

**Joint UN North East Situation Monitoring Report
February 2007**

Attached below is the joint UN agency North East situation monitoring report for the month of February 2007. This report is intended to give an overview of the current situation in the North East by tracking the trends of various conflict-sensitive indicators. The table on the next page lists data for the three most recent months.

Note that full commitment, as indicated by timely, regular reporting from all committed agencies, is required in order to make this report useful as a decision-making tool.

The following interpretations can be made for the month of February based on the data available:

North East:

- The total number of newly Internal Displaced Persons is remaining over 200,000 people
- The average daily wages for labour remain stable with an average of 854 Rs for skilled labour and 537 Rs for unskilled labour
- Attendance of children to school has improved in Jaffna, Ampara and Batticaloa but the movements of population and security situation continue to affect all concerned areas of the North and East
- Though still of high concern, a decrease of security incidents is reported with 138 victims (250 in January) with Trincomalee and Vavuniya being the worst affected
- The number of disappearances reported to the Human Rights Commission continues to stay high with 137 reported disappearances including 47 for Vavuniya District alone
- The number of disrupted projects due to security reasons does not decrease significantly and remains at 75
- The variation of the average retail prices of essential food commodities continues to fluctuate unequally between districts

Jaffna:

- The number of closure days or closing of schools in primary and secondary schools of Jaffna due to conflict/security/hartals has significantly reduced but partial closing has affected 110 schools for several days (*see comments at the end of the report*)
- The average price of essential commodities is decreasing but still remains high compared to the other district of the North and east in February

Mannar:

- The number of security incidents (killings) has decreased from 23 to 6

Vavuniya:

- The average price of essential commodities is slightly increasing
- The number of security incidents (killings) has decreased from 68 to 26 in the district but is still of concern
- The number of disappearances reported to the Human Rights Commission remains the highest of all monitored districts with 47 cases

Trincomalee:

- The number of security incidents (killings) has significantly increased from 19 to 36 in the district and is the highest for the North and east in February
- The number of disappearances reported to the Human Rights Commission has increased from 10 to 21

Batticaloa:

- The number of newly recorded IDPs remains the highest since December 2006 with 76,498 persons
- The number of security incidents (killings) has significantly decreased from 71 to 19
- The average market price of essential commodities has slightly increased

Please send comments on this report to OCHA (hubin@un.org, randeni@un.org)

Please note that this February report does not cover the recent developments in the East of the country.

