

SITUATION REPORT # 73**JAFFNA, KILINOCHCHI, MULLAITIVU, VAVUNIYA, MANNAR & TRINCOMALEE,
AMPARA & BATTICALOA****26 April – 10 April 2007****JAFFNA DISTRICT****Situation update**

- Situation is tense. Curfew hours still remain from 1900-0400 hrs.
- Richard Boucher, US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs was in Sri Lanka 8-10 May. He discussed the peace process, humanitarian issues, and human rights with President Rajapaksa, government ministers, senior military officials, and civil society leaders in Colombo. He also visited Jaffna on 09 May on a fact finding mission to take a first hand look at the situation in the region. There he met with the DS for Jaffna and other senior officials for discussions on the present situation in Jaffna. At a press conference in Colombo on 10 May, Boucher said he was concerned about the way things are and have been heading. He had been following the situation closely and there is concern on many fronts, economics, Human Rights and Press freedom.
- Improvement is reported in the availability of basic food and non-food commodities (except for construction materials). Prices are regulated but purchasing power especially among the IDPs is weak, due to discontinuance of many economic and construction activities.
- Security situation especially blocking of major roads, cordon and search operations, is impacting on humanitarian convoy movements and operations. Roads passing near security bases are being closed systematically creating long diversions.
- The regular WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) activities are being hampered by transportation. Only 200 MT of wheat flour was received during the 15-30 April period.
- Work on the common user logistics hub is hampered by inadequate materials. Once completed, the facility will provide a 3,500 MT capacity of storage for the humanitarian community in Jaffna.
- During 15-30 April, the WFP managed UNHAS operated three flights between Jaffna and Colombo. 59 passengers were moved from Jaffna to Colombo and 29 from Colombo to Jaffna whilst 2,735.6 Kg of cargo was airlifted from Colombo to Jaffna.

Protection

- The UNHCR noted an increase in the number of IDPs in TACs (Transitional Accommodation Centers) in Chavakachcheri and Karaveddy divisions commuting to their places of origin during the day due to decreased shelling in that area during the past nine-ten weeks.
- A SGBV (Sexual and Gender Based Violence) case was identified by the UNHCR Protection team and is being followed up by Community Services.
- The UNHCR is closely monitoring the situation of 45 IDP families living at the OLR in Jaffna town, who have been requested by church authorities to locate alternative accommodation. UNHCR met with the IDPs, as well as with local and religious authorities to discuss the issue. In a meeting held on the 30th of April, the UNHCR was informed that many of the IDPs have been able to identify land to lease for relocation.
- The UNHCR paid a follow-up visit to Tsunami affected returnees in Koriyadi village, PPD, to discuss the issue of the SLN's recent request for them to relocate to expand the nearby military base. The UNHCR continues to closely monitor the situation.

Shelter

- UNHCR implementing partner JSAC upgraded 83 TAC shelters with cadjan for side covering and 120 doors.
- Security clearances were provided for shelter and watsan interventions for 21 IDP families living with host families in Sandilipay Center, Mahiyapitty, Manipay West, Navali North, and Manipay South. The work will be undertaken by JSAC and ICRC.

Livelihood

- Over 3,000 direct beneficiaries have been supported by UNDP through various types of income generation activities since 11 August 2006.
- JSAC/UNHCR completed the third training of semi-skilled carpenters. 30 individuals have benefited and will be placed on a roster for possible shelter construction projects by members of the Shelter Coordination Working Group.

Health

- The DPDHS (Deputy Provincial Director of Health Services) reports that an additional 185 children who were reported as severely malnourished in Kopay and Kayts health divisions were registered with the community level Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme (NRP).
- 9,510 children (6-59 months) in seven health divisions registered with the community level NRP are being assisted with High Energy Biscuits through PHM (Public Health Midwives).
- UNICEF airlifted 77 boxes of BP100 (a milk based food supplement to combat malnutrition) on 13 April for the ongoing nutrition rehabilitation programme implemented by DPDHS.
- In April, WFP issued 2 weeks food for 120,000 vulnerable beneficiaries (39,000 families) under the VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) program. Beneficiaries will receive food for a total of 12 weeks. The full basket consists of 15 kg of food per person per month.
- WHO is collecting data on suicides in the district while vocational training programmes are in progress in Tellippalai.

