Analysis summary of satellite imagery acquired on 5, 18-19 February 2009 over the government-declared "Civilian Safe Zone" (CSZ) in the Mulattivu district of northern Sri Lanka. There are clear indications that thousands of IDPS have moved into the northern half of the CSZ between 5 & 19 February 2009. A satellite-derived preliminary estimate based on automatic detection methods, indicates there are approximately 2,850 newly erected IDP shelter structures within the area designated as CSZ in the northern half of the CSZ as of 19 February 2009. Because of incomplete imagery coverage over northern CSZ, there is a high probability that the IDP structure count is significantly higher. It is important to note that the newly erected IDP shelter structures were mainly erected in cultivated lands as well as within the thick vegetation cover.

Analysis was done with WorldView 1 satellite imagery recorded on 5 & 18-19 February 2009 at a spatial resolution of approximately 0.5 meters. This is an initial assessment and has not been verified in the field.