

### Situation Update

The security situation country wide has slightly worsened during the month and in some regions including the capital Colombo there was a heightened alertness up to the Independence Day celebrations on the 4<sup>th</sup> February.

There have been further security restrictions at the Madawachchiya checkpoint and now this checkpoint can only be crossed if an exchange of vehicle (kiss movement) takes place. There are no through vehicle movements.

On the 12 February the SLA introduced new procedures for allowing vehicles into Vavuniya from Vanni. This new directive permits only a very limited number of vehicles and trucks per day.

This has caused significant disruption in the movement of personnel and materials into and out of the North and the Vanni.

There has also been a significant increase in the security checkpoints and hence searches (personnel and vehicles) in the East as well as increased and more thorough searches in the North. The CHAP was finally launched in Sri Lanka on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

Uyilankulam (UK) entry/exit point (Mannar district) remains closed for movements since 3 September 2007.

### 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-Jan-08**

District	31-Jan-2008	31-Dec-2007	Change
Jaffna	31,037	31,037	0
Mullaitivu	32,117	32,096	21
Killinochchi	48,547	48,547	0
Mannar	23,576	23,544	32
Vavuniya	10,657	10,643	14
Anuradhapura	486	486	0
Puttalam	2,956	2,922	34
Batticaloa	26,484	26,512	-28
Trincomalee	5,911	5,971	-60
Ampara	5,695	5,695	0
Kurunegala	0	0	0
Polonnaruwa	180	180	0
Kegalle	4	4	0
Gampaha	213	213	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187,863</b>	<b>187,850</b>	<b>13</b>

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

### Colombo

The normal monthly coordination meetings continue to be participated in by Shelter agencies in Sri Lanka. There was a TWG (Technical Working Group) meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> February and an ESCM (Emergency Shelter Coordination Meeting) on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

Minutes of the meetings continue to be available at the SCC webpage which has been updated by UNOCHA and the new link is now [http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/sriLanka\\_hpsl/shelter.aspx](http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/sriLanka_hpsl/shelter.aspx).

Among the issues discussed was a recommendation made at the TWG meeting of the 25<sup>th</sup> January Item 4.4 regarding a unified design for agencies interested in pre-positioning shelter materials **before an emergency**, specifically GI pipe framed shelters. It was discussed and agreed that the recommendation from the SCC would stand but agencies would be responsible for deciding which type of shelter they would procure. It was clear that after an emergency has occurred agencies would go for variable designs depending on availability of local materials and access to import other materials etc.

As reported in the January SCC monthly report, based on the recommendation from the TWG meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> January (all TWG minutes available on Shelter Coordination Cell SCC webpage) for the production of a pocket sized handbook that would capture all the technical guidelines on Shelter in Sri Lanka that had been agreed at previous TWG meetings, a TWG meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February where the structure of the handbook was agreed as well as a brainstorming session on issues to be captured in the handbook. A draft has been sent to the sector as a whole for comments after which it would be compiled and produced by Solidar.

The first quarter SCC brochure for 2008 was also discussed and it was agreed a TWG meeting would be called to finalise inputs from Agencies on the achievements in 2007 and plans for 2008.

The SCC/UNHCR Coordinator was on mission from the 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008 in Vavuniya and Killinochchi to assist in shelter coordination at the field level and meet key Shelter and WatSan agencies in both districts and strengthen coordination.

There have been no further developments with respect to the draft recommendations to the GoSL's policy on "Early Recovery Shelter, being finalised by UN Habitat.

The SCC/Solidar Northern Coordinator and the SCC/Solidar Coordinator for Killinochchi have still not assumed their positions in their respective locations due to visa clearance problems.

## Regional Situation - North

### JAFFNA

#### ***Introduction:***

The security situation remained essentially the same during the reporting period with the Sri Lankan Army continuing to fire artillery towards the Muhamalai, Nagarkovil, and Kilali forward defense lines.

