



## TAMILS REHABILITATION ORGANISATION

Report on Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation for Tsunami  
Affected Sri Lanka;  
26 December, 2004 – 26 June, 2005



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## Introduction

Six months after a devastating tsunami overwhelmed the coast of Sri Lanka on 26 December 2004, the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) is publishing this report to provide awareness of its tsunami related activities including current projects, challenges and partners.

In late December 2004, men and women worldwide interrupted their daily lives to read, watch and hear the devastating headlines coming out of Asia. Powered by an earthquake in the Indonesian Sea off the island of Sumatra, the devastating tsunami destroyed coastlines throughout the Indian Ocean. In Sri Lanka, over 40,000 people lost their lives, a further 500,000 were displaced and countless others injured and severely traumatised by the tragedy.

The tsunami aftermath has been a testing time for TRO offices all over the world. Six months on, the relief work is far from over but made a little easier due to the hard work and assistance of the 3,500 TRO permanent staff and thousands of volunteers, donor agencies, partner organisations, the Government of Sri Lanka, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and private assistance. TRO wishes to thank all those who assisted in responding to the disaster and acknowledges the time and effort put forward by countless individuals from all over the world.

Whilst there has been a shift of emphasis in TRO's activities post-tsunami, the immediate relief and rehabilitation needs of the war affected are also being carried out. This report excludes projects pertaining to the war affected, yet TRO wishes to acknowledge their presence as significant and note the important work still being carried out in the NorthEast to assist those who have been affected by the war.

For up to twenty years these people have been displaced, some numerous times, and waiting for due process before they are given the most basic of items; shelter, income generating opportunities, access to health services and education facilities. TRO will continue to assist these communities until such point when they are both

rehabilitated and developed to a point where external assistance is no longer required.

This ongoing work in the areas of resettlement, preschool education, vocational training, coordinating the removal of landmines, children's homes, children's nutrition programmes and community development are sectors that TRO is now redeveloping in the tsunami affected areas of the NorthEast. Ensuring that these services are provided to both war internally displaced persons (IDPs) in a timely manner is essential.

For 19 years TRO has worked tirelessly in assisting people in the NorthEast of Sri Lanka. However there has never been a more testing time for the organisation than the devastating tsunami that overwhelmed so much of Asia on that fateful day. TRO's experience in working in a conflict zone and its exceptional knowledge of the ground, culture, values and aspirations of the people allowed them to respond to the disaster with efficiency and speed in the NorthEast.

In any natural disaster it is essential to respond quickly to the devastation. In the critical days after the tsunami there were many immediate challenges TRO had to face including attending to the dead and injured, assisting the affected and housing them in welfare centres and providing food, clothes, sanitation and water in an orderly manner. While TRO did respond to the emergency in some areas within an hour of the tsunami impact, TRO also recognises the long term commitment of tsunami relief that could take years if not generations to deliver.

Now, six months later, even as the international media turns its attention to other headlines, the needs of those affected are still pressing and TRO continues to work around the clock to help them. With Disaster Management Units (DMU's) established in each of the affected districts the head office in Kilinochchi and in Colombo. In these units teams of staff and volunteers are working to return those affected to a sense of normality through permanent housing, infrastructure, employment and community facilities.

## Letter from TRO Board of Governors and Executive Director

The 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004 will be a day that Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation will never forget, one that we hope that the world will never forget, for not only the devastation caused by nature in the form of the Tsunami but also by the way that people throughout the world reacted and responded giving goods, time and money to assist their fellow human.

The devastation caused by the Tsunami tested our commitment to humanitarian service and the core competencies of Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation. However, it was and still is, heartening to see the staff, volunteers and international community converging to assist us in a selfless and caring manner that is appropriate to the scale of the human tragedy.

The first few days of response to this tragedy addressing humanitarian needs bore testimony to human compassion and heartfelt passion to help fellow humans in their hour of need. The donations of time both within Sri Lanka and internationally will long be discussed and never forgotten.

The environment in which TRO was working was not easy, as assessment of need and monitoring was centralised, receiving and delivering goods and implementing relief programmes at the district and village level became an arduous task. Despite the challenging environment, TRO was not deterred and continued to meet the various bureaucratic requests in a timely manner.

