



# Sri Lanka

## Humanitarian Situation Report No. 5

unicef   
for every child

### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

## Highlights

With the start of the Southwest monsoon on 25 May 2017, Sri Lanka received heavy rainfall in its southern and western regions, with some parts getting over 500 mm rainfall. Flash floods and landslides caused 214 deaths with 76 people being reported as missing by 22 June 2017. At the height of the emergency, more than 700,000 people were displaced in camps, or staying with host families, or stranded on their own rooftops for days until the floods subsided. Galle, Kalutara, Matara and Ratnapura are the worst-affected districts.

- As the emergency situation normalizes and people are seeking recovery options, Disaster Management Center (DMC) reports that over 415,600 people continue to be affected by the most recent floods and landslides with 3,554 people still living in 77 camps.
- With renewed possibility of increased rainfall over the country, landslide warnings are in effect for Ratnapura, Kalutara, Galle, Kegalle, Matara, Nuwara Eliya and Hambantota districts.

Concurrently, the prolonged drought condition since mid-2016, continue to impact over 849,752 people in 11 districts in North, East, Northcentral, Northwestern and Uva provinces according to the DMC. The authorities are distributing water through water trucks to drought-affected families in some areas only. UNICEF has initiated tube well rehabilitation near the affected communities.

## 22 June 2017

### Floods and landslides



**over 180,900**

Estimated # of children, out of



**415,604**

Total # of people in need of humanitarian assistance from the most recent floods and landslides



**3,420**

people living in 73 safe locations/centres

(Source: DMC as of 22 June 2017, 09:00hrs)

### Drought



**over 254,900**

Estimated # of children, out of



**848,493**

Total # of people in need of humanitarian assistance from the prolonged drought

(Source: DMC as of 21 June 2017, 09:00hrs)

## UNICEF Appeal 2017

### US\$7.5 million\*

\*Floods and landslides response: US\$3.3 million;  
Drought response: US\$4.2 million

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

**Floods / Landslides:** With the onset of the Southwest monsoon over Sri Lanka, torrential rains – the worst to hit the country since 2003 – inundated the western and southern regions. Many incidents of deadly landslides had been reported along with flash floods causing 213 deaths and 76 people missing to date. As the situation normalizes, 3,554 people are now reported as displaced in 77 evacuation centres. In Rathnapura district alone 2,776 people (62% of total displaced) continue to live in 49 camps awaiting durable solutions.

The Department of Meteorology predicted a slight increase in rainy conditions over the Southwestern parts of the island from 14 June 2017 onwards. However, heavy rainfall over the country is not predicted.

By 15 June 2017, all the schools which were affected and/or used as temporary camps had been re-opened and the displaced community members have been relocated to temporary shelters either in religious places or community centers. In high-risk landslide areas, the Education authorities and the school management are liaising with the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) to assess and verify the cutting failure risks and subsequent building damages to the schools in order to decide whether the schools should be relocated or not. Until then, some classrooms which are at immediate threat of collapsing will not be used. Children attending classes have been shifted to nearby places, such as temples.

Many hospitals and healthcare facilities were fully or partially evacuated if directly affected by the floods or exposed to landslide risk. Following the floods and landslides several facilities require reconstruction, replacement of equipment and/or relocation to a new site.

**Drought:** At the same time, in the Northern, Eastern, Northcentral and Northwestern provinces over 849,000 continue to suffer from lack of drinking water due to prolonged drought conditions since mid-2016. Despite heavy rains and subsequent floods in southern region, hydro-power generating reservoirs have not yet filled. Due to limited water in these reservoirs (42%), the Ministry of Power and Energy had requested the general public to use electricity sparingly.

