

SITUATION REPORT # 65

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

KILINOHCHI & MULLAITIVU DISTRICTS

Situation update

- Heavy shelling confined mostly to the mornings and evenings continued over the last week in the northern part of Kilinochchi (Muhamalai area) and Vadamaradchi east areas. There were SLA bombardments in Vallipunam (Mullaitivu) on 06 March. A civilian bus was damaged after narrowly escaping a claymore attack in Palapani (uncleared area in Vavuniya district) on 06 March.
- The Norwegian Ambassador Hans Brattskar visited Kilinochchi on 05 March and met the LTTE political wing leader at the LTTE peace secretariat. He also met the UN team at UNICEF where he was briefed on the current humanitarian situation.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The number of IDPs living in Kilinochchi district remains the same at 11,663 families comprising 45,665 persons while in Mullaitivu district there are 7,068 families comprising 24,882 persons registered as IDPs as of 26 February 2007.

Sector Response

Shelter

- Oxfam through ECHO funds is making arrangements to build an additional 600 temporary shelters in both districts to cater for IDPs displaced after 11 August 2006. Around 500 temporary shelters have already been constructed by Oxfam in Kilinochchi to date.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) received 5 truck loads of cadjan material from Vavuniya on 05 and 06 March through the GA-Kilinochchi quota. (The CGES and MoD have allocated the GA a quota for emergency material excluding cement and steel, which agencies can utilize).

Water and Sanitation

- Oxfam provided material to install a water purification plant at the Arasapuram IDP settlement (Poonakary). This will benefit the displaced sheltering in 70 shelters built by Save the Children in Sri Lanka.

Education

- For 'International Women Day', Oxfam through Zonal Director Education (ZDEJ) organized an art competition among school children studying for their GCE O/L and GCE (A/L) examinations in Kilinochchi district schools. An exhibition of selected works will open on 17 March in the Kilinochchi Central College.
- To provide sitting space in schools in Kilinochchi, UNICEF distributed 1,809 mats. This will benefit 10,000 displaced and local students from 72 schools

NFRIs

- On 02 and 03 March, UNHCR distributed NFRI packages to 208 IDP families living in the Korakkankaddu and Piramanthalaru villages in Kandawalai DS division, Kilinochchi.
- The IDP families displaced from the Puliyanukulam areas and settled in Puththuvvedduvan and Iyankankulam (in Mullaitivu district) were given 36 NFRI packages by Oxfam on 03 March.

Health and Nutrition

- The Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services (DPDHS)-Kilinochchi reported that the 1st quarter drugs of 2007 were transported through the Omanthai FDL (Forward Defence Line) to Kilinochchi last week. In addition, six lorry loads of furniture items provided by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Ministry of

Health, for the district hospitals and health departments were transported on 05 and 07 March from Vavuniya. The drugs allocated for Mullaitivu district for this period is waiting for MoD approval to be transported into the Vanni.

- Oxfam distributed 36 hygiene kits to displaced people from Puliyankulam areas and now settled in the Iyankankulam and Puththuvvedduvan IDP sites in Mullaitivu, on 03 March. Also provided were camp cleaning materials such as cleaning powder, buckets, and brushes.
- UNICEF received 60 tonnes of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) from Vavuniya on 4 March 2007, to be distributed in cooperation with WFP to children under five and pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Rural Health Animators assisted by UNICEF demonstrated the nutritious preparation of food to 26 mothers (including IDPs) at the Punnaineeravi health centre (Kilinochchi), last week.
- UNICEF supported maternal health programs continue. Last week, 30 Rural Health Assistants provided maternal health services to 250 pregnant and lactating women in 30 health centers.

Food

- WFP through the Omanthai FDL transported 100 MT of wheat flour for its contribution to the IDP dry ration supply, on 07 March.
- In order to provide dry rations to 221 displaced families from the Eastern province to Mullaitivu district in 2007, the District Secretariat-Mullaitivu has sent a request to Colombo regards the distribution and is awaiting a reply.
- Last week, Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies transported 62.5 MT of sugar, 21 MT of pulses, 5 MT of milk powder to Kilinochchi district for general public consumption.

