



REVIEW

OF

RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

- JAFFNA PENINSULA -

MAY 1996 - JUNE 1998

BY

COUNCIL OF NGOO JAFFNA DISTRICT

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JAFFNA**

JULY 1998

Review of Resettlement and Rehabilitation Programme in the

Jaffna peninsula

Period May 1996-June 1998

Part-1 General Review

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REVIEW OF RESETTLEMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IN THE JAFFNA PENINSULA

Period May 1996 – June 1998

1.0 Introduction:

During the period 1983-1996 war situation prevailed in the Jaffna Peninsula. The war has resulted in serious loss and damage to persons and property and caused a grave dislocation of the social and economic infrastructure in the area. Due to a number of military operations carried out time to time the refugee population was increasing and shot up to about 500,000 in Oct. 1995.

The Government announced in May 1996 that by implementing a two year Resettlement and Rehabilitation programme four main objectives would be achieved. They are given below.

1. Immediate relief to displaced/ affected families or persons.
2. Resettlement or relocation of displaced families or persons.
3. Rehabilitation of damaged assets-private and public. As far as necessary to resume and maintain essential services.
4. Resumption of normal economic activities and relinking Jaffna Peninsula to the mainstream economic activity in the country.

The people had high hopes in 1996 but they are disappointed after two years, as many of their problems have not been solved. NGOO move closely with the people whose opinions are reflected in this report.

This report is divided into two parts as given below: -

- Part-I - General review of the present basic problems, projects implemented and the progress of project outputs specified in the programme etc.
- Part-II - Some observations on RRAN's performance during the last two years.

Due to various constraints we could not undertake a full evaluation of the programme. Our review can be considered as a preliminary evaluation stressing the need for a complete evaluation to be done by an independent and competent team appointed by the Government. The lessons learned will help the planning and implementation of future programmes. The team should clearly state whether the programme has moved towards the main goal and make recommendation to accelerate the implementation and to realign the direction of the programme if necessary.

Accurate data on physical and financial progress could not be obtained, as the authorities were reluctant to release these informations. Therefore only rough figures are given in the report.

2.0 "Cleared- Uncleared" Areas

The major part of the Peninsula was cleared during the period April 1996 – June 1996, by Operation Rivirasa II ~~and III~~. At present there are cleared and uncleared areas in the peninsula. Within the cleared areas there are High Security Zones and Restricted Zones. In the High Security Zones people are not permitted to settle down. In the Restricted Zones only the people residing in those particular zones are permitted entry.

Under the cover of security, various unwanted restrictions are imposed to control the movement of people, transport of goods, income-generating activities, social and educational activities etc., This situation is not conducive for the peaceful living of common people.

3.0 Rehabilitation Programme- May 1996

The Resettlement and Rehabilitation Authority for the North had been entrusted by the Government of Sri Lanka in 1996 with the responsibility of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction activities in the North. In May 1996 RRAN prepared a programme for the above work and provision of immediate relief for the people of the Jaffna Peninsula. The estimate was divided into two parts. Refer- RRAN's report dated May 1996.

Part I –Rs. 5068 million

Provision of food relief, resettling and rehabilitation assistance for the displaced people.

Part II –Rs. 8609 million

Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the physical assets and provision of necessary assistance to enable the affected people to resume their normal economic activities.

The period of completion of the above programme was two years.

4.0 Urgent needs of Internally Displaced People

During the Operation Rivirasa in October 1995 nearly 500,000 people of Valikamam area had to leave their permanent residences and move to Vadamarachy, Thenmarachy and Vanni areas. Part of the Internally Displaced People returned to their original homes after April 1996.

Urgent needs of the returnees were: -

- a) Accommodation.
- b) Food Items including drinking water.
- c) Transport.
- d) Health service. etc.

4.1 Accommodation.

The present population in the Peninsula is 481,000 and their accommodation can be classified as given below:-

- i. About 5,600 people are living in Refugees camps due to non-availability of their houses either due to complete destruction or the houses falling within the security Zones.
- ii. About 54,400 people are living in the houses of friends/ relatives due to the reasons mentioned above.
- iii. About 421,000 people are living in their compounds. Some of their houses are damaged and they are managing with temporary shelters. Though a house is one of the basic needs, meaningful steps have not been taken during the last two years to repair and rebuild the houses. Not a single damaged or demolished house out of the estimated 91,000 damaged and demolished houses are rebuilt with the assistance of the Government or foreign Agencies.

Note: About 300,000 people of the Jaffna Peninsula who got displaced during the period October 1995 – April 1996 are living in Vanni and other areas. Some of them are returning now and demanding their houses from the I.D.P.'s who are occupying those vacant houses. As a result housing problem is becoming acute. It is estimated that about 60,000 houses would be required for the new returnees in addition to 20,000 houses required for the I. D. P. 's who are already in the Peninsula.

4.2 Food Items including drinking water

During the first six months of the period under consideration food items required for the population could not be distributed satisfactorily. Now Kachcheri (C. G. E. S.), C. W. E., M. P. C. S. and private sectors are handling the food items. The poor people are very badly affected due to constraints such as transport, M. O. D. clearance etc., resulting in artificial shortages and price hike of various items. There was a shortage of drinking water due to the unhygienic conditions of wells.

4.3 Relief Assistance

(a) Food items

About 84,000 families are provided with meager food as relief assistance by the Government. Cost of items supplied to a family of five persons is about Rs. 1,200/- per month from which they cannot manage even one meal per day. Under the present circumstances in Jaffna the above family will require about Rs. 5,000 per month for food alone.

Now there is an announcement by the RRAN to cut down the relief food items for 34,000 families. Environment of opportunities for income generation has not yet been created during the last two years. As such the survival of the displaced people will be a burning issue. The relief assistance should be continued until sufficient employment opportunities are created in the area.

Due to the suspicion created by the relief assistance programme given to IDP'S, the people below poverty line in Vadamarachy and Thenmarachy have not been issued with dry rations since 1996.

(b) Settling in Allowance

In Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation Programme I (E.R.R.P.I) the combined amount provided was Rs. 6,000/- per family. In this programme, unfortunately, instead of increasing it according to the increase of prices during the past seven year period, the amount has been reduced to Rs. 5,000/-.

