



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION - 2024

RIGHT TO VOTE AMIDST DISASTERS

GUIDELINES AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

SRI LANKA

Joint
Election Emergencies
Operation Unit
JEEOps

Preface

Disaster management during an election is crucial to ensure that the electoral process proceeds smoothly and securely, especially in areas prone to natural disasters. Disaster management can be effectively integrated into the electoral process. We all must make it conducive weather to conduct the Presidential Election on the 21st of September, 2024.

Well in advance of the elections, we need to pre identify potential risks and impediments in the electoral process, including natural disasters (e.g., floods, landslides) and health crises (e.g., pandemics), and to develop detailed contingency plans for each identified risk. This includes setting up alternative voting sites, and establishing communication channels and logistics during a natural disaster. Ensure that polling stations are in safe, accessible locations. Assess infrastructure to withstand potential disasters.



In case of an unforeseen impediment collaboration with local disaster management agencies, law enforcement, health, power and energy, transport, mass media and information, telecommunication, and various other authorities greatly help to ensure a coordinated response. We must also provide clear information to voters about what to do in case of a disaster using multiple channels (social media, local media, public announcements) to keep voters informed.

It has become a mandatory requirement to establish a center for joint Election Emergencies Operations (JEEOps) during this election period for real-time monitoring of potential disaster situations and their impact on the election process. Deploy emergency response teams to handle any issues that arise at polling stations. Ensure they are trained to manage both disaster scenarios and electoral challenges.

Effective disaster management during an election helps to ensure the safety of voters and also safeguard their voting rights, maintain the integrity of the electoral process thus ensuring fairness and accessibility in the electoral process, that disaster response efforts do not disproportionately affect certain groups of voters or a particular ethnic group or community, also that the elections are conducted as smoothly and fairly as possible with the collaboration of all stakeholders.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the relevant ministries, organizations, and agencies for their continued contribution and support in our efforts to conduct free, fair, and credible elections in Sri Lanka.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R.M.A.L. Rathnayake', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Mr. R.M.A.L. Rathnayake

Chairman

Election Commission of Sri Lanka

for Election Commission of Sri Lanka

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Abbreviations

CSD:	Civil Security Department
DEECO:	District Election Emergencies Coordinating Office
DMC:	Disaster Management Center
DRPD:	Disaster Preparedness & Response Division
ECoSL:	Election Commission of Sri Lanka
FP:	Focal Point
GSMB:	Geological Survey and Mines Bureau
JEEOPs:	Joint Election Emergencies Operation Unit
MoD:	Ministry of Defence
MOH & IMS:	Ministry of Health & Indigenous Medical Services
Min. of TSM:	Ministry of Transportation Service Management
MoPA, HF, PCs & LG:	Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils, and Local Government.
NBRO:	National Building Research Organization
NDRSC:	National Disaster Relief Services Centre
OCDs:	Office of the Chief Defence Staff and Tri-Forces
RDA:	Road Development Authority
SLA:	Sri Lanka Army
SLN:	Sri Lanka Navy
SLAF:	Sri Lanka Air Force
STF:	Sri Lanka Special Task Force
TRC:	Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

Foreword

Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act, No.13 of 2005 provides for, the protection of the life of the community, property, and environment from disasters. The Disaster Management Center (DMC) has recognized the importance of “preventive concepts” rather than “responsive strategy” to mitigate hazardous events and reduce vulnerability.

Disaster and emergency planning are vital tools in the election process. Against this backdrop, DMC in liaison with the Election Commission formulated operational guidelines for election emergencies. Plans are in place to respond to sudden on-set disasters amidst the disasters when over seventeen million people go to polls on 21st September 2024.

The routine operating procedures require change with multiple and cascading disasters. Amidst these challenges, steps have been taken to ensure that the democratic process proceeds on schedule through the Election, while protecting both voters and election officials. This collective effort amongst relevant agencies working in unison will create a conducive and confident environment for people to exercise their right to vote.

Emergency preparedness is a continuous process in which action, commitment, resources, and partnerships at all levels must be sustained. It relies on all stakeholders working together effectively to plan, invest, and implement priority actions. Communities are critical to effective emergency management. It is a shared responsibility that requires coordination between all stakeholders, communities, and national and local officials. Dedicated national and district-level election emergency operation units will coordinate plans and facilitate execution in securing people and assets.

I convey my appreciation to the Election Commissioner and his staff for integrating risk reduction to this national event. My sincere gratitude to partner agencies and the staff of DMC in formulating these guidelines and coordinating to pave the way for people to exercise their franchise amidst disruptions.



Major General H.M.U. Herath (Retd) RWP RSP VSV USP MM Hdmc psc
Director General
Disaster Management Centre

RIGHT TO VOTE AMIDST DISASTERS

GUIDELINES AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

1. Introduction

The Presidential Election in Sri Lanka will be held on 21st September 2024. For election purposes, the country is divided into 22 Electoral Districts and further subdivided into 160 polling divisions. A total of 17,140,354 persons are eligible to vote this year in 13,421 polling stations. There will be 1,274 election counting centers island-wide.

Electoral Districts	Polling Divisions	Eligible Voters	Polling Stations	Counting Centers
22	160	17,140,354	13,421	1,274

The recent high-impact disaster events in Sri Lanka with extreme weather patterns disrupting normalcy. Flooding and severe landslides due to extensive rain have had disastrous consequences in 2016 and 2017. Health emergencies can pose significant challenges as well as any other man-made situations. Assessing possible risks to voters and officials engaged in election duties, the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECoSL) and the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) recognized the need for a cohesive risk reduction plan to overcome potential election emergencies.

The Joint Election Emergencies Operation Unit (JEEOps) will be reactivated and tasked with the responsibilities of coordinating essential services and authorized organizations in election emergencies. The operations unit will plan and execute any eventuality impeding the ability to vote or conduct post-election duties due to disasters caused by natural hazards or otherwise.

2. Potential Scenarios

2.1 Adverse Weather Conditions

The month of September, being the latter part of the southwest monsoon could have unexpected rainfall in southwest parts of the island and elsewhere. Selection and establishment of polling/counting centers should be safe from potential flood and landslide zones demarcated by the National Building Research Organization (NBRO), Irrigation Department (ID), and DMC.

2.2 Animal Attacks

Animal encounters remain a considerable cause of human harm in certain areas. Stings from bees, wasps, and hornets can be lethal. Routes will need to be secure of animal encounters and bee/wasp nests. Further, the areas identified with Human-Elephant Conflict too need considerable attention in planning and contingencies. Access to such centers by voters and officials with alternative routes need to be identified.

2.3 Tsunami

Sri Lanka is located in the Bay of Bengal where four scenarios can generate Tsunamis due to earthquakes happening in Java, Sumatra, Arakan, and Makran trenches. If such a tsunami occurs 14 coastal districts will be impacted.

2.4 Fire

Fire is an anthropogenic event where humans are involved purposely or carelessly, and also due to lightning fire can create. The fire department and first respondents have to be alerted during the election period to extinguish possible fires.

3. Joint Election Emergencies Operation Unit (JEEOps)

JEEOps is established with immediate effect at the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) of the Disaster Management Centre (DMC). This Headquarters (HQ) will be jointly headed by representatives from the ECoSL and DMC. JEEOps will be operational 24 hours from 19th -23rd September 2024.

District Election Emergencies Coordinating Office (DEECO) will function in all 25 Administrative Districts headed by the respective District Secretary with representatives from ECoSL and DMC. These offices will be directly linked with JEEOps in Colombo.

3.1 Responsibilities;

- Coordinate and facilitate planning of election emergencies; early warning mechanisms; and communications among essential service organizations in disasters during elections.
- Support District Secretariats, Local Government, and other stakeholders in emergency coordination with health authorities.
- Ensure operational functions of DEECO.
- Implement individual and collective organizational contingency plans in achieving election emergency objectives.
- Identify needs and mobilize resources as required to achieve objectives of election emergencies.

4. Objective

The main objective is to ensure that there are no disruptions to vote by the public due to disasters and to negate impediments for election officials in administering their duties.

4.1 Specific Objectives

- Ensure accessibility to 13,421 polling stations by the public to exercise their right to vote.
- Ensure unimpeded access to 1,274 counting centers and facilitate officials to conduct election tasks and responsibilities.
- Prepare, coordinate, and execute emergency plans among all essential service organizations in emergencies to achieve the mandate of the Election Commission of Sri Lanka.

