's donors.



The dedication plaque for the new preschool



The RTR country director gives a book to a young student



The RTR country director presents materials to the teacher



The colorful new preschool



Children in the classroom



Children attending the opening ceremony