

Chapter 3

Human cost of High Security Zones (HSZ)

A much ignored sociological phenomenon in the NorthEast is the flow on effects of the declaration of the HSZs. In the first instance, the reader must ask herself what type of meaning she is attaching to the phrase “High Security Zone”. If one reviews the usage of this phrase in other countries, the very limited application of this phrase will become very evident. The phrase is in fact used to delineate very sensitive regions such as the parliament, a state’s leader’s official residence, and regions of high military secrecy that are located far away from civilian areas for obvious reasons. In the NorthEast as will be seen below the application of this phrase has entirely different meaning.

The HSZ phenomenon in the NorthEast started in the early 1980’s and has gradually expanded and evolved into what is today. This document provides statistics on HSZ in the NorthEast of the island which will show how the meaning of this phrase as used in the NorthEast has an entirely different meaning to its international usage. Not many people today will be aware that even as late as the 1970’s, Palaly airport, the only airport in the northern Sri Lanka that was a civilian international airport, was providing flights to Colombo and to India. Today, it is one of the most militarized areas in the island situated within one of the largest HSZ in the island. The largest number of HSZ instigated displacement of civilians is from this Palaly HSZ. The plight of the displaced languishing in refugee camps for more than 15 years resulting in the deterioration of their culture is a story that still remains to be told.

The displacement of civilians in the Trincomalee district started even earlier in the 1980s. Many of these civilians have been living in the Mullaitivu district in refugee camps for more than 20 years.

For all the HSZ refugees the loss of their land has far reaching implications. The material content involved in the loss of one’s home itself is a devastating matter. For most people their life’s earnings is deposited into building their home. Many people have lost it due the HSZ. The loss of land and the community for people amounts to the destruction of a way of life and culture that is irreplaceable. The land is the source of livelihood for most people and they have lost this land. The statistics below gives some idea of the agricultural land lost. Besides this most people have coconut trees, fruit trees, and other trees that sustain the nutritional needs of the people. Living in refugee camps all of this is lost. The denial of fishing rights and barb wiring more than 100 Km of coastline from the fishermen is yet another dimension to this HSZ implication to the people.

The violation of children’s rights caused by the HSZ displacement is yet another dimension that has not been addressed. As the statistics show at least 68 schools have been denied their buildings by the HSZ. One can go on stating the child rights violations caused by the HSZ. These are best explained in the United Nation High Commission on Human Rights Fact Sheet 25 on “Forced Evictions”.

To drive the point raised at the start regarding the usage of the phrase HSZ, a search on the Internet was made for this phrase. The results are attached in Annexure-2. First seven entries returned by Google are about the HSZ in the NorthEast. This proves the point that GoSL has redefined the meaning of the term HSZ.

Area of HSZ in Mullaitivu - 16800 a
No of houses in HSZ - 1004
Total area of farmland - 16711 a

Area of HSZ in Mannar -1360 a
No of houses in HSZ - 50
Total area of farmland - 42 a
Places of worship - 02

Area of HSZ in vavuniya – 1000 a
No of houses in HSZ - 1505
Total area of farmland - 106 a
Places of worship - 22

Area of HSZ in Jaffna - 3800 a
No of houses in HSZ - 28830
Total area of farmland - 12929a
Places of worship - 80

Area of HSZ in Trinco - 200a
No of houses in HSZ - 305
Total area of farmland - 50 a

Area of HSZ in Batticaloa - 700 a
No of houses in HSZ - 399
Total area of farmland - 86 a

Area of HSZ in Amparai – 260 a
No of houses in HSZ - 72
Total area of farmland - 40

