

SITREP#6



SLRCC volunteers actively support affected individuals during evacuations, and reaching remote areas to conduct initial assessment. (Photo: SLRCS)

SitRep n°	#6	Reporting period	26 – 2 December 2025 ¹
SitRep Date	Tuesday, 2 December 2025	Estimated number of people affected	1,000,000 people
IFRC Operation n°	MDRLK023	Category allocated to the disaster or crisis	Orange
Total people targeted	500,000	Start date of the operation	26 November 2025
Total people reached (cumulative)	n/a	Expected end date	n/a

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

Scope and scale, humanitarian conditions and evolution of disaster

Impact to date

Sri Lanka is experiencing gradually receding floodwaters in many areas, yet severe humanitarian needs and extensive damage to infrastructure and transport systems continue to disrupt life across the country.

The cyclone-driven floods and landslides have evolved into a large-scale, multi-district disaster, now affecting 382,651 families (1,373,899 people) across all 25 districts as of the DMC situation report at 06:00 hrs. on 2 December 2025. Severe impacts are concentrated in low-lying and coastal districts such as Gampaha, Colombo, Puttalam, Mannar, Trincomalee and Batticaloa, where prolonged inundation and riverine flooding have displaced tens of thousands of people and sharply disrupted access to basic services.

Hill country districts including Kandy, Badulla, Matale and Nuwara Eliya have experienced deadly landslides and slope failures, resulting in extensive loss of life, house destruction and isolation of communities as key road links remain cut or only partially passable.

Humanitarian conditions are deteriorating, with 57,790 families (204,597 people) currently sheltering in 1368 government-run safety centers, many of which are overcrowded and have limited WASH facilities and privacy. Cumulatively, at least 390 deaths and 352 missing persons are reported nationwide, with the heaviest mortality recorded in Kandy, Badulla, Kurunegala and Nuwara Eliya due to landslides and rapidly rising floodwater. Floodwater and debris flows have reportedly destroyed more than 15,000 houses and damaged many more, while critical infrastructure including roads, bridges, power lines and water supply schemes have been severely disrupted, hampering both government and humanitarian access to the most affected areas.

No. of people HH and families affected	Situation update as of 01.12.2025 a	t 06.00am ²
	Affected Districts	: 25
	Total Affected Families	: 382,651
	Total Affected Persons	: 1,373,899
	Total Deaths	: 390
	Total Missing	: 352
	Total Safety Centers	: 1,368
	Total Families in Centers	: 57,790
	Total Persons in Centers	: 204,597
No. of families sheltering in temporary camps Humanitarian access status	people. Gampaha (56,854 families, 127,269 persons), Trincomalee (22, (47,222 families, 173,165 persons fatalities (88 deaths, 150 missing ar	s include Colombo (68,857 families , 269,403 218,899 persons), Mannar (37,569 families, 232 families 72,254 persons and Puttalam s). Districts like Kandy report the highest d Badulla (82 deaths, 48 missing) nelters; More than 15,000 families staying
Trumamitarian access status	remain disrupted or only partially o convoys, boats and air assets for re In several flood-affected and lands	ularly on the upcountry and eastern lines, perational, forcing greater reliance on road lief operations in hard-to-reach districts. Slide-prone areas, humanitarian teams can by boat or helicopter, with security forces