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Indicator		Unit	Month	Ampara	Batticaloa	Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mannar	Mullaitivu	Trincomalee	Vavuniya	Total	Average	Resp.	Trends / Comments
1.1	Primary and secondary school closure days, due to conflict/security/hartal	Number	Feb-07	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.375	UNICEF	
			Jan-07	4	3	13	0	0	0	12	0	32	4.00		
			Dec-06	5	5	0	0	0	0	4	0	14	1.75		
1.2	Primary and secondary schools closed, due to conflict/security/hartal	Number	Feb-07	2	36	1	0	0	0	0	0	39		UNICEF	
			Jan-07	212	324	67	0	0	0	5	0	608			
			Dec-06	2	18	0	0	0	0	4	0	24			
1.3	Children not attending school for at least 1 day due to conflict/security/hartal	Number	Feb-07	380	12,039	2,103	0	0	0	0	0	14,522		UNICEF	
			Jan-07	100,125	123,443	24,049	0	0	0	0	0	247,617			
			Dec-06	0	5,055	0	0	0	0	1,250	0	6,305			
2.1	Prevalence of vector-borne or communicable disease outbreaks (MOH)	Number	Feb-07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		WHO	
			Jan-07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
			Dec-06	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	5			
3.1	Average market price of nadu red rice	Rs./kg	Feb-07	33.5	43	92.5	29	42.5	30	37.1	42.5		43.7625	WFP	
			Jan-07	33.5	39	181.3	30	42.5	30.5	32.8	42.5		54.01		
			Dec-06	29	38	133	32	43	34	32	43		47.81		
3.2	Average market price of bread	Rs./loaf	Feb-07	20	24.6	30	25	26	25	23.8	26		25.05	WFP	
			Jan-07	20	24.67	30	25	26	25	23.5	24		24.77		
			Dec-06	21	26	30	25	26	25	23	24		24.99		
3.3	Average market price of vegetable oil	Rs./litre	Feb-07	180	208	297.5	150	127	148	112	125		168.4375	WFP	
			Jan-07	180	194.7	512.5	155	118	155	130	118		195.40		
			Dec-06	180	177	875	150	106	150	111	111		232.50		
3.4	Average market price of kerosene	Rs./litre	Feb-07	48	49.3	85	100	54.5	100	49.8	55		67.7	WFP	
			Jan-07	48	49.34	100	100	53.5	100	49	53.5		69.17		
			Dec-06	48	67	158	90	53	105	53	54		78.39		
3.5	Average market price of red lentils	Rs./kg	Feb-07	81	74.8	72	70	79	62.5	74	77.5		73.85	WFP	
			Jan-07	81	64.34	83.75	68	77.5	82.5	73	75		75.64		
			Dec-06	80	74	80	80	74	70	73	75		75.76		
3.6	Average daily wages, skilled labour	Rs.	Feb-07	900	1050	775	700	-	700	1,000	-		854.16667	ILO	Data reflects range midpoint.
			Jan-07	N/A	950	750	700	-	700	1,000	-		820.00		
			Dec-06	-	850	800	-	N/A	-	1,000	N/A		883.33		
3.7	Average daily wages, unskilled labour	Rs.	Feb-07	600	600	600	475	-	450	500	-		537.5	ILO	Data reflects range midpoint.
			Jan-07	N/A	450	550	450	-	450	475	-		475.00		
			Dec-06	-	400	600	-	N/A	-	550	N/A		516.67		
3.8	Variation of average retail price of fresh fish with respect to standard price	%	Feb-07	40	28	350	76	-1	N/A	7	35		76.428571	FAO	Standard price refers to the average retail price of this good 12 months prior to the reporting month
			Jan-07	N/A	21	350	69	38	N/A	-21	38		82.50		
			Dec-06	7	21	800	115	11	81	37	14		135.75		
3.9	Variation of average retail price of dry fish with respect to standard price	%	Feb-07	43	34	208	16	15	N/A	-12	14		45.428571	FAO	Standard price refers to the average retail price of this good 12 months prior to the reporting month
			Jan-07	56	18	208	-16	15	N/A	-20	14		39.29		
			Dec-06	10	18	300	50	N/A	N/A	11	N/A		77.80		
3.10	Variation of average retail price of eggs with respect to standard price	%	Feb-07	N/A	29	250	25	43	N/A	13	50		68.333333	FAO	Standard price refers to the average retail price of this good 12 months prior to the reporting month
			Jan-07	67	43	317	38	67	N/A	36	50		88.285714		
			Dec-06	33	29	650	83	7	83	0	13		112.25		