5. Operational Guidelines for Election Emergencies in Situations of Disasters

The safety and security of voters and officials engaged in election duties will be of paramount importance in the event of potential disasters due to natural, man-made, and health hazards. The climate patterns and past extreme weather conditions indicate possibilities of flooding, landslides, high wind, storm surge, coastal erosion, lightning, severe thunderstorms, and industrial hazards. Tsunami, fire, and unexpected explosions are also potential threats. Preparation in providing early identification, warning, reducing risks, and providing a speedy response in the event of a calamity would be a collective action by agencies declared as essential services in election emergencies. This guideline will support all such agencies to plan, prepare, coordinate, and implement action to achieve the specified objectives.

6. Guidelines for Coordinating Agencies

The Election Commission of Sri Lanka and the Disaster Management Centre will jointly coordinate all such emergencies during the period of 19th – 23rd September 2024, providing guidelines to implementing ministries and other related institutions.

6.1 Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECoSL)

JEEOp will be co-chaired by the Chairman Election Commission of Sri Lanka, along with the Commissioner General of Election, Secretary to the Ministry of Defence, and Director General- of the Disaster Management Centre. The co-chair will personally authorize response operations to any election emergencies through JEEOps. ECoSL will;

- a. Assign ECoSL representative as Operational Co-Chair of JEEOps.
- b. Share deployment of officials and assets related to election with JEEOps to facilitate emergency response planning.
- c. Appoint ECoSL district representatives in respect of each district to coordinate with the District Secretary, District Medical Officer (DMO), and DEECO in emergencies.
- d. Ensure election officials are briefed on district hazard maps and contingency plans provided by JEEOps.
- e. Share details of approved international and local election monitoring organizations/personnel with JEEOps.

6.2 Disaster Management Centre (DMC)

DMC will be responsible for the planning and execution of election emergencies in liaison with ECoSL. It will function as Co-Chair of JEEOps with ECoSL. A coordination mechanism will be established to ensure that essential and support organizations are prepared to implement contingency plans at national and district/divisional levels in the event of potential disasters. DMC will take all necessary steps to counter any disaster or impending disaster in accordance with existing plans.

- a. Implement the National Election Emergency Plan in liaison with other ministries and organizations via JEEOps.
- b. Ensure the Election Emergency Plan is implemented with the concurrence of ECoSL without any hindrance to election duties.
- c. Create safe passage for voters and election officials to conduct elections.
- d. Provide early warning of impending disasters timely and efficient.
- e. National Council for Disaster Management to be apprised of action plan in the event of an election emergency.
- f. Direct and authorize Election Emergency Action Plans from essential service and support organizations for implementation during election emergencies.
- g. Ensure identified organizations are operational to implement emergency plans at any given time during the period of 19th -23rd September 2024.
- h. Share district/divisional hazard maps for extensive circulation among election officials and district administrators. Take measures to reduce risks and facilitate access routes to polling centers.

- i. Carry out a joint assessment on accessibility and alternate routes at district/divisions through District Election Emergencies Coordinating offices led by DMC representatives in liaison with the ECoSL district focal officer.
- j. Ensure critical service providers have special contingency plans in responding to power outages, transport exigencies, telecommunication failure, etc.
- k. Create public awareness of election emergency readiness.
- l. Support District Secretaries in the implementation of district disaster response plans.
- m. Support coordination of emergency relief through National Disaster Relief Services Center (NDRSC) and link with other stakeholders including private sector for a coordinated emergency and relief response.
- n. Provide timely early warning on hazards and impending disasters in liaison with technical agencies. Ensure a speedy and efficient communication mechanism for warnings and instructions to reach citizens and officials.
- o. Identify and enhance facilities of safe centers with safe alternative access routes to channel vulnerable and affected populations in the event of a disaster.
- p. Entrust ECoSL to operationalize JEEOps.
- q. Provide operational, administrative, and logistical support for JEEOps.
- r. Update ECoSL and the Ministry of operational activities regularly. Maintain close liaisons with District Secretaries in sharing information and providing assistance in emergencies.

6.3 Ministry of Healthcare and Indigenous Medical Services

Emergency health response plans in support of Election Emergencies to be prepared and resources allocated based on the potential threat. National and sub-national key focal persons will be linked with DMC and JEEOps to confirm readiness and activate contingency plans if required. The Disaster Preparedness and Response Division (DPRD) of the Ministry of Health will be the focal unit linking health and medical needs in election emergencies with JEEOps and DEECO.

- a. A full-time coordinating representative will be at JEEOps for the period stated.
- b. National emergency health response action plan will be shared with JEEOps.
- c. List of contact Deployment of ambulances and required vehicles to be ensured.
- d. Sufficient health staff and medicinal stocks in hospitals to deal with emergencies in vulnerable districts to be confirmed.
- e. details of national, provincial and district health coordinators to be submitted.

7. Guidelines for Implementing Ministries, Departments and Institutions.

Response to election emergencies will be carried out by relevant ministries, departments and institutions based on the nature of the hazard.

7.1 Ministry of Defence (MoD)

ECoSL will liaise and coordinate with MoD on troop deployment in support of emergencies caused by natural or man-made disasters. MoD will provide assistance of emergency response through the Office of the Chief of Defence Staff (OCDS) authorizing tri-forces and military assets only when the situation demands, in aid of civil administration (CiMiC). JEEOps will link with OCDS for military employment plans in emergencies.

7.2 Office of the Chief of Defence Staff (OCDS) and Tri-Forces

Civil-military cooperation in humanitarian emergencies is vital. Military assets, its experience, rapid employment, and speedy access are immense advantage they possess in saving lives. Given the sensitivity of an Election Emergency, the role of the military in this context will be totally on the request and directive of the ECoSL. OCDS is requested to;

- a. Assign OCDS representative to liaise directly with JEEOps.
- b. Request from Commander of the Army, Navy, and Air Force to provide operational assistance to JEEOps through respective Directors of Operation to execute election emergency responses.
- c. Attach tri-forces (Army, Navy, Air Force) senior representatives to JEEOps to assess, coordinate, and authorize resources for emergency response relevant to respective service organizations.
- d. Nominate tri-forces representatives for 25 District Election Emergencies Coordinating Offices.
- e. Provide election emergency response plan/guidelines in respect of resource mobilization for election emergencies.
- f. Link OCDS Operations room with JEEOps and DEECO.
- g. Disseminate weather forecast, early warning, potential mobilization, and other related information sent by JEEOps with relevant tri-service organizations.
- h. Collate and share contact details of key military coordinators at national and district levels assigned for election emergencies.
- i. Advise troops of their limitations in developing emergency operations due to the sensitivity of election duties and activities. The role of the military will be only to respond to humanitarian crises.

7.3 Joint Election Emergencies Operation Unit (JEEOps)

JEEOps will be the operational arm to coordinate and implement election emergencies. Its operation time period will be determined by the Election Commission Office of Sri Lanka. For the Presidential Election 2024, it will operate full-time (24/7) from the 19th to 23rd September ECoSL will determine any change or extension to the given dates. The essential composition of JEEOps will be representatives of ECoSL, DMC, Health, Tri-forces, Police, assigned ministries, and technical organizations.

Director, Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) of DMC will be appointed as Operational Co-chair for JEEOps. The office and command center of JEEOps will be the EOC - DMC. District Election Emergencies Coordinating Offices (DEECO) will be in the respective 25 district secretariats under the auspices of the District Secretary. JEEOps will;

- a. Coordinate with DEECO, essential service organizations and stakeholders in ensuring election emergencies are contained and responded effectively.
- b. Request for senior representatives of essential service organizations in emergencies to facilitate coordination and implementation of tasks assigned to respective organization. Their presence is required 24/7 from 19th – 23rd September 2024.
- c. Collate, analyze, and ensure implementation of all essential services and technical organizations' plans and contingencies, in response to election emergencies.
- d. Link directly with such organizations and maintain effective and efficient communication channels.
- e. Monitor weather patterns/disturbances and proactively engage with technical organizations in receiving timely early warnings. Implement an effective early warning dissemination mechanism to reach out to all people speedily.
- f. Establish public, private, and media partnership for dissemination of weather forecasts, warnings, and safety instructions.
- g. Deploy pre-identified resources as per contingency plans to maximize efficiency in providing safety and security to all people.
- h. Provide timely situational reports/updates to Co-Chairs and relevant authorities.
- i. Operational activities of JEEOps are limited only to Election Emergencies and on the directive of ECoSL. Activate the election emergency response plan only on the directive of ECoSL.

