

Format for Information Note of IR-EMOP Project Document

TO: Laurent Bukera	DATE: 3/01/2011
FROM: Adnan Khan, Country Director, Sri Lanka	PAGE 1 OF 7
CC: Kenro Oshidari, Regional Director, OMB	

<p style="text-align: center;">IMMEDIATE RESPONSE EMERGENCY OPERATION SRI LANKA IR EMOP 200233 Food assistance for flood affected population in Sri Lanka PROJECT DOCUMENT</p>

PART 1: INFORMATION NOTE

Nature of emergency

Heavy rainfall and severe floods causing displacement and damage to livelihoods and assets.

Location

The 12 districts of Batticaloa, Anuradhapura, Monaragala, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Trincomalee, Ratnapura, Matara, Kilinochchi, Polonnaruwa, Mullaitivu and Ampara are flood affected¹. The majority of flood affected persons are in the Eastern Province and the eastern district of Batticaloa is the most badly hit.

Cause

Sri Lanka started to experience very heavy precipitation in mid-November. The heavy downpour, at times coupled with thunder storms, resulted in land slides and widespread flooding in most areas of the island. Diverging from normal seasonal patterns, rainfall re-intensified in early December, causing flooding, limiting physical accessibility, damaging crops, causing displacement and in other ways affecting the lives and livelihoods of 165,000 persons. The impact was felt particularly hard in the north of the country. The current crisis started in late December when a third wave of severe flooding was brought about from continuous rains centred on the east and north of the country. As of 30 December rain is still falling in Batticaloa and some forecasts predict continued rainfall throughout the first week of January.

Effects

Estimates from the National Disaster Management Centre on 1 January 2011 put the number of flood affected persons at approximately 420,000. Over 90 percent of the flood affected persons are in Batticaloa district in the Eastern Province, an area still

¹ "Districts" are the largest administrative unit in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has a total of 25 districts. The total population of Sri Lanka is 20,303,477 (World Bank 2009).

recovering from the long-standing conflict between the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The flooding has caused displacement of large populations in flood affected areas. Only in Batticaloa, 74 camps for displaced persons, so called Welfare Centers, have been established and are as of 1 January hosting 20,181. These families, as well as camp populations in Kilinochchi and Trincomalee districts, are receiving cooked meals from government agencies. However, the government's capacity to sustain feeding operations to camps for more than a few days is unknown. Also of great humanitarian concern are those displaced to host families inside or outside of their places of residence. Humanitarian assistance to these households is presently very limited, with the government being unable to provide essential supplies. The extent of such unregistered displacement is difficult to estimate exactly, especially as some geographical areas remain inaccessible to assessment teams, but is believed to be approximately 63,000 persons only in Batticaloa. Estimates of unregistered displacement is not available from other districts but is not believed to be much lower than in Batticaloa.

The floods coincide with the main agricultural season. Rice, the predominate crop, is sensitive to flooding and damage to the grain is sustained after merely a few days of being submerged under water. Flooding of thousands of acres of crops has already been reported and further crop damage is expected. Re-planting is believed to be required, although it is too early to know the full extent of re-planting needs. The capacity of farmers to re-plant is unknown but feared weak. The harvest of the main agricultural season in March and April, already downgraded by approximately 5 percent due to previous flooding in early to mid-December, could be further affected.

The impact on agricultural livelihoods is compounded by damage to irrigation infrastructure caused by the flooding. Walls of irrigation water reservoirs have collapsed in some areas, causing additional flooding and possibly weakening the prospects of successful irrigation in the remainder of the agricultural season. In some districts authorities have been forced to open reservoir sluice gates to diminish water levels, causing additional flooding downstream.

Flood damage to the road network has caused physical access to deteriorate. Several roads are passable only in off-road vehicles and in other areas villages are reachable only by boat.

Detailed, reliable and updated information about how the floods are impacting household food security is scarce. Such information is forthcoming from an ongoing initial investigation being undertaken by WFP.

Serious concern is raised about the risk of deterioration in sanitary conditions, access to safe water and the risk of outbreak of diseases, particularly dengue fever.

Total numbers affected and in need of emergency food aid

Requests for provision of emergency food rations have been received by WFP from the Central Ministry of Disaster Management in Colombo as well as from several District Secretariats².