Water & Sanitation

- UNICEF continues to assist the Government in meeting the minimum water and sanitation requirements of August 11 IDPs in TACs, host communities and primary schools. The monthly distribution of hygiene items to IDPs in 22 TACs has been undertaken while work is in progress on construction 26 toilets and three bathing facilities at 11 locations and repainting and improving of watsan facilities at 17 schools used by IDPs in Jaffna, Karaveddy and Chava.

Education

- Student stationery kits purchased by UNICEF for 140,000 students are yet to be transported by the Ministry of Education via Government ship from Colombo.
- 9,795 sanitary pads were distributed to all schoolgirls in the Advance and Ordinary level classes (grades 11-13) in all the divisions of education except Jaffna division on the request of ZDE (Zonal Director of Education).

Agriculture & Food Security

- FAO handed over 6 LUCAS Acid batteries to the Dept. of Animal Production and Health, Jaffna to reactivate the poultry hatchery plant in Atchuvveli, Kopay DS Division.
- FAO, in collaboration with the Dept. of Agriculture carried out the 2nd training programme in Improved Agricultural Techniques for 420 vulnerable households who had previously received pulses and vegetable kits.

NFRIs

- UNHCR distributed NFRIs to 27 IDP families who were displaced from Chavakachcheri and living with host families in the Maruthankerni Division. UNHCR also distributed lanterns to IDPs at Vigneswara TAC in the Karaveddy Division, and to IDP families from Chavakachcheri living at the TAC in Navashakthi.

Mine Action

- 422 community members from Changanai, Sandilipay, Chavakachcheri and Kopay DS divisions participated and benefited from 19 MRE (Mine Risk Education) De-mining site programmes conducted by MRE NGO partners.
- 235 community members from 11 “at risk areas” in Kopay, Sandilipay, DS divisions participated and benefited from MRE house to house programmes conducted by MRE NGO partners.
- 30 posters and 100 leaflets were distributed to volunteers covering Mandaitivu and Allaipiddy areas.
- The UNICEF supported Survivors Assistance NGO Jaipur, distributed one arm crutches to persons with disabilities and conducted six physiotherapy sessions on a mine survivor and four other persons with disabilities.

KILINCHCHI & MULLAITIVU DISTRICTS

Situation update

- Shelling in the Muhamalai FDL, Vadamarachchi East and Poonakary areas and aerial attacks in several places continued over the past two weeks.
- DPDHS –Kilinochchi has declared the month of May 2007 as the nutrition awareness month.
- UN agencies based in Vavuniya and Mannar conducted a needs assessment among IDPs displaced from areas closer to Mannar FDL (Forward Defence Line) and settled in Periyamaduru area [Mannar district] on 3 May. The results are being compiled.

Internally Displaced Persons

- There are still new IDPs arrivals in Manthai East [Mullaitivu] and Manthai West [Mannar] from areas close to the FDLs of Vavuniya and Mannar. The registration of IDPs continues.

Sector Response

Shelter

- During the past two weeks, seven lorry loads of cadjan and one lorry load of jungle poles were taken in to the Vanni from Vavuniya by the Danish Refugee Council [DRC] for its temporary shelter programmes on going in several locations in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.
- UNHCR reports, in Kilinochchi 3,485 temporary shelters have been constructed by various agencies since 2006 and work is ongoing for 1,007 shelters while 5,872 shelters are committed to be built. In Mullaitivu 3,733 temporary shelters have been constructed by various agencies since 2006 and work is ongoing for 810 shelters while 2,246 shelters are committed to be built.

Water and Sanitation

- As of 9 May, UNICEF through Solidar has completed 90 temporary latrines units out of a committed 300 units among IDP sites in Kilinochchi.
- Difficulties exist in finding material for construction work in the Vanni. The local price of one cement bag [50 Kg] is 2,800 rupees.

Livelihood

- Solidar is making arrangements to deliver cash grants for 500 displaced families living in Kandawalai division [Kilinochchi] to activate an income generating programme. Registration of beneficiaries is ongoing with the support of volunteers representing a local NGO based in the division and GSNs.

