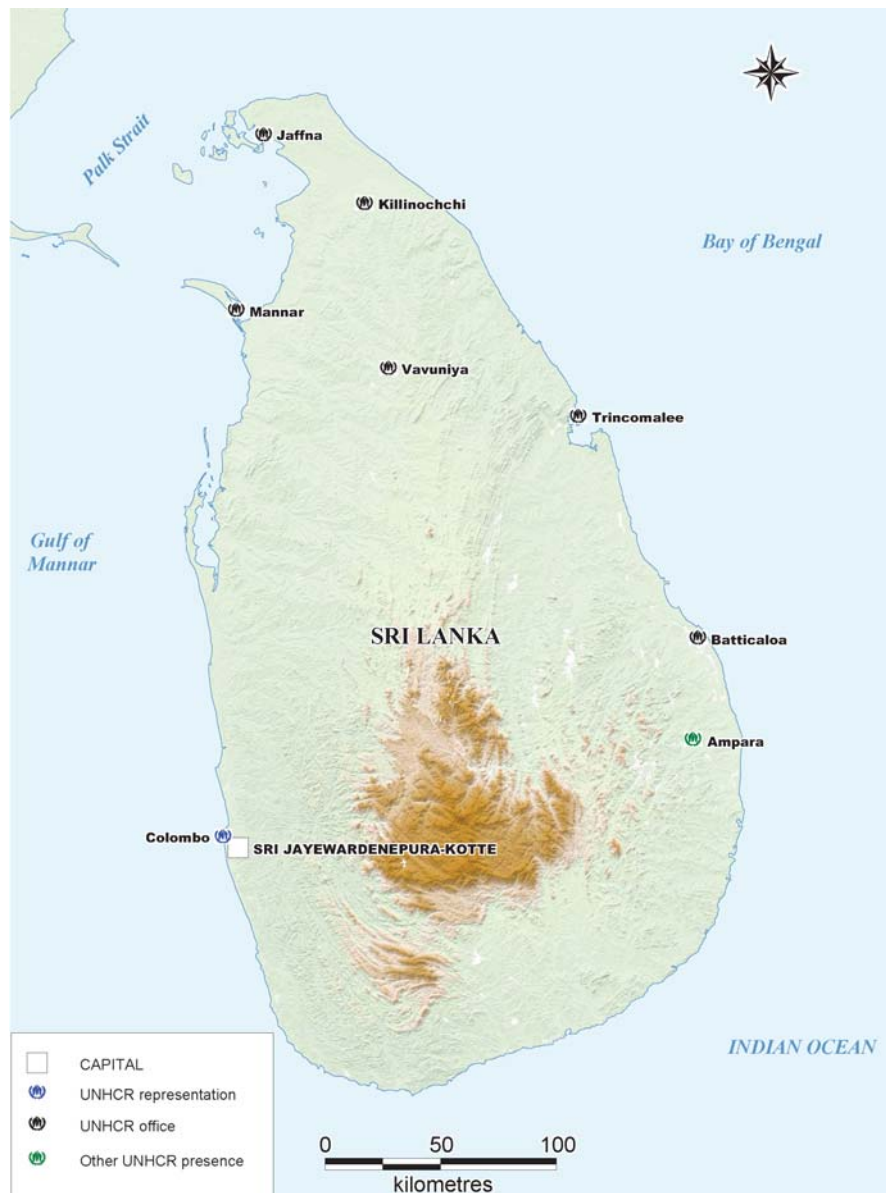


Sri Lanka

Operational highlights

- UNHCR helped some 158,600 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to return to their places of origin and mitigated the impact of further displacement by providing shelter rehabilitation and livelihood assistance.
- The Office strengthened protection monitoring and intervened when needed to improve the physical safety of IDPs and returnees and to ensure respect of their rights.
- By offering non-food relief items to newly displaced IDPs, UNHCR provided immediate physical protection, prevented further displacement and reduced outbreaks of disease.
- UNHCR supported the national authorities' efforts to register all newly displaced people. The improved statistical data helped the Office to better protect and assist beneficiaries.
- The Office conducted capacity-building and awareness-raising events for Government officials, the military, NGO partners, beneficiaries and host communities.
- By implementing small-scale and quick-impact projects, UNHCR helped returnees, contributed to stability and eased tensions between ethnic groups.



Working environment

The conflict in Sri Lanka continued unabated in 2007, leading to new displacement and a deterioration in humanitarian conditions. In the first half of the year, the Government secured control over rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) strongholds in the eastern part of the country. Subsequently, it promoted

the return of IDPs to the region. In late 2007, fighting intensified in the north of the country.

With the political and security situation in Sri Lanka remaining volatile, concerns for the safety of humanitarian personnel in the country grew. Moreover, the difficult working environment in some areas reduced the humanitarian community's ability to reach the affected population.