7.4 District Election Emergencies Coordinating Office (DEECO)

Twenty-five district offices will be in operation located at the respective district secretariats. DEECO will be headed by District Secretaries. The essential composition of DEECO will be the District Secretary; ECoSL, and DMC representatives as district operational co-chairs; representatives of tri-forces, police, and those determined by the District Secretary. DEECO will;

- a. Operationalize DEECO, linking with divisional secretariats, local government authorities, tri-forces, Police, and other organizations/stakeholders involved in election emergency readiness and response.
- b. Develop close coordination with the District Medical Officer (DMO).
- c. Maintain direct liaisons with JEEOps and provide frequent situational updates. Establish information-sharing mechanisms both from national to sub-national levels.
- d. Formulate essential composition of DEECO incorporating district co-chairs, tri-forces representatives, Police, and other partner organizations.
- e. Coordinate and implement district emergency response plans in the event of an election emergency.
- f. Obtain prior approval from JEEOps to respond to any emergency with the concurrence of the District Secretariat.

7.5 Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

The Ministry will be responsible for the planning and execution of election emergencies in liaison with the Election Commission office of Sri Lanka. It will function as co-chair of JEEOps with ECoSL. A coordination mechanism will be established to ensure essential and support organizations are prepared to implement contingency plans at National and District levels in the event of a disaster.

- a. Provide adequate staff and related resources to District Secretariats to respond to contingencies.
- b. Appoint a focal officer to liaise with JEEOps for administrative emergencies in districts and divisions.
- c. Ensure the election emergency plan is implemented with the concurrence of ECoSL without any hindrance to election duties.
- d. Creates safe passage for voters and election officials to conduct the election.
- e. Provide early warning of pending disasters timely and efficiently.

7.6 Ministry of Power and Energy

Electricity and petroleum supply will be a key factor. The continual supply of electricity and availability of sufficient stocks of fuel island-wide is essential. SOPs to cater for contingencies to be shared with JEEOps.

7.6.1 Electricity

Power outages and interruptions are a common phenomenon when disaster strikes. All 13,421 polling stations and 1,274 counting centers will be operational island-wide. The uninterrupted power supply is mandatory;

- a. Identify and assess the vulnerability of polling and counting centers.
- b. Contingencies to provide uninterrupted power supply.
- c. SOPs to be developed to salvage and clear lamp-posts, power lines, and connected electrical conveyors in case of break-downs due to disasters, to restore electricity and facilitate traffic.
- d. Proactively engage JEEOps in assessing potential hazardous situations for remedial action.
- e. Seek alternate power backup plans to critical election offices and safe centers identified to house the displaced.
- f. Appoint a representative to link with JEEOps to implement an election emergency plan related to power and energy.
- g. Provide a contact list of key focal officers at national and sub-national levels.

7.6.2 Petroleum

Election duties will engage many vehicles in support of 13,421 polling and counting centers. This would be in addition to routine activities. In responding to a disaster, the need for mobility becomes very crucial. Supply of fuel island-wide without any shortages is mandatory;

- a. Instruct government and private fuel suppliers to have sufficient fuel stocks and manpower.
- b. Plan for uninterrupted fuel supply to fuel stations. Seek for alternate arrangements if inaccessible due to disaster.
- c. Directive to maintain buffer stocks of fuel to support any emergencies.
- d. Link with JEEOps for updates and contingency planning.

7.7 Ministry of Information and Mass Media

Telecommunication and mass media will be essential components in reducing risks. Ensuring undisrupted communications throughout and the ability to revive within a short period of time will enable continuity. Mass media could be extensively utilized for awareness and providing situational reports.

7.7.1 Telecommunications

Communication links are often disrupted in the event of a disaster. Consistent operations in emergencies are dependent on uninterrupted communications.

- a. Ensure all telecommunication service providers have emergency communication backup plans.
- b. Establish effective public-private partnerships for emergency communications.
- c. Appoint a Ministry representative to link directly with JEEOps.
- d. Ensure uninterrupted, voice, fax, and internet connectivity in an emergency.
- e. Television and radio broadcasts are continuous and without impediments to ensure information flow.
- f. Provide a contact list of focal points coordinating telecommunication emergency response to JEEOps.

7.7.2 Mass Media

Media forges a direct link between the public and government in emergencies and plays an important role in disseminating of vital information before, during, and after disasters. Media could be extensively used during the election period to sensitize the public about potential hazards. Ministry of Mass Media will;

- a. Prioritize dissemination of weather forecasts and disaster warnings through print and electronic media in liaison with JEEOps.
- b. Carry out awareness to public of extreme weather conditions and contingencies for election emergencies.
- c. Provide alerts/warnings on potential hazards through local news coverage.
- d. Sensitize media institutions to allocate coverage time for the safety and security of the public in the event of election emergencies.
- e. Maximize media coverage in the event of a disaster in saving lives and reaching to safe locations.
- f. Appoint a Ministry representative to link directly with JEEOps Media Spokesperson.
- g. Arrange for Emergency Press Conferences in the event of impending disasters and during emergencies.

7.8 Ministry of Environment and Wildlife Resources

Human-wildlife conflict has been prevalent and will be of concern on Election Day when many people commute to polling centers. Forest and wildlife authorities will provide safety and security guidelines to officials and people in preventing human-animal contact;

7.8.1 Wildlife Department

- a. Advise EcoSL of safe routes and locations in establishing polling and counting centers in vulnerable areas free of animal encounters.
- b. Plan and demarcate alternative routes for people to avoid paths used by animals seasonally.
- a. Station wildlife officials in potential areas of animal attacks.
- b. Track and provide early warning to voters and officials in the event of large animal herd movements/crossings which might disrupt election duties.
- c. Check for possible paths and roads susceptible to wasp/bee attacks frequented by voters and secure as appropriate.
- d. Create awareness among the population of possible encounters and precautionary measures in vulnerable areas.
- e. A focal officer to link with JEEOps and district-based officers to be in direct contact with DEECO in areas of possible human-wildlife encounters for early warning and response action related to human-wildlife conflict.

7.8.2 Forest Department

- a. Potential forest borders where human-animal encounters can harm voters/officials enroute, are to be demarcated and informed to ECoSL, JEEOps and DEECO with alternate plans and access routes.
- b. Ensure that forest reserves are safe of bush/forest fire. Polling and counting centers vulnerable to destruction by forest fires are to be informed early for an immediate change of location.
- c. Station officials in vulnerable areas to spot possible animal movements and forest/bush fire and create an early warning system to alert JEEOps, DEECO and the local areas.
- d. Create awareness among population to prevent any hazards related to bush/forest fire.

7.9 Ministry of Transport Services Management

Transportation will be hampered in the event of a disaster. Infrastructure damage will stall transportation. Planning for emergencies is vital by dispersing resources so as to respond faster based on vulnerability. 13,421 election polling and 1,274 counting centers will operate island-wide. Over 17 million voters will commute to these locations on Election Day.

- a. Vehicles and staff deployed for election duties to be briefed on contingencies in the event of a disaster.
- b. Resource allocation to be based on vulnerability of location.
- c. Assess potential risks and establish public-private partnerships for emergency transportation.
- d. Link with relevant authorities for support services to access areas of difficulty via road and debris clearance etc.

- e. Map availability of fuel, spares and repair facility in high risk locations. Plan for mass evacuation of people.
- f. Link Ministry focal point with JEEOps.

7.10 Sri Lanka Police and Special Task Force

Sri Lanka Police has the ability to reach out to the community and its scattered presence is a source of information and response mechanism. In emergencies, Police carry out an essential role in saving lives. Its role becomes even more important during election emergencies. Police HQ is requested to;

- a. Provide communication and deployment plans in election emergencies.
- b. Assign focal officer/team for JEEOps.
- c. Link-local police stations for information sharing with JEEOps and district election emergencies coordinating offices.
- d. Disseminate alerts and warnings for evacuation in emergencies.
- e. Provide essential security to designated safe centers for displaced persons in the event of a disaster.
- f. Harness community support and assistance as first responders in response to a disaster.
- g. Share a list of Police representatives to be linked with JEEOps and DEECO.

7.11 National Building and Research Organization (NBRO)

Monitoring of potential landslides and consequences in the aftermath, which will hinder the conduct of elections would be NBRO's election emergency contingency. Prior warnings will enable the safety of the population and those engaged in election duties in the 13,421 centers. Access to safe locations in support of affected communities will be crucial;

- a. Identify and zone potential areas vulnerable to landslides or access amongst the established election polling and counting centers.
- b. Demarcate safe access routes in support of election duties. Provide alternate safe routes in the event of an emergency.
- c. Provide an emergency response plan in the event of a disaster.
- d. Designate a senior officer to liaise with JEEOps. Provide a contact list of key personnel at national and subnational levels.
- e. Provide updated situational reports to JEEOps frequently.
- f. District NBRO Officers to be connected with DEECO.
- g. Provide warnings timely to JEEOps.

