

HIGHLIGHTS

- Climate change and delayed monsoon has caused 20% loss of paddy harvest in the country during Maha 2013
- Foot and Mouth Disease among livestock is rapidly spreading despite control measures by the Government
- ERC approves over \$2 million CERF funding to provide humanitarian assistance to drought-affected people in Sri Lanka
- Heavy rainfall cause havoc in the southern Sri Lanka causing 27 deaths in June 2014
- During last 10 years, 9 million people in Sri Lanka were affected by 23 floods with USD 1 billion economic loss
- The Government and humanitarian partners successfully completed the field survey of the Joint Needs Assessment in early June.



WFP

In this issue

Drought Update P.1

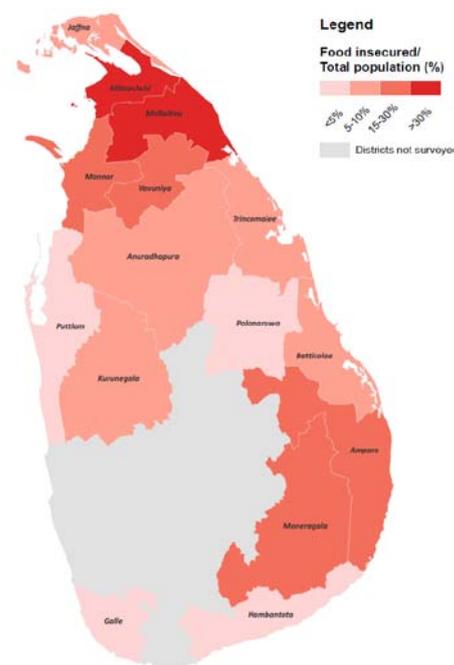
Floods & Landslides P.1

Joint Needs Assessment P.2

Over 1.8 million Sri Lankans are affected by drought since 2013

Since 2011, erratic rainfall during the northeast monsoon characterized by flood/drought cycles has led to increased number of disaster-affected people in Sri Lanka's Dry Zone. The communities living in these areas are already highly vulnerable and struggling to achieve basic living standards, and have little or no resilience in the face of a third successive climatic crisis.

In 2013 the northeast monsoon, which supplies water for the main rain-fed agriculture (*Maha*) season across the key paddy producing areas in the country was delayed and brought the lowest reported precipitation (less than 40 percent) during the last three years period leading to prolonged drought across many parts of the country (Source: Dept. of Meteorology Sri Lanka). As most households in the affected areas engage in small scale farming activities, their livelihoods are severely affected by destroyed or very poor crops, and many families report they have eaten the seed paddy they could have planted for the irrigated agriculture (*Yala*) season in 2014 due to continuous low level of food supply (source: joint mutli-sector rapid assessment). Sri Lanka's staple food is rice and most of the rice consumed in country is produced in the above areas. By April 2014, the Department of Agriculture reported that lack of rain has damaged 83,746 hectares of paddy planted area resulting in an estimated production loss of 280,000 MT of rice (15 percent of forecasted production).



Food Security at district levels (source: Joint multi-sector rapid assessment)

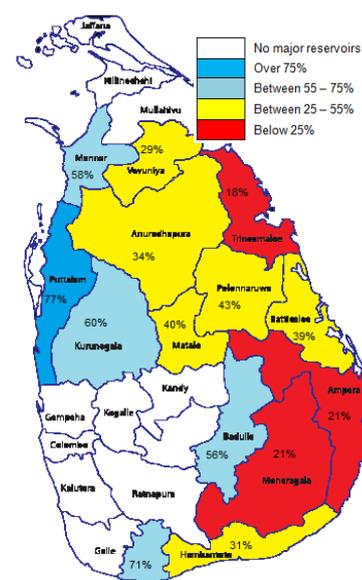
A multi-sector rapid assessment was conducted in April 2014 jointly by the humanitarian agencies and the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) in 15 worst drought affected districts to assess the impact and target assistance to the most vulnerable people. The assessment revealed that the current emergency is not an isolated event but rather the accumulation of impacts due to recurrent natural disasters over a period of three years. In 2012, a similar drought condition affected food security of over 360,000 people around the country with severe food insecurity in two districts in the Northern Province. In early 2013, over 430,000 people were affected in Northern and Eastern Provinces due to floods. In 2014, a total of 1.5 million people are affected, out of which, 768,000 people

Food insecurity among the rural poor has risen dramatically in the past 3 years as a consequence of a gradual erosion of coping strategies to recurring natural disasters

have been identified as food insecure with low coping capacity and 60,000 people are in urgent need of drinking water assistance. Over 765,000 people (50 percent) of the affected community were reported to use negative coping strategies such as limit meal portions, restrict adult meal consumptions and reduce number of meals taken in a day. This was particular high in the Northern, Uva and Eastern Provinces. By August 2014. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) reported that over 1.8 million people are affected by drought and are in need of external assistance to recover from the emergency.

