

Returns have continued at a steady pace since the accelerated resettlement process commenced in October 2009, with 236,755 people released from camps as of 20 May. Of this total, 142,772 have returned to their districts of origin, while 92,791 IDPs are staying with host families and 1,192 individuals are in social care institutions. This leaves 60,900 people awaiting return at Menik Farm.

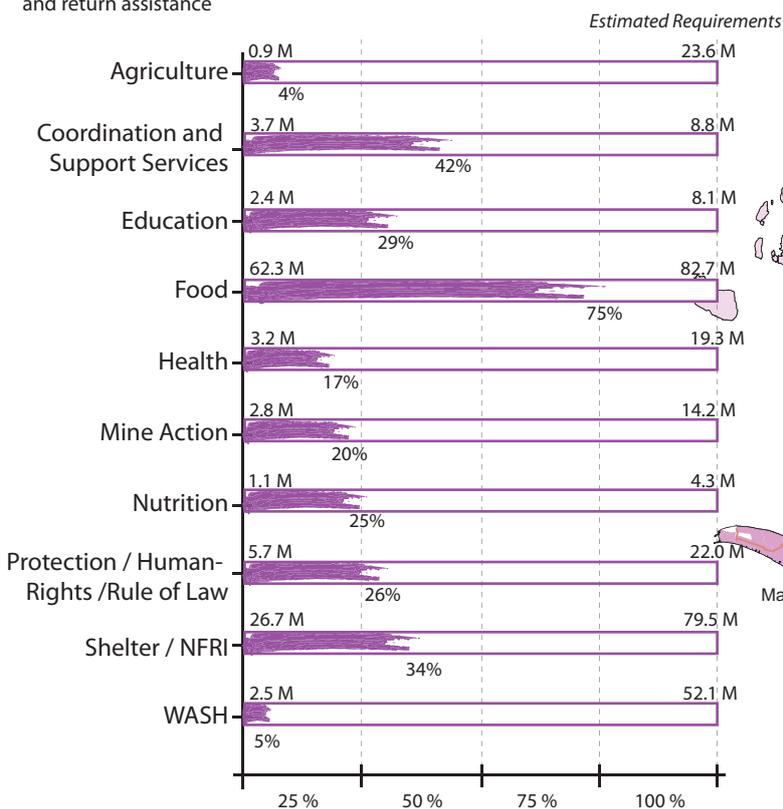
While returnees have generally welcomed the opportunity to go back to their homes, the sustainability of their resettlement remains fragile due to the limited availability of basic services and significant reconstruction needs throughout the former conflict areas. The Sri Lankan Government has committed substantial resources to the main affected districts of Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya, and the Country Team is complementing efforts, aimed at supporting safe, dignified and sustainable returns.

Consultations with return communities have highlighted shelter assistance, access to water / sanitation facilities and health services, and support to restart livelihood activities as priority needs. Many returnees, particularly women, stress the need for some form of transitional shelter to improve their physical security. Proper sanitation facilities are also important to reduce the potential for harassment and abuse of women and girls, as well as for personal dignity. Strengthening the health network to effectively serve returning communities is needed, especially in remote areas and for vulnerable returnees, such as children, pregnant women, the elderly and disabled individuals. Timely re-establishment of the civilian administration is another key requisite for the provision of essential protection services for these groups. Widespread destruction of school buildings, a lack of supplies and transport difficulties for students and teachers, are key constraints within the education sector.

