

## HUMANITARIAN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (HIP)

### Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu, India

#### 0. MAJOR CHANGE SINCE PREVIOUS VERSIONS OF THE HIP

In November 2011 a new assessment round was added under section 5.3 of this HIP, in response to humanitarian needs for assistance to Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu, India.

By April 2012, due to pervasive humanitarian needs in the former conflict areas of Sri Lanka, EUR 310,000 has been reallocated to Assessment Rounds 1 and 2 from Assessment Round 3.

#### 1. CONTEXT

The long-standing conflict in Sri Lanka came to an end in May 2009. In the wake of this conflict lies a protracted humanitarian situation on several fronts where unmet humanitarian needs prevail. In the Northern Province<sup>1</sup> the emphasis has been on the return process which was launched by the Government of Sri Lanka at the end of 2009. Since then, humanitarian aid efforts have largely focused on returning IDPs to their places of origin and ensuring that basic services are in place for the returnees. Meanwhile, in the Eastern Province<sup>2</sup>, although the conflict ended by mid-2007, recent floods have aggravated an already fragile existence for the most vulnerable, many of whom had only just begun to rebuild their livelihoods after a period of protracted displacement. Lastly, across the Palk Strait in Indian Tamil Nadu, some 75,000 officially registered Sri Lankans are living in refugee camps.

As development projects amplify, under present circumstances, a phase-out for the European Union's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, (DG ECHO) is foreseeable by the end of 2012, allowing for sufficient time to ensure a smooth transition to development actions. At present, however, humanitarian assistance continues to carry an important added-value in this context: ensuring that a bridge between relief and development is in place, and assistance is provided on the basis of humanitarian principles.

Some recent data on Sri Lanka:

- Population: 20,156,204 people (World Bank)
- ECHO GNA: 2 – Vulnerability Index; 3 – Crisis Index (2009/2010)
- HDI ranking: 102/182 countries – Medium HDI
- Conflict-affected population: at least 445,000<sup>3</sup> people are living in precarious conditions despite the end of the conflict.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hereafter the Northern Province, the North and the Vanni will be interchangeably used in this document.

<sup>2</sup> Hereafter the Eastern Province and the East will be interchangeably used in this document.

<sup>3</sup> This figure is based on the following estimates and is an accumulation of the following approximate data: 300,000 Vanni inhabitants displaced after April 2008 although most have been resettled by early 2011; WWD/LKA/2011/03

## 2. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

### (1) Affected people

There have been several waves of displacement caused by the conflict resulting in varying degrees of vulnerability.

- Some 19,000 people remain in IDP camps, unable to return to their place of origin because of heavy mine or Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) contamination, or the areas have not yet been deemed accessible by the Sri Lankan army. Some 66,000 people remain in displacement, living with host families.
- Recent returnees - The majority of those displaced since April 2008 have returned to their place of origin (approximately 75%) in the Vanni. Civil infrastructure, however remains weak, returnees have very limited means to engage in livelihood activities and are remain highly dependent on external assistance. Military presence is very high and likely to stay for the coming years
- Flood-affected populations in the Eastern province – Most had only recently begun to rebuild their livelihoods after protracted displacement and the Tsunami in 2004. The January/February 2011 floods have caused widespread devastation to crops and infrastructure causing extensive damage to the Maha harvest, due in March/April 2011.
- Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu - Over 100,000 formally registered Sri Lankan refugees live in Tamil Nadu of whom some 75,000 live in officially recognized refugee centres. The government of India and Sri Lanka are yet to engage in negotiations on the fate of these refugees, however returns to Sri Lanka are on the rise. As the potential political stakes rise, so do concerns about the truly voluntary nature of any return process to Sri Lanka.

### (2) Description of most acute humanitarian needs (by sector).

- Protection – Ensure access to legal services, protection from violence and ensure access to humanitarian aid for most vulnerable.
- Humanitarian demining – Mine/Explosive Remnants of War clearance and Mine Risk Education in areas of recent return.
- Coordination - Ensure constructive interaction among stakeholders involved in the aid effort, providing accurate and adequate info analysis and sharing as well as advocacy on key issues related to aid implementation in line with international principles,

---

approximately 75,000 refugees in Tamil Nadu; approximately 70,000 HSZ-displaced in Jaffna and the East.

- Food/Livelihoods – Food and livelihood needs persist and require support programs to lessen dependence of external assistance and render the conflict and flood-affected population self-reliant.
- Transitional Shelter – Provide transitional shelter solutions until permanent housing programs follow.
- Health – Access to Primary Healthcare in remote areas with recently returned populations; mental health support; support to persons with disabilities; nutrition.
- Water & Sanitation – Access to clean water and sanitary facilities in the areas of return and displacement.

