

Tsunami Disaster Situation Report Sri Lanka

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Disaster in Sri Lanka

Purpose of the Report

To keep the civil society organizations, NGOs and partners of the Tamil Information Centre (TIC-UK), Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD-Sri Lanka) and Centre for Community Development (CCD-UK), and other relief and development agencies and governments informed of the impact of the Tsunami disaster in Sri Lanka, in particular the north-east region of the island.

Introduction

Reported death toll and displaced persons:

The official death toll as reported by the Sri Lankan government stands at 30,957 as of 25 January 2005, with 20,554 in the north-east. More than 10,430 people died in Amparai District. Around 5,644 are reported missing and presumed dead, according to the Sri Lankan government. But the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) has reported that more than 14,400 are missing in the north-east. The final death toll is expected to be around 45,000 island-wide, and 30,000 in the north-east alone. There are over 15,190 injured nationwide, with more than 7,400 in the north-east. The government says that over 502,450 people are displaced from their homes by the tsunami. Of these, 282,790 are displaced in the north-east (See Appendix 2).

Bureaucratic bungling

Commissioner General of Essential Services Tilak Ranavirajah, the senior official co-ordinating relief operations in Sri Lanka, said on 2 February 2005 that 70% of the 960,000 people affected have not received help from the government after more than five weeks since the tsunami. A massive aid effort by the international community has been underway and a huge amount of relief materials has poured into the country. Mr Ranavirajah blamed bureaucratic bungling and ignorance on the part of tsunami survivors for the slow aid distribution. Most of the people affected lived in poor, rural communities and lacked education and skills to apply for aid and deal with red tape.

He said that President Chandrika Kumaratunge had directed him to see that all families, or at least 70-75% of them, get relief by 4 February. Mr Ranavirajah's figures do not include areas of the north-east under the control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The LTTE and the Tamil National Alliance (TNA) have been continually blaming the government for not taking effective action to ensure that the people in the north-east receive relief. Mr Ranavirajah says the government believed it would cost Rs 10 billion (\$103 million) to compensate bereaved families and supply food for six months.

Amid reports of aid disappearing and relief camps serving spoiled food, he pledged action against corruption among officials. On 4 February, Sri Lanka's Independence Day, hundreds of Sinhalese tsunami survivors staged a demonstration in Matara to protest against corruption in aid distribution. Thousands of Muslims demonstrated in Amparai on the same day. They accused the government of only attending to the needs of the Sinhalese people affected by the tsunami. They say that nothing has come their way despite the passage of 41 days since the sea destroyed their lives. The Tamils staged a demonstration before the Pradeshiya Sabha (Regional Council) secretariat against misappropriation of relief materials by the Grama Sevakas (village headmen).

Sri Lanka's main opposition United National Front (UNF) accused the government of inefficiency in handling post tsunami relief operations and failure to provide adequate relief services to the victims after five weeks of the disaster. The Sri Lankan government responded on the same day by appointing another task force to ensure aid reaches all victims. Observers say that this will create further bureaucracy and may not help the situation.

In a 13 January memorandum to the Task Force to Rebuild the Nation (TAFREN), Colombo agency the Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA) stressed the importance of accountability and transparency in general and financial accountability in particular. The CPA urged that any enabling legislation itself must set out internal mechanics for complying with statutory accountability requirements, with a particular focus on financial accountability, reporting requirements and public access to information. The CPA also called for strengthening external accountability mechanisms such as parliamentary oversight bodies, and non-conventional tools such as institutionalizing multi-stakeholder participation in decision-making, particularly with regard to public contracting. The establishment of a special fund for reconstruction assistance so as to maximize accountability is also recommended by the CPA.

Other governments and the UN

Clinton and Bush

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan announced on 1 February that former US President Bill Clinton has been chosen to be the UN special envoy for tsunami relief in Asia. Mr Clinton is already leading efforts to raise relief donations from Americans on the request of the US President. The Secretary General expressed confidence that Mr Clinton will bring energy, dynamism and focus to the task of sustaining world interest in the vital recovery and reconstruction phase following the tsunami disaster. Mr Annan wanted the special envoy not only to focus on the clean-up and reconstruction, but to push for the resolution of conflicts in the two worst-hit countries, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

On 4 February, US President George W. Bush announced a delegation to visit tsunami-affected countries, including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Maldives. The

delegation will comprise Bill Clinton and another former US President, George Bush (Sr), and will visit the countries from 19 to 21 February 2005.

Tourism meeting

The UN World Tourism Organization (WTO) held an emergency meeting on 31 January and 1 February on the Thai island of Phuket to discuss measures to get visitors back to areas hit by the tsunami. Officials from about 40 nations took part in the meeting. Many tourists visiting holiday destinations in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and the Maldives were killed in the disaster. The delegates agreed on a plan, named Phuket Action Plan, to encourage tourists back to four of the nations, which was endorsed by the WTO. The Action Plan will focus on saving jobs in the tourism industry, re-launching tourism-related businesses and increasing visitor numbers. The Plan also endorses a global advertising initiative, ticket giveaways and a campaign for more considered foreign travel advisories by governments. The WTO stressed that jobs must be rapidly restored and called upon the tourists themselves to go ahead and visit the countries, saying that their rapid return to the tsunami-affected countries is imperative for the recovery.

Interim warning system

The UN announced on 1 February that it was developing an interim early warning system in the Indian Ocean, which could go into operation almost immediately. The scheme, worked out by UNESCO, is designed for use until a full system is in place. Under the interim plan, the Japanese Meteorological Agency and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Hawaii will provide authorities around the Indian Ocean region with information about possible sea surges. Countries around the region are currently discussing a permanent solution, but during a meeting in late January, they disagreed over the place for the setting-up of a Regional Disaster Warning Centre.

International Bank assessment

A preliminary assessment by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), estimates the overall tsunami damage in Sri Lanka at around \$1 billion (4.5% of GDP), largest losses appearing to be in the fisheries and tourism sectors due to lost income and production. The financing needed is estimated at \$1.5 to 1.6 billion. This figure differs from that of the Sri Lankan government which says \$3.5 billion is needed for the recovery.

In the short term, resources are mostly required for housing, transportation infrastructure and livelihood restoration for fishermen, small farmers and micro enterprises. The Bank report says this estimate, in aggregate, is very close to the estimate of the TAFREN (with significant differences at sector level), and is consistent with preliminary estimates released by the LTTE. The report emphasizes the need to take into account guiding principles – such as conflict sensitivity, subsidiarity

(decentralization to simpler organizations), community empowerment, transparency, hazard risk management and coordination between stakeholders.

The Sri Lankan government and the LTTE

Discussions between the LTTE and the government have continued regarding joint relief work, but have so far not produced proper results. Tiger political head S P Thamilselvan says that the government is increasingly demonstrating its unwillingness to work with the LTTE in rebuilding the devastated areas. He stressed that the government proposals for a joint mechanism are impractical and not worthy of consideration. The LTTE have submitted several suggestions and proposals through Norwegian facilitators. Mr Thamilselvan says the government is not sincere in creating a situation that would enable any move forward. The government has responded by saying that the difficulty has arisen because of the lack of transparency and accountability on the part of the LTTE.

At a meeting with Netherlands Foreign Minister Bernard Bot on 3 February, the TNA said that the government's attempt to centralize the rehabilitation work has not worked, as experience from the last six weeks shows that hardly any progress has been made in the restoration of the lives of the people. The TNA emphasized the importance of a mechanism in the north-east, represented by the government, the LTTE, other stakeholders such as the Muslims, the Sinhalese and other institutions to handle the post-tsunami related activities.

According to Sri Lankan Foreign minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, it is the policy of the government and the international donors that funds cannot be remitted directly to the LTTE. However, he says that because the government's writ does not run in Tiger-controlled areas, the LTTE should have a significant hand in the implementation of the projects of the government. He further says that a successful co-implementation of projects could provide a platform for progress in the peace process. But LTTE's chief negotiator Anton Balasingham has ruled out tsunami talks leading to political negotiations and has warned the government against using the catastrophe for scoring points or strengthening the military.

The tsunami disaster and relief efforts

The Asian tsunami on 26 December 2004 caused death and destruction on a massive scale and has led to huge number of problems to many countries in the region. Sri Lanka, Indonesia, India, Thailand, and the Maldives were severely affected. Tidal waves also caused death and destruction in Somalia on the eastern coast of Africa and islands such as the Seychelles.

