



# TAMILS REHABILITATION ORGANISATION

## தமிழர் புனர்வாழ்வுக் கழகம்

Headquarters Office: Jaffna Road (A9) Kilinochchi

### Situation Report on the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Madhu Division, Mannar District & Situation in Manthai East Division, Mannar District as of 8 April 2008

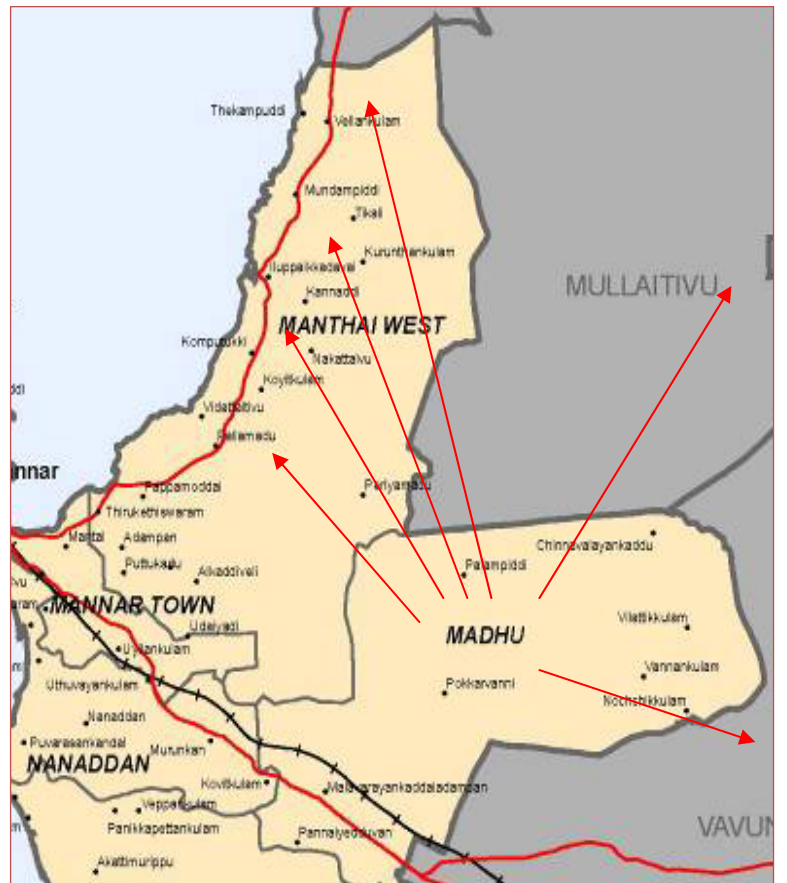
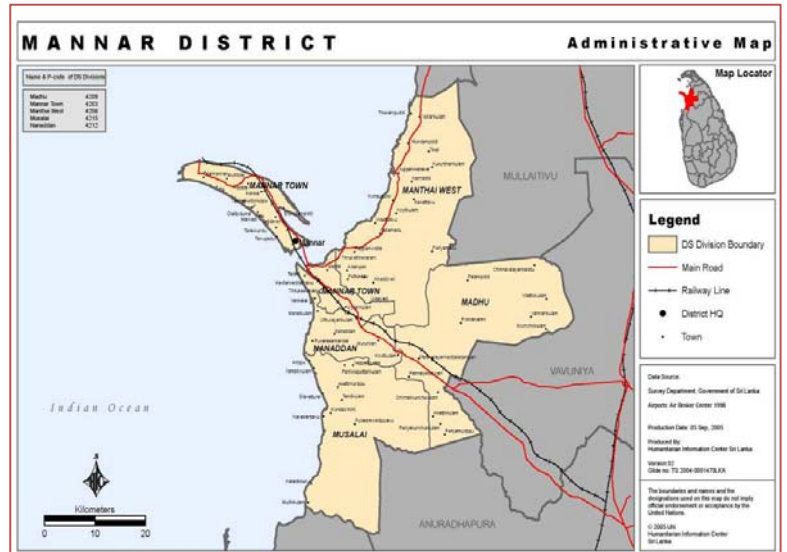
#### Situation Report

The Government of Sri Lanka's (GoSL) military offensive in the Mannar District has caused a series of displacements of civilians from the areas of Pandivirichchaan, Adampan, Andankulam and other areas starting on August 25, 2007. The IDPs sought refuge in Madhu, Thatchinamadhu, Periyamadhu, Pallamadhu, Koorai, Kalliyadi, Illuppaikadavai, Vellankumam, Thevanpidy and other divisions within the Mannar District. Other refugees have displaced to Vavuniya North, Mullankavil (Kilinochchi District), and Mullaitivu District.

All the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were provided safe, temporary accommodation in the areas mentioned



Five year old girl displaced from Mannar. This is her first experience of war as she was born after the 2002 Ceasefire Agreement.





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St Sebastian Church – Thevanpidy (exterior)



St Sebastian Church – Thevanpidy (interior)

The Tamil Rehabilitation Organization (TRO) continues to make arrangements and transport the IDPs from the place of displacement to the areas they wish to be temporarily settled. TRO is also constructing and providing shelters, drinking water, health, Non-Food Relief Items (NFRI) and other emergency relief assistance. The UN, INGOs, and local NGOs are providing medical and other humanitarian assistance to the IDPs.

