



Emergency Food Security Assessment The Vanni, Sri Lanka

October 2006



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The EFSA team

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) was carried out during two weeks in October 2006, six weeks after the conflict resumed. The general objectives were to assess the impact of the current violence and isolation and to identify needs for food and non-food assistance over the next 3 to 6 months.

The specific objectives were to:

- i) Describe and assess the current food security situation amongst different livelihood groups in terms of food availability, access and usage;
- ii) Determine how different groups are coping with the situation and what plans are being made to re-establish their livelihoods when the immediate crisis is over;
- iii) Estimate the number of people in need of food and non-food assistance.

A total of 640 households were randomly selected throughout the accessible parts of the Vanni and stratified into four sub-groups: IDPs living in communal areas, IDPs living with host families, host families and non-displaced households. Focus group and trader interviews were included as part of the assessment as were visits to key informants from humanitarian agencies and local authorities.

The part of the island known as the Vanni comprises the districts of Mannar, Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi with an estimated population of 350,000 people. The large majority of the population are farmers while fishing is the second most important livelihood. The Vanni has been under LTTE-control since the late 1990s and is one of the regions most severely affected by the conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), due to a blockade on goods, regular military operations and large-scale population displacement. The Vanni was also heavily affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004 when more than 70,000 people lost livelihoods, homes and lives. Following the recent resumption of fighting in August 2006, there are around 65,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Vanni.

The Forward Defence Lines (FDL) separating the Vanni from the rest of the country have to a large extent been closed for transport of fuel, construction materials and agricultural inputs since then. These restrictions have negatively impacted on the daily lives of the larger population and have severely hampered humanitarian operations. Some 40% of planned projects in almost all sectors have been delayed, cancelled or temporary suspended.

Households in the Vanni have so far resorted to regular coping mechanisms such as pawning jewelry, borrowing money and relying on less preferred food. Pawning is regarded as normal strategy and pawnshops function as banks when extra money is needed. Buying goods on credit is another normal strategy, mainly used by host families and non-displaced households but traders report that they are less willing to give credit now compared to before the conflict.

Market prices have increased as a result of the restrictions and the supply chain has changed as the usual middlemen have to a certain degree been replaced by black market dealers. The volume of goods available on the local market has reduced slightly, particularly of goods brought in from the outside. The resumption of conflict has also hampered trade with markets on the outside where Vanni farmers and fishermen normally sell their produce. Income levels for most livelihoods have thus reduced.

Based on the dietary diversity/frequency methodology, EFSA findings indicate that some 93% of assessed households maintain good food consumption six weeks into the conflict. There are not big differences between the sub-groups but IDPs are slightly more vulnerable due to loss of livelihood and less food stocks. Nevertheless, the situation should be monitored with caution and re-assessed after six months to evaluate the longer-term impact, taking into account the coming harvest and fishermen's ability to earn an income. Coping strategies should also be monitored as

it is not clear how long current coping strategies will last or when households will resort to more damaging ones.

Recommendations

- The existing WFP/Ministry of Nation Building and Development programmes (FFE, MCN) must be strengthened to function as proper safety nets as per the PRRO plan. This would cover vulnerable groups regardless of displacement status as findings indicate a relatively homogeneous impact of the conflict. IDPs should be absorbed into the closest health centres and/or schools for support. A pre-requisite for the programme to have the intended impact is that delivered food quantities better match the requirements; between August and October less than 20% of requirements were delivered.
- It is also recommended that WFP increases daily rations to children under 5 in order to prevent further deterioration of their nutritional status.
- WFP has already introduced general food distributions to IDPs, covering approximately 20% of the population. The findings of the EFSA support a continuation of this programme until IDPs have re-established their livelihoods. As most of the IDPs are staying with host families this programme will also help remove the extra burden of those households.
- The feasibility of a voucher system should be considered for general food distributions of rice to the IDPs as rice is produced in the Vanni and such an approach can save logistics and handling costs.
- To minimize borrowing of food it is recommended as a temporary measure to distribute food with one month recall. This would allow households to re-pay the quantities they have borrowed and will help to avoid a negative cycle whereby households always have to borrow food in order to feed themselves.
- A two-month buffer stock should be in place in the Vanni to ensure that programmes can continue in the event the Vanni is completely cut off.
- A follow-up assessment is recommended after six months to understand how farmers and fishermen are coping with decreased harvests and the reduction in fishing.

1. Objectives

General objectives are to:

- Assess the impact of the current violence and isolation due to closure of roads;
- Identify needs for food and non-food assistance in the next 3 to 6 months.

Specific objectives are to:

- Describe and assess the current food security situation amongst different livelihood groups in terms of food availability, access and usage;
- Determine how different groups are coping with the situation and what plans are being made to re-establish their livelihoods when the immediate crisis is over;
- Estimate the number of people in need of food and non-food assistance.

1.1. Methodology

The basis for the assessment was largely primary data from interviews with focus groups, households and traders. Three teams of 21 enumerators carried out the data collection following a three-day training of field work and testing of the questionnaire. The teams were supervised by three team leaders and two international WFP staff members.

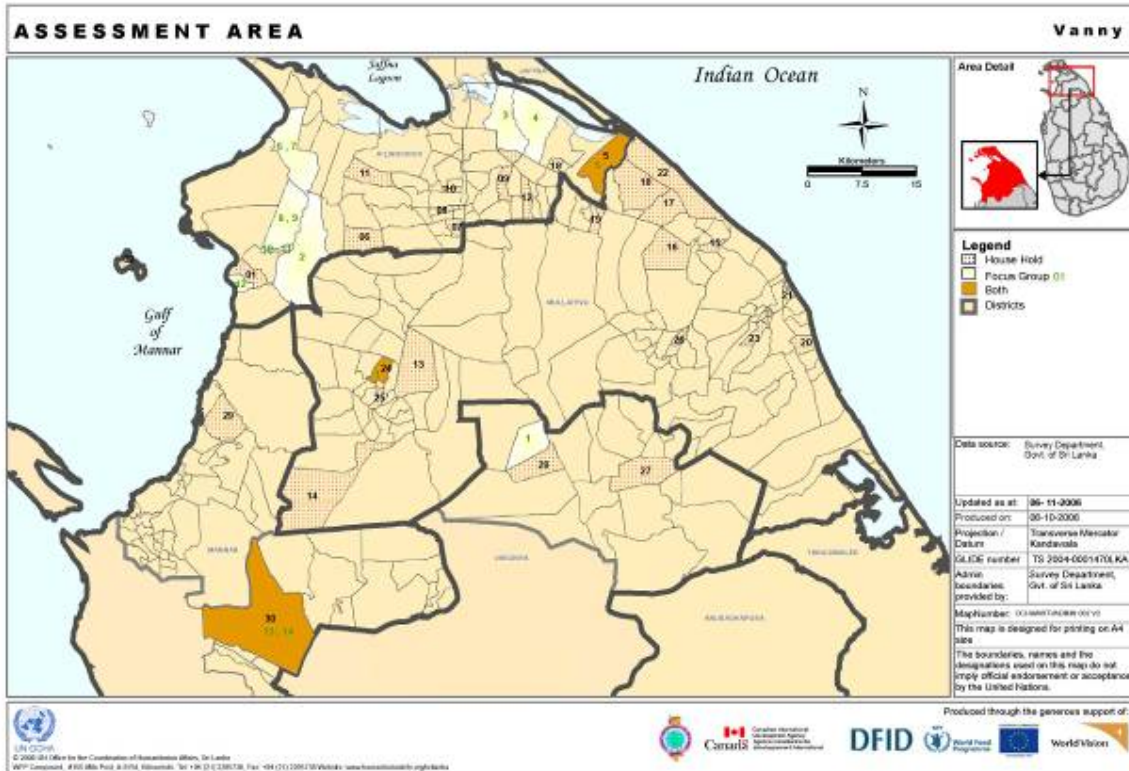
The assessment aimed at looking at differences between four sub-groups and the assessed households were thus stratified into the following groups:

- IDPs living in communal areas
- IDPs living with host families
- Host families
- Non-displaced households

The sampling universe for the assessment covered 222 GS divisions (Grama Sewaka-community administration – the smallest geographical area in Sri Lanka) in LTTE-controlled areas of the four districts of the Vanni: Kilinochchi, Mannar, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu. Sampling was done using two stage cluster sampling. At first level 30 clusters were randomly selected based on population size. The second level random sampling was done from lists available at GS-level and five households from each sub-group were selected. In addition, 15 GS with IDPs were randomly selected proportionate to size from a list of 32 GS where IDPs were known to live in communal areas. In each site, 11 households were randomly selected for interviews from the list kept by the Government representative in the GS. In places where there was no list available, random sampling was used by going to every X household.

The map below shows the clusters where households were randomly selected. The yellow coloured GS indicate where household visits were done, the dotted GS indicate where focus group interviews took place and the orange coloured GS indicate where both focus groups and household visits were done.

Map 1.



A total of 640 households, a sample statistically representative for the sub-groups, were interviewed to allow for comparison with some statistical precision.

Table 1.

	Number of households	Percentage of households
IDPs living in communal areas	167	26.0%
IDPs living with host families	163	25.4%
Host families	159	24.8%
Non-displaced households	153	23.8%
Total	642	100.0%

Focus group interviews followed the same sample universe and stratification but the GS divisions were not randomly selected based on population size. Instead, two GS were randomly selected per district and 54 gender-based focus group interviews were held according to the sub-groups.

The market section of the EFSA was done through structured interviews with 18 traders of different levels; i.e. fruit/vegetable vendors, kiosk owners and small- to middle-scale shop owners in different areas of the Vanni. The data was entered into Access and analysed using SPSS computer software. In most national surveys the Northern Province and districts like Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu are not included and thus reliable secondary data for the Vanni is scarce. To the extent such data has been used for the EFSA, reference has been made in the report.

1.2. Limitations

Due to security concerns and movement restrictions, 24 out of 222 GS divisions were not accessible, representing 11.5% (40,240) of the population. However, most of these people have been displaced to other accessible areas and were thus included in the sample of IDPs.

The EFSA has been designed to make comparisons between four sub-groups and thus the sample size does not allow for statistical comparisons between livelihood groups.

2. Background

2.1 Political/Security

Sri Lanka has been suffering the consequences of an internal conflict between the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since 1983. The northern part of the island known as the Vanni has been under the control of the LTTE since the 1990s and is one of the regions most severely affected by the conflict due to limited movement of goods into the area, frequent military operations and large-scale population displacement.

With the help of Norwegian peace facilitators, a cease-fire agreement between the Government and the LTTE was signed in February 2002. From that point through 2003, the situation for the population of the Vanni improved dramatically. During 2003 and 2004, there were only intermittent ceasefire violations and no direct or large-scale conventional attacks. Development agencies increased their activities within the LTTE-controlled north of the island and donors came forward in an attempt to provide support to the seemingly fragile peace process.

On 26 December 2004, Sri Lanka was hit by the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami, leading to over 35,000 deaths and over a hundred thousand people throughout Sri Lanka losing their homes, belongings and livelihood and over 1 million people needing food assistance. Within the Vanni itself over 70,000 people, predominantly fishermen, were directly affected. In the wake of the tsunami, political tensions decreased considerably and it was hoped that the tragedy would create a common ground for all parties to address the urgent humanitarian issues at hand. Unfortunately, attempts at joint implementation of tsunami relief/rehabilitation work failed, leading to increased animosity and escalation of violence, mainly targeted killings in Vavuniya, Jaffna, Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Colombo.

By December 2005, violence had erupted into more flamboyant attacks across the country often resulting in civilian injuries and deaths. Out of fear, many Tamil families moved into the Vanni where they perceived they would be safer. It was estimated that a total of 35,401 people were internally displaced within the Vanni between January and July 2006.¹

While many of the IDPs did return to their places of origin after 25 January 2005 when it was agreed that peace talks would resume, the first round of talks in Geneva produced little of substance and the second round in Oslo proved even less fruitful. As a consequence, many of the displaced families who had returned home to Jaffna and other areas were once again displaced into the Vanni. The exact numbers are not available due to the local authorities' inability to administratively deal with such a fluid movement of people across the lines of control.

By April 2006, the security situation in the Vanni deteriorated as the conflict took another dimension and acts of more conventional warfare by both sides of the conflict were launched. With intelligence infiltration along the southern FDL, many civilians residing there began to relocate further north, adding to the growing number of IDPs in the Vanni. At this point, UN access was restricted in approximately 40% of the Vanni, cutting agencies off from much of the population in need. With the expansion of the conflict both on land and at sea, de-facto restrictions were imposed on the movements of persons and goods directly affecting the civil population. Fishermen were no longer able to travel out into the deep waters, therefore limiting their ability to make their normal levels of income. On land, the blockade imposed on key construction materials such as cement, iron bars and tin sheeting quickly ground reconstruction efforts to a halt. Many of the projects throughout the Vanni had to be suspended and people employed in skilled labour such as carpentry and masonry became unemployed.

Throughout June, July and August 2006, both parties engaged in stronger military courses of action, leading to more widespread displacement. IDPs within the Vanni since then are in excess of 61,000.

¹ OCHA Kilinochchi

At the time of the EFSA, both parties had officially agreed to hold talks in Geneva from 28-29 October focusing on returning to cease-fire conditions. However, violence continued despite the agreement. The FDLs were still closed and the population of the Vanni remained isolated and vulnerable.

2.2 Socio-economic

In Kilinochchi District 80% of the population are paddy farmers while the fishing industry is the second most important economic activity. In Mullaitivu approximately 60% are farmers, 25% are fishermen, 10% are government officials and 5% belong to other categories. The two districts have coastal belts in the East and in the West. Fishermen are engaged in deep sea fishing and Karavalai (coastal) fishing. Deep sea fishing is more lucrative, as tuna and other larger fish bring in most of the income. Coastal fishing is more for household consumption and the catch is usually sold at the local market.

Mannar District also has farmers and fishermen whilst the LTTE-held territories in Vavuniya do not have a coast line and thus the greater majority are farmers.

Livestock farming is the third main economic activity in the Vanni and it is largely integrated with crop cultivation. Farmers are raising livestock to improve family income, to meet household nutritional requirement of milk and eggs and for use as pulling power in the fields.

