FLOODS IN SRI LANKA

**Highlights**

- Since 25 May 2017, heavy rainfall due to the South-West monsoon resulted in severe flooding and landslides affecting 15 out of 25 districts in Sri Lanka.

- A total of 595,554 persons in 11 districts have been affected. As many as 16,872 people have been moved to 185 ‘safe locations’ in 9 districts.

- As of 3 June, the number of deaths are 213, with 79 people reported missing.

- The rains have subsided, however, showers of lesser intensity across the South Western parts of the country are predicted to continue for the next 24 hours, according to the Meteorology Department.

- A fresh ‘amber’ landslide warning was issued on 5 June by the National Building Research Organization. The warning cautions people living in 30 divisions across 7 districts to be alert on the possibility of landslides and rock falls if rainfall continues for the next 24 hours.

- An extensive recovery operation across all sectors is required.

**Situation Analysis**

**Background**

- Heavy rainfall, flooding and landslides since 25 May resulted in wide-spread displacement across 15 districts in Sri Lanka, with Ratnapura, Galle, Matara and Kalutara identified as the worst affected districts.

- Health services, emergency shelter, sanitation and hygiene services have been identified as key emergency needs.

**Updates**

- 153,851 families have been affected, with around 2,788 houses completely damaged and 18,413 houses partially damaged.

- With flood water receding, there has been a significant decline in the number of displaced people. As of 6 June, 16,000 people remain at safe locations, as compared to the over 80,000 who had to leave home last week to move to safer locations.
- All healthcare institutions are currently accessible.
- Electricity and water supply is gradually being restored in the affected health facilities.
- Prevention of disease outbreaks, particularly dengue, leptospirosis, food and water borne diseases, will key focus areas of the public health response in the coming days. Special emphasis will be on removing potential mosquito breeding sites given the increased dengue caseload in the country and the large quantities of standing water in several affected areas. Leptospirosis is another threat which requires urgent and intensive action.
- Ensuring food safety will be critical to guard against any food borne disease outbreak. Public Health Inspectors will inspect food to ensure they meet food safety regulations, especially as many grocery stores have been affected by the floods.
- Special emphasis will also be on ensuring that public health services such as maternal and child health services, immunization programmes etc are not disrupted.

Incident Site Mapping

Map of districts in Sri Lanka affected by floods

Many facilities are partially or completely destroyed by floods.

Joint WHO and Ministry of Health field assessment to assess extent of damage to health sector and immediate needs.

WHO supports Ministry of Health to ensure a coordinated and efficient health service delivery to affected people.
Casualties and damages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of affected</th>
<th>Number of families affected</th>
<th>Number of deaths</th>
<th>Number of injured people</th>
<th>Number of missing people</th>
<th>Number of houses fully damaged</th>
<th>Number of safe locations</th>
<th>Number of displaced people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>595 554</td>
<td>153 851</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>2788</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>16 872</td>
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Health Sector: MOH, WHO and Partner Agencies Response

- A clean-up campaign has begun with the assistance of health staff, tri-forces and volunteers to repair and restore the affected healthcare institutions.
- Public Health Inspectors have been mobilised to provide technical assistance for cleaning wells and ensure survivors have access to safe drinking water in the affected areas.
- The Ministry of Health (MOH) continues to deploy Emergency Medical Teams from the regional level as well as public health staff to areas where additional support is needed.
- WHO continues to provide technical assistance to MOH to ensure an efficient and comprehensive health response.
- A joint MOH-WHO field assessment was carried out on 01 and 02 June in Galle and Matara to assess the extent of damage to the health sector; identify urgent needs and ensure efficient and effective health service delivery to the affected people. The field mission report indicates the extent of damage to the health sector and challenges, in view of impaired health infrastructure and a lack of human resources.
- WCO has purchased 50 fogging machines to support the Government with vector control, to help prevent dengue outbreak in the affected areas.
- WHO is leading the health sector response of the UN and is taking steps to mobilize resources from development partners to assist in the Government's recovery operations.

Contact Information

For clarification and further information, following focal persons can be contacted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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