Neglected or destroyed irrigation infrastructure and extensive landmine/UXO contamination are major challenges to strengthen-

Humanitarian Funding Update Menik Farm and Return Areas

* A mid year review (MYR) is ongoing to review needs and requirements including IDP and return assistance



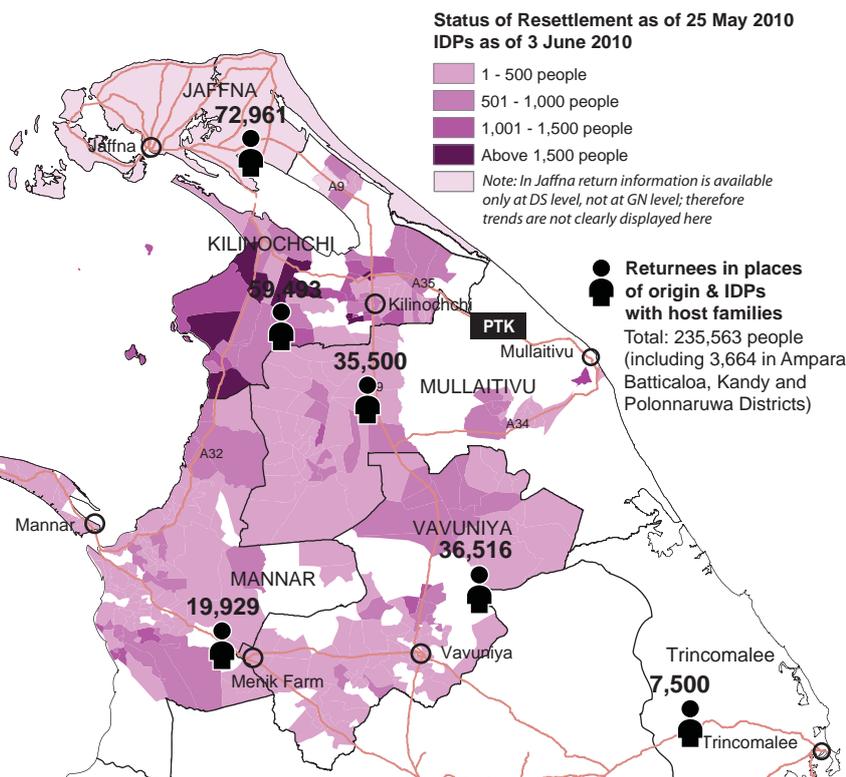
ing agricultural production in resettled communities. Also, many farming families require assistance with agricultural inputs, such as seeds, tools, fertilizers, water pumps etc. Consequently, returnees in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts will receive the six-month food ration for an additional three months (with the exception of Government servants and others with regular, dependable income sources).

Support for the next Maha planting season, starting in September 2010, will therefore be a critical factor in stabilizing the food security situation in the Northern Province. Integrated support for resumption of livelihoods, combined with income generation opportunities and reconstruction of infrastructure that has fallen into disrepair or been damaged during the conflict, will need to be supported. In the meantime, work-for-food and/or training-for-food interventions are being planned to ease the transition from food aid to self-support. Ongoing monitoring of the nutritional status of returnees along with continued supplementary feeding for undernourished children and other vulnerable groups is also a priority.

Finally, humanitarian demining is an indispensable precondition for safe returns and will require continued close collaboration between local authorities, mine action stakeholders and humanitarian agencies. A critical funding gap is likely to occur after August 2010 and which impacts several operators. This threatens the continuity of mine clearance operations in the Northern Province, and will have a detrimental impact on resettlement, resumption of livelihoods, safety of the population as well as the general peacebuilding environment. The importance of mine risk education and community liaison in the return areas, particularly given the current limitations with community information, are key components of mine action programming.

MINE ACTION

Between 1 January 2009 and 1 May 2010 a total of 15 km² of land was released for resettlement through minefield clearance and 359 km² through battle area clearance. A total of 109 out of 912 Grama Niladharis (GNs) have been released through Non Technical Surveys.



