



Jaffna Food Security Bulletin

June 2007



World Food Programme

Summary

- Food imports to Jaffna fall short of minimum targets, which may explain the rise in market prices.
- Food is available but access is difficult for the poorer and more vulnerable groups.
- The present volatile security environment has disrupted supply chains and farming activities, thereby hampering local food production.
- Limited food and other assistance are available.
- Increased shipping capacity for food assistance and agricultural inputs is urgently required.
- In addition, local agriculture practices need to be adjusted to better meet the food requirements of the local population by substituting imports with improved local production.

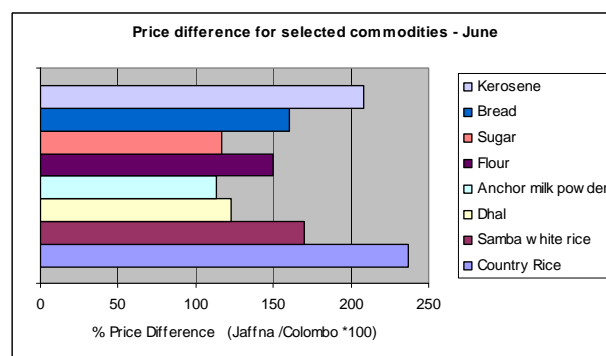
Background/Economy

- Population: approx. 640,000.
- IDP population: approx. 40,000.¹
- The closure of the A9 main highway has significantly reduced imports of food, medicine, agricultural supplies, fuel and other essential items. Inter-district trade has become impossible. Food is scarce and livelihoods have been lost.
- Prolonged under-supply of consumer goods, fuel and other energy supplies, as well as low supplies of input materials for local agriculture, fisheries and livestock sectors all contribute to the critical economic conditions.
- Barter has resurfaced as a means of trade.
- Many income generating activities have been lost or significantly decreased due to security restrictions, the closed economy,

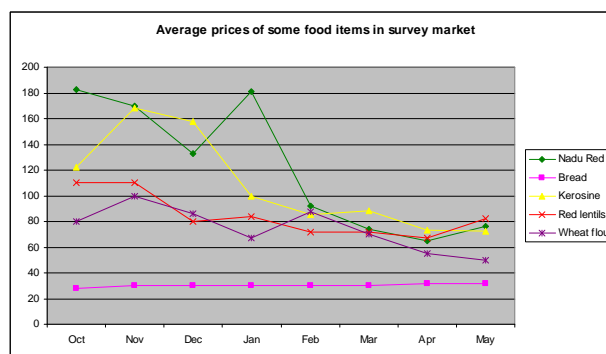
high costs of production, lack of raw materials, lack of marketing opportunities, inadequate transport facilities, etc.

Food Security

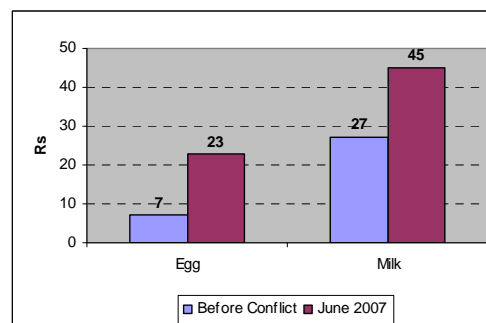
- Food items are available. Market prices, however, are substantially more expensive than Colombo market prices.²



- Overall, prices have decreased since last year. However, after a period of stabilization prices appear to be rising again.³



- Egg prices are now Rs. 23.00 and milk prices are Rs. 45.00 per Litre.

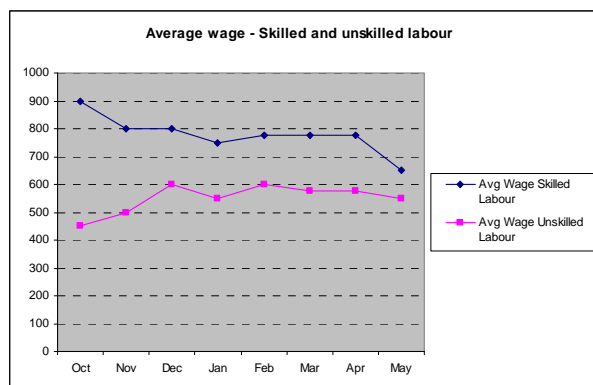


¹ UNHCR, 16 April 2007.

² ILO-IRTAP June Situation Report.

³ WFP Monthly Price Bulletin.

- ILO estimates that unemployment and underemployment is high among the local population. Accordingly wages for skilled and unskilled labour have been gradually decreasing during 2007.⁴



- Many people, particularly IDPs and those whose livelihoods have been affected by the current situation, do not have sufficient purchasing power to buy foods at the market.

Nutrition

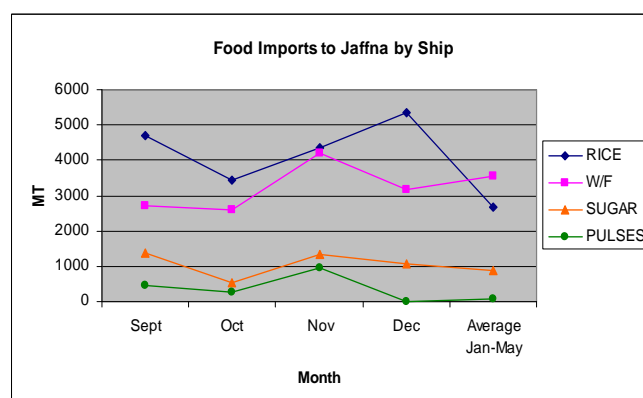
- Medicines, Weaning and milk products and nutritional foods, such as WFP's CSB and the Government's Thripasha, and are in short supply.
- 3,538 children have been screened for malnutrition and 234 (6.6%) severely malnourished and vulnerable children have been enrolled in the UNICEF rehabilitation programme since March 2007.
- Data indicates an increase in acute malnutrition among children under five years in the whole District, from 18% in November 2006 to 22.4% in May 2007.
- Isolated and socio-economic poor areas are more vulnerable than urban areas irrespective of IDP status. Severe acute malnutrition appears to have increased from 3.5% to 4.8% and moderate acute malnutrition appears to have increased from 14.5% to 17.6%.
- 9,000 moderately malnourish children under 5 years have been given UNICEF high energy biscuits.

⁴ Joint UN NE Situation Monitoring Report.

Food Imports by ship to Jaffna⁵

Basic Food Commodities	MT (01.09.06 – 31.05.07)
Rice	31,202
Sugar	8,839
Dhal	2,178
Flour	30,435
Vegetable oil	462
Total	73,116

- WFP estimates that based on a ration equivalent to WFP distribution (providing some 1,900kcal per person per day out of the recommended daily intake of 2,100kcal), the basic food requirement for the population of Jaffna during this period would be a minimum 86,400 MT. Of particular concern is the low import of dhal and oil meaning without local supplement, the diet will be lacking protein and fat.



- WFP estimates they have only been able to ship some 20% of their monthly programme requirement since the A9 road closed. In April/May 2007, WFP was only able to ship 200 MT of flour and no other commodities resulting in virtual suspension of all WFP activities in the district.

Agriculture

- Agricultural activities provided livelihoods to 65,000 farming families and 30,000 farm labourers before the 2006 conflict period with 16,950 paddy cultivators, 12,433 vegetable cultivators and 33,759 cash crop cultivators.

⁵ SCOPP, GoSL

- Closure of land supply routes and expanding security zones has left high intensity farming land uncultivated due to the displacement of farmers, lack of spare parts, fuels and agro-chemicals.
- The cost of cultivating crops has increased and is attributable to the lack of agricultural supplies and fertilizer.
- Available land for Paddy cultivation is 13000 (ha) for the last Maha season; only 6627 (ha) was cultivated.
- Vegetable cultivation is progressing slowly due to the lack of inputs with total production only reaching 894 (ha) this year. Consequently, vegetable prices have begun to increase.
- The average yield of Paddy has dropped to 1.5MT/ha during the Maha season, compared to the usual yields of 3-4MT/ha.

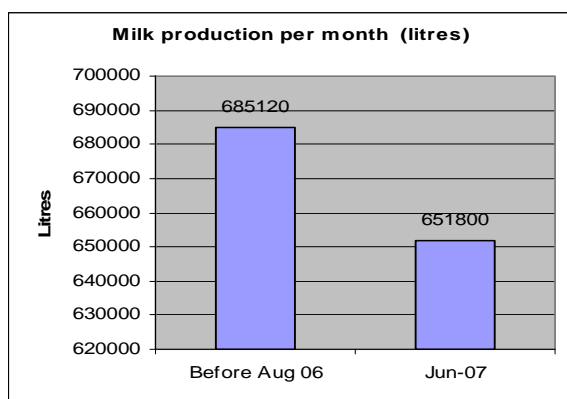
Livestock

The present livestock situation is as follows:

Poultry Layers	119,200
Other Hens	37,850
Milking Cows	16,120
Other Cows	12,690
Bulls	17,725
Calf	16,820

Livestock figures are only 34% of pre-conflict numbers.⁶

Milk production figures⁷:



⁶ Information provided by FAO.

⁷ Information provided by FAO.

Fisheries

- Strict security measures on fishing have seriously impacted the industry.

Point Pedro West: limited fishing by catamaran

Point Pedro East: madal fishing, non-mechanized craft

KKS West: non-mechanized craft on rotation basis

KKS East: non-mechanized catamarans

Sandilipay: Kakaithivu lagoon for limited time and distance only

Chulipuram: limited fishing by non-mechanized craft

Kayts: gill net, bottom net, pole net, line cast, prawn cage, for household consumption only

Velanai: walking distance only

Delft: catamaran, for short distance only

Chavakachcheri: limited time and distance, without craft

Jaffna East: Not allowed from 17 April 2007

Jaffna West: limited time, distance and numbers, non-mechanized craft

- Fish production has slightly increased since the beginning of they year but is still only some 10% of pre-conflict levels, with the consequent impact affecting household livelihoods.
- Fish production figures June 2006 – May 2007:

