

### Situation Update

There has been a general deterioration in the security situation in country, mainly in the Northern districts, but with several claymore mine attacks in the capital City, Colombo.

UNHCR, along with other UN agencies had to review the operational environment in relation to shelter in the North and East of the island after the abrogation the 2002 Cease Fire Agreement (CFA) with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), with effect from 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

The UNHCR, along with its Partners, has strengthened contingency planning to deal with possible displacements resulting from heightened levels of conflict in the North.

Restrictions on UN movements are continuing in the face of heavy fighting between the two sides while the closure of the Uliyankulam (UK) entry/exit points and the Omanthai checkpoint is also hampering the delivery of humanitarian assistance to persons of concern.

The official CHAP launch scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> February has been postponed pending further discussions with the GoSL.

### IDP Movement

The following are the total IDP figures based on statistics from the Government Agent offices in respective districts reflecting variance for the month of January, 2008:

**Table 1 Total IDP numbers by District as at 31-Dec-07**

District	31-Dec -2007	30-Nov-07	Change
Jaffna	31,037	32,960	-1,923
Mullativu	32,096	32,323	-227
Killinochchi	48,547	48,321	226
Mannar	23,544	22,433	1,111
Vavuniya	10,643	10,643	0
Anuradhapura	486	486	0
Puttalam	2,922	2,921	1
Batticaloa	26,512	26,409	103
Trincomalee	5,971	6,672	-701
Ampara	5,695	5,564	131
Kurunegala	0	0	0
Polonnaruwa	180	180	0
Kegalle	4	4	0
Gampaha	213	213	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187,850</b>	<b>189,129</b>	<b>-1,279</b>

Note: some of the districts reflect no changes as IDP figures have not been updated by respective GA's

### Colombo

The new National Shelter Coordinator arrived in Colombo on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and took up duties on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2008 after an efficient handover process.

The SCC is experiencing a series of staff changes, the new Coordinator to be based in Killinochchi arrived during the reporting period and a new Northern Coordinator is still expected. The Eastern Coordinators for Trincomalee and Batticaloa have completed their assignments and have been replaced by a coordinator overseeing both districts and he will be based in Vavuniya.

The Shelter Coordination Cell (SCC) had 3 meetings during the reporting period. The minutes of these meetings will be available from the SCC website (<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/srilanka/coordination/sectors/index.asp>)

Two Technical Working Group (TWG) meetings were held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2008, the second and third sessions of the TWG held on the 14 Dec 2007. Policy guidelines on shelter assistance were discussed and agreed based on lessons learnt from the displacement in Mannar.

A suggestion was made to produce another pocket sized Handbook that would capture these agreements with site planning and awareness raising into one relevant reference document for appropriate and consistent decision making in the field.

The Emergency Shelter Coordination Meeting (ESCM) was held on the last Monday of the month 28/01/08 where updated information on activities in the Field was shared among members. Among the issues discussed were the Northern contingency planning exercise and the need to improve emergency preparedness of Agencies with the very limited resources available in the Northern districts.

The SCC took the initiative to invite the CBSM officer to make a presentation on CBSM (Confidence Building and Stabilisation Measures) to the ESCM and this was very well received by its membership. It is hoped to mainstream CBSM into all sectoral activities.

Phase 1 assessment of sites in Mannar for the Contingency planning initiative has been completed in January and was submitted for final checking. There are some calculation errors that were noticed and are being corrected.

The SCC initiatives on 'Harmonisation of Reporting', 'Harmonisation of Terminology' and review of appropriate 'Emergency Shelter costs' are ongoing. The reporting format is being used for the January statistics report but the others are still tabled for inputs.

The compilation of draft recommendations to the GoSL's policy on "Early Recovery Shelter" has progressed and the draft has been circulated to the entire sector for comments after which it will be presented to the GoSL. (namely the Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services, Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Housing and Common Amenities and the National Housing Development Authority)

## Regional Situation - North

### JAFFNA

#### **Introduction:**

The security situation remained tense during the period under review with fighting between the Sri Lankan Army (SLA) and LTTE at the Muhamalai, Nagarkovil, and Kilali Forward Defense Lines (FDLs). A higher level of alertness is being observed by the security forces (SF) and Police with additional deployments that are mainly tasked to conduct searches and road-blocks. Civilians have been observed stocking up on food and fuel.

