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TECHNICAL BRIEF

Issued Date	July 13, 2020, Total Pages: 10
Subject	The e-mail sent by Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park to the constituency offices and members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (dated July 02, 2020)
Alternative Subject	Thanigasalam Talking Points and (Alleged) Tamil Genocide
Contact	Dr. Neville Hewage, Ph.D., Senior Policy Analyst e-mail: office@policy-research.ca

On his "Talking Points", Mr. Thanigasalam has failed to connect numerous allegations with the alleged Tamil Genocide.

Sri Lanka government successfully defeated the Tamil terrorist group, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and their aggression against people of Sri Lanka, killing ruthless terrorist leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and his associates in combat on May 18, 2009 in Mullivikkal.

Mr. Thanigasalam is proposing to commemorate the death of LTTE terrorist leaders, on May 18 of every year on his Bill 104 (alleged) *Tamil Genocide Education Week Act*, 2019, quoting the end of armed conflict as Tamil Genocide.

Further, it is concluded that none of the allegations substantiate against the alleged Tamil Genocide with established legal principles.

Here is the Technical brief against his Talking Points.

1. THANIGASALAM TALKING POINT No. 01

"The United States of America State Department put forth a ban on Commander and Chief of Staff of the Sri Lankan Army, Shavendra Silva and his immediate family from entering the U.S. The Sri Lankan army is responsible for killing thousands of civilians in the "no-fire zone."

1.1. TECHNICAL BRIEF FOR TALKING POINT No. 01

Mr. Thanigsalam deliberately manipulated facts on Talking point 01.

The newspaper article on the subject matter reads as follows *"U.S. Bars Sri Lankan Army Chief Accused of War Crimes."* (February 15, 2020, New York Times)

However, Mr. Tahnigasalam reached his conclusion that Mr. Shavendra Silva and the Sri Lankan army is responsible for killing thousands of civilians in the "no-fire zone."

Mr. Thanigasalam has conveniently ignored the fact that Tamil Terrorists (LTTE) used civilians as a human shield.

The accusations against Mr. Shavendra Silva and the Sri Lankan army have not proven before any competent court.

There is a significant difference between War Crime and Genocide in reference to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1949. (Geneva Convention). It is evident that Mr. Thanigasalam has ignored or no knowledge to differentiate War Crimes and Genocide.

1.2. Civilians

Mr. Thanigasalam has failed to distinguish civilians and Tamil LTTE terrorists.

Further, from a legal perspective, the critical failure of the Protocols of Geneva Convention to provide a precise definition of the term "civilian," "civilian population" and a similar lack of clarity with regard to the term "take a direct part in hostilities" has contributed to a substantial degree of ambiguity, leaving, vital terms which have a bearing on core International Humanitarian Law (IHL) principles such as the "Principle of Distinction" to be dealt with largely on a case by case basis.

This aspect assumes a heightened degree of uncertainty in the context of the complexities involved and the challenges posed by the very nature of non-international armed conflicts involving non State armed groups. It is often the case that the non State armed groups do not intentionally, as a matter of strategy, distinguish themselves from the civilian population and conceal their identity among the civilians until the very moment of attack, placing civilians in peril.

This leads to a position where the civilian, either willingly or in some cases unwillingly, becomes part and parcel of an overall combat strategy of the non State armed groups, and thereby placing at risk the protection the civilian is entitled under IHL. It is also a fact that Tamil LTTE terrorists used civilians as a **human shield**.

1.3. Tamil Terrorists (LTTE) utilize civilians in No Fire Zone (NFZ) as a human shield

The First NFZ was established North- East of *Visuamadu*. (Referred to as "First No Fire Zone" or "First NFZ")¹ When the LTTE realized that the measures taken by the Government to open a safe corridor for civilians to move to Government held areas will endanger their strategy, the LTTE had taken the civilians to *Puthumatthalan*. When the Government had realized that the

¹ Letter from the Commander of the Army to the Head of Delegation (International Committee of Red Cross) ICRC dated 19th January 2009. Several one kilometer radius Safe Areas were also said to have been demarcated to protect hospitals and (International Non Governmental Organization) INGO offices

LTTE had taken the civilians from the First NFZ at *Visuamadu* to *Puthumatthalan*, which was a narrow strip of land, the Government had shifted the NFZ to *Puthumatthalan* on February 11, 2009. (Referred to as "Second No Fire Zone" or "Second NFZ")² When the troops had reached the *Puthumatthalan* NFZ, the LTTE had shifted their position further down to *Vellamullivaikkal*. LTTE had taken the civilians with them.

