



# Jaffna Food Security Bulletin

## January 2008

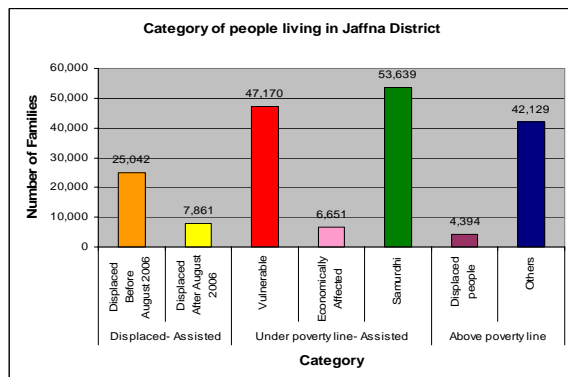


### Summary

- All commodities have to be brought into the peninsula by ship.
- Almost all essential food items are available in Jaffna, however open market commodity prices fluctuate depending on supply and other considerations and are slightly high compared with the rest of the country.
- The decision by the Government to increase shipping capacity, particularly agricultural inputs and food, has helped reduce prices in the open market.
- Farmers have cultivated in line with the regular crop calendar but due to increased fuel prices and agricultural inputs, the area planted is approximately 20% lower than pre-isolation (but higher than 2006)<sup>1</sup>.

### Background/Economy

- Jaffna district is divided into 15 DS Divisions, and 435 GN Divisions. At Present 186,886 families with 632,463 members are registered in Jaffna District<sup>2</sup>.



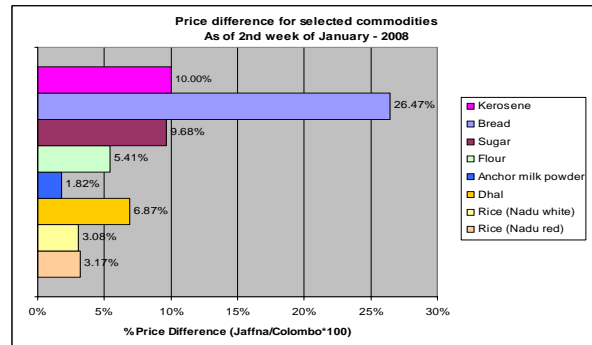
- 2,857 IDP families displaced before 2006 live in 70 welfare centres. An additional 868 members in 234 IDP families displaced after 2006 live in 13 welfare centres.
- 24,291 members in 7,627 IDP families, who were displaced after August 2006, live with either friends or relatives.

<sup>1</sup> FAO

<sup>2</sup> District Secretariat – Jaffna

### Food Security

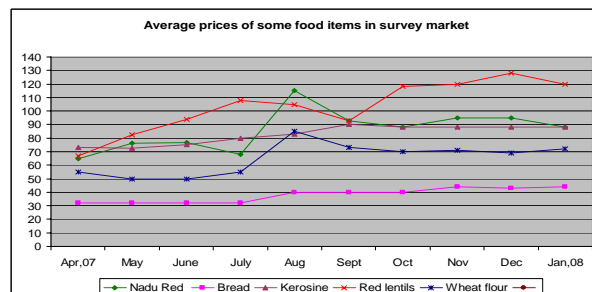
- Food items are currently available in Jaffna. The market prices however are higher than in Colombo/South.
- Prices fluctuate depending on the arrival of the ships and other considerations.



- Overall, prices are lower than in August 2007.
- As of 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January, the prices for some essential commodities in SLR were<sup>3</sup>;

Items	Unit	MPSCs	Open Market
Rice (Red Nadu)	1 Kg	64	70
Flour	1 Kg	68	74
Dhal	1 Kg	118	140
Sugar	1 Kg	61	64
Milk Food (Anchor)	400g	277	290

- In January prices of wheat flour, bread and kerosene increased slightly while prices of rice and lentils decreased when compared to prices in December 2007<sup>4</sup>.



