



யாழ். மாவட்ட
அரசு சார்பற்ற நிறுவனங்களின் இணையம்
COUNCIL OF NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
(NGOs) JAFFNA DISTRICT

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Situation Report January – 2005

1.0 GENERAL SITUATION

Vadamarachchy East – Maruthankerney AGA's Division and Point Pedro AGA's Division have experienced the most devastation caused by the Tsunami in the Jaffna District. About 13,000 families and 48,000 people were looked after at 32 welfare centres. As the government assistance did not fully reach the displaced in time, NGOs, Civil societies and people provided necessary assistance and cooked meals for them. To attend to urgent Humanitarian needs, a Coordinating Secretariat (Tsunami Disaster Rehabilitation Joint Task Force) was formed and functions at Nelliady involving the Government, NGOs Council, Local NGOs, INGOs and the TRO. The services of all these organisations have been mobilised and all relief activities are channelled through this Secretariat.

As an aftermath of this Tsunami disaster an unprecedented flow of International Reconstruction and Humanitarian Aid are pouring in for the tremendous demand for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation. Therefore the Government must take action to ensure that any development that is funded of the Tsunami aid is centred around the needs of the really affected and displaced irrespective of any party affiliations, race, religion and district.

This is the best opportunity nature had afforded to the Government to forge ahead the spirit of Cooperation and good will expressed by the opposition and the LTTE to recommence the political dialogue to find a permanent solution to the ethnic problem which is very vital for the development of the Nation.

People of Jaffna feel that the Government, the International Community and Civil Society Groups should involve LTTE at all levels of decision making, implementation of the Development and Rehabilitation of North and promote equitable distribution without any discrimination to any areas or districts.

It should be noted that North East which has already been affected by the civil war has now been affected by Nature, in the form of Tsunami disaster. The best way to comprehend and make recovery fast and effective is to decentralise development Disaster Management by incorporating Government machinery, Local NGOs and LTTE by providing necessary funds, so that the Government can build trust and confidence among the affected people in the Government controlled and LTTE controlled areas without any discrimination which will certainly pave the way for future healthier development in regard to Peace Move.

Statistical Data of the Tsunami affected persons in the Jaffna District as at 31.01.2005

Deaths	1,256
Injured	1,647
Estimated Missing / Dead	1,240

324 deaths at Maruthankerney reported from Kilinochchi district is also included.

So far Rs. 3,462,000.00 has been paid as funeral expenses in the Jaffna District for 355 persons. (Details below)

At present Rs. 15,000.00 is being paid for funeral expenses.
Arrears of past payments will be paid in due course.

46 Deaths	@ Rs. 2,000.00	Rs. 92,000.00
253 Deaths	@ Rs. 10,000.00	Rs. 2,530,000.00
56 Deaths	@ Rs. 15,000.00	<u>Rs. 840,000.00</u>
<i>Total 355 Deaths</i>		<u><u>Rs. 3,462,000.00</u></u>

No of students died - 213

Two principals lost their lives, from – J/ Chempianpattu RCTMS and J/ Koddaiyadu RCTMS

One Teacher trainee from National College of Education serving at J/ Thumpalai Sivapragasa Vid also lost her life. (Source : Secretariat Jaffna)

Mr. K. Ganesh succeeded Mr. C. Pathmanathan as New Government Agent of the Jaffna District from 1st January, 2005.

230 unemployed graduates in the Jaffna District who applied for employment under the graduate employment scheme did not turn up for training. It is assumed that this lot which did not turn up for training are not interested in this scheme.

Non Violent Direct Action Group an LNGO had undertaken to construct shelters for two Tsunami affected villages in Vadamarachy area. NVDAG is now providing educational equipments to children in the affected area of Vadamarachy with the support of the Save the Children in Sri Lanka.

Memorial services and prayers were conducted in the Jaffna District at Navalar Cultural Hall on the 26th of January in memory of those who lost their lives in the Tsunami catastrophe.

2.0 HEALTH

Maruthankerny Government Rural Hospital which was renovated at a cost of 2.30 million under NECORD project is functioning only as an OPD. Even though wards have been constructed due to lack of staff no one is taken in as indoor patient. This was highlighted at the meeting held at Maruthankerny AGA's office in the presence of GA Jaffna. Health authorities were not present though they were invited.

3.0 EDUCATION

Damages caused to the schools by the Tsunami in the Jaffna District.