The affected people in the NorthEast are still languishing in temporary shelters and in some cases, shelters that are not appropriate for living in for more than a few weeks. We cannot be satisfied with what we have achieved until affected people are fully and permanently resettled.

The Board of Governors of TRO recognises the consistent work contributed by all staff and sincerely expresses their appreciation. It

is obvious that the efforts of all members are contributing towards an environment that will be sustainable for the people living in coastal regions in NorthEast Sri Lanka.

We are particularly grateful to the international community for their assistance with the challenges. The organisations which came directly to TRO with unconditional support have been greatly appreciated. Ongoing support of the Diaspora community and their expression of support by financial assistance and volunteer help is also very much appreciated.

TRO has continued to work to assist the people who have been displaced by the war and will continue to do this. The rapid recovery and rehabilitation programme for war IDPs is still high on the TRO agenda.

TRO is mindful of the scale of challenges that are still ahead of us and will continue to diligently work towards addressing the needs of affected people. To this end, TRO is carrying out extensive initiatives to build the capacity of staff and other resources all of which were affected by the long lasting war in the NorthEast.



**Executive Director**

**K.P Regi**

## PRESIDENTS AWARD

Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO) received an award on 22 August 2005 from Her Excellency President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga in recognition of its contribution to the Transitional Accommodation Project (TAP). The President invited representatives of the UN Agencies, and International and Local NGO's to Tea at the President's House where a ceremony was held to mark the building of 50,000 temporary shelters for tsunami affected families. The President thanked all of the organizations present for their outstanding work in reaching this goal so despite the enormity of the natural disaster that Sri Lanka experienced on 26/12/04. TRO was recognized for building 3,240 temporary shelters.



The TAP project was coordinated by the Task Force for Relief (TAFOR). TRO was one nine of NGO's and INGO's recognized for building over 1,000 Temporary Shelters. The others were: UNHCR, Ehed/Caritas, ZOA, IOM, Sevalanka, Medair, OXFAM, and WorldVision.

TRO has built transitional shelters that meet, or exceed, TAFOR's minimum standards in the districts of Mullaitivu, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, and Amparai. The transitional shelters were constructed with cement floors, walls brick and tin or masonite, and roofs of cadjan or cooling sheets.

The building of the temporary shelters was coordinated through TRO's District Offices using local engineers for technical advice and management. Where available, local skilled and unskilled labour was employed in the districts to complete the construction and provide a source of income to the tsunami affected populations. All temporary shelters were built with access to potable water and toilets.

Access by the communities to schooling and health services is ensured by a team of camp managers and community based organisations. While more than 8,500 transitional shelters have been constructed there is still significant work to be undertaken to improve upon these shelters, provide permanent housing, improve village infrastructure and create a sustainable economy in the tsunami and war affected areas. TRO is seeking additional funding to ensure that this work continues in these areas.

Speeches at the ceremony were also given by Mr. Tilak Ranaviraja (Chairman TAFOR), Mr. Miguel Bermeo (UN Resident Representative, UNDP), Ms. Jo Da Silva (UNHCR), Ms. Mary Sheehan (IOM), Ms. Suriya Kumari (OfERR Ceylon), and Mr. Tapan Kumar Barman (Sevalanka).



## TRO volunteers, local and international NGOs and international agencies

TRO was formed in 1985 to address the “relief, rehabilitation and development” needs of the NorthEast of Sri Lanka, the people of which were suffering due to war. Today, TRO still works as the principle relief, rehabilitation and development organisation in the region by working as a program partner with multilateral agencies, UN agencies, International Non Governmental Organisations and non government organisations. TRO’s twenty years experience in the field working allowed the organisation to provide an immediate response to the unprecedented scope of the destruction of the tsunami in a non discriminate way.

TRO is registered as a non governmental organisation in Sri Lanka with the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies (CHA). TRO employs over 3500 full time employees across eight district offices most of these people are working in the field. Meeting the challenge of managing the relief operations after the tsunami was initially made possible through volunteers. TRO has since actively recruited additional staff with project management and coordination skills.