NFRIs

- On 5 May, UNHCR assisted IDPs settled in Vannivilankulam [Mullaitivu district] by providing 16 tarpaulin sheets and distributing ten lanterns to IDPs accommodated in Puththuvadduvan village-Mullaitivu. All IDPs assisted by UNHCR have been displaced after March 2007 and are accommodated in communal places of these villages.
- On 7 and 8 May, SCiSL provided NFRI items and school uniform material to 123 families displaced from areas closer to the Vavuniya and Mannar FDL and settled in Karumpulliyian and in the Neddankandal villages (Manthai East-Mullaitivu district).
- SCiSL provided non food relief items for 143 IDP families in Manthai East DS Division. The NFRI package includes domestic items, kitchen utensils, soap, hygiene kit (baby pack), hygiene kit (adults), and tarpaulin sheet. 304 children received 2 sets of children's clothes from Save the Children

Health

- Solidar is promoting hygiene related activities among school children and IDP families and conducted related presentations at six schools [1,451 beneficiaries] and at seven IDP locations [648 IDP families] in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu last week.
- The roof work is nearly complete at the Arasapuram government dispensary – a semi permanent new structure funded by UNHCR through UNOPS at the IDP settlement of Arasapuram [Poonakary].

Food

- WFP transported 360 MT of wheat flour and 16 MT of dhal for its dry ration distribution on going in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts during the past two weeks. 39,615 IDPs from Kilinochchi and 28,098 IDPs from Mullaitivu are being fed by WFP.

Education

- SCiSL established five activity gardens using locally available material with the support of parents and other community members in the district. 16 Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) teachers from 10 villages received incentive payments of 2000/= for the month of April. This motivated the teachers to provide their services to ECCD Centers. 607 students including 80 displaced students from Kanakampikaikkulam Maha Vidyalayam were given educational materials by SCiSL.
- On 9 May, UNICEF distributed tarpaulins, mats and blackboards to two schools in the Kilinochchi Educational Zone. In addition, UNICEF through an assessment has identified 26 schools sites to construct temporary learning spaces to accommodate displaced children.

Mine Action

- NPA [Norwegian People Aid] completed an assessment of the Mannakulam IDP settlement [Mullaitivu] where 35 families have been settled while several UXOs have been removed from the sites. NPA was also involved in a road clearance task along the 5th channel in Kilinochchi last week. The MRE team has visited several IDP locations in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts to raise mine awareness levels among people living there.
- On 30 April, a total of 283 anti personnel mines were destroyed by NPA in Kilinochchi.

Protection

- Through UNHCR funds, DRC conducted a two-day workshop on human rights to 30 staff working with the Poonakary AGA last week.

Agriculture & Food Security

- On 28 April, FAO in partnership with the Government Agent in Mullaitivu, and with the assistance of the Federation of Fishermen Cooperative Societies, distributed packages of Sardine Nets for 100 vulnerable fishers in Mullaitivu.

VAVUNIYA & MANNAR DISTRICT

Situation update

- Situation remains tense in Vavuniya and Mannar district.
- GA office reports are 15,400 IDPs in Mannar and 8,205 IDPs in Vavuniya. There are changes in the IDP figures in the uncleared areas of Mannar and Vavuniya district.

Sector update

NFRI and Shelter

- On 27 and 30 April, the ICRC distributed 379 hygiene kits, 80 baby kits, 838 mats for 379 IDPs families who recently moved to Periyamadu GN division in Manthai west DS division (Mannar district).
- SCiSL distributed 163 NFRI packages to recently displaced families who are in Thonikkal, Thandikkulam (32) and Maharampaikulam (56) GN division in Vavuniya district.
- On 02 May, Valvothayam – a Mannar based NGO distributed dry food to IDP families in Periyamadu GN division.
- UNHCR received MoD clearance to transport material sufficient to build 200 shelters into the uncleared area.

Livelihood

- On 29 May, Oxfam GB distributed 34 cattle to 34 selected beneficiaries.

Health and Nutrition

- High energy biscuits were distributed to pregnant mothers and children in Vavuniya and Mannar district.

Education

- UNICEF issued sports items (88 put-shots and 194 discs) to the Mannar Education Zone.