Vellamullivaikkal was then declared the Final NFZ on May 08, 2009. (Referred to as "Third No Fire Zone" or "Third NFZ.") It was stated that the Government was compelled to shift the NFZ several times in view of the strategy adopted by the LTTE of using the civilians as a human shield.

When the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) was reaching the borders of the first NFZ, nearly 20,000 people escaped from the NFZ. SLA had adopted a rescue strategy to open a corridor for the (Internally Displaced Persons) IDPs. Then SLA had arrangements to receive and send them to *Kilinochchi*. SLA registered civilians and relocate IDPs to Vavuniya.³

SLA used loudhailers and announced along the NFZ border, asking the civilians to come out, and indicated the safe areas for them to escape. Further, SLA dropped leaflets into these areas giving maps indicating that the points where they could escape.⁴

1.4. Tamil LTTE Terrorists are Responsible

The Tamil Terrorists (LTTE) immediately had realized the danger. They knew if they allowed citizens to pass, all the civilians would go to the Government held areas. So they started to take action to prevent that and sent a suicide cadre with the civilians coming out of the NFZ. One of the suicide bomber (she) exploded herself, killed many civilians and also the unarmed security personnel who were assisting the civilians died.

1.5. Shifting NFZ by GOSL minimizing Civilian's Casualties

SLA had reported on many occasions; the LTTE was firing on civilians when they were attempting to escape from LTTE clutches. Tamil terrorists realized that they were no longer be able to use civilians as human shield; they took all the civilians from the First NFZ to *Puthumatthalan*, a narrow strip of land. When SLA realized that the LTTE had taken all the civilians from the First NFZ to *Puthumatthalan*, the SLA shifted the NFZ again to that area.⁵ Many surveillance videos and heat-sensing satellite images are available to establish Tamil LTTE terrorists shooting down of citizens fleeing.

This concludes that Mr. Thanigasalam's Talking Point 01 factually incorrect with regards to killing thousands of civilians in the "no-fire zone." He further ignored the most important relevant facts on the issue, LTTE activities.

² Letter from the Commander of the Army to the Head of Delegation ICRC dated 11th February 2009.

³ *Supra* note 2

⁴ A ceasefire period had been declared from 29th January 2009 to 1st February 2009 to provide an opportunity for the civilians to enter into the GOSL held areas from all military fronts.

⁵ *Supra* note 2

It can be concluded that Mr. Thanigasalam failed to establish Tamil Genocide based on Talking Point 01 that have proposed by him. Further, all facts he has proposed were immature and have no legal basis.

2. THANIGASALAM TALKING POINT No. 03

Accused war criminal, former Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, and current President of the genocidal State of Sri Lanka worked together with his brother, former President Mahinda Rajapaksa in orchestrating the brutal genocidal campaign against Tamils that killed over 146, 679 in May 2009.

2.0. THANIGASALAM TALKING POINT No. 06

146,679 Tamils are unaccounted for towards the final stages leading up to May 18, 2009.

2.1. TECHNICAL BRIEF FOR TALKING POINT No. 03, 06

To address the allegations with better clarity, "Talking Points" 03, 06 are discussed together.

Mr. Thanigasalam is labelled that President of Sri Lanka and former President of Sri Lanka are accused of war criminals.

Mr. Thanigasalam is wrong for many reasons. Both current and former President are democratically elected presidents of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Current president Mr. Gothabhaya Rajapaksha obtained over 70% popular votes and representing the entire population regardless of his ethnic origin.