The tsunami affected over 70% of the coast line of Sri Lanka, devastating lives indiscriminately. TRO works in the districts of the NorthEast of Sri Lanka these areas come under the governance of both the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE. In order to deliver humanitarian aid in the most effective manner TRO worked with both administrations to deliver much needed relief. TRO will continue to work with both administrative bodies to ensure that the delivery of aid is both timely and adequate to identified needs.

The people who came to offer their services to TRO as volunteers were from a broad selection of the community, age, gender, religion, nationality were no barrier as people came to offer help. This was received in Colombo, all districts that TRO works in and through TRO offices internationally. This collaboration of like minded people was inspiring to witness and be involved in.

TRO acknowledges and commends the work done by so many Sri Lanka based NGOs. Local NGOs at the district and village level contributed greatly to the delivery of emergency relief. The role of these organisations will only increase as rehabilitation and development of the affected areas continues. Each organisation was able to assess their own capabilities and needs to ensure they contributed appropriately to the relief process. They tirelessly engaged themselves in rebuilding medical service, construction of camps, distribution of food items, clothes, shelter, and many other activities. These activities continue without disruption to service the needs of tsunami affected communities.

TRO has been able to engage with international agencies to provide emergency relief ongoing rehabilitation. This has been a rewarding experience as the international community has been able to reach the people of NorthEast Sri Lanka. Some projects have been completed, others are ongoing or to be commenced. Feedback from these organisations has been positive as they are impressed with how TRO can deliver high quality and timely aid.

TRO has vast experience in delivering emergency relief to the people in the Northeast of Sri Lanka the prime example of this being when 500,000 people were displaced from Jaffna in 1995. At this time TRO was the lead agency coordinating and providing emergency shelter, food and water to these people. Of course the impact of the tsunami can not be compared, as the tsunami affected a vast geographical area resulting in a large number of deaths. The December 2004 tsunami was not like anything that TRO had ever experienced.

In the month leading up to the tsunami TRO was providing emergency relief to people in the Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts who had experienced severe flooding. Volunteers and relief items in this area proved invaluable for the emergency work of TRO post tsunami.

TRO has identified six sectors which will need to be redeveloped; Water and Sanitation, Income Generation, Health Service, Education and Child Care, Shelter and Capacity Building and Social Mobilisation.

TRO is approaching this tsunami redevelopment in a three phased manner.

**Phase 1****Immediate relief**

**Goal :** Immediate relief

**Functions:** Provide daily relief

**End Result:** Prevention of disease, food security,

**Programs:** Medical, Food, Water, Clothing

**Phase 2****Rapid recovery**

**Goal :** Basic self-sufficiency

**Functions:** Support beneficiaries to re-establish livelihoods

**End Result:** Environment for self-sufficiency

**Programs –** Income generation, Psychological, Housing Planning, Training, Public Health

**Phase 3****Sustainable rehabilitation**

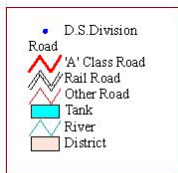
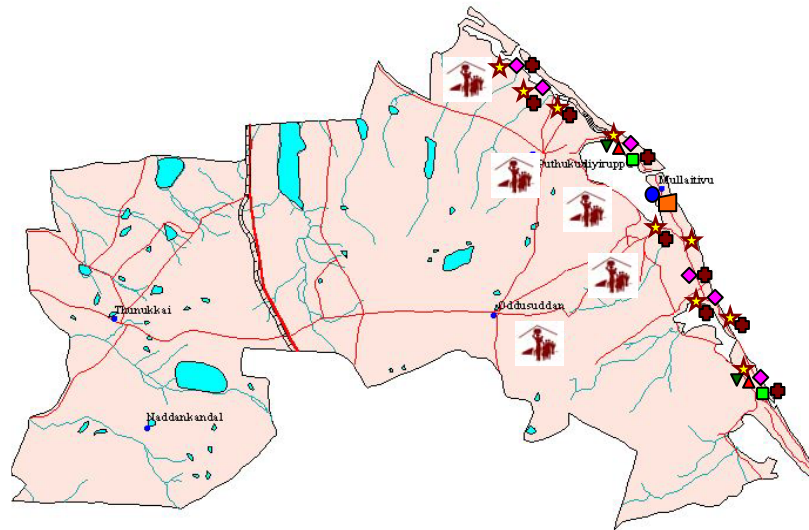
**Goal:** Village self-sufficiency