Department of Irrigation is concerned of availability of drinking water as the drought continues

Sri Lanka's provision of drinking water and agriculture practices depend heavily on major reservoirs and minor tanks that store rain-water and provide water for drinking and crop irrigation during the dry season. Communities in the most drought-affected areas are dependent on open dug-wells for household water and for small garden production. Both tanks and dug-wells have been dried out and water levels are dangerously low in many major reservoirs. In June 2014, the Department of Irrigation (DoI) reported that the current total gross capacity (MCM) of all the 72 major reservoirs in the country has reduced to 30 percent. The water storage continues to reduce with the limited rainfall received during the past six months period in the dry zone and the forecasted below average rainfall. With the predicted low rainfall, the DoI expressed deep concerns that there would not be sufficient water within the country to provide for the total drought-affected population in the coming months. This will have a further accumulative impact on the already affected people in terms of food security, malnutrition and health concerns related to scarcity of food and water.



Water capacity of major reservoirs as of June 2014, source Department of Irrigation

Water storage in the major reservoirs is severely low with lack of rain

Over 19,900 cases of Foot-and-Mouth Disease among the livestock are reported from 18 districts by May 2014

Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) is endemic in Sri Lanka. Annually about six to eight FMD outbreaks are reported and controlled with vaccinations and other measures. This year it has spread to all the districts except Hambantota and this may be due to changed virulent of virus and prolonged drought condition. As of May 2014 FMD has spread to 80 Divisional Secretary's Divisions in 18 districts in the country. According to the Statistics of the Department of Animal Production and Health (May 2014) nearly 19,966 cases of FMD reported of which 866 animals have died of FMD within 6 months (Dec 2013 – May 2014) and 2.2 million animals around the island are susceptible. Out of the total animal deaths by FMD so far, 53% of animal deaths were reported from the 12 drought-affected dry zone districts and 47% from Gampaha district.



Animals gather to few available water sources increasing the risk of FMD spread. Source: FAP

Foot and Mouth Disease spread to 80 divisions in 18 districts despite control measures

The Department of Animal Production and Health imposed a ban in eleven districts in February 2014 on the transportation of animals dead or alive and animal products. Thereby the sale of meat prohibited and sale places closed. The slaughter houses remained closed until the Department grant approval to re-open. The milk collection centers remained closed as the milk collected in the villages/districts are transported to larger processing facility as fresh milk in cool condition act as the virus carrier. The ban was lifted in April 2014 when the spread of FMD was under control. Second FMD outbreak occurred in May 2014 in the Eastern province in eleven veterinary ranges in Ampara and Batticalo district and animals transport restricted until June 2014. Livestock trade is limited and those affected by FMD receives lower prices for their stock. Those wishing to purchase animals from FMD free herds face a restricted supply. The FMD outbreaks resulted in the loss of milk production, lower weight gain, lower fertility and abortions, mortality in young stock and the revenue of small farmers both men and women are foregone with additional costs for vaccines, diagnostic costs, movement control and food insecurity.

FMD may worsen the existing food insecurity

FMD infection will establish and affect highly productive animals (10-20 litres of milk/day) in mid and hill country and (3-4 litres of milk/day) in dry zones. Deaths among calves and weak animals are common outcome. The impact can vary from reduced productivity and restricted market access to the elimination of the entire flock of herds, with the resultant valuable genetic resources and public health risks. By reducing the supply of milk production, FMD impacts on food security, particularly when outbreaks occur during the times of the year when other food sources are limited and dependency upon milk is the greatest. Small scale farm houses heavily rely on milk for income and also to provide for sufficient protein/energy for their children's nutrition. Many livestock farmers in the dry zone are resource poor small farmers and are severely affected by the drought condition which has failed their crops, income as well as the risk of FMD and animal deaths.

The current widespread of the FMD epidemic threatens to further worsen the existing food insecurity situation, with millions of population at risk of food insecurity, malnutrition, loss of livelihoods and assets. 160,000 households depending on the cattle, goat and swine keeping are directly affected by the FMD outbreak. They face financial difficulties as their income reduced and also need to treat their infected animals.

ERC approves humanitarian drought-relief assistance for Sri Lanka

The Emergency Response Coordinator, Ms. Valerie Amos has approved US\$2,052,680 from the Rapid Response window of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for drought-response in Sri Lanka to provide food, drinking water and emergency vaccination to prevent the spread of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD).