The war crime allegations were originated from mainly (former) Tamil terrorists and LTTE sympathizers in Tamil diaspora, particularly in Canada and western countries. However, this ideology is being not shared by the majority of peace-loving Tamils living in Sri Lanka.

Again, Mr. Thanigasalam has failed to distinguish the difference between war crimes and Genocide. He also alleged both former and current President of Sri Lanka were orchestrating a brutal genocidal campaign against Tamils. Mr. Thanigasalam failed to explain how both presidents orchestrated the genocidal campaign against Tamils logically.

Mr. Thanigasalam's accusations are plain and bold.

Regarding Human Rights Watch article dated June 24, 2020, and April 04, 2020, have discussed media freedom and journalistic aspects. There is no evidence to support allegations against the Genocide on the news articles.

Further, journalism and free expression issues do not substantiate evidence against Genocide.

Mr. Thanigasalam's attempt to connect a lack of media freedom as a Tamil Genocide is failed against the legal test.

2.2. Death Total

Mr. Thanigasalam alleged that 146, 679 civilians killed in May 2009. However, his reference on February 14, 2020, Guardian newspaper suggested up to 70,000 Tamils killed during the final stages of armed conflict. Mr. Thanigasalam's reference contradicts death total with his Talking point.

It can be concluded that he went on a "fishing expedition," and his claims are immature and do not substantiate before the rule of law.

2.3. No list of death of Tamil Civilians

Mr. Thanigasalam provides the death total of Tamil 146,679 in May 2009 at the final stage of armed conflicts. However, as of today, Mr. Thanigasalam is failed to disclose the list of dead Tamil civilians, including their names, gender, National Identity Card number and home address.

To this date, no mass graves and satellite images were found to support any claims of mass killings during the time of the conflict.

Mr. Thanigasalam's allegations are bold and only serve as media and political stunts.

3. THANIGASALAM'S TALKING POINT No. 05

May of 2009 [dubbed May Massacre], genocidal State of Sri Lanka engaged in a heightened program of Genocide marked by indiscriminate shelling of no-fire zones and hospitals, extrajudicial killings, rapes, and denial of food and medicine to Tamils in Mullivaikal.

3.1. TECHNICAL BRIEF FOR TALKING POINT No. 05

Mr. Thanigalasm does not provide any evidence in support of allegations, as highlighted on his Talking Point 05. He has been already concluded Sri Lanka as a genocide state without analyzing facts with applicable legal principles. Mr. Thanigasalm is not an authority to determine Genocide. The International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are the only competent judicial authority that shall determine Tamil Genocide.

Lack of understanding of the necessary legal principles leads to wrong conclusions, and Mr. Thanigalsam is an ideal example of unproductive speculation about Genocide.

Technical Brief 01 was addressed the issue related to No Fire Zone. Therefore, the same topic will not discuss here.

3.2. The Legal Status of the Conflict between GOSL & Tamil Terrorist Group LTTE

The Sri Lanka conflict qualifies as a Non-International Armed Conflict (NIAC). The Appeals Chamber for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), relying on existing custom, established what is now widely recognized as a two-part test for determining whether a conflict qualifies as a NIAC, that is whether there is:

- (1) protracted armed violence
- (2) between governmental authorities and organized armed groups within a state.

This two-fold test has since been adopted by a myriad of other international criminal courts, including the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) and is widely considered authoritative.

As to the first element, one highly dispositive factor is the duration of the conflict. Here, the conflict between the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) lasted almost 30 years, undoubtedly sufficient period to satisfy the first element of the definition.

As to the second element, the ICTY has made it clear that some degree of organization by the parties will suffice, thereby establishing a very low threshold for what constitutes an "organized armed group." It is well documented that the LTTE has been a "conventional fighting force" since the late 1990s, possessing both naval and air assets. The LTTE's military capabilities are undoubtedly sufficient to establish the second element of the definition.

With both elements satisfied, that the Sri Lankan conflict is correctly categorized as a NIAC and that any analysis of the legal issues appurtenant to that conflict should be categorized accordingly.

