

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SRI LANKA FLOODS

27 December 2002

Information Bulletin N° 1

- *This bulletin is for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

The Situation

Heavy North East monsoon rains have caused flooding in the lowland districts in the North Central and North Eastern provinces in Sri Lanka. The districts of Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Kilinochchi, Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura were severely affected. There has been continuous heavy rainfall for a week. According to forecasts, rains may continue up to January, but the heaviest falls have already subsided. More than 100,000 families have been affected overall and tens of thousands of people have been displaced by the floods. Transportation was crippled in Kandy, including Jaffna Road and Colombo, including Batticaloa Road. Several thousands of mud huts were washed away. The Ministry of Social Welfare, with its National Disaster Management Centre as the focal point, is coordinating the relief actions including those by UN agencies, NGOs and the RC/RC partners. Government is providing cooked food and dry ration.

Red Cross/Red Crescent Action

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) immediately deployed its NHQ team as well as district branches to assess the situation in the most severely hit districts of Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee and Kilinochchi. The team of NHQ is to report back on the situation and requirements in Kilinochchi. Trincomalee and Ampara branches have already completed their assessments. While reports are being compiled, the SLRCS, with the assistance from ICRC, has released some of its non-food relief stocks to the most needy families in Batticaloa and Ampara.. The ICRC, which is operational in the North Eastern provinces as the lead agency, is also ready to release its relief stocks, should the needs arise.

The Federation attended the coordination meeting convened at the Ministry of Social Welfare. SLRCS' relief activities are actively underway, in coordination with local government bodies as well as the ICRC sub-delegations present in the flood stricken districts.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

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All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

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