

SITUATION REPORT as at 31.03.2009

Mullaitivu District

Preamble

Mullaitivu is the most affected District by the recent disasters. The District consists of five AGA Divisions. The Main sources of income of the people are Agriculture and Fishing.

Almost the entire people from all AGA Divisions of the District are displaced. The IDPs of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi and parts of Vavuniya, Mannar and Jaffna Districts are now staying in Mullaitivu District.

The entire people are staying in the Safer Zone proclaimed by the Government. They are staying at the villages of Palayamaththalan, Puthumaththalan, Ampalavanpokkanai, Valangermadam, Mulliwaikal West and Mulliwaikal East coming under the Maritimepattu AGA division.

The population of Mullaitivu District as at 31.03.2009 is about 74,634 families, consisting of about 305,219 persons. This population is now living in the above mentioned villages amidst untold difficulties.

The authorities responsible are unable to provide the much needed pure drinking water and sanitation facilities due to lack of resources.

The safer zone is extremely congested and most of the people are living under worn out plastic tarpaulin tents.

The required food items for the issue of Dry Ration under WFP have not been transported to the district. Only 1079.902 MT of food items were brought by ships whereas the requirement was 4950 MT. There is a severe shortage of food in the area. People are unable to purchase the food in the market. Prices of the food items have skyrocketed and vegetables and fruits are not available at all in the area.

Amidst severe hardship, fear and risk of life, the government employees loyally render their services to the best of their ability.

01. Population

People of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi Districts and part of Vavuniya, Jaffna and Mannar Districts are displaced and are staying in the shrunken Mullaitivu District. As at end of March, 2009, about 74,634 families consisting of 305,219 persons are staying in the Safer Zone proclaimed by the Government, which consists of the Villages of Palayamaththalan, Puthumaththalan, Ampalavanpokkanai, Valaingermadam, Mulliwaikal West and Mulliwaikal East coming under the Maritimepattu AGA Division.

02. Distribution of Food and Non Food Items

Issue of Dry Ration (WFP Food)

- Food items for the issue of Dry Ration are being transported by Ships and offloaded at Puthumaththalan.
- Requirement of the essential food items for the issue of Dry Ration under WFP for the month of March, 2009 is as follows.

<u>S.No</u> <u>required</u>	<u>Items</u>	<u>Quantity</u> <u>for the Month (MT)</u>
01.	Rice	1980
02.	Wheat Flour	1980
03.	Dhal	594
04.	Sugar	198
05.	Oil	<u>198</u>
Total		<u>4950</u>

Note: - *The required quantity is calculated based on the quantity approved by the WFP.*

- As the required quantity of food has not been received, one week dry ration was issued only for about 77526 families. Even though the IDPs are eligible for dry ration for all four weeks in the month, the first week dry ration for the balance 3474 families and balance three weeks dry ration for the entire families was not issued. The IDPs could not get food from any other sources and they are hungry.

The details of the Essential food and Supplementary food items received by the ships in March, 2009 are as follows.

S.No	Date	Name of the Ships	Items	Quantity received (MT)
01	02.03.2009	Seruvela-02	Wheat Flour	15
			Dhal	2
			Sugar	2
			Oil	0.987
02	04.03.2009	Green Ocean	Wheat Flour	20
03	05.03.2009	Seruvela-02	Wheat Flour	19.97
04	06.03.2009	Green	Wheat Flour	10.95

		Ocean	Dhal	4
			Sugar	3
			Oil	1.995
05	08.03.2009	Binhtan	Wheat Flour	400
			Dhal	61
			Sugar	20
			Oil	19
06	17.03.2009	Binhtan	Rice	150
			Wheat Flour	250
			Dhal	60
			Sugar	20
			Oil	20
			Onion	5
			Pumpkin	5
			Potato	5
Total				1094.902

Issue of Other food Items

Vegetables:

15,000 Kg of Vegetables (5000 Kg of Onion, 5000 Kg of Pumpkin and 5000 Kg of Potato) were received from the Ship on 17.03.2009 These Vegetables were sent to Mullaitivu District by the Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services and they were distributed for a segment of the people.

