

SITUATION REPORT # 86

KILINOCHCHI, MULLAITIVU, VAVUNIYA, MANNAR, TRINCOMALEE, BATTICALOA & AMPARA DISTRICTS

2-9 August 2007

- On Monday 6 August, the one year commemoration of the killing of 17 ACF staff members in Muttur was marked by the humanitarian community with a ceremony held at the UN compound in Colombo. Minister for Disaster Management and Human Rights, Hon. Mahinda Samarasinghe, and the Emergency Relief Coordinator Sir John Holmes addressed the audience. Simultaneously commemorations were held in Trincomalee and Batticaloa.
- Sir John Holmes, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), arrived on August 6 for a four-day visit during which he met with His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapakse and Ministers, while also traveling to affected areas in the North and East. The ERC undertook field trips to Jaffna and Batticaloa where he acquainted himself with the situation through meetings with civil authorities, Security Forces and humanitarian agencies. In Batticaloa he visited the Paddipalai and Vaharai divisions to get further first hand impressions based on discussions with stakeholders and the returnees. He also visited an IDP site in Batticaloa town where he met with displaced persons.

KILINOCHCHI & MULLAITIVU DISTRICTS

Situation update

- Shelling continues in areas south of Kilinochchi district, Vadamradchchi East and Poonakary.
- The Ambassador of the Netherlands visited Kilinochchi on 07 August.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The GA-Mullaitivu has requested WFP for food rations for 240 IDP families recently displaced from the Alampil tsunami settlement.

Sector Response

Shelter

- UNHCR reports that by 07 August, 4,719 temporary shelters were completed by different humanitarian actors including UN and INGOs in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.

Watsan

- Water supplies continue to be a concern as the dry season progresses. Requests for assistance have been received from the GA Kilinochchi.
- UNICEF has completed a total of 15 temporary toilets at schools in Kilinochchi district to cater for the needs of students at temporary learning spaces. The construction of 19 more is ongoing.
- Imported construction material remains at a premium. Reports are coming from agencies of cement on the market retailing at between Rs. 4,150 (in Mullaitivu) and Rs. 5,000 (in Kilinochchi), with supplies limited to 10 bags per sale.

Education

- On 04 August, SCiSL distributed hygiene items to 125 school students at the Kn/Thampirasapuram GTMS [Government Tamil Mixed School].

Food

- On 06 August, 200 MT wheat flour was transported by WFP for its ongoing dry ration distribution in the districts.

NFRI

- On 07 August, SCiSL provided NFRI assistance to 140 IDP families displaced from the Alampil Tsunami village.

Protection

- 18 street plays on child protection issues were performed in Kilinochchi for over 9,000 people attending.
- MRE activities such as house to house visit, direct presentation, discussion and community presentation were held in Kanakarajan Kulam, Tharmapuram, Mankulam and PTK (Palai) for 1,414 persons.

VAVUNIYA AND MANNAR DISTRICTS

Situation update

- The situation in the districts remains tense.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The GA office reports that there are 2,693 families (9,841 persons) displaced in Mannar district and 2,517 families (8,682 persons) displaced in Vavuniya district as of 01 August.
- On 04 August, 19 Sri Lankan refugees including seven children arrived at the Chirithoopu beach in Talaimannar from India. Twelve of them originating from Trincomalee returned to the District.
- On 06 August, UN agencies were able to transport 5,490 liters of diesel and 180 liters of petrol to the uncleared areas in the districts for operational activities.
- UNHCR reports that 141 IDP families (440 persons) from Alagalla, Aluthgama, Thiruvegama of Vavuniya south DS division who were displaced to Mathawachchi on 31 July, were returned to their villages on 08 August.

Sector response

NFRI

- On 05 August 2007, SCiSL distributed two sets of children's cloth material to 83 displaced children living in Eluththoor GN division in Mannar.
- UNHCR provided 32 NFRI packages to IDPs in Vavuniya and Mannar after they registered with local office.
- 1-3 August, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) distributed supplementary food packages to 1,946 IDP families living in 17 villages in Manthai west DS division in Mannar.
- On 03 August, ZOA distributed supplementary food to 141 families and common cooking utensils to families displaced from Alagalla, Aluthgama, and Thiruvegama of Vavuniya south DS division to Kalkathekama GN division in Mathawachchi.