The payment that should have been made as soon as they settled down in order to meet their immediate needs, is being delayed unnecessarily. Only about 50% have been paid even though two years have elapsed. The people are frustrated as a result of this.

(c) Temporary housing- Shelter Programme.

Under the F.R.G. Programme the Local and National N.G.OO namely T.R.R.O., R.R.F. 83, N.V.D.A.G., Y.M.C. A., S.L.R.C. and HUDEC have completed the following activities urgently required by the internally displaced people.

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| i) Construction of New huts | - 720 Nos. |
| ii) Repair of Old huts | - 196 Nos. |
| iii) Construction of Toilets | - 224 Nos. |
| iv) Construction of Tube wells | - 17 Nos. |
| v) Construction of Open wells | - 05 Nos. |
| vi) Issue of Non-Food Items -Kitchen utensils
and others . | -3000 Families. |

Note:- Details of assistance provided by the Government and other organizations could not be obtained.

4.4 Supply and Distribution of Essential Items:

Basic food items are transported from Colombo mainly by ships. The Government (C. G. E. S.), C. W. E., M. P. C. S., B. M. C., Cement Corporation, Petroleum Corporation, State Trading Corporation and the private sectors are handling the supply and distribution of essential items such as food, fuel, cement, steel, etc. The supply is not regular and insufficient to meet the demands of the population. Equal opportunity is not given to all the traders in allocating space in ships in order to create competition in the business. Some traders have a monopoly due to their influence and wealth. At the slightest disturbance in transport, artificial scarcity is created by hoarding by which the people are affected.

People have gone through many periods of shortages of the above items during the last two years. Price of cement is about RS. 600/- per 50 Kg bag which is almost double the price in Colombo. As Jaffna is also a part of Sri Lanka the Government should distribute the essential items at Colombo prices.

As there is always shortage of items in Jaffna the private traders are exploiting the situation by getting down outdated stocks from Colombo. Jaffna has virtually become a dumping ground of inferior quality items that affects the health of the

people. This is due to quality control and price control departments not effectively operating in Jaffna.

Some of the above mentioned organizations divert their stocks immediately after arrival to private traders who are selling the items at higher prices by creating shortages. Black markets are thriving well in Jaffna.

5.0 Income Generation Activities

The rough distribution of the Jaffna working population according to various sectors is given below:-

a) Agriculture and Animal husbandry	35%
b) Fisheries	10%
c) Small industries and construction industry	10%
d) Monthly paid employment (Government, Private and Co-operatives etc.)	20%
e) Unemployment and odd jobs	25%

The Jaffna Peninsula is claimed to be a liberated area but restrictions on imports of inputs to the area and ban on certain items still continues. People are wondering why this liberated area cannot be treated like any other Southern part of Sri Lanka. Handling charges and shipping cost (Rs. 300/- per 50 kilo) are added to items coming from Colombo. Internal transport costs are high due to high cost of repairs, spares, fuel, capital cost of vehicles and the compulsory unloading and re-loading at certain check points. These actions contribute to high cost of production and supply. Marketing is a big problem due to lack of transport facilities to Colombo. All the above mentioned factors have contributed towards the undeclared economic ban in this area. In this circumstance the main objective of resumption of normal economic activities cannot be achieved. On the contrary the activities are against achieving the above main objectives. It is a self-defeating process.

A family of five members need a monthly income of Rs. 7,500/- for a low standard of living at present in Jaffna.

5.1A. Agriculture

At present only 6000 ha out of 10,000 ha of paddy land and 2500 ha out of 7,500 ha of garden land are cultivated. The limitation in area is due to security zones, lack of accessibility, unjustified blockade of land and economical risks in the cultivation of crops.

I Cost of cultivation

Compared to other areas in Sri Lanka the cost of cultivation is high in Jaffna due to the following reasons.

- Hire charges of Agriculture machinery are high.
E.g. -Ploughing cost Rs. 60 x 24 = 1,440/- per acre.
- High cost of Agriculture inputs.
- Cost of irrigation is high due to mechanised pumping.

d. Lease of land is high.

II Marketing constraints

While the country has opened itself towards market oriented and open competitive conditions, the Jaffna peninsula continues to follow closed economy.

The Local market for agriculture produce in the peninsula is limited. There are no institutions responsible for the purchase and sale of agriculture produces. The private traders or middlemen are the only source and the farmers will have to part with their produce for the price fixed by the traders.

Only limited shipping facilities are available to send the agriculture produce to Colombo. Increased cost of production and high transport cost are a threat to competition in the Colombo market.

III Institutional Constraints

Agriculture production is in the hands of a large number of small farmers who depend on the services provided by the Government Institutions such as the Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Services, etc. The level of performance of these institutions has declined over the years.

Meaningful actions have not been taken during the last two years to improve the situation.

IV Losses and Damages to Assets of the Farmers and Private Sector involved in agricultural services.

The farmers and the private sector have suffered severe losses and damages during the period of war. The Government has neither paid any compensation nor arranged soft loans to revive the various activities in this sector.

5.11A Assistance Provided

The following agriculture projects were implemented for the benefit of the farmers.

1. Seed Onion Project	- G.O.S.I.	- Rs. 9.0 million
2. Seed Paddy Project	-F.A.O.	- 35.000 Bushels
3. Seed potato Project	-Netherlands	- 250 M.T.
4. Water pumps and sprayers	-F.A.O.	- 400 Nos.
5. Mamoties distribution	-F.A.O.	- 22.000 Nos.
6. Food Security Project (Home gardening - 1/16 ac)	- CARE	- 3900 beneficiaries
7. Revolving loan fund for farmers	-UNHCR	- Rs.1.2 million
8. Revolving loan fund for farmers (OOTRU, TRRO, NVDAG, SDF, HUDEC, PWO)	-Local NGOO	- Rs. 7.0 million
9. Water pump distribution on R.L.F. scheme	-SIDA	- 230 Nos.
10. Mamoties distribution	-Agri- Services	- 15,000 Nos.

