



வடகிழக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் செயலகம்

North East Secretariat on Human Rights - NESOHR

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Food for the Vani people

This report based entirely on data provided by the Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu District Secretariats is intended to show the amount of essential food items that have entered Vanni by convoys in the months of October and November 2008. It collates the quantities of food items that were sent by the Commissioner General of Essential Services (CGES) and World Food Program as relief for the IDPS and the quantities brought in by the Multipurpose Co-operative Societies for sale through its shops. This therefore includes all the channels by which food is brought into Vanni at present.

Vanni was not only self sufficient in rice production, it also exported it. The displacement of half the population of Vanni is mostly from regions of food production such as, Vavuniya North, Mannar, Oddusuddan, and Poonahari. The restriction on food items coming into Vanni must also be judged in the backdrop of this loss of local rice production caused by displacement.

The last NESoHR report on this subject dated 12 September 2008, released on the eve of the eviction of UN agencies and other INGOs from Vanni by the Sri Lankan Government, summarized quantities of some essential food items brought into Vanni as relief for the IDPs from January 2008 until August 2008. Those figures and the shortfalls are summarized in the table below.

Quantities requested and actually brought into Vanni from January-August 2008 for the IDPs					
Quantities in Metric Tons or Kilo-Litres	Total requested by the two GAs	Total received in Vanni from CGES	Total brought into Vanni by WFP	Total shortfall for the eight months	Shortfall as a % of the total amount requested by the two Gas
Flour	3620	2440	2110	-930	In Excess
Sugar	5233	4419	392	422	8%
Lentils	2210	77	819	1314	60%
Milk Powder	2519	354	0	2165	86%
Kerosene	10,300	7,918		2,381	23%

Since the eviction of the UN and other international agencies, relief food items for the IDPs were brought in very large convoys receiving much media attention. UN agencies have also claimed that sufficient food is reaching the IDPs. The October-November data presented below will show the reality of the availability of food in Vanni.

As already stated, food is brought into Vanni through three separate channels, namely, Commissioner General of Essential Services, World Food Program, and Multipurpose Co-operative Societies. The quantities of food brought through these three channels for the two months for the two Districts and the shortfall of food items for the entire population calculated based on the standard WFP allocation are shown in the tables below.

Food received by the Mullaithivu District Secretariat for Oct & Nov 2008									
Quantities in Metric Tons	CGES		Special Convoy		World Food Program		Multipurpose Co-operative Societies		Total
	Oct	Nov	Oct	Nov	Oct	Nov	Oct	Nov	
Rice	126.5	206.5	96.1		427	597.1			1453.2
Flour	42	60	292.5		371	647.1	45.5	49.3	1507.4
Sugar	35.5	50	106.2		12	24	395.1	50.8	673.6
Lentils	6	3.5	87.9		69	136.4			302.8
Milk Powder							20	2	22
Veg Oil			25.8		28	57			110.8
Other food							352.9	167.7	520.6
Target population	70144				124589		8896		203629

Food received by the Kilinochchi District Secretariat for Oct & Nov 2008									
Quantities in Metric Tons	CGES		Special Convoy		World Food Program		Multipurpose Co-operative Societies		Total
	Oct	Nov	Oct	Nov	Oct	Nov	Oct	Nov	
Rice					732	495.6			1227.6
Flour	60		367.1		99.4	324.9	307.4	48	1206.8
Sugar	77.4		37.1			12	347.4	148.5	622.4
Lentils			80.3		0.47	172.9	28.8	42.6	325.07
Milk Powder							27.7	25.5	53.2
Veg Oil			26.6			25.9	20.1		72.6
Other food							335.8	606.4	942.2
Target population	28241				168848		20814		217903