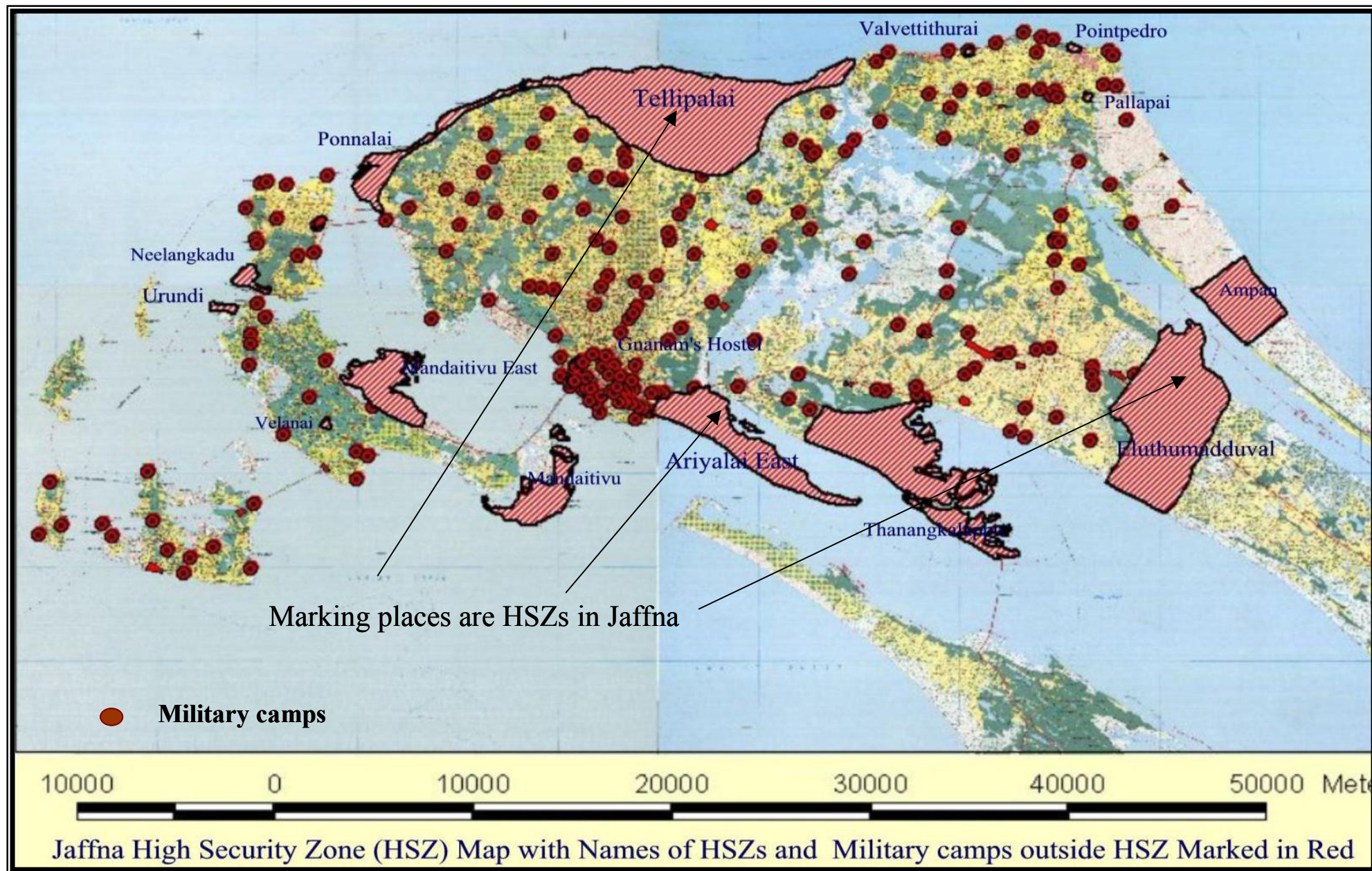
Over all statistics on HSZs with map

3.2. Over all statistics on HSZs

	Amparai	Batticaloa	Trinco	Vavuniya	Mullaitivu	Mannar	Jaffna
Total area of HSZ in acres	260	700	200	1000	16800	1360	3800
Number of homes in the HSZs from which owners were evicted	72	399	305	1505	1004	50	28830
Total area of farmland (acres) made inaccessible to civilians	40	86	50	106	16711	42	12929
Total length of sea and lake fishing coastline made inaccessible (Km)	01	01	20	21	19	24	80
Number of families whose livelihoods were directly affected.	32	193	286	1103	1004	65	20969
Number of schools prevented from functioning	00	01	00	21	04	07	35
Number of places of worship inaccessible to civilians	00	00	00	22	00	02	80
Number of public places inaccessible to civilians	04	31	00	49	14	04	32

Notes:

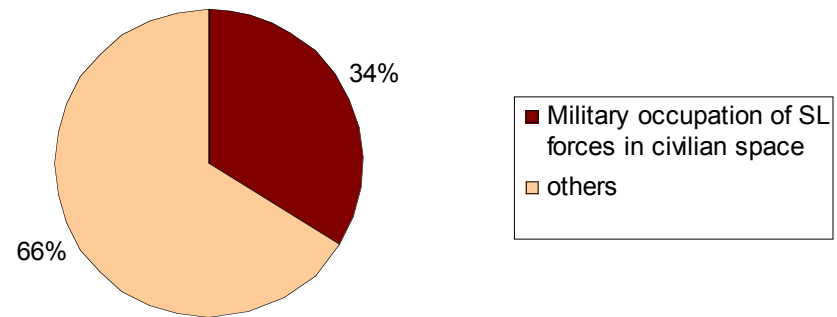
- *All area measurements are given in acres and distance measurements in Km.*
- *These statistics are based on the data available at the time pf producing this report. In all likely hoods the actual statistics will indicate that the HSZs a lot more extensive than what these data indicate.*



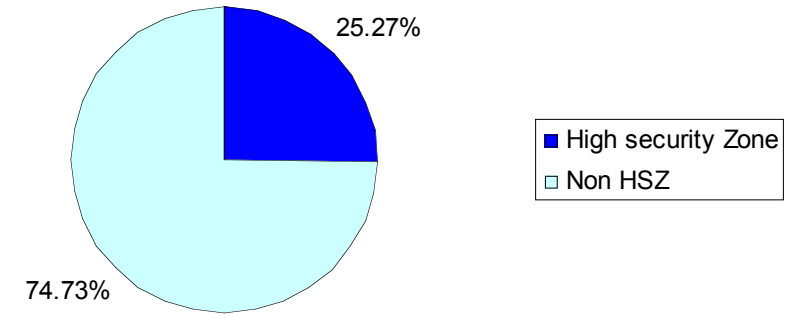
3.3. Summary statistics of HSZs in Jaffna district