A higher level of alertness was observed by the SF (Security Forces) and Police with additional deployments primarily tasked to conduct searches and man road-blocks. Civilians have been observed stocking up food and fuel. The UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Neil Buhne, arrived for a two day mission to Jaffna accompanied by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) Senior Programme Officer, the UNOCHA (United Nations Office for The Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) Head of Office and the Country Director of UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services). During the visit the delegation met with civil/military/religious authorities as well as with UN agencies, INGOs (International Non Governmental Organizations) and ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross).

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

There have been requests for Shelter from the DS Uduvil for 45 and DS Tellipalai for 92 shelters. Joint assessments have been undertaken by some agencies for shelter interventions for IDPs living outside welfare centers (WCs) in Uduvil Division in collaboration with respective government counterparts and have finalized the list of beneficiaries for Uduvil division.

The assessments by agencies to confirm the needs for shelter in Uduvil Division are complete but are still ongoing in Tellipalai Division and the figures will be shared with all shelter agencies to coordinate assistance. Assessment for Sandilipay Division is pending due to the delay in receiving IDP data from the Divisional authorities.

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

An agency stated that based on the request received from DS Maruthankerni they are about to start the upgrading works for 210 shelters at Manatkadu interim resettlement site in Vadamarachii east.

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

As part of the district contingency plan, the assessment of "communal buildings not in use" in Tellipalai, Uduvil Kopay, Chankanai, and Chavakachcheri divisions are complete and agencies have started the assessment in the remaining divisions they are responsible for.

There are currently stocks of 645 emergency shelters 1,030 emergency shelter kits and 1,000 tents with 16 large family tents and 1,800 plastic sheets available with shelter agencies in Jaffna.

It is envisaged that, for planning purposes, it can be assumed that, based on previous experience, out of 15,000 displaced families being planned for, approximately 30% (5,000) of the families might stay at TACs (Temporary Accommodation Centers) while approximately 70% (10,000) might stay with host families.

IDPs living at TACs will be receiving shelter extensions and emergency shelters while those living with host families would be provided with shelter extensions, tarpaulins, emergency shelter kits and in case of land availability new emergency shelters.

## VAVUNIYA

### ***Introduction:***

Security situation in Vavuniya remains volatile, but has not resulted in any major population movement during the reporting period.

Since 3<sup>rd</sup> February, additional movement restriction was introduced, so that no vehicles can pass through the checkpoint at Medawachchiya. This became one of the main obstacles to movement of people and goods and it affects Vavuniya, as well as other districts in the North.

Access to the areas of Vavuniya, north of the FDL (Forward Defence Line) have also been affected by a restriction of a very limited number of vehicles (including trucks and light vehicles) a day only, being permitted to pass through Omanthai check point, which was imposed mid-February.

The SCC/UNHCR Shelter Coordinator assisted the Shelter coordination meeting in Vavuniya on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008 and had meetings with the SCC staff based in Vavuniya

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

The area significantly affected by recent population movement remains Vavuniya North, the LTTE controlled part of the district, where there have been movements from areas close to FDL further north. This area remains hardly accessible and provision of any assistance is very difficult for International Humanitarian agencies due to security concerns. In addition, in the current displacement locations, the risk of secondary displacement remains high.

Since in the government controlled area there is no immediate need for emergency shelters, focus of shelter agencies remains on construction of semi-permanent shelters to support durable solutions for IDPs that have been in displacement for several years.

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

Out of 200 emergency shelters initially planned for construction in 2008 in three locations in north of the district, close to the main A9 road, where the risk of secondary displacement is lowest and access by Humanitarian agencies is possible, 50 have been completed to date in Mannakulam.

In the last month, based on information received from Shelter agencies, construction of 121 transitional shelters are planned for 2008 in Avusadapitiya, Vavuniya south, of which 40 are in progress and 31 are already completed.

