

UNICEF JAFFNA ZONE OFFICE

Fact Sheet



JAFFNA ZONE OFFICE FACT SHEET APRIL 2006

Coverage: Jaffna District. Zone Office established in 1997

GENERAL INFORMATION

Population	490,621 (41,637 children under five years and 102,697 children from 5-14 years)
Ethnic composition in per cent	Tamils: 99.6 Sri Lankan Moor: 0.2 Sinhalese: 0.2
Conflict IDPs	59,043
Tsunami IDPs	22,835 (12,262 IDPs are in 30 Transit Centers while others are living with relatives and friends)
Population whose house and lots are being occupied by military forces in high security zones	24,0653

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION

No. of health facilities (hospitals, health centres)	44 hospitals, 103 clinics
Under-5 underweight in per cent	35.7
Under-5 wasting in per cent	13.4
Under-5 stunting in per cent	15.8
No. of primary/secondary schools	406
School attendance 5-14 years old in per cent	98.3

TSUNAMI IMPACT

No. of dead	2640
Schools destroyed or damaged	11

UNICEF operates in the following areas: water and sanitation, child protection, learning and adolescence and early childhood development. UNICEF continues to play an important role on behalf of children following the 2004 tsunami. Working with its partners, UNICEF supports a wide range of programmes: reconstructing schools and supplying them with equipment, building health centres, providing safe water, hygiene kits, and medical equipment, advocacy against recruitment of child soldiers, mine risk education, ensuring that children receive psychosocial support.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

MAIN PARTNERS

Government: Government Agent (GA), National Water Supply and Drainage Board-Jaffna, Education Department, 15 Divisional Secretariats

INGO: MOVIMONDO

NGO: Jaffna Social Action

UN Agencies: UNHCR

Main issues

- Even before the tsunami, many people in Jaffna had no access to safe water and sanitation facilities: 57 per cent of the rural population and 52 per cent of the urban population in Jaffna used unprotected sources for drinking water.¹
- More than 14,000 sanitation facilities and close to 1,500 dug wells were destroyed as a result of the tsunami.²
- Post tsunami, of the 114,252 households in 6 MOH areas outside Jaffna municipality, 48,290 (42 per cent) have no sanitation facilities.³

UNICEF response from 2005 to April 2006

Water:

- 2 water bowsers with 8,000 litres capacity were delivered to Water Board to supply approx 52,000 people with safe drinking water.
- 500 bottles of drinking water were supplied to affected families in IDP camps.
- Supplies delivered to IDP camps which included 360,300 water purification tablets, 15 water tanks, each with a capacity of 1,600 litres, 100 kilos of water disinfecting chemicals (sodium hydrochloride and bleaching powder), and 950 water jerry cans (10 litres) for affected families.
- From January to March 2006, 14 covered wells were constructed for conflict IDPs in new settlement areas.

Sanitation:

- 39 latrines were constructed in 39 IDP camps and 45 toilets in temporary schools.
- 2 gully suckers have been provided.
- 41 wells cleaned in IDP camps and schools.
- Provision of 4,151 adult hygiene kits and 1,745 baby hygiene kits.
- Some 30,000 hygiene education leaflets and posters have been developed and will be sent to camps and schools to help fight disease.
- 84 toilets were constructed for tsunami IDPs and temporary schools and 100 toilets constructed for conflict IDPs in welfare centers.
- From January to March 2006, 308 household toilets (out of 400 toilets planned) have been constructed for conflict IDPs.
- 10,000 children reached with hygiene messages.
- Messages on awareness on ground water protection provided to 1,200 Government officers at district and community level.

The capacity of the Government has been increased significantly through UNICEF's logistical support which includes provision of 2 pick-ups. UNICEF also advised NGOs and Government

¹ DPDHS, 2004

² Water Board, 2005

³ DPDHS, February 2006



counterparts on water quality testing, disinfecting water sources, and how to use hygiene messages to help prevent outbreaks of disease.

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| Key outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No outbreak of any epidemics related to water and sanitation. • International SPHERE standards met. • Interventions well coordinated in the district. |
| Challenges ahead | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a district water quality testing laboratory. Awaiting delivery of supplies and equipment. • Construction of 25 Child Friendly School water and sanitation facilities and protection of existing wells in schools. • Sustainable water and sanitation systems: 3-tier system community water supply in 40 communities (tsunami and conflict affected) • Hygiene promotion initiatives. Awareness creation in the form of meetings, discussions, and information material distribution. • Construction of 63 permanent toilets for newly resettled conflict IDPs (in partnership with UNHCR) |

LEARNING YEARS & ADOLESCENCE

MAIN PARTNERS

Government: Zonal Director of Education

NGO: REERDO (Regional Education, Economic Research and Development Organisation)

