

**Provisioning of Basic Needs for the  
Internally Displaced in  
Northern Sri Lanka:  
The Role of  
Non – Governmental Organizations**

**By**

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**M.Sc. in Human Security**

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## DECLARATION

The work described in this thesis was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. C.K.M.Deheragoda and a report on this has not been submitted in whole or in part to any University for another Degree Programme.

  
.....

C.P.Hewawickrama

Date 9/03/2005

## DECLARATION BY THE SUPERVISOR

I certify that the above statement made by the candidate is true and that this thesis is suitable for submission to the University for the purpose of evaluation.



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## **DEDICATION**

**This Research Report is dedicated to all those who work for the  
betterment of IDPs**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS / ABBRIVIATIONS

<b>ACRP</b>	-	<b>Australian Community Rehabilitation Program</b>
<b>ADB</b>	-	<b>Asian Development Bank</b>
<b>CARE</b>	-	<b>Care International</b>
<b>CWDR</b>	-	<b>Centre for Women's Development and Rehabilitation</b>
<b>CBO</b>	-	<b>Community Based Organisation</b>
<b>CHA</b>	-	<b>Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies</b>
<b>CPA</b>	-	<b>Centre for Policy Alternatives</b>
<b>CSO</b>	-	<b>Civil Society Organisations</b>
<b>CTF</b>	-	<b>Community Trust Fund</b>
<b>D.S.</b>	-	<b>Divisional Secretariat</b>
<b>DCC</b>	-	<b>District Coordinating Committee</b>
<b>DRC</b>	-	<b>Danish Refugee Council</b>
<b>ECHO</b>	-	<b>European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office</b>
<b>FORUT</b>	-	<b>Forut Sri Lanka</b>
<b>FRC</b>	-	<b>Family Rehabilitation Centre</b>
<b>GAA</b>	-	<b>German Agro Action</b>
<b>GOSL</b>	-	<b>Government of Sri Lanka</b>
<b>GTZ</b>	-	<b>German Development Cooperation</b>
<b>HBF</b>	-	<b>Humanitarian Brotherhood Foundation</b>
<b>HRC</b>	-	<b>Human Rights Commission</b>
<b>ICRC</b>	-	<b>International Committee of the Red Cross</b>
<b>INGO</b>	-	<b>International Non-Governmental Organisation</b>
<b>IMSMA</b>	-	<b>Information Management System for Mine Action</b>
<b>IDP</b>	-	<b>Internally Displaced Persons</b>
<b>IFSP</b>	-	<b>Integrated Food Security Programme</b>
<b>IHO</b>	-	<b>International Health Organization</b>
<b>IOM</b>	-	<b>International Organization for Migration</b>
<b>ILO</b>	-	<b>International Labour Organisation</b>
<b>IPKF</b>	-	<b>Indian Peace Keeping Force</b>
<b>JICA</b>	-	<b>Japanese International Cooperation Agency</b>
<b>KERO</b>	-	<b>Killinochchi East Rehabilitation Organisation</b>
<b>LTTE</b>	-	<b>Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam</b>
<b>MAAR</b>	-	<b>Mannar Association for Relief and Rehabilitation</b>
<b>MG</b>	-	<b>Multilateral Group</b>
<b>MDG</b>	-	<b>Millennium Development Goals</b>
<b>MOU</b>	-	<b>Memorandum of Understanding</b>
<b>MRRR</b>	-	<b>Ministry of Rehabilitation, resettlement and Refugees</b>
<b>MWDO</b>	-	<b>Manthai West Development Organisation</b>
<b>NEDRO</b>	-	<b>Nedunkerni Development Rehabilitation Organisation</b>
<b>NORAD</b>	-	<b>Norwegian Aid Agency</b>
<b>NEERP</b>	-	<b>North East Emergency Reconstruction Programme</b>
<b>NECORD</b>	-	<b>North East Community Rehabilitation &amp; Development Project</b>
<b>NEIAP</b>	-	<b>North East Irrigation &amp; Agriculture Project</b>
<b>NEP</b>	-	<b>Northern and Eastern Provinces</b>
<b>NGO</b>	-	<b>Non-Governmental Organisations</b>
<b>OXFAM</b>	-	<b>Oxfam of United Kingdom</b>

