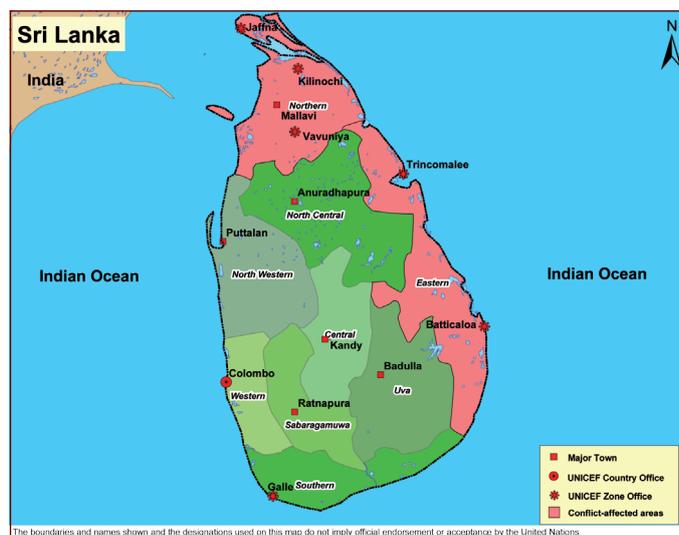


UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION SRI LANKA IN 2009



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Core Country Data	
Child population (thousands)*	6,901
U5 mortality rate**	21
Infant mortality rate**	15
Maternal mortality ratio***	44
Primary school enrolment ratio (2000–2007, net, male/female)	98/97
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	98
% population using improved drinking-water sources	82
Estimated number of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2007 (thousands)	3,8
% U5 suffering moderate and severe malnutrition (underweight)**	22

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 2009*, *Economic and Social Statistics of Sri Lanka, Central Bank, 2008, **Preliminary results from 2006 Sri Lanka Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), ***Family Health Bureau, Ministry of Health

The northern part of Sri Lanka is facing an increasing humanitarian emergency due to intensified conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Ensuring adequate access to nutrition for children and women, educational opportunities, safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene, as well as protection of children and health services for over 430,000¹ internally displaced persons (IDPs), IDP returnees and conflict-affected host families will be the priority for UNICEF and its partners throughout 2009. While UNICEF's humanitarian action will focus on populations displaced due to the emergency situation in the Vanni,² it will also include assistance and resettlement of IDPs and support to affected host communities in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

Summary of UNICEF Emergency Needs for 2009*	
Sector	US\$
Health	1,100,000
Nutrition	2,200,000
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	4,300,000
Education	4,200,000
Child Protection	3,200,000
Total**	15,000,000

* Funds received against this appeal will be used to respond to both the immediate and medium-term needs of children and women as outlined above. If UNICEF should receive funds in excess of the medium-term funding requirements for this emergency, UNICEF will use those funds to support other underfunded emergencies.

** The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1 This figure includes population displaced due to the conflict in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

2 The Vanni is the region below the Jaffna peninsula and includes parts of Kilinochchi, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya districts.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Sri Lanka's three-decade-long internal conflict has intensified since the Government's withdrawal from the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement (CFA) in January 2008. The northern part of Sri Lanka is facing an increasing humanitarian emergency due to escalation of conflict, with regular aerial bombings, frequent shelling and daily confrontations between the Government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) troops. The total number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in northern and eastern Sri Lanka is estimated at over 330,000 as of October 2008. The humanitarian needs are growing drastically as families face multiple displacements and see further erosion of their coping mechanisms and livelihoods. Given the current situation in the Vanni, it is likely that the IDPs will remain displaced for extended periods of time. UNICEF's priority areas throughout 2009 will include: ensuring adequate access to nutrition for children and women, together with safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, education opportunities, health services, and the protection of children among the conflict-affected people. Access to beneficiaries in areas of conflict has become increasingly difficult due to ongoing military operations and restrictions imposed by both Government armed forces and the LTTE.