<u>Fully Damaged Schools</u>	<u>Estimated Cost of Damage in millions</u>
J/ Vettilaikerney RCTMS	4.6
J/ Kaddaiyadu RCTMS	7.3
J/ Thalaisyadi RCTMS	9.0
J/ Mamunai RCTMS	4.0

J/ Manalkadu RCTMS	12.0
J/ Valvettiturai SivaguruVid.	14.0

Partly Damaged Schools

J/ Kudathanai RCTMS	0.7
J/ Vettilaikerney Parameswara Vid.	8.3
J/ Valvettiturai RCTMS	2.0
J/ Chempianpattu RCTMS	8.2
J/ Aliyawalai CCTMS	18.0
J/ Kaladdy RCTMS	4.0
J/ Hartley College	3.0
J/ Methodist Girls College	<u>1.0</u>
	<u>96.10</u>

The Swiss Development Corporation has expressed its willingness to reconstruct all damaged schools with all facilities, such as water, sanitation and furniture on receipt of the estimates from the Additional Provincial Director of Education.

4.0 AGRICULTURE

Statistical Data of the Tsunami affected cultivations / crops in the Jaffna District as at 31.01.2005

Name of DS Division	Name of ASCC	Crop Variety	Ext. Damaged (Acre)	No. of Farmers Affected	Value of Damage Rs.
Point Pedro	Ampan	Red Onion	4.75	10	79,600.00
	Puloly	Tobacco	0.25	02	15,000.00
Sandilipay	Keerimalai	Red Onion	0.50	03	20,600.00
		Paddy	0.25	01	4,000.00
<i>Total</i>			<i>5.75</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>119,200.00</i>

5.0 FISHERIES

Mrs. Margreta Wahlstrom, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General accompanied by Ms. Miguel Bermio, Country Director UNDP and members of the Fisheries Cooperative Society visited the Tsunami affected coastal areas from Point Pedro to Valvettiturai in the Jaffna District and held discussion with the Fisheries Society members from Thondamanaru to Kudathanai at the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Common Hall in Point Pedro. The representatives pointed out that they are discriminated by the Government in the payment of compensation. They also appealed to the Special Envoy to waive loans provided by the UNDP for the fisheries development on the entire coastal areas which are badly damaged for which she agreed to waive the loans. She also promised to take action to set up a modern boat-yard in the Jaffna District.

The total damages to fishing boats amount to Rs. 994.25 million as per details collected from the Fisheries Department, Jaffna.

	<u>Estimated Cost (million)</u>
89 Fishing Crafts 3 ½ tonnes	231.400
1137 Fishing Crafts 17 ½ feet	540.075
43 Mechanised Kattumaram	10.750
815 Non Mechanised Kattumaram	114.100

88 Non Mechanised Vallam	12.320
Mathal	<u>85.600</u>
Total	<u>994.245</u>

Trawler fishing is banned from January 2005 to preserve the resources in the sea.

6.0 TRANSPORT

Despite several requests, Jaffna Municipal Commissioner has failed to curb the traffic congestion in the Power House Road from the bus stand up to Kasturiar Road. Mini buses are parked on both sides of the narrow road causing severe hardships to the road users.

Hon. Governor, NEPC had promised to release Rs. 30.0 million for the improvement of roads on priority basis at the meeting held on 10th January, 2005 at the Jaffna District Secretariat.

7.0 HOUSING

World Bank Housing Scheme - Action is being taken in 15 Divisional Secretaries Divisions to select the beneficiaries for the above project. Widowed families with 6 members are given priority. Landless people who are in occupation in others lands for a fairly long period and if they are below the poverty line, they should make an application in the required form. This will be processed and selected by the members of the village appointed for this purpose.

Damaged Houses – Particulars

Division	No. of GS Divisions affected	Huts fully damaged	Houses	
			Fully damaged	Partly damaged
Point Pedro	16	596	1981	1114
Maruthankerny	15	-	4103	-
Total	31	596	6084	1114

8.0 REHABILITATION AND RELOCATIONS

People from Idaikurichchy, Varani staged a protest in front of the Jaffna District Secretariat for nearly two hours for failure to pay the Resettlement allowance of Rs. 25,000.00 to date. On an assurance given by NECORD officer that payment will be given before the 10th February, the protest was withdrawn.

Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Reconstruction have to be carried out transparently with full involvement of the Local Communities, who are really affected. Committee should be formed from all ethnic groups irrespective of partly affiliations, embracing Government, Opposition parties and LTTE.

If the Government and the LTTE can work together on the Post Tsunami disaster reconstruction by forming a mechanism to handle the relief and rehabilitation assistance, it would create an ideal environment for both parties to find an amicable settlement of the ethnic issues.