There have been major problems importing shelter materials into the district. The UNHCR, as the coordinating agency for shelter, offered to collect all agencies' shelter requirements and share related list with GA so that a consolidated list of items for all agencies working in Jaffna district can be sent by the GA to Colombo Commissioner General for Essential Services (CGES). It is hoped that this initiative might facilitate and speed up the transportation of materials into the district.

#### **Shelter Needs:**

The situation in Jafna, though volatile, has not warranted major displacement of new IDPs. The upgrading of shelters in welfare centers continues by Agencies in the Tellipallai, Chankanai, Uduvil, Kopay and Sandilipay Divisions.

The provision of additional transitional shelters for IDPs displaced before August 2006 living in existing huts outside the Welfare Centers (WCs) is also ongoing. It was reported that the shelters of IDPs living in Temporary Accommodation Centers (TACs) are being upgraded by Shelter Agencies in Chavakachcheri and Karaveddi divisions.

#### **Shelter Progress:**

Phase 1 upgrades of shelters in WCs were completed and the construction of new shelters continues at WCs in Tellipallai, Chankanai, Uduvil, and Sandilipay Divisions. Information received from Jaffna during the reporting period indicated that a total of 705 shelters have been upgraded in 33 welfare centers, 100 temporary shelters upgraded in TACs and 88 new transitional shelters constructed in 24 Welfare Centers.

The construction of 22 transitional shelters was completed for IDPs living outside welfare centers while 10 temporary shelters were constructed for IDPs living with host families.

Due to the security situation 40 shelters are still pending due to delay in obtaining security clearance for the displaced location.

05 communal halls were upgraded and 05 constructed in welfare centers while 75 fire hazard points were created in 68 welfare centers as part of camp safety procedures during the reporting period.

### ***Contingency Planning:***

Although a contingency plan was prepared in the middle of last year, the announcement of the cancellation of the CFA received much attention, and it was agreed that Agencies needed to update the contingency plan for Jaffna district. Based on the current situation, various scenarios were discussed and potential needs and gaps identified and discussed. Sectoral coordination meetings were also initiated.

Shelter Agencies have also identified shelter resources like tents plastic sheets, shelter materials and shelter kits from various agencies in the district and a consolidated list of resources is being compiled.

These agencies are however working under constraints and primary among which are a lack of available land for relocation purposes, difficulties to obtain the consent letter from land owners, delay in obtaining SLA security clearance – very often it was not granted, lack of shelter material available locally in Jaffna and heavy delays, due to security constraints, in transporting shelter materials from Colombo.

The assessment of communal buildings has however restarted using the Shelter Cell rapid assessment forms to ensure consistency among districts.

## **VAVUNIYA**

### ***Introduction:***

The general security situation in Vavuniya remains very volatile. While shelling towards the LTTE controlled areas continues to be low compared to previous months, a further increase in military confrontations along the FDL has been noted since the abrogation of the ceasefire.

The situation in Vavuniya has been visibly evolving over the reporting period with the SLA strengthening their bunkers along the A14 road, which was often blocked by SLA movements and shelling between two sides in Manthai West.

### ***Shelter Needs:***

As there has not been a major displacement during the reporting period shelter activities continue as usual with agencies finalizing their programmes for 2008.

The SLA informed the Government Agent (GA) in writing about their final decision not to allow the UNHCR Implementing Partner (IP) to build the 100 shelters in Kalmadu relocation site, a site for which roads, toilets and wells for 230 families had been constructed. UNHCR, through another IP, had previously completed the construction of 130 shelters (see December Report).

The GA in Vavuniya recently identified a 180 acre site but there was significant clearing to be done before the site can be accessed and the mine clearing exercise needs to be completed.

### ***Shelter Progress:***

Almost all beneficiaries for Kankankulam relocation site have now relocated. Only five families are reported to be still living in the Welfare Centre. At this point it is not clear what their reasons are, but UNHCR will follow up.

