

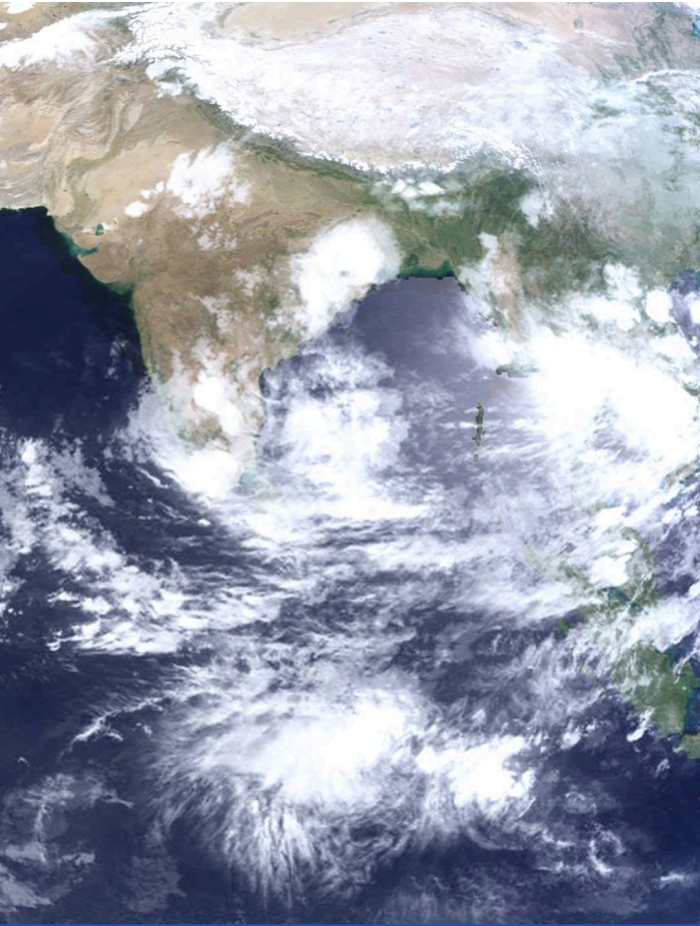


# FLOODS & LANDSLIDES 2017

PRELIMINARY OPERATIONAL REPORT



A RELIEF AID DISTRIBUTION AT NELUWA, GALLE



# Situation Overview

The 2017 Sri Lanka floods resulted from a heavy southwest monsoon, beginning around 18 to 19 May 2017. Flooding was worsened by the arrival of the precursor system to Cyclone Mora, causing flooding and landslides throughout Sri Lanka during the final week of May 2017.

The floods affected 15 districts, killed at least 213 people and left a further 78 people missing. As of 3 June, 698,289 people were affected, while 11,056 houses were partially damaged and another 2,093 houses completely destroyed. According to Government estimates, about 600,000 people have been displaced due to the floods.

The flooding severely affected Sri Lanka's Western Province, Sabaragamuwa Province, Southern Province and part of Central Province. The worst-affected districts were Kalutara, Galle, Matara and Ratnaputra. In Kalutara, flooding of the Kalu River

also triggered several landslides. Agalawatte, a town within Kalutara District, reported 47 deaths and 62 people missing as of today, with many areas made inaccessible by landslides. The Ratnaputra District had recorded 79 deaths.

## Floods & landslides

The southwest monsoon typically peaks during late May to the beginning of June in Sri Lanka, with prevailing winds from the south and southwest, streaming toward the Bay of Bengal. The areas that usually receive the heaviest rain are the south and west of the country, including Kalutara, Ratnapura, and Colombo. The monsoon was anticipated to arrive after 14 May, but owing to below-normal water levels in the region, it was initially not expected to cause severe flooding.

Parts of Sri Lanka received 300 mm – 500 mm of heavy monsoon rain in a 24-hour period by 25 May, resulting in widespread flooding. Galle, a coastal city, received 223 mm (8.8 in) and Ratnapura experienced 453 mm (17.8 in) of rainfall during the period of 27 to 30 May, leading to severe inland flooding.