Therefore, LTTE's utilization of civilians as a human shield needs to be addressed when assessing civilian casualties.

3.3. LTTE Human Shielding caused Civilians deaths

There is evidence that the LTTE was firing artillery at the Sri Lanka Army (SLA) from the NFZ very outset of its creation. The Bishop of Jaffna, in a letter to the President on January 25, 2009, stated, "*We are also urgently requesting the Tamil Tigers not to station themselves among the people in the safety Zone and fire their artillery shells and their rockets at the Army. This will only increase more and more the death of civilians, thus endangering the safety of the people.*"

Throughout the final months of the Sri Lanka Conflict in 2009, it has been asserted that the LTTE kept up its attacks on the SLA from all NFZ's that were set up by the Government.⁶ This was done with the intent to immunize themselves from attacks by government security forces, sufficient to constitute human shielding.

⁶ *Supra* Note 2

The LTTE was merely entering NFZs, where civilians were already heavily concentrated. Geneva Convention Article IV stands for the premise that the mere presence of protected persons cannot be used to render a military target immune from a counter-attack.

Furthermore, there are credible reports, LTTE holding U.N. personnel and their families as a hostage in the NFZs to prevent and make difficult any counter-attack by the SLA.

For all the reasons mentioned above, the LTTE's activities, both in hostage-taking and redeployment to the NFZ's with the intent of immunizing its assets from a counter-attack, firmly support LTTE liability for the crime of Human Shielding.

An evaluation of the customary principle of proportionality relative to the Government's military operations is meaningfully affected by the LTTE's intentional use of civilian hostages as human shields.

The primary purpose of using Civilians as a Human Shield is to discredit the Government of Sri Lanka for any loss of civilian life.

A belligerent who hides within an area with high concentrations of civilians is committing the crime of Human Shielding. Therefore, Tamil LTTE is committed crime of human shielding and entirely responsible for civilians' deaths.

Mr. Thanigasalam deliberately ignored the fact that Tamil LTTE human shielding amount to civilians' casualties.

3.4. Food for Tamil Civilians

Mr. Thanigasalm's allegations are unsubstantiated and provided a patently false narrative of the final stage of the armed conflicts with LTTE. Regarding the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Sri Lanka situation report No. 09 issued on May 11, 2009 (Exhibit 01),⁷ GOSL has coordinated humanitarian relief efforts with the United Nations and other relief agencies. It highlights as follows.

- On 7 and 9 May 2009, the International Committee Red Cross (ICRC) off-loaded a total of 50 (fifty) metric tons of food provided by the World Food Program (WFP) for the civilians trapped in the conflict zone.
- In *Vavuniya*, the Competent Authority (C.A.) has announced that communal cooking must start as soon as IDPs move into *Menik Farm* zone 4.
- In *Vavuniya*, the Food Cluster is aiming for one kitchen per 500 displaced civilians at *Menik Farm*.
- At this stage, however, the ratio is approximately one kitchen per 2,000 people due to a lack of space. ZOA managed the kitchen
- Refugee Care and FORUT have committed to support the upgrading of kitchens in *Menik Farm* Zone 2 for twenty and ten blocks, respectively.

⁷<https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-vanni-emergency-ocha-situation-report-no-9>

- The Government has asked the Food Cluster to build communal kitchens in *Menik Farm Zone 2*, and the Sri Lankan Army announced it would build 16 out of the planned 180 kitchens.
- In *Vavuniya*, WFP finished building kitchens at *Omanthai* for food preparation for up to 10,000 people.
- German Agro Action (GAA) / Sewa Lanka will manage those kitchens in case of a new influx of displaced civilians.

3.5. Medicine for Tamils Civilians

- On May 09, 2009, the ICRC evacuated 516 patients and caregivers from the conflict zone to *Pulmoddai* and delivered medicines to civilians in the conflict zone.
- Over the past two weeks, the team of 72 surgeons, doctors, nurses and other staff at the French Field Hospital in *Cheddikulam, Vavuniya*, has treated over 700 people, including 100 surgeries.

