

SRI LANKA

| Working environment |

• The context

The Government-led military operations in northern Sri Lanka which ended in May 2009 displaced some 280,000 people, most of whom fled their homes in the last few months of the fighting. The majority of these internally displaced persons (IDPs) now live in closed camps in Vavuniya district, as well as in camps in Mannar, Jaffna and Trincomalee. An additional 300,000 IDPs, some of whom have been displaced since 1990, are also in need of durable solutions.

The IDPs originate mainly from the Mannar, Vavuniya, Killinochchi, Mullaitivu and Jaffna districts in northern Sri Lanka, as well as from some areas in the east of the country. Though the end of hostilities has paved the way for the voluntary return of displaced people, some key obstacles to return remain. For instance, many of the areas of return are riddled with mines and unexploded ordnance. Not all are considered to be of high risk, particularly those away from former frontlines, but mine-risk surveys and the demarcation of no-go areas are urgently needed.

Other key obstacles to return include the need to re-establish administrative structures in areas formerly held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam; the destruction or damaged condition of public infrastructure and private homes; and the breakdown of the economy—including agriculture and fisheries.

The Government of Sri Lanka is planning the return framework, and it has called on UNHCR for support with return transport, non-food items, return shelter, livelihoods support and assistance in building the capacity of local authorities.



Planning figures

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2010		DEC 2010 - JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Pakistan	250	250	310	310	370	370
	Various	90	90	100	100	110	110
Asylum-seekers	Pakistan	400	400	450	450	500	500
	Various	40	40	40	40	40	40
Returnees (refugees)		5,000	5,000	1,000	1,000	10,000	10,000
Internally displaced		496,500	496,500	422,200	422,200	350,400	350,400
Returnees (IDPs)		8,300	8,300	74,300	74,300	71,800	71,800
TOTAL		510,580	510,580	498,400	498,400	433,220	433,220

With some progress having been recently achieved, it is hoped that a substantial number of IDPs will be able to return to their places of origin in the latter half of 2009, but a large portion of new IDPs are also likely to remain in the camps and with host families until well into 2010.

● *The needs*

The speedy return of IDPs will be the greatest need in 2010. At the same time, a significant number of IDPs will remain in the camps in Vavuniya district pending de-mining, particularly in the districts of Mullaitivu and Killinochchi.

Return is contingent on the completion of de-mining, the ability of returnees to resume livelihood activities, the setting up of adequate infrastructure and the availability of government services in areas of return. IDPs returning to their areas of origin who find their buildings damaged, looted or occupied by security forces, will require shelter assistance. The Office will monitor the return process to ensure that protection concerns are addressed.

Sri Lanka is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and there is no national policy or legislation directly related to refugees and asylum-seekers. This results in a lack of local integration opportunities for refugees. For those who cannot return to their countries, resettlement remains the only available durable solution.

In 2010, an estimated 1,000 facilitated returns are expected to take place from

India to Sri Lanka, most to the east of the country. The returnees will require reintegration assistance in the form of non-food items and initial livelihood support.

| **Main objectives** |

Favourable protection environment

- Monitor and advocate for IDPs' rights and assist them with individual protection interventions.

Security from violence and exploitation

- Prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and expand awareness-raising, training and capacity-building activities.
- Support confidence-building and stabilization measures to reduce tension between host communities, returnees and the military.

Basic needs and services

- Ensure protection, emergency shelter and non-food items for IDPs in camps and those living with host families.
- Provide return assistance in the form of protection monitoring, shelter assistance and non-food items.

Durable solutions

- Find durable solutions through return, local integration and relocation of IDPs.
- Facilitate voluntary repatriation for refugees from India.

External relations

- Raise awareness of the situation of IDPs in Sri Lanka.

Key targets for 2010

- IDPs benefit from greater physical security and freedom of movement in return areas, in camps and among host families.
- The provision of shelter assistance and distribution of relief items is effectively coordinated with the authorities and partners in camps and return areas.
- Returnees and host communities are supported with quick-impact projects.
- IDPs have civil documentation and access to national protection mechanisms, including free legal aid.
- Protection interventions and advocacy assist individuals with specific needs.
- Protection risks and human-rights abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence, are identified and reported.
- Workshops and trainings provide information on human rights, the guiding principles on internal displacement, and good governance to the authorities, security forces, NGOs, IDPs and returnees.
- Confidence-building and stabilization measures ensure communities, government institutions and security forces gain more trust in each other.
- The facilitation of voluntary repatriation from India.
- Asylum-seekers have access to fair and efficient refugee status determination (RSD), and refugees receive care and maintenance and assistance in resettlement procedures.

| **Strategy and activities** |

In 2010, UNHCR's primary focus is on the voluntary return of IDPs. It includes return assistance in form of non-food items and basic shelter. Protection monitoring in return areas will also be a strategic priority. UNHCR and its protection partners will organize go-and-see visits and monitor the return and relocation process.