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Indicator	Unit	Month	Ampara	Batticaloa	Jaffna	Kilinochchi	Mannar	Mullaitivu	Trincomalee	Vavuniya	Total	Average	Resp.	Trends / Comments	
3.11	Variation of average retail price of fresh vegetables with respect to standard price	%	Feb-07	39	29	64	24	10	N/A	1	4	24.428571	FAO	Standard price refers to the average retail price of this good 12 months prior to the reporting month	
			Jan-07	20	49	160	41	44	N/A	-15	4	43.285714			
			Dec-06	18	61	263	61	23	70	119	16	78.88			
4.1	Underage recruits reported	Number	Feb-07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	UNICEF	Includes both LTTE and Karuna faction; Continually revised based on incoming reports.	
			Jan-07	4	42	0	9	0	4	3	2	64			8.00
			Dec-06	0	44	0	11	1	5	0	0	61			7.63
4.2	Underage releases reported	Number	Feb-07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	UNICEF	Includes both LTTE and Karuna faction; Continually revised based on incoming reports.	
			Jan-07	2	7	0	9	0	8	0	0	26			3.25
			Dec-06	0	7	0	15	0	10	0	0	32			4.00
4.3	IDPs, by present location	Number of people	Feb-07	2,471	76,498	43,147	45,665	9,545	24,805	2,840	5,586	210,557	UNHCR		
			Jan-07	2,384	72,986	43,147	38,780	9,957	24,805	5,535	5,586	203,180			
			Dec-06	2,291	75,867	43,147	46,048	8,292	24,805	7,211	5,586	213,247			
5.1	Hartals	Number	Feb-07	N/A	1	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	UN DSS		
			Jan-07	7	2	3	6	-	N/A	0	-	18			
			Dec-06	1	2	0	2	1	N/A	0	2	8			
5.2	Security incidents - killings	Number	Feb-07	7	19	22	22	6	N/A	36	26	138	UN DSS		
			Jan-07	8	71	34	27	23	N/A	19	68	250			
			Dec-06	16	81	32	3	8	N/A	11	8	159			
5.3	Arrests under the Emergency Regulations/Prevention of Terrorism Act	Number	Feb-07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	UN HRA		
			Jan-07	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	6	28			
			Dec-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
5.4	Disappearances reported to the Human Rights Commission	Number	Feb-07	-	31	38	-	-	-	21	47	137	UN HRA		
			Jan-07	1	40	47	-	-	-	10	49	147			
			Dec-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
5.5	Security incidents involving humanitarian workers	Number	Feb-07	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	UN HRA		
			Jan-07	3	1	2	-	-	-	1	12	19			
			Dec-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
6.1	Humanitarian agencies present	Number	Feb-07	144	85	36	60	30	51	144	54	604	OCHA		
			Jan-07	143	85	35	60	30	51	144	49	597			
			Dec-06	143	85	35	60	30	51	144	49	597			
6.2	UN projects disrupted due to security reasons	Number	Feb-07	N/A	6	-	38	6	25	-	-	75	OCHA	In Mullaitivu, UNOPS has restarted three projects affected since August	
			Jan-07	N/A	6	-	38	6	28	0	-	78			
			Dec-06	N/A	6	-	38	6	29	-	-	79			
6.3	Description of UN activities that have been suspended / delayed or put on hold due to security/conflict (optional)		provided in attached narrative										All		

Key	-	No Report		Current Month	
	N/A	Not Available		Last Month	
	0	Reported as Zero		Two Months Ago	

Narrative Report

The following information is voluntarily provided by agencies, to supplement the indicator table above.

Agency	Comments
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mannar</u>: Attendance at many schools in Madhu Zone (Mannar North) has been very low due to displacement of people from Manthai West DS division to Madhu DS division. • <u>Jaffna</u>: 110 schools with 18,809 students were “partially functioning” for 6 days, for security reasons. On these days, school attendance was considerably lower than usual.
IOM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None of IOM's field offices were closed due to conflict during February 2007. However, the lack of security prevented field visits on several days in Mannar, Vavuniya, Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Batticaloa districts. Mannar reports frequent shelling and claymore attacks and the Vavuniya office reports a particularly tense security situation with daily incidents including killings, claymore attacks, shelling, grenade attacks and aerial bombing. In the Nedukunkerny division of Vavuniya north and in the Musali division of Mannar, increased cordon and search operations prevented project implementation and monitoring. Field travel was greatly restricted in Kilinochchi due to aerial attacks. The situation in Batticaloa remains tense with a high observable presence of armed groups in the district. In Jaffna district, the curfew continues to be imposed from 6pm until 5am on most days and project implementation has all but ceased.
OCHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ampara</u>: UN operations of UNICEF, UNHCR, OCHA, WFP, FAO have been suspended in the uncleared areas of Thirukkivil since 6 Jan 07 due to ongoing military operations.

Disclaimer: The content of this report is accurate to the best knowledge of each responsible agency, at the time of the report. This report does not represent the view of the UN as a whole.