Twenty years of conflict has affected the entire infrastructure of the Northeast including roads, power grids, communication networks, irrigation tanks/channels, health, education, agriculture and fishing. With virtually no maintenance, the road network and nearly all bridges crumbled during the hostilities. Whole sections of the population are cut off during the rainy season and access to already limited services and market opportunities is blocked for two to three months of the year. The power grid, which functions quite well throughout the rest of the island, was completely destroyed during the war and the communications network was wiped out

Agricultural yields declined considerably throughout the conflict. The Vanni - once the rice basket of Sri Lanka and traditionally able to produce two crops a year using lift irrigation techniques - could now barely produce enough for its own consumption. The jungle swallowed thousands of acres of productive land that went uncultivated. Irrigation tanks and channels fell into disrepair due to lack of maintenance and lift irrigation systems were no longer functioning due to a lack of power and regular maintenance.

The Vanni has seen four years of peace with plenty of rehabilitation projects and much restoration of infrastructure. However, 20 years of neglect can not be rebuilt in such a limited time and massive work is still needed to bring the Vanni to the same level as the rest of the country.

The Government runs a charity programme that provides a monthly allowance to poor people, orphans, the disabled, widows and people above 60 years, relative to the number of family members.

Table 2.

# of family members	entitlement
1	100
2	120
3	150
4	210
5>	300

Exchange rate USD1 = 103 SLR

3. WFP programme activities in the Vanni

WFP has been supporting rehabilitation activities in the Vanni since 2002 through a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). The PRRO is made up of the following components:

3.1. Mother and Child Nutrition (MCN)

The MCN supplementary feeding programme targets 39,695 beneficiaries in LTTE-controlled territories covering the districts of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar, Vavuniya and Jaffna. The programme is based on blanket distribution i.e. take-home rations of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) are provided to all pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and all children under 5. Distributions take place at village level antenatal and well-baby clinics where vaccination, growth surveillance and basic health care services are provided on a monthly basis.

Table 3.

Beneficiary Category	Ration Scale (grams/day)	K/Cal Value ²
PLW	125	500
Children 6-12 months	50	200
Children 13-36 months	75	300
Children 37-60 months	100	400

In support of the MCN programme and to overcome the health service staffing shortages, WFP is supporting 500 Health Volunteers who work in the clinics. They are provided with Food-for-Work (FFW) rations of on a monthly basis.

WFP's in-country pipeline for CSB has suffered several complications. Repackaging takes time prior to dispatch from Colombo, transporters have been increasingly unwilling or unable to deliver stocks within the Vanni and the amount of CSB dispatched from Colombo rarely meets requirements (see map 2).

Since the resumption of conflict, further strain has been put on the system as clinics are forced to deal with the influx of IDPs. Furthermore, secondary transport is increasingly expensive due to the spike in fuel costs and District Health staff numbers are insufficient as many staff on leave in Jaffna when hostilities began have been unable to return.

As the caseload in both Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu has increased and dispatches into the Vanni have been greatly reduced, monitoring statistics indicate that many of the intended beneficiaries have not been receiving their entitlements. The problem is not recent but as shown in the graphs below dates back to March 2006.

Figure 1.

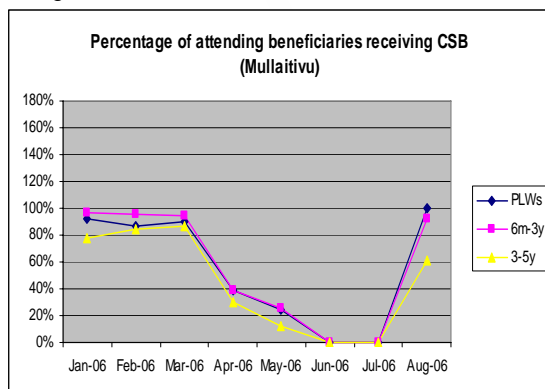
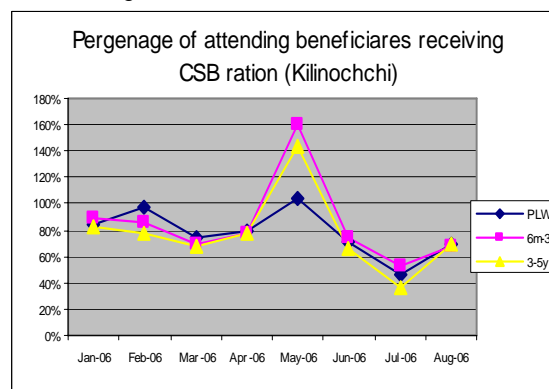


Figure 2.



² Nut Val 2006. v.1.41

The big increase in distribution in Kilinochchi in May is either due to IDP influx or beneficiaries being given double rations.

The Government has a supplementary feeding programme targeting malnourished children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women identified at the health centres during growth monitoring. They receive daily rations of 50g of Triposha- a blended flour produced in Sri Lanka- but distributions have been irregular.

3.2. Food for Education (FFE)

A total of 63,395 students are targeted through WFP’s FFE activity in the Vanni. The children are provided with cooked mid-morning meals each school-day. The basic objectives of the programme are to reduce short-term hunger in students and increase attendance rates. FFE targets all schools with grades 1-9 (children between 5 and 14 years).

Table 4.

District	Targeted Beneficiaries
Kilinochchi	27375
Mullaitivu	25472
Mannar (LTTE-controlled)	5932
Vavuniya (LTTE-controlled)	2982
Jaffna (LTTE-controlled)*	1634
Total	63395

* The beneficiary caseload from Jaffna is included here as the population of this area was displaced into Kilinochchi district at the time of the report.

WFP provides staple commodities of rice, dhal, CSB, sugar and oil while the MNBD funds the purchase of complementary vegetables at the rate of 1.75 LKR/child/day (USD 0.016).

The meals are given on an alternate daily basis: three days per week they are composed of rice and dhal and two times per week of CSB and sugar. The ration provides the students with approximately 500 kcal/ day.

Volunteer cooks are given FFW rations for the days they assist with the preparation of meals. The number of cooks per school varies depending on the size of the student body.

The influx of IDPs has put great pressure on local schools absorbing the new students. In addition, monitoring visits indicate that attendance rates dropped considerably after the conflict resumed but that they are now slowly on the rise again. Education Authorities are considering the introduction of a two-shift system in schools where the number of IDP students is very high. In general, primary education is managing the situation but the preparation of school meals has been affected in schools where parents previously volunteering have left. The School Development Society is helping bridge the gap until new volunteers have been found. UNOPS, funded by UNICEF, is constructing temporary school rooms in schools that have absorbed large number of IDP students.

Secondary and higher education are facing even greater problems; approximately 40% of the teachers have been unable to come to work as they have been unable to return from their homes in Jaffna. Due to fuel shortages the bus services have been unreliable and students living far away find it difficult to attend school daily. It is also reported that parents of A-level students keep them at home for fear of military conscription.

3.3. Food for Training (FFT)

Under this activity, WFP supports multiple vocational training centres throughout the Vanni. The participants attend trainings fulltime and are entitled to a family ration to ensure their families basic food needs. Rations are based on a family composed of five members.

Table 5.

Daily Ration Scale (grams/day)			
Rice	Wheat Flour	Dhal	Sugar
1250	1250	300	150

Examples of training courses offered include Masonry, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical Wiring, Handicraft Skills, Tractor Repair, Boat Engine Repair, Welding and Tailoring.

Despite the resumption of hostilities, all but one training centre continues to function and attendance has not been affected. Trainings which are dependent on regular supplies of materials (e.g. masonry) have been adversely affected by the Government blockade but by and large FFT activities are making due with limited resources.

Food distributions to the training centres have however been suspended as food deliveries into the Vanni have been far below requirements and FFE and emergency food rations to IDPs have been prioritized.

3.4. Food for Work (FFW)

FFW is the largest activity by tonnage under the PRRO. Over 200 projects have been approved for the Vanni, mainly focused on infrastructure rehabilitation of access roads, irrigation and drainage channels, irrigation ponds or tanks etc. Approximately 20% of the projects have been suspended indefinitely due to the deterioration of the security situation and population displacement. Progress in the other projects has slowed down as few participants came to the sites in the first weeks of the conflict. Recent monitoring visits have found that people have begun to return to the sites and that work is continuing. As with FFT, food dispatches to FFW projects have been suspended due to limited deliveries of commodities into the Vanni.

WFP has been involved in housing construction on quite a large scale throughout the Vanni. Over 200 houses are planned to be constructed in partnership with UNDP while another 6,000 are underway in partnership with the North East Housing Rehabilitation Programme (NEHRP) with funding from the World Bank. Due to lack of cement, iron bars, roof tiles and other essential building materials progress has halted at all of the sites and families destined to move in before the rainy season will have to spend yet another monsoon in makeshift shelters.

3.5. Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) for IDPs

Following the resumption of conflict, WFP and the MNBD have authorized the GAs to release in-district stocks for distribution to IDPs affected by the conflict. Due to limited WFP stocks within the Vanni, only one distribution (two-week rations) has been completed in Kilinochchi. Another two-week ration has been issued using Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society (MPCS) stocks on loan until WFP stocks arrive. The situation is similar in Mullaitivu and LTTE-controlled Mannar and Vavuniya.

Table 6.

Daily ration per person					Kcal/day
Rice	Dhal	Wheat flour	Sugar	Oil	
200	60	200	20 g	20	1900

The Government is also distributing food to 'old' IDPs and returnees (displaced prior to this year or who have returned since the cease-fire) and in theory there is no overlap with WFP's distributions. The total beneficiary population of the Government programme in the Vanni is 16,999 families (67,155 people) so 20% of the total population receive this assistance even though it is reported to be irregular. The ration varies depending on availability and market prices.

Table 7.

Family members	SRL*	Rice g/d/p	Wheat	Dhal	Sugar	Kcal
1	386	225	60	10	27	1,200
2	616	205	55	10	24	1,100
3	840	186	50	7	22	1,000

4. General and demographic impact

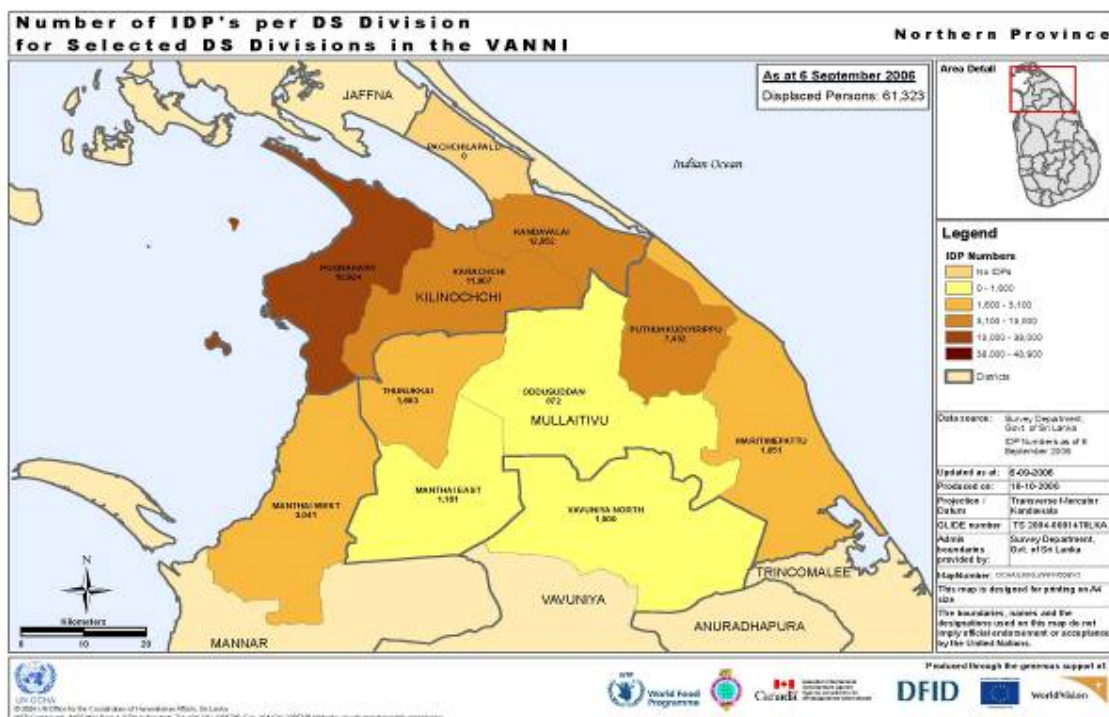
Kilinochchi has a population of 142,000 people (45% under 18) and Mullaitivu has 153,000 people. In total the Vanni has a population of approximately 350,000 people of which 61,000 are persons displaced since January 2006.

Since August 2006, the population of the Maruthankerny division in LTTE-controlled Jaffna, the Pallai division in Kilinochchi and the northern half of the Poonahary division in Kilinochchi have been completely displaced. Some 87% are living with friends and relatives while the remaining 13% are living communally in camps, schools or clustered in open areas.

The majority (51%) of the IDPs were displaced in August but as many as 16% of those living with host families fled already in January. Between January and August, there has been a steady trickle of IDPs averaging 2-6% per month. Some 11% of IDPs in communal areas arrived in September.

The EFSA shows that 17% of IDPs living in communal areas are female headed households (HHs), which is higher than in the other sub-groups. Amongst non-displaced households, female headed HHs represent 10%, amongst host families 14% and amongst IDPs living with host families the figure comes to 10%. The average percentage of female headed households between all sub-groups is 13%.

Map 2.



Across all sub-groups, age groups are similar although host families have a slightly higher percentage of elderly people.

Table 8.

Age group	IDPs living communally	IDPs living with host families	Host families	Non-displaced households	Total by sex and age group
0-4 years	12.3%	11.8%	10.6%	9.5%	11.0%
5-17 years	32.0%	27.5%	29.1%	32.3%	30.2%
18-59 years	53.1%	57.7%	54.2%	54.0%	54.7%
60+ years	2.6%	3.0%	6.2%	4.3%	4.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The table below shows the number of times that IDP households have moved in the past nine months. Over a third of all IDPs have moved more than once.

Table 9.

Number of times the household moved since January 2006	Total households	not moved				
			once	twice	three times	> 3 times
IDPs living communally	167	0.6%	63.5%	27.5%	6.0%	2.4%
IDPs living with host families	163	0.6%	68.1%	20.9%	8.0%	1.8%

As many as 40% of the host families are hosting 3-5 extra people while a third of the host families have as many as 6-10 extra people staying with them.

Pair-wise ranking was used in the household interviews to determine the households' priorities and most urgent needs. All sub-groups voiced similar concerns, with food being the first most urgent need, employment the second and cash and healthcare shared the third place.

5. Food availability and markets

5.1. Agriculture

Agriculture is the main economic activity in the Vanni and the region normally exports rice to Jaffna and other districts in Sri Lanka. Before the war commenced in 1983, some 31,000 hectares were planted with paddy in Kilinochchi. During the conflict, the amount of land used for cultivation decreased significantly due to lack of agricultural inputs and fuel and limited access to traditional markets. Following the 2002 cease-fire and the reopening of many areas, some 24,000 hectares are under cultivation although some lands remain inaccessible due to security risks from landmines and unexploded ordinances.