Shelter agencies have planned to construct 510 semi-permanent shelters in Vavuniya District out of which 10 had started during February in Maharambaikulam, Vavuniya division.

No emergency shelters have been constructed during the reporting period.

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

In coordination with the Vavuniya (GA) Government Agent, 6 additional sites for possible use for emergency accommodation were identified. Two of these sites were too close to the FDL and will not be assessed due to the security concerns. An inter-agency joint assessment by Shelter and WatSan agencies will take place in early March 08 for the 4 remaining sites.

In addition to this there are plans to assess three sites along the A9 in North Vavuniya, north of the FDL in the LTTE controlled area.

Consolidation of sectoral inputs into the updated interagency contingency plan is being finalised for Vavuniya District. UNICEF has coordinated the WatSan assessments of 12 of the 17 sites previously assessed and accepted

for emergency shelter contingency planning. The assessment of the remaining 5 sites is due to be carried out by 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Stock position of the shelter materials to be used for emergency remains deficient to meet the needs of the numbers being planned for. Agencies are trying to increase the stocks of both tents and materials for rigid frame shelters. It is also assumed that, due to the location of Vavuniya, relocation of shelter materials from central warehouses and other districts would be possible in case of a large displacement.

Another concern is that many of the identified and assessed sites would require extensive jungle clearing prior to the use of sites and the capacity of agencies for jungle clearance is minimal. It is planned to liaise with the local authorities and, as part of the emergency preparedness measures, ensure that they would provide the relevant machinery if and when required. Initial consultations on this issue revealed that the Government Department, National Equipment and Machinery Organisation (NEMO), has heavy plant available for site clearing, but this is only available through commercial hire which would have to be paid for by agencies.

## **MANNAR**

### ***Introduction:***

Conflict further intensified along and north of the FDL during the reporting period, with frequent incoming shelling that resulted in numerous road closures.

This, in addition to strengthened restrictions on movement of people and goods to the North, as well as additional restrictions to transport certain goods which were introduced and frequent security related road closures has further affected access to the district, especially to Mannar Island.

No major population movement took place, since areas immediately affected by clashes are already vacated by civilians. Intensified conflict resulted in increased shelling and consequent continuation of secondary displacement in Manthai West. IDPs are moving from areas affected by shelling to the northernmost parts of Mannar district as well as to Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts. These movements are adding pressure to the already overpopulated zone of Paliaru-Vellankulam.

Small scale movements by sea from the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) controlled part of the district to Mannar Island also continued.

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

All immediate shelter needs for the recently displaced in the GoSL controlled areas of Mannar were met.

The ongoing project of emergency shelter construction in Mannar Island for EVIs (Extreme Vulnerable Individuals) was brought to a halt due to problems with the local supply of GI pipes for frames. Local suppliers on Mannar Island have been affected by the current restrictions on material movements as well as the closure of Medawachichiya check point. It is planned to resume the provision of 63 shelters in various locations on the island as soon as the restriction is lifted or relaxed.

Preparations for construction of 75 transitional shelters in Thampanaikulam relocation site are underway, but the construction work itself is still to start. The beneficiaries already moved to this relocation site, since the welfare centre where they previously resided for years became unsafe. These IDP families are recently displaced from their location of previous residence, but since they are long-term IDPs and were already included as part of the planned beneficiary relocation programme, they will remain with friends and family until they can be provided with a durable solution.

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

Previous problems with the IDP population in Razool Puthuvely over acceptance of emergency shelters to replace the tents being used appear to have been resolved.

A total of 34 shelters have been constructed during the last reporting period with a final 22 to be constructed to replace all remaining tents.

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

Needs for emergency shelters in Manthai West are increasing, especially in the north most part of the district, in the Paliaru-Vellankulam area. Still, shelter construction is on hold in Paliaru which currently accommodates some 800 recently displaced families with only 350 shelters provided, due to the still unresolved issue of water supply.

