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NEWS RELEASE

EU funds boost education and health facilities in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, February 3, 2012 – Vulnerable communities in North East Sri Lanka are to benefit from a new school and health centre, funded by the European Union through UNICEF.

The new health centre is to play a key role in tackling malnutrition among children aged below five as well as the high levels of anaemia among women. Up to 900 students are to benefit from proper education through the newly opened school.

EU Ambassador/ Head of Delegation, Bernard Savage said: "Education and health are two of the key sectors the EU constantly looks to improve. We have no doubt these new facilities will benefit the most vulnerable communities of the Trincomalee District and aide them in realising their hopes for a better education and a healthy life."

UNICEF Sri Lanka Representative, Reza Hossaini, said: "This generous investment from the EU provides a valuable opportunity to improve the learning opportunities of children from vulnerable communities and to tackle disparities in health care for children and women, all of which is vitally important as Sri Lanka seeks to build a sustainable peace and economic growth."

An EU grant of over LKR 39 million (EUR 261,000) was committed for the construction of 30 classrooms, a science laboratory, teachers' quarters and decent water and sanitation for the pupils of the T/M Elangaithuraimugathuwaram Hindu College, in Eechilampatthu, near Trincomalee.

LKR five million (EUR 33,260) was invested in the Gramodaya Health Centre, in Pallikuiruppu, Mutur. This health centre will provide the local communities with family planning, antenatal and immunisation services as well as growth monitoring of infants, supplementary food and other treatments for children suffering from acute malnourishment.

These investments in the community are part of a wider EU-UNICEF partnership with the Government of Sri Lanka, which aims to reduce social disparities by addressing the educational and health needs of the more vulnerable communities.



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Both facilities were officially opened during ceremonies on Friday, February 3, attended by UNICEF Representative, Reza Hossaini and the EU Head of Operations, Willy Vandenberghe.

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For more information please contact:

UNICEF Sri Lanka Communication Chief, Mervyn Fletcher, on +94 11 2768555 Ext 248, mfletcher@unicef.org/UNICEF Communication Officer Suzanne Davey, on +94 11 2768555 ext 247, sdavey@unicef.org, or EU Communication Section on +94-11-2674413 ext 103, delegation-sri-lanka-press-and-information@eeas.europa.eu or vanessa.de-silva@eeas.europa.eu