

SITUATION REPORT # 79

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

14-21 June 2007

KILINCHCHI & MULLAITIVU DISTRICTS

Situation update

- Shelling continues in areas around the FDLs, Poonakary and Vadamarachchi East areas.
- The GA Kilinochchi reports that there are difficulties in transporting food commodities in to the district since the decision to have the Omanthai crossing point open three days a week. Since May, 10 per cent of the total approved Items have been transported.
- As of 18 June, Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies of the Kilinochchi district had transported 351,000 liters of kerosene out of total 600,000 liters approved for June for general consumption of the district.

Internally Displaced Persons

- UNHCR together with DRC (Danish Refugee Council) organized several activities to celebrate international Refugee Day on 20 and 21 June in the Arasapuram [Kilinochchi] and Neddankandal [Mullaitivu] villages where hundreds of IDP families have been settled after August 2006.

Sector Response

Shelter

- World Vision has started on the construction of 70 temporary shelters for IDPs settled in the Mulankavil village in Poonakary AGA division-Kilinochchi.
- The SewaLanka Foundation (SLF) through ECHO funds is constructing 50 temporary shelters in the Subas IDP settlement in Akkarayan (Kilinochchi district). SLF has built a total of 1,350 temporary shelters in the districts since January.

Health

- The Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services (DPDHS)-Kilinochchi reports that the Ministry of Defense (MoD) granted permission last week to transport the second quarter drugs for the district hospitals. Preliminary arrangements are on going to transport the drugs from Vavuniya. DPDHS-Kilinochchi received 15,050 liters of diesel last week from Vavuniya for the first time since August 2006 to be used for hospital generators, ambulances and other vehicles in the district.
- UNICEF completed the nutrition screening of 2,747 children under 5 years in the Poonakary MOH (Medical Officer of Health) division as a part of its Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme, last week. Screening is continuing in the other six MOHs in the districts.
- UNICEF distributed 14.4 MT of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) to 403 pregnant mothers and 3,155 children under five years in two MOH division of Mullaitivu. Each beneficiary received 3 Kg of HEB from UNICEF.

Watsan

- The construction of temporary toilets funded by UNICEF for IDPs is currently on hold due implementation modalities with the NGO Consortium-Kilinochchi. According to the local coordination mechanism, implementing partners of UNICEF have been asked to select a local NGO to implement the projects in the Vanni.

Education

- On 20 June, UNICEF delivered learning and teaching material to the Zonal Director of Education, Kilinochchi to distribute among children from marginalized areas in the district.

Food

- On 18 June, WFP brought in 40 MT of wheat flour for its dry ration distribution ongoing in Mullaitivu district.

Food Security

- On 22 June, FAO distributed fishing gear packages to 30 displaced fisher families resettled in the Thadduvankoddy village, Kilinochchi.
- FAO provided essential farm animal drugs and vaccines to the Department of Animal Production and Health on 21 June for the treatment of cattle, goats and poultry of conflict-affected vulnerable households in the district

Protection

- UNICEF through MRE (Mine Risk Education) partners conducted MRE activities in the Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Madhu areas for 800 community members 18-20 June. On 19 June, UNICEF conducted a work shop on the strategic review of education for 40 children.

NFRI

- On 20 June, World Vision distributed NFRI to 15 families displaced from the Madhu area [Mannar] and settled in Murukandy village –Mullaitivu district.

Jaffna District

Food Security

- FAO, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Production & Health and World Vision, provided training on Backyard Poultry Management to 30 IDPs and vulnerable families in Uduvil DS Division on 15 & 16 June. FAO and World Vision provided month old poultry chicks to 600 most vulnerable house holds in the division.