Out of the assistance given, two failure cases are given below: -

1. The Government implemented a seed onion project costing Rs. 9 million in 1996 (June -July). Free seed onions were distributed to the selected farmers among the returnees of Valikamam to encourage farming activities. The project was a total failure due to the following reasons.
 - a. Beneficiaries were not correctly identified. As a result some of them sold the seed onions in the market.
 - b. Inputs supplies were not arranged to meet the timely requirement.
 - c. Marketing of the produce was not arranged. Many farmers who invested their savings and labour into the above cultivation became poorer.
2. Seed Paddy distribution- F. A. O. Project
 F. A. O. implemented a free seed paddy (35,000 bushels) distribution project in maha 1996 but it was not a success as the seed paddy arrived in Jaffna from Colombo after the sowing season.

Detail analysis of the requirements for this sector and the assistance already provided will reveal that only a fraction has been met during the period under review. This is the main reason why most of the farmers are under-employed and leading a miserable life.

5.1.B Animal Husbandry

Livestock rearing has a long standing tradition among the farmers in the Jaffna Peninsula. The sudden displacement of about 500,000 people from Valikamam area in Oct. 1995 due to operation "Revirasa" had a severe impact on this sector. Most of the people had to abandon their houses together with their cattle and goats when they got displaced to Thenmarachchy area. The loss in the livestock population has not been assessed yet. Roughly it may be about 50% in the case of cattle and goats and 75% in the case of sheep and poultry. A poultry Hatchery of about 20,000 chicks capacity has been damaged during the war.

The livestock activity in the Peninsula has to be revived in order to feed the population with meat, milk and eggs. This will be a good income generation activity for the unemployed and the underemployed people.

Live stock population (approx.)

Category	1930 (*)	1990	1996 Estimated
Milk cows	41,000	38,000	19,000
Other cows	43,000	31,000	16,000
Bulls	23,000	19,000	9,000
Calves	41,000	32,000	16,000

Goats	36,000	26,000	13,000
She-goats	84,000	42,000	21,000
Sheep	20,000	14,000	3,000
Laying Hens	170,000	183,000	40,000
Other Hens	94,000		
Cock Birds	63,000	300,000	75,000
Chicken	122,000		

Note:-

- The old Jaffna district includes the Kilinochchi district also.

a. Cattle

A programme of development should be prepared to achieve the target population within a short period because meaningful actions have not been taken during the last two years to build up the herd. The strategy of development should be the augmentation of herd and breed improvement through cross-breeding with local herd base. Out of the present population 3000 improved breed and 10,000 local breed cows could be considered for artificial insemination.

In order to boost up production, milk collection and distribution facilities need urgent attention.

The cost of cattle feed is very high and it should be distributed at Colombo prices.

During the last two years cows have not been brought from outside.

The farmers are depending on the services provided by the department of A. P. & H. The performance of this institution has to be improved considerably in order to meet the present challenge.

b. Goats

Goats are reared for milk and meat. For both purpose the present level of supply should be increased. This could be achieved through breed improvement and also augmentation of the herd. For breed improvement a programme of cross breeding is necessary.

This could be achieved through the natural process as well as through artificial insemination. 5000 goats per year should be targeted for artificial insemination. Stud goats have to be issued to selected goat farmers in key villages to reactivate and accelerate the natural process.

UNDP has an approved project to get down 100 high breed goats but nothing has come to date.

c **Poultry**

During the period 1996 -98 about 150,000 one day old chicks were brought from Colombo. Department-110,000 and private sector -40,000. These chicks were sold at the rate of Rs. 38 per chick which includes the cost of air transport.

The rough estimate of the present population is 100,000 high breed and 150,000 local breed.

The price of mash fluctuates from Rs. 850 to Rs. 1200 per 50Kg. The mash should be distributed at Colombo prices.

5.11(B) Actions Needed

1. **Strengthening of the veterinary services.**

The veterinary services continue to be in the same condition as in 1995. The services have not improved due to (a) inadequate staff (b) lack of mobility (c) Lack of facilities in the artificial insemination center etc.

Staff: 4 veterinary Surgeons and 13 live stock Development Instructors have to be appointed immediately.

Mobility: Vehicles for transport are not available in the range offices. 11 pick ups and 11 motor cycles have to be provided immediately.

Artificial Insemination Center:

There are no imported high breed stud bulls/ Goats at the A.I. center and the present out put is 500 cows per year / out of 5000 artificial insemination.

High breed stud bulls and goats have to be given to the center immediately in order to achieve the main purpose. Facilities required for the expansion of the present services to 10,000 cows and 5000 goats per year should also be provided.

- 11. Hatchery at Achuvely should be established without further delay.
- 111. Cattle and Poultry feed production.
A feed milk to cater for at least one third of the total requirements is necessary at this stage.
- IV. Intensive milk collection and distribution center with necessary facilities.
- V. Slaughtering of Cows/ she goats should be banned.
- V1. A large number of cattle have lost their legs due to landmines. The de-mining programme should be completed without any further delay.
- V11. Strengthening the capacity and the functioning of the LIBCOO societies.
- V111. Distribution of Cattle / Poultry feed at Colombo prices.

- IX. Payment of compensation to the affected farmers and introduction of a subsidy scheme for fast development of the sector.
- X. Loans with Concessions for potential farmers.

5.12(B). Assistance Provided

- 1) UNHCR expenditure under the micro projects for the livestock development and Revolving Fund loan scheme during the years 1996 and 1997 was Rs. 1.7. million.
- 2) The department's expenditure on the buildings for the hatchery is about Rs. 1.3 million.
- 3) UNDP has supplied 8 solar panel refrigerators for the range offices.
- 4) We understand that 190 domestic incubators were brought by UNDP and they are idling. They can be issued to farmers through LIBCO.

The assistance provided is negligible compared to the requirements listed under para 5.11B. Therefore meaningful steps should be taken to mobilize resources and to implement a crash programme.

5.2 Fisheries

The Jaffna peninsula is declared to be liberated but the fishing activities are banned in certain areas and strict restrictions are imposed in other areas. The details of restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Defence are reproduced.