October is the rice planting season and the major harvest takes place in March-April. Results from the EFSA indicate that due to fuel shortages as little as 30-40% of the paddy in Mullaitivu will be planted this year. Even with increased manual labour it will be difficult to plant the normal amount. Another problem is the ban on fertilisers; previous statistics indicate that yields were reduced by up to 50% when chemical fertilisers were not available³.

Milling of rice is also problematic as mills cannot run on kerosene and diesel has been banned. Families will normally store seeds for their own use and to sell when the planting season starts. This year, 20% of the assessed households are consuming the part that they would normally sell, resulting in increased availability of seeds on the market. Farmers are encouraged by the authorities to plant more paddy this year and IDPs are encouraged to engage in kitchen gardening and poultry rearing to limit food shortages. No clear plan does however appear to be in place and although land will be given to the IDPs by the local authorities; IDPs will most likely have to purchase the required inputs themselves. *NB: During the EFSA, enumerators were not able to meet with the Agricultural Department as it was not functioning.*

³ Household Livelihood Security Assessment in the Vanni districts, October 2000, CARE and WFP

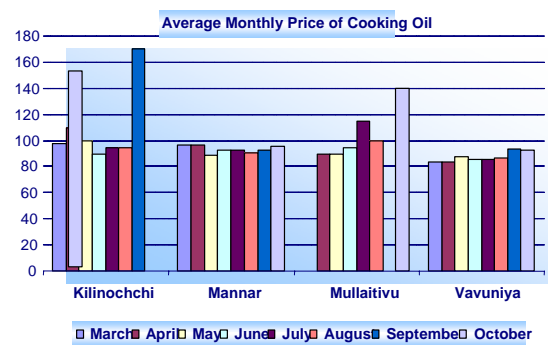
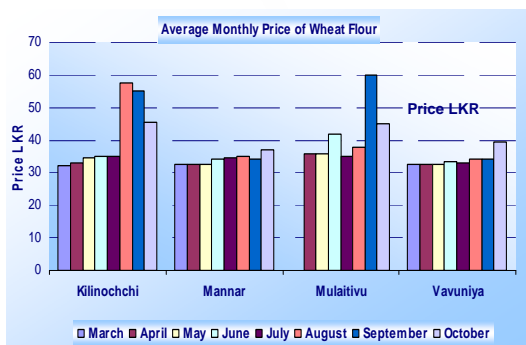
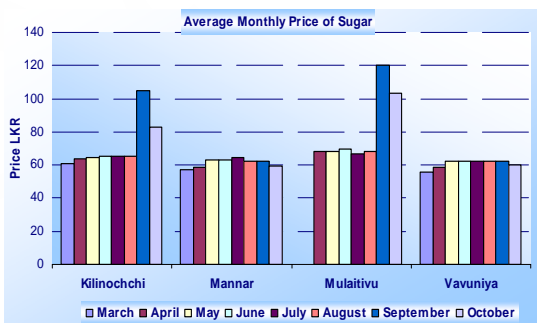
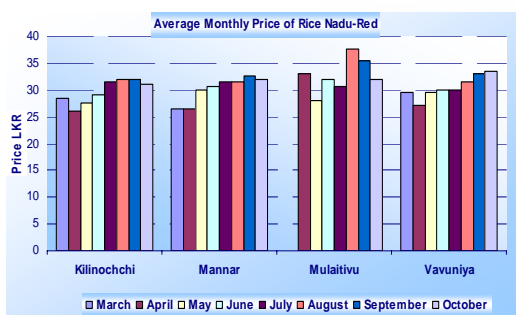
5.2. Markets

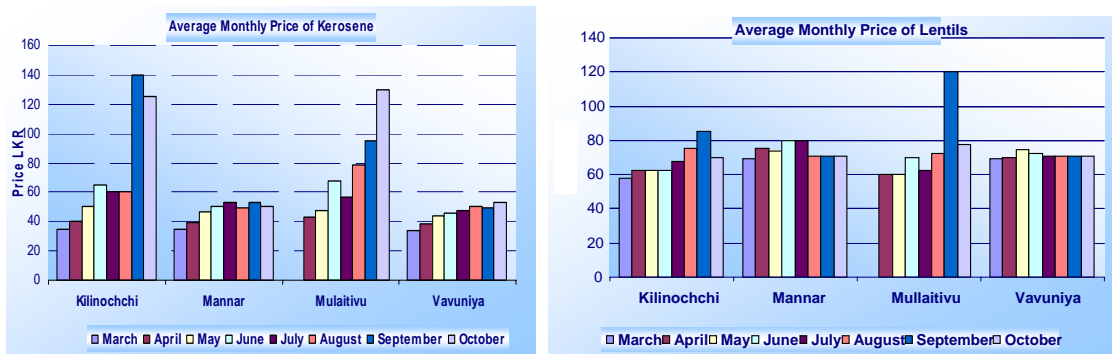
The MPCS normally purchase paddy and chilli from farmers in the Vanni and transport it to Jaffna, Vavuniya and Colombo for sale. Out of 60,000 tons of paddy purchased by the MPCS, 40,000 tons are sold outside the Vanni. Business has currently been interrupted due to the closure of the roads to both Jaffna and Vavuniya and the MPCS are thus stuck with a large quantity of surplus rice in storage.

The MPCS also purchase goods like onions, lentils, soap, cooking oil, petrol, diesel and kerosene from outside the Vanni. In urban areas like Kilinochchi town, the MPCS account for 20% of the market of these goods and in rural areas for as much as 75%. With the transport ban on fuel, the MPCS have not been able to replenish stocks in Vavuniya and are quickly running out of stocks. Food items are also in short supply; only 20% of usual quantities have arrived in the past two months even though there is no official ban on essential goods. A coupon/ration system similar to what was in place before the 2002 peace agreement has been put in place and all families can obtain ration cards.

Consequently, the resumption of conflict has not only reduced the availability of goods in the markets within the Vanni but is also hampering trade with markets on the outside where Vanni farmers and fishermen normally sell their produce. Income levels for most livelihoods have thus reduced.

The below graphs show the increase in market prices within LTTE-controlled areas in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu as collected during WFP's bi-weekly monitoring of market prices. There are also LTTE-controlled areas in Mannar and Vavuniya but the markets that WFP has monitored are on the Government-controlled side and can thus be used as a control group. Rice produced in the Vanni has only seen a seasonal increase except for a limited surge in August and September. Goods that have to be purchased outside the Vanni have increased much more and are not season related.





Findings suggest that market prices stabilised slightly in October; in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu they decreased again after the initial large increase in September. Kerosene has however increased substantially in Mullaitivu. Prices in Mannar and Vavuniya remain stable.

5.3. Traders

Through observations and interviews with 18 traders throughout the Vanni it was discovered that market activities are slow in 65% of the locations, calm in 24% and active in 12%. Some 59% of the traders interviewed were small traders while 41% were of medium size. Approximately 65% of the interviewed traders sold mixed goods and 29% sold only food items. The large majority (88%) had been in the business for more than one year and were thus established traders in their community. Only 18% were engaged also in other activities such as skilled labour and fishing.

Some 29% of traders have changed the sources of goods since the conflict resumed in August. For example, middlemen who used to come to the communities to sell goods directly to the smaller traders are no longer being regularly used due to the closure of lines and the scarcity of fuel. Traders have instead begun to rely on the black market, which was not being used before.

Approximately 23% of the interviewed traders reported to have a higher sales volume since August due to the influx of IDPs.

Figure 3.

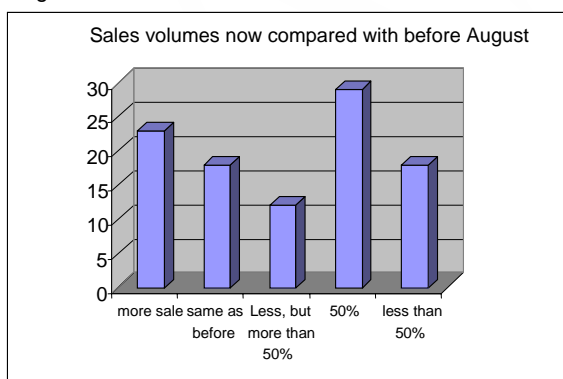
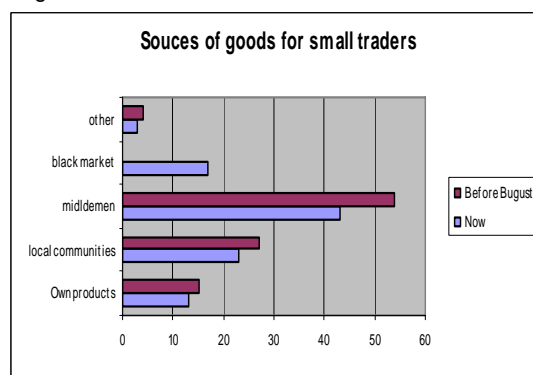


Figure 4.



The main reason for the reduction in sales volume relates to the closure of the line of control which has made it more difficult and costly to supply goods. All traders interviewed say that access to credit has become very difficult these days; before 88% of traders used to purchase goods on credit from the middlemen. Prices have increased mainly due to fuel shortages which bring up transport costs and 55% say it is more difficult to find transport now. Small traders at village level are afraid to leave their stocks in the shops at night and therefore keep them in their

homes (thereby making storage more difficult). Some 50% of traders have stocks to last them less than a week, 33% have stocks for 1-2 weeks and 17% have stocks for one month or more. As many as 91% report that the purchasing power of their customers has reduced.

There has not been any change in the goods sold by the traders since August. The items most commonly sold are still wheat, rice, pulses, coconut products, milk powder and detergent, essential items for all households in the Vanni.

Figure 5.

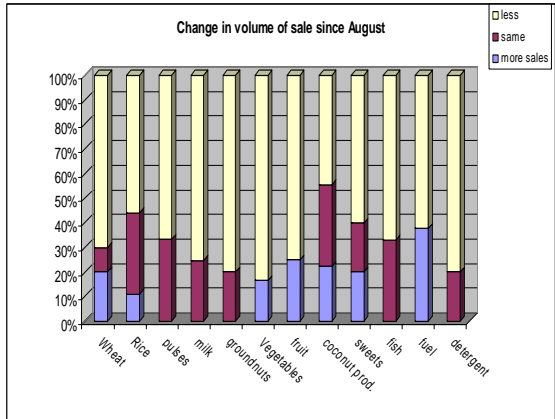
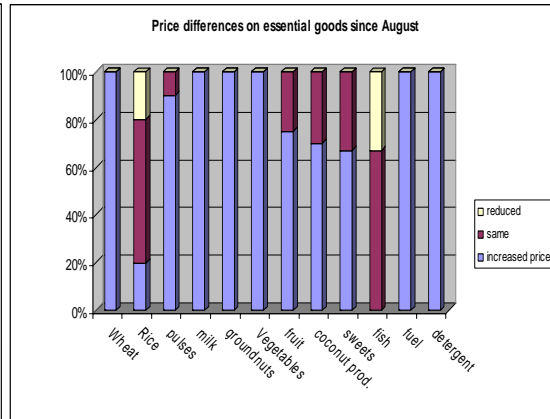


Figure 6.



As indicated by the above graphs, traders have increased their sale of wheat, vegetables, fruits, coconut products, sweets and fuel. The increase can be attributed to the influx of IDPs.

As discussed earlier in this report, most food items have become more expensive especially those purchased from outside the Vanni. The price of fish and rice sourced from within the Vanni shows a different pattern: in areas where IDPs are receiving rice as part of the general ration prices have reduced. The price of fish has reduced along the coast due to the problem of accessing markets outside the Vanni.

Figure 7.

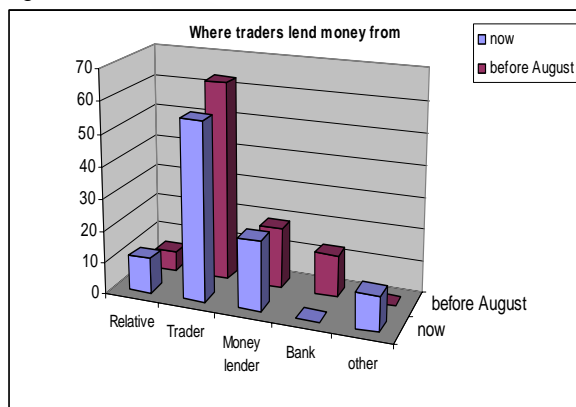
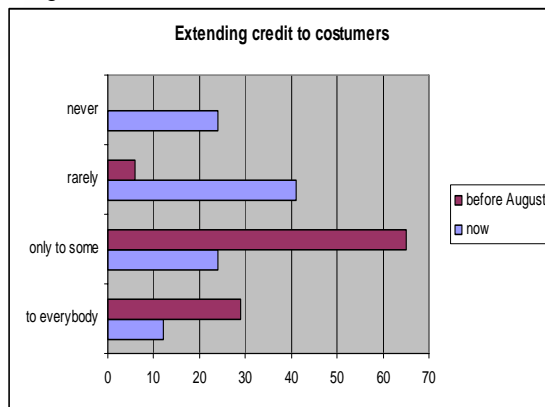


Figure 8.



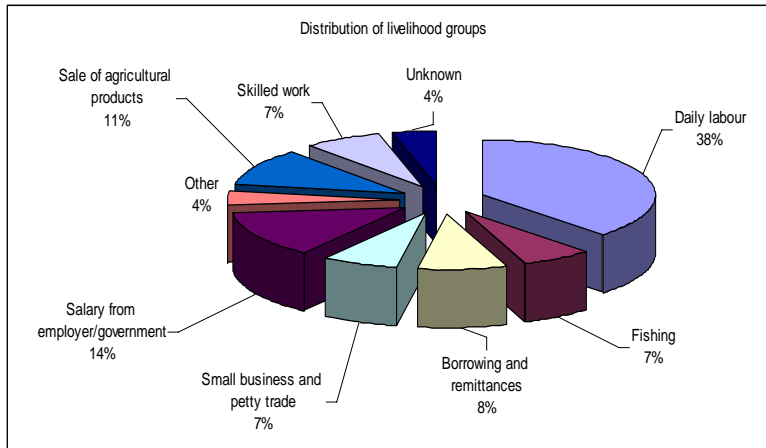
The conflict has changed traders' behaviour towards their customers; before most traders gave regular credit while only 6% rarely did so. At the time of the EFSA, nearly 25% reported that they never do it while 40% said they will only do it on rare occasions. The reason given for the change is that customers have become unable to repay and the traders can no longer afford to give credit.

