



This report is produced by OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 22 May 2016 to 26 May 2016. Following situation reports on this emergency will be produced by the Resident Coordinator's Office, Sri Lanka.

Highlights

- Tropical Storm Roanua that struck Sri Lanka on 15 May 2016 caused severe flooding and numerous landslides, particularly in the west of the country.
- According to the Government of Sri Lanka Disaster Management Centre, 301,602 people have been affected by the floods and landslides. 104 people are known to have died and 99 people are still missing.
- An estimated 21,484 people still displaced as a result of the disaster and are living in camps and temporary accommodation including schools.
- Estimated 623 houses have been destroyed and 4,414 have been damaged. This figure is likely to increase as more affected areas are assessed.
- These are reportedly the worst floods in 25 years, with further heavy rains and flooding likely as the monsoon season continues.

301,602

Affected people

21,484

Internally displaced

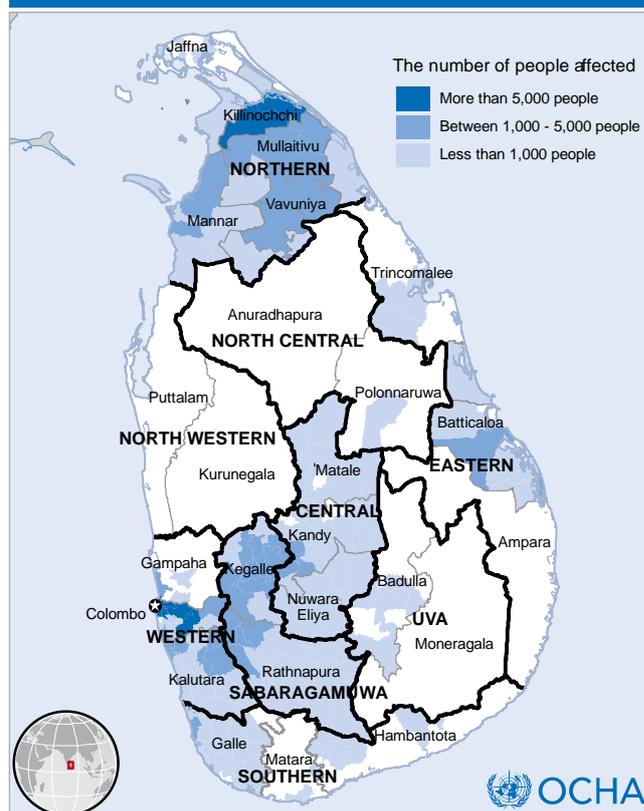
5,037

Houses damaged

203

People dead/missing

SRI LANKA: Floods and Landslides (as of 26 May)



Map Sources: Disaster Management Centre - Strep 26 May 2016, Survey Department
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 27 May, 2016

Situation Overview

On 15 May 2016 Sri Lanka was hit by a severe tropical storm that caused widespread flooding and landslides in 22 districts out of 25 districts in the country, destroying homes and submerging entire villages. At least 104 people are known to have died following this disaster; 99 people are still missing, the majority due to a landslide in Aranayake, Kegalle District, which devastated three villages. An estimated 301,602 people have been affected by this disaster, including at least 21,484 people who remain displaced from their homes. As a result of the floods and landslides, 623 houses have been completely destroyed and 4,414 homes have been damaged; however, given that many affected locations remain underwater and others too dangerous to access due to the possibility of further landslides, it is likely that this number will rise once further assessments have been completed. On 25 May the Government of Sri Lanka estimated that a total of 128,000 houses could have been impacted by the disaster, with 30,000 in need of reconstruction or rehabilitation.

People who remain displaced from their homes are currently living in a variety of safe locations, including temporary camps, schools, religious buildings, community centres, as well as with friends and relatives. Because of the 'hidden' nature of this last group of people, it is possible that there are more displaced people than current figures suggest. In the camps and other temporary accommodation, the Government and local organisations are providing cooked food, water and access to healthcare through the establishment of mobile health teams and

disease control activities. In schools and religious buildings that are housing displaced people and where there is overcrowding, water and sanitation are key concerns as available facilities are unable to meet current need.

In the majority of flood affected areas, floodwaters are now gradually receding but there is an urgent need for environmental clean-up and waste management activities to prevent the spread of disease. A major clean-up is underway, led by the tri-forces and the civil security departments, with the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine distributing chlorine solution to help people clean their flood-affected homes. However, partners on the ground have noted that many people who have gone back home following the closure of the temporary centres they were staying in, have returned to find their houses still inundated with floodwater and waste.

The Government of Sri Lanka declared a number of disaster affected areas as emergency zones due to the on-going threat of further floods and landslides. As a result people whose houses were located in these places are unable to return and need access to durable shelter solutions especially given the impending monsoon rains. Colombo is the worst affected District in the country with 190,349 people affected by the floods; this is mostly as a result of large numbers of people living on reclaimed, marsh land that is highly susceptible to flooding. Individuals whose houses were in these areas will not be permitted to return because of the risk of further flooding.