**Functions:** Provide community support

**End Result:** Self sufficient village

**Programs –** Income generation, Permanent Housing, Public Health, Vocational training, Support for women and other socially marginalized groups

## Mullaitivu District



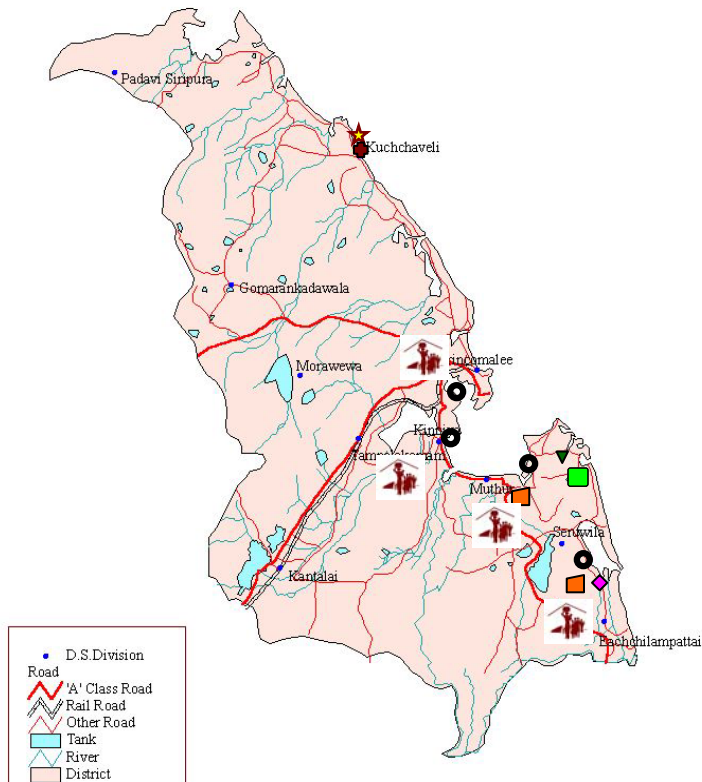
0 2 4 Kilometers

Affected Families	-----
Displaced Families	5,484
Total Displaced Persons	21,178
Deaths	3,000
Injured	2,590
Missing	1,300
Completely destroyed houses	3,400
Camps	23

	TRO OFFICE			
	ALL ACTIVITIES			
	RELIEF		Individuals	Days
		Food	13,463	95
		Water	13,463	95
		Clothes	13,463	
		Kitchen utensils (Packs)		1,685
		Non Food Relief (Packs)		2,816
		Clearing Debris – Heavy Machinery (Hours)		120
		Baby Items (Packs)		2,369
		Hostel		1
		Preschool		4
Temporary Preschool		17		
Play park		1		
	VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION	Kallapadu		
	CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL MOBILISATION	Vehicles		55
		Office/Buildings		7
	BACK TO WORK	Boatyard		1
		Fishing Sector (Packages)		150
		Revolving Loan		Public Service
		Non Fishing Sector (Packages)		125
	SHELTER	Emergency (Families)		5,458
		Roofing Sheets		1,685
		Temporary Shelters		1,500
		Permanent Houses		90
	HEALTH & MEDICINE	Medical Teams		12
		Psychosocial Staff Trained		56
	WATER & SANITATION	Toilets temporary		873
		Wells Cleaned		273
		Wells Surveyed		953
		Water purification unit		1



