



Post-Conflict Measures and the Cost of Rebuilding Sri Lanka to Restore Living Conditions

I. Introduction

1. The terrorism of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (“LTTE”) that engulfed Sri Lanka for over a quarter of a century devastated the economic network and social fabric of the entire country, especially the Northern and Eastern Provinces.¹ The damage was extensive and included the destruction of the industrial and agricultural economic infrastructures, the transport system, telecommunications and the water supply system.² The LTTE purposely targeted places of importance to Sri Lanka’s infrastructure, including bombing the Central Bank of Sri Lanka,³ the International Airport,⁴ and Colombo’s Central Bus Stand,⁵ causing high numbers of civilian casualties and adversely affecting the economy. The inaccessibility of the North and the Eastern Provinces due to the conflict prevented economic development, the basic repair of the road network, water supply and irrigation in those areas.⁶ The social infrastructure, particularly schools and hospitals in many areas had been destroyed before the LTTE retreated to the Mullaitivu area at the final stage of the battle in 2009.⁷
2. The conflict left the Government with the task of completely reconstructing the Northern and Eastern Provinces. This also involved the rehabilitation and reintegration of former LLTE combatants, including child soldiers and the rebuilding of the conflict-affected communities. In the Eastern Province, the situation improved with the launch of “Reawakening of the East” (Negenahira Navodaya) in July 2007, which focused on “improving infrastructure such as electricity, water, housing and rebuilding of roads.”⁸ In respect of the Northern Province, on 7 May 2009, President Rajapaksa appointed a Presidential Task Force for Resettlement, Development and Security – Northern Province (“PTF”) under the chairmanship of the Minister of Economic Development. The PTF’s objective was to formulate a strategic framework for the revitalization of the area and to

¹ See Attachment 1: Humanitarian Operation Factual Analysis, July 2006-May 2009, Ministry of Defence, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, July 2011, pp. 7-8.

² See Attachment 2: “From Conflict to Stability – Northern Province, Sri Lanka”, Report of the Presidential Task Force for Resettlement, Development and Security – Northern Province, 2009-2012, (“PTF Report”) pp. iii and 45.

³ The LTTE suicide attack on the Central Bank of Sri Lanka on 31 January 1996 killed 91 people and injured more than 1400 others: See Ministry of Defence and Urban Development website: http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=LTTE_Accountability_Central_Bank_bombed_31_January_1996_20_140131_03. See image from Ministry of Defence and Urban Development of Sri Lanka website: http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20081210_09.

⁴ The LTTE suicide attack of Sri Lanka’s only international airport on 24 July 2001 destroyed several passenger jets including an Airbus A-340 and an Airbus A-330. This attack had a devastating impact on the tourism industry for many years. See Humanitarian Operation Factual Analysis, July 2006-May 2009, Ministry of Defence, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, July 2011, p. 8.

⁵ The central bus station attack in Colombo on 21 April 1987 killed over 100 people: See Humanitarian Operation Factual Analysis, July 2006-May 2009, Ministry of Defence, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, July 2011, p. 6.

⁶ The first international investment promotion event focusing on the previously inaccessible Eastern Province took place in Colombo on 17 January 2014: See Attachment 3: “Invest in East”, The First International Investment Forum of Eastern Sri Lanka, Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo”, Daily News, 17 January 2014. Daily Mirror, 20 January 2014.

⁷ PTF Report, p. iii.

⁸ See Attachment 3: “Invest in East”, The First International Investment Forum of Eastern Sri Lanka, Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo”, Daily News, 17 January 2014. Daily Mirror, 20 January 2014.



implement a rapid resettlement and recovery programme. The PTF launched a 180-day programme, named “UthuruVasanthaya”, to facilitate the relief, humanitarian assistance and resettlement in addition to rehabilitating basic facilities in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. In May 2012, it was reported by the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Development, that “the government had set aside 425 billion rupees for the reconstruction activities in the Northern and Eastern provinces from the year 2006 to 2011.”⁹ The sum of 53 million rupees was expended “during the period from 2008 to 2011 for the development activities of the Eastern Province” alone.¹⁰

3. This paper provides an overview of the significant post-conflict measures and costs of rebuilding Sri Lanka to restore normal living conditions in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, including the cost of the resettlement of IDPs, the rehabilitation and reintegration of former LTTE combatants including child soldiers, the restoration of education, health and law enforcement services, the cost of de-mining operations, and the restoration of the infrastructure of the agriculture sector, livestock, fisheries, electricity, water, bridges, roads, railways, banking and finance facilities.