### **3. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE**

#### **(1) National / local response and involvement**

In the North, the Government of Sri Lanka concentrates its efforts on rehabilitation with large scale infrastructure projects. Individual, needs-based assistance remains limited, with significant needs prevailing. A coordinated aid appeal by the Government of Sri Lanka, the UN and NGOs, also known as the Joint Plan of Assistance (JPA) was launched in February 2011 identifying priority needs and establishing implementation modalities for the North.

As for the flood-affected East, the UN spearheaded a Flash Appeal whilst the Government of Sri Lanka announced a Cash for Work programme, and other national initiatives which should also reach the flood-affected areas in due course.

In Tamil Nadu, government authorities are providing comprehensive material assistance to the refugees. Adequate civil documentation for the refugees is however key in ensuring that the refugees have recourse to protection mechanisms. Given the sensitive nature of this endeavour persistent advocacy is required.

#### **(2) International Humanitarian Response**

Most donors continue to shift their focus to development projects and are eager to move from a humanitarian response to a development programs which, although encouraging, has impacted the humanitarian aid response capacity.

In Tamil Nadu, the international humanitarian response is low due to low visibility of the beneficiary caseload and challenges to obtain work permits in India. UNHCR has no access to the Sri Lankan refugees as India is not a signatory of the UN Convention on Refugees.

#### **(3) Constraints and DG ECHO response capacity**

##### **(a) Access/humanitarian space**

Historically, humanitarian space has been fragile in Sri Lanka. Although there have been sporadic improvements in terms of access, a strong military presence in the North with a widening mandate with respect to assistance programmes is a point of concern. Implementation modalities will be

monitored carefully to ensure that ECHO-funded aid programs are implemented in a principled manner.

(b) Partners

Partners with a longer presence and high degree of professionalism are in place. Humanitarian principles need to be at the core of any action, given the acute protection concerns that prevail.

In Tamil Nadu the number of partners active in the refugee camps is limited due to the complex administrative process to receive permission to work in the camps.

(c) Absorption capacity on the ground and efficiency of operations

Partners have to demonstrate a great deal of flexibility and have had to adapt to local needs and operational constraints. The main concern is ensuring that partners have the necessary Human Resources to implement their programs effectively. Expatriate field presence is considered key both in the North and the East to ensure operational needs are fulfilled.

In Tamil Nadu, the absorption capacity is limited due to the small number of FPA partners operational in the camps, especially in Protection-related activities.

(4) Envisaged DG ECHO response

ECHO will continue to focus on unmet needs in both Sri Lanka as well as Tamil Nadu. Principled assistance offers an important added-value in post-conflict settings to ensure that assistance is provided on an impartial and neutral basis. As in previous interventions focus will be on protection-streamlined assistance specifically targeting areas are vital for reestablishing livelihoods activities for returnees and flood-affected populations. Disaster Risk Reduction mainstreaming is also strongly encouraged.

(5) Expected results of humanitarian aid interventions

Provided there is no change to the general political context, it is expected that this decision will facilitate the transition to development-oriented projects in close collaboration with the EU Delegation in Sri Lanka and other development initiatives.

#### **4. LRRD, COORDINATION AND TRANSITION**

(1) Other DG ECHO interventions

ECHO has been funding humanitarian aid programs in Sri Lanka since 1992. Since the end of the conflict in 2009, there have been a series of Emergency decisions and one Ad Hoc decision in 2010 to address the needs of the returning IDP as well as a Primary Emergency Decision in response to the Floods in eastern Sri Lanka early 2011.

In Tamil Nadu, the funding decision of 2009 has focused on meeting Protection (ICLA, psychosocial support), WATSAN and Shelter needs.

(2) Other services/donors availability (such as for LRRD and transition)

Most international donors focus on reconstruction and development in the North and East of Sri Lanka. In a number of sectors, humanitarian and reconstruction activities are implemented in parallel which offers an important means to transition to the development phase through strengthened coordination with the government and third country actors.

(3) Other concomitant EU interventions

Among the wide-ranging interventions managed by the EU Delegation those that are particularly pertinent in view of the LRRD strategy include: Assistance to Conflict-affected people (ACAP) in the North and East which includes activities such as Mine Risk Education and initial income generating activities. Under the Aid to Uprooted People (AUP) funding line, the construction of permanent houses is being funded.

New ECHO funded operations in areas, where other EU interventions are already ongoing, such as the East, will require specific attention to effectively cover gaps, target the most vulnerable and avoid duplication.

(4) Exit scenarios

It is expected that ECHO will be able to disengage in 2012, if the political situation remains stable and development is appropriately implemented in the conflict affected areas. DG ECHO will liaise closely with the EU Delegation to gradually build up longer term development interventions, following-up on DG ECHO's humanitarian assistance.