Preliminary results from the 2006 Sri Lanka Demographic and Health Survey (DHS 2006) indicate that 22 per cent of Sri Lankan children under age five are underweight and up to 15 per cent and 18 per cent are suffering from acute (wasting) and chronic (stunting) malnutrition respectively. Conflict-affected districts of Sri Lanka, such as Trincomalee, display figures higher than the national average with 28.1 per cent acute and 30.5 per cent chronic malnutrition recorded among children under age five in February 2008 as per World Health Organization (WHO) standards. Severe acute malnutrition amounts to 10.2 per cent in Trincomalee and 6.7 per cent in Batticaloa District, while the country prevalence is 3 per cent, representing approximately 57,000 children.³ While the national average for access to potable water is 82 per cent, it is far lower in conflict-affected areas, such as the districts of Kilinochchi (13 per cent) and Mullaitivu (19 per cent). Similarly, the national average for access to safe sanitation facilities is 86 per cent, while the coverage in the conflict-affected areas is estimated to be extremely low. The conflict has disrupted education for an estimated 250,000 children; teachers have been displaced, schools occupied by IDPs, and existing services stretched due to heightened insecurity. Multiple displacements during 2008 have prevented thousands of children from performing at the required school standard and are at risk of dropping out.

Despite a strengthened mechanism in place to monitor and report on grave child rights' violations through the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1612, the recruitment of children by armed groups continues. As of September 2008, the UNICEF database registered 6,287 children recruited by LTTE and 539 children by the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai (TMVP)⁴ since 2002. Of these, 1,424⁵ and 130⁶ cases respectively remain outstanding. However, the numbers referred to in the database are only those reported to UNICEF by families, which is believed to be only a fraction of all cases. The protracted conflict has further increased the risk of other child rights' violations, such as gender-based violence, neglect, and child abuse. Displacements and pervasive indiscriminate violence, including claymore attacks, landmines/unexploded ordnance and aerial bombings, have created a climate of fear and significant disparity in vulnerable areas. This has also resulted in an increased number of children living without family care.⁷

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2008

In close collaboration with the Government and other partners UNICEF has continued to respond to the humanitarian needs of the conflict-affected Sri Lankan population, focusing on the priority areas of health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), education and child protection.

UNICEF is leading the cluster coordination in the nutrition sector both at national and district levels and is significantly contributing to district-level coordination in the health sector. Through continued support of the Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme (NRP) in Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Trincomale districts, with a coverage of 95 per cent, over 1,700 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition have been rehabilitated and micronutrient deficiencies, such as anaemia, have been prevented and treated among 10,750 pregnant women, thus covering up to 95 per cent of the

3 Extrapolated from Demographic and Health Survey 2006.

4 TMVP, also known as the Karuna Group, is a political party and paramilitary group in Sri Lanka.

5 This figure includes 117 children who were under age 18 as of September 2008. In 2008, reports received and verified by UNICEF indicate that LTTE had recruited and re-recruited 36 children and released 5 children.

6 This figure includes 62 children who were under age 18 as of September 2008. In 2008, reports received and verified by UNICEF indicate that TMVP had recruited and re-recruited 45 children and released 66 children.

7 There are currently 8,000 children living in institutions in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. These children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse in a context of conflict and displacement.

needs. Despite implementation challenges, including limited human resources and difficulties in bringing in therapeutic and supplementary food to the Vanni, the NRP has been successful in identifying and reducing acute malnutrition. In Jaffna District, global acute child malnutrition has dropped from 30 per cent in March 2007 to 11 per cent in February 2008, and severe acute malnutrition has dropped from 6.7 per cent to 2.8 per cent during the same period. UNICEF has further supported approximately 800 pregnant/lactating women and 17,000 children through mobile health clinics, thus covering an estimated 70 per cent of children under age five in IDP camps in the conflict-affected areas, and supported the restoration of health facilities to provide basic health services to approximately 50,000 persons.

The UNICEF-led WASH cluster at national and zonal/district levels resulted in improved coordination and more efficient response. Some 65,000 IDPs and 50,000 resettled persons in northern and eastern districts were provided access to safe water and adequate sanitation services as per Sphere standards through the construction of emergency and semi-permanent toilets, drilling of tube wells, installation of handpumps, digging of hand dug wells, distribution of hygiene kits and provision of hygiene promotion activities.

