

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## SRI LANKA: CIVILIAN DISPLACEMENT

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*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.*

### In Brief

***This Bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the situation and the information available at this time.***

*As noted on Information Bulletin no.03/2006, clashes between the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) have sparked a significant displacement of civilians in conflict affected areas in the North and East of Sri Lanka. The Federation and its partnering national societies (PNS) are working together with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to conduct humanitarian relief efforts across the affected areas. As the situation continues to trigger civilian displacement, the Federation and the SLRCS will be working on restocking relief items, securing transport costs and leasing temporary warehouses as contingency planning for both future IDP movements and future natural disasters.*

*This Information Bulletin may be used as reference for further requests for assistance to support the efforts of the Federation and the SLRCS in this respect. Such requests will be complementary with the existing ICRC supplementary appeal for IDP movements in the North and East and coordinated with existing Movement forums in country, as well as taking in to account the existing SLRCS and PNS capacity in country.*

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### The Situation

As a result of the renewed clashes between the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and the LTTE in the North and East of Sri Lanka in the last months, the number of newly displaced Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) increased from approximately 25,000 civilians in April 2006 to approximately 200,000 in September (source UNHCR and Government agents). The majority of the IDPs displaced in the last 5 months are from conflict affected areas in Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa, where fighting has intensified over the summer. Most IDPs are staying with relatives or in temporary shelters that have sprung up in schools, public buildings and places of worship in safer areas. (*see Info bulletin no. 3, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006*).

Since mid-September, the security situation has improved in Muthur and Trincomalee district. As a result, over 7,000 families (25,000 persons) who were formally mainly located near Kanthalai were able to return home. However, further fighting in the south of the same district has led to an increased number of IDPs seeking refuge in the Vaharai area in the north of the neighbouring Batticaloa district. Currently, 11,000 families or 42,880 people (source UNHCR), have taken up temporary residence here. In the north, Jaffna is currently cut off by road from the rest of the country due to continued exchange of shell-fires between northern Vanni and the Jaffna peninsula, which is posing added challenges for the humanitarian relief efforts.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Emergency relief

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and its partnering national societies (PNS) are working together with Sri Lanka Red Cross Society ([www.redcross.lk](http://www.redcross.lk)) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to conduct humanitarian relief efforts across the north and east. ICRC has the lead role amongst Red Cross Red Crescent partners in the North and East.

The Red Cross Movement in Sri Lanka has mobilised non food relief items (NFRI) from three strategically placed warehouses located in Galle, Colombo and Ampara (see table 2). The Federation has also assisted the ICRC by releasing large quantities of other NFRI items (see bottom line of table). In addition, the SLRCS has provided cooked food to civilians sheltering in temporary accommodation.

In Batticaloa District, the SLRCS and the ICRC supported nearly 4,565 families with NFRIs and 1763 families with clothes using stocks available within their own organisations, as well as stocks provided by the IFRC, British Red Cross, Swiss/ Austrian Red Cross and other PNS. In Trincomalee, the SLRCS district branch supplied dry food ration to the freshly displaced families within the district in coordination with other actors

**Table 2. International Federation and partners non-food relief items mobilised for distribution by SLRCS branches and ICRC**

District	hygiene kit	kitchen set	water jerry cans	saree	sarong	tar-paulin sheets and rolls	plastic sheeting (family size)	sleep mats and bed sheets	hurricane lamp	baby parcel	candles and matches	female under skirt	body bags
Trincomalee				3716	3711			4000					
Batticaloa	3000	500	2000	4000	5000	2000		6000				6000	
Matale	7			7	7		7		7				
Kurunegala	133	198	67	233	233		133						
Ampara	170		170	284	319				108	136	3546		
Vavuniya	500			500	500		500					500	
Gampaha *	30	30	30	130	130	80		100					
<b>TOTAL (in support of SLRCS)</b>	<b>3840</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>2267</b>	<b>8870</b>	<b>9900</b>	<b>2080</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>8100</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>3546</b>	<b>6500</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Stock released to ICRC (reimbursable)</b>	<b>7000</b>		5100					4000		2200			2100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10840</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>7367</b>	<b>8870</b>	<b>9900</b>	<b>2080</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>12100</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>2336</b>	<b>3546</b>	<b>6500</b>	<b>2100</b>

### Replenishing of stocks

Re-procurement of Federation relief Disaster Preparedness stocks distributed to the ICRC and SLRCS is yet to start. Stocks of most NFRI items held were rapidly released in late July/ August and September, leaving key items, such as family hygiene packs, at currently very low levels. This leaves the Federation and SLRCS in a precarious situation in case of future natural disaster. Re-procurement of items released to the ICRC will begin soon and the priority will be to procure hygiene kits and clothing. The Federation will seek PNS assistance to bring joint stock levels up to a level appropriate for likely future response to IDP needs in the South West and areas bordering the North and East, and for potential natural disasters, where ever they may occur in the country. Additional non food relief items are on standby in Batticaloa where British Red Cross has contingency stocks<sup>1</sup>.