The total number of deaths in the region is expected to exceed 286,000. On 25 January, the Indonesian government raised the estimated figure for the dead and missing to 228,000, after more bodies were recovered in Aceh province. According to UN and other

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

estimates, more 6.5 million people were affected in the region and some 1.6 million have been displaced. The number of children dead in the disaster is estimated to be about 30% of the total. A large number of women have been widowed and children orphaned. According to reports, some 1,000 foreign visitors, most of them tourists, may have been killed by the tsunami and more than 6,000 are missing. The worst affected are Germany with 60 deaths and 1,000 missing and Sweden with 52 deaths and 2,322 missing (See Appendix 3 for Sri Lanka figures).

Deaths caused by the tsunami	
Country	Dead & missing
Indonesia	228,000
Sri Lanka	*36,637
India	16,384
Thailand	*8,514
Somalia	150
Maldives	108
Malaysia	68
Burma	59
Tanzania	10
Bangladesh	2
Seychelles	1
Kenya	1
Seychelles	1

Source: BBC – 25 January 2005

* The Thai government says more than 1,300 of the dead were foreign visitors

Destruction in Sri Lanka

The head of the government Peace Secretariat Jayantha Dhanapala says garments and tea, two important parts of the Sri Lankan economy, were largely unaffected by the tsunami. In the case of the garment industry, only two factories were damaged. Currently, production at almost all apparel factories is at normal levels, as are import, export and banking infrastructure. The tourism industry has suffered severe damage. But several hotels have already reopened, and hoteliers expect that 3,000 of the 4,000 affected rooms will be operational within three months. However, the entire tourism supply chain has been affected. The sellers of indigenous handicrafts, sweetmeats, straw hats and swimwear have had their livelihoods destroyed, as have the providers of leisure, water sports, river cruises, and sightseeing tours. The damage to the coastal fishing industry, where nearly 70% of the fishing fleet is lost, has a major implication for the national economy. (See Appendix 4)

International Banks damage and needs assessment

The three international banks referred to earlier have prepared a preliminary damage and needs assessment:

Education: A total of 168 schools, 4 universities and 18 vocational/industrial training centres were damaged. School buildings, equipment, machinery and tools, furniture, books and other library resources and consumable teaching learning materials (eg. chemicals) were destroyed. Relief camps were set up in 275 undamaged schools. Ninety one damaged schools were too close to the seashore and must be relocated. Total cost of damage to capital stock is Rs 2.7 billion (\$26 million). The cost of reconstruction, restoration and upgrading will be Rs 4.7 billion (\$45 million).

Health: In the coastal areas, 92 clinics, hospitals and drug stores were damaged or destroyed and health personnel were killed. Cold rooms, preventive healthcare offices, health staff accommodation facilities, district health offices, vehicles including ambulances and medical equipment were destroyed or damaged. The estimated cost of damage is Rs 6.3 billion (\$60 million). Measures are needed to provide health services to displaced people, prevent communicable diseases and address psycho-social needs. The cost of rehabilitating the health sector will be Rs 8.8 billion (\$84 million).

Housing: The tsunami destroyed some 99,480 houses and partially damaged 44,290. The estimated replacement cost is between Rs 46 and 51 billion (\$437-487 million). This does not include damage to commercial properties.

Agriculture and livestock: The damage is mainly to standing crops and home gardens. Sea water has increased salinity and farmers will be unable to grow crops for 3-4 years. A total of 5,703 acres of paddy land, 1,455 acres of other field crops, 1,169 acres of vegetable cultivation and 497 acres of fruit crop areas were completely destroyed. In addition, 2,500 home gardens, mainly in the north-east, were washed away. Among livestock, 63,000 birds, 6,500 cattle and 3,100 goats are reported killed. Agricultural infrastructure, including a large number of buildings, was damaged. Total estimated damage is Rs 304 million (\$3 million) and the recovery needs for agriculture and livestock sector is Rs 427 million (\$4 million).

Livelihoods: Damage to livelihood sector ranges from destroyed fishing boats to damaged informal guest houses, through the loss of business inventories to loss of simple tools and workshops. An estimated 5,000 businesses have been lost. Of the 2,800 unregistered hotels and guesthouses, about two-thirds were damaged. An estimated 40,000 people lost the means of supplementing incomes by working in informal jobs. The loss of employment in the fishing industry is around 100,000. An estimated 27,000 in the tourist industry lost jobs and the future of 6,000 more jobs are uncertain. In the agriculture sector the loss may be 30,000. The total job losses are estimated at around 200,000. The recovery needs are estimated at Rs 14.7 billion (\$140 million).

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

Power: Electricity was disrupted to some 70,300 households. About 48 km of medium voltage lines and 405 km of low voltage lines were destroyed. Some 70,000 sets of meters and services wire connected to households were damaged. A total of 88 sub-stations were damaged. The damage is Rs 1 billion (\$10 million) and the recovery needs are estimated at Rs 7-8.1 billion (\$67-77 million).

Water supply and sanitation: An estimated 12,000 wells were damaged in the 14 affected districts, mainly by salt water intrusion and some 50,000 were abandoned. Pipe systems and sewerage systems, water supply infrastructure and equipment were also damaged. The cost of damage is estimated at Rs 4.4 billion (\$42 million) and recovery at Rs 12.2 billion (\$117 million).

Transport: Around 20 km track of the Colombo-Galle rail-line suffered severe damage. Railway carriages, staff quarters, stations and communication and signaling equipment were damaged. The tsunami also damaged 690 km national road network, 700 km provincial roads, and 1,100 km local government roads. The damage is estimated at Rs 7.8 billion (\$75 million) and recovery needs at Rs 34.6 billion (\$330.2 million).

Fisheries: About 27,000 fishermen and their family members died, with around 20,000 in the north-east. Around 90,000 fisher families have been displaced. Of the country's boat fleet (about 29,700) around 65% has been destroyed or damaged, including around 594 multi-day boats, 7,996 motorized day boats and 10,520 non-motorized boats. Fishing implements such as outboard motors, ice storages, fishing gear and net have also been destroyed. The damage is estimated at Rs 10.1 billion (\$97 million) and the recovery needs are estimated at Rs 12.4 billion (\$118 million).

Tourism: Tourism accounts for about 2% of the GDP and generates direct employment for 50,000 and indirect employment to 65,000 and over \$350 million in foreign exchange. The tsunami caused \$200 million damage to hotels and \$50 million to tourism-related assets. About 4,700 out of 18,000 hotel rooms are currently not in operation. Tourist arrival for 2005 is expected to fall from 600,000 to 425,000. The damage is estimated at Rs 26.2 billion (\$250 million). The estimate of output losses in 2005 and 2006 is \$131 million.

Damage in the north-east region

The East is the most heavily affected area, accounting for 40% of the financial needs. The South needs 30% and the North 20%. The north-east is the worst affected region in relation to coastal communities. The coastal population affected, ranges from an estimated 35% in Kilinochchi to 80% in Mullaitivu and 78% in Amparai compared to the southern districts of Galle, Matara and Hambantota with less than 20% of the coastal population affected. In the north-east, the 20-year civil conflict has caused disruption of social structures, high levels of vulnerability, widespread displacement of persons of all ethnic groups and destruction of infrastructure and housing. Around 58% of the total housing stock needed rebuilding or construction. The school drop-out rate is four times

the national average and twice as many infants are underweight as in the rest of the country. Internal displacement has been high in the north-east.

Guiding principles

Donors have demanded that all parties, including the government and the LTTE, should follow certain guiding principles:

The principles say that there needs to be better communication and transparency in decision-making and implementation. Mechanisms should be strengthened to ensure access to information regarding policies, entitlements, and implementation procedures, and to permit more regular feedback to implementing authorities, as well as grievance redress. The principles further say that mechanisms to ensure transparency in resource use and comprehensive accounting need to be enhanced, at the aggregate, programme and beneficiary levels. This should be accompanied by more effective monitoring and evaluation systems for resources deployed from all sources, to permit a full accounting to parliament, development partners, civil society, and the affected communities themselves. The principles call on all parties to reaffirm their policy of zero tolerance for corruption.

Sri Lankan government measures

Emergency

The Sri Lankan government introduced Emergency with effect from 4 January 2005 in the districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Lavonia, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa, Amparai, Trincomalee and Puttalam. The government said that this action has been taken to ensure that relief reaches the people without disruption and to provide the security forces easy access to the affected areas to prevent abduction of children who have lost parents in the disaster. The security forces have in the past been responsible for grave violations of human rights against Tamil civilians under cover of Emergency. The past, Sri Lankan governments introduced regulations under the Emergency, granting extensive powers to the military, without judicial oversight, including the power to dispose of dead bodies in secret without inquest or post mortem. Thousands of Tamils were killed or disappeared by the security forces under Emergency rule and torture became a weapon to extract confessions. The introduction of Emergency created concern in the north-east Tamil regions and the people feared that there may be a return to a period of massive violation of human rights. The Tamil National Alliance (TNA) said that the government has introduced Emergency in the north-east also to enable the security forces to prevent aid reaching the Tamil population. Press reports say that the government would allow the Emergency after one month without seeking extension.

