

# Child WORLD

WINTER/SPRING 2005

C h r i s t i a n C h i l d r e n ' s F u n d

CCF Aids in  
Tsunami Relief



Photo: Reuters/Babu

A mother and child in Sri Lanka coping after the devastating tsunami. CCF has operated programs there for nearly 25 years, and was among the first agencies to provide emergency assistance.



**Christian Children's Fund staff distributes aid immediately after the tsunami disaster. CCF is working in India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, to meet emergency needs, while setting up child centered spaces to protect children and to address emotional needs.**

#### **CHILDWORLD**

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Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is a worldwide force for children, helping the poorest and most vulnerable survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. One of the world's oldest and most respected international child development organizations, CCF works in 32 countries and assists approximately 7.6 million children and families worldwide, regardless of their race, creed, or gender.

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# Heartbreak Brings Out the Best in Others



**This Sri Lankan girl clings to her father after being separated from her family. CCF works to reunite families separated by the tsunami.**

*Editor's note: Toni Radler, a member of CCF's emergency team in Sri Lanka reports on this account of the situation there.*

Today, as we ride down the road to Hambantota District, we see children and their parents sifting through the rubble that had once been their homes...trying to find anything of value, trying to find memories, trying to find the tools of homemaking, trying to find the things that made their house a home before the devastating tsunami destroyed everything in its path.

Other families stand on top of piles of rubble, three or four feet high, picking up one thing at a time. It's painstaking, but these families are determined to return to the communities that have been their lifelong homes.

The survivors tell of the miracles that saved their lives. Or, they focus on what hurts them the most...the loss of a loved one. Some of the stories are a triumph of human nature over the fiercest elements...like one man whose van was submerged, covered by eight feet of water. He rolled down the window, climbed out, and the first thing he touched was a column, which turned out to be his escape route to a roof that withstood the tsunami.

In the camps, CCF has started informal education for the older children, returning them to the routine of school. Games, singing, dancing, drawing and story-telling are helping the younger ones laugh again. Some children are slower to respond...like a little girl who was injured in the tsunami. Her parents had just found her in the hospital, and now she doesn't want them out of her sight. In a few days, she'll be running around playing with the other children. But for today, she clings

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**Deneth, who our assessment team met in Sri Lanka lost his father to the tsunami. CCF will help this family and others like them in their recovery.**

tightly to them, her arms wound around their necks.

*“Response from CCF’s loyal supporters has been incredible. CCF has been profoundly touched by the generosity of everyone in response to the tsunami in Asia,” said John F. Schultz, CCF president.*

### **Some Are Afraid To Go Home**

Many survivors are already moving farther inland to family and relatives whose homes were not pulverized by the tsunami that caught everyone by surprise.

Some are afraid to go home, even if their houses are still standing. They’re

now afraid of the same sea that has provided them with their livelihood for a lifetime. It’s become their enemy.

When eight-year-old Deneth and his mother returned from their first trip home today, they cried and cried. Their house was still standing, but it brings back memories that are hard to relive. Deneth’s mother told her son that his dad was in the hospital because she couldn’t bear to break the news to him that his father and life-long best friend was dead. Deneth heard the news in the camp for homeless survivors...the other kids told him.

For now Deneth and his mother will stay in the Sooriyawewa camp located in a secondary school. But next week, school starts and everyone will have to go somewhere else. CCF will work with each of these families to help them start again.

It struck me odd today, that among all the devastation and heart break the tsunami created, it has also brought the goodwill of the world together for a common purpose. People thousands of miles away don’t know Deneth, but they want to help him. Governments are setting aside their differences to help. And organizations like CCF are rolling up their sleeves to get the job done...to help people rebuild their lives and their communities.

