

UNICEF VAVUNIYA ZONE OFFICE

Fact Sheet



VAVUNIYA ZONE OFFICE FACT SHEET APRIL 2006

Coverage: Vavuniya, Mannar, Anuradhapura, and Puttalam Districts.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Population	Vavuniya: 149,835 (est) Mannar: 151,577 (est) Anuradhapura: 746,466 Puttalam: 705,342 TOTAL: 1,753,220
Ethnic composition in per cent	Vavuniya: Tamil 90, Sri Lankan Moor 4, Sinhalese 6 Mannar: Tamil 90, Sri Lankan Moor 5, Sinhalese 5 Anuradhapura: Tamil 1, Sri Lankan Moor 8, Sinhalese 91 Puttalam: Tamil 7, Muslim 19, Sinhalese 74
Conflict IDPs	Vavunia: 36,908 Mannar: 25,450 Anuradhapura: 9,431 Puttalam: 60,123

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND EDUCATION

No. of health facilities	Vavuniya: 16 hospitals, 16 rural health centres Mannar: 16 hospitals, 8 rural health centres Anuradhapura: 60 hospitals, 188 rural health centres Puttalam: 40 hospitals, 137 rural health centres
Under-5 underweight in per cent	Vavuniya: 31.1 Mannar: 36.9 Anuradhapura: 41 Puttalam: Baseline survey planned for 2006
Under-5 wasting in per cent	Vavuniya: 15.2 Mannar: 17.4 Anuradhapura: 23.2 Puttalam: Baseline survey planned for 2006
Under-5 stunting in per cent	Vavuniya: 17.3 Mannar: 20 Anuradhapura: 16.5 Puttalam: Baseline survey planned for 2006
No. of primary/secondary schools	Vavuniya: 177 (57 in LTTE-controlled area) Mannar: 90 Anuradhapura: 553 Puttalam: 343
School attendance 5-14 years old in per cent	Vavuniya: 97.8 Mannar: 98.2 Anuradhapura: 98.6 Puttalam: not available

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, monitoring recruitment of child soldiers, mine risk education, ensuring that children receive psychosocial support.

WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE (WASH)

MAIN PARTNERS

Government: NWS&DB, Zonal Directors of Education, North Western Engineering Dept, DPDHS, Water Resources Board, SCLG, Irrigation Board.

INGO: Oxfam, German Agro Action, DRC, NRC, FORUT.

NGO: RDA, SEWA Lanka, ISRC, CTF, ZOA, SARVODAYA.

UN Agencies: IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, WFP, World Bank.

Main issues

- All districts: Water and sanitation infrastructure destroyed or damaged during conflict.
- Inadequate water and sanitation facilities in schools.
- Vavuniya: Lack of WATSAN facilities in IDP camps (Welfare Centres) and relocation sites.
- Mannar: Difficult access to water resources (groundwater level is 80 ft. below) particularly in Murungan (inland). Water resources are being diverted to Mannar Island.
- Anuradhapura: Naturally high fluoride level in ground water is a health hazard.
- Puttalam: Water resources at risk due to pollution and depletion.

UNICEF response from 2005 to April 2006

- UNICEF has taken the lead in coordinating WASH partners in the ZO area bringing Government counterpart, NGOs, and other partners together.
- 601 toilets constructed in the ZO area.
- 524 water quality tests carried out in the ZO area.
- 43 water and sanitation laboratory personnel trained in water quality testing.
- Upgrading or construction of water and sanitation in schools and health facilities:
- Vavuniya: 18 schools and 5 health facilities. 1 well constructed in rural facility.
- Mannar: 22 schools and 3 health facilities
- Anuradhapura: 5 schools, no health facilities. A baseline survey on watsan facilities and hygiene standards in 112 schools is ongoing.
- Puttalam: 28 schools and 1 health facility.
- Hygiene promotion and distribution of hygiene leaflets in IDP camp Punthotham and hygiene awareness day.
- Within the framework of the 4R project, 2 villages in Mannar have been provided with 142 toilets and 11 schools with water tanks, filters, and pumps.

Key outcomes

- Upgrading and construction of water and sanitation facilities has meant that 1,718 school children have access to safe water and adequate sanitation in 18 schools in Vavuniya, 3,590 children in 22 schools in Mannar, 500 children in 5 schools in Anuradhapura, and 11,799 children in 28 schools in Puttalam.
- 601 conflict affected returnee families have access to household toilets.
- Estimated 5000 IDPs in Punthotham gained knowledge of hygiene.