<b>PDRO</b>	-	<b>Poonaryn Development Rehabilitation Organisation</b>
<b>PMDO</b>	-	<b>Poonaryn Mulankavil Development Organisation</b>
<b>PPCU</b>	-	<b>Policy Planning and Co-ordination Unit</b>
<b>PSEDC</b>	-	<b>Pre-school Education Development Centre</b>
<b>PSL</b>	-	<b>Population Services Lanka</b>
<b>PTA</b>	-	<b>Prevention of Terrorism Act</b>
<b>RDF</b>	-	<b>Rural Development Foundation</b>
<b>REERDO</b>	-	<b>Rural Economic Education Research and Development Organisation</b>
<b>RRAN</b>	-	<b>Resettlement and Rehabilitation Authority of North</b>
<b>SEDO</b>	-	<b>Social Economical Development Organization</b>
<b>SIHRN</b>	-	<b>Sub-Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Relief Needs</b>
<b>SLAF</b>	-	<b>Sri Lanka Armed Forces</b>
<b>SLRCS</b>	-	<b>Sri Lanka Red Cross Society</b>
<b>SLCDF</b>	-	<b>Sri Lanka Canada Development Fund</b>
<b>TECH</b>	-	<b>The Economic Consultancy House</b>
<b>TEEDOR</b>	-	<b>Tamil Ealam Economic Development Organisation</b>
<b>TRO</b>	-	<b>Tamil Rehabilitation Organization</b>
<b>TULF</b>	-	<b>Tamil United Liberation Front</b>
<b>UN</b>	-	<b>United Nations</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	-	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>UNDG</b>	-	<b>United Nations Development Group</b>
<b>UNHCR</b>	-	<b>United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	-	<b>United Nations Children's Fund</b>
<b>UXO</b>	-	<b>Unexploded Ordinance</b>
<b>UAS</b>	-	<b>Unified Assistance Scheme</b>
<b>UNDAF</b>	-	<b>United Nations Development Assistance Framework</b>
<b>UNP</b>	-	<b>United National Party</b>
<b>VSSO</b>	-	<b>Voluntary Social Service Act</b>
<b>WFP</b>	-	<b>World Food Programme</b>
<b>WB</b>	-	<b>World Bank</b>
<b>WC</b>	-	<b>Welfare Camp</b>
<b>WODEPT</b>	-	<b>Women's Organisation for Development, Equality, Peace and Temperance</b>
<b>WUSC</b>	-	<b>World University Service Canada</b>

## ABSTRACT

*Non-State actors, from civil society or community-based institutions to armed groups and private corporations, play a crucial part in heightening or lessening human security. Due to the prevailing uncertainties in the peace process so called neutral INGOs and NGOs are being seen by some as the best institutional setup to carry out the on going and proposed relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the North and the East.*

*General Objective of this study is to examine the quality of supportive, substitute and alternative roles played by the NGOs in provisioning basic needs to the IDPs in Northern Sri Lanka. Persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalised violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disaster, and who have not crossed an international recognised state border are defined by the United Nations (UN) as “**Internally Displaced Persons**” or IDPs.*

*There is thus no assumption that people are conscious of their needs. Correspondingly, it is well known that we may want, wish, desire or demand something that is not really needed in the sense of being necessary. **Necessary for what? For the person to be a human person.** The core immediate needs for IDPs and refugees were defined as ensuring physical, legal and material security and protection for returnees, livelihood support, and the promotion and adherence with the UN's Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into all programme activities. Economic recovery and capacity-building to strengthen relevant institutions and community based organisations were also identified as medium term needs to address the unique features of vulnerable and minority populations.*

*Understanding the complex interplay between the expectations of beneficiaries and programme planning of the NGOs and policies of the donors, rapidly changing political situation and especially in a no war no peace situation coupled with uncertainties, sufficient attention was given to call for an appropriate mix of quantitative and qualitative data. To*

*this study can be presented under several stages and was a combination of a desk research and a field survey. Although priority was given to qualitative methods a quantitative method was used to analyse the beneficiary satisfaction.*