Name of HSZ	No of Houses	No of families initially affected	Total number of families waiting to resettle	Total area of HSZ	Area of farmland within in acres	Farming families affected	No of factories inside	No of factory workers affected	Coastline made inaccessible (Km)	Fishing families affected	No of places of worship	No of villages partly or fully within the HSZ	No of public buildings	No of schools
Neelankadu	150	150	200	1.25	5	3	3	165	4	77	4	12		
Urundi	152		98	75	25	10	1	72	4	142	1		1	
Velanai	50	61	61	0.25	17	60								
Mandaitivu	150	557	553	8.0	320	127			12	373	1			1
Mandaitivu west		472	359	2.0	671	553	1	50						
Gnanam's hostel	150	125	125	0.15										
Ariyalai east	1970	2450	2296	12.0		225	5	420	4	543	6		7	4
Thalankilappu	715	709	624	25.0	2689	516			11	291	7		1	2
Eluthumadduval		687	651	34.5	440	483			4	135	11			4
Amban	536	551	551	12.5	294	137	1	46	5	226	15	2	4	3
Pallappai	10	10	10	0.15	3	10					1	1		
Pointpedro	38	50		0.5			5	7	1	50	5	2	3	3
Valvettithuri	15	20	20	0.1					0.5	25	2	2		
Tellipalai	24549	24816	18939	49	8465	14398	18	960	30	2574	27	3	16	18
Ponnalai	300	320			8	35			2	200	1			
Total	28785	30978	24487	220.4	12937	16557	34	1720	80	4436	80	21	32	35

Percentage of military occupation of land in Jaffna



Percentage of HSZ in Jaffna



Source: Statistical information – 2005
District Secretariat
Jaffna

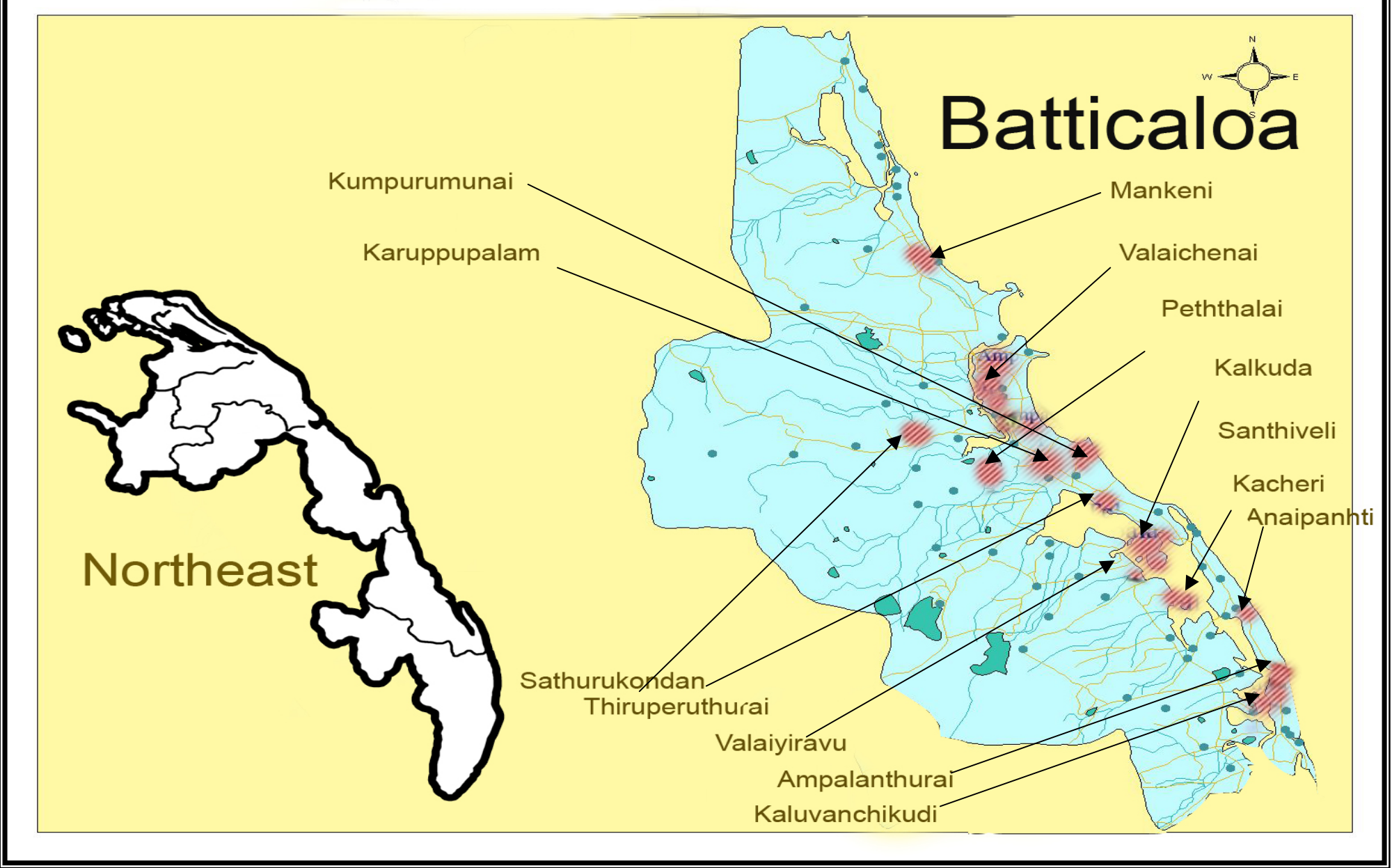
- Affected education zones in Jaffna district

