



IOM International Organization for Migration

IOM Provides Transport for IDPs to Return Home

In response to a request made by the Government of Sri Lanka, the International Organization (IOM) provided over twenty five-leased buses to facilitate the safe and voluntary return of over 1,600 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their native villages in Eralakulam Eravur Pattu DS Division, in the Batticaloa district. For these families, this will be a welcome return home after being displaced for over three years.

Tuesday's (18 August) batch of resettlements will be one of the last in the government's efforts to resettle persons displaced during the recently-ended conflict in Batticaloa.

The IDP families, who were living with relatives or in displacement camps in Sittandy, some 32 kilometres from the Batticaloa town, fled their villages in 2006 in the wake of intensified fighting between government armed forces and the LTTE rebels to settle in safer locations.

"IOM commends the government on its resettlement plan and reiterates its commitment to support the humanitarian response operations as needs evolve", says IOM Sri Lanka's Chief of Mission, Mr Mohammed Abdi Ker.

The 1,600 IDPs will return to a safer community than when they left as the government only allows resettlement after the clearing of minefields, so families can return knowing they have a safer place to resume their lives and livelihoods.

Plans are also underway to provide temporary shelters, - an immediate need - in the resettlement areas.

As men, women and children, board buses to return to their villages, another batch of IDPs await resettlement in the same district in the coming weeks.

IOM remains at the ready to further assist the government in helping families safely return home.



Leased buses from CTB carry IDP families back to their native villages



IDP families queue up to go back home

ENDS

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