

# REHABILITATION

Vol:1      No:1      Dec 90/ Jan/ Feb 1991



## Council Of NGOs. Jaffna

### 100. Rasavinthoddam, Jaffna.



## TO LESSEN THE SUFFERINGS OF THE POOR TO DISCHARGE OUR DUTIES BETTER

The Non-Governmental Organisations functioning in Jaffna district have come together to form a Council of the NGOs of Jaffna. The primary objective of this body is to mobilise the available resources of all those NGOs to fulfil their task in a more meaningful manner in the spheres of relief and rehabilitation. Although the need for body of this nature was felt by many NGOs for a considerable length of time no substantive endeavour was made towards this end. Recent events and past experiences that flowed out of these proved positively the need for the existence of such a body.

An inaugural meeting of the NGOs was held on 18th November, 1990 under the auspices of various organisations. At that meeting members of all the organisations without exception emphasised the fact that the proposed Co-ordinating body is an urgent need in the sense that it will facilitate the functions of the NGOs. It was also pointed out by some of the members that this will pave way to ensure concerted action among the organisation which will undoubtedly help the most needy among the people and provide an impetus to develop and cultivate a cordial relationship among the organisations themselves. Some members did not fail to mention that such an effort towards the formation of a Consortium will not only avert any duplication of work but also on the contrary, enhance the quality of the activities of NGOs. It was unanimously accepted that every NGO should co-operate and pool whatever resources available within its means to achieve this goal.

The members decided to act Fast without losing further time and decided to appoint an adhoc committee comprising seven members to formulate and draft guidelines for the formation. The enthusiasm shown by the members at the start never fizzled out and the intention was translated into reality. Thus at the meeting held on 30th November 1990 the guidelines drafted by the adhoc committee was tabled and accepted unanimously by the members with minor changes. It was decided very firmly that the Council of NGOs will not operate as a supervisory body and each NGO, as usual, could maintain its identity and preserve their independence. It is a good start, a healthy sign and the machinery is set in motion. Undoubtedly it is a path for district/regional co-operation and development.

We have come together to lessen the sufferings of the poor of the region and we shall strive hard to realise this aim more substantively.

— Editor —

**Members Of The Council Of NGOs**  
**( As On 30th November, 1990 )**

<u>NAME OF ORGANISATION</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
1. CARE INTERNATIONAL	15, Kandy Road, Jaffna.
2. CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA	Vaddukkoddai.
3. FORUT	Chulipuram & Point Pedro.
4. HUDEC	P.o. Box: 2. Bishop House, Jaffna.
5. METHODIST MISSION	9, Vembadi Road, Jaffna.
6. NON VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION GROUP	P. O Box: 2, Chavakachcheri.
7. REDD BARNA	15, Rakka Road, Jaffna.
8. REFUGEES REHABILITATION FUND '83.	374, Point Pedro Road, Jaffna.
9. RED CROSS SOCIETY	73, Kandy Road, Jaffna.
10. SARVODAYA	22, Rasavin thoddam, Jaffna.
11. SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND (U.K.)	Karuvempaa Valavu, Rajaveethy, Thirunelveli.
12. TAMILS REHABILITATION ORGANISATION	83/2 K. K. S. Road, Kokkuvil.
13. THE REFUGEES REHABILITATION ORGANISATION	106, 4th Cross Street Jaffna.
14. YOUNG MEN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION	Jaffna Kachcheri, Jaffna.

The following office bearers were elected by the Council for a period of three months:

Chairman:	—	Prof. K. Sivathamby
Secretary:	—	Mr. K. Sathiyoyatha Sarma
Treasurer:	—	Mr. M. Thambithurai
Editor:	—	Mr. K. P. Aravinthan

The following members were elected by the Council to the working Committee:-

1. Prof. K. Sivathamby	—	T. R. R. O.
2. Mr. K. Sathiyoyatha Sarma	—	Redd Barna
3. Mr. M. Thambithurai	—	Y. M. C. A.
4. Mr. K. Sivasubramaniam	—	Sarvodaya
5. Mr. V. Jeyarajasingham	—	S. C. F. (U. K.)
6. Mr. S. Yoganathan	—	T. R. O.
7. Rev. Fr. Govindarajan	—	Methodist Mission
8. Rev. Sister M. P. Terrisin	—	Hudec
9. Mr. K. P. Aravinthan	—	T. R. R. O.

IMPORTANT EVENTS  
DIALOGUE WITH C.A.

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7. Rev. Fr. Govindarajan — Methodist Mission

8. Rev. Sister M. P. Terrisin — Hudec

9. Mr. K. P. Aravinthan — T. R. R. O.

## INITIATIVE BY THE COUNCIL OF N. G. Os. TOWARDS FOOD PRODUCTION DRIVE

The Council of N. G. Os, Jaffna district, has pledged to move forward rapidly to arrest, the worsening food situation in Jaffna district by embarking upon a macro level food production programme. This timely action, no doubt, will alleviate the sufferings of the people to a great extent.

Already 7500 acres of cultivatable land have been earmarked for this programme. Each N. G. O. has taken a portion and provided assistance for land preparation and distributed the materials to the farmers.

The following N. G. Os. took part in this programme:

1. Redd Barna
2. Save the Children Fund (U. K.)
3. Sarvodaya
4. T. R. O.
5. Forut
6. Methodist Mission
7. Red Cross Society
8. T. R. R. O.
9. Church of South India
10. R. R. F. '83
11. N. V. D. A. G.

