

## Program in Tsunami affected country:

### SRI LANKA

#### ACTION PLAN 2006 - 2009

#### 1 RATIONAL - PROBLEMS TO BE ADDRESSED

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Sri Lanka has 19 million inhabitants, spread over 65,607km<sup>2</sup>, and its gross national income per capita (GNI, formally GDP) is \$872 (in 2002). It is 93rd place in the world rankings in the human development index (UNDP 2005). More than 70% of the population live in rural areas, but the agricultural sector only represents 20% of GNI and 40% of the workforce. Almost 10% of the population is unemployed and one million Sri Lankans have emigrated for economic and political reasons.

Two major factors affected the country at large and more specifically its North-Eastern part in the past years:

□ Since the 1980s, in the North and East provinces, the Tamil Tiger liberation movement (LTTE or Tamil Tiger Liberation Front) has been conducting a guerrilla war against the army representing the Sinhalese majority, and has carried out bloody attacks and executions of opponents (even within the Tamil community). LTTE demands independence of the Northern provinces and of the predominantly Tamil East, to share power and the control of resources. A ceasefire agreement was signed in 2002, while LTTE is occupying the north-west (LTTE zones such as Jaffna) and has a military presence in some areas of the eastern province (known as 'uncleared' zones). Three of the four districts covered by the project are including such areas (Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Ampara).

□ The major catastrophe, the Tsunami, occurred the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004 following an earthquake and generating a Tidal Wave resulting in over 40,000 confirmed deaths (figures given at the end of 2005) and 800,000 displaced persons all over the Sri Lankan coast.

In 2005 and till mid-2006 HI intervention in Sri Lanka (four Districts in the Eastern part) was though focusing on addressing People with Disabilities (PWDs) needs in the specific context of the Post-Tsunami reconstruction process and in a stabilized post-conflict environment.

In the opposite to what happened in Indonesia, where the Tsunami stroke the particularly deprived and conflict affected Aceh Provincia leading though to a very similar complex type of emergency, the situation in Sri Lanka didn't evolve toward peace and conflict resolution.

Since beginning of 2006 we observed a progressive increase of human right violations in the post-Tsunami affected area between the LTTE, other armed groups and the governmental SL Army: armed clashes, bombings, abductions, forced child enrolment by armed factions, assassination. Since the beginning of 2006, 200 000 persons have been displaced in the North-Eastern region of Sri Lanka due to the conflict.

- *Due to the situation's deterioration, people that had already lost their home and belongings during the Tsunami had to move again, the number of injured people increased, and generally speaking the situation came to a **major humanitarian crisis in the North- Eastern part of Sri Lanka.***

In the same time, NGOs working in these areas have seen the humanitarian space narrowing dramatically, access to beneficiaries becoming a critical issue as it was progressively limited to Government controlled areas when the most acute needy people were in LTTE controlled area.

Along with this humanitarian crisis, NGOs became more and more targeted by governmental administrative rules and through the media. This very much “NGO non friendly” and insecure context resulted in the departure of most of the NGOs that were involved in “post-tsunami rehabilitation projects”, the government openly saying that he wanted to select the few NGOs who will be authorized to stay.

- *A threshold was crossed the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2006 when 17 persons working for Action Contre la Faim were killed in Muttur, triggering a wide international protest against as a **gross violation of basic Humanitarian Rights Laws.***

In this very challenging context, HI had to face three major issues:

**Security concern** for HI staff, both expatriate and national (150 persons are working for HI programme in Sri Lanka)

**Ethical concern** regarding the humanitarian space and rights that are obviously infringed, especially with regard to victim’s access

**Operational and strategic concern:** the wide range of activities and organisational set up developed in 4 locations by HI within the post-tsunami Rehabilitation context had to be reviewed, some of them being still relevant some others having to be totally changed to fit with the unstable context.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

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Our overall objective is to facilitate PWDs inclusion within the post Tsunami Rehabilitation process, hence contributing to building an inclusive society that is based on the rights of people with disabilities.

The current probably long lasting conflict that affects the Post-Tsunami areas have created a new context and changes the beneficiaries’ needs. It brought us to enlarge our activities in order to improved PWDs and injured people’s access to relief and rehabilitation services.

Two sets of activities are developed in the North-Eastern region, with the perspective of being fused in a more comprehensive and community based approach en 2008:

- In the field of rehabilitation
- In the field of social inclusion, disability rights and advocacy

They are implemented in four Districts (from the North to the South): Trincomale, Batticaloa, Ampara and Hambantota

The objectives, activities and expected results described hereafter have been planned for 2007, thus corresponding to the current complex crisis situation.

They are designed to cover both long term and short term issues, the planning for 2008-2009 having to be reviewed depending on the evolution of the conflict.

### **1. ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN THE FIELD OF REHABILITATION IN THE NORTH-EASTERN REGION**

They are composed by different interrelated components covering the three districts.

*The Physical Rehabilitation Center (PRC) based in Batticaloa:*

It provides Ortho-Prosthesis and rehabilitation services to the patients, it is the core and lonely resource for such needs in Batticaloa, Trincomale and Ampara from where patients are sent.

Discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Health are in progress, this center should be transferred to the General Hospital of Batticaloa in the coming years after completion of the technical professional’s training.

Expected results of the PRC for 2007

Persons in need of physical rehabilitation in conflict and Tsunami affected areas receive quality services, meaning:

- **900** clients receive services (devices and consultations) from conflict affected areas and rural areas.
- **2225** consultations given in PRC

- **300** prosthetics/orthotics devices delivered or repaired
- **500** assistive devices delivered or repaired
- **2** national technicians follow full-time training at SLSPO fulltime level II (2006-2009)
- **1** mobility India (level II) technician from PRC receives upgrade training through SLSPO to full level II status (3 year – 2007 – 2010 full time)
- **3** PO assistants receives practical hands-on training at PRC

*The outreach activities in partnership with Community Based Organisations and the Ministry of Social Affairs in Batticaloa, Trincomale and Ampara:*

Volunteers from Community Based Organisation are trained to identify the PWDs and vulnerable groups in the communities, assess their needs and provide basic support at the community level, refer them to the social services and or/ other service providers and follow up.

This Outreach project component has been developed in close partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, whose officers are also trained to improve their capacity to better respond to the PWDs needs. It is a key component of the whole strategy to develop basic services at the community level but also it is the link between the PWDs in the community – very often isolated - and the existing services (including the PRC).

It is an efficient support to be deployed in camps of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to identify and refer the injured persons too, insure their proper follow up and mainstream other support services (see below).

Expected results for 2007

- **2400** persons with disability or persons with injuries from conflict affected areas receive services through **6225** consultations from the PRC and Disability Focal Point in IDP camps
- **200** volunteers from Community Based Organisations (CBO) in conflict affected areas are trained in disability issues, emergency preparedness and emergency response.
- **200** volunteers from Community Based Organisations attend refresher training in disability issues
- **80 %** of IDP population in camps will benefit from accessibility features
- **6** local assistant technicians are trained in basic Orthotics and Prosthetics (including 2 trained to be qualified ISPO level II)
- **20,000** people are sensitized about specific conflict and disability issues

*The Disability Focal Points to respond to vulnerable groups among displaced persons*

These activities are to be deployed in conflict affected area under a very volatile context. DFP are at the moment implemented in Batticaloa District where 75 000 IDP have moved to governmental areas these last weeks. It targets persons with disabilities and persons with injuries in conflict affected areas.

Expected results for 2007

- **1500** beneficiaries in conflict affected areas of three districts of Ampara, Batticaloa and Trincomalee receive appropriate services through direct implementation and Community Based Organisations (CBO)
- **200** volunteers from **15** CBO's receive training in disability issues, emergency preparedness and emergency response
- **200** volunteers receive refresher training
- **4000** consultations given in IDP camps, host communities and conflict affected areas via DFP
- **300** appropriate assistive devices delivered in the IDP camp, host community and conflict affected areas through DFP
- **80 %** of the IDP population in camps will benefit from accessible features
- **100 %** of PWD/PWI identified have access to ad hoc services
- **100 %** of NGO/INGO involved in camp management activities are sensitized about mainstreaming disability

Support to the hospitals when responding to emergency needs in conflict area

In conflict area with high number of injured persons and IDPs hospitals and Health centers happened to be short of material and technical resources to meet the needs. Additional resources are planned to be deployed under short notice to cover this issue.

Expected results for 2007

- 4 local hospitals, health centres, field hospitals are delivered with appropriate supply to face emergencies or have their capacity to attend PWD/PWI improved
- 30 health professionals including public health midwives are trained and/or sensitised about mainstreaming disability

Raising awareness on disability issues in emergency preparedness and emergency response

People with disabilities, people with injuries and their families, health professionals, local authorities and community should have access to information and education on specific issues relating to disability, emergency preparedness and emergency response.

Expected results for 2007

- 7000 leaflets are produced and disseminated in the community in conflict affected areas by the PRC, community volunteers, and via health infrastructures to people with disabilities and people with injuries.

2. ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL INCLUSION, DISABILITY RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY

The specific objective of this part of the programme is that people with disabilities and their families are included and participate in the post-tsunami reconstruction.

**Four Resource and Information Centres (RICs)** are thus operating in **Hambantota, Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomale**, mainly staffed by persons with disabilities who are in charge of developing the activities described below.

These activities are developed in partnership with the **Disability Organisations Joint Front (DOFJ)** which gathers and coordinates Disability Persons Organisations and national NGOs involved in disability issues in Sri Lanka such as the “Access for All” campaign.

With regard to the activities developed by Handicap International to address the emergency situation in conflict area, RIC have proven to be efficient when it comes to mainstreaming the PWDs and coordinating with local networks delivering the aid on basic needs (food and non food items, shelter, etc). at the community level.

Activities of the RICs to address the specific needs of PWDs in the reconstruction works.

- Set up of focal points on accessibility issues in each RIC.
- Development and distribution of materials (leaflets, posters, technical guidelines ...) in conjunction with the “Access for All” consortium that can be used for training and sensitization with those working in reconstruction.
- Advocacy and lobbying activities towards local authorities, local and international organizations on accessibility, with an emphasis on housing and public buildings.
- Training on accessibility issues for technical actors involved in reconstruction.
- Workshops, seminars and awareness raising sessions
- Provision of technical support and follow up on accessibility to buildings for construction companies, local and international agencies.