According to Government estimates, 25,000 to 30,000 businesses may have been impacted by the disaster. These are primarily small enterprises such as stores, tuk-tuk drivers and petty traders. There is also therefore a need for early recovery and livelihoods activities, alongside the provision of emergency food support, to support the most vulnerable people who have lost all of their personal and productive assets.

Humanitarian Response



Education

Needs:

- According to the MoE 171 schools in North Western, Sabaragamuwa and Western provinces were damaged. 36 schools have been identified as temporary shelters and there is no time frame defined for them to reopen.
- It is estimated that 70,000 of school going children are affected by the disaster who need school packs for them to continue education. Children who were due to begin their end of year exams have lost their notes and textbooks, and require support to continue their education

Response:

- UNICEF is working with Ministry of Education to ensure support for education services in the camps; rehabilitation of damaged schools, including WASH facilities.
- Save the Children is coordinating with Ministry of Education and Zonal Education officials to distribute 1,500 school packs to children who lost their school supplies in the storm.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Before returning back to education, schools that were affected by the floods and that are currently being used as temporary accommodation for displaced people need to be cleaned and repaired.
- School packs and teaching materials will be needed for children returning to school. Specific data on children/adolescents is sparse, which is hampering efforts to meet their needs.



Food Security

Needs:

- Dry and cooked food is being provided in camps and other temporary accommodation settings. However, in the longer term, individuals who have lost their assets, sources of livelihood and agricultural land will need support to ensure access to adequate food.

Response:

- WFP is currently engaged in the analysis of the results of the rapid needs assessment, carried out on 21 and 22 May, and preparation of the report to be used by the Government and the broader humanitarian community.
- To allow the initiation of cash-based transfers for food assistance for the poorest and most vulnerable affected people, WFP is working with relevant Ministries to make arrangements to channel assistance through the Government safety net mechanism.
- CARE has provided 285 dry food packs to families in Killinochchi and Nanattan Districts, as well as cash-for-work assistance for 200 families in the same Districts.
- Handicap International is providing food assistance to extremely vulnerable families in Killinochchi and Mullaitivu Districts who had already been impacted by previous flooding at the end of 2015.
- Islamic Relief Worldwide has provided dry food rations to 1,100 flood affected households in Colombo.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There have been significant donations of cooked food by local organisations and groups to flood affected people. However, there are issues around the coordination of these donations leading to waste in some areas.
- Dry rations are required for the displaced in the camps and for the returnees.

**Health****Needs:**

- As a result of the large quantities of standing water and the damage to water and sanitation systems, communities are increasingly at risk of leptospirosis and water-borne, skin diseases and vector-borne diseases. According to the Ministry of Health (MoH), there have been high numbers of cases of skin diseases identified, as well as cases of acute respiratory infections and diarrhea.
- The epidemiological situation remains stable, with no outbreaks of infectious diseases reported from the affected areas. The health authorities continue enhanced epidemiological surveillance. MoH is distributing prophylaxis to affected communities to prevent against diseases such as leptospirosis.
- While there are no reports of major structural damage to health facilities damage to health facilities, loss of equipment, drugs and medical records is still be assessed by the Family Health Bureau, MoH supported by the Disaster Preparedness and Response Division. Access to these facilities is also hampered as roads are still flooded.
- Affected populations are vulnerable to psychosocial distress and trauma as a result of the disaster.

Response:

- Medical camps have been established by MoH and the Ministry of Defence. On 26 May 2016, 18 medical teams were sent by MoH to visit displaced communities in the camps.
- WHO is providing technical and operational support to MoH, working closely with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to discuss field responses and identify health gaps that WHO may be able to support.
- WHO is providing logistics to support the deployment of mental health teams to provide psychosocial support services to communities in affected areas.
- Joint statement by MoH, WHO and UNICEF on 26 May highlighted need for breastfeeding of infants during the current flood and landslide emergency, and cautioned against unnecessary and potentially harmful donations and use of infant formula and powdered milk.
- Save the Children is distributing 1,500 infant packs to children under two in camps and host communities. World Vision provided 503 Sanitation Packs, 503 Hygiene Packs and 503 Mosquito Nets in Colombo District

Gaps & Constraints:

- Health services and essential medical supplies covering the needs of patients with communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, and physical rehabilitation care must be ensured in the affected areas.
- Provision of water and sanitation to the health facilities/hospitals and outreach clinics that cater to the medical needs of the population groups is a public health priority.

