

Sri Lanka



Situation Report

Heavy rains, flooding, landslides

1200 hours 17-05-2021



86 Divisions in
10 Districts affected



48,300 People
affected



243 Families in
25 safety centers



863 Houses
Damaged



5 deaths

DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTER

STATE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT



DISASTER MANAGEMENT
CENTER



DEPARTMENT OF
IRRIGATION



DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY
SRI LANKA



NATIONAL BUILDING
RESEARCH ORGANISATION



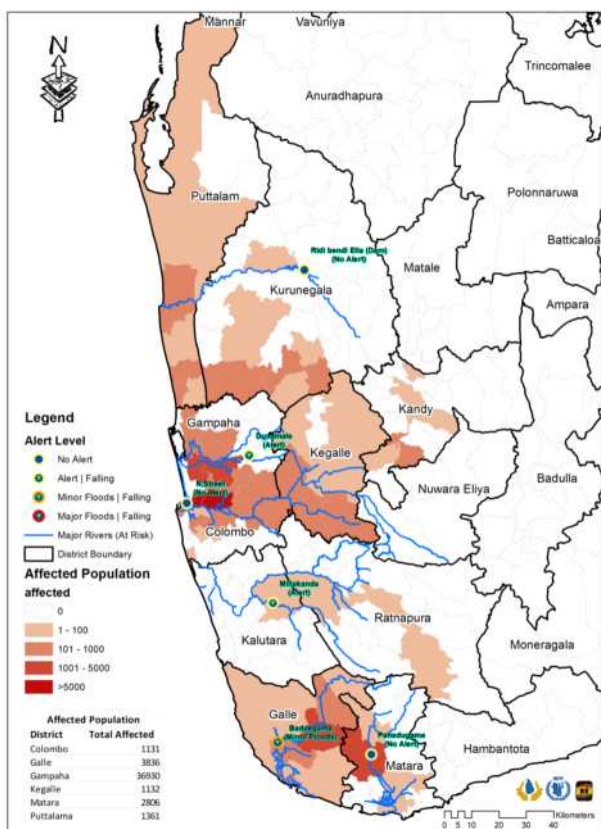
NATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF
SERVICES CENTRE

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Due to the recent storm “Tauktae” Sri Lanka experienced heavy rainfall with high winds from 13th May early morning till 14th May and most parts of the South Western region received more than 250mm rainfall within 24 hours and maximum reported was 336mm in Agalawatta (Kalutara).
- ◆ As a result due to heavy rainfall, strong winds and few landslides a total of 48,300 people (12,177 families) got affected in ten (10) districts, since 13th May 2021. Furthermore, 5 deaths were reported and 3 persons suffered minor injuries due to floods and cutting-failures.
- ◆ As per data 3 houses fully and 860 houses partially, have been damaged mostly in the Gampaha, Galle, Matara and Colombo districts. At present in certain places, most of the rivers in these areas are at the threshold level while few reservoirs are also at spill levels.
- ◆ A total amount of 1,037 people belonging to 243 families have been already evacuated to 25 safety centers set up to assist the displaced. Most of these safety centers are in the Colombo (15), Gampaha (6), Galle (2), Kandy (1) and Kalutara (1) districts. An amount of LKR 33.4 Mn has been allocated by NDRSC for emergency relief purposes for ten districts which are most likely to get affected.
- ◆ SAR teams of Army and Navy were deployed in all affected areas in the districts of Kegalle, Galle and Gampaha districts who needed assistance. These SAR teams provided cooked meals and drinking water for the displaced persons whilst assisting Electricity Board to rectify electricity failures due to fallen trees and high winds.
- ◆ Due to the current COVID 19 pandemic situation, DMC together with the military troops worked in close collaboration with the health authorities and local public administrative authorities in providing relief assistance. With the lessons learnt from the current situation, special guidelines are being developed by DMC together with health authorities to mitigate COVID 19 connected evacuation scenarios for the upcoming South West monsoon.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

During the rainy period, few roads were inundated in few areas in Galle, Kegalle and Gampaha districts due to river overflows but at present the floods have receded gradually. Due to the heavy rainfall received, 10 districts got affected and as of today most of the areas are returning to normalcy. Roads have been cleared for transportation and river water levels are receding.



Most affected areas were Kolonnawa in Colombo district; Kelaniya, Biyagama, Gampaha & Attanagalla in Gampaha district; Nagoda in Galle district; Akuressa in Matara district.

Some families were evacuated in Kegalle, Gampaha, Galle and Matara districts due to high risk and residing in 25 safety centres.

Area	Status
Kalutara	All roads clear for transportation and mobility
Galle	All roads clear for transportation and mobility
Gampaha	All roads clear for transportation and mobility

FIGURE I: Affected population and area mapping, as of 0900rs 17.05.2021

3. RAINFALL AND RIVERS

- ◆ Due to heavy rainfall on 13th May, water levels of many rivers reached warning levels by 14th May. However, from 14th May, the water levels started gradually reducing with the decrease in rainfall. Around 60mm rainfall was recorded in most of these areas on 15th May, and very minimal rainfall was received on 16th May.
- ◆ Kalu, Kelani, Ging and Attanagaluoya rivers are at threshold level however, the water levels are decreasing at present.

Heavy rainfall recorded on 13th May: 336mm in Agalawatta, 297mm in Elipitiya, 273mm in Dehiowita, 255mm in Warakapola, 259mm in Kotahara, 257mm in Penrith State, 253mm in Bangamukanda, 246 in Talduwa, 226mm in Wathupitiwala, 224mm in Algama, 202mm in Wathurawila, 192mm in Dellawa, 198mm in Alawwa

4. DISASTER RESPONSE AND RELIEF

Disaster Management Centre of the State Ministry of Disaster Management, has coordinated the response and relief efforts with the military and local administrative agencies and mobilised SAR teams for necessary rescue operations. Some relief equipment have already been dispatched to the needy areas to manage relief operations.

The Ministry of Defence directed the Sri Lanka Army, Navy, Air force, Police and Civil Defence department to support rescue and relief efforts in these areas, with ongoing Island wide COVID-19 response. Currently many people have been rescued and directed to safety centres by military troops (<https://www.army.lk/news/army-troops-busy-rescuing-flood-landslide-victims>, <https://news.navy.lk/oparation-news/2021/05/15/202105152030>).

Navy divers were deployed to clear blocked water purification plants at few places and Airforce carried out air reconnaissance to identify unattended areas to re-locate stranded people in inundated areas.

National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC) has allocated LKR 33 million for relief services in affected districts based on further requirements and the State Ministry of Disaster Management is expected to allocate more funding for relief and early recovery efforts.

5. CURRENT NEEDS AND SERVICES

Sector	Activities /items
Water, sanitation and hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide supplies to affected households (hygiene kits, soap, disinfectant kits and handwashing)• Restore damaged septic tanks of most vulnerable households• Clean affected/damaged wells and rehabilitate the damaged wells
Food security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution of supplementary food/snack packs• Distribution of cash/nutritious foods to households with displaced pregnant women and lactating mothers
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen health promotion and surveillance to prevent outbreak of disease, provision of personnel protective kits and hand sanitizer liquid
Emergency Shelter and NFI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of shelter repair items for those households whose houses have been partially or destroyed• Distribution of NFI (Non-Food Items) kits, including (as needed) dignity kits, cooking pots and pans, plates, utensils, a cooker, a torch, buckets, mosquito nets and bedding or cash/voucher for NFIs
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution of back to school packs and shoes



FIGURE 5: Affected families rescued by Navy teams in Biyagama: Source SL Navy

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