



SRI LANKA FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES 2017

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

SITUATION REPORT #2 • 5 June 2017

Highlights

Matara District

Deaths: 30
People Affected: 138,808
Families Affected: 33,833
Houses Damaged: 6,122
Houses Destroyed: 1,049
In Evacuation Centres: 3,659

Most Affected DS Divisions:
Matara, Akurassa, Kamburupitiya,
Athuraliya, Malimbada and Tihagoda

Ratnapura District

Deaths: 87
People Affected: 210,617
Families Affected: 54,403
Houses Damaged: 5,297
Houses Destroyed: 760
In Evacuation Centres: 13,909

Most Affected DS Divisions:
Rathnapura, Elapatha, and Kuruwita

Kalutara District

Deaths: 66
People Affected: 188,091
Families Affected: 50,517
Houses Damaged: 2,817
Houses Destroyed: 407
In Evacuation Centres: 1,493

Most Affected DS Divisions:
Bulathsinhala, Palindanuware and
Ingiriya

Galle District

Deaths: 15
People Affected: 102,747
Families Affected: 25,692
Houses Damaged: 550
Houses Destroyed: 180
In Evacuation Centres: 1,366

Most Affected DS Divisions: Nagoda,
Thawalama, Welivitiya Divithura,
Neluwa, and Baddegama



A home completely destroyed by a landslide in Matara.
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All-Island Total

Deaths: 212
Missing: 79
People Affected: 683,831
Families Affected: 175,660
Houses Destroyed: 2,545
Houses Damaged: 15,897
In Evacuation Centres: 21,681

Data from *Disaster Management Centre (DMC)*,
Sri Lanka, 5 June 2017; 12:00 hrs

Situation Overview

The southwestern monsoons in Sri Lanka have resulted in severe flooding and landslides throughout the country. The previous drought has accelerated the effects of flooding — causing flash floods and small landslides. Over half a million people have been affected with over 200 deaths.

Search and rescue operations continue to be ongoing, with the assistance of the Sri Lankan tri-forces. As flood waters recede and roads are cleared, the Government continues to validate the number of people affected and casualties. As of 5 June, a total of 683,831 people have been affected by the 2017 floods and landslides, according to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC).

On 30 May, the Humanitarian Country Team initiated the development of an in-country emergency response plan to respond to the most immediate needs of the flood and landslide affected communities. A sectoral approach to coordinate the immediate response was also endorsed with IOM co-leading the Shelter sector.

Confirmed funding will allow IOM and implementing partners to move forward with the shelter sector emergency response plans. This includes shelter repair kits and shelter-related NFIs for people with damaged houses and temporary/transitional shelter assistance for those who will be facing protracted displacement.

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IOM FINDINGS / NEEDS

Field visits and initial assessments were conducted by IOM teams on 29 to 30 May 2017 in four of the most affected districts. Information was gathered from district Disaster Management Committees, Ministry of Health Offices, District Secretariats and from families in the displacement sites.

The teams focused on assessing the worst affected Divisions in the Districts including Rathnapura, Elapatha, Ayagama, and Kuruwita **in Rathnapura District**; Athuraliya, Pitabaddara, Malimbada, Kamburupitiya, Akurassa, and Matara **in Matara District**; Bulathsinhala, Ingiriya, Palindanuwara, Dodangoda **in Kalutara District**; and Thawalama, Nagoda, and Welivita Divithura **in Galle District**. These divisions together constitute 104,040 affected people which is approximately 65% of the total affected population in these Districts.

Immediate interventions are needed to address the urgent needs of the victims, through the provision of emergency shelters, non-food items, and health assistance.



Shelter

Emergency shelter is required for those with houses completely destroyed and those who are unable to currently return home. This will be critical to support a transition out of evacuation centres. Families with partially damaged houses need emergency shelter kits such as tarpaulin sheets to repair houses. Landslide-affected families will need to relocate due to risk of future disasters. Additional areas have also been identified that are at risk of landslides. These families will need emergency shelter, possibly tents, and subsequent transitional shelter assistance.

Certain areas are still unreachable and people are still stranded without shelter. As flood levels recede and some people return home, immediate requirements are items for cooking—including pans, pots, and other cooking utensils. While hot food is currently being provided at evacuation centres, dry food is being rationed to families who are able to return home or are staying with relatives. Furthermore, as families are able to start returning home, materials to clean out rubble and mud brought in by the floods are essential requirements. These include brooms, mops, buckets, disinfectants and other household cleaning supplies.



Overcrowded evacuation camp at a temple in Rathnapura.
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Evacuation Centre / Camp Management

Local schools and temples are currently being used as evacuation centres with government oversight. In assessed areas, food is readily available to displaced populations, with sundries and cooked meals being sent from Colombo and other parts of the country. That said, evacuation centres are overcrowded, and offer little or no privacy, which is particularly problematic for women and for breast-feeding mothers.

People in evacuation centres are sleeping on the floor and tables due to lack of mattresses, sleeping mats, or pillows. Existing toilets are not sufficient for the number of families occupying the evacuation centres, therefore portable toilet solutions are needed to accommodate this displaced population. Furthermore, water bowsers/tanks and electric water pumps are required to ensure a sustained water supply to evacuation locations and disaster sites where the water supply has been disrupted. Electricity lines have been damaged in some areas, and there is no supply of electricity to evacuation centres.



Health

Mobile health units are being deployed by the Ministry of Health and government health officers are regularly visiting evacuation centres. There is space to support the government with mobilization of further supplies and medicines, i.e non-prescription drugs (anti-bacterial creams, anti-fungal balms, etc), nebulizers, and basic first-aid kits.

Disease surveillance and vector control is also a priority with the risk of communicable diseases. Mosquito nets need to be distributed to families, including those housed in evacuation centres. It is important that awareness on the prevention of water-borne diseases is created, and flyers and posters with key prevention measures need to be distributed. Local government has already taken the initiative to create flyers, but support is needed for printing and distribution.

Wells for drinking water have been flooded and are contaminated and unusable. Assistance will be needed to clean out drinking wells when returning to homes. Further on-the-ground discussion suggests that the agricultural sector has also been affected by damage to paddy fields and the death of livestock.

Landslide warning alerts have been issued by the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) in a number of Divisions, meaning people in these locations will not be able to return to their homes for the foreseeable future.

Response

To address the needs of those affected by the crisis, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched an Emergency Response Plan which outlines the support UN agencies and local and international NGOs are aiming to provide to the 374,000 most severely affected people in seven districts; Galle, Gampaha, Hambantota, Kalutara, Kegalle, Matara and Ratnapura.

To complement the ongoing Government-led response, the HCT is seeking US\$22.7 million to address the critical life-saving and protection needs of 374,000 people in seven districts, targeting four priority sectors (Shelter, Food, Health and Wash).

IOM, as co-lead of the Emergency Shelter and NFI sector, contributed to the establishment of a shelter-sector emergency response plan that aims to assist the affected families who lost critical household items and whose homes were destroyed or damaged.

The Emergency Shelter and NFI sector plan has a budget of US\$6.5 million and aims to distribute 8,000 repair kits (in-kind or cash), 25,000 household NFI kits and provide 1,500 in situ transitional shelters. Though some funding has been mobilized, further funding is still needed in order to fully address the needs of those affected.

Needed Funding

\$1.7 million



Destruction to homes in Kalutara.

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