- Communities in affected areas are at increased risk of contracting vector borne, water borne and diarrheal diseases, leptospirosis, skin diseases, dengue and acute respiratory infections. Prevention measures to combat such diseases are essential. Attention should be paid to improving the hygiene conditions in camp settings to prevent disease outbreaks.
- Enhanced disease surveillance and early warning for communicable diseases in the affected areas.
- Planning for health service provision for individuals displaced for an extended period of time should be planned for and should include essential reproductive health services, access to routine immunizations etc
- Mental health and psychosocial support services are needed for the affected populations.
- Many areas remain inaccessible and without health support.



Protection

Needs:

- Children are very much vulnerable due to current flooding and landslides. There have been growing concerns on missing, unaccompanied and separated children as currently no formal registration system exists; the number of children displaced and temporarily settled in camps is not known/confirmed yet. Protection of children, including addressing psychosocial needs, should be given high priority especially those living in camp settings.

Response:

- UNHCR has been working to conduct protection monitoring in highly affected communities in Jaffna, Mullaitivu, Killinochchi, Vavuniya and Mannar Districts.
- National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), UNICEF and child-rights organizations developed a brief, user-friendly guideline for child-friendly spaces and child protection leaflets for affected children and parents.
- Save the Children are providing displaced children in six locations in Colombo (Kaduwala and Kolonnawa) with psychosocial support. World Vision established five child friendly spaces in Kegalle District.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Mechanisms should be put in place to minimize sexual gender based violence, particularly in temporary settings.
- Separate and safe spaces for children in camps.
- Psychosocial support for both children and adults affected by the disaster.



Shelter

Needs:

- At least 623 houses have been destroyed and 4,414 homes damaged. Many returnees have found homes till inundated with floodwater and waste.
- The Government has designated many affected areas as emergency zones because of the risk of further flooding and landslides, and displaced people from these areas will need to be relocated.

Response:

- World Vision provided NFI packs, plastic sheeting and mats to displaced people in Colombo and Kegalle districts.
- ZOA distributed sheets, plastic mats, jerry cans and other NFIs to displaced people in evacuation centres in Killinochchi.

Gaps & Constraints:

- In landslide affected areas, communities will not be able return to their place or origin because of the ongoing threat from further landslides. There is therefore a need for longer term alternative shelter options.
- A sizeable segment of the flood affected population are squatters living in vulnerable areas prone to frequent flooding. Therefore transitional shelter arrangements maybe required until suitable land is identified for relocation.

- Identification of suitable locations for transitional shelter arrangements is challenging in the densely populated urban areas of Colombo and Gampaha.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- In flood affected locations in urban areas, the water and sanitation infrastructure has been overwhelmed, and human and animal waste is being deposited in the standing water raising risk of waterborne disease.
- In camps and other temporary accommodation centres, such as schools, that are housing displaced people, water and sanitation systems are overwhelmed, raising the risk of disease.
- Many returnees do not have adequate access to water sources.

Response:

- UNICEF has provided the Ministry of Health with 500,000 water purification tablets to ensure safe drinking water and 12.5 tons of chlorine to disinfect contaminated wells and homes.
- UNICEF has provided national water Supply and Drainage Board with 130 water tanks (1,000 litres) to support interim water supplies and 22 submersible pumps for dewatering dug wells
- UNFPA, working with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, disbursed funds to Divisional Secretaries to supply hygiene items to the women and girls of reproductive age.
- Oxfam has set up 15 mobile latrines to serve displaced populations in Rathnapura and Kegalle, and provided hygiene kits and water containers to affected communities in Puttalam, Kegalle and Killinochi. World Vision provided four mobile latrines in Wattala

Gaps & Constraints:

- Many wells and other sources of drinking water have been damaged or destroyed, and need to be cleaned/rehabilitated.
- Displaced populations especially those in overcrowded camps need access to clean water and sanitation facilities, as well as hygiene support.
- As well as access to suitable water and sanitation facilities, communities need support to conduct environmental clean-up in affected areas

General Coordination

The Government of Sri Lanka has a strong national structure for disaster preparedness and emergency operations and is leading the current response. The Disaster Management Centre has activated the National and Divisional Emergency Operations Centres (EOC.), and sector coordination for the response is on-going with relevant line ministries taking lead in their respective sectors.

There is a need to support basic CCCM-related activities in the areas of profiling/registration of populations in safe locations, participatory and standardized camp management systems and relocation or return of populations, particularly those in areas affected by landslides Kegalle and Rathnapura

One C-130 aircraft is due to arrive on 27 May to Colombo with much needed relief supplies provided by the Government of Bangladesh to the affected people of Sri Lanka. Additional cargo is expected to arrive on 30 May with additional 9mt. of relief supplies. The assistance provided is in line with the official requirement list issued by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Disaster Management; dialogue and interaction between the Government of Bangladesh/Armed Forces Division and in-country humanitarian partners was facilitated by OCHA.

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