

SCRIPT:

Greeted with garlands, UNICEF Executive Director Ann M. Veneman arrived at Kukalmadam school in eastern Sri Lanka, opening her first visit to the tsunami-affected region.

Along with UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Toshiyuki Niwa, Ms. Veneman met children who have returned to class with help from UNICEF.

Located near the town of Batticaloa, Kukalmadam school was flattened by the December tsunami.

UNICEF was quick to respond: building temporary classrooms, providing education materials and installing water tanks and latrines.

This is just one of 97 temporary schools UNICEF has helped build across Sri Lanka.

Veneman SOT

"It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm on the part of the children and the fact that they were back at school and were able to thrive even in this environment,"

From the school, Ms. Veneman moved to the Arayampathy East displacement camp, which is home to over 500 tsunami survivors.

UNICEF has provided the camp with clean water, bathing facilities and latrines.

It has also set up a special safe play area for the children as well as a homework corner so they can continue their school work despite being displaced.

After a helicopter flight back to the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, Ms. Veneman met Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse to discuss tsunami relief aid to the island nation.

The visit marks an important step in ensuring that children and their families continue getting the support they need to rebuild their lives.

SHOTLIST

English version: 1'58 intl. tbc

Batticaloa, Sri Lanka - 17 June 2005

1. Medium shot UNICEF Executive Director Ann M Veneman and UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Toshiyuki Niwa arrive at Kukalmadam School, welcomed with flower garlands
2. Close up girl
3. Upsound Ann M Veneman talking to young girl:
Ann M Veneman "What's your favorite subject?" Answer girl 'English' Ann M Veneman "You're very good at it!"
4. Medium shot Ann M Veneman shaking hands with school children
5. Medium shot Ann M Veneman greeted with flowers
6. Wide shot school children dancing
7. Soundbite: (English) UNICEF Executive director "It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm on the part of the children and the fact that they were back at school and were able to thrive."
8. Wide shot Ann M. Veneman walking with entourage walking in Arayampathy East displacement camp
9. Medium shot Ann M Veneman and entourage walking across camp
10. Close up girl studying

Colombo, Sri Lanka - 17 June 2005

11. Ann M. Veneman meets Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse in Colombo, to discuss tsunami relief efforts
12. Close up Ann M Veneman talking
13. Close up Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse

International version: 1'53 intl. tbc

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Raw video footage - 1:59

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