There is a severe shortage for Essential Food, Supplementary Food including Milk Food, Vegetables and Fruits items in the District. On one hand the essential food and other important food items are not available in the District and on the other hand the people do not have income / money to buy the items. Thus, the distribution of food is entirely depending on arrivals of ships and the quantity brought.

The innocent people including children and women are in a pathetic condition. They are unable to get needed Milk Food, biscuits and any other important food and supplementary food items.

A nutrition survey conducted by the Department of Health, Mullaitivu District in last week of March, 2009, indicates that 69.91 % of children were under weight and acute under nutrition is very much increased. The report requests for immediate intervention in supply of food.

03. Health

- The Hospital in Putumathalan provides inward care service to the injured people and other patients. This is the only Hospital functioning with temporary wards, labour room and theater facilities and there are five centers providing OPD care services and mother and child health clinic services.
- Temporary Hospitals functioning at Valaingermadam and Mullivaikal Schools provide in patient care services.
- The Puthumaththalan Hospital treats an average of about 120 – 150 casualties, 20 – 30 children, 30 – 50 pregnant mothers and more than 400 in ward patients daily.
- According to the RDHS, Mullaitivu, 3551 injured civilians were admitted at Puthumathalan Hospital in the month of March, 2009 and 546 died after admission.
- The war casualties and those who are seriously ill are transported to Trincomalee by ships with the help of the ICRC.
- Details of patients transported from Puthumaththalan Hospital to Trincomalee Hospital by ships are as follows.

- According to the reports of the Puthumathalan Hospital, number of newly diagnosed, agitated mentally ill clients has been showing significant rise.

<u>S.No</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name of the Ship</u>	<u>No. of Patients transported</u>
1	02.03.2009	Seruwila 2	148
2	04.03.2009	Green Ocean	344
3	06.03.2009	Green Ocean	402
4	14.03.2009	Green Ocean	447
5	16.03.2009	Green Ocean	482
6	20.03.2009	Green Ocean	454
7	26.03.2009	Green Ocean	493
8	28.03.2009	Green Ocean	496
9	30.03.2009	Green Ocean	540

- According to the RDHS, Mullaitivu, they have received medicine including OPD, Clinic and surgical items, and Vaccines. He has reported that some important medicines such as anesthetic agents, blood bags have not been received.
- All children need Multivitamins and Milk food urgently.

04. Education

- Schools have not been functioning for the last three months, since January, 2009. Schools in the Safer Zone are functioning as Hospitals or otherwise are occupied by the IDPs.

- According to the report of the ZDEs, about 72,392 students from 284 schools of Kilinochi, Mullaitivu, Thunukkai, Vavuniya North and Maruthankerny Educational Zones are not attending the schools.
- More than 13,000 children who are to be enrolled in the Pre Schools are not attending the Pre Schools.
- More than 7800 Children in the age of primary schooling (ready to enroll in year one) are not attending the Schools.
- The O/L students, who should have sat for the special examination for Mathematics held on 24th January, 2009 did not appear for this examination.
- The A/L students who appeared for the 2008 examination were not able to receive their result sheets due to non functioning of the Postal System. Nearly 300 students who have qualified to continue their higher education in year 2009 in various Universities, Schools of Education, Technical College are unable to continue with the further application and documentation process due to non availability of postal system and transportation.

05. Postal

Mails to and from the District have not been transported since the month of January, 2009. As the postal service is the only means of communication, the people and organizations in the district are very much affected.

06. Banks

- The state banks such as the Bank of Ceylon and the People's Bank which were functioning at Puthukkudiyiruppu are not functioning now.
- The officers of the Government Departments and other State Institutions are finding it extremely difficult to get their salaries.
- MPCSSs, other Co-operative institutions and private institutions are facing problems in daily transactions and accounting.
- People are unable to make their cash transactions and the day to day life of the general public of the District is also adversely affected due to the non functioning of the Banks.
- The banks have been requested to resume functioning as early as possible.