Though the rainy season has finished recently, water supply became critical in this area and the quantity of distributed drinking water remains far below standard, with growing concern that local water sources would further dry up in the area. A small river, used for bathing and laundry 1 km from the site is being used by IDPs in the absence of a closer source of water.

WatSan agencies including the lead agency for WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) are working to resolve the issue, but there is very limited expertise currently available in the Vanni. Additionally the security situation is preventing an adequate long term solution to the problem. Currently, some 200 families in Paliaru continue living in inadequate conditions, such as very temporary shelters made with tarpaulins.

Joint interagency assessment, undertaken by 7 organisations based in Killinochchi on 19 February, confirmed these concerns and is to strengthen interagency response to the needs.

Additional shelter needs that were identified in other locations in the north of Manthai West are being addressed.

Due to the deteriorating security situation in the areas of the division close to the FDL and the clashes occurring, shelter needs were previously covered and the needs for additional shelters are very low. However, these are being identified in coordination with local authorities and are being met.

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

During the reporting period, 125 emergency shelters were completed in Manthai West, almost all in the north of the division. Another 175 are under construction.

Further shelter construction would depend on resolving the water supply problem and proper verification of beneficiary lists provided by the government.

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

Update of the district interagency contingency plan is ongoing, including the shelter component.

The main concern remains hesitance of the Sri Lankan Forces to agree to group emergency accommodation on Mannar Island, where the estimated capacity is approximately 75,000 persons and would be able to meet the needs even in the worst case scenario. Mannar Government Agent is to continue negotiating accommodation for new IDPs in Mannar Island with the Sri Lankan Army SLA as part of the emergency preparedness process.

In the meantime, 8 additional sites were identified by the Government Agent on the mainland part of the district, in already congested Nanaddan Division. Rapid site assessment was undertaken and it was found that 7 of these sites could accommodate up to 560 families. Sri Lankan Army did not allow access to one of the sites citing security reasons.

Agencies are making efforts to preposition stocks for response in the district. One of the main constraints in this is the risk of closure of A14 road and consequent cut off of either Mannar Island or part of mainland, which complicates selection of location for warehousing.

## **KILINNOCHCHI / MULAITIVU**

### ***Introduction:***

The security situation in the Vanni remains unpredictable and tense. There have been no major aerial bombardments near Killinochchi town over the last few weeks, but they have continued across the Vanni including attacks in the north of Killinochchi District at Kiranchi and Palai, in the south at Parappukkadantham close to the FDL in Mannar District and also in different parts of Mullaitivu District.

Shelling continues along both Forward Defence Lines in the north and south, and has intensified near to Mannar. Sporadic clashes between the Sri Lankan Army and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have also occurred along both lines.

Severe restrictions remain in place on material movements into the northern Vanni, including all shelter needs, which continues to hamper agencies in their preparations for an emergency response. This situation has been made more acute with the closure of Medawachchiya check point to through vehicles. This has compromised the support that can be provided by agency bases in Vavuniya. In addition to this, restrictions have also been imposed at Omanthai check point this month with only 7 vehicles permitted to cross per day.

With the Uyilankulam (UK) check point remaining closed the only effective assessment of the situation and support for these IDPs can be provided by agencies from Killinochchi.

The National Shelter Coordinator from UNHCR/SCC, Colombo, visited Killinochchi to review the current situation and meet key agencies in operation there with a view to exploring the current shortfalls and ways to address the needs as the SCC/Solidar Coordinator has still not been granted access into Killinochchi. Solidar and UNHCR continue to advocate for clearance for him to enter the Vanni and assume his position.

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

Over the last month there has been little change in the reported IDP figures for Killinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts. The GA for Killinochchi has registered 137 new shelter requests with UNHCR. These have been referred to UNOPS and World Vision.

