

Sri Lanka Tsunami Situation Report

Report Number 6

15 March 2006

published by

Tsunami Information Project
Tamil Information Centre



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Purpose of the Report

To keep the civil society organizations, NGOs and partners of the Tamil Information Centre (TIC-UK) - the Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD-Sri Lanka), the Centre for Community Development (CCD-UK) and its partners - and other relief and development agencies and governments informed of developments since the Tsunami disaster in Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004, in particular the north-east region of the island.

Website of the Tsunami Information Project: www.project-tsunami.org

Introduction

The tsunami of 26 December 2004 devastated the lives of millions of people in the Indian Ocean region. After a year, despite massive amounts of aid provided to the countries in the region, the long-term livelihood prospects of survivors remain uncertain. International agencies say that the pace of permanent housing reconstruction has been slow and is not meeting the expectations of the tsunami's survivors.

In Sri Lanka, some 339,000 people displaced by the war and 457,000 people affected by the tsunami still remain displaced. More people were displaced in the north-east in late 2005 and early 2006 due to violence, leading to new refugee arrivals in India. Since the introduction of Emergency in August 2005, attacks by Sri Lankan security forces on Tamil civilians, arbitrary arrests and disappearances have increased. In December 2005, Amnesty International called upon the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and other armed groups to end all abuses, including civilian killings, and the Sri Lankan government to take all possible steps to protect the civilians and bring the perpetrators to justice. Agencies working in Sri Lanka have expressed concern that continuing violence is affecting tsunami relief and reconstruction.

Bureaucratic apathy, delays and corruption also continue to plague relief and reconstruction. Tsunami-affected people in the north-east, who still live in temporary shelters have staged demonstrations demanding the government to take tangible and swift action to provide them permanent shelter. According to Oxfam, a plethora of international agencies and local NGOs, often all working in the same places, led to confusion about cooperation and delays in addressing problems (See Tables 1 and 2 for number of projects).

UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, Bill Clinton pointed out that Sri Lanka's internal conflict could pose serious obstacles to recovery if there is no progress in the peace process and failure to reach an accord will heighten concerns that populations in the north-east have not had equal access to assistance. The resumption of peace talks between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE and the commitment of both parties to the ceasefire agreement have been widely welcomed, but have not offered a reprieve as killings and abductions continue in the north-east.

Mr. Clinton urged donors and governments to ensure that recovery resources are equitably distributed and there is no exacerbation of iniquities. In a discussion paper of 1 December 2005, eight international agencies, including UNHCR and Christian Aid, also highlighted the need for equity in aid provision among the tsunami displaced, and between those displaced by the tsunami and those displaced by the conflict. They pointed out that in many districts in Sri Lanka, there is a real sense of anger, and some groups feel discriminated and frustrated, especially those receiving less assistance due to the fact their displacement has been more gradual than those whose plight was high lighted by the media. The agencies say that there should be no discrimination of internally displaced people (IDP) along, ethnic, religious, social or political lines and preferential treatment should be given only in line with the principles of affirmative action, that is, to realize the rights or raise the standard of those IDPs who are living in the worst conditions.¹

But the politicians in southern Sri Lanka continue to demonstrate their callous indifference to the plight of the displaced people in the north-east. Sinhalese nationalist political parties such as the People's Liberation Front (JVP) and Jathika Hela Urumaya (JHU) are determined to destroy any cooperation between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE or the development of understanding and goodwill between the Tamil and Sinhalese people. It is a matter of grave concern that the Sri Lankan Judiciary has joined the politicians, losing its independence and credibility. The Supreme Court said in June 2005 that if the agreement on the Post-Tsunami Operational Management System (P-TOMS) is not implemented immediately, urgent humanitarian assistance could not be granted to the people in the north-east, 'who have suffered and continue to suffer, untold hardship and tragedy from the natural disaster'. But after the new President was elected in November 2005, the court has granted an indefinite injunction against the P-TOMS and has postponed the enquiry indefinitely, leading to suspicion among many Tamil people of a devious political deal.

In November 2005, President Rajapakse said that tsunami reconstruction would be parallel to the peace process and established the Reconstruction and Development Agency (RADA), functionally replacing all the other tsunami organizations such as The Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation (TAFREN). The Tamils have severely criticized the President for linking the peace process, which is characterized by uncertainty and long delays, to urgently needed tsunami relief and reconstruction. This would undoubtedly cause further delays in the delivery of assistance to the people of the north-east.

The Tamil Information Centre (TIC) recognizes that some international aid is reaching the north-east and that international and national agencies are working in the region, but believes that a joint mechanism is essential for the efficient delivery of post-tsunami assistance, promotion of human rights and durable peace. It is crucial that consultation with all affected communities in the north-east forms an integral part of the relief and reconstruction process to ensure equitable distribution of aid.

¹ *The Internally displaced in Sri Lanka* – Discussion Paper on equity, 1 December 2005 – www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka; the eight agencies are UNHCR, Care International, Christian Aid, Jaffna Social Action Centre, Oxfam, Norwegian Refugee Council, Zoa Refugee Care, UNDP and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Tsunami relief and related events

Joint mechanism, peace and human rights

Joint mechanism

Discussions between the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE on a joint mechanism for the equitable distribution of tsunami aid culminated in an agreement in June 2005 for the creation of the P-TOMS, but the process encountered stumbling-block in November 2005. The JVP filed a case on 27 June 2005, demanding an injunction against the P-TOMS agreement. In July, the Supreme Court issued an interim injunction on key aspects of the agreement pending a final determination. The Court made a number of statements about the importance of the P-TOMS and declared that if the P-TOMS agreement is not implemented immediately, urgent humanitarian assistance could not be granted to the people in the north-east, 'who have suffered and continue to suffer, untold hardship and tragedy from the natural disaster'.

But after the new President was elected on 21 November 2005, the court inexplicably granted an indefinite injunction against the P-TOMS and also postponed the enquiry indefinitely. Many people, within and outside Sri Lanka, have expressed their suspicion to the TIC that this change is due to political intervention or some devious political deal. The decision has undermined the independence of the judiciary, the peace process and a mechanism to rebuild the lives of the tsunami affected people of the north-east. The international community fully supported the creation of P-TOMS and continued to call for its establishment. The Court decision has not only ensured that the suffering of thousands of people affected by the tsunami will continue but has also stifled a mechanism that would have had the potential of creating trust and public confidence in the peace process.

TIC Campaign

After a year since the tsunami, most affected people have not received sufficient assistance. Even land allocation policies have not been resolved for people to move into permanent housing. The entire tsunami relief and reconstruction process has been turned into an exercise in political manoeuvring and tactics. The TIC strongly believes that a joint mechanism is essential for the efficient delivery of post-tsunami assistance and for durable peace. The TIC also believes it is crucial that consultation with all affected communities in the north-east forms an integral part of the relief and reconstruction process to ensure equitable distribution of aid. In this light, the TIC launched an international campaign to highlight the need for a joint mechanism and assisted the expatriate Tamil community to make representations to legislators and international agencies in their countries of residence. The campaign called on the international community to:

- establish a joint mechanism to ensure equitable aid distribution and encourage the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE to resume negotiations on the mechanism;

- become proactive in conflict resolution and constantly engage both sides to resume and sustain peace talks;
- champion the cause of human rights and human security in Sri Lanka;
- resolve inconsistencies and lack of co-ordination between various governments and agencies, particularly between the EU Commission and the EU Council;
- improve policy on tsunami disaster, human rights, development and peace in Sri Lanka.

The TIC established a website for the purpose of the campaign.² The TIC also sent letters to UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, Bill Clinton and EU Commissioner for External Relations, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, pointing out that a joint mechanism would have the potential of ensuring people's participation, transparency and accountability in the provision of tsunami assistance in the government-controlled as well as LTTE-held areas, developing trust between the parties and creating circumstances in which promotion and protection of human rights would become a reality. In her reply, EU Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner pointed out that 'people need permanent housing, access to roads, electricity, water, sanitation, community infrastructure – as well as support to livelihoods and secondary occupations that have not been sufficiently targeted by assistance to date'.