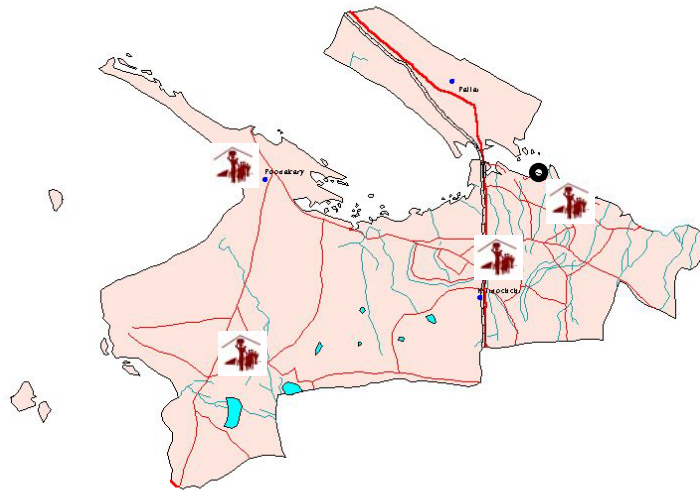
## Trincomalee District



Trincomalee	
Affected Families	30,102
Displaced Families	27,746
Total Displaced Persons	100,589
Deaths	1,078
Injured	
Missing	337
Completely destroyed houses	5,974
Camps	52

	TRO OFFICE				
	ALL ACTIVITIES				
	RELIEF		Individuals	Days	
			Food	25.331	30
			Water	25.331	15
			Clothes	25.331	
			Kitchen utensils (Packs)		5000
			Non Food Relief (Packs)		6,332
					Hours
			Clearing Debris – Heavy Machinery		98
			Boat Service		1,584
			EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE		Baby Items
	Preschool			15	
	Temporary Preschool			1	
	VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION		Kalladi		
	CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL MOBILISATION		Vehicles	7	
			Bicycles	58	
	BACK TO WORK		Boatyard	1	
			Fishing Sector (Packages)	180	
	SHELTER		Revolving Loan	Public Service	
			Emergency (Individuals)	25,331	
			Roofing Sheets	311	
			Temporary Shelter	1100	
	HEALTH & MEDICINE		Permanent Houses	175	
			Medical Teams	7	
			Psychosocial Staff Trained	45	
	WATER & SANITATION		Wells Cleaned	182	
			Wells Surveyed	182	
			Water purification unit	2	

## Kilinochchi District

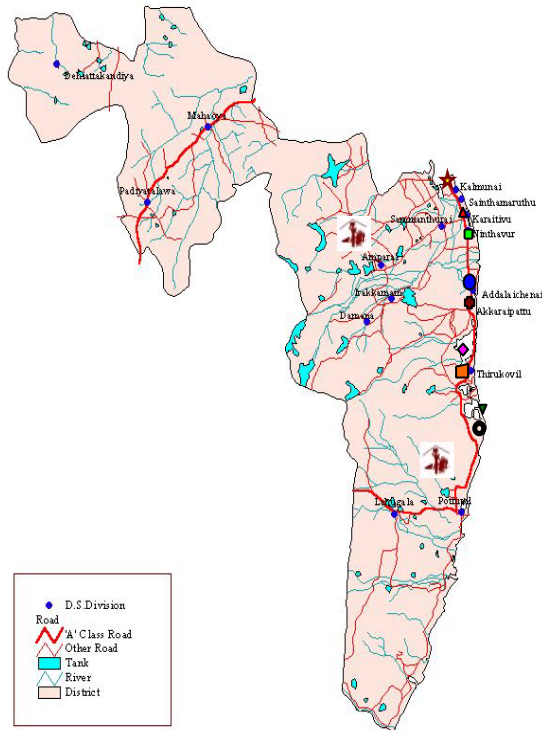


0 2 4 Kilometers

Kilinochchi	
Affected Families	2,273
Displaced Families	476
Total Displaced Persons	1,875
Deaths	560
Injured	670
Missing	56
Completely destroyed houses	1,250
Camps	3

	TRO OFFICE		
	ALL ACTIVITIES		
	EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE	Hostel	3
		Nutrition Centre	4
		Temporary Preschool	2
	CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL MOBILISATION	Vehicles	5
		Prosthetic limb	296
		Office/Buildings	2
	BACK TO WORK	Boatyard	1
		Revolving Loan	Public Service
		Training Programmes	12120
	SHELTER	Temporary Shelters	825
		Permanent Houses	148
	HEALTH & MEDICINE	Medical Teams	3
		Psychosocial Staff Trained	12
	WATER & SANITATION	Water Purification Unit	1