VAVUNIYA AND MANNAR DISTRICTS

Situation update

- The situation remains tense in the Vavuniya and Mannar districts.
- UN agencies received permission on 18 June from the Ministry of Defense to transport 30,000 liters of diesel and 1,000 liters of petrol to the uncleared areas for operational activities.
- The scarcity/limitation of fuel is impacting the daily activities of the people as they are allowed to pump only 200 Rupees worth of petrol (2 liters) per motor bicycle and motorcyclists have to wait for at least an hour to fill it.
- On 19 June, 11 returnees from India originating from Trincomalee and Mannar were released by the district Courts of Mannar and IOM made arrangement for their accommodation and provided them meals and the bus fare to travel to Trincomalee.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The GA office reports that there are 2,498 families (9,332 individuals) displaced in Mannar and 2,329 families (8,190 individuals) displaced in Vavuniya as of 21 June.

Sector Response

NFRI

- UNHCR Vavuniya office distributed ten NFRI packages to IDP families who came and registered at their office.
- On 15 June, Save the Children in Sri Lanka (SCiSL) distributed NFRI to 102 displaced families living with host families in Paddanichchipuliyamkulam GN division (Vavuniya DS division).

Water and Sanitation

- UNICEF pre-positioned 25 water, 5 drums (50 Kg) of bleaching powder, 500 packs of water purification tablets, 88 water tanks and prefabricated temporary toilets (Emergency toilets) for Vavuniya district. For Mannar district 25 water filters, 5 drums (50 Kg) of bleaching powder, 500 packs of water purification tablets, ten pre-fabricated temporary toilets, 500 hygiene kits and 46 water tanks have been pre-positioned.
- Government Authorities through UNICEF funds are constructing 36 child friendly toilets and urinals at 27 schools in Mannar district.

Protection

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) renovated the children's play park equipment at the Sithamparampuram welfare center (Vavuniya).
- Solidar completed the installation of 120 solar lamps at the Sithamparampuram and Poonthoddam welfare centers and Thaddankulam, Kandasamynagar, Menic Farm and Puthiyasinnakulam relocation sites. Solidar is in charge of following-up on repair and maintenance through the supplier.
- On 20 June, DRC conducted a World Refugees Day awareness program in its Kankankulam relocation area in Chedikkulam DS division for over 150 people.

Education

- On 15 June, SCiSL distributed educational kits to 622 displaced children in Paddanichchipuliyamkulam GN division.
- World Vision completed the construction of two temporary learning spaces at Periyamadu Maha Vidiyalayam in Manthai west DS division.

Livelihood

- Oxfam donated and installed a 500 liter capacity chilling plant at the Vavuniya cattle breeders' cooperative society to improve storage capacity and local milk consumption.

Food

- WFP transported 22.15 MT of rice, 7.5 MT of dhal, 1.6 MT of sugar and 3.6 MT of vegetable oil to Mannar district and transported 25.65 MT of rice, 1 MT of dhal, 0.8 MT of sugar and 2.05 MT of vegetable oil to Vavuniya district during reporting period.
- UNHCR reports that new IDPs in Vavuniya, Mannar, Puttalam and Anuradhapura have difficulty getting dry rations in their places of displacement. Often this is the result of administrative hurdles that require de-registration in their places of origin, which many IDPs are not in a position to do.

Health

- UNICEF pre-positioned 2,500 hygiene kits in a UNICEF ware house to cover the uncleared areas of Vavuniya North, Madhu and Manthai west DS division of the districts.
- UNHCR and its partner Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) are still unable to bring medical supplies across the FDL to conduct mobile health clinics in the uncleared areas.

Food Security

- On 14 June, FAO in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture distributed Red Onion seed (Bulbs) to 12 resettled families in the Olumadu, Chanaipilavu, Katkulam, Parasankulam, Mamadu, Puthukulam and Kurisuddakulam villages in Vavuniya D.S division.

Shelter

- NRC renovated seven halls at the Sithampampuram Welfare Centre in Vavuniya district.
- There is a need for 300 temporary shelters at the Periyamadu IDP site in Manthai west DS division. World Vision is in the process of building 225 temporary shelters and JRS has agreed to construct a further 75 shelters in this area.

TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Situation update

- The situation remains tense.
- On 18 June there was a confrontation in Ralkuly (Muttur West). Ralkuly is the area where the government is planning to resettle IDPs currently residing in Kinniya.

Internally Displaced Persons

- On 14 June, the second return movement to Verugal, Eachchilampattai DS Division took place with 300 families (1,100 individuals) returning directly from Batticaloa on 33 busses organised by the Government. Returnees crossed the river on the ferry from Batticaloa District and the Trincomalee GA gave cooked food parcels to the initial batch that arrived. Most of those who returned have shelters/houses in relatively good condition with a further 11 families staying in one of the school buildings. The next return is tentatively scheduled on 25 June.

Sector Response

Shelter

- Shelter needs for the anticipated 300 or so families scheduled to return to Anaitheevu are not known in the same detail as the three main villages in Verugal DS Division where the National Housing Development Authority completed a housing survey following the recent conflict. The Government has allocated funds to build 140 temporary shelters to provide accommodation to those whose shelters have been totally damaged.
- Participating agencies providing shelter to the returnees in Eachchilampattai DS Division aim to minimize the unit price of the shelters/housing from the previous 5-8,000USD unit to a maximum unit price of USD 1,000 and they agreed to map the area of operation.
- At the Hindu Cultural Hall in Town and Gravets, IOM has commenced the building of five long houses to provide temporary shelter to 30 of the IDP families currently staying at the site. This project compliments the improvements done by American Refugee Committee (ARC) and NRC to ease living conditions since the remaining IDP sites in Trincomalee Town were consolidated into the Hindu Cultural Hall.

Camp management

- NRC have conducted one camp management training programme at the Kiliveddy Transit Sites and the second training was held in Paddithidal on 19 June.
- To date site manager have not yet been assigned to the Kiliveddy Transit Sites.
- IOM reported that they are distributing fire extinguishers in the Kiliveddy transit sites, the training for which will soon follow.

Food

- Protection agencies and agencies working in the food sector are concerned about the nutrition problems facing IDPs from Ralkuly residing in the two schools in Kinniya town.
- WFP has delivered dry food rations to cover up to 5,000 persons to the Eachchilampattai temporary MPCs. DRC has distributed supplementary food to 45 families in Verugal.

Education

- An education assessment by UNICEF in Verugal on 15 June shows that both principals in the Vaddavan and Mawadichenai schools have returned and started cleaning up the schools. Parents are ready to send children to school immediately and recreational material has been given to schools to re-start play activities. Schools re-opened fully on 18 June and UNICEF is supporting them with basic teaching/learning materials for 250 children.
- JRS will be supporting additional teaching assistants for affected schools in Muttur as a temporary measure. Identification of potential candidates is ongoing by the principal Zonal Education Office.
- People in Need (PIN) is in the process of verifying the bill of quantities for repair work for schools in Muttur DS Division.
- SCiSL is in the final stages of completing a temporary learning structure at Paddithidal school and another at Baradthiparum school. Early learning activities (3-4 years) are ongoing at four locations for 160 displaced children in Muttur. SCiSL is also supporting 430 children in Paddithidal with evening classes (grade 9-13).

Food Security

- FAO, in collaboration with the Department of Animal Production and Health distributed 410 chicks to vulnerable beneficiaries in Munnampodivetty village of Muttur DS Division on 19 June.
- FAO, through Department of Agriculture handed over 4 four-wheel threshers following the technical thresher training program, to selected farmer organizations in Kantalai, Muttur, Kiliveddy and Mullipothanai on 18 June.