II. The Human Cost

(i) Resettlement of IDPs and Provision of Humanitarian Assistance

4. At the end of the conflict, the Government of Sri Lanka needed to provide facilities for nearly 280,000 displaced persons who had been held hostage by the LTTE.¹¹ The resettlement task was complicated by the concern that “most LTTE combatants left the LTTE at the last moment and merged with the civilian population to be rescued by the government forces.”¹² As soon as it was able, the PTF established welfare centres at Menik Farm and in and around Vavuniya to provide basic facilities such as shelter, water, sanitation, food, clothing, medical facilities and psychosocial support in order to assist IDPs in their recovery from traumatic experiences and deprivation.¹³ In addition, the PTF supplied educational, spiritual support, vocational training and communication facilities.¹⁴ The PTF’s 180-day programme was launched at a cost of Rs. Million 13, 296.78 with the objective of settling the displaced persons as quickly and safely as possible in their places of origin and providing them with better infrastructure and services than they had previously.¹⁵ The Government of Sri Lanka succeeded in resettling almost all of the IDPs within two and a half years.¹⁶ The eventual cost is believed to have been almost Rs4.4 billion.¹⁷ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Food Programme acknowledged that the voluntary resettlement of IDPs in the East has been undertaken in keeping

⁹ See Attachment 4: “Sri Lanka Spends Rs 425 billion for North East Development”, 29 March 2012, Colombo Page. In this report, it is stated that “95 percent of the reconstruction activities in the two provinces had been completed” by March 2012.

¹⁰ See Attachment 5: Keynote Address of Hon. Governor, Eastern Province Rear Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama at the Session on 06 November 2012 of Second Assembly of the Eastern Provincial Council, p. 5.

¹¹ PTF Report, p. xi.

¹² PTF Report, p. 9.

¹³ PTF Report, p. xi. For additional information, see Attachment 6: Letter from GA Chandrasiri, Governor, Northern Province to the Secretary of the Presidential Task Force for Resettlement, dated 19.05.2011; Letter from N. Vethanayahan to Secretary of the Special Bureau for Reconciliation, dated 20.10.2014; See also, Letter from Kumarasiri re “Registration of IDPs” dated 4.12.2008.

¹⁴ PTF Report, p. xi.

¹⁵ PTF Report, p. xi.

¹⁶ PTF Report, p. xi.

¹⁷ PTF Report, p. xxiii.



with international standards.¹⁸ In relation to those individuals who had allegedly disappeared or been abducted between 10 June 1990 and 19 May 2009, President Rajapaksa set up a Commission of Inquiry in August 2013 to investigate and report upon this matter.¹⁹ The remit of this commission and the appointment of international experts took place on 14 July 2014.²⁰ The Government is also taking steps to introduce legislation to assist civilians to recover property and land which they lost as a result of the LTTE.²¹

(ii) The Cost of Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Former LTTE Combatants

5. After the end of the conflict in May 2009, the government invested Rs2.5bn in the “rehabilitation of ex-LTTE cadres” including those who committed war crimes.²² The Commissioner General of Rehabilitation, Major General Sudantha Ranasinghe stated that at the beginning of the rehabilitation programme, there had been 11,664 personnel at 24 rehabilitation facilities.²³ From the 11,664 combatants who had surrendered and opted to benefit from a rehabilitation programme, about “5% or 594 of them were children in the age group of 12-18 years conscripted for military service by the LTTE,” including 231 girls.²⁴ The PTF Report recorded that within a period of seven months, the Government of Sri Lanka was able to reintegrate the first 713 of the rehabilitated, ex-combatants into their families and effectively into society. The report confirms that: “Since then, another 7,416 have been reintegrated over a period of one and a half years. This number includes 4,931 adult males, 1891 adult females, 363 boys and 231 girls. Accordingly, the entirety of ex-child combatants has been rehabilitated and released to their parents.”²⁵