Affected education zones in Jaffna district	Jaffna	Vadamaradchi	Valikamam	Thenmaradchi	Jaffna islands	Total
Closed schools by High security zones	-	01	18	03	26	48
Functioning as temporary schools by military occupation	02	01	12	02	-	17
Functioning schools inside the military camps	-	02	02	02	04	10
Schools near/ in front of military camps	22	03	04	05	05	39

Military occupation out of HSZs in Jaffna district

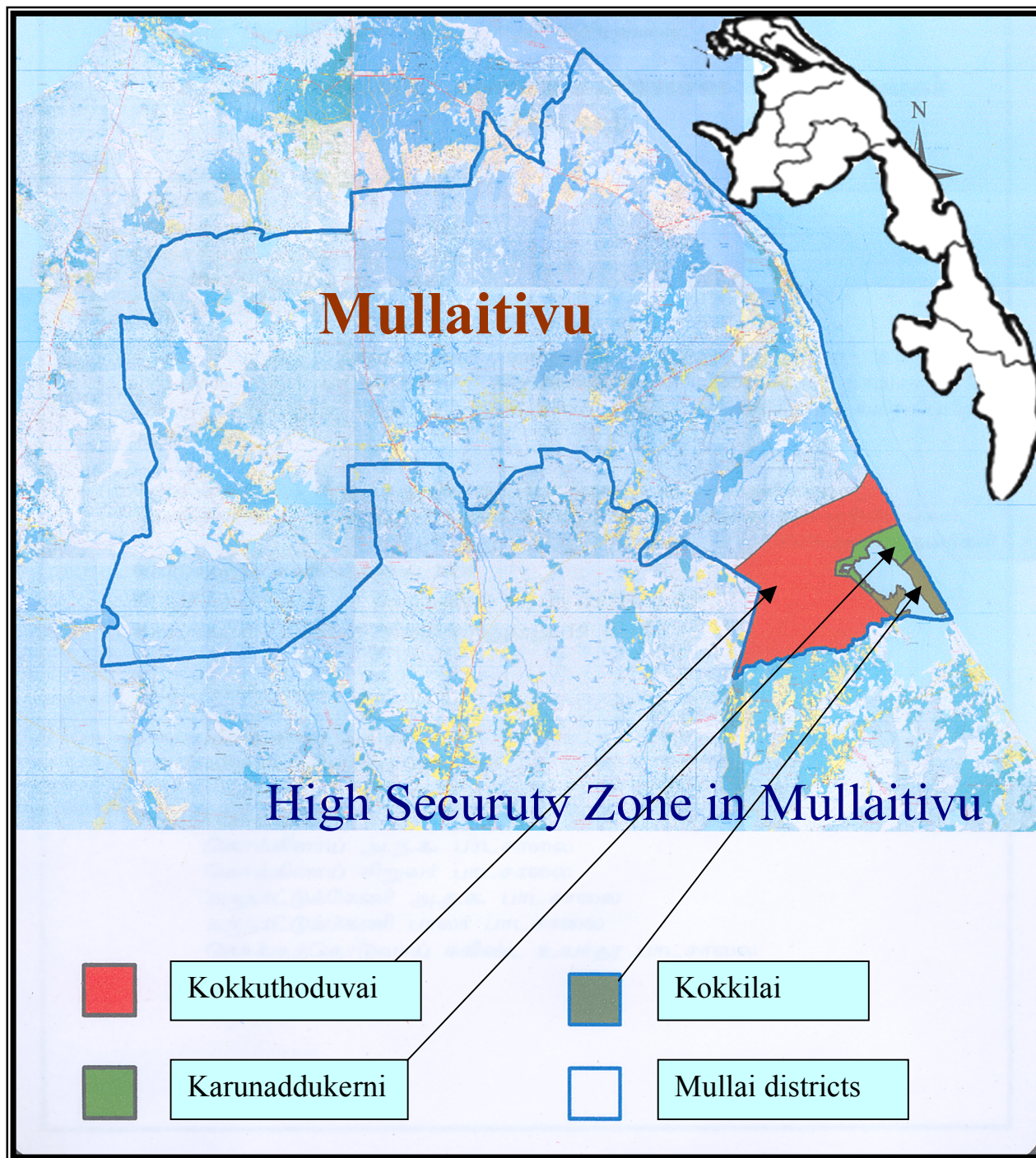
Source: Statistical information – 2005
District Secretariat,
Jaffna.