## "IMPORTANT EVENTS" DIALOUGING WITH G.A

Council of N. G. Os. met the Government Agent of Jaffna and urged the authorities to provide dry rations to the displaced people in various welfare centres in the district on a priority basis. It was emphasized that N. G. Os. could concentrate more on relief oriented rehabilitation programmes, if they are relieved from relief activities for which the state is essentially duty bound. The request was conceded.

The working committee of Council of N. G. Os sought audience with the Government Agent to discuss the shifting of the refugee camps from the schools.

It was agreed inter alia to visit all refugee camps along with the representatives of the Government Agent and Director of Education to explore the possibilities. Subsequently the Council of N. G. Os. decided to construct temporary sheds, to house the displaced people. The work is nearing completion.

## SECRETARIAT FOR THE COUNCIL OF N. G. Os.

A Secretariat for Council of N. G. Os, was set up at No: 100, Rasavinthoddam, Jaffna for its administrative functions.

The following staff were appointed to the Secretariat:

Mr. P. Balakrishnan	—	Administrative Officer
Miss S. Thilakavathy	—	Typist cum Clerk
Mr. A. Saravanabavanandam	—	Office Aide

## TO THE ISLANDS.....

A Special Committee was appointed to visit the Islands and submit a detailed report pertaining to the extent of damage caused to the public and private properties due to the recent military operation, for the purpose of identifying the immediate needs of the people.

The Council has drawn up a programme on the basis of the report furnished by the Committee and has taken steps forward.

## RELIEF TO VALVETTITURAI

Valvettiturai, a hamlet bordering along the coastal belt of North of Jaffna district came under heavy air attack and artillery shelling during the last week of January, 1991.

There had been a mass exodus of refugees to neighbouring villages. Nearly 2500 families fled to other areas and sought refuge in schools, temples and churches.

The council at an emergency meeting decided to despatch food items to the affected people.

The Council has sent 15 metric tons of food items to the affected people.

## ASSISTANCE TO UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS FROM EAST

Having realised the urgent needs of the Undergraduate students from the East who are unable to contact their parents or guardians for their sustenance, Council has taken positive steps to help these unfortunate students with basic necessities such as stationery and clothing. The total sum of Rs. 112,500/- was spent for this programme.

## CHAIRMAN ATTENDS NGO CONSORTIUM IN COLOMBO

The Chairman of the NGO Council, Professor K. Sivathamby, while in Colombo, was invited to attend the Consortium meeting on 31-1-91. The note he presented to the Consortium in the Situation in the North was a welcome material for discussion of the NGO's on matters relating to relief and rehabilitation in the North.

## RELIEF TO VALVETTURALI

Valvetturali, a border township along the coastal belt of North of Jaffna district came under heavy air attack and artillery shelling during the last week of January, 1991.

There had been a mass exodus of refugees to neighbouring villages. Nearly 2500 families fled to other areas and sought refuge in schools, temples and churches.

The Council at an emergency meeting decided to dispatch food items to the affected people.

The Council has sent 15 metric tons of food items to the affected people.



## THE PARTICULARS AS AT 15-02 1991

1. No. of Displaced Families within the districts:-	48,175
2. No. of families lost their normal occupations:-	153,968
3. No. of families who are drawing monthly income more than Rs. 1,500/-	32,445
TOTAL:- 1 + 2 + 3:-	234,588
4. No. of families from other districts:-	8,860
5. Total No. of families at present:-	
Permanent families-	234 588
From other districts	8.860
Total:-	243 448
6. No. of families in the Welfare Centres:- 10,426 - This consists	
Local displaced -	9,718
Other districts -	708
Total -	10,426

## THE PARTICULARS OF REFUGEE CAMPS IN JAFFNA

AS AT 15-02-91

AGA Division	Total No. of Welfare Centres	Total No. of Families	Total No. of Members
01. Jaffna	06	564	2,760
02. Nallur	07	209	773
03. Kopay	05	224	1,001
04. Tellipalai	18	879	3,614
05. Sandilipay	23	416	1,532
06. Uduvil	19	685	2,415
07. Chankanai	08	187	797
08. Karaveddy	06	224	913
09. Point Pedro	24	3,010	11,897
10. Maruthankeny	11	499	1,885
11. Chavakachcheri	19	1,240	5,301
12. Velanai	08	1,840	6,780
13. Kayts	03	459	1,859
14. Delft	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>10,436</b>	<b>41,527</b>

THE PARTICULARS AS AT 15-02-1991

4	No. of Displaced Families within the districts-	48,173
2	No. of families lost their normal occupations-	133,968
3	No. of families who are drawing monthly income more than Rs. 1,500/-	32,442
TOTAL - 1 + 2 + 3-		214,583
5	No. of families from other districts-	8,800
6	Total No. of families at present-	223,383
	Retrenched families-	8,440
	From other districts-	214,943
	Total-	223,383
6	No. of families in the Welfare Centers - 10,426 - This consists	
	Local displaced -	9,718
	Other districts -	708
	Total -	10,426

THE PARTICULARS OF REFUGEE CAMPS IN JAFNA

AS AT 15-02-91

AGA Division	Total No. of Welfare Centres	Total No. of Families	Total No. of Members
01 Jaffna	06	364	2,760
02 Nallur	07	208	773
03 Kopy	02	224	1,001
04 Telipalai	18	879	3,614
05 Sridinay	23	446	1,322
06 Udaval	19	685	2,412
07 Chankal	08	181	707
08 Kanavady	08	324	913
09 Point Pedro	24	2,916	11,997
10 Maruthankandy	11	499	1,882
11 Chavakkacherry	19	1,240	2,301
12 Yakkal	08	1,241	4,731
13 Kaye	03	439	1,839
14 Delli	-	-	-
Total	157	10,426	41,527



