Highlights

- According to the Ministry of Health, the death toll from the bombing has been revised downwards from 359 to 253 people after autopsies were completed.
- Scores of children were killed and injured during the April 21, Easter Sunday coordinated suicide bombings/explosions on churches and hotels in the capital city of Colombo, and the cities of Negombo and Batticaloa.
- Government has confirmed 46 children were killed in the attacks. In Batticaloa alone, 13 children were killed, the youngest being just 18 months old. Data about children impacted in Colombo is delayed due to challenges in identifying bodies.
- As of now, according to reports, 25 children have been admitted to hospitals with injuries, scores of them in intensive care unit. The information about impacted children from other locations is being collected by the authorities.
- The security situation in Sri Lanka remains cautious as the government has warned of the potential for more attacks. Consequently, the government has instructed against any religious gathering until the security situation improves.
- The government has closed all schools until April 29; announced a curfew restricting movement of civilians at night; declared a partial state of emergency; and restricted access to major social media sites. Police have arrested 60 individuals in connection with the attacks.
- Initial assessments indicate a shortage of some medical supplies in hospitals and UNICEF is working to meet this need.
- Due to challenges in identification and access, full data about the impact on children is still emerging. Government agencies continue their assessments of the impact of the attacks, including the situation of children and women, with support from UNICEF and other agencies.
- There are concerns for potential communal violence and retaliation. Some existing refugees and asylum seekers from Pakistan and Afghanistan, (who have existing asylum in Sri Lanka) are facing a security threat in Negombo. Currently, members of this community are being sheltered at a police station with some temporarily housed at a community centre.
- The upcoming May-June monsoon season is expected to add to the ongoing situation in Sri Lanka. In the past three years, Monsoon rains have brought large scale natural disasters to the country, with loss of life and displacement. UNICEF is preparing to support the Government and partners to meet the needs of the population in the upcoming Monsoon season.

April 26, 2019

253
Number of people killed, including 46 children.

Over 500
Total number of people injured during the attacks and need assistance.

25
Number of children admitted in hospitals and in need of assistance.

(Source: Government of Sri Lanka, April 26, 2019)

3,900
Number of children to receive psychosocial support.

40,000
Number of children, teachers and parents to benefit from social cohesion interventions

UNICEF APPEAL $1,050,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Gap $409,000</th>
<th>39%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding received $641,000</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

©CCTVNEWS PHOTO GALLERY
The attacks come at a very sensitive time for Sri Lanka, during an ongoing process of national reconciliation and transitional justice in the aftermath of a more than two-decade long conflict, during which 70,000 to 80,000 people are reported to have been killed. Sunday's attacks were the deadliest since the end of the conflict, in 2009. Some sporadic violence has occurred in the interim, in particular, in March 2018 when a state of emergency was declared after members of the majority Buddhist Sinhala community attacked mosques and Muslim-owned properties.

UNICEF and other UN organizations have been supporting the Government to implement peacebuilding and social cohesion programmes and these attacks pose a major threat to these efforts due to risks of the development of damaging narratives about inter-ethnic and inter-religious harmony in the country. Furthermore, the attacks are likely to negatively impact the tourism sector, which is a major source of income. There are concerns for potential communal violence and tension. Over 600 Pakistani and Afghanistan refugees who have been living in Sri Lanka for several years, have fled to a shelter outside of Colombo. Some have been sheltered at a local Police station while others are living under police and military protection at the Ahmadi mosque in Negombo.

**Summary of Programme Response**

The Government of Sri Lanka has not yet formally requested international assistance, however local authorities have reported challenges in providing medical assistance to the injured and psycho-social support to the families of the victims and witnesses of the attacks. UNICEF is providing support to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Ministry of Health in assessing the situation of children and women, offering services and coordinating the data collection and response to ensure that children and adolescents are prioritized in this response.

**Health:** UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health to provide medical assistance to injured people including children. Many injured children and adults have been admitted to hospitals in Batticaloa, Negombo and Colombo. Local hospital staff have reported shortages of some essential medical supplies, as the medical system has been placed under pressure in dealing with a disaster of this magnitude. UNICEF Sri Lanka is allocating necessary funds to meet the above immediate medical needs of the affected population. Initial medical supplies including four syringe pumps have been delivered to Negombo Hospital this week. With the additional $250,000 funding request, UNICEF is planning to support the Ministry of Health to upgrade some equipment for Paediatric Intensive Care Units at the District General Hospital in Negombo, Teaching Hospital in Batticaloa, Lady Ridgeway Children’s Hospital in Colombo, Neurosurgical and Neurotrauma Intensive Care units and the Casualty Operation Theatre of the Accident Service of the National Hospital in Colombo.