**You can help the tsunami survivors by making a donation to CCF’s ChildAlert Emergency Fund which assists children in a variety of emergencies including the tsunami.**

**Please call 1-800-776-6767, or visit our website**

**[www.ChristianChildrensFund.org](http://www.ChristianChildrensFund.org)**

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# Healing Through Playing



**Many children relieve stress by telling of the horror they experienced through artwork drawn in CCF's child centered spaces.**

*"The tsunami disaster poses a kind of double jeopardy for children," said John Schultz, president of Christian Children's Fund. "After having survived the catastrophe, they are now subject to increased risk of disease and malnutrition as well as longer term risks like dropping out of school or being forced to work because they have lost a parent," said Schultz.*

Amidst the death and destruction, CCF's child centered spaces are providing an oasis of hope for children left homeless or orphaned by the tsunami. The child-friendly places provide organized activities to thousands of children living in camps who have lost their homes in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India.

"They offer children a structure and safe place to go when the rest of their lives are filled with uncertainty," said Kunera Korthals Altes, CCF Child Protection Specialist in Sri Lanka.

In these safe havens, children can play, and express themselves through art, dance, and song. For now, they can resume some normal childhood activities as they begin to process the devastating events they have experienced. It's a tried-and-true approach that CCF has successfully employed in Angola, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Honduras, and other countries devastated by war or natural disasters.

Toni Radler, CCF's Communications Director, visited the child-friendly places while assisting in the tsunami-affected areas. "They are making a huge difference for the children. Before these spaces were created, children were walking around listless or sleeping part of the day. Now they are playing games and singing, and even receiving informal education, such as math instruction. Several of our parent volunteers are actually kindergarten teachers," she said.

CCF first responded to this disaster with emergency services, then set up child centered spaces. As time progresses, CCF will assist with recovery and rehabilitation efforts in the affected areas of India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

## INDONESIA

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In the devastated community of Banda Aceh, located near the earthquake's epicenter, and north Sumatra Christian Children's Fund's emergency team assessed the health needs of tsunami survivors and treated them for a variety of maladies, including measles, tetanus, diarrhea, respiratory illnesses, and skin diseases.

Many survivors suffered from mental trauma. Hospitals are overwhelmed, and emergency camps are still makeshift shelters without adequate water and sanitation facilities. According to the World Health Organization, infectious diseases could kill tens of thousands of survivors, due to lack of access to safe drinking water.

CCF established a presence in Medan, from which the organization coordinated relief efforts. Working with volunteers, CCF distributed medical supplies, food for children, and milk for lactating mothers. On the road to Banda Aceh, the CCF emergency response crew provided medical assistance to children in Bireuen.

CCF is also responding to some of the psychosocial needs of children through child centered spaces. The children come from communities decimated by the tsunami. There are a lot of unaccompanied and orphaned children. CCF is also conducting family tracing efforts in Indonesia, where mass burials were a common occurrence in the days following the disaster.

## SRI LANKA

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Over 500 adult and 500 youth volunteers are providing support to Christian Children's Fund's efforts in Sri Lanka. As the result of an emergency response plan crafted just last year by CCF-Sri Lanka national director Gamini Pinnalawatte and CCF parents, the organization was able to quickly mobilize staff and volunteers, making them among the first responders on the ground.

CCF is working in 18 camps to assist those in tsunami-impacted areas in the Ampara, Galle, Hambantota, Matara, and Tricomalee districts. Fifteen child centered spaces are up and running—providing desperately needed assistance to children and families. The organization has distributed food, water, milk, medicines, utensils, bedding, pots and pans, huge tanks for holding clean water, and other provisions, and also helped set up water and sanitation facilities.

## INDIA

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Christian Children's Fund's emergency team in India reached the tsunami-affected areas within 24 hours of the disaster. Field teams provided immediate rescue and relief measures to over 10,000 people, including the distribution of lentils, oil, food, utensils, cooking pots, clothing, toiletries and baby care products; nutritional supplements to children; oral rehydration solutions to dehydrated survivors; and "Safe Delivery Kits" to pregnant women.

CCF is providing relief to four hard-hit areas of India—Chennai, Pondicherry, Nagapattinam, and Cuddalore. CCF also conducted a preliminary assessment of the effect of the tsunami on children and provided training on meeting the specific needs of children. The organization also established a Tsunami Response Secretariat to coordinate emergency response activities with the many different agencies, individuals, and the government working on child-related issues. CCF is addressing the long-term needs of communities through child centered spaces and, eventually, reconstruction efforts.



