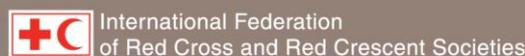


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Information bulletin

Sri Lanka: Floods and landslides



MDRLK010; Glide n° FL-2019-000171-LKA	Date of issue: 23 December 2019
Date of disaster: 3 December 2019	Point of contact: Dr. Mahesh Gunasekara, Director-General
Operation start date: N/A	Expected timeframe: N/A
Category of disaster: N/A	
Host National Society(ies): The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society	
Number of people affected: 64,608	Number of people to be assisted: N/A
N° of National Societies currently involved in the operation: N/A	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: N/A	

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), is assessing the evolving situation for a potential DREF request or Emergency Appeal depending on the evolution of the current rainfalls and its impacts during the next days.

<Click [here](#) to view the map of the affected area and click [here](#) for detailed contact information.>

The situation

A late-onset of the north-eastern monsoon after the continuous inter-monsoon period has caused floods and landslides in thirteen districts in Sri Lanka, heightening the risks at the central highlands. Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa and Puttlam are most affected districts due to the heavy rainfall, strong winds and landslides since 3 December 2019. 64,608 people (18,840 families) have been affected, with two persons reported dead, 62 houses fully damaged and 1,463 houses partially damaged. 17,766 people (5,255 families) have been evacuated to the 133 locations set up to assist people displaced.

Showery conditions are likely to continue further over the island between 23 and 24 December 2019. Very heavy showers are likely in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee and Vavuniya districts.

Showers or thundershowers will occur at times in Northern, Eastern, North-central, Uva, North-western and Central provinces and in the Hambantota district. There is increased risk of flooding in the North, North-central and Eastern provinces, and landslides and slips in Central highlands. Heavy rain falls above 100 mm are expected in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee and Vavuniya districts and fairly heavy falls about 75 to 100 mm are likely at some places in Western, Sabaragamuwa and Uva provinces, and in Batticaloa, Ampara, Nuwara-Eliya, Matale, Puttalam, Mannar and Mullaitivu districts.

During the last 10 days, intense rainfall from the north-eastern monsoon has led to an overflow of most of the water reservoirs and tanks in East, North, North-central and North-western provinces, triggering floods in several villages and affecting over 30,000 individuals.

National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) of Sri Lanka had issued a "Level 3 Red Alert" landslide warning for the districts of Badulla, Kandy, Matale and Nuwara-Eliya.

The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) has issued warnings to the people who live by riverbanks and lowlands to be on alert for flash floods. Tri forces have been deployed for emergency relief activities and evacuations. Below summary of DMC reports to date:

No. of districts affected	Affected persons	Deaths	Injured people	Missing	No of safe locations (temporary shelter)	People displaced in shelter
13	64,608	2	6	1	133	17,766

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has been issuing weather warnings to the general public and put branches on high alert from the outset. Social media platforms such as [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) as well as the [SLRCS website](#) have been actively used to convey messages to the public and report on response actions.

The SLRCS volunteers and first responders have been providing the necessary support to the affected people in coordination with government authorities.

Branch disaster response teams (BDRT) are deployed in the field to conduct emergency assessments.

Anuradhapura branch has provided first aid services in six camps and Polonnaruwa branch has provided first aid services in seven camps. Batticaloa branch has provided non-food items (155 kaftans, 226 sleeping mats 226, 141 bed-sheets, 180 towels, 68 water cans (five litres), 50 lanterns, 20 adult kits and six baby kits).

The Director-General of SLRCS visited Anuradhapura district, on 22 December 2019 to monitor the situation. SLRCS branches in the respective districts support the affected population with non-food relief items as well as in ensuring the access to factual and timely information. SLRCS remains on alert for a potential further response in case the need arises.



BDRT conducting emergency assessments.
(Photo: SLRCS)

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.

Sri Lanka, Floods: Informal Bulletin

23 December 2019