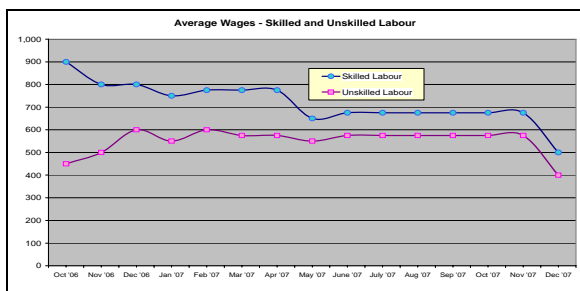
- 45% of the families in Jaffna are dependent on sources other than work for their main income: foreign remittances, charity, pension,

<sup>3</sup> CGES

<sup>4</sup> WFP Market price survey

social welfare etc. The Needs Assessment Survey for Income Recovery conducted by ILO indicates this percentage is four times higher than the national average.<sup>5</sup>

- The labour demand in the urban, semi-urban and rural areas and the respective wage patterns vary considerably. According to the Jaffna District Planning Unit, the average daily construction labour wage rate for the October 2006 to December 2007 was as follows<sup>6</sup>:



- The wage rate has decreased in December due to lower demand for labour-based activities with the rainy season.
- Five interventions were implemented under ILO's Emergency Livelihood Recovery Project (ELREP), during October to December 2007 to help livelihood recovery of conflict-affected people. In addition, capacity building and technology transfer initiatives were implemented to improve productivity and add value.
- The money value (Rs.336) of dry rations provided by the Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development is adequate for only approximately eight days of essential food items.
- Recognising the difficulties for the most vulnerable families, the GA has recommended vulnerable families are provided additional financial support of Rs.1,000 per person per month up to maximum of Rs.5,000 per family as a temporary measure<sup>7</sup>.
- According to discussions with some IDP families, they have had to adopt various coping mechanisms including reducing the number of meals and/or size of portions

<sup>5</sup> NSRI – ILO October 2006

<sup>6</sup> ILO

<sup>7</sup> District Secretariat

consumed, borrowing money and/or purchasing food on credit<sup>8</sup>.

### Relief Activities in Jaffna

Relief Activities	No of Families	No of Persons
M/NB&EID	41,881	140,467
Assisted by Ministry of Samurdhi and Poverty Alleviation.	53,639	206,059
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>95,520</b>	<b>346,526</b>
WFP - VGF	40,124	120,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,644</b>	<b>466,526</b>

### Nutrition<sup>9</sup>

- Medicines, milk products, and supplementary foods such as World Food Programme's Corn-Soya Blend (CSB) were in good supply during this period.
- The Government supply of Thripasha was adequate although timely delivery has been challenging. Availability of Ready-to-Use therapeutic food (RUTF) for specific programs has been sufficient to meet the needs of the program.
- 33,468 children under the age of 5 (81%) were re-screened to identify the severely wasted children in September 2007 (an initial screening was done in March 07). There was a marked reduction of global wasting (both severe and moderate) in all MOH areas since the March screening and implementation of a nutrition rehabilitation program (NRP). Data showed a reduction of global wasting from 30.5 % to 19 %<sup>10</sup>.
- The NRP program was rolled out to all MOH areas in Jaffna District in October 2007. Out of 488 children identified as severely wasted requiring RUTF, 444 have shown an improvement and are now classified as moderately wasted. There are 4,109 children with moderate wasting who continue to benefit from the high energy biscuit and CSB distribution programmes.
- 9,000 moderately malnourished children under 5 years are receiving UNICEF high energy biscuits and WFP CSB.