Water and Sanitation

- A general assessment of the Kuruvil welfare center conducted by UNHCR on 30 July showed that the center has poor watsan facilities with hygiene and safety concerns. There is only one drinking well and the nearby shrub jungle is used as toilet. Furthermore, women and children fear going into the shrub at night.
- On 03 August, ZOA donated five water bowsers to the Pradeshiya Saba of Mathawachchi to provide drinking water to IDPs in Kalkathekama and Mathawachchi.
- ZOA completed the construction of fourteen toilets for long term IDPs and vulnerable families in Pesalai south in Mannar.

Education

- On 02 August, SCiSL distributed two sets of children's cloth material to 58 vulnerable children at the hostel in Tamil Maha Vidiyalayam in Vavuniya.
- On 05 August 2007, SCiSL distributed educational kits to 43 displaced children living in Eluththoor GN division in Mannar.

Protection

- On 07 August, DRC conducted training on the "Guiding Principle of Internal Displacement" for 32 persons at the Thudduvakai resettlement location in Cheddikulam DS division.

Food

- WFP transported 4.676 MT of wheat flour, 0.234 MT of sugar to Mannar district and 14.388 MT of rice to Vavuniya district for its IDP dry ration distribution.
- On 04 August, ZOA provided meals to the twelve Sri Lankans refugees who returned from India (*see above*).

Shelter

- ZOA completed the construction of four shelters for IDPs in Santhipuram in Mannar.

Food Security

- On 03 August, FAO with the Department of Animal Production and Health and FORUT conducted a training programme on backyard poultry rearing and distributed training leaflets to 23 relocated families at the Kandasamynagar village in Cheddikulam DS division.

TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Situation Report

- The situation is generally calm though slight tension prevails.

Internally Displaced People

- During the reporting period 549 families (1,811 persons) were returned to Eachchilampattai DS Division. Most of the returnees went to Poonagar and Karukamunai GN divisions. The total number of returnees to Eachchilampattai is 1,904 families (6,503 persons).

Sector

Shelter

- ZOA completed 50 of the 275 semi-permanent shelters planned for Poonagar, Eachchilampattai DS Division. A further 90 shelters are in progress and are expected to be completed by 10 August. Most of the returnee families in Poonagar are either in host families or in school buildings, while waiting for the completion of the shelters.
- The NRC Camp Management Training team conducted sectoral training for camp committees at the Kiliveddy Transit sites. NRC, with the support of UNICEF, has undertaken a Training of Trainers on Mine Risk Education (MRE).

Health

- On 06 August, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) started a mobile clinic programme covering remote areas of Eachchilampattai, Kuchchaveli and Morawewa DS divisions and will visit the areas twice a week to provide medical assistance.

Food

- WFP arranged the distribution of one month food ration to 4,046 IDPs in Muthur DS Division.
- 16 MT of WFP mixed food commodities were dispatched to MOH locations in Kinniya, Muthur and Thampalakamam for distribution to 159 health volunteers under WFP's Mother and Child Nutrition Programme. Each month WFP supports 24,000 children and lactating/pregnant mothers through this programme in Trincomalee. As part of this support, 29 MT of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) were dispatched to 57 clinics in four MOH divisions to help 13,222 pregnant mothers and children under five years of age.

NFRI

- WFP Non Food Items are distributed to seven schools in Eachchilampattai, which also receive WFP school feeding assistance that supports 1,211 children.

Food Security

- A number of fishermen from the Sooranagar village in Eachchilampattai DS Division were allowed access to the coast to collect their boats and equipment on 03 August. Access for fishing has not yet been granted but arrangements are being made to grant conditional access.