Many people access drinking water through water bowser services maintained by the local authorities and private companies. Some communities have to pay high prices to receive water through water trucking. UNICEF together with the Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is in the process of flushing and rehabilitating 834 tube wells in 11 districts to ensure improved access to ground water sources at a proximity to the drought-affected communities. In addition, UNICEF supported the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWS&DB) to establish 1,025 interim water points which are being refilled by water trucks. Plans to construct 25 new tube wells in severely-drought affected Mullaitivu district is ongoing along with improvement and expansion of Rural Water Supply systems and island water improvement support in Jaffna peninsula. UNICEF is in the process of purchasing two water trucks to be donated to the NWS&DB to improve water transportation and delivery capacity in Colombo and Gampaha districts where salinity intrusion was a major health concern.

Furthermore, UNICEF procured 1,500 cartons of BP100 biscuits and 1,800 infant kits on behalf of the Family Health Bureau under the Ministry of Health (MoH) targeting children in drought-affected districts. The items arrived in Sri Lanka in early June 2017 and delivered to MoH. The Field Water Quality Testing kits for 360 Medical Officer of Health units were procured overseas and en route to Sri Lanka. UNICEF is also discussing with the MoH to scale up the real-time nutrition surveillance system to drought-affected districts to improve nutrition monitoring.

During the past 6 months, a total of 59,760 dengue patients and over 150 dengue deaths have been reported from all parts of the country according to the Epidemiology Unit of the MoH. UNICEF supported the health authorities in the Eastern Province to conduct public awareness campaigns and environment clean-ups to eradicate dengue epidemic.

## Humanitarian leadership and coordination

Sri Lanka's disaster management framework and structure was established legally in 2005 after the Asian Tsunami. The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) chaired by the President of Sri Lanka assumes all powers of humanitarian leadership and coordination at the national level during a state emergency. The NCDM was

convened by the President for the first time since January 2015, on 30 May 2017 to discuss emergency response coordination for the current disaster. The NCDM will be convened bi-weekly until the situation is normalized. The Ministry of Disaster Management (MDM) is mandated to reach out to the humanitarian community and to provide emergency response coordination services.

The President has instructed the officials to expedite the programme to build new houses for those people affected by the recent floods and landslides. The President has also diverted LKR 5 million (approximately US\$32,600) from the budget of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, which is under his direct purview for this housing programme. The Cabinet of Ministers approval was received to pay a monthly rental of LKR 7,500 (approximately US\$ 49) for three months for the families whose houses were fully destroyed, to live elsewhere until their houses were rebuilt. The Government of Sri Lanka is currently in the process of receiving valuation reports on damaged properties and institutions as well as identifying suitable lands to resettle people displaced due to recent disasters.

The UN Resident Coordinator leads the humanitarian community through the HCT with active secretariat support from UNICEF. UNICEF provides humanitarian monitoring and advice to the RC and the HCT. HCT meetings were held regularly every week to discuss the collective emergency response from the humanitarian community. Following the meetings, the sector coordination groups, consisting of both UN and non-UN agencies, were established to enhance accountability and partnership. UNICEF leads the protection coordination group and co-leads the WASH, education, and food security and nutrition coordination groups.

In addition, UNICEF Sri Lanka provides technical support to the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) by coordinating the Child Protection sector response and liaising with other children agencies (World Vision, Save the Children, and ChildFund) to ensure that the most vulnerable communities are prioritized in this response. UNICEF also participates in the WASH and Health sector coordination meetings (led by the Government).

## Humanitarian Strategy

**Floods / Landslides:** The Government did not declare a national emergency. However, since the onset of the disaster, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reached out to the international community and donors requesting technical and relief support including search and rescue (through International Search and Rescue Advisory Group) which later stood down after assessing the humanitarian situation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs continue to request support for Non-Food Relief Items (NFRI) from the diplomatic community and the humanitarian agencies operational in-country. Many humanitarian agencies are providing NFRI assistance to the affected communities in coordination with the authorities at national and sub-national levels.

Disease surveillance and vector control is also a priority with the risk of communicable diseases. Over the past few months, health partners have recorded a significant increase in dengue cases (53,200 cases with over 125 deaths) compared to annual data from 2016. The Ministry of Health has deployed medical teams mainly in Kalutara, Ratnapura and Galle districts.

