

SRI LANKA

Operational highlights

- As leader of the protection and shelter sectors including non-food items (NFIs) and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) in Sri Lanka, UNHCR coordinated emergency humanitarian responses and advocacy for more than 280,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) during the conflict between the Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).
- UNHCR's monitoring of protection and other interventions improved safety for IDPs and returnees. Advocacy was particularly important, given the limits on humanitarian space. UNHCR regained access to the former rebel-held area of the Vanni in the north of the country, from which humanitarian agencies had been evacuated in late 2008, only in October 2009.
- At the height of the crisis, in May, UNHCR airlifted 5,000 tents to Sri Lanka to supplement its emergency shelter response for IDPs. In total, some 16,700 tents and emergency shelter kits were delivered. In addition, the Office provided NFIs to 38,200 IDP families accommodated in emergency sites.
- By the end of the year, some 185,000 people had left the 'closed' camps, where they had little freedom of movement, through a Government-organized return process. UNHCR provided NFI return kits to some 39,700 families and distributed shelter cash grant forms to 25,200 families.
- To sustain returns and promote stability, UNHCR implemented 34 small-scale and quick-impact projects, mainly in the east and in southern Mannar district.
- While the conflict during the first half of 2009 limited the number of refugee returns from India, by the end of the year UNHCR had facilitated the return of 823 refugees. UNHCR also supported 251 refugees in Sri Lanka.

Working environment

The Government of Sri Lanka announced the end of the 26-year-long conflict with the LTTE on 17 May 2009. Until then, the population of the Vanni had been trapped and displaced inside the conflict zone many times. They had been



prey to hunger and high levels of insecurity, with little access to humanitarian assistance.

Large groups of people fled the conflict zone, mainly into the district of Vavuniya, but also to Jaffna, Mannar and Trincomalee districts. The massive displacements in April and May created significant challenges in addressing the needs of the more than 280,000 people accommodated in 42 sites at the height of the emergency.

Though UN agencies and NGOs initially had only limited access to displaced populations, between May and August 2009 the situation improved significantly, as did conditions at the IDP sites. Nevertheless the sites remained crowded until the Government accelerated the release of vulnerable people and began returns in August.

Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Various	250	250	37	37
Asylum-seekers	Pakistan	330	-	46	39
	Various	10	-	80	40
IDPs	Sri Lanka	434,900	434,900	51	-
Returned ex-IDPs including returned IDP-like	Sri Lanka	94,600	94,600	51	-
Returnees (refugees)	India	1,500	800	-	-
	Various	10	10	-	-
Total		531,600	530,560		



Returned Sri Lankan IDPs at a shelter grant distribution in Manthai, Mannar.

UNHCR / S. PERERA

Approximately 11,000 people suspected of links to the LTTE were sent to unofficial rehabilitation centres.

In October, the Government increased the pace of its return programme and by the end of December approximately 51,000 families had moved back to their districts of origin and into their own homes or been taken in by host families. Nearly 29,000 people, including the elderly, children and pregnant women, were released between August and December into host family and community care.

| Achievements and impact |

• Main objectives

UNHCR sought to protect and provide emergency shelter and NFIs to IDPs in camps and those living with host families. To facilitate returns, it aimed to provide protection monitoring, shelter assistance and NFIs. UNHCR also sought to find durable solutions for IDPs through return or relocation and assist the voluntary repatriation of Tamil refugees living in India.

Other objectives were to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; expand awareness-raising, training and capacity-building activities; support measures

to reduce tension between host communities, returnees and the military; and undertake refugee status determination (RSD) for refugees.

| Protection and solutions |

The security of civilians, family separation during and after the conflict, and injuries and overcrowding in 'closed' camps were key protection concerns during 2009. Other challenges included unregulated screening and separation procedures, arbitrary arrests and detention, harassment, and sexual and gender-based violence.