Education

- A meeting with all stakeholders for child friendly activities was held in Kiliveddy IDP Transit Sites following the survey and focus group discussion amongst parents and children on the non-formal and extra curricular activities offered to youth and children. The findings in the study showed that 97 per cent of the parents found the activities to be useful for their children, and feedback from the children also said that they found the activities beneficial. As a response to the previous meeting, the GN in Kiliveddy has arranged education committees to ensure the steady enrolment of children, and the preliminary results are positive.
- Jesuit Refugee Service provided school uniforms to 632 students in Eachchilampattai last week.
- A newly built pre-school funded by AusAID was handed over to the Raman Abdullah Rural Development Society of Meera Nagar Thampalakamam on 06 August.
- The AusAID funded Saraswathy Tamil Maha Vidyalayam of China Bay was also completed and handed over to the School Committee

- On 05 August, 120 persons graduated in Capacity Building, Information Technology, Human Rights, AutoCAD and Peace Studies from the Eastern University with the financial support of IOM's Community Rehabilitation Project.

Water and Sanitation

- On 06 August, the water treatment plant in Kiliveddy which was established to provide water to the transit sites received an electricity connection from the main grid after Oxfam paid the connection cost.
- Seruvila Pradesiya Saba informed UNICEF that they have identified a new dumping site in Seruvila for human waste from toilets in the Kiliveddy IDP Transit Sites. CARE will prepare the site for use. Earlier a dumping site was identified by government authorities and following preparation work by CARE the Seruvila Pradesiya Saba informed the agencies that they will not be allowed to use the site. This second site has been identified in order to avoid the need to transport waste over a distance of 35 km to Kantale.
- On 03 August, the Verugal Pradesiya Saba called for a meeting to discuss drinking water issues in Eachchilampattai DS Division. A number of villages in the Division have been assessed as needing water trucking. Furthermore it was decided at the meeting that ICRC will conduct training on well cleaning and water quality testing while UNICEF will lend water quality testing equipment until Oxfam steps in.

BATTICALOA DISTRICT

Situation update

- There continues to be intermittent failure of electricity supply to parts of Batticaloa town.

Internally Displaced Persons

- According to Government statistics as of 07 August, the total registered IDP population in the district is 12,117 families (45,345 individuals).
- Return of IDPs to Batticaloa west is complete except for Aythiyamalai North and South in Vavunathivu division where de-mining is not yet finished. No dates have yet been announced for returns to the recently cleared areas of Chenkalady and Kiran.
- Access to the west part of Batticaloa has improved and last week nine NGOs were able to enter the divisions of Vellavelly, Paddipalai and Vavunathivu.
- Site consolidation and movement of IDPs with host families to welfare centers has been observed in Chenkalady division.

Sector Response

Shelter

- During reporting period, IOM constructed eight shelters at Kattumurivu and 28 shelters at Aalankulam in Vaharai division.
- The shelter and watsan need assessment at Kachakody Swamimalai and Mavadi Munmari GN divisions in Paddipalai DS division has been completed by IOM. The proposed distribution of shelter materials for 162 shelters at Thanthamalai is ongoing.

Food

- The food requirements for the displaced and resettled population for this week were already covered by the last distribution.

Water and Sanitation

- Since 03 August, Archenova has bowsered drinking water at nine resettled villages in Vavunathivu division.
- During the reporting period, Oxfam GB and its partner agencies repaired seven tube wells; gully sucked four latrines, decommissioned four latrines, installed two wells and cleaned 150 meters of drainage pipe in the district.
- On 07 August, Oxfam GB provided 12 latrine cleaning kits to two IDP camps in Chenkalady division and two camp cleaning kits to the Kovilkulam IDP camp in Arayampathy division.
- OXFAM GB and ArcheNova/ UNICEF bowsered over 500,000 liters of water per day at sites in Valachchenai, Chenkalady, Kiran and Manmunai North.

NFRI

- On 6 and 7 August, Oxfam GB distributed 52 hygiene kits, 52 food covers, 23 jerry cans and 30 hand washing soaps to families in Kovilkulam IDP camp in Arayampathy division. Sixty bars of soap were distributed at the Parangiyamadu and Vinayahapuram IDP camps in Kiran and Valachchenai divisions, and 35 brooms to the Savukkady IDP camp in Chenkalady division.
- On 05 August, SCiSL distributed children's cloth material to 70 displaced children at the Kaluwanchikudy playground IDP camp.