On 27 May, an area of convective thunderstorms in the Bay of Bengal started to converge, moving to the northeast and becoming Cyclone Mora on 28 May. Cyclone Mora later affected Bangladesh and Myanmar.

By the evening of 25th May, the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) of Sri Lanka had issued a "Level 3 Red Alert" landslide warning for the districts of Ratnapura,



Kegalle, Galle, Kalutara, Matara, Hambantota & Nuwara – Eliya.

Areas within Galle District became cut off due to landslides. Part of the Southern Expressway closed, owing to flooding between Colombo and Matara. The Kelani River, which runs through Sri Lanka's largest city Colombo, measured a water level increase of 15.44 m (50.7 ft) by 9:30 a.m. Sri Lanka Time (15:00 UTC) on 27 May, and peaked by 28 May.

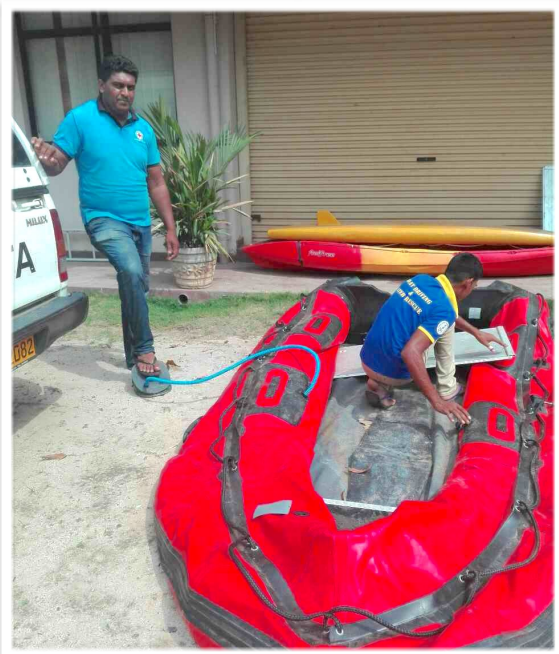
As of 29 May, the Bolgoda Dam in Panadura was at a risk of collapse.

The death toll currently stands at 237 which included at least 45 school children, around 76 people remained missing.



# Our Response

Sri Lanka Red Cross Disaster Management Department along with the Communications Department has been closely following Meteorological department updates on the weather and has been following international Met Services updates in order to make an assessment. By the 22nd of May 2017, the DM Department sent out an alert to branches in the coastal belt from the Western Province to the Southern Province. Also key districts that were initially identified as flood prone districts like Rathnapura, Monaragala and even in far



East districts like Ampara were put on "emergency standby" with a view towards possible disaster situation. All stocks in these branch wear-houses were readied and key personnel were put on standby to respond. Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) were also put on standby for this purpose as well.

Branches such as Gampaha and Galle even prepared their boats well in advance to respond to the impending disaster. Steps were also taken by the branches to connect with the Government Agent in their respective districts and informed them that the Red Cross and its volunteers are standing by to assist.

Along side this the Communications department was sending out timely and accurate information to the public on the changing weather patters and how people needs to be prepared for the impending disaster. Utilizing social media to disseminate the message Sri Lanka Red Cross has been working activity with number of partners to ensure that the key messages of safety are provided to at risk communities.

**Sri Lanka Red Cross Society**  
May 25 at 12:16am · 🌐

**SEVERE WEATHER ALERT FOR THE NEXT 24hrs.**  
South-west monsoon conditions are likely to establish over the country during next few days (particularly from today). Accordingly showers and thundershowers can be expected.  
For updates follow us on Twitter @SLRedCross or through this page. ... See More

**SEVERE WEATHER ALERT**

www.redcross.lk

ISSUED ON 25 MAY 2017  
EFFECTIVE FOR NEXT 24hrs  
SOURCE - MET DEPARTMENT

South-west monsoon conditions are likely to establish over the country during next few days (particularly from 25th). Hence showers and windy condition are expected to enhance over the south-western part of the country.