The number of families living at Kalmadu still stands at 107. Almost all families from the Welfare Centre have relocated and received SLA clearance.

Construction of the school building in Thattankulam relocation site is progressing. The super structure and roof work are complete now.

The construction work on the multi purpose hall is complete and arrangements are being made for the opening ceremony.

### ***Contingency Planning and Site Assessment:***

The initial phase 1 rapid site assessment for Vavuniya was completed several months ago and the results were presented to the SCC. However, it was during the reporting period that the GA was finally approached with the results of the assessment and the request for additional sites. The sites assessed initially have an estimated capacity of 55,000 out of the 100,000 contingency capacity being planned for.

The GA was very receptive and indicated that he would confer with his District Secretaries (DSs) and get back to UNHCR. However, he resisted the suggestion get military approval for the sites at this time. This issue has been raised with the CBSM team.

Shelter coordination meetings have restarted in Vavuniya and in the first meeting a presentation was given on the SCC which was well received. The meeting also informed participants to start preparing their contingency stocks so that the district contingency plan can be updated.

# MANNAR

## ***Introduction:***

After the Government's decision to withdraw from the CFA, the tensions in Mannar District have increased. SLA has strengthened their bunkers along the A14 road, which was often blocked by SLA movements and shelling between the two sides in Manthai West.

Security Forces are on increased alert throughout the District. They continue conducting cordon/search operations in many parts of the District, including Mannar Town.

Essential items, including fuel, continue to be in short supply as restrictive procedures at checkpoints on the A14 road remain in place. Searching and loading/unloading of all private vehicles and trucks at Mathawachchi and UK checkpoints remain unchanged.

IDPs are very concerned about possible departure from Sri Lanka of all UN and other international agencies, as some media have been announcing, and the UNHCR office in Mannar is constantly approached by such questions from IDPs, authorities and locals.

## ***Shelter Needs – GoSL Controlled Mannar Areas:***

Based on assessments carried out, community mobilization needs to be strengthened at the Musali IDP sites in Nanattan Rice Mill, Umanakari, Nanattan Church and Rasoolputhuveli, especially at the Rice Mill. IDPs in Rasoolputhuveli had concerns related to education and shelters. The SCC carried out monitoring visits during the reporting period and shelter Agencies were almost completing the replacement of tents with rigid emergency shelters.

## ***Shelter Progress - GoSL Controlled Mannar Areas:***

169 families moved to Thampanaikkulam relocation site from three Welfare Centers during 2007. UNHCR constructed 82 transitional shelters and 70 additional shelters were constructed by another agency. In addition, 152 toilets with five open wells and four tube wells and 5 km of road were also completed at the relocation site. Construction of 170 temporary shelters in Nanattan Division for the Musali IDPs was completed and 120 families have already moved in, while remaining 50 families will do so soon. Work on remaining 30 shelters is in progress.

## ***Current Challenges In GoSL Controlled Mannar***

The previous reports have highlighted the challenges Shelter Agencies encounter in Mannar and they largely remain the same during the reporting period. However, the lack of resources to undertake the contingency planning exercise while meeting the remaining Shelter needs in the district is consistently raised by Agencies.

The restriction on access remains a problem in bringing shelter materials into Mannar. The requirement of demonstrating that each bag of cement has been used before the next delivery will be permitted still continues during the reporting period. Similarly advocacy on this issue still continues. It is hoped that the CBSM initiative will facilitate the resolution of these issues.

## ***Shelter Needs - LTTE Controlled Areas of Mannar:***

Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) informed that an Agency had promised to construct the hospital ward in Vellankulam (Manthai West), but had not commenced the work yet and there was an urgent need for this. She also informed that another agency had stopped water supply in Paliaru (Manthai West) and IDPs had to travel 2 km to get portable drinking water. RDHS requested UNHCR to assist with the water supply until the end of January 2008, as another Agency had undertaken to provide water from February 2008.

According to partners operational in the field, the number of IDP families has increased in Manthai West. Unofficial statistics indicate that there were 11,063 individuals in 2,680 families reported within this period. Note: it has not been possible to confirm these statistics with the AGA during the reporting period.