Photo: Reuters/Babu

**CCF stepped in immediately and began providing water tanks, food and basic supplies following the tsunami.**

## An Outpouring of Compassion for Tsunami Victims

As the death toll climbed from the horrific tsunami, CCF was grateful for the equally growing generosity being demonstrated by so many.

One gentleman quietly walked into CCF's lobby and handed the receptionist a \$10,000 check, simply requesting that it be used to help victims of the tsunami. Callers committing thousands of dollars have been routine, among them one sponsor of 40 children — with five children in the affected areas — who made a \$60,000 gift.

The Siegfried family, generous supporters of CCF, was touched by the news of the tsunami and resulting devastation. Their response was to offer a

challenge gift to CCF. They will match every two dollars we receive with a dollar up to \$333,333.

The public response to this catastrophic event has been incredible. "CCF has been profoundly touched by the generosity of the public in response to the tsunami in Asia," said John F. Schultz, CCF president. "Thanks to the generous response of donors, CCF is committed to a long-term response in the affected areas. The need is great. We have been assisting children and families in these countries for many years. We will meet their immediate needs, and help them rebuild their lives," said Schultz.

# Emergency Relief: CCF Responds to Tsunami

*Editor's note: We have experienced a huge outpouring of calls sharing compassion and concern for sponsored children and the communities affected by the tsunami. We appreciate your concern and know you are anxious for news. Sponsors whose children were directly affected will be called as soon as we have specific information.*

In battered villages in Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka, CCF has been steadily helping children and other survivors recover after the deadliest tsunami of modern times.

Working with local and international relief teams, CCF immediately began providing emergency assistance to thousands of survivors. CCF workers distribute food, milk, water, and other needed supplies to survivors, tell heart-wrenching stories of children, family members, and homes being swept away by the devastating tsunami.

“They have nothing left. Just being able to survive for the next few days is a challenge,” said Gamini Pinnalawatte, (the national director of CCF Sri Lanka), immediately following the tsunami disaster.

In all of the affected countries, CCF has plans to help re-establish water and sanitation facilities. To work with local volunteers and assess short- and long-term needs, CCF also sent over an international team of specialists in child protection, health and emergency response. The team is helping to set up child centered spaces—safe places where children can go to play and begin the healing process (see story page 2). CCF will continue to provide for the basic needs of affected families through programs such as health and

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**These children in Sri Lanka ran from the tsunami and are among the many CCF helps.**

# We Heard Laughter Today

*Editor's note: Toni Radler, a member of CCF's emergency team in Sri Lanka gives this account of the situation there.*

In the district of Galle, just outside the capital of Sri Lanka, some children have started playing and laughing again. Their play was stopped and their laughter silenced on December 26, when the deadly tsunami took away homes, relatives, friends and neighbors. On a day that should have been a day meant only for play, kids saw their world swept away.

But Christian Children's Fund is getting children back into the game, getting them to play again as part of the first step in the healing process.

The children we visited this afternoon are living with their families in a school, temporarily being used to house about 200 families made homeless by the tsunami. CCF has trucked in supplies that the children's parents needed to set up housekeeping—huge water tanks holding clean water, baby milk, pots and pans, bedding, and toiletries.

Because of the generosity of donors, the tools for setting up house were relatively easy to come by. But the children's laughter and smiles were not as simple. Many of these children have seen their homes swept away. Some have lost parents, brothers and sisters. All know a friend or a neighbor killed in the tsunami. These children wit-

nessed a horrifying event.

CCF immediately began working through our office staff in Colombo, Sri Lanka. CCF Child Protection Specialist Kunera Altes was one of the first on the scene.

"Earlier in the week, this camp was silent. The children were moping about. No one was playing or laughing," noted Kunera. In Afghanistan Kunera worked with CCF parent volunteers, and her experience there is proving useful

here. Five hundred volunteers were organized by the CCF-Sri Lanka staff. The volunteers are from other parts of Sri Lanka, that were not affected by the tsunami. Kunera taught the volunteers how to help the children on their long road to recovery – so they can smile again.