Health

- As a part of the IOM-ARC health and hygiene awareness program in the Town and Gravets IDP sites, ARC distributed hygiene kits to 280 families during the months of April and May. The final distribution to the 280 families will be completed by the end of June. All-inclusive nutrition and health education activities have also been a part of this program. ARC also sprayed the consolidated Cultural Hall site for vector control and along with the solid waste clean up conducted in May, will be repeated in June before the end of the program.
- ARC in partnership with NRC have completed the upgrade to the facilities of the Cultural Hall site in keeping with SPHERE guidelines to ensure a comprehensive programming approach to public health and hygiene promotion activities. The major upgrades include cleaning the hall, repairing the roof, repairing the doors and windows, upgrading the bathrooms and providing adequate lighting for the bathroom facilities, cleaning the well, installing a water pump, and repairing and replacing the ceiling fans.
- Health authorities started anti-malaria activities in Eachchilampattai on 20 June.
- IMC commenced mobile clinics to Eachchilampattai DS Division and will be visiting on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Livelihood

- On 18 June, UNDP handed over veterinary equipment to ten veterinary offices through the Department of Animal Production and Health.
- Rehabilitation work to a distribution channel and a 1.5 km farm access road commenced at Shanthipuram village in Morawewa DS division on 15 June. This will cover the farmers in the Shanthipuram, Jinna Nagar and Nochchikulam villages. The construction work of a 60 and 40 metric tonnes of fertilizer store with sales outlet commenced on 15 June in Nochchikulam and Mahadivulwewa Stage II villages respectively.

BATTICALOA DISTRICT

Situation update

- The situation remains tense. Shelling in the north-western parts of Batticaloa continues.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The GA reports that the total registered IDP population in the district is 21,865 families (81,040 individuals) as of 08 June.
- The Government reports that 8,708 families (27,818 individuals) from Vellavelly and 6,341 families (21,285 individuals) from Paddipalai have been resettled in their place of origin. During the initial three days of resettlement to Vavunathivu, 4,020 families (13,450 individuals) were resettled and the process ended on 20 June. On 14 June, 296 families (995 individuals) were resettled in four villages of Verugal GN division.
- On 21 June, a joint mission of the US Embassy and Australian High Commission together with the UN Batticaloa team visited the transit IDP site, some IDP camps in Manmunai North division and UNICEF's temporary learning space in the division.

Sector Response

Shelter

- NRC has distributed 20 temporary shelter kits to IDPs with host families in Chenkalady division. In Palayadithona, 50 temporary shelters' plastic roofs sheets have been changed to cadjan roofs as these roofs were not usable during the day temperature.
- NRC has started an assessment on shelter damages and beneficiaries in Uriyankattu in Vaharai division in order to provide temporary shelter to the returned IDPs.

Food

- In Vaharai South, Sewalanka provided food rations to 370 families in three welfare centers.
- In Valachchenai, GA/WFP provided food rations to IDP families in the two welfare centers and with host families and Koinonia- ASB provided complementary food to families at the two welfare centers.
- In Kiran, GA/ WFP provided food rations to IDP families in the three welfare centers and with Host families and UMCOR supported families in two welfare centers with complementary foods, and PWA/OXFAM supported families in the third welfare centre.
- In Chenkalady, GA/ WFP provided food rations to IDP families in all 15 welfare centers and with Host families and Sarvodaya provided complimentary foods to families in two of the welfare centers.
- In Manmunai North, GA/WFP provided food rations to IDP families in 24 of the 27 welfare centers and with host families, Sewalanka provided food rations to families in three of the welfare centers, JRS, World Concern and ARCHENOVA provided complimentary foods to one welfare centre each.
- In Arayampathy, SLRC-GRC provided food rations to IDP families in 11 of the 20 welfare centers and with host families, Koinonia-ASB provided food rations to IDP families in 8 of the 20 welfare centers, Sewalanka provided food rations to IDP families in the one remaining welfare centre and IOM provided 683 IDP families with one week's dry rations and complementary food.
- In Kaluwanchikudy, SLRC-GRC provided food rations to IDP families in five of the seven welfare centers and with host families and NCM Lanka provided food rations to IDP families in two of the seven welfare centers and Hel from Germany provided complimentary foods to 517 IDP families with friend and relatives and to families in three welfare centres.
- 683 IDP families from Arayampathy division received one week's dry rations with complementary food from IOM.

