

	Meeting (Name)	
	Date	

Ref: 1/2.1/1/06/ Minutes 1

Document Information

Meeting :	Operational Meeting
Agenda Reference:	Ref. Eg 1/2.1/1/ 06/ Agenda -1
Prepared By/ Date:	Niranjani/1 st December 2006

Type:	Conference /Closed Door/ Lecture/ Special				
Purpose:					
Meeting Date:	1 st Dec 06	StartTime:	8.15 am	EndTime:	9.30 am
Venue	LKIIR				
Meeting Chair:	Hashim	Phone:	4610943		
Facilitator:	CHA	Phone:	4610943		
Minute Taker:	Niranjani	Phone:	4610943		

Present

Organisation	Organisation	Organisation
UMCOR	Caritas- SEDEC	ADT
GAA	Malteser	CASP
FAO	Handicap International	Samaritan's Purse
JEN	Help from Germany	UNHCR
Green Life	Sewalanka Foundation	CASA
CPR	CIDA- PSU	EMACE SL
WUSC SL	CPA	Leads
PARC	Help Age	TRO
IFRC	ADRA	Muslim Aid
Helvetas	Zoa	Italian Cooperation
ICP	LWR	World Vision
Acted	Sida (embassy of Swedish)	SMEI Chamber
Tearfund	REDR-IHE	RADA
Americares	Manitha Neyam Trust	CHC
Relief International		

Agenda No	Subject	Action by/ date
1.	<p><u>Feedbacks and Updates</u> <u>Inter Agency Standing Committee</u> Hashim provided an update on IASC meeting, held 24th November 2006. Following issues were discussed at the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Humanitarian Issues; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food, Shelter, Health, Security and Protection - UN- Provide trucks conditionally for food convoy - UN- Technical advice for sea movements - Maternal deaths: There is an increasing maternal death in uncontrolled area. - IDP's in Trincomalee - Discussion on CHAP <p><u>IDP Coordination Meeting</u> The meeting was held on the 27th November 2006, Chaired by the Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights. Following key issues were discussed at the meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NGO Access for 19 partner organization for UN - Minister read the letter which was written by the Secretary of Defence to Chief of defence staff approving 19 agencies, subject to security situation in those areas. 2. Vaharai- Security for Convoys 3. Jaffna <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Situation - Need - 24000 mt - Received – 14000 mt - Livelihood - Essential items by ship <p><u>Consultative Meeting</u> The meeting was held on the 28th November 2006. Following points were discussed at the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vakarai- Items been taken to Vaharai • Co-chair Message • Proposal for Safe Haven – (Information could be found in CHA website) • Food Convoy – A9 • Jaffna Situation • NGO Access 	<p style="text-align: center;">DRMU</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CPA</p>

Highlights from the District – Batticaloa

A convoy of 35 trucks, organized by the Sri Lankan Department of Essential Services in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations, reached the town of Vakarai in the Batticaloa district of eastern Sri Lanka in the early afternoon (local time) today. The convoy brought 250 MT of food, water and items such as tents, hygiene kits and medicines for distribution to more than 30,000 displaced people who have fled the fighting in the northern part of the district.

– ICRC Press release 29 Nov

Discussion - NGO's response to the present Humanitarian

Situation - Sanjana Hattotuwa

Mr. Sanjana Hattotuwa spoke on the above topic. To start the discussion, he asked following three questions from the audience.

- Are we doing enough?
- Do we have the enough knowledge?
- Do we have the conviction?

He said that the closure of the A9 is indicative of two Sri Lanka's. One with access to basic human needs, one cut off, starving and dying.

The peace talks show two Sri Lanka's – one that the GOSL wishes to paint, the other of the LTTE.

How can we build confidence in peace in such a polarised time? He said even the business community; do not have a single mention of peace, reconciliation or democracy in their flagship of CSR efforts. He stated that, we need to keep the pressure of the GOSL and LTTE to return to negotiations and put an end to hostilities. We need more international scrutiny of Human Rights. Fight against GOSL, LTTE and Karuna propaganda by the simple submission of facts. We all have them - but we sometimes don't use them to full effect.

In terms of the knowledge, he said that, we have the information but how do we ensure that our knowledge translates into action? As donors, INGOs, international HR activists, diplomats, UN staff, journalists and humanitarians, what will you do to ensure that knowledge resident in your laptops translates into actions that save lives on the ground?

38,000 Tamils face starvation in Vaharai and a humanitarian disaster is imminent

Are we doing enough to ensure that what information we are privy to we make use of to ensure that we COMMUNICATE FIRMLY:

1. The gross incompatibility of realising MDG's with the current

socio-political dispensation is drilled into the government

2. Economic growth, despite the Central Bank's claims, is unsustainable when successive budgets increasingly allocate billions of rupees to destroy lives, rather than on education or social infrastructure to help reconciliation
3. Defensive offensives, or Rumsfeldian pre-emptive wars, are a waste of time, resources and human lives
4. Developing the South is contingent upon the future of those living in the North and the East
5. Federalism is good governance, and good governance is stronger democracy, which in turn is of benefit to all citizens, across Sri Lanka, and not just a solution for the ethnic conflict or for those in the N & E.
6. Human rights are non-negotiable. People's lives are non-negotiable.

So yes, we have the knowledge, but we often don't know what on earth to do with it, or even if we do, how to go about doing it.

Do we have the conviction? How can we maintain our conviction, when friends, colleagues and citizens are dying? in Colombo? We need to more strongly and in more places call for a professional, impartial and international human rights field presence.

He said that we need simple, sustained, local and international exposes of facts that clearly demonstrate the incompatibility of wanting peace and letting people starve to death

Is our conviction only words on reports, or are we willing to step up to the challenge, at a time when all is seemingly lost, to ensure peace with justice, peace with dignity, peace with rights?

(More information could be found in the presentation)

Security Update

- 09 claymore attacks, 10 Grenade attacks, 48 assassination
- Aerial attacks in North
- Spate of robberies reported in Batticaloa by masked men

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