Highlights

- Following the deadly Easter Sunday bombings (21 April 2019), communal tensions escalated over the past two weeks. Inter-communal violence by an organized mob in the North-Western Province and Gampaha District started on 11 May 2019 targeting mosques and Muslim owned businesses, causing further strain on the already fragile communal tolerance. Police enforced curfew to control the mob until 16 May 2019.
- UNICEF has completed 57 per cent of the delivery of urgently required medical items to the four hospitals treating over 100 injured children and other affected people.
- The government schools commenced for the second term of the year on 6 May 2019. However, school attendance remains extremely low even six weeks after the attacks. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Education to develop and circulate guidelines on school safety and security. UNICEF also works with multiple stakeholders to promote a ‘back-to-school’ campaign to increase school attendance.
- UNICEF has been supporting the UNRCO and UNHCR in conducting feasibility assessment of rehabilitation centres to identify a suitable relocation site for 1,200 refugees and asylum seekers who have been displaced after being evicted from the rented houses due to increasing tensions with the host communities after the attacks.
- UNICEF urgently requires $640,000 to meet the needs of children and women affected by the crisis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster/Sector</th>
<th>UNICEF</th>
<th>Cluster/Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health:</strong> # children with access to emergency health care</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection:</strong> # children with access to psychosocial support</td>
<td>3,900</td>
<td>691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection:</strong> # children with accessing reunification and child protection related support</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection:</strong> No of officials and volunteers’ capacity built on Psychosocial first aid</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education:</strong> # of children accessing psychosocial support through teachers</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education:</strong> # of children and teachers trained on school safety and security</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

May 22, 2019

265
Number of people killed, including 52 children.

Over 500
Total number of people injured during the attacks and need assistance, including 81 children.

3,900
Number of children to receive community based psychosocial support.

40,000
Number of children to benefit from school based psychosocial support.

UNICEF APPEAL $1,050,000

Funds Received $409,400 39%
Funding Gap $640,600 61%
Situation Overview

Sri Lanka saw another spate of violence perceived to be perpetrated by organized mobs in the North-Western and Western provinces from 11 - 13 May 2019. Police immediately imposed curfew in these provinces for several days and mobilized security forces to control attacks on Muslims and their property in these areas. Media reports that one person was killed during these attacks. In some areas, property belonging to Sinhala communities were also vandalized. Government immediately blocked social media sites. The mainstream news neither provide details on casualties and damages in these areas nor any prevailing humanitarian needs. The information is restricted and limited. The police report that they have arrested over 70 individuals in connection with this violence. Meanwhile the UN and the European Union have called upon the government to take all appropriate measures to reassure all citizens that it will protect and uphold their safety and their rights.

Over 600 people have been arrested so far in connection with the attacks; some 85 of them remain in custody. The Special Investigation Committee appointed by the President to investigate the incidents has submitted two interim reports to the President and the content of the reports is yet to be made public. On 7 May 2019, the President of Sri Lanka stated that 99 per cent of the suspects of the Easter attacks have been arrested and their explosive materials seized. He also requested the foreign countries to lift travel ban on Sri Lanka and claimed it is ‘safe to visit Sri Lanka’ now. On 14 May 2019, the Government issued an extraordinary Gazette notification under the Public Security Ordinance has banned three organizations in Sri Lanka, namely National Thowheed Jamath, Jammiyathul Millathu Ibrahim and Willayath As Seylani.

Summary of Programme Response

UN Resident Coordinator’s Office provides overall leadership for the humanitarian response coordination to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). There had been no HCT-wide engagement for humanitarian response. UNICEF and UNHCR (focusing on the asylum seekers) are the only UN agency providing humanitarian response for this crisis together with few I/NGOs such as World Vision, Sarvodaya and Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. UN is currently conducting UN System’s Programme Criticality Assessment to ensure UNCT is prepared to better respond if the situation deteriorates.

Health: UNICEF support ensured that 120 children and more than 180 other injured individuals had immediate access to emergency healthcare in the four major hospitals treating the injured. As of today, UNICEF has delivered 57 per cent of the planned equipment to the hospitals, while only 37 per cent remains to be delivered pending Government sign off. UNICEF is unable to process the procurement of six per cent of the required items due to lack of sufficient funding.

Child Protection: The psychosocial first aid and initial psychosocial needs assessment programme launched by UNICEF and the Government of Sri Lanka so far reached 180 community members and 511 children. UNICEF also supported reunifying seven orphaned children with their relatives and provided 33 children with protection and care support. In addition, 12 government officials were trained in providing psychosocial first aid to the affected children. The main coordination body of this programme is the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (Department of Probation and Child Care Services) at the national level together with other relevant Ministries and civil society organizations. However, this coordination mechanism does not include private individuals or organizations affiliated with Christian churches who mobilize ad hoc funding through private donors or crowd financing options for their affected parishioners. Hence, the coordination of psychosocial assistance needs to be strengthened to incorporate all these private service providers, to ensure quality of service provision and to track the sector response progress.

Education: With security to schools guaranteed by the Government, the schools commenced for the second term of the year on 6 May 2019 for secondary school students while the primary schools commenced from 13 May 2019. However, the school attendance rates remain very low around the country (20 – 25% on average), particularly in the urban areas. UNICEF is working with relevant authorities, including religious leaders on a campaign to bring children back to school.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and the Disaster Management Center to develop and distribute school safety and security guidelines. UNICEF also works with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education in designing a programme on psychosocial support in schools to ensure sustainable recovery from the violence experience and to promote social cohesion among students. On 15 May 2019, UNICEF through the Ministry of Education, convened a
meeting to agree on a coordinated approach in providing psychosocial support to schools in short-term and long-term, together with the Mental Health Directorate of the Ministry of Health, Communities of Practice, German Corporation for International Cooperation, Disaster Management Center (DMC) and WHO. The members agreed to develop and distribute guidelines to teachers, principals and parents on helping children to recover from traumatic experience, for which UNICEF provides technical and financial support. The guidelines will be finalized soon, and teacher and student trainings are planned by end of June 2019.

With support from the UNICEF Regional Office, the country office is working on a social cohesion strategy for Sri Lanka, which would enable more coordinated and efficient UN-wide social cohesion programming in the country. The social cohesion strategy would facilitate appropriate interventions by SLCO to minimize the risk of escalating communal tensions in the country.

**Emergency Preparedness:**
The upcoming Southwest monsoon (May-June) and cyclone season is expected to add to the ongoing situation in Sri Lanka. Department of Meteorology predicts above average rainfall during the Southwest monsoon 2019 with high probability for floods and landslides. In addition, the possibility of development of tropical cyclones in the vicinity of Sri Lanka remains high. UNICEF is preparing to support the Government and partners to meet the needs of the population in the upcoming monsoon and cyclone season.

**Funding Requirements:**
UNICEF Sri Lanka requires $1,050,000 to implement short and mid-term emergency response and preparedness. These funds will be used for medical supplies, psycho-social support, child protection needs, community resilience, school based social cohesion and harmony activities, and disaster preparedness and response. So far $409,400 has been received from the Japanese National Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds Received*</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>84,400</td>
<td>165,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Preparedness</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,050,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>409,400</strong></td>
<td><strong>640,600</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Next SitRep: 31/05/2019**

Who to contact for further information:

**Tim Sutton**
Representative
UNICEF Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 11 267 7550
Fax: +94 11 267 7110
Email: tsutton@unicef.org

**Jeremy Sprigge**
Communications Specialist
UNICEF Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 11 2677550
Fax: +94 11 2677110
Email: jsprigge@unicef.org