

# SIHRN: Opportunities for collaboration and co-ordination

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## Background

- Formation of a sub-committee to the peace process.
- Expression of regional autonomy.
- Mechanism for shared responsibility and joint action.
- Focus on the immediate.

## Priority Concerns of SIHRN

### Resettlement and de-mining

Principal areas for immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation needs are derived from Joint Appeal made to the donor community at the Oslo Conference in November 25, 2002. These areas include: Resettlement of IDPs including those who are currently living outside North and East, and de-mining, including;

- The provision of assistance in cash or kind for livelihood creation
- The provision of support in the form of loans for rebuilding or repair of houses,
- The repair or rebuilding of clean water supply systems,
- The construction of access roads to areas of settlement
- Humanitarian de-mining action.

The improvement of the situation of women and the promotion of greater gender equality, including;

- The provision of health care and nutrition for mothers
- The provision of education, vocational training, credit and employment opportunities for female headed households and widows
- The provision of special care for women affected and/ or traumatised by war.

Protection of the rights of children and the improvement of their conditions in the North and East, including;

- The provision of support for orphaned or destitute children
- The provision of support for institutions caring for destitute children
- The provision of primary health for children in their formative years,

- The provision of preventive care for children, protecting them from communicable diseases
- The provision of care for children affected by malnutrition, stress and trauma
- Ensuring provision of education for children and reducing the number of school dropouts

The provision of employment and creation of income generating opportunities of war affected individuals, including

- The provision of micro-finance systems, inter alia, credit funds, revolving loan funds (RLF) and guarantee funds for income generation,
- The repair and/ or reconstruction of essential infrastructure such as roads, irrigation and water supply to improve employment activity,
- The improvement of service delivery to support micro-economic activities and production activities,
- The improvement of transportation facilities to enhance market access and opportunity.

#### Philosophy

- Ensuring livelihood
- Benefit for all communities.
- Comprehensive and sustainable
- Targeting the most needy.
- Efficiency.

#### Guiding principles

- holistic consideration of all communities.
- Stakeholder consultation (beneficiaries and SIHRN)
- Emphasis on local capacities
- Transparency of details
- Inclusion of human rights standards.

#### A suggested operational framework

##### Purpose:

To strengthen the work of SIHRN by consolidating and recognising the work undertaken by all agencies contributing to humanitarian needs to arrive at a common framework of understanding.

#### Content:

- Recognising the high human cost and destructive impact of the conflict on the Sri Lankan social fabric, its economy and its political culture
- Reiterating the importance of a political solution to the conflict that is acceptable to all communities
- Emphasising the need to address the humanitarian consequences of the conflict intensify efforts to rebuild lives in communities
- Recognising that significant problems exist in the current system of humanitarian assistance and too often resources made available for relief and rehabilitation have not always met their goal
- Acknowledging the difficulty in finding appropriate balance between security and humanitarian concerns
- Emphasising that relief, rehabilitation and reconciliation efforts are a national priority.

#### Core values

- Respect for human rights
- Dignity of the individual
- Community empowerment
- Decentralisation
- Respect for diversity
- Peaceful co-existence
- Representation and consultation
- Accountability and transparency.

#### Guiding principles

- International humanitarian law
- Guiding principles for the protection of the internally displaced
- Sphere minimum standards in the provision of humanitarian assistance
- CEDAW and CRC (Conventions in the rights of women and children, respectively)

#### Vision

- The creation of an "enabling environment" for economic development by the poor themselves
- A minimal social safety net for those in need
- A clear vision and approach to participation and empowerment
- Targeting specific achievements for "freedom from want"

## Conclusions

Such a framework provides a vision of where we want to be, guiding principles in getting there, objectives to arrive at the vision, activities to achieve the objectives and time lines to incrementally complete the activities. SIHRN has already identified and presented some of these elements, we have an opportunity to strengthen and consolidate this enterprise.