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REINTEGRATION AND STABILIZATION IN THE EAST AND NORTH (RISEN)

ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2011

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REINTEGRATION AND STABILIZATION IN THE EAST AND NORTH (RISEN)

ANNUAL REPORT: JUNE 2010 – MAY 2011

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ANNEX A – EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS

PROJECT OVERVIEW

On June 15, 2009 DAI signed contract number DOT-1-00-08-0035-00 with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Reintegration and Stabilization in the East (RISE) program in Sri Lanka executed under the Support Which Implements Fast Transitions (SWIFT) III indefinite quantity contract.

After 25 years of intermittent civil war, the Government of Sri Lanka has redrawn the map of control over the country's diverse provinces and peoples. In 2002, the year the Ceasefire Agreement was signed, the picture was of a series of government-controlled provinces in the south and a largely Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)-dominated north. The remaining area in the East—ethnically mixed, politically charged, and economically deprived—was a patchwork of real estate controlled in some parts by the government and in others by the LTTE. Both sides have long considered the east to be critical to their respective goals; ruined infrastructure and lost lives have been the result of their fight to claim it. Today, the map is dramatically different: the government has re-asserted itself in all areas of the country that were previously under LTTE control.

Since late 2007, with the “liberation” of the east, the government has promised the citizens of the Eastern Province that life would improve and development would be forthcoming. However, the presence of the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) and other armed groups, particularly in Batticaloa, seems to have replaced one paramilitary paradigm with another. If people of the east do not perceive changes soon, their optimism will be lost again, reducing support for the government's legitimacy and plans. The downside scenario is easy to elaborate: alienated by war, neglect, and reprisal, many may return to violence. Change will be sought through fighting between the disenfranchised and those in control.

Set against this backdrop, USAID/Sri Lanka's RISE program, through its integrated series of tasks and activities, was designed to embrace the widest possible range of conflict-prevention mitigation measures and post-conflict interventions to create, advertise, promote, and value stability and public confidence—not just for Eastern Sri Lanka, but for every inhabitant who today feels compromised, left out, at-risk, hopeless, or militant. RISE's overall goal, to promote stability by improving human and economic security in targeted communities, provides support and opportunities for at-risk youth, and is building public confidence that core conflict issues are being addressed. The RISE program falls within USAID's integrated strategy for Eastern Province stabilization, transformation, and development. It contributes to the overall U.S. Government goal in Sri Lanka of promoting enduring stability and working for the betterment of all citizens in Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic Eastern Province. Achieving this goal will promote the stability that is needed to secure peace in the country's conflict-affected areas.

A total of \$4.195 million was obligated to the contract in June 2009 to implement activities over two years across three primary focus areas:

Community-focused reintegration: USAID/RISE will identify communities where militant recruitment has historically been high. It will collaborate with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and consult with the Government of Sri Lanka and other donors to develop the program activities. The needs identified by the community will be addressed by promoting collaboration between the local authorities and the public to proactively address security issues, both human and economic.

Institutional capacity to address rehabilitation needs for at-risk youth, especially ex-combatants: Conflict-affected young men and women need support and assistance to successfully reintegrate into civilian life. They need training for market-driven jobs and, in some cases, specialized support to cope with war-induced trauma. USAID/RISE will help improve the quality of vocational training services, provide job-related guidance, deliver psychosocial counseling, and increase access to services for these conflict-affected people.

Access to reliable news and information: Access to information is critical to the success of a stabilization or community security effort. USAID/RISE will promote creative approaches to gathering and disseminating news and information to improve public confidence in the positive transition underway, including community-focused reintegration.

The Government continued its push against the LTTE in the North in early 2009. Following several months of intense fighting, the Government declared its military victory over the LTTE in May 2009. The military defeat of the LTTE came at a high price with an untold number of civilian casualties, more than 300,000 displaced from their homes, significant damage to basic infrastructure, and the disruption of livelihoods and economic activity. But the end of nearly three decades of war has also created the best chance for peace in Sri Lanka in as many years.

On February 17, 2010 a contract modification was approved, transferring administrative responsibilities from USAID/Sri Lanka to the USAID Office of Transition Initiatives, Washington and increasing the obligated amount by \$3,360,411. Additional funds from the US Department of Defense's Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation through the US Pacific Command (PACOM) will support the return of displaced persons to their Eastern Province communities through the rehabilitation of schools and health facilities. The obligation also included Department of Defense 1207 funds for the new construction and rehabilitation of the Kallady Police Training College in Batticaloa District, which has since been reprogrammed to support improved services for cases of sexual and gender based violence and forensic evidence collection.

In light of evolving political and social dynamics, a further modification, increasing the contract ceiling to \$50m and obligating an additional \$1,170,000 was signed on May 21, 2010, to expand the program under the revised name RISEN (Reintegration and Stabilization in the East and North). The RISEN program is part of an integrated strategy to stabilize, transform and develop the Northern and Eastern Provinces. The goal of the expanded program is to assist communities by providing support for socio-economic reintegration activities.

On September 30, 2010 a further \$5,523,480 was obligated to the program to support activities in the north increasing the total obligated amount to \$14,249,833, with a further obligation of \$1,800 in December 2010, the total obligated to the contract is \$16,049,833.

The following report details the major accomplishments during the program's first year of implementation from June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011.

PROGRAMMING

COUNTRY SITUATION DURING THE PERIOD

The June 2010/2011 year has seen the maintenance of a fragile peace in the east. The Special Task Force (STF), feared across the district, was withdrawn almost entirely (with the exception of Kaluwanchikudy and Vavunathivu). This process, already strategized, sped up earnestly following the September 17th explosion in Karadiyanaru, Eravur Pattu DS division and a key RISEN target area. The Sri Lankan Army (SLA) moved into the district in greater number, which was met with mixed reactions, although the army has retained a relatively low profile.

The devastating floods that hit the district between December and February had a major impact. The agricultural sector was decimated, with almost the entire Maha season crop destroyed and with it possibilities for daily labor. The government and the armed forces played a major role in flood response, coordinating agencies and interventions, and accessing stranded and cut off areas. UN OCHA returned to Batticaloa to cover the flash appeal, and many agencies returned to implement relief activities. While the loss of life was comparatively low, 380,000 people – two thirds of the district population – were displaced to welfare centers or to friends and family. Agriculture and livelihoods were the sectors most severely affected by the flood, but the protection cluster led by UNICEF, reports a rise in suicide and child abuse across the district.

During this period, the most badly affected areas were those hardest to reach – Vakaraï and Vavunathivu, where roads and infrastructure were already in poor condition, were inaccessible for some periods as bridges were inundated or destroyed. Kiran however, completely inaccessible for weeks at a time, is still a restricted area and entrance to the interior, where rushing water destroyed houses, roads, buildings and irrigation infrastructure, was off limits to many of the agencies trying to assist the highly vulnerable communities.

Local elections were held in Batticaloa in March 2011, and political violence was expected. However, only three of the seats were contested, all in predominantly Muslim areas, and although violence and shootings were reported in Ampara between candidates of the SLMC, the situation in Batticaloa remained without incident. The remaining elections have been scheduled for July 23rd, but Batticaloa will not be included in this round.