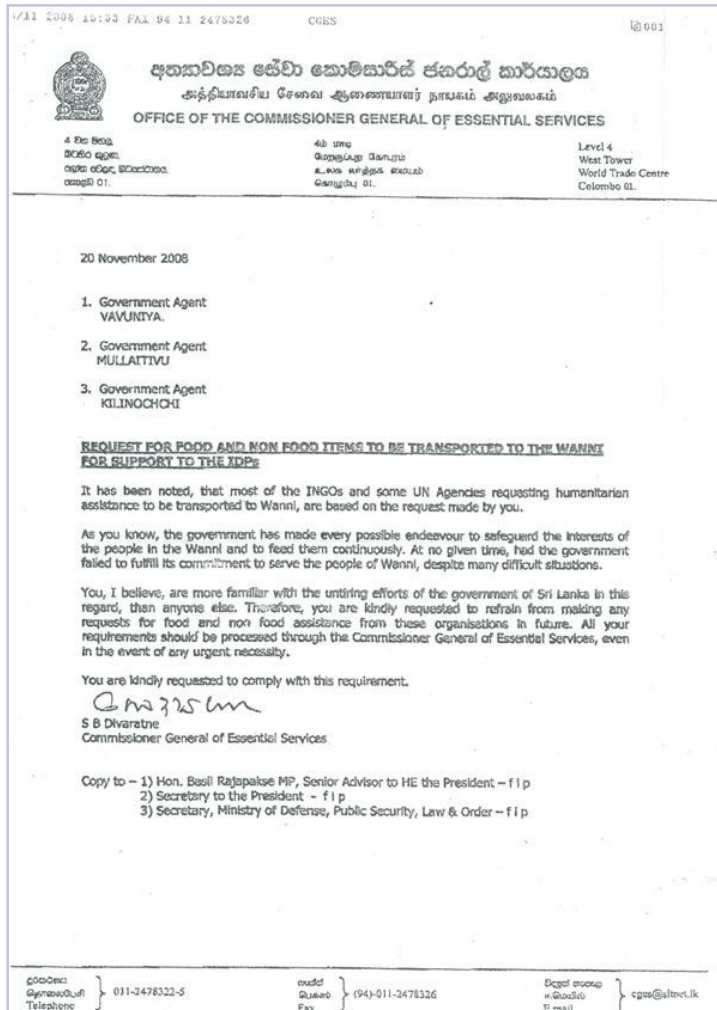
Shortfall on the food items received in Vanni for the total target population of 421532								
Quantities in Metric Tons	WFP allocation per day per person	Requirement based on WFP allocation for 60 days per person	Total Received for the 60 days of Oct and Nov for Mullaithivu District from the table above	Total Received for the 60 days of Oct and Nov for Kilinochchi District from the table above	Total received for both districts 60 days of Oct and Nov in Vanni	Requirement for Mullaithivu & Kilinochchi for 60 days for the total target population of 421532 persons based on WFP allocation	Shortfall for the 60 days	Percentage shortfall for the sixty days
Rice	0.2	12	1453.2	1227.6	2680.8	5058.384	2377.58	47.0
Flour	0.2	12	1507.4	1206.8	2714.2	5058.384	2344.18	46.3
Sugar	0.02	1.2	673.6	622.4	1296	505.8384	-790.16	
Lentils	0.06	3.6	302.8	325.07	627.87	1517.515	889.64	58.6
Milk powder			22	53.2	75.2			
Veg Oil	0.02	1.2	110.8	72.6	183.4	505.8384	322.43	63.7
Other food			520.6	942.2	1462.8			

Food distributed to IDPs in November-08

The end result of the losses of cultivation and restrictions imposed by the Sri Lankan Government on food entering Vanni is the reduced amount of food distribution to the large IDP population in Vanni. The following are the official figures of the Mullaithivu and Kilinochchi District Secretariats on the amount of food distributed during the four weeks of the month of November to the IDPs who are receiving the WFP relief. The quantities are indicated as the number of days calculated based on WFP allocation for which the quantities supplied is adequate.

Number of days of the week for which the quantity supplied in Nov-08 is adequate								
	Mullaithivu District				Kilinochchi District			
	Wk-1	Wk-2	Wk-3	Wk-4	Wk-1	Wk-2	Wk-3	Wk-4
Rice	5	5	0	1.5	0	3	0	7
Flour	5	5	0	1.5	0	3	0	7
Lentils	5	5	0	7	0	5	0	7
Sugar	5	5	0	3	0	0	0	0
Veg Oil	5	5	0	7	0	0	0	4

Government Agents ordered not request assistance from UN and INGOs



In November, the Commissioner General of Essential Services sent a common letter, pictured left, to the three Government Agents in Vanni ordering them not to request assistance for the IDPs from UN and other international agencies.

In the backdrop of the food restrictions described above this order is clear evidence of using food as a weapon and it is a serious crime.