Mr. Thanigasalam's allegations do not substantiate and deliberately provided false narrative and misled members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

4. THANIGASALM'S TALKING POINT No. 02

In 2013, former Prime Minister of Canada, Hon. Stephen Harper boycotted the Commonwealth summit in Sri Lanka over human rights violations.

4.0. M.R. THANIGASALAM TALKING POINT No. 04

On behalf of Canada, Germany, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and the U.K., the Core Group on Sri Lanka UK's International Ambassador for Human Rights, Rita French expressed the profound disappointment in the Government's of Sri Lanka's withdrawals from its commitment to work with international communities to address the harmful legacies of war and build sustainable peace in the country.

4.1. TECHNICAL BRIEF FOR TALKING POINT No. 02, 04.

To have better clarity, Talking point No. 02 and 04 are addressed together here.

Mr. Thangasalm has no knowledge to differentiate Genocide and Human Rights. Both talking points No. 02 and 04 are simply not substantiating against Genocide.

Even former prime minister of Canada Stephen Harper boycotted the Commonwealth summit in Sri Lanka for political reasons; no competent judicial authority determined that Sri Lanka has violated human rights against Tamils.

Sri Lanka government withdrew from U.N. Human Rights Council Resolution 30/1 to protect Human Rights for all ethnic groups in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka government's commitment to achieving sustainable peace through an inclusive domestically designed and executed

reconciliation and accountability process, including through the appropriate adaptation of existing mechanisms, in line with the Government's policy framework.

The Government elaborated that this would comprise the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry (COI) headed by a Justice of the Supreme Court, to review the reports of previous Sri Lankan COIs which investigated alleged violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (IHL), to assess the status of implementation of their recommendations and to propose deliverable measures to implement them keeping in line with the new Government's policy.⁸

Mr. Thanigasalm has failed to understand that Human Rights mechanisms are complementary but not punitive. Sri Lanka is a sovereign state and has every right to protect its citizens' best possible ways, according to domestically developed solutions.

Mr. Thanigalam is attempting to interfere with domestic affairs of Sri Lanka quoting statement of International Ambassador for Human Rights, Rita French must be rejected.

Ambassador Rita French praises Sri Lanka government's effort in managing COVID-19 effective manner saving thousands of lives. At the time of the release of this Technical Brief, Sri Lanka, a 22 million nation has only 11 deaths from COVID-19. It is worth note that only one Tamil patient died from COVID-19.

5. THANIGASALM TALKING POINT NO. 07

11 (eleven) years later, State-sponsored Genocide against Tamils is ongoing.

5.1. TECHNICAL BRIEF FOR TALKING POINT No. 07

Mr. Thanigasalam has not provided any supporting evidence on how and why after 11 years, Tamil Genocide is continuing. It is a patently, false, factually incorrect statement.

His divisive political campaign is harmful to all ethnic groups living peacefully in Ontario.

6. (Alleged) Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019

The proposed (alleged) *Tamil Genocide Act* is based on unproductive speculation about Genocide and should not include in the Ontario education system. And also has no legal basis to become Ontario law.

The Ontario Centre for Policy Research has submitted a detailed report to the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, against proposed (Alleged) *Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, 2019*.

A submission can be found on <https://policy-research.ca/publications/>

⁸ <https://www.un.int/srilanka/news/43rd-session-human-rights-council-%E2%80%93-high-level-segment-statement-hon-dinesh-gunawardena>

7. CONCLUSION

Mr. Vijay Thanigasalam, MPP Scarborough-Rough Park has deliberately manipulated the facts and misled members of the Ontario Legislative Assembly.

His allegations against Sri Lanka do not substantiate. Tamil LTTE terrorists who engaged three decades of fighting with the Sri Lanka government cannot be excluded where ever the Sri Lanka conflict is discussed.

The armed conflict with the Tamil LTTE terrorist group should be studied in its entirety and not only during its final months. A fight against Tamil LTTE terrorists is purely armed conflict and does not meet the threshold to establish Tamil Genocide.

All references indicated by MPP Thanigasalam do not provide any categorized evidence of the intent to prove Genocide against Tamils ever took place.