Presidential election

Mahinda Rajapakse was elected as Sri Lanka's new president on 17 November 2006 by a narrow margin. Mr Rajapakse, the candidate of the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA), received 50.3% of the votes while the United National Party (UNP) candidate Ranil Wickremasinghe obtained 48.4%. The turnout was 73.7% 9.8 million of the 13.3 million eligible voters casting their votes. The turnout in the southern districts was 80%, but in the north-east districts, only 36% of the voters turned out. The turn out in Jaffna was just over 1% (See Tables 3 and 4 for details). The European Union Observer Mission said that the voting in the north-east was marred by violence accompanied by an enforced boycott by the LTTE resulting in extremely low turn-out. The Observer Mission also said that in the south misuse of public resources for election campaign was observed and that the Inspector General of Police (IGP), unlike in previous elections, refused to provide statistics on election related violence.³

In his policy statement in Parliament on 25 November 2005, President Rajapakse said that rebuilding lives affected by war and tsunami will be parallel to the peace process and a new tsunami administrative infrastructure will replace the P-TOMS and will be linked to '*Jaya Lanka*' (Victorious Lanka), the government's tsunami reconstruction and rehabilitation programme. On 28 November 2005, President Rajapakse established the Reconstruction and Development Agency (RADA), mandated to accelerate reconstruction and development activities in all parts of the country, functionally replacing all the tsunami organizations such as The Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation (TAFREN), Task Force for Relief (TAFOR) and

² The website address is: www.project-tsunami.org

³ Preliminary Statement, Sri Lanka Presidential Election 2005, 19 November 2005 – John Cushnahan, Chief Observer, European Union Election Observer Mission – www.eueomsrilanka.com

Tsunami Housing Reconstruction Unit (THRU), as well as a significant part of the former Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. The RADA is expected to report directly to the President.

Many Tamil people have severely criticized the President for linking the peace process, which is characterized by uncertainty and long delays, to urgently needed tsunami relief and reconstruction. According to the President, the new tsunami structure will coordinate with the central government, provincial councils, *pradeshiya sabhas* (rural councils), political parties and voluntary organizations. It appears that the LTTE, which controls large parts of the north-east, will not be involved in this structure. The existing administrative structures have not been able to deliver proper aid to the north-east and the elected bodies referred to by the President do not exist in the north-east. This means, more delays can be expected in the delivery of assistance to the people of the north-east, resulting in further suffering.

The peace process

The Sri Lankan government and the LTTE agreed on 7 February 2006 to resume peace talks. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan welcomed the resumption of peace talks and said it will be important to put an end to the escalating violence in the north-east and to strictly uphold the ceasefire to advance the peace process.⁴

The parties discussed issues relating to the ceasefire agreement 22 and 23 February 2006 in Geneva. The government delegation included the leader of the National Unity Alliance (NUA), Ms Ferial Ashraff as a representative of the Muslim community. In their statements, both parties accused each other of violating the ceasefire agreement and launching acts of violence. The government claimed that the ceasefire agreement contained anomalies, was contrary to the Sri Lankan Constitution and prejudicial to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the island. The government delegation acknowledged that benefits flowed to the people from the ceasefire, but asserted that it had not ensured the security and the resettlement of the Muslim people. The LTTE expressed opposition to changing any provision, and emphasized that the ceasefire agreement was not formulated in haste to the advantage of one party, but all aspects of the truce were given careful and meticulous scrutiny by both parties, with the skilled assistance of the Norwegian facilitators. The LTTE said that the agreement is a well crafted, valid instrument of peace, devised for the purpose of bringing an end to hostilities and to create a positive environment conducive for meaningful negotiations.

At the end of the sessions, both parties announced that they are committed to upholding the ceasefire agreement of 22 February 2002, and pledged to respect the rulings of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) on ceasefire violations. They also agreed to ensure that there will be no intimidation, acts of violence, abductions or killings. The LTTE would take measures to ensure that there are no acts of violence against the security forces and the government would act to ensure that no armed group or person other than the security forces carry arms or conduct armed operations.

⁴ *Secretary General welcomes February resumption of talks on Sri Lanka* – UN Secretary General's website, 25 January 2006, SG/SM/10322 – www.un.org

There was no discussion on urgent issues such as promotion of human rights and the status of the P-TOMS agreement, but the welfare of children in the north-east, including the recruitment of children was discussed briefly. The next round of talks will be held in Geneva from 19 to 21 April 2006.

Human rights

Democratic institutions

According to the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), President Rajapakse and the Sri Lankan Cabinet decided on 22 December 2005 to transfer the powers of the independent commissions appointed under the Sri Lankan Constitution to government ministries. The 17th Amendment to the Constitution provides for the establishment of a Constitutional Council, which would in effect choose the commissioners of the independent commissions - Human Rights Commission, Public Service Commission, Police Commission, Bribery and Corruption Commission, Finance Commission, Delimitation Commission and Election Commission.

The 17th Amendment was introduced for the promotion of good governance, transparency and accountability and for the protection of people's rights. The Constitutional Council, the National Police Commission and the Public Service Commission are currently not functioning. The Election Commission has not been appointed and the term of the Human Rights Commission ends in March 2006. The AHRC says that the cabinet decision to transfer the powers of constitutional bodies to administrative bodies is a clear violation of the Constitution and an undemocratic act aimed at placing all the powers of the commissions again in the hands of the executive President.⁵

Killings

The killings, particularly in the east, have continued and international agencies involved in post-tsunami relief and reconstruction have expressed concern that the violence is affecting humanitarian work.

Professor Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human rights on Extrajudicial Summary or Arbitrary Executions, on a visit to Sri Lanka between 28 November and 7th December 2005, denounced the widespread killings of Tamil and Muslim civilians and members of the LTTE and the security forces. He said that the upsurge in extrajudicial killings has been accompanied by a vacuum of investigating responsibility and called for immediate confidence building measures to prevent killings and strengthen the accountability of those responsible.⁶

⁵ *Sri Lanka: Presidential immunity does not extend to violation of the Constitution* – AHRC, 25 January 2006, AS-012-2006; *Sri Lanka: Bypassing the 17th Amendment is a move towards the return to absolute power* – AHRC, 14 February 2006, AS-024-2005

⁶ Statement of Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur on Extra-judicial, Summary and Arbitrary Executions, Colombo, 7 December 2005, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights - www.ohchr.org

Amnesty report

Following Secretary General Irene Khan's visit to Sri Lanka in December 2005, Amnesty International expressed concern over political killings in the east and said that the LTTE, the Karuna group, Tamil armed groups and the security forces were responsible. Amnesty says that increasingly many of those killed are civilians with little or no evident connection to armed activity, including journalists, academics, teachers and farmers, as well as former members of Tamil groups who have not been involved in armed activities for a long time.

Amnesty International called upon the LTTE and other armed groups to end all abuses, including civilian killings, abductions and torture and ill-treatment, in accordance with their obligations under international humanitarian law. It urged the Sri Lankan government to take all possible steps to protect the civilians, stop abuses by armed groups, bring the perpetrators to justice in accordance with international fair trial standards and ensure that the victims obtain reparation and redress. Amnesty also urged the establishment of an effective international human rights monitoring presence, with unhindered access to government and LTTE controlled areas; a mechanism for systematic independent investigation into all killings by the security forces and armed groups in the north and east, with a mandate to make recommendations, including on measures to provide redress for past abuses, bringing perpetrators to justice and measures to prevent such abuses in the future.⁷

Freedom of movement

On 28 December 2005, the Sri Lankan government announced new restrictions for foreigners seeking to enter LTTE-controlled areas. Foreign staff of diplomatic missions, international organizations and international NGOs accredited with the Foreign Ministry will be allowed to cross entry and exit checkpoints into these areas without restriction. All other foreigners must seek prior approval from the Sri Lankan Defence Ministry.⁸ Foreign organizations and journalists are now compelled to request permission through Sri Lankan embassies and high commissions to the Foreign Ministry in Colombo before arriving and thereafter obtain Defence Ministry clearance. In December, the government refused permission to Japan's special peace envoy Yasushi Akashi to visit Kilinochchi.

Government restrictions before the ceasefire resulted in tremendous suffering in the north-east. After the ceasefire, a large number of Tamils who have become foreign citizens, travelled to the north-east to assist war victims and post-tsunami reconstruction. Many expatriate organizations have initiated relief and reconstruction projects in the north-east. Expatriates say that government restrictions will affect their work and bring more suffering to ordinary people, particularly in view of the fact that the government is unwilling to participate in a joint mechanism to provide relief to the people of the north-east. Since the upsurge in the violence in the north-east in the last few months, aid agencies have complained that the freedom to move about is restricted and aid work has been affected. Aid work in Trincomalee was suspended temporarily after the killing of five Tamil students on 2 January 2006.

⁷ *Sri Lanka: A Climate of fear in the East* – Amnesty International, 3 February 2006, ASA 37/001/2006 – www.amnesty.org

⁸ *Sri Lanka: Country profile* – The Hospital for Tropical Diseases, February 2006 – www.thehtd.org

Arrests and disappearances

In August 2005, after Emergency was imposed in Sri Lanka, a large number of Tamils were arrested in the Tamil-dominated Colombo suburbs. Patrols and night raids have increased, particularly in Tamil neighbourhoods and vehicles, including buses to and from areas with large Tamil populations, are subjected to stringent security checks. The security forces claimed initially that the arrests were under normal law, but later admitted that the arrests were under the Emergency regulations.

