

	<b>Meeting (Name)</b>	
	<b>Date</b>	

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**Document Information**

<b>Meeting :</b>	Operational Meeting
<b>Agenda Reference:</b>	Ref. Eg 1/2.1/1/ 06/ Agenda -1
<b>Prepared By/ Date:</b>	Nira/25 <sup>th</sup> August 2006

<b>Type:</b>	Conference /Closed Door/ Lecture/ Special				
<b>Purpose:</b>					
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2006	<b>Start Time:</b>	8.15 am	<b>End Time:</b>	9.30 am
<b>Venue</b>	SLIIR				
<b>Meeting Chair:</b>		<b>Phone:</b>			
<b>Facilitator:</b>	CHA	<b>Phone:</b>			
<b>Minute Taker:</b>	Nira	<b>Phone:</b>			

Present

Organisation	Organisation	Organisation
NCA	Americares	Save the Children
Malteser International	Muslim Aid	ADH
MDM France	CHC	IMC
Manitha Neyam Trust	World Vision	NRC
HIA	RADA	CASA
Acted	Sewalanka Foundation	Diakonie
Islamic Relief	Mercy Corps	Caritas
WUSC	LWR	VSO
Stromme Foundation	Concern	Plan
JEN	Oxfam GB	UNDP Mine action
Handicap International	UNDP	LCMS-WR/HC
Leads	Tearfund	ADT
Oxfam Novib	Red Cross	JDC
Refugees International	CCF SL	Consortium of NGO- Trinco
CHF	NCC SL	NWMT
UMCOR	ADRA	CASP
SDC	World Vision	IFRC
GAA	Helvetas	DANIDA
British High Commission	REDR-IHE	UN OCHA

<p>CONSORTIUM OF <b>CHA</b> HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES</p>	<p><b>Meeting (Name)</b></p> <p><b>Date</b></p>	
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French Embassy	Oxfam	GMSL
Relief International	Americares	PIN
CPA	MSF	CRWRC
Srilanka Solidarity	Johanniter	DRC

Agenda No	Subject	Action by/ date
01.	<p><u>Humanitarian Staff Support Group</u> Mr. Gowthaman provided an update on the above meeting. -</p> <p><u>Development Partners Meeting.</u> The meeting was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2006. Highlights of the meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to areas by the ICRC and other designated INGO's/NGO's engaged in Humanitarian work at all times</li> <li>• Access to remove bodies of dead and move injured for treatment access to distribute essential drugs, food and other designated items that can be freely moved</li> <li>• Agree safe zones like temples/churches/Kovils and Mosques that will not be attacked at any time</li> <li>• Minimum civilian rights to be safeguarded at all times especially children and women</li> <li>• Allow telecommunications and other communication modes to be open and maintained at all times recognizing that family members and relatives in Sri Lanka and overseas have to know of the safety or otherwise of their loved ones</li> <li>• Clear agreement of documentation and permits and approvals for NGO operations in affected areas must be reached , communicated and honoured</li> <li>• At all times the civilians must have the right to move out of conflict areas and at no times should there be a siege on towns/villages restricting the free movement of willing civilians</li> <li>• All humanitarian negatives on citizens must be subjected to independent enquiry, publication of findings, action against perpetrators and prevention of repeat in the future</li> <li>• The Government and LTTE be pressurized via an offer of a development dividend by way of aid held back being released if full CFA implementation is immediately honoured in letter and spirit</li> </ul> <p>( more information could be found in the presentation)</p> <p><u>Information Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Rights Watch</li> <li>• Sri Lanka: Warring Sides Must Let Aid Reach Civilians Government and Tamil Tigers Must Respect International Humanitarian Law</li> </ul>	CHA

- Under international humanitarian law, parties to a conflict are required to provide for the basic necessities of the civilian population under their control. They are obliged to allow and assist impartial humanitarian agencies to supply food, medical supplies and other essentials to civilians at risk. The belligerent parties must consent to allowing relief operations to take place, and may not refuse such consent on arbitrary grounds. They can take steps to control the content and delivery of humanitarian aid, such as to ensure that consignments do not include weapons. However, deliberately impeding relief supplies is prohibited.
- Amid heavy fighting in the peninsula, there are serious concerns that civilians will not be protected from harm, Human Rights Watch said. International humanitarian law requires parties to a conflict to take all necessary precautions to protect civilians against the dangers resulting from armed hostilities. They must to the extent feasible avoid locating military forces near civilians and remove civilians from the vicinity of military objectives. It is unlawful to prevent civilians from leaving areas close to military targets
- Human Rights Watch also expressed concern that sufficient humanitarian assistance has not reached conflict areas in the eastern districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa, where thousands of displaced persons fled fighting earlier this month. According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, at least 170,000 Sri Lankans have fled their homes in the north and east since the fighting in the country intensified.
- Threats seemingly made by the Tamil Tigers against women aid workers in several eastern towns in April. Government officials and various political parties have contributed to an atmosphere of hostility against nongovernmental organizations by politically motivated criticism of aid agencies for delays in projects for victims of the 2004 tsunami.

Secretary general of UN has spoken to our president regarding prevailing situation in the country.