Areas	Occupied houses	Occupied shop	Families were displaced
Thenmaradchi	664	37	705
Velanai	122	13	147
Kopai	50	12	61
Karainakar	23	04	38
Sandilipai	309	17	444
Karaveddi	15	07	19
Point Pedro	33	10	89
Kytes	32	10	38
Nallur	41	19	72
Uduvil	25	24	62
Neduntheivu	02	01	06
Sankanai	14	08	15
Maruthankeni	11	04	21
Jaffna	18	250	552
TOTAL	1359	416	2269



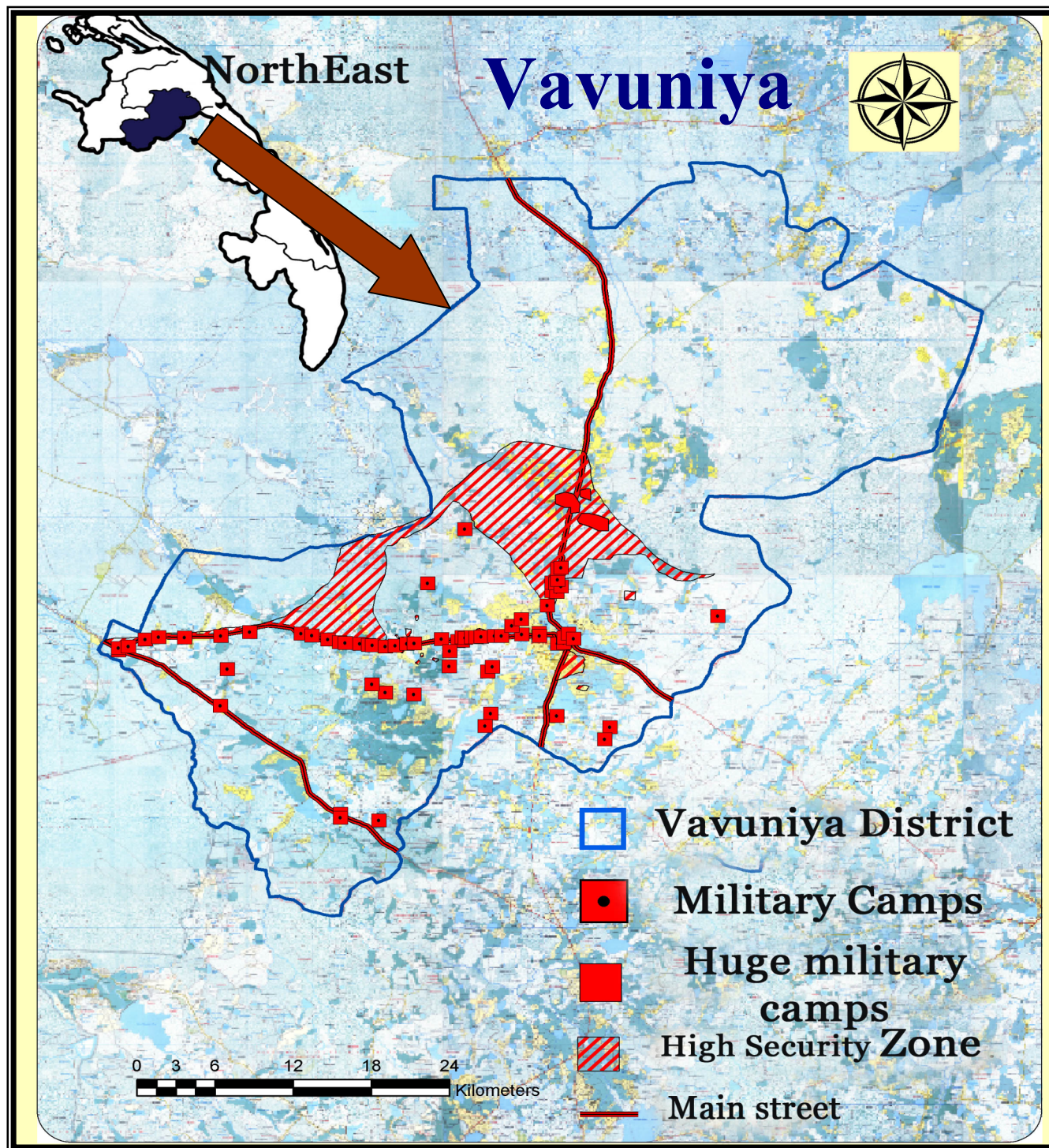
3.4 Summary statistics of HSZs in Batticaloa district

Name of HSZ	No of Houses	No of families initially affected	Total number of families waiting to resettle	Total area of HSZ	Area of farmland within in acres	Farming families affected	No of factories inside	No of factory workers affected	Coastline made inaccessible (Km)	Fishing families affected	No of places of worship	No of villages partly or fully within the HSZ	No of public buildings	No of schools
Mankeni	08	10		06										
Valaichenai														
Peththalai - V		18	20	09									03	
Kalkuda - V	66	65		15	14	17			1km	56				
Kumpurumunai (Kiran)		100		75				01					01	
Santhiveli														
Eravur	15	10	10	04									08	
Sathirakondan	10		15	30		20								
Batticalo														
Thiruperumthurai	17	20	15	10										
Anaipanthi	20		20	35									15	
Valaiyiravu				30	20	15								
Ampilanthurai				10	10	12								
Kaluvanchikudi	10		15	15									04	
Total	146	223	95	239	44	64		01	01km	56			31	