Jaffna Lagoon	-No fishing other than day fishing is allowed by H. Q. 512 Brigade. Normally 500 meters.
Around the Island of Punguduthievu, Mandaitivu, Velanai, Nainatheevu, Eluvativu and Analativu	- Fishing by throwing nets up to waist-level of water.
Delft Island	- One mile around Delft Island during day time only is allowed.
Madagal to Point Pedro	- Fishing is not allowed because of the sea corridor for S. L. A. F. aircraft – landing /taking off from Palally Airport.
Use of out board mortors	- Only 8 H P outboard motors are permitted to be used in the North and East.
Dispatch of fishing nets to the North	- The Ministry of Defense has no objection to the sale of fishing nets through the village level co-operatives. The type of fishing nets should be based on the type of fishing allowed in

these areas. There is no objection to "Madal" fishing nets being permitted.

Transport of chemicals for manufacturing of Fiber Glass Boats

- Not permitted.

Time	-2 a.m. to 6 a. m. Normal time.
	-4 a. m. to 3 p. m. lagoon area.

Note:- 8H P outboard motors are not permitted in the Peninsula.

Fisheries is one of the major economic activities in the Jaffna Peninsula. In 1980's Jaffna contributed 25 percent of the total fish production in Sri Lanka. The fishing has been banned since 1990 and some popular fishing villages have come within the security zones. This has caused displacement of many people from the fishing villages. Generally fishermen are not able to engage themselves in any other trade to earn a living. Therefore the fishing community is undergoing a lot of hardships. Up to 1996 displaced fishermen were only given food relief assistance worth 1, 200/- per month per family of five members. Due to the ban on fishing, others were given this assistance only after 1996.

5.2.1. Actions Needed

In order to revive this important sector and improve the living conditions of the fishermen the following actions are necessary.

- a. Ban on fishing (Time and area limits) should be lifted or relaxed to a meaningful level and fishermen should be allowed to do fishing with reasonable restrictions.
- b. Payment of compensation in respect of personal / property loss/ damages.
- c. Loan scheme with concession to purchase fishing gears and boats.
- d. Strengthening the capacity and financing the fisheries co-operative societies.
- e. Construction of 5 M. T. capacity Block Ice Factory to prevent post harvest losses of fish, prawns, crabs etc.
- f. Reactivate the CEYNOR net factory.
- g. Promote the export of high yielding items such as prawns, lobsters and beche-de-mer.
- h. Easy credit program to facilitate the rehabilitation of the private sector related to fisheries.

5.2.2. Assistance provided

About Rs. 6.0 million has been given to the fishermen on a R.L.F. scheme by U.N.H.C.R., C.A.R.E., HUDEC etc.

The assistance provided is very small compared to the total requirements.

The achievement in respect of the actions (a) –(h) of 5.2.1 referred to above during the last two years is very limited. Therefore the fishing community is struggling for its survival and the fish production is not enough even for consumption in the Peninsula. All the fishermen are underemployed. Hence they require continuous relief assistance until the ban is lifted.

5.3 Small Industries / Construction Industry

The following industries were thriving in Jaffna before 1990.

- Major Industries - K. K. S. cement factory, Paranthan Chemical Corporation, Elephant pass – Salt.
- Medium scale industries - Aluminium Ware industries, Glass factories, Power looms, Atchuvvely Industrial Estate, Soft drink industry, Asbestos products etc.

Major and medium scale industries have been closed down since 1990.

5.3.1. Small industries

Food processing, metal quarries, metal fabrications (light engineering workshops), Dairy products, Fishing industries, Coconut based industries, Edible oil productions, Salt products, Lime products, Distilleries, Agro-servicing industries etc., have not been reactivated to the required level.

5.3.2. Actions Needed

Within the framework of various restrictions/ Undeclared economic ban, some entrepreneurs have commenced activities in a small way without support from the rehabilitation programme. In order to reactivate this sector, the following actions are necessary:-

- a. Payment of compensation for the damaged/ lost assets.
- b. Loan scheme with concession to purchase equipment/ raw materials.
- c. Free flow of all raw materials.
- d. Power supply for the whole area for 24 hours.
- e. Marketing facilities.
- f. Easy transport arrangement.

5.3.3. Cottage industries

This sector covers food production, pottery, dry fish production, handloom, coconut based products, palmyrah- based products, etc., Normally people who cannot find economic employment engage themselves in this sector to earn something in order to avoid idling. Due to various constraints, this sector is operating at a lower phase. For example: - Restrictions on internal transport i. e. Compulsory unloading at certain check points has curtailed the cadjan weaving activities in the coconut plantation area such as Palai and Thenmaradhchy East. Free availability of Luxury plastic products has affected the marketing opportunities of the palmyrah based products. Transport of liquor from Colombo has blocked the production of palmyrah arrack. As a result number of toddy tappers are unemployed.

5.3.4 Assistance Provided

There were about 10,000 units of Cottage / Small industries operating in Jaffna before 1996. Due to various problems these units have been either closed down or scaled down.

During the last two years, achievement in respect of the actions (a) – (f) of para 5.3.2. is very poor.

UNHCR and others provided assistance amounting to Rs.6.0 million on a Revolving Loan Fund scheme for the reactivation of this sector. But this is very small compared to the requirements.

5.3.5 Construction Industry

In view of the extensive damage caused to the roads and to the buildings, construction industry should have been accelerated. Inadequate allocation of funds and supply of construction materials such as cement, bitumen etc., are the main constraints for the development of this sector. If cement can be distributed at the Colombo prices, it will boost up the building works even by the public. Thereby direct employment opportunities will be created in masonry, carpentry, smithery, metal-works etc., and indirect employment related to this sector.

5.4 Monthly Paid Employment

This can be divided into three sectors: -

- a. Government sector- Departments and Co-operations.
- b. Co-operative sector.
- c. Private sector.

a. Government Sector

About ten percent of the working population is employed in this sector in various categories. Over 12,000 vacancies are available in the Education Department, the Health Department and in other central and local government departments, State Banks etc.,

Employments under 'Samurthi' were given here but many of the employees are not paid their monthly allowances. 'Samurthi' projects which support self employment scheme of the poor people in the villages have not been implemented due to non allocation of funds by the Government. As a result this programme has not got off the ground.