Between midnight on 30 December and mid-day on 31 December 2005, the security forces conducted cordon and search operations in Colombo and rounded-up 920 Tamils. The operations took place in Tamil-dominated areas in the Colombo suburbs of Bambalapitiya, Grandpass, Kotahena, Maradana, Mutuwal and Wellawatte. The arrested persons were taken to eight police stations, interrogated, photographed and finger-printed before being released. According to the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission (SLHRC), seven Tamils are still in custody for further interrogation. Tamils have also been arrested in Kandy and Dambulla. The Sri Lankan army conducted many cordon and search operations in Batticaloa, Jaffna and Trincomalee in the north-east. In Jaffna, on 13 December 2005 alone, search operations were conducted in Achchuveli, Analaitivu, Ariyalai, Idaikaddu, Kachchai, Kerudavil, Kodigaman, Kondavil, Mayilankadu, Meesalai, Pannankaddai, Point Pedro, Thumpalai, Vallalai and Varani.

Since the reintroduction of Emergency in August 2005, there has been a recurrence of enforced disappearances. According to reports received by the TIC from partners, between 10 November and 10 January 2006, 20 people in Jaffna went missing. Three of them were later found at Anuradhapura police station, seven at Point Pedro police station, one person at Valvettithurai police station and another at Kankesanthurai police station. Two persons had been abducted from their homes in January 2006 by masked persons in white vans, the hallmark of military death squads. Some of the missing persons had been arrested in Colombo, Kandy or Vavuniya. No information had been provided to the relatives or the SLHRC regarding the arrests. Amnesty International and other human rights agencies have expressed concern.⁹

Assault, torture and sexual abuse

TIC partners recorded 32 complaints of assault by security forces between 20 November and 22 December 2005 in Jaffna. Several people have also been threatened.

The UN Committee Against Torture expressed deep concern in December 2005 about continued allegations of widespread torture and ill-treatment as well as disappearances, mainly committed by the Sri Lankan police force. The Committee was also concerned that such violations by law enforcement officials are not investigated promptly and impartially by the authorities. The Committee called upon the Sri Lankan government to ensure prompt,

⁹ *Sri Lanka: Fear of safety/Possible disappearances* – Amnesty International, 12 January 2006, ASA 37/003/2006 – www.amnesty.org

impartial and exhaustive investigations into all allegations of torture and ill-treatment and disappearances committed by law enforcement officials.¹⁰

In December 2005, Amnesty International expressed concern about an increase in reports of the sexual abuse of women and reported the rape and murder of young Tamil woman, Ilayathamby Tharshini on 16 December 2005, near a naval base Punkudutivu Island, west of the Jaffna peninsula.¹¹ Two young Tamil women from Vadamaratchi in Jaffna have complained to the SLHRC of attempted rape on 2 January 2006 by Sri Lankan soldiers.¹²

Child recruitment

UNICEF said on 15 February 2006 that while recruitment of children by the LTTE in the last six months declined to an average of 43 a month, only 79 children were released and reunited with their families during the same period. UNICEF further said that recruitment of even one child is unacceptable according to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. According to the UN agency, there have been 5,368 cases of reported child recruitment since January 2002.¹³ LTTE's political leader SP Thamilselvan denied that such recruitment was taking place and invited Amnesty International to conduct a fact-finding mission to the areas under its control to investigate allegations of child recruitment and other human rights concerns. At the peace talks in Geneva on 22 February 2006, LTTE's Chief Negotiator Anton Balasingham said that accusations are made against the LTTE without taking into consideration the complex child rights issues in the north-east and the number of children released by the LTTE under the Action Plan for the war affected Children undertaken in association with UNICEF. According to Mr Thamilselvan, LTTE takes care of thousands of children in children's homes and there is an urgent need to be concerned about the welfare of the children affected by war. He also said that there is no provision in the ceasefire agreement that prohibits recruitment and therefore is not an issue that comes within the mandate of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM). Experts point out that child recruitment, which is prohibited as a war crime under international law, falls within section 2.1 of the ceasefire agreement, under the term 'in accordance with international law'.

On 7 February 2006, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan announced the appointment of Radhika Coomaraswamy of Sri Lanka as his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. Ms Coomaraswamy, who is currently chairperson of the SLHRC, served as UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women between 1994 and 2003.¹⁴

¹⁰ UN Committee Against Torture - Consideration of the report submitted by Sri Lanka, under Article 19 of the Convention, UN Committee Against Torture, 35th Session, 15 December 2005 – CAT/C/LKA/CO/2

¹¹ For details see *Rape and murder of Ilayathamby Tharshini on 16th December 2005* – North East Secretariat on Human Rights (NESOHR), Case report 6 January 2006 – www.nesohr.org

¹² *Sri Lanka: Amnesty International concerned about escalation of violence* – Amnesty International, 11 January 2006, ASA 37/002/2006 – www.amnesty.org

¹³ *Sri Lanka: All parties should remember ceasefire agreement* – Statement of JoAnna VanGerpen, UNICEF representative in Sri Lanka, 15 February 2006 – www.unicef.org.uk

¹⁴ *Secretary General appoints Radhika Coomaraswamy of Sri Lanka* - UN Secretary General's website, 7 February 2006 - SG/A/979-BIO/3738-HR/4884 – www.un.org

TRO workers abducted

The TIC expressed concern over the abduction of staff members of the Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO). According to the TRO, ten members of staff were abducted on 29 and 30 January 2006 in areas under the control of the government security forces in Batticaloa District. The abduction appeared to be a provocative act deliberately timed to sabotage the February 2006 peace talks in Geneva. The offence against civilians involved in relief and rehabilitation is a serious development. The TIC called upon the Sri Lankan government to make all efforts to have the victims released and launch a full investigation into the abduction ensuring that all persons involved are brought to justice. The TIC also urged the government to guarantee the safety of all civilians in areas currently under its control and civilians who travel through these territories. The TIC called upon all nations involved in promoting peace in Sri Lanka to use their political influence to secure the safe release of the abducted persons and to prevent such acts of hostage-taking and abduction.

Initially the government said that the alleged abductions were a false claim, but later the Inspector General of Police (IGP) appointed a police team to probe the incident. According to the police, seven people are still being held and others have been released. Police also say that they have recorded the statements of three persons who were released.

Tsunami warning system

The establishment of a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean is promoted mainly by UNESCO in response to the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Japan in January 2005. The first two early-warning buoys were deployed in the coastal waters of Sumatra in mid-November 2005. The seven-metre buoys are connected to pressure sensors on the sea bed and will send information to a central station on the Indonesian mainland by satellite. Scientists will analyze the data and decide whether to raise an alarm. India has established a centre to monitor data from seismographs and 11 tide gauges, and hopes to develop a full warning system within two years.

Since 1 April 2005, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC) in Hawaii has provided interim advisory information to the Indian Ocean region in coordination with the Japan Meteorological Agency, issuing Tsunami Watch Bulletins for potential earthquakes that can create tsunamis.

The second session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS) was held in Hyderabad, India from 14 to 16 December 2005. The IOTWS has appointed four intersessional Working Groups. Group 1 works on seismic measurements to reduce time required to identify earthquake source to meet local warning response of 5-10 minutes. Group 2 deals with sea level data collection

and deep-ocean tsunami detection instruments. Group 3 is studying tsunami hazard identification, including prediction and scenario development. Group 4 is involved in the establishment of a system of warning centres and a coordinated regional warning system. Sri Lankan representatives on these Working Groups respectively are Sarath Weerawarnakula, Director of Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, Dr E M S Wijeratne, Oceanography Division, National Aquatic Resources and Development Agency, Dr Samantha Hettiarachchi, Professor of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa and G H P Dharamaratne, Director General of Meteorology.¹⁹

Between May and September 2005, national assessments of 16 countries in the Indian Ocean region were conducted by teams of international experts to identify capacity building needs and support requests for developing a warning system. A team of experts visited Sri Lanka from 19 to 21 May 2005 and made the following recommendations, among others:

- Obtain regional consensus on the nature of an early warning system, design its core elements and commence initial strengthening and implementation steps.
- Integrate the warning system into national disaster risk management and reduction mechanisms, strengthening national capacities.
- Develop and disseminate information on tsunami, early warning and risk reduction, tailored to local languages and cultures, targeting key intermediaries such as public officials, teachers, and community leaders, and develop and promote mass media materials and campaigns.
- Implement community-level pilot activities to test and demonstrate good practices, including hazard and vulnerability assessment, organizational strengthening, warning system operation, capacity building, evacuation planning, and the design and construction of shelters and other works.
- Establish the mutual understandings, agreements, information resources, good practice databases, networks, support capacities and decision making mechanisms needed to ensure the effective implementation of the project and its early warning system objectives.²⁰

The setting-up of a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean may be completed by July 2006, with Japanese technology playing a key part. Twenty-four officials from several countries including Sri Lanka took part in practical training sessions in Japan in January and February 2006. Japan's meteorological satellite *Himawari* (sun flower) No. 6 and European meteorological satellite METEOSAT will be used to cover observation spots where communication facilities have not been set up.²¹

¹⁹ *Establishment of a Tsunami Warning Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean*, UNESCO – <http://portal.unesco.org>

²⁰ IOC Mission to Sri Lanka 19-21 May 2005, Report No. 25 of 29 November 2005, UNESCO

²¹ *Tsunami warning system expected by July* – Asahi Weekly, 21 February 2006 – www.asahi.com

Tsunami relief and reconstruction

Aid and expenditure

A sum of \$13.6 billion has so far been pledged by the international community for recovery in the tsunami-affected region of the Indian Ocean. Governments and the European Union have donated \$6.2 billion (45%), institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have pledged \$2.3 billion (17%) and private individuals and companies have agreed to provide \$5.1 billion (38%). Of this total, \$1.4 billion has been pledged to the UN, \$5.5 billion to NGOs and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and \$2.3 billion to the affected governments. Most of the balance of \$4.4 billion is bilateral funding for each country's recovery plan, to be channeled through the governments, private contractors and NGOs.