6. Livelihoods and households' access to food

6.1. Livelihoods

The enumerated households were asked to identify the relative contribution of 17 potential income sources to their livelihood using proportional piling. As households displayed a portfolio of several sets of income sources it was necessary for purposes of analysis to determine which types of combinations were common across the sample. A cluster analysis was run resulting in 12 livelihood profiles⁴, which were later reduced to 8 by combining smaller clusters with similar characteristics. (E.g. borrowing and remittances were merged; salary from employer and salary from Government were merged; firewood cutting and sale of livestock were merged; and petty trade and small business were merged.)

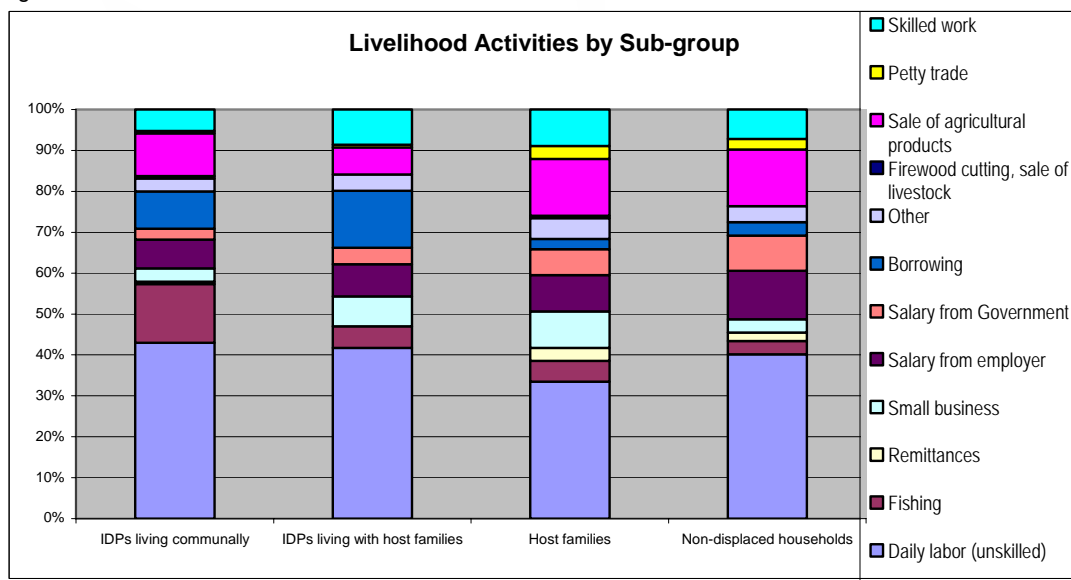
Figure 9.



Results show that the main income activity that all sub-groups are engaged in is daily labouring. Fishing is done more by IDPs than by host families or non-displaced households while host families are more engaged in small trade. Borrowing, despite not being an income source as such, was included as an option and proved to be much more common amongst the

IDPs than amongst other sub-groups. Sale of agricultural products on the other hand was more common amongst host families and non-displaced households as they have access to land. Petty trade was not reported at all amongst IDPs

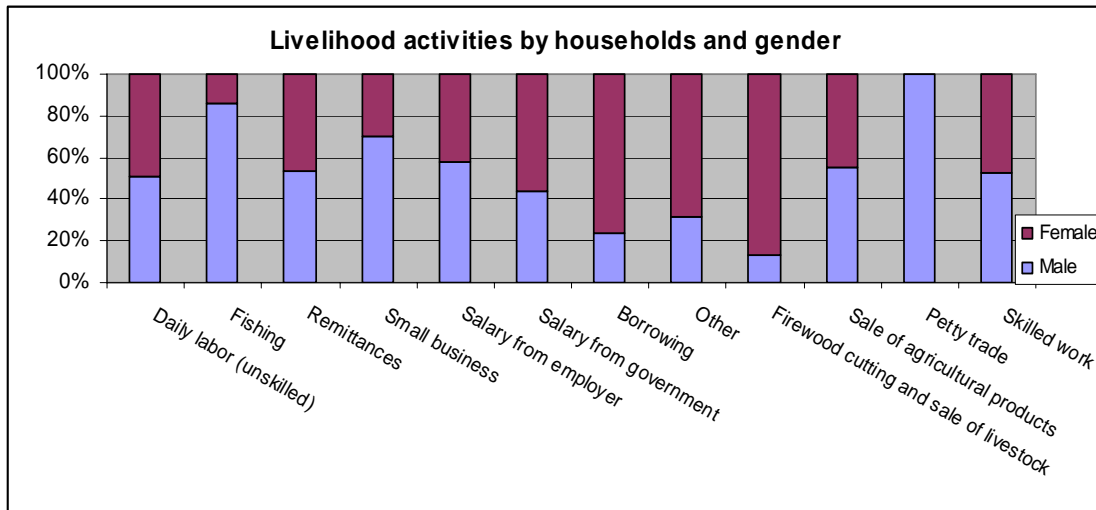
Figure 10.



⁴ The K-means cluster procedure (a non-hierarchical cluster method) was used to identify the clusters. The best result was given by a set of 12 clusters using 7 iterations

The below graph shows the differences in livelihood activities between female headed and male headed households. The former category tends to borrow more than the latter. Traditional female activities such as firewood collection are also important income sources for female headed households while they rarely engage in petty trade or fishing. Other activities are fairly evenly represented between genders.

Figure 11.

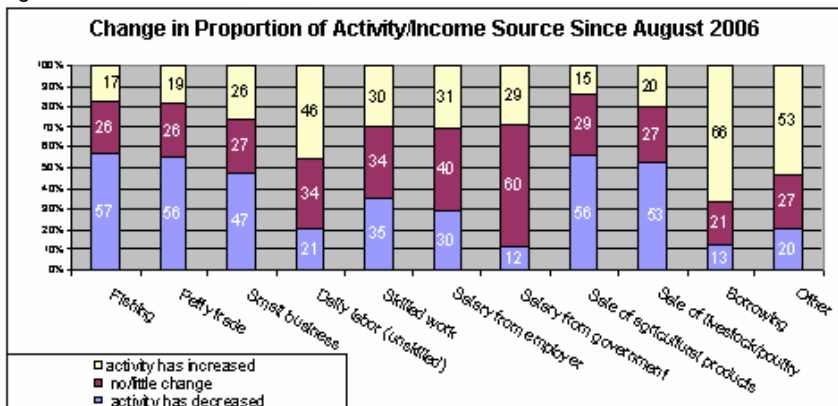


Changes in livelihood activities were calculated by comparing the proportion given to the activity before the conflict with its proportion over the past month. Not surprisingly, the households most affected by the conflict are also those showing the greatest change in livelihood activities. For example, fishing has reduced for 57% of fishermen due to the ban on deep sea fishing and lack of access to the lucrative markets in Colombo. Petty trade has reduced for 56% of the households engaged in this activity as they can no longer travel outside the Vanni and purchase goods. Sale of agricultural products has also reduced for 56% of farmers as a direct result of the closure of the A9 route and the lack of access to the markets in Jaffna.

Livelihood activities most commonly being employed by households were daily labour (321 HHs), sale of agricultural produce (225 HHs), sale of livestock/poultry (142 HHs) and fishing (95 HHs). There was no difference between sub-groups in terms of livelihoods and their individual changes.

To compensate for the reductions in other livelihood activities, households are now increasingly engaged in daily labour mainly in the agricultural sector. As farmers are lacking fuel for their tractors there is increased reliance on manpower during the ongoing paddy planting season. Borrowing money is also a way for households to purchase food and other essential items.

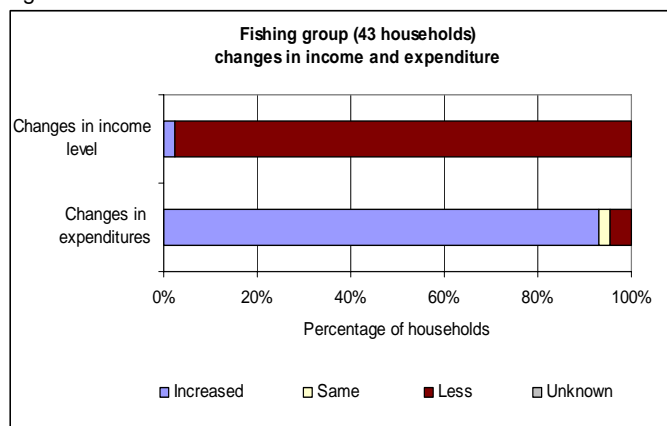
Figure 12.



Focus group discussions confirm that IDPs who were either farmers or fishermen have lost their livelihood due to the displacement.

Non-displaced households who engage in *fishing* have seen a large reduction in income since the GoSL imposed restrictions on deep sea fishing in May. It is reported that fishing boats were confiscated by the navy if caught violating restrictions and fishermen were said to have been killed.

Figure 13.



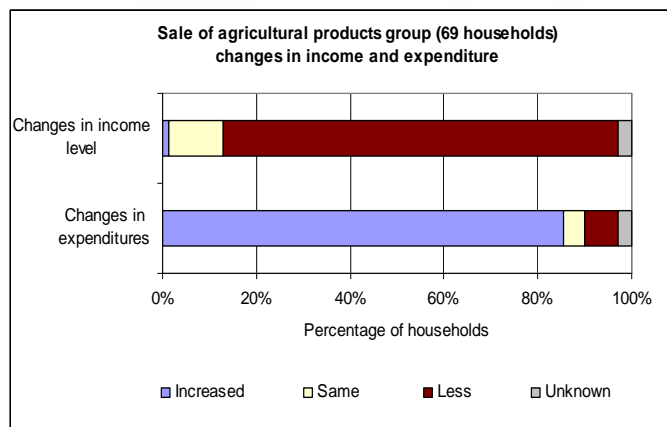
This has led to panic in the fishing communities particularly on the east coast. The markets for fishermen have also been affected as fish is no longer transported to the more lucrative market in Colombo. Before, cooler lorries donated by UNDP used to come and purchase fish from the fishermen for transport by road.

The period between November and December is usually the most difficult for fishermen as the sea is too rough to fish and no income

can be made. January and February however are important months due to the prawn fishing season.

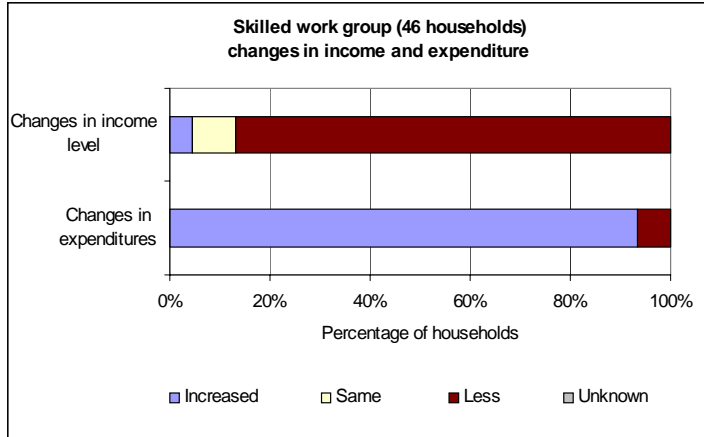
October is normally the time of year when farmers prepare their paddy fields but without sufficient fuel to run their tractors this has proven difficult this year, even with augmented use of daily labourers. Farmers report to be consuming the seeds they normally sell this time of the year, especially those households hosting IDPs. Their income levels have greatly reduced, mainly due to loss of the Jaffna market, although the change is not as drastic as for the fishing community.

Figure 14.



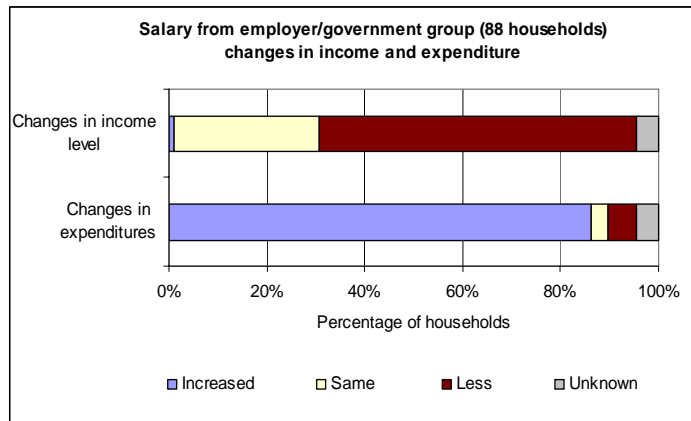
Skilled Labourers have been in high demand due to numerous reconstruction projects initiated after the peace agreement was signed and following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. Over the past two months, skilled labourers have been facing huge difficulties as the majority of construction work has been put on hold due to the ban on transport of construction materials. This also applies to WFP's Food For Work activities, Tsunami housing projects and other reconstruction work on schools and health facilities.

Figure 15.



People who have a *salaried employment* receive their monthly salary in the form of a check. Due to the current scarcity of bank notes, banks are unable to cash the checks resulting in even households with incomes being short of money to purchase goods. The reduction in income for this livelihood groups is however less than for other groups but they are equally affected by price increases and thus suffering from reduced purchasing power.

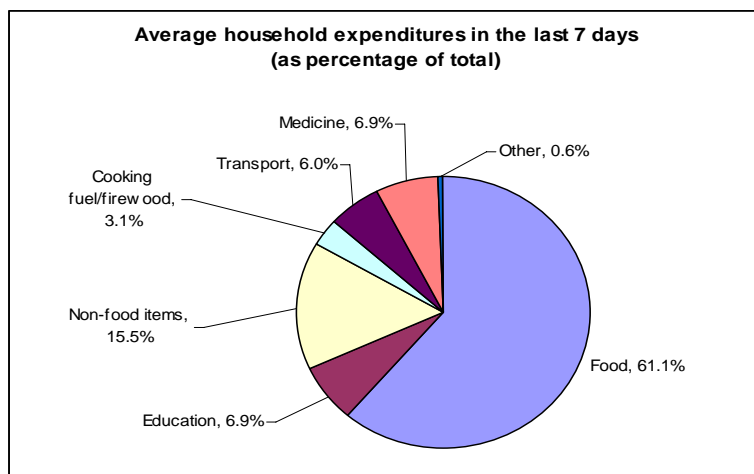
Figure 16.