	and navy assets heavily engaged in evacuations and delivery of life-saving assistance.
	While electricity and telecommunications are gradually being restored, many areas, mainly North, East, Uva and Central provinces still face intermittent power cuts and damaged water systems, which continue to hamper communication, supply chain coordination and sustain humanitarian presence on the ground.
Security/Humanitarian	No formal humanitarian corridors reported; military (Army, Navy, Air Force)
Corridors	deployed for rescue and logistics
Communications	DMC emergency hotline 117 operational; additional contacts: Colombo District
Communications	DMC (0112434028), DMC Main Office (0112136136)
	SLRCS NHQ hotlines – (+94 11 2694487/ +94 11 2691095)
Government actions	The President has declared a state of emergency and activated the Essential
	Public Services Act, designating power, water, transport, health, food supply,
	telecommunications and key administrative services as essential to ensure they
	continue without interruption during the crisis. ⁵
	Government has allocated LKR 1.2 billion immediately for disaster relief and set
	aside a further LKR 30 billion in the 2025 budget for emergency needs, while
	authorizing District and Divisional Secretaries to spend flexibly on urgent
	rescue and relief without usual financial constraints.
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	A central Coordination Unit has been established at Defense Headquarters and
	an Office of the Commissioner General of Essential Services created under
	emergency regulations to coordinate multi-agency rescue, relief and early
	recovery operations across sectors and districts.
	The tri-forces, police and DMC are deployed nationwide for search and rescue,
	evacuations and relief distribution, with helicopters and boats mobilized and
	additional air and naval assets requested from India and other partners to
	reach cut-off communities.
	reactifut-off confindinties.
	The government has opened official disaster relief bank accounts and appealed
	to overseas Sri Lankans and foreign partners for financial contributions and
	in-kind assistance, complementing domestic funding for food, shelter, health
	and early rehabilitation support.
	and carry remainification supports
Latest situation on the	Ongoing flood threats despite cyclone departure
ground	1 - 3 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 -
	Flood levels are beginning to recede in many locations, but saturated soil and
	high river levels mean continued risk of localized flooding, further landslides in
	hill-country districts (Kandy, Badulla, Matale, Nuwara Eliya), and breaches of
	small reservoirs and tank bunds in the east and north-central areas.
	Over 20,000 harron destroyed 200 materials and 111 had 140 had
	Over 20,000 homes destroyed, 206 major roads blocked, and 10 bridges
	washed away continue to hamper relief distribution and leave remote
	communities cut off. Approximately one-third of the country remains without
	electricity or potable water due to downed power lines and flooded treatment
	facilities

National response is led by the Disaster Management Centre, armed forces, and police, with the military conducting ongoing search-and-rescue, boat evacuations, aerial rescues, and road-clearing operations; special operations are also underway to reopen key access routes such as the Sri Pada Road.

The government has also highlighted the looming risk of food insecurity. Floods have destroyed crops, damaged storage facilities, and disrupted supply chains, sharply reducing the availability of essential food items. With agricultural lands submerged and transport networks cut off, the country is likely to face rising food prices and shortages in the weeks ahead

Volunteer operations are underway, with community groups, religious institutions and citizens cooking meals and delivering supplies to trapped families.

International assistance is scaling up: India and Pakistan have deployed helicopters, aircraft, and naval assets with relief supplies; UN agencies, IOM, and NGOs are providing shelter items, NFI kits, and water and sanitation support; bilateral donors including Australia, the UK, China, and others have pledged emergency funding and in-kind aid

Authorities warn that secondary landslides remain highly likely in saturated hill districts, while river levels may continue rising for 24–48 hours despite reduced rainfall. Schools remain closed until 16 December, and national examinations have been postponed indefinitely. The situation remains critical and dynamic, with humanitarian needs far exceeding available resources and access

National Society strategy

Relief and assessments: Sri Lanka Red Cross Society is continuously monitoring the evolving situation across the country. Over 3,500 volunteers from all 25 districts are conducting rapid assessments and collecting impact data in affected locations.

Health, first aid and medical support:

Trained first-aid volunteers provide first-aid services in safety centers and assisting with the safe evacuation of people from high-risk and flooded areas. The Colombo branch has launched mobile medical clinics in partnership with Hiru and Asiri health services and has extended ambulance support to affected communities.

Relief distributions and essential items: Volunteer teams are also deployed



Trained volunteers from SLRCS Gampaha branch providing first-aid services to the affected people. Source: SLRCS

specifically to provide First Aid and support relief distributions in landslide- and flood-affected districts. National Headquarters dispatches essential household items such as drinking water, sanitary pads, dhal, sugar, hygiene products, towels, bed sheets, washing powder and dry clothing to branches for onward distribution to impacted households.