UNHCR strengthened protection networks of UN agencies and local and international NGOs in Colombo and the districts. Together with its partners, it identified protection risks and devised strategies to counter them.

Meetings with government counterparts addressed protection risks while promoting a participatory approach to humanitarian programmes. UNHCR led joint advocacy against transfers to secondary 'closed' camps without freedom of movement in districts of return. Further joint advocacy efforts led to the introduction of a pass system in early December, increasing the freedom of movement of camp-based IDPs.

○ *Activities and assistance*

Community services: UNHCR ensured that IDPs had access to basic services, and improved security for women, children and people with specific needs. In the largest camp, Menik Farm, UNHCR helped police to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. Eighty campaigns to raise awareness of sexual violence were conducted in 40 camps, and 20 in host communities.

In return areas in the east and outside the Vanni, UNHCR implemented 34 quick-impact projects which supported the restoration of essential community services. All 251 refugees in Sri Lanka received monthly subsistence allowances.

Domestic needs and household support: UNHCR provided NFIs to some 38,200 IDP families accommodated in camps and IDP sites. Upon their return, some 39,700 IDP returnee families received NFI return kits.

Legal assistance: As protection sector lead, UNHCR's advocacy contributed significantly to the improvement in freedom of movement at the end of 2009 for IDPs. District Government Agent offices were provided with computers to help them manage information related to the return of IDPs.

UNHCR conducted close to 1,200 monitoring visits to IDP and returnee locations and identified more than 550 people with specific needs who received assistance. More than 3,100 legal consultations were carried out, about 6,300 documentation cases were assisted and almost 3,700 documents issued. In addition, some 1,150 military personnel and government officers, 200 NGO staff and 2,100 IDPs and host community members received protection training.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR helped enhance the efficiency of programme delivery by implementing partners, and produced regular updates on its own and partners' programmes.

Shelter and other infrastructure: In addition to erecting about 10,500 lightweight tents and 254 temporary shelters in the east, UNHCR constructed more than 6,200 emergency shelters on sites cleared from jungle by the authorities. Drainage at all sites was improved to prevent flooding during the monsoons. By the end of the year, UNHCR had distributed shelter grant forms to close to 25,200 IDP returnee families, enabling them to receive a grant to repair or reconstruct shelters damaged during the conflict.

Transport and logistics: Although access to the Vanni area was denied, UNHCR was able to send supplies to the conflict

zones through Trincomalee with the assistance of the ICRC and the cooperation of the authorities and the LTTE. After the end of the conflict, UNHCR airlifted 5,000 emergency tents to supplement emergency shelter efforts for IDPs.

○ *Constraints*

The intensification of the conflict during the early part of the year restricted the access of humanitarian agencies to civilians displaced in conflict areas. Humanitarian access for UN agencies and NGOs to the camps improved later in the year. Conditions in the camps remained difficult until the beginning of accelerated returns in October and the introduction of limited freedom of movement in early December. Some initial returns to areas which had not yet been declared safe for returns because of mines and unexploded ordnance prompted concerns.

| *Financial information* |

Total requirements for the Sri Lanka operation rose significantly during the course of the year. By the end of 2009, the supplementary budget for IDPs had risen to USD 34.6 million, bringing the total needs for the Sri Lanka operation to USD 39.9 million. Through a generous donor response, the Office received its full requirements for the emergency.

| *Organization and implementation* |

○ *Management*

In 2009, UNHCR had five field offices in Sri Lanka and a country office in Colombo. The operation was implemented by 163 staff members, including 29 international staff, 128 national employees, three JPOs and three international UNVs. In addition, at the height of the emergency UNHCR deployed emergency-response teams and benefited from generous secondments by partner agencies.

○ *Working with others*

UNHCR is the lead agency for inter-agency coordination in the areas of protection and emergency shelter, NFIs and camp management. In both the protection and shelter sectors, UNHCR coordinated the humanitarian efforts of 55 agencies. The Office established partnerships with 22 national and international partners, including government agencies, NGOs and UN organizations.

