

**The Hg Foundation and IFS Foundation come together  
to boost STEM education in Sri Lanka**

**London, United Kingdom, 29 November 2024** – The Hg Foundation, a grant-giving charity focused on improving tech education and skills, is partnering with the IFS Foundation to promote STEM skills in remote and rural communities in Sri Lanka.

According to the [World Bank](#), poverty in Sri Lanka has risen from 11.3% in 2019 to 25% in 2022. Poverty rates tend to be higher in [rural](#) areas of Sri Lanka due to limited access to [education](#), sanitation, fresh water, and healthcare, as well as economic dependency on agriculture.

The IFS Foundation works in partnership with remote, rural communities throughout Sri Lanka to help break this cycle of poverty. The Foundation invests in public health, employment and school infrastructure, enabling sustainable, thriving communities and giving children access to a decent education. A particular focus is STEM skills, given [less than 60%](#) of the population is digitally literate, with less than a quarter of households owning a laptop or desktop computer.

In alignment with its mission to improve tech education and skills, The Hg Foundation's £64,000 grant will support the creation of a computer lab and staff training to deliver IT and STEM classes in the village of Weralugahamula, where the IFS Foundation is currently active. The project is due to complete in 2025.

More than 50% of Weralugahamula's population lives below the national poverty line. The creation of a computer lab forms part of a wider program of work to rebuild the entire school, increasing school participation up to age 18, and creating a safer learning environment. The lab will help students acquire computer literacy and build STEM skills, creating pathways to access high-quality tech jobs in future. The IFS Foundation delivered a similar project in the village of Welusumanapura in 2022, where refurbishment including a dedicated computer lab nearly doubled school participation.

Other investments in the community include reverse osmosis water treatment plants, sanitation facilities, economic diversification, and upgrading healthcare infrastructure. These projects help remove the obstacles that prevent children from getting access to a proper education.

**Stephen Keys, Chair of the IFS Foundation, said:**

“We believe education is the key to improving health, reducing poverty, and eliminating gender inequality. Education, especially STEM skills, leads to better, and more stable jobs that pay higher income. This accumulation of wealth can be used to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for individuals, families and entire communities. We are deeply grateful to the Hg Foundation for funding this project.”

**Nic Humphries, Senior Partner and Executive Chairman of Hg, said:**

“I've seen first-hand the brilliant work of IFS and the IFS Foundation in providing tech teaching, jobs and fantastic career development for hundreds of people per year from less advantaged situations in Sri Lanka. I am delighted that The Hg Foundation is working with IFS and the IFS Foundation on supporting more great educational opportunities in IT and STEM to have an even bigger impact in the community.”

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**About The Hg Foundation:** The Hg Foundation's vision is that the tech workforce of the future harnesses the talents of all, regardless of background. It does this by supporting education and employment-based programs across the UK, USA, and Europe where it can demonstrate measurable, long-term, and scalable impact and make a difference to those that need it most. To date, it has committed \$30m to programs that will reach over 50,000 young people and adults from under-represented backgrounds.

The Foundation's work is solely funded by Hg – a leading investor in European and transatlantic software and services businesses. The Hg Foundation is registered Charity no. 1189216.

Find out more at <https://www.thehgfoundation.com/>

**About IFS Foundation:** The IFS Foundation is a group of independent, charitable organisations investing in projects in partnership with local Sri Lankan communities to alleviate poverty. These projects address five key issues: access to healthcare, clean water, sanitation facilities, education and employment opportunities, aligned with relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The IFS Foundation is made up of a registered Charitable Incorporated Organization in England and Wales, (Charity No.1191843), a registered US 501(c)3 charitable organization (EIN 84-4440168). and a Canadian Charitable Organization (Business No. 726904741RR0001). Together, we can make a difference.

[www.ifsfoundation.org](http://www.ifsfoundation.org).