The Sri Lankan government estimated the tsunami damage at \$1.5 billion. The joint needs assessments conducted by the Asian Development Bank, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the UN, and the World Bank estimated needs at \$2.15 billion. But the pledges have exceeded this estimate because needs assessments did not include funds for emergency humanitarian projects. International donors have pledged \$2.95 for Sri Lanka, and of this amount, \$2.24 billion has already been secured²² (See Tables 5 and 6 for funding and expenditure).

There are accusations that the funds contributed by people in the West have not benefited the people affected by the tsunami in Sri Lanka. Visitors from other nations have expressed outrage that victims are still living in makeshift shelters without little protection from rains, and have not received adequate benefits. In response to these concerns, the British Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) says that tsunami reconstruction is a long-term exercise and may take up to five years. DEC also says it has £39 million to spend in Sri Lanka, but agencies are facing obstacles and frustrating delays in all tsunami countries. Government policies are still unclear on the location and standards of permanent housing, and who are allowed to rebuild on their old sites.

Oxfam report

In a December 2005 report, Oxfam says that 26,859 people in Sri Lanka were involved in its cash for work programme up to October 2005.²³ Beneficiaries worked on basic renovation activities such as clearing debris, re-opening irrigation channels and repairing damaged infrastructure and received a fair wage which enabled them to provide for their families and prevented them sliding deeper into poverty. Oxfam's experience demonstrates that the incomes of women are important for poor households in tsunami-affected areas, because many coastal area livelihoods, such as fishing and agriculture, are seasonal, and women's

²² UN Indian Ocean Earthquake -Tsunami Flash Appeal: Expenditure Tracking – UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), <http://ocha.unog.ch>

²³ *Back to work: How people are recovering their livelihoods 12 months after the tsunami* – Oxfam Briefing Paper, 20 December 2005 – www.oxfam.org.uk

income contribute to the general household income, provide cash in the 'lean season' and contribute to the nutrition and well-being of children.

Oxfam has provided grants (\$150-\$450) and loans to 59,621 people in Sri Lanka to restart small enterprises cultivating agricultural land or buying raw materials to begin small-scale processing. It has also repaired 100 boats and engines, distributed 130 new boats and 336 fishing nets. According to Oxfam, the fishing industry in Sri Lanka is recovering. The government estimated that 15,300 boats were destroyed, and donors have pledged 12,900 replacements and 4,592 boats have been repaired. By August 2005, the fish catch had recovered to almost 70% of the previous year's amount, having fallen by 95% in January 2005.

Damage to agricultural lands includes erosion, deposits of debris and saline clay sediment, residual flooding and salinisation. The most critical of these factors is salinisation, because it reduces or inhibits crop growth and makes cultivation of fields impossible. Although heavy rains and irrigation of fields remove the salt, restoration of full productivity will take a long period of time.

Oxfam says the recovery process has been delayed by a number of factors, including the following:

- The psychological trauma and suffered by survivors.
- The difficulty in access to affected areas.
- The conflict in Sri Lanka created additional difficulties.
- Many hundreds of thousands of families are still living in temporary shelters and have no certainty about where they will ultimately live or when they will be able to move. It is difficult for many families to restart their livelihoods.
- Different levels of government and a plethora of international agencies and local NGOs, often all working in the same places. In some cases, there has been a degree of confusion about the appropriate relations and cooperation. This has led to delays in addressing problems.
- Limited capacity of local institutions to respond to the disaster.
- Policy environments that create situations unfavourable to small-scale producers and manufacturers.

Improving people's livelihoods is a long-term process and needs activities such as retraining, forming community groups, providing equipment, increasing access to markets, advocating for policy changes and overcoming inequalities. Women in all the affected communities experience injustices, including a disproportionate work burden, poor earning opportunities, a lack of assets and vulnerability to sexual and other forms of violence. Oxfam says that it recognizes one thing that the tsunami did not wash away – the political, social and economic structures that marginalized and impoverished coastal communities in the first place. Changing these structures is a challenging ambition, and one that involves both supporting work in communities and advocating pro-poor changes with governments.

Report of the UN Special Envoy

In his report²⁴ a year after the tsunami, UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, Bill Clinton says political reconciliation, as demonstrated in Aceh, can enhance dramatically the prospects of effective recovery, which can also be facilitated by good governance, including transparency and accountability in decision-making and in the allocation of resources and consultation with affected communities. Mr. Clinton pointed out that Sri Lanka's internal conflict could pose serious obstacles to recovery if progress in the peace process is not renewed, and failure to reach an accord will heighten concerns that populations in the north-east have not had equal access to assistance compared to the tsunami affected population elsewhere in the country. It is critical that the ceasefire is maintained and that all parties take steps towards resuming dialogue and reconciliation.

Mr. Clinton also said that donors, UN agencies and NGOs must encourage governments to ensure that recovery resources are equitably distributed and there is no exacerbation of iniquities. Governments must ensure equitable benefits are provided to both displaced victims of existing conflicts and those directly affected by the tsunami. District based approaches should be adopted so that assistance does not create further division within communities.

At broadest policy level, the Global Consortium of Tsunami Recovery, which includes governments, financial institutions, multilateral agencies and NGOs, has met periodically to develop common strategies. In the field, established systems worked well for the emergency phase, but the international community is yet to develop a predictable and effective coordination structure, planning platform and support system for the transitional/recovery period. Needs assessments have tended to focus on restoring losses rather than improving socio-economic baselines. Mr. Clinton said efforts must be linked to identifiable progress in areas such as economic diversification and disaster reduction. Efforts must also be made to define and implement the concept of building-back power so that people are safer than before disaster and in this task governments must commit to a broad disaster reduction and preparedness agenda and integrate this agenda into recovery strategies.

A complex recovery process requires empowered leadership at the highest level and national leaders should be encouraged to ensure that officials in charge of recovery have such authority. Mr. Clinton urged governments to abide by international decisions and agreements to facilitate and expedite the provision of assistance.

Livelihood efforts must be effectively integrated among all relevant actors, including governments and NGOs, and should be undertaken with a long-term view toward generating sustainable economic growth. Most interventions for livelihood development focusing in cottage or small-scale production have been of insufficient dynamism to generate the savings and investment required for rapid job creation and income growth. This is due in large measure to the relative poverty of affected populations, but it also results from livelihood programmes that are often ad hoc and do not reflect a strategic longer term plan.

²⁴ *Tsunami recovery: Taking stock after 12 months* - Bill Clinton, UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery – www.tsunamispecialenvoy.org

European Union

In a letter dated 16 February 2006 to the Tamil Information Centre, EU Commissioner for External Relations says as follows:

“The Commission decision regarding tsunami victims in Sri Lanka included €5.5 million [\$6.7 million] of assistance to revitalize livelihoods in the North and East and provide affected communities with basic economic opportunities. This comes in addition to (non-tsunami) EC assistance programmes already running in the North and East. The Commission through ECHO has provided over €40 million [\$48.8 million] if aid for tsunami victims. A large part of that aid has been directed at providing a link between humanitarian aid and the reconstruction effort. However, at the end of 2005 and early this year, the escalation in violence and volatile security situation in the North and East has had a slowing effect on implementation of assistance both in post-tsunami and conflict affected areas. Following the announcement of the CFA talks, the security situation has improved which we hope will allow resumption of work.

We are now working on our plan after P-TOMS. There are still priorities and needs. People need permanent housing, access to roads, electricity, water, sanitation, community infrastructure – as well as support to livelihoods and secondary occupations that have not been sufficiently targeted by assistance to date. We intend to build on what has been achieved through our large post-tsunami humanitarian programmes and are looking into the appropriate mechanisms.”

