

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

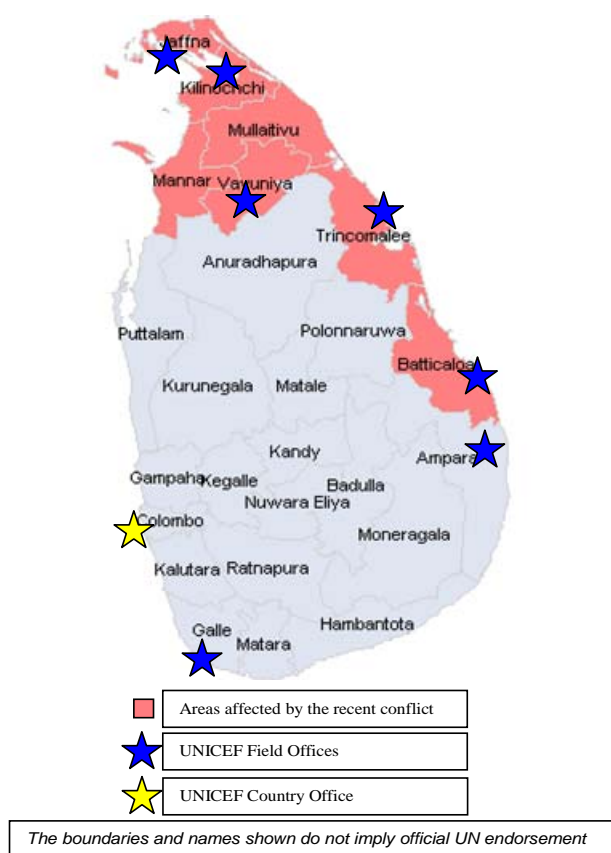
SRI LANKA

DONOR UPDATE

28 NOVEMBER 2006

UNICEF NEEDS US\$ 31,200 TO ASSIST INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND EASE THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

- Over 200,000 people in northern and north-eastern Sri Lanka are still displaced due to the renewed conflict
- Lack of humanitarian access to IDPs in vulnerable zones remains a major concern; escalating violence likely to mean more displacements in coming months
- UNICEF is working with partners to assure the availability of emergency supplies and services in the areas of health, nutrition, water, sanitation, education, and child protection



1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The escalating conflict and open warfare in the northern and eastern parts of Sri Lanka is resulting in grave humanitarian consequences for a significant number of civilians, particularly children. The heightened violence has killed over 1,135 civilians since November 2005 according to the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM). Since the beginning of the year, at least 26 humanitarian workers have been murdered in the North and East of Sri Lanka. On 15 June, 65 civilians, including 14 children, were killed and 70 other civilians were injured by a claymore mine attack on a civilian bus at Kebitigollewa in Anuradhapura district. On 14 August, an aerial bombardment on a compound in Valepuram, Mullaitivu by the Government of Sri Lanka killed at least 40 adolescent girls and injured at least 100 other girls. On 8 November, a Sri Lankan Army artillery bombardment hit Kathiravelli School, which was hosting some 1,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Vaharai area. The SLMM in its initial report said that they had counted 23 bodies and that 135 people were being treated in the hospital with serious and minor injuries. There have been reports that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) prevented some 2,000 civilians from fleeing to safety. This critical situation has caused massive displacement resulting in over 200,000 newly displaced persons since April 2006. An additional 16,000 people have sought refuge in India.