Challenges ahead

- Weak parent-school societies lead to lack of participation and commitment in finding sustainable WASH solutions.
- Introduction of child participation methodologies to develop meaningful monitoring and evaluation of the actual usability of WATSAN facilities.
- Existing water resources and quality inadequate – rain water harvesting to be explored as an alternative in Anuradhapura.
- Establishment of a sustainable water quality surveillance system.



LEARNING YEARS & ADOLESCENCE

MAIN PARTNERS

Government: Zonal Directors of Education, National youth Services Council

NGO: Surekemu Lanka Foundation, SLRCS, Community Trust Fund

Main issues

- Shortage of teachers in most of the schools outside of town limits
- Children have missed education for extensive periods as a result of absence due to displacement or non-availability of teachers in schools
- Poor quality of education in schools due to lack of training, lack of commitment of education personnel including teachers and principals
- Lack of physical infrastructure leading to loss of study time in unfavorable weather conditions
- Lack of long term planning and programme implementing capacity of the Zonal Directors of Education.
- Large number of children not attending or irregularly attending school, specially among the IDP communities
- Very weak monitoring and reporting structure to monitor educational activities
- Lack of ownership to the Child Friendly School concept in the education authorities.

UNICEF response from 2005 to April 2006

Quality Education:

- Child Friendly Schools concept introduced and promoted in 374 schools in 2005 – 2006. This includes orientation for principals, deputy principals. Different districts have reached different levels in implementing the CFS concept but over 90% of the schools are keen to pursue it further.
- Catch Up Education provided to around 9000 students in 2005-6
- Over 100 School Attendance committees established
- School principals trained in School Based Management (SBM)
- A special programme to train Education Officials in all education zones coming under VZO in project management, implementation and M&E was negotiated with the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration.
- Xx teacher trained. Training will commence in 2006
- 23 new school buildings constructed in schools that lacked classroom space.
- Focus on teachers training in “border” villages in Anuradhapura and in Puttalam where there is a high concentration of IDPs.
- 14 mini science labs were provided to schools in Mannar and Vavuniya north. Library cupboards were distributed among schools
- Over 10,000 School were distributed to students.
- The following equipment were provided to Zonal Education to strengthen their capacity
- Offices Digital Duplicator (Mannar, Madhu), Computers (Mannar, Puttalam, Multi media projector (Puttalam)
- Over 5000 youth in Mannar, Vavuniya, Puttalam and Anuradhapura provided with HIV and Life Skills education.

Key outcomes

- Better quality education and infrastructure facilities for children
- Less children drop out - more children attend school regularly
- Children have a better human environment at school
- Education Offices are better equipped top support schools

Through its interventions, UNICEF has been able to make a significant impact on the education of children in the focus districts.

Challenges ahead

- Puttalam: Lack of Tamil-speaking teachers to provide for the IDP population.
- Improving the mobility and monitoring capacity of quality of education for ZDE officials.
- Improvement of systematic reporting of absenteeism, drop-out, attendance etc. from school to education authorities.
- Improvement of teaching facilities in schools.
- Getting teachers to come to remote schools



PROTECTION

MAIN PARTNERS

Government: Dept. for Social Welfare and Childcare, Sri Lanka Police, district level judicial authorities, Health Dept., Human Rights Commission.

INGO: SCiSL, ICRC.

NGO: SARVODAYA, CTF, RDF, SHADE, TRO, VALVUTHAYAM

UN Agencies: UNDP, UNHCR, ILO.

Others: SLMM, LTTE.

Main issues

- Underage recruitment and re-recruitment.
- Mine and UXO risk to children.
- Creating a protective environment for children.
- Psychosocial needs of children.
- Children without or not living with primary care givers.

UNICEF response from 2005 to April 2006

- Registration of underage recruitments and re-recruitments in centralized reporting and monitoring database.
- Advocacy with the LTTE for the release of children on the basis of data collected and with the parents' consent.
- Referral of released children to other agencies and NGOs for reintegration (education and vocational training), psychosocial support when required, and follow-up.
- UNICEF follow-up and verification of releases.
- Training of around 80 per cent of the teachers in the North East and North Western provinces (including the 4 districts covered by the ZO) in mine risk education since 2003 was achieved in 2005.
- Community based Mine Risk Education (MRE) delivered to community members.
- International Mine Risk Day observed.
- Survivor assistance to victims of mines/UXO.
- Strengthening of case management and case referral in District Child Protection Committees (DCPC) in Vavuniya, Puttalam, and Mannar. First workshop in child rights to DCPC members in Vavuniya conducted.
- Support to 13 Women & Children's police help desk in the 4 districts.
- Advocacy with Sri Lanka police and judicial authorities in favour of juvenile justice and child friendly procedures to be followed after release of underage recruits.
- Establishment of psychosocial forums in each district with participation of Government representatives and NGOs.
- 140 children's clubs in all 4 districts (Mannar 60, Vavuniya 100, Anuradhapura 50, and Puttalam 30) have received support and are operational.
- Support to safe houses.
- Advocacy for establishment of care plan for each child living away from or without primary care giver.
- Advocacy for the registration and monitoring of all children's homes.