VAVUNIYA AND MANNAR DISTRICT

Situation update

- The security situation is still tense. Security forces maintained a heightened presence with civilians continuing to stay indoors particularly after business hours. In the FDL of Vavuniya north and Ujilankulam both parties exchanged shelling during the reporting period.
- IDPs figures in Madhu church areas has increased over the last three weeks due to fifth year anniversary of cease fire agreement and prevailing tense situation. The local authority requested that Madhu church not be used as IDP camp and currently a process is in place to vacate the IDPs from Madhu church to a resettlement location. UN agencies and INGOs are planning a joint response to resettlement. Protection continues to be the main issue in this area.
- IDP figures increased according to the GA office in Mannar and Vavuniya.

| District | Division | Families | Individual |
|----------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Vavuniya | Vavuniya North | 534 | 1829 |
| | Vavuniya south | 25 | 83 |
| | Vavuniya | 1683 | 6002 |
| | Vengalacheddikulam | 24 | 86 |
| | Total | 2266 | 8000 |
| Mannar | Nanaddan | 156 | 588 |
| | Musali | 15 | 44 |
| | Madhu | 2721 | 8948 |
| | Manthai West | 1063 | 4176 |
| | Total | 3806 | 13254 |

Sector response

NFRI

- UNHCR is waiting Ministry of Defense clearance from Colombo to transport shelter materials to Vavuniya north.

Protection

- On 2nd and 3rd of March, DRC has organized a human rights workshop for 38 Grama Niladari and social service officers of Mannar divisional secretary division. Subjects covered international and national human rights, women rights, child rights and guiding principles on internal displacement.
- UNICEF has facilitated a discussion on improvement of monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations in Vavuniya District. A Consultant for the National Taskforce on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612 visited and met UN agencies, government and NGOs.
- Under the UNICEF mine risk education program (MRE) 40 NGO members, GS, RDS and WRDS members and 450 individual also have been educated under the regular MRE programme.
- On 6th of March, FORUT has organized an awareness discussion for 46 youths on drug and alcohol, reproductive health and HIV aids in Periyarkulam in Vavuniya DS division in Vavuniya district.
- UNHCR has conducted a survey promoting age, gender and diversity in Vavuniya and Puttalam district with members from NRC, HRC, RDF and UNHCR HQ staff.

Education

- Library books were provided to 12 children clubs in Mannar district by UNICEF.

Watsan

- As a result of the UNICEF organized participatory assessment under the Child Friendly WASH initiative program in Vavuniya, two 1000 liter water tanks and accessories to re-start the water supply system in the V/Poonthoddam Tamil Mixed School were provided and water is now available for 1,700 children. UNICEF has completed the School participatory WATSAN survey in 3 schools, out of 88 schools in Vavuniya South Education Zone while an initial meeting on the WATSAN survey in Mannar Education Zone level occurred on 02 March.
- Oxfam GB conducted a two days training on Water Quality Surveillance in Vavuniya on 1-2 March. Representatives of UNHCR, DRC, ZOA and World Vision, UNICEF, NRC and all the Public health inspectors of Vavuniya district participated to this workshop. Oxfam has donated a Delagua kit (water testing kit) to DPDHS office.

Livelihood

- On 8th of March, UNDP has handed over a building for the Palmyra fiber production in Manic farm in Cheddikkulam DS division in Vavuniya.
- ZOA distributed 51 cross breed male goats in Thampanaikulam and Pannavedduvan - Madhu division out of 100 goats to improve the productivity and livelihood of families. ZOA also distributed 500 backyard breed month old chicken to 20 families vulnerable in Nanattan and Madhu divisions.