7.12 Civil Security Department (CSD)

CSD employment in vulnerable areas is to be mapped and shared with JEEOps. Designated tasks are to be allotted by JEEOps based on the capacity and strength of CSD.

- a. Assign CSD representative to link with JEEOps.
- b. Provide capacity and strength in support of election emergencies for JEEOps and specific tasks will be assigned accordingly.
- c. Support dissemination of alerts and warning messages to the public.
- d. Assist direct public towards safe zones in the event of disasters.
- e. Link directly with DEECO for emergency assistance in respective districts.

7.13 Department of Meteorology

Accurate, timely and impact-oriented weather forecasts will support preparedness through early warning.

- a. Issue regular weather forecasts and disseminate timely to JEEOps. Issuing situation reports periodically as indicated below:

Date	19 th September	20 th September	21 st September	22 nd September	23 rd September
Frequency of Reports	6 hourly	3 hourly	3 hourly	3 hourly	6 hourly

In the event of potential threats – hourly reports or even frequent as required.

- b. Designate a senior officer to liaise with JEEOps.
- c. District Met Officers to be connected with DEECO.
- d. Provide an election emergency action plan with a list of contacts.
- e. Formulate speedy and simple dissemination of early warning format, inclusive of local language for onward transmission to public without edit to save time and reduce risks.
- f. Connect with mass media to disseminate special weather forecasts/advisories.

7.14 Irrigation Department

The threat of extensive rain could swell rivers, overspill reservoirs and force open sluice gates causing floods in low-lying areas. Early warning and potential threats in areas of high vulnerability need to be identified in relation to polling and counting centers;

- a. Provide situational reports to JEEOps on water levels and alerts related to rivers, reservoirs, and other water bodies detrimental to overflow or causing a disaster. The frequency of submission of reports is given below;

Date	19 th September	20 th September	21 st September	22 nd September	23 rd September
Frequency of Reports	6 hourly	3 hourly	3 hourly	3 hourly	6 hourly

In the event of potential threats – hourly reports or even frequent as required.

- b. Providing potential threats and vulnerable areas to JEEOps to facilitate deployment plans, access roads, and safe locations will be vital.
- c. District Irrigation Officers to be connected with DEECO.
- d. Make available an election emergency action plan based mostly on early warning and dissemination to JEEOps.
- e. Agree on communication mechanisms and simplified warning messages for direct dissemination to the public through JEEOps.
- f. Provide a list of key contact persons at national and sub-national levels to JEEOps.
- g. Ensure 24-hour operational situation monitoring office from 19th – 23rd September 2024.
- h. Assign a representative to connect with JEEOps during the same period.
- i. Disseminate information of potential threat or normalcy to the public via media and other sources.

7.15 National Disaster Relief Services Center (NDRSC)

Planning relief operations will be a priority in election emergencies. Harnessing support services, stockpiling and effective distribution of food and non-food items to affected populations in the event of a disaster require meticulous planning. NDRSC with its district/divisional networks require to plan contingencies accordingly;

- j. Provide district/divisional contingency plans to JEEOps.
- k. Stockpile or ensure availability of essential food/non-food items in or close to vulnerable locations.
- l. Assign a liaison officer to connect with JEEOps and provide district coordinators to each of the 25 DEECOs.
- m. Implement contingency plans in the event of a disaster or emergency.

7.16 Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC)

TRC will ensure both government and private telecommunication service providers are tasked to provide uninterrupted communication during the period of 19th -23rd September 2024. The additional emphasis in supporting election emergency response through contingencies for backup and communication revival is to be made. Sufficient manpower to support such exigencies to be planned. TRC to connect with JEEOps and assign a focal point.

7.17 Road Development Authority (RDA)

Road access to implement response plan in the event of disasters will be vital. Access in support of affected people will require roads and pathways to be cleared of debris.

- n. Routes which are likely to be affected need to be identified and contingencies drawn to clear roads/ pathways. Share such action plans with JEEOps.
- o. Assign a representative to coordinate with JEEOps and share a contact list of key persons involved in election emergencies.

- p. Provide a list of machinery and human resources available for deployment in vulnerable areas.

7.18 Fire Brigade – Local Government Municipalities

The readiness of fire brigades under the municipalities requires to be directed in submitting contingency plans to respond to election emergencies. Resource availability, fire-hydrant serviceability and reach of fire brigades to be submitted to JEEOps. Assign a coordinator to liaise with JEEOps, who is capable of coordinating all fire brigades. Complementing and supporting adjacent municipality fire brigades in the event of emergencies is suggested. Prior approval is to be obtained to effect such mutual support.

7.19 1990 Ambulance Service- Suwaseriya

Suwaseriya operations room to connect directly with JEEOps with an assigned officer. Deployment of ambulances and their services to be mapped. JEEOps will coordinate with CEO Suwaseriya and maximize services in the event of causality transport and medical services.

7.20 International and National Presidential Election Observers

Election Commission Office approved international and national election observers to be linked with JEEOps. These organizations are to provide details of their staff, contacts, and engagement plans. JEEOps to coordinate the safety of election observers.

8. Communications

JEEOps will be the command center linked directly to DEECO in 25 districts. JEEOps will communicate with Co-chairs of the ECoSL and Disaster Management Center for instructions, approvals, and feedback. Whilst JEEOps and DEECOs will coordinate and facilitate the election emergency process, individual essential service organizations mentioned above will have its internal and external communication plans.

9. Administration and Logistics

JEEOps will be supported by DMC while DEECOs will be hosted by the respective District Secretariats of the 25 districts. Essential service organizations in emergencies are requested to internalize administrative and logistic support. Organizations may discuss further needs and requirements with DMC for resource allocation as required.

10. Conclusion

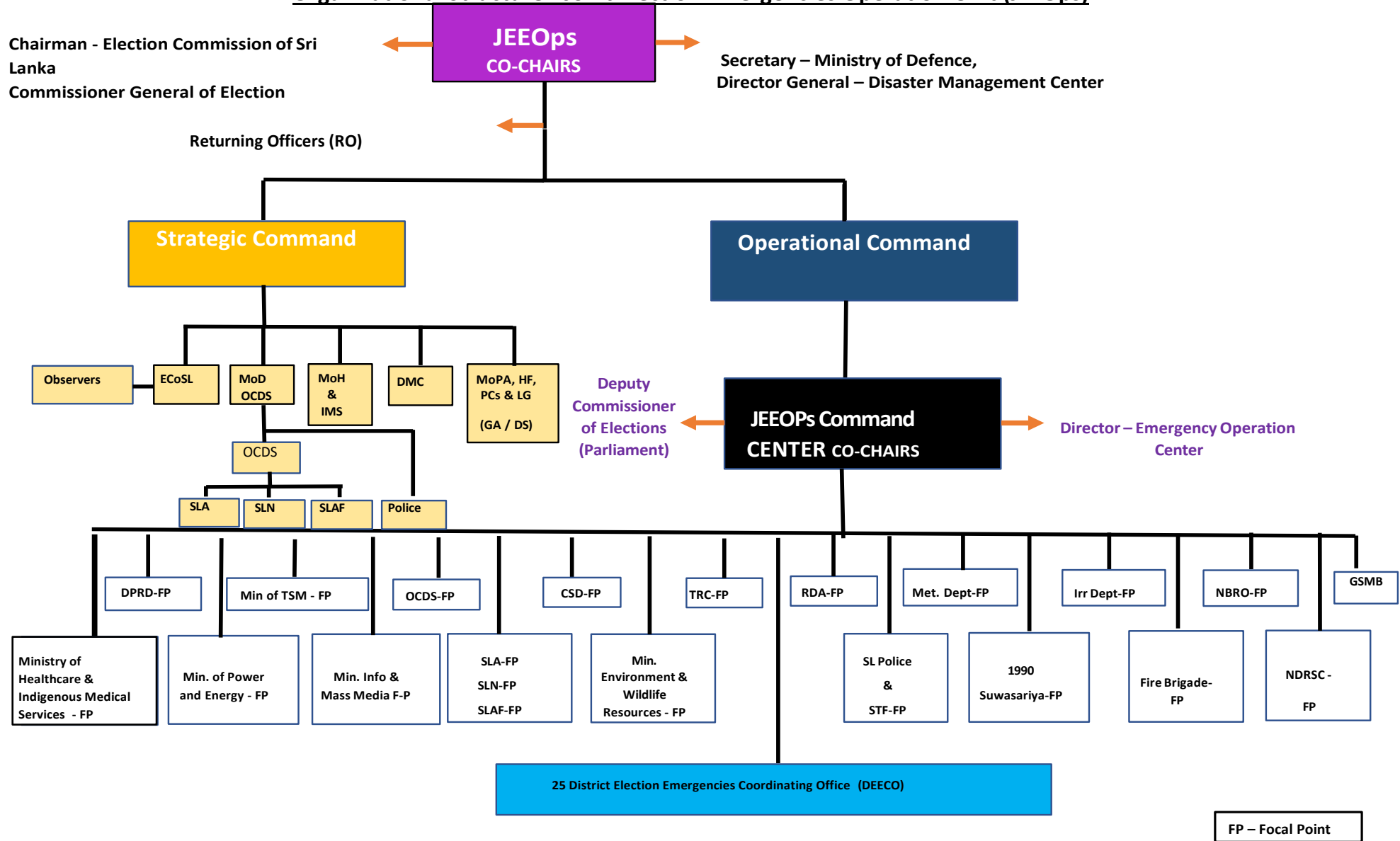
Preparing and responding to election emergencies require a collective effort. Over 17 million people will commute during the day of 21st September 2024, accessing 13,421 polling stations and counting centers. Proportionately, many numbers of vehicles will shuttle on the roads. The occurrence of a disaster due to natural hazards or otherwise during a time when so many are exposed, will not only hinder the election process but will be catastrophic in terms of losses to lives and property.

