

SITUATION REPORT # 77

KILINCHCHI, MULLAITIVU, VAVUNIYA, MANNAR, JAFFNA, TRINCOMALEE, BATTICALOA & AMPARA

31 May – 07 June 2007

KILINCHCHI & MULLAITIVU DISTRICTS

Situation update

- Shelling continued in some areas.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The GA-Mullaitivu reported on 05 June that the Government had granted permission to distribute food rations to 220 families displaced from the Eastern districts at the beginning of the year, who had not been approved for food ration handouts for the last 5 months.

Sector Response

Shelter

- As of 6 June, UNHCR through UNOPS had completed the distribution of temporary shelter material for 71 displaced families in Karachchi division-Kilinochchi while the beneficiaries have thatched the roofs of 59 such houses. UNHCR through FORUT distributed shelter material to 52 displaced families in Thunukkai (AGA division Mullaitivu) last week.

Health

- On 01 June, WFP brought in 43.2 MT of CSB (Corn Soya Blend) to Kilinochchi to distribute with its ongoing nutrition programme in the districts, where 30,000 beneficiaries are covered.

Livelihood

- WUSC (World University Service of Canada) together with Kilinochchi Tech (a skill development institute) inaugurated a carpentry training programme for the displaced, youth and former LTTE child recruits. Trainees will receive during the ten month training a total of Rs. 10,000.00 worth of tools as well as Rs. 840 monthly allowance and a bicycle instead of a traveling allowance.

Food

- GA-Kilinochchi has issued orders to MPCs (Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies) to commence the provision of the 19th and 20th week's WFP dry ration distribution to those displaced after August 2006. Although the IDPs are eligible for 38 weeks of food rations, there are delays due to transport issues.
- On 01 June, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) distributed supplementary food packages for 35 displaced families settled in Uruththirapureswaram village (Kilinochchi).

Food Security

- On 4 June, FAO Kilinochchi and the NGO Council with the assistance of the Dept. of Animal Production & Health provided training on Backyard Poultry Management to 160 recent IDPs under the supervision of Oxfam.

Protection

- NPA (Norwegian People Aid) visited several IDP locations in the districts in order to raise mine awareness among the IDPs.

- The HDU (Humanitarian De-mining Unit) with the collaboration of NPA deployed one manual de-mining section to Maritiméattu DS division (Mullaitivu) to clear a minefield located near an IDP camp.
- A UNICEF and NPA joint team visited a number of IDP locations in Pullumachchinathankulam and Olumadu in Mullaitivu district and carried out mine awareness activities.

VAVUNIYA AND MANNAR DISTRICTS

Situation update

- Situation remains tense in the Vavuniya and Mannar district.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The GA office reports 4,452 families (15,986 individuals) as displaced in Mannar and 2,329 families (8,190 individuals) as displaced in Vavuniya.

Sector Response

Shelter

- DRC has cleared 18 acres of land in Thampanaikulam in Madhu DS division and 10 acres of land in Arthimoddai in Nanaddan DS division for 214 families in Thampanaikulam and Arthimoddai to be relocated from a welfare center.
- UNHCR through FORUT completed the clearing of the Kalmadhu relocation site (Vavuniya DS division) and is waiting for the land to be allocated to the beneficiaries.
- On 01 June 2007, UNHCR and its partner RDF did a technical consultation at the site of Kankankulam in Chedikkulam (Vavuniya district). The beneficiaries continue their work on their individual plots and have begun to assist in casting the cement blocks.
- NRC started to repair the roof of nine halls in Sithamparapuram welfare center in Vavuniya district.

Food

- WFP transported 9 MT of rice, 1.6 MT wheat flour, 2 MT of dhal, sugar and vegetable oil to Mannar district and 25.7 MT of rice, 2.3 MT of dhal, sugar and 2 MT of vegetable oil to Vavuniya district.
- World Vision gave supplementary food 35 IDPs at the Ponthoddam welfare center in Vavuniya district.

Food Security

- On 28 May, FAO in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture distributed red onion bulbs to 33 selected resettled families in Vavuniya and Chedikkulam DS Division.

Protection

- UNHCR facilitated a meeting with the local police for recently displaced in Avaranthulawa in Vavuniya south DS division as they reported issues related to schooling and employment.
- On 31 May, SHADE conducted an awareness programme on tobacco smoking through hand bills, advertisement on local TV, banners, group discussions and television shows at the Ponthoddam welfare center.
- NRC has started on renovating children's parks in Sithamparapuram welfare center in Vavuniya district.