Participatory assessments identified livelihood assistance and physical security as the most pressing needs for IDPs.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Sri Lanka were to:

- Ensure the protection of all conflict-generated IDPs.
- Find appropriate durable solutions for all conflict-generated IDPs.
- Provide emergency assistance and mitigate the impact of further displacement.

Protection and solutions

Violence, human rights abuses and forced population movements were reported throughout the year. Wherever possible, UNHCR monitoring and protection ensured the safety and voluntary nature of IDP and returnee movements. UNHCR's presence also prevented further abuses. The Office pursued individual cases to seek redress for abuses and to secure IDPs' access to life-saving services. Training and awareness-raising events enhanced the capacity of national institutions, NGOs and communities to guard IDP and children's rights, prepare documentation, prevent sexual and gender-based violence, and raise awareness of HIV and AIDS risks. For instance, NGOs working at IDP sites were trained to reduce sexual and gender-based violence by adopting specific preventive measures. UNHCR programmes also augmented the capacity of camp management teams to uphold the rights of IDPs and identify their protection and assistance needs.

Some 158,600 IDPs returned to their homes, mostly in the eastern districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee. The implementation of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming approach in Sri Lanka helped the Office to incorporate IDPs' needs more thoroughly into its

strategic planning and interventions. UNHCR continued to advocate for Sri Lanka's accession to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

Activities and assistance

Community services: UNHCR renovated and ensured proper maintenance of welfare centres and implemented community projects. These activities, which included programmes to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and the spread of HIV and AIDS, benefited some 12,500 people. The Office also conducted 70 workshops with a total of 1,480 participants to train community groups in camp management. By implementing 90 quick-impact projects, a third of which focused on economic recovery, the Office supported returnees and host communities. Some 180 refugees benefited from monthly subsistence allowances and health care.

Domestic needs and household support: UNHCR distributed 658,000 non-food relief items, including mosquito nets, to the newly displaced. Some 300 families received shelter materials.

Income generation: Small-scale income-generation projects helped 190 vulnerable families to support themselves while in displacement.

Legal assistance: The Office monitored abuses against IDPs and intervened on their behalf when necessary. It conducted some 1,440 monitoring missions in 2007, covering more than 24,000 people. UNHCR's protection work and lead coordination role improved the physical safety of IDPs; it also helped them gain better access to legal services and improved the quality of registration. Legal assistance was provided in 8,000 cases related to identity documentation, and mobile programmes helped some 4,730 individuals obtain

Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Various	180	180	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Pakistan	180	180	45	35
	Various	20	20	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	From India	2,000	2,000	-	-
	Various	20	20	-	-
IDPs		459,600	459,600	51	-
Returnees (IDPs)		158,600	158,600	-	-
Total		620,600	620,600		



UNHCR/G. Amarasinghe

Internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka who arrived in January 2007 in Palacholai IDP camp, close to Vanadaramulla. Most of them came from Karadiyanaru, Pullamalai, Kithul.

birth, death or marriage certificates. Furthermore, UNHCR conducted 80 training and awareness-raising events covering protection and legal and human rights; these benefited more than 5,000 IDPs and host community members.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR boosted its implementing partners' operational capacity by offering them training in protection, financial management and programme issues.

Shelter: UNHCR led the inter-agency response through the shelter coordination cell, providing technical guidance and developing policy guidelines on shelter assistance, the decommissioning of sites, emergency preparedness and contingency planning. The Office distributed more than 4,300 tents and provided 4,700 emergency shelter construction kits. It also built 810 semi-permanent or permanent shelters, repaired more than 4,600 houses and shelters, and constructed or repaired some 40 wells. In addition, about 5 kilometres of access roads were constructed or repaired, and 10 community construction projects carried out. The intensifying emergency and return movements in the east were the major factors behind the significant growth of expenditure in this sector.

Transport and logistics: The timely provision of shelter and non-food relief items was essential in preventing further displacement and providing immediate physical protection, in addition to alleviating the situation of protracted displacement and prolonged dependency on host communities. Transportation and distribution was made possible through a fleet of 14 trucks and drivers that have been operational in all the districts in which UNHCR maintains a presence. Transportation of materials into the district of Jaffna was done through government-chartered ships. Warehouses in Colombo, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Vavuniya, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Jaffna were maintained. UNHCR's field presence and its preparedness of contingency stocks made immediate response possible in 2007.

Constraints

The shift of the conflict from the east to the north of the country challenged UNHCR's operation in 2007. Increased military activity, heightened security measures, the frequent closure of crossing points, curfews, the presence of land mines and complex clearance procedures all hampered access to those in need of assistance and affected the planned activities.

Financial information

The financial requirements for 2007 were fully met. After the sharp increase in the 2005 and 2006 expenditures, due mainly to the consequences of the 2004 Tsunami, the initial budget was meant to be reduced to USD 7.3 million. Nevertheless, the growing crisis resulting from the conflict compelled UNHCR to eventually increase the budget to more than USD 20 million. The generous response of donors enabled the Office to meet the needs and to improve its emergency response capacity. UNHCR also participated in the 2007 Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP) for Sri Lanka.