Problems faced by tsunami affected people

IDPs and refugees

Some 339,000 war-displaced people and 457,000 people affected by the tsunami still remain displaced. According to UNHCR, violence in December 2005 and January 2006 resulted in further displacement of some 5,900 families in the north-east. In late January 2006, UNHCR also recorded new arrivals of displaced people in LTTE-controlled Vanni and in Mannar from Jaffna.²⁵ In the north-east, there are 252,000 war displaced people and 240,000 tsunami affected people, making a total of 492,000 ie. 62% of the total displaced in the island.²⁶

Nearly 70,000 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees are in camps in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. UNHCR reported in January 2006 that tensions remain high in many areas and Tamils from Sri Lanka continued to arrive in southern India. More than 300 refugees arrived in Tamil Nadu between 12 and 30 January 2006. Indian newspapers reported in early February that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalitha expressed concern over the arrival of new refugees.²⁷ Nine

²⁵ *Sri Lanka: Resumption of talks* – UNHCR, 31 January 2006 – www.unhcr.org

²⁶ *Internally displaced population* – UNHCR and Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconciliation – www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka

²⁷ *Hindustan Times*, 1 February 2006

refugees arriving by boat in Dhanushkodi on the Tamil Nadu coast on 10 March 2006 from Jaffna and Mannar were sent to the Mandapam refugee camp.

In 2005, more than 5,450 Sri Lankans applied for asylum in 27 industrialized countries including 1,870 in France and 480 in Britain.²⁸ In the same year, 425 failed asylum seekers were deported to Sri Lanka from the UK. The TIC made representations to the British Home Office to review the UK government's position on asylum removals in light of grave violations of human rights as recognized by the British Foreign Office, and erosion of democracy in Sri Lanka. The TIC also urged the Home Office to remove Sri Lanka from UK's list of safe countries.

Shelter

Shelter for the people affected by the tsunami continues to remain a major problem. UNHCR said in December 2005 that it had completed its commitment on shelter. UNHCR coordinated construction of 55,000 transitional shelters. Of this number, UNHCR was responsible for 2,882 shelters in Amparai and 1,558 in Jaffna, representing 7% of the total need.³⁰ Most displaced people still live in camps or 54,100 transitional shelters, although the government promised that permanent houses will be completed within six months. The government appears to be blaming the NGOs. A joint report by the Sri Lankan government and development partners in December 2005 says that the quality of the transitional shelters is below expectations.³¹

According to the government Reconstruction and Development Agency (RADA), NGOs promised to build 32,000 houses for people displaced from within the buffer zone but had completed only 4,300 houses by December 2005. Some 10,700 housing units are said to be under construction. Outside the buffer zone, 66,525 house owners were directly given funds to repair or rebuild houses, and RADA says that this scheme appears to be successful. Under this scheme, house owner families are entitled to Rupees (Rs) 100,000 (\$975) to repair partly damaged houses and Rs 250,000 (\$2,435) for fully damaged house. These amounts are paid in four instalments, and by December 2005, the first instalment had been released to 83.5% of the families.

The joint report has also identified several problems in housing, including lack of consultation and communication between beneficiaries, local governments and development partners, additional demands for housing following the revision of the buffer zones,³² undersupply in some areas and lack of construction capacity.

²⁸ *Asylum levels and trends in industrialized countries 2005* – UNHCR – www.unhcr.org

³⁰ UNHCR completes its post-tsunami shelter commitments in Sri Lanka – Reuters AlertNet, 21 December 2005 – www.alertnet.org

³¹ *Sri Lanka: Post tsunami recovery and reconstruction* – Joint report of the government of Sri Lanka and development partners, December 2005 – www.tafren.gov.lk

³² On 14 October 2005, the buffer zone was reduced to a range between 55 and 25 metres from the earlier 100 metres in southern districts, and to a range between 100 and 50 metres from the earlier 200 metres in the north-east districts.

IDPs in the north-east say that during the rainy season, camp shelters become flooded. Some refugee camps are remote areas and snakes enter in the nights creating chaos in the temporary shelters. They have demanded payment of compensation and land to build their own houses.

Livelihoods

Around 150,000 people lost their main source of income, about 50% in the fisheries sector. According to the joint report by government and development agencies, 250,000 households received two of the four instalments of Rs 5,000 (\$49) plus food worth Rs 375 (\$4) per week. Around 165,000 also received the third instalment. In the fisheries sector, about 90% of all boats damaged have been repaired or replaced. Seeds and fertilizer have been distributed to those engaged in agriculture in approximately 80% of the affected areas. Problems such as unavailability of comprehensive information, lack of transparency on the targeting of beneficiaries, lack of consultation with affected community members, clarifying decision-making mechanisms and improving operational integration particularly at the local level, have been identified.

Some IDPs complain that dry rations are not provided regularly and the rice given to them is unfit for consumption. Fishermen in Mannar staged a demonstration on 7 February 2006, against restrictions on fishing. The government imposed restrictions on fishermen in the north-east in October 2005. Night fishing has been banned. The Navy had introduced a rule in Mannar, requiring each fisherman to register and obtain a permit every day. Following the demonstration, the Navy agreed to withdraw the rule, but the ban on night fishing remains. On 22 February 2006, Mannar fishermen submitted a memorandum to the SLMM highlighting their problems. The Navy has imposed a limit on the supply of fuel to fishermen. The fishermen say that the Navy is also subjecting them to unnecessary checks and is also harassing them at sea without any valid reason.

Health and sanitation

The joint report says that no outbreak of water borne diseases or additional deaths were recorded. Primary healthcare facilities and routine immunization nutrition surveillance systems were established. In mental health, 500 community support officers have been trained and deployed. Funds have been allocated for the rehabilitation of 97 damaged institutions and construction is in progress. But, only a low percentage of health facilities have been fully repaired or rebuilt. According to the report, some significant policy changes have been introduced in terms of disaster preparedness, mental health and nutrition.

IDPs say that medical and sanitation facilities in camps and temporary shelters are inadequate. Women are particularly affected and they have no privacy. Some camps lack regular supply of water. In an incident in Amparai District, a camp did not receive water for three days, and when the people made a complaint to the security forces, they were mocked and told to make representations to the LTTE.

Education

According to the joint report, over 95% of school-aged children in tsunami-affected areas have returned to school. A Child-Friendly School approach for rehabilitation/reconstruction has been adopted and funds have been provided for the rehabilitation of 180 damaged schools and their construction work is in progress. But, only a low percentage of education facilities have been fully repaired or rebuilt.

IDPs in the east say that the children must walk several miles to attend schools and they lack proper uniforms. In some camps, nine to ten people live in a small room with no room or proper lighting for children to study. In many areas, schools have been damaged or destroyed and students have been sent to other schools where there is lack of classrooms, furniture, educational equipment and teachers.

Women and children

Numerous initiatives were undertaken to protect and prevent the vulnerable, particularly women and children from being subject to abuse and violence, according to the joint report. Probation officers assessed 6,538 affected children orphaned or without one of their parents. The report also says that the SLHRC has received and acted upon more than 19,000 complaints.

Other problems

The refugees blame the MPs of the area for failing to attend to their needs. Others accuse agencies for failing to keep their promises. People also say that there are many middlemen who are earning huge sums of money using the plight of the refugees.

Tsunami-affected families in Kalmunai began a demonstration before the government Divisional Secretariat on 22 February 2006, demanding permanent housing, compensation for their losses and other relief measures. They demanded the restoration of the monthly payment of Rs 5000, which has now been suspended. The demonstration ended on 1 March 2006, after President Rajapakse promised that permanent housing would be provided within three months.

CCD Village Regeneration Programme

The Centre for Community Development (CCD-UK) and the TIC, in collaboration with people's organizations and social movements in north-east Sri Lanka, have launched an initiative to provide relief to tsunami victims, to assert human rights and to work towards rebuilding their lives. Livelihood rebuilding will also recognize the needs and seek ways to support individuals and families with special needs. The main focus of this initiative is to encourage and assist institutionalizing systems of local village governance, capacity building of local groups, resource mobilization, making local groups and bodies more representative, mainstreaming

their activities towards greater efficiency and equity and enhancing civic engagement for improved transparency in decision-making and accountability in implementation. The local organizations will implement action plans in the villages. However, where regional or national action plans by other organizations, departments and coordinating bodies overlap with CCD's plan for a particular village, the CCD will collaborate to complement each other's efforts.

The profiles of five of the six villages are given below:

Navalady Village

CCD partner organisation: **Kaviya Self Development Women's Centre**

Location and people

Navalady is about 2 sq. km. in extent and is in Batticaloa District, located about four kilometres from Batticaloa town, but access to the village is through the longer route turning left on the Batticaloa-Kalmunai main road after the Kallady Bridge. The village is on the narrow strip of land between the Bay of Bangal on the east and the Batticaloa lagoon on the west.

There has been a settlement in the area since 1915. The naval trees (Jaumoon plums) gave the village its name. The people are predominantly Hindu and the Kadalatchy Amman Hindu temple was built in 1955. A group of Burghers live near the village. Most of these Burghers are carpenters. There were 510 families in the village. The tsunami killed 751 people. For the last year, the other people are living in the Swiss Tamil village in temporary shelters and are attempting to rebuild Navalady.

