


CONSORTIUM OF  HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES	Meeting : Eastern Forum Date 10th July 2009	
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Document Information

Meeting :	Eastern Forum 2009				
Prepared By/ Date:	Niranjani				
Type:	Conference				
Purpose:	Improve Coordination, Facilitation and Networking among agencies, groups and individuals working in the Humanitarian Sector				
Meeting Date:	10 th July 09	Start Time:	8.30 am	End Time:	9.45 am
Venue	CARITAS SEDEC				
Meeting Chair:	Mr Jeevan Thiagarajah Executive Director - CHA	Facilitator	CHA		
Minute Taker:	Niranjani	Phone:	4610943		

Present

Organisation	Organisation	Organisation
Sewalanka	IHR	CPA
Right to Play	JEN	ADT
Pulse	Internews	Leads
RDF	Sewalanka Women's Movement	SCiSL
UMCOR	SLRC	FORUT
CTF	Ministry of Disaster Management- CBSM	UNHABITAT
CRS/Caritas	Asia Onlus	ZOA
ADRA	Caritas	ACTED
HDI	IRD	Muslim Aid
Child fund Sri Lanka	Practical Action	LST
LWR	FRC	AJDC
IFRC	BRAC Sri Lanka	CORE
WUSC	Centre for Poverty Analysis	CHA

Agenda No	Subject	Action by/ date
	<p data-bbox="391 247 1219 352">Opportunities to invest on eastern development – Hon. M.L.M. Hisbullah -Minister of health Sports and IT Education - Eastern Provincial Council</p> <p data-bbox="391 394 1219 611">Highlights of the Minister’s speech: Despite the global recession and adverse economic trends in the Asian region, the eradication of terrorism has given Sri Lanka a distinct advantage to record a better growth rate. After eradicating the terrorism people in the Eastern Province have now begun to contribute to the national economy.</p> <p data-bbox="391 653 1219 716">In terms of resettlement, except for 4 divisions, 99% of IDPs have been resettled. All most all the schools were re-opened.</p> <p data-bbox="391 758 1219 905">Thanks to the speedy infrastructure development work (roads, electricity etc) implemented under the Eastern Reawakening (Nagenahira Navodaya) program, people in the East could now send their produce faster to other parts of the country.</p> <p data-bbox="391 947 1219 1010">The activities in relief villages operated quite well to uplift the standards of the people.</p> <p data-bbox="391 1052 1219 1220">However, there are spaces for improvement in Agriculture sector, fishery sector and livelihood for people. 30% of the paddy production is been produced by Eastern province and abandoned lands also can used for agriculture as there enough ground water facility.</p> <p data-bbox="391 1262 1219 1367">With regard to the fishing sector, restrictions are lifted and except Kinniya, fishermen are allowed to fish in the night. But still there is room for improvement.</p> <p data-bbox="391 1409 1219 1514">Vaharai, Eachchilampathu are good area for Dairy farming and we courage agencies to implement livelihood projects in the area.</p> <p data-bbox="391 1556 1219 1766">Also Education is needs more attention. There are schools where qualified teachers are not available specially for Maths, Science & English subjects and no proper salaries are given to them. If agencies could support the teachers by giving them salaries and draw their attention to improve the education system would be grateful</p> <p data-bbox="391 1808 1219 1913">Also he said 49000 widows are in Eastern province. They need some kind of a programme for self employment. Most of them are from Vaharai.</p>	

With regard to ex-combatants SCOPP provided language and skill development trainings to send them to Korea for employment. However, due to global recession, they were unable to get the jobs which are a draw-back and need to be look at.

The minister pointed out that both the Sinhalese and the Tamils in the east worked with an understanding.

Questions:

1. Eastern IDPs in Vavuniya camp. When will they be released to Eastern? Any progress?

Government has agreed to send the IDPs back to Eastern but the process is a bit slow.

2. Working with Eastern provincial council? How do we collaborate?

We will try to appoint a focal point at the provincial council for NGOs to call and coordinate with. Also we are looking at development partners USAID, UN and NGOs to work with our staff and NGOs could come as clusters in EPC

3. Update on safe centers in Vavunathivu?

We are planning to start in Eastern, specially Vavunathivu. In Trincomalee there is a team to help women. Currently Vavunathivu is cleared and safer, however, problems will be rectified soon

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