Sri Lanka – Humanitarian Snapshot

Focus Return Areas: Sector Priorities / Needs

Situation and Priorities by Sector

Agriculture / Fisheries / Livestock / Food

- No agricultural production in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts in 2008 or 2009;
- Mine / UXO contamination and damaged or neglected irrigation systems;
- Limited cultivation during the 2009 / 2010 *Maha* season and high food prices have increased food insecurity, particularly for vulnerable families;
- The six-month time frame for rations came to a close for the earliest group of returnees at the end of April;
- Due to continuing vulnerabilities, rations for returnees in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Mannar Districts and IDPs with host families will be extended for an additional three months. A decision on extending rations for returnees in Jaffna District and the Eastern Province will be made after assessments;
- Government to assist each returning family to clear two acres of land;
- During the 2010 *Yala* season, approximately 6,200 acres paddy land and 9,400 acres highland cultivated;
- FAO provided seed for cultivation of 2,200 acres paddy land and 1,900 acres highland, along with 500 water pumps and 600 sprayers;
- Other FAO assistance includes vegetable seed kits to 10,000 families and backyard poultry assistance for 10,000 families;
- FAO to support Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries with 20 motorbikes to strengthen extension services;
- IOM has provided immediate agricultural / fisheries / livestock assistance to 7,000 families.

Priorities

- *WFP is working to introduce food-for-work and food-for training programmes to ease the transition from food assistance to self-sufficiency;*
- *Agricultural inputs for the next rain-fed Maha planting season in 2010-2011 are crucial to increase food security in resettled communities;*
- *Government plans to target 75,000 acres of abandoned paddy land and 17,000 acres of abandoned highland for cultivation;*
- *FAO is mobilizing donor support to provide seed paddy for the entire 75,000 acres and other field crops and vegetable seeds to cultivate 15,000 acres of highland;*
- *Farmers require credit, seeds, new plants, water pumps, tools, fertilizers and marketing facilities;*
- *Replacement of equipment (boats, engines, nets) for inland and sea fishing;*
- *Vaccination and redistribution of livestock;*
- *Capacity building of community-based organizations, such as co-operative societies and farmers' organizations, required;*
- *Development of market linkages.*

Health

- Government health services supported by UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, WHO, MTI and other agencies;
- Increasing number of functioning hospitals and Medical Health Offices in Mannar, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi Districts and Vavuniya North. Some hospitals provide 24/7 services, but most provide only daytime services;
- Emergency care provided by many hospitals. Laboratory services and operating theatre in Kilinochchi General Hospital from the end of May;
- Remote communities reliant on mobiles health services;
- Antenatal, postnatal, immunization and reproductive health services have started;
- Disabled returnees were provided with service information.

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Focus Return Areas: Sector Priorities / Needs

Priorities

- *Although improving, the lack of staff remains a key challenge;*
- *Many health facilities lack basic infrastructure, such as communications, electricity, water and other utilities;*
- *Medical supplies and equipment required;*
- *Renovations required in health institutions to restore specialized services;*
- *Cold storage facilities need to be established;*
- *Poor road conditions and lack of transport services impede access to health facilities;*
- *Disease surveillance and vector control mechanisms required;*
- *Mental health and psychosocial services are yet to be extended to return areas.*

Nutrition

- *Before release from IDP camps, all returning children are screened, and malnourished children provided a one-month ration of High Energy Biscuits (HEB) or Plumpy'Nut;*
- *The Nutrition Rehabilitation Programmes (NRP) in Jaffna and Mannar Districts and Menik Farm are being expanded to Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts and Vavuniya Town;*
- *Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFC) in Mannar Hospital;*
- *Over 150 health professionals from Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts, from both primary health services and hospitals, trained on outpatient management of acute malnutrition;*
- *Anthropometric equipment being distributed to all primary health midwives in Vavuniya, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts;*
- *Two tents and two vehicles were provided to the Regional Directorate of Health Services in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts to support essential health and nutrition services.*

Priorities

- *As recently agreed by the government, children under five will receive multiple micronutrient (MMN) supplementation;*
- *Health services and their link with the NRP, including community level interventions, require strengthening;*
- *Transport facilities required for health staff and patients, as well as mobile clinics for remote communities;*
- *Further training of health professionals on management of acute malnutrition and infant and young child feeding practices required, given high turnover;*
- *Nutrition surveillance mechanisms need to be strengthened.*