Due to the continued aerial bombardments and shelling in Manthai West people have been fleeing towards the Illuppaikadawai, Vellankulam, Theranpity and Paliyaru areas. According to the AGA (Additional Government Agent) in Manthai West, the potential displacement figure will be 1200 families from Periyamadhu and Thadsanamaruthamadhu who want to relocate to safer locations.

In response to the growing displacements in Manthai West, a joint inter-agency assessment was carried out by seven UN and INGO agencies from Killinochchi in 4 separate locations in Manthai West on 19<sup>th</sup> February. It was reported that families were moving to Paliyaru from Periyamadhu with a total of 833 families in Paliyaru recorded.

Although Manthai West comes under the AOR (area of responsibility) of Mannar District, the areas affected can only be reached by agencies with resources in Killinochchi due to the continued closure of the UK (Uyilankulam) check point and heavily restricted access through Omanthai check point.

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

Across Killinochchi and Mullaitivu the latest shelter figures can be summarised as follows:

- Since the last reporting period (January), the number of planned emergency shelters for all agencies has been revised up from 1,986 to 3,806 (including 379 planned by ICRC). In the last month it was reported 41 were completed (including 26 by ICRC) and 344 were in progress (including 238 by ICRC).
- In the last reporting period 4 transitional shelters have been added in the planned figures for 2008 but none have yet been started.
- There is no change on planned upgrades to existing shelters which remains at 300, with none yet started.

During the inter-agency assessments carried out in Manthai West, the number of IDP families identified in the four areas visited (Vellankulam, Thevanpidy, Moonrampidy, Illuppaikadawai) totaled 1,106. For these IDPs, agencies can provide 645 temporary shelters, but the remaining gap still needs to be addressed.

Water bowsering is currently being carried out for these IDPs, but this is only a temporary solution and a more sustainable one is still required.

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

During the reporting period UNHCR received an additional list of communal buildings details from the GA Killinochchi, for 38 GS locations in Poonakary, Kandawalai and Karachi Divisions. This information was passed to shelter agencies and it was agreed at the last Shelter Coordination Meeting on 26/02/08 which agencies would assess the listed sites.

Of the open sites identified, most are forested and would require extensive clearing with heavy machinery before they could be used to accommodate IDPs. Resources need to be identified and allocated for this by the agencies. This would also require the support from the GA and military.

There are stocks at present available in Killinochchi for emergency and temporary shelter construction, but these are only sufficient to deal with up to a few thousand families. The capacity of the agencies to respond continues to be severely hampered by the refusal of the authorities to permit materials to cross into the Vanni.

At present agencies carrying out de-mining work have ceased their activities in the Vanni, mine maps are available but should mine clearance be required at any sites, this need currently cannot be met.

There is also a gap in the coordination and planning to cover the WatSan needs for the identified shelter open sites and communal buildings. Some of the agencies have WatSan capabilities, and are able to carry out assessments but at present there is no overall coordination of the WatSan activities, and this needs to be addressed as soon as possible by the lead Agency.

### **BATTICALOA**

#### **Introduction:**

The security situation deteriorated over the reporting period and there are increased searches at checkpoints, including the vehicles and personnel of humanitarian agencies including the United Nations.

While there was a reduction in security incidents reported since the closing of the nominations period for elections, there are continued reports of tension and general harassment in the District, particularly in return areas. The increased security situation has affected the agencies implementation in the field as movement is restricted.

From 23 to 24 February Assistant Secretary General Angela Kane visited Batticaloa to witness UN programmes, challenges UN staff face and relations with Government authorities

There are essentially two areas still open for return to Batticaloa district, Kieran and Chenkalady. 2 GNs within Kieran have recently been issued with Mine Low Risk Certificates, which is usually an indication that they will be open to return shortly.

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

There was a small decrease in IDP statistics received from the office of the Batticaloa Government Agent over the month, this due to families returning to Trincomalee.