Local and parliamentary representation

The village comes under the Divisional Secretary of Batticaloa Town area which is identified as Manmunai North Division. The governance of the village should be by a *Pradeshya Sabha* (Rural Council) with elected members. Since no local government elections have been held in the north-east for many years, the village is managed by the Divisional Secretary directly, who functions as a Special Commissioner in the absence of an elected local council. A government appointed *Grama Sevaka* (Village Headman) functions under the Divisional Secretary. Parliamentary representation falls within the Batticaloa District.

Most of the people are engaged in fishing, at sea as well as in the lagoon and are dependent on daily earnings. Some people receive money from relatives in other countries. Some are engaged in tailoring, poultry keeping and sale of food before the tsunami.

Organizations

Some organizations functioned in the village before the tsunami. A Women Welfare Organization (WWO) was engaged in providing loans for women for the establishment of self-help projects such as poultry keeping. The WWO was also involved in social service. The WWO is not functioning after the tsunami. A Youth Hindu Association undertook education related activities such as religious classes. The Association undertook sports activities and

arranged competitions with other sports associations. The Village Development Association has taken up some issues such as repair of roads and construction of toilets.

Infrastructure and facilities

Most buildings have been destroyed. The main road is in very poor state. The village was connected to the national grid in 1985 and over half the households had electricity supply. The vegetable market is 4 km away, but there are a few shops in the village. The bank is 3½ km away and the post office 1½ km away. The people must walk to the main road, located about two kilometres from the village, in order to access the transport network. Five trishaws for hire are available in and around the village. A minibus also operates through the village. A local dispensary functioned in the village from 1992. But for most of the health needs, the people had to travel to the main hospital in Batticaloa town.

Water for drinking and household use is obtained from individual and communal wells. Tsunami has affected the water quality in wells and access to drinking water has become a problem.

A primary school was functioning in the village and a secondary school was available near the village. The primary school had a student population of 30 and two teachers and the secondary school 175 students and 16 teachers. The schools were destroyed in the tsunami. The students are currently studying in Kiraimadu. A small library run by the Batticaloa Municipal Council established in 1990, with around 100 books and five magazines has been damaged.

Badur Nagar Village

CCD partner organization: **Rural Action Foundation**

Location and people

The village of Badur Nagar is located along the Batticaloa-Pottuvil road, in the Amparai District. The village is 0.8 sq km in extent and lies between the Indian Ocean and the Batticaloa-Pottuvil road. In 1975 it was named Murawodai and later the name was changed to Badur Nagar. Muslims, Tamils and Sinhalese live in harmony in the village. There are around 1,300 persons in the village before the tsunami. People are mainly engaged in fishing, agriculture and cottage industries. There are also carpenters, masons and mechanics.

Local and parliamentary representation

Local governance should be by the *Pradeshya Sabha* of elected members. But no local government election has been held for many years and the village comes directly under the administration of the Divisional Secretary, who functions as a Special Commissioner in the absence of an elected council. Parliamentary representation falls within the Amparai District and the MP representing the area is A L M Athaullah of the National Unity Alliance (NUA).

Organizations

A village Committee is engaged in development activities. There are also women and youth committees.

Infrastructure and facilities

A vegetable market and shops are within the village. A bank, a post office and the main hospital lie within two kilometres. A dispensary is available 1 ½ kilometres away. The people use trishaws to go to the hospital or the dispensary. The roads in village are in a poor condition. The village was connected to the national grid in 1985 and over half the household had electricity supply. Ten trishaws operate in and around the village.

There is a primary school in the village and a secondary school a kilometre away. The primary school has a student population of 118 and seven teachers. The public library in Akkaraipatru, two kilometres away, and has 7,000 books and nine periodicals. The library is funded and managed by the *Pradeshya Sabha*. Water for drinking is from individual and communal wells. Tsunami has affected the water quality and consequently access to potable water has become a problem. Hybrid coconut trees have been planted in the village and villagers also cultivate vegetables.

The major problem of the village is the large number of low-income families and the consequent poverty. Awareness programmes in such areas as education, health and sanitation is vital. Clean drinking water supply and awareness of the importance of clean water are needed. Intervention in improving sanitation facilities and toilet facilities for the villages are also needed.

Thambiluvil Village

CCD partner organisation: **DEVELOPERS**

Location and people

Thambiluvil is in Amparai District and lies around 30 km south-east of Amparai town sandwiched between the Bay of Bengal and a lagoon known as Periya Kalappu near the Batticaloa-Pottuvil and Thirukkuvil. There were 9,300 people before the tsunami and currently around 8,500 people live in the village. The tsunami killed 152 people and injured 71. All the residents are Tamils. Among the population 95% are Hindus and 5% were Christians. Most of the village income is from farming with small businesses and trade contributing a small proportion.

Local government

Village governance should be by the *Pradeshya Sabha*. Local government elections have not been held in the north-east for many years and the village is managed by the Divisional Secretary, who functions as a Special Commissioner in the absence of an elected local council.

Parliamentary representation falls within the Amparai district and the person representing Thambiluvil is Tamil National Alliance (TNA) member K Pathmanathan.

Organizations

Three women organizations are engaged in promoting the status of women and fighting for their rights. Two youth organizations are engaged in sports activities and take part in local tournaments.

Infrastructure

Most of the infrastructure was damaged by the tsunami, including around 5,000 houses and 16,000 people are in temporary accommodation. Three refugee camps have been established. The causeway connecting the village to the mainland has been damaged by the tsunami. Transportation and communication have become difficult. More than 3,500 acres of land was affected by the tsunami and 11 schools, eight community centres, five shops and ten temple/churches were extensively damaged. The local hospital, post offices and bus station were also damaged.

Electricity supply has been disrupted and village suffers from fuel shortage due to transportation difficulties. The 3,400 water wells were contaminated by the tsunami and sanitation facilities have been badly affected.

There are four primary schools and two secondary schools in Thambiluvil with 2,380 students and 71 teachers. Around 770 students are attending school from welfare centres. The library, established in 1974, is managed by the *Pradeshiya Sabha* and has around 7,000 books, six newspapers and 12 magazines.

Hisbullah Village

CCD partner organization: **Muslim Women's Rights and Development Organization**

Location and people

Hibullah village is located near Eravur, 12 km north-west of Batticaloa town. The area was known earlier as Iyanakernikadu. The village was established in 1995 following the efforts of Telecommunication Deputy Minister, MLAM Hisbullah and was named after him. Eravur is ten kilometres north of Batticaloa along the Batticaloa-Trincomalee road. The village is two kilometres off this main road.

The 298 people in the village are all Muslims. Most of the men are employed as daily-wage workers in areas outside the village. Many women are engaged in occupations such as small-scale mead and cashew nut processing, sewing and animal husbandry.

Local government and parliamentary representation

The village comes under the authority of the Eravur Divisional Secretariat and all amenities are handled by the Divisional Secretary, who functions as a Special Commissioner to the Council in the absence of an elected local council.

Parliamentary representation falls within the Batticaloa district and the person representing the area is the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress (SLMC) MP Basheer Segu Dawood.

Organizations

The only organization functioning in the village is the Rural Development Society. It has attended to construction of roads and a common well.

Infrastructure and facilities

Banks, post office and bus station and are all located in Eravur, two kilometres away. The hospital is in the nearby village of Meerakerni, which has a doctor and can treat minor ailments. For major medical treatment, people must travel to Eravur. The village has electricity connection since 2001 and approximately half the houses have electricity supply. Water for drinking is obtained from wells and the tsunami has affected the water quality.

A primary school known as Ashraff Vidyalayam, established in 1996 has 115 students and six teachers. Twenty one of the students lost one parent in the tsunami disaster. All the classes are conducted in one building and it has no electricity supply. The secondary school known as Zaheer Moulana Vidyalayam has 195 students.

Maruthamunai Village

CCD partner organization: [Maruthamunai United Social Development Association](#)

Location and people

Maruthamunai is located about three kilometres from the town of Kalmunai. It lies 35 kilometres south of Batticaloa. The village is about 1.5 square kilometres in extent. It has the Batticaloa-Kalmunai main road on the western, the sea on the eastern side, Kalmunai town in the south and Periya Neelavanai village in the north.

The villagers are Muslims. The tsunami killed 421 people in the village and wounded 195. Weaving is an important industry in the village. People were also engaged in fishing, poultry keeping and carpentry.

Local Government

The village comes under the purview of the Divisional Secretary of Kalmunai for all administrative and local government related needs. The governance is usually by the *Pradeshya Sabha* of elected members. Since no local government elections have been held for many years, it is managed by the Divisional Secretary, who functions as a Special Commissioner in the absence of an elected local council. Parliamentary representation falls within the Amparai District and the MP for the area is A L M Athaullah, representing the National Unity Alliance (NUA).

Organizations

A weavers organization functions in the village.