The number of people looking for *unskilled daily labour* has increased with the influx of IDPs. Usually October to March is the peak season for daily labour due to high demand for manpower in the agricultural sector during planting and harvest. It is not yet clear how this year's agricultural season will be like; it could be a good year for daily labourers if farmers rely more on manpower than on tractors. Market monitoring already shows that the daily wage for unskilled labour has dropped between 10-20%.

6.2. Expenditure

Figure 17.



As expected, the largest expenditure item is food which accounts for 61% of expenditure.

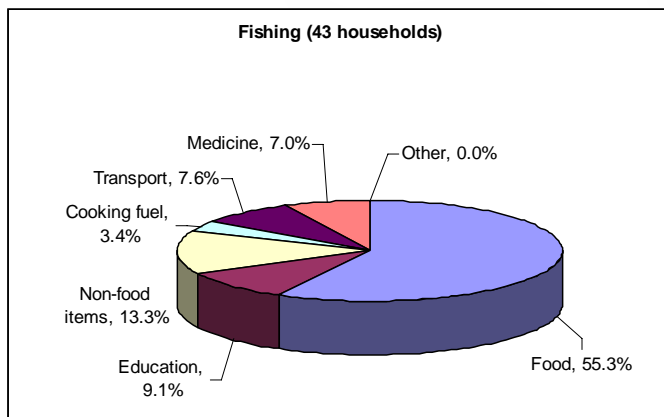
Proportionally this is not alarming but with current price increases the proportion spent on food is bound to rise and the situation should be monitored.

Some 86% of sampled households report having increased their expenditure since the conflict started. At the

same time, 87% report having less income. There is no difference between sub-groups in terms of expenditure and the percentage spent on the different items.

There is not much difference in expenditure between the different livelihood groups either. The number of households in some of the livelihood groups is too small to be representative but it nevertheless gives an indication of the situation. The daily labour group (243 HHs) is by far the largest group and its expenditure is consistent with the average picture shown in the graph above.

Figure 18.

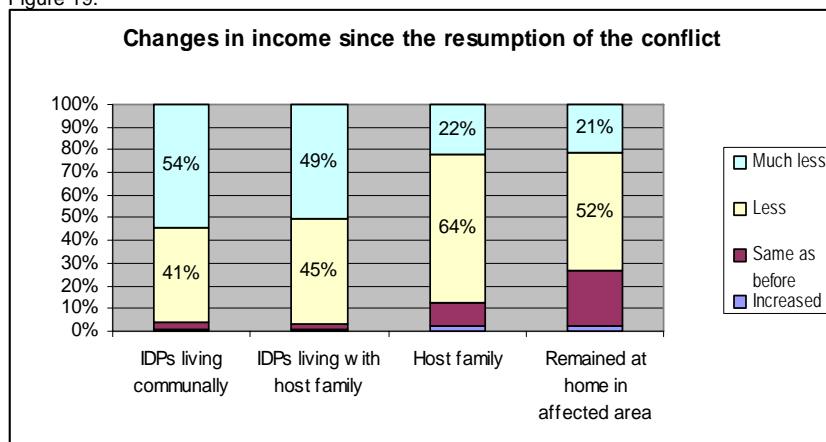


The fishing community is the livelihood group spending the least money on food (55%) but instead spend slightly more on transportation and education.

Another livelihood group spending less than average on food is skilled workers. They spend 58% of their expenditure on food, but slightly more on education and cooking fuel than the average. (see annex 3 for graphs of all livelihood groups).

There are differences between the sub-groups in terms of income: 76% of non-displaced households report having changed income compared to 90% of host families and 97% of IDPs. The majority of the host families and the non-displaced households have less income whilst the majority of IDPs have much less.

Figure 19.



6.3. Food access

The main source of food for the vast majority of people is through purchase. Domestic production is an important secondary source for eggs (33% of those who consume), curd (26%) and milk (15%). Food aid is an important secondary source for pulses (22%) while 15% admit to borrowing as a second source for rice.

The EFSA shows that a large percentage of IDPs are receiving food assistance whilst approximately 60% of host families and non-displaced households do not receive any food assistance at all.

Table 10.

Households receiving food aid since the resumption of conflict	Yes	No	Unknown
IDPs living communally	92.8%	6.0%	1.2%
IDPs living with host families	89.0%	11.0%	0.0%
Host families	32.1%	59.7%	8.2%
Non-displaced households	20.3%	61.4%	18.3%
Total	59.5%	33.8%	6.7%

The below table indicates the various programmes providing food assistance. A large majority of IDPs are receiving general rations but more than one third say that their children are also receiving school feeding as well as assistance through health clinics and WFP's MCN programme. Host families and non-displaced households receive less general rations although as many as 25% of host families report to be receiving some. School feeding is the largest food aid programme reaching these two sub-groups and 20% of the non-displaced households are enrolled in the MCN programme. Some 38% say that the food assistance comes regularly whilst the majority (53%) say that it is often delayed and 6% report that the network is not functioning at all.

Table 11.

Kind of food aid (households could indicate more than one kind)	IDPs living communally	IDPs living with host family	Host families	Non-displaced households	Total
General food ration for IDPs (CGES/WFP/GA)	84.7%	72.6%	25.0%	8.4%	53.7%
School feeding	32.1%	45.2%	67.4%	80.7%	52.8%
Supplementary feeding (MCN)	13.7%	21.0%	14.1%	20.5%	17.2%
Food for work, food for training	2.3%	5.6%	6.5%	12.0%	6.0%
Other	3.1%	0.8%	3.3%	1.2%	2.1%

According to the interviewees, 60% of food aid comes from WFP, 18% from the Government and 8% from NGOs.

6.4. Coping strategies

Focus group discussions show that there is little difference in coping strategies between the four sub-groups. They all report reducing number of meals and portions consumed, borrowing money and/or purchasing food on credit. Pawning and/or selling jewellery is another very common way of obtaining cash at the moment. Helping each other and petty theft are also reported as ways of making ends meet.

A very large majority of households report that there were times when they did not have enough money to purchase food in the past 30 days. As many as 95% of IDPs living in community areas answered this question in the affirmative as did more than 80% of non-displaced households and host families.

Figure 20.

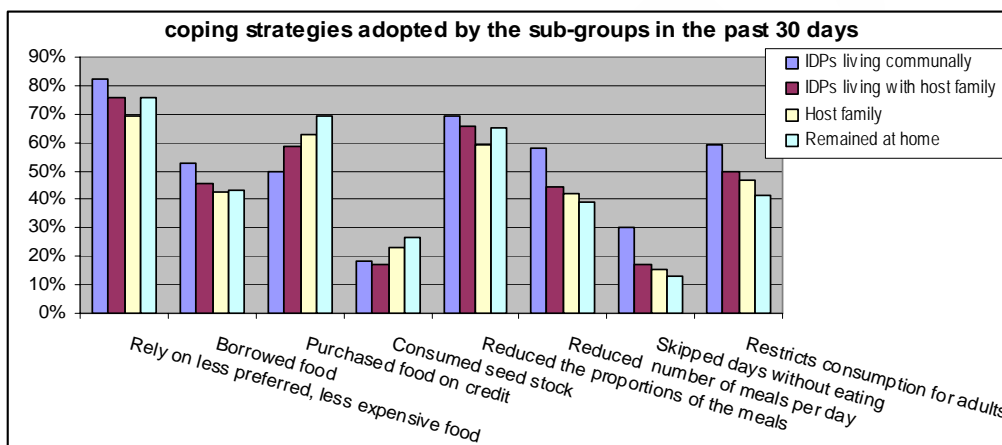
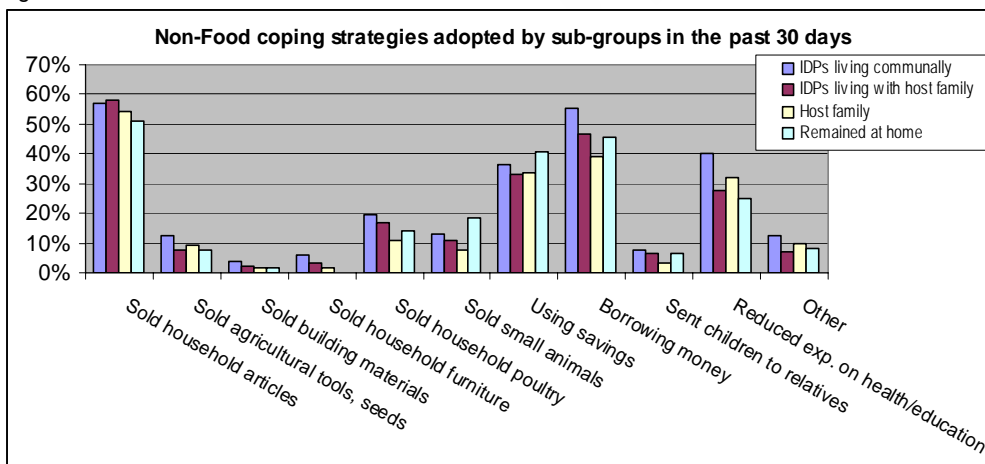


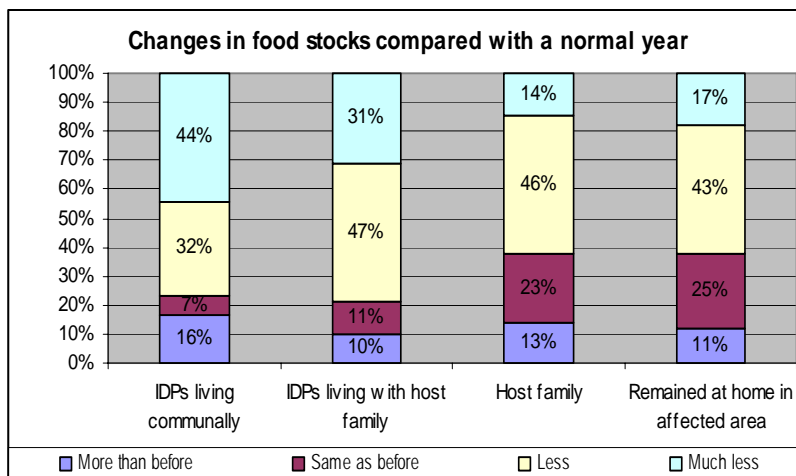
Figure 21.



As indicated by the above two graphs, results are similar across sub-groups. IDPs have reduced meals (mainly snacks) and are restricting adult food consumption to a larger extent than host families and non-displaced households. They are instead coping by purchasing food on credit.

6.5. Food stocks

Figure 22.



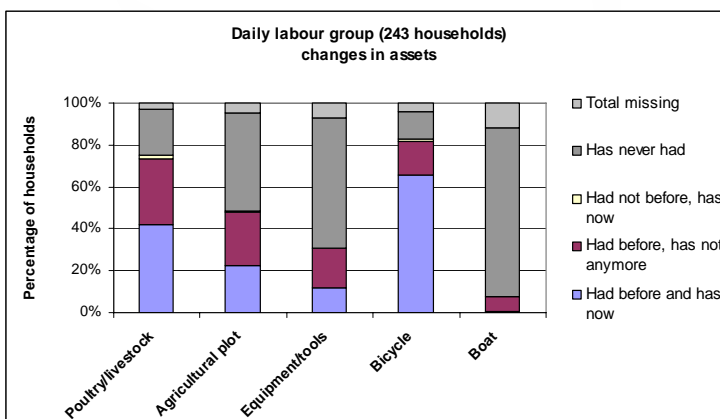
Household questionnaires show that there is some difference between sub-groups in terms of food stocks compared to before the conflict: IDPs living communally have much less stocks now; while IDPs with host families, host families and non-displaced households have less. As many as 30% report having the same amount or more stocks

now. (The question was worded so that it would not include seasonal changes.)

6.6. Assets

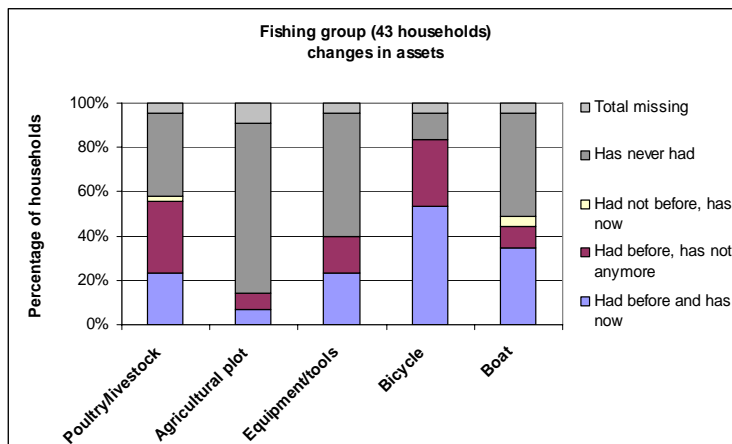
As one of the main coping strategies is to pawn or sell items (so far mainly jewellery) there will ultimately be some loss of assets with 65,000 IDPs. Changes in assets have been analysed by livelihood groups and presented in figure 23 is the results for the largest livelihood group, the daily labourers. Assets that households used to have but which are now gone are primarily poultry and small livestock. Agricultural plots have been lost by 50% of those who used to have it while 20% of daily labourers have lost access to their agricultural plots (it is assumed that these represent IDPs).

Figure 23.



Amongst fishermen, there are more households that have lost their poultry than who still have some. Even though not many fishermen used to have access to land, only 50% do not have any now. An interesting observation is the high percentage of fishermen who never had a boat (nearly 50%). Many fishermen have also lost their bicycles.

Figure 24.



Salaried households, traders and households with small businesses have also lost assets but not to the same extent. They have more savings to use up before they have to sell assets and this is their main coping strategy after consumption strategies.

Figure 25.



7. Food consumption, utilization, nutritional and health status

Some 55% of all sampled households have changed their food intake over the past month (70% amongst IDPs living communally and nearly 50% of the non-displaced households). They have mainly cut down on snacks due to high market prices, reduced income and decreased availability of some items. Culturally in Sri Lanka women eat last and less than other groups. When food is scarce children, elderly people and men get priority.