The security situation remained tense and volatile in Jaffna, Trincomalee, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Batticaloa districts due to the ongoing military operations. The humanitarian access to assist the civilian population in vulnerable areas has continued to be greatly impeded due to the prevailing security situation and lack of clearance from the authorities. More than two months of hostilities and artillery fighting in Jaffna and the closure of the main supply route (A9 road) has seriously affected the flow of basic food commodities and essential non food supplies into and out of Jaffna as well as the movement of civilians. UN staff remains in Jaffna to assist with the emergency, but access to Jaffna for emergency supplies and official movement of UN and INGO personnel has been restricted to UN negotiated air charters on a fortnightly basis. Food and other items are in extreme shortage in those areas due to access restrictions for suppliers and civilians. There is a continued need for sanitation and hygiene related interventions in IDP concentration points. The imminent monsoon requires rapid action as many of the IDP sites provide inadequate shelter and are prone to flooding. The recruitment of children by the LTTE continues to be a major violation to children's rights in Sri Lanka. As of 31 October 2006, of the 5,794 total cases of child recruitment verified by UNICEF since April 2001, 1,598 recruited children remain outstanding with the LTTE. As of 31 October 2006, UNICEF received 164 reports of children being recruited by the Karuna faction out of which 142 children are believed to remain in the ranks of the Karuna faction.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

The current focus of action is on IDPs and host communities in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, where up to 200,000 persons remain displaced from their homes. According to UNHCR, the following table outlines the number of IDPs as of 13 November 2006. These statistics do not include the many people displaced before 7 April 2006¹.

District of Displacement	Families	Persons
Jaffna	13,023	43,182
Kilinochchi	11,892	46,048
Mullaitivu	7,020	24,805
Mannar	2,682	9,921
Vavuniya	1,890	7,310
Trincomalee ²	1,291	4,092
Batticaloa	17,082	63,466
Ampara	588	2,146
Anuradhapura	338	1,199
Puttalam	451	1,906
Kurunegala	15	88
Total	56,272	204,163

Sources: Government Agents, UNHCR Field Offices. Note: Figures are not final and are subject to change.

¹ The overall figure of IDPs since the onset of the conflict is estimated to amount to 450,000. An additional 16,000 people have sought refuge in India.

² Number of IDPs in Government controlled areas in Trincomalee district has decreased as people have moved back to Muthur

UNICEF, in close collaboration with sister UN agencies, the ICRC, international and national NGOs and government partners, continues to provide humanitarian support to the conflict affected population. UNICEF also supports coordination of the water and sanitation and education sectors. The protection and shelter sectors are led by UNHCR, the health sector by WHO and the food security/nutrition sector by WFP. Effective interventions are however hampered by the ongoing conflict and the lack of humanitarian access to some of the worst affected areas.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Based on lessons learnt from the tsunami crisis, the WASH Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan was immediately initiated. Action was taken to facilitate effective sector coordination and an appropriate response, ensuring access to safe water and adequate sanitation services in camps, ensuring adequate WASH staffing and the delivery of WASH emergency supplies to the accessible affected population without delays.

UNICEF is currently constructing toilets at IDP locations and providing safe water to displaced people through support for water bowsers (19,000 litres) and supply of water tanks and bladders. To date 385 toilets have been constructed and 245 safe water points have been provided by UNICEF to the conflict affected districts. In October, UNICEF, in partnership with UNOPS, assisted the government in meeting the minimum water and sanitation requirements of 36,409 displaced people (10,141 families) in 30 temporary accommodation centres (TAC), host communities and primary schools in Jaffna district. UNICEF is further supporting waste management activities and providing water quality monitoring training and has so far provided over 500 H2S kits for water quality testing in all conflict affected districts. Rehabilitation of toilet and bathing facilities is ongoing in IDP camps. Tarpaulins have been distributed to ensure the privacy, dignity and security of women and girls. Over 4,000 hygiene kits have been distributed and emergency hygiene promotion activities are conducted by health animators, particularly with children in the schools where IDPs are temporarily located.



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Water tank at Vahari IDP site Batticaloa district

Education

Education is a fundamental right of every child. In emergencies, UNICEF is committed to getting all children-with a special focus on girls- back to school. In emergencies, schooling is a means of restoring a sense of normalcy to the lives of children and can help them overcome psychological and other forms of distress. Education offers a regular routine, opportunities for self-expression and the chance to engage with peers – all vital elements of normalcy for children whose lives have been disrupted by conflict and displacement.