Early preparation and timely execution of election emergency plans will overcome impediments and provide the citizens of Sri Lanka the “Right to Vote”.

September 2024

Annexures: Annex A to Annex H

Organizational Structure - Joint Election Emergencies Operation Unit (JEEOps)



Joint Election Emergencies Operation Unit (JEEOps) Contact Details

Mr. J.A.S.P. Jayasinghe

Deputy Commissioner of Elections (Admin) / Co-Chairman of JEEOps,
Elections Commission, Sri Lanka 0711530620 / 0112868169
dcadmin@elections.gov.lk

K.J. Sampath Madhawa

Deputy Commissioner of Elections (National Elections)
Mobile: 0714457721
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Brig. T.N.K. Perera

Director – Emergency Operation / Co-Chairman of JEEOps
Disaster Management Center
0773 957 903/0112136220
direoc@dmc.gov.lk

Dr. Asanka Wedamulla

Coordinator, Disaster Preparedness & Response Division (DPRD), Ministry of Healthcare & Indigenous Medical Services
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Capt. MNM Arshad Usp.

Military Coordinator,
Disaster Management Center
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Mr. Chathura Liyana Arachchige

Director – Preparedness and Planning,
Disaster Management Center
0773957901
chathura@dmc.gov.lk

Mr. K.A.D.P.K. Kodippili

Director – Awareness
Focal Point and JEEOps Media Spokesperson
Disaster Management Center
0772320530/0112136242
pradeepkodippili@dmc.gov.lk

JEEOps Emergency Numbers

- **0702117117**
- **0113668032**
- **0113668087**
- **0113668025**
- **0113668026**
- **0113668119**

DMC / JEEOps Hotline – 117

Health Promotion Bureau Hotline – 1999

Presidential Election -2024 District Returning Officers

District Returning Officers						
S/H	Distric	Name	Direct Telephone	Fax Number	Mobile Number	E-mail Address
1	Colombo	G.P.Janaka Kumara	011-2369139	011-2369142	077-6927427	ds@colombo.dist.gov.lk
2	Gampaha	L.W.M.Mapalagama Gamage	033-2222841	033-2222900	071-8434800	lalindagalle@gmail.com
3	Kaluthara	G.M.J.K. Gunawardhane	034-2222235	034-2222218	071-8068450	ds@kaluthara.dist.gov.lk
4	Kandy	Chandana Thennakoon	081-2222235	081-2233186	071-7810990	ds@kandy.dist.gov.lk
5	Matale	Thejani Thilakarathne	066-2222236	066-2222235	071-8050132	gamatale1@gmail.com / matale.dist.gov.lk
6	Nuwaraeliya	Nandana Galabada	052-2222235	052-2222610	071-8097427	moha.dist.nuwaraeliya@gmail.com
7	Galle	W.A.Dharmasiri	091-2234235	091-2222972	071-4178394	ds@galle.dist.gov.lk
8	Matara	Ganesha Amarasinghe	041-2222235	041-2222234	071-8097765	dsmadmpa@gmail.com
9	Hambantota	H.P.Sumanasekara	047-2256235	047-2256235	071-8348412	moha.disp.hambanthota@gmail.com
10	Jaffna	M.Pradeepan	021-2222235	021-2222355	077-7570144	gajaffna@sltnet.lk
11	Kilinochchi	S.Muralitharan	021-2283965	021-2283966	077-6539952	gaofficekili@gmail.com
12	Vavuniya	P.A.Sarathchandra	024-2222235	024-2222212	071-8088083	gavavuniya@gmail.com
13	Mannar	K.Ganeshwaran	023-2222235	023-2222232	077-2395900	gamannar@gmail.com
14	Mullaitivu	A.Umamaheshwaran	021-2290035	021-2290045	071-4471128	electionmul@gmail.com / gamullaitivu@gmail.com
15	Batticaloa	J.J.Muralidharan	065-2222235 / 065-2224435	065-2224466	077-3876360	moha.dist.batticaloa@gmail.com
16	Ampara	Chinthaka Abeywickrama	063-2222206	063-2222130	071-8113785	distsecampara@gmail.com
17	Trincomalee	Chaminda Hettiarachchi	026-2222235	026-2222305	071-5302471	trincoga@gmail.com
18	Kurunegala	R.M.R.Rathnayake	037-2222235	037-2222134	071-4416696	disecku@sltnet.lk
19	Puttalam	H.M.S.P.Herath	032-2265235	032-2265239	077-2640153	disputtalam@yahoo.com
20	Anuradhapura	K.G.R. Wimalasooriya	025-2235479	025-2222235	071-4352016	moha.dist.anuradhapura@gmail.com
21	Polonnaruwa	Sujantha Ekanayake	027-2222235	027-2225578	071-2509933	moha.dist.polonnaruwa@gmail.com
22	Badulla	P.S.P.Abayawardhane	055-2222235	055-2222233	071-8373900	pandukasri@yahoo.com
23	Moneragala	R.M.P.S.B.Rathnayake	055-2276235	055-2276025	071-4336221	pasansri@yahoo.com
24	Rathnapura	K.A.W.L.W.Gunaratne	045-2222235	045-2226007	071-4500909	moha.dist.rathnapura@gmail.com
25	Kegalle	J.M.R.P.Jayasinghe	035-2222235	035-2232620	071-4412038	kegdisec01@gmail.com

District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections

Presidential Election -2024						
District Deputy/ Assistant Commissioners of Elections						
S/H	District	Name	Direct Telephone	Fax Number	Mobile Number	E-mail Address
1	Colombo (City)	M.M.S.K.Bandara Mapa	011-2369437	011-2369279	071-8724984	bandara.mapa@yahoo.com
	Colombo (District)	Raveendra Wedage	011-2369438	011-2369481	071-3485007	rswedage@gmail.com
2	Gampaha	Raveendra Wickramasinghe/ Ayantha Anandi	033-2222047	033-2223580	071-8002475	dc.gampaha@elections.gov.lk
3	Kaluthara	K.Jayaweera Fernando	034-2222266	034-2222247	071-8016096	kaluthara@elections.gov.lk
4	Kandy	Sampath Fernando	081-2233187	081-2233190	071-6632863	hdnsf77@yahoo.com
5	Matale	H.A.E. Pushpakumara	066-2222422	066-2222422	071-0803483	matale@elections.gov.lk
6	Nuwaraeliya	K.A.L.S. Kalugampitiya	052-2222325	052-2222325	071-8365209	nuwaraeliya@elections.gov.lk
7	Galle	W.H.R.Wijaya Kumara	091-2234028	091-2234018	071-4410450	dc.galle@elections.gov.lk
8	Matara	T.W.Poshitha Kaumadi	041-2222305	041-2222305	071-9537125	matara@elections.gov.lk
9	Hambantota	V.D.J.Lakmal	041-2256248	047-2256248	076-1997938	hambanthota@elections.gov.lk
10	Jaffna	Rajendra Cristy Amalraj	021-2222655	021-2228002	077-8379686	jaffna@elections.gov.lk
11	Kilinochchi	-	021-2285664	021-2285664	-	killinochchi@elections.gov.lk
12	Vavuniya	J.Jeniton	024-2222311	024-2222311	075-3776720	electionsva@yahoo.com
13	Mannar	V.Sivarasa	023-2222289	023-2222289	077-8416712	mannar@elections.gov.lk
14	Mullativu	J.Jeniton	021-2061426	021-2061426	075-3776720	electionmul@gmail.com/mulativu@elections.gov.lk
15	Batticaloa	M.B.M.Sufyan	065-2224312	065-2224374	075-3332888	ac.batticaloa@elections.gov.lk
16	Ampara	Shrinath Aththanayaka	063-2224342	063-2224342	077-7333412/ 074-0044442	ac.ampara@elections.gov.lk
17	Trincomalee	R.Saseelan	026-2222304	026-2224975	077-5147872	ac.trinco@elections.gov.lk
18	Kurunagala	R.M.H.B. Rathnayake	037-2222639	037-2221549	071-3404098	dc.kurunegala@elections.gov.lk
19	Puttalam	S.L.R.Jayanayake	032-2265246	032-2265246	077-6998585	puttalam@elections.gov.lk
20	Anuradhapura	K.Mugundan	025-2222551	025-2222551	071-7228622	anuradhapura@elections.gov.lk
21	Polonnaruwa	N.N.P.I.R. Gunarathne	027-2222012	027-2222012	077-8814793	acepolonnaruwa@gmail.com
22	Badulla	K.Kantheepan	055-2222424	055-2222424	077-7616840	kantheban@gmail.com
23	Moneragala	Nagalingam Regan	055-2276315	055-2276291	077-5759850	ln.regan.3@gmail.com
24	Rathnapura	S.Ambagathenne	045-2222023	045-2223059	071-8270344	surangapu@yahoo.com
25	Kegalle	Sajith P.Kasthurisinghe	035-2222561	035-2233050	071-3158978	kegalle@elections.gov.lk