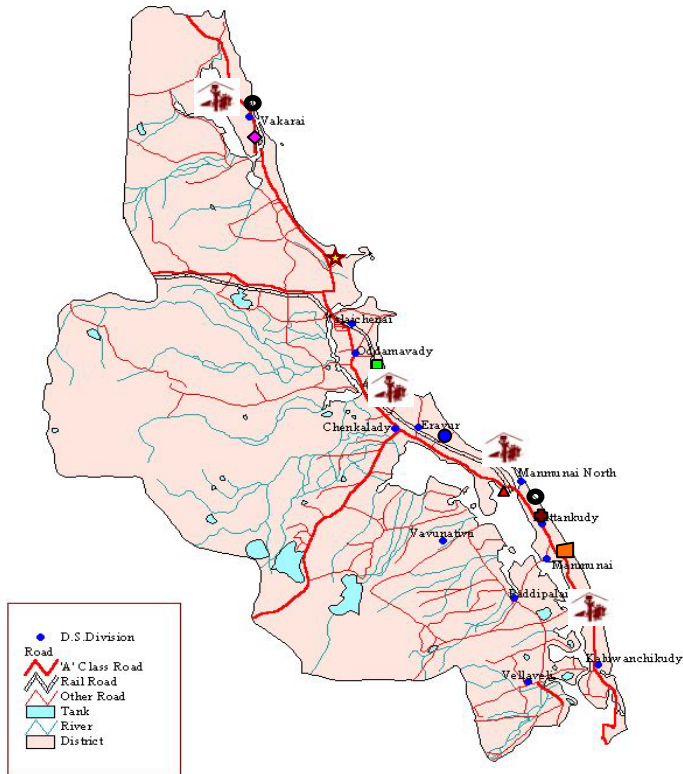
## Amparai District



Amparai	
Affected Families	38,624
Displaced Families	
Total Displaced Persons	87,831
Deaths	10,436
Injured	120
Missing	822
Completely destroyed houses	29,097
Camps	84

	TRO OFFICE			
	ALL ACTIVITIES			
	RELIEF	Individuals	Days	
		Food	26,679	60
		Water	26,679	24
		Clothes	26,679	
		Kitchen utensils (Packs)		8,793
		Non Food Relief (Packs)		26,679
		Clearing Debris – Heavy Machinery (Hours)		989
	EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE	Baby Items (Packs)	8,793	
		School Equipment (Children)	1,000	
	CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL MOBILISATION	Vehicles	18	
		Bicycles	58	
		Office/Buildings	1	
	BACK TO WORK	Boatyard	1	
		Fishing Sector (Packages)	250	
		Revolving Loan	Public Service	
		Non Fishing Sector (Packages)	125	
	SHELTER	Emergency (Individuals)	26,679	
		Roofing Sheets	8,793	
		Temporary Shelters	2,600	
		Permanent Houses	125	
	HEALTH & MEDICINE	Medical Teams	4	
		Medicines (lorry)	3	
		Psychosocial Staff Trained	111	
	WATER & SANITATION	Wells Cleaned	188	
		Wells Surveyed	385	

