

**SITUATION REPORT # 67****KILINNOCHCHI, MULLAITIVU, VAVUNIYA, MANNAR, TRINCOMALEE & AMPARA****KILINNOCHCHI & MULLAITIVU DISTRICTS****Situation update**

- Kilinochchi town has been calm with the exception of short and intermittent shelling in the areas closer to Muhamalai FDL, Vadamarachchi East and Poonakary areas.
- A WFP HQ delegation visited Kilinochchi on 20 March and met with the LTTE at the LTTE Peace Secretariat.
- Aerial bombardments in Chudikkulam village (Vadamarachchi East uncleared area) on 19 March resulted in injuries to two school students and a teacher according to hospital sources. Nearly 150 school children and teachers were in session when the attack happened. It is also reported that the temporary learning spaces of the school built by Solidar were also damaged.
- TRO organized a remembrance ceremony for its seven abducted staff now believed dead at Cultural Hall Kilinochchi on 17 March.
- As of 15 March, Kilinochchi MPCs (Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies) had transported 205,800 liters of kerosene out of the 600,000 liters allocated for March 2007.

**Internally Displaced Persons**

- The overall number of IDPs in both districts remains the same at 45,675 persons in Kilinochchi and 26,098 persons in Mullaitivu.

**Sector Response**Shelter

- Last week, ZOA signed agreements with KNDO, KERO and KDRRO (local rehabilitation and development NGOs working in Kilinochchi district) to build 150 temporary shelters for the displaced currently staying with host families in the Karachchi and Kandawalai.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) transported five lorry loads of cadjan and two lorry loads of jungle poles through the Omanthai FDL to Kilinochchi.

Education

- ZOA and the ZDE (Zonal Director of Education) Kilinochchi distributed stationery items to 650 displaced children from Vadamarachchi East (uncleared area in Jaffna district) and Poonakary.

Water and Sanitation

- On 16 March, Oxfam distributed 150 water filters to IDP families settled at the Theravil IDP settlement site on in Mullaitivu.

NFRIs

- Oxfam distributed NFRI packages and hygiene kits to IDPs living in the Ramanathapuram, Mannakandal, Ampalpuram and Ilanila areas.

- Six IDP families from Koddaikaddiyakulam and seven IDP families from Thenniyankulam received UNHCR NFRI packages. These families were displaced from areas closer to the Omanthai FDL.
- ZOA by utilizing the GA Kilinochchi quota received 2,000 NFRI packages as contingency stocks from Vavuniya last week.

#### Health and Nutrition

- DPDHS (Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services) Mullaitivu reports that there are severe shortages of drugs in the district hospitals due to delays in transporting the 1st quarter drugs from Vavuniya. According to reports from Mullaitivu 20 March, the hospitals have been running out of vaccines due to non supply from Colombo after December 2006. Kilinochchi DPDHS reports that they are waiting for MoD clearance to transport the 'Thripasa' food (nutritional supplement provided by the Government for lactating & pregnant mothers and children) and insecticides for malaria control.
- On 16 March, UNICEF supplied 20 emergency health kits and a generator to DPDHS Mullaitivu and also distributed water tanks to the Mallavi and Neddankandal hospitals.

#### Food

- On 15 March, the Mullaitivu MPCSS transported 170.05 MT of sugar, 87.5 MT of wheat flour, 1.3MT of milk powder, 8.07 MT of pulses and 0.5 MT NFRIs for general public consumption.

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#### Agriculture

- FAO handed over three solar refrigerators, and veterinary medicines & vaccines (for 10,000 animals) to the Assistant Director of Animal Production and Health, Jaffna.
- FAO and implementing partners Sewalanka, Care and Caritas have completed the distribution of pulses OFCs (Other Field Crops) and vegetable seeds to a total of 370 vulnerable households. FAO, through the Department of Agriculture has also provided training in improved agricultural techniques for these same beneficiaries.
- FAO, through the Department of Agriculture organized a training programme in Nutrition and Food processing for 170 women (IDPs and Host communities) in six DS Divisions in Jaffna.

### **VAVUNIYA AND MANNAR DISTRICT**

#### **Situation update**

- Security situation continues to remain tense in both districts.
- On 15 March, heavy artillery shelling and mortar fire towards Mullikkulam, Keerisuddan, Parasankulam and Periyapandiviruchchan of Madhu division (Mannar district) displaced 325 families from the uncleared areas. 250 of these families are staying at a school in Thachanamaruthamadhu, 50 families at Madhu church and 25 families are at Thadsanamaruthamadhu church.
- The GA has received instructions from security head quarters Wannai to immediately shift the displaced at the Poonthoddam welfare center to the Sithamparapuam welfare center. The GA

and UNHCR are strongly opposed to this move and further discussions on the matter are on going.