Key outcomes

- 28 underage recruits released from LTTE ranks in 2005 (49 were recruited, 5 re-recruited, and 10 run-aways in the same period. In 2006 up to April, 5 children have been registered as recruited, 1 as re-recruited, and no releases or run-aways)
- Overall status of reintegration of former child recruits since 2003, when the Action Plan for Children Affected by War came into force:

Status	Vavuniya	Mannar
Children/cases referred from UNICEF to SCiSL	93	51
Cases ref for IGP program	47	24
Cases ref for NRFI and shelter	26	19
Cases ref for Vocational Training	55	24
No of children back to school	27	20
No of children ref for catch-up education	10	-
Cases ref for psychosocial support	32	05

- Number of victims of mines/UXO has declined from 25 in 2003 to 6 in 2005.
- In 2005, NGO Valvuthayam assisted 92 mine affected people, which included replacement

of artificial limbs as the survivor grows up.

- Good coordination and collaboration of Child Protection stakeholders achieved.
- Case conferences conducted in DCPCs and rulings and referrals have taken place.
- Women and Children's Police Desks provide community members with a place to easily refer/report cases compared to a normal police desk.
- Women and Children's Desks provide a platform for advocacy on Child Rights.
- Children receive quality psychosocial support as service providers (NGOs) are scrutinized in district psychosocial forums.
- All children's homes have come forward for registration. The process is ongoing (The first registration takes place with District Secretary as volunteer organization, then registration with Probation Department as children's home). Monitoring being done in monthly meetings with Probation Department.

Challenges ahead

- Recruitment of children continues.
- Poverty that may lead to recruitment with the parent's consent.
- Strengthening the coherence of the reintegration elements to focus on the best interest of the child.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

MAIN PARTNERS

Government: DPDHS, Engineering dept. of construction

INGO: AMDA.

NGO: TRO (construction)

Others: Private sector construction firms.

Main issues

- Stunting due to chronic malnutrition.
- Lack of awareness of nutrition issues, especially exclusive breast feeding.
- Insufficient number of health workers (Public Health Midwifery Nurses, PHMN) Vacancies not being filled.
- Little mobility of peripheral health workers.
- Rural health centres in need of repair and renovation.
- Services in Emergency Obstetrics Care (EOC) need improvement.

UNICEF response from 2005 to April 2006

- Training of EOC staff in all district hospitals and peripheral health workers in Vavuniya and Mannar in lactation and exclusive breast feeding.
- Upgrading of cold chain system in all districts.
- De-worming campaigns in schools.
- Construction of 6 rural health care centres in Vavuniya and 4 in Mannar (90 per cent completed)
- Renovation and upgrading of pediatric ward and labour room/Emergency Obstetric Care Unit in Puttalam Base Hospital.
- Construction and equipping of a Premature Baby Unit and renovation and upgrading of pediatric ward in Vavuniya Base Hospital.
- Renovation and upgrading of ante-natal ward and regional drug store in Anuradhapura Base Hospital.
- Renovation and upgrading of Delivery Room in Mannar Base Hospital.

Key outcomes

- Increased knowledge among health staff of lactation and breast feeding which is transferred to mothers and children in hospitals and in remote areas.
- Children in all districts have access to quality vaccination services.
- Children and mothers have access to improved pediatric wards and improved EOC services.

Challenges ahead

- Raising awareness and level of knowledge about nutrition in communities.
- Increase the number of weighing centres and conduct an information campaign so as to sensitize parents and care givers to the issue of mal-nutrition.
- Advocacy with the DPDHS to fill health care vacancies.
- Increase mobility of PHMNs.



Sources for statistics:

Population and ethnic composition: Census of Population and Housing, Department of Census and Statistics, 2005 (For Vavuniya and Mannar, UNICEF Child and Welfare Survey 2004)

Conflict IDPs: UNHCR

Tsunami IDPs: UNICEF, December, 2005

Health Centres: Sri Lanka Ministry of Health

Malnutrition: UNICEF, Child Health and Welfare Survey, 2003 (and 2004)

Number of schools: Sri Lanka Ministry of Education, 2002

School attendance: UNICEF Child and Welfare Survey, 2004

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

Schools damaged: TERM 2005 (Tsunami Education Rehabilitation Monitor)
