

# SRI LANKA

## | Working environment |

### ○ The context

The end of the 26-year conflict between Government forces and the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in May 2009 changed the operational environment in Sri Lanka. The massive displacement of the population in the north of the country which took place in the final stages of the war, is being resolved gradually. About 195,000 IDPs, forced from their homes during the final fighting, had returned to their homes by August 2010, in movements organized by the Government. Returns are expected to continue in 2011.

Nonetheless, displacement remains an issue. Some IDPs, mainly in the Jaffna and Vavuniya districts in northern Sri Lanka, are still living with host families, and others may remain in emergency sites for some time yet, mainly as mine action in return areas continues. UNHCR continues to advocate for durable solutions for some 212,000 IDPs around the country who fled their homes prior to April 2008. This is a complex situation requiring various solutions from the Government, with UNHCR support.

The overall improvement in the situation is also prompting more Sri Lankan refugees, mainly from Tamil Nadu in India, to start returning home. In 2011, UNHCR expects an increase in the number of refugee returns. The numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees in Sri Lanka are expected to remain stable, but the search for durable solutions will continue to be challenging. Humanitarian assistance is still needed in Sri Lanka even though the Government's focus is shifting from relief to early recovery and development.



## Planning figures for Sri Lanka

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Pakistan	240	240	240	240
	Myanmar	60	60	60	60
	Various	20	20	20	20
Asylum-seekers	Pakistan	190	0	190	0
Returnees (refugees)	Sri Lanka	5,000	5,000	21,300	21,300
IDPs	Sri Lanka	202,500	185,100	127,200	109,800
Returnees (IDPs)	Sri Lanka	232,400	232,400	75,300	75,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>440,410</b>	<b>422,820</b>	<b>224,310</b>	<b>206,720</b>



Returnee children in Mullaitivu district attend school in their village of origin.

UNHCR/SENEVIRATNE

## Main objectives and targets

### Favourable protection environment

- Monitor and advocate for IDP, returnee and refugee rights and assist with individual protection interventions.
- *Regular protection monitoring is undertaken in places of displacement, return and relocation, and consultations are held with 1,200 persons.*

### Fair protection process

- Advocate for and support the provision of civil status documentation.
- *200 persons are provided with legal counselling regarding civil status documentation.*

### Security from violence and exploitation

- Prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, and raise awareness of it through training and capacity-building activities.
- *At least five capacity-building training activities are organized in five locations.*

### Basic needs and services

- Ensure provision of adequate emergency shelter and non-food items (NFIs) for IDPs.
- *10,000 IDPs living in camps and with host families receive assistance.*

- Assist IDP returnees through protection monitoring and shelter cash grants.

➤ *10,400 IDP returnee families receive shelter cash grants and 21,000 families receive NFI packages.*

- Ensure that facilitated and spontaneous refugee returnees from various countries have access to material assistance and benefit from protection monitoring.

➤ *5,000 - 15,000 individual refugee returnees involved in facilitated return movements receive a repatriation grant and NFIs.*

➤ *Protection monitoring is undertaken for 6,000 spontaneous individual returnees.*

- Ensure access to primary and secondary education for refugee children.

➤ *50 refugee children at the primary level and ten refugee children at the secondary level are assisted.*

- Ensure shelter support for the returnees following long-term displacement.

➤ *Provide 900 transitional shelters in at least three locations and 350 shelter kits; assist in the repair of 200 homes.*

- Persons with specific needs are identified and receive UNHCR support directly or through referrals.

- *Some 500 persons with specific needs receive assistance.*

### Community participation and self-management

- Improve returnees' level of self-reliance and enhance their livelihoods.
- *At least 60 quick impact projects are implemented.*

### Durable solutions

- Find durable solutions for IDPs through return, local integration and relocation.
- *About 80 per cent of camp-based new IDPs return voluntarily to areas of origin.*
- Facilitate voluntary repatriation of refugees from India and elsewhere, and assist some 6,000 spontaneous returnees.
- *5,000 - 15,000 refugees are helped to repatriate voluntarily, and 6,000 spontaneous returnees benefit from protection monitoring.*
- Re-establish housing, land and property rights.
- *200 people of concern are provided with legal counselling regarding housing, land and property documentation.*
- Monitor the returnee reintegration process.
- *Regular protection monitoring is undertaken in places of return and consultations are conducted with 1,200 persons.*

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

Ministry of Resettlement  
Ministry of Economic Development  
Ministry of Finance and Planning