The education cluster, jointly led by UNICEF and Save the Children in Sri Lanka, in cooperation with a network of national and international NGOs, UN agencies and government structures, particularly the Ministry of Education, was able to rapidly construct 33 temporary learning spaces, thus covering over 80 per cent of the needs, distribute appropriate education supplies for over 72,000 children and achieve wide coverage in training on emergency preparedness and response as well as improve networks for the training of teachers in psychosocial techniques. Another achievement was the initiation of a programme aiming to support children unable to attend school on a daily basis due to security constraints by developing curriculum-based home/school modules in order for them to maintain the required standard for their grade. The psychosocial impact of the emergency was mitigated through the establishment of child-friendly spaces in northern and eastern Sri Lanka both in IDP camps and communities that provided regular, structured activities for more than 15,000 conflict-affected children.

In 2008, 539 children, formerly recruited by armed groups and released, were provided with reintegration support, including their participation in vocational training. Up to 50 village protection committees were established in vulnerable areas involving communities in the protection of children who returned home, and preventing recruitment and re-recruitment. In addition, 21,000 community members acquired increased knowledge on mine-safe behaviour and on the danger of landmines and unexploded ordnance through mine-risk education (MRE). Main challenges of the emergency response relate to the lack of humanitarian access and the deteriorating security situation due to escalation of fighting in the Vanni.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2009

Coordination and Partnership

As cluster lead, UNICEF supports the coordination of the nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education sectors, working closely with the Government of Sri Lanka, UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), NGOs and community-based stakeholders. UNICEF actively collaborates with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) for the shelter and protection sectors coordinating child protection-related interventions; with WHO for the health sector, coordinated by UNICEF at field level; and with the World Food Programme (WFP) for the food security and logistics sector.

Linkages of HAR with the Regular Programme

The *Humanitarian Action Report (HAR)* emergency appeal and the Country Programme (2008–2012) are complementary. National capacity development, policy analysis and reforms, and related technical assistance to fulfil the Government's human rights obligations are supported mainly under the Country Programme, while UNICEF's humanitarian response, which is focused in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, further promotes standards and international norms in reaching UNICEF's *Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies*.

The priority of UNICEF's humanitarian response in 2009 in line with UNICEF's *Core Commitments for Children in Emergencies* will be the provision of emergency relief to reduce vulnerabilities among 330,000 IDPs and over 100,000 host community and resettled families in eight districts in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. UNICEF will also support activities that will build confidence and support stabilization of communities. As an immediate measure, UNICEF is prepositioning supply items in Vavuniya in order to be able to rapidly respond to critical needs of IDPs in the Vanni.

Health (US\$ 1,100,000)

For 2009, the overall goal in the health sector is to ensure that critical curative and preventive health services are delivered to 430,000 IDPS and host communities, including 40,000 children and 3,200 pregnant/lactating women. Key activities will include:

- Procure and distribute essential supplies to 50 health centres to provide basic maternal and child health clinic services, covering up to 95 per cent of the needs;
- Facilitate outreach mobile clinic services for displaced populations;
- Facilitate refresher courses for 50 health staff and training for 100 rural health assistants in maternal and child health clinic activities, with emphasis on the strengthening of immunization services and cold-chain management;
- Rehabilitate/reconstruct 50 health facilities to provide high quality maternal, neonatal and child health services in the districts where the resettlement process is ongoing;
- Support the Government in ensuring maintenance of immunization and emergency obstetric care services in conflict-affected areas;
- Contribute to the prevention of outbreaks of communicable diseases (typhoid and viral hepatitis) through the provision of vaccines.

Nutrition (US\$ 2,200,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to minimize the impact of the ongoing crisis on the health and nutritional status of children under age five and pregnant/lactating women in affected areas. UNICEF and partners will assist the Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition in the areas of nutritional surveillance, provision of therapeutic food and capacity development of health workers, through the following key activities:

- Continue supporting the establishment of the Nutrition Rehabilitation Programme (NRP) to cover 10 new sites in all affected districts with high levels of severe acute malnutrition; continue supporting previously established programme in two districts to treat 5,000 severely malnourished children covering 95 per cent of needs; in close collaboration with WFP, further pursue activities to manage moderate acute malnutrition through supplementary feeding programmes targeting 15,000 children;
- Support the implementation of two rounds of the nutritional surveillance programme in all affected districts to monitor the NRP programme;
- Procure and distribute vitamin A and deworming tablets to 40,000 children under age five in affected districts;
- Procure and distribute iron/folic acid, deworming tablets, calcium and vitamin C to 3,200 pregnant/lactating women in affected districts;
- Train 50 health personnel in affected districts in treating children with severe acute malnutrition.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (US\$ 4,300,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to ensure that outbreaks of waterborne diseases are prevented. Up to 266,500 IDPs and resettled persons as well as host communities, particularly children and women, will have access to safe water supplies, adequate sanitation facilities and hygiene, according to Sphere standards. Some 5,000 children in resettled areas will have access to child-friendly water and sanitation facilities in 100 schools. The targeted beneficiaries will be reached through the following key activities:

