

SITUATION REPORT # 72

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

19-26 April 2007

KILINOCHCHI & MULLAITIVU DISTRICTS

Situation update

- Shelling continued at the Muhamalai Forward Defence Line (FDL), Vadamarachchi East and Poonakary areas.
- On 20 April, a UN mission led by UN RC/HC visited Kilinochchi and met the LTTE political wing leader at his office, as well as holding discussions with UN agencies based in Kilinochchi.
- As of 23 April, Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (MPCSs) of Kilinochchi district have transported 359,250 liters of kerosene out of the 600,000 liters allocated for April.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The number of IDPs in Manthai East continues to increase. According to the AGA Manthai East, the number of families residing since 17 March is now 1,031 families (4,198 individuals). These newly displaced are from the areas close to the FDLs where fighting has erupted.

Sector Response

Shelter

- On 20 and 23 April, the Danish Refugee Council transported eight lorry loads of Cadjan through the Omanthai FDL for their temporary shelter programme. As of 23 April, 320 temporary shelters out of a committed 500 shelters have been completed at various IDPs locations.

Water and Sanitation

- Due to the shortage of cement in the areas, ZOA has made arrangements to build one drinking water well designed out of hume pipes instead of cement at the Chundikkulam IDP settlement site in Vadamarachchi East.

Education

- Last week, UNICEF with the support of the Department of Education-Mullaitivu conducted a needs assessment among displaced children living in the Mallavi and Manthai East division in Mullaitivu district.
- SCiSL built activity gardens at five pre-schools with displaced children in Poonakary division. 600 students including 80 displaced students from Kanakampikaikkulam MV were given stationery items and exercise books by SCiSL.
- ZOA through its implementing partner started the construction of two temporary pre-schools in Chundikkulam.

NFRIs

- On 20 April, SCiSL distributed new school uniform material to 80 displaced children originating from Vaharai and other eastern districts since the beginning of the year.

Health and Nutrition

- The DPDHS Mullaitivu received 535 bags of the ‘Thripasa’ nutritional supplement [one bag weighs 27.5 Kg] allocated for March, from Vavuniya last week for their distribution through health clinics to children under five years and pregnant and lactating mothers. The DPDHS also received 20.8 MT of high energy biscuits from UNICEF for the same group. Similarly, UNICEF supplied 38.06 MT of high energy biscuits to all three MOH [Medical Officer of Health] divisions in Kilinochchi. UNICEF has initiated therapeutic feeding centers at the hospital level to support the children (mainly IDPs) suffering from malnutrition.
- On 24 April, UNICEF distributed adult and child hygiene kits along with NFRI packages to eight displaced families currently from areas closer to FDLs of Vavuniya and Mannar and now settled in Puvarasankulam, Mullaitivu district.
- The new furniture items provided by NECORD [North East Community Restoration and Development Project] to the newly built Mullaitivu district General Hospital have been stored in Vavuniya for over five months due to delays in getting permission from the Ministry of Defence for its transportation.

Food

- WFP brought in 190 MT of wheat flour for its IDP dry ration distribution and 64 MT of Corn Soya Blend for its Mother and Child Nutrition programme in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.
- The District Secretariat of Kilinochchi reports that the 16th week IDP dry rations are being distributed with WFP assistance, although the IDPs are eligible for 36 weeks of food rations. Transportation of food commodities from the South was a major reason for this gap. The GA- Kilinochchi has also instructed all MPCSSs to start the 17 and 18 week of ration. In addition, a request for dry ration supply for 166 IDPs families newly arrived from Manthai West and areas closer to Vavuniya FDL has been sent by GA to Colombo last week.

Food Security

- On 23 and 24 April, FAO with the logistics support of WFP brought in eight lorry loads of fishing nets worth 35 million rupees to the districts to distribute to the fishing community affected by the tsunami and conflict. Over 536 fishermen will benefit.
- FAO through FORUT organized one-day training on food security at the Arasapuram IDP settlement [Poonakary] on 23 April where 89 beneficiaries participated.

Mine Action

- NPA [Norwegian peoples Aid] is conducting an assessment at the Mannakulam IDP location just south of Mannakulam [Mullaitivu district] where 35 IDP families have been settled. Some UXO's and parts of land mines have been found in the area. The MRE [Mine Risk Education] team is also on site to raise awareness for the recently displaced people living there.

Protection

- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), funded by UNHCR, conducted a two-day workshop on Human Rights for staff at the AGA office Karachchi on 20 and 21 April.
- The restrictions on transport of goods to/from the Vanni continue to pose challenges for the civilian population as well as the ability of the relief community to assist IDPs.