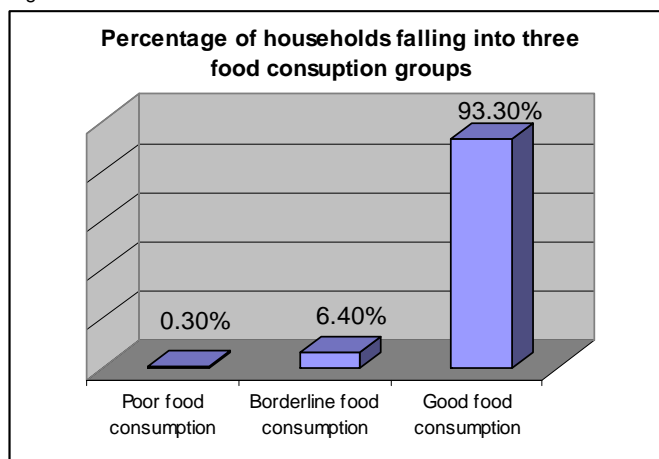
Focus groups report that households are increasingly consuming cassava and other less preferred food items locally available. They also report that the price of milk powder for young children has gone up so much that many households have changed weaning and complementary foods from milk powder/formula to locally prepared foods. Some households also report extending breastfeeding in time. Moreover, green leaves collected wild are being used instead of vegetables by some families.

Some 98% of households are cooking with firewood which is the traditional method. The majority have not experienced a change in accessing firewood whilst 46% report to be using less than normal. The main reasons for the reduction in firewood are insecurity, scarcity at markets and lack of money to purchase.

7.1. Dietary frequency and diversity

The EFSA included a 7 day recall of dietary frequency and diversity which shows that in terms of food consumption the difference between the four sub-groups is very small. The large majority of households fall into the category of good food consumption which is encouraging⁵. Female headed households had a slightly higher percentage in the borderline consumption group but displayed no difference in the poor food consumption groups.

Figure 26



The few households that had borderline food consumption are almost evenly spread across the four sub-groups as shown in table below

Table 12.

Households with:	IDPs living communally	IDPs living with host families	Host families	Non-displaced households
Poor food consumption	1	1	0	0
Borderline consumption	12	12	10	7

The difference between the borderline households compared to those with good food consumption can be found in annex 2. The table below shows the average food consumption in the past 7 days.

⁵ The food items are grouped into 8 food groups. The number of days food items were eaten in the past week is summed for the food items in each of the 8 food groups. If the total sum of the number of days of the separate items in a food group is larger than 7 days, the sum is converted to 7. Thus, the maximum score in each food group is 7 days. The food score of each household is calculated as follows:
 Simple food score = 2 * staple + 3 * pulses + 1 * vegetables + 1 * fruit + 4 * animal protein + 0.5 * sugar + 3 * dairy + 0.5 * oil
 The households are now grouped according to their scores by applying the standard cut-offs:
 Poor food consumption: simple food score is 0 – 21
 Borderline food consumption: simple food score is 21.01 – 35
 Good food consumption: simple food score is 35.01 and higher

Table 13

Food item	Days consumed in the past 7 days			
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7
Rice				6.9
Bread / Chapti / Roti			4.8	
Pulses		1.8		
Fish		2.9		
Meat (beef, pork, chicken)	0.5			
Eggs		1.7		
Curd	0.3			
Milk		2.3		
Vegetables				5.6
Fruits		1.6		
Sugar / Jaggary				6.9
Coconut products				6.5
Palm oil, vegetable oil, fats				5.3
Alcohol / Beer / Toddi	0.5			

Between adults and children, there is only a small difference in food consumption. The large majority consume three meals a day in all four sub-groups. Slightly more adults in the sub-group of IDPs living communally consume only 2 meals a day. More than 90% of children in IDP camps consume three meals a day. More adults (75%) than children (65%) do not eat snacks; 26% of the children have 1-2 snacks per day.

7.2. Health

Most health and nutrition indicators are worse in the Vanni compared with the national average. For example, the infant mortality rate in Kilinochchi in 2005 was 14.4 versus the national rate of 12 (per 1000 live births). Maternal Mortality rate was 16 versus the national rate of 13; child mortality rate of children under 5 was 14 (per 1000 live births) nationwide but unfortunately unknown for the Vanni.

According to the health authorities in Kilinochchi, vaccination coverage is however over 90% and the health authorities together with humanitarian health actors have put great effort into immunization after the peace agreement in 2002.

The Vanni is however suffering from a chronic shortage of health staff and the resumption of the conflict has further deteriorated the situation. Health centres in areas where armed confrontation has taken place are not functioning; all repairs and re-constructions of facilities have stopped due to restrictions on construction materials; and many health staff have also been displaced (some 10%) or deployed to other centres.

There is an increased need of curative drugs due to the rapid decline in living conditions of the IDPs. There have been reported cases of measles, dysentery, diarrhoea and increased incidences of fever. The disease pattern is likely to worsen with the rainy season which is due to start mid-October.

Medication is not getting through the line of control and only fractions of what has been requested are released. Emergency Health Kits have reportedly not been released by the Government in two months and the situation is similar for soaps and blankets⁶. Focus groups confirm that health facilities are still functioning but suffer from insufficient amounts of medication and lack of staff. A visit to a village pharmacy revealed that stocks are slowly depleting and prices of medicines have

⁶ UNICEF

increased. The pharmacist will have to rely on black market suppliers when his stocks run out in 14 days, before a middle trader would visit the village regularly.

Emergency health teams from ICRC and Medecin Sans Frontieres (MSF) have been requested to assist in the hospital but due to difficulties in obtaining clearance to travel they have been on stand-by in Colombo. There are also water shortages at hospital due to lack of fuel for the pump; the small stocks that remain are kept to secure the cold chain for vaccines as long as possible.⁷ In the rural areas only a few health centres have solar panels used for the cold chain; this is however always a problem during the rainy season (mid-October to mid-January).

Another factor affecting the health system is the banks inability to release sufficient amounts of money to pay the trained health volunteers their allowance for assisting at the health centres. Water access and overall sanitation conditions for IDPs are also of concern. The latrines in the communal areas are full and without fuel to run the trucks to empty them this is an additional health hazard which will further worsen with the onset of the rainy season.

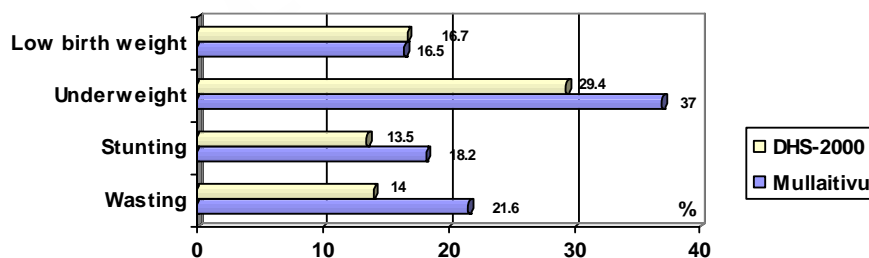
According to the Health Department, even during the conflict years prior to 2002, the health sector was not as badly affected as it is now. Fuel and medication for essential activities used to be allowed across the line of control but at present rules are unclear and health facilities are struggling to maintain life-saving functions.

7.3. Nutritional status

The 2000 DHS reported underweight amongst 29% of children under 5, acute malnutrition (wasting) amongst 14% and chronic malnutrition (stunting) amongst 13.5% across Sri Lanka⁸. The four districts in the Vanni have not been included in national surveys since the conflict began in the 1980s and indicators are either unavailable or totally unreliable. Whilst Sri Lanka has achieved unusually low infant and under 5 mortality rates relative to its income level, it shows poor results on child malnutrition. With nearly one out of three children under 5 being underweight, Sri Lanka has a child underweight rate almost three times higher than other countries with the same level of infant mortality. Part of the reason for the high rates of child malnutrition are most likely social and cultural since as many as 15% of children even in the richest quintile of households are underweight or stunted despite having very good economic access to food. Such social/cultural factors may be child feeding practices such as denying the new-born child colostrums, short duration of exclusive breast-feeding, early introduction of solid foods in a child's diet and insufficiency/inadequacy of weaning diets.⁹

The only nutritional report available for secondary review was a WFP-sponsored nutrition assessment in Mullaitivu District performed in August-October 2004. The report shows alarming wasting results and higher prevalence of stunting and underweight than the national average. Malnutrition rates for the other three districts in the Vanni are unknown but are assumed to be similar.

Figure 27. Comparisons of Mullaitivu- with the DHS results¹⁰



⁷ UNICEF

⁸ DHS 2000

⁹ World Bank Report 2005, Attaining the Millennium Development Goals in Sri Lanka

¹⁰ Rapid Assessment of Nutritional status of children less than 5 years in Mullaitivu District, 2004

It can be assumed that the nutritional situation in the Vanni has not improved since. UNICEF is currently preparing a baseline nutrition assessment amongst IDPs which would help show some of the impact the current conflict has had on the nutritional status of children and pregnant/lactating women. The assessment will begin on 18 October and once results are available at the end of 2006 they will be a valuable complement to the EFSA report.

Monitoring data from WFP's MCN programme in Kilinochchi District show that 50% of children under 5 are at risk of malnutrition i.e. fall below the 3rd Centile on the growth chart. An average of 23% of registered infants fall below the 3rd Centile. An average of 21% of the registered pregnant women weigh less than 42kg.

Figure 28.

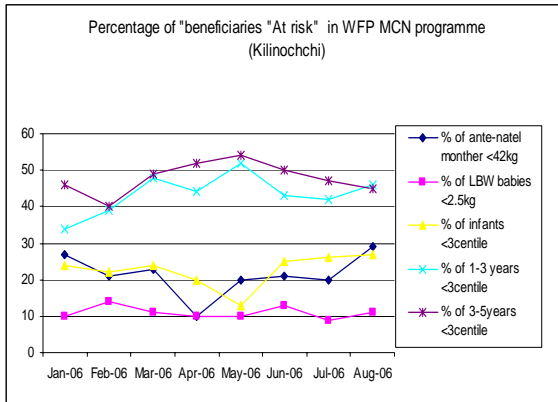
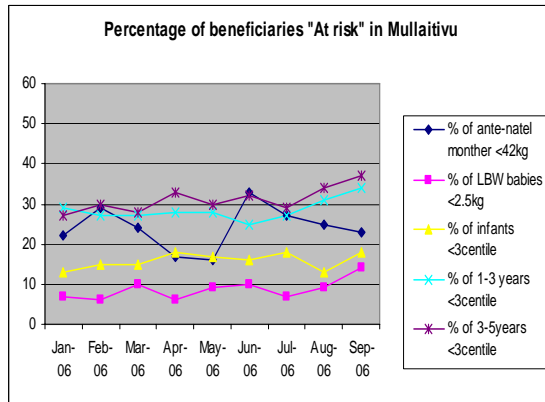


Figure 29.

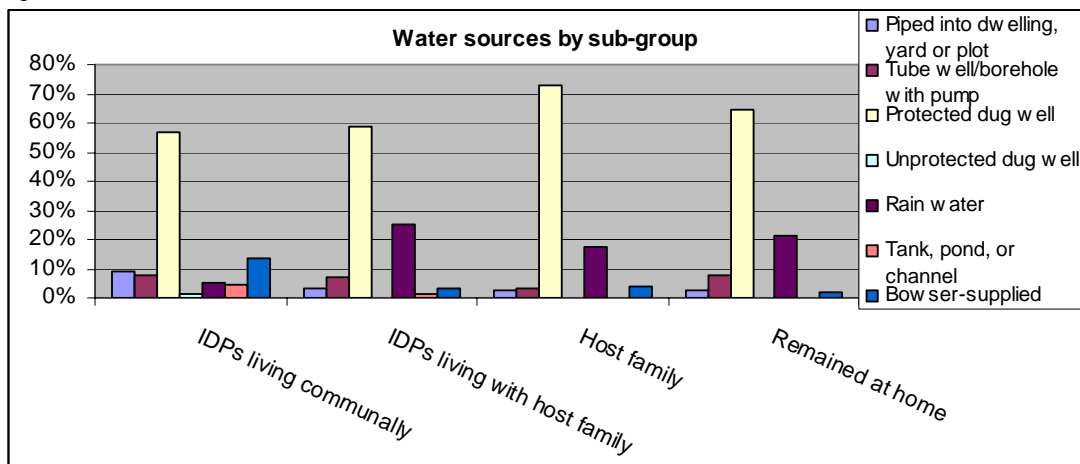


It is not clear why there is an increase in number of children "at risk" in the 1-5 age groups in April and May and at the same time a decrease in the number of "at risk" infants.

7.4. Water source

Water sources are similar across sub-groups, with protected wells being the main source for most households. Rain water is the second most common source used by approximately 20% of the households living in a permanent setting. IDPs in communal areas have more access to browser supplied water as well as piped water. Access to latrines is longstanding a problem for all sub-groups.

Figure 30.



8. Current and future problems and risks for food security and livelihoods

Most of the food security indicators have been affected and prospects for the future are bleak. The immediate risk lies in the continuation of the conflict including a continued embargo on fuel, construction materials and agricultural inputs. Households have been able to adjust fairly well to the situation so far; even though their food consumption has changed, the vast majority still have a reasonable food intake. UNICEF's ongoing nutrition assessment will shed important light on current malnutrition levels and adjustments to the programmes may be necessary once results are available.

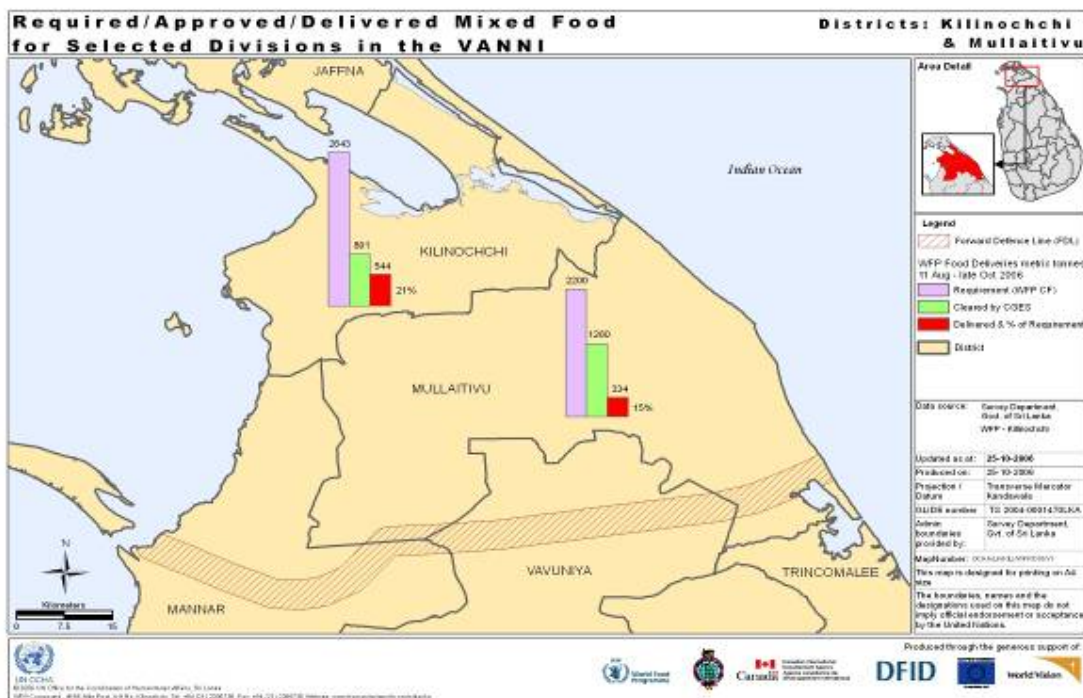
It will be necessary to monitor the situation carefully as households will run out of jewellery to sell and it is feared that market prices may increase further and reach the levels currently observed in Jaffna. Households may be able to improve their livelihoods by taking opportunity of the agricultural season and the increased demands for manpower, however, daily labour wages need to return to normal levels for households to have a reasonable purchasing power.