The volunteers gathered the children into classrooms, and began asking them to draw what happened to them when the tsunami hit. These exercises are especially important for Sri Lankan children. In Sri Lanka, people are very reserved; they don't talk about bad things that have happened to them, or their feelings of sadness, so drawing offers a means of communication they will accept. Traditional songs and dances have also been encouraged as part of the long recovery process.

*Kunera taught the volunteers how to help the children on their long road to recovery – so they can smile again.*

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One of the many children searching through the rubble of his community. CCF is setting up child centered spaces to help.



## Accountability to Children and Donors Is Key

At this critical time of need, we want to assure our donors that CCF uses the funds it receives to make a real difference in the lives of children. Throughout CCF's 66 years of helping children, CCF has enjoyed an excellent reputation for its financial accountability.

CCF meets the standards of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance. The seal assures donors that a charity complies with the BBB's stringent charity accountability standards. The BBB reviews various aspects of an organization, including its use of funds, truthfulness of representations and willingness to disclose information.

CCF has also received an "A" rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy and been given high acclaim by the *Journal of Accountancy*, a publication of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. CCF is listed as one of the best organizations working for famine relief by the American Institute of Philanthropy.



## We Heard Laughter Today

*Continued from page 7*

These drawings, songs and dances are giving the children a way to express themselves—a way to draw on their childhood resilience and laugh again. When we arrived, children from ages 5 to 10 were singing and clapping their hands in one classroom. Their drawings lined the walls. Outside, boys had set up a cricket game. And many youth were engaged in volleyball. The school looked like any other school, with kids playing outside. Laughter, clapping and singing wafted in the breeze.

It will take parents a long time to rebuild. They are hard working, but the task is monumental. Miles of rubble must be discarded before rebuilding can even start. It will take these once beautiful tropical communities years to replace the infrastructure that was ripped out in minutes. They will have to depend on the generosity of the world community.

But, the children are encouraging and leading the effort. The recovery process has already started, with the children being quick to get back into the game of childhood.

# World Emergencies

CCF's ChildAlert Fund addresses emergency needs of children the world over. Now these funds are being used to help victims of the recent tsunami in Asia.

Long before, CCF was meeting emergency needs in other parts of the world, including among the Sudanese and the Liberians as they continue in their struggle to recover from horrible human atrocities. These crises are ongoing, despite little media coverage. It will take years for refugees in Chad to be able to return to their homes in Sudan and regain some normalcy in their lives, and CCF's ongoing development work will be critical. The same is true for Liberia, where children



**This Indonesian community of Bireuen was hard hit by the tsunami. Tents were set up to temporarily help families and CCF is offering assistance there.**

have been victimized by years of war, and a long recovery lies ahead.

As CCF addresses the needs of families due to the recent tsunami, we must not forget other world needs. Children and families in many countries are depending on us to remember their plight.

## **Christian Children's Fund was able to quickly mobilize its relief efforts due to a significant presence in the three countries most devastated by the tsunami.**

- CCF has been working in India since 1948, reaching 500,000 children and their families in 81 programs.
- CCF has been working in Indonesia since 1947. Its 62 programs assist about 162,000 children and family members.
- CCF has been working in Sri Lanka since 1985, and currently assists 100,000 children and family members in 49 programs.

## CCF Responds to Tsunami

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sanitation, nutrition, early childhood development, education, family income generation, as well as through community rebuilding efforts.

In Sri Lanka, CCF Child Protec-

tion Specialist Kunera Korthals Altes noted, "The scope of devastation is extraordinary, damaging all infrastructure in many communities. Yet, villagers are anxious to get back to their lives."

# Natural Disasters Shake the Philippines

*Editor's note: Even before the recent tsunami in Asia, CCF was addressing other emergency needs. In the Philippines and Chad (see next page) many people are struggling, and it will take months and even years to regain some normalcy.*

CCF is working with communities in the Philippines to help them recover from natural disasters.