(iii) Education

6. As a result of the conflict, schools in the North and the East of Sri Lanka experienced severe displacement of students. Temporary learning centres were established in the relief villages from December 2008 to May 2009.²⁶ By May 2009, “most of the schools except in locations like Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya Towns had been damaged to some degree.”²⁷ Many of the school buildings had been structurally damaged and lacked basic furniture. The 180-day programme identified two key priorities: (i) the provision of textbooks, uniforms and learning equipment; and (ii) the repair and reconstruction of the schools.²⁸ Detailed statistics setting out the extent of the provisions made by the Ministry of Education to schools in the North of Sri Lanka are provided in the PTF Report.²⁹ Since 2009, 1,630 school buildings have been repaired at a total

¹⁸ See Attachment 7: “Nagenahira Navodaya in full swing”, Policy Research and Information Unit of the Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka, 2008.

¹⁹ See Attachment 8: The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, published on 15th August 2013: Proclamation by the President of Sri Lanka. PS No.: CSA/7/8/15. Gazette No. 1823/42.

²⁰ See Attachment 9: The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, published on 15th July 2014: Proclamation by the President of Sri Lanka. PS No.: CSA/7/8/15. Gazette No. 1871/18. Further experts were appointed on 19th August 2014: See Attachment 10: The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, published on 22nd August 2014: Proclamation by the President of Sri Lanka. PS No.: CSA/7/8/15. Gazette No. 1876/40.

²¹ See Attachment 11: The Prescription (Special Provisions) Bill, Issued on 14.7.2014.

²² See: http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20110806_03.

²³ See: http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=20110806_03.

²⁴ PTF Report, p. 20.

²⁵ PTF Report, p. 22.

²⁶ PTF Report, p. 87.

²⁷ PTF Report, p. 90.

²⁸ PTF Report, p. 87.

²⁹ PTF Report, p. 87.



cost of Rs.1,341 million, the entirety of which has been borne by the Government. By 2012, “919 schools [were] fully functional in the Northern Province with a total student population of 260,582 having the services of 14,081 teachers.”³⁰ Further details of the different projects initiated to restore and rebuild educational facilities are provided in the PTF Report.³¹

(iv) Health

7. As a result of the conflict, many health institutions in the Vanni were badly affected.³² The priorities of the Government included the “restoration of curative and preventive health facilities by restructuring infrastructure and increasing human resources” in the districts of Vavuniya, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu.³³ The expenditure and source of funding for the refurbishment, construction and improvement works to the health institutions in the districts of Vavuniya,³⁴ Mannar,³⁵ Kilinochchi,³⁶ and Mullaitivu³⁷ is set out in the PTF Report³⁸ alongside a list of the major development activities undertaken in these districts from May 2009 to November 2011.³⁹ In the Eastern Province, at least 30 hospitals, closed during the conflict, had been reopened.⁴⁰ The number of health staff including consultants, doctors, nursing officers and paramedic officers has also been significantly increased within the Province.⁴¹

(v) Restoration of Elections

8. In 2009, the right of franchise was restored to thousands of residents of the North and the Eastern Provinces.⁴² The Government of Sri Lanka acted expeditiously to enable Provincial Council Elections to take place in the Eastern province shortly after the East was liberated from the LTTE. The Presidential election of January 2010 was the first election in decades in which the residents of the North and East were able to vote freely without being subjected to violence by the LTTE.⁴³

III. De-Mining Operations

9. Prior to the resettlement of those individuals who had been displaced, the Government had to undertake the complex task of demining the affected areas. It was estimated that “there would be around one million Anti-Personnel and Anti-Tank Land Mines and Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs) spread over the Northern and Eastern Provinces. The confirmed hazardous area in the

³⁰ PTF Report, p. 90. See also Attachment 12: Letter from S. Sathiyaseelan to Mr S.B. Divaratna, dated 21.10.2014: Northern Province Education Sector Investment 2009-2014.