A preliminary economic assessment of the recent floods and landslides was conducted by the Economic Research Department and the Statistics Department of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Although recovery costs have been estimated for several sectors (e.g. agriculture, education), an overall figure is yet to be calculated.

**Drought:** Despite the severity of the drought, the Government of Sri Lanka has not declared the current crisis as a national emergency. The Government drought response priorities include the provision of drinking water and cash assistance to ensure food security among the severely drought affected communities.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) prioritized the food security, WASH, livelihood and health sectors to provide urgent life-saving assistance in four districts (Moneragala, Mannar, Kurunegala and Vavuniya).

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) allocated US\$3,175,132 to WFP, FAO and UNICEF in Sri Lanka to provide time critical life-saving assistance in food security, livelihood and water & sanitation sectors in the above four districts.

## International Assistance

**Floods / Landslides:** As of 1 June, 17 countries have provided in-kind donations, expert support and funding to the relief operations for the floods and landslides.

**Drought:** For the drought response, UN OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) assisted the HCT to successfully mobilize \$3 million through a CERF Rapid Response window application and is currently assisting the HCT to develop a Strategic Response Plan for Drought. The INGOs operational in Sri Lanka together with UNICEF, FAO and RCO organized one-day workshop to plan preparedness for response during the next six months based on possible humanitarian scenarios. This planning process is expected to deliver a 6-month joint preparedness action plan for the INGOs.

## Humanitarian response

**Floods / Landslides:** On 2 June, the HCT released an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to address the immediate needs of the flood- and landslide-affected communities. To complement the ongoing Government-led response, the HCT is seeking funding to provide critical life-saving and protection needs for 374,000 people from 1 June to 31 October 2017, covering 7 sectors.

A sectoral approach to coordinate the international community's immediate response was also endorsed. In the most affected districts of Galle, Kalutara, Matara and Rathnapura, a total of 23 HCT partner agencies have been implementing food security and nutrition, health, WASH, emergency shelter and NFIs and child protection activities in 9 districts. Civil society continues to provide relief to affected communities through organized and coordinated responses online.

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## Summary Analysis of Programme Response



### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

**Floods / Landslides:** On 4 June, UNICEF surge support for WASH arrived in the country to support the emergency response. UNICEF prioritized the provision of WASH supplies and will provide the following in collaboration with partners NWS&DB, Oxfam and World Vision:

- Water supply items –for storage and treatment of water.
- Cleaning of wells (both dug wells and tube wells) and restoring pipe-borne water supply to ensure safe drinking water (both in temporary camps and affected areas) and water for personal hygiene.
- Emergency sanitation, including excreta disposal, and gender-segregated bathing facilities in temporary camps and affected households and de-sludging/replacement of inundated septic tanks.
- Hygiene items and awareness sessions for the affected population.

**Drought:** Most of the proposed solutions for drought are of a long term nature and have often been constrained due to limited government funding and poor periodic maintenance over the past 2 years. Nonetheless, in line with the national WASH sector priorities, UNICEF will provide the following life-saving assistance (CERF project activities):

- Rehabilitation of 800 tube wells in 4 districts Kurunegala, Monaragala, Vavuniya and Mannar thus improving access to safe drinking water for 80,000 drought-affected people.
- Improving interim water storage capacity in 8 districts through the provision of 600 plastic water tanks thus reaching more than 30,000 affected people.

In addition, UNICEF is implementing the following activities:

- Improvement and expansion of community-managed water facilities in Puttalam, Matale and Hambanthota districts.

- Community mobilization on water resilience in Jaffna islands and dengue control in Trincomalee district.
- Provision of 25 new tube wells in Mullaitivu thus improving access to safe water to 2,500 affected people.
- Improving interim water storage capacity in 4 districts with supply of 400 plastic water tanks, reaching more than 20,000 affected people.
- Capacity building support to 150 Ministry of Health (MoH) offices in 8 districts to test basic water quality in the field.
- Improving water transportation and delivery capacity in 2 districts through the provision of 2 water bowsers.