UNICEF is the lead agency for education and is actively supporting the Ministry of Education coordinating committees among participating partners at national, zonal and district levels. UNICEF participated in emergency education assessments and is working with education authorities and school principals in all affected districts to plan for the re-opening of schools for displaced children and children in host communities where schools are currently occupied by IDPs. In Trincomalee district, IDPs are occupying 7 schools. The figure for Jaffna district is 15, in Kilinochchi district is 2, while in Batticaloa district 7 schools are occupied by IDPs.



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School functioning under the tree in Arasapuram, Kilinochchi district. In addition to mats and tarpaulins, eleven temporary shelters have been provided by UNICEF in Kilinochchi district.

UNICEF is setting up temporary learning spaces and providing tarpaulins and mats to enable classes to take place outside of school buildings. To date over 6,500 school-in-a-box kits, over 26,000 textbooks, 14,000 uniforms in addition to schoolbags and stationary have been distributed in order to accelerate the integration of conflict affected children into learning environments. In Trincomalee, the provision of learning materials for internally displaced children allows them to be temporarily integrated by host schools or for classes to be conducted through double shifts. There is however still a great need to rehabilitate damaged schools, provide temporary learning spaces, teacher and learning material and teacher training in order to ensure structured learning activities for all conflict affected children. Mine Risk Education and attention to overall accident prevention activities also need to be ensured.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF is actively promoting the access of IDPs to quality health and nutrition services. Technical assistance is currently provided to support the government to coordinate health emergency response at field level in partnership with WHO at the national level. UNICEF transported vaccines and essential drugs supply to cover the needs of the population in Jaffna for three months, via four UN chartered flights in October.

UNICEF has further provided 5,980 mosquito nets for families with children below 5 years; and neonatal, post natal and pregnant mothers in the IDP camps and coastal communities of the conflict-affected districts. In addition, 2,882 baby hygiene kits containing baby nappies, baby soap, shampoo, a towel, baby cream, zinc oxide, toothbrush and paste have been distributed along with the registration of children under the age of 5. In Batticaloa, UNICEF has ensured the vaccination against measles of all children (6 months to 14 years) in IDP camps. UNICEF is supporting health promotion through community level health promoters in IDP locations. Key messages focus on ORS preparation, breastfeeding and complementary feeding, hygiene promotion, immunization, vitamin A and de-worming. UNICEF is also supplying de-worming tablets for pregnant women and vitamin A supplementation in all IDP areas.

The upcoming monsoon period will be a challenge for the health sector. Precautionary measures to control diseases are currently being taken and up to 88 camps have been sprayed for mosquitoes. To date, there have not been any disease outbreaks amongst the IDPs. Challenges include the shortage of medical supplies and staff as well as the access to the conflict affected population. In Jaffna, UNICEF is continuously facilitating the approval of curfew passes/ check for the primary health inspectors and midwives to ensure health services to the displaced people in the temporary accommodation centres. The establishment of mother and child corners for breastfeeding in IDP camps will be facilitated in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Nutrition surveillance to monitor the nutrition status of IDPs is currently being undertaken together with WFP and the Medical Research Institute (MRI). In Kilinochchi district, about 5, 000 children and mothers displaced after August 2006 have taken part in the survey so far.

Child Protection

Conflict and displacement present particular threats for children, such as separation from their families, recruitment by fighting forces and enhance exposure to targeted and indiscriminate violence including claymore attacks and landmines/UXOs. At the same time, pre-existing threats – such as sexual and gender-based violence and labour exploitation – often increase. Through its activities, UNICEF is striving to prevent and respond to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation committed against the conflict affected children. UNICEF is continuously monitoring and reporting on underage recruitment and is currently working with the Government and other agencies to set up a mechanism for monitoring and reporting other child rights violations particularly in conflict areas. UNICEF has maintained a comprehensive database of underage recruitment since 2001, which is updated when the child's status changes. The database provides a record of known cases of recruitment and has proven to be an effective advocacy tool for the release of underage recruits.