³¹ PTF Report, pp. 90-95.

³² PTF Report, p. 46.

³³ PTF Report, p. 46.

³⁴ PTF Report, p. 58.

³⁵ PTF Report, p. 63.

³⁶ PTF Report, p. 67.

³⁷ PTF Report, p. 73.

³⁸ PTF Report, p. 58.

³⁹ PTF Report: for Vavuniya district, see pp. 58-59; for Mannar, see p. 64; for Kilinochchi, see pp. 67-70; for Mullaitivu, see pp. 73-74.

⁴⁰ See Attachment 5: Keynote Address of Hon. Governor, Eastern Province Rear Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama at the Session on 06 November 2012 of Second Assembly of the Eastern Provincial Council, p. 11.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² See Attachment 1: Humanitarian Operation Factual Analysis, July 2006-May 2009, Ministry of Defence, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, July 2011, pp. 80-81.

⁴³ See Attachment 1: Humanitarian Operation Factual Analysis, July 2006-May 2009, Ministry of Defence, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, July 2011, pp. 80-81.



Northern province was 1418sq km of which 1318sqkm were cleared by 31 May 2012.”⁴⁴The PTF Report recorded that “more than 640 villages were contaminated with land mines and the number of land mines and UXOs could be in the range of 1.5 million.”⁴⁵ In 2009, the Government expended Rs.2,200 million for demining operations.⁴⁶ Humanitarian demining operations by the Sri Lankan army commenced as early as mid-2002 during the ceasefire period.⁴⁷ In 2003, the Ministry of Defence sought assistance from the US State Department to ensure that the humanitarian demining work was carried out in accordance with international standards and that proper training was provided to the Army. Operations pursuant to international standards began in September 2003 under the guidance of the Ronco Consulting Cooperation.⁴⁸ The de-mining operations by the Sri Lankan Army were assisted by various NGOs.⁴⁹ The Ministry of Economic Development reports that as of 31 December 2013, a total area of 1,980,943,904 sqm has been cleared since 2002, with 84,011,538sqm left to clear.⁵⁰

IV. The Cost of Rebuilding the Infrastructure

10. Prior to the resettlement of the IDPs, the Government of Sri Lanka “spearheaded a rapid rehabilitation of infrastructure.”⁵¹ This involved investing “approximately Rs.6.6 billion to procure earth moving and construction machinery and heavy equipment required for reconstruction of infrastructure.”⁵² The Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development⁵³ spent “nearly Rs.4.4 billion for rehabilitation of infrastructure identified as priorities under the 180-day programme.”⁵⁴

(i) Agriculture

11. Agriculture in Sri Lanka is the “most vital economic sector and a source of livelihood providing basic food security for 80 per cent of the population in the Northern Province.”⁵⁵ Due to the protracted violence of the LTTE, “most of the crop lands were abandoned.”⁵⁶ The 180-day programme provided for “recovery assistance” to repair agro wells⁵⁷ and damaged tanks, to clear shrub jungles in cultivable fields, to provide water pumps for lift irrigation, and to supply free seeds, agriculture equipment, tractors and subsidized fertilizer.⁵⁸ This assistance enabled a

⁴⁴ PTF Report, p. 29.

⁴⁵ PTF Report, p. 29.

⁴⁶ PTF Report, p. 29.

⁴⁷ <http://slnmac.gov.lk/sla-hdu>.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹ PTF Report, p. 31.

⁵⁰ <http://slnmac.gov.lk/sla-hdu>. See also Attachment 13: Annual Progress Report on National Mine Action Programme Year 2011 from the National Mine Action Center (NMAC), Ministry of Economic Development; Attachment 14: Annual Progress Report on National Mine Action Programme Year 2012 from the National Mine Action Center (NMAC), Ministry of Economic Development; Attachment 15: Annual Progress Report on National Mine Action Programme Year 2013 from the National Mine Action Center (NMAC), Ministry of Economic Development.

⁵¹ PTF Report, p. 32.

⁵² PTF Report, p. 32.

