



Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRO Situation Report: Displaced Persons Continue to Suffer

Compiled from reports filed from TRO offices in the NorthEast: TRO Trincomalee, TRO Vaharai, TRO Eachchilampattu & TRO Kilinochchi

Urgent Humanitarian Disaster

A humanitarian disaster is currently unfolding in the LTTE controlled areas of Trincomalee, Batticaloa and the Vanni due to the displacement of the civilian population and the limited access allowed to humanitarian organisations by the Government of Sri Lanka's security forces.

There are currently 10,275 families (approximately 50,000 persons) displaced to LTTE controlled areas in Eachchilampattu, Kallady, Sampoor, Kathiraveli and Vaharai.

DISPLACED DETAILS (LTTE controlled areas)

TRO is caring for in LTTE controlled Area of East (families)	8,025
IDPs TRO is caring for in the Vanni from Muhamalai, Pallai, Vadamarachchi East & Poonakari	<u>2,250</u>
TOTAL IDPs TRO is caring for in LTTE controlled Area (families)	10,275

TRO is currently providing: food, water & sanitation, and non-food relief (NFR) to these IDPs using current stockpiles and the limited amount of relief that has been allowed into the area by the GoSL forces. There is a lack of available emergency shelter and the IDPs have been forced to use schools, temples, churches, and the shade of trees for shelter.

Access to these areas is being limited by the GoSL security forces. At checkpoints into LTTE controlled areas (in the North as well as the East) security forces state that all vehicles and personnel travelling to LTTE controlled areas must have Ministry of Defence (MOD) clearance/permits. When contacted by TRO, the Ministry of Defence in Colombo states that no permits are necessary and the MOD thus does not need to give any permission. This has left TRO vehicles stuck at the checkpoints with no means of transporting vitally needed humanitarian relief to the IDPs.

TRO calls upon the Government of Sri Lanka to allow unhindered access to the affected areas so that the civilian population can receive humanitarian relief.