## ***Shelter Progress - LTTE Controlled Areas of Mannar:***

The provision of shelter in Manthai West continues. The needs as reported by the AGA are also being confirmed by Shelter Agencies to ensure that the limited assistance capacity targets those really in need.

## ***Contingency Planning and Site Assessment:***

The GA Mannar has informed that, because of the relocation to Siruthoppu, there was enough space for an additional 300 persons in Pesalai WC. Other possible sites were also discussed, as well as the next joint meeting with the Shelter Cell. Among other things, the GA informed that an Agency had handed over the works on Paliaru (Manthai West) water supply to ICRC Kilinochchi.

The WC at Pesalai is in a deplorable state and if it is to be used as a contingency site some serious upgrading of facilities needs to be undertaken. The centre is also on land owned by the Fisheries Board and it has been reported that they want to take ownership of the site from the end of year 2007. The phase 1 site assessment of the Mannar contingency plan has been essentially completed with the assessment submitted to the SCC for cross checking. The estimated capacity at present is approximately 78,000 persons on 9 sites including 3 large open sites. It is estimated that the host community absorption capacity based on previous experience would be approximately 40% of the total displaced.

## **KILINOCCHI / MULLAITIVU**

### ***Introduction:***

Restrictions on movement through the FDL continue, though there are no major new developments and the checkpoint remains open.

On Thursday January 17<sup>th</sup> there was an aerial bombing in Kilinochchi town. The bombing took place close to the CARE and Oxfam offices towards the middle of town. Several national staff houses were hit with shrapnel.

UNHCR had a meeting with the SCC Partner for Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu to discuss the role of SCC and UNHCR. A common understanding has been developed between the agencies to fulfill the shelter coordination role at the district level and the reporting requirements for SCC.

Protection concerns related to restrictions in the transportation of essential items to the Vanni and general lack of freedom of movement, forced recruitment and labor, and new recruitment of people born after 1990 are also ongoing.

### ***Shelter Needs:***

Although fighting has intensified in the North, no large population movements have taken place during the reporting period. UNHCR and its partners are continuing with assistance and protection monitoring among its persons of concern in the North, including those who are still displaced within Mannar district and parts of Kilinochchi since the upsurge in violence in September 2007.

Due to movement restrictions to the Mullaitivu and PTK areas, field monitoring was not possible. As far as is known, there were no changes in the IDP statistics from the GA and the Additional Government Agent (AGA) offices in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts.

The total figure stands at 83,760 individuals in 22,421 families. Statistics for the LTTE controlled area of the Jaffna District show a total of 7,119 individuals in 1,846 families. The total for the LTTE controlled areas of Vavuniya District is 1,821 individuals in 534 families.

### ***Shelter Progress:***

Due to the security situation and the restrictions on access, there is very little building or other materials entering the Vanni. This has caused Agencies to review their targets for the closure of programmes for 2007 and realistically assess the objectives for 2008 if the situation continues or worsens.

Agencies have been advocating individually for access of materials into the Vanni with little or no success.

There is tremendous effort underway to coordinate more effectively with NGO partners who are working in Manthai West to ensure greater information sharing and more accurate updates on the situation.

It seems the WatSan situation has not improved significantly due to the PDS unwillingness to agree to cement free latrines in the Vanni.

### ***Contingency Planning:***

The contingency sites assessed sites have to be signed off by the GA and vetted by the military to confirm that the sites will be available as and when required. The sites require significant clearance and this has to be estimated and local capacity investigated.

Movements of UN and other agencies to the west of A9 road, up to Mulankavil and Thunukkai with two vehicles in convoy was opened during the reporting period.

The shelter coordination meeting chaired by UNHCR focused on the contingency site assessment report compiled by SCC and further preparation for the assessment of communal buildings, excluding schools.

UNHCR will coordinate with GA Kilinochchi to collect and subsequently assess a list of communal buildings.

According to ICRC, more than 60 families have been displaced in Mullaitivu at Alampil and need shelter assistance, temporarily; the families are living with relatives and host families.