Water and Sanitation

- Water and Sanitation response to IDP camps is on-going in seven Divisions. Decommissioning of water and sanitation facilities is underway by responsible agencies at camp locations that are vacated and not designated for longer term occupancy. Resettlement is on-going in three divisions in Western Batticaloa. ACLG reported that 471 wells had been cleaned in Vavunathivu division by the Pradesha Sabha.
- Archenova completed the construction of two bathing places in Manmunai North division.
- Construction of toilets implemented by UNICEF partners: ACTED constructed 31 toilets in Manmunai North division and 15 in Chenkalady division, IRD built 4 toilets in Chenkalady division.
- 500 garbage bins have been provided by IRD through UNICEF funds to three Pradesha Sabas.
- OXFAM GB, ArcheNova/ UNICEF, World Vision/UNICEF, Solidarities/UNICEF bowsered over 750,000 liters of water per day at various sites in the district last week.

NFRI

- IOM distributed 295 hygiene kits and 609 mats to 295 IDP families, 6 pregnant mother kits to mothers in 2 IDP camps in Manmunai North division and 193 NFRI family kits to displaced families in Arayampathy division.
- On 15 June, SCiSL distributed 1096 children's cloth and 1682 children's under garments at six IDP camps in Manmunai North and Arayampathy divisions.
- On 18 June, SCiSL distributed 6,167 ladies' dresses, undergarments and sanitary items among children and women at 16 IDPs camps in Manmunai North division.
- During reporting period, 1,467 hygiene kits were distributed by UNICEF and implementing partners to camps in Manmunai North division. 1,403 bars of hand washing and laundry soap was provided to MSF to distribute through their mobile clinics.
- During reporting period, IOM provided three trucks to UNICEF and UNOPS to transport shelter and wat/san materials.

Protection

- There is still no access for all I/NGOs to Vellavelly, Paddipalai and Vavunathivu divisions to conduct the MRE sessions even though the need for the MRE awareness is high.
- IOM organized a session of fire drill and safety training at the Vedarkudiyiruppu IDP camp in Arayampathy division for 88 families.
- On 19 June, 83 children prepared "Hazard Risk mapping" at Kokkuvil – I camp.
- The UNICEF supported emergency MRE team with Sarvodaya conducted mine awareness sessions for IDPs in the Arayampathy and Chenkalady divisions and resettled people in Vaharai division.

Education

- SCiSL's supplementary feeding programme fed 2,795 children in Paddiruppu, Batticaloa and Kalkudah zones.
- The SCiSL funded 129 teachers are teaching at 63 Early Childhood Development Centres in the district.
- UNICEF delivered 550 school bags, 150 mats, 30 tarpaulins, 5 school-in-a-box and 630 foot rulers to Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) to distribute among displaced children in Kaluvankerny & Koralankerny sites in Chenkalady division. UNICEF delivered 60 school-in-a-box and 8 teachers' kits to ZDE Paddiruppu to distribute among re-opened schools in the Vellavelly and Paddipalai divisions.
- UNICEF delivered 40 school-in-a-box to DEOs of Chenkalady and Valachchenai to distribute among the IDP schools functioning in Kalkudah Zone while four school-in-a-box were distributed to the Mangikkaddu and Welawaddawan schools.