Planned DREF support and priority needs: The National Society plans to request CHF 1 million from the IFRC DREF to scale up the immediate response. Branches have prioritized WASH needs, including safe drinking water and hygiene support, as a critical gap for affected populations.

Coordination and next steps: National Headquarters maintains close coordination with all branches and provides guidance to branch executive officers on operational priorities and procedures. Needs have been identified and technical and logistical arrangements put in place to reach affected areas.

Operational constraints and risks

Operational Search & Rescue Capacity - Continuing rescue operations for the 370 missing persons challenges 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 Relief items dispatched from the SLRCS Headquarters (HNQ) warehouse in Colombo are experiencing significant delays and routes to affected districts due to damaged main routes, inundated roads and overflowing bridges. **Key risks** 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 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

Sectors of intervention currently focus on life-saving assistance and restoring basic services, with priority on shelter, WASH, food security and health. Emergency shelter and NFIs are being provided to displaced families in government safety centers and host communities, while partners work to decongest overcrowded sites and improve privacy and protection, particularly for women, children and older people. WASH actors are scaling up safe water supply through trucking and purification, emergency latrines, and hygiene kits to mitigate diarrheal disease risks in flooded, densely populated shelters.

Health, nutrition and protection interventions are increasingly critical as damaged facilities, medicine shortages and disrupted referral systems coincide with rising trauma, injuries and mental health needs. Early recovery and livelihoods planning have also started, given extensive losses and asset damage that threaten medium-term food security

Relief and Assessment

Key updates	•	Rapid needs assessments: A multi-sectoral Joint Rapid Needs Assessment
		(JRNA) was initiated in coordination with the DMC, beginning with a layering
		exercise based on satellite data, census data, and existing sectoral information

- International search and rescue: India deployed 80 NDRF rescuers (including divers and landslide specialists), and Pakistan also deployed emergency response teams to work alongside Sri Lankan forces in the worst-affected areas
- Aerial rescue operations: The Sri Lanka Air Force and Indian military helicopters airlifted over 120 people from isolated areas after dam breaches and landslides, with continuous air sorties delivering relief to cut-off communities
- Emergency NFI distribution: Essential non-food items being distributed include sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, cooking equipment, tarpaulins, tents, and hygiene kits, though gaps persist in reaching all affected populations

Shelter

Key updates

- **Shelter conditions and gaps:** Many shelters are overcrowded (2-3 times intended capacity), with inadequate privacy and protection, especially for women and children. Large mixed-gender halls are the norm, raising protection concerns
- Housing destruction: 585 houses were completely destroyed (flattened or swept away), And partially damage houses 20,271 reported, as per the DMC update.
- **Transitional shelter needs:** There is urgent need for family tents, prefab units, or semi-permanent shelters for those whose homes were destroyed in landslide zones where rebuilding on the same site is unsafe.

Livelihood & basic needs

Key updates

- **Agricultural devastation:** Over 600,000 acres of crops destroyed, including vast swathes of paddy rice fields in North Central, Eastern, and North Western provinces. The Ministry of Agriculture estimates at least 40% of the Maha season output in affected regions is lost.
- Food distribution: Government provides cooked meals and dry ration packs (rice, lentils, sugar) through the military, Divisional Secretariats, and donor contributions. However, reports indicate some remote camps have inadequate food relief
- Increased ration allowance: The Ministry of Defense increased the weekly dryration allowance for a family of five from LKR 3,600 (USD 11.72) to LKR 10,500 (USD 34.17)
- **Market disruptions:** Food supply chains were severely disrupted, with wholesale vegetable prices tripling in some places. Food storage facilities and rice mills in low areas were flooded, spoiling grain reserves.
- **Livelihood losses:** Thousands of small businesses, daily wage laborers, tea industry workers, and fishing communities have lost income sources. Farmers lost standing crops, seed stocks, and livestock (particularly poultry and goats).