Non-filling vacancies in the Government sector is not only blocking employment opportunities but also affecting various essential services to the public. As a result they are undergoing a lot of hardships.

b Co-operative sector

Various categories of co-operatives were functioning in the Jaffna district before the war. Out of about 806 co-operative societies only 394 societies are functioning at present. 412 societies are defunct. If the economic activities are revived to normal level such defunct societies could be reactivated which will create employment opportunities. The societies will also promote various income generating activities among their members. The losses / damage of the assets of these societies have to be compensated for and credit on easy terms have to be provided for reactivation. Meaningful actions have not been taken about the above activities.

c Private sector

1. Productive activities of the private sector have not resumed to a satisfactory level. Due to several constraints only a few have commenced their activities.
2. Private business sector is carrying on with their activities but the number of employees engaged in this sector now is lower than that of in the year 1995, as their turnover in business is low. The main reasons for the low turnover are:-
 - a. Purchasing power of the people has been diminished due to high rate of unemployment and under-employment.
 - b. Reduction of Population.
 - c. Price of items are higher than the usual market price.

Compared to the Government sector the private trading sector is functioning more efficiently even to the extent of getting down the restricted / banned items.

5.5 Unemployment and Odd Jobs

The percentage of unemployment is high among the educated and other youths because employment opportunities are not available in various sectors as described in paragraphs. (5.1) – (5.4).

As a first step in solving the unemployment problem, the Government should fill all the existing vacancies in various departments and corporations.

Having declared Jaffna a cleared area, the economic activities should have been promoted by lifting the ban/ the unwanted restrictions on important items / activities.

The productive sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry and small industries, fisheries should have been geared for development by facilitating various activities in the respective sectors. Thereby a lot of employment opportunities could have been created to provide new employment and assure full time employment for the under-employed.

6.0 Social Infrastructure

6.1 Health service

Health services in the Peninsula is far from satisfactory due to the following reasons.

- a. Severe shortage of medical personnel.
- b. Facilities for proper treatment such as medical equipment, testing laboratories, ward facilities, facilities for night service, ambulance, water supply, refrigerators to preserve vaccines etc., have not been provided to the required standard.
- c. Major damages to buildings have not been repaired.
- d. Defunct hospitals have not been reopened-Cancer, T. B., Chest clinic etc.
- e. Drugs supply is not regular.

STAFF POSITION

No.	Category	Cadre	Present Staff Position.	Vacancies
01.	M.OO	53	07+ 01*	46
02.	Specialists	09	01*	08
03.	M.OO.H	08	0	08
04.	Dental Surgeons	15	09+02*	06
05.	RMOO/AMOO	58	35+15*	23
06.	P.H.II	100	12	88
07.	P.H. Midwives	342	93	249
08.	Nurses	270	77+03*	193
09.	Medical Lab. Technologist	16	03	13
10.	Radiographer	05	01	04
11.	Pharmacist	27	23+ 02*	04
12.	School Dental Therapist	09	06	03
13.	S.P.H.M.	19	03	16
14.	Physiotherapist	02	0	02
15.	E.C.G. Recordist	05	01	04

*Re-employed.

Note- Teaching Hospital is not included.

REQUIRMENTS- DPDHS JAFFNA

Particulars of urgent requirements to this division are indicated below.

<u>Name of Item</u>	<u>No. required</u>
Motor Bikes to PHII	02
Ambulance	05
Vaccine Van	01
Double Cab	07
Refrigerator (Solar)	03

Health Education Materials

Colour Television 20"	01
A.V. Material (Cassettes Player, TV and Deck)	02
Tape -recorder	08
Slide Projector	08
Over Head Projector	08
Generator (3KVA)	01
Roneo machine	01
Photocopying Machine	01
Health Education Van	01
Public Address Set (Complete)	01

6.1.1. Important observations

- a) Blood bank has only limited storage facilities. Hence it cannot cater for the need.
- b) Peripheral Units have water supply and refrigerator problems.
- c) Ambulances are not enough to cater the needs of various hospitals.
- d) The construction work of a five-storey block in the Jaffna teaching hospital has not commenced.
- e) Though sewerage system has been repaired in the General Hospital raw pumping without treatment is causing health and environmental problems at the outlet end - Pannai.
- f) Field Health Volunteer service to fill the gaps of P.H.II. carried out by SCF and SLRCS had been suspended since April 1996.
- g) Most of the private hospitals have been closed down.
Only a few private Medical Practitioners have dispensaries.
- h) Mobile services camps organized by the NGOO have been suspended since April 1996. SLRCS has limited its service to the CEYNOR camp where returnees from Vanny are temporarily accommodated.
- i) Control measures for malaria are inadequate. One of the reasons is that required quota of malatheaon is not supplied by the Department.
- j) Price of drugs is high in pharmacies.
- k) Nutrition level has gone down due to poverty. Thripasa distribution has also been suspended.

6.2 Education

The people of Jaffna consider education one of their important assets and the percentage of literacy was very high. Now the number of children not attending schools in various places is showing an increasing trend mainly due to poverty and lack of social support for the affected families.

The standard of education is lower than before due to the frustrated lives of the students and their families. The enthusiasm to pursue higher studies is less among the students. G. C. E. O/L and A/L results show a declining trend.

The vacancies of teachers have not been filled and the educational facilities such as libraries, laboratories etc., have not been provided to the required standard. According to a recent World Bank report the vacancies for teachers in Tamil medium schools are 10,000/- where as Sinhala medium schools have 14,000/- surplus teachers.

Damaged buildings have not been repaired fully and furniture not replaced yet. The classrooms continue to be inside temporary sheds in a number of schools. Some schools remain closed due to the security zones.

Out of 490 schools in the Peninsula nearly 400 suffered damages. A rough estimate of the damages works out to be over Rs. 1,000 millions. GTZ has allocated Rs. 25 million to repair certain portions of eight schools. The Education department expenditure in 1997 is only Rs. 10 million. UNHCR under micro projects allocated Rs.6.3 million for 13 schools. UNICEF has constructed latrines / wells in about 30 primary schools and carried out repairs in four primary schools in Valikamam area.

Rehabilitation should not be confined merely to the repair of physical damages but should also pay attention to reestablish institutional culture, vision and mission i. e. character moulding, man making and nation building should be made clear in the minds of the students.

As the damages are extensive a single donor cannot undertake the whole work. Therefore damages should be fully assessed and presented to various donors for consideration.

The Jaffna office of the school works department should be upgraded to a Director level office with authority to handle designs, estimates, construction and maintenance of all school buildings in the Peninsula.

