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# Information bulletin

## Sri Lanka: Floods

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 1  
GLIDE n° [FL-2018-000060-LKA](#)  
27 May 2018

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is coordinating closely with government authorities, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for floods response. In view of the humanitarian needs, DREF is being requested and is in the pipeline.

### The situation

The southwest monsoon weather conditions have caused rainfalls since 19 May 2018 in the southwest parts of the island. By 21 May, the precipitation triggered a flood and landslide situation in the country, which has affected thousands of lives and livelihoods, as well as caused property damage. According to the situation update by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of Sri Lanka, as of 1200 hours of 26 May 2018, a total of 153,712<sup>1</sup> people in 19 districts have been affected and 20 people have died due heavy rains, strong winds, lightening and landslides. People in flood-risk areas have been evacuated to safe locations. Approximately 14,437 families have been evacuated into 265 welfare centres in ten districts. Puttalam, Kegalle, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Gampaha and Colombo are amongst the worst affected districts.



*Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) branch volunteers receive guidance on their response activities. Photo: SLRCS Gampaha branch*

According to Meteorological Department of Sri Lanka, the southwest monsoon is still suppressed by the persisting wind circulation and is expected to be more settled by the middle of next week.

The Disaster Management Centre is coordinating response activities and rescue operations with the three branches of the country's armed forces and the police through District Secretariats and District Disaster Management Coordinating Units. Alerts have been issued by both National Building Research Organization (NBRO) and the Water and Irrigation Department requesting the public to remain cautious regarding the possibility of landslides or overflowing river banks due to over high levels of water in rivers.

The government of Sri Lanka and district administrative units are leading the response to the floods and landslide across the country. International non-governmental organisations (INGOs) also are working on the response interventions. The National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC) has provided 38.66 million Sri Lankan rupees (approx. CHF 241,000) cash allocations to the 12 District Secretaries to address the immediate needs of the affected populations. Rescue operations are underway in which Sri Lankan Navy boats and Air Force helicopters have been dispatched to assist the operations. The DMC has established a 24-hour hotline to address the needs of the affected communities, as well as initiated a satellite-based disaster response support system to support the response operations.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.dmc.gov.lk/images/dmcreports/20180526\\_Sri\\_Lanka\\_Situation\\_Impact1200hours\\_Final\\_1527323970.pdf](http://www.dmc.gov.lk/images/dmcreports/20180526_Sri_Lanka_Situation_Impact1200hours_Final_1527323970.pdf)

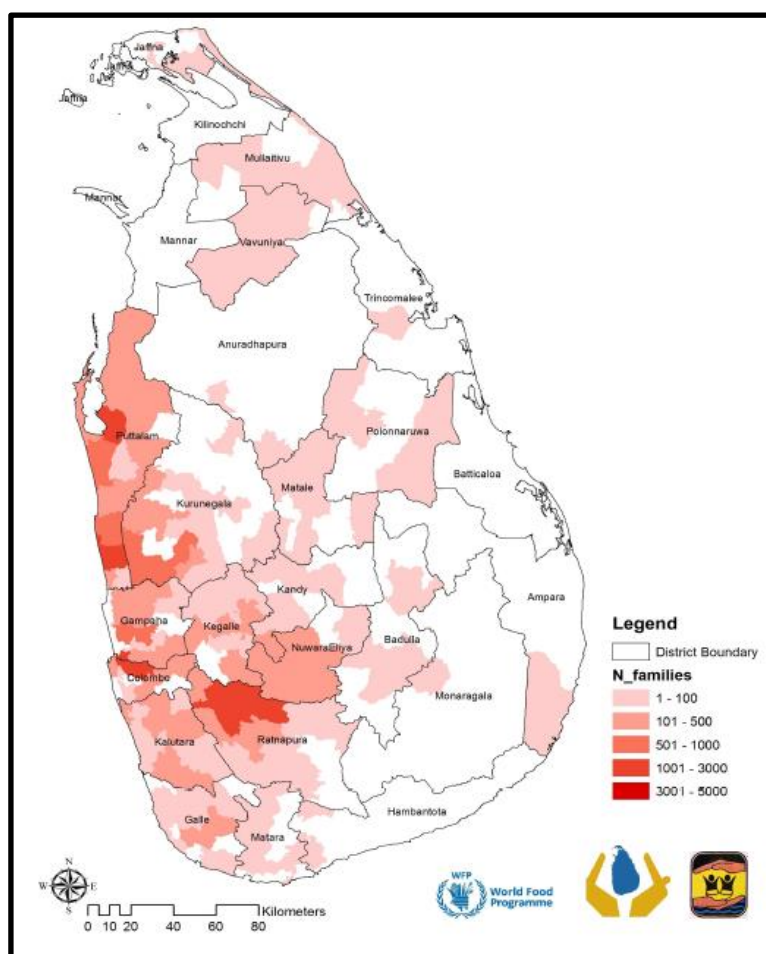


Figure 1: Affected districts and divisions

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has worked closely with the government authorities. As the situation unfolded, SLRCS branches activated their divisional disaster response teams (DDRT) and branch disaster response teams (BDRTs), which have been supporting operations since 19 May. National disaster response teams (NDRT) are on alert. Furthermore, branch volunteers are conducting both 24- hour and 72- hour assessments; distributing non-food items (NFI), dry food and dry rations; search and rescue operations; providing first aid; and actively participating in coordination meetings with the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), DMC and INGOs.