The Office will implement quick-impact projects to reconstruct community infrastructure, rebuild community-based organizations and to improve livelihood opportunities.

With the end of the conflict, UNHCR will continue to facilitate the repatriation of refugees in India who are originally from the northern and eastern regions of Sri Lanka, on a case by case basis. Some refugee returnees will need assistance with livelihoods and also with building or repairing their homes.



An internally displaced carpenter shows off the new shelter he constructed himself.

UNHCR / B. BALOCH

UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	6
□ Total staff	166
International	23
National	125
JPOs	5
UNVs	9
Others	4

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure, Ministry for Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services, Ministry for Disaster Management and Human Rights, National Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

NGOs:

Rural Development Foundation, Campaign for Development and Solidarity, Jaffna Social Action Centre, The Refugee Rehabilitation Organization, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, OFERR, Eastern Self Reliant Community Awakening Organisation, SEED, Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute, Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, Socio-Economic Development Organisation of Trincomalee, Organisation for Human rights and resources development, Muslim Aid, Sewalanka Foundation

Others:

UNDP, UN Habitat, UNOPS

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Presidential Taskforce, Commissioner General of Essential Services, Ministry of Social Services, Ministry of Child Development and Women's Empowerment, Ministry of Justice

NGOs:

Adventist Development and Relief Agency, CARE, CARITAS, FORUT, Habitat for Humanity, HelpAge international, Oxfam, Relief International, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Save the Children Sri Lanka, World Vision Sri Lanka, ZOA Refugee Care, People in Need, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Christian Aid UK, Handicap International, Internews Network, Non-Violent Peace Force, ICRC

Others:

Asia Development Bank, UN agencies, World Bank

The aim will be to build confidence between IDPs and host communities, as well as between communities, the civil administration and security forces. UNHCR will encourage governmental partners to continue developing the reconciliation framework of "Confidence Building and Stabilization Measures for the North and the East".

UNHCR will continue its emergency protection activities in the north to enhance monitoring of the newly displaced and interventions in close coordination with the Government. It will also advocate for freedom of movement, the option to leave the camps and reside with host families, and returns in safety and dignity.

The Office will continue to guide shelter activities and the distribution of non-food items through the Shelter Coordination Cell. It will also dismantle camps once returns pick up.

In the east, more recovery and development is needed to secure sustainable returns. UNHCR will continue to build strategic alliances to ensure that development actors take over. In Batticaloa, UNHCR will cautiously phase down its operations in 2010.

○ Constraints

In the north, the difficulty in carrying out protection activities and the lack of freedom of movement for IDPs, particularly in Vavuniya will continue.

Humanitarian access to return areas will likely be a challenge, especially for NGOs. In 2010, high security zones in certain areas in Jaffna and the east, and possibly in Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi, will prevent IDPs from returning to their homes.

The main constraint to early return will be the rate at which de-mining is completed. De-mining has started in various districts and the Government as well as international de-mining agencies have scaled up their activities.

Organization and implementation

○ Coordination

UNHCR has the lead role within the inter-agency coordination mechanism in the sectors of protection, shelter and non-food assistance for IDPs. The IDP protection working group in Colombo, chaired by UNHCR, plays a vital coordination role, with similar structures in the districts. In close collaboration with its partners, UNHCR has created a shelter coordination cell to monitor and guide shelter interventions. The cell develops policies on emergency shelter, host-family support, return assistance and decommissioning of camps. Similar structures have been set up in the districts.

