

Alert

Sri Lanka

Floods and landslides

Geneva, 29th May 2017

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Incessant monsoon heavy rains (as high as 553 mm) for the last days have caused floods and landslides in many parts of Sri Lanka (15 districts). As of 29th May 2017 at 7.00 hrs (Local time), 164 people are reported dead, while 104 are missing; so far, over 471,542 people are affected. Further, 75,236 people were located at 336 safe locations¹. Most number of damages to lives and property are reported in Southern and Western part of the country: from Galle, Matara, Kalutara, Gampaha, Colombo and Ratnapura districts. Hill country areas are particularly affected by landslides.

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

Even through the government of Sri Lanka has already responded to the situation in several areas, additional assistance from other sectors is required. Now, the affected populations have no sufficient food, shelter, clothing, sanitation materials, and kitchen utensils.

3. National and international response

The government of Sri Lanka, through its chain of government officials, the Police, Army and Naval forces are working in the affected areas. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in coordination with the Ministry of Disaster Management, has made an appeal to UN, International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) and neighbouring countries to provide assistance to affected people. India has already started providing support to Sri Lanka.

4. ACT Alliance response

The disaster response 'task force' team set up by the churches of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) have been reacting to the onset of heavy rains, sending out alerts, gathering information, sharing resources for rescue operations and having also formed links with government authorities, for further relief and recovery operations. The NCCSL through its local churches and inter-faith network have already started the provision of cooked food to affected people in churches and other camps.

5. Planned activities

The ACT Sri Lanka Forum, via NCCSL, plans to respond to this emergency through ACT Alliance Emergency Response Mechanism, by providing life-saving assistance in Galle, Matara, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Gampaha, Colombo, and landslide affected hill country areas.

6. Constraints

The main constraint would be the lack of funding. Also, access to some affected areas is difficult.

¹ As per the situation report issued by DMC on 29-05-2017 at 7.00 hrs: http://www.dmc.gov.lk/index_english.htm

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org) and Senior Finance Officer, Lorenzo Correa (Lorenzo.Correa@actalliance.org).

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