As per current information, IFRC and Canadian Red Cross have stocks prepositioned in the South and West, with British Red Cross having some local stocks in the East and Hong Kong RC stocks used up for response to recent IDP movements. Information from other PNS has not yet been received. Currently pre-positioned stock levels at Galle and Global Park warehouses as well as the SLRCS warehouse stands as follows (*updated 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 06*) :

SN	Item	Unit	Per HH	Total contingency figure for IDPs in south and west	Total contingency figure as DP stock (floods and other dis)	In Stock Global Park W/H	In stock Galle W/H	In stock Ampara W/H	Total IFRC (number s)	Families covered	Gap (approx.)
	<i>TARGET BENEFICIARIES</i>			5000	5000						
1	Hygiene Kits	Kit	1	5000	5000	300+	500+	-800	0	0	10000
2	Kitchen Sets	Set	1	5000	5000	2500+		-376	2124	2124	7800
3	Jerry Cans (10 lts)	Pc	2			3200+	2300+		5500+	9500	500 (20 lts waer storage/HH )
	Jerry cans (15 lts)	Pc				150	300+	2100+	2500+		
	Jerry cans (20 lts)	Pc	1	5000	5000	150+	-	4300+	4400+		
4	Bed Sheets	Pairs	2	10000	10000		800+	1200+	2000+	1000	18000
5	Sleeping Mats	Pc	2	10000	10000		13000+	1300+	14300+	7150	5700
6	Baby Parcels	Pc	1	1500	1500		80+	1600+	1680+		1320
7	Mosquito nets	Pc	1	5000	5000	15000 +			15000+		Covered
8	Tarpaulin(6x4m)	Pc	1	5000	5000	4000+ (Can RC)	60	200+		8800	940
	Tarpaulin rolls (10 family size/roll)					4800+ (IFRC)					
9	Saree	Pc	2	10000	10000	4600+	-	2100+	6700+	3350	13300
10	Saree underskirts	Pc	2	10000	10000		4900+		4900+	2450	15100
11	Sarong	Pc	2	10000	10000	4600+	20+	2000+	6620+	3300	13400
12	Candles (10pcs)	Pkt	1	5000	5000		950+	2100+	3050+	3050	6950
13	Matchboxes	Pkt (12 pcs/pkt)	1	5000	5000		700+	4200+	4900+	4900	5100
14	Plastic rope (22 m each)	pc	1	5000	5000	4000		4500		8500	1500
15	Hurrican Lamps	Pc	1	5000	5000		2000+	100+	2100+	2100	7900

### Contingency planning

A process of contingency planning for continued and potential future IDP movements in to border and South Western districts has been initiated under joint IFRC/ SLRCS leadership. This is coordinated with overall IDP contingency planning through the ICRC led Conflict Relief Operations Meetings (CROM) and will complement the considerable capacity for relief assistance in the North and East contained in the ICRC supplementary appeal.

Issues such as joint IFRC and SLRCS management of stocks, phased transfer of this responsibility to SLRCS, and the need for a national contingency fund are currently being discussed. The latter would potentially cover areas such as deployment of assessment teams, replenishment of district branch contingency funds, mobilization and transportation of relief items, and deployment of water and sanitation equipment. All Movement partners in

<sup>1</sup> British Red Cross contingency stocks in Batticaloa: Bed sheets 400; hygiene kits 700; plastic sleeping mats 1900; kitchen sets 800; hurricane lamps 700; baby sets 700; tarpaulins 50; rope 1000; tents 140; jerry cans 1650; diesel 3100L.

country are invited to join in and contribute to the contingency planning process. As a first step PNS are encouraged to share the stock levels they currently hold.

At this stage approximate planning figures for contingency planning for IDPs are:

- NFRI and other assistance for approximately 50,000 families in North and East (ICRC)
- NFRI and shelter assistance to 5,000 families in South West and border areas (IFRC/ SLRCS)

This process will also complement contingency planning for response to natural disasters, where the planning figure is currently NFRI and shelter stocks for 5,000 families. It should also complement parallel contingency planning processes for tsunami recovery programming in the North and East as recommended by a Conflict Relief Operations Meeting on 15 September.

*For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org) and [www.redcross.lk](http://www.redcross.lk)*

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