Fishermen, normally regarded as a wealthy group, are currently the hardest hit livelihood group and this less than two years after their livelihood was nearly wiped out by the 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. There are approximately 4,500 fishermen in Kilinochchi and another 3,500 in Mullaitivu that should be monitored over the next few months. However, the EFSA took place during the normal lean season for deep sea fishermen and thus recommendations for the next three months are only for assistance through ongoing WFP safety net programmes (i.e. MCN programme for children under 5 and pregnant/lactating women and FFE programme for schoolchildren). It is however necessary that WFP can supply the required amount of food as per the PRRO planning figures.

It may be anticipated that the paddy harvest of early next year (March/April) will be less than normal due to reasons mentioned earlier. This will lead to less food and income for the farmers, most of whom only have one harvest per year.

The map below shows the huge discrepancy between what WFP needs to meet PRRO planning figures, what is forwarded by the MNBD for CGES clearance and what is actually delivered by the Government. It shows that not only are households burdened by increased prices and loss of job opportunities but they are not receiving the food assistance they are entitled to either.

Map 3.



To alleviate the problem, WFP is currently setting up logistic hubs in Habarana and Vavuniya under a Special Operation (SO) to augment logistics preparedness capacity. WFP will position trucks in Vavuniya to facilitate transportation of food items into LTTE-controlled areas, including the Vanni. Twenty trucks should be operational by November 2006. With WFP's facilitation of the movement of food commodities it is hoped that the in-country pipeline will become more reliable.

Moreover, increased storage capacity within the Vanni should allow for sufficient buffer stocks to be pre-positioned within LTTE-controlled areas to off-set food shortages caused by temporary closure of the lines of control.

9. Response and targeting options

WFP is concerned that over 40% of humanitarian assistance has been affected by the conflict, including food and essential medication, technical staff, shelter materials etc. More than 50% of health and education projects have either been delayed or suspended and nearly 40% of the livelihood projects have been suspended.

The table below shows the projects in Vanni affected by the conflict¹¹

Table 14

Sector	Cancelled	Delayed	Ongoing	Partially stopped	Planned	Temporary suspended	Total projects	% affected
Capacity building			38		4	25	67	43%
Community Development			5				5	0%
Disaster Risk Reduction						9	9	100%
Education		32	64		16	31	143	55%
Environment			15			1	16	6%
Food Security/Nutrition			46		1	8	55	16%
Health		2	21			20	43	51%
Infrastructure	4		23			13	40	42%
Livelihood	2		102		1	56	161	37%
Protection		7	44	1		20	72	39%
Shelter			42		3	20	65	35%
Water & Sanitation		10	50		1	38	99	49%
TOTAL	6	51	450	1	26	241	775	42%

As mentioned in the health section of this report, current restrictions have made it increasingly difficult for humanitarian actors to work within LTTE-controlled areas. As a result the number of INGOs in the Vanni has reduced and the number of international staff present on the ground has gone down. Without sufficient human resources, the capacity of the remaining NGOs to implement their activities will be significantly reduced.

Based on the findings of the EFSA which display small differences between the sub-groups, WFP should focus on maintaining ongoing broad safety net programmes, currently assisting 30% of the population. This approach would target 40,000 MCN and 63,000 FFE beneficiaries - the traditionally most vulnerable groups - which can be found evenly across the assessed sub-groups. At present it is believed that these programmes are sufficient to bridge the gap for the immediate future provided that they function timely and that food deliveries match requirements.

It is recommended that food rations be augmented for children covered by the MCN programme to meet WFP guidelines. As this is a take-home ration, double rations will be given to compensate

¹¹ OCHA- Kilinochchi

for sharing at household level and 30% of the ration will come from fat. It is recommended that all children under 5 are given the same ration to simplify distribution.

Table 15.

Commodity	g/person/day	Kcal	Prot	Fat
CSB	200	800	36	12
Oil	25	220	0	25
sugar	20	80	0	0
	245	1100	13%	30%

School feeding should continue as normal but schools that have enrolled IDP students need to update their food requirements to ensure full rations to all attending students.

As IDPs are slightly more affected, it is recommended that the full beneficiary caseload (65,000) is supported for the coming 6 months, after which time the situation should be re-evaluated. Rations will remain the same and will be complemented by additional assistance from MCN and FFE programme as applicable. With regard to host families, which account for 77% of IDPs, the emergency food rations will indirectly benefit them as the burden of having extra mouths to feed will be minimised.

Based on the above, the total beneficiary number for the Vanni in emergency and regular programmes for the next 6 months will be 168.000.

10. Recommendations

As the EFSA shows little difference between the sub-groups, WFP should prioritize supporting the larger population through safety net programmes like MCN and FFE to the extent these establishments are still fully functional.

The MCN programme- with a caseload of **40,000** - supports the nutritionally most vulnerable groups in society. In times of stress the programme provides a very important food supplement to the households in the Vanni. Efforts must be made to achieve timely deliveries and increased attendance rates at the clinics. Moreover, efforts are needed to distribute CSB to 100% of beneficiaries attending the programme; since March very few beneficiaries have received CSB.

Current MCN rations need to be revised to follow WFP guidelines for take-home rations and should cover a larger proportion of the nutritional requirements of the target group.

It will be necessary to strengthen MCN monitoring, in particular the indicators for attendance rates and distribution rates.

The school feeding programme covers all schoolchildren in the Vanni (**63,000 students**), nearly 20% of the total population, and is reported to provide a very important contribution to households.

The emergency rations that have been introduced to **65,000** IDPs should continue until they have restored and/or adopted livelihoods that can provide them with incomes. Displaced pregnant/lactating women, children under 5 and schoolchildren should also be absorbed in WFP's blanket safety net programmes MCN and FFE. By supporting the IDPs pressure on already poor host families will reduce substantially.

The feasibility of a voucher system should be considered for general food distributions of rice to IDPs as rice is produced in the Vanni and such an approach can save logistics and handling costs.¹²

¹² The system could be managed by the GA, whereby either vouchers or the SSD* form currently in use for recording rations are supplied by the local MPCs. All MPCs stock rice which they purchased on the local market and then mill for sale. It varies in type and quality but does fall under a fixed price system controlled by the GA. The MPCs could then

To minimize borrowing of food it is recommended as a temporary measure to distribute food with one month recall. This would allow households to re-pay the quantities they have borrowed and will help to avoid a negative cycle whereby households always have to borrow food in order to feed themselves.

A two-month buffer stock should be in place in the Vanni to ensure that programmes can continue in the event the Vanni is completely cut off.

A follow-up assessment is recommended after six months to understand how farmers and fishermen are coping with the decrease in harvest and the reduction in fishing.

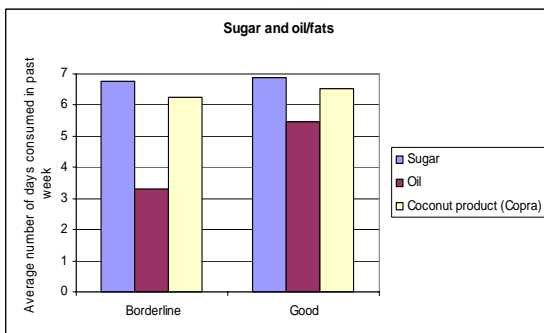
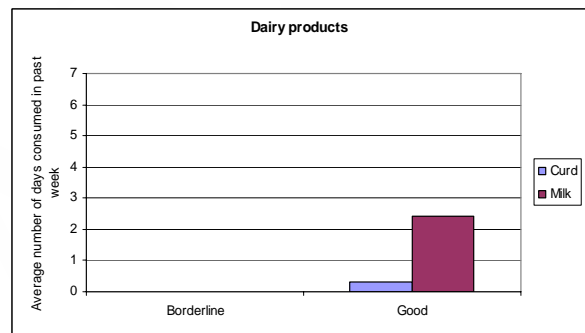
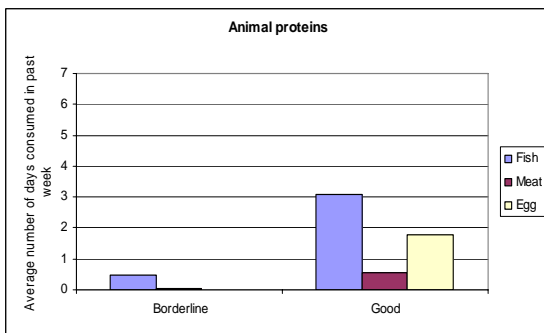
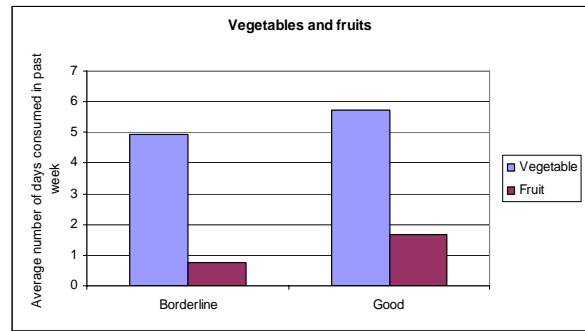
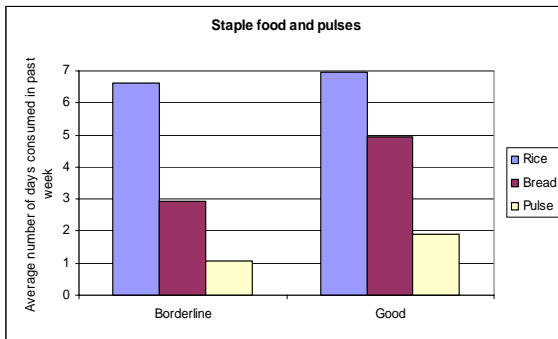


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turn in these vouchers to the GA on a monthly basis. Upon his verification, WFP could then reimburse at a previously agreed price. This would eliminate the need for complex tendering procedures, bagging costs, the costly testing process and the transportation back to the rural areas. A rigorous control mechanisms and monitoring system would need to be introduced.

Annex 1

Differences between food consumption groups of different food items in the average number of days food items were eaten in the past 7 days



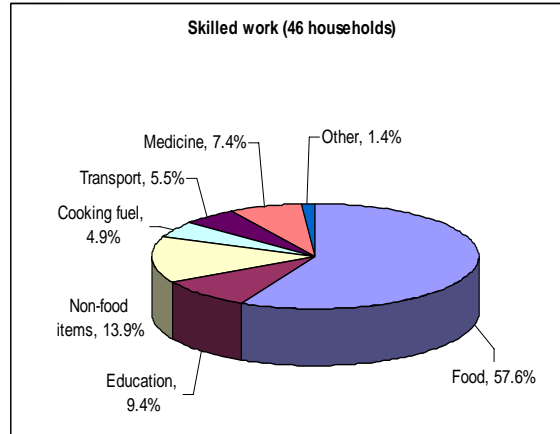
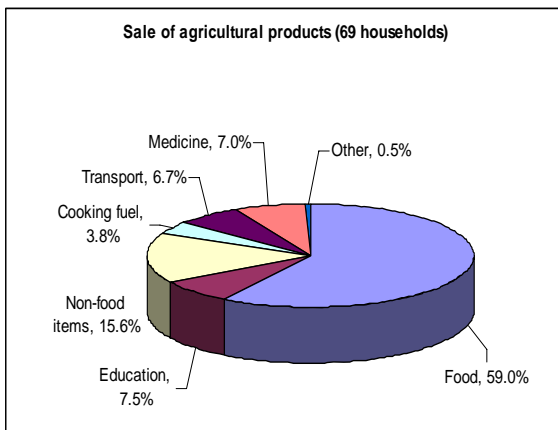
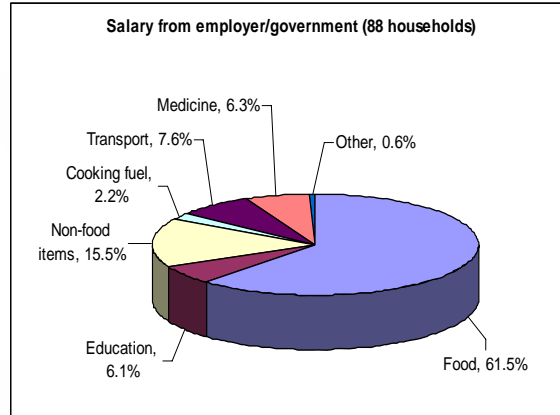
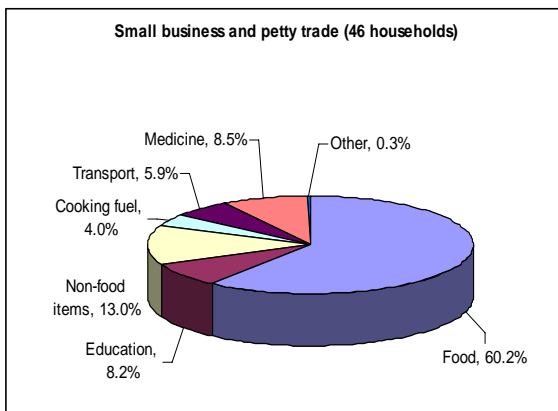
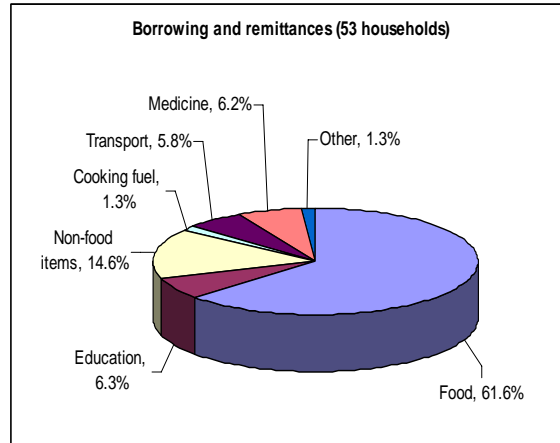
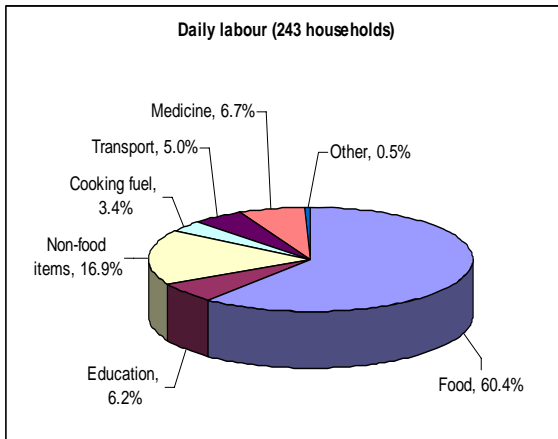
Annex 2

Average Food consumption by sub-group.