### **BATTICALOA**

#### **Introduction:**

During the reporting period, there were no military operations reported in the District. De-mining and UXO clearance efforts continue in formerly uncleared areas of Chenkalady and Vavunatheevu DS Divisions.

UNHCR is also concerned about the increasing activity of armed groups and incidents of looting in and around IDP sites in the Batticaloa district. The agency will continue to raise the issue with local government officials and advocate with the police for security to be strengthened near IDP sites.

UNHCR and UNICEF discussed the possibility of combining the shelter coordination meeting, chaired by UNHCR, with the WatSan meeting, chaired by UNICEF. After agreeing in principle to the merge, the issue was raised at the respective coordination meetings.

#### **Displacement Statistics and IDP Movements:**

Presently 10,010 IDPs in 2,817 families are occupying 19 welfare centers and 16,474 IDPs in 4,221 families are staying with friends and relatives. Navatkerny camp which is created on private church land has 82 IDPs in 25 families; these IDPs have shown interest to move near to Kokuvil I camp. The District Secretary of Manmunai North has proposed for relocation of Ware House Kalliankadu IDP camp which has 453 IDPs in 134 families, however she has not yet identified potential land for relocation.

In the East, more returns have taken place in Batticaloa. The number of persons who have returned to their places of origin in the Eastern region's of Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts since August 2006 is an estimated 169,340 IDPs in 48,404 families. In certain return areas of Batticaloa there are still major concerns about the safety of IDPs and the lack of access to livelihood opportunities.

A further 26,512 IDPs in 7,046 families remain at emergency sites, WCs and host families in Batticaloa and approximately 2,000 individuals in IDP sites in the Trincomalee district. Dates for any further return are yet to be announced and will most likely not take place until end March 2008 or later, due to ongoing de-mining activities. UNHCR will continue with camp care and maintenance as well as protection visits.

#### **Shelter Needs:**

##### **Chenkalady**

In January, all responsible shelter agencies have mainly concentrated on providing emergency shelter assistance to returnee families in West Chenkalady DS Division

Security & livelihood remain major concerns for returnees in Chenkalady DS Division.

All IDPs previously accommodated in schools in Marappalam, Rugam and Koppavelly have vacated the schools and are either back in their original homes following shelter kit distributions, or staying with friends & relatives pending shelter kit distribution.

The installation of the power supply system in Sathrukondan was completed during the reporting period. The Electricity Board is expected to provide connection in the camps to the main power supply. The Board requested the GA's office to clarify in writing which entity would reimburse the Board for the electricity consumption. As a result, the AGA instructed the Project Director (PD) to write a letter to the Electricity Board indicating that it will be the responsibility of the respective Divisional Secretaries to pay the electricity consumption from their own budgets.

##### **Flooding**

As previously reported, due to heavy rain in Batticaloa District, 251,263 people were affected by flooding (Batticaloa residents as well as IDPs), including the displacement of 40,255 persons to 37 communal buildings.

A small number of IDPs from 5 camps were displaced to communal buildings as a result of the flooding, but many refused to move from the camps due to fears of looting. WatSan Agencies continued to set up drainage channels in IDP camps situated in flood prone areas and Shelter Agencies repaired damaged roofs and floors.

As of 2<sup>nd</sup> January, all persons displaced due to the floods had returned to their homes or were staying with friends & relatives.

## ***Shelter Progress:***

### **Emergency Shelter Progress**

Upgrading of IDP camps in Sathurukondan and Palacholai continues. In order to raise the ground level as protection during the rainy season, it was suggested to place gravel on the floors. This proved insufficient (the water table has risen higher in the past weeks as a result of heavy rains).

Therefore the construction of wooden platforms to be installed inside the shelters, some 10-12 inches off the ground was proposed. The work has been finalized during the reporting period. Platforms will be set up in Palacholai camp as well, and the work is expected to be finalized in a couple of weeks for 234 family shelters.

Electricity supply will be provided to IDP camps as part of the upgrade works. 80% of the installation in Sathurukondan is complete and started in Palacholai. The GA gave instructions to the Electricity Board for the connection of the camps to the main power supply, and has indicated that the Government has funds to cover the electricity consumption.