### **HEALTH AND NUTRITION:**

**Floods / Landslides:** A Joint statement of the MoH, WHO and UNICEF was released to appeal to all relevant parties to be mindful of the continued need for breastfeeding infants during the current flood and landslide emergency, and caution against unnecessary and potentially harmful donations and use of infant formula and powdered milk.

UNICEF received requests for assistance from the MoH to provide BP100 for children suffering from acute malnutrition and affected by floods/landslide disaster, replacement of growth monitoring equipment which were damaged, provision of infant and young child feeding counselling support for mothers and other female caregivers of children aged 0-23 months and renovation/refurbishment of 110 health centres and child monitoring centres damaged during the emergency. However, Health and Nutrition sector remains underfunded and UNICEF Sri Lanka is currently seeking resources for the sector requirements.

**Drought:** Household level water purification and monitoring of water chlorination at field level is supported. Technical support to public health education, specific to drought coping mechanisms, is extended to the MoH. This will include messages on appropriate nutrition, intake of food and water, and hygiene. MoH confirms that there is sufficient stock of therapeutic food supplements and will sustain Vitamin A and deworming services in hospitals. Additionally, UNICEF will assist the Family Health Bureau under the Ministry of Health to procure the full requirement of BP100 biscuits and infant kits targeting children in the drought-affected districts.

With UNICEF support, the MoH is using real-time nutrition surveillance systems in Polonnaruwa, Mathale and Nuwara Eliya districts since early 2016. This system provides real-time nutrition data (height, weight/length) for children under 5 years at each Public Health Mid-wife (PHM) division in these three districts. UNICEF in collaboration with the MoH reviewed the data over the past 12 months to identify whether there is an impact on children's nutrition status due to drought conditions in these districts. The data did not indicate any negative nutrition trend due to drought in the above 3 districts. UNICEF is liaising with the MoH to scale up this real-time nutrition surveillance system into other drought affected areas.

To eradicate the dengue epidemic in the Eastern Province, UNICEF Batticaloa Zone Office will support the government to conduct dengue control programmes in the province, mobilize volunteers through youth clubs, scouts and mother support groups to clean-up mosquito breeding places and also to create awareness among the community. Pre-schools and schools will be the primary target for the clean-up campaigns and awareness creation programmes. UNICEF will produce child-friendly awareness creation material both through printed and digital media to ensure that children understand the life-threatening nature of this epidemic and take precautions for their own safety and survival. UNICEF plans to support the communities to cover the open dug wells which have been identified one major contributor to mosquito breeding.



### CHILD PROTECTION:

**Floods / Landslides:** UNICEF will ensure that children and their families have access to psychosocial support services that restore a sense of normalcy in their lives. In addition, UNICEF and partners are supporting the Department of Probation and Childcare to trace and reunite children who were separated from their families or unaccompanied, including through the development of an information/data management system.

Learning from 2016 experiences on how capacity building at the sub-national level reaped maximum benefits when divisional level government officials from Kegalle district trained by UNICEF and partners in 2016 were deployed on surge capacity to flood/landslide affected districts during the current crisis, UNICEF plans to build similar capacities among 300 government officers in Ratnapura, Kalutara, Matara and Galle districts on child friendly camp management, child safeguarding, privacy for women and NFRI management.

UNICEF will also support the disaster-affected families to replace lost legal documents such as birth certificates, national identity cards, marriage certificates for parents, etc.

Furthermore, government officers and NGO partners from the severely affected districts will be trained on Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CC-DRR) to ensure how to safeguard children's interests through risk reduction and mitigation mechanisms prior to any disaster occurrence and building resilient systems, infrastructure and mechanisms.



### EDUCATION:

**Floods / Landslides:** UNICEF supports the MoE team with technical advice on database development for capturing the education emergency needs. UNICEF also engages with Sarvodaya (a local NGO) to assess the destroyed and damaged schools and pre-schools in the most affected districts as well as provide technical and financial assistance to repair/renovate and refurbish schools.