UNICEF complements UNHCR's overall protection lead by providing coordination in child protection through district-led coordination of child protection agencies linked to national coordination. UNICEF is

further collaborating with the Government in the rapid registration of separated and unaccompanied children at IDP sites in Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Batticaloa, with the aim of reunifying the children with family members or to find a safe temporary caretaker. The establishment of child friendly spaces and support for the provision of psychosocial support services in IDP settings and within affected communities is further being supported. To date 72 child friendly spaces and an equal number of recreational kits has been provided in IDP locations in three conflict affected districts. IDPs - including children in child friendly spaces- and aid workers are being educated on Mine Risk Education (MRE) through UNICEF support. In Batticaloa district for instance, UNICEF supported ten MRE and safety awareness programmes in six IDP locations in Valachenai DS divisions in October. The awareness programmes were carried out through TV shows, awareness sessions and play activities benefiting about 2,000 children and adults.

Non Food Related Items (NFRI)

The provision of emergency NFRI to displaced families is crucial as many IDPs have lost or left behind their belongings and possessions. UNICEF is continuously distributing NFRI in order to provide basic support for the affected households. Since the upsurge of the conflict early August 2006, UNICEF has distributed the following items to conflict affected IDPs mainly in Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts but also in Kilinochchi: 3,339 hygiene kits for adults containing soap, shampoo, toothbrush and toothpaste. Over 2,000 families have received kits containing clothes, towels, jerry can, mats, hygienic items, cooking pots, plastic sheeting and eating utensils. In addition 22,158 bed sheets, 3,496 hurricane lanterns, over 10,000 cooking sets and 26,000 sleeping mats have been provided. Basins, buckets, cups, plates, soap, sanitary pads, children's dresses, t-shirts and shorts, saris, sarongs, children's, men's and women's underwear and other essential items have also been distributed. A full scale response for transportation and delivery of essential supplies is currently hindered by the restricted access.

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

As part of the UN Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) launched on 30 August 2006 for a period of 4 months (September 1 -December 31, 2006) UNICEF currently needs US\$ 531,200 to be able to adequately respond to the immediate needs of the conflict affected population in Sri Lanka and an additional US\$ 2, 843,061 in a situation of full-scale war. UNICEF has currently allocated over US\$ 3.7 million from its existing funds to jumpstart the emergency response in eastern and north-eastern parts of the country. These funds need to be supplemented to ensure a comprehensive and timely response to future displacements.

Immediate needs

The following table illustrates the immediate requirements in order to respond to the current emergency situation with over 200,000 displaced persons.

Table 1: 2006 Appeal requirements and funding by sector (as at 22 November 2006)

Sector	Target (US\$)	Funded (US\$)*	% Funded	Unfunded (US\$)
Health	331,500	331,500	100%	-
Nutrition	381,290	373,000	98%	8,290
Education	1,080,580	1,080,580	100%	-
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,430,000	1,407,090	98%	22,910
Child Protection	906,750	906,750	100%	-
Non-Food Related Items	1,149,850	1,149,850	100%	-
Total	5,279,970	5,248,770	99%	31,200

*Through UNICEF Internal Sources and Donor contributions

Additional Requirements in case of a full-scale conflict

In the case of increasing violence and warfare, additional resources will be required in order to adequately respond to a situation with an estimated population of displaced of up to 400,000 with periods of displacement likely to range up to several years.

Table 2: Additional requirements in event of full-scale conflict (as at 22 November 2006)

Sector	(US\$)
Health	178,500
Nutrition	205,310
Education	581,851
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	770,000
Child Protection	488,250
Non-Food Related Items	619,150
Total	2,843,061

The following funds have been received:

Table 3: Funds received by Donor for Immediate needs

Donor	Funds Received (US\$)	Sector
Government of Australia	375,940	Humanitarian Assistance
Government of the United Kingdom	250,000	Activities under the CHAP
Government of the United States	900,000	Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Emergency Health, Emergency Nutrition and Child protection
UNICEF Internal Resources	3,722,830	All sectors
Total	5,248,770	

Details of the Sri Lanka emergency programme can be obtained from:

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