Weapons buried during the thirty years of war in the east are gradually being uncovered. The trend was for three or four weapons caches per month to be recovered, exhumed from forests or fields. April and May however saw a wholesale increase to over 20 recoveries per month, including RPGs, mortar bombs, anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons, guns and ammunition, antipersonnel mines etc. The armed forces report that they are receiving more information and are able to uncover more than ever before. A large Navy base has opened in Vakaraï, and another is rumored to be coming to Kallady, with an increase in the number of high ranking officers and no sign of reduction in the forces' visible presence.

While there have been murders, robberies and violent incidents reported, these have been sporadic and seemingly without coordination. The presence of SLA in the district however increased markedly in April, following rumors that the LTTE had returned by boat (linked to the discovery of abandoned boats in Valaichenai and Mulaithivu in early April). The SLA entered the jungle in Vakaraai, lending weight to the argument and warning people that foraging in the area would be punishable by fine. One INGO vehicle was held up at gunpoint in early April, believed to be carrying money for cash-for-work distribution. Several killings took place in May, including high profile members of prominent political groups. As a response to this, one member of the Provincial Council was arrested and the house of the Chief Minister was searched. The eight killings and one shooting over the month of May has resulted in the STF being invited back into Manmunai North (Batti town) and the presence (although until now uncommon) of the feared SLA motorcycle units. Roundups, cordon and search operations, vehicle stop-and-search and temporary check points are now common again in Batticaloa. Large numbers of people are being questioned (but released), RISEN staff members have had their houses searched, and one RISEN contractor was detained in a round up in Karadiyanaru. While there are exceptions, the general population does not believe that paramilitary groups are active, and feels that the assaults on their dignity, privacy and the invasion of their homes are yet another way of the military asserting control over their lives. Some believe however that whatever the reason, if weapons are being found and reclaimed from people's houses, it will benefit them all in the long run, removing them from circulation for good.

There has been an influx of economic investment to Batticaloa, and the east has been identified as a priority tourism development zone, in particular Valaichenai and Vakaraai. The Chief Minister has initiated a number of activities, including a clean-up of the lagoon, tourist facilities such as hotels and shops, an upgrade to major tourist destinations such as Pasihkuda, and eco parks. Much of the tourism to the east is local, but Batticaloa's proximity to the ancient cities, and its position on the route to Arugam Bay in Ampara, makes it a convenient stop for domestic



Maalu Maalu Beach Resort, Pasihkuda

and international tourists. To cater to the latter, the land plots at Pasihkuda, Valaichenai have been sold to make way for 14 4-5 star hotels. The first has already opened and construction is ongoing for the remainder. Land is now of prime importance, and the beautiful coastline is gradually being claimed by investors from outside the region, and causing anxiety about colonization, corruption of cultural values, crime, prostitution, alcohol and substance misuse among the local population.

In the North at the end of the reporting period, a total number of 373,595 persons (114,561) families were returned to their places of origin throughout the Northern Province. This number includes both recent IDPs (displacement post 2008) and long term displaced persons (pre-2008.) Over 98% of the IDPs remaining in the Menik Farm Welfare Center are from Mullaitivu. There are 117,888 IDPs reported to be

living with host families. Approximately 80% of IDPs currently residing with host families are from Jaffna. There are 18,589 individuals living with host families in Vavuniya and 4,928 individuals living with host families in Mannar.

As of May 13, 2011, there are 16,401 IDPs remaining in Menik Farm. A total of 1,758 persons remain stranded in transit locations in Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya District with the large majority of them unable to return due to mine contamination. It is not possible to fix dates in relation to the completion of demining or release, but it appears that several divisions have been prioritized for release in the coming months, possibly enabling approximately 7,160 people to return. A further 3,467 IDPs originate from various GN currently undergoing mine clearance for which no approximate timeline for completion is available or from GNs where residential areas, though not containing a mine threat, have not yet been approved for release by the military. A further 5,571 originate from the 8.5 GN divisions where access has not been granted to humanitarian demining agencies. For these IDPs, there have been strong indications from both military and civilian authorities that relocation is being envisaged in the coming months to an area in Kombavil GN division in Puthukkudiyiruppu DS, Mullaitivu District.

Mine action has continued with a primary focus on residential areas which remain the government's priority for resettling IDPs to their respective places of origin. Priorities are shifting towards releasing land for access to livelihoods. Six GN divisions in Puthukkudiyiruppu and 3 GN divisions in Maritimpattu have not been released by the government for necessary mine action interventions. Approximately 19 million square miles of land is estimated to be Confirmed Hazardous Areas following non-technical surveys in Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaitivu Districts.

At the end of January, PTF ordered all Old Welfare Centers to be closed by February 15, 2011. Food rations to all old IDPs throughout the North were also ceased as of January 2011. The Government Agents in Mullaitivu, Vavuniya and Kilinochchi have been working to identify land to provide this landless population of close to 1706 individuals. On February 15, 2011 the Vavuniya GA sent a letter to the camp residents. To date, all returns have been voluntary and no forced evacuations have been made. Pressure continues to be made by the local authorities for the residents of the welfare center to resettle in the land options provided throughout the Vanni. A government housing scheme is scheduled to be constructed at the location.

The majority of the Vanni population (over 75%) is reported to be living below the poverty line earning less than 1 USD per day. While some improvements have been noted in Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya District, WFP cites Kilinochchi as the most severe including decreased food consumption by returnees. Only 30% of returnees in Kilinochchi District have received the livelihood return package worth 35,000 LKR/320.00 USD. Over 95% of returnees in Vavuniya District are reported to have received this assistance. Government officials have stated various reasons for the disparity including areas of return being formally recognized by the GoSL as cleared areas as a requirement for distribution of assistance.

The Commissioner General for Rehabilitation (CGR) has stated that to date 6,500 former LTTE combatants have been released, with 4,380 remaining in 'protective custody.' Families continue to lack access to information regarding the whereabouts of their loved ones. Various demonstrations have been staged by family members in Vavuniya over the course of the year without yielding results. UNICEF has assisted the Ministry of Social Services in notifying families of child surrendees with their whereabouts. Tensions continue in areas of active detention centers. Community members want their schools which are currently occupied by detained ex-combatants returned for public use.

The "Joint Plan for Assistance to the Northern Province" was officially launched in Colombo on February 1, 2011. The one year program identifies priority activities and strategies in line with the GoSL national program to support the people of the Northern Province to, 'recover, rebuild and return to a normal life in the coming years.' The Government of Sri Lanka has developed the plan working through the Presidential Task Force, the Northern Provincial Government, Government Agents and Technical Ministries in collaboration with the UN, INGOs and NGOs. This has resulted in a decentralization of coordination between state and non state actors. Local authorities including Government Agents of Districts (GA) as well as Divisional Secretariats (DSs) are hosting coordination mechanisms at both the divisional level and the district level. Reporting mechanisms have been streamlined through a new format introduced in a joint effort by the Presidential Task Force and UNOCHA. Additionally, Vavuniya District has introduced a Core Working Group which receives and approves concept notes for potential project activities. Once cleared by the Core Working Group, PTF approval has consistently been provided. Vavuniya is the only district operating with this system.