Showers or thundershowers will occur at times in the Western, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Central and North-western provinces.  
Heavy falls (more than 100 mm) can be expected at some places

**Sri Lanka Red Cross Society**  
May 25 at 11:02pm · 🌐

**ALERT - LANDSLIDE WATCH FOR NEXT 24hrs.**  
#LKA #Landslide #Weather #SriLanka

**LANDSLIDE ALERT**

FOR UPDATES FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @SLRedCross OR ON FACEBOOK

www.redcross.lk

ISSUED ON 25 MAY 2017  
EFFECTIVE FOR NEXT 24hrs  
SOURCE - NATIONAL BUILDING RESEARCH ORG.

**Caution** - People living on steep slopes and near dangerous cut-slopes should be watchful.

Always attention should be drawn to pre-landslide signs like slanting of trees or posts, cracks developing on ground and walls, and sudden appearance of muddy water coming out from the ground or from springs.  
People should move away from hazardous areas when they notice above signs.

6,050 people reached Boost Post

**Sri Lanka Red Cross Society**  
May 26 at 8:32am · 🌐

Here are some safety tips for you to consider during floods in order to stay safe.  
#lka #floods #Weather #SriLanka #StaySafe

**NAVIGATING FLOODS**

**STEPS TO TAKE TO STAY SAFE**

www.redcross.lk

UPDATES ON TWITTER @SLRedCross & FACEBOOK

- Move immediately to higher ground or stay on high ground.
- Evacuate if directed.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters.
- Turn Around, Don't Drown! Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down and 1 foot of water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Turn on your TV/radio. You will receive the latest weather updates and emergency instructions.
- Know where to go. You may need to reach higher ground quickly and on foot.
- Build or restock your emergency preparedness kit. Include a flashlight, batteries, cash, and first aid supplies.
- Keep your mobile phones charged, and avoid using landlines during thundershowers.

6,579 people reached Boost Post

Like Comment Share

**Sri Lanka Red Cross** @SLRedCross · May 30  
Here are some telltale signs of an impending landslide depicted by he NBRO.

#LKA #FloodSL #StaySafe #SriLanka #Landslide

**නායයෂමකට පෙර අනේඛිය හැකි සලකුණු**

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# During the Disaster (emergency phase)

With the rains being active for over 24hrs since the 25th of May 2017, resulting in floods in various parts of the island, steps were taken to mobilize BDRT's in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle, Rathnapura & Matara which were the severely affected areas.

During this time volunteers engaged in search and rescue efforts, providing first aid along with cooked food and safe drinking water.





During the first 24 hrs the branches in the severe affected districts took steps to distributed the below items to ensure the people who are staying in temporary camps are well taken care of in the face of them losing all their personal belongings.

<b>NFRI Items</b>	<b>Galle</b>	<b>Matara</b>	<b>Ratnapura</b>	<b>Kalutara</b>
Adult Relief Packs	200	100	100	100
Baby Relief Packs	25	25	25	25
Sleeping Mats	200	100	100	100
Kaftan	200	100	100	100
Sarong	200	100	100	100
Slippers	100	50	50	50
Jerry Cans	100	50	50	50
Lanterns	50	50	50	50

Meanwhile by the end of the emergency phase the Sri Lanka Red Cross has taken steps to distribute non food relief items to over more than 200,000 people in various capacities.

<b>NFRI Items</b>	<b>Galle</b>	<b>Matara</b>	<b>Ratnapura</b>	<b>Kalutara</b>	<b>Colombo</b>	<b>Gampaha</b>	<b>Hambanthota</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bed Sheet	500	1000	700	700	1500	200	200	<b>4800</b>
ETI Kit	250	250	250	250	400	0	0	<b>1400</b>
Adult Relief Packs	200	100	100	100	200	0	0	<b>700</b>
Baby Relief Packs	125	125	275	150	125	200	100	<b>1100</b>
Sleeping Mats	1000	1550	900	900	1500	350	400	<b>6600</b>
Kaftan	500	1350	500	600	0	0	200	<b>3150</b>
Sarong	500	1350	650	650	1000	0	200	<b>4350</b>
Kitchen Set	920	950	850	350	400	200	400	<b>4070</b>
Slippers	100	250	100	100	300	0	0	<b>850</b>
Towel	1000	1450	700	700	1000	0	200	<b>5050</b>
Tarpaulin	200	200	50	50	0	10	0	<b>510</b>
Jerry Cans	50	700	550	350	500	300	200	<b>2650</b>
Lanterns	50	250	200	150	0	0	200	<b>850</b>
Tent	15	0	0	0	10	2	0	<b>27</b>
Gum Boots	50	0	50	50	0	0	0	<b>150</b>
Mosquito Net	0	0	0	0	300	0	0	<b>300</b>