Mine Action

- *Pressure to release land for resettlement and livelihoods with insufficient human and mechanical Mine Action capacities;*
- *All Northern District Secretariat Divisions targeted for resettlement have undergone some survey, to be completed by the end of 2010;*
- *Between 1 January 2009 and 31 May 2010, a total 374 km² cleared for resettlement in the Northern Province; 15 km² cleared of mines and 359 km² of explosive remnant of war (ERW) through battle area clearance;*
- *Non-Technical and Technical Surveys have identified an additional 482 km² of contamination as of 31 May.*

Priorities

- *Funding shortfall of around US\$ 9 million for 2010, which threatens to reduce productivity by 35% from August (daily clearance average will decrease from 109,310 m² to 70,924 m²);*
- *Mine Risk Education (MRE) and community liaison needed to identify urgent livelihood areas for clearance and to teach safe behaviours / practices to resettled communities;*
- *Mine Risk Education (MRE) Training of Trainers required;*

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Focus Return Areas: Sector Priorities / Needs

- *Funds required to complete the Non-Technical Survey in the North;*
- *Post-resettlement follow-up Non-Technical Surveys anticipated as more contaminated areas may be identified after people resettle and use the land;*
- *Continued humanitarian demining operations to facilitate resumption of livelihoods.*

Shelter / NFI

- As of mid-May, 45,992 returnee families in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya Districts had received the return form (2009 and 2010), allowing them to receive the initial SLR 5,000 installment of the total shelter grant of SLR 25,000. The scheme was interrupted due to funding shortages and resumed as of 30 April 2010;
- The government had previously given 12 tin sheets per family to support shelter construction. Stocks exhausted in April with no further donations confirmed;
- A contribution of shelter materials from various agencies existing stocks enabled support to about 2,500 families, after the tin sheets were exhausted. The majority of returning families in the coming months will receive only tarpaulins in the way of immediate shelter assistance;
- Agency resources sufficient to construct 6,000 transitional shelters. IOM has completed 3,495 of planned 4,500 shelters; UNOPS has completed 1,100 of planned 3,100 shelters;
- Agency resources to repair / construct 19,000 permanent houses in Killinochchi, Mullaitivu and Mannar Districts in the next 3 years;
- Returnees receive core NFI kits (including kitchen sets), hygiene kits, land clearance tools and basic emergency shelter assistance items;
- As of mid-May, a total 27,145 families in Vavuniya, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts have received NFI core kits. Another 6,568 returnee families await kits;
- Only UNHCR has conducted major NFI procurement for returnees. A few other agencies are reallocating NFIs, left over from Menik Farm, to resettled communities;
- Vanni returnees from host communities in Jaffna District and the Eastern Province have received NFI kits in these districts. The Government is assessing those still in need of NFI kits.

Priorities

- *The rapid pace of resettlement, limited funding for permanent shelters and the lack of tin sheets mean that tens of thousands of families will not have adequate shelter before the North-East monsoon season in October / November;*
- *New funding will be required by mid-June to avoid interruption of the shelter cash grant for a second time. An additional US\$ 5.9 million required to cover all remaining estimated returns between 2010 and early 2011;*
- *Significant shelter needs among IDPs with host families, not covered by any assistance mechanisms;*
- *Around 25,000 returning families will require NFIs to the end of the year. The figure includes 6,500 returnees families returned as of mid-May, who are currently in the process of verification on the eligibility of assistance;*
- *Based on the rate of the return movements during April / May, the NFI pipeline for returnees will run out by the end of June.*

WASH

- As of 1 June, a total 1,237 new semi-permanent toilets completed and 877 existing toilets repaired in the resettlement areas by IOM, UNOPS and Sarvodaya;
- As of 1 June, a total 2,929 wells cleaned, 490 wells rehabilitated and 10 new wells constructed by the National Water Supply and Drainage Board and Water Resources Board in collaboration with agencies including UNICEF, CTF, Cordaid, World Vision and Sewalanka;
- 82 tube wells newly constructed / repaired in Vavuniya North, Vavuniya South and Cheddikulam;
- IOM has provided 992 days of water bowsering and 272 water tanks to all return areas;