Military involvement with project implementation varies by locality. There are certain locations where military involvement continues in beneficiary selection and project design despite various meetings held by the PTF and INGOs stating otherwise. The Sri Lanka Army is tasked with liaising with the local DS and direct reporting to PTF for activities which have been PTF approved. Despite the meeting with the commanders, military monitoring has continued via phone calls, site visits and requests for activity updates and reports from NGO/INGO actors. Registration by the military continues throughout the Vanni, although this has not been legitimized under the current operational framework in the North. Widespread reports have recently made headlines with a petition to the Supreme Court entered by parliamentarians representing the districts of Kilinochchi and Jaffna. Military regularly photograph families in their places of resettlement. Search and cordon operations continue on a daily basis. Communities are limited in their ability to congregate for social meetings or for communal functions without high levels of military involvement if they are allowed. Military leaders continue to segregate different ethnic groups and do not encourage reintegration at the local level.

Land issues continue to prevail across the entire North. Government Agents in the North are still operating under a limited authority structure and are not permitted to issue new land deeds. High numbers of Muslim and Sinhala returns to communities in the Vanni have resulted in increased tension between communities particularly in the coastal areas of Mullaitivu and Jaffna and the inland areas of Vavuniya and Mannar. Local Divisional Secretaries are under pressure to provide resources to the

Muslim and Sinhala settlement populations. The local authorities are incorporating outside returns into local service provision protocols.

The Northeast monsoon brought floods to much of the North including the RISEN strategic locations of Maritimepattu, Mullaitivu District; Vavuniya North, Vavuniya District; Kandawalai and Karachchi, Kilinochchi District and Madhu, Mannar District which are traditionally highly flood prone areas. In mid-February 2011 there were over 50,000 individuals from Vavuniya and Mannar District displaced to 143 emergency welfare centers. With over 80% of the population in the North engaged in agriculture, the loss of both highland crops and paddy harvests has further affected the already weakened economy and resulted in food shortages due to limited food production and high food prices.

Local Government Elections were held on March 17th for a total of 234 Local Authorities comprising 3 Municipal Councils, 30 Urban Councils and 201 Pradeshiya Sabhas. There were 418 election related security incidents reported during the election period including abductions, assaults, election law violations, intimidations, misuse of state property and 3 murders. In the North, elections were held in Vavuniya North, Vavuniya South, Mannar and Manthai East in Mullaitivu District. Other local elections covering areas in Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu were postponed and rescheduled for July.

Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia visited the North on Tuesday, May 3rd and participated in 2 RISEN events, one a focus group discussion including grantees and beneficiaries involved in 9 grant activities in Kilinochchi and the other a ceremonial handing over of fingerlings to NAQDA in Mullaitivu to support the inland fisheries sector.

The lack of transport facilities continues to affect access to education, healthcare and livelihood. Over 80% of returnees earn their income through agricultural activities. Without transport facilities, access to markets to earn fair returns on goods continues to be compromised by the presence of middlemen from the south.

The North remains highly understaffed with medical care providers which has resulted in many local healthcare clinics remaining closed. Mobile clinics have been dispatched throughout the districts. The Ministry of Health has committed to filling staffing needs through incentives for recent medical school graduates.

Access continues to be a major concern for national and international agencies. Some agencies have MOD approval to operate in the North or within specific North Districts, but not PTF approval. Others have secured PTF approval for specific interventions and remain without MOD approval to travel to the approved PTF project locations. Agencies with secured funding have been successful in obtaining visas for up to six months which is an improvement from the three month visas which were being issued earlier this year. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) continues to visit INGO and local NGO offices.

OVERALL PROGRAMMING

With the transfer of the Program to OTI in May 2010 and subsequent expansion north grant development increased dramatically. During the year a total of 73 grants were cleared, totaling \$5,425,263, a stark contrast to the first year of programming as RISE when only 12 grants, totaling just under \$500,000 were cleared. The office in the north opened in June 2010 which was followed by RISEN's first Strategy Review Session where initial strategic locations in the north were selected along with an evaluation of the current focus areas in the east.

The period from June 1, 2010 saw a major ramping up of activities in the east, in line with the transition from RISE to RISEN. The Regional Program Manager for the east joined the team, and grant development began in earnest. Forty-eight grants were cleared, with a combined value of \$3,636,240.

RISE and the start of the RISEN program saw great emphasis placed upon information on returning ex-combatants, expected from IOM but due to the difficulties the registration program encountered, the information in the east was sparse. The RISEN east team prioritized known resettlement areas, and in particular areas in the north of the district (Korralai Pattu North – Vakarai; Korralai Pattu South – Kiran; Korralai Pattu – Valaichenai; and Eravur Pattu – Chenkalady) due to the events during the conflict period, the history of the area including forcible recruitment and massacres, known historical affiliations and the prevalence, past and present, of paramilitary groups.

As these key target areas are still emerging from the conflict and the communities that are being targeted in order to maintain stability remain distrustful and suspicious, the RISEN program has made the identification of change agents a priority. Kiran and Chenkalady are still unknown quantities, and program staff advise careful engagement at this vulnerable stage. As a result, individuals from these two divisions are included in activities that have a capacity building or vocational training component. Attention then is placed on life skill training, Sinhala and English language, career guidance and leadership, exposure to other areas of the district and where possible, of the country, as well as a sectoral skills that will better enable them to find paid work, and act as role models to their communities.

Grants RSN011, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 23, 37, 42, 48, 51, and 55 worked over several months with young people from highly conflict affected, isolated areas with a history of forcible recruitment and displacement. These young people were highly reticent, timid and nervous about leaving the safety of



RSN020 – Construction machinery trainees learn about engine operation

their communities, and only after careful coaching from RISEN and grantee staff, would these young people sign up. Working now as music teachers, hotel staff, construction machinery operators or producing handicrafts, these young people have had positive feedback from their communities having shown a change in attitude, and other youth in those communities are increasingly ready to engage with future income

generating activities that will take them away from their villages, encourage them to engage with state actors and RISEN team is inundated with requests to repeat training, or conduct further interventions that

extend the training to other youth from these areas.

The floods from December to February provided a unique opportunity for RISEN to engage directly with communities, and provided avenues to assist former combatants regain trust, while also providing a useful and much needed service. The RISEN east program allocated \$394,793 to programs that included flood response activities. RSN058 and 64 encouraged Tamil and Muslim at risk youth to work together in the



RSN066 – A beneficiary of NFI distribution

distribution of NFIs to flood- and conflict-affected communities. RSN066 saw registered ex-combatants supporting their communities through hygiene kits. RSN056 and 57 provided boats and essential materials to evacuate communities cut off by rising waters. RSN057 connected at risk youth with DS offices and assisted central government to register the needs of the affected population, while and RSN063 took this further and worked with the DS offices to develop a registration form template and digitalise the information gathered.