Most of the above items were transported to the affected districts through the central wear-house of the Red Cross in Colombo in close coordination with the branches. The number of relief packs requested were determined after consultation with the Government Agent and after a written request has been made by them.

The Red Cross also took steps to provide first aid, cooked food and safe drinking water and assisted in maintaining camps during the emergency phase.





# After the Disaster (Short term recovery)

Soon after the disasters's threat to human life has passed the Sri Lanka Red Cross immediately acted on the short term recovery needs of the people. These were addressed according to a needs assessment done in prior to disasters in the affected areas.

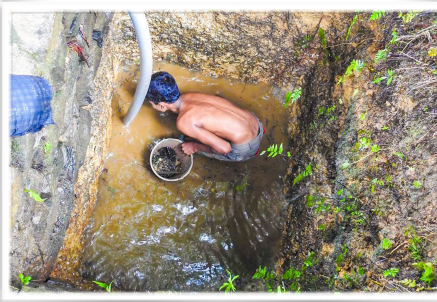
Four key areas of focus was made during this phase.

- Cleaning water resources to ensure that there is adequate amount of safe clean water.
- Cleaning and disinfecting homes to ensure people can move back home quickly
- Providing medical and first aid to communities to ensure that they do not fall victim towards another health crisis after floods.
- Assessing longer term needs of the people to ensure that they settle back better to their community.

## Well cleaning

Cleaning of wells and homes is an activity identified by the Red Cross in previous flood disasters, as this ensures people affected do have an adequate source of safe clean water, ensuring them not consuming or engaging in polluted water bodies that would eventually push them towards another health crisis.

Volunteers were seen engaging in these activities in the affected districts of Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara, Galle, Matara & Ratnapura.



The Sri Lanka Red Cross volunteers also engaged in well cleaning activities with the support of the US Army & US Navy as well.



## Medical camps

Another area of focus has been hold medical camps in worst affected areas and to at risk communities. The main objective of this medical camps are to ensure that people who have fallen victim to floods and landslides do not get further get into a health crisis.

Soon after floods there is a trend of the rise in dengue and rat fever to which immediate attention needs to be given. During these medical camps steps were taken to address those issues and also make sure that people are educated on how to stay safe and what steps needs to be taken to curb the spread of diseases.

Over 50 medical camps were held in the severely affected areas. Along side these medical camps door to door first aid services and normal first aid services were also provided to people.



Here are some pictures of the activity that was conducted.



Here's a breakdown on activities in the short term recovery phase.

District & Branch	Well Cleaning		Medical Camps			First Aid Services			
	No of Wells	No of People Assisted	No of Camps	Male	Female	Male	Female	Pregnant Mothers	Injured
Colombo	1050	5250	6	661	681	180	321	15	2300
Galle	640	3200	3	700	850	570	600	2	1100
Kalutara	700	3500	2	311	586	220	200	5	2100
Matara	500	2500	8	865	1032	438	522	2	34
Ratnapura	503	2515	3	210	437	970	1230	52	785
Gampaha	911	4555	14	1009	2211	206	474	17	200

## International response

Together with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) steps were taken in the early hours of the disaster to assist the emergency operation of the Sri Lanka Red Cross.

Within the first 72hrs the IFRC coordinated with the Sri Lanka Red Cross provided an emergency fund allocation of 200,000 CHF ( 31 million LKR) to run the emergency operation. This aided the Sri Lanka Red Cross to get in vital supplies and other services required on the ground without any issue.

