



Severe flooding submerges roads and communities, leaving homes and businesses inundated as relentless rains overwhelm the region. (Source: social media)

SitRep n°	#2	Reporting period	26 – 28 November 2025 ¹
SitRep Date	Friday, 28 November 2025	Estimated number of people affected	
IFRC Operation n°	n/a	Category allocated to the disaster or crisis	n/a
Total people targeted	n/a	Start date of the operation	n/a
Total people reached (cumulative)	n/a	Expected end date	n/a

NOTE: The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) has not yet released its official comprehensive Situation update as of the morning of 28 November 2025. The figures presented in this report are compiled from the latest available updates issued by the DMC through emergency media briefings as of 28 November 2025 at 6:29 AM, along with data from verified national news sources². Official DMC figures are subject to revision as rescue and assessment operations continue in difficult weather conditions, particularly in remote mountainous and flood-affected areas where access remains severely restricted. The actual humanitarian toll may be significantly higher once comprehensive assessments are completed³. This situation report will be updated immediately upon release of the official DMC Situation Report #02.

¹ Sitrep will be produced daily until 5 December, Friday where the frequency of the report will be reviewed based on the evolving situation.

² <https://www.newswire.lk/2025/11/28/extreme-weather-56-deaths-21-missing/>

³ Disaster Management Centre Statement. Preliminary Nature of Casualty Figures. 28 November 2025.

Scope and scale, humanitarian conditions and evolution of disaster

Impact to date

Cyclone "Ditwah" has intensified into a powerful tropical storm system, bringing unprecedented rainfall and severe weather impacts across Sri Lanka. As of 28 November 2025, the disaster has claimed 56 confirmed deaths, with 21 persons reported missing and 14 injured. The cyclone continues its northwestward track, affecting historically vulnerable regions⁴. Significant infrastructure damage has been reported, with 4 houses destroyed and 666 partially damaged. Relief operations are ongoing, with 3,684 individuals sheltering in 12 safety centers and an additional 3,731 individuals staying with relatives, indicating major displacement challenges.

The Department of Meteorology issued a 'RED' ALERT warning for both land and surrounding sea areas as of 27 November 2025, signifying the highest level of meteorological threat⁵. Cyclone Ditwah is very likely to move north-northwest across the island, cutting through major population centers and vulnerable terrain including Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, and the central highlands.

No. of people HH and families affected	<p>Individuals: 43,991; Families: 12,313 across 20 districts</p> <p>The most severely impacted districts include,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Badulla - worst affected with 19 deaths; severe landslides and flooding in mountainous terrain Ampara - 2,300 families, 7,400 individuals, 5 deaths; major agricultural inundation • Kandy - 1,000 families, 3,500 individuals, 5 deaths, 2 missing; declared state of emergency • Kurunegala - 1,536 families, 5,401 individuals; extensive flooding in vulnerable low-lying communities).
No. of families sheltering in temporary camps	12 families in official safety shelters; 1,097 families staying with relatives
Humanitarian access status	Road access severely restricted in Badulla, Monaragala, Galle, Matara, and Polonnaruwa due to flooding, mudslides, and fallen trees; rail services disrupted except Jaffna route
Security/Humanitarian Corridors	No formal humanitarian corridors reported; military (Army, Navy, Air Force) deployed for rescue and logistics
Communications	DMC emergency hotline 117 operational; additional contacts: Colombo District DMC (0112434028), DMC Main Office (0112136136)
Government actions	DMC coordinating response; temporary evacuation centers established in worst-affected districts; continuous weather and landslide alerts issued; spill gate operations ongoing
Latest situation on the ground	Cyclone Ditwah continues to deliver heavy rainfall; red alert maintained; 56 deaths, 21 missing, 14 injured; major displacement and infrastructure damage; health services under severe pressure

⁴ Department of Meteorology, Government of Sri Lanka. Red Alert: Deep Depression near Sri Lanka likely to intensify into Cyclone. Ada Derana, 27 November 2025. <https://www.adaderana.lk/news/115218>

⁵ Department of Meteorology Warning. Red Alert Issued for Sri Lanka as Cyclone Ditwah Intensifies. Xinhua News Agency, 28 November 2025. <https://english.news.cn/20251128/0587892787b44fa083019228e4c2a982/c.html>

National Society strategy

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has mobilized the Branches and Volunteers to conduct assessment and collect impact data from the respective districts, providing First Aid Services, also NHQ has started sending the essential household items to the landslide affected district's branches to support the affected people. SLRCS-NHQ has organized to collect in-kind contribution (immediate essential household items) from the public and private sector and set up collection center at the NHQ with the dedicated team to organize and dispatch the items immediately to the required branches and safety centers.



