
Partners Meet Round Table – Day 2

21st February 2009

Morning Session - OfERR planning and budgeting 2009-10:

The morning session of Day 2 of the partners meet was chaired by Mr. Jerome. The OfERR volunteers sang a song to start the day's proceedings. Then Mr. Chandrahasan shed light on the work that OfERR undertakes and its relations to the existing situation. He saw the partners meet as an opportunity to decide which areas of OfERR should receive greater attention and disbursement of funds. Mr. Chandrahasan reiterated the fact that a permanent solution in the Island was the only way to bring about a change towards peace.



This introductory note was followed by a brief question and answer round. The question on arrival of any refugees from the Vanni areas was raised. To this question it was said that some fast boats were found on the beaches of Tamil Nadu, which indicates that some people may have crossed over. But these people had not found refuge in the camps.



The Goals, objectives, scope of the program, advocacy focus, constraints and assumptions were all discussed during the course of this session.

A question was asked regarding the strategic plan for the year, to which the reply was that the program is to be the same for the year, and the issue on the return of the refugees can only be dealt with when the Internally Displaced People within Sri Lanka return to their homes.

It was brought to the notice of the partners that OfERR Ceylon was not complete yet and this was due to the protracted situation in the Island. The time taken to rebuild would be long as the events causing it have been. This required a great deal of planning and support.

Post Tea Session:

This session was chaired by Mr. Gordon.

This session was centred on the finance statement and income projections. It included:

- Expenditure 2007-08 and current budget phase.
- OfERR budget projections for the year 2009 keeping in mind the risks and opportunities.



- Response from the partners and pledges.
- On – going/ expected changes within the partner’s agencies.
- Lead Agency Arrangements.

Mr. Gordon rightly put it that it was time to know what had happened (work undertaken) and what was still needed to be done to meet the emerging needs. To start with OfERR gave the financial statement.

Highlights of the session:

- AusAid may be able to put in more money for health.
- Different financial years of the various partners pose a challenge.
- Mr. Charles from the Danish Refugee Council appreciated the activities of both OfERR India and OfERR Ceylon, but also mentioned that the Indian efforts could not be funded as it was not a part of their Mandate. However he would take back the information gained during the course of his visit.
- Mr. Gordon said that there is a need for assessment, impact and an evaluation but it is important to see how it will help OfERR’s work and the refugees.
- Christian Aid was requested to continue as the lead agency. Mr. Laurent obliged, but also added that he personally might not be the one to continue. His efforts and tireless coordination has indeed been very useful for the refugees & OfERR’s cause. Working alongside Mr. Laurent will be missed.



The vote of the thanks was delivered by Mr. Samuel and each and every person involved was thanked and given due appreciation.



Hence with this the partners round table came to an end. But this end renewed the partnerships and commitments for the benefit of the Ceylon Tamil Refugees in India, Internally Displaced People and all affected communities in Sri Lanka. This meeting was a good reflection on the dedication of OfERR and its partners to stay the course till there is a reasonable settlement to the sufferings of so many.