NFRI

- UNHCR – Mannar office distributed 17 NFRI packages to displaced persons.
- SCiSL distributed NFRI to 47 IDP families currently with host families in Nellukkulam GN division (Vavuniya DS division)

Water and Sanitation

- The DPDHS with Oxfam conducted the water testing of 15 wells in Poovarasankulam and Koomangkulam in Vavuniya DS Division.

JAFFNA DISTRICTS (16-31 May)

Situation update

- Fishing restrictions in Pasaiyoor and Gurunagar areas were lifted as of 11 May 2007. However, restrictions remain as fishing is only permitted during morning hours and on a rotational basis, affecting the livelihood of fishermen.
- Curfew is in place from 2000 hrs to 0400 hrs. Dialog network is working intermittently.
- With the exception of construction materials, there is an improvement in the availability of basic food items and non food commodities in Jaffna.
- UNOPS is facing increasing challenges due to security clearance procedures as well as challenges in implementing UN construction projects due to the continued shortage of construction materials. Access to Kudatanai, where UNOPS is implementing a Gramodaya Health Center, remains restricted.

Sector Response

Shelter

- UNHCR launched a new series of shelter assistance to IDPs living at old WCs. Depending on availability of materials, the current focus will be on repairing roofs and floors.
- UNHCR implementing partner JSAC completed ten temporary shelters in Sandillipay for IDP's living with host families.
- Under the Emergency Response Shelter Programme, IOM completed the construction of a camp information centre and a common cooking area at the Kaddaiveli site while also completing five cluster shelters to accommodate 20 families.

Health

- Currently more than 9,000 underweight children under five continue to benefit from High Energy Biscuits. It is anticipated that the current stock in Jaffna will last for 4-6 more months.
- UNICEF airlifted communication material such as leaflets, posters and banners to support the DPDHS (Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services) Jaffna led intensive nutrition awareness campaign – “Healthy Childhood through good nutrition practices, affection and care”.
- WHO sponsored a series of exhibitions on cancer control starting from 04 June at Jaffna Hindu Ladies College.
- Under the programme of Refugees Return from India (RRI), IOM completed a psycho-social training programme for public health midwives through Santhikam in PPD and Tellipalay. IOM conducted a capacity building training for 56 Public Health Inspectors through DPDHS Jaffna.

Food Security

- WFP organized a capacity building workshop for Government officials in Kachcheri. MPCS, DS and DMU personnel were trained in food management, food distribution recording and reporting according to WFP/GoSL guidelines.

Protection

- UNHCR continued to closely monitor the situation of IDPs staying at OLR church especially on the issue of their relocation to Sandillipay, Tellipalay, and Navanthurai. Attention is focused on security in the new zones, access to essential services, as well as the importance of obtaining prior security clearance for shelter construction. The possible return of 26 families to Allaipiddy is pending the facilitation by the GA of a "go and see" visit. However, potential returnees expressed their concerns related to fishing restrictions and insecurity in the surrounding areas.
- UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) continued to conduct the first phase of the protection monitoring of TACs (Transitional Accommodation Centers) and WCs (Welfare Centers).
- UNHCR has noted a spontaneous return movement of IDPs in the Chavakachcheri division during the past few months, also resulting in the closure of three TACs in the division.
- UNHCR identified and assisted six EVI (Extremely Vulnerable Individual) cases in TACs during protection monitoring visits and has assessed the cases for further intervention.

- JSAC (Jaffna Social Action Center), a UNHCR implementing partner, conducted a one-day workshop for 30 displaced persons on life skills and alcoholism. Related information will be shared by the participants with women's groups, youth groups and camp committees in their WCs in Sandillipay and Kopay.
- UNHCR implementing partner TRRO (Tamil Refugee Rehabilitation Organization) conducted a SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence) awareness session at a WC in Chankanai Division.
- De-mining:
 - 65 per cent of the identified minefields have been cleared of mines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs).
 - De-mining work continues in 18 sites, with the exception of the islands, West and South of Thenmaradchchi and South of Nallur DS division areas.

NFRIs

- UNHCR distributed NFRI packs to 18 families in Jaffna DS division, 16 IDP families in Kopay DS division and 27 families in Chankanai division.
- UNHCR has launched a new series of distribution of NFRIs to IDPs living at TACs, old WCs and with host families.

