Report of:

VISIT TO VAKARAI, BATTICALOA ON 20TH November 2006

In coordination with the Civil Coordinator Officer (Brigade 233) of Batticaloa, CHA organized an official visit to Vakarai (LTTE Controlled area) with the under-mentioned NGOs representatives participated during this visits. The NGOs are World Vision, CCF, EHED, IROP, MOH, DPDHS, Teaching Hospital Batticaloa, ICRC, UNICEF, WFP, Sarvodaya, GSS and Media.

During our visits we observed about 5000 children's below 10 years age were roaming tin the street with out proper Food, Malnutrition, Clothing, Medical Care sickly looking. We learned that their only food is Roasted (Burned) Crabs and cooked Murunka Leaves (Drumstick Leaves) with coconut. 85% of the IDPs are from the Trincomalee District ei, Muthur, Sampoor, Kiliveddy, Kattaparichchan, Pallikudieruppu, Kathiravely, Poonahar, Echalampattu, Kandalady, Vinayagapuram & etc…

We conducted randomized interviews with IDPs and learned most of them are willing to get back to their own places, if there is public transport facilities are available most of the problems such as essential commodities, medical attention would definitely ease. Worst part of the situation is there is no proper shelter for them to stay, continues shelling by Army most of them are mentally shocked and wondering what to do, action should be taken to remove the barrier (Open The Road) for easy access. Also range of about 02 km radius from the Vakarai-Hospital should be declared as Peace Zone area so that the IDPs can access to their medical & other needs. The urgent need of the IDPs at this moment are Food, Medical, Clothes and Transport.