- The IDP figures have increased in Mannar district particularly Madhu division (2,945 families). The GA reports that there are 14,896 IDPs in Mannar. Figures for Vavuniya remain stable at 8,000 displaced persons. There is an increased trend of people getting displaced in Mannar district and more people are expected to be displaced in the coming weeks if shelling continues.

## **Sector Response**

### NFRI

- On 21 March, Save the Children in Sri Lanka distributed NFRI packages for 157 IDP families who are staying in Padanichipuliyamkulam and Thankdikulam GN division in Vavuniya DS division in Vavuniya.
- ZOA distributed 105 NFRI for the people who recently displaced from Keerisuttan and Mullikulam to Thatchanamaruthamadhu in Madhu division in Mannar.
- UNHCR Vavuniya distributed 10 NFRI packages to displaced persons who sought help at their office.
- UNHCR still awaits the Ministry of Defence clearance three months after CGES (Commissioner General of Essential Services) approval to transport shelter material for 200 houses to Vavuniya North.

### Protection

- On 16 & 17 March, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) organized a human rights workshop for 27 Grama Niladari and social service officers of Musali divisional secretary division (Mannar district).
- ZOA continues to provide psycho-social care at the Madhu camp.
- On 20 March, Save the Children in Sri Lanka conducted a discussion on protection with IDPs families and children in Samalankulam in Vavuniya.

### Education

- On 21 March, Save the Children in Sri Lanka distributed education kits to 131 displaced children staying in Padanichipuliyamkulam and Thankdikulam GN division (Vavuniya DS).
- ZOA helped build a temporary preschool in Kuruvil for children displaced from Parappankandal.

### Food

- On 16 March, ZOA provided breakfast for 395 recent IDPs in Thadsanamaruthamadhu and Madhu who were displaced from Keerisuttan and Maruthamadhu.
- On 18 March, FAO through the Department of Agriculture and World vision organized training on improved home gardening techniques for 50 resettled families in Cheddikulam DS division (Vavuniya).
- During the reporting period, WFP transported 6.64 MT rice, 1.54 MT wheat flour, 1.32 MT dhal and 0.185 MT sugar to Mannar and 37.34 MT rice, 4.95 MT dhal and 2.48 MT sugar to Vavuniya.

### Shelter

- ZOA provided seventeen semi-permanent shelters in Illuppakadavai and Mannar, seven emergency shelters in Kuruvil and Palaiperumalkaddu and completed the construction of two permanent houses in Palaiperumalkaddu.

#### Health and Nutrition

- ZOA collaborated with MOH Adampan to conduct a health awareness program for the displaced at ten villages (Paliaru, Moonrampiddy Thatchanamaruthamadhu, Kuruvil and Periyamadhu).

#### Capacity building

- From 15-21 March, IOM organized a one-week training in Anudharapura on Participatory Rural Appraisal for 12 youth from Community Based Organizations.
- On 20 March, 100 youth graduated in AC, refrigerator repair, motor rewinding, motor cycle repair and leather product manufacture from a non-formal education unit in Vavuniya south. Ygro in Mannar with the support of WUSC conducted a one-day exhibition on the trained trades. WUSC provided 8'000 rupees worth of tool kits to continue their self employment in Vavuniya district and

### **TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT**

#### **Situation Update**

- The security situation in Trincomalee remains tense.

#### **Internally Displaced Persons**

- 2,144 persons (619 families) were transported to the Kiliveddy Transitional Shelter sites during the reporting period. Since 12 March, 3,014 persons (927 families) have been transported to the site.
- IDPs (originating from Eachchilampattai or Muttur East) that have been transported from Batticaloa have been allocated a shelter at the Kiliveddy Transitional Shelter site as they cannot yet return home. Protection monitors report that some of this caseload were under the impression that they were actually returning home until they arrived in Kiliveddy.
- There have been reports of involuntary returns to Kiliveddy. The initial plan of the authorities was to allocate shelters but IDPs from Muttur West were not allocated shelters and were persuaded to move on to their places of origin soon after arriving at the transitional shelter site. In some cases IDPs had returned unprepared to completely destroyed houses, inter-communal tension or areas of high military presence. Humanitarian agencies are attempting to address the needs of these IDPs.
- The UNHCR funded IDP registration process was not implemented by authorities for the IDPs arriving at the Kiliveddy Transitional Shelter site. However, the Army did their own registration procedure which included filming and photographing each displaced person. This will complicate coordination, tracking and planning for agencies supporting IDPs.
- The GA reports that there are not enough de-miners on the ground in Eachchilampattai. The Danish De-mining Group (DDG) have a team working in Eachchilampattai and are in the process of recruiting 80 de-miners. However, with recruitment (followed by clearance of each employee required by the Ministry of Defense) and training taking at least three weeks, there is little that can be done to speed up the process. The GA said he would look onto bringing more teams into the Division to supplement the ongoing de-mining effort.

