

Returning home

Many displaced people want to go home. If you want to go home, it is important that you know it is safe to do so and that you will be able to start your life at home again with dignity.

You have a choice to return or stay. How to make that choice?

- You can decide yourself whether to return and when to return.
- To make that decision, you have the right to sufficient information about your home and village.
- You can ask for your community representatives to participate in visits to your home area to check on the situation there. You can discuss concerns and questions related to your return with other community members and authorities.
- You have the right to participate in planning and organizing your return.

To return in safety and with dignity – what does it mean?

- The authorities are responsible for you to return only to areas that you consider safe. Such areas should be searched and cleared of mines, bombs and shells that may be a danger to you and your family. Unsafe areas must be clearly marked.
- Return in safety also means that you should not be subjected to threats, intimidation and harassment. A civilian police force should be in place. You should be protected from abduction, arbitrary arrest and detention. Military areas should be a safe distance from your home.
- In your return area you should be able to enjoy full freedom of movement, have access to food and be able to earn a living. Basic services should be restored, such as water, toilets, schools, and hospitals. You should have equal access to these basic services and to regional and local government offices.

To be protected against forcible return

- You should not be under any pressure to return to any place where your life, safety, liberty and/or health would be at risk.
- You should not be forced to separate from your other family members.
- Based on what you know about the situation at home, you can decide not to return immediately. All parties must respect your decision. Your right to rations and other support from the authorities or NGOs should not be denied based on your decision to return or to remain.

Contact

If you want more information on making your decision to return or stay you can contact any of the following agencies:

UNHCR	Office in Batticaloa:	59/2, Mamangam Road, Batticaloa – Telephone: (065) 222 7478
	Office in Trincomalee:	63, Post Office Road, Trincomalee – Telephone: (026) 222 4027
UNICEF	Office in Batticaloa:	31/1, Lady Manning Drive, Batticaloa – Telephone: (065) 222 6479
	Office in Trincomalee:	200/1, Customs Road, Trincomalee – Telephone: (026) 222 4946
UNOCHA	Office in Batticaloa:	22, Baily Cross Street, Batticaloa – Telephone: (065) 222 7457
	Office in Trincomalee:	58, Arunagiri Road, Trincomalee – Telephone: (026) 222 2355/56
HRCSL	Office in Batticaloa:	NPDS for IDPs Project, 22, Sinnaupodai, Batticaloa – Telephone: (065) 222 5647
	Office in Trincomalee:	NPDS for IDPs Project, 227, Main Street, Trincomalee – Telephone: (026) 222 7074