The recent low pressure system in Indian Ocean caused heavy rainfall across Sri Lanka since 14 May 2016 causing widespread flooding and landslide in as many as 19 districts, including around Colombo. Kelani Ganga is one of the main river basin in Sri Lanka which is currently experiencing large scale flooding and subsequent damage to property and livelihoods. Kelani basin received 350 mm of total rainfall within three days (15 to 17 May 2016). Regular monitoring of flood situation in North and Northwestern provinces with the support of International Disaster Charter and Sentinel Asia, allows rapid assessment of flood extent on a daily basis. The current flood images is from Canadian Space Agency RADARSAT-2 images for 21 May 2016 (6.25m spatial resolution) to estimate flooded areas progressing and decreasing. The information is being provided to Disaster Management Centre for relief and damage assessment.

The flood water has receded considerably in Kelani Ganga river compare to the report on 18th May 2016. As of today (21 May), the estimated inundated area is approximately 52sq.km for Kelani Ganga but other river basins are also affected including Deduru Oya (65sq.km) as the higher inundation followed by Affanagala Oya (39sq.km) and Mahaw Oya and Karambele Oya average inundation about 64sq.km. In total the region of interest covering the basin is approximately 243sq.km covering 12 river basins. As mentioned earlier, most of this standing water are also currently under standing water. The flood affected Grammy Madhari (GN) divisions includes: Kolonnawa GN – Wellampitiya, Kelemon, Gotaawwa, Udumulla North, and Kaduwela – Wellampitiya based on the reports from DMC. The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown in these maps are based on the sources they have been drawn from and quoted. These are neither error-free nor do they imply official endorsement or the position of IWM.