⁵³ The Ministry of Nation Building and Estate Infrastructure Development is presently the Ministry of Economic Development.

⁵⁴ PTF Report, p. 32.

⁵⁵ PTF Report, p. 129.

⁵⁶ PTF, p. 132.

⁵⁷ PTF Report, p. 132 and the table titled “Reconstruction of Food Production Wells (Agro wells) by the Government in 2010.”

⁵⁸ PFT Report, p. 129.



reduction of abandoned paddy lands from 183,299 to 22,339 acres.⁵⁹ Nearly 88% of the abandoned paddy lands were brought under cultivation in Maha in 2011/12.⁶⁰ In the Eastern Province, “during the war years...only half of the cultivable paddy land in the east” was exploited.⁶¹ During the conflict, nearly 47,523 acres of coconut lands had been destroyed. Expenditure incurred by the Coconut Cultivation Board for the development of cultivation in the Northern Province for 2009 was Rs 9.8mn, for 2010 it amounted to Rs.5.0mn, and in 2011, it was Rs47.8mn.⁶² In respect of the Palmyrah crop,⁶³ in 2008-2010, the quantity of seeds planted as replacement of destroyed trees cost Rs8.5mn.⁶⁴ In the Eastern Province, under the Negenahira Navodaya programme, a sum of Rs 2,104 million has been spent to put up infrastructures including paddy stores and rural agricultural institutions.⁶⁵

(ii) Livestock

12. The 30-year conflict inflicted deep damage upon the livestock industry. The entire populations of goats, pigs and poultry had been eradicated by the conflict, while an estimated 121,000 cattle and 17,000 buffaloes were grazing wild across the province.⁶⁶ Within the scope of the 180-day programme, Rs.162.3mn was invested in the revitalization of the livestock industry in Sri Lanka. This investment enabled: (i) the rounding up of 50,000 displaced cattle in the region; (ii) the establishment of 70 dairy villages and supply of 1,400 dairy cows to the beneficiaries; (iii) the establishment of animal banks to provide temporary shelter of purchased cattle; (iv) the strengthening and reorganisation of existing livestock breeder co-op societies (LIBCO); (v) the training of livestock farmers on entrepreneurship development; (vi) the training of youths on artificial insemination; (vii) the training of ex-combatants on livestock farming; (viii) immunization of livestock and poultry against contagious diseases; (ix) the establishment of a poultry and goat rearing programmes; (x) the re-establishment of the existing milk collection network; (xi) the provision of motorcycles to implement the animal breeding programme; (x) the renovation of existing veterinary offices; and (xi) the procurement of vehicles for transport of cattle and poultry.⁶⁷ Due to the terrorist activity of the LTTE, the fresh milk collecting network in the Eastern Province was broken down and the stock of animals degraded due to poor management. Under the Negenahira Navodaya programme, Rs 1,337 million was provided to construct 10 veterinary offices, 9 milk processing centres, 14 milk collecting and chilling centres and one institution for breeding animals.⁶⁸

⁵⁹ PTF Report, p. 129.

⁶⁰ PTF Report, p. 129. See also the table on p. 131 titled “Cultivation of Abandoned Paddy Lands from Year 2009 to 2011.”

⁶¹ See Attachment 3: “‘Invest in East’, The First International Investment Forum of Eastern Sri Lanka, Hotel Taj Samudra, Colombo”, Daily News, 17 January 2014. Daily Mirror, 20 January 2014.

⁶² PTF Report, p. 143.

⁶³ The Palmyrah crop is the major industrial and homestead crop in the Northern Province.

⁶⁴ PTF Report, p. 141.

⁶⁵ See Attachment 5: Keynote Address of Hon. Governor, Eastern Province Rear Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama at the Session on 06 November 2012 of Second Assembly of the Eastern Provincial Council, p. 9.

⁶⁶ PTF Report, p. 175.

⁶⁷ PTF Report, p. 181.

⁶⁸ See Attachment 5: Keynote Address of Hon. Governor, Eastern Province Rear Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama at the Session on 06 November 2012 of Second Assembly of the Eastern Provincial Council, p. 10.