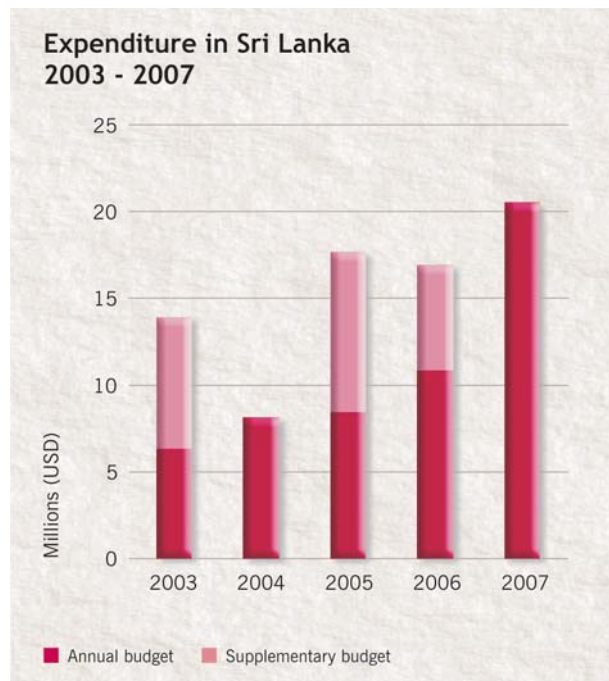
Organization and implementation

Management

In 2007, UNHCR had seven field offices in Sri Lanka, including the Representation in Colombo. The operation was implemented by 124 staff members: two JPOs, 23 international and 99 national staff. Additional workforce arrangements included the deployment of some 11 UNVs.

Working with others

UNHCR led inter-agency coordination in the areas of protection, emergency shelter and non-food items, and camp management. Together with the other members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), UNHCR contributed to the development of the CHAP, which was endorsed by the Sri Lankan Government. The Office worked closely with many government ministries and established implementing partnerships with 21 national and international agencies, chosen on the basis of their operational capacity and expertise.



Overall assessment

In 2007, Sri Lanka witnessed both new displacement and large-scale returns. The spread of the conflict to northern districts in the latter half of the year led to further displacements in the area. Though UNHCR shifted resources as needed, its ability to deliver protection and assistance was affected by the security situation.

Nevertheless, UNHCR met most of its protection and assistance objectives for 2007. By coordinating its activities with those of other agencies, the Office ensured the harmonization of the overall response in emergency shelter, non-food items and management of displacement sites. The number of IDPs was reduced as many returned to their places of origin. Full funding allowed UNHCR to support an adequate level of operations.

The Office sought durable solutions (such as relocation or local settlement) for those IDPs displaced prior to 2006 but still unable to return home. However, progress was slow due to the unstable situation in the country.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services

NGOs: Danish Refugee Council, Eastern Rehabilitation Organization, FORUT, Jaffna Social Action Centre, Norwegian People's Aid, Norwegian Refugee Council, Organization for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation Ceylon, Rural Development Foundation, Sewa Lanka Foundation, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, The Refugee Rehabilitation Organization, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Voluntary Organisation for Vulnerable Community Development, World Vision International

Others: Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, ILO, UNOPS

Operational partners

Government: Ministry of Constitutional Affairs and National Integration, Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development, Ministry of Resettlement and Disaster Relief Services

NGOs: Centre for Policy Alternatives, Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies, Foundation for Coexistence, Legal Aid Foundation

Others: Asian Development Bank, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, FAO, ILO, JICA, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNDSS, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNV, World Bank

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	20,841,958	20,514,798	3,568,027	24,082,825	20,641,617

Note: Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial Report (USD)		
Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Previous years' projects
	Annual budget	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	4,304,226	0
Community services	1,935,474	79,720
Domestic needs and household support	2,608,439	199,190
Health and nutrition	0	2,161
Income generation	18,705	38,143
Legal assistance	1,441,082	198,074
Operational support (to agencies)	600,694	36,280
Sanitation	98	21,003
Shelter and infrastructure	5,494,060	606,468
Transport and logistics	692,524	2,636
Water	0	2,616
Instalments with implementing partners	1,293,224	(1,186,291)
Sub-total operational activities	18,388,526	0
Programme support	2,253,091	0
Total expenditure	20,641,617	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure		(46,331)
Instalments with implementing partners		
Payments made	8,236,054	
Reporting received	(6,942,830)	
Balance	1,293,224	
Previous years' report		
Instalments with implementing partners		
Outstanding 1st January		1,667,023
Reporting received		(1,186,291)
Refunded to UNHCR		(319,655)
Adjustments		(38,852)
Balance		122,225