Communities are coping with destruction caused by landslides and floods, resulting from four consecutive typhoons and tropical storms in late November and early December. Over 1,000 people were killed, and 880,000 were displaced. Some CCF assisted families lost their homes; others suffered significant damage to their dwellings or rice fields.

Apart from providing food and other emergency support to the families in affiliated communities, CCF staff also conducted an initial assessment of the Quezon province, where nearly half of the fatalities occurred.

CCF development worker Edna Jaurigue described Infanta. "The whole town is virtually buried under mud and debris...it is a struggle to even walk through the streets, where mud is thigh deep. Already, waterborne disease is a serious threat. In the town, 13 of 17 elementary schools are either destroyed or full of mud."

Additionally, she said, "three evacuation centers are operating in the town and, during the day, children are left unattended as their parents look for other family members or try to rebuild their homes. To address this, CCF is setting up child centered

spaces so children have a place to play and express their emotional trauma. Teachers in the child centered spaces will conduct productive activities, while their parents are trying to put their lives back together."



We want to ensure that your trip to visit your sponsored child is rewarding. All plans to visit your sponsored child must be made through CCF prior to your trip. To arrange for a visit, call 1-800-776-6767. Thank you.

# Sudanese Pictures Tell a Grim Story



**Sudanese children in a CCF-organized child centered space in Chad. These spaces give children a place to play, learn and begin to recover emotionally.**

The children's pictures depict scenes of horror: men with machine guns mounted on cars...airplanes dropping bombs on schools. Pictures of those who have died. But drawing the pictures allows refugee children like Adam to begin healing from their experiences in Sudan.

Art, music, and games are some of the ways Adam and others express themselves in CCF child centered spaces in Chad, located near the Sudanese border. The child-friendly spaces are located in the Iridimi and Touloum camps.

Adam, along with his mother, father, two brothers and three sisters, fled the intense bombing of his village in Darfur. The 11-year-old remembers the desperate situation under which he and his family had to escape being killed by either the bombs of the Sudanese army or the guns of the Janjaweed militia. "I saw my school go up in flames as the bombs landed on it," said Adam. "I miss my school very much."

Today, the family lives in the Touloum camp in northeastern Chad. "We finally settled here after a three-day journey by donkey to the border town of Tine and another two days to the camp," he said. Adam grew malnourished during his family's long stay in the bush in Sudan and eventual move to Chad. He is growing healthier with the support of a therapeutic feeding center in the camp, set up by Doctors Without Borders/Belgium.

Volunteers in CCF's child centered space keep him busy during the day with schoolwork and organized activities. He enjoys going to school, and dreams of becoming a doctor. These days, children like Adam are starting their studies again while also beginning the long recovery and healing process in the child centered spaces.

# CCF Creates Opportunities in Vietnam

Thai is the top math student in his fourth grade class in Vietnam and wants to be a teacher one day. Van, a Vietnamese mother, has joined a women's credit union and improved her family's rice fields. Both have dreams that are being made possible by programs supported by Christian Children's Fund sponsors.



**These children in Vietnam help feed the family pigs as part of an income generation program supported by CCF's work there.**

In Vietnam CCF assists children in eight communities in the northern provinces of Hoa Binh and Bac Kan. Community development programs include maternal and child health, education, energy, water, food security, micro-credit, income generating activities, and health clinic construction.

The programs have helped change the lives of women like Van, who needed money to purchase fertilizer for her family's rice fields. She couldn't get a loan from traditional lenders because the family had few assets. Then she joined a CCF women's credit and savings program and received a loan. Van was able to improve her fields, which led to a better harvest.

In remote communities in Bac Kan, school has become a more positive experience for children like Thai. Previously, Thai had to share his school desk with three other students; now he has his own. "When I become a teacher, I will come back to teach. My teacher is excellent and she loves us very much."

Additionally, about 50% of households in Thai's community now have pit latrine toilets, and the local health clinic has improved. "More people come to the clinic when they are sick now. Before they didn't believe in doctors," said Ly, a nurse. "We have better equipment and improved quality of health checkups. And, because of awareness-raising campaigns, more people now know the importance of getting proper treatment."