Health

- IOM's medical clinics conducted at Sathurukondan-4, Sinna Urani, Sinhala MV and Mamankam-1&2 camps in Manmunai North division in coordination with Batticaloa Teaching Hospital staff for 422 IDPs.
- UNICEF has distributed 100 bed sheets, 100 towels, 30 mosquito nets, 50 children's cloth, and 20 tarpaulins to DPDHS in order to support Vaharai hospital.
- UNICEF supported mobile health clinics activities have been extended to newly resettled Vavunathivu division.
- Merlin conducted a one-day Health Training program - (Phase 1) for a selected 30 Community Based Volunteers from Mavadivembu IDP camp.
- Merlin's two mobile medical teams operated during the reporting period, covering 7 IDP camps in Arayampathy and Munmunai North divisions where they treated 429 direct beneficiaries.
- Seventy-six employees from various Batticaloa hospitals were trained by Merlin in healthcare waste management on June 14 and 15. Merlin donated a desktop autoclave to the Kathankudy District Officer and trained staff in its use. Merlin participated in an infection control committee meeting at Batticaloa Teaching Hospital on 16 June and discussed screening of expectant mothers for Streptococci infection.
- Merlin trained 124 Community Based Volunteers from 6 IDP camps on Reproductive Health Issues. Merlin's mobile Dental team conducted clinics in 3 schools where 262 students were screened, 67 treated, and 13 referred. Oral Health awareness teaching was provided to all 262 students.

- On 14 and 15 June, Merlin trained 262 students and 38 parents from 21 schools in the five core health messages, reproductive health, adolescent health and nutrition.
- The Pediatric Ward at Chenkalady hospital was completely refurbished by Merlin and handed over to the Deputy Provincial Director on 21 June.

Food Security

- Ten displaced women have completed food-processing training by UNDP through Sewalanka.

AMPARA DISTRICT

Situation Update

- The situation remains tense
- Following a security assessment in Damana, it is now verified that Pannalgama, Bakmitiyawa and Thotoma are accessible under cautious conditions. Security forces informed that agencies working there should seek clearance before they travel to the conflict-affected areas.

Internally Displaced Persons

- UNHCR reports that IDP figures show a reduction to 7,221 individuals (1,932 families) as of 14 June, from 11,702 individuals (3,012 families) in May as most of the IDPs from Batticaloa have returned back to their places of origin.
- OCHA, UNHCR and Relief International discussed the future assessments for the remaining IDPs in the district to get a clear picture of needs. An inter-agency assessment with all IDP actors will be organized when the figures show stabilization as movement of IDPs to Batticaloa continues.

Sector Response

Food

- WFP is continuing to work with the District Planning Unit to dispatch food to IDPs in the district. Food is the main assistance that conflict IDPs are receiving since the resettlement started.

Education

- Merlin facilitated the celebration of World Environmental Day in seven schools in Navithanveli, Sammanthurai and Damana DS where students carried out school environment clean up campaigns and planting trees in the premises of the school.
- Merlin in conjunction with the Agriculture Department and MOH held a Nutritional Promotion Home garden training for teachers and students of 24 schools.
- UNICEF is in the process of assisting ZDE offices to improve their capacity, where all three Zonal offices will be provided with a vehicle.

Health

- UNICEF funded the rehabilitation of pregnant and lactating womens clinic, which was opened together with MOH Ampara.

Food Security

- The Department of agriculture reports that they plan to assess the situation of night displacements in the North - West part of Ampara bordering Batticaloa. The community faces difficulty in accessing their paddy fields which has affected their livelihood.
- FAO is nearing the completion of ten rain water harvesting units out of a committed 22 units for 22 vulnerable beneficiaries in the Pandiruppu village in Kalmunai Tamil DS division.

Water and Sanitation

- IOM will carry out water trucking to Thirukkivil division and Vinayapuram, where CAM was assisting the Pradesh Saba, when they phase out in June.
- In Navithaveli, the TRO IDP tsunami camp is facing water issues. IOM has expressed willingness to support the DS with water trucking but is been asked to pay for the water as well. IOM is not ready to pay for water, instead, they still agreed to bear cost of operation in water trucking to this camp where tsunami IDPs are hosting conflict IDPs.

Livelihood

- In Thirukkivil, Relief International is assisting 2,200 individuals with micro-cash grants to support their livelihoods. Both conflict0affected communities as well as vulnerable communities across the division are targeted.