**Child Protection:** UNICEF is providing support to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs in assessing the situation of children and women, offering services and coordinating the data collection and response to ensure that children and adolescents are prioritized in this response. Scores of children have been separated from parents and the probation services need support in identifying relatives and connecting children back to their families. Some children have lost their parents and will need permanent placement. With UNICEF technical, Child Rights and Protection Officers have been engaged in data collection and need assessment of effected children including providing age and sex desegregated data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>St. Anthony’s Church, Kochchikade, Colombo 13</th>
<th>St. Sebastian’s Church, Katuwapitiya, Negombo,</th>
<th>Zion Church, Batticaloa.</th>
<th>Hotels</th>
<th>Total children affected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No of children died</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>28 children</td>
<td>13 children (9 boys and 4 girls)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of children injured</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>10 children</td>
<td>15 children (9 boys and 6 girls)</td>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children with one parents</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>07 children</td>
<td>07 children (5 boys and 2 girls)</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orphan children</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>01 children (1 boy)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of children affected by church bombing (as of 26 April 2019)**
Psychological first aid, psychosocial support and counselling have been identified as major needs; given the extremely limited capacity of government services, there is a need to obtain this service from third party organizations. UNICEF is planning to reach at least 3,900 children and 1,200 community members with psychosocial support.

In response to the crisis UNICEF has activated the Child Protection Network in the country and a meeting was held with all leading Child Protection agencies on Thursday, 25 April 2019 to discuss a collective child protection response based on the assessment report. In addition, UNICEF is supporting the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) to coordinate a national programme on psychosocial first aid with the coordination of the church community and other civil society organizations.

**Education:** With the risk of rising tension amongst ethnic groups, there is a risk of damage to ongoing and important social cohesion and community resilience efforts in Sri Lanka. Therefore, UNICEF is planning to scale up its school based social cohesion and reconciliation efforts targeting adolescents and young people in the affected location with key activities and messages to promote co-existence, community resilience, communal tolerance, cooperation and understanding to promote long term peace. In collaboration with the department of Education, UNICEF is planning to reach 40,000 children, teachers and parents.

**Emergency Preparedness:** The upcoming May-June monsoon and cyclone season is expected to add to the ongoing situation in Sri Lanka. In the past three years, Monsoon rains have brought large scale natural disasters to the country, with loss of life and displacement. UNICEF is preparing to support the Government and partners to meet the needs of the population in the upcoming Monsoon season. Currently, there are fears that a strong cyclone is developing in the southeast Bay of Bengal located 950km away from the eastern coast of Sri Lanka and could hit the country soon.

**Media and Communication:** UNICEF has disseminated key information for parents to help children and themselves cope in the aftermath of traumatic events. This has been widely covered in national media including print, TV, radio and online in English, Sinhala and Tamil. UNICEF Sri Lanka’s Communications unit will continue to liaise with the programme team as well as other UN agencies in developing key messages, producing communication materials and shaping a social media communication strategy, when channel restrictions are lifted.

**Funding Requirements**

UNICEF Sri Lanka requires about $779,500 to implement short- and mid-term emergency response and preparedness programme. These funds will be used for medical supplies, psycho-social support, child protection needs, community resilience, school based social cohesion and harmony activities, and disaster preparedness and response. So far $409,000 has been received from the Japanese National Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Funds Received*</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Nutrition</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>84,000</td>
<td>166,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Social Cohesion</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Response Preparedness</td>
<td>250,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,050,000</td>
<td>409,000</td>
<td>370,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Next SitRep: 29/04/2019**

[Who to contact for further information]  
Tim Sutton  
Representative  
UNICEF Sri Lanka  
Tel: +94 11 267 7550  
Fax: +94 11 267 7110  
Email: tsutton@unicef.org

Jeremy Sprigge  
Communications Specialist  
UNICEF Sri Lanka  
Tel: +94 11 2677550  
Fax: +94 11 2677110  
Email: jsprigge@unicef.org