Shelter

- On 8th of March, UNDP has handed over 115 permanent houses to resettlement families in Kanesapuram (45 houses) and Manic farm (70 houses) in Cheddikkulam DS division in Vavuniya district.
- ZOA completed 31 permanent houses in Palaiperumalkaddu in the uncleared areas of Manthai west out of 56 houses and the balance of 25 house are pending due to the scarcity of construction materials and clearance from MOD to transport the material to Wannai.

Capacity building

- FORUT has signed four agreements with Cheddikkulam Federation of Community Organization (CEFCO) and Rural Women Forum (RWF) in Periyarkulam in Vavuniya DS division under the partnership development and youth development program. FORUT has also distributed sports materials to three youth clubs of Poonthoddam, Periyarkulam and Kalnatikulam.

TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Situation Update

- The situation in Trincomalee continues to be tense with a noticeable rise in incidents during the reporting period. On 28th February a civilian was shot and killed at Maligaithievu junction in Muttur DS division. This occurred about 2 km from the proposed IDP sites at Manachenai which has raised security concerns to the residents in the area.
- Again on February 28th two youths were shot dead by unidentified armed persons at Ilupakadaivai in Thiriyai, Kuchchaveli DS Division. On March 2nd two Sri Lanka Army (SLA) soldiers were killed when unidentified persons threw a grenade at an SLA patrol unit at Namalwatte Morawewa DS Division on the Trincomalee-Anuradhapura main road. Two youths were shot dead the following day in Salaipaiaru, Kuchchaveli DS Division on the Trincomalee-Pulmoddai road. On 7 March, two killings were reported; a woman was shot dead in Thirumal Nagar in Periyakulam and a business man in Sampaltheevu (near 3rd mile post).

Internally Displaced Persons

- A meeting on 6th March by the GA and selected agencies discussed the arrival of 2,000 IDPs from Batticaloa to Kiliveddi Transit Centre. Agencies were requested to provide fresh food for the IDPs during their stay at the sites. The Government will provide cooked meals for the first two days.
- Food has yet to be delivered by the authorities to any of the unrecognised IDP sites in Town and Gravets, Kuchchaveli, Thampalakamam. The GA agreed to receive the information and confirmation from the DS concerned that these are IDPs. The WFP dry food ration is available but distribution of food is not permitted to any unrecognised IDP sites in various locations in Trincomalee District.
- The GA announced that IDPs from Ralkulai (Muttur West) currently in the sites in Town and Gravets and Kinniya can return home. But concerns were expressed that the military does not yet allow return to the area but the GA assured that this is now no longer the case and that this message will be passed on to the military in that location. (The site is close to the military camp which is in the center of town)
- The IDP numbers in Trincomalee remain stable.

Sector ResponseWatsan

- WATSAN agencies are ready to meet the needs of up to 2,000 IDPs which may reside at the Kiliveddy transitional sites while preparing to return to their places of origin in the area. UNICEF have resources for 50 temporary toilets, Oxfam have a further 100 which can be deployed from 1-3 days. Oxfam has also installed five 5,000 litre water tanks for two of the transitional sites as well as beginning work on the instillation of a water purification centre at Kiliveddy Raja-ela which will be able to harvest 60,000 litres of water per day for drinking purposes. CARE will be trucking the water.

Shelter

- Progress continues towards preparedness for transitional shelter at Kiliveddi with four plots (out of 10) ready. A number of agencies have the capacity to support the actual return to place of origin: UNHCR has 1,000 shelter repair kits which would be implemented by UMCOR; CARE has 300 shelter kits for returning families with totally damaged houses or vulnerable groups with shelter needs; UMCOR has set up an office between Seruvila and Kiliveddy where 401 beneficiaries have been identified so far for the shelter repair kits (to assist returnees) and ZOA have windows and doorframes to add to the effort. A timely boost to the shelter coordination work in Kiliveddy and beyond has been given by the active contribution of the UNHCR/NRC Shelter Coordination Cell.
- UNHCR Weekly Shelter Coordination meeting reports that the authorities in Muttur have carried out the 2nd round of assessment and more than 1,500 houses were identified for the 2nd phase conflict damage house repair in Muthur Town and the nearby GN divisions.