Expected result for 2007-2008

Through consultative, participative processes, the needs of disabled adults and children and their families in development/reconstruction in Sri Lanka in both tsunami and conflict affected zones are taken into consideration and acted on.

Activities to improved access to quality services for persons with disability and their families.

- Development of an information/orientation department in each RIC, including a directory of services and information, with job related vacancies, micro-credit schemes, employment, vocational training opportunities, education, social welfare entitlements, health and rehabilitation services and social services.
- Advocacy and awareness raising activities for livelihood development (e.g. Chambers of Commerce, Ministries, Banks, NGOs, Micro-credit schemes) for equal access to economic opportunities.
- Advocacy and awareness raising activities for equal access to educational opportunities (CBR programs, Ministry of Education, special schools and centres ...).
- Technical support for Sri Lankan and international NGOs, and agencies, to include disability issues in their strategies and projects (inclusion of PWDs among their beneficiaries of micro-credit schemes, inclusion of PWDs specificity into their disaster preparedness plans ...).
- Workshops for disabled people on how to access services for example and for service providers on disability related issues.
- Implementation of peer support activities.
- Organisation of social activities and organisation of special events aimed at awareness raising.

Expected results for 2007-2008

The access to quality services such as education, rehabilitation and health services, livelihood development and social activities through the development of Information and Resource Centres is improved.

Activities to increase the capacity of local NGOs / DPOS to answer to PWDs needs

- Access to telecommunication facilities and internet, to IT equipments (computer, printer, scanner ...)
- Access to meeting space, filing space and domiciliation
- Set up of a consultancy department for creating and registering NGOs / DPOs, selfhelp groups, parents associations within the RIC.
- training on administration, team management and project development
- Creation of a Civil Society Fund enabling the financial support of local initiative towards the inclusion of PWDs in the reconstruction processes and more generally in the development dynamics. Existing disability organizations are invited to submit applications for projects in eastern Sri Lanka.
- Develop awareness raising activities towards local NGOs on how to mainstream disability within their activities.

Expected results in 2007-2008

Increased capacity of local NGO's and DPO's to meet the expressed needs of disabled adults, children and their families has given rise to new initiatives, services and organisational development.

3. **OVERALL BUDGET FOR 2006-2009**

In order to implement the whole program, the estimated total budgets are: 2006: 1.950.000 Euros, 2007: 1 900 000 Euros, 2008: 1 600 000 Euros, 2009: 1 400 000 Euros.

**3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

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Monitoring will be insured by the HI project team and will be an on going process through indicators and regular reports from the different activities implemented by the projects.

Regular meetings with stakeholders will result in the on going review and evaluation of the activities.

Field program receives also regular internal monitoring visits from the headquarter technical advisors according to their respective field of expertises. Several visits are planned according to the projects needs but at least once a year per project.

Projects evaluation will be either internal or external but will at least be conducted once per project. Most of them will be conducted either in 2008 or in 2009.

#### **4. SUSTAINABILITY, RISKS AND CONDITIONS**

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##### **General conditions and risks to consider: the evolution of the conflict along with acceptance of NGOs and respect of the Humanitarian Law**

With an escalation of the conflict in Sri Lanka and the consequences of this on the population, the Handicap International programme in Sri Lanka aims at ensuring a continuum between relief, rehabilitation and development for people with disability or with injury.

There are the following scenarios we can foresee at the moment:

- Stabilisation of situation, consolidation of GoSL control and IDP's return to Vakarai and south of Trincomalee resulting in 85,000 returning IDP's – this would mean easier access, possibly increased interference of paramilitary groups. However the risks and constraints are high with increased risk to threats, mines, UXO and paramilitaries
- Expansion of SL Army campaign in Batticaloa, Ampara and Trincomalee resulting in 150,000 IDP's in Batti and Trincomalee and 2000 in Ampara - the consequence on humanitarian space being that access may only be granted by SLA on complete clearance
- LTTE regroup and retaliate resulting in +/-150,000 IDP's. This may result in higher security risks and constraints with protracted fighting and sporadic shelling
- Split SL Army and Karuna forces resulting in 400,000 IDP in host communities with expected health needs – consequence on humanitarian space being NGO operations compromised and INGO presence restricted.

There are the major challenges faced by all the humanitarian community in Sri Lanka, Handicap International having proven to be one of the few NGOs that succeeded to cope with the new situation, and to shift from the post-Tsunami rehabilitation context to the current emergency context.

It is expected that the strong partnerships and capacity building of national resource that are key for HI to cope with both contexts will facilitate the achievement of our longer term objectives in the three coming years.

**Capacity building of stakeholders** is a key feature of the projects positively influencing their sustainability. This includes building capacity of (1) PWDs and DPOs to demand their rights and (2) Government departments, NGOs, service providers, DPOs and civil society to include persons with disabilities in all relief, reconstruction, rehabilitation and development activities.