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Focus Return Areas: Sector Priorities / Needs

- In transit sites, IOM has provided 259 water tanks, constructed / repaired 82 toilets, 13 bathing facilities and 200 garbage bins;
- Approximately 80% of work to rehabilitate the water supply system in Mallavi hospital completed;
- 12,693 hygiene kits distributed to returned families in all resettled areas.

Priorities

- *US\$ 42 million required to support WASH infrastructure for the residential needs of the resettled population. This includes 28,400 toilets requiring cleaning, repairs or construction in Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya Districts, of which less than 7% (2,111) have been covered, and approximately 33,000 wells require cleaning, repairs or construction;*
- *Training of Trainers in participatory community and children's hygiene required;*
- *Development of toolkits for each Regional Directorate of Health Services (RDHS) and Zonal Division of Education required. At least 200 kits will be required initially.*

Education

- 172 schools have reopened in the resettled areas catering for 27,160 children as of 31 May;
- Limited transport services restrict access to schools for both students and teachers;
- Damaged school buildings and some looting of building materials;
- Some school premises still being used as transit centres, camps for 'separates' (in Vavuniya District) or Police/Army posts;
- 19 Temporary Learning Spaces established;
- UNICEF has provided furniture for 30,000 students and learning materials to cover 39,000 students for 6 months.

Priorities

- *60 TLSs are required at a cost of US\$ 400,000;*
- *School furniture and supplies required for about 42,000 students¹;*
- *Estimated US\$ 16.5 million required for reconstruction of 137 schools identified so far;*
- *Teachers' quarters required;*
- *Approximately US\$ 200,000 required to provide urgent psychosocial support to teachers and children and training for teachers in child-centred methodology;*
- *Approximately US\$ 350,000 required to provide 4,000 bicycles for children and teachers.*

Protection

- Establishment of a functioning civil administration in progress in many return areas;
- Civilian presence in law enforcement, including specific branches (Women and Children Bureaus), needs to be reinforced;
- Progress in re-establishing the judiciary at district level is visible, but with challenges relating to adequate staffing;
- Progress in strengthening strategies, institutions and personnel devoted to provide protective services for women, children and persons with specific needs has started but remains slow, largely at district level;
- Despite localized initiatives and progress at district level, the lack of civil / personal documentation and land documentation remains widespread;
- Gaps in other sectors (health, shelter, livelihood etc.) negatively affect the protective environment for vulnerable persons.

¹ Government statistics indicate a total student population of 82,000. The Government and UNICEF have already provided furniture supplies sufficient for 40,000 students.

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Focus Return Areas: Sector Priorities / Needs

Priorities

- *The consolidation of civilian institutions should continue as a priority, with enhanced structural support from the Government;*
- *Government institutions and services (including National Child Protection Authority, Department of Probation, Child Promotion Officers, Social Services Officers and Counselors, Women Development Officers) as well as projects to address the specific needs of women, children, elderly, disabled, SGBV survivors, need to receive adequate support;*
- *The role and number of the civilian police needs to be reinforced, including building a force with Tamil language skills and specific branches (Women and Children’s Bureau etc.), to ensure adequate preventive and remedial action;*
- *Services to address the widespread loss of personal documents, including birth certificates, marriage certificates and National Identity Cards should be reinforced;*
- *Land registration services to replace lost land documentation and mechanisms to prevent or solve disputes over land at community level need to be strengthened and supported;*
- *Advocacy should continue with the government on INGO access to increase capacity in return areas.*

Logistics and Transport

- Transport for over 194,000 IDPs returning to their areas of origin provided by IOM.

Priorities

- *Insufficient funds to cover transport services for all remaining Menik Farm IDPs and for the ‘old caseload’.*