VAVUNIYA AND MANNAR DISTRICT

Situation update

- Situation remains tense in Vavuniya and Mannar district.

- Current UNHCR IDP figures in Mannar totals 4,316 families comprising 15,400 persons. Over half (2,301 families) in Manthai West stay with friends and relatives. While in Vavuniya, the total figure has increased to 2,329 families comprising 8,190 persons of which 5,710 (1,601 families) are staying with friends and relatives. Figures for Vavuniya north have yet to be reported.

Sector Response

NFRIs

- The UNHCR Mannar office distributed NFRI packages to 84 new IDP families in Mannar district. On 24 and 25 April, Save the Children in Sri Lanka (SCiSL) distributed 150 NFRI packages to displaced families in Thonikkal GN division, Vavuniya district and 47 NFRI packages to displaced families in the Vellankulam GN division in Manthai west.

Watsan

- ZOA completed the construction of 27 toilets in Mannar town.

Protection

- SCiSL issued play materials to displaced children at the Poonthoddam welfare center and Ulukkulam in Vavuniya district.

Livelihood

- Oxfam with SLF have commenced paddy processing in Murunkan. SLF is purchasing paddy from the members of the formed Farmer Company.
- Oxfam arranged an exposure visit to new technology in dairy product developments, for 16 persons in Vavuniya.

Education

- As a result of a joint advocacy initiative by UNICEF and the Zonal Education Department, 90 per cent of recent IDP children in Poonthoddam welfare center joined school on 23 April.
- On 24th of April, SCiSL – Vavuniya office distributed education kits for 221 IDP children staying in Thonikkal GN division and Poonthoddam welfare center in Vavuniya town division in Vavuniya district.
- On 19th of April, an Emergency Education core group was formed for Mannar district with the representative of Zonal Education Director, Emergency Focal point – Education Department and INGO/UN agencies, to do emergency education related activities.
- 16 temporary learning spaces are needed in 8 locations in Manthai West with World Vision accepting to provide 8 temporary learning spaces in three locations.
- On 21st of April, SCiSL – Mannar office distributed education kits for 46 IDPs' children who are in Elluththur and Kiri GN division Mannar town DS division while a further 91 IDP children received kits in Vellankulam GN division Manthai West DS division in Mannar on 25th of April.

Food and Food security

- On 20th April 2007, WFP did a rapid assessment and monitoring of WFP food distribution in Manthai-west area including IDP sites of Vellankulam, Ellupakadavai, Paalliyaru, Chinnachipiyaru, Palla-madhu, Adampan, Periya-madhu, Vidathalthevu, and Moodampiddi. During the reporting period, 60.907MT rice, 15.495MT wheat flour 4.62 MT dhal, 0.775MT sugar and 0.072MT vegetable oil to Mannar district were transported by WFP.
- On 24 April 2007, FAO conducted its monthly Agriculture and Food Security Coordination meeting in Vavuniya, to ensure basic food security through well planned activities in coordination and collaboration with other partner agencies.

Capacity building

- On 23 – 24 April, FORUT – Vavuniya conducted a capacity building workshop for 28 people on project cycle management for partner organizations (RWF, CEFCO) and leaders of CBOs.

TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Situation Update

- In Trincomalee town the situation remains tense.

Internally Displaced Persons

- 249 IDP families (858 individuals) originally from Kaddaiparichchan, Chenaiyoor, Sampoor GN division, Muttur East, were moved from Kiliveddy Transitional sites to Paddithidal Transitional sites.
- Some IDPs from Batticaloa are spontaneously returning to Kiliveddy Transit sites. Space is limited with some IDPs still occupying the Child Friendly Spaces while others share with families who arrived earlier.
- Current IDPs figures are being reassessed (figures 5 April Government 1,603 families and 4,983 individuals, UNHCR 1,446 families and 4,637 individuals).
- Norwegian Refugee Council completed a first training for 23 officials from Muttur DS in Camp Management Learning Programme who are responsible for the transit sites and within the returning areas. A second training was held on 26 April for 25 government officials.

Sector Response

Shelter

- ICRC completed 42 individual shelters in the Kiliveddy transitional site while IOM started 20 toilet constructions at the same site.
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) constructed 24 shelters for IDPs in Konesapuri, Town and Gravets DS division.

Food

- Danish Refugee Council (DRC) distributed food commodities for 1,000 IDP families in Kiliveddy transitional sites and other IDP locations in Muttur DS division.

Education

- Government schools (except Muslim schools) were opened for the second term on 23 April.
- Save the children in Sri Lanka (SCiSL) started construction of temporary structures in Paddithidal school to accommodate IDP children from the adjoining Paddithidal IDP transitional site.