Sri Lanka government Action Plan

President Chandrika launched the \$3.5 billion recovery Action Plan at Hambantota on 17 January. She gave instruction to begin reconstruction work by end of January 2005. The government Plan will be carried out in three stages: Emergency Repairs, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation and Improvement and Modernization (See Appendix 5). The Plan includes reconstruction and re-planning of roads, rail tracks, bus transport, electricity, water supply and sanitation, telecom services, ports, education, culture and health facilities, industrial sector, social services, housing and township development, tourism and environment and judicial institutions. The Plan also includes the rebuilding of 12 major towns, 20 medium towns and 30 small towns. Some towns, such as Hambantota, may be relocated. It also involves the completion of the 80-mile Colombo-Matara highway and a parallel rail-line.

The government plans to further open up opportunities for project-based aid from individuals and organizations from around the world, through TAFREN. Larger infrastructure projects will also be made available for international participation on a Public-Private-Partnership basis to encourage long-term investments. According to the TAFREN, the Sri Lankan government has taken a policy decision to replace the existing infrastructure with modern facilities suitable for the 21st Century and the rebuilding programme will be sensitive to historical, geographical, aesthetical and social requirements and the sentiments of the people. TAFREN also says Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa, Lavonia, Amparai, Trincomalee, Hambantota, Tissamaharama, Matara, Galle, Hikkaduwa, Ambalangoda etc. which are the worst affected areas, have been evaluated and brought within a national development framework under President Chandrika.

In relation to housing, TAFREN says financial assistance is being granted by the State to rebuild partly damaged houses in safe areas. According to TAFREN, if damaged houses had earlier been within 100 metres of the sea, new sites are being located and housing schemes are being developed for relocation, and for this purpose state land is allocated and private land is being purchased, while architects are designing new apartment complexes. But local organizations say that the plans regarding housing have been drawn without any consultation with the local people despite the World Bank pointing out that the reconstruction strategy should be built on a set of guiding principles.

The guiding principles say that the allocation of resources both domestic and international should be strictly guided by the identified needs and local priorities without discrimination and that enhanced and solid consultation with local affected communities and stakeholders is essential and local communities should be empowered to make their own decisions during recovery and fully participate in reconstruction activities.

Donors demand justification

The Action Plan has been severely criticized as inadequate, lacking in proper detail and not reflecting the needs of the people. Many of the projects in the Action Plan were planned before the tsunami. According to reports, donors are concerned whether the plan is tsunami recovery or long-term development. Donor banks expressed caution

about releasing funds until damage assessments are completed and are likely to demand justification of the projects as reconstruction work. World Bank President, James Wolfensohn, who visited Sri Lanka in mid-January, said that the real needs must be assessed even if it takes two to three months to fill in the details. But Mr Dhanapala has emphasized the importance of recognizing that along with the short-term need, there is a long-term opportunity and has insisted that the government has adopted a proper strategy for physical and economic recovery.

Oxfam criticism

In late January, Oxfam said that relief efforts in the tsunami affected areas are inefficient and disorganized. It pointed to difficulties in co-ordinating the aid and said that some inexperienced aid agencies were working in the disaster zone without the necessary skills and competence. In particular, it criticized the way that some houses had been rebuilt in Sri Lanka, saying they were too close together, causing sanitation problems. In its report "*Learning the lessons of the tsunami: one month on*", Oxfam said governments in the region should accredit international agencies and ensure their work was suited to their experience. The amount of money raised means that governments and aid agencies must address issues of the quality, not just quantity of aid, says Oxfam's Britain Director Barbara Stocking.

Responding to Oxfam's criticism, Director General of Relief, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Harim Pieris said that the Sri Lankan government had successfully prevented spread of an epidemic of diseases after the tsunami and managed to supply basic needs to everyone. He said the government also prepared a proper project report based on discussions with donor countries.

Government relief measures

According to the Centre for National Operation (CNO), having evaluated the proposals and suggestions submitted by local authorities organizing various programmes in the tsunami affected areas, the Ministry of Finance and Planning has begun implementing the following measures:

- A grant of Rs 5,000 (\$50.3) per family as start up allowance to commence daily life in the affected areas, upon the identification of eligible persons by AGAs (Assistant Government Agent) and Grama Sevakas (village headman). The allowance will be provided through the nearest People's Bank branch or Rural Banks. For a single person, the allowance will be Rs 2,500. A list of all the tsunami victims will be displayed at the AGA offices and People's Bank branches.
- A cash grant for the purchase of household equipment, utensils, basic furniture etc. will be provided depending on a needs assessment.

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

- A food basket for affected families will be provided during the recovery period.
- Free books, uniform material, shoes etc. for school children.
- Electricity, water, telephone bills will be written off for all affected families.
- Financial assistance from the government to rebuild partly damaged houses in safe areas with immediate effect.
- Small businesses, trading activities, fishing and other self employment will be assisted with fresh seed capital depending on the requirement. The assessment will be done by relevant line ministries and provincial authorities.
- Central Bank will provide a refinance facility to all commercial banks enabling them to grant funding on concession up to Rs 5 million (\$50,300) so that business activities could commence immediately. One year grace period for both interest and capital will be provided.
- Payment of death relief has already commenced.

LTTE measures

On 28 January, the LTTE ruled out tsunami aid talks leading to political negotiations. LTTE's peace negotiator Anton Balasingham said that current talks with the government differ from the usual political negotiations, in that it is at the level of the LTTE Peace Secretariat and the government Peace Secretariat, and confined to rehabilitation and reconstruction matters. The Tigers were in discussions with the government on "structuring a common strategy to ensure equitable distribution of the international aid that is flowing into Colombo. He accused the government was trying to use massive foreign aid to rebuild its military machine. The Tigers did not want aid given to them directly, he said, but instead wanted international agencies to carry out the work. On 20 January, LTTE's political leader SP Thamilchelvan urged India to extend relief and humanitarian work to Tiger-controlled Tamil areas where there is a greater need. Currently, Indian agencies are involved in tsunami relief work in government-controlled areas.

Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)

The TRO said in a statement on 26 January that it had taken measures to rehabilitate water wells in an effort to restore water facilities to the people. While actively working to move tsunami affected people from their emergency shelters to transit camps, TRO recognize the importance of resettling the affected people permanently. The TRO Water and Sanitary Task Force is responsible for identifying water wells and their spatial co-ordinates using hand-held Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS) units. This data is logged onto electronic mapping systems. For a selected number of wells, detailed water quality analysis is being performed using portable water testing kits. Parameters

including turbidity, PH, conductivity and microbiological contamination are tested. A team of expatriate water engineers from the UK has provided the local TRO staff with training and expert advice on the use of technology.

TRO also held discussions with several international NGOs with expertise in well-cleaning and disinfection. These INGOs have said that the data being collected by TRO will be invaluable to speed up the well-cleaning programme and this initiative will accelerate the re-settlement of tsunami affected communities.

The Centre for Community Development (CCD) workers in north-east Sri Lanka say that the immediate needed relief – food, shelter, clothing – has been efficiently carried out by the TRO and faith-based groups in the northern welfare centres. Good sanitation facilities are provided and there have been no outbreak of disease. Clothing, personal effects, cooking utensils, suitcases etc have also been provided and the documentation maintained about the displaced people is of high standard. The TRO worked round the clock to build temporary shelters for refugees leaving school buildings when schools resumed functioning on 31 January in Mullaitivu. The TRO cleared 10 acres of land in five days and set-up 120 Italian tents, built bath and shower cubicles, toilet units and septic tanks.

The TRO is under increasing criticism by the Sri Lankan government and sections of the expatriate community that an impression has been created in the handling of relief operations that the TRO is being used by the LTTE for political objectives. This impression has led to an anti-LTTE lobby in Australia and has brought disrepute to the TRO. Reports say that TRO is under official scrutiny in Australia, Canada and the US. The government of Australia continue to asserts its position that the TRO is associated with the LTTE, which is gazetted as a terrorist organization in Australia. Observers say that the TRO would better serve the people if it avoids such impressions and conforms to donor guiding principles.

Measures of other governments

Tokyo Conference Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs of the June 2003 Tokyo Conference, [the European Union, Japan, Norway and the United States], who were given a watching brief to monitor the peace process and review the donor position, met in Brussels on 25 January 2005 to express support to Sri Lanka in the wake of the tsunami disaster and to evaluate how best to build confidence and strengthen the peace process. They welcomed - as a sign of reconciliation - the statements by the government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE in the wake of the tsunami, addressing all victims of the disaster regardless of ethnic and religious origin.