UNICEF's Education support will focus on Rathnapura, Kalutara and Galle districts, and plans to assist over 17,600 children with following services:

- Rehabilitation/basic repair of 40 schools.
- Replacement of school furniture in 20 schools.
- Rehabilitation/repair of 120 pre-schools.
- Replacement of furniture in 120 pre-schools.
- Provision of play and learning materials for 120 pre-schools.

## Supply and Logistics

As initial response, UNICEF provided the following supplies to the MDM and MoH for distribution to affected communities: 1,260 10L Jerry cans, 1,000 tarpaulins, and 100,000 water purification tablets. In addition, the following supplies are being procured: an additional 1,000,000 water purification tablets; 10 Submersible water pumps; 6 sludge water pumps; one 6,000L water bowser; 200 chlorine comparators, 20,000 chlorine tablets, 100 chlorine barrels (25kg), 50 DPD tablets, 30 sludge submersible pumps and 30 dewatering pumps.

## Media and External Communication

On 31 May, the Emergency Communications Group was activated to ensure coordinated inter-agency messaging on the response. UNICEF Sri Lanka's Communications Specialist is liaising with the programme team as well as the Emergency Communication Team in developing key messages, producing communication materials and shaping a social media communication strategy.

## Funding

**Floods / Landslides:** UNICEF Sri Lanka developed an ERP and a funding concept note highlighting the needs of disaster-affected children which was shared with donors. UNICEF currently requires a total of US\$3.3 million to meet needs in nutrition, health, education, child protection and WASH.

The Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) has allocated another US\$70,000 to support the scaling up of the response. The funds covered urgent supply procurement and freight costs.

Norway provided US\$ 600,000 to UNICEF's response in the sectors of WASH, child protection and education.

UNICEF Sri Lanka received US\$111,000 from the Australian Department for Foreign Aid and Trade (DFAT) and is partnering with them to respond on WASH and child protection.

Furthermore, UNICEF Sri Lanka has received US\$1,000,570 from the CERF aimed at ensuring that communities affected by floods and landslides have access to safe water supply and adequate sanitation services together with best hygiene practices. The interventions will be implemented in Galle, Kalutara, Matara and Ratnapura in partnership with Oxfam and World Vision.

On 29 May, UNICEF Sri Lanka launched its first 'text-to-donate' fundraising appeal, designed to enable individuals to directly support UNICEF's flood emergency response. By texting 'UNICEF 300' to short code 77100, supporters are able to donate 300LKR (approximately US\$1.96), and receive a confirmation message from UNICEF on completion. Currently the service is available to Dialog and Hutch users within Sri Lanka only.

**Drought:** Based on estimates by March 2017 that 3 million people would be affected by drought, UNICEF requires US\$ 4.2 million to provide assistance to access water, food security and livelihood recovery.

UNICEF Sri Lanka received earlier this year US\$900,000 from headquarters internal loan mechanisms to respond to the prolonged drought situation which continues to affect over 1 million people in North-Central and Northern provinces.

UNICEF also received US\$ 747,235 from the CERF to provide WASH assistance for drought affected people in Sri Lanka.

Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds Received*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
WASH	4,271,000	1,943,535	2,327,465	54%
Health and Nutrition	1,880,000	200,000	1,680,000	89%
Education	420,000	200,000	220,000	52%
Child Protection	705,000	301,535	403,465	57%
Coordination, Advocacy & Communications	200,000	100,000	100,000	50%
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>7,476,000</b>	<b>2,745,070</b>	<b>4,730,930</b>	<b>63%</b>

Next SitRep: 15/07/2017

UNICEF Sri Lanka: <https://www.unicef.org/srilanka/>

UNICEF South Asia Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/rosa.html>

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<sup>1</sup> Funds required for Floods response: US\$3.3 million  
Funds required for Drought response: US\$4.2 million