#### NGOs:

Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute  
Centre for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights  
Danish Refugee Council  
Jaffna Social Action Centre  
Muslim Aid  
OFERR  
Organization for Human Rights and Resources Development  
Rural Development Foundation  
Sewalanka Foundation  
Sri Lanka Red Cross Society  
The Refugee Rehabilitation Organization

#### Others:

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka  
UNDP  
UNOPS

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

Presidential Task Force for the Northern Rehabilitation and Recovery Process  
Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs  
Ministry of Disaster Management  
Ministry of External Affairs  
Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs  
Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms  
Ministry of Social Services

#### NGOs:

Adventist Development and Relief Agency  
CARE  
CARITAS  
Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions  
Christian Aid UK  
Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies  
Eastern Self-Reliant Community Awakening Organization  
FORUT  
Habitat for Humanity  
Handicap International  
HelpAge International  
Mannar Women's Development Federation  
Non-Violent Peace Force  
Norwegian Refugee Council  
Oxfam  
People in Need  
Relief International  
Sarvodaya  
Save the Children Sri Lanka  
Socio-Economic Development Organization of Trincomalee  
United Methodist Committee on Relief  
World Vision Sri Lanka  
ZOA Refugee Care

#### Others:

Asian Development Bank  
ICRC  
UN agencies  
World Bank

## The needs

Though fulfilling the humanitarian and protection-related needs of IDP and refugee returnees remains its priority, UNHCR will provide some assistance to community development. It will also help to build the capacity of national institutions and local NGOs involved in returnee reintegration and recovery.

UNHCR is one of the main providers of humanitarian assistance to IDPs and returnees in Sri Lanka. Its shelter cash grant project provides substantial help to the displaced and will continue to enable returnees to restart their lives. An evaluation by UNHCR and external experts showed that recipients use the grant responsibly, and that it has a major positive impact on their lives, as well as on the local economy. Providing basic non-food items (NFIs) is another priority, as is the implementation of quick-impact projects (QIPs) to help communities re-establish themselves.

UNHCR is the lead for the protection sector and has direct access to beneficiaries, although some of its NGO operational partners often face restrictions. The shelter grant registration process provides an invaluable opportunity for UNHCR to collect baseline protection information, monitor returns, and identify the specific protection needs of returning families, particularly the most vulnerable.

UNHCR identifies the needs of IDPs and returnees through its protection monitoring. Key concerns include the lack of personal documentation, such as national identity cards, land deeds and birth, marriage and death certificates; the separation of family members by conflict; displacement and rehabilitation procedures, and the urgent need for

livelihood support. UNHCR will respond to the immediate needs of refugee returnees, particularly documentation, and repatriation and reintegration support.

## Strategy and activities in 2011

In 2011, UNHCR will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs and returnees, but as the numbers of IDPs in camps and those returning home decline, progressively less material assistance will be required. The protection of IDPs remaining in camps will continue to be monitored. There will also be a focus on finding durable solutions for those without land, ensuring that land and property issues are addressed, and supporting access to justice.

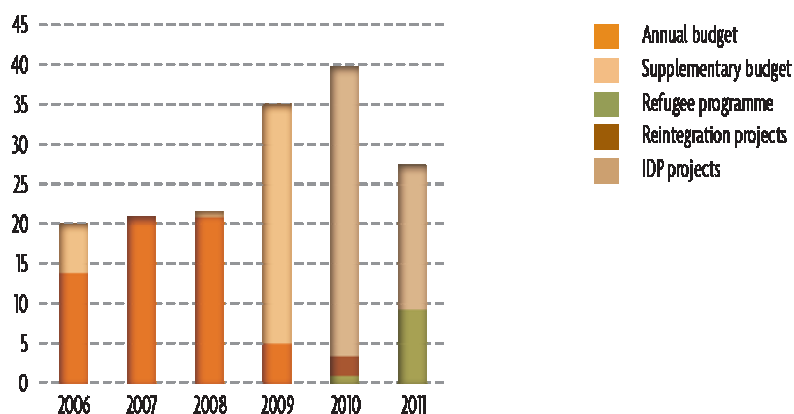
Community-based QIPs will help returnees re-establish themselves and their livelihoods. UNHCR will increase activities that support civil society, and assist community-based organizations and national bodies.

In the longer term, UNHCR's strategic direction will be guided by the transition from relief to early recovery and development. UNHCR will continue to work with communities and build the capacity of national institutions and national NGOs to ensure that they are able to take over UNHCR's protection, assistance and coordination roles effectively.

In 2010, the improving situation in northern Sri Lanka has prompted an increase in facilitated repatriation and spontaneous returns of refugees from India and elsewhere. This trend is expected to accelerate in 2011, when it is estimated that up to 15,000 UNHCR-facilitated and 6,000

## UNHCR's budget in Sri Lanka 2006 – 2011

Millions (USD)



spontaneous individual returns will take place.