### **Return Conditions**

Provision of emergency shelter assistance is ongoing in accessible areas. It was reported that in West Chenkalady 879 Rigid Emergency Shelters (RES) have been provided to qualified families and 948 shelters still need to be delivered. It is expected that all delivery would be completed by end February.

17 families in Puthemputhi who were staying in Marapalam school due to non clearance of UXO/Mines from their home village have been relocated to nearby land and GoSL has provided them cadjan and some timber to construct temporary shelters. 41 families who were living in Kopavely School have been relocated to facilitate the school to run classes. These families have also been supplied cadjan and timber for construction of temporary shelters.

The pre-conflict houses mainly built up with mud walls and cadjan roofing have been damaged beyond repair. This damage may have been caused by shelling, looting, wild elephants or general lack of maintenance during the displacement.

The intention is for identified shelter actors to provide suitable temporary shelter that will last for a minimum of one year without major maintenance and allow for GoSL to initiate early recovery programs.

Families whose houses are partially damaged may receive materials to undertake temporary repairs to provide a similar standard of shelter (covered area) as a rigid emergency shelter.

Some returnees have complained that the tarp roofs of their RESs are not durable enough to provide shelter in high wind and heavy rain. Flexing of the shelter frames in high winds has caused the tarp coverings to wear through at tarp/frame contact points.

Erakulam and Mylawaddavan GN division and Kodavamadu village families are not yet resettled due to non clearance area by Ministry of Defence.

GoSL has not yet planned/provided dates for resettlement of Kiran and Trincomalee IDPs, Shelter agencies have expressed the opinion that return to Kiran will happen after April 2008 as it is reported that Ministry of Defence has not yet taken up the area for mine clearance.

Provision of rigid emergency shelters and shelter repair material to resettled families in Vaharai is almost complete.

## ***Consolidation and Decommissioning of Camps:***

Presently there is no scope to consolidate existing IDP camps as next round of resettlement to West Chenkalady and Kiran is not yet announced by GoSL. There are however very limited opportunities for further camp consolidation. This is due to a shortage of vacant shelters within the 19 existing camps. Plans and agreements for future consolidation are under consideration but are subject to further returns and prior notice of such from GoSL.

The shelter assessment field team report indicate that shelter infrastructure has been entirely removed from the vast majority of locations and only the light removal of small amounts of residual debris is generally necessary. In many cases there has been extensive stripping of vegetation from IDP sites and consideration should be given to the possibility of a rehabilitation program to counter the negative effects of this activity.

## ***Decommissioning:***

Reports also indicate that remains of WatSan infrastructure (e.g. latrine pits & broken tube wells) are often present in decommissioned sites due to the more permanent nature of these installations. As many Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) actors have now ceased activity in the district consideration should be made as to how the Shelter sector may assist the WatSan group with the necessary decommissioning of these items. Some Agencies have indicated that they may have capacity but this will need to be confirmed with the relevant Offices in the district.

### ***Looting of IDP Sites:***

Looting by armed groups from the camps remains a significant problem and is limiting the possibility for upgrades within longer term camps. There have been several incidents of newly built community infrastructure being stripped of valuable material soon after completion.

An assessment was carried out and it was reported that approximately USD 200,000 worth of materials have been looted from 24 different camps in the district from June 2007 to January 2008. UNICEF and UNHCR on behalf of NGOs sent a letter to the GA and District Secretary and requested them to take action to control further looting as the humanitarian community cannot use the limited available funds for replacing facilities previously provided for IDPs.

The electricity installation in Palacholai was suspended as Tamileela Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) retained a heavy presence in the site. Work started on setting up forty-four posts, from which eleven were stolen. The IDPs warned staff that TMVP was ready to loot as soon as more posts were set up.

### ***Care & Maintenance and Upgrading in Camps:***

Care and Maintenance responsible agencies have started upgrading of existing shelters in their respective camps. Ware House IDPs have requested the provision of common kitchen facilities if they have not been relocated to another site in near future.