Emergency Contact List

Elections Commission District Contact Details

DISTRICT OFFICE	DY./ASST./ COMMISSIONER	OFFICE	FAX	Mobile
Anuradhapura	Mr. K.Mugunthan	025-2222551	025-2222551	0779228622
Ampara	Mr.A.M.K.S.Attanayake	063-2224342	0632224342	0777333412
Badulla	Mr.K.Kaandheepan	055-2222424	055-2222424	0777616840
Batticaloa	Mr.M.B.M.Sufiyan	065-2224312	065-2224374	0753332888
Colombo (City)	Mr.M.M.S.K.Bandara Mapa (Dy.Com)	011-2369437	011-2369279	0718724984
	Mrs.S.K.Abeyrathne (A.O)	011-2369659		0712322910
Colombo (District)	Mr.R.S.Wedage(Dy.Com)	011-2369438	011-2369481	0713485007
Gampaha	Mr.W.A.R.Wickramasinghe (Dy.Com)	033-2222047	033-2223580	718002475
	Mrs. A. Ayantha Anandhi	033-2237522	033-2222743	0772689463
	Mr.R.H.K.Ranasinghe(A.O)	033-2222743	033-2223462	0718609776
Galle	Mr.W.H.R.Wijayakuara(Dy.Com)	091-2234028	091-2234018	0714410450
Hambantota	Mr. V.D.J.Lakmal	047-2256248	047-2256248	0774627938
Jaffna	Mr.R.C. Amalraj	021-2222655	021-2228002	0778379686
Kalutara	Mr. W.W. Jayaweera Fernando(Dy.Com)	034-2222266	034-2222247	0718016096
Kandy	Mr.H.D.N.Sampath Fernando(Dy.Com)	081-2233187	081-2233190	0716632863
	Mr.S.M.A,B.Samarakoon(A.O)			0714409410
Kegalle	Mr.K.H.M.S.T.Kasthrisinghe	035-2222561	035-2233050	0713158978
Kurunegala	Mr.R.M.H.B.Rathnayake (Dy.Com)	037-2222369	037-2221549	0713404098
	Mrs.Wijesena (A.O)	037-2221549		0703090686
Matale	Mr.H.A.E.Pushpakumara	066-2222422	066-2222422	0710803483
Matara	Mrs.T.W.Positha Kawmadi	041-2222305	041-2222305	0719537125
Mannar	Mr.V.Sivaraja	023-2222289	023-2222289	0778416712
Moneragala	Mr. Nagalingam Regan	055-2276315	055-2276315	0775759850
Nuwara Eliya	Mr.K.A.L.S.Kalugampitiya	052-2222325	052-2222325	0718365209
Polonnaruwa	Mr.N.P.P.I.R.Gunarathne	027-2222012	027-2222012	0778814793
Puttalam	Mr.S.L.R.Jayanayake	032-2265246	032-2265246	0776998585
Ratnapura	Mr. Suranga Ambagathanne (Dy.Com)	045-2222023	045-2223059	0718270344
Trincomalee	Mr.R.Saseelan	026-2222304	026-2224975	0775147872
Vavuniya	Mr.J.Jeniton	024-2222311	024-2222311	0773776770
Kilinochchi	Mr.R.C. Amalraj(Actg)	021-2285664	021-2285664	0778379686
Mullaitivu	Mr.J.Jeniton(Actg)	021-2061426	021-2061426	0773776770

District Disaster Management Contact Details

No	District	Name	Designation	Office	Mobile	Official email
1	Ampara	Mr.M.A.C.M.Riyas	Deputy.Director (District)	+94 632 222 218	+94 773 957 883	ampara@dmc.gov.lk
2	Anuradhapura	Lt Col SAB Dissanayake	Asst.Director (District)	+94 252 234 817	+94 773 957 881	anuradhapura@dmc.gov.lk
3	Badulla	Mr. E. M. L. U. Kumara	Deputy Director (District)	+94 552 224 751	+94 773 957 880	badulla@dmc.gov.lk
4	Batticaloa	Acting Mr.M.A.C.M.Riyas	Deputy Director (District)	+94 652 227 701	+94 773 957 885	batticaloa@dmc.gov.lk
5	Colombo	Wing Comm. CDD Ranasinghe	Asst.Director (District)	+94 112 434 028	+94 773 957 870	colombo@dmc.gov.lk
6	Galle	Lt Col RLD Liyanage	Asst.Director (District)	+94 912 227 315	+94 773 957 873	galle@dmc.gov.lk
7	Gampaha	Mr. A. M. A. N. Chandrasiri	Deputy Director (District)	+94 332 234 671	+94 773 957 871	gampaha@dmc.gov.lk
8	Hambantota	Wing Comm. K Silva	Asst.Director (District)	+94 472 256 463	+94 773 957 875	hambantota@dmc.gov.lk
9	Jaffna	Mr.N.Sooriyarajah	Deputy Director (District)	+94 212 221 676	+94 773 957 894	jaffna@dmc.gov.lk
10	Kalutara	Lt. Col. M.A.P.S. Perera	Asst.Director (District)	+94 342 222 912	+94773 957 872	kalutara@dmc.gov.lk
11	Kandy	Mr.I.A.K.Ranaweera	Asst.Director (District)	+94 812 202 697	+94 773 957 878	kandy@dmc.gov.lk
12	K'galle	Mr. H. M. A. C. Bandara	Asst.Director (District)	+94 352 222 603	+94 773 957 876	kegalle@dmc.gov.lk
13	Kilinochchi	Mr.S.Kokularajah	Asst.Director (District)	+94 212 285 330	+94 772 320 528	killinochchi@dmc.gov.lk
14	Kurunegala	Mr.Anura Viraj Dissanayake	Deputy Director (District)	+94 372 221 709	+94 773 957 887	kurunegala@dmc.gov.lk
15	Mannar	Mr.K.Thileepan	Asst.Director (District)	+94 232 250 133	+94 772 320 529	mannar@dmc.gov.lk
16	Matale	Mr.Chaminda Amaraweera	Deputy Director (District)	+94 662 230 926	+94 773 957 890	matale@dmc.gov.lk
17	Matara	Lt.Col.K.A.Ariyawansa	Asst.Director (District)	+94 412 234 134	+94 773 957 874	matara@dmc.gov.lk
18	Monaragala	Mr.A.H.Ravindra Kumara	Deputy Director (District)	+94 552 276 867	+94 773 957 889	monaragala@dmc.gov.lk
19	Mullativu	Acting Mr.S.Kokularajah	Asst.Director (District)	+94 212 290 054	+94 773 957 886	mulativ@dmc.gov.lk
20	Nuwaraeliya	Mr.H.M.N.P.Bandara	Deputy Director (District)	+94 522 222 113	+94 773 957 879	nuwaraeliya@dmc.gov.lk
21	Polonnaruwa	Mr. A.M.R.N.K.Alahakoon	Asst.Director (District)	+94 272 226 676	+94 773 957 882	polonnaruwa@dmc.gov.lk
22	Puttalam	Wing Comm.W.M.D.T.Bandar a	Asst.Director (District)	+94 322 265 756	+94 773 957 888	puttalam@dmc.gov.lk
23	Rathnapura	Mr.S.H.M.Manjula	Deputy Director (District)	+94 452 222 991	+94 773 957 877	ratnapura@dmc.gov.lk
24	Trincomalee	Mr.K.Sugunathas	Deputy Director (District)	+94 262 224 711	+94 773 957 884	trincomalee@dmc.gov.lk
25	Vavunia	Mr.Ruwan Rathnayake	Asst.Director (District)	+94 242 225 553	+94 773 957 892	vavuniya@dmc.gov.lk

