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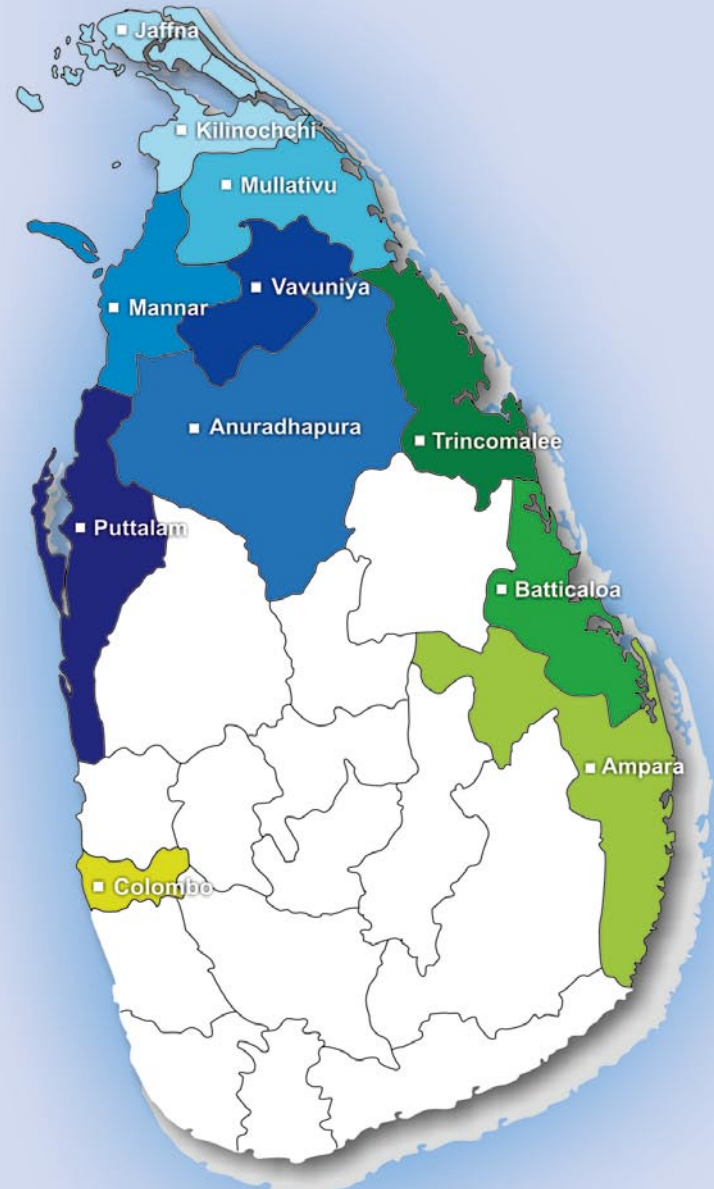
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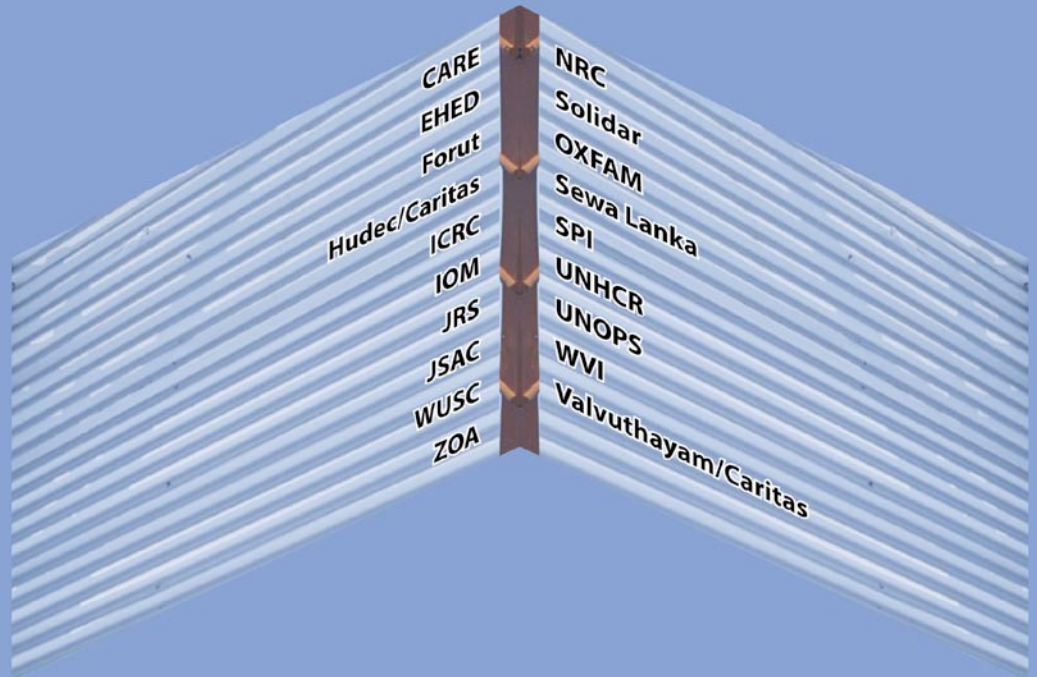