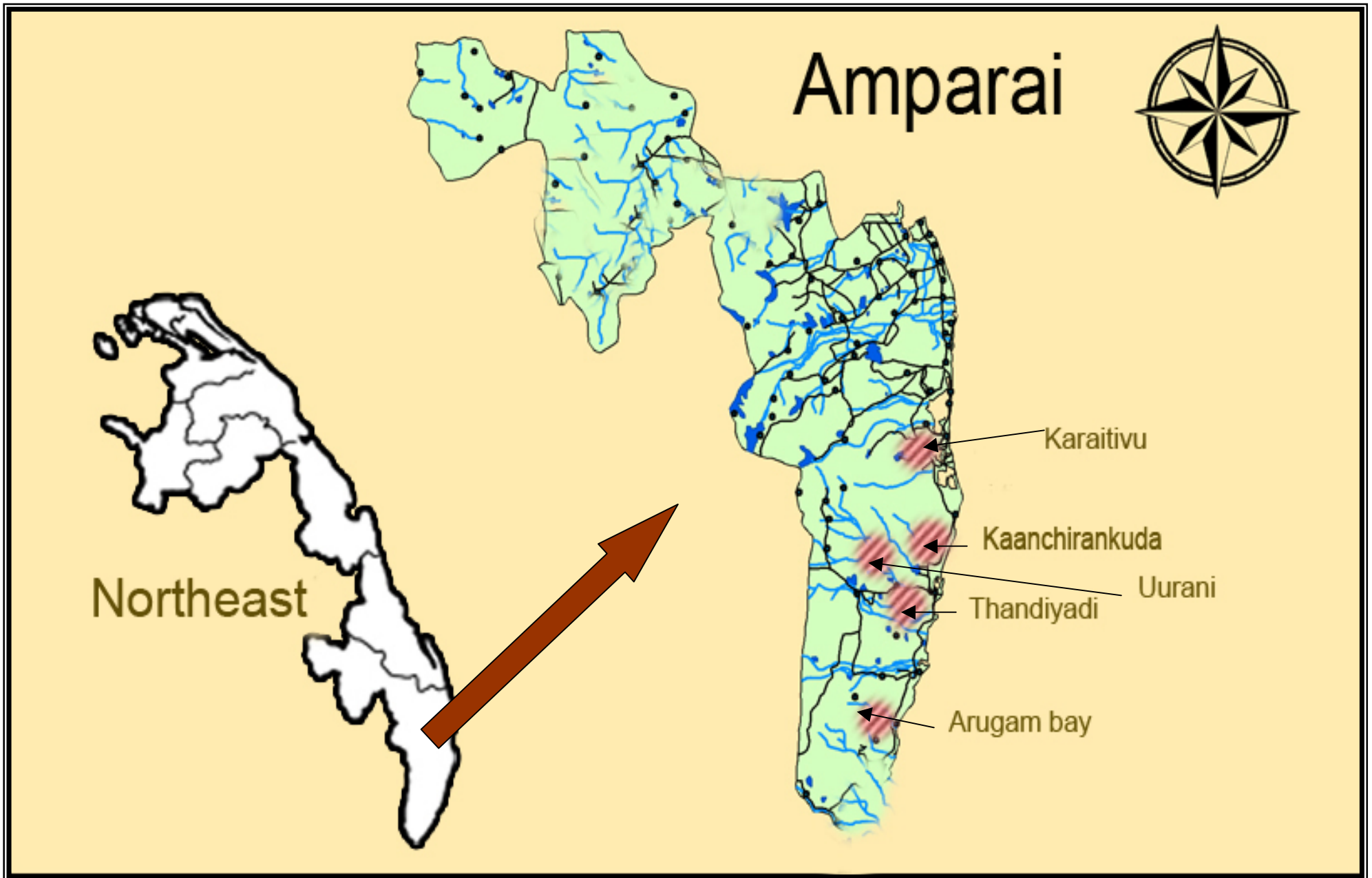
3.5. Summary statistics of HSZ in Mullaitivu district

Affected families (were displaced)	-	1004
Houses	-	1004
HSZ Area	-	16800
Area of farmland within HSZs	-	16711
Coastline made inaccessible	-	19 km
affected fishing families	-	139
affected Farming families	-	865
Schools	-	05
worship places	-	14



3.6. Summary statistics of HSZ in Vavuniya district

Name of HSZ	No of Houses	No of families initially affected	Total number of families waiting to resettle	Total area of HSZ	Area of farmland within in acres	Farming families affected	No of factories inside	No of factory workers affected	Coastline made inaccessible (Km)	Fishing families affected	No of places of worship	No of villages partly or fully within the HSZ	No of public buildings	No of schools
Omanthai	1410	1437	3216	17500	9250	958	01	388			15		31	11
Kallikulam	35	121		18	7	41					04		06	01
Bampaimadu	50	85	150	405	250	85		70			01			
Munrymuripu		19	47	35	30	19	02	55			01		06	
Secaddipilavu		210		202									04	
Kathar sinnakulam	10	10	10	25	04						01		02	
Total	1505	1882	3423	18185	9541	1103	03	513			22		49	12

