



# Sri Lanka Library Completion Report

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With the help of you and your friends, Room to Read has established a classroom library in Sri Lanka!



## Project Location

Madawalagama Viduhala is located in Anuradhapura, which is a district in the North Central province of Sri Lanka that sustains a population of more than 800,000 people. Despite being part of Sri Lanka's dry zone, Anuradhapura has irrigation reservoirs that have enabled a successful agricultural industry. The region maintains a tropical climate throughout the year with an average temperature between 68°F and 86°F. As a result, agriculture is one of the main sources of income in the district. For many centuries, Anuradhapura was the centre of Theravada Buddhism and it continues to be a sacred destination that is visited by thousands of Buddhist pilgrims every year. While approximately 93.4 percent of the district's population is literate, there are still significant challenges within the education system. Student enrollment has risen sharply in recent years. Rural areas face a shortage of teachers and the quality of instruction has not caught up with the high enrollments. In addition, the costs of sending children to school remain prohibitive for many parents in the district, often forcing students to drop out of school to help support their families.

The school is approximately 232 kilometres from Colombo, the capital city of Sri Lanka.

## Project Details

**Project ID:** LK-RR-14-0012

**Name:** Madawalagama  
Viduhala

**State/Province:** North Central  
Province

**District/Zone:** Anuradhapura

**City/Village:** Madawalagama

**Grades:** 1 through 5

### Number of Students

Female: 56

Male: 45

Total: 101

### Number of Teachers

Female: 5

Male: 3

Total: 8

## Library Details

Classroom libraries allow children in schools that do not have free space to still benefit from books and other library resources, as well as to promote the integration and use of reading materials in classroom instruction. These libraries are established within a designated portion of a classroom and contain a collection of level-appropriate books for use by classes during lessons, free time, and dedicated library time. The libraries are also provided with other educational materials, classroom storage furniture, and a standard three year training plan for teachers.

## Resources Provided

The Room to Read Literacy team works hard to select the most appropriate and engaging reading materials to stock the libraries. Room to Read Sri Lanka's publishing staff work closely with the broader Literacy team to create and publish culturally relevant, developmentally appropriate, and gender-sensitive books for our libraries in Sri Lanka. Our published materials help supplement the books we purchase from Sri Lankan retailers and publishers, or receive through Room to Read's global English book donation program. The books selected play a vital role in supplying students with relevant and engaging learning materials. Room to Read has provided the following books and other resources to this library:

- 226 English books
- 147 local language books published by Room to Read
- 340 non-Room to Read local language books
- Games/Puzzles
- Educational Materials; Stationery
- Cupboard

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the libraries, Room to Read seeks community and school co-investment from the very beginning of the project. One of the most vital contributions the school makes is to select one or two school staff or volunteers to serve as librarians. In addition, communities contribute materials for the library and participate in literacy activities that take place at the school.

Room to Read Sri Lanka further engages families and other community members in some of the following ways:

- Building the capacity of local department of education officials, head teachers, and field facilitators to conduct activities to engage family and community members through quarterly meetings
- Conducting reading awareness and library campaigns in the community
- Inviting parents to visit the library, participate in events, and make decisions to support the sustainability of the library

## Trainings

In Sri Lanka, Room to Read provides all librarians and teachers involved with our libraries with three days of training per year across Room to Read's three years of support. These training opportunities build on each other, aligning training focus areas with the library's stage of development. The trainings also provide an opportunity for teachers and librarians to collaborate with one another and work through problems that have arisen during the year.

The Sri Lanka Literacy program also supports educators by providing coaching and program implementation feedback during monitoring and support visits that take place regularly over the course of Room to Read's three years of support.

The team assesses library quality using a rating tool, which evaluates the library’s functionality across 19 indicators. Room to Read staff use these ratings to determine the frequency and type of support they provide to each school, and to assign extra support time for schools with greater needs. During these visits, our team oversees and supports library establishment, provides additional support for topics covered in trainings, and encourages school management teams to involve all teachers in daily library operations. Visits are conducted by Room to Read staff and partner NGOs. In 2014, in addition to supporting teachers and librarians on conducting engaging library activities, the program focused on collecting data about our program that will help us to continue to improve our approach to developing students' reading habits.

<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Length of Training</b>	<b>Training Topic*</b>
5/24/2014	3.0 days	Book leveling; Creating a child-friendly environment; Importance of libraries and reading; Library management; Library period and reading activities
5/30/2014	3.0 days	Book leveling; Creating a child-friendly environment; Importance of libraries and reading; Library management; Library period and reading activities; Sustainability
2/27/2015	3.0 days	Creating a child-friendly environment; Importance of libraries and reading; Library management; Library period and reading activities; Sustainability; Library set-up / management; Library activities; Teaching reading; Developing children’s language skills; Library sustainability

*\*Some trainings are provided for various groups of stakeholders (teachers, librarians, field facilitators, etc.) at different times. Because of this, the same training may be listed more than once.*

Madawalagama Viduhala library will receive three full years of additional support from Room to Read, which will include books, additional training for the school teachers and librarians, support for family and community engagement, and regular monitoring and support visits.

## Photos



*Books provided by Room to Read on display in the library.*



*A student enjoying one of the new books.*



*Students reading together in the library.*



*A teacher engaging students in a reading activity.*