Modern educational facilities to upgrade the quality content of education in par with the schools in other provinces is also necessary.

Rehabilitation is required in selected secondary schools so that school leavers be competitive in the market for employment, vocational training and further education.

Technical College

Jaffna Technical College suffered heavy damages such as loss of furniture and equipments, damages to buildings etc., during the period of war. The department has started renovating the buildings recently. UNDP has allocated funds for the supply of equipments required.

The main access to the college still remains closed and the present access is through the rearside. The students are not happy with this arrangement.

In order to reactivate the technical education which is vital for the urgently required human resource development, dynamic actions are necessary.

University of Jaffna

Special grant has not been given for the repairs of damaged buildings and replacement of lab equipment. The above requirements are met with the normal annual allocation which itself is inadequate to meet the normal expenses to run the academic courses.

As far as the medical faculty is concerned the teaching staff vacancies have not been filled.

Open University

To provide better facilities to individuals who are deprived of a University education the existing Jaffna Regional Unit of the open University will have to be upgraded by additional infrastructure requirements and commencing various educational courses that have been made available in the other Regional Units in the Island.

6.3 Water supply

The Jaffna population depends on ground water resource for their drinking water. In some places the ground water is not suitable for drinking because of high salinity. There are sixteen rural water supply schemes and a municipal scheme in the Peninsula. These schemes suffered various damages during the war. GTZ has undertaken the rehabilitation of these schemes and the construction works is in progress. GTZ allocation for the work is about Rs.45 million.

There are many other villages and towns facing water problem due to salinity. It appears that authorities are not concerned about the plight of these people. In some places wells / pumps and well sweeps have been damaged and the re-settlers have to go to other places to get drinking water. For such cases compensation payment to repair the damaged wells is necessary to solve the problem.

UNHCR has repaired a few public wells under their micro projects.

Rs 3.5 million was spent for this.

UNICEF has also constructed / repaired few wells.

6.4 Human resource Development

For the ongoing programme of Resettlement and Rehabilitation it is necessary to have more people in technical spheres, specially in the field of building, construction, industries, electric, electronic and computer technology.

There are only a few institution for this, namely the Government

Technical college and the Advanced Technical Institute, the Jaffna College Institute of technology and the Patrician Institute. In addition to these, there are some government schools which provide technological and vocational training. Some of the local and National NGO too offer free training for self-employment and job orientation.

Such institutions should be allowed to develop on their own to cater to any student who has the knack for such training. If possible the training should be given free of charge to benefit the trainees.

Equipment, consumables and machinery (including computer and accessories) should be provided by the Government and they should be given prompt facilities to get them down from Colombo or from abroad within a minimum period.

There are so many industries, which are not in a position to revive due to lack of technical personnel, raw materials and machineries. If the requirements are found the technological approach in all the machineries such as medium and heavy, food producing, oil producing, furniture making, timber-making can be done in Jaffna. For this matter appropriate technical trained people are necessary.

In the present situation, human resource development is necessary for "Technical competence is the key to economic self reliance". But meaningful actions have not been taken during the last two years.

6.5 Housing

A house is one of the basic needs for human living (existence). Extensive demolition of and heavy damages to houses have taken place during the time of conflict. It is understood that nearly 91,000 houses have been damaged or demolished. On an average the construction cost of a dwelling house will be in the region of Rs. 500,000/- to 1,000,000/-. The majority of the people in Jaffna have invested all their savings in addition to loans obtained from the housing authority and banks to construct a solid house to be maintained by successive generations. Hence it is obligatory on the part of the Government to provide adequate compensation to re-build the demolished / damaged houses.

Household effects are not included in the above estimate and it may go up even to the cost of the houses.

In many locations cluster of houses were dozed off and the boundaries cannot be identified. Even the wells got filled up. These cases deserve special consideration.

“Rs. 25,000/- as compensation” !!

We understand that Government is proposing to pay RS. 25,000 as compensation for the destroyed houses. The affected people feel that they are being cheated and the above act is to hoodwink the outside world. Hence we suggest that a reasonable amount acceptable to the affected people may be paid as compensation.

7.0 Economic Infrastructure

7.1 Power

The assurance to supply electricity within a time frame has not been kept by the Ceylon Electricity Board. The present supply of electricity could be characterized as a farce. Only about 16,000 connections have been given out of the 77,000 households that were served with electricity before 1990.

Small diesel generators have been installed at important locations (about 18 Nos.) in the Peninsula. Eight generators of 250 KVA each i.e. 2.0 MW total capacity were supplied under British O.D.A. scheme.

Only houses in limited areas closer to the above locations are provided with electricity. The supply is restricted to three points / house and available for few hours in the night and usually on alternate days. The new generators are running without any breakdown but the old ones break down very often.

The estimated power requirement for the peninsula is about 20 MW but the present installed capacity is only 3.5 MW.

Electrification is an urgent requirement to develop small-scale industries and agriculture.

7.2. Telecommunications

In 1980's Jaffna had about 3000 working lines. The present rehabilitation programme targeted to provide telecommunication facilities to 1000 subscribers including public installations but only about 300 have been catered for.

The applicants have made serious allegations against the officers responsible for the selection of the above 300 beneficiaries. The authorities are unable to cope with the need due to shortage of communication lines.

7.3 Posts

The postal service has not resumed to satisfactory standard even though two years have elapsed.

During the last two years the public had to face problems such as shortage of stamps, considerable delays in the inflow / outflow of letters from / to Colombo and delays in the distribution within the Peninsula.

Thousands of returnees to Jaffna from Vanni are stranded in Trincomalee for several months due to the non-availability of passenger ships. People are wondering why the authorities have failed to resume the passenger services even though 12 months have elapsed.

7.5.3 Transport of Goods

The cost of transport of goods within the Peninsula is very high and it is handled by the private sector. This is due to high cost of repairs, spares, fuel, capital cost of vehicles and compulsory unloading and re-loading at certain checkpoints.

7.6. Roads/ Highways

Road Development Authority is responsible for the construction and maintenance of class A and B roads.

Road Development Department (under the provincial set up) is in charge of the construction and maintenance of class C and D roads.