## **TRINCOMALEE**

### ***Introduction:***

A clash between security forces and suspected LTTE on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 in the Kuchaveli area north of Trincomalee gave rise for concern about increased activity and further attacks not only between security forces and armed groups but also possible attacks on civilian population in other parts of the district, including Trincomalee town.

Security operations already ongoing in the area were as usual intensified and a number of arrests were made in connection with the clashes during the reporting period.

However the population felt more concerned about the restrictions imposed on movements and fishing rather than an overall deterioration and infiltration into the area.

Security was tightened in Trincomalee town from 18-20 January as 'mobile service public days' facilitated by various ministries were conducted. Roads were closed off for periods of time and increased searches of persons were experienced. There is however a general sense of understanding in the current climate for the ever increasing stringent measures.

De-mining activities continue in Eachchilampattu and Muttur areas with the Danish De-mining Group (DDG), and Sri Lankan Army de-mining team currently operating there.

UNHCR's current **unofficial** displacement figures from field visits (as at 20<sup>th</sup> January) are, with previous figures in brackets - with host families 939 (939 persons); in IDP sites 3,760 (3,767 persons); total 4,699 (4,706 persons).

### ***Emergency Transit Sites:***

#### **Killiveddy/Paddithidal Transit Sites**

UNHCR informed that there are 3,267 IDPs in 996 families in Killiveddy/Pattithidal Transit Sites. Virtually all of them are from Muttur East.

UNHCR reported that the drains in Killiveddy sites are now working well except the main drains at Killiveddy and Paddithidal transit sites.

The Agency in charge of water trucking to Pattithidal transit site has informed that they will discontinue this service and Assistant Commissioner of Local Government (ACLG) has agreed to continue until 15 January 2008. Further discussions are being held with government authorities on this matter.

It has been reported that the decommissioning of shelters and sanitation facilities at Plot G is completed. The Killiveddy School will be contacted to determine what additional works are to be done in Plot G. Due to lack of capacity the water treatment plant in Killiveddy and trucking of water has been discontinued.

Care & Maintenance activities have started in the occupied sites with the repair of electrical components and drainage in a number of sites.

### ***Cultural Hall Sites:***

UNHCR have completed works to divide the Hindu cultural hall into family blocks with partition screening.

## **Shelter Needs:**

USAID visited Trincomalee from 12 to 14 January on a fact finding mission aimed at gathering information on potential livelihood support programmes and measures of stabilization. They met with local authorities and went on a field visit facilitated by UNHCR. They visited return areas in Muttur and Eachchilampattu divisions, where they discussed with some returnees the challenges they are facing to reintegrate.

### **Verugal / Eachchilampattu**

The repair of 126 houses and 86 Tsunami shelters has been completed. The remaining 113 houses will be receiving doors and windows and be completed in the next weeks.

Monitoring visits were undertaken to IMV and Punniyadi and as in previous monitoring visits to other areas in Eachchilampattu, the quality of repairs was satisfactory and the interviewed beneficiaries were satisfied with the repairs.

Access to Eachchilampattu over December and January has been problematic due to heavy flooding in the area with the road from Kantale to Seruwila blocked at a number of points.

Within Eachchilampattu itself a number of areas were flooded causing short term displacement and some minor damages to some shelters.

Promises to repair the roads made early on in the return process by the Road Development Authority (RDA) seem to have been forgotten.

The vast majority of shelter construction being undertaken by the agencies to replace those destroyed in the conflict have either been completed or is at an advanced stage. Unfortunately, progress has been hampered by the adverse weather and road conditions.

### **Uppural**

The return to Uppural in Seruwila division has occurred, but shelter provision has been severely hampered by lack of access. The bridge used to access the area was bombed during the conflict and is yet to be repaired whilst the military are not allowing access through alternative routes at this time.

There are a total of 146 families in the whole Uppural GN Division.

ICRC has provided tarpaulins and hygiene kits and is planning to construct temporary shelters for all families. The main constraint has been the difficulty in transporting construction materials, since the bridge from IMV is heavily damaged. Returnees are also facing shortage of food and drinking water.

UNHCR stated that there are 62 families in Uppural who want to move to another piece of land provided by the GoSL and are in need of tools to clear this land. An agency has agreed to consider this and UNHCR agreed to provide logistical support if required.