The statistics received from the Office of the Batticaloa Government Agent (as at 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008) indicate 26,135 individuals in 6,927 families are registered as IDPs in the District living with host families and in IDP camps (18 IDP camps now remain). Of the total IDPs, 7,993 individuals in 2,329 families are from Trincomalee district, while some 69% or 18,142 individuals in 4,598 families are displaced within Batticaloa District.

#### **Shelter Needs:**

The government has made its intention known to the international community to return people to Mylavaddavan even though there are hardly any inhabitable shelters remaining in this area.

The areas have been divided up for the various agencies and the agency in charge of this area, for the provision of emergency shelter assistance, has indicated that they have sufficient stock of shelter materials for construction of emergency shelters.

The current shelter condition would indicate a high percentage of the population needs emergency shelter kits. In case of return, UNHCR Batticaloa will provide tarpaulin kits to be distributed to all returnee families as a first response.

An assessment was conducted on 23 houses in Chenkalady DS division, this focused on the assistance required to repair damages.

#### **Shelter Progress:**

##### **Emergency Shelter Progress**

The construction of 20 common wells in Valaichenai has been completed through the (Quick Impact Project) QIP funded by the UNHCR and implemented through Solidar.

UNOPS quick-fix teams continued their care and maintenance activities in the IDP sites. Distribution of emergency shelter kits in the return areas, which fall under UNHCR area of responsibility, has been completed. A total of 4,697 plastic sheets were distributed to IDPs in need in Chenkalady, vellavelly vavunatheevu, and paddipalai.

500 plastic sheets were delivered in Chenkalady by the ICRC. A total of 2,405 (including 1,200 by ICRC) emergency shelter kits are planned to be distributed throughout the year and all 383 has been delivered by ICRC in Chenkalady.

2,151 emergency shelters are planned for 2008 by shelter agencies (including 799 by ICRC) out of which 756 (including 416 by ICRC) have been completed and 506 (including 6 by ICRC) are in progress. 600 transitional shelters are planned and 340 have been completed with 240 in progress in Batticaloa town. In Vasaray 25 fully damaged houses are under construction out of the 60 planned.

### **Return Conditions**

The Government of Sri Lanka has requested agency support for the return process to Mylavaddavan. UNHCR has indicated to the GoSL that prior to return there are several issues that must be addressed and fundamental is that UN and humanitarian agencies first need to make an assessment of the return area, humanitarian agencies would need to discuss and agree modalities for preparedness to support the return process.

Further IDPs need to be informed about the conditions in return areas and the return process, IDP intentions need to be assessed prior to return, shelters need to be built before resettlement; wells require cleaning, the site requires jungle clearance, access road need repairs and mine clearance needs to be assured for surrounding fields, hospitals and schools;

Humanitarian agencies continue to advocate to ensure that returns are voluntary and that basic services and assistance is in place to support the sustainability of the returns.

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

It has been a quiet month in the east in part due to the upcoming Batticaloa elections, with no announcements of large scale movements out of the camps until the elections are over.

A decommissioning matrix is being completed to allocate responsibilities for those camps that have been definitively closed. Currently there is little scope, and little capacity for further consolidation.

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

Looting still remains a significant problem at some IDP sites although it seems that there were not as many reports during this period.

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

As a result of the intense pre election fever and its resulting security consequences in the district there has not been much activity in the camps during the reporting period.

The coming weeks should present a much clearer picture of the remaining camps, and what measures, above care and maintenance will be required.

## **TRINCOMALEE**

### ***Introduction:***

The security situation remains quiet in Trincomalee District with no significant clashes between government forces and LTTE reported during the period. Cordon and search operations continue in different parts of the district and Trincomalee town.

UNHCR current **unofficial** displacement figures from field visits as at 26<sup>th</sup> February are, with previous figures in brackets – with host families 948 (943 persons) and in IDP sites 3778 (3,814 persons), Total 4,726 (4,757)

The GoSL relocation plan for some 1,400 families from Muthur East to sites in Pallikudiyuruppu and Ralkuli was shared with agencies. Humanitarian agencies continue advocacy to ensure that returns are voluntary and basic services and assistance are in place to support and sustain returns.