Refugee returnees face problems similar to those of IDP returnees, and will require help with restarting their lives, including assistance to obtain personal documentation.

UNHCR will continue to advocate for Sri Lanka's accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol. It will conduct refugee status determination (RSD) in accordance with its mandate, and assist recognized refugees to find durable solutions. The Government does not allow refugees to integrate locally or work, despite UNHCR's advocacy for these rights. As very few refugees in Sri Lanka choose to repatriate to their countries of origin, resettlement remains the primary durable solution for them, but this option remains limited. As a result, refugees stay in Sri Lanka for extended periods, often in difficult circumstances.

#### ○ Constraints

Access issues for humanitarian organizations have eased to a certain extent, but the operational environment will continue to be challenging in 2011, both for the UN as well as international and national NGOs. This may slow UNHCR's operations, especially if there is a lack of access to some areas for NGO partners.

The most pressing unmet needs will be those of the long-term displaced. It will be essential to have the support of development partners to ensure an early resolution to the situation of this group.

## Organization and implementation

### ○ Coordination

UNHCR will maintain close links to ministries and with the Presidential Task Force for the Northern Rehabilitation and Recovery Process. It will maintain its lead role in the sectors of protection, shelter and NFIs. UNHCR will continue co-chairing the early recovery housing sub-group, to ensure coordination within the sector and effective advocacy.

The Office cooperates with other relevant actors to ensure that assistance gaps beyond UNHCR's mandate are quickly addressed. For instance, UNHCR's Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank provides the latter with return and protection monitoring information triggering the release of World Bank funds for recovery and reconstruction.

## Financial information

Financial requirements for Sri Lanka have increased since 2006, in parallel with successive waves of displacement, particularly during the emergency in 2008-2009, when some 280,000 people were displaced. A significant jump in needs in early 2009 also required a substantial response. Providing shelter, a shelter cash grant for returnees, and NFIs has pushed the overall budget up in 2009 and in 2010.

The year 2011 is expected to witness increased refugee returns and a slower pace of IDP returns, resulting in corresponding budgetary adjustments. This update shows a net decrease in UNHCR's budget for Sri Lanka, from USD 39.7 million in 2010, to USD 27.2 million in 2011.

## UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices 6

□ Total staff 145

International 22

National 113

JPOs 5

UNVs 1

Others 4

## Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- IDPs in displacement camps and refugee returnees will suffer from a lack of essential NFIs. About 70 per cent of returnees will receive no NFI assistance.
- Fewer people with specific needs will receive targeted assistance and support for equal access to justice or legal counselling.
- Self-reliance and access to livelihoods will be minimal, as no more than 20 QIPs will be implemented.
- The long-term displaced persons returning home will not benefit from sufficient transitional shelter assistance and relocation support.
- Activities to build the capacity of national protection partners, local government authorities and the judiciary will be reduced, as training and other activities will be limited.

## 2011 UNHCR Budget for Sri Lanka (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
National administrative framework	0	495,662	495,662
Prevention of displacement	0	447,662	447,662
Subtotal	0	943,324	943,324
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Registration and profiling	23,343	456,412	479,755
Fair and efficient status determination	43,343	0	43,343
Civil status documentation	539,947	726,662	1,266,609
Subtotal	606,633	1,183,074	1,789,707
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Law enforcement	279,973	0	279,973
Gender-based violence	326,656	438,712	765,368
Access to legal remedies	0	499,662	499,662
Subtotal	606,630	938,374	1,545,004
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,624,284	4,657,958	6,282,242
Basic domestic and hygiene items	301,837	2,662,399	2,964,237
Primary health care	35,337	0	35,337
Education	139,337	0	139,337
Services for groups with specific needs	25,087	395,816	420,904
Subtotal	2,125,883	7,716,174	9,842,057
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	46,686	0	46,686
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,599,947	2,974,724	4,574,671
Subtotal	1,646,633	2,974,724	4,621,357
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Voluntary return	2,269,973	0	2,269,973
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	544,973	1,413,324	1,958,297
Resettlement	46,686	0	46,686
Subtotal	2,861,633	1,413,324	4,274,957
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Supply chain and logistics	0	1,315,024	1,315,024
Programme management, coordination and support	1,105,322	1,734,943	2,840,265
Subtotal	1,105,322	3,049,967	4,155,289
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,952,733</b>	<b>18,218,961</b>	<b>27,171,694</b>

	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
2010 Revised budget	1,004,587	2,413,005	36,330,717	39,748,309