Watsan

- Watsan situation in Kiliveddy Sites is under control.
- Oxfam completed 47 toilets in Paddithidal transitional site.

Livelihood

- On 20 April, 20 beneficiaries from different CBOs in Trincomalee Town and Gravets DS division completed a four-day training programme on Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion funded by UNDP and provided by the North East Socio Economic Developers (NESED).
- On 23 April, UNDP handed over an incubator to the Department of Animal Production and Health. This hatchery unit promotes “back yard farming” activities in rural communities.

Infrastructure

- On 18 April, the UNDP as part of its “Sports for Peace” programme funded the playground rehabilitation of the Aathi Koneswara Maha Vidyalayam in Thampalakamam DS division which will benefit 800 students.

BATTICALOA DISTRICT

Situation Update

- The situation remains volatile and shelling continues towards the Thoppigala western interior of Batticaloa.
- Dialog, Mobitel GSM and CDMA phones remain suspended. There continues to be an intermittent failure of electricity supply to parts of Batticaloa town.

Internally Displaced Persons

- According to the Government statistics, as of 24 April 2007, the total registered IDP population in the District is 37,925 families / 139,905 individuals (living in 87 IDP sites), which represents a slight decrease compared to last week due to improved tracking of numbers.
- Military and Civilians authorities have been registering IDPs in southern divisions of Batticaloa in view of the planned resettlement towards the western part of Batticaloa.

Sector Response

Shelter

- This week, IOM commenced the construction of 534 temporary shelters in Puthukkudiyiruppu in Arayampathy division.
- Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) constructed 40 semi-permanent shelters in Manmunai North and 20 shelters in Kaluwanchikudy divisions.

Food

- Complementary food was distributed by ArchenoVa at three IDP camps in Kokkuvil for 137 displaced families.
- World Concern distributed supplementary food items to 228 families in Saratha Vidyalayam in Manmunai North division on 19 and 24 April.
- JRS provided supplementary food for 1,260 families in Manmunai North, Chenkalady and Manmunai North divisions on 20, 21 and 25 April.

Watsan

- Watsan & Shelter agencies are coordinating with District Secretaries to identify land and develop new camp site facilities to accommodate the IDPs currently residing in schools and public buildings.
- The Garbage management and collection frequency at camp locations is a major issue district-wide. Local government resources are stretched to cover the regular service area and the IDP camp sites. Additional funds are needed to cover extra costs for improving garbage collection services at camps.
- A meeting was held on 20 April with the Municipal Council, Senior Public Health Inspector, UNICEF, CARE, Oxfam and IOM to discuss the issue and develop guidelines for camp managers and volunteers regarding the on-site management of garbage and action points to improve coordination with garbage collection agencies.
- Gully sucking operations to clean toilet pits are on-going at camps but adequate septage disposal facilities are lacking in the three divisions of Kaluwanchikudy, Arayampathy, and Chenkalady. The

Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services (DPDHS) in collaboration with UNICEF and key hygiene actors is developing a standard approach to Hygiene Promotion.

- The past week, ArchenoVa constructed 19 tube wells in the district.
- OXFAM GB and partners have constructed 11 tube wells, 17 temporary toilets, six semi-permanent toilets, screening nine tube wells and distributed nine latrine sets in the district.
- OXFAM GB organized a series of story-telling sessions on personal hygiene for children living in the camp. A total of 4,370 children from 12 IDP camps participated in these sessions.
- UNICEF provided 25 meters of hose pipe and 30 liters of hydraulic oil to the Arayampathy Pradesha Saba to support gully sucking operations while providing 200 taps to the Arayampathy Pradesha Saba to replace faulty water tank taps.
- Solidarities/UNICEF installed ten semi-permanent toilets in the Kaluwanchikudy division.
- The past week, OXFAM GB, ArchenoVa/ UNICEF, World Vision, ZOA, Solidarities/UNICEF continued their water bowsering activities distributing over 700,00 litres.

NFRIs

- On 8-24 April, IOM distributed hygiene kits for 129 families, combs, face mirrors, ladies under garments, mosquito coils and panadol cards to 525 families, and other NFRI items including, mats, buckets etc to 150 families in Manmunai North division.
- On 21, 23 and 24 April, UNICEF distributed NFRI kits to 910 families staying with host families in Kaluwanchikudy division.
- 1,637 food covers and 2,011 hygiene kits were distributed by OXFAM GB in Arayampathy and Kaluwanchikudy divisions.

Protection, Psychosocial & Camp Management

- On 25 April, UNICEF through Sarvodaya organized a Mine Risk Education (MRE) training programme for UN staff providing basic knowledge of mine risks and ways to mitigate them when humanitarian workers are in the field. MRE sessions further continued at IDP locations.
- The Centre for Performing Arts (CPA) with support from UNICEF conducted combined recreational activities (dance and music, art, and play groups) in Manmunai north DS division IDP sites.