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

The Zonal Education Office in Muttur reports that the school in the newly resettled area of Amman Nagar will be re-opened on 3 March. However at the end of February, 3 families were still residing in the school due to a lack of other shelter options in the village.

51 families previously living in the school moved to the nearby community centre

An agency has identified families that returned since October 2007 that would be eligible for assistance with house repairs. UNHCR Trincomalee together with IP had a meeting with these families to explain the conditions of the assistance to be provided.

Another agency with capacity will provide new semi-permanent shelters, while UNHCR will focus on the repair of damaged houses. Shelters will be targeted so that the cost of repair shall not exceed SLR 70,000 per unit. If the house can not be repaired to a habitable condition with that amount, the agency would provide a new semi-permanent shelter.

All families agreed to aforementioned terms and were registered for assessment. 84 houses will be repaired in Eachchilampattai within the 2008 project.

### **Displacement/Returns**

The government organized returns on 9 February 2008 from Batticaloa to Uppural GN division, Amman Nagar Village, Kaddaiparichchan South GN division and Muttur DS division. The number of people that have returned to Amman Nagar is 155 individuals in 51 families, of whom 8 families from Nilaveli and 8 from Kinniya spontaneously returned. On 13 February, an additional 11 families returned to Killivedi. 31 families and 113 individuals returned to Uppural, which makes a total of 663 individuals in 185 families in Uppural.

The GoSL arranged a "Go & See" visit to Pallikkudiyiruppu Muthur DS division, for IDPs from the Paddithidal site. Pallikkudiyiruppu is one of the proposed relocation sites for IDPs from the Muttur East/ Sampoor HSZ as well as being a place of origin for 589 families.

Authorities are planning to start resettlement of the GN division in early March with an initial movement of 150 families returning to their place of origin in Pallikkudiyiruppu from IDP sites in Batticaloa and Trincomalee.

By 27 Feb, 30 IDP families originating from Santhosapuram (Muttur East) were transferred from Konesapuri IDP site in Town and Gravets DS to Peruveli IDP site in Muthur DS. Some were provided with a travel allowance by a local NGO.

### **Shelter Progress:**

All repairs under 2007 project have been completed. SO Trincomalee has started the evaluation of the 2007 project. Initially, 10% of the houses will be evaluated. If further investigation is needed, the percentage will be increased. Last week, SO Trincomalee paid the first evaluation visit.

Repairs have been completed to acceptable standards. Quality and quantity of materials provided and labor payments were adequate, and the beneficiaries have completed the repairs adequately.

All beneficiaries interviewed were satisfied with the repairs and IP support throughout the process. Many of them requested that additional upgrades are done to their dwellings (mainly plastering of walls) but it was explained that this falls outside the scope of the project.

20 shelter kits and 450 shelter repair kits are planned to be distributed in Muthur but implementation has not started yet. Additionally 20 emergency and 26 transitional shelters are planned to be constructed in Muthur. 100 shelter repairs/upgrades are planned in Eachchilampattai.

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

Based on agency figures for the district 817 partially damaged houses have been planned so far for repairs 400 in Muthur and 417 planned for Eachchilampattai. None has actually started yet.

Of the 302 partly damaged houses that were to be repaired by an agency, works on 275 houses have been completed.

In general, the finished quality of the work is of an acceptable standard and the beneficiaries generally happy with the work done.

The last labor installment to some of the beneficiaries has still not been paid out to them by the IP in spite of the fact that the work has been completed UNHCR will follow up.

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

Across the sector there has been 510 houses slated for repair by various agencies 250 in Eachchilampattai 60 in kuchchaveli and 200 in Muthur. None has been completed yet but 243 are in progress in the various areas.

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

There are plans to distribute 450 shelter repair kits in Muthur but this has not started yet.