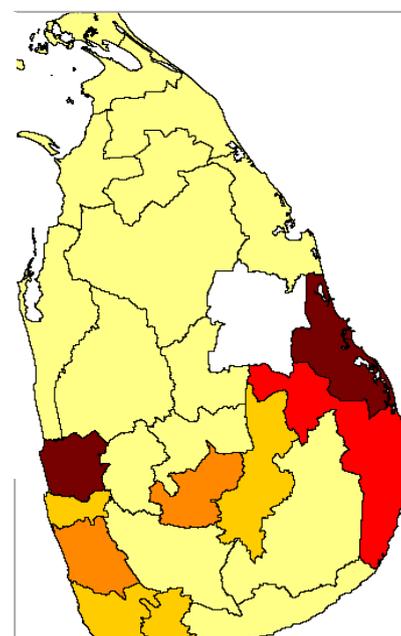
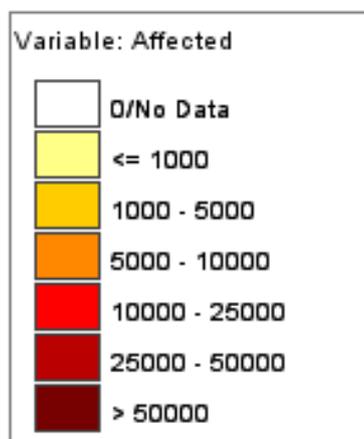
Southwest monsoon arrives with heavy rainfall and high wind causing loss of 27 lives

With the arrival of Southwest monsoon, the southern region of Sri Lanka received heavy rainfall with high winds within a short period of time in early June 2014. Kalutara district alone received 378mm of rainfall within 6 hours on 4 June 2014 causing a massive landslide in the area. The floods and landslides caused 27 deaths and a total of 104,476 people (25,538 families) were affected in eleven districts out of total 25 districts in the country. Over 1,300 houses were partially damaged with 288 houses fully destroyed by floods, landslides and high winds. Since the southwest monsoon brings in water only to the southern and western region of the country, the drought affected districts in Northern, Eastern and North-central regions are not relieved and continue to suffer from food insecurity, water scarcity and loss of livelihoods as mentioned above.

Sri Lanka's economic loss from floods alone - USD 1 billion for 10 years

Floods account for 92% of the total natural disasters affected population

According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) data, floods, high wind, drought, landslides and lightening are the major recurrent disasters in Sri Lanka. With the successful implementation of the disaster risk reduction programmes in the country for 9 years, the Ministry of Disaster Management has succeeded in reducing the loss of lives due to natural disasters (Source: NDMCC). However, the property damages and economic loss due to recurrent and frequent natural disasters continue to rise.



Natural disaster affected population in Districts. Credit: DMC

In 2013, 495,051 people had been affected by floods, landslides, high wind and lightening. It is a 36% of increase compared to 2012 (Source: DMC). In terms of total affected population by these 4 types of disasters, 91.6% were affected by floods, 8% by strong winds and 1% by landslides and lightening. According to the above spacial data analysis, Gampaha and Batticaloa districts (dark brown) ranks the highest in number of population affected during 2013. Ampara (red color), Nuwaraeliya and Kalutara (orange color) are the other districts in which significant number of population were affected (Source: DMC and <http://www.desinventar.lk/>).

During the past 10 years Sri Lanka faced 23 flood occurrences with over 500 loss of lives and 9 million people affected and these floods caused an economic loss of USD 1 billion (Source: International Water Management Institute, 20 February 2014).

Table 1: Total number of people affected by different disasters

Event	2012	2013	Variance
Landslide/Cutting Failure	7,599	915	-6,684
Floods	158,837	453,532	294,695
Lightening	9	42	33
Strong Winds	197,437	40,562	-156,875
Total	363,882	495,051	131,169

(Source: DMC)

Table 1 clearly shows that Sri Lanka disaster management priorities should focus more on flood management as the number of people affected by floods continues to increase.

The field operation of the Joint Needs Assessment is successfully completed covering 7,000 households in the nine districts

JNA field exercise which covered almost 7,000 households across 9 districts by 45 teams and 45 monitors using 52 vehicles and 52 drivers. The team members and vehicles were mobilized by thirteen UN agencies and INGOs (CARE, ChildFund, FAO, IOM, MAG, SCF, SLRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCHA, WFP, World Vision, and ZOA).

The JNA field operation was supported by 45 teams involving 252 Government officials and humanitarian community

The JNA field operation involved 252 Development Officers attached to Divisional Secretariats of the ten districts. The field operation covered approximately 6,500 returnee households and 500 IDP sample households in ten districts. During the field operations, it was noted that around 15% households reported as 'returnees' by the Divisional Secretariat (DS) were not living in the location specified by the DS office. Therefore, the teams were compelled to visit the village several times to interview these households. OCHA Deputy HoO assured the HCT that even with the gap of people who could not be interviewed as they were not living in the specified locations, the sample of data gathered was much larger than the statistical sample required to derive verifiable information.

All data sheets have been handed over to Hector Kobbekaduwa Agrarian Research and Training Institute (HARTI) for data entry and to create dummy tables for analysis and report writing. HARTI completed the data entry by 30 June 2014 and the data is ready for analysis by the Sector Consultants.

For further information, please contact:

Mark Prasopa-Plaizier, Head of Office, prasopa-plaizier@un.org, Tel. (+94) 114528687

Watsala Jayamanna, National Coordination & Donor Relations Officer, watsala@un.org, Tel. (+94) 114528687

OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at <http://srilanka.humanitarianresponse.info/> | www.unocha.org