07.Trading Activities

- Food and non food items to Mullaitivu District is being transported only by Ships, since February 2009.
- So far, the items transported by Ships are only for free distributions. Thus, the trading mechanism is not working. The MPCSSs have already applied for approval to transport the items urgently needed for the public by Ships and to sell them at a reasonable price.

- Due to the shortage of food and Non food items, prices of these items have increased manifold. There is scarcity of all the essential food and non food items in the District.

Prices of some important items as at end of March, 2009 is given bellow;

Items	Qty	Price (Rs.)
Rice	1 Kg	250
Flour	1 Kg	300
Sugar	1 Kg	1500
Milk Powder	400 g Pkt.	2000
Chilli	1 Kg	11,000
Onion	1 Kg	8500
Fish	1 Kg	1800 – 2000
Coconut	1 No	1300
Garlic	1 Kg	7500

08.Shelter

- Permanent shelters in the villages mentioned above are much less compared to the original population here.
- Most of the IDPs are staying in the temporary tarpaulin shelters in these villages. As a lot of people stay in the small stretch of the costal belt, people have put up these tarpaulin shelters along the sea shore and around the lagoon. Under the scorching sun its not easy to live under the tarpaulin sheets. As a result chickenpox, diarrhoea, viral fever, sore eyes, cough etc are widespread and children, women, elders and those sickly are vulnerable to the onslaught of these disease.

- The people face difficulties when it rains as the Tarpaulin sheets which they use are old and damaged and has many holes on them. If the damaged Tarpaulins are replaced, suffering of the people could be reduced and they will be safe guarded from the diseases.

09. Water Supply

- Predesiya Sabhas, Solidar and Caritas / HUDEC are involving in water supply and Distribution with the logistic support of the District Secretariat, Mullaitivu. And two types of drinking water supply system are adapted in the IDP locations. Direct distribution through bowsers, and by way of filling water tanks / points set at identified locations. On average 20 liters of drinking water would be fetched by a family per day and accordingly 374,000 liters of water being distributed a day, covering 13,700 families only.
- The areas of occupation of the IDPs are low lying lands with high salinity along the shores of the limited safe area, with high density of population. There are very limited drinking water wells available in this area that can only meet a small proportion of the greater needs of drinking water of the IDPs. Some of these wells are used for bathing and for washing purposes also, and therefore are unable to be used for drinking. There are possibilities to make open wells with good water source along the seashore for bathing purpose, but plastic barrels are not available in the market to make temporary wells. Very limited wells have been identified for water bowsoring, one post - tsunami tube well, which was established by ICRC, has been used for water bowsoring, with more than 150,000 litres of water pumped from the tube well by Solidar daily.

- About twenty five water tanks have been fixed by Predesiya Sabhas in the IDP sites to meet drinking water needs. In addition, ICRC has fixed a 10,000 liter water bladder, which is still in good condition even at this difficult ground. These structures are not enough to meet the enormous needs of the IDPs.
- Predesiya sabhas are facing difficulties to meet the running and maintenance expenses. They do not have the revenue or any allocation for this purpose.
- Another major challenge is to get adequate chlorine to treat the drinking water wells and bowsored water periodically. Finally, ICRC wathab team has received just 80 kg of chlorine, and the field team has been involved in identifying the wells, with the support of PHII.

10.Sanitation

- Sanitation facilities for the permanent residents of villages were already insufficient. Needed toilet materials are not available in the area.
- It is very difficult to find alternative solution to meet the huge needs of the IDPs. The issues have been exacerbated by the flood situation that left many temporary latrine facilities damaged and which led to the contamination of a lot of drinking water wells. Materials for latrines are not available at the market. Most of the people have been forced to go for open defecation, commonly at seashore and lagoon sides, which is fast becoming a major health hazard for the people and causing embarrassing smell in the environment as well.