**Sector Response**Protection

- Protection monitors report that several IDPs have been killed by unidentified persons since their return to or near their places of origin. Protection monitoring activities are coordinated with daily debriefs being held for information sharing and coordination purposes at UNHCR. Protection workers report that while the focus is on the Kiliveddy sites, pressure has been stepped up on IDPs at the Town and Gravets IDP sites to vacate and move to Kiliveddy.

Shelter

- The GA has requested that UNHCR construct further shelters for the relocation of Muttur East and Eachchilampattu IDPs or provide tents and/or plastic sheeting for temporary accommodation sites. However, UNHCR has made clear that they will not assist with relocation as semi-forced relocation is entirely contrary to UNHCR's Guiding Principles. The enforcement of the newly declared 50 meter security exclusion zone will substantially and adversely affect the occupation and use of the existing transit sites and the completion of the remaining sites by UNHCR and its partners. If the 50 meter exclusion zone will be unilaterally implemented by the Security Forces, UNHCR estimates that the absorption capacity of IDPs will be reduced by 40-50% while material loss is estimated up to 11 million rupees.
- ICRC has been allocated a new piece of land by Muttur DS to compensate for that which they have been asked to clear by the Army.
- UNOPS reports that the shelters at the Paddithadal site are complete and will be ready for occupation by 23 March and can accommodate 1200 persons.
- The DS of Muttur has not yet identified camp managers for the IDP Temporary Shelter sites at Kiliveddy. Agencies in other sectors are reluctant to hand over materials for cleaning, upkeep, maintenance, until they are sure that there is a structure in place and responsibility is taken for the handover of such materials. This is holding up the completion of facilities at a number of sites.
- UNHCR chaired a focus meeting with shelter agencies to agree on standardization and equitable distribution. Based on the results of a needs assessment (UMCOR have already started this process), only those families with completely destroyed houses will receive temporary shelters (from Care and ZOA). Those with partially damaged houses will receive a standard shelter kit (from UNHCR / UMCOR) which will allow them to start work on their homes and fulfill minimum shelter needs in the short term. ICRC expressed willingness to support a shortfall of materials in an emergency scenario.

WATSAN

- As the 50 meter security buffer zone in the Kiliveddy Temporary Shelter site needs to be clarified, the construction of bathing facilities has been put on hold. ZOA is temporarily trucking water for this purpose and UNICEF is providing water tanks for storage.
- At the Paddithidal plot Oxfam has started on and partially completed the WATSAN facilities.
- At the Manalchenai plot CARE/ZOA have all material in stock and as soon as IDPs arrive water will be trucked the same day and sanitation facilities will be in put in place. The well at this site has already been cleaned.
- ICRC, UMCOR and ZOA are involved in well cleaning in areas where IDP return is likely from Batticaloa. The Watsan group has agreed to map the areas of activities to avoid overlapping and duplication.

- A waste dumping site is yet to be identified in Kiliveddy.

#### Health

- The screening of IDPS in Kiliveddy for referral to Kiliveddy hospital took place on 16 March and a total of 15 IDPs were treated. None of them were seriously ill.

#### Agriculture and Fisheries

- FAO has begun distributing seed and fertilizers to 100 farmers in Kappalthurai in order to restart cultivation and support the UNDP recovery project in the area.
- FAO has completed monitoring and evaluating the impact of its project activities related to paddy (and other field crops), onions and home gardening.
- FAO has held a three days residential program on post harvesting and processing for 10 participants from 3 Community Based Organisations. As part of the program each trained participant will train a further 10 persons in the selected villages.

### **AMPARA DISTRICT**

#### **Situation Update**

- Overall situation remains tense in the district.
- Armed civilian groups are reported to have increased their harassment tactics in Kalmunai Tamil and Akkaraipattu, forcibly taking personal belonging (like Jewellery and mobile phones) from citizens. There is a reluctance to report cases to Police.
- UN and INGOs are exercising caution in Damana, Lahugala and northern parts of the districts in light of increased tension due to presence of armed groups and ongoing military operations.
- The Kanchichudicharu uncleared areas in Thirukkivil remain inaccessible since military operations launched on 6 January 2007.
- The disruption of telecommunications continues and is a concern to humanitarian actors. The mobile phone network and CDMA portable phones have been cut off since 06 March.