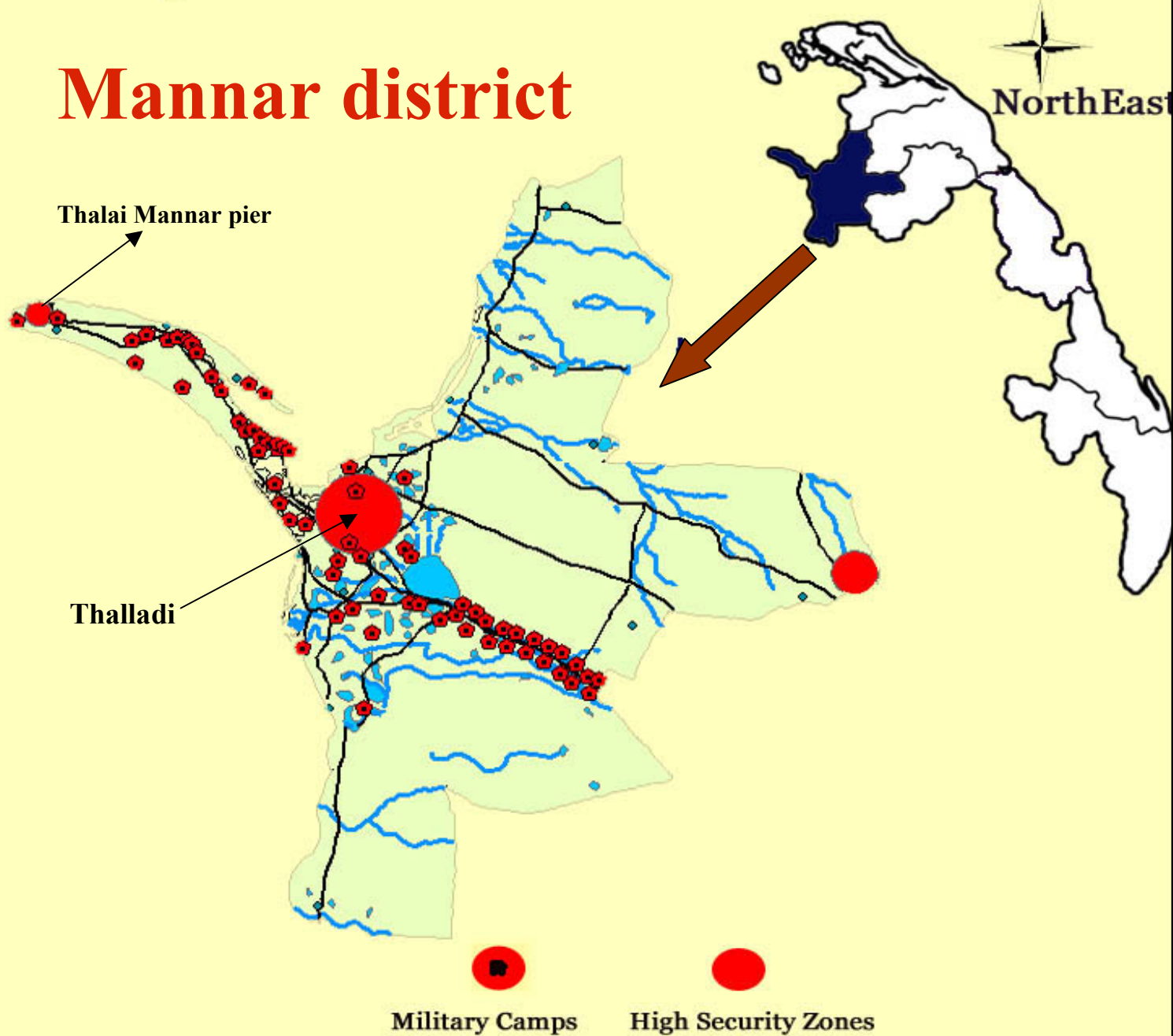


3.7. Summary statistics of HSZ in Amparai district

Name of HSZ	No of Houses	No of families initially affected	Total number of families waiting to resettle	Total area of HSZ acre	Area of farmland within in acres	Farming families affected	No of factories inside	No of factory workers affected	Coastline made inaccessible (Km)	Fishing families affected	No of places of worship	No of villages partly or fully within the HSZ	No of public buildings	No of schools
Karaitivu	06	10	20	25										
Kanchiramkuda	16	50	55	4		50							01	01
Thandiyadi	30	50	100	14	03	05							01	
Urani high	20	30	50	08	05	20				10			01	
Arugam bay	10	10	20	05	03	04				15			01	
Total	82	150	245	56	11	79				25			04	01