		<u>Length of Roads</u>	<u>Repaired Length</u>
Class	A and B	- 660 Km	250 Km
Class	C and D	- 540 Km	170 Km

The roads of the Peninsula had not been maintained properly for over a decade and the main roads were seriously damaged. The repairs already carried out were confined to patching of potholes and a bituminous coating in the case of main roads.

This kind of repairs is not a satisfactory solution to the present state of these roads. The repaired roads are showing signs of potholes again. The road surface is irregular due to too many depressions and humps. There is no riding comfort on these roads.

7.7 Irrigation

Rehabilitation of Major Irrigation and Drainage schemes have not been done during the last two years due to non-allocation of funds by the Government.

In the case of minor irrigation works very small amount of work has been done.

- a. For de-silting of ponds and canals UNHCR has allocated Rs.3.0 million.
- b. CARE International has under taken improvement works in 11 ponds and 50 agro wells.
- c. Department of Agrarian Services expenditure for 1997 was Rs. 1.5 million.

8.0 Local Government

The Local Government services continue to be in the same condition as in 1995.

The services have not improved due to many constraints given below.

- a) Office buildings, libraries, markets, community centers etc., which got

destroyed/ damaged during the war have not been renovated fully to provide the services needed.

Only a few buildings in selected markets have been repaired under UNHCR micro projects.

- b) A large number of vacancies have not yet been filled. As a result those concerned are unable to carry out their functions effectively.

The Government grant is so small they are unable to undertake the repairs/ reconstruction of damaged roads, drainages, water supply (public wells) etc. The maintenance of the above has been neglected over a decade.

- c) The Elections to the Municipality, Urban Councils and Pradesha Shabas were held in January 1998. The cry of the people was "what election without Democracy". The percentage of poll was about 20% (Number voted- 105, 413, total number of registered voters- 517, 486).

Many of the elected representatives have not assumed their duties. Many bodies are not functioning. Even those functioning are operating at a slow pace or are marking time.

Did the elections serve any purpose?

One of the main reasons for this non-functioning is that the Government has not allocated sufficient funds required for their activities.

9.0 Land mines

During the last two years about 500 people have lost their limbs due to land mines. Large number of cattle have also lost their legs. Therefore people are fearing to move about even in the cleared areas.

UNICEF has sponsored some seminars on awareness programme. UN Experts visited the areas last year and recommended that a de-mining programme should be carried out early. Subsequently UNDP drew up a programme and an expert arrived in April 98. Due to various problems he has not yet started the de-mining operations.

RRAN should have implemented the de-mining programme before resettling the people.

10.0 Environment-Destruction of vegetative cover.

The deep rooted tree cover is about 12% and the vegetative cover is about 16% in the Jaffna Peninsula at present.

Extensive damage has been done to the above during the war.

The main causes were,

- a. Felling of trees for firewood.
- b. Felling of trees for construction purposes.

- c. Damage due to Military operation such as bombing, shelling and clearing for security purposes etc.,

Note- For security bunds and safety bunkers Palmyrah and Coconut trees are being cut in large numbers even now.

RRAN has not succeeded in preventing further deterioration since- May 1996.

Many poor families who depended on the income from these trees are badly affected. No compensation has been paid.

The Palmyrah Board has estimated that about fifteen lakhs of Palmyrah trees have been cut during the last ten years.

About Rs. 600 million will be required for the reforestation of about 10,000 ha with the people's participation.

During the last two years serious attention has not been paid to reforestation.

In 1997 we submitted a feasibility report on the forestry project in the Jaffna Peninsula to the UNDP and the RRAN but they have not shown any interest in this.

We understand that the UNDP has approved about Rs. 3.0 million for a reforestation project to be done through the Forest Department which has not yet opened a Project Office in Jaffna.

11.0 Places of worship

A large number of Hindu temples and churches were damaged by the war. Meaningful steps have not been taken either to renovate or pay adequate compensation to the above places. Small amounts of compensation have been paid to a few temples to create an impression to the outside world. The people consider this act as an eyewash.

Temples closer to the camp areas and temples inside the security zones have restrictions on the hours of opening to the public. There are some restrictions on the festivals also.

12.0 Public Library

The Jaffna Public Library was burnt by the forces in 1981. During the last two years wide publicity was given about the reconstruction of the building and a fund raising campaign was also launched. But the construction work has not yet commenced.

In place of the above library a small one was opened in January 1998 as a temporary measure in another Government building.

13.0 Vadamarachy East

People in Vadamarachy East are faced with transport difficulties and have to trail distances exceeding 15 miles or more to procure food items at Vallipuram. The people are not allowed to take more than 5 kilos of food items, which is very limited and not more than Rs. 500 from the cleared to the uncleared area. Entry into the uncleared area is restricted.

14.0 Journalists

Foreign and South journalists are not given permission to visit Jaffna and Jaffna is cut off from the South and the outside world. As a result details of rehabilitation activities, people's living conditions, various problems faced by them, etc. are not published in the Colombo papers.

15.0 Control on NGOO

Unlike in other Democratic countries NGOO in Jaffna cannot function freely. The Government exercises various controls on NGOO in Jaffna.

- a. UN Agencies were not given permission till September 1996 to work on Rehabilitation programme. They are compelled to implement the programmes through Government channel only.
- b. International NGOO such as SCF UK, CARE International, and FORUT were given permission in 1997 and 1998 with some restrictions. Redd Barna closed its office in Jaffna on 30th June 1997.
- c. Local NGOO have not been permitted to work on resettlement programmes. The reasons for such an unjustifiable decision have not been given.

16.0 Performance of RRAN

RRAN is responsible for the successful implementation of the Emergency Programme drawn up in May 1996. The Programme should have been completed by the end of two years but the achievement is far below the expectation. The living conditions of the people have not improved and they are disappointed with the rehabilitation activities carried out by the Government.

Some of Our Observations on the performance of RRAN during the last two years are given below:

16.1 Planning

It appears that a lot of funds and time have been wasted in the planning process due to the changing of basic concepts, whims and fancies of different consultants, delays in decision making, structural weakness etc.

A Jaffna rehabilitation and development plan was prepared in early 1995 by Consultants at an enormous cost funded by the World Bank. The Plan is under revision for the last three years by various consultants appointed from time to time and the Final document has not been released to date.

A review of the output of works against the cost and time may reveal valuable lessons useful for future planning. A Special Study may also be made on the number of workshops held in five star hotels and the purpose actually served by such studies and such workshops.