With greater freedom of movement, communities long pitched against each other are starting to interact, over common resources or in common facilities no longer inaccessible due to the presence of armed gangs. This is becoming an issue in border areas between Muslim and Tamil communities, and RSN014, 22, 23, 51, 58, 64 and 78 have sought to mitigate existing tensions by building stronger relationships across the Tamil-Muslim divide through self awareness, common activities and interest.

Case study - RSN022

Communities in Vakarai, on the Batticaloa-Polonnaruwa border, have been displaced on multiple occasions during the conflict period. Because of their geographic isolation, their positioning along a frontline between LTTE and GOSL, and the difficulties in accessing near-by towns and services, Vakarai communities have been highly susceptible to influence from armed groups and remained isolated from government services.



RSN022 – Community members finish the newly repaired road in Vakarai

RSN022, *Rural Road Technology to Reintegrated Communities*, seeks to connect these communities with each other, as well as connecting them with government services through the building and maintenance of rural roads. This grant supports three communities, Alankulam, Kerninagar and Valamankerny, divided by the conflict for decades, to build three kilometers of road under guidance and supervision from a rural CBO in Anuradhapura. Villagers have been working over seven months to build one

kilometer of road per village. Community members mobilized to arrange necessary permits, and worked with

the DS office, Planning Secretariat and Pradeshiya Sabah to obtain permission from the relevant authorities to conduct their work.

Success story:

As a result of the restoration of the road, more of the families connected through this grant, displaced in 2006-7 and again in 2008-9, from Bharathipuram along the new Alanakulam road, are returning to the area. Fifty-four families who relocated to this village after the tsunami were displaced by fighting. Having made a home in Bharathipuram, only to be displaced from it twice in the last six years, the families are now returning to their property to begin cultivation and resettlement.

Six members of the Vavuniya team participated in the first RISEN SRS in June 2010. The Vavuniya Office opened its doors officially on June 14, 2010. Delays in receiving longer term Ministry of Defense access approval limited initial grant development due to travel restrictions and short term access approvals. On September 5, 2010, the Vavuniya office received its first three month access approval. The Vavuniya team cleared its first grant on September 27, 2010. In the last 8 months, the Vavuniya RISEN team has cleared a total of 25 grants valued at \$1,791,993 USD. The average grant period for the year is 4.7 months. Delays in implementation resulted from the flood which affected the North during January and February and from scheduled VIP visits which impacted timelines for opening ceremonies. Without these delays, grant periods would be approximately 3 months. The average grant size for Vavuniya RISEN activities is \$71,680.

Since the first cleared grant in September 2010, the Vavuniya RISEN team has begun to address the needs of 175,135 direct beneficiaries through 25 'green lighted' projects. Most project implementation was scheduled for DS Divisions within the four North Districts consisting of Vavuniya, Mannar, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. Seven of the twenty five grants covered larger geographic areas including district wide interventions, multi-district interventions and multi-region interventions.

Forty percent of grantees are government authorities at both the central and provincial level. For the last three decades, the North operated under LTTE administration and the LTTE had cadre representatives functioning out of the local Divisional Secretariats and Government Agent offices. Local authorities are a priority grantee focus for the Vavuniya RISEN team in order to strengthen the relationship between the newly re-established government offices and encourage relationships between the local authorities and local communities to be based on trust and reliable service provision. This reporting period local NGO's made up 24% of the grantee portfolio and Civil Society Organizations/Community Based Organizations consisted of 28% of the grantee portfolio. The grants developed during this period aimed at not only improving the capacity of the local authorities, but also improving civic engagement of local community based organizations and civil society organizations with the respective government counterpart in the sectors of health, education and livelihoods. One International Organization was selected for targeted cash for work program in an area with high community tension to undergo demarcation of a mine field based on the need for a high level of technical expertise in mine action and safety.

Conflict-affected youth remain a constant focus for North project activities. Approximately 28% of all grant activities targeted youth as beneficiaries. Conflict affected young men and women need support to successfully reintegrate into civilian life. The Vavuniya RISEN team has developed multiple grants to empower youth to become successful change agents and effective leaders in their communities. All of the youth in the North have been affected by multiple displacements, lack of access to education, threat of forcible recruitment, forced early marriages and early drop-out rates from school due to lack of economic opportunities for families resettling in the Wannu. Highlights include grants which have been grown from earlier Vavuniya RISEN, RISE activities in the East and SLTI activities in the South.

The economic stability of the North continues to be compromised with over 75% of the population living at or below the poverty line with daily incomes estimated at an average of \$1.00 USD per day. Livelihood served as a key entry point into the strategic locations selected for USAID RISEN project interventions in North. With 40% of projects falling under the livelihood sector, the Vavuniya RISEN team has been able to address gaps in access to livelihood and support income generation to improve the immediate economic security of beneficiaries.

Capacity Development is a cross-cutting theme in a majority of grant activities. Local community organizations have not functioned in years and require re-activation to jump start activities to benefit the larger community. During the last year, 110 CBOs were targeted through grant activities including:

RSN031: Enhance the Economic Stability of Vavuniya North-

Farmer's in Vavuniya North face economic instability and are in a fragile condition limited by lack of access to markets to secure fair prices for their goods. Through the provision of transport and water pumps, exchange visits with other communities and establishing new market linkages, the VNIMFTCCSL Farmer's Society will be able to secure better market prices improving the society's overall economic stability. Relationships between different ethnic groups will be established through new market linkages developed from improved access to outside markets and exposure visits between North and South.



Farmers from the North travelled South to learn new techniques and technology

RSN032: Support to Grassroots Level Development- This grant will develop the platform to support community stability through reactivation and renovation of conflict affected rural development societies (RDS's and WRDS) in Nainamadu and Periyamadu which have become dysfunctional and damaged during the final phases of conflict. Through the provision of management and micro-credit training for each society and hard component capacity development, the RDSs and WRDSs will be in a better position to provide effective and efficient services to the public. Re-activation of these grassroots organizations will serve as a catalyst for decentralized decision making, improved access to resources and reactivation of other community based organizations. This grant also seeks to improve the capacity of the Rural Development Unit of Vavuniya North Division and improve the Rural Development Officer's monitoring and support efforts throughout Vavuniya North.

RSN039: Revitalize Inland Fisheries for Economic Stability-This grant will address the shortfall of fish in the tanks which are situated in the conflict affected area and also address the lack of management capacity of conflict affected fisheries societies. This leads to lack of economic security due to the protracted conflict. This grant will support the stocking of tilapia which has a high market demand while simultaneously build the capacity of societies, which will ensure economic security of the entire fisher community. In addition, the provision of training to 450 fishermen will put societies in a better position to provide effective and efficient services to members. This grant also seeks to improve the capacity of the NAQDA Vavuniya Regional office which will improve the Aquaculture Extension Officers monitoring and supports efforts throughout the three districts (Mullaitivu, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya).

This grant provided training to fishermen representing 20 Fishermen Cooperative Societies from Vavuniya, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi Districts.