(iii) Fisheries

13. The fisheries sector remains the “second most important economic activity” in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.⁶⁹ Agriculture and fisheries were both “important livelihood strategies before the war” and were “vital for the economic recovery of these conflict-affected areas.”⁷⁰ The fisheries sector in Sri Lanka is divided into three main sub-sectors: coastal fisheries; offshore fisheries; and inland/aquatic fisheries. About 60% of the coastal area of Sri Lanka is in the North and East Provinces. The fisheries of these Provinces contributed 64% of the country’s total fish production in 1980; this plummeted to 32% in 2002 as a result of the civil war, devastating Sri Lanka’s overall fish production levels.⁷¹ The 2004 tsunami affected nearly all the Sri Lanka fishing communities, but the inability of the government to ensure security in the conflict-affected areas made it difficult to undertake rehabilitation efforts.
14. Major investment has been required in order to revive the fishery sector. In early 2010, the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources conducted a fisheries assessment survey to identify basic needs and requirements to prepare a plan for the development of the community and the industry.⁷² In addition, a Special Task Force of all institutions coming under the Ministry was established under the chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, to coordinate the Northern Province Fisheries Development programme. With the consent of the community, a development plan with goals was prepared for the Northern Province.⁷³ These goals included the provision of assistance to repair damaged fishing crafts, rehabilitation of anchorages and landing sites, the construction of fishery harbours, the restoration of coastal habitats, and the establishment of fish breeding centres and mini nurseries. The PTF Report indicates that from 2009 to the first quarter of 2012, Rs2010mn has been invested into the revival of the fisheries sector.⁷⁴ In the Eastern Province, fresh water fish production which was at 6,540 metric tons in the year 2006 had increased to 10,670 metric tons by the year 2011.⁷⁵ Under the Negenahira Navodaya programme, priority was also given to the development of the fishery harbours and ports, including the Oluvil Harbour Development project, which was financed by the Government of Denmark.⁷⁶

(iv) Electricity

15. Most of the areas in the Northern and Eastern Provinces had been without electricity supply for many years due to the conflict. During the conflict, “one grid station, 533km length of HT

⁶⁹ PTF Report, p. 157.

⁷⁰ See Attachment 16: World Small-Scale Fisheries: Contemporary Visions, edited by Ratana Chuenpagdee, p. 42, relevant page extracted.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*

⁷² PTF Report, p. 158.

⁷³ PTF Report, p. 158. Details of the strategies identified are set out at p. 159.

⁷⁴ PTF Report, p. 174. See table titled “Fisheries Sector Investment.” See also Attachment 17: The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Performance 2012 report. See also Attachment 18 Power point document produced by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, dated 31.5.2009 titled: “Wadakkil Wasantham” “Uthuru Wasanthaya” 180 Day Accelerated Fisheries Sector Development Plan for the Northern Province of Sri Lanka”. See also Attachment 19: “Details of the Fisheries development activities carried out by SL Government and Non-Governmental Organization in Northern Province (2009-2014) for Districts Jaffna, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu, prepared by the Ministries of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Sri Lanka and Attachment 20: “Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Northern Province”, prepared by the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, Sri Lanka.

⁷⁵ See Attachment 5: Keynote Address of Hon. Governor, Eastern Province Rear Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama at the Session on 06 November 2012 of Second Assembly of the Eastern Provincial Council, p. 10.

⁷⁶ See http://www.defence.lk/new.asp?fname=Oluvil_Harbour_declared_open_by_President_20130902_04.



cables, 64 transmitters, 5,695 house connections, 19 power stations, radio communication systems and all transmitters and generators were either destroyed or taken over by the LTTE for their use.”⁷⁷ With the liberation of the LTTE controlled areas “reconstruction of electricity facilities and electrification was considered an important priority to be attended to for the commencement of resettlement and commercial activities.”⁷⁸ Due to the destruction caused by the LTTE to the main power line between Vavuniya and Chunnakam, the power supply to Jaffna was provided via a network of the Ceylon Electricity Board and private sector suppliers.⁷⁹ From May 2009, the Government initiated the rapid programme of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Northern electricity system.⁸⁰ From 2009 to 2010, “the Ministry of Power and Energy completed 233 tasks at a cost of Rs.1497.6mn.”⁸¹ A major achievement was the supply of power to Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu along with the supply of power to Kokavil Radio Communication Transmission Tower.⁸²