Food and Food security

- ZOA provided 14 refugees who returned from India with lunch and dinner at the Mannar church and gave them a traveling allowance to return to their place of origin in Nilaveli – Trincomalee.
- FAO handed over a motor bicycle to the Dept. of Animal Production and Health on 24 April 2007 to facilitate improved transportation in promoting the Artificial Insemination Programme for Livestock, in Vavuniya.

TRINCOMALEE DISTRICT

Situation update

- The situation remains tense.

Internally Displaced Persons

- Over the past two weeks there have been no returns organized by the authorities from Batticaloa to the IDP Transit Centers. However, the overall increase of about 700 IDPs in Muttur DS division since 24 April is due to spontaneous returns to the district. A small increase of IDPs has been noted at the Irrudayapuram Church site. Most of these IDPs originate from Muttur East or Eachchilampattai.

Sector UpdateShelter

- A Go and See visit was conducted to Upparul on 05 May. The Upparul resettlement is part of larger resettlement plan involving a 1,700 families returning to nine locations in Kinniya. The authorities stated that the potential returnees have been displaced prior to 1990.
- IDPs from Batticaloa who temporarily occupied Child Friendly Spaces moved to Plot E, which has 120 shelters. Plot E was earmarked for a caseload from a different geographical area. Authorities have asked agencies not to provide Watsan assistance at this site. At sectoral meetings it was decided that agencies should provide for their basic humanitarian needs until a Camp Management meeting can be organized with the authorities next week.
- Spontaneous occupations have also occurred at the ICRC site which is nearing completion in Kiliveddy. This site had been prioritized for the displaced sheltering in the Kiliveddy School who arrived their in mid-December 2006 prior to the establishment of the Kiliveddy Transit Sites. Due schools reopening they were temporary transferred to the Paddithidal and Kiliveddy Transit Sites.

Food

- Supplementary food and fresh food rations in the Kiliveddy Transit Sites are not systematically distributed to IDPs who remain displaced near their places of origin. These IDPs are unable to return home and it is difficult to coordinate activities for them as they are dispersed in a number of villages. OCHA and WFP requested agencies involved in the sector to attend the next Food Coordination meeting to discuss issues of equity and coordination strategy.
- WFP successfully advocated with authorities for new IDPs arriving at the Kiliveddy IDP Transit Sites to be registered for food rations on site at Kiliveddy with the AGA of Eachchilampattai. Previously, documentation had to be sent to Muttur town which in turn caused delays in registering new arrivals.

Watsan

- Agencies working with hygiene promotion have decided along with the DPDHS to change their strategy at the Kiliveddy Transit Sites and allocate one responsible agency per site.
- An appropriate dumping site for sludge from latrines remains to be allocated for the Kiliveddy Transit sites. Presently, agencies use the cost-ineffective method of transporting sludge to Kinniya for dumping. UNICEF temporary allocated a gully sucker from National Water Services and Drainage Board to PS Muttur. However, PS Muttur is unable to run the gully sucker with due to shortage of manpower. A solution is being discussed.

Health

- UNICEF/ DPDHS identified ten cases of chicken pox at the Kiliveddy IDP sites which were referred to the doctor at the Kiliveddy hospital.
- Fax communication facilities and furniture for the OPD patient waiting hall/clinics have been provided by UNICEF through DPDHS Trincomalee to a number of hospitals in the district.
- Measures have been taken to allocate space for health activities at the Kiliveddy Transit Sites.
- UNICEF through ICRC provided high energy biscuits to the 21 persons remaining in Eachchilampattai.

- IMC mobile medical service is functioning in Kiliveddy, LB3 and Kanguveli. On average 70 patients are seen on each trip. The medicine stocks were provided by UNICEF.

Education

- SCiSL is conducting Early Learning Activities in four locations in the district. In Kiliveddy camp there are 161 pre-school children but some of the children are not allowed by parents to attend the ECD (Early Childhood Development) centre due to the insecurity in the area. SCiSL has made a commitment to put up two temporary sheds to accommodate additional children in two schools. Around 700 displaced children will be enrolled in these schools.

Agriculture & Food Security

- FAO conducted a school nutrition training programme for 24 participants (School Teachers, WFP Health Volunteers and members of Parent Teacher's Associations) on 30 April 2007.
- FAO is constructing a school garden in the Kuchchaveli DS. Division. 4 out of 10 school gardens are completed and the rest are ongoing.

BATTICALOA DISTRICT

Situation update

- Situation remains tense.
- Dialog, Mobitel GSM and CDMA phones remain suspended.

Internally Displaced Persons

- According to Government statistics as of 08 May 2007, the total registered IDP population in the District is 37,772 families / 138,985 individuals (living in IDPs sites), which represents a slight decrease compared to last week and is due to better tracking of double counting.
- Military and civilians authorities have been registering IDPs in the southern divisions of Batticaloa in view of planned resettlement towards the western part of Batticaloa which is planned to start on 14 May. However, the resettlement plan has not been presented yet and the humanitarian community fears that the lack of proper planning might put returnees in a situation where safety and dignity are not ensured in the villages of return.

Sector Response

Shelter

- JRS has constructed 155 temporary shelters in Manmunai North and Kaluwanchikudy divisions. 1 semi permanent shelter was constructed and 49 shelters are under construction in Vaharai division.
- In Puthukudiruppu (Arayampathy division), out of a committed 534 temporary shelters by IOM, 246 temporary shelters are under construction.

Food

- WFP continues to assist 72 per cent (100,000 persons) of the total IDP population in the district with basic food rations while NGOs cover 18 per cent of the total. The Government is providing some food rations to IDPs with host families. There are still significant gaps in the district as 10 per cent of the IDPs (13,000 people) are not receiving food supplies regularly.
- Responding to a request by WFP, which is facing a shortage of supplies, the ICRC has begun providing 750 tonnes of rice to feed more than 120,000 displaced people in Eastern Sri Lanka for one month. The rice will be delivered in stages during the month of May. About 600 tonnes will be distributed to 100,000 people in Batticaloa district and the remainder to 24,000 people in Trincomalee district.

- On 28 April and 1 through 9 May, JRS provided complementary food for 2,350 families in Manmunai North, Chenkalady and Arayampathy divisions.
- ArchenoVa distributed complementary food for 137 families for 2 weeks in Kokkuvil III camp in Manmunai North division.
- DRC donated over 20,000 one week supplementary family food packages, which are being distributed alongside WFP rations.
- WFP is currently distributing 2 weeks dry rations for the period 7-20 May amounting to a total of 700 MT for 100,000 IDPs.

Wat/San

- There are overall gaps in several areas in Arayampathy and Kaluwanchikudy, largely due to shifting IDP populations from schools to several new camps. Therefore agencies are responding to ensure that standards for sanitation and water are being met in the quickest manner possible. Emergency toilets through UNICEF/Acted are being constructed in new camps.
- ArchenoVa constructed 28 tube wells (TW) in Kaluwanchikudy division, 9 TW in Arayampathy division and 3 TW in Manmunai North division during the reporting period.
- ArchenoVa is working on 2 newly designed bathing places in Palemeenmadu III and IV IDP camps in Manmunai North division with works on flooring, timber wall support, tube wells and concrete foundation.
- During reporting period, Oxfam GB and its partners (Sarvodaya, ESCO, NERTRA, and CRDO) constructed 51 tube wells, 16 temporary toilets, 12 semi permanent toilets, 15 platforms, and 18 sets of bathing cubicles in Arayampathy and Kaluwanchikudy divisions.
- Oxfam GB and its partners (Sarvodaya, ESCO, NERTRA, and CRDO) screened 26 tube wells, cleaned 14 wells, repaired 13 tube wells & 7 latrines and provided 4 latrine cleaning sets in Arayampathy and Kaluwanchikudy divisions.
- A format for tracking services to IDP camps has been developed by UNICEF and is being distributed through NRC camp management training. This will improve accountability for services to camps, such as waste management, water bowsering and gully sucking
- A plan to improve regular waste management in camps by improving the overall coordination capacity of Pradesha Sabhas and local government has been undertaken by UNICEF.
- The past week, OXFAM GB, ArchenoVa/ UNICEF, World Vision, ZOA, Solidarities/UNICEF bowsered 900,000 liters of water per day at sites in the district.

