

SRI LANKA

| Working environment |

o The context

Sri Lanka has seen a steady improvement in security in 2011, two years since the end of the 26-year-long conflict between Government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. At the same time, the operational environment has been shifting from humanitarian relief to early recovery and development. These trends are expected to continue in 2012.

By the end of August 2011, the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) – some 395,00 persons – who had been displaced during the course of the conflict, had returned to their homes. The remaining IDPs who are still in camps or with host communities are expected to return in 2012. It is anticipated that the improvement in security will also spur an increase in the voluntary return of Sri Lankan refugees from abroad in the coming years.

Significant challenges still face both the displaced and returnees, however. In the north and east, the demining of residential zones in return areas has not yet been completed. Much agricultural land still remains to be cleared, particularly in what constituted forward areas in the war. Still, work is under way to re-establish infrastructure and essential services to ensure that those returning to their homes are able to restart their lives in safety and dignity.

Some IDPs, mainly in the Jaffna and Vavuniya districts in northern Sri Lanka, are still unable to return home even after their lengthy displacement, and are living with



Planning figures for Sri Lanka

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2012		DEC 2012 - JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Various	220	220	270	270	290	290
Asylum-seekers	Various	200	-	100	-	100	-
Returnees (refugees)	Various	21,300	15,000	30,000	25,000	30,000	25,000
IDPs	Various	156,000	156,000	81,000	81,000	13,000	13,000
Returnees (IDPs) ¹	Various	118,000	118,000	75,000	75,000	68,000	68,000
Stateless	Various	-	-	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000
Total		295,720	289,220	188,370	183,270	114,390	109,290

¹ These figures indicate the number of IDPs who are expected to return during the course of the year.

host communities. UNHCR continues to seek durable solutions for these and other IDPs having fled their homes prior to April 2008, who number some 90,000 throughout the country. This complex situation requires adequate measures by the Government if it is to be resolved.

The number of asylum-seekers and refugees in Sri Lanka is expected to remain stable, but the search for durable solutions will continue to be challenging. Even though in a transitional phase, humanitarian assistance will continue to be needed in Sri Lanka in the years ahead, in order to support the country's mid- to long-term shift from relief to early recovery and development.

● *The needs*

As the protection cluster lead, UNHCR has direct access to beneficiaries in all return areas in the north. Although fulfilling the humanitarian and protection-related needs of IDP and refugee returnees remains the main priority, UNHCR will provide some assistance to community-based development activities. It will also help build the capacity of national institutions and local NGOs involved in returnee reintegration and recovery.

UNHCR is one of the main providers of humanitarian assistance to IDPs and returnees in Sri Lanka. Its shelter grant project is widely appreciated by the returnees, and will continue to help them restart their lives. The shelter grant registration process provides an invaluable opportunity for UNHCR to collect baseline protection information, monitor returns, and identify the specific protection needs of returning families, particularly the most vulnerable.

Providing basic non-food items (NFIs) is another priority, along with the implementation of quick-impact projects (QIPs) to help communities re-establish themselves and meet their needs for livelihood support.

With the increase in the number of Sri Lankan refugees expected to return in 2012, UNHCR will boost assistance by providing reintegration support and addressing particular issues related to return. These include assistance in recovering civil documentation and preventing statelessness for Sri Lankans born abroad.

| Strategy and activities |

In 2012, UNHCR will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to IDPs and returnees. As a result of the overall decline in the IDP population in the country, the operation will move from an IDP operation towards a refugee returnee operation. It will be of particular importance during this transitional phase to ensure that durable solutions are found for particular groups of persons who remain displaced, and that land and property issues are addressed.

It is expected that the number of facilitated voluntary returns of Sri Lankan refugees—mainly from India—will increase significantly. These returnees will benefit from a reintegration and transportation grant and NFI assistance. The number of



Returned IDPs tending to their gardens. Oddusudan, Mullaitivu district, north-east Sri Lanka.