Emergency Services Contact Details

Ref	Authority	Hotline Number
1	Office of Chief of Defense Staff	0112674503 / 0112674506 / 0113075792
2	Army HQ	0112432682 - 5
3	Navy HQ	0117190000 / 0112421151
4	Air Force HQ	0112441044 / 0112495495
5	Irrigation Department	0112581162
6	Met Department	0112694846
7	NDRSC	0112665258
8	Health Department	0112694033 / 0112675011 0112675449 / 0112693493
9	Police HQ	0112421111
10	Ministry of Mass Media	0112513459 / 0112513460 0112512321 / 0112513498
11	Petroleum Resources	0112564969 / 0112370033 / 0112370032
12	Telecommunication Regulatory Commission	0112689345 / 1900
13	Ministry of Power & Energy	0112574922
14	Road Development	0112046200 / 1968
15	NBRO	0112588946 / 0112501834 / 0112500354 / 0112503826
16	Transport Board	0112581120
17	Private Bus Services	0716550000
18	SL Telecom	0112021000 / 1212
19	Ministry of Defence	0112441146 / 0113668031 / 118
20	Operation Commander Colombo (SL ARMY)	114
21	Disaster Management Center (DMC) Call Center	117
22	Sri Lanka Police Department	119
23	Sri Lanka Police Emergency Service Hotline	112
24	Fire Brigade	110

Important Contact Numbers of the Landslide Research and Risk Management Division (LRRMD) of NBRO

office	Name	Designation	Contact Number
Head Office	Eng. (Dr). Asiri Karunawardena	Director General	077 7394349/011 2588853
	Dr. H.A.G Jayathissa	Director – Technical - LRRMD	071 8317229/011 2588946
	Mr. Mahesh Somarathna	District Office Coordinator/ Senior Geologist	076 1419046
	Mr. Laksiri Indrathilaka	District Chief Scientist (DCS)/ Senior Geologist	071 8627033
	Dr. Imaya Ariyaratna	Scientist / Geologist	071 6874676
Early Warning Team	Duty Officer/ Dr. Wasantha	Early Warning Center	011 2552220
	Dr. Wasantha Senadeera	Team Leader/ Senior Scientist	071 8167457
	Mr. R.M.S.A.K. Rathnayaka	Scientist	071 8627034
Mapping Team	Ms. Hasali Hemasinghe	Senior Scientist - Colombo	071 8627035
	Ms. Chathuri Subasinghe	Senior Scientist – Field Team	070 6598452/ 077 3767774
	Ms. Dilushi Siriwardhana	Scientist / Geologist	0718627015/ 071 8868192
Colombo and Gampaha District Office	Mr. Laksiri Indrathilaka	DCS/ Senior Geologist	071 8627033
	Mr. T.C.P. Mahesh	Scientist / Engineer	071 6118059
Kalutara District Office	Mr. Nirosch Dhanushka	DCS / Geologist	071 4308552
Galle District Office	Mr. E.R. Bandula	DCS/ Geologist	071 8627038
Matara and Hambantota District Office	Mr. Champika Manikpura	DCS/ Senior Geologist	071 8627040/ 071 8337308
Ratnapura District Office	Mr. Abitha Wanasundaara	DCS/ Engineer	071 8627030
Kegalle District Office	Ms. Nimali Weerasinghe	DCS/ Senior Geologist	071 8627044
Kandy District Office	Mr. Samantha Bogahapitiya	DCS/ Geologist	071 8395895
Matale District Office	Mr. Chaminda Moremada	DCS/ Senior Geologist	071 8627036
Nuwara Eliya District Office	Mr. N.I.C. Peiris	DCS/ Senior Geologist	071 4402505
Badulla District Office	Ms. Harshani Perera	DCS/ Geologist	071 8627046
Kurunagala District Office	Mr. Eranda Jayasekara	DCS/ Geologist	076 1419048

General Weather Report for Presidential Election 2024

Expected General weather conditions during September

Generally, the tail end of the Southwest monsoon occurs in late September. Several spells of showers occur over southwestern parts of the country while having the possibility for afternoon thunder showers elsewhere. There is a possibility for developing low-pressure systems and depressions over and vicinity of Sri Lanka during the latter part of the month. In that case, with the increase in rainfall, there may also be heavy rainfall, especially in the southwestern part of the country.

Temporally strong gusty winds and lightning strikes are possible during thundershowers.

Rainfall forecast for Month of September 2024.

Near normal rainfall are likely over most parts during the month of September 2024.



Figure: Probabilistic rainfall forecast for September 2024

Prepared by:

National Meteorological Centre

Department of Meteorology

**Expected flood situation around the country during the presidential election
(21st September 2024)**

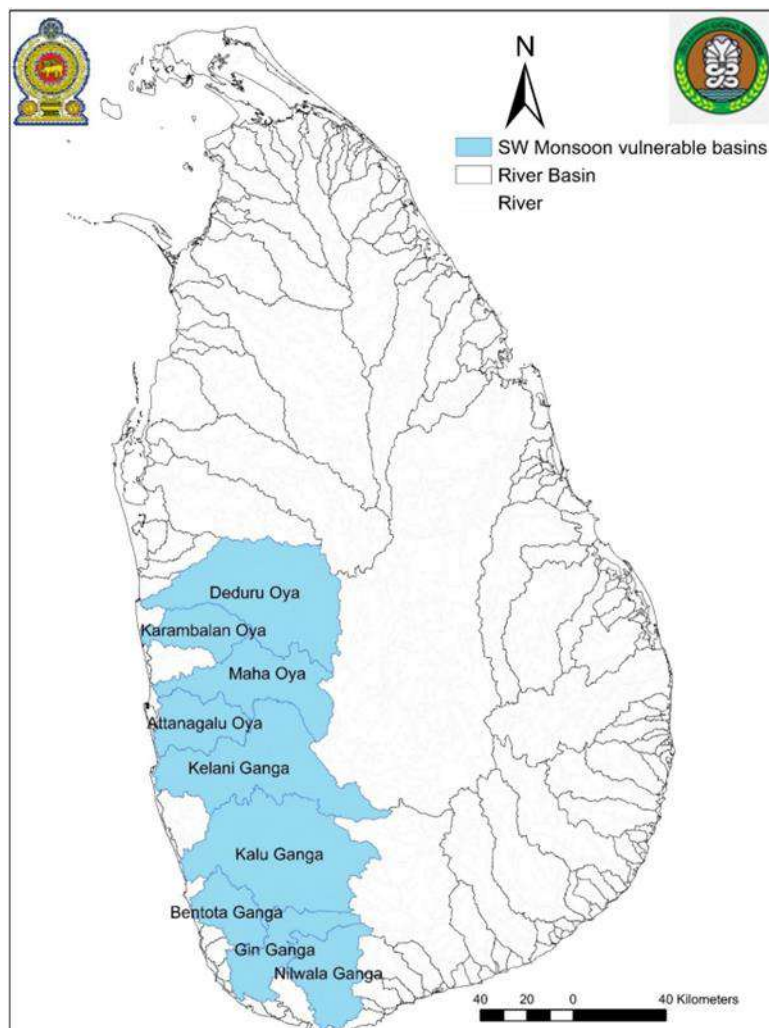
When looking at past data, it's clear that there have been many flood events during the period, especially in the western part of the country. Some major flood incidents have been recorded during this time. The upcoming presidential election is set for September 21, 2024, which coincides with the Southwest monsoon season. Historically, heavy rainfall during this season has caused flooding in river basins like Kalu, Kelani, Gin, Nilwala, Attanagalu, Deduru Oya, and Maha Oya. Low-lying areas in districts such as Ratnapura, Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara, Galle, Puttalam (Chilaw), and Matara are highly prone to flooding. Due to the significance of the upcoming presidential election, it is strongly recommended that relevant staff be kept on standby and prepared in these areas. Additionally, the following table outlines the rivers at risk of flooding in September, along with their current water levels, which should be checked. It's important to note that while the Irrigation Department doesn't control reservoirs in these basins (except Deduru Oya basin) due to their location in the western part (Wet Zone) of the country, the CEB manages several reserves in the upper catchment of the Kelani River, which are at a high operation level. Suppose high rainfall is forecasted through a three-day or ten-day outlook by the Department of Meteorology, along with real-time observations. In that case, the Irrigation Department will issue flood warnings promptly. By monitoring and forecasting river water levels, the department is committed to ensuring public safety and awareness. Another notable factor is that the Deduru Oya reservoir is at its full supply level, which can trigger floods in downstream areas of Chilaw. Based on the current water levels of rivers and reservoirs, as well as historical records of events, the Hydrology and Disaster Management Division of the Irrigation Department would like to make the following recommendations.