The Co-chairs welcomed the ongoing effective response by the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE in distributing humanitarian aid to people of all ethnic and religious

communities and political affiliations and the effective and impressive local and private response of the Sri Lankan people to assist the victims of the tsunami disaster. The Co-chairs said they will support the government and the LTTE efforts too strengthen cooperation on assistance for relief, rehabilitation and development in the tsunami affected areas of the North and East. The Co-chairs emphasized that in the midst of this tremendous natural disaster, renewed opportunities exist to build confidence and to strengthen the Peace Process. They also said that they support donors in their efforts to ensure that the implementation of the tsunami assistance is sensitive to and strengthens the peace process.

The Co-chairs called on donors and all parties to ensure that tsunami assistance adheres to basic principles of equity, transparency and accountability. They emphasized that it should be focused on objective local needs and priorities and stressed that the participation of local and international civil society and all political parties will be crucial. They called on international donors and aid organizations to co-operate and co-ordinate their tsunami assistance with each other and with all relevant parties in Sri Lanka. They called on the government and the LTTE to do their utmost to continue to respect and observe the Ceasefire Agreement as the basis for the Peace Process and were pleased to note that, by and large, the ceasefire has been upheld for almost three years with the very able assistance of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM). The Co-chairs also reassured their continued full confidence in and support to Norway's challenging task as facilitator. The Co-chairs noted again that a peace settlement can only be sustained if it respects the legitimate rights and involvement of all ethnic groups, preserves the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and is based on the principles of democracy and respect of human rights.

China

Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of the People's Republic of China Wu Dawei called on President Chandrika Kumaratunga on 12 January and assured continued assistance to rebuild the tsunami-affected areas of Sri Lanka. China has pledged \$18 million for Sri Lanka out of \$60 million for the entire Asian region. China sent several loads of relief goods to Sri Lanka immediately and several medical teams from China now serve in various parts of the island. China would help rebuild the infrastructure of the fisheries industry, especially to develop fishing harbours, which were severely damaged by the tidal wave.

The European Union

Earlier, the EU decided to provide Emergency aid of €10 million to Sri Lanka and Maldives for the following:

- Food aid and supplementary feeding
- Non-food items: household items, hygiene products, clothing, etc.
- Water/sanitation: the installation of water tanks, pumps, distribution of

water, purification tablets, treatment of wells, construction of emergency latrines

- Health: mobile clinics, medicines and medical material, psycho-social assistance
- Emergency shelter: material for construction of emergency shelter.

On 31 January, the European Commission earmarked funds, which include a major contribution to the United Nations Flash Appeal of 6 January. This latest decision will benefit about two and a half million vulnerable people in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives and Thailand over an 18 month period. The decision will bring total funds committed by the European Commission to €103 million (over \$134 million). The funds are allocated on the basis of complete needs assessments carried out by Commission experts in the field and in response to proposals from operational partners.

The funding breakdown will be according to specific needs in the affected countries:

- €56.5 million to provide assistance, relief and short term rehabilitation (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Maldives and Thailand).
- €15 million to ensure efficient co-ordination of the aid effort and logistical support for the delivery of supplies (Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Thailand).
- €2 million to contribute to the assessment, evaluation and strengthening of early warning systems and disaster preparedness in the affected countries. Remaining funds will be reserved for future needs (€5.9 million) and to maintain a technical capacity in the field.

Measures of the UN

Disaster conference

The five-day United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) beginning on 20 January in Kobe, Japan, was mainly directed at plans to create a global early warning system of natural hazards ranging from droughts, wildfires and floods through typhoons, hurricanes and landslides to volcanic eruptions and tsunamis, based on tremor and tidal gauges, fast data transfer and alarm mechanisms and training in the danger zones. Some 4,000 delegates from 150 countries, including tsunami affected nations, participated.

The International Early Warning Programme (IEWP), first proposed at the Second International Conference on Early Warning two years ago in Bonn, Germany, will improve resilience to all types of natural hazards. The IEWP brings together various UN organizations including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

World Food Programme (WFP)

The WFP held discussions on 25 January with the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation over the issue of food ration cards (from WFP) and a coupon system (whereby the government is offering Rs 375 a week to displaced families for food items). It was agreed that the process of registering people in need of food aid would be completed by the end of January. The Ministry was briefed on WFP's plans for a decrease in the total number of beneficiaries as operations move from relief to rehabilitation. WFP field staff are meeting regularly with Grama Sevakas (village headmen), who are in charge of food distribution to beneficiaries.

The food pipeline has essentially been secured until end of March as follows:

- Wheat flour - 6,600 tons are being procured locally.
- Sugar - 512 tons has been procured locally and 1,500 tons are expected from external markets.
- Rice - 6.684 tons are expected to arrive from various donors and another 13,000 tons already procured from external markets.
- Vegetable oil -- Due to serious delays in delivery of oil from external markets, WFP is planning to procure 256 tons locally to avoid any breaks in pipeline.

WFP and UNHCR are sharing wiikhall (temporary tent warehouses) installation resources in the affected districts -- for instance the WFP team is installing wiikhalls in the south for both agencies, while the UNHCR team is installing them in the north of the country for both agencies. Logistics officers have been deployed to Trincomalee and Galle districts to undertake logistics assessments and to co-ordinate logistics activities in those districts.

The UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Ms Margareta Wahlstrom, met with UN agencies and NGOs in Amparai District on 24 January 2005. Methods of improving coordination among agencies were discussed, and the UN announced that it would set up a central information room for use by humanitarian agencies in Amparai.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The WHO said on 26 January that it continues to work with local governments and partners to strengthen public health surveillance and response systems, as many affected countries enter the rainy season, known for high transmission of mosquito-borne diseases. WHO is working with countries to strengthen longer term responses such as mental health assistance and rehabilitating damaged health systems. A psycho-social support unit has been set up in Batticaloa district to co-ordinate the work of all agencies offering psycho-social support. No unusual communicable diseases have been reported. Insecticide spraying for malaria prevention is ongoing in IDP camps in Amparai District.

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

WHO has provided long-lasting insecticidal nets to displaced individuals and families for malaria prevention, along with other key supplies such as insecticides, fogging machines and spray tanks, as well as the hiring of vehicles for spraying activities. WHO also assists in the clean-up of debris in which water collects, to prevent the formation of dengue breeding sites.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner, Kamel Morjane, Director of the Asia Bureau, led a delegation to Sri Lanka on 20 January. Mr Morjane emphasized the need for the government to form a clear and transparent policy on the relocation of displaced persons. He noted that the authorities must adhere to Deng's *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement* and in so doing, ensure that those displaced by the tsunami and those displaced by the conflict are treated equitably. The delegation visited Matara, Kalmunai in Amparai, Kilinochchi and Jaffna. Meetings were conducted with government representatives, the LTTE, donors, the heads of agencies at the UN Country Team as well as displaced people.

To assist with emergency shelter needs, UNHCR has distributed 23,356 pieces of plastic sheeting to serve as temporary roofing. By the end of January 2005, a further 2,000 tents are due for distribution. These are part of a consignment of 10,000 tents being either flown or shipped in from Pakistan and Jordan, before mid February 2005. These tents will allow the displaced to leave schools and public buildings, providing adequate and safe shelter and allowing civil services to resume. Jointly with other agencies, donors and NGOs, UNHCR facilitated the formulation of a transition shelter strategy which has been adopted by the government. The strategy gives clear guidance on how to coordinate and bridge the gap between the emergency relief and the reconstruction phase in the shelter sector.

UNHCR has undertaken the following field activities in the north-east:

Trincomalee

During visits to Kuchchaveli on 21 and 22 January 2005, it was observed that all centres visited had received dry food rations and non-food items. The affected families are registered through the Grama Sevaka/District Secretary and ration cards for food are being distributed, but had not reached all camps as yet.

Potable water was provided to all centres, mostly by members of the Security Forces. Washing water was also in place. No specific problems related to the situation of women and/or children were reported to UNHCR.

Continuing concerns regarding reported relocations are taking place in Trincomalee. UNHCR will continue to speak with authorities on this issue.

Kilinochchi

During the Field visit to Kilinochchi, UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner, Kamel Morjane met Mr Thamilselvan. Several protection issues were raised such as the importance of replacing documents lost during the tsunami.

UNHCR met with the LTTE's Planning and Development Section, UNICEF, ICRC, Oxfam and FORUT on 22 January to discuss shelter, non-food items and water/sanitary. Families in both Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts will receive Rs.15,000 for each person who has died but only if that person has been identified. The Government Agents (GA) of both districts are anxious that people should receive money in due course for missing and unidentified relatives, but there is no clear information on the procedure and how long families will have to wait before payment. Some payments of Rs.10,000 have already been made.

Batticaloa

On 23 January, Batticaloa GA issued his first weekly information note and press statement to ensure displaced persons are well-informed of their options. The government announced that 4 and 5 February 2005 will mark the first Batticaloa clean up campaign. This clean-up marks the end of the official period of mourning following the Tsunami.

Jaffna

A temporary shelter for 150 units commenced in Manalkadu, Maruthankerny on 23 January. Consent from the land owner had been granted, the site assessed and the beneficiaries selected. A site office has been established and work is expected to be completed within 14 days.

Measures of international agencies

Red Cross and Red Crescent

On 27 January, the Red Cross and Red Crescent said that in the first 30 days, the global Red Cross network has provided essential support to over 500,000 affected people in the Asian region. Some 40 Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from as many countries are involved in the effort, along with 9,000 local Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers and nearly 300 international aid workers. In addition, \$23.5 million from the Australian Red Cross Appeal has already gone to support the emergency phase of the response.

In Sri Lanka

- thousands of Red Cross volunteers are engaged in relief activities throughout the country, supported by an additional 60 Red Cross aid workers.
- Assistance delivered to 150,000 people (household items, bed sheets, buckets and cooking sets).

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

- Currently 8 Emergency Relief Units (ERU) are operational – 3 Basic Health, 2 Water & Sanitation, 1 Telecommunications, 1 Logistics and 1 Relief Unit.
- Four to five Red Cross planes with relief goods reach Colombo every day.
- Water & Sanitation ERUs are providing clean water for more than 35,000 people.
- 40,000 more people being assisted and housed in 66 Red Cross camps.
- Red Cross teams have cleaned 2,100 wells.
- In the south-east 4,413 families have received family tents, and further 5,001 families have received non-food assistance.

Concern

Concern, Republic of Ireland's largest relief and development agency, says it has identified the needs of the poorest communities affected by this disaster. Experienced teams are said to be working in some of the worst affected regions in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. In Sri Lanka, Concern says it has started to rebuild 4,000 houses and 1,500 wells for drinking water are being cleaned and 150 new wells constructed. Concern is working in three districts, Galle, Matara and Hambantota. Concern is helping families, which earned their living from lagoon or close in-shore fishing, to restore their homes and livelihoods. Concern reports that it will assist with rehabilitation of secondary roads and co-operative buildings for fishermen and facilities for fish marketing such as ice factories. Fishermen will be provided with boats and nets to return to the sea.

Oxfam

On 27 January 2005 Oxfam reported on its work in Sri Lanka as follows:

Health

The health situation in camps in the East is under control with no outbreaks of disease, and a continued decrease in cases of diarrhoea. A public health co-ordinator is training people in the community to become hygiene promoters and to monitor and maintain clean water supplies, latrines, washing points, clothes lines, garbage disposal and drainage.

Security

Oxfam is supporting local NGOs in advocating for the protection and security of women and children in existing camps and when designing the layout of new camps. Relief efforts had to be suspended for a time last week when a mine was discovered in the working area in the North. De-mining teams from Mines Advisory Group and other expert organizations were called.

Livelihoods

Livelihoods is a high priority for Oxfam teams in Sri Lanka, with a special focus on the fishing industry. Oxfam is sending a specialist advisor to the area.

Water

Oxfam has committed itself to providing expert advice, pumps and other water treatment equipment to assist the Batticaloa Water Board in the rehabilitation of the town water supply, which will benefit approximately 20,000 people. Oxfam has officially been assigned responsibility for rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in three districts in the north-east area and has been given co-ordination role for water and sanitation in another division. Oxfam's suggestions for water and sanitation and the provision of hygiene promotion for transit camps have been endorsed by other organizations working in the north.

Shelter and relief items

As schools reopened on 25th of January, displaced people accommodated in school building have moved to government transit camps. Oxfam is constructing shelters and latrines and providing clean water and relief items – including 2,300 family packs and 500 baby packs - in a number of these camps. Oxfam continues to construct temporary housing in the south with advice from shelter experts.

Save the Children UK (SCF)

Save the Children said on 24 January that it continues to expand its efforts to assist the most severely affected children and family members in the hardest hit regions of Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India. SCF has stepped up its efforts in providing life-saving food, clean water, shelter and medicine to thousands of children and families in need while also moving rapidly to reunify separated children with relatives. The agency so far has helped distribute nearly 500 tons of food and other health and relief materials to tens of thousands of tsunami survivors.

SCF has increased staff and resources dramatically. Initial efforts focused on keeping children healthy and safe. Over the long term, SCF plans to focus on helping families and communities rebuild their lives through job-skills training and micro-credit loans, repairing or rebuilding infrastructure - including schools, homes and health centres, and providing emotional support for tsunami survivors, especially children.

Besides providing immediate aid to tsunami survivors, SCF has led efforts to protect children, launching a major effort to register and reunify separated children with families and communities, and to get these children back in structured activities and in school as quickly as possible. SCF has begun reuniting children with family members, with the first reunion taking place this week. In many of the temporary camps filled with displaced survivors, SCF is creating child-friendly spaces for children, to give them the opportunity to play and begin the healing process.

Immediately following the disaster, SCF in Sri Lanka, sent relief experts to respond at the heart of the worst affected areas of Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Matara and Galle.

SCF has:

- supported the distribution of relief family packs including food, basic medical supplies and other items such as cooking utensils, water purification tablets and hygiene kits to 40,000 families in the worst-affected areas of the country including Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Matara, Galle, Jaffna, Amparai, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi
- supported the distribution of plastic sheeting for shelter to 4,500 out of a targeted 10,000 families in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa, Amparai and Matara
- registered separated children in Batticaloa, Amparai and Kilinochchi and is providing play activities and counselling services there as part of our child protection response
- participated in a health assessment in Amparai, the worst affected area.

As the primary relief stage is ending, SCF is setting up longer-term programmes for child support, education and protection.

National Steering Committee for Mine Action (NSCMA)

The National Steering Committee for Mine Action (NSCMA) is chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation and has representatives from stakeholding ministries, Government Agents of affected districts, donors, mine operators and the UN. NSCMA says as follows:

Emergency assessments were conducted in Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Trincomalee Districts to determine the effects of the tsunami on landmine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination. These began immediately after the tsunami and are ongoing. The following conclusions have been drawn:

- Press reports of large number of mines floating off the coast of Sri Lanka and washing onto its shores are incorrect. There have been no credible eyewitness reports and the assessments by technical staff do not bear this out.
- Landmines do not pose an obstacle to relief efforts. Most coastal areas already were cleared except for security zones. Standard mine safety practice should be observed in all suspected areas.
- Reports of post-tsunami mine victims in Kilinochchi, Jaffna and Mullaitivu are incorrect; none have been reported. Information for all affected districts will be provided when available.
- The tsunami did create some increased danger for civilian populations. However, this is containable through standard humanitarian mine action procedures provided resources are adequate.

The increased danger derives from the following:

- Some mines were indeed displaced by the tsunami, just as they were by the floods in previous weeks. However, this displacement is minimal. In all recorded cases, the mines came from a damaged security camp and had not moved far. In other words, they remained in proximity to known dangerous areas.
- Marking and fencing of minefields throughout the coastal area of the north-east has been destroyed.
- The tsunami changed the coastal landscape considerably. This can cause confusion for civilians returning to coastal sites as their reference points for knowing what areas are suspected to be hazardous may no longer exist.
- In the medium term, it still is unclear whether civilians will resettle in their place of origin and whether all security installations with perimeter minefields will be restored or be opened for resettlement. These issues need to be addressed through the relevant District Steering Committee for Mine Action.

SOLUTIONS

1. Technical survey is required in known mined areas along the coast, with quick response teams deployed for clearance as required. Many coastal areas open to civilian resettlement already were cleared of landmines/UXO and do not require re-clearance, as suggested in some media reports.
2. With respect to restoring fencing and marking, the coastal sites that were marked by humanitarian mine action teams can be restored rapidly by technical survey teams. For coastal minefields maintained by security forces either of the government or the LTTE, restoring fencing should be done as a routine part of rebuilding the damaged camp.
3. Mine Risk Education (MRE) should be intensified. Teams should visit welfare centres in addition to their usual caseload to inform the population that although media reports of floating mines are exaggerated that they still need to practice safe behavior in proximity to suspected hazardous areas. People should also be reminded of how, and where, to report suspicious objects.
4. Information that provides the media and public with technical facts should be provided. NSCMA already has a press release on this subject and media should be referred to the NSCMA or to the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) website (www.lk.undp.org/ndmc).
5. Any agency or individual concerned about mines and UXO should contact one of the Mine Action Offices for maps, records and information. This was standard recommended practice for work in the north-east before the tsunami and should continue.

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

6. Landmine Safety Training has always been available for staff working in Sri Lanka either through UNSECOORD, UNICEF Colombo, or the Mine Action Offices. All staff are encouraged to take advantage of this training.
7. Security forces should inform the relevant District Steering Committee on Mine Action if a security installation that had mine contamination is being relocated and the land left open for resettlement so that appropriate action can be taken.

REQUIREMENTS

In less than three years Sri Lanka has developed an experienced and professional humanitarian mine action capability that is capable of handling this task. Supplemental resources will assist in quickly addressing the damage caused by the tsunami. Specific requirements are:

- Marking and fencing stores
- Equipment, training and deployment of additional technical survey teams
- Increased MRE capacity
- Disaster prevention capacity consisting of increased clearance teams to deal with high and medium priority minefields in coastal areas and areas prone to flooding before next year's rains.

CONCLUSION

NSCMA says there is no cause for alarm, but there is a need for safe practices and continued mine action efforts. The indiscriminate nature of anti-personnel landmines and the presence of UXO have always posed risks in north-east Sri Lanka and required awareness and caution. Although that risk has not increased dramatically as a result of the tsunami there are, however, certain increased dangers to civilian populations that require a rapid response.

Aid pledged

The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) says that two-thirds of the aid money pledged has already been delivered. The UN requested \$977 million for immediate emergency operations and \$775m has been received. Australia has pledged \$1 billion. (See Appendix 6).

The World Bank diverted \$250 million from existing programmes to cover emergency needs while longer-term reconstruction needs are assessed. European Union has provided \$646.7 million in reconstruction and humanitarian funds. This brings the total sum donated by the EU plus its member states to almost \$2 billion. The IMF has offered up to \$1 billion in financial assistance to affected countries. It has also extended the schedule of Sri Lanka's debt repayments, which will have the effect of reducing interest

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

payments by about \$114 million in 2005. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has allocated \$500 million to Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives in the form of grants and concession funds. The ADB says up to \$175 million more could be diverted from ongoing programmes.

According to press reports, public and private aid pledged worldwide has exceeded \$10 billion. The figure includes government pledges and private donations made by 42 countries, as well as aid from the European Union, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and four international financial institutions. Along with cash donations, the figure includes promised debt relief and low-interest loans.

Large amounts of money have also been raised by the public, businesses, and religious, charitable and community institutions in several countries. Private donations reached \$586 million in Germany, \$466 million in Britain and \$400 million in the US. Individuals have also contributed large amounts. Formula One Racing World Champion Michael Schumacher donated \$10 million.

Money raised by the public

Country	Amount (US\$ millions)
Australia	88
Canada	75
China	1.8
France	90
Germany	586
Italy	20
Netherlands	35
Norway	60
Saudi Arabia	31
South Korea	13
Sweden	60
Switzerland	39
UK	446
USA	400

Sources: BBC 27 January 2005, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation 13 January 2005

The public in many countries, including Sri Lanka and other poor countries continued to collect relief materials such as food, medicines and equipment. Expatriate Sri Lankan community organizations and charitable institutions have sent skilled professionals such as engineers and doctors to Sri Lanka. In addition, money is collected from the public and a number of events are being held to raise money. But there is increasing concern over these collections and events and sections of the public are demanding transparency and accountability. Donors would like to know whether their contributions are reaching people affected and are making changes to their lives.

Children affected

According to UNICEF, about 900 children are left without parents in Sri Lanka. Of these, 44 are unaccompanied children (residing in an institution) and 858 are residing with relatives. More than 3,000 children have lost one parent. These figures are expected to increase substantially. Before the tsunami, there were already 2,500 children in 41 registered children's homes and many more in over 50 unregistered care facilities.

Unaccompanied and separated children				
District	Unaccompanied Children	Separated Children	Children who lost one parent	Total
Amparai	5	154	954	1113
Batticaloa	8	346	699	1053
Trincomalee	17	5	31	53
Jaffna	0	32	10	42
Mullaitivu	0	69	441	510
Kilinochchi	0	25	247	272
Galle	5	129	267	401
Matara	3	48	206	257
Hambantota	0	50	347	397
Total	38	858	3202	4098

In Britain, the Child Abuse Investigation Unit of the Metropolitan Police says it has set up an intelligence unit to gather information on issues that arise from the tsunami relating to child protection. The main concerns expressed by the Investigation Unit are regarding travelling sex offenders and trafficking of children. The new unit will pass on the collected information to other units (police units such as INTERPOL and National Criminal Intelligence Unit) and to Immigration, Home Office, Foreign Office and NGOs. The unit has requested NGOs to pass on any information to ECPAT, UK (End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Offences).

The fishing community

According to TAFREN, the damage assessment indicates that approximately 80% of the total coastal fishing areas have been destroyed or damaged and boats/crafts, houses and anchorages have been damaged in Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Amparai, Hambantota, Matara, Galle, Kalutara, Colombo and Gampaha districts. TAFREN says a three-phased rebuilding programme will be implemented in the following manner:

Phase 1

Emergency repairs will be done and lost equipment replaced so that the industry can recommence its operations. Immediate action has been taken to replace the lost fishing equipment which amounts to approximately 1,000-1,500 multi-day boats, 1,500-1,750 single day with inboard engines, 8,000 FRP (17'-23') boats, 800 motorized traditional crafts, 12,000 traditional crafts and 640 beach seiners.

Phase 2

In this reconstruction and rehabilitation phase, houses for fishermen will be constructed within close proximity to fishing harbours or anchorages. Damaged or destroyed harbours and anchorages will be rebuilt or rehabilitated.

Phase 3

In this stage improvements and additions will be incorporated. A programme for coastal conservation will be carried out with rehabilitation and reconstruction of training, research and management facilities.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and fishing industry

The UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) has noted that the need for emergency rehabilitation of fisheries and aquaculture in the tsunami-affected region is enormous. The needs for medium and long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction will be considerably higher. The FAO has presented a document titled *Strategic Framework for Medium and Long Term Fisheries/Aquaculture Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Activities in relation to the Tsunami disaster*. This general framework was developed to serve as a guide for actions to be undertaken by the Fisheries Department of FAO under the overall leadership of the governments in the region.

The FAO has developed a three-level response:

1. Immediate (up 6 months from 26 December 2004) with emphasis on relief and damage assessments;
2. Medium-term (up to 12-18 months), through the joint needs assessment and strategic framework for rehabilitation, which will be presented to donors in the spring of 2005;
3. Long-term (over 18 months and for up to 5 years) through reconstruction projects and programmes that should include elements of longer-term planning.

FAO has listed a number of guiding principles for assistance, stressing on the participation of local communities. Activities undertaken or to be carried out by the FAO Fisheries Department in the forthcoming weeks are immediate damage and needs assessments and information sharing through a special FAO Fisheries Department website (www.fao.org/fi). FAO said on 19 January that rehabilitation of severely affected mangroves would help speed up the recovery process from the tsunami, but

large-scale planting should be undertaken with caution. According to FAO, rehabilitation and planting efforts should be undertaken within a larger framework of integrated coastal area management. Mangroves cover an area of around 15 million hectares (or 150 000 sq km) worldwide with close to 40 percent of this area found in the countries affected by the tsunami. The role of mangroves in providing coastal protection against the actions of waves, wind and water-currents is well known. Officials in Sri Lanka observed that there was reduced damage where the mangrove forests were intact (See Appendix 7 for FAO guiding principles)

Refugee issues

A number of countries have temporarily suspended deportation of refugees to the tsunami affected areas for a period of three months. These countries include Canada, the US, the Netherlands, Britain and Switzerland. Most of these countries have also announced that they would expedite applications for residence already made from the affected nations. Britain has assured that where asylum seekers have travelled to their country for reasons connected with the tsunami, the Home Office will take full account of the compassionate nature of their visit in assessing whether it casts doubt on their continuing need for protection.

UNHCR says in a 12 January statement that the tsunami has left behind large-scale destruction and a serious risk of widespread epidemics. Access to many areas remain difficult, hindering the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and many of the regions affected lack any infrastructure. Involuntary returns to the affected regions would put additional pressures on the local population, scarce resources and logistical channels, and would further complicate the efforts of humanitarian agencies. Forced returns would further hamper restoration of public order and reconstruction efforts. UNHCR has recommended that all States suspend, initially for a period of three months, all involuntary returns to a number of affected areas, even in the case of persons found not to be in need of international protection. The UNHCR recommendation applies to the following areas:

- Sri Lanka – the coastal areas of North, East and South of the country
- Indonesia – Aceh province
- The Maldives – affected islands
- India – the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondichery, Andhra Pradesh, as well as Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Somalia – the coastal areas.

Concerns of the displaced and others

CCD and TIC field workers in the north-east have received many comments regarding relief operations and other issues from the people affected by the tsunami. The TIC has also received comments from agencies working with the people. Some of the issues raised are as follows:

Religious conversions

People continue to express concern over certain Christian missionaries attempting religious conversion and handing over Christian literature to tsunami victims. Sri Lankan authorities are said to have expressed anger over these attempts. According to press reports, US-based evangelical group Gospel for Asia has said that the disaster is a great opportunity and 14,500 native missionaries in India, Sri Lanka and the Andaman are giving Christian literature to the affected people. In Amparai District, members a Christian group called Colombo Bible Baptist Society, who attempted to distribute literature in January were attacked by the local people and driven out.

Modern society

The Movement for National Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR) and the Alliance for Protection of National Resources and Human Rights (ANRHR) have questioned TAFREN plan to “put in place a new infrastructure and systems to meet the challenges of the 21st Century and fulfill the dreams and aspirations of a modern society”. They point out that 80% of the population lives in rural areas, vast majority of whom are subsistent farmers, agricultural workers and casual employees and they and the most people affected by the tsunami do not belong to the so-called modern society.

The government has announced that the construction of the Colombo-Matara highway would be included in the rebuilding programme. According to MONLAR, within days of the announcement, armed police threatened the people resisting their eviction from lands to make way for the highway. These people have also been informed by the authorities that their houses would be forcibly demolished. MONLAR also says that on 30 December 2004, just four days after the tsunami, the Sri Lankan government obtained Cabinet approval for a policy document on National Water Resources, aimed at inviting the private sector for water development and water marketing. This had been opposed earlier by the people and the government had promised that such privatization would not take place.

The government announced that buildings would not be allowed within 100 metres of the shoreline in southern Sri Lanka and within 200 metres in north-east Sri Lanka. But senior government politicians have stated that this would not apply to tourist hotels and other tourist facilities. MONLAR says that the plan of the government is to drive out the 800,000 small-scale fish workers and their families from their livelihoods and settlements in order to clear the beaches and the resources of the people, to make way for rich tourist businesses and large fishing industries.

LTTE and military

The competition between the LTTE-TRO collision and the Sri Lankan military to woo the people affected by the tsunami continues to affect relief operations. On a number of occasions, both sides have provided excess aid to selected camps and areas in order to win the people to their sides. The people say this is leading to waste of relief materials and is resulting in some places not receiving adequate relief.

Orphanages

Established orphanages in the north-east are under pressure to take more children. Among others, the pressure also comes from administrators of orphanages that were damaged or destroyed by the tsunami. In some areas, although the orphanages were destroyed, some or all the children escaped. The orphanages lack the capacity or the buildings to accommodate the children and those which have accepted new children are facing difficulties.

According to current statistics, of the 3,043 children directly affected by the tsunami in the north-east 2,382 had lost one parent. Of the 661 children who have lost both parents, only 30 are in institutions, others having found accommodation with relatives. Huge monies are being collected by many Tamil expatriate organizations on the basis of emotion, probably caused by the death of large number of children, rather than needs. The needs of these children have not yet been adequately established. Local agencies have urged caution and more research into the number of children in need and their real needs.

Relief and remote villages

Remote villages in the north-east, and according to reports also in the south, are not receiving adequate support. A CCD field worker visiting Maruthamunai in Amparai District in early February broke down and wept on seeing the pathetic conditions of the people of the village. In the six weeks since the tsunami, they had not received any help, although the government and others claim that millions of rupees have been spent on relief. Local agencies stress again and again, these problems can be easily overcome by co-operation between the LTTE and the military.

CCD workers also say that persons who were able to flee and escape the tsunami and return to their home areas, are able to obtain relief by providing the necessary details about themselves to the authorities. But many of the people who were directly affected or who lost their family members are still in shock and are unable to make the claims to the authorities. These people urgently need assistance to submit their claims for relief.

TIC understands that in the wake of the tsunami, community-based organizations in the north-east have been called up on to become involved in various issues such as provision of relief, housing, health and sanitation, water supply and livelihood. These

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

are beyond the capacity of many organizations in terms of objectives, expertise and human and financial resources. The suppression of civil society organizations during the war years is also clearly having an impact on the capacity of existing organizations to handle the enormous task of reconstruction. These organizations need assistance and they need them fast.

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

Appendix 1

Useful contact details:

	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	FAX	E-Mail
1	Centre for Community Development (CCD)	+ 44 (0) 20 8546 1560	+ 44 (0) 20 8546 5701	Admin.ccd@sangu.org
2	Centre for Human Rights and Development, Sri Lanka (CHRD)	+ 94 11 24710273	+94 11 2564269	chrd@sltnet.lk
3	Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF)	Jennifer Hyman: (301) 587-4700 or Mobile: (202) 99702454		jhyman@chfinternational.org
4	Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) (UK)	For donations: 0870 60 60 900		enquiries@dec.org.uk
5	Disaster Management Unit (DMU), Sri Lanka	+ 94 11 2435082, 4733531, 24373362, 4733427		
6	Disaster Reduction Unit, Bureau for Crisis Prevention Recovery (BCPR)	+41 22 9178433	+41 22 9178060	Bcpr-disasters@undp.org
7	European Union	Amadeu Altafaj (Spokesperson): +32 2 498 95 26 58 ECHO Information: +32 2 295 4400 Mobile: + 32 498 98 12 40		
8	Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	Teresa Buerkle (Information Officer): +39 06 570 56146		Teresamarie.buerkle@fao.org
9	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Marcal Izard (Colombo): +94 11 250 33 46 Eros Bosisio (Geneva): +41 22 730 21 01		
10	Medical Institute of Tamils (MIOT)	+ 44 (0) 1708 722303 (Voicemail only)	+ 44 (0) 1708 725388	admin@miot.org.uk
11	National Relief Operations Unit (NROU), Sri Lanka	W J S Karunaratne, Secretary to the President: +94 11 +2324801, 2326309, 2435144		
12	Saiva Munnetta Sangam (UK)	+44 (0) 20 8514 4732	+44 (0) 20 561805	
13	Sri Lanka High Commission, London	+44 (0) 20 7262 1841-846	+44 (0)20 7262 7970	lancom@easynet.co.uk
14	Sri Lanka Jama’Ath-E-Islamic Social Services Department	Moulavi Abdur Rahman: 0094 777 418345 Br. Haneez: 0094 777412151		
15	Sri Lanka Muslim Information Centre (UK)	Sayed MM Bazeer (Director): +44 (0) 208 543 6600	+44 (0) 208 543 3198	sbazeer@yahoo.co.uk
16	Standing Committee of the Tamil Speaking People (SCOT)	+ 44 (0) 1787 210860		
17	Tamil Information Centre (TIC)	+ 44 (0) 20 8546 1560	+ 44 (0) 20 8546 5701	info.tic@sangu.org
18	Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO)	+ 44 (0) 20 8520 5876		

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

	CONTACT	TELEPHONE	FAX	E-Mail
19	Tamils Health Organisation (THO-UK)	+44 (0) 20 8296 8480		info@tamilshealth.com
20	The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Martin Dawes: (977-1)417-082 x 222		mdawes@unicef.org
21	The UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)	David Del Vecchio: +1 (212) 297-4975 Omar Gharzeddine: +1 (212) 297-5028		delvecchio@unfpa.org gharzeddine@unfpa.org
22	The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Brian Grogan: 201 315 1827 Elizabeth Byrs (Advocacy and Public Information): +41 22 917 2563	+41 22 917 0020	
23	White Pigeon (Venpura)	+44 (0) 20 8265 2764	+44 (0) 20 8333 7904	info@whitepigeon.co.uk
24	World Food Programme (WFP)	Jordan Dey: Sat_8821654203510		Jordan.dey@wfp.org
25	World Health Organisation (WHO)	Media/General enquiries: +44 22 791 2222 Donor related Queries - Marianne Muller: +41 22 791 1887		mullerm@who.int
26	The Child Abuse Investigation Unit, C/O. ECPAT (UK)	020 7501 8927	020 7738 4110	ecpat.org.uk
27	Joint Organisation of the Affected Communities on Colombo-Matara Highway	+94 38 92840	+94 38 92871	ggama@mail.ewisl.net
28	Muslim Foundation for Culture and Development – Sri Lanka	+94 115357381	+94 115336781	almfcd@yahoo.com

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

Appendix 2

Statistics relating to the tsunami deaths, destruction and displacement provided by the Sri Lankan government and TRO/LTTE are given below. There are differences between the two and this may be due to difficulties in compiling figures in areas under the control of the other party.

Tsunami Disaster – Impact on lives and property As at 25 January 2005

Province	District	Impact on lives							Impact on property		Camps	
		Affected Families	Displaced Families	Displaced persons			Deaths	Injury	Missing	Houses Totally Damaged		Houses Partly Damaged
				In Welfare Centres	With Friends/Relatives	Total						
Northern	Jaffna	13,652	12,631	11,891	28,016	39,907	2,640	1,647	540	6,084	1,114	**
	Kilinochchi	2,295	318	305	1,298	1,603	560	670	1	1,250	4,250	2
	Mullaitivu		6,007	11,993	10,564	22,557	3,000	2,590	552	3,400	600	23
Eastern	Trincomalee		27,746	19,559	62,084	81,643	1,078		337	5,974	10,394	42
	Batticaloa	63,717	12,494	30,403	31,509	61,912	2,840	2,375	1,033	15,939	5,665	48
	Amparai	38,624		75,172		75,172	10,436	120	876	29,077		81
Southern	Hamban.	16,994	3,334	555	17,168	17,723	4,500	361	963	2,303	1,744	5
	Matara	20,675	3,268	4,141	9,254	13,395	1,342	6,652	613	2,362	5,659	31
	Galle	23,174	1,472	4,830	123,247	128,077	4,216	313	554	5,525	5,966	40
Western	Kalutara	6,905	6,905	3,281	24,432	27,713	256	400	155	2,780	3,116	16
	Colombo	9,647	5,290	5,999	25,240	31,239	79	64	12	3,398	2,210	28
	Gampaha	6,827	308	876	573	1,449	6	3	5	292	307	2
North Western	Puttalam	232	18	66		66	4	1	3	23	72	2
Total		202,742	79,791	169,071	333,385	502,456	30,957	15,196	5,644	78,407	41,097	320

Note: This table contains information reported till 25 January 2005

Displaced persons refer to people who are in the IDP camps and staying with relatives or friends

** Hamlets 112

Source: District Secretaries

Emergency Operation Room of the Disaster Management Centre

Ministry of Women Empowerment and Social Welfare

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

Tsunami Disaster – Figures for North-East provided by TRO and LTTE – 7 January 2005						
District	Deaths	Injured	Missing	Displaced Families	Displaced Persons	<u>Number of camps</u>
Northern Province						
Jaffna (Vadamaratchi East)	1,771	539	2,000	12,995	47,513	32
Mullaitivu	1,622	4,817	3,180	5,800	25,210	19
Mannar	-	-	-	1,344	4,987	16
Sub-total for North	3,393	5,356	5,180	20,139	77,710	67
Eastern Province						
Trincomalee	947	2,238	2,431	37,821	139,684	87
Batticaloa	2,254	1,106	4,850	52,617	212,456	100
Amparai	12,540	3,000	2,000	44,000	186,405	126
Sub-total for East	15,741	6,344	9,281	134,438	538,545	313
TOTAL	19,134	11,700	14,461	154,577	616,255	380

Appendix 3

Summary Regarding Foreign Nationals As at 28 January 2005

Nationality	Buried in Sri Lanka	Sent abroad	Identified & Released	Lying at		Total No. of bodies
				AFR*	PM**	
American	3	2	5			5
Austria	1		1			1
British	2	6	8			8
Canadian	1		1			1
Denmark		1	1			1
Dutch		1	1			1
French	1		1			1
Finland		1	1			1
German	3	6	9			9
Indian	8	4	12			12
Italian	1		1			1
Japanese		11	11			11
Norwegian		1	1			1
Singaporean		1	1			1
	20	34	54	0	0	54
Unidentified				2	35	37
Total	20	34	54	2	35	91

* AFR – At AF Raymonds, Undertakers

** PM – At Police morgue

Source : Police Disaster Management Team Control Centre PHQ
(Dead - identified)

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

Appendix 4

Amounts in US\$

Tsunami Damage by Province, District ad Sector							
Province/ District	Education	Health	Housing	Power	Water/ Sanitation	Total	% of total
North-East	14.2	36.21	318	3.9	30.45	402.76	71.4
Batticaloa	3.7	11.5	66.9	1.1	6.36	89.56	15.9
Amparai	6.3	10.7	101.3	2.14	11.35	131.79	23.4
Trincomalee	2.6	9.6	35.9	0.5	3.15	51.75	9.2
Mullaitivu	0.6	4.2	46.4	0	3.91	55.11	9.8
Kilinochchi	0	0.06	18.2	0	1.25	19.51	3.5
Jaffna	1.0	0.15	49.3	0.16	4.43	55.04	9.8
South	5.7	20	76	5.31	6.27	113.28	20.1
Hambantota	0.6	0.2	10.2	1.61	0.99	13.6	2.4
Matara	1.7	2.1	36.5	0.82	3.01	44.13	7.8
Galle	3.4	17.7	29.3	2.88	2.27	55.55	9.8
West	1.2	0.5	43.3	0.22	2.89	48.11	8.5
Kalutara	0.8	0.3	16.6	0.14	1.16	19	3.4
Colombo	0	0.2	25.2	0.08	1.6	27.08	4.8
Gampaha	0.4	0	1.5	0	0.13	2.03	0.4
North-West	0	0	0.15	0	0.01	0.16	0.03
Puttalam	0	0	0.15	0	0.01	0.16	0.03
Province Total	21.1	56.71	437.45	9.43	39.62	564.31	100.0

Appendix 5

The three phases of the Sri Lankan government Action Plan for Reconstruction:

Phase I - Emergency Repairs

- Rapid environment damage assessment.
- Initiate and assist restoration of Karagam Levaya (biological habitat in Hambantota) and other water bodies in the Southern, North and Eastern provinces.
- Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) of Southern and North-Eastern provinces.

Phase II – Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

- Establishment of Green Belt along the coastal zone.
- Restoration of coastal habitats.
- Prepare guidelines and design landfill sites for housing schemes that will re-settle affected people.
- Provide technical inputs on sewer disposal in the design stage of all housing schemes.
- Introduce disaster preparedness to environmental education and awareness programmes.

Phase III – Improvement and Modernization

- Regional laboratory for Environmental Quality Assurance.
- Establishment of a Database on Natural Disasters.
- Rehabilitation of lagoons and estuaries.
- Marine pollution prevention.
- Establish thick vegetation cover with suitable trees along the demarcated 100-metre coastal belt as a barrier from tidal waves, cyclone etc.
- Two industrial estates with effluent treatment facilities for locating polluting industries, one in Southern Province and the other in North-East Province.
- Promote technology to establish an industry to convert destroyed building material into reusable material in housing construction.
- Restoration of national parks and marine parks affected by the tsunami.

Appendix 6

Tsunami aid pledged by countries

<u>Country</u>	<u>Aid Pledged</u>	<u>Aid per Capita</u>
Australia	\$1 billion	\$50.22
Germany	\$806 million	\$10.08
Japan	\$611 million	\$4.80
United States	\$432 million	\$1.47
Norway	\$222 million	\$48.53
Kuwait	\$120 million	\$53.23
France	\$79 million	\$1.31
Britain	\$117 million	\$1.94
Denmark	\$94 million	\$17.36
Sweden	\$98 million	\$10.91
Spain	\$83 million	\$2.06
Canada	\$425 million	\$13.07
China	\$101 million	\$0.08
Taiwan	\$61.5 million	\$2.71
South Korea	\$61.5 million	\$1.27
European Union	\$646.7 million	\$1.42
Netherlands	\$42 million	\$2.57
India	\$31 million	\$0.03
Switzerland	\$29 million	\$3.89
United Arab Emirates	\$24.5 million	\$9.77
Finland	\$81 million	\$15.53
Italy	\$146 million	\$2.56

Appendix 7

FAO guiding principles for rehabilitation of the fishing industry:

1. Key guiding principles for FAO assistance

- Ensure relief and rehabilitation efforts are perceived by local people as a right and addressed in a compassionate manner - bringing in stakeholders; building their capacity; developing a common vision to rebuild livelihoods.
- Adopt a livelihood approach, which recognizes that livelihoods are based on a number of dimensions (physical, human, social, natural and financial), and that stakeholders are linked by policies, institutions and processes.
- Couple rehabilitation and reconstruction with reforms in order to avoid the re-institutionalization and repetition of factors of vulnerability or un-sustainability formally identified as affecting the livelihoods and living conditions of fishing communities.
- Adopt a collaborative approach with international development partners. Under the overall coordination framework of concerned governments, this implies strengthening existing cooperation with donors as well as with specific regional institutions (such as BOBP, FAO, NACA, SEAFDEC and WFC).
- Networking with international development partners to achieve information sharing, coordination as well as undertaking complementary or joint activities.
- Rely on local partnership with government specialized agencies, NGOs, and professional/community organizations for planning and implementation of specific national projects.
- In rehabilitating the means of fisheries/aquaculture production, rely essentially on inputs and skills used previously - especially inputs locally produced in the past and still available in the affected areas or in the surrounding areas.

Tsunami Disaster Situation report – Sri Lanka

Appendix 8