Water and Sanitation

- UNICEF and ICRC have been requested by the GA to assist in the rehabilitation and improvement of water and sanitation facilities in the welfare centers for old IDPs in Jaffna. Joint technical assessments with the DS have commenced and UNICEF together with its partners is finalizing the details of its assistance for the upgrading of the water and sanitation facilities in the 68 welfare centers in Jaffna. ICRC will be working in the welfare centers in Sandillipay.
- Nagalhampiran welfare center in Kudatanai was visited for the first time since 11 August due to the inaccessibility of the area which is located close to the FDL (Forward Defense Line). UNICEF had constructed 36 toilets for conflict-affected IDPs.
- UNICEF is clearing and repainting 13 schools used by IDPs, constructing 29 toilets in eight locations, providing 13 bathing facilities at eight locations, hand washing and drinking water facilities at 18 schools and four IDP locations, and constructing a water tank at Navanthurai RCTMS and dug a new well at OLR School.

Education

- Play ground sets such as swings, seesaws, sliding and climbing frames were installed in 25 schools in the Jaffna zone and 13 schools in Valikamam zone.
- The student stationery kits purchased by UNICEF in early March for 140,000 students are yet to be transported by the Ministry of Education via Government ship from Colombo.
- Seventy five per cent of the construction work of the Kalai Oli preschool is complete by IOM.
- Mine Risk Education:
 - A UNICEF supported MRE (Mine Risk Education) NGO conducted 'refresher' MRE sessions for 146 IDPs in Jaffna Town as a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice survey revealed that many people did not know what to do when they came across a mine/UXO.

UN Logistics Operations

- During the reporting period UNHAS flights transported 74 passengers and 2366kg of assorted cargo (out of which 260kg of seeds were for a World Vision livelihood project)

TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Situation Update

- Trincomalee situation remains tense.
- On 30 May a government gazette notified of the Emergency Muttur East/Sampoor High Security Zone. The majority of the previous inhabitants of this area are currently residing in IDP sites in Batticaloa district, while a few thousand are in Kiliveddy Transit sites in the southern part of Muttur DS Division. According Statistical Information of

Trincomalee District (2005) the area covered by the security zone was inhabited by 10,901 individuals and 3,144 families before the summer of 2006.

Internally Displaced Persons

- On 4 June, 45 families were returned to Verugal in Eachchilampattai DS Division from Kiliveddy Transit Sites. All of the returnee families are returning to houses which were provided by FIDSRO following the tsunami and are in relatively good condition. Despite the possibility of mines and UXOs in the area Verugal is one of the safer areas in Eachchilampattai DS Division and has been classified as low risk by UNDP Mine Action.
- Despite security and livelihood challenges, some IDPs expressed that return to place of origin was a better option than being in Kiliveddy Transit Sites where conditions are not conducive to long term habitation.
- The authorities have promised support in a number of sectors including food, livelihood recovery, well cleaning and reopening of schools. IDPs have been told that they may move beyond the Army checkpoints if they register and receive a travel pass. However, there are no public transport facilities functioning yet and the ferry to nearby Batticaloa district remains closed to civilian traffic. There is also no telephone network coverage in the area.
- A total of 355 families/1,293 persons were scheduled to return within one week from Batticaloa to Verugal but operations were postponed. Furthermore it is understood via authorities in Batticaloa that the IDPs will be traveling through Habarana and may be registered at Kiliveddy before proceeding to their final destination.

Sectoral Updates

Shelter

- Agencies within the District have agreed to consolidate information on the available/planned resources in term of shelter repair kits and material. UNHCR will remain the focal point.
- An ARC/NRC partnership has made progress in upgrading the Hindu Cultural Hall where the remaining IDPs in Town and Gravets IDPs sites have been concentrated by the authorities after the other IDP sites were closed down. Lights, fans, temporary toilets and a water pump have been installed. Approval for the installation of a drainage system is pending with the land trustee but expected by the end of the week.

Food

- On 28 May, the IDPs in Kiliveddy Transit Sites received food assistance from WFP through government channels.