1. Priority should be given to Ratnapura, Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara, Galle, Puttalam (Chilaw), and Matara districts for implementing preparatory measures against potential flood threats.
2. When selecting centres for conducting presidential election, careful consideration should be given to factors such as the likelihood of flooding based on past experiences and ensuring safe access to the election centers.
3. Be vigilant in areas prone to flash flooding, especially in hilly and urban areas, and make necessary preparations to address any emergencies.
4. Given the high storage levels of major reservoirs, there is a possibility of spillage during heavy rainfall events. This should also be factored into preparatory activities, especially downstream of major reservoirs

Table 1: Current water levels of major Rivers which could flood during the 15th September

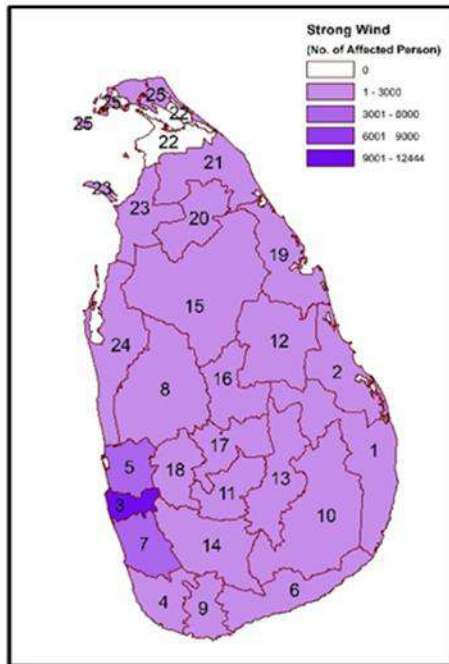
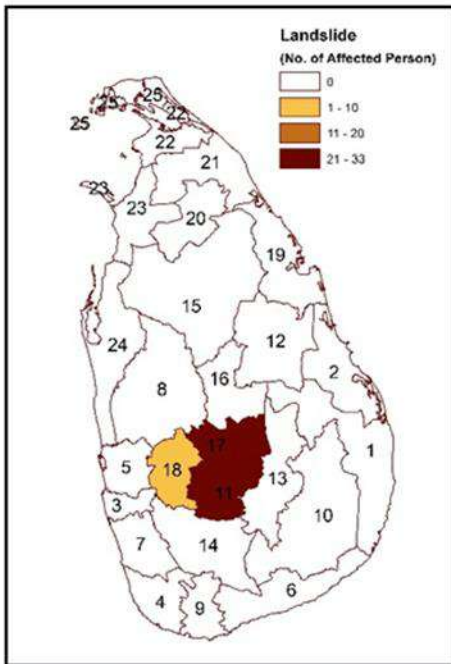
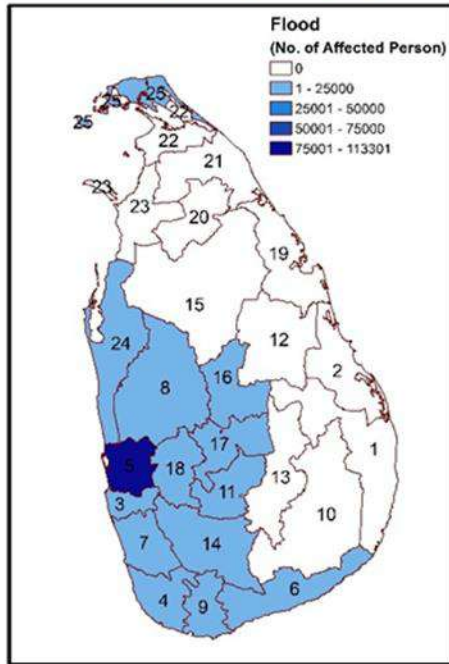
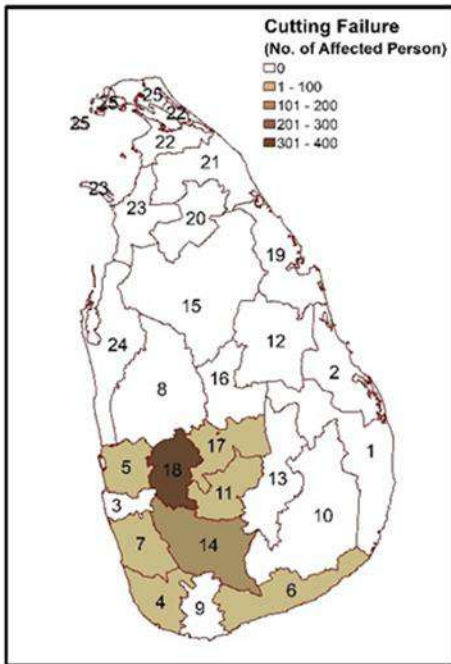
Rivers could flood from 15 th Sep to 22 nd September 2024	Current Water Level as of 28 Aug 2024			Status
Kelani Ganga	N'Street	1.40	ft	Normal
	Hanwella	1.36	m	Normal
	Glencorse	9.54	m	Normal
Kalu Ganga	Millakanda	2.16	m	Normal
Gin Ganga	Thawalama	1.47	m	Normal
	Baddegama	1.18	m	Normal
Nilwala Ganga	Panadugama	2.90	m	Normal
Aththanagalu Oya	Dunamale	0.97	m	Normal
Maha Oya	Badalgama	2.16	m	Normal

The water levels and rainfall situations today do not imply any flood threat, and the situation is completely normal. However, the current normal situation does not imply possible flood threats on the 21st, as stated above.

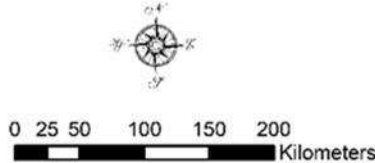


Hazards for the Month of September

Analyzed by Studying Month of September 2019 - 2023



District	CD	District	CD	District	CD
Ampara	1	Moneragala	10	Trincomalee	19
Batticaloa	2	Nuwara Eliya	11	Vavuniya	20
Colombo	3	Polonnaruwa	12	Mullaitivu	21
Galle	4	Badulla	13	Kilinochchi	22
Gampaha	5	Ratnapura	14	Mannar	23
Hambantota	6	Anuradhapura	15	Puttalam	24
Kalutara	7	Matale	16	Jaffna	25
Kurunegala	8	Kandy	17		
Matara	9	Kegalle	18		



Event	District	Affected People
CUTTING FAILURE	Galle	14
	Gampaha	15
	Hambantota	12
	Kalutara	73
	Kandy	15
	Kegalle	329
	Nuwara Eliya	27
Ratnapura	124	
FLOOD	Puttalam	377
	Colombo	20410
	Galle	20208
	Gampaha	113301
	Hambantota	557
	Jaffna	1108
	Kalutara	504
	Kandy	15
	Kegalle	1995
	Kurunegala	751
	Matale	6
	Matara	23002
	Nuwara Eliya	22
	Puttalam	3890
Ratnapura	949	
LANDSLIDE	Kandy	23
	Kegalle	7
	Nuwara Eliya	33
STRONG WIND	Ampara	384
	Anuradhapura	141
	Badulla	730
	Batticaloa	222
	Colombo	12444
	Galle	22
	Gampaha	3194
	Hambantota	459
	Jaffna	247
	Kalutara	5708
	Kandy	1429
	Kegalle	1617
	Kilinochchi	15
	Kurunegala	247
	Mannar	1427
	Matale	25
	Matara	214
	Moneragala	250
Mullaitivu	69	
Nuwara Eliya	201	
Polonnaruwa	44	
Puttalam	1462	
Ratnapura	2267	
Trincomalee	114	
Vavuniya	53	
Total		220752

This map was generated using the last five years historical disaster data analysis from the Disaster Information Management System. The worst disaster incident of the DSD mapped accordingly. Disaster Information Management System is a tool that helps to analyze the disaster trends and their impacts in a systematic manner. With an increased understanding of the disaster trends and their impacts, better prevention, mitigation and preparedness measures can be planned to reduce the impact of disasters on the communities.

Data Sources : www.desinventar.lk



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Date : 12/08/2024

Mitigation Research and Development Division
Disaster Management Centre



ELECTION COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA



DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE