

Joint UN North East Situation Monitoring Report
January 2007 (10th report)

Attached below is the tenth joint UN agency North East situation monitoring report. 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 responsible 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 January based on the data available:

North East:

- The total number of newly Internal Displaced Persons is remaining over 200,000 people
- There was a significant increase in the number of closure days or closing of schools in primary and secondary schools in Ampara, Batticaloa Trincomalee and Jaffna due to conflict/security/hartals
- The retail price of coconut oil continued to rise (except in Jaffna where a significant decrease is observed) while prices of red rice, bread, lentils and kerosene have been going towards stabilization in most districts
- The underage recruitment did not improve significantly enough as some districts continued to see an increase in recruitments in Ampara, Trincomalee, Vavuniya while a reduction was observed in Batticaloa, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu
- The number of security incidents (killings) kept increasing in comparison to previous month and reached 250 (159 in December) with Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Mannar being the worst affected while other districts did not show a significant improvement

Jaffna:

- The price of red rice continued to increase (181.3 Rs/kg), while prices of coconut oil and kerosene have reduced but were still remaining at the highest for the NE as well as the retail prices of important food commodities

Kilinochchi:

- The retail price of important food commodities has been oscillating between stabilization and reduction

Vavuniya:

- Significant increase in security incidents (killings) as the reports shows worsening of the situation (from 8 to 68 incidents)
- The retail price of important food commodities has increased with highest ones ranging from 38% (fresh fish) to 50% (eggs) while the price of vegetables is stabilizing

Trincomalee:

- The retail price of eggs has increased (36%)

Batticaloa:

- The number of security incidents (killings) remained the highest (71) for the NE
- The number of schools closed was the highest for the NE (324) with 123,443 children who did not attend school at least 1 day due to prevailing situation in the district

Ampara:

- The district has faced closure of 212 primary and secondary schools due to prevailing situation in the district with 100,125 children not attending school for at least 1 day
- The retail price of fresh and dry fish, fresh vegetables and eggs has increased while the average price of other important commodities remained more or less stable

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

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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	Jan-07	4	3	13	0	0	0	12	0	32	4.00	UNICEF	
			Dec-06	5	5	0	0	0	0	4	0	14	1.75		
			Nov-06	2	21	-	0	2	0	2	4	31	4.43		
1.2	Primary and secondary schools closed, due to conflict/security/hartal	Number	Jan-07	212	324	67	0	0	0	5	0	608		UNICEF	
			Dec-06	2	18	0	0	0	0	4	0	24			
			Nov-06	212	342	-	0	59	0	75	65	753			
1.3	Children not attending school for at least 1 day due to conflict/security/hartal	Number	Jan-07	100,125	123,443	24,049	0	0	0	0	0	247,617		UNICEF	1,230 students affected in Trinco. temporarily attended schools in adjacent area
			Dec-06	0	5,055	0	0	0	0	1,250	0	6,305			
			Nov-06	100,125	128,498	-	0	18,941	0	39,000	9,714	296,278			
2.1	Prevalence of vector-borne or communicable disease outbreaks (MOH)	Number	Jan-07	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		WHO	Sporadic cases of vector-borne diseases were reported.No out breaks were reported during the period specified from the Northern and Eastern Districts(Source:Epidemiology Unit,MOH)
			Dec-06	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	5			
			Nov-06	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	4			
3.1	Average market price of nadu red rice	Rs./kg	Jan-07	33.5	39	181.3	30	42.5	30.5	32.8	42.5		54.01	WFP	
			Dec-06	29	38	133	32	43	34	32	43		47.81		
			Nov-06	28	34	170	32	39	35	33	40		51.25		
3.2	Average market price of bread	Rs./loaf	Jan-07	20	24.67	30	25	26	25	23.5	24		24.77	WFP	
			Dec-06	21	26	30	25	26	25	23	24		24.99		
			Nov-06	22	24	30	25	24	26	23	24		24.63		
3.3	Average market price of coconut oil	Rs./litre	Jan-07	180	194.7	512.5	155	118	155	130	118		195.40	WFP	
			Dec-06	180	177	875	150	106	150	111	111		232.50		
			Nov-06	180	190	825	150	97	145	98	96		222.66		
3.4	Average market price of kerosene	Rs./litre	Jan-07	48	49.34	100	100	53.5	100	49	53.5		69.17	WFP	
			Dec-06	48	67	158	90	53	105	53	54		78.39		
			Nov-06	48	78	168	100	51	105	53	52		81.79		
3.5	Average market price of red lentils	Rs./kg	Jan-07	81	64.34	83.75	68	77.5	82.5	73	75		75.64	WFP	
			Dec-06	80	74	80	80	74	70	73	75		75.76		
			Nov-06	80	65	110	75	74	100	75	75		81.66		
3.6	Average daily wages, skilled labour	Rs.	Jan-07	N/A	950	750	700	-	700	1,000	-		820.00	ILO	Data reflects range midpoint.
			Dec-06	-	850	800	-	N/A	-	1,000	N/A		883.33		
			Nov-06	-	850	800	-	N/A	-	1,000	N/A		883.33		
3.7	Average daily wages, unskilled labour	Rs.	Jan-07	N/A	450	550	450	-	450	475	-		475.00	ILO	Data reflects range midpoint.
			Dec-06	-	400	600	-	N/A	-	550	N/A		516.67		
			Nov-06	-	400	500	-	N/A	-	550	N/A		483.33		
3.8	Variation of retail price of fresh fish with respect to standard 12 mo. ago	%	Jan-07	N/A	21	350	69	38	N/A	-21	38		82.50	FAO	Standard price refers to price during same month in period Jan 2006 to Jan 2007
			Dec-06	7	21	800	115	11	81	37	14		135.75		
			Nov-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-		
3.9	Variation of retail price of dry fish with respect to standard 12 mo. ago	%	Jan-07	56	18	208	-16	15	N/A	-20	14		39.29	FAO	Standard price refers to price during same month in period Jan 2006 to Jan 2007
			Dec-06	10	18	300	50	N/A	N/A	11	N/A		77.80		
			Nov-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-		
3.10	Variation of retail price of eggs with respect to standard 12 mo. ago	%	Jan-07	67	43	317	38	67	N/A	36	50		88.2857	FAO	Standard price refers to price during same month in period Jan 2006 to Jan 2007
			Dec-06	33	29	650	83	7	83	0	13		112.25		
			Nov-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-		

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3.11	Variation of retail price of fresh vegetables with respect to standard 12 mo. ago	%	Jan-07	20	49	160	41	44	N/A	-15	4		43.2857	FAO	Standard price refers to price during same month in period Jan 2006 to Jan 2007	
			Dec-06	18	61	263	61	23	70	119	16		78.88			
			Nov-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				-
4.1	Underage recruits reported	Number	Jan-07	3	27	0	7	0	1	3	2	43	5.38	UNICEF	Includes both LTTE and Karuna faction; Continually revised based on incoming reports. The updated data for Nov & Dec 2006 are in bold .	
			Dec-06	0	34	0	10	1	3	0	0	48	6.00			
			Nov-06	12	29	1	12	0	7	1	0	62	7.75			
4.2	Underage releases reported	Number	Jan-07	2	3	0	6	0	0	0	0	11	1.38	UNICEF	Includes both LTTE and Karuna faction; Continually revised based on incoming reports. The updated data for Nov & Dec 2006 are in bold .	
			Dec-06	0	6	0	8	0	7	0	0	21	2.63			
			Nov-06	0	6	1	3	0	3	0	0	13	1.63			
4.3	IDPs, by present location	Number of people	Jan-07	2,384	72,986	43,147	38,780	9,957	24,805	5,535	5,586	203,180		UNHCR		
			Dec-06	2,291	75,867	43,147	46,048	8,292	24,805	7,211	5,586	213,247				
			Nov-06	2,217	72,191	43,182	46,048	9,143	24,805	3,378	7,340	208,304				
5.1	Hartals	Number	Jan-07	7	2	3	6	-	N/A	0	-	18		UN DSS		
			Dec-06	1	2	0	2	1	N/A	0	2	8				
			Nov-06	4	1	3	4	0	N/A	5	8	25				
5.2	Security incidents - killings	Number	Jan-07	8	71	34	27	23	N/A	19	68	250		UN DSS		
			Dec-06	16	81	32	3	8	N/A	11	8	159				
			Nov-06	8	65	39	7	5	N/A	31	30	185				
5.3	Conflict-related deaths	Number	Jan-07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		UN HRA		
			Dec-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
			Nov-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
5.4	Arrests / detentions under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (ICRC)	Number	Jan-07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		UN HRA		
			Dec-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
			Nov-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
5.5	Disappearances reported to the Human Rights Commission	Number	Jan-07	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		UN HRA		
			Dec-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
			Nov-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
5.6	Security incidents involving humanitarian workers	Number	Jan-07	3	1	2	-	-	-	1	12	19		UN HRA	Measures only UN related incidents including but not limited to security incidents and search of UN staff, vehicles, etc.	
			Dec-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
			Nov-06	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
6.1	Humanitarian agencies present	Number	Jan-07	143	85	35	60	30	51	144	49	597		OCHA		
			Dec-06	143	85	35	60	30	51	144	49	597				
			Nov-06	71	53	18	60	-	51	141	-	394				
6.2	UN projects disrupted due to security reasons	Number	Jan-07	N/A	6	-	38	6	28	0	-	78		OCHA		
			Dec-06	N/A	6	-	38	6	29	-	-	79				
			Nov-06	N/A	-	27	38	-	29	-	-	-				
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
FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ampara</u>: prices of fresh fish were not available at the time of the monitoring, though they have been estimated as still high comparing to the control period, the same for the dry fish. This is due to a number of incidents that have reduced the fishing effort in a number of areas of Ampara around the middle of the month of January. • <u>Batticaloa</u>: prices of dry and fresh fish recorded no major variation compared to the previous month despite the increase in the number of fishing days. The situation can be explained by the shortage of shrimps on the local market in the month of January due to the opening of the Batticaloa lagoon mouth, around the middle of January. This led to an increased pressure on other types of fish and the consequent increase of the prices of the same. The prices of vegetables are still relatively high, though lower than the previous month of December, due to travel restrictions that are still in place in the district. • <u>Trincomalee</u>: the restrictions on travel were minor in January 2007 in comparison to December 2006, while at the same time the ban on fishing was partially lifted. It has resulted in the normalization of the price of all main commodities recorded. • <u>Vavuniya</u>: Prices of fish recorded a steep increase with respect to the previous month due to access problems from Mannar, which is the main route of supply for fish to the district. At the same time, the prices of vegetables have almost normalized due to the regularization of transport on the route toward Vavuniya • <u>Mannar</u>: prices of the main goods have recorded significant increases due to the persisting problems of access to the district, with a number of limitations still applying, including the number of lorries that can reach the town every day from Vavuniya. • <u>Kilinochchi</u>: this district is also experiencing significant price increases of all the commodities monitored comparing to the other districts in the N-E, though the situation has somehow improved with respect to the previous month. The major factor in the increase with respect to the control period is the closure of the A9. The impact of the closure in these areas is lower than in Jaffna due to the lower population density and greater production (linked to land availability). • <u>Jaffna</u>: Still high prices of all the commodities monitored. As in the previous month, the cause is the closure of the A 9 which has disrupted the normal supply routes to the peninsula. Fresh fish prices are still recording the highest increase among the commodities recorded in the peninsula. This is a direct result of the near total ban on marine fishing which is in place since April 2006.
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ampara</u>: 170 students in Damana division lost 3 days of school due to the abduction of one student, killing of 4 people, and surrounding conflict. • <u>Jaffna</u>: 10,700 students at 55 schools in Chavakachcheri division were affected by unofficial or partial school closures for 3 days.
IOM	<p>All field offices in the North and East report a high military presence and a tense security situation, which undermine the safety of beneficiaries and staff and consequently slow project implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ampara</u>: Throughout Muslim regions of Ampara, movements were restricted on 12 January due to protests against the execution of Saddam Hussein. IOM channeled additional resources to address the needs of new IDPs in the district. • <u>Mannar, Vavuniya</u>: a number of planned field visits from the Mannar and Vavuniya offices were cancelled due to security incidents which also prevented some of the staff from going to work. Most tragically, an IOM Vavuniya staff driver was killed by a claymore mine while on personal business. Grieving staff, supported by the humanitarian community, attended the funeral and IOM's psychosocial officer made two visits to support and identify additional resources for Mannar and Vavuniya colleagues and family members.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Batticaloa</u>: The attention of the Batticaloa office was largely focused on the mass displacement as a result of active conflict in Vaharai. ● <u>Trincomalee</u>: IOM channeled additional resources to address the needs of new IDPs in the district. ● <u>Kilinochchi</u>: Field visits in Kilinochchi were also disturbed due to aerial bombings ● <u>Jaffna</u>: Activities in Jaffna are particularly slow as project construction materials cannot be transported to the district, and staff, like other Jaffna residents, is under stress because of food shortages, curfews and lack of transport out of the district.
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. World Vision (school feeding program), ZOA (protection, water trucking, construction), SWEIDO Vision (Construction) have also suspended activities since Aug 2006

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.