RSN044: Enhance the Stability Through Equipping Rice Mill-This grant will develop the platform to support community stability through reactivation of the conflict affected rice mill in Vengalacheddiculam which has been unable to function since the final phases of conflict. Through the provision of necessary equipments to the rice mill, Vengalacheddiculam MPCS will be in a better position to provide effective and efficient services to the public in and around the division. Through the activation of the rice mill, the farming communities will be able to secure better market prices improving the society's overall economic stability. Relationships will be built with other districts through marketing linkages and a shared common vision for economic development

RSN050: Provision of Equipment and Training to Restart Pappadam Factory -Through the reactivation of the conflict affected Pappadam factory in Vengalacheddikulam which has been unable to function since the latter part of the 1980's, peaceful reintegration between mixed ethnic communities will be realized through a shared vision of economic development. This grant will support community stability through the provision of necessary equipments to the once nationally successful Pappadam factory. The Vengalacheddiculam MPCS will be in a better position to provide effective and efficient services to the Tamil, Muslim and Sinhala returnees in and around the division. The activation of the Pappadam factory will enable the farming (especially Black gram & Gingili) communities to secure better market prices improving the society's overall economic stability. Local and national marketing linkages will be re-established and created improving North and South relations.



OTI Deputy Country Representative inspects machinery on opening day

RSN060: Rebuilding Stable Organizations-This grant will develop the platform to support community stability through reactivation and capacity building of conflict affected rural development societies (RDSs and WRDSs) in selected villages in Karachchi DS Division which have become dysfunctional and damaged during the final phases of conflict. Through the provision of basic and advanced management, society management, gender and micro credit trainings for each society and hard component capacity development, the RDSs and WRDSs will be in a better position to provide effective and efficient services to the public. Re-activation of these community based organizations will serve as a catalyst for decentralized decision making, improved access to resources and reactivation of other community based organizations. This grant also seeks to improve the capacity of the Divisional Secretary Office of

Karachchi/Rural Development Unit and improve Rural Development Officer monitoring and support efforts throughout Karachchi Division.

This grant provided training to 85 different RDSs and WRDSs and provided to 13 newly reactivated WRDS and RDSs with access to a semi-permanent building.

RSN077: Supporting District Level Dairy Production and Marketing-This grant will support Vavuniya District Livestock Breeders Co-operative Societies Federation in order to create a sustainable local marketing facility for the production of milk through producing milk based products where poor cattle famers including women headed households and widows face hardship in finding sustainable marketing avenues to sell their products. This grant will provide water purification equipment necessary for the sustainable operation of the milk based value addition unit that has already been established in collaboration with UNDP and OXFAM to develop the capacity of the village based milk co-operative societies and federation in Vavuniya District. The Department of Co-operative Development will facilitate market linkages and develop a sustainable market avenue for the milk and milk based products. The Department of Animal Production and Health will provide technical support in collaboration with the Department of Health to ensure high quality products.

The Vavuniya RISEN team created 7 grants which covered large geographic areas to maximize impact and encourage reintegration. Three of the grant activities including the **Monitoring Local Government Elections and Voter Education Program in the North and East** activity and the **Stabilization of Youth through Providing Employment Opportunities** produced impact at a national level. Other grants reached out to groups at district and multi-district levels. The two grants created focusing on



Vavuniya women perform a traditional Tamil song about the harvest

Reunification through the Jaffna Music Festival- Three decades of war in northern Sri Lanka has made folk art, like other traditional art forms in the north to suffer tremendously. Years of curfew, displacement, abductions, assassinations and forced recruitments made it nearly impossible for folk artists to join together. The Jaffna Music Festival will be a three-day music festival to be held in the city of Jaffna, from 25th – 27th March 2011

celebrating traditional folk music forms from across the entire island. For the first time in three decades, different ethnic groups will join together in celebration at a national music festival with other international folk performers. Village vendors will have the opportunity to showcase their handicrafts and local products

in a festival marketplace. The festival will be funded with the support of OTI and Norway. Through the support of OTI, the festival will reach beyond its initial vision which is funded by Norway to reach folk musicians from across the war affected Wanni to participate in this healing event, provide opportunities for village vendors and provide awareness raising opportunities on issues like mine risk awareness and market linkages for north.

The Jaffna Music Festival was attended by over 13,500 people from all over Sri Lanka. In addition, three special Jaffna Music Festival programs have aired on national television after the event. More national coverage is expected and plans are underway for the next event.

Monitoring Local Government Elections and Voter Education Program in the North and East- This grant will provide the information, tools and resources necessary to ensure the citizens of the North and East are empowered to vote for the first time after three decades of conflict. The grantee, The Campaign for Free and Fair Election (CaFFE), the people’s organization which encompasses members of civil society, lobby and religious groups, trade unions, political parties and opinion makers will empower and ensure those within the post-war geographical regions have the tools and resources available to return to a sustainable, development-oriented reconciliation by exercising



Young men review voter education materials in Vavuniya Town

their right to vote after being denied the opportunity for over two decades. CaFFE will work with local authorities to provide temporary identification documents to eligible voters who have lost their IDs due to natural disaster, conflict, or displacement. Citizens will be able to participate in a Voter Education Program to encourage a free and fair election in the forthcoming Local Government Elections (LGE). In order to uphold basic values and rights of a democracy, the CaFFE will monitor and observe all aspects of the elections through operating from District Centers across the North and East with the support of the staff and already established trained volunteers who took part in the previous elections and volunteers for newly resettled areas in Northern Province. In addition CaFFE's Colombo office will monitor the Media and disseminate findings from the District Centers. In order to maximize its impact an island wide media campaign for voter education and democratic values will be launched.

This grant reached over 100,000 people in the 8 districts of the North and East and provided national messaging for a “Say Yes to a Violence Free Election” campaign.

Stabilization of Youth through Providing Employment Opportunities - This grant will support Sri Lankan JobsNet Limited to provide opportunity for unemployed youth, including former combatants, to seek



Thousands of job seekers gathered for their chance to interview for positions with some of the Nation's top employers

suitable jobs and develop their capacity to sell themselves in the job market. This activity will also identify gaps in their training and experience for further development. Providing youth in the post-conflict North with marketable skills and greater access to jobs that will help stabilize former conflict-affected populations, increase trust, and decrease the current epidemic of youth suicide. Access to the job market will renew hope in the community in the resettled area as well as renew the relationship between the North and South through improved shared economic opportunities.

Over 17,700 youth were registered with the national employment delivery system through the project and over 15,500 youth participated in the Jobs Fair in Vavuniya. Over 3200 job offers were extended to job seekers the day of the event.

IMPLEMENTATION

In the east the floods had a major impact on program implementation. The office was flooded twice, and closed for several days in January and February. Vehicles had to be kept on other premises for several weeks as the water level was too high to keep them at the office. Staff worked out of grantee offices, and those who live in other parts of the country were unable to travel to the district. As a result, RISEN were approved to move offices, and will relocate fully by the end of July 2011.