Psychosocial & Camp Management

- During the week, the NRC Camp Management Training team assessed sites in Manmunai North division, and conducted on site trainings for Palameenmadu IOM site and Palameenmadu NRC site on 02 and 05 August.
- On 06 August, Oxfam GB distributed six sets of sports items to Kovilkulam IDP camp in Arayampathy division.
- On 06 August, SCiSL conducted a psycho-social training programme for 21 staff of the YMCA and AHAM, who are involved in child friendly space activities at IDP camps in Manmunai North division.
- The IOM organized Govt. Policy and Legal Entitlement workshop was conducted by the Human Rights Commission and Disaster Relief Management Unit on 02 August for 54 beneficiaries.
- A Gender Awareness workshop was conducted by Representatives of the Kaviya organization on 6 and 8 August for 157 persons of Paalchenai in Vaharai division.

Education

- During the reporting period, SCiSL provided supplementary feeding to 1,591 children at 42 early childhood development centers in the Paddiruppu, Batticaloa and Kalkudah zones.
- On 07 August, SCiSL distributed 154 educational kits and uniform material to children from the newly resettled divisions at Vellavelly and Paddipalai.

Health

- On 02 August, Merlin trained 67 volunteers on communicable diseases such as diarrhea, conjunctivitis, chickenpox and on mosquito born diseases, at the Sarvodayam Training centre in Batticaloa.
- On 04 August, Merlin provided training on the adverse effects of immunization to 31 healthcare personal from Vellavelly, Kattankudy and Kaluwanchikudy MOHs.

Livelihood

- During the reporting period, FAO, through its implementing partner Sarvodaya, provided 300 home garden kits, tools and fertilizer to IDP host families in Manmunai North division.
- FAO, through SEEDA, provided 78 IDP host families in Kaluwanchikudy division with home garden kits, fertilizer and cow pea.

AMPARA DISTRICT

Situation Update

- The security situation remains tense.

Internally Displaced Persons

- According to UNHCR, IDP figures reduced to 1,566 families (5,775 persons) as of 08 August. In Thirukkivil there are 40 families who have returned to Sri Vallipuram, the first village leading to the wider part of the uncleared areas. The UN is making an attempt to have negotiated access to this area to assess the humanitarian situation.

Sector Response

Food

- WFP conducted a workshop on Food-For-Work (FFW) at the Ampara Kachcheri for stakeholders and was attended by government departments.

Protection

- UNICEF conducted a mine awareness program in Navithanveli and Lahugala.
- UNICEF held a community discussion on child rights in Navithanveli.
- Helpage is conducting awareness campaign on the rights of elderly people in the coastal areas of Ampara.

Health

- Merlin reports that they are winding down many of their activities in the health sector in October, except for the construction of hospitals.
- A Helpage organized mobile medical service for the elderly was held in Komari –Potuvil on 09 August.
- IOM with the Al-Jalal school organized a Health Walk in the Sainthamaruthu Division for 150 students on drinking safe water.

Water and Sanitation

- UNICEF continued to conduct trainings on water testing.
- IOM signed a MoU with the Municipal Council of Kalmunai to repair ten tractors and ensure the collection of garbage at transitional shelter sites in the Kalmunai area.
- IOM organized a community clean up programme in a camp of Alayadivembu division with the collaboration of the camp residents Alayadivembu Pradeshiya Saba.
- IOM distributed 96 garbage cleaning tools in the Thirukkivil division to improve the collection of garbage.

Shelter/care and maintenance

- ZOA is constructing semi-permanent shelter for tsunami and war-affected communities in Thirukkivil and Navithanveli

Food Security

- On 06 August, FAO with the Department of Animal Production and Health and SWOAD distributed 30 hybrid cattle to 15 vulnerable livestock farmers in the Vinayagapuram village.