(v) Water and Sanitation

16. The influx of IDPs at the end of the conflict required the provision of shelter, drinking water and sanitation facilities. The National Water Supply and Drainage Board with assistance from other agencies undertook the task of providing safe water and sanitation to the IDPs.⁸³ Within a short period of time, the Water Supply and Drainage Board was able to provide a daily ration of over 20 litres of potable water per person for drinking, cooking and other needs; this was later increased to 40 litres per person through pipe lines from Malwathu Oya and Kallaru Tank.⁸⁴ In order to provide uninterrupted water supply to the Menik Farm welfare centre, 227 hand-pump tube wells were constructed, 6 wells were dug and water was distributed from a source at 15km distance and through a 35km long internal water supply network.⁸⁵ Activities were also carried out with the assistance of UNICEF at a cost of Rs93.1mn, which involved the installation of 10 water Treatment Plants for drinking water, the operation of 40 bowsers, the supply and installation of 800 water tanks and the cleaning of 1,041 shallow wells in resettlement areas and 339 in IDP camps welfare centres. In addition, 10 water bowsers were provided to Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Mannar and Vavuniya districts in addition to cleaning several existing dug wells in the resettled villages with assistance of UNICEF at a cost of Rs 12.125mn. In all five districts of the Northern Province, 8,421 dug wells have been cleaned or rehabilitated by the Water Supply and Drainage Board and Water Resource Board.⁸⁶ The PTF report confirms a total investment, at time of writing, of US\$164.04mn into the restoration of the water and sanitation network in the Northern Province from the Asian Development Bank, the Agence Francaise de Development and the Government of Sri Lanka.⁸⁷ A list of the water supply projects implemented in the Northern Province under the Ministry of Water Supply and Drainage is included in the report.⁸⁸

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ PTF Report, p. 111.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ PTF Report, p. 99.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ PTF Report, p. 102.

⁸⁸ PTF Report, pp. 103-110.



(vi) Bridges

17. The Sangupiddy road bridge⁸⁹ connected the Jaffna peninsula in the Northern Province to the mainland at Pooneryn. This bridge was damaged during the conflict. The government started the reconstruction of the bridge soon after the cessation of hostilities in May 2009. The completion of construction of the 288 metre bridge and the causeway was funded by a soft loan of Rs 983mn (US\$8,936mn) from the United Kingdom.⁹⁰ The Mannar Bridge and the causeway connecting the Mannar Island with the mainland was constructed in 1930. This was destroyed by an LTTE bomb in 1990.⁹¹ The Sri Lankan Army renovated the bridge at a cost of Rs2.46bn (US\$22.36mn) funded by the Government of Japan. The bridge reopened on 18 March 2011.⁹² The LTTE blasted the temporary bridge at Arippu to prevent the security forces from entering the area during military operations in 1990-1991. This area was strategically important to the LTTE for smuggling arms and ammunitions across the lagoon.⁹³ This was the longest bridge in the liberated Vanni area costing Rs151.42mn, restoration of which was completed in December 2010 under the UK Steel Bridge Project.⁹⁴

(vii) Roads

18. The task of rehabilitating the road network which had been badly damaged during the conflict also constituted a priority task under the 180-day programme. This network was essential to ensuring the expedient provision of humanitarian assistance. Approximately 1220km of highways were selected for rehabilitation and improvement.⁹⁵ In 2009, Rs659 million was spent on repairing 495km of roads;⁹⁶ in 2010, Rs530 million was spent repairing 144km of roads;⁹⁷ and in 2011 Rs212 was spent repairing 109.4km of roads.⁹⁸ Between 2009 and 2011, the Government of Sri Lanka made significant investments into the rehabilitation of the road network, relying in large part on loans from a number of countries and institutions, including China, Japan, the UK, HSBC bank and China Development Bank Co Ltd to fund various projects, including: the Conflict Affected Area Rehabilitation Project,⁹⁹ the Mannar Bridge Project,¹⁰⁰ the Steel Bridge Project,¹⁰¹ the Northern Road Rehabilitation Project,¹⁰² the Northern Road Connectivity Project,¹⁰³ the Conflict Affected Region Emergency Project,¹⁰⁴ the Priority Road Project I,¹⁰⁵ the “MagaNeguma” Rural Road Development Programme¹⁰⁶ and the Road Widening and Improvements Programme.¹⁰⁷ The PTF Report records that a total of Rd76,467mn