- Construct 500 emergency/semi-permanent toilets for IDPs in conflict-affected areas, 500 permanent toilets with septic tank and soakage pits for resettled IDPs and 50 disability-friendly bathing areas, ensuring privacy for men and women in areas of temporary settlement;
- Rehabilitate/construct 500 water supply systems, including dug wells, tube wells, rainwater harvesting tanks and boreholes to provide safe drinking water to some 100,000 persons in IDP camps as well as in areas of return;
- Construct water drainage channels in IDP concentration points;
- Distribute 20,000 hygiene kits and 2,000 toilet cleaning kits, 3,000 water storage tanks, 20,000 small water tanks/plastic buckets for household water supply storage and 5,000 refuse bins, to assist a total of 150,000 displaced and resettled persons;

- As cluster lead, facilitate sector data collection and information management and sharing, standardization of designs as well as coordination meetings at national and district levels with government counterparts and other actors;
- Provide training to 30 local water authority management teams and 4 central teams in water and sanitation assessments, strategic options, rehabilitation planning, leak detection, water testing, repair and maintenance of mini water supply systems to ensure sustainable safe water for IDPs, resettled persons and host communities;
- Train 300 Public Health Inspectors on provision of hygiene education and hygiene awareness programmes in schools and amongst local communities;
- Promote hygiene education and hygiene awareness programmes in 100 schools and 50 local communities in order to complement existing water and sanitation services, reaching approximately 30,000 children and 20,000 community members;
- Construct/rehabilitate wells and provide adequate sanitary facilities to 100 schools.

Education (US\$ 4,200,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to provide access to quality education with minimal disruption for conflict-affected children. A total of 100,000 displaced and war-affected children and 2,500 teachers will benefit directly, with some 200,000 families as indirect beneficiaries, through the following key activities:

- Construct 100 temporary learning spaces to accommodate 30,000 displaced schoolchildren;
- Provide 100,000 children with: (a) an individual stationery kit, including notebooks, pencils, geometry sets etc., adapted for primary and secondary needs; (b) kits of library books; and (c) a school recreational kit, providing sport and play equipment for cricket, football, badminton etc.;
- Train 2,500 teachers in psychosocial techniques and integration of displaced children, conflict resolution and accelerated learning to enable them to respond more effectively to children's needs; each teacher will receive a kit containing paints, paper, scissors and other basic material;
- Rehabilitate 100 damaged schools requiring repairs, to accommodate 30,000 schoolchildren;
- Implement a community-supported home/school programme for an estimated 20,000 children unable to attend school every day for security reasons, by training teachers and community members, printing modules and providing supplementary material;
- Organize catch-up education activities for all children who missed out on school due to displacement and conflict (an estimated 25,000 children) to enable them reach the required standard for their grade.

Child Protection (US\$ 3,200,000)

For 2009, the overall goal is to prevent and respond to grave violations of child rights, including child recruitment, and to provide children directly affected by the conflict with community-based protection and psychosocial support. The affected children will be reached through the following key activities:

- Strengthen the response to violations of children's rights through an enhanced monitoring mechanism in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1612; strengthen advocacy strategies at both national and local levels and support advocacy at the international level;
- Provide care and reintegration activities to an estimated 1,500 children associated with armed groups;
- Provide psychosocial support for 50,000 children through child-friendly spaces and Children's Clubs in camps and communities, and through the training of teachers in areas affected by displacement;
- Strengthen community-based protection networks for the prevention of child rights' violations, as well as referrals to appropriate services and authorities;
- Provide emergency care and protection for children deprived of family care;
- Facilitate mine-risk education benefiting 250,000 community members in conflict-affected communities to minimize the risks of mine accidents;
- Provide emergency response for all separated or unaccompanied children due to the conflict, with 500 children as a planning figure based on previous experience.