

	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:	Nira/5 th Oct 2006

Type:	Conference /Closed Door/ Lecture/ Special				
Purpose:					
Meeting Date:	5 th Oct 2006	Start Time:	8.15 am	End Time:	9.30 am
Venue	LKIIR				
Meeting Chair:	Hashim	Phone:			
Facilitator:	CHA	Phone:			
Minute Taker:	Nira	Phone:			

Present

Organisation	Organisation	Organisation
CRS	UNV/UNDP	JEN
Mercy Corps	Plan Sri Lanka	IRD
Consortium of Ngo Trinco	Merlin	Solidarities
World Vision	LWR	French Embassy
TRO	ADRA	DCA
RADA	Americares	UNHCR
MSF	SMEI Chamber	ADT
Caritas- Sedec	Save the Children	ACT
Stromme	Samaritan's Purse	NCA
NPSL	CRS	LEADS
NWMTI	GAA	AMCROSS
NCC	CCF-SL	CASA
Diakonie	Daily Mirror	

<p>CONSORTIUM OF CHA HUMANITARIAN AGENCIES</p>	<p>Meeting (Name)</p> <p>Date</p>	
---	---	--

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

--	--	--

Agenda No	Subject	Action by/ date
1	<p><u>Feedbacks and Update</u> <u>Action points from Previous Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reluctance in submitting addresses of national staff for issuance of work permit.- Letter to Secretary Ministry of Defence <p><u>Disaster Relief Monitoring Unit</u> Chaturika provide an update on recent DRMU meeting held on the 27th of September. the discussed issues were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Progress of Permanent Shelter Programmes: In addition to the problem of bribery which exists in many of the districts, the non availability of a fixed list of beneficiaries in many of the district secretariats has stagnated the handing over. There is a high demand for the houses with the water, sanitation and electricity facilities, but the handing over is not viable before the 31st of December without the precise knowledge about the victims, It was suggested that to have the beneficiary list in public. - The gender issue which is rising from the East and the South were discussed. The pregnant women and feeding mothers are in the greatest difficulty and there is no privacy because the tents in which they reside are merely surrounded by transparent plastic sheets. - IDP situation in Vaharai: There are 9185 displaced families and 31332 displaced persons according to GN in respective areas. These statistics were collected by the GNs with the help of the TRO. DRMU team observed that other than the UNHCR, UNICEF, and SLRC, no other organizations are given access to the area, and they found very few local NGOs and CBOs are aiding the IDPS. Dry food items like rice, dal and flour are given to the displaced families. - Field report on Ampara and Batticaloa district: the major issue is corruption in relation to the housing programmes. DRNU is planning to visit Kalmunai district secretariat to do a thorough investigation on the bribes and they hope to do in coordination with the bribery and corruption commission. <p><u>Highlights from district meeting - Trincomalee</u> Ravi provided an update on water and sanitation coordination meeting. Town and Gravets , following action to be carried out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNICEF will discuss with relevant partners for water distribution to Palaiyotu Church IDP site 	

- UNICEF to check with World Vision for water trucking to Cultural Hall site.
- UNICEF is going to agree and set a working plan with the DS for the construction of the toilets.

Kinniya Division –Action to be taken

- UNICEF will assess the condition of the water tanks in Echanthivu site and will take the necessary action to repair the taps
- CARE and Mercy corps will distribute Hygiene kits in Alankerny and Echchanthivu sites

Kanthale division - UNICEF to follow up with DS to cover the open pits of the latrines at Al Rouf Ground.

Muttur Division - UNICEF to collect the relevant data for WASH matrix in Muthur area. The updated information will be reported during the next meeting.

Seruwela Division - Care international will discuss with Pradesha sabha about the water sources to be used and take necessary action for the chlorination of the water in to the browser

(More information could be found in the presentation)

MSF- France and MSF- Spain

Representatives of MSF France and MSF Spain explained the situation. He said that they have been asked to leave the country by the 7th of October. Also he stated that the accusation in the news paper has no relationship with their activities and they have requested high level meetings with the government and expect swift resolution to the problem.

He said that they only provided the medical assistance to people in the Northeast and if there is no resolution that they are prepared to remove their team from Jaffna as soon as they get the clearance from the MoD.

Representative from MSF- Spain said that they knew on the 4th October that they have to leave the country on 7th October. The reason was that lifting bags.

Big plastic balloons used for a sea debris clearing programme to help the fishermen to start their activities. She said that these bags could be found in Colombo as well. She emphasized that they did not work in LTTE controlled area.

Living conditions in Muttur

Mr. Easwaran Rutnam provided an update on the above topic. He said that Newspapers often are forced to carry coverage based on what the government provides the media on the situation in the Northeast, since the access to those areas are restricted even to the media.

Since they found out that they aren't getting the real facts of the Muttur issue, the Daily Mirror team has visited Muttur to get the ground situation.

A media team was taken by the army to Muttur and Trincomalee sometime ago and was given the opportunity to talk to some people in the camp, but he said that they got the impression that all this was set up. Therefore the Daily Mirror team decided to visit those camps and speak to the people directly without anybody's assistance.