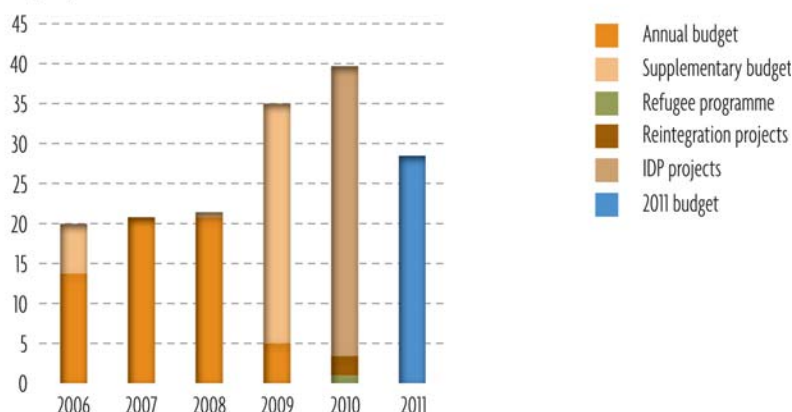
UNHCR implements activities directly and indirectly to ensure the access of returnees and displaced communities to assistance. To ensure the sustainability of the programmes, UNHCR works with partners at national, district and divisional governmental levels, as well as with national NGOs.

Financial information

The financial requirements have increased since 2005 primarily due to new displacements in 2006 and 2007, and especially because of the emergency in 2008-2009. The needs increased significantly in early 2009 with the emergence of 280,000 newly displaced people. Substantial assistance, especially for shelter, has been the main factor for the increase in the overall budget. In 2010, UNHCR may have to explore the possibility of more direct implementation due to lack of access to return areas for NGOs, which would increase the Office's staffing needs.

UNHCR's budget in Sri Lanka 2006 - 2011

Millions (USD)



2010 UNHCR Budget for Sri Lanka (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROJECTS PILLAR 3	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment				
International and regional instruments	18,421	0	0	18,421
National legal framework	0	159,030	453,488	612,518
Policies towards forced displacement	0	0	480,733	480,733
Prevention of displacement	0	420,001	0	420,001
Non-refoulement	18,421	0	0	18,421
Subtotal	36,842	579,031	934,221	1,550,094
Fair protection processes and documentation				
Family reunification	0	0	407,135	407,135
Civil status documentation	0	215,340	460,363	675,703
Subtotal	0	215,340	867,498	1,082,838
Security from violence and exploitation				
Effects of armed conflict	0	0	244,446	244,446
Law enforcement	0	95,275	0	95,275
Gender-based violence	14,357	0	707,123	721,480
Freedom of movement	0	0	470,492	470,492
Access to legal remedies	0	0	1,076,669	1,076,669
Subtotal	14,357	95,275	2,498,731	2,608,362
Basic needs and essential services				
Shelter and other infrastructure	0	718,548	14,780,545	15,499,093
Basic domestic and hygiene items	368,179	123,889	4,866,059	5,358,127
Primary health care	10,434	0	0	10,434
Education	98,561	0	0	98,561
Services for groups with specific needs	0	167,215	498,827	666,042
Subtotal	477,174	1,009,652	20,145,430	21,632,256
Community participation and self-management				
Participatory assessment and community mobilization	12,956	0	467,684	480,639
Community self-management and equal representation	0	0	1,347,020	1,347,020
Camp management and coordination	0	0	578,178	578,178
Subtotal	12,956	0	2,392,881	2,405,837

Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Some 20 per cent of IDPs returning to areas of origin will not receive return shelter support.
- Limited shelter assistance and non-food items will be provided to Sri Lankan refugees returning from India.
- Fewer IDPs returning to areas of origin will benefit from quick-impact projects to support reintegration and facilitate the re-establishment of public services.
- UNHCR's protection capacity and ability to monitor returns in the north will be reduced.
- Training and other capacity-building activities for national protection partners and institutions such as the judiciary will be reduced.
- UNHCR will provide only limited support to the Confidence Building and Stabilization Measures units in local government offices to address obstacles to return, stabilize return areas and facilitate communication between returning IDPs, the military and local authorities.
- Capacity-building assistance for local authorities will be limited.
- Vehicles will not be replaced, which may compromise security and delivery of services in particular in return areas.

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROJECTS PILLAR 3	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Durable solutions				
Voluntary return	0	0	332,452	332,452
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	0	0	722,452	722,452
Resettlement	103,741	0	0	103,741
Local integration support	0	0	287,281	287,281
Subtotal	103,741	0	1,342,186	1,445,927
External relations				
Donor relations	0	0	773,844	773,844
Subtotal	0	0	773,844	773,844
Logistics and operations support				
Supply chain and logistics	0	0	4,473,801	4,473,801
Programme management, coordination and support	359,517	513,708	2,902,124	3,775,350
Subtotal	359,517	513,708	7,375,925	8,249,151
Total	1,004,587	2,413,005	36,330,717	39,748,309

2011 Budget	28,500,000
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2009 Revised budget	
Annual budget	5,055,696
Supplementary budget	29,965,776
TOTAL	35,021,472