16.2 Location and Personnel

The office is located in Colombo whereas the Project Area is located in Jaffna. The present operation of RRAN from Colombo is circuitous. For the successful implementation of the Programme of this nature the Implementing Authority should be in the Project Area. This will facilitate speedy decision-making, quick solutions to problems cropping up during implementation, close monitoring of the programmes by effective co-ordination and elimination of wasteful expenditure.

The Office in Colombo appears to consist of a number of Consultants with much Overhead Expenditure. The continuity and the follow up of the Programmes, dealing with various issues cropping up, effective co-ordination with the various Line Ministries involved in planning and implementation of the Programme cannot be effectively handled by individual Consultants who work on a time basis.

16.3 Rehabilitation Policy

A Comprehensive Rehabilitation Policy has not been formulated by RRAN even though two years have elapsed.

A well defined policy is the Basis of the Planning Process which sets out guidelines for sectoral programmes from which various projects evolve to achieve the objectives by delivering the required outputs.

The present state of implementation of projects is sector centered and not people centered. As a result a lot of issues have cropped up and decision making is delaying the Implementation. Example: The Housing Programme:-

We regret to note that the Target Group of these Programmes have neither been involved nor consulted in the Planning Stage. Top-Down Method of Planning is adopted by RRAN.

16.4 Under Estimation Of Damages

The Serious Loss and Damage to persons and property in the Jaffna District has not been fully assessed. The Rehabilitation Programme based on imaginary estimates of damages cannot meet the real needs and the people are complaining about the patchwork going on. In the long run this type of slipshod work done at enormous cost will not contribute towards Socio-Economic Development of the People and the Region.

The Authorities could have assessed the damages fully at least before the end of 1996. Even after two years, proposals are being framed on Preliminary Assessment of Damages, which is not a satisfactory method of dealing with the issues.

Example: Rehabilitation of Schools:

About 400 out of 490 Schools have been damaged and the rough estimate of repairs alone work out to be more than Rs. One Thousand Million (Rs. 1.000 Million) When the Federal Republic of Germany was requested to assist in the rehabilitation of Education Sector the amount intimated was Rs. 100 Million and they had agreed to undertake 25% of the Work by allocating RS. 25 Million. When G. T. Z. moved to the Site for Implementation they realized that their allocation could cover only portions of the buildings in eight selected schools. They were surprised to see the extent of damages compared to the estimated figure. The School Development Societies have expressed their bitter experience in the Programme.

16.5 Line Ministries

One of the Implementation Strategies adopted by RRAN is to make each line Ministry responsible for the Management and Administration of the Segments coming under their normal purview.

The above strategy has not yielded satisfactory outputs due to the following

1. Line Ministry District Offices are only capable of handling their own normal work. When they are saddled with the additional workload of rehabilitation they are unable to implement the Programme within the Time Schedule. RRAN has failed to strengthen these institutions by way of additional capable personnel, equipment, transport vehicles etc.
2. The Financial Resources required for the targeted outputs have not been made available to the Line Ministries. They should set up Special Project Units with Proper Authority to handle this additional work. The mixing up of Normal Functions with this special Function leads to Unnecessary Delay in Implementation.

16.6 Community Participation

In order to create an attraction among the donors RRAN had planned in it's programme to get the support of the Community based organizations including Co-operatives and N G Os to achieve Cost Effectiveness, reduce waste and impart sense of participation to the beneficiaries. But during the implementation the Local NGOOs were prevented from taking part in the Rehabilitation Works. The Main Actor in the present Drama is the Grama Sevaka. The Grama Sevakas have their normal administrative functions and due to the present Military Administration they are saddled with issue of permits, registration of persons, houses etc.

It is well known to the Public as to how the Rural Development Societies and the Community Centers are operating at the Village Level. These are taken as a coverage to impress donors on Community Participation.

The present planning and implementation is based on a Top- Down approach. As such, how can an effective participation of the people be expected? For an effective participation the people/ their organization/ NGOO should have been involved from the beginning, i.e. identification, assessment, planning etc. The

people feel that under the high sounding concept of participation they are being exploited.

16.7 Mobilization of Resources

Various resources available for Rehabilitation are

- ❖ Government Resources
- ❖ Foreign Donor Agencies
- ❖ Private Sector
- ❖ INGOO- Voluntary Organizations
- ❖ Community Resources

Only a small amount of Rehabilitation was done during the last two years as RRAN had failed to mobilize sufficient resources.

The Private Sector which covered a lot of small industries should have been given an assurance on the payment of compensation for the loss/damage of property, workplaces etc. and at least credit on easy terms could have been arranged to reactivate the industrial sector. Instead few traders were allowed to have the monopoly in the supply of essential items and the innocent people had to pay the price. Equal opportunities were not given to promote competition among the traders.

Though substantial international assistance is available for the Rehabilitation of affected people RRAN has blocked this avenue by imposing various restrictions on the INGOO, Local INGOO and their partnership is not permitted even to date.

RRAN cannot mobilize the community resources as they are adopting an authoritarian approach.

16.8 Implementation Plan:

A rough estimate of the Total Rehabilitation Work is Rs. 150,000 Million (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Million) whereas RRAN prepared an Estimate for Rs. 14,827 Millions (Rs. Fourteen Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Seven Million) to be completed in two years.

In order to achieve this target the Macro Projects should have been undertaken by the Government Sector leaving the Micro Projects to INGOO-Local INGOO partnership. The Macro - Micro Projects should be synchronized to get maximum benefits from the proposed investments.

In actual implementation, RRAN could not mobilize sufficient resources for the Macro Projects and the Government Sector was given the Micro projects keeping the Local INGOO away. Due to lack of Sectoral Development (Macro) the Micro Projects have not yielded the full benefits.

16.9 Transport of Materials from Colombo

The implementing agencies of various programmes are faced with the problem of transport of materials from Colombo due to apathetic attitude displayed by the concerned officials. This is a time consuming delay and it affects the rehabilitation programme. RRAN's assistance in sorting out the bottle necks with the M.O.D. is an urgent requirement for timely implementation of the projects.

*Printed at
St. Joseph's Catholic Press
360, Main Street
Jaffna*