Operational constraints and risks

Operational challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Search & Rescue Capacity - Continuing rescue operations for the 21 missing persons require additional support Road access and logistics - Major Road closures in Badulla, Monaragala, Galle, Matara, and Polonnaruwa severely restrict humanitarian access Shelter capacity - Need for additional non-food relief items (NFRIs) for host families providing informal shelter
Key risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road access and logistics , Search & Rescue Capacity, Incomplete Damage Assessment by the Disaster Management Center. Road closures and bridge failures severely restrict delivery of relief supplies to affected areas Limited real-time communication with remote communities due to power outages and telecommunications disruptions. Access-restricted areas and overwhelmed health services indicate needs for: Mobile medical teams for remote communities Medicine supplies and medical equipment and Mental health support services Disease surveillance and outbreak prevention (dengue, leptospirosis, diarrheal disease)

Sectors of intervention/cross-cutting key highlights

This section highlights the current identified needs based on 28 Nov 2025 compiled through various resources.

Major river systems, including the Nilwala, Gin, Kalu, and Deduru Oya, are experiencing rising water levels, with localized flooding already reported in Galle, Matara, and Ratnapura. The Disaster Management Centre and Irrigation Department have issued formal flood warnings for multiple river basins, signaling heightened risk across affected regions.

Transport and power networks remain severely disrupted. Several key roads in Badulla, Monaragala, Galle, Matara, and Polonnaruwa are impassable due to flooding, mudslides, and fallen trees, limiting humanitarian access. Rail services have been suspended, with all night mail trains halted except the Jaffna route, impacting passenger and cargo movement. Power outages peaked at approximately 45,000 connections, with 28,000 restored, but significant disruptions persist amid adverse weather conditions.

Relief and Assessment

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLRCS Assessment is currently ongoing. More information will be provided when available Many remote areas remain inaccessible due to ongoing flooding and landslide hazards. Infrastructure damage figures provided by DMC as of 28 November morning represent preliminary estimates only. Comprehensive assessments
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	<p>will be completed as weather stabilizes and access is restored to difficult-to-reach areas, particularly in the central highlands (Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy districts).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited real-time communication with remote communities due to power outages and telecommunications disruptions • Ongoing weather hazards limiting field assessments and data collection
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Shelter

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals in Safety Shelters: 3,684 (organized in dedicated shelters managed by authorities) • Individuals Living with Relatives: 3,731 (informal arrangement due to shelter capacity constraints) • Families Living with Relatives: 1,097 • Insufficient temporary shelter structures, Capacity constraints in school buildings and community halls, Need for additional non-food relief items (NFRIs) for host families providing informal shelter, Protection concerns over-crowded facilities
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Livelihood & basic needs

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Inundation: Large areas of paddy fields and seasonal crops have been inundated in Ampara, Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, Kurunegala, and other districts. Crop damage assessments remain incomplete as flood waters recede, but prolonged waterlogging is expected to cause significant crop losses, particularly affecting the harvesting season. • Daily wage earners and small farmers face substantial income losses due to flooded fields and restricted market access. • Fishing communities are unable to work during the storm and have been prohibited from venturing to sea; five fishermen have already died in storm-related incidents. • Market traders and small business operators have experienced loss of goods and disrupted sales due to road closures.
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Health, First Aid, Ambulance and MHPSS

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health services in several affected districts are operating under severe pressure due to restricted access to remote health facilities caused by road closures and bridge failures, increased demand for emergency and trauma care services, shortage of essential medicines and medical supplies in isolated areas, and injuries from landslides, floods, and storm-related incidents requiring urgent intervention
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WASH

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy flooding and inundated wells across affected districts have created a critical contamination risk for drinking water sources. • Flooded latrines and septic systems increase the probability of waterborne disease transmission. • Disease surveillance and outbreak prevention is vital to protect from the aftereffects of the disaster
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Coordination (incl. Movement, bilateral project with IFRC Network members and external partners)

Partner support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently there are no Partners present in the country
UN/Cluster engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No formal humanitarian corridors have been reported yet.• DMC leading national coordination; continuous weather and landslide alerts issued.• UN cluster engagement details pending official DMC update.

Corporate services key highlights

Communications (incl. external communications, Humanitarian Diplomacy and public relations)

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>More information will be provided in the next reports</i>
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Logistics

Warehouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SLRCS warehouse located in Naikahnda Road, Katunayake
Stock confirmed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stocks available: Bed sheet (4315), Towel (3515), Sarang (2800), Kaftan (2640), Jerry Cans (2475), Kitchen set (602), Mosquito Nets (730), Baby kits (320) and Adult kits (117)

Finances

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>More information will be provided in the next reports</i>
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Planning, Monitoring, Evaluations and/or Reporting

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>More information will be provided in the next reports</i>
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Information Management

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>More information will be provided in the next reports</i>
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Safety & Security

Key updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>More information will be provided in the next reports</i>
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Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation, please contact:

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