The major impact however was with the grantee and the beneficiaries – many of RISEN’s implementing partners have a low capacity and few resources. With so much damage to property and roads, many of the grantee staff and resource persons were unable to work while getting their affairs in order. As the grants encourage young people from isolated areas to travel to areas where they will interact with others, many of the grant activities had to be cancelled or postponed until after the rains had stopped; families were reluctant to let their sons and daughters travel when it was uncertain if they would be able to return. Many were unable to leave their villages because roads were washed away, or because the water level was too high for them to be able to travel to the project sites. Grant activities were delayed to varying degrees as a result of this, and extensions were requested from OTI where there was no way to recover the time.

The collapse of Black bridge, Chenkalady, as a result of the flooding, once again severely restricted access to one of the most conflict affected areas in the district. Although the bridge is now under repair and passable, for three months program and grantee staff had to travel to the interior of the district along some of the worst roads in the east. Karadiyanaru, one of the former LTTE capitals, remains a major focus for the SLA, and round ups are common across Chenkalady division currently. As many projects are planned and active in this area, it is recommended that grantee partners be given letters, stating their engagement in activities under RISEN.

The Senior Grants Manager was relocated to Colombo in April, leaving the east program office short of one grants manager. Approval to hire a GM was granted in June and the recruitment process is ongoing. A series of visits and reviews monopolized project time considerably between March and April, taking the focus off new grant development during this period. With the imminent appointment of a new grants manager, and guidance from OTI about smaller grants, activities identified in the June-August workplan are under development.

In the north Capacity of grantees including those of local government to provide properly selected beneficiaries is lacking. Even grantees operating from the local government authority lack basic skills and experience in project implementation due to decades of conflict. Vavuniya RISEN staff have worked

with grantees to develop beneficiary selection criteria and have held community meetings to validate beneficiary selection with the grantees.

In RSN034, a grant activity focused on vocational training for youth multiple issues arose that negatively impacted project implementation. The grantee was unable to finalize appropriate beneficiaries for the scheduled masonry course despite RISEN staff support including meetings with potential beneficiaries. A significant problem occurred during the course of the implementation of the Food and Beverage Training Course. Vendors were solicited on multiple occasions before a vendor met the specifications required. The services of the Chris Hotel Management School, the initial vendor selected to provide instruction to 30 youth from the North, had to be cancelled due to physical and emotional abuse of the beneficiaries including the regular use of racial slurs. The youth were pulled from the program. In coordination with the Batticaloa office, another vendor who is also a previous grantee both the RISE and SLTI programs was selected to provide the vocational training course for the youth. The course is currently on-going, but the youth are safe and are showing brilliant progress.

The floods severely impacted implementation of project activities across the North. Road access to project sites was limited and many activities had to be rescheduled. The Vavuniya RISEN team took advantage of the window of opportunity presented by the national disaster to engage community members from different ethnic groups to work together to stabilize the area. In RSN 061, youth from the south joined youth from across the North to assist thousands of flood affected individuals in Mannar and Vavuniya Districts. There was a follow up grant developed, RSN065, which addressed gaps in NFI provision to areas with mixed ethnic returns utilizing the youth from RSN061.

Access continues to be a primary challenge for potential grantees and during implementation of grant activities with grantees that are not government bodies. In RSN043, the Tamil and Sinhala groups have been dissuaded from working together and continue to be blocked at a local level, central level and national level. Politically charged with a long history of community conflict, the project is intended to bring two communities together. The project has suffered from continual obstacles presented from the local military including requests for MOD clearance for all beneficiaries selected from the two communities. Local commanders have expressed that the two communities should not be working together. The military has completely blocked the intended project area from implementation. Discussions with the grantee have resulted in the only option being a change in project area to work in a less hostile area to ensure military approval in a strategic location with mixed ethnic return. The Vavuniya RISEN team is currently working on an alternative intervention to be implemented in the original project location through a local authority to mitigate access issues.

The grantee of RSN032 faced delays in acquiring the necessary PTF approval. This has resulted in certain activities being awarded to CBOs and local authorities. Activities which fall under the focus of the Joint Action Plan 2011 are considered for NGO implementation.

Vendor capacity in the North has resulted in lack of on-time delivery of services. There is a limited pool of reliable vendors who are currently being utilized by humanitarian actors. The procurement team has

been working with vendors to improve their capacity, encourage on time delivery of goods and services and improve communication between vendors in the North with vendors from the South.

The presence of landmines in the field continues to be a mitigated risk. Mine risk reduction education has been provided to all cash for work beneficiaries as well as to all youth involved in post disaster response programming. Secondary mine contamination occurred in RSN061, the post flood activity in Madhu. All youth participating in the community clean up participated in mine risk reduction activities.

Capacity of local authorities and implementing partners to provide proper specifications for procurement has been a consistent struggle. Because many offices have not functioned in years or functioned at a low capacity, information about quality goods has been lacking. In addition, identifying experts to provide proper specifications has resulted in changes to initial budgets and delays in grant development. The Vavuniya RISEN team has coordinated with the Batticaloa RISEN team for technical advice on validation grant development and for advice on vendor selection based on lessons learned from previous implementation activities.

The RISEN team in Vavuniya will continue to address primary needs such as significant loss of livelihood, community infrastructure and service provision from local authorities over the course of the next quarter. Innovative platforms will be developed to support individuals and community reintegration simultaneously will make the transition to stability possible in the North through a two prong approach utilizing change agents at the grassroots level through individuals, cooperatives and local authorities. The team will leverage windows of opportunity to create catalytic coalitions which can bridge communities to strengthen opportunities for individual change agents.

On-going grant activities will focus on capacity development of grantees and promote community engagement. Potential sources of conflict will be regularly monitored by the team. To build on the momentum created through previous grants RSN061, RSN059, RSN046 and RSN073, follow up grants will be developed to keep change agents engaged.

High visibility campaigns will continue in an effort to provide hope of stabilization to the beneficiaries in the targeted areas of intervention. Targeted reintegration projects will be developed in the specific hot spots across the North. Women head of households will become a key beneficiary trend particularly in the areas of economic stability and gender based violence.

OPERATIONS

CONTRACTS

On May 21, 2010 the RISE contract was modified. The purpose of the modification was to (1) revise Section C of the original contract to incorporate the North as a target area of project interventions, (2) revise the estimated cost of the contract to \$50,000,000, (3) extend the term of the contract through the end of the SWIFT III IQC (August 29, 2013), (4) provide incremental funding in the amount of \$1,170,942 and (5) insert standard OTI language in parts of the contract. With the addition of the North to the scope of RISE, the program became known as RISEN.

On August 17, 2010, DAI entered into an Indefinite Quantity Subcontract with a ceiling price of \$115,800, with Resources Development Consultants (RDC). The purpose of the subcontract is to provide engineering and rehabilitation management services to support the design, building or rehabilitation and quality assurance oversight for projects within Eastern Province in support of the objectives of the RISEN program.

On September 30, 2010 the RISEN contract was modified. The purpose of the modification (modification #5) was to increase the obligated amount of the program by \$5,523,480. This brought the new total obligated funding amount to \$14,249,833.

On December 13, 2010, RISEN received Modification #6 to the contract, increasing the project ceiling by \$1,800,000, raising the total ceiling to \$16,039,833.