Food item	IDPs living communally				IDPs living with host family			
	Days consumed in the past 7 days				Days consumed in the past 7 days			
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7
Rice				6.9				6.9
Bread / Chapti / Roti			4.3				4.8	
Pulses		1.9				1.9		
Fish		2.7					3.1	
Meat (beef, pork, chicken)	0.4				0.5			
Eggs		1.2				1.4		
Curd	0.0				0.2			
Milk	0.9					2.5		
Vegetables				5.5				5.6
Fruits	1.0					1.4		
Sugar / Jaggary				6.8				6.8
Coconut products				6.2				6.6
Palm oil, vegetable oil, fats			4.8					5.5
Alcohol / Beer / Toddi	0.4				0.2			

Food item	Host family				Remained at home in affected area			
	Days consumed in the past 7 days				Days consumed in the past 7 days			
	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7	0-1	2-3	4-5	6-7
Rice				7.0				6.9
Bread / Chapti / Roti				5.2				5.0
Pulses		1.6				2.0		
Fish		2.9				2.9		
Meat (beef, pork, chicken)	0.6				0.5			
Eggs		1.9				2.2		
Curd	0.4				0.5			
Milk		2.7					3.0	
Vegetables				5.8				5.7
Fruits		2.0				2.0		
Sugar / Jaggary				6.9				6.9
Coconut products				6.4				6.8
Palm oil, vegetable oil, fats				5.3				5.7
Alcohol / Beer / Toddi	0.7				0.7			

Annex 3
Expenditures by livelihood groups.



Annex 3**PARTICIPANTS LIST- RAPID FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT, VANNI**

Ryan Anderson, Head of Sub-office, Kilinochchi

Yvonne Forsen, Regional EFSA officer

#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	ROLE
1.	Mr.A.K.Royce	WFP	Field team leader
2.	Ms.R.Sugunakumary	WFP	Field team leader
3.	Mr. Baskaran Athimuthulingam	WFP	Field team leader
4.	Ms.R.Sasijenani	Oxfam	Enumerators
5.	Ms.H.V.Helen Lovely	Oxfam	Enumerators
6.	Ms.E.Tharishini	Oxfam	Enumerators
7.	Mr.A.Juhan	ZOA	Enumerators
8.	Mr.A.Pragash	ZOA	Enumerators
9.	Ms.K.Premalatha	ZOA	Enumerators
10.	Ms.S.Sivaginy	ZOA	Enumerators
11.	Ms.N.Menaha	ZOA	Enumerators
12.	Mr.P.Jegatheepan	CARE	Enumerators
13.	Ms.T.Sayanthiny	CARE	Enumerators
14.	Mr.D.Ravichandran	CARE	Enumerators
15.	Mr.N.Jeyapalan	CARE	Enumerators
16.	Mr.T.Subakaran	CARE	Enumerators
17.	Mr.I .Nirmalanathan	CARE	Enumerators
18.	Mr.K.Mahendrarajah	CARE	Enumerators
19.	Mr.G.Mugunathan	UNDP	Enumerators
20.	Ms.M.Rahini	UNDP	Enumerators
21.	Ms.S.Jamuna	SCF	Enumerators
22.	Ms.N.Sasirega	SCF	Enumerators
23.	Mr.A.Soutri	DRC	Enumerators
24.	Ms.N.Kavitha	DRC	Enumerators
25.	Mr.K.Theesan	WFP	Enumerators
26.	Ms.S.Sivaganga	WFP	Enumerators
27.	Ms.P.Vinothini	WFP	Enumerators
28.	Mr.S.Arjun	WFP	Enumerators

Sri Lanka Rapid Food Security Assessment – Vanni - Household Module

Date /__/__/__/_/ 2006 Time in_____ Out_____

District name _____ District code |__|__|

DS Division name _____ DS code |__|__|__|

GS Division name _____ GS code |__|__|__|

Village/Camp _____ Code |__|__|__|

Household |__|__|__|

Name of Interviewer (print) _____

Section 1 – Household demographics

1.1 – Household type (circle one)

- 1 = IDPs living communally (camp/school/clustered in open area, etc.)
- 2 = IDPs living with Host Family
- 3 = Host Family – (skip to 1.3)
- 4 = Remained at home in affected area - (skip to 1.3)

(IDP families only):

1.2 – How did you live before you left your place of origin? (circle one)

- 1 = Own house
- 2 = With parents/family
- 3 = With friends
- 4 = Other, specify _____

(Host families only):

1.3 – How many additional people are living in your household as a result of the current conflict situation?

|__|__|person

1.4 – Sex of household head

- 1 = Male
- 2 = Female

1.5 – Marital status of HH head (circle one)

- 1 = Married
- 2 = Divorced/separated
- 3 = Widowed
- 4 = Never married

1.6 – Household detailed information

Age	No of males	No of females	No of disabled
0-4 years			
5-17 years			
18-59 years			
60+ years			

Section 2 – Household Circumstances/Movements

(IDPs Only – If group 3 or 4 skip to 3.1)

2.1 – How many times has your household moved it place of living since January 2006?

|__|__|times

2.2 – When did your household move to this current settlement?

(record mm/yyyy)

|__|__|/|__|__|__|__|

Section 3 – Food Assistance

3.1 – Has your household received food aid since the renewed conflict? (timeframe: _____)

YES.....1 NO.....2

3.2a – Does any member of he household currently receive food aid? (w/in the last 4 weeks)

YES.....1 NO..... 2
Skip to 3.6

3.2b – What kind of food aid are you receiving? What kind of programmes? (circle all that apply)

- 1 = General food ration for IDPs (CGES/WFP/GA)
- 2 = School feeding
- 3 = Supplementary feeding (MCN)
- 4 = Food for Work, Food for Training
- 5 = Other, specify _____

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3.2c – Is the distribution network functioning?

- 1 = Yes, regularly – without delays/interruptions
- 2 = Yes, but delayed/interruptions
- 3 = No

3.2d – Who is providing food aid? (*circle all that apply*)

- 1 = WFP
- 2 = Government
- 3 = NGO
- 4 = Other, specify _____
- 5 = Don't know

3.3 – How many kilograms of each of the following commodities (take home) has your household received in the past month?

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------------|
| 1 = wheat flour | __ __ | |
| 2 = rice | __ __ | |
| 3 = vegetable/palm oil | __ __ | |
| 4 = dhal/gram | __ __ | |
| 5 = sugar | __ __ | |
| 6 = tin fish | __ __ | |
| 7 = CSB | __ __ | |
| 8 = Triposha | __ __ | |
| 9 = other | __ __ | (i.e) _____ |

3.4 – Did you sell any of the food aid received last month?

- YES.....1
 - NO.....2
- Skip to 3.6

3.5 – If yes, why? (*circle all that apply*)

- 1 = repay debt
- 2 = to buy medicine
- 3 = to buy clothes
- 4 = to buy milk powder/formula to children
- 5 = to buy other food items
- 6 = Other, specify _____

3.6 - Has your household received any of the following assistance since the conflict re-started? (*circle all that apply*)

- 1 = Shelter
- 2 = Medicine
- 3 = Clothing
- 4 = Bedding
- 5 = Cooking utensils
- 6 = Cash
- 7 = Milk Powder/formula
- 8 = Other (specify)_____

3.7 - What is the CURRENT main source of **drinking** water for your household? (*circle only one*)

- 1 = Piped into dwelling, yard or plot
- 2 = Neighbouring house/well
- 3 = Tube well/borehole with pump
- 4 = Protected dug well
- 5 = Unprotected dug well
- 6 = Rain water
- 7 = Tank, pond, or channel
- 8 = Bowser-supplied water tank
- 9 = Other (specify)_____

3.8 - Has this changed in the past months due to reasons unrelated to the dry season?

- YES.....1
 - NO.....2
- Skip to 3.9

3.8a - If yes, what source was used previously? (*use same codes as above*)

_____ as previous source

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3.9 - What is the main source of cooking fuel for this household? And is fuel available?

Fuel	Used 1 = yes 2 = no	Level of Availability 1 = Less than normal 2 = same as normal 3 = don't know
Electricity		
Wood		
Gas		
Kerosene		
Other, specify		

3.9a - Has this changed in the past months?

YES.....1 NO.....2
Skip to 3.10

3.9b - If yes, why? (circle all that apply)

- 1 = lack of money
- 2 = security
- 3 = transport problems
- 4 = scarcity
- 5 = other, specify _____

3.10 – How do you currently cook?

- 1 = individual/family cooking
- 2 = family/friends/relatives cooking together
- 3 = community/institutional cooking
- 4 = other, specify _____

Section 4 – Household Assets and Productive Assets

4.1 – Has your household any of the following property and what do you have left now?

Item	Before 1 = Yes 2 = No	Now 1 = Yes 2 = No
Poultry or other life stock		
Agricultural Plot		

Equipment/tools (for production e.g. hoes, nets, woodwork etc)		
Bullock Cart		
Sewing machine		
Bicycle		
Motorbike		
Tractor/land master		
Boat		
Other, specify		

Section 5 – Sources of income

- In the past month and past year, what have been the main sources of cash income for your family? **Use proportional piling.**

Activities	Past month	Before conflict
5.1 Fishing		
5.2 Petty Trade		
5.3 Small business		
5.4 Daily labour (unskilled)		
5.5 Skilled work		
5.6 Salary from employer		
5.7 Salary from Government		
5.8 Sale of Agricultural products		
5.9 Sale of livestock/poultry/etc.		
5.10 Firewood cutting / sales		
5.11 Broom making/other crafts		
5.12 Sale of wild food/materials		
5.13 Remittances from abroad		
5.14 Begging		
5.15 Borrowing, From WHOM _____		
5.16 Cash relief programme		
5.17 Other		

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5.17 – How were you remunerated now and 6 months ago?

Remunerated by	Before 1 = Yes 2 = No	Now 1 = Yes 2 = No
Cash		
Food		
Livestock		
Credit		
Other, specify		

Section 6 – Household expenditures

6.1 - What has been your households' total expenditure in the last 7 days?

|__| |__| |__| |__| |__| Rs.

6.2 – Has the expenditure changed since the renewed conflict?

- 1 = increased
- 2 = same as before
- 3 = less
- 4 = much less

6.3 – Has the household's level of income changed since the renewed conflict?

- 1 = increased
- 2 = same as before
- 3 = less
- 4 = much less

6.4 - What percentage of your expenditure did you spent on food, education, non-food items, medicine and other in the last 7 days compared to before the conflict? **Use proportional piling.**

Expenditure item	Last 7 days %	Before conflict %
Food		
Education		
Non-food items (e.g. soap, candles, matches, detergent)		
Cooking fuel/firewood		
Transport		

Medicine		
Other, specify		

Section 7 – Food Consumption

7.1 How many times/day do your family **adults** eat? |__| meals |__| snacks

7.2 How many times/day do your **children** eat? |__| meals |__| snacks

7.3 Is this different compared to situation prior to renewed conflict?

- 1 = Yes, explain _____
- 2 = No

7.3 Could you please tell me how many days in the past week your household has eaten the following foods and the main sources of each food group?

Food item	DAYS eaten in past 7 days	Sources of food (see codes)
A Rice		
B Bread / Chapti / Roti		
C Pulses		
D Fish		
E Meat (beef, pork, chicken)		
F Eggs		
G Curd		
H Palm oil, vegetable oil, fats		
I Milk (liquid or powder)		
J Vegetables (including leaves)		
K Fruits		
L Coconut products		
M Sugar / Jaggary		
N Alcohol / Beer / Toddi		
1 = Own production 2 = Purchase		3 = Traded goods or services 4 = Borrowed
		5 = Received as gift 6 = Food aid

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		7 = Other
--	--	------------------

7.4 – How long does your CURRENT food stocks last? _____ days

7.5 – How is your current food stock compared to your stock before the escalation of hostilities?

- 1 = more than then
- 2 = same as before
- 3 = less
- 4 = much less

Section 8 – Coping Strategies

In the past 30 days, were there times when you did not have enough money to purchase food? 1 = Yes 2 = no

If YES, HOW OFTEN has your household had to:

Responses	1= daily, 2= pretty often (3-6 x/wk) 3= once in a while (1-2x/wk) 4= Never
01 = Rely on less preferred, less expensive food (<i>wild plants/fruits, wild animals</i>)	
02 = Borrowed food, helped by relatives	
03 = Purchased food on credit	
04 = Consumed seed stock held for next season	
05 = Reduced the proportions of the meals	
06 = Reduced number of meals per day	
07 = Skipped days without eating	
08 = Restricts consumption for adults so that children have enough	
09 = Barter part of the food aid rations to buy more staple food or less expensive quality?	
10 = Food assistance (FFW, relief, etc.)	
11 = Other, specify:	

NON-FOOD coping strategies

Since the escalation of hostilities what has been the main coping mechanism that your family had adopted.	1= daily, 2= pretty often (3-6 x/wk) 3= once in a while (1-2 x/wk) 4= Never
A = Sold HH articles (utensils, blankets) or jewellery	
B = Sold agricultural tools, seeds etc	
C = Sold building materials	
D = Sold HH furniture	
E = Sold HH poultry	
F = Sold small animals – goats, sheep	
G = Using savings	
H = Borrowing money from relatives/neighbours	
I = Sent children to live with relatives	
J = Reduced expenditures on health and education	
K = Other, specify:	

Section 9 - Relief

9.1 - What are your households 3 most urgent needs? (*Enter 1 for the most urgent, 2 for second urgent and 3 for third most urgent need – pair wise ranking*)

Shelter	__	
Food	__	
Medicine	__	
Clothes	__	
Work	__	
Cash / Credit	__	
Other	__	specify: _____