Military installations in civilian area in Mannar District

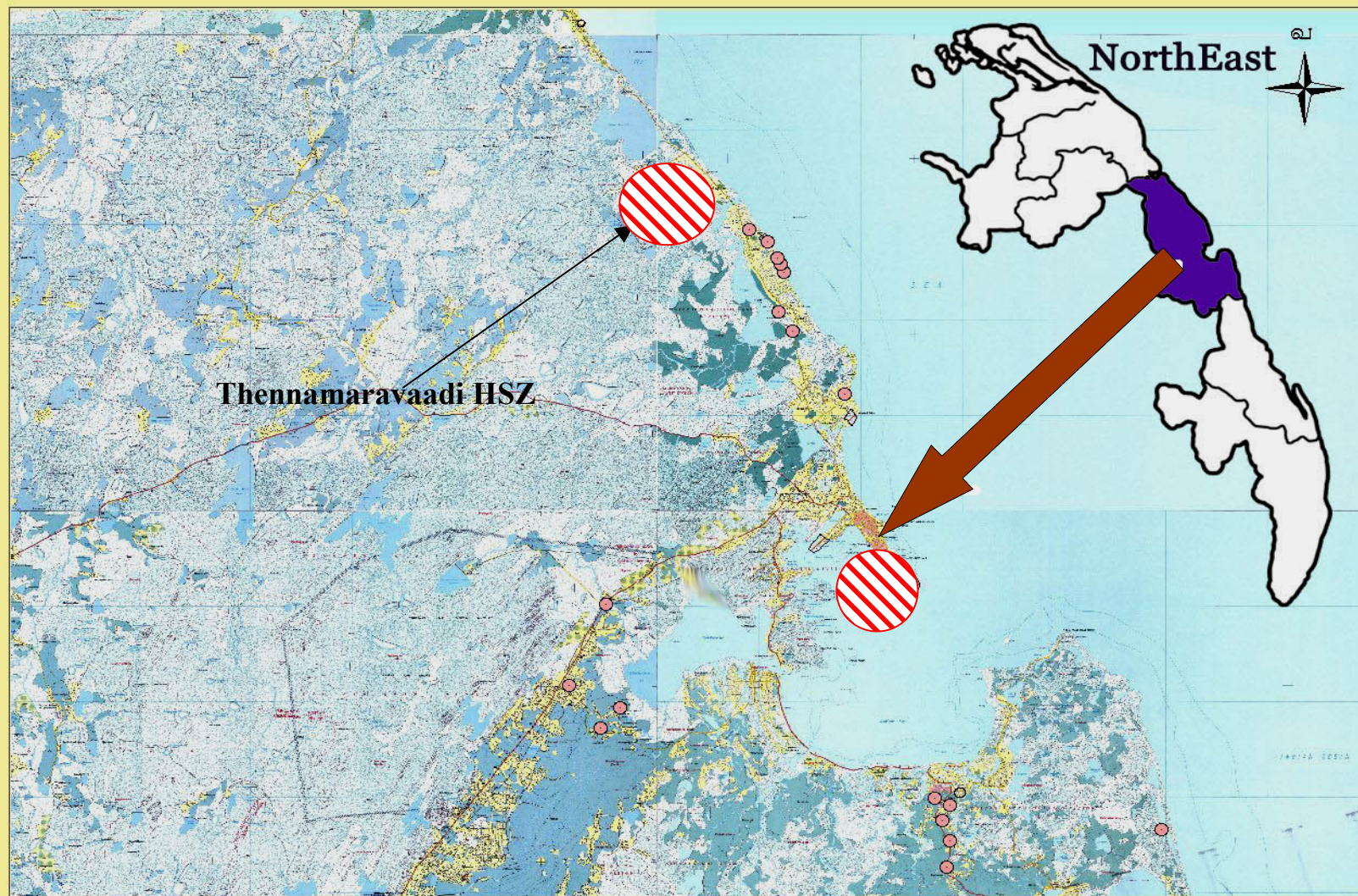
Mannar district



3.8. Summary statistics of HSZ in Mannar district

Name of HSZ	No of Houses	No of families initially affected	Total number of families waiting to resettle	Total area of HSZ	Area of farmland within in acres	Farming families affected	No of factories inside	No of factory workers affected	Coastline made inaccessible (Km)	Fishing families affected	No of places of worship	No of villages partly or fully within the HSZ	No of public buildings	No of schools
Thalladi	520	500		1550		150		500	06	350	01			03
Thalaimannar pier	150	200		600				150	06	145	01		01	
Iranai Iluppaikkulam	465	450		2000									03	
Total	1135	1150		4150		150		650	12	495	02		04	03

Military installations in civilian area in Trincomalee District



400000 0 400000 800000 1200000 1600000 Miles



Military Camps



High Security Zones

3.9. Summary statistics of HSZ in Trincomalee district

Name of HSZ	No of Houses	No of families initially affected	Total number of families waiting to resettle	Total area of HSZ (acres)	Area of farmland within in acres	Farming families affected	No of factories inside	No of factory workers affected	Coastline made inaccessible (Km)	Fishing families affected	No of places of worship	No of villages partly or fully within the HSZ	No of public buildings	No of schools
Thennamaravaadi	305	205		2200	2200			19	20	81				

Other HSZs in Trincomalee district are: (Vellerikkulam, Vilankulam, Panmathavachchi)

No. of affected families including Thennamaravaadi - 650

Annexure: When we search for "High Security Zone" in Google.....



Web

Results 1 - 10 of about 44,200 for "[high security zone](#)". (0.24 seconds)

[TamilNet: 07.11.02 Tigers help IDPs resettle in high security zone](#)

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IISc rejects idea of **high security zone**. Search for More News. Bangalore, Dec 30: Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore Director Prof. ...

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Robbery in **high security zone**. By Our Special Correspondent. GUWAHATI, JUNE 5. A six-member gang of robbers broke into the house of a State Bank of India ...

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[Online edition of Daily News - Security Leadpage](#)

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