On February 24, 2011, DAI signed a Purchase Order with Focus Marketing and Engineering for the rehabilitation works to be completed at Karadiyanaru Hospital in Batticaloa District. Through this Purchase Order for LKR 42,882,164 (US\$ 389,837), Focus Marketing and Engineering will construct 3 new hospital wards and a covered walkway, and install a new medical waste incinerator.

During this reporting period, RISEN signed twelve new Task Orders with the project's Architecture and Engineering subcontractor, Resource Development Consultants (RDC):

- 1) Construction Validation for Add On Schools in the Eastern Province.
- 2) Construction Supervision of the Karadiyanaru Hospital.
- 3) Construction Validation for the planned additional works at the Batticaloa Lighthouse and Batticaloa Public Market.
- 4) Construction Supervision for Karadiyanaru Hospital.
- 5) Construction Validation for Batticaloa Lighthouse and Public Market.

- 6) Construction Validation for the renovation of Anuradhapura Junction Market and Veloor Drainage System.
- 7) Construction Supervision of Ancheneye Contractors for Add-ons Schools Package #1: Pullipanchakal and Arasadithivu Schools.
- 8) Construction Supervision of Lucky Construction for Add-ons Schools Package #2: Arafat Nagar and Amman Nagar Schools.
- 9) Construction Supervision of Lucky Construction for Add-ons Schools Package #3: Thiruvalluvar, Mhathuwaran and Punnayadi Schools.
- 10) Construction Supervision of Rasika Contractors for renovation of Anuradhapura Junction Market and Veloor Drainage System.
- 11) Construction Validation for Children's Park at Batticaloa Lighthouse.
- 12) Construction Validation of Kalaimagal Hindu College and Chenaiyoor Central College in Muthur DS Division, Trincomalee.

On April 7, 2011, RISEN received CO consent to subcontract with Lucky Construction and Ancheneye Construction for the PACOM add-ons school projects.

On April 14, 2011, RISEN signed a subcontract in the amount of LKR 15,148,900 (US\$ 141,579) with Ancheneye Construction for rehabilitation works at Add-ons Schools Package #1: Pullipanchakal and Arasadithivu Schools.

On April 25, 2011, RISEN signed a subcontract with Rasika Construction in the amount of LKR 3,719,996 (US\$ 34,758) for renovation of the Anuradhapura Junction Market and Veloor Drainage System.

On May 2, 2011, RISEN signed two subcontracts with Lucky Construction in the amount of LKR 12,381,834 (US\$ 115,718) and LKR 13,764,350 (US\$ 128,639) for rehabilitation works at Add-ons Schools Packages #2 (Arafat Nagar and Amman Nagar Schools) and #3 (Thiruvalluvar, Mhathuwaran and Punnayadi Schools).

On May 17, 2011, RISEN requested an amendment to the ADS548 review of IT purchases under RISEN in response to IT procurement under RISEN grants, as well as operations for the three field offices, exceeding \$100,000.

On May 24, 2011, Santi Duewel became the RISEN COTR, replacing Hilary Dittimore.

ADMINISTRATION

Major Procurement

On February 9, 2011, RISEN registered four new project vehicles: Mahindra Scorpio 4x4s. Two have been deployed to each of our field offices.

Short Term Technical Assistance

Dejan Momirovic, DAI Home Office IT Operations Manager arrived June 27, 2010 for a four-week assignment to in order to set up and install hardware equipment and software applications, and configure Internet connectivity and Local Area Network at the two new RISEN project offices (Colombo and Vavuniya). In addition, he mentored IT/Database Specialist Ranjan Ganegodagamage on all aspects of server management for all three offices.

On September 11, 2010, DAI Home Office GIS Specialist Jason Fortier arrived for a two week assignment to work with the RISEN team to develop the program's GIS component. This is an ongoing effort currently being managed by the Home Office GIS team in Bethesda.

From September 13, 2010 to September 17, 2010, OTI IT and Database Specialist Dan Henry, based in the OTI Washington Office, worked with the RISEN team in Colombo to provide training and guidance on the use of the OTI/RISEN database.

On November 30, 2010, Ethan Arnheim, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist from the OTI headquarters in Washington, arrived to work with OTI/Sri Lanka and RISEN staff to develop a monitoring and evaluation platform for the program and prepare a presentation for the RISEN Rolling Assessment which took place during the first week of December, 2010.

On April 18, 2011, DAI Home Office Global Security Manager John Reid travelled to Sri Lanka to conduct a security review of the RISEN project. He was accompanied by Blake Kehler whose trip was covered out of DAI overhead. Mr. Reid and Mr. Blake conducted reviews of Colombo, Batticaloa and Vavuniya offices as well as project activity sites.

Other Project Events

On June 7, 8 and 9, 2010 the RISEN project held its first Strategy Review Session (SRS) since the contract modification expanding the scope of the project to include the North. All RISEN staff participated and were joined by DAI Home Office staff Heidi Silvey, Technical Area Manager; Keith Doxtater, Technical Backstop; and Bruce Spake, Senior Vice President, Stability Sector. Representing USAID were Rebecca Cohn, Sri Lanka Mission Director; Mike Desisti, Office Director, Humanitarian Assistance & Transition Initiatives/Sri Lanka; Jim Kovar, USAID; Chumani Monerawela, OTI/Sri Lanka; Jason Aplon (OTI) and Hillary Dittmore, RISEN COTR. Other guests included Jeff Han from PACOM and Brigadier General Sudantha Ranasinghe, Commissioner General, Rehabilitation. The SRS was facilitated by Eleanor Bedford (OTI) and Laurie Pearce (DAI).

The purpose of the SRS was to lay the foundation for a cohesive team and a successful start for RISEN and the objectives were to: discuss current political and operational context and implications for initial strategic direction; discuss an initial concept of operations for the first 3-6 months of the program; work

through questions and concerns together and clarify expectations surrounding start-up; identify areas for further clarification and follow-up actions.

Following the SRS, work commenced on the rehabilitation of the new office space in Colombo, at 61 2/1 Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha, Colombo 3. Subcontractor Orielle Creations completed the bulk of the renovation in time for the Colombo staff to re-locate to the new office on July 6, 2010.

On July 12, 2010 Ray Jennings (OTI) and John Ames, Jeyathevan Karthigeyan, Sypherion Thileepan, Sivasamy Jaikanth (RISEN DCOP, PDO's and Procurement Specialist) as well as RISEN project drivers Mohamed Aniphon and Thurairasah Thanarajah received approval from the Ministry of Economic Development, Presidential Task Force and Ministry of Defense to travel to Mannar, Kilinochchi and Vavuniya North to meet local government authorities and community members and discuss the priority needs of rehabilitation, including those identified in the PTF's action plan.

This was the first approval that the project received to travel into these Northern Districts. This served as an initial research mission to discuss potential RISEN pilot activities with local government officials and communities in the North in conjunction with the Government of Sri Lanka's strategy for re-integration. USAID received further permission for RISEN staff to travel into the north for a two-week period from July 26, to August 6, 2010 in order to conduct further assessments of potential activities. Clare McConnachie, RISEN Chief of Party, and Thangavel Sakthivell, Senior Program Development Officer, were included in the participant list.