Tsunami affected people of the Jaffna District are not happy in regard to the progress of activities going on in respect of rehabilitation, resettlement and reconstruction. On behalf of the people, the Council requests Government authorities to indicate the targeted date of completion of the activities listed under stage II, III and IV of the overall rehabilitation programme. Copy of the programme is annexed.

A decision to relocate the Tsunami affected people in the LTTE controlled area of Mamunai, Chempianpattu, Thalaiyadi and Maruthankerny in areas 400 meters away from the shore was taken at the conference held in Vadamarachchy East Maruthankerny Common Hall in the presence of Mr. T. Jeyaseelan, AGA and members of the Civil Groups.

9.0 SECURITY CONCERN

Two fishermen lodged complaints with the Jaffna Regional Office of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka that they were assaulted by the Sri Lankan Navy personnel while fishing in Pannai Sea around 2 pm on 24th January 2005 close to the Jaffna Town for having entered the HSZ boundaries. They informed that there were no flags to demarcate the boundaries, and the Police had refused to accept their complaint.

Mr. V. Nadesh 52 years of Mirusuvil North in the Thenmarachchy Division died on the spot when he was runover by Sri Lankan Army Heavy vehicle on 17th Monday at about 9.30 pm. Chavakachchery Magistrate held the post-mortem and instructed the Police to arrest the driver of the vehicle.

Two soldiers one Mr. P.D. Tinna of Manipay Sri Lankan Army Camp and Mr. A.R. Veera Bandara of Sri Lankan Navy, Velanai were found dead in there respective stations. Jaffna Magistrate held inquiries at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital and directed the Police to take the bodies to Colombo General Hospital for post-mortem and to submit autopsy reports and handover the bodies to the relatives.

Mr. R. Mohanadas of White Pigeon who was coordinating inmates at a Welfare Camp at Kudathanai AMTMS were attacked by the Sri Lankan Army when an argument ensued while Sri Lankan Army distributing food. Later on that night masked men entered and asked the inmates to vacate the camp and set fire to the cadjan roof. Complaint to this effect was lodged with the Point Pedro Police, SLMM. HRC visited and made inquiries.

10.0 SERVICES

a. Water supply

Valvettiturai Water Supply Scheme of the National Water Supply and Drainage Board has been damaged. It is estimated that 28.9 million is required to repair. DRC agreed in principle for the implementation of new project for Valvettiturai UC and Point Pedro UC at a cost of Rs. 290 million.

b. Electricity

Pandatharippu people are experiencing much inconvenience due to the failure of the Vali South – West Pradeshiya Sabha to provide street lights on the main road junctions.

11.0 DEMINING

Mr. Kanthasamy Sivasuthan of Kalvayal lost his right leg and injured his left limb on January 3rd when he accidentally stepped on a mine in front of his house.

12.0 VISITS

Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne, President, Sarvodaya visited the disaster affected areas in the North and distributed relief items.

Dr. Jayalath Jayawardene, MP and former Minister along with members of the Peace Village Organisation from Germany brought medical relief items and handed over to the Tsunami Disaster Rehabilitation Joint Task Force functioning at Nelliady.

Hon. Ranil Wichramasinghe, Leader of the Opposition along with his troupe visited the Welfare Centers in the Vadamarachchy area and the affected areas and discussed the problems with the members of the Tsunami Disaster Rehabilitation Joint Task Force Secretariat. A memorandum was presented to him.

North – East Provincial Council Governor, Tyrone Fernando visited Thellipalai Cancer Hospital, and the Tsunami affected areas on the 10th January, 2005. Later on that day he met the GA, Local Heads of Departments, NGOs Council and Civil Society members at the Jaffna Secretariat.

Her. Excellency Nirupama Sen, High Commission for India in Sri Lanka Visited Jaffna on the 11th and viewed the damages caused by Tsunami from Kudathanai, Manalkadu and Point Pedro from Sri Lankan Air Force Helicopter. Later visited Sri Ramakrishna Ashram at Point Pedro and handed over relief items for distribution to Tsunami victims.

Mr. Vasudeva Nanayakkara, former MP arrived in Jaffna to assess the devastation and destruction caused by Tsunami in the Jaffna District. He too visited Task Force office at Nelliady. He remarked that International Community could provide assistance to NGOS and Civil Organisations direct so that the projects could be implemented with the concurrence of the LTTE who has proved efficient leadership and management.

V. Srisakthivel
Hony. President