

BATTICALOA DISTRICT SITUATION REPORT**15-22 March 2007****General IDP Situation**

According to the Government statistics (20th March 07), the total registered IDP population in the District was 41,604 families (158,451) individuals living in 93 IDP sites.

Regarding the returns to places of origin, so far, 10,150 IDPs have been re settled in Vaharai and 3032 IDPs have resettled in Trincomalee district. From Chenkalady DS division, 638 families consisting of 2201 individuals have returned to Vaharai and 969 families consisting of 3232 individuals have returned to Trincomalee district. From Valchchenai division, 13 families with 45 individuals have returned to Trincomalee district while 1643 families consisting of 5850 individuals returned to Vaharai from the division (the DS office has informed that they do not at times possess accurate data breakdowns due to lack of advance notice on returns).

According to field monitoring conducted by UNHCR/UNICEF/OCHA for the protection of IDPs and compliance with the Guiding Principles on IDPs, some displaced have stated that they had been forced to return to their place of origin, and that they do not wish to return home because of security reasons. Further, IDPs had returned unintentionally believing that assistance provided by the Government to the IDP camps would stop if they remain. The ongoing monitoring also discovered that SLA and Police were present at the IDP sites on the IDP return days and that police joined the IDPs in the buses.

The humanitarian community in Batticaloa noted IDPs in a number of sites in Batticaloa have been pressured to return to Trincomalee and Vaharai in several instances, and forcible returns have occurred. These forcible returns have involved (i) the threat of withdrawal of assistance (including withdrawal of Family Cards, removal of tents, cessation of dry rations, etc), (ii) statements indicating that the DSs and GNs could no longer be responsible for the security of the IDPs who refused to return (i.e. in terms of interceding with the armed forces or police in case of arrest or detention and (iii) physical intimidation by armed security forces involved in the return movements.

For advocating the rights of IDPs in Batticaloa, specialized agencies prepared an information leaflet in 3 languages that was issued under the auspices of the IASC entitled "Returning Home". The leaflet provides information on making the decision to return/or stay, conditions for safe and dignified return, and criteria for protection from forcible return.

Security

The general situation remains volatile and fighting continues. Claymore attacks and ambushes still take place. The presence and movements of paramilitary groups still cause insecurity among IDPs and camp locations.

Assistance Provided / Response**Shelter:**

As an emergency solution to the IDP influx from Batticaloa West, the GA decided to open up schools for a two-week period for temporary accommodation until temporary/semi-permanent sites are ready. The divisions affected by the influx are Manmunai North, Chenkalady, Arayampathy and Kaluwanchikudy. All the above mentioned divisions with the exception of Manmunai North have identified possible sites for development of temporary/semi-permanent shelter. The shelter coordination cell (UNHCR / NRC) carried out site assessments in close cooperation with UNICEF in order to ensure that proper wat/san facilities are in place before IDPs are relocated to these sites. There are no new sites identified in Manmunai North as there is little land available. Nevertheless, the IDPs tend to settle in this division because of the proximity to Batticaloa town where livelihood options are possible.

UNHCR and ICRC provided tents as an initial emergency response. After physical evaluation of the proposed sites was finalised and land capacity validated, the wat/san agencies provided immediate assistance in terms of wat/san installation. Tents were then issued upon confirmed existence of minimum wat/san requirements. Technical support was given for the setting-up of the tented sites respecting minimum SPHERE standards with regard to space allocation per person and common space.

Planning for shelter has been a major concern as there was no confirmed figure of IDPs returning home, and the new influx from west of Batticaloa. With regard to plans on shelter, current capacity is insufficient to meet immediate needs. Another issue had been the lack of clarification on identified sites, whether the site will last for longer term, or just for an emergency accommodation. On assistance during the reporting period ZOA constructed 175 shelters in Chenkalady division and 200 shelters in Kaluwanchikudy division.

Food:

There were gaps in the supplementary food distribution. WFP stocks are insufficient to cope with possible future displacements. To date food assistance had included: World Vision distributing one week dry rations for 2900 families in Vaharai, 1299 families with host families in Arayampathy division and 1100 families with host families in Kaluwanchikudy division, ZOA distributing supplementary food for 1 week for 282 families in Valachchenai division, 359 families in Kiran division, 2361 families in Arayampathy division and 1391 families in Manmunai North division, and IOM distributing dry rations for 324 IDP families in Manmunai North division. Further, during the period, the WFP together with the GA provided food assistance to 3858 IDP families in Arayampathy, Chenkalady, Valachchenai and Kaluwanchikudy divisions.

Wat/San:

Site development in coordination with the shelter cell (including finding actors for new sites) is ongoing. The issue has been maintenance relating to toilets and water tanks (taps). UNICEF and NWSDB organized a meeting with Pradeshiya Sabhas and MOH from 3 divisions of Chenkalady, Kaluwanchikudy, and Arayampathy where there are a total of 96,212 IDPs (most of them are newly arrived). The meeting was held to discuss important issues

related to bowsering and chlorination of water, garbage collection, and gully sucking of toilets.