Table 1: Situation update from the DMC (as of 26 May 2018)

#	District	Affected		Death	Injured	Missing	Houses damages		Safe locations
		Families	People				Fully	Partially	
1	Badulla	29	120	-	-	-	-	22	-
2	Colombo	4,779	18,885	1	-	-	1	2,117	38
3	Galle	489	1,908	1	1	-	10	221	-
4	Gampaha	8,997	36,598	3	-	-	5	283	81
5	Hambantota	12	46	-	-	-	-	9	-
6	Jaffna	10	40	-	2	-	1	3	-
7	Kalutara	1,580	6,147	2	-	1	8	225	7
8	Kandy	349	1,543	-	4	-	3	108	2
9	Kegalle	1,514	5,686	3	2	-	4	840	3

10	Kurunegala	3,085	11,107	2	-	1	11	29	26
11	Matale	25	85	-	-	-	-	12	-
12	Matara	97	373	-	-	-	4	67	-
13	Moneragala	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
14	Mulativu	19	64	-	-	-	1	7	-
15	Nuwara Eliya	449	1,788	1	-	-	5	97	12
16	Polonnaruwa	2	6	2	-	-	-	-	-
17	Puttalam	10,001	35,951	2	-	-	41	346	73
18	Ratnapura	8,578	33,358	2	1	-	11	321	23
19	Trincomalee	1	4	-	-	-	-	1	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>40,017</b>	<b>153,712</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>4,708</b>	<b>265</b>

In the country, the districts of Puttalam, Kegalle, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Gampaha and Colombo have been the most affected with Puttalam being the hardest hit.

To assist the affected people, the Puttalam branch has deployed DDRT, BDRT and first aid (FA) teams to affected locations. This branch has assisted people by providing 150 5-litre bottles of water, 10 tents and cooking food for 850 people in Lunuwila and Wennappuwa divisions.

The Kalutara branch is assisting people in Bulathsinhala, Dodangoda, Palindanuwara and Paragoda divisions. The BDRT and FA teams have been deployed to assist flood-affected people. BDRT members supported the evacuation of 200 people to safer locations. Ferry boats also are being used to evacuate people. The following items have been distributed: 100 1.5-litre bottles of water, 10 tarpaulins, 40 adult relief packs and 40 lanterns.

The Kegalle branch has deployed BDRT and FA teams, distributed 240 1.5-litre of bottles of water, 298 adult relief packs, tarpaulins and 37 bed sheets to affected people in Aranayake, Mawanella, Moranthota, Pindeniya, Rabukkana and Uduwa areas.

The Ratnapura branch also has deployed DDRT, BDRT and FA teams for response operations. A total of 36 ferries in the flood operation have helped to evacuate 270 affected people. The branch volunteers distributed cooked food, 100 water proof bags, 300 garbage bags and 300 candles. The branch participated to special meeting in the district chaired by the Cabinet Minister of Irrigation, Water Resources Management and Disaster Management. To date, this branch as provided assistance in Angamma, Devalegava, Elapatha, Galapugama, Godagama, Ketiliyampalla, Kohangama, Palawela, Raddella, Samangama and Veralupa areas.

The Gampaha branch has deployed 50 branch water rescue volunteers for relief, search and rescue operations in the district. They are mainly supporting the transportation of people; 75 people have been reached. Furthermore, 23 BDRT and FA teams are deployed. To date, the medical teams have assisted 163 people. The branch has provided 206 5-litre bottles of water. This branch has provided assistance in Biyagama, Malwana, Yabaraluwa north and Yabaraluwa south.

The Colombo branch has deployed DDRT, BDRT, special boat rescue team, and FA teams to provide assistance. Furthermore, 220 5-litre bottles of water bottles and 150 1.5-litre bottles of water have been distributed. Two ferry boats are in operation. A total of 40 volunteers have been deployed to support with 18 evacuations and 1,800 people reached. Operations are ongoing in Hanwella, Homagama, Kaduwela, Kolonnawa, Pahala, and Pomiriya areas.

The IFRC Country Office (CO) in Sri Lanka together with the IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in New Delhi and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) are closely monitoring the rainfall and the flooding situation while providing technical support to the SLRCS. The SLRCS posted two DMIS updates on 21 and 23 May. At the request of SLRCS, IFRC is supporting the National Society in finalizing a plan of action for which the support of IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) will be sought. The planned interventions are: unconditional cash grants, well cleaning, water distribution, installation of temporary toilets, hygiene promotion, first aid services, medical camps, dengue awareness and clean-up campaigns.

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## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives,**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and **peace**.

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