⁸⁹ PTF Report, pp. 227-235.

⁹⁰ PTF Report p. 227.

⁹¹ PTF Report, pp. 230-231.

⁹² PTF Report, p. 230.

⁹³ PTF Report, p. 232.

⁹⁴ PTF Report, p. 233.

⁹⁵ PTF Report, p. 203.

⁹⁶ PTF Report, p. 211.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹⁹ PTF Report, p. 204.

¹⁰⁰ PTF Report, p. 206.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰² PTF Report, p. 207.

¹⁰³ PTF Report, pp. 207-208.

¹⁰⁴ PTF Report, p. 208.

¹⁰⁵ PTF Report, p. 209.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁷ PTF Report, pp. 209-210.



was invested in these projects between 2009 and 2011.¹⁰⁸

(viii) Railways

19. During the protracted conflict, considerable damage was caused to the railway network in Sri Lanka by the LTTE.¹⁰⁹ The Government of Sri Lanka invited the Government of India “to undertake the task of rehabilitation of Northern Railways soon after the Humanitarian Operation.”¹¹⁰ The estimated cost of repairing the railway together with the signaling and telecommunications component has been reported as Rs.71,764mn (US652.4mn).¹¹¹ This project consisted of five contracts governing different areas in need of repair: (1) Kankesanthurai to Pallai; (2) Omanthai to Pallai; (3) Medawachchiya to Madhu; (4) Madhu to Talaimannar; and (5) the general signaling and telecommunication system.¹¹² Most recently, the iconic Yal Devi Express from Colombo to Jaffna resumed service on 13th October 2014, some 25 years after the link was suspended during the height of the Sri Lankan civil war.¹¹³

(ix) Banking and Financing Facilities

20. Since the end of the conflict, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka has taken several initiatives to expand the banking and other financial facilities in the Northern Province to “facilitate the resumption of economic activities adversely affected by the long-drawn conflict and to boost livelihood development.”¹¹⁴ One such initiative was the special refinance credit scheme titled “Awakening North” which was initiated by the Government exclusively for meeting the financial requirements of conflict affected businesses in the Northern Province. The Central Bank allocated Rs3,000 million to this scheme in July 2009, the main purpose of which was to assist IDPs to commence or re-start their livelihood and income-generating activities after resettlement.¹¹⁵ At the same time, “the Central Bank encouraged and facilitated the setting up of a large number of bank branches by both state-owned banks, private banks and foreign banks to ensure widespread access to financial services in the province.”¹¹⁶ The Central Bank also established a “provincial office in Jaffna to facilitate credit schemes implemented by the Central Bank in the Northern Province and other credit schemes operated by financial institutions.”¹¹⁷ The PTF report states that 126 banking outlets and development centres had been established by 2012 and that additionally, approval had been given for the registered finance companies and specialized leasing companies to open 35 branches in the Northern Province.¹¹⁸ The PTF report includes a table illustrating the level of expansion of bank branches, financial services and new initiatives taken by the banking sector in the Northern Province.¹¹⁹

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¹⁰⁸ PTF Report, p. 203.

¹⁰⁹ PTF Report, p. 217.

¹¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² *Ibid.* Further details concerning the works carried out are set out at pp. 218-226.

¹¹³ Attachment 21: “President to open rebuilt Jaffna Railway Station on October 13”, Daily News Online, 4 October 2014.

¹¹⁴ PTF Report, p. 183.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁸ PTF Report, p. 188.

¹¹⁹ PTF Report, pp. 189-199.