NFRI

- On 27 & 30 April, IOM distributed hygiene kits for 98 families in Manmunai North division.
- On 8 & 9 May, IOM distributed 8 pregnant mother kits to 8 families in Manmunai North division.
- Save the Children distributed 680 family NFRI packs to IDPs in host communities in Kaluwanchikudy division, last week.
- UNICEF distributed 728 Family Emergency Kits to IDPs with host families in Kaluwanchikudy division.
- 42 families (with 65 children) received domestic packs inclusive of 2 sarongs, 1 bed sheet, 2 plastic mats, 1 hygiene kit, mosquito coils, plastic pots for water collection, and kitchen utensil kit from SCiSL.
- During the reporting period, IOM has provided 20 trucks and 2 buses to UNICEF, UNOPS, TDH, ZOA, Save the Children, DS and Education department for transporting NFRI, shelter material, IDPs, Education materials and food items.

Protection, Psychosocial & Camp Management:

- 26 April through 01 May, NRC conducted 2 two workshops on Camp Management in the Kaluwanchikudy division for Camp Management agencies, Government staff and IDP leaders, where 53 persons participated.
- UNICEF supported MRE awareness has been conducted at 40 IDP sites and training on Mine/UXOs Safety Awareness for humanitarian workers were conducted for 23 TDH and 26 ACTED staff by Sarvodaya.

Education

- As of 3 May 2007, all schools except three (3) schools have been vacated from by IDPs and the schools need to be cleaned and repaired. The ZDE have requested a quick assessment on this. The three remaining schools are in Batticaloa Zone. A total number of 86 Schools in Batticaloa district are still temporarily closed.
- On 26 & 27 April, 7 & 8 May, JRS provided nutritional food for 1,250 school going displaced children at 2 IDP camps in Manmunai North division.
- On 28 April, JRS distributed 24 tarpaulins as temporary learning spaces in camps in Manmunai North and Chenkalady divisions.
- UNICEF contributed 3,000 rulers to JRS for their school kits which are to be distributed among displaced children.
- ZDE Batticaloa has been distributing learning material and UNICEF school-in-a-box kits to temporary schools. UNICEF school materials have been pre-positioned with the ZDE Kalkudah to distribute to Vaharai school children.
- Training for displaced teachers in all three Education Zones on psycho-social aspects and the concise syllabus was conducted 26 -27 April with UNICEF support, where 953 teachers were trained.
- Around 6,000 displaced children in 15 schools have received SCiSL temporary stationery items (2 exercise books, one pen and pencil) and an additional 600 children have received full education stationery.
- Save the Children has also agreed in consultation with the zonal department to construct ten temporary sheds to accommodate displaced students in the same division.
- SCiSL provided supplementary feeding to 2,650 children in IDP Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDC) in 3 zones and is monitoring to check the standard and the quality of EECE (Emergency Early Childhood Education) project work and what changes it has made in children's life. A Newly Constructed ECDC by SCiSL at Thiruchenthur was handed over to the community where it is expected that 35 children will have access to early childhood education. ZOA Refugee Care has agreed to provide 20 temporary buildings to be set up in 20 different camps for SCiSL to carry on the early childhood development activities

Health

- As of 4 May 2007, the following cases of community diseases have been reported at the IDP sites in Batticaloa to DPDHS: Chickenpox 55, Mumps 15, Viral hepatitis 15, dysentery 22 and Dengue 12.
- Arch nova's main activities in the sector of Hygiene Promotion were related to an assessment-update for the distribution of hygiene kits and camp cleaning kits at 20 camps in Manmunai North, where 23 volunteers were trained and given Hygiene Promotion messages printed t-shirts.
- Oxfam GB organized street dramas at 5 IDP camps in Kiran, Valachchenai and Kaluwanchikudy divisions on, hand washing, personal hygiene, maintenance of watsan facilities and other health related issues. This activity directly reached and benefited more than 1,800 children and adults.
- On 5 May, a training was organized by Oxfam GB together with the PHI for volunteers on methodologies used for volunteer activities.

- The UNICEF supported Nutrition Rehabilitation Program (NRP) continues while 187 malnourished children out of 4,780 children have been identified and registered under the program to get Ready-to-Use-Therapeutic-Food.
- The current stock of UNICEF/DPDHS High Energy Biscuits is 22.933 MT as of 04 May 2007 and the 3rd round of distribution will be commencing on 14 May 2007.

Agriculture & Food Security

- FAO is conducting a joint food security assessment with WFP and Care in Batticaloa
- FAO trained 120 beneficiaries (Agriculture and home science teachers, parents and kitchen staff) at 4 schools in Manmunai Pattu DS Division. 10 poultry and 10 goat sheds for 20 beneficiaries in Amirthakally DS. 20 farmers were trained by FAO in "Drip Irrigation Technology" who previously received Drip Irrigation Units in Manmunai Pattu and Kattankudy DS Divisions.

AMPARA DISTRICT

Situation Update

- The situation remains tense with isolated incidents reported in the district.
- The inland road that runs along the western periphery of the uncleared area continues to face threats of claymore and pressure mine attacks, thus impacting the people in the nearby villages as they cannot access regular markets, work in the fields and disrupts schooling.

Internally Displaced Persons

- The IDP trend, particularly in Alayadivembu has decreased.
- Within the programme of the visit of Richard Boucher, the Country Director of USAID visited the Kalmunai Thekkancholai IDP camp which hosts both tsunami and conflict IDPs to see situation on the ground of how tsunami and conflict issues are intertwined. The tsunami IDPs are uncertain of their future as most of them are from the 0-65 metres buffer zone and are not beneficiaries to any housing scheme. These IDPs have been in this camp since early 2005. Conflict IDPs, mostly those from Trincomalee expressed a desire to return to their home but are worried about the security situation in their place of origin. The IDPs, both tsunami and conflict, expressed worry over the deteriorating security in the area. The IDPs expressed gratitude for assistance provided by INGOs in food, shelter, hygiene and sanitation services. Thekkancholai is supported by IOM, and since December 2006 Caritas EHED extended the camp with shelter for conflict IDPs.

Sector Response

Food

- WFP reports that during the month of April 143.9 MT of mixed food commodities were delivered to 12,143 IDPs (3,154 families). Due to considerable increase of IDPs in the four divisions (Thirukkivil, Kalmunai Tamil, Navithanvely and Alayadivembu) it was agreed to provide 15 days ration instead of a monthly ration twice a month. However, DSs face difficulty preparing SSD8 form (Social Service Department form -08) for food distribution twice a month, and WFP/GA held a meeting with the DSs to ensure timely food distribution to IDPs.
- Due to security situation and tension in some areas of Thirukkivil, Damana, Lahugala and Navithanvely divisions, School Feeding programme activities have been interrupted or stopped. Principals, teachers, cooks and Public Health Inspectors etc are afraid to work at schools in the remote and affected areas.

NFRI

- UNHCR through the IDP beneficiary list of DS Kalmunai Tamil reports that there are 500 IDP families entitled to receive NFRI since they were not given them in the last distribution. These inter-agency NFRI distributions will take place next week.

Shelter

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) reports that it has started providing cash assistance to support shelter needs of IDPs in Alayadivembu. 21,500 rupees is being given to each IDP family living with host families, which 58 IDP families have received so far.

Protection

- Reports of abductions, harassment and extortions continue. Many people are seeking protection and trying to flee from the east. The lack of sufficient safe places for people to take refuge is a concern. Armed groups continue to operate freely.

Wat/San

- UNICEF has constructed four toilets for IDP in Neinakadu of Sammanthurai DS Division and around 70 people benefiting from this. Another two toilets are in progress in Sammanthurai.
- Thirukkivil Pradesha Saba stopped one bowser used for water trucking due to lack of funds for the running cost. IOM is looking into the possibilities of support the running cost

Education

- 336 IDP students have been enrolled to schools in the Sammanthurai zone to and UNICEF provided them with school items.
- The six emergency focal persons of the six education zones were trained on emergency preparedness and response for two days, in Colombo with UNICEF support.
- 18 CUE (catch up education) classes are functioning in six education zones to mainstream the dropout students with the support of materials and training of teachers by UNICEF.

Agriculture & Food Security

- FAO provided fruit plants for 22 vulnerable families in Pandirrupu and Periyaneelavanai in Kalmunai Tamil DS Division as part of home gardening activities.
- FAO conducted a village level nutritional training programme for 138 participants from Sainthamaruthu, Navithanvely, Sammanthurai and Karaitivu Agricultural Instructor Areas.