UN Agency: UNOPS

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| Main issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortage of Primary school teachers with 2000 teacher's posts yet to be filled in the district. • Levels of essential learning competencies and achievement are low. 60 per cent of students failed in Tamil language and 70 per cent of students failed in Mathematics. • Inadequate education facilities. 16 schools destroyed by the tsunami and a significant number of schools need to be repaired. • Limited Government capacity to implement projects with regards to logistics, transportation, and personnel as well as restrictions in financial regulations. |
| UNICEF response from 2005 to April 2006 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within a month after the tsunami, education activities restored in all 40 schools affected by the tsunami, benefiting 5,934 children. • 91 temporary classrooms constructed in the tsunami affected area which provided access to education for 1,956 children. • Tsunami affected children returned to school as UNICEF provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ School-in-a-box for 9,760 children ○ Uniforms for 2,144 female and 920 male students ○ Clothing materials for 90 teachers ○ 453 tables and 1,437 chairs ○ 7,355 school bags • Reconstruction of 2 schools (permanent structures) destroyed by the tsunami. • Catch-up classes conducted for 5,185 children in 199 schools in Tamil, for 885 children in 207 schools in Mathematics in grade 10, and for 5,345 children in 235 schools in grade 4. • All schools supported to introduce Child Friendly School (CFS) concepts that include School Based Assessments and School Based Management. • 40 schools supported for classroom renovations and 9 temporary schools provided with playground equipments. • Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Unit set up in Jaffna education zonal office with field workers deployed to enhance monitoring of activities. |
| Key outcomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education activities rapidly restored in tsunami and conflict affected schools. • Average enrolment rate in the school in tsunami affected area reaching 92 per cent. • CFS initiative and Catch-up education (CUE) increased the attendance rate to around 80 per cent. |
| Challenges ahead | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovation of classrooms to improve the physical condition of the schools within the framework of the Child Friendly School initiative. • Capacity building of the Department of Education including capacitating human resources |



- especially in monitoring and evaluating projects.
- Awaiting delivery of playground equipment for 150 schools.
- Reconstruction of 2 schools affected by the tsunami.
- Catch-up classes for 20,000 children in Tamil and Mathematics.

PROTECTION

MAIN PARTNERS

Government: Government Agent (GA), Deputy Provincial Directorate Health Services, District Child Protection Committee, Department of Probation and Child Care, Human Rights Commission, District Mine Action Office

INGO: Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children in Sri Lanka

NGO: Jaffna Social Action Center, Ahavoli, Sarvodaya, White Pigeon Technical Institute of Prosthesis, Jaipur Foot, Family Rehabilitation Center, Multidisciplinary Team – Mental Health Society, Jaffna Teaching Hospital

UN Agencies: UNHCR, UNOPS

Main issues

- Many children in Jaffna District affected by the conflict lack adequate protective and supportive environment and family and or/parental care.
- Recent figures of March 2006⁴ shows that in Jaffna District there are 49 institutions (40 children homes and 9 hostels) housing a total of number of 2,259 children (851 boys and 1,408 girls). All except for 8 children's homes are registered with the Department of Probation and Child Care.
- There are 76 children who lost both primary care givers in the tsunami affected area of Jaffna District⁵ out of which 34 children were separated due to the tsunami and remaining 42 children were separated due to conflict and other reasons. Only 13 children have received the Fit Person Court Order as of April 2006.⁶
- Child abuse and neglect is prevalent. In 2005, 1,134 child abuse and neglect cases were reported and handled by the DCPC.⁷
- Prolonged conflict and the impact of the tsunami have created a need for psychosocial interventions.
- Child recruitment remains a grave concern especially as there are more than 100 children from Jaffna District still in the LTTE. This is the largest number from a single district and emphasizes the particular need to prevent underage recruitment. A total of 78 children were recruited to the LTTE in 2005; 10 children were re-recruited; 33 children were run-aways; and 58 children were released⁸.
- 500,000 mines have been identified in 228 villages in the district since 2002. This covers about 50 per cent of mines in Sri Lanka. There is also much unexploded ordnance (UXO) in 'safe' places. There are 678 mine survivors identified in Jaffna. In 2005, there were 23 landmine and UXO related casualties.⁹

UNICEF response from 2005 to April 2006

- Technical and operational support to Governmental and non-governmental organizations to ensure proper procedures and management of women's and children's cases. This includes support to:
 - District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) which is the first contact point with authorities in cases of suspected child abuse and neglect.
 - Department of Probation & Child Care (DPCC) which is responsible for children's welfare.
 - The Safe House, a temporary shelter, managed by the Jaffna Social Action Center, for women and children in need of special protection.
- Capacity building provided to DPCC to conduct rapid registration and assessment and assistance in developing a database of unaccompanied children.
- Monthly advocacy with political wing of LTTE in Jaffna for the release of children recruited in Jaffna district.
- 64 children's clubs supported by UNICEF.
- Through NGO partners, UNICEF provides support to psychosocial trainers and community

⁴ Ahavoli, Quarterly Report of March 2006.

⁵ Areas excluding Jaffna District in LTTE controlled area (Maruthenkerny of Vadamaradchi East)

⁶ Department of Probation and Child Care, October 2005

⁷ Jaffna District Child Protection Committee, 2005 Year End Case Analysis Report

⁸ Underage Recruitment Database of UNICEF Sri Lanka

⁹ Information Management System of Mine Action, Database, Jaffna District Mine Action Office



core groups to identify vulnerable families and children in need of psychosocial support and provide referrals to relevant organizations and experts.