Food Security

- FAO and ARC announced last week that they have entered into a partnership to ensure effective coordination and improved communication in the Agriculture and food security sector. FAO remains sector lead and ARC will be supporting FAO in coordination.
- At the Agriculture and Food Security Meeting it was agreed to raise the standard payment for the Cash for Work programmes from 400 rupees to 550 rupees per day.
- FAO is carrying out monitoring and evaluation activities for beneficiaries in selected villages to assess the impact of vegetable cultivation last season in Kuchchaveli, Kinniya, Town and Gravets and Komarangadawela DS Divisions.

Protection

- The Danish De-mining Group (DDG) and UNDP Mine Action gave updates on the situation in Eachchilampattai at this week's interagency meeting and both expressed more optimism that most locations in the division can be certified as low risk in the near future. DDG had particular worries about Poonagar village as a return location until recent developments. DDG have identified and cordoned off the highest risk areas and are able to work on those over time following any return of the population. DDG will have to work on large areas of past paddy cultivation before they can be handed over to any returnees for planting even if IDPs return in the short term.
- Save the Children Sri Lanka have provided play items to the child friendly space at Paddithidal IDP transit Site. About 300 children have benefited. SCSL have also conducted 'focal group discussions' with four different age groups relating to their protection at the Paddithidal site as well as forming a Disaster Risk reduction group comprising of 60 children.

NFRI

- Irregular attendance by some agencies at the bi-weekly NFRI Coordination Meeting at UNHCR has resulted in duplication and overlapping occurring in distributions. UNHCR reports that so far 542 family packs have been distributed to returnee families in 2007. These packs are a pooling of items from IOM, ZOA, Oxfam, UNHCR, Save the Children Sri Lanka and UNICEF.

BATTICALOA DISTRICT

Situation update

- Situation remains tense.
- Humanitarian operations were dominated by the end of the first phase of returns and the start of the second phase of returns on 01 June.

Internally Displaced Persons

- According to Government statistics as of 05 June, the total registered IDP population in the District is 23,117 families / 90,498 individuals.
- As of 05 June, 5,722 families/19,108 individuals have been resettled in Paddipalai DS Division in Batticaloa West. Inter-agency monitoring teams continue to monitor the return process. UN agencies conducted a number of missions to return locations in Vellavelly during the week.
- The US Ambassador and OFDA delegates visited the district 4-5 June, and jointly with UN agencies, visited several villages in Vellavelly division. The missions went to IDP camps in Arayampathy and Kaluwanchikudy divisions, and had an opportunity to discuss a range of issues with returnees and IDPs, including main needs of camp residents as well as the returnees.

Sector Response

Shelter

- WatSan and shelter agencies are working in close collaboration with local government officials, camp managers and IDPs living in camps to facilitate the acceptance of camp consolidation and site decommissioning plans. The camp consolidation and site decommissioning process is an important part of the process of ensuring that the protection and assistance needs of those who cannot return will continue to be met while all efforts are made to pursue durable solutions for them.
- In Puthukudiyiruppu in Arayampathy division, the remaining 254 shelters out of the committed 534 shelters are complete and ready for occupation

Health

- Archenova is following up the work of hygiene volunteers in the camps of Saratha Vidyalam and Sinhala Vidyalayam in Manmunai North division in an effort to create sustainable conditions and repeated awareness-raising amongst the changing IDP-populations in the camps during the re-settlement phase.
- A health promotion campaign was organized by Oxfam GB, health volunteers and partner organization EUDA in the Maruthanagar and Vinayahapuram IDP camps in Valachchenai division on 31 May.
- Oxfam GB trained 38 volunteers in Chettipalayam and Mankadu on 1 May on community risk mapping to identify health risks in the camps.
- Fifty tubes of fly control medicine were given to the department of health (Kaluwanchikudy division) as per their request to control flies, which is a big issue in IDP camps of Kaluwanchikudy.
- On 1 and 5 June, Oxfam GB distributed 37 latrine cleaning kits, five camp cleaning kits in Valachchenai and Chenkalady division.
- Health/Hygiene awareness programmes were conducted in 11 schools with Merlin support by trained teachers in Arayampathy, Valachchenai, Kaluwanchikudy and Chenkalady divisions for 735 students.

- On 01 June, Merlin conducted a training for 41 volunteers from Savukkady and Vipulanandapuram IDP Camps in the Chenkalady MOH area.

Food

- One of the major needs in resettled villages in Vaharai and Vellavelly is food. The Ministries of Nation Building and Resettlement plan to provide dry ration to IDPs resettled in the West for one month. ArchenoVa distributed complementary food for 137 families for two weeks in Kokkuvil III camp in Manmunai North division.