<sup>8</sup> WFP Market Survey

<sup>9</sup> Information provided by UNICEF

<sup>10</sup> UNICEF, DPDHS Jaffna

## Food supply to Jaffna<sup>11</sup>

- Most food stocks in the peninsula are sufficient for three months; current Jaffna stocks include 6,887 Mt of rice, 1,697 Mt of sugar, 1,351 Mt wheat flour, 775 Mt of red dhal, 69 Mt of milk food, 95 Mt of soap and other laundry products<sup>12</sup>.
- Opening of the new Government lower price shops, the Co-operative Wholesale Establishments (CWE), will help the public purchase their requirements at lower prices.
- According to wholesale traders, the existing number of retail traders is not enough to distribute all the food commodities they bring from Colombo. This explains the variation in commodity prices from place to place. Many retail traders have stopped trading due to security problems<sup>13</sup>.
- Most of the retail traders now stock less than one month's requirement of food due to security and financial problems.

### **Distribution network - Outlets**

MPCS	523
Trade Dept	6
Consumer Co-op society	3
Private Traders	4000
<b>Total</b>	<b>4532</b>

- During this period there were 8 cargo vessels carrying supplies to Jaffna based on forecasted demand.
- In total 30,000 MTs per month can be transported by these cargo vessels, more than the total monthly full requirement for food and other essential items of 25,000 MTs per month<sup>14</sup>.
- The Government has recently agreed to prioritize Government and WFP food assistance to Jaffna. From October onwards the monthly requirement of 2,300 tons of WFP food has been shipped.
- From October 2007 to January 2008, WFP was able to ship a total of 6817 MT of commodities.

<sup>11</sup> SCOPP, GoSL

<sup>12</sup> District Secretariat/CGES

<sup>13</sup> WFP market survey

<sup>14</sup> CGES

- For the period October to December 2007, WFP has served 250,360 beneficiaries and distributed 3375 MT of food for following activities.

Activity	Distribution (MT)
Food for education	571
Food for work	217
Vulnerable group feeding	2408
Mother and child nutrition	164
Food for training	15

*Supply of food items to Jaffna by - Sea and Air from August 2006 to December 2007*<sup>15</sup>.

Total tonnage of cargo sent to Jaffna in vessels hired by CGES	150,774 MT
Total tonnage of cargo sent to Jaffna in private vessels	91,053 MT
Total tonnage of cargo sent to Jaffna by air	206 MT
<b>Total tonnage sent to Jaffna</b>	<b>242,033 MT</b>

- A total of 27,330MT of local products have been shipped from Jaffna to Colombo and Trincomalee from September 2006 to December 2007<sup>16</sup>.

### Storage facilities<sup>17</sup>

*Name of the stores and Tonnage*

Navatkuli	3 stores	7,000 MT
Kondavil	2 stores	4,000 MT
Kopay WFP stores		
	Current capacity	3,100 MT
	Planned additional capacity	1,000 MT
MPCSs	24 Stores	2,400 MT
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,500 MT</b>

### Agriculture<sup>18</sup>

- Agricultural activities form the prime livelihood for 85,411 farming families including 2,000 farm labourer households.
- The total area of paddy land pre 2006 conflict was 13,000 ha. For the 2007/2008 Maha season, 8752 ha were cultivated out of the planned 9036 ha (98%) compared with only 38% of planned OFC acreage and 59% of planned vegetable land.
- The average yield of Paddy dropped to 1.5MT/ha during the 2006/2007 Maha season, compared to the usual pre conflict

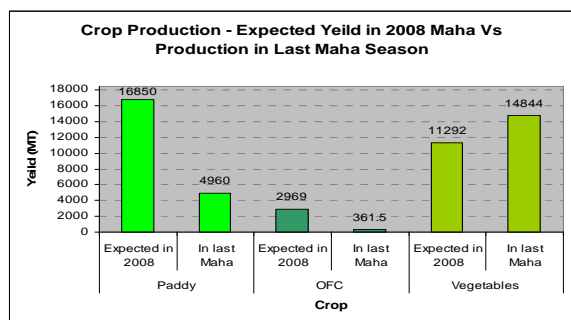
<sup>15</sup> CGES

<sup>16</sup> CGES

<sup>17</sup> District Secretariat - Jaffna

<sup>18</sup> All information including statistics provided by FAO.

yields of 3-4MT/ha. However for this Maha season, the anticipated yield is 2.75MT/ha due to favourable weather conditions and assistance received from the Government, UN agencies and NGOs.