Health, First Aid, Ambulance and MHPSS

Key updates

- **Healthcare system strain:** Several district hospitals remain flooded with only limited medical and essential supplies. At least one district hospital in Nuwara Eliya was partly inundated, requiring patient relocation to upper floors.
- **Mobile medical clinics:** The Ministry of Health dispatched mobile medical clinics with doctors and nurses to large displacement sites to provide first aid, essential medicines, and disease surveillance.

- **Medical evacuations:** Critical patients from isolated areas are being airlifted to Colombo and functioning facilities for emergency trauma care
- **Health funding:** The government allocated LKR 1.2 billion (USD 3.9 million) specifically for health disaster response, plus LKR 30 billion (USD 97.5 million) emergency fund supporting health and other sectors
- International medical support: India sent medical teams with NDRF units, and Pakistan offered medical teams. WHO deployed resources including rapid response teams and emergency health kits

First Aid and Ambulance Services:

- **Sri Lanka Red Cross society:** Deployed First Aid teams to welfare centers and engaged in family reunification efforts across affected districts ²⁰
- Suwaseriya ambulance service: Trainees from the national ambulance service participated in Search and Rescue (SAR) training to strengthen multi-sectoral emergency response capacity
- Emergency medical response: Injuries treated include fractures, lacerations, hypothermia, with hospitals in Kandy and Badulla treating numerous trauma patients in the first days

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):

- Psychological trauma: Families have lost loved ones and homes, with many children and adults showing signs of trauma after life-threatening events.
 Psychosocial support needs are significant.
- **MHPSS planning:** The Ministry of Health's Mental Health Directorate is preparing psychosocial support teams to deploy in the worst-affected communities for counseling in coming weeks.
- Child-friendly spaces: NGOs with counseling expertise (Save the Children) are setting up child-friendly spaces and counseling for survivors, especially children distressed by loss and disruption
- **Psychological first aid:** The Ministry is training community volunteers to provide psychological first aid in camps, though current mental health support on the ground remains minimal
- UNICEF support: Over 275,000 children affected require psychosocial support, with UNICEF coordinating with government and partners to scale up essential services

WASH

Key updates

- **Water contamination:** Wells (primary drinking water source in rural areas) are polluted with floodwater, sewage, and debris. Public Health Inspectors Union warned communities to avoid drinking well water due to high risk of waterborne diseases
- Urban water supply: In Western Province, major treatment plants (Ambatale, Labugama, Kalatuwawa, Biyagama) did not sustain physical damage. However, in Kandy, the municipal water treatment plant was shut down when floodwater compromised it
- **Emergency water provision:** UNICEF delivered safe water (bottled via tanker) to isolated shelters in Badulla District. Water bowsers/tankers deployed in urban areas like Colombo, with fire brigade trucks distributing water in Gampaha
- Sanitation crisis: Floods inundated latrines and septic tanks causing sewage overflow. In some large shelters, 100+ people share one or two functioning toilets—far below Sphere emergency standards

•	Hygiene and vector control: Hygiene kits (soap, buckets, water containers,
	feminine hygiene items) distributed by Sri Lanka Red Cross and NGOs. Standing
	water has led to mosquito breeding, raising concerns about dengue and malaria
	outbreaks

Coordination (incl. Movement, bilateral project with IFRC Network members and external partners)

Partners	 Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA): Multi-sectoral assessment in coordination with DMC, with layering exercise and field-level gap analysis. Joint Response Plan (JRP): Agreement to explore costed JRP ensuring coordinated planning, reporting, and resource mobilization. OCHA Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (ROAP) in Bangkok exploring surge support. UN Flash Appeal: Expected to outline priority needs and funding requirements for 50-100 million USD, with CERF assessing possible allocation of 5-10 million
UN/Cluster engagement	 OCHA: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs activated emergency coordination mechanisms on November 29, with the Resident Coordinator's Office leading international relief coordination UNICEF: Leading WASH and Education clusters, providing water tanks, purification tablets, and setting up child-friendly spaces. Delivered potable water to 25 safety centers in Badulla WFP: Leading Food Security cluster, conducting rapid assessments and preparing food distributions targeting at least 200,000 people WHO: Leading Health cluster, delivered emergency health kits to Ministry of Health, deploying rapid response teams and strengthening health information management and surveillance IOM: Supporting Shelter/CCCM cluster, mobilizing emergency response providing non-food items, shelter materials, and critical supplies UNDP: Supporting early recovery and disaster management, with focus on post-disaster needs assessment and recovery planning