Agriculture and Fisheries

- Last week FAO distributed 108 ice boxes. 70 were distributed to “Multi-day boat” fisherman and 38 to fish venders in Kuchchaveli and Town and Gravets. Furthermore, FAO also distributed 950 fishing nets to 63 fishermen in Kuchchaveli and Town and Gravets DS Divisions.

- The 10 participants selected by FAO, from three Community Based Organisations in Trincomalee District, were sent this week to the Food Research Unit at Kandy for a Nutritional Training and Capacity Building Program.

BATTICALOA DISTRICT

Situation update

- The general situation remains tense with ongoing military operations and daily reports of security incidents within Batticaloa town and throughout the district. Continuous shelling and multi barrel attacks are taking place by Government Security Forces towards the uncleared areas of western Batticaloa, during night and day time. Reports have been received of occasional shelling by the LTTE to particular SLA/STF camps in the centre and northern areas of the district.

Internally Displaced Persons

- According to Government statistics, as of 05 March 2007, the total registered IDP population in the district is 24,063 families / 88,157 persons. This is a significant increase compared to last week. On 07 March, some IDP families were moved from Valachchenai to their villages in Vaharai division on board six buses. The move was facilitated by Government authorities.

Sector Response

Shelter

- The issues surrounding allocation of land continues to be a major issue with no new sites being immediately available for IDPs newly arriving into Government controlled area.
- During the reporting period ZOA constructed 148 temporary shelters, four pre schools and two kitchen areas in the Chenkaladay and Kaluwanchikudy divisions

Food

- Numerous actors, including the Government, WFP, I/NGOs and others, continue to provide food assistance to the large needs in the district. However with the recent and continuing influxes of large numbers of IDPs, additional support is urgently required to ensure the basic food requirements, as well as complementary and supplementary food commodities are met.
- ZOA distributed supplementary food items to 1,012 families in the Valachchenai and Kiran divisions.

Wat/San

- The main issues in the watsan sector are site designation (whether temporary or semi permanent, shifting of IDPs, identifying new sites).
- OXFAM GB and partner organizations ESCO, Sarvodaya and EUDA planted 175 banana trees in the camps of Iyankerny, Savukady in Chenkalady division and Parankiyamadu in Kiran division to control the waste water near the bathing and washing places.
- A number of agencies including Oxfam GB, ZOA, IOM and Archeno Va continue to be engaged in the construction of toilets, tube wells, bathing areas, and open drains. These agencies also distributed cleaning kits.
- Oxfam GB, ZOA, and Archeno Va distribute 128,000 liters of water per day at the district IDP sites.

NFRI

- Oxfam GB, Save the Children in Sri Lanka, IOM, ZOA and UNICEF distributed NFRIs such as 1,873 hygiene kits, baby kits, pregnant mother kits, jerry cans, buckets, mats, kitchen utensils, clothes, bed sheets, tarpaulins etc in several Divisions.

Transport

- During the reporting period, IOM has provided 29 trucks, 5 buses and 2 vans to UNICEF, UNHCR, GA Office, WV, UNOPS, DSs, ADS- MN and KAVIYA to transfer NFRIs, food items, shelter materials, IDPs and tents in Manmunai North, Kaluwanchikudy, Vaharai, Valachchenai and Chenkalady divisions.

Protection, Psychosocial& Camp Management

- The ESCO gender network/Oxfam GB organized a campaign to celebrate international women day-2007.
- On 01 and 02 March, NRC has conducted “Camp Management Learning Workshop” for Manmunai North (MN) Camp Management Agencies, GNs, and the IDP Leaders at Saththurukondan in MN division, total participants were 30.
- UNICEF supported drama and theatre activities were performed by CPA in Kaluwanken IDP site.
- UNICEF supported mine risk awareness sessions were conducted by Sarvodayam in Kalliyankadu, Palacholai and Sithandy IDP sites.

Health and Health Promotion

- The DPDHS is continuing the distribution of High Energy Biscuits with support of UNICEF.
- The Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme by UNICEF & DPDHS has commenced with the distribution of BP100 (medicinal food for children under 5 with malnutrition) and F100 (therapeutic milk for children under 5 with malnutrition) to all relevant MOHs and hospitals.

Food Security

- FAO has Selected 3 WRDS (Woman Rural development societies) and provided them with food processing equipments. 10 members from each society received Nutrition and Food processing related training at Gannoruwa in Peradeniya.
- FAO is constructing 22 water harvesters (a tank system built to collect rain water) for conflict and tsunami-affected beneficiaries in Manmunai and Mavilanganthurai villages in Arayampathy DS division.

Livelihood

- On 3 March, a drainage maintenance activity was carried out by OXFAM GB and a partner in Maruthanagar where 35 beneficiaries were involved, and benefited through cash for work scheme. On 05 March, playground maintenance work was carried out at the Parangiyamadu IDP site where 40 selected beneficiaries were paid 400 rupees (around 3.5 USD).

Education

- School attendance of displaced children is very low in some divisions due to early marriages, long distances and lack of transportation facilities from the IDP camps to schools.
- On 6 March, Save the Children distributed 568 sets of school uniforms to displaced children in three schools.

AMPARA DISTRICT

Situation Update

- Overall situation remains tense.
- The uncleared areas remain inaccessible to humanitarian actors as military operations launched on 6 January are continuing.

- On 07 March, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) held a meeting with all humanitarian agencies in the district and discussed security related obstacles faced by UN/INGOs. The SSP office informed all agencies that they will take immediate steps to minimize the security problems encountered by humanitarian agencies.

Internally Displaced Persons

- UNHCR reported that IDP registration started in the district. Initially, 250 family cards were issued to IDPs in Thirukkivil DS divisions, who have been registered in the data base of IDPs. Registration in other divisions is also continuing.
- As of 08 of March, UNHCR reports on the displaced statistics as 813 families consisting 3,053 persons. This is an increase from last week as some new families have come to Alayadivembu from Batticaloa due to the continuing operations there.
- At an IDP working group meeting on 08 March, UNHCR reported that in Kalmunai Tamil, about 75 families arrived from Batticaloa. The Grama Sevaka and DS are in the process of registering these persons. In Thirukkivil, and an additional 50 families have been registered as displaced from the uncleared to cleared areas.

Sector Response

Food

- WFP has negotiated with GRC for them to support the government in IDP food transportations in the district. This will ensure the timely distribution of food to IDPs.

Education

- UNICEF reports that the survey on IDP children and education needs has been completed by the ZDE office. The findings have been shared with all actors in the district and show that there are 1,144 displaced students in the district. Out of this 927 students have been displaced from the uncleared area of Kanchikudicharu and Thankavelayuthapuram in Thirukkivil and are temporarily accommodated in Thirukkivil cleared area schools.
- UNHCR reports that there are many displaced students facing difficulties with school uniforms and other needs. UNICEF has sufficient stocks of school uniforms and has channeled the request through the Zonal Director of Education office.
- UNICEF is supporting 18 educational catch-up classes for school drop-outs. Accordingly, 500 school drop-outs have now been integrated into schools and 36 volunteer teachers have been selected to manage these catch-up classes.

Agriculture and Food Security

- FAO distributed vegetable seeds and fertilizer to 262 conflict and tsunami-affected farmers for home gardening in the Kalmunai, Thirukkivil and Akkaraipattu Agricultural Divisions in time for the yala planting season, during the reporting period.
- FAO, through the Department of Agriculture, conducted its 2nd training programme on improved cropping techniques for 50 paddy farmers in Thambuluvil village.