

IMHO: May 09 Update on Sri Lanka Efforts

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE TO CIVILIANS IN VAVUNIYA

As of May 6th, over 8,000 IDPs from a total population of approximately 40,000 persons caught in the Manick Farm Zone 2 IDP Camp in the Vanni have received treatment from mobile medical clinics sponsored by IMHO. These beneficiaries, who have been displaced from the Kilinochchi and Mullaithivu Districts, have included children, injured persons, elders and those with special needs. CHA (the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies)

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coordinated all of the logistics and brought a dedicated team of doctors, nurses, and other health professionals to offer free care to those in need. While Manick Farm Zone 2 was selected as the main IDP target area to provide these primary health services, medical consultants also provided services to the IDPs at Vavuniya Hospital. Medical professionals were arranged with the support and permission of the Ministry of Health.

Medical clinics and screenings were being conducted in a systematic manner at the IDP camps. A field clinical unit also was established within the IDP camp to facilitate the clinics and screenings. The Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) in Vavuniya was consulted on the medicines that were in greatest need, as hospitals and clinics are operating far beyond their respective capacities. CHA managed to provide 30% of the requested items with the financial aid of IMHO predominantly, along with contributions from UMCOR and Muslim Aid. IMHO has so far committed \$41,750 to this effort. By May 20th, CHA anticipates 21,000 persons will have directly received treatment under this program.

Through these efforts, we have been able to assist in providing medicine to a limited number of patients, transport facilities for referrals and further treatment at hospitals, and the provision of much needed health and hygiene items for this high at-risk population.



Diabetic Center in Jaffna Opens

Last week we were pleased to share with you the opening of a Psychiatric Unit in Vavuniya, which will serve to improve overall mental health in the area and help to address mental health illnesses of IDPs and others in need. Now, just one week later, we are proud to announce that the



new diabetic center at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital was officially opened on May 7, 2009. The Chief Guest was Mr. Ganesh, who is the government agent for Jaffna. The center will provide screening for the whole district, comprehensive treatment plans, and follow-up treatment for reassessment. Additionally, it will provide education to the public on this widespread disease, which leads to various kidney, heart and eye diseases. While trauma-related death is one of the main causes of death in the northeast, diabetes is also high on that list. Diabetes is also a main cause for amputation. The center's operations will be managed by Dr. Sivansuthan, an internist at the hospital. This project has been in the works for some time, so it is with great humility that we thank all who contributed to this effort in bringing the first-ever public diabetic center to Northern Sri Lanka which will cater to a population of approximately 500,000 persons.

IMHO Provides Life-Saving Assistance & Milk Powder to Women in Need

One of IMHO's major ongoing efforts is that of our pregnant mothers nutrition program, which benefits women in the Jaffna peninsula. Throughout this recent crisis, IMHO has maintained this program while also expanding it to benefit IDPs in the region. We are now exploring possibilities for how best to expand the program and maximize the impact on women in these areas. This effort consists of providing milk powder, vitamins, and a high-protein energy food called *Jeevaharam* to pregnant women.

As you may already know, IMHO contributed earlier to 2 shipments of emergency milk powder and other basic nutrition, which were designated for the areas then in the conflict-affected "safe zone". The first shipment of 15,000 packets, for which IMHO gave \$50,000, did indeed reach the affected areas in mid-March. The second shipment, for which IMHO gave \$25,000, was also intended for the conflict zone, but had to be re-routed due to heavy violence in the area on the day of delivery. The shipment was instead diverted to Jaffna where it was used to feed refugees in the interment camps in Jaffna. Other organizations who supported this effort include MIFT (UK) and Manitha Neyam Trust, which contributed another \$25,000 combined. IMHO Canada has also been instrumental in this effort.

**Be the
Difference.
Save a Life**

During this crucial time in Sri Lanka and around the world, as we face monumental challenges in providing better access to quality medical and health care for those most at-risk segments of society, we need YOUR HELP now more than ever. With **just \$15/month** you can meet the nutritional needs of 1 IDP (Internal refugee). Please consider making a donation to IMHO today. You can **donate online via PayPal as a one-time or recurring donation** (the

**with just
\$15/month.
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Donate

amount & frequency of which are up to you).

You can also **donate via mail** by sending a check made out to "IMHO" to the following address:

**IMHO Treasurer
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