#### IDP Statistics

- 179,523 people have been displaced as per UNHCR reports.
- As per TRO reports there has been no travel allowed from Kantalai to Eachchilampattu. The only NFRI that has reached the area has filtered up from the Vaharai Division, and since supplies are not sufficient for the Vaharai area the amount reaching Eachchilampattu is nominal.

- There is a lack of available medical staff and medicines and Shortage of drinking water, food items, milk powder in Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts.
- In Jaffna , Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts Current food, fuel and NFRI stock in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu districts are not adequate and will be exhausted in a few days if the Olanthai border is not reopened and free movement of essential supplies is not allowed.
- The report says No international agencies have visited the IDPs in Vadamarachchi East to assess the current IDP situation and conduct their own needs assessment.

There was a request made to the secretary to the president on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> aug following the meeting with the MoD, asking for a one day complete cessation of hostilities for a simultaneous assessment of all district in the northeast on what the humanitarian needs are. If we get a positive response from the Government, we will ask the same from the LTTE as well. We would be presenting this information as a case as to why fighting has to secede.

(IDP statistics are available in the presentation)

Mr. Thavasilingam from NGO consortium of Trincomalee provided an update on the ground situation.

- Nearly 63,000 people were displaced after the Muttur incident and 42000 people have been kept in various camps in Kanthale and Thambalamam area.
- Basic facilities aren't given to the people who reside in the camps. One toilet is used by 100-150 people.
- Due the heavy rain in Trincomalee, people have been put in paddy fields under temporary tarpaulins and tents.
- There are cultural issues in the camps too. There is no privacy for feeding mothers and young women.
- It was very unfortunate in Kanthale and Thambalam area that displaced people have been housed only in the Muslim and Tamil schools. Sinhala schools in Kanthale are closed for Vacations and not been used for displaced people so far.
- Though agencies have under taken as focal points to look after various camps and various sectors, they reported that there is no space to provide

- more toilets and not enough room to have additional water tank to provide water facilities.
- He said that displaced people are scared to return to Muttur until they get an assurance from both war parties.
  - In the uncleared areas before the Muttur incident people have moved to echchalampattu and people have moved from echchalampattu towards Vaharai due to continuous shelling in the area. There is no humanitarian agencies was allowed up to now through the trincomalee corridor but GA Batticaloa has told that he is talking convoys on two days a week ( Tuesday and Friday)with the concerns of the security forces and if any humanitarian agencies wanted to provide assistance they can approach him.

Another participant said in addition to the Gas lead, ICRC also being leading convoys into the area. And Sri Lankan Red Cross is been within the GA convoy too.

Introduction of the UN Special Envoy for Tsunami's NGO Impact Initiative by Deputy Special Envoy Eric Schwartz - Discussion of key issues in context of current situation for humanitarian agencies in Sri Lanka

At the 2006 InterAction Forum (USA), President Clinton, in his role as Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, challenged the international community to reflect on past and current operations in order to make humanitarian agencies' global relief and recovery efforts more effective across a number of critical areas. The review process, coordinated by an international agency steering group in consultation with a broad array of NGO stakeholders in Europe and Asia, will draw on lessons learned from the massive response to the South Asia tsunami and focus on five challenges that face international humanitarian agencies and which were brought into stark relief in the context of tsunami recovery: 1. Accountability to beneficiaries 2. Enhancing local capacity 3. Professionalism 4. Coordination and 5.human rights and tsunami response.

He said that Humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka has come to the attention of everyone. Difficulty in access to Northeast has resulted in recovery process. Also he said that Connection between current situation and tsunami recovery is very critical. The current situation has made a challenge to the tsunami recovery in the northeast. However we have sort to champion the role of NGOs as a partner in srilanka in promoting development process. He expressed that he was glad the Government reaffirmed their commitment to the work of the NGO's. at a recent meeting with NGO's .

### Security guidelines and implementation

Brief on meetings which CHA attended last week.

- First meeting was with disaster management minister and attended by adviser to the president Mr. Basil Rajapakse. Additional secretary to the MoD Mr. Ratnayake, and also defence officials, army, navy, air force and the police. We discussed the issues on work permits and Mr. Ratnayake said that there were 534 applications received and of which 201 were approved, 324 were return for clarification and 9 which were incomplete.
- Second meeting was with the Secretary to the President and the details were circulated. The Commissioner for essential services Mr.Thivargara was also at the meeting and issue was brought regard to relief to the north, he said that there was a ship has gone to Jaffna on Friday morning with relief items. Also there was a shortage of milk food items where the navy was using their boats to transport it from Colombo, and they are looking at vessels from trincomalee to Jaffna.he said with regard to items as in the districts kilinochchi, mullaitivu, mafia, they said MPCS has stocks which could last for a few days. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting was with the secretary to the defense; he was under the impression that NGOs haven't submitted the applications for work permits. However we made it clear to him that all the application was submitted to the NGO secretariat and it was delayed there. Also he requested from NGOs that to keep the MOD informed about submitting applications to the NGOs secretariat. He made another request to NGOs to go ahead with tsunami reconstructions work which is delayed now.

Security issues

- Incident reported from 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> August. Assassination -14, Claymore attacks- 04 and hand grenades -03
- Jaffna TRO office was attacked last Wednesday.