Protection

- On 04 June, Oxfam GB distributed 75 banana trees to IDP camps in Arayampathy division.
- SCiSL supported a Disaster Risk Reduction Awareness programme at Puthunagar, Saththurukondan and Pannichayadi IDP camps in the Manmunai North division for 160 children.

NFRI

- On 04 June, IOM distributed 4 first aid kits, five energy lights with holders, ten broom sticks and 100 meters of wire at three camps in Manmunai North division. IOM also distributed 12 kitchen utensil kits to the IDPs in Saththurukondan 2 welfare centre, 500 hygiene kits and 1,000 mats to 500 IDP families with host families and three pregnant mother kits in Manmunai North division. In Arayampathy division, 418 NFRI kits were distributed to IDP families living with host families.
- On 4 June, Oxfam GB IDPs in Mankadu camp in Kaluwanchikudy division received 108 hygiene kits. A total of 524 water storage containers were given to IDPs in Savukkady camp in Chenkalady division.
- On 31 May, Merlin distributed 500 hygiene kits in IDP camps in Arayampathy division.
- On 31 May, Save the Children in Sri Lanka (SCiSL) distributed family packs to 245 IDP families with host families in Kokkuvil in Manmunai North division. A total of 245 kitchen utensils, sarongs, bed sheets, towels, plastic mats, plastic pots and hygiene packs were distributed.

Water and Sanitation

- ArchenoVa has constructed three tube-wells with hand-pumps for latrine flushing in Kaluwanchikudy and Manmunai North divisions.
- OXFAM GB and partners' completed the construction of four temporary toilets, 11 platforms, screened two latrine sets, installed three wells and repaired 11 tube wells.
- OXFAM GB, ArcheNova/ UNICEF, World Vision, ZOA and Solidarities/UNICEF distributed over 900,000 liters of water per day over the week at various sites in the district.

Education

- On 01 June, SCiSL distributed educational kits to six schools in the Paddiruppu zone for displaced children and 149 early childhood educational kits to the early childhood education center at the Thiraimadu camp.
- SCiSL handed over three more temporary learning structures to school authorities in the Paddiruppu zone to accommodate displaced children during the course of this week.

Transport

- During reporting period, IOM provided 22 trucks and two buses to UNICEF, DSs, Kachcheri, Oxfam Australia and ZOA to transport food, shelter material, NFRIs and IDPs.

AMPARA DISTRICT

Situation Update

- The situation remains tense.
- There is no access to the Damana, Bakmitiyawa and Panagama areas and the northern part of Maha Oya road due to security tensions.

Internally Displacement Persons

- Returns to Batticaloa from Ampara district have been sporadic and figures remain unclear. Meanwhile a NGO reported that some families have returned back to Sri Valli Puram in the uncleared areas of Thirukkivil. The UN and INGOs have no access and information is minimal but efforts are being made to get information from security forces and government.
- The uncleared areas have been inaccessible to the humanitarian community since late December 2006.

Sector Response

Health

- Merlin conducted a comparatively large Knowledge Attitude and Practice Survey (KAP) of 71 schools with 10 per cent of the sample size per school in both Kalmunai and Ampara Division in May.

Livelihood

- OCHA is working with ILO and the GA office to map out Livelihood activities in the district.

Food

- UNICEF reports that pregnant mothers in the IDP community are not receiving supplementary food assistance. The supplementary food assistance is provided by the Medical Office of Health and access to it may be due to weak information in the IDP community. WFP encouraged actors working in this field to encourage/sensitize IDPs to attend clinics for the supplementary assistance.

Food Security

- FAO conducted training programs in 'Nutrition and Food Processing' in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture for 145 beneficiaries in Thambuluvil, Nintavur, Sennel Kiramam, Panankadu & Manlachenai villages of Ampara District.
- FAO conducted training and awareness programs on the 'Importance of Nutrition for children' for 90 people in the 15th Colony, Alayaduvembu and Majeed Puram villages of Ampara District

Protection

- Some protection issues related to return of IDPs have been reported. Mandated organizations will advocate with the government on the concerns raised.
- CAM reports that it is continuing its psycho-social program past June, even though other areas of their programming are winding down end June.

Education

- Some IDPs have informed of their reluctance to return to Batticaloa for fear of disturbing their children's education in the middle of a semester. They indicate that they may return upon completion of a full semester to allow continuity in children's education.