- Support to the Psychosocial Coordination Network and the Secretariat based in DPDHS, to ensure better coordination and development of standardized monitoring and evaluation tools to measure psychosocial activities conducted by various organizations in Jaffna District.
- Mine Risk Education through house visits and school and community programmes which have been conducted in 15 DS Divisions covering all 228 mine affected villages. Some 30,514 school children (13,487 boys and 17,027 girls) and 138,588 community members have been targeted.
- Through a NGO partner, physiotherapy sessions have been conducted with 240 mine survivors and other people with disabilities.

Key outcomes

- Functional and standardized child friendly procedures and proper case management system by Governmental and non-governmental service providers are in place.
- All 58 children released from the LTTE in 2005 were reintegrated into their communities.
- Restored normalcy for 6,464 children in the welfare centres and tsunami affected villages through participation in the community activities.
- Psychosocial coordination in the districts came under DPDHS.
- People including children in Jaffna district gained knowledge, skills and attitudes to protect themselves from the risk of land mines /UXOs.

Challenges ahead

- Renovation of child friendly room in Jaffna teaching hospital to interview children in confidential and child friendly manner.
- Continuous monitoring and advocacy to maximize the number of releases and minimize the number of recruited children. Another aim is to increase average age of recruitment compared to 2005.
- Fifteen Village Level Child Protection Committees to be established and function as a forum raising awareness on child rights and developing community based interventions addressing parental neglect and child abuse.
- Ten Social Care Centers to be constructed in tsunami affected areas.
- More than 6,000 children and families will develop their creativity and leadership skills, gain knowledge on child rights, and enjoy participation in the community following the establishment and strengthening of 74 children's clubs.
- 150,000 children and families will have access to MRE and 400 mine survivors should benefit from psychosocial and physical rehabilitation with the aim of a 60 per cent reduction in mine casualties and deaths compared to 2005 (21 injuries and 2 deaths)
- Standardized assessment forms and monitoring and evaluation tools to be developed through the Psychosocial Coordination Network to assess psychosocial activities and identify gaps.
- All 76 separated children will be cared for by extended or foster families and receiving support through Fit Person Court Orders.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

MAIN PARTNERS

Government: DPDHS, Jaffna Teaching Hospital, Ministry of Health.

UN Agency: UNOPS

Main issues

- Shortage of Medical Officers and field health staff in preventive and curative sections in the health department.
- Inadequate, irregular, and delayed supply of medicines and vaccines from Colombo.
- Inadequate infrastructure and furniture facilities.
- Lack of essential medical equipments in health institutions.
- Lack of Vehicles for MOH to conduct field operation.
- Inadequate knowledge in health sector planning and programming among newly recruited staffs in the DPDHS Office.

UNICEF response from 2005 to April

- Deployment of 45 rural health assistants (RHAs), including provision of training, to compensate for the shortage of field health staff (midwives).
- Training of medical officers and field health staffs on primary health care (PHC), Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) and breast feeding.



2006

- Supply of beds, weighing scales, forceps, scissors and blood pressure apparatus for the clinics and hospitals.
- 20 medical officers and 21 midwives trained in EMOC, 67 public health inspectors, 64 midwives, 11 RHA, and 14 field health assistants underwent PHC and nutrition training. 596 health volunteers trained on mother and child health.
- Support to the construction of 5 Primary Health Care centres and renovation of labour rooms in 2 hospitals.
- Implementation of District level Vitamin A supplementation program.
- Support to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) vaccination programme.
- Financial support to 98 nursing students to complete field training.
- Supply of 1 lorry to JTH for transportation of medicine from Colombo and one pick-up for medical officers to enhance field operations.

Key outcomes

- Gaps in midwife services temporarily filled by 45 Rural Health Assistants (RHAs) posted to vacant areas. They carry out the duties of the PHM under the direct supervision of SPHM and MOH.
- 99 per cent coverage of Vitamin A supplementation and JE vaccination immunizing 51,718 children.

Challenges ahead

- Create awareness among 10,000 mothers on the importance of basic health practices, nutrition and increased food intake.
- Deployment of 45 RHAs in the midwife vacant areas on a temporary basis.
- Construction of 2 PHC complex, renovations of maternity wards in 2 hospitals and 2 Primary Health Care Centres.
- Conduct assessment on EmOC services and supply of EmOC equipment in pediatric, labour, and maternity wards.
- Provide play materials for 100 preschools, central clinics and pediatric wards.

Sources for statistics:

Population and ethnic composition: Census of Population and Housing, Department of Census and Statistics, 2005

Ethnic composition: UNICEF, Child Health and Welfare Survey, 2004

Conflict IDPs: UNHCR

Tsunami IDPs: DPS (??)

Health Centres: Sri Lanka Ministry of Health

Malnutrition: UNICEF, Child Health and Welfare Survey, 2004

Number of schools: Sri Lanka Ministry of Education, 2003

School attendance: UNICEF Child and Welfare Survey, 2004

Tsunami deaths: Census of Population and Housing, Department of Census and Statistics, 2005

Schools damaged: TERM 2005 (Tsunami Education Rehabilitation Monitor)

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