Infrastructure and facilities

The tsunami destroyed most of the equipment used in the in the weaving industry such as looms, spinning wheels and utensils used for dying. The shops in the village were destroyed and for most of the needs, the people of Maruthamunai visit the nearby town of Kalmunai,

which also has public and private banks. Frequent buses, both public and private operate along the road linking the main town of Kalmunai and other major towns of the area. There are also a number of trishws operating in the village. The people must go to the hospital in Kalmunai for all their health needs. There is a primary and a secondary school in the village. Water for drinking and household use is from individual and communal wells. Tsunami has affected the water quality and consequently potable water is a major problem as the case of other coastal villages.

Table 1

Tsunami relief and reconstruction - Number of projects in which humanitarian agencies are involved						
North-East	Capacity Building	Coordination & Support	Education	Environment	Fisheries & Agriculture	Food Security & Nutrition
Amparai	2	38	33	-	84	6
Batticaloa	-	14	42	-	11	11
Trincomalee	2	18	31	-	40	23
Jaffna	19	13	22	-	14	19
Mullaitivu	-	5	1	-	3	2
Total	23	88	129	-	152	61
South						
Colombo	-	2	4	-	3	10
Kalutara	-	3	5	-	4	6
Galle	-	11	17	1	18	20
Hambantota	1	12	13	-	15	13
Matara	-	15	16	-	18	10
Puttalam	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	43	55	1	58	59
Grand Total	24	131	184	1	210	120

Tsunami relief and reconstruction - Number of projects in which humanitarian agencies are involved						
North-East	Health & Psycho-Social	Livelihood Recovery	Human Rights Rule of Law	Shelter	Water & Sanitation	Total
Amparai	53	11	38	31	42	338
Batticaloa	53	42	34	80	50	337
Trincomalee	39	43	20	100	41	357
Jaffna	60	12	47	48	9	263
Mullaitivu	2	2	7	5	-	27
Total	207	110	146	264	142	1,322
South						
Colombo	5	4	-	8	3	39
Kalutara	6	4	3	11	6	48
Galle	22	19	20	43	24	195
Hambantota	18	16	13	15	17	133
Matara	29	12	19	21	21	161
Puttalam	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total	80	55	55	98	71	576
Grand Total	287	165	201	362	213	1898

Source: Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, Colombo

Table 2

Tsunami relief and reconstruction - Number of projects in which humanitarian agencies are involved						
	Capacity Building	Coordination & Support	Education	Environment	Fisheries & Agriculture	Food Security & Nutrition
Amparai						
Addalaichenai	-	3	2	-	3	-
Akkaraipatru	-	4	2	-	5	1
Alayadivembu	-	4	3	-	3	-
Dehiattakandiya	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kalmunai	-	4	3	-	18	1
Karaitivu	-	3	4	-	8	1
Lahugala	-	1	1	-	3	-
Mahaoya	-	-	-	-	-	-
Navithanveli	-	1	1	-	-	-
Ninthavur	-	4	2	-	9	-
Pottuvil	2	4	6	-	11	1
Sainthamaruthu	-	4	3	-	12	1
Sammanthurai	-	1	1	-	1	-
Thirukovil	-	4	4	-	10	1
Uhana	-	1	1	-	1	-
Total	2	38	33	-	84	6
Batticaloa						
Chenkalady	-	1	2	-	1	2
Eravur Town	-	1	2	-	1	-
Kattankudy	-	2	5	-	2	1
Valaichenai	-	1	5	-	-	2
Vaharai	-	1	5	-	2	-
Kiran	-	1	2	-	1	1
Oddamavadi	-	1	1	-	-	-
Batticaloa	-	1	5	-	1	2
Araipattai	-	1	5	-	-	-
Eruvil Patru	-	1	6	-	3	2
Manmunai SW	-	1	2	-	-	-
Manmunai W	-	1	-	-	-	-
Vellaveli	-	1	2	-	-	1
Total	-	14	42	-	11	11

Tsunami relief and reconstruction - Number of projects in which humanitarian agencies are involved						
	Health & Psycho-Social	Livelihood Recovery	Human Rights Rule of Law	Shelter	Water & Sanitation	Total
Amparai						
Addalaichenai	3	-	2	2	1	16
Akkaraipatru	5	1	3	3	5	29
Alayadivembu	3	1	4	3	2	23
Dehiattakandiya	1	-	-	-	-	1
Kalmunai	9	1	4	5	10	55
Karaitivu	5	1	3	2	2	29
Lahugala	1	-	1	-	-	7
Mahaoya	1	-	-	-	-	1
Navithanveli	1	-	1	1	-	5
Ninthavur	5	-	4	3	6	33
Pottuvil	6	5	5	5	8	53
Sainthamaruthu	5	1	4	3	1	34
Sammanthurai	1	-	1	1	-	6

Thirukovil	5	1	4	3	7	39
Uhana	2	-	2	-	-	7
Total	53	11	38	31	42	338
Batticaloa						
Chenkalady	3	1	3	4	2	19
Eravur Town	1	-	2	1	-	8
Kattankudy	6	4	4	7	9	40
Valaichenai	6	6	3	9	4	36
Vaharai	5	7	2	13	6	41
Kiran	4	3	2	5	4	23
Oddamavadi	1	-	2	1	-	6
Batticaloa	8	6	3	15	9	50
Araipattai	5	4	3	9	6	33
Eruvil Patru	8	10	3	14	9	56
Manmunai SW	2	-	2	1	1	9
Manmunai W	2	-	3	-	-	6
Vellaveli	2	1	2	1	-	10
Total	53	42	34	80	50	337

Tsunami relief and reconstruction - Number of projects in which humanitarian agencies are involved						
	Capacity Building	Coordination & Support	Education	Environment	Fisheries & Agriculture	Food Security & Nutrition
Trincomalee						
Gomarankada.	-	-	1	-	1	2
Kantalai	-	-	-	-	1	-
Kinniya	1	3	6	-	6	3
Kuchchaveli	-	3	5	-	9	5
Morawewa	-	-	1	-	-	-
Muthur	1	4	7	-	10	4
Seruwila	-	2	3	-	2	2
Tambalakamam	-	-	1	-	2	-
Trinco Town	-	2	4	-	2	3
Verugal	-	4	3	-	7	4
Total	2	18	31	-	40	23
Jaffna						
Delft	1	-	1	-	-	2
Kayts	2	1	1	-	1	2
Velanai	2	-	1	-	1	1
Jaffna	1	1	1	-	2	2
Nallur	1	-	1	-	1	-
Chavakachcheri	2	-	2	-	1	2
Vadamarachy	-	3	2	-	-	1
Point Pedro	2	2	5	-	4	3
Karaveddy	2	2	1	-	-	2
Kopay	2	1	1	-	1	1
Valikamam N	-	1	-	-	-	-
Valikamam S	2	-	1	-	-	1
Valikamam SW	1	1	2	-	1	-
Valikamam W	1	1	3	-	2	2
Total	19	13	22	-	14	19
Mullaitivu						
Manthai E	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maritimepattu	-	2	-	-	1	1
Oddusuddan	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puthukudyirupu	-	2	1	-	2	1
Thunukkai	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	5	1	-	3	2
Grand Total	23	88	129	-	152	61

Tsunami relief and reconstruction - Number of projects in which humanitarian agencies are involved						
	Health & Psycho-Social	Livelihood Recovery	Human Rights Rule of Law	Shelter	Water & Sanitation	Total
Trincomalee						
Gomarankada.	-	-	-	2	1	7
Kantalai	-	-	-	-	-	1
Kinniya	8	9	3	24	6	69
Kuchchaveli	6	10	3	19	9	69
Morawewa	-	-	-	1	1	3
Muthur	11	11	5	19	9	81
Seruwila	2	1	2	4	3	21
Tambalakamam	1	-	-	-	-	4
Trinco Town	5	2	3	15	5	41
Verugal	6	10	4	16	6	60
Total	39	43	20	100	41	357
Jaffna						
Delft	2	-	3	1	-	10
Kayts	5	-	3	3	-	18
Velanai	5	1	3	2	-	16
Jaffna	5	1	3	3	1	20
Nallur	3	1	3	2	-	12
Chavakachcheri	6	1	4	4	1	23
Vadamarachy	4	1	3	13	2	29
Point Pedro	6	2	5	7	3	39
Karaveddy	5	1	4	2	1	20
Kopay	7	1	3	3	1	21
Valikamam N	-	1	2	1	-	5
Valikamam S	3	-	3	1	-	11
Valikamam SW	4	1	4	3	-	17
Valikamam W	5	1	4	3	-	22
Total	60	12	47	48	9	263
Mullaitivu						
Manthai E	-	-	1	-	-	1
Maritimepattu	1	1	2	2	-	10
Oddusuddan	-	-	1	1	-	3
Puthukudiyirupu	1	1	2	2	-	12
Thunukkai	-	-	1	-	-	1
Total	2	2	7	5	-	27
Grand Total	207	110	146	264	142	1,322