On July 24, 2010, Stephanie Landers, Home Office Project Coordinator, left the project to pursue graduate studies. She was replaced by Savannah Onwochei.

On September 7, 2010 the program received Ministry of Defense approval to travel into the Northern provinces for a period of one month (September 5, 2010 to October 5, 2010).

On September 20 -22, 2010, COTR Hilary Dittimore visited five program activity sites in the East with Asha Harrison and other program staff.

On October 6, 2010, the project received approval from the Ministry of Defense for three months' access to the Northern provinces (October 5, 2010 to January 5, 2011).

From November 1 through November 5, 2010 Clare McConnachie attended COP Orientation in the DAI Home Office in Bethesda.

On October 21, DCOP John Ames conducted Ethics Training for all staff in the RISEN Vavuniya Office.

On October 23 and 24, 2010, Tammie Harris and Chris Wyrod, along with senior project staff, attended the ORHAN Sports Event funded under RSN018. The event brought together disabled youth from Vavuniya, Mannar, Matara and Batticaloa to promote understanding and help dispel fears about individuals and between ethnic groups. Tammie Harris and Ms. Charles, GA for Vavuniya, were keynote speakers for the closing ceremony.

On December 1 – 3, 2010, RISEN held its first Rolling Assessment in Habarana. Attendees included all RISEN project technical Staff, OTI CR Tammie Harris, OTI Deputy CR Chris Wyrod, Jason Aplon (OTI Bangkok) and Ethan Arnheim (OTI Washington).

On December 7, 2010, RISEN COP Clare McConnachie and DCOP John Ames held telephone interviews with Scott Loomis in order to contribute information for an OTI Start-up Workshop held in Washington, DC in December.

During the week of December 5 – 11, 2010 Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Alyssa Ayers and Katie McDonald (USAID) visited RISEN (and other) programs being implemented in Eastern Sri Lanka.

From December 6 through 17, 2010, an Internal Audit Team from the DAI home office conducted an audit of all project policies and procedures, with particular emphasis on project financial management, procurement, human resources policies and grant making procedures.

On December 13, 2010, RISEN received Ministry of Defense clearance for access to the North for the period of January 5, 2011 – April 5, 2011.

On December 23, 2010, RISEN signed its 50th grant!

On January 17 – 20, 2011, RISEN/Batticaloa hosted OFDA Regional Advisor for Asia and the Pacific Brien Heidel during his assessment of the flood situation in eastern Sri Lanka.

On January 20, RISEN DCOP John Ames met with Mission Director Jim Bednar and PACOM Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator for a de-brief on the status of PACOM projects in the East being implemented under RISEN.

On January 28, RISEN DCOP John Ames, Senior Infrastructure Officer Jordan Simjanoski and Infrastructure Anton Thambimuttu met with PACOM Project Manager Stan Wharry and representatives of RDC for a progress meeting on the status of all PACOM projects in the East.

On January 31, 2011, the project received a revised letter from the Ministry of Defense authorizing access to the North, which included new staff members Rajartahnam Sugumar, Surendrarajah Muthubanda, Lafeer Athambawa and Thilak Senanayake.

On February 23, 2011, new USAID Sri Lanka Mission Director Jim Bednar visited the RISEN Colombo office for an overview of the project and a Q&A session with CR Tammie Harris, Deputy CR Chris Wyrod, COP Clare McConnachie and DCOP John Ames.

From March 13 – 23, 2011, Jason Aplon, Senior Regional Advisor, OTI Bangkok and Gretchen Murphy, Program Assistant, OTI Washington, conducted a Management Review of RISEN operations and activities in Colombo as well as both field offices.

From March 22-24, 2011, RPM Asha Harrison, Senior grants Manager Tino Clark and Finance Manager Arumgam Ratheesan attended DAI Field Operations Training in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

From March 28-30, 2011, COP Clare McConnachie and RMP Dawn Hayden attended DAI Field Operations Training in Hanoi, Vietnam.

On March 31, 2011, USAID and RISEN staff received Ministry of Defense approval for access to the North for an additional three month period, from April 6, 2011 through July 5, 2011.

On April 18, 2011, DAI Global Security Manager John Reid and Global Security Specialist Blake Kehler began a two week security assessment of RISEN offices and project activity sites.

From May 4 - 23, 2011, John Rigby, OTI Senior Transition Advisor, Marcie Moberg, OTI Technical Trainer and Tran Que Nguyen, OTI Program Assistant, visited all three RISEN offices as well as project activity sites in the North and East in order to conduct a Program Performance Review for RISEN.

On May 11, 2011, RISEN extended the employment of Jordan Simjanoski, Senior Infrastructure Officer, through March 31, 2012.

From May 23 – 27, 2011, RISEN Database/IT Specialist, Ranjan Ganegodagamage, attended ARC-GIS Training in Colombo and will be working with the DAI Home Office GIS Team to establish the GIS platform for RISEN activity management.

On May 29, 2011, the RISEN Infrastructure Team visited construction activity sites in the East with PACOM Project Manager, Stan Wharry in order to provide him with a progress update. Following the visit to the East, the Infrastructure Team and Mr. Wharry, traveled to Colombo to meet with RDC on May 31, 2011, to review technical drawings for upcoming school construction activities

STAFFING

During this reporting period, the following staff members joined the RISEN program:

2010

June:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| John Ames | DCOP, Colombo |
| Jeyathevan Kaarthigeyan | Program Development Officer, Vavuniya |
| Sivasamy Jaikanth | Procurement Specialist, Vavuniya |
| Ranjan Ganegodagamage | IT/Database Specialist, Colombo |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Janet Ragel | Project Accountant, Batticaloa |
| Thillainadarasa Logaramanan | Project Accountant: Vavuniya |
| Jayakody Pradeepika | Executive Program Assistant, Colombo |
| Sypherion Thileepan | Program Development Officer, Vavuniya |

July:

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Asha Harrison | Regional Program Manager, Batticaloa |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|

August:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Dawn Hayden | Regional Program Manager, Vavuniya |
| Jeikanth Balasundaram | Procurement Specialist, Batticaloa |
| Ahmed Ashfaque | Procurement Specialist, Vavuniya |

December:

On December 2, 2010, Sypherion Thileepan, Program Development Officer, Vavuniya, resigned from RISEN for personal reasons

2011

January:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Lafeer Mohamed | Program Development Officer, Vavuniya |
| Muthubanda Surendrarajah | Grants Manager , Vavuniya |

February:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Subramaniam Sureshkumar | Procurement Specialist, Batticaloa |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|

March:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Sugumar Rajaratnam | Grants Manager, Vavuniya |
|--------------------|--------------------------|

May:

On May 26, 2011, Wilbert Vijayaruban, Grants Manager, Vavuniya, resigned from RISEN for personal reasons

SECURITY

No major security incidents were reported during the reporting period. Restrictions on civilian travel have continued to ease.