**Current Situation**

| Total number of displaced persons | 213,166 (22 February UNHCR) |
| Displaced families | 58,941 |
| 11 districts | Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Vavuniya, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Ampara, Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Kurunegala |
| Total number of Sri Lankan refugees to arrive in Tamil Nadu, India, since the start of 2006 | 17,755 persons (5,371 families) (23 February 2007, UNHCR) |
| Highest number of displaced per District | Batticaloa: 76,498 persons (20,833 families)  
Jaffna: 43,147 persons (13,027 families)  
Kilinochchi: 45,665 persons (11,663 families) |

**Humanitarian Context**

- Security situation remains tense with continuing insecurity for affected populations, humanitarian staff and ongoing operations;
- A joint humanitarian mission organized by the government and led by the Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Mahinda Samarasinghe and comprising the UN RC/HC and UN Heads of Agencies and foreign envoys was shelled upon landing in Batticaloa on 27 February. Minor injuries were sustained by the party;
- The European Union called “on both sides to immediately halt the violence” and to return to the negotiating table;
- Minister Samarasinghe stated at a meeting in Batticaloa that no IDPs would be forced to return but would be helped to make informed choices;
- Visits of armed groups in displacement sites in Batticaloa remains a concern;
- Programmes in the Western uncleared areas of Batticaloa are affected by restrictions of movements by security forces;
- A team of 11 from UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and OCHA went on a fact finding mission to Eachchilampattai;
- Difficulties continue in crossing the FDL as UN trucks are subject to thorough and repetitive searches;
- UNHCR and protection partners are ensuring daily monitoring of long-term welfare centres in Vavuniya following the withdrawal of police;
- Figures on latest movements in the Vanni still unavailable, however movements away from the frontlines are reported to UNHCR;
- In Jaffna the safety and security of the civilian population remains of serious concern;
- Civilian deaths: 151 civilians killed in January and 224 injured (SLMM). In February 62 civilians were killed and 61 injured. Overall figures from government for civilian deaths since December 2005-20 February 2007 is 670 civilian deaths.

**Ongoing Operations**

- Sri Lanka Red Cross Society continues to provide logistical and distribution support for IDP food assistance in Batticaloa District;
- WFP are working on prepositioning of food in Vavuniya (planned) and Trincomalee;
- WFP will experience pipeline break at the end of March;
- Problem with off loading and storage capacity in Jaffna continues;
- Demining by the military is ongoing in Vaharai;
- Assistance ongoing to over 76,000 IDPs in Batticaloa located in 52 welfare centers. Protection issues in Batticaloa district impacting on school attendance as parents fear for their children’s safety;
- UNHCR continues to support local authorities in registration of IDPs in Batticaloa, but some areas remain inaccessible. Training on registration for local officials has also commenced in Ampara District;
- UNHCR and partners continue to prepare sites in Trincomalee for the possible return and relocation of Batticaloa IDPs, as well as liaise with the authorities over ‘go and see’ visits.

**CHAP 2007**: Discussions are currently ongoing between agencies and donors concerning the CHAP 2007 which has 72 projects valued at US$66million for a period of 6-12 months. Agencies are also preparing a final report on CHAP 2006 which includes funding and implementation.

| Total Population (2005) | 20,743,000 |
| % Under 15 (2005) | 1 |
| Population distribution % rural (2005) | 79 |
| Life expectancy at birth (2004) | 71 |
| Under – 5- mortality rate per 1000 (2004) | 14 |
| Maternal mortality ratio per 100 000 live births (2000) | 92 |