UNHCR / A. D. SENAYIRATNE

spontaneous returns is expected to decline as awareness of the facilitated return process increases. UNHCR will also boost advocacy to grant formal citizenship to refugee returnees who are stateless.

Main objectives and targets for 2012

Favourable protection environment

- IDPs, returnees and refugees benefit from individual protection interventions designed to advocate and monitor their rights.
 - ➔ Regular protection monitoring is undertaken in places of displacement, return and relocation, and consultations are held with 7,000 people.

Fair protection processes

- The provision of civil status documentation is advocated and supported.
 - ➔ Some 5,000 people are provided with support to obtain civil status documentation.

Durable solutions

- IDPs achieve durable solutions through return, local integration and relocation.
 - ➔ About 90 per cent of remaining camp-based new IDPs return voluntarily to their areas of origin.
- Voluntary repatriation of refugees from India and elsewhere is facilitated.
 - ➔ Approximately 25,000 refugees are assisted to repatriate voluntarily.
- Resettlement to third countries is facilitated for registered refugees.
 - ➔ Some 80 refugees are assisted to depart for resettlement to third countries.

UNHCR's presence in 2012

□ Number of offices	6
□ Total staff	122
International	14
National	97
JPOs	5
UNVs	3
Others	3

UNHCR will strengthen its protection monitoring presence and its activities in support of civil society and national protection mechanisms. Protection activities and community-based QIPs will underpin activities in 2012 and beyond. They will serve to make returns more secure, improve livelihoods and self-reliance, and minimize protection risks in communities with a mix of IDP and refugee returnees.

Assistance to IDP returnees will be phased out as they re-establish their livelihoods and development actors expand their activities to fill gaps. However, it may be necessary for UNHCR to continue to provide assistance to IDPs remaining in open camps and welfare centres.

UNHCR will conduct refugee status determination (RSD) in accordance with its mandate, and assist recognized refugees to find durable solutions. Refugees are not allowed to integrate locally or work in Sri Lanka, and UNHCR continues to advocate for these rights. As very few refugees choose to repatriate, resettlement remains the primary durable solution for them. Since this option is limited in scope, refugees tend to stay in Sri Lanka for lengthy periods, facing a range of difficulties.

| Constraints |

Access for humanitarian organizations has become easier in comparison to previous years, but the operational environment will continue to be challenging in 2012, both for the UN as well as international and national NGOs. This may hamper UNHCR's operations, especially if there is limited access to some areas for NGO partners. As Sri Lanka moves towards early recovery and development, funding is expected to decrease for humanitarian work, even

though substantial challenges remain. The most pressing unmet needs will exist among the long-term displaced. It will be essential to have the support of development partners to ensure durable solutions for this group.

| Organization and implementation |

● Coordination

UNHCR will maintain close links with government ministries and the Presidential Task Force for Resettlement, Development and Security in the Northern Province. It will gradually hand over its lead role in shelter and NFIs to early recovery actors, but continue to provide the necessary guidance and leadership, particularly with respect to protection.

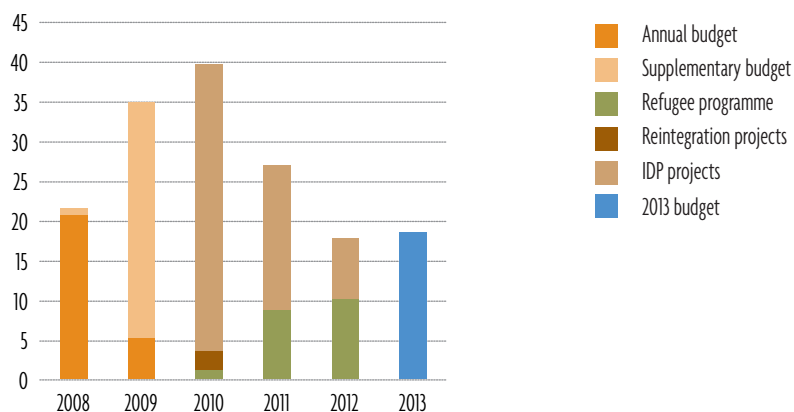
Cooperation with other relevant actors will endeavour to ensure that assistance gaps beyond UNHCR's mandate are quickly addressed. For instance, UNHCR's Memorandum of Understanding with the World Bank provides the latter with return and protection monitoring information, triggering the release of World Bank funds for recovery and reconstruction.