It was reported that schools are ready to function, though some repairs have to be carried out in Uppural School. Any agency interested in assisting should contact the UN Agency in charge of Education for details.

### **Muttur**

Government sources informed unofficially that resettlement in 5 GN Divisions of Muttur East (Chenaiyoor, Nawarednapuram, Paddalipuram, Nalloor and Pallikudiyiruppu) would begin in March 2008, once de-mining works are completed. If this is confirmed, nearly 2,000 families would be returning to their places of origin.

UNHCR has stated that it is planning to assist and enquired if other agencies are considering supporting the return to Muttur East.

Several Agencies have expressed their interest in providing shelter assistance, subject to availability of funds. An agency has indicated that they would be interested in addressing WatSan issues.

It was reported that teacher's accommodation in schools might have to be considered when resettlement in Muttur East begins and an agency has offered to facilitate the process.

It has been suggested that the District Secretary/Government Secretary must be briefed on the eligibility criteria for shelter assistance when they compile the beneficiaries' lists, to enhance accuracy and avoid future grievances.

## **Shelter Progress:**

It was reported that 60 semi-permanent shelters in Ilankaithurai and 53 semi-permanent shelters in Kallady has been completed.

There has been very little progress to report in Eachchilampattai, since the area was inaccessible due to recent rains. Agencies are emphasizing the need for improvement of roads in this area.

It was reported that after assessing around 600 families in IMV only about 50 beneficiaries were eligible for shelter assistance. Assessments are still ongoing.

Repairs of 35 partly damaged houses in Chenaiyoor, 40 in Mavadichanai, 40 in IMV, 7 in Valaithottam and 4 in Ilankaithurai have been completed during the reporting period. Repairs of 86 partly damaged Tsunami shelters in Muttuchanai were also completed. It was expected that all repairs would be completed by the end January 2008.

Construction work was completed on all planned semi-permanent shelters for Eachchilampattai in 2007 and an additional list of 73 shelters has been received, to be undertaken in 2008.

As in the case of Ralkuli, an Agency is considering providing semi-permanent shelters to those families who received initially a temporary shelter with Government funding.

An agency has constructed 757 temporary shelters in the whole of Trincomalee District in 2007 and has upgraded 24 IDP shelters. Additionally they have also constructed 10 temporary learning facilities (TLF) and upgraded one.

### **Verugal/Eachchilampattu:**

Apparently the first payment by the GoSL for the beneficiaries in Eachchilampattai who qualify for a permanent house has not yet been made. Until the payment is done an Agency who had initially pledged to support will not be able to start the construction of houses. If these payments are delayed till April 2008 this group might not be assisted at all.

Another NGO has indicated that they would assist in constructing/modifying toilets and shelters for persons with disabilities in Eachchilampattai. Agencies that find such cases should forward the details to them.

### ***Repair of Partially Damaged Houses in Muttur:***

Repairs to partly damaged houses have been problematic in some instances with beneficiaries rejecting the assistance offered as they feel it is not enough and that another agency will be offering a better package in the near future.

This issue of beneficiary expectation stems from the overwhelming response to the tsunami and poor communications surrounding humanitarian response. Most families receiving shelter assistance seem to be under the impression that a 500 sq ft permanent house will also be provided to them in the near future along with all relevant infrastructure.

Masonry works have been completed on 226 partly damaged houses in six villages and the doors and windows would be supplied in the next weeks. It is planned that the works would be completed by the end of this reporting period.

The repair of 67 partly damaged houses has been completed and work is in progress on another 210 houses. These are expected to be completed by the end of January 2008.

Work is also in progress on 273 of the 302 partly damaged houses in Muttur Town and surrounding areas. It is expected that all these repairs would be completed by end of this reporting period.

### ***Repair of Fully Damaged Houses in Muttur:***

The 100 houses planned to be replaced in Muttur has been completed.

### ***House Repair Sets Distribution:***

450 shelter repair sets purchased under the 2007 budget have been stored in Kantale warehouse. They will be distributed during the first months of 2008.