*Your sponsored child receives benefits because of your contributions. In addition, funds are pooled to help other children waiting for sponsors.*

# Carrying On the Torch

By Kelly Wimmer

Cindy Brown lived her life to the fullest. She never told herself she couldn't do something, even though she was diagnosed with dermatomyositis (a severe muscular condition) at the age of three. She was able to move her head and her fingers. As a result of complications from dermatomyositis, Cindy died recently. But during her 47 years, she pursued every adventure in life with passion.

Cindy not only lived life to the fullest, but she helped others in the process. One way she decided to give to others was by sponsoring a child in 1974 through Christian Children's Fund. Upon Cindy's death, her family took over sponsorship of Cindy's sponsored child in India. "She knew she would be a maiden lady and wouldn't have children of her own. So she decided to sponsor children. These children all really became Cindy's children. I absolute-

ly thought of them as my grandchildren too," said Coe Brown, Cindy's mother. "Through the 30 years of Cynthia's sponsorship, she sponsored several children, and she's kept many of the letters through the years," said Coe.

Well known as a proponent for peace and giving, Cynthia was honored last June to represent St. Louis by carrying the symbolic Olympic Torch in part of the four-city U.S. tour. In an interview with the Saint Louis Post-Dispatch shortly before her death, Cynthia said, "Being a torchbearer is kind of overwhelming. It's a very odd feeling, but it's neat to be part of something that's peace related."

Cynthia's giving heart and passion for living life made a mark on everyone she came in contact with, including her CCF sponsored children. "She's very special, she's inspired everyone around her," said her mother.

## CCF Study Tours for 2005

Join one of CCF's guided study tours, meet sponsored children, and see our life-changing work firsthand. The following study tours are being finalized and others will be planned:

Dominica  
Brazil  
Mexico  
Brazil  
Ecuador

Mid-April  
May  
June  
September  
October

Please let us know if you would like additional information about any of our study tours. Just call 1-800-762-9593, or email [partners@ccfusa.org](mailto:partners@ccfusa.org)

# For Founder of Corinthian Media, Philanthropy Is the Message

Companies often send fruit baskets, chocolates, or tickets to sporting events to their most valued clients. But business owner Larry Miller thanks his clients by giving them a gift that keeps on giving—a Christian Children’s Fund sponsorship.

Through the Corinthian Foundation, Miller assists over 400 children worldwide through gift sponsorships. Miller’s company, Corinthian Media, has also donated over \$1.7 million to the organization over the years.

Yet, until recently, Miller had not seen his philanthropy in action. In April 2004, he traveled with one of his sons to Senegal and The Gambia, and met some of the families who have benefited from his help.

“It was great to see the school and the actual projects. I had read how it worked, but I find it difficult to pay attention until I am face to face with the reality,” he said. In The Gambia, Miller and his son attended the unveiling of the Banjulinding Nursery School, which supports the growth and development of 448 children. From a one-room building, the school has grown into six classrooms and an administrative office thanks to assistance from Corinthian. At the school, the children receive two nutritious meals each day, regular medical checkups, and immunizations.

At the ceremony, the town’s mayor unveiled a sign that read, “Banjulinding Nursery School/



**Sponsor’s son, visiting CCF programs, teaching the art of making balloon animals.**

Promoting the well-being of our children/With the grateful support of/Corinthian Foundation based in USA/officially inaugurated by Larry Miller on 7th of April 2004.” School children also performed songs for the Millers. In turn, Larry Miller and his son delighted them by making balloon animals.

“What is amazing—to me, anyway—are the large numbers of people affected by the programs and the real effects brought about by the efforts of CCF—on education, health, and aspiration,” he said. “We forget that you have to want something before you can try it. And you have to know that something exists before you can want it. Opening minds to new possibilities is the miracle that CCF has worked,” said Miller.

CCF sponsor Larry Miller near left with staff and children in Senegal. Miller has donated to CCF for many years and decided to see the programs firsthand.





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Photo: Reuters/Arko Datta

**Children reaching for aid being distributed. CCF was one of the first agencies to respond in Sri Lanka.**