### K.Santhan, displaced with his family from Madhu Church:

*“We have been living as IDPs in the Madhu Church area for the last 10 years. INGOs built temporary shelters at that time. After the Madhu operations by the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) and the severe*

above at this stage of displacement. During the last two weeks the GoSL army has engaged in an offensive with the objective of capturing the Madhu Church and its precincts. The remaining people in the Madhu Church area left the area on 1 April 2008. Due to shelling near the church the next day (2 April 2008) the people took the statue of “Our Lady of Madhu” and provided an abode for her in the Thevanpidy St. Sebastian Church.

Many of the IDPs are going to other areas according to their wishes. Because of the out of season rains, the unpaved dirt roads are almost impassable. Transporting those seeking refuge is extremely difficult. In addition to the difficulty in transporting the IDPs, due to the rains, lack of fuel, and lack of vehicles, they are experiencing extreme difficulty in inadequate temporary shelters.

### Manthai West AGA Division IDP Statistics (05 April 2008)

No.	Village	Families	Individuals
1	Paliaru	751	2792
2	Vellankulam	780	3005
3	Thethavadi	76	289
4	Thevanpidy	169	763
5	Kooraai	347	1417
6	Arthimoddai	304	1096
7	Kalliyadi	217	790
8	Kovitkulam	182	656
9	Illupaikaday	264	1016
10	Moontrampiddy	198	759
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,290</b>	<b>12,583</b>

### Mullankavil AGA Division IDP Statistics (07 April 2008)

No.	Village	Families	Individuals
1	Mullankavil	82	325
2	Anpupuram	27	106
3	Ilanila	16	54
4	Iranaimatha	5	15
5	Jeyapuram	18	75
<b>Total</b>		<b>148</b>	<b>575</b>



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*artillery attacks we were forced to displace to Kilinochchi District.*

*TRO provided transportation facilities and cooked food to us when we displaced. When we arrived in Kilinochchi District, TRO also provided a location and materials to build temporary shelters for the families and is still providing dry food ration to us. But we still have water and sanitation problems. We are also very concerned about our children's education and their futures.*



**Mr. K. Santhan & Family**

### **Principal of Mannar Thevanpiddy School:**

*"Our school is very small, having 2 semi-permanent buildings for 180 students. After the recent Madhu operations by the SLA, two big schools, Vaddakandal GTMS and Adampan RCTMS, were displaced to Thevanpiddy and the 600 children from those two school have now entered our school. We now have 780 children that we must somehow accommodate here in the existing two buildings. We do not have adequate facilities for these the additional 600 children. There is not enough space, furniture, water or sanitation.*

*The WFP program is providing one meal per day for the children. That is the only regular food that the children receive because the GoSL hasn't provided food for the newly displaced persons. So children are not receiving the required daily nutrition. Children have also been mentally and physically scarred by the bombing and continuous shelling we have experienced. They are also suffering due to the lack of food and medicine.*

*TRO and iNGOs provided 3 days worth of dry rations and materials for 18 X 12 foot temporary shelters for each family."*



**Displaced School – Thevanpiddy GTMS**



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### Mr. A.. Vijenthiran, Grama Sevakar (GS), MN/01 - Paaliyaru

*"We have been coping with the displacements since 2007. Almost 80% were settled temporarily with the help of TRO, NEDRO and others. The later displacement and especially the sudden displacement that is taking place now has caused untold hardships for the people and stretched the meagre resources we possess.*

*Periyamadhu (where they displaced from) and Kanesapuram are in close proximity as such we would like to stay in Kanesapuram. We are in a safe area now, but we need temporary shelters and access to drinking water. The overhead water tank that MANREP was constructing is not completed. We therefore need water tankers to bring drinking water. We also need to erect temporary toilets to prevent a disease outbreak. We welcome the erecting of 87 toilets built by SOLIDAR at the rate of one*



**IDP Family from Madhu Church area**



**IDP clearing jungle to erect temporary shelter**



**IDPs building their Temporary Shelters with materials provided by TRO**

*toilet per four shelters. At the current rate of displacement this is not enough for health reasons.*

*Thevanpitty, Moontrampiddy, Kanesapuram, Paaliyaru and other such villages do not have enough toilets to cater for the new IDPs. To prevent an outbreak of diseases it is important for NGOs to help us, especially before more displacement and more rains come our way. Many people are living under the trees. The food situation is critical. To prevent malnutrition of the IDPs and UN Agencies need to increase the distribution of food from once in two months to more frequently.*

*This is my assessment of the situation. The distressed people can use all the assistance that humanitarian organizations can give at this time."*



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### Ms. E. Rogini, IDP in Mulankavil

*"We are a very poor family. My husband is a daily wage labourer. In 1990 we displaced and were living in the Madhu church camp. We have been displaced for the past 18 years. After the recent SLA military operations we were once again displaced. TRO provided us transportation to the Mulankavil IDP Camp. TRO also provided us with 1 month worth of dry rations.*

*We are 30 families living in one IDP camp. But we only have 2 temporary toilets. There is also only one drinking water tank/container with a 2,000 litre maximum capacity. This is not enough for the number of people in the camp. TRO & a local NGO (PMDO) have supplied these things supplied these things but we need more assistance.*

*We are also experiencing a severe mosquito problem due to the recent out of season heavy rains. We do not have any protection from the mosquito and no medicines to treat sickness.*

*We request that the overseas Tamils and relatives provide funds so that we can have adequate temporary shelters/homes, food, and medicine."*



IDP Family from Vellankulam



IDPs from Madhu



Displaced children from Madhu



IDPs collecting drinking water in Mullankavil IDP Camp