The guiding premise for DG ECHO's engagement in the Tamil Nadu refugee camps is ensuring the voluntary nature of any return process, and limiting the risk of any external push or pull factors to or from the camps. Civil documentation is key for refugees to make an informed decision on whether or not to return and this is the premise of DG ECHO's engagement in the camps. At present the humanitarian needs in the camps are still under evaluation.

## **5. OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL DETAILS**

The provisions of the financing decision ECHO/WWD/BUD/2011/01000 and the general conditions of the Partnership Agreement with the European Commission shall take precedence over the provisions in this document.

### **5.1. Contacts<sup>4</sup>**

Operational Unit in charge: ECHO/B5

---

<sup>4</sup> Letters of intent and Single forms should be submitted to DG ECHO using APPEL. Instructions on how to submit Letters of intent using APPEL are available at [http://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/preparing\\_an\\_action/financing\\_decision/intention\\_letter..](http://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/preparing_an_action/financing_decision/intention_letter..)

Contact persons at HQ: Giuseppe Angelini and Dominique Gryn  
in the field: Jeroen Uytterschaut

## 5.2. Financial info

Indicative Allocation: EUR 11million

Man-made: Hum. Aid: EUR 11 million

Total: Hum. Aid: EUR 11 million

## 5.3. Proposal Assessment

### Assessment round 1

- a) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: interventions in the fields of humanitarian food assistance, transitional shelter, health and water & sanitation in the North and East, as described in sections 2 and 3.4 of this HIP.
- b) Indicative amount to be allocated in this round of proposals: up to EUR 5.01 Million**
- c) Costs will be eligible from 15/07/2011<sup>5</sup>, Actions will start from 15/07/2011
- d) The expected initial duration for the Actions is up to 12 months
- e) Potential partners: all DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Letter of intent (max 5 pages, free format or based on the Single form format) including at least: area of intervention, sector, duration, beneficiaries, context/needs assessment, proposed response (results, activities), estimated costs, requested contribution, contact details.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 16/05/2011<sup>6</sup>
- h) Commonly used principles will be applied for the assessment of proposals, such as quality of needs assessment, relevance of intervention sectors, and knowledge of the country / region. In addition to this, the partner should have a consolidated presence in Sri Lanka with an established office.

### Assessment round 2

- a) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: interventions in the fields of coordination, humanitarian demining and

---

<sup>5</sup> The eligibility date of the Action is not linked to the date of receipt of the Single Form. It is either the eligibility date set in the Single form or the eligibility date of the HIP, what ever occurs latest.

<sup>6</sup> The Commission reserves the right to consider letters of intent/Single Forms transmitted after this date, especially in case certain needs/ priorities are not covered by the received letters of intent / Single Forms

protection activities with an emphasis on the Northern Province of Sri Lanka, as described in sections 2 and 3.4 of this HIP.

**b) Indicative amount to be allocated in this round of proposals: up to EUR 5.3 Million**

- c) Costs will be eligible from 01/08/2011<sup>7</sup>, Actions will start from 01/08/2011
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months
- e) Potential partners: All DG ECHO Partners
- f) Information to be provided: Letter of intent (max 5 pages, free format or based on the Single form format) including at least: area of intervention, sector, duration, beneficiaries, context/needs assessment, proposed response (results, activities), estimated costs, requested contribution, contact details.
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 16/06/2011<sup>8</sup>
- h) Commonly used principles will be applied for the assessment of proposals, such as quality of needs assessment, relevance of intervention sectors, and knowledge of the country / region. In addition to this, the partner should have a consolidated presence in Sri Lanka with an established office.

**Assessment round 3**

- a) Description of the humanitarian aid interventions relating to this assessment round: Humanitarian Assistance for Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu.
- b) Indicative amount to be allocated in this round of proposals: up to EUR 690,000
- c) Costs will be eligible from 25/11/2011<sup>9</sup>
- d) The expected initial duration for the Action is up to 12 months
- e) Potential partners: All DG ECHO partners.
- f) Information to be provided: Single Form
- g) Indicative date for receipt of the above requested information: by 25/11/2011<sup>10</sup>

Commonly used principles to be applied for the assessment of proposals: partners already operating in Tamil Nadu and who already have a work authorization will be given priority. This is justified by the fact that obtaining work authorization for the refugee camps in Tamil Nadu is a lengthy process and can cause delays in project

---

<sup>7</sup> Cf. footnote 5

<sup>8</sup> Cf. footnote 6

<sup>9</sup> Cf. footnote 5

<sup>10</sup> Cf. footnote 6

implementation. Other criteria will include quality of needs assessment, relevance of intervention sectors, and knowledge of the country / region.

## **6. IMPLEMENTATION STATUS**

Already contracted: EUR EUR 10,657,048