#### **Internally Displaced Persons**

- UNHCR informed that a new caseload of up to 400 new families have fled the tension in Batticaloa south and now displaced to Navithanveli division. There is a reported 170 persons who have newly arrived in Sammanthurai. The new IDPs are being registered by the DS.
- Total number of IDPs as reported by UNHCR on 20 March is 6,091 individuals (1 572 families).
- At the Inter-Agency meeting held on 21 March, OCHA and UNHCR informed that coordination meetings to focus on IDPs have been rescheduled to occur weekly (as opposed to bi-monthly) as situation of IDPs continues to evolve.
- On 22 March, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and OCHA, accompanied by Navithanveli DS officers visited three sites- one site hosting IDPs (Seraswathi School) and two other sites being identified for contingency measures in light of increasing IDP figures.

#### **Sector Response**

##### NFRI

- The distribution of NFRI will take place on 23 March in Thirukkivil to cater for IDPs displaced from the uncleared areas. An estimated 450 families are targeted. NFRI stocks from



UNHCR, Save the Children, Merlin, UNICEF, IOM and OXFAM form the package of hygiene kits, kitchen sets, buckets, lanterns, mats and baby kits.

#### Shelter/Care and Maintenance

- IDPs are continuing to arrive to host family homes. However a few camp-like situations, with maximum 30 families each, have developed in Kalmunai Tamil, Nintavur and Navithanveli. The situation is still manageable and assistance to shelter is being coordinated through UNHCR.

#### Food

- WFP is coordinating food distribution to IDPs with ZOA and World Vision and has requested organizations engaged in food assistance to work closely with other actors in this sector. Previously, there was no coordination as food was distributed mainly through the government. INGOs, in coordination with WFP and Government will assist in distribution in the immediate aftermath as government distributions take a while to go through the distribution pipeline.
- ZOA has provided assistance to newly arrived IDPs in Navithanveli and Sammanthurai. World Vision has also responded with provision of food packages consisting of rice, dhal, sugar, tea, candles/boxes of matches sufficient for 140 families in three GN divisions.

#### Protection

- UNICEF Colombo together with the Ampara office presented to the UN/INGO meeting on 21 March the Terms of Reference for the Task Force on the Monitoring and Reporting of UN SCR 1612. The Task Force formally established at Colombo level is now extending to field stations and encouraging Protection actors to formally/informally be part of the monitoring mechanism to report violations to UNSCR 1612.

#### Health

- Merlin informed that the Ministry of Health has declared Kalmunai division as endemic Hepatitis A area and is preparing a 5 year plan to prevent and contain this disease. Regional Malaria Officer has assessed the February conflict IDPs for malaria but none were found positive. Merlin is liaising with him concerning recent influx of IDPs. Again, he noted that 5,000 insecticide treated nets from the Anti Malaria Campaign are planned to be received but requested all agencies to inform him before distributing insecticide treated nets (ITNs).

#### Wat/San

- IOM and UNICEF conducted a technical assessment on water and sanitation at the Seraswathi School in Anamalai village (in Navinthavenli). This site hosts nine families at night (but with over 50 families at the school during the day). The families arrived on 20 March. The over 50 families are staying with host families but are in the day gathering at the school to receive information about assistance in all sectors. IOM will conduct well cleaning as the assessment revealed the water is not portable.

#### Education

- IOM agreed to transport the water tank which was donated by UNICEF to Vinayagapuram vidyala (Thirukkovil) where most of the IDP students have been located from the uncleared area of Thirukkovil. They were facing water storage problems due to transport this week.
- Following the assessment conducted in Attapalam village in Nintavur by UNHCR, OCHA and UNICEF where 72 IDP families from Batticaloa are taking refuge with relatives, friends

and in common places like RDS building, UNICEF facilitated for 30 children to start schooling immediately. School in a box has also been provided by the ZDE of Kalmunai to support with learning materials for these children.

Agriculture and Food Security

- FAO & Fisheries department (DOFAR) had a meeting regarding the finalization of Tsunami statistics & fisherman from IDP families who recently displaced from north of Ampara district. Department agreed to provide some kind of information of the fisherman from IDPs before end of this week.
- FAO selected 20 beneficiaries for poultry farming in Pandiruppu village (Kalmunai Tamil) and provided the poultry shed with feeders, drinkers & feed. The birds are being distributed.
- FAO distributed Vegetable seeds and fertilizer to 325 conflict and Tsunami affected farmers for home gardening in Karaitivu, Ninthavur, Palmunai (Addalaichenai) Agricultural Divisions.