



ALERT **FLOODS**

actalliance

Bangkok

27 May 2018

SITUATION

On the morning of Sunday, the 20th of May 2018, with the provinces of Ratnapura, Kurunegala, Gampaha and Puttalam in particular (in total 19 provinces) being affected, Sri Lanka was flooded due to the onset of heavy monsoon rains. According to the situation update by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of Sri Lanka, as of 1200 hours on the 27th of May 2018, over 166,228 people (43,604 families) in 20 districts have been affected. As per the Report, 23 people have died, 13 have been injured and 1 person has been reported missing as a result of the heavy rains. More than 19,519 families have been evacuated into 339 welfare centres in 8 districts including the districts of Puttalam, Kegalle, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Gampaha and Colombo.

The Meteorological Department of Sri Lanka has reported that 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 department has also highlighted that as per the observation of the rainfall of the last 24 hours which ended in the morning hours of 27th of May 2018, there has been a reduction of rainfall in all parts of the country, however some areas have received considerable rainfalls.

The National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC) has provided LKR 43.35 million cash allocations to the 12 District Secretaries to address the immediate needs of the affected populations.

According to the situation summary report of the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and Disaster Management, relief operations were complemented and coordinated by NDRSC. Relevant sectors such as Military agencies, the Police and District Administration, Donor Agencies have been requested to work with NDRSC. Even though, relief operations were activated and implemented in a timely manner in the affected communities, there may still be some needs of drinking water in the coming few days due to the contamination of several water sources.

NEEDS

The floods have resulted in a state of crisis for over 20 districts in Sri Lanka. The flood affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs, such as access to sufficient food, basic health services and facilities, safe shelter and basic non-food items

The dire situation is further compounded for flood affected people with vulnerabilities; people living with disabilities as well as women and children. There is a pressing need to provide immediate assistance to minimize the loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are met first.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

The national government, through Military agencies, the Police and District Administration, donating agencies, and the NDRSC, are working on relief operations. LKR 43.35 million cash was allocated to 12 District Secretaries to address the needs of the affected populations by NDRSC.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is also coordinating closely with government authorities, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for floods response.

Faith Based Organizations and local churches are providing shelter and basic meals to the people in need in the affected communities.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) through its Disaster Management Committee which comprises of trained persons from member Churches. Their efforts are to ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary to other ongoing efforts. The ACT forum will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

ACT Alliance

ACT Alliance has been working in Sri Lanka, through NCCSL since the Tsunami in December 2004, and is now helping/planning to help people affected by the floods in collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The ACT forum has identified that there is a gap in the provision of cooked meals, dry rations, basic health services and facilities, safe shelter and basic non-food items and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to bridge the identified gap.

The ACT Sri Lanka forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide cooked meals, dry rations, safe shelter and basic non-food items, basic health services and facilities to ensure that the floods affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to persons in the most affected areas. ACT Alliance is ready to respond, by providing humanitarian assistance (shelter, and WASH), to affected populations through the ACT Appeal Mechanism in the coming weeks.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration:
Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)**

For further information please contact:

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