Overall assessment

UNHCR revised its objectives to respond to the massive displacement of Sri Lankans in 2009. Despite difficult conditions, all IDPs were provided with emergency shelter and life-saving assistance.

UNHCR played a key role in promoting international standards and lobbying for Sri Lanka to fulfil its legal obligations related to the screening of IDPs, separation of individuals suspected of having links to the LTTE, freedom of movement for IDPs and conditions for return. Significant progress was achieved in nearly all areas, particularly in the latter two.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services

NGOs: Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute, *Arbeiter Samariter Bund Deutschland*, Center for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, Danish Refugee Council, Eastern Self-Reliant Community Awakening Organization, Jaffna Social Action Centre, Muslim Aid, Norwegian Refugee Council, OfERR Ceylon, Organisation for Human Rights and Resource Development, Rural Development Foundation, Sewa Lanka Foundation, Social Economic Development Organization of Trincomalee, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, The Refugee Rehabilitation Organization

Others: Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, UNOPS

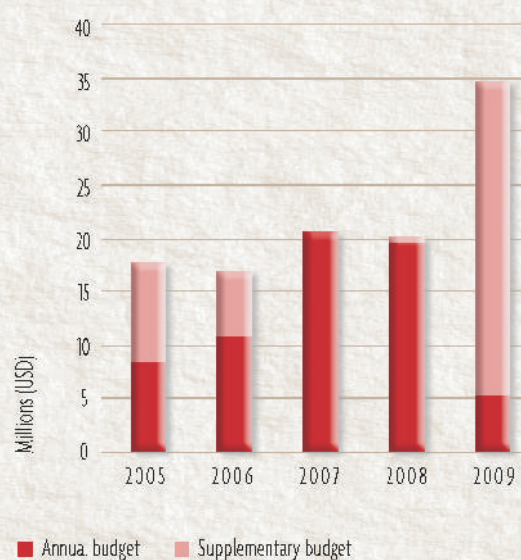
Operational partners

Government: Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services

NGOs: Centre for Policy Alternatives, Foundation for Coexistence, Legal Aid Foundation

Others: Asian Development Bank, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, FAO, ILO, IOM, JICA, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDSS, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNV Programme, WFP, World Bank

Expenditure in Sri Lanka 2005 - 2009



Budget, income and expenditure in Sri Lanka (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	5,755,464	5,620,018	769,439	6,389,457	5,281,889
IDP operations in Sri Lanka SB	32,508,295	33,605,297	0	33,605,297	29,367,288
Total	38,263,759	39,225,315	769,439	39,994,754	34,649,177

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Sri Lanka (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,352,538	3,789,917	6,142,455	0
Community services	338,686	301,685	640,371	370,685
Domestic needs and household support	0	8,121,462	8,121,462	0
Legal assistance	723,654	2,207,915	2,931,569	450,631
Operational support (to agencies)	15,075	566,792	581,867	0
Sanitation	0	0	0	185,915
Shelter and infrastructure	0	6,939,262	6,939,262	538,029
Transport and logistics	179,054	1,444,862	1,623,917	11,727
Water	0	0	0	12,205
Instalments to implementing partners	591,820	3,884,095	4,475,915	(1,569,193)
Subtotal operational activities	4,200,827	27,255,991	31,456,817	0
Programme support	1,081,063	2,111,297	3,192,360	0
Total expenditure	5,281,889	29,367,288	34,649,177	0

Cancellation on previous years' expenditure

(494,959)

Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	1,410,943	6,730,342	8,141,285	
Reporting received	(819,123)	(2,846,247)	(3,665,370)	
Balance	591,820	3,884,095	4,475,915	

Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:			
Outstanding 1st January			1,880,263
Reporting received			(1,569,193)
Refunded to UNHCR			(156,047)
Currency adjustment			(1,435)
Outstanding 31st December			153,589