Education

- With UNICEF support, a public announcement/campaign was launched on 19 April in all three Education Zones informing displaced children staying with host communities to register with the Education Department. The registration of IDP children continued from 20-21 April at 39 centers.

Health

- The DPDHS in collaboration with UNICEF and key hygiene actors is developing a standard approach to Hygiene Promotion.
- Hygiene promotion and follow-up programmes were held by ArchenoVa in Arayampathy, Kaluwanchikudy and Manmunai North divisions.
- CARE in collaboration with MoH Manmunai north, sprayed Fly Repellant to control flies at three camps in Manmunai North division.
- OXFAM GB organized a cleaning campaign, solid waste management and vector control activities at the eight semi-permanent IDP camps in Arayampathy and Kaluwanchikudy divisions.
- JRS has distributed nutritional biscuits to 1250 displaced school going children in Saththrukondan 4 & 5 IDP camps.

Livelihood

- On 25 April, OXFAM GB / Sarvodaya organized a cash grant event for the Iyankerny camp in Chenkalady division for selected IDPs, where 15 cash grants were given to start livelihood activities in the camp and the surrounding areas.
- In the Cash For Work programme activities, 150 man days were covered on 23rd and 24th of this week for a cleaning activity in Verduverkudiyirupu and 144 man days were used to clean the old CPM church camp compound to hand over the church management in Valachenai.
- In the Asset restoration programme, 7 sewing machines were handed over by Oxfam / ESCO to the Identified beneficiaries on 25th of April who are residing with host families in Kiran area with the aim of restarting their livelihood and another 3 sewing machines were handed over by OXFAM / EUDA to the identified beneficiaries in Maruthanagar IDP camp on 25th of April.

Transport

- IOM provided 31 trucks and 1 bus to UNOPS, UNICEF, ZOA and DSs to transport displaced people and relief items such as food, shelter material, NFRI and play items within the district.

AMPARA DISTRICT

Situation update

- The situation continues to remain tense.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The number of IDPs has shown a gradual increase the past two weeks. There are now 12,143 individuals (3,134 families) registered in Ampara District according to UNHCR with a notable increase in Navithanvely and Thirukkivil. (Last week a discrepancy in figures for in-district IDPs from the uncleared areas in Thirukkivil led to a report that indicated there was a decrease.)

Sector Response

Food

- The GA supported by WFP conducted a meeting with DSs to ensure timely food distributions to IDP families.
- LEADS supported 169 IDP families (558 individuals) in Pandirrupu Kalmunai with various food items such as vegetables, biscuits, milk, and dry fish. On 24 April, LEADS provided supplementary food to 75 families in Attapalum Nintavur on 24th April.

NFRI

- 21-24 May, LEADS distributed NFRI consisting of mats, tooth brushes, tooth paste, clothes and cooking pots to 169 IDP families (558 individuals) in Pandirrupu Kalmunai.

Shelter/Care and Maintenance

- A shelter meeting held at UNHCR on 24 April discussed alternative shelter options for IDPs living in schools and communal buildings. It was recommended that improvements be made to existing structures and that the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) would assess the Attampalum communal site in Nintavur now hosting 69 IDP families. IOM is to review the transitional shelter building at the Saraswathi School in Nintavur and will discuss with the head of the school on how to improve facilities at the site.
- IOM is to upgrade the transitional shelter site next to the Nintavur DS office, which is hosting nine conflict IDP families in addition to 100 tsunami IDP families.

Health

- Merlin conducted a two-day hygiene promotion awareness workshop for 20 German Red Cross staff and volunteers on 18 & 19 April at the Chamber of Commerce auditorium in Ampara town.

Protection

- Some areas in the district are facing continuous harassment of IDPs who are threatened with detention if found without valid IDs. Host families are also being discouraged to host IDPs who have no police clearance report from their places of origin. Protection actors are following up with the GA.

Wat/San

- The MOH has visited the IDP site in Attapalum in Nintanvur to assess the health wat/san situation and review conditions that may lead to epidemics. There is a concern for water which the Pradesha saba's are supposed to provide but are facing challenges. UNICEF is following up with the Water Board.
- UNICEF has started on the construction of ten common toilets in the Sammanthurai Division where IDPs are residing.
- IOM agreed to provide toilets and a bathing place for Navithanvely division based on the need.

Education

- UNICEF expressed concern at the use of the school in Navithanvely for IDP shelter as the premises are small. UNICEF visited the school on 19 April and raised concern about possible constraints for sanitation when schools re-open next week.