Source: Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, Colombo

Table 3

Results of the Presidential Election 17 November 2006

Districts in the North-East		Registered Voters	Number of votes	Percentage of votes
Electoral District	Electorate			
Jaffna		701,938	8,524	1.2
Chavakachcheri		62,022	53	0.1
Jaffna		62,089	455	0.7

Kankesanthurai	67,133	267	0.4
Kayts	52,986	276	0.5
Manipay	68,783	357	0.5
Point-Pedro	47,188	39	0.1
Udupiddy	47,188	39	0.1
Vaddukoddai	62,781	278	0.4
Kilinochchi	89,454	01	0.0
Kopay	63,752	388	0.6
Nallur	70,251	313	0.5
Vanni	250,386	85,874	34.3
Mannar	78,906	23,426	29.7
Mullaitivu	66,596	902	1.4
Vavuniya	104,884	43,028	41.0
Digamadulla	396,453	288,208	72.7
Amparai	136,738	104,128	76.2
Kalmunai	63,251	39,235	62.0
Pottuvil	129,798	85,222	65.7
Batticaloa	318,728	154,615	48.5
Kalkuda	91,410	40,872	44.7
Batticaloa	147,979	83,398	56.4
Paddiruppu	79,339	25,736	32.4
Sammanthurai	66,666	471,158	70.7
Trincomalee	238,755	152,428	63.8
Muthur	81,534	49,350	60.5
Seruwila	66,126	40,165	60.7
Trincomalee	91,095	54,062	59.4
Total	1,906,260	689,649	36.2

Source: Department of Elections, Sri Lanka

Table 4

Results of the Presidential Election 17 November 2006

Districts in the South	Registered Voters	Number of votes	Percentage of votes
Colombo	1,468,537	1,127,129	76.6
Gampaha	1,364,180	1,101,001	80.7
Kalutara	764,305	622,377	81.4
Kandy	907,038	722,437	79.7
Matale	321,876	254,405	79.0
Nuwara Eliya	447,225	361,285	80.8
Matara	562,987	455,799	81.0
Galle	732,289	600,008	81.9
Hambantota	396,595	322,723	81.4

Kurunegala	1,124,076	904,955	80.5
Puttalam	470,604	337,319	71.7
Anuradhapura	536,808	423,997	79.0
Polonnaruwa	263,609	212,032	80.4
Badulla	533,163	433,424	81.3
Moneragala	276,109	224,086	81.2
Ratnapura	668,217	560,584	83.9
Kegalle	583,282	473,568	81.2
Total	11,420,900	9,137,129	80.0

Source: Department of Elections, Sri Lanka

Table 5

Sri Lanka: Funding and Expenditure – Sectors (in US \$)

Sectors	Funds Requested	Funds Received	Expenditure Amount	As of Date	Funding %	Spend %
Agriculture	5,000,000	\$700,001	-	-	14%	-
Coordination and support services	26,923,492	18,399,794	16,819,266	2006-01-30	68%	91%
Economic recovery and infrastructure	73,145,724	43,942,366	28,241,141	2006-01-30	60%	64%
Education	21,322,043	20,984,544	16,603,608	2005-12-31	98%	79%
Health	32,084,474	31,486,916	27,957,252	2005-12-31	98%	89%
Mine action	3,000,000	1	-	2005-09-19	-	-
Multi-sector	20,247,950	17,908,668	10,231,600	2005-12-31	88%	57%
Protection/human rights/rule of law	8,533,448	6,362,806	6,771,273	2006-01-30	75%	106%
Sector not yet specified	-	1,628,506	-	-	-	-
Shelter and non-food items	14,260,000	15,338,976	13,940,678	2006-01-30	108%	91%
Water and sanitation	14,991,513	14,511,514	12,363,025	2005-12-31	97%	85%
Total	219,508,644	171,264,092	132,927,843	-	78%	78%

*Source: Indian Ocean Earthquake-Tsunami Flash Appeal – Expenditure Tracking
UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*

Table 6

Sri Lanka: Funding and Expenditure – Agencies (in US \$)

Agencies	Funds Requested	Funds Received	Expenditure Amount	As of Date	Funding %	Spend %
CCF	6,689,885	2,502,388	-	-	37%	-
FAO	39,950,000	26,140,828	14,443,743	2005-12-22	65%	55%
FCE	750,000	56,504	-	-	8%	-
ILO	9,175,000	1,312,408	563,848	2005-12-16	14%	43%
IOM	16,250,000	13,916,376	11,576,680	2006-01-30	86%	83%
NAWF	250,000	1	-	-	%	-
OCHA	4,169,439	3,679,263	3,216,578	2006-01-24	88%	87%
OXFAM UK	1,900,000	1	-	-	-	-

UNDP	24,012,422	13,497,003	13,411,942	2005-11-28	56%	99%
UNFPA	9,662,768	8,913,704	4,098,179	2005-11-03	92%	46%
UN-HABITAT	11,000,000	4,005,758	3,349,788	2005-10-31	36%	84%
UNHCR	15,351,540	14,912,257	10,231,600	2005-12-31	97%	69%
UNICEF	65,705,590	67,334,096	61,597,255	2005-12-31	102%	91%
WHO	12,500,000	12,851,505	10,438,230	2005-05-17	103%	81%
WV	2,142,000	2,142,000	-	-	100%	-
Total	219,508,644	171,264,092	132,927,843	-	78%	78%

*Source: Indian Ocean Earthquake-Tsunami Flash Appeal – Expenditure Tracking
UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)*

Table 7

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 & Development (CHRD)	+94 11 24710273	+94 11 2564269	chrd@stlnet.lk
3	Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF) - US	Jennifer Hyman: +1 301 587 4700 or Mobile +1 202 99702454		jhyman@chfinternational.org
4	Disaster Management Committee (DEC) - UK			
5	Disaster Management Centre – Sri Lanka	+94 11 2441570	+94 11 2441571	
6	Disaster Reduction Unit Bureau for Crisis Prevention Recovery (BCPR) – UNDP	+41 22 9178433	+41 22 9178060	Bcpr-disasters@undp.org
7	European Union	Amadeu Altafaj: +32 2 498952658 ECHO Information: +32 2 2954400 Mobile: +32 498 981240		
8	Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO)	Teresa Buerkle (Information Officer): +39		teresamarie.buerkle@fao.org
9	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Marcel Izard (Colombo): +94 11 2503346 Eros Bosisio (Geneva): +41 22 7302101		
	Medical Institute of Tamils (MIOT) - UK	+44 (0)1708 722303	+44 (0)1708 725388	admin@miot.org.uk
10	National Relief Operations Unit (NROU) - Sri Lanka	WJS Karunaratne, Secretary to the President: +94 11 2324801, 2326309		
11	Reconstruction and Development Agency (RADA) – Sri Lanka	+94 11 2426161	+94 11 2426160	donorcord@tafren.gov.lk
12	Saiva Munnetra Sangam - UK	+44 (0)20 85144732	+44 (0)20 561805	
13	Sri Lanka Muslim Information Centre - UK	Sayed MM Bazeer: +44 (0)20 8543 6600	+44 (0)20 8543 3198	sbazeer@yahoo.co.uk

14	Standing Committee of the Tamil Speaking People (SCOT) - UK	+ 44 (0)1787 210860		
15	Tamil Information Centre (TIC) - UK	+44 (0)20 8546 1560	+44 (0)20 8546 5701	info.tic@sangu.org
16	Tamils Rehabilitation Organization (TRO)	+44 (0)20 8520 5876		
17	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Martin Dawes: +977 1 417082 x 222		mdawes@unicef.org
18	UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)	David Del Vecchio: +1 212 2974975 Omar Gharzeddine: +1 212 2975028		delvecchio@unfpa.org gharzeddine@unfpa.org
19	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Brian Grogan: +1 201 3151827 Elizabeth Byrs (Advocacy and Public Information): +41 22 9172563		
20	White Pigeon (Venpura) - UK	+44 (0)20 8265 2764	+44 (0)20 8333 7904	info@whitepigeon.co.uk
21	World Food Programme (WFP)	Jordan Dey: 8821 654203510		jordan.dey@wfp.org
22	World Health Organization (WHO)	Media/General enquiries: +44 22 7912222		mullerm@who.int
23	The Child Abuse Investigation Unit c/o ECPAT - UK	020 7501 8927	020 7738 4110	ecpat.org.uk
24	Joint Organization of Affected People on Colombo-Matara Highway – Sri Lanka	+94 38 92840	+94 38 92871	ggama@mail.ewisl.net
25	Muslim Foundation for Culture & Development – Sri Lanka	+94 11 5357381	+94 11 5336781	almfcd@yahoo.com
26	Muslim People's Action Forum – Sri Lanka	94+ 11 2764894		mpaf2020@yahoo.com purithal@gmail.com