He said that when they visited Muttur they found that the situation is somewhat contrary to what we have been hearing from people in Colombo. He said, "Especially in the interior, there were lots of people without food, without proper water and sanitation, houses were completely damaged and hardly any temporary shelters were available for these people. People were setting up their own shelters by using sticks and leaves. There are about 15 to 20 people in one small shelter. When we asked them why they are setting up their own shelter instead of seeking help from outside, the people said that they have no choice because nobody comes to interior places like this and helps them"

He added, "Also in Muttur, the government has taken control on 19 houses and people from those houses have not been given temporary houses and most of them are staying with their friends and relatives. People said that when they are forced to go back to Muttur, they found that their houses have been taken by the Military so they are now staying with friends and relatives.

Government has given roofing sheets but not the building materials for the houses that are completely damaged.

The team found out that there were shortage of medical supplies and very few doctors at the Muttur hospital. And people have to find their own treatment.

The security situation in Muttur is worrying people even though assurance has been given that they are safe.

The Incident where leaflets were circulated by the LTTE saying

CHA

to leave the place and that attack will take place shortly, most people wanted to leave the place but the military had blocked the road and had not given permission for them to leave. It's just that the government wants to give the impression to others that the situation is normal in Muttur

Most people who have gone back to Muttur are Muslims. The Tamils who fled Muttur are still in Trincomalee.”

The Team said, when they spoke to a government servant who is operating IDPs situation in the schools, has told them that government has stopped the IDP intakes in all the schools there. So, anyone who flees Muttur, will be forced to stay on the road or should go back to Muttur. It's another attempt to make sure people do not try to leave Muttur.

People in Trincomalee camps have been asked to leave the place, and since they are not leaving, the measure which has been adapted to force these people out is, to stop food for them. According to the GS, food supplies are not coming in from the government. The world food program has given them some supplies and again the government official said there is an attempt by the government to force WFP to stop their supplies. When The Team contacted WFP they said that “they would not let someone influence them in humanitarian work.”

He added “ I/NGOs were also been discourage to stop the food supplies, and World concern is the only organization who helps the people at this moment”

Briefing on current Human Security implications and responses
Chaturika briefed on the following topics.

Concerns on the Humanitarian Space:

- In a press briefing on the 1st Sep 2006, the ICRC's delegate- general for the Asia-pacific region, Reto Meister, has called on both parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka to clearly respect the rules of war as laid down in the Geneva Conventions and customary law.
- Following this statement, On Saturday Sep 30th a grenade exploded in front of the international Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office in Jaffna causing material damage to the building, which clearly indicates a breach of humanitarian space by violating the terms of CFA and International Humanitarian law by the parties to the conflict.

Access to conflict affected region

- A Map indicating the regions where given access is permitted is shared with the participants.

- One major concern for the past two months has been the impeded access to conflict affected areas. The recent reporting indicates no changes to this scenario. A9 remains closed with limited and conditional access to selected INGOs, namely UN/ICRC. The air routes are accessible, while distribution of assistance can only be done via government chartered ship with ICRC flag.
- In recent news, GoSL has stated that they are seeking alternative routes to A9 leading to the conflict region.

Batticaloa: Internally Displaced Persons

- As reported in the Morning Leader on 04th of October, High Commissioner for the UNHCR, Antonio Gueterres while addressing the annual meeting of UNHCR's 70 nation governing body in Geneva last Monday, has stated that the UNHCR did not and would wait for an official notification but would try to respond according to the needs of the people in their own ability
- As reported by UNICEF a number of protection agencies forming the IDP protection coordination group have decided to carry out a rapid assessment in Batticaloa. It was initially aimed at looking at the immediate displacement context with a view to addressing the immediate protection issues affecting the IDP population. It began on the 28th of August 2006 and was completed on the 15th of September 2006

Human rights Concerns

- According to the statement by the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) on September 29th, civil society organizations in SL have made a great advance during the last week when they were able to identify the group of persons who were allegedly involved in the abductions in Colombo. On the basis of their information the police at Kotehena have been able to arrest several persons who belong to this group.
- According to the Daily Mirror of 4th October, Arts faculty Dean of the Eastern University, Mr.D. Sukumal is reported missing since 29th of September. Abductions have requested the Vice chancellor, Prof S Ravindranath to submit his resignation and he had done so. Batticaloa police station indicated that there are no formal complaints made to date but that they are carrying out investigation.
- Mr. Ratnamoorthy a jewelry shop owner in Jaffna was shot six times on his thigh by unknown gunmen while he was seated in front of his jewelry shop, on Sep 9th. The fact that the official police reports are done in Sinhala, which is a secondary language for Mr. Ratnamoorthy a native Tamil, is quite shocking and could be considered a

violation of his rights. However, letters written by his wife indicates that he has sought help in seeking asylum in a foreign country.

Security Update

- 4 claymore incidents(3 recovered), 1 Grenade attacks, 6 assassinations and 3 AP mines
- Stay away from military targets
- Do not follow military vehicles
- There were 4 youths have been abducted in Batticaloa.
- Need to accountable to your staff where they are moving and etc.

--	--	--	--