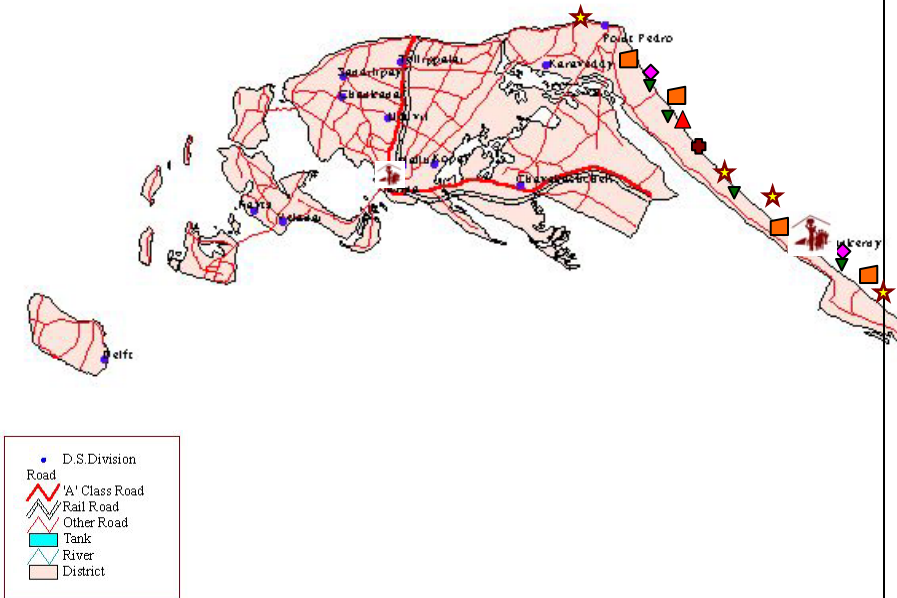
### Batticaloa District



Affected Families	63,717
Displaced Families	12,494
Total Displaced Persons	55,919
Deaths	2,836
Injured	1,116
Missing	1,027
Completely destroyed houses	15,939
Camps	56

	TRO OFFICE			
	ALL ACTIVITIES			
	RELIEF	Individuals	Days	
		Food	25,021	99
		Water	25,021	11
		Clothes	32,935	
		Kitchen utensils (Packs)		189
		Non Food Relief (Packs)		7,455
		Clearing Debris – Heavy Machinery (Hours)		98
		Boat Service (Hours)		650
	EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE	Baby Items (Packs)	6,487	
		Childrens Hiomes	1	
		Buildings	4	
		Temporary Preschool	26	
	VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION	Punochimanai		
		Thiramaidu		
		Mankerny & Vaharai		
	CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL MOBILISATION	Vehicles	20	
		Bicycles	58	
		Office/Buildings	2	
	BACK TO WORK	Boatyard	1	
		Fishing Sector (Packages)	200	
		Revolving Loan	Public Service	
		Non Fishing Sector (Packages)	125	
		Training Programmes	1	
	SHELTER	Emergency (Family)	6,348	
		Roofing Sheets	189	
		Temporary Shelters	1,500	
		Permanent Houses	149	
	HEALTH & MEDICINE	Medical Teams	10	
		Psychosocial Staff Trained	126	
	WATER & SANITATION	Toilets temporary	270	
		Wells Cleaned	360	
		Wells Surveyed	2,250	

## Jaffna District



0 1 2 4 Kilometers

Affected Families	13,652
Displaced Families	11,691
Total Displaced Persons	42,104
Deaths	2,640
Injured	1,647
Missing	540
Completely destroyed houses	12,000
Camps	24

	TRO OFFICE			
	ALL ACTIVITIES			
	RELIEF	Individuals	Days	
		Food	12,175	60
		Water	12,175	120
		Clothes	12,175	
		Kitchen utensils (Packs)		13,306
		Non Food Relief (Packs)		3,306
		Clearing Debris – Heavy Machinery (Hours)		144
	EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE	Baby Items		714
		Vocational Training Centre		1
		Temporary Preschool		20
		Permanent Preschool		3
		Educational Building		3
	VILLAGE RECONSTRUCTION	Thalayadi	Alyawallaii	
		Mamunai	Pokaruppu	
	CAPACITY BUILDING AND SOCIAL MOBILISATION	Vehicles		6
		Bicycles		55
		Camp Offices		16
	BACK TO WORK	Boatyard		1
		Fishing Sector (Packages)		130
		Revolving Loan		Public Service
		Non Fishing Sector (Packages)		285
		Training Programmes		1
	SHELTER	Emergency (Families)		2,051
		Roofing Sheets		6,612
		Temporary Shelters		555
	HEALTH & MEDICINE	Medical Teams		3
		Psychosocial Staff Trained		85
	WATER & SANITATION	Toilets temporary		1,440
		Wells Cleaned		34
		Wells Surveyed		64