- The anticipated total district production of Paddy is 16,850 MT with 2,969 MT of OFC and 11,292 MT of vegetables.
- The harvesting of vegetables and other field crops is in progress. Vegetable cultivation is less than expected but higher than in 2006.
- FAO distributed seed paddy for 500 beneficiaries in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (Ext) for this Maha Season (2007/2008), as well as OFC and vegetable seeds with the appropriate fertilizer for 2400 beneficiaries.

### Livestock

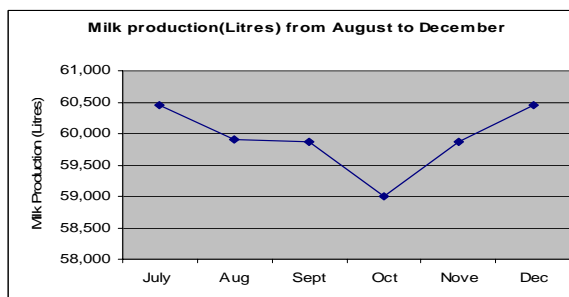
The present livestock situation is as follows:

	July 2007	January 2008
Poultry Layers	122200	102,200
Poultry Broilers	37850	35,512
Milking Cows	16120	16,120
Other Cows	12690	8,629
Bulls	17725	16,825
Calf	16820	12,820

- Livestock figures have decreased to only 41% of pre-conflict numbers.<sup>19</sup>
- Average milk production has remained stable with July production of 60,450 litres, October production of 59,000 litres and December production of 60,450 litres<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> Information provided by FAO.

<sup>20</sup> Information provided by FAO.



### Fisheries

- Strict security measures on fishing have seriously impacted the industry. Only traditional fishing craft are allowed in the district.
- However the fishing sector is now more organized and fishing is more productive. At the end of December 2007, the number of active fishermen in the district was 15,861 and number of fishermen allowed to fish per day was 8,892<sup>21</sup>.

Point Pedro East/West: Fishing hours 8a.m to 4p.m, distance 1 km

K.K.S East/West: Fishing hours 8a.m to 4p.m, distance 1 to 1.5km

Sandilipay: Fishing hours 2-5p.m, distance 2km

Kayts: Fishing hours 6a.m to 11a.m and 1p.m to 5p.m, distance 1.5 to 2 km

Delft: Fishing hours 6a.m to 4p.m, distance 2km

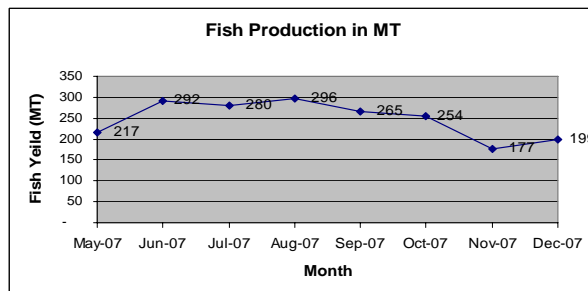
Chullapuram: Fishing hours 8a.m to 4p.m, distance 2km

Jaffna West/East: Fishing hours 8a.m to 4p.m, 2 km

Vellaney: Fishing hours 8a.m -4p.m, distance 1km

Chavakachcheri: Fishing hours 8a.m -11p.m, 1 km<sup>22</sup>

- Average fish production in November and December has decreased slightly to 188 MT, mainly due to the movement of fish to the deep sea most likely as a result of the North East monsoon rains. This is still only some 14% of pre-conflict levels, with the consequent affect on household livelihoods.



<sup>21</sup> Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

<sup>22</sup> FAO