Corporate services key highlights

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

Key updates •	Media interviews attended by IFRC leadership in the region, including Regional Director and Head of Country Cluster Delegation for South Asia with CNN, Al-Jazeera, Sky News, France 24 and BBC radio. A <u>press release</u> on the severe flooding across Asia including Sri Lanka was issued to international media. Diplomatic roundtable meeting in country took place on 2 December, including Partnership call and UN- HCT meeting.
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Logistics

Warehouses	 SLRCS warehouse located in Naikahnda Road, Katunayake Relief items stocks have been released for distributions to the districts Badulla,
	Matale, Kandy, Puttalam, Kurunagala, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa and Trincomalee. The following items were distributed.
	o Towel (800),
	Kaftan (800)Bed sheets (800)
	o Sarongs (800)

	 Jerry Cans (800) Kitchen sets (150) Raincoats (240) Mosquito Nets (150) Gum Boots (90) Rubber Gloves (90) baby kits (100) The immediate relief items such as dry rations, drinking water, clothes sanitary napkins and undergarments which were collected from the public and private donors were immediately distributed to the nearby affected areas in Colombo and Gampaha districts.	
Stock confirmed	• 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) – out of this stock, 1 st round of distribution items mentioned above has already been dispatched to the fields.	
Importation	 The Sri Lanka Government has announced fast tract procedures to expedite the clearance and distribution of relief aid to the country, including free of all tariff and charges. Source: https://www.customs.gov.lk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Relief-Consignment- Clearance.pdf 	

Surge

Two personnel from CCD Delhi arrived in the country including Head of Delegation (HoD) on 30 November, Sunday. Subsequent deployments from IFRC Delegation in Delhi will include specialized support in Procurement and Finance to strengthen supply chain management and financial accountability during the response.

Key updates	Surge Alert request sent to Surge Desk
	Requested profiles
	 Communications – 1 month, in country deployment [regional staff going to Sri Lanka while waiting for Surge)
	 Assessment – 1 month, in country deployment
	 Information Management – 1 month, initially remote deployment
	 PMER – 3 months, in country deployment

No	IFRC Rapid Response Profile	Alert Level	Status	Deployment Duration / Start Date	Deploying Entity
1	PMER	Regional	Confirmed – In	3 months	IFRC
	Coordinator		country deployment		

Finances

Key updates	• Funding transfer request amounting CHF 100,000 under Immediate Response
	Protocol (IRP) has been processed by Finance KL

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluations and/or Reporting

Initially, SLRCS branches used paper-based forms for assessments due to certain limitations, such as connectivity issues and device availability. As conditions improved, the process shifted to using the KOBO tool for digital data collection. NDRT and BDRT members are deployed on the ground to carry out these assessments. The IM officer at NHQ then analyzes the collected data and updates it on the SLRCS data bank website. Surge PMER coordinator identified and preparations underway for travel to the country.

Information Management

Key updates	No new updates

Safety & Security

Key updates •	Safety and security conditions remain fragile, with authorities warning people to avoid damaged roads, bridges and active landslide zones as new slope failures and sudden flood surges are still possible, especially along the Kelani, Kalu, Maha and Attanagalu river basins. Power cuts, telecommunications outages and blocked access routes are hampering timely rescues and complicating law-and-order management in some overcrowded evacuation centers, although no large-scale security incidents have been reported and the tri-forces and Police remain widely deployed to protect civilians, secure infrastructure and support relief operation
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Contact Information

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

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