| Financial information |

Financial requirements for Sri Lanka have decreased considerably since the conflict ended in May 2009, and targeted humanitarian assistance has stabilized the situation in the post-conflict period. In 2012, refugee returns are expected to increase and IDP returns to decline, resulting in corresponding budgetary adjustments. UNHCR's budget for Sri Lanka has declined from USD 27.2 million in 2011 to USD 17.7 million in 2012.

UNHCR's budget in Sri Lanka 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



2012 UNHCR Budget in Sri Lanka (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment				
International and regional instruments	17,956	0	0	17,956
Access to legal assistance	228,154	0	514,799	742,952
Subtotal	246,110	0	514,799	760,908
Fair protection processes and documentation				
Reception conditions	755,617	0	0	755,617
Registration and profiling	7,956	0	0	7,956
Refugee status determination	97,956	0	0	97,956
Civil status documentation	539,008	0	144,600	683,607
Subtotal	1,400,537	0	144,600	1,545,136
Security from violence and exploitation				
Prevention of and response to SGBV	225,654	0	151,700	377,353
Subtotal	225,654	0	151,700	377,353
Basic needs and essential services				
Health	14,956	0	0	14,956
Shelter and infrastructure	64,956	0	1,502,259	1,567,215
Basic domestic and hygiene items	83,412	0	1,525,220	1,608,631
Services for people with specific needs	9,456	0	0	9,456
Education	80,867	0	0	80,867
Subtotal	253,647	0	3,027,479	3,281,125
Community empowerment and self-reliance				
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,210,254	0	1,731,019	2,941,272
Subtotal	1,210,254	0	1,731,019	2,941,272
Durable solutions				
Voluntary return	3,645,543	0	0	3,645,543
Reintegration	918,262	0	600,799	1,519,060
Resettlement	23,867	0	0	23,867
Greater reduction of statelessness	0	68,724	0	68,724
Subtotal	4,587,672	68,724	600,799	5,257,194
Logistics and operations support				
Logistics and supply	1,131,269	0	515,299	1,646,568
Operations management, coordination and support	1,045,477	0	868,197	1,913,674
Subtotal	2,176,746	0	1,383,495	3,560,241
Total	10,100,618	68,724	7,553,889	17,723,230
2011 Revised budget	8,952,734	0	18,218,959	27,171,693

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies

Ministry of Economic Development
Ministry of Finance and Planning
Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs
Ministry of Resettlement

NGOs

Danish Refugee Council
Jaffna Social Action Centre
Muslim Aid
OfERR
Organization for Human Rights and Resources Development
Rural Development Foundation
Saravodaya
Sewalanka Foundation
The Refugee Rehabilitation Organization

Others

Bank of Ceylon
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
UNDP
UNOPS

Operational partners

Government agencies

Ministry of Child Development and Women's Affairs
Ministry of External Affairs
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration
Ministry of Rehabilitation and Prison Reforms
Ministry of Social Services
Presidential Task Force for Resettlement Development and Security in the Northern Province

NGOs

Adventist Development and Relief Agency
Care
Caritas
Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions
Christian Aid UK
Deutsche Welthungerhilfe
Habitat for Humanity
Handicap International
HelpAge International
Malteser International
Norwegian Refugee Council
Oxfam
People in Need
Relief International
Save the Children Sri Lanka
Schweizerisches Arbeiterhilfswerk
United Methodist Committee on Relief
World Vision Sri Lanka
ZOA Refugee Care

Others

Asian Development Bank
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICRC
JICA
World Bank