*Beneficiary Satisfaction surveys and informal discussions were carried out in Hussainiyapuram, a new settlement in Karambe in Kalpitiya Peninsula in Puttalam District and Malpura a Sinhalese Welfare Center in the same peninsula located by the side of Puttalam-Kalpitiya road. In the Jeevothayam Welfare Centre, Nanaddan D.S.Division, Pasalai Welfare Center, Mannar D.S.Division, Pappamodda in Thirukatheeswaram and Nedunkandal in Adampan both completely destroyed villages in Manthai West A.G.A Division, Mannar District. In Sundarapuram relocated village in Vavuniya District and Grevelkanda WC in Padaviya D.S.Division in Anuradhapura District.*

*From the beneficiary satisfaction survey it is very clear the beneficiaries identified different NGOs/INGOs as providers of different types of services. Some agencies like the UN agencies provide services in several numbers of areas. Apart from the IDPs of the Sinhala border villagers and some IDPs and returnees in Puttalam all the other IDPs and returnees rated high with regard to assistance and services provided by the NGOs/INGOs. Some of them perceived that they could get the assistance and service only through the NGOs. Some liked the way the NGOs worked where they also had a say in the process. They liked their techniques and space for participation.*

*The NGOs community and the government both play an essential role in provisioning humanitarian and development assistance to the IDPs as well as returnees. Therefore NGOs as well as government departments and ministries have a heightened responsibility for ensuring successful, responsible actions. The larger and longer-term impacts from work being done must be acknowledged and organisations must work together to avoid past mistakes and learn from the successes of others.*

*Channa P Hewawickrama*

*15<sup>th</sup> September 2004*

# Chapter 1

## 1.1 Introduction

Non-State actors, from civil society or community-based institutions to armed groups and private corporations, play a crucial part in heightening or lessening human security. The measures required to enhance human security often call for action from numerous non- State actors, particularly NGOs, in addressing, for example, the needs of the displaced populations, assisting governments in preserving and restoring fragile environments. Human security can serve as a platform to call on non-State actors, along with States, to help in dealing with the causes of global insecurity.

It is said and believed that non – State actors are particularly well suited to bring about human security in internal armed conflict situations. During internal conflicts, non-state actors benefit from closer involvement with the local community and have greater potential for local capacity building than their traditional counterparts. They can and do play many roles in the protection of human security.

These entities function without the constraints imposed upon State institutions by their own political and legal policy mandate, and with increased access to areas inaccessible to official agencies.

Recent political developments in Sri Lanka have advanced the possibilities for a sustainable peace. In February 2002 the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE, signed a ceasefire agreement, and have, since September 2002 held several rounds of talks in Bangkok and in Oslo, facilitated by the Norwegian Government. As an outcome of the Oslo talks the Sub-Committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Needs (SIHRN) was setup with a Secretariat in Kilinochchi to identify the humanitarian and reconstruction needs of the North East and to coordinate

resource assistance. This transitional environment, whilst moving purposefully, has still to deal with many uncertainties. They stem from the fears, hopes and aspirations of all the communities in Sri Lanka specifically in the North and the East.

Thus at present in a no-war no-peace situation, post Tokyo aid pledge of US\$ 4.5 billion, a new paradigm for sustainable peace, the Sri Lankan Government, LTTE, political parties, business community, international and local NGOs and other civil society groups are currently exploring their options and capacities to respond to the challenges and opportunities that the emerging peace process will bring. Due to the prevailing uncertainties in the peace process so called neutral INGOs and NGOs are being seen by some as the best institutional setup to carry out the on going and proposed relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the North and the East. In an environment where the Government of Sri Lanka in it's policy and working plans to rehabilitate, reconstruct and develop the Northeast, the LTTE in it's relief and development activities, expect a major contribution, participation and partnership from the Non-governmental organizations its important to look into the work expectations and satisfaction of the NGO activities. This study is an attempt to look into those aspects.

## **1.2 Literature Survey**

First a thorough survey on the existing literature on INGO, NGO and CBO interventions with regard to IDPs and returnees was carried out. Though there weren't any study report directly on the same theme that is the role of the NGO with regard to IDPs, there were enough literature directly relevant to the Study. Certain IDP related studies mentioned the NGO activities. Among them were the study conducted by the World Bank on IDPs, aimed at understanding the impact of