Further, the allegations are not substantiated against International Humanitarian Law and Geneva Convention.

The factually incorrect and patently false narrative presented in the email dated July 02 2020 and the Bill 104, (Alleged) *Tamil Genocide Education Week Act*, 2019, must be rejected.

The Bill 104 shall not continue for 3rd reading to protect the integrity of the Canadian political and legal system.

More information and Media Contact

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Released on July 13, 2020.

This report covers the period from 7 to 11 May 2009. The next report will be issued on or around 13 May.

I. Highlights

- On 11 May, an estimated 900 civilians reportedly escaped from the conflict zone in Mullaitivu, with most having reached the Omanthai crossing point.
- On 9 May, the ICRC evacuated 516 patients and caregivers from the conflict zone to Pulmoddai. On 7 and 9 May, the ICRC offloaded a total of 50 metric tons of food provided by WFP for the civilians trapped in the conflict zone, as well as some medicine.
- The Australian Government announced that it will provide AUS\$ 10 million (US\$ 7.6 million) in humanitarian aid for internally displaced people, and the Italian Government has allocated a contribution of 400,000 Euros (US\$ 544,500) to WFP for food security initiatives.

II. Access & Security

- Sri Lankan security forces continue operations in the conflict zone. Intense fighting has been reported over the weekend with a heavy toll on civilians.

III. Situation Overview

IDPs		
During the period 27 October 2008 to 07 May 2009		196,044 people crossed to the Government-controlled areas from the conflict zone. No new figures have become available since the last report (Sitrep No.8) on 7 May 2009.
Vavuniya Camps:	177,482 ¹	194,303 people are accommodated in temporary camps.
Mannar Camps:	52 ²	
Jaffna Camps:	11,089 ³	
Trincomalee Camps:	5,680	
Hospitals:		1,741⁴ IDPs (injured and caregivers) are in hospitals in various districts ⁵ as of 7 May 2009.
RELEASES		
Vavuniya Camps:	1,146	1,252 people have been released from temporary camps to host families and elders' homes as of 28 April 2009. The majority of these people are elders, mentally challenged individuals and other vulnerable groups.
Mannar Camps:	4	
Jaffna Camps:	102	
The UN estimates that at least 50,000 people are still trapped inside the conflict zone.		

- Humanitarian organisations present in Vavuniya have been tasked by the Competent Authority (CA) to prepare themselves for a new influx of IDPs from the conflict zone in the coming days.

¹ Source: Government, UNHCR (Vavuniya) and Divisional Secretary Vavuniya (DS VA)

² Source: Assistant Project Director Office (PDA Office Kachcheri)

³ Source: GA office (Jaffna)

⁴ Source: Programme Coordinator (GH Trincomalee)

⁵ This includes General Hospital Trincomalee, Base Hospital Kanthalai, Peripheral Unit Thampalakamam, Field Hospital Pulmoddai, Base Hospital Padaviya, National Hospital Colombo, Teaching Hospital Kandy, Cancer Hospital Maharagama, General Hospital Polonnaruwa, and General Hospital Mannar. Missing data for the hospitals of Vavuniya and some other locations estimated over 2,000 people.

- The Government Agent (GA) in Vavuniya has announced that 1,000 IDP families will be shifted today from Muslim MV and Skandapuram MV schools and Kathirkamar village to Menik Farm zone 2. (Humanitarian agencies report that overcrowding of zone 2 is a major concern.)

IV. Humanitarian Response

Food

- On 7 and 9 May, the ICRC offloaded a total of 50 metric tons of food provided by WFP for the civilians trapped in the conflict zone.
- In Vavuniya, the Competent Authority (CA) has announced that communal cooking must start as soon as IDPs move into Menik Farm zone 4.
- In Vavuniya, the Food Cluster is aiming for 1 kitchen per 500 displaced civilians at Menik farm. At this stage, however, the ratio is approximately 1 kitchen per 2,000 people due to a lack of space. ZOA Refugee Care and FORUT have committed to support the upgrading of kitchens in Menik Farm zone 2 for twenty and ten blocks, respectively. The Government has asked the Food Cluster to build communal kitchens in Menik Farm zone 2, and the Sri Lankan Army announced it would build 16 out of the planned 180 kitchens.
- In Vavuniya, WFP finished building kitchens at Omanthai for food preparation for up to 10,000 people. German Agro Action (GAA) / SewaLanka will manage those kitchens in case of a new influx of displaced civilians.

Shelter

- In Jaffna, a total of 250 shelters are ready at the Kodikamam Forest Site A. The IDPs accommodated in transit locations will gradually be transferred to this site by the Government.
- In Vavuniya, the CA announced that Menik Farm zone 4 will accommodate the new influx as well as IDPs residing in schools or other temporary sites.
- In Vavuniya, IOM has committed to build 4,000 temporary shelters at Menik Farm zone 4. However, humanitarian agencies have expressed their reservation over the establishment of this site, due to several concerns ranging from security, to possible flooding due to poor drainage and lack of sufficient shelter and water supply.

Health

- On 9 May, the ICRC evacuated 516 patients and caregivers from the conflict zone to Pulmoddai and delivered some medicines to civilians in the conflict zone.
- Over the past two weeks, the team of 72 surgeons, doctors, nurses and other staff at the French Field Hospital in Cheddikulam, Vavuniya has treated over 700 people, including 100 surgeries.



In the past two weeks, 700 civilians have been treated at the field hospital set up by the French Civilian Protection – May 2009

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

NFI

- In Jaffna, all IDP families have received NFI packages with the support of UNHCR, ZOA Refugee Care and ICRC.

WASH

- In Trincomalee, a total of 80 toilets out of 120 needed are already built in the Pulmoddai site. The remaining 40 are under construction. The National Water Supply and Drainage Board announced its readiness to truck water to the site at the rate of 40 liters per person per day. Three dug wells out of the four needed are now complete; the remaining one is under construction. Two bathing facilities are ready and four more are under construction.
- In Vavuniya, the National Water Supply and Drainage Board has announced the installation of six water purification plants in Menik Farm.

Education

- In Jaffna, UNICEF has facilitated a "Youth to Child" workshop promoting the development of recovery and resilience skills among youths.
- In Jaffna, on 11 May, the Mirusuvil Temporary Learning Space (TLS) was opened by the GA. At least 473 IDP children and 75 host community children will attend this TLS facility.

Protection

- In Vavuniya, the Human Rights Commission has received a clearance from the Ministry of Defence to access Menik Farm, but has not been able to visit yet.

V. Communication / Advocacy

- On 11 May, the British Foreign Secretary David Milliband and French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner held spoke in New York on the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka, following their recent visit to the country.

VI. Funding / CHAP

- On 8 May, the Italian Government announced a contribution of 400,000 Euros (equivalent to over Rs 60 million or US\$ 544,500) to WFP to contribute towards the implementation of the project "Food for peace-building and recovery in conflict-affected areas". The project will enhance the availability of food supplies for IDPs and the resident community in conflict-affected areas, mainly in the Eastern and Northern districts of Sri Lanka. Special attention in implementing the project will be given to pregnant women and children under five years of age. In the last months, the Italian Government contributed 250,000 Euros (US\$ 339,400) to UNHCR and 20,060 Euros (US\$ 271,600) to WHO to assist IDPs in Sri Lanka.
- On 9 May, the Australian Government announced that it will provide AUS\$ 10 million (US\$ 7.6 million) in humanitarian aid for internally displaced people. These funds will be distributed through UN agencies and Australian NGOs as follows: AUS\$ 4 million for UNICEF, AUS\$ 2.5 million for WFP, AUS\$ 1.5 million to other UN Agencies and AUS\$ 2 million for Australian NGOs. The aid will be used to provide water, sanitation, shelter, food and healthcare for the displaced.
- As of 11 May, the 2009 CHAP for Sri Lanka is 32 percent funded, with US\$ 49,719,600 received out of the US\$ 155,112,600 required.

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int.

VII. Contacts

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