Meanwhile the ICRC also pledged LKR 3,000,000 (CHF 20,000) for NFRI procurement for priority areas during the first week of the emergency response. ICRC also provided two vehicles for relief operations in Ratnapura and Galle districts.

Later on an appeal of 2 million CHF ( 310 million LKR) appeal was launched by the IFRC to assist the longer term recovery phase of the flood operation.

Meanwhile the Singapore Red Cross also pledged a 50,000 USD donation to Sri Lanka Red Cross in the early phase of the disaster. They also sent in two delegates to assess and support the emergency phase of the operation.



Alongside this the Red Cross Society of China through the Government of China pledged a 100,000 USD for the emergency phase of the operation. The donation was made through the Sri Lankan Embassy of the Government of China to Sri Lanka Red Cross.



Number of countries pledged to the appeal made to the longer term recovery phase of the operation.

New Zealand Red Cross(NZ Govt.), German Embassy, Sri Lanka, Canadian Red Cross (Govt. of Canada), Netherlands Red Cross, Korean Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Swiss Red Cross, Red Cross Society of China's Hong Kong Branch, American Red Cross, and the Norwegian Red Cross (Norwegian Govt) all provided financial support to the appeal launched by the Red Cross to assist the flood affected people.

Oxfam Sri Lanka & Plan International also partnered with Sri Lanka Red Cross to provide assistance in the longer term recovery efforts.

## Corporate sector response

Several high level corporations from locally and around the world supported the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in providing support for the people in the flood affected areas. The organizations assisted with monetary donations and support towards activities in the short term recovery phase.



# Beyond the Disaster

## (Long term recovery)

In response to the humanitarian needs in the longer term, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) launched an international emergency appeal for two million Swiss francs (approximately 2.1 million USD or 1.9 million EUR).

Through this appeal, Red Cross volunteers and staff will assist 40,000 people with emergency relief items including shelter materials and household items; provision of medical and first aid services; support to schools and community health centres; clean water and sanitation; and cash grants to help people recover their livelihoods.

Here's a snapshot of what the support will entail.

### Areas of coverage:





Here's a summary of target beneficiaries by activities

SL	Activities	Timeframe	Target areas	Target families/people
1	Mobilize SLRCS volunteers for assessments	One month	Six districts	-
2	Mobilize SLRCS volunteers for search and rescue	One month	Six districts	-
3	Emergency shelter items (2 per each family)	Four months	Six districts	500 families
4	Distribution & procurement of NFRI	Four months	Six districts	5,000 families
5	Emergency Cash Grants (LKR 10,000 = CHF 69)	Four months	Four districts	800 families
6	Distribution & procurement of school items	Four months	Six districts	5,000 students
7	Conditional cash grants for households livelihood ventures (LKR 50,000 = CHF 354)	Eight months	Four districts	800 families
8	Distribution of 10,000 safe water storage containers to 5,000 families (2 per family)	Four months	Six districts	5,000 families
9	Installation of 180 water tanks (2,000L) in 60 camps (15L per person per day)	Four months	Six districts	5,000 families
10	Cleaning of 5,000 wells	Five months	Six districts	5,000 families
11	Installation of 300 temporary toilets in 60 camps	Four months	Six districts	6,000 people
12	Hygiene promotion	Eight months	Six districts	5,000 families
13	FA services in 60 camps	Two weeks	Six districts	5,000 families
14	Organize 30 medical camps	Four months	Six districts	5,000 families
<b>Total targeted beneficiaries: 5,000 families (25,000 people)</b>				

15	Organize refresher training for SLRCS national and 4 branch disaster response teams and 4 specialized trainings and National Disaster Management Training (NDRT)	Five months	Six districts	270 people
16	Procure 8 ferries, 4 rubber boats and 100 life jackets	Five months	Four districts	4,200 people
17	DRR (12 communities * 350 people each)	Seven months	Four districts	4,200 people
<b>Total targeted beneficiaries: minimum of 3,000 families (15,000 people)</b>				

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