

UP DATE ON FLOOD EMERGENCY RESPONSE BY KINNIYA VISION

(13th January 2011)

General situation: Water level still continues to rise due to receding waters from Kantale, Polannaurwa and Habarana areas. Waters discharged from many tanks flow through Kinniya and creep into many lying residential areas resulting in putting many houses under siege. The other important development is collapse of one of the main bridge, between Kinniya and Kurincharkeny. Kurincharkeny Island has been disconnected from the main town causing severe difficulties in accessing essential services by the people. Further many links roads still under water hindering the relief affords reaching many isolated villages, Samavachativu, Poovarasantivu, Pullichchantivu, Neduntheevu, Kandal kudu and Kiran ,

General emergency relief activities: Trincomalee Government Agent, GA visited Kinniya and some affected areas to study and get first hand information on the situation. Government continues to provide cook meals/dry rations to the families at welfare camps. Urban council has helped evacuating/transporting people from affected villages by deploying four wheel tractors. MHO office also active in responding to the medical needs of the flood affected people. For the first time the civil organizations functioning in Kinniya and local politicians have met today and discussed about the flood situation and set up coordination mechanism and some other decisions regarding the relief efforts to make the relief response more effective. . Few local NGOs and Private Individuals have provided some relief services to the affected displaced people. Kinniya Ulema Sabha has provided dry rations to the families displaced. Jamath-E-Islami has provided critical medical services deploying a medial team to around 2000 people in most of the affected areas.

Responses by Kinniya Vision: Kinniya Vision has put the entire staff members and hundreds of volunteers into emergency relief works for the last few days and continues to work 24 hours. Services provided include the following:

1. Evacuation of stranded people
2. Transport facilities to medical team and relief material
3. Provision of cooked meals and other essential items
4. Supporting coordination mechanism of relief coordinating committee.

Evacuation of stranded people: We have put fleet of four wheel tractors and fiber Glass boats (OBM) to evacuate stranded people from affected areas which also include transportation between Kinniya and Kuddikarachi Bridge and Kinniya and Kurincharkerny Bridge and Kinniya and Samavachchativu brigde. So far we have transported 3 thousands individuals at these points. Service is still continuing.

Transport facilities to medical team and relief material: We have also provided transport facilities to Kinniya MOH office to reach out disconnected villages to provide medical services. Also we provided many local NGOs and private individuals transporting the relief materials to affected areas. The service is still continuing.

Provision of cooked meals and other essential items: The critical service we provided was supply of cooked meals to the families who have been not reached, Samavachativu and Kinniya. So far we have distributed 3 hundred families. We planned to cover others areas, Kiran, too in the future. Service is continuing. We have also distributed some essential non food items to the needy people.

Conclusion: Overall relief affords are improving and Local and international NGOS and private individuals have completed their assessment and are engaged in helping people. The full damages caused to crops and properties have not been assessed yet by the government. The media coverage given on the Trincomalee district has been not adequate. However, there are still people who desperately need assistance in the affected areas.