Emergency Shelter Agencies - Sri Lanka

SHELTER
COORDINATION
CELL

2008 First Quarter Update

Designed & Produced by NRC



WHAT IS THE SCC ?

In Sri Lanka, the Shelter Coordination Cell (SCC) is a coalition of strategic shelter agencies forming a service and support network to the shelter sector.

The Shelter Cell also assists the UNHCR in its lead role as the UN Agency mandated for protection and assistance to conflict displaced IDPS (Internally Displaced Persons) and post conflict IDP Emergency Shelter.

The central tenet of the SCC's existence is to be a support mechanism to the shelter sector and to add value in co-ordination, reporting, technical support and dissemination.

There is a central cell in Colombo, with satellite cells in the North and East.

The central membership of the SCC continues to be UNHCR, Solidar, Norwegian Refugee Council and UNOPS, though

SCC enjoys significant support from other organisations, and in particular ICRC, IOM and ZOA.

SCC AT A GLANCE - 2007

- 187,850 displaced people assisted
- 170,763 IDPs provided with return assistance in areas of origin
- 27,600 emergency family shelters, emergency shelter kits and house repair kits provided
- 9,300 tents distributed
- 873 damaged houses repaired
- 37,000 families assisted with NFRI
- 1,482 participants trained in 72 Camp Management Learning workshops
- 100 camp management committees formed and functioning
- 3,400 shelters decommissioned and reused
- 94 camps consolidated



RESULTS ON THE GROUND IN 2007

Decommissioning: Shelters and camps were effectively decommissioned and safety hazards reduced through strong coordination and the systematic development of guidelines and checklists.

Camp Consolidation: To effectively utilize the limited resources of agencies in the east, IDP camps were consolidated from a maximum of 114 to 20 in December 2007 through a process of assessment & consultation with local authorities, shelter agencies and IDPs.

Assisted Return: All efforts were made to assist IDPs to return to their place of origin in safety and dignity through a process of advocating and promoting the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement including: mainstreaming protection into emergency shelter assistance; advocating to the government for a voluntary return process, and providing information and go & see visits to the potential returnees.

Emergency Preparedness: In order to increase the level of preparedness amongst agencies, a systematic emergency planning process was undertaken, which included the development and updating of the shelter contingency plan in coordination with the Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Sector.

Workshops & Training: In order to build the capacity of

local authorities, trainings were provided on international humanitarian standards in site planning and management, workshops were organized on site identification & development, and lessons learnt in the East were shared in the North.

SCC Coordination: To best support field operations, the SCC maintained a continued presence in both the North and the East, assisting through the provision of technical advice and the promotion of harmonized reporting formats for information collection and dissemination.

Web Page: The SCC webpage was developed as a powerful tool to promote regular reporting of current events and information, including: technical support documents developed in Sri Lanka, links to external documentation, and access to all SCC reports. www.humanitarianinfo.org/sriLanka_hp/sl/shelter.aspx

Publications: The SCC produced a number of publications and guidelines on camp decommissioning, rapid site assessment, and site selection and planning. In addition the SCC translated the camp safety leaflet into Tamil/Sinhalese to increase local accessibility.



LOOKING AHEAD IN 2008

The changing context and security situation in the country has necessitated the SCC to adapt its way of thinking and remain flexible

- Continued provision of life sustaining assistance and care & maintenance provisions including strengthening camp management practices
- Contingency planning, emergency preparedness and pre-positioning of shelter materials for new displacement in the North
- Continued support for the return process including advocacy, information sharing and assistance provision

to the needs of the situation. In 2008 the SCC will focus its energies on the following priorities:

- Increased capacity building and training of local authorities as well as NGO staff on international standards of assistance
- Provision of technical support and information dissemination