Of the approximately 420,000 persons affected, over 90 percent are in the post-conflict district of Batticaloa. Table 1 shows the number of flood affected persons, damaged houses and displaced persons, by district.

Table 1: Flood impact estimates, by district

	Affected		Houses Damaged		IDP Camp		
	Families	People	Fully	Partially	Nos.	Families	Persons
Batticaloa	102,474	386,359	579	2,451	74	5,444	20,181
Anuradhapura	15	74	10	0	2	15	74
Monaragala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nuwara Eliya	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kandy	1	6	1	0	0	0	0
Trincomalee	285	1,054	0	0	5	285	1,054
Ratnapura	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Matara	4	19	2	2	0	0	0
Kilinochchi	1,464	5,841	884	1,464	4	161	494
Polonnaruwa	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Mullaitivu	2,248	7,589	0	0	0	0	0
Ampara	5,166	18,341	11	43	0	0	0
Total	111,665	419,283	1,488	3,962	85	5,905	21,803

Source: Disaster Management Center, Situation Report, 30 Dec 2010 6 PM; numbers for Batticaloa only has been updated using estimates from Disaster Management Center, Situation Report, 1 Jan 2011 6 PM.

Justification for an immediate response and expected impact

Given the severity of the flood and its grave consequences of displacement, damage to assets and livelihoods, limited physical access and risk to the outcome of the current agricultural season – as described above – and motivated further by alarming inter-agency assessment reports and situation reports from the national Disaster Management Center (DMC) as well as several government requests for assistance, it is recommended that food assistance is immediately made available to the affected population.

² The District Secretariat, headed by the District Secretary, is the top government authority at the district level.

Food assistance will mitigate short term food insecurity and help avoid a deterioration in the nutritional status of the population.

Commodities will be made availability immediately on a loan basis, following donor conditionalities, from PRRO stocks.

It is not expected that this IR-EMOP will develop into a full emergency, however the CO will continue to monitor the situation.

Duration of assistance (maximum three months)

Initial distributions are taking place in the first week of January for some 75,000 beneficiaries for 5 days. The operation plans to feed up to 420,000 people during the month of January with a 5-day ration. The project will be 3-months to allow for the procurement and repayment of loaned commodities.

Number of beneficiaries and location

Given the limited scope of government intervention, the planned number of beneficiaries for this EMOP will be 420,000 people for a period of 5 days. Initial distributions for 75,000 displaced persons in Batticaloa district, is currently ongoing with subsequent distributions expected to take place throughout the month of January. WFP will focus distributions of those who are displaced and living with host families.

The geographical coverage of the IR-EMOP was under the recently ended (31 December 2010) PRRO, and is currently not covered in the new PRRO which focuses on the 5 districts in the North.

Food basket composition and ration levels

For the immediate response the food basket will consist of 250 grams of rice, 60 grams of lentils, 20 grams of vegetable oil and 20 grams of sugar per person per day.

Total food aid requirements

Rice: 525 MT
Pulses: 126 MT
Oil: 42 MT
Sugar: 42 MT

Mode of implementation

Resources stipulated in this EMOP will be distributed using the same delivery mechanisms as the WFP feeding operations that until 31 December 2010 were ongoing in the now flood affected area to assist returnees and stimulate post-conflict development. WFP's counterpart, the Ministry of Economic Development, will coordinate the release of food to the beneficiaries in consultation with WFP, and following donor conditionalities. District Secretaries will expedite the food

distribution through Multi Purpose Cooperative Society (MPCS) outlets, which will function as the final food distribution points. Program monitoring of food distributions will be submitted to WFP through monitoring mechanisms already in place.

PART 2: EMOP BUDGET (attached)

Total EMOP budget (up to US\$500,000) is attached as Annex 1.

Total IRA Budget:	
Food	\$412,545
External transport	\$16,086
LTSH	0
ODOC	\$3,822
DSC	\$32,000
ISC	32,512
Grand Total	\$496,965

PART 3: EMOP APPROVAL

- 1) IRA funding is available to cover EMOP budget

XXX, XXX: XXX, Date: --/--/----

- 2) EMOP is approved

Adnan, Khan, Country Director, Sri Lanka

Signature..... Date.....