UNICEF coordinated on water source development in Chenkallady which will service approximately 5 camps with a total population of 3325 families. OXFAM constructed emergency toilets, attended to cleaning/repairs of wells/hand pumps, organized cleaning campaigns, distributed hygiene and cleaning kits, developed hygiene manuals and trained volunteers. Construction of toilets and tube wells by UNICEF started at 26 temporary learning spaces throughout the district, 38 portable emergency toilets being completed in Arayampathy division and in Mamunai North division, 12 emergency toilets completed. UNICEF has distributed 35 water tanks in Arayampathy, Manmunai North and Chenkalady division. In Kalwanchikuddy, there are further 15,000 IDPs arrived in the past week. There are now 11 potential new camps in this division. UNICEF supported through bringing 21 tanks and 10 bladders. Further ZOA provided 61000 ltr tanks with 6 stands to Chenkalady division, constructed 26 toilets and 12 are on progress.

NFRI/ Hygiene Kit:

Assistance during the reporting period included, OXFAM GB distributing 15 pregnant mother kits, 62 baby kits, 663 frocks, 448 towels and 700 Sarongs at Saththurukondan 1 and 2 IDP camps in Manmunai North division. Further OXFAM GB through partner organization NERTRA distributed 500 hygiene kits for IDP families in Mankadu and Mahiloor IDP camps of Kaluwanchikudy DS division. World Vision has distributed 2600 tarpaulins, 9 1000 L water tanks for Vaharai IDP camps and sites and 400 tarpaulin and 400 jerry cans for displaced families in Mandoor. Also, 25 family tents were distributed for IDP families in Arayampathy. Through its partners UNICEF has distributed 1463 Family Emergency Kits in Kaluwanchikudy and 1382 in Aryampathy benefiting more than 10,000 individuals in 9 camps. IOM has distributed NFRI packs to 377 IDP families in Manmunai North division.

Protection, Psychosocial & Camp Management:

On 17 and 18 March, NRC conducted “Camp Management on- Site training” for Kaluwankerny-2 IDP leaders and IDP committee representatives, GNs, and DS office staff at Sewa Lanka Training Centre-Kaluvankerny, in Chenkalady division with a total of 57 participants.

On 20- 22 March, NRC conducted a Camp Management Training for Sarvodaya staff. The objective of this workshop was to provide tools and techniques to 25 Sarvodaya volunteers in order to have a pool of well-trained camp managers available for those conflict affected IDP sites where CM is required. During this week, The Change Makers of “We Can” (the Campaign to End Violence against Women) trained by OXFAM GB conducted awareness sessions on violence against women in 3 IDP sites in Manmunai North and Kiran divisions. On 20 March, a special meeting was organized to set minimum standards for children’s spaces in IDP sites. Tdh, SCiSL, Mangrove, CCF, HI and UNICEF participated in the discussion. Sarvodaya conducted Mine Risk Education awareness training in Vaharai, Manmunai North and Valachchenai divisions. Leaflets carrying messages about Mines and UXO risk mainly targeting on returnees were printed and distributed in several IDP sites as well as in Vaharai.

On 15 March, a workshop on Government Policy on Legal Entitlement was conducted by the resource person from the Legal Aids Commission at Food store 1 & 2 IDP sites where 118 and 102 inmates participated respectively. On 20 March, a workshop on Child Rights and Protection at Food store 1 & 2 where 126 and 59 beneficiaries (1st & 2nd sessions) participated and conducted by a resource person from the Human Right Commission. These events were facilitated by IOM.

Health and Nutrition:

Few NGO/INGO/UN are working on Health and Nutrition sectors in Batticaloa. Limited human/physical resources attached with DPDHS (low coverage because of lack of staff and lack of vehicle for immediate response). Vaccination coverage became questionable because of the frequent displacement and inaccessibility for the MOH mobile teams to some areas. There is a lack of availability of drugs at DPDHS in the district level. This week arrangements have been made by UNICEF to distribute this months allocation of 51MT of High Energy Biscuits to all IDP children below 5 years and lactating and pregnant mothers who are living at the IDP camps and living with friends and relatives through DPDHS.

Education:

101 schools are currently closed. Of this, 17 are hosting IDPs in the district. The Batticaloa Zone is having difficulties admitting children in functioning schools as they are already overloaded from previous displacements. On 19 March, an Initial School Survey was launched by Sarvodaya with UNICEF and APDE support to collect camp based school aged children information in IDP camps where new influx of IDPs have been sheltered. From UNICEF pre-positioned stocks, so far, 7 schools with displaced students have started using tarpaulin and mats in various temporary location including private and temple lands. A third round supply of 85 black boards was delivered by UNICEF to ZDE Batticaloa and Kalkudah.

Livelihood:

UNDP's main concern has been lack of coordination between agencies on their short term livelihood activities as well as limited number of organizations implementing livelihood projects for conflict affected IDPs at the moment. Assistance had included 60 man-days of Cash for Work programme carried out by OXFAM GB to clean 2 IDP sites in Kovilkulam and Arayampathy south in Arayampathy division.

Food Security:

FAO conducted a Training-of-Trainers programme for 30 staffs of Ministry of Health and Department of Agriculture on Improved Nutrition and completed its village level Nutrition Training Programme attended by a total of 300 beneficiaries from 10 villages. Further the agency distributed fish ice boxes to 26 vulnerable fishermen throughout the district and distributed crab fattening cages to 7 fishermen in Navalady Village.

Transport

During the reporting period, IOM provided 50 trucks and 7 buses to UNOPS, UNICEF, UNHCR, ZOA, GA, DSs and ADS to transport food items, shelter materials, NFRI, wat/san materials and IDPs.