Highlights

- From 14-20 May, Sri Lanka received heavy rainfall due to atmospheric disturbances and the formation of Tropical Cyclone Roanu. On 15-16 May, some parts of the country received the highest rainfall for the season.
- On 27 May, as the situation gradually normalized, DMC reported that over 300,000 people were affected and a total of 21,848 people displaced are living in 210 safety centres in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Kegalle, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy and Matale districts. Highest displacement of 12,099 people is reported from Kegalle due to landslides and associated risks.
- One hundred and four (104) deaths have been reported with 99 people still missing due to the massive landslide in Aranayake, Kegalle district. Thirty-one (31) people have also been injured due to landslides and floods-related incidences.
- The Government is currently evaluating damages caused to infrastructure by floods and landslides.

WASH

- 500,000 water purification tablets distributed to Colombo, Kegalle, Ratnapura, Gampaha districts through the Ministry of Health; 12.5 metric tons of chlorine powder for wells cleaning.
- 22 submersible electric water pumps for well cleaning distributed to Water Supply Authorities in three districts (Colombo, Kegalle and Gampaha).
- 130 water tanks with a capacity of 1,000 litres each and 6,500 DPD tablets to measure residual chlorine of drinking water provided to the Water Supply Board; UNICEF will continue to support with cleaning of wells and septic tanks.
- UNICEF supports transporting water by bowsers to certain areas, and will supply cleaning water for personal hygiene and house cleaning.

Child Protection

- Based on the rapid needs assessments (currently ongoing), UNICEF supports the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) in ensuring adequate protection and safety of all children affected by floods, especially those living in the camps, and ensuring that they get back to school as soon as possible.
- At the request of the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), UNICEF in partnership with child-rights organizations developed a brief, user-friendly guideline for child-friendly spaces and child protection leaflets for affected children and parents. These materials were distributed to all Child Rights Protection Officers in the affected areas.
- UNICEF in collaboration with World Vision International will establish 6 child-friendly spaces in existing camps in Kegalle.

UNICEF’s Response with partners

27 May 2016

99,495 estimated number of children affected out of 301,502 people affected

21,848 people living in 210 welfare centers (majority in Kegalle, landslide-affected area)

190,349 people affected in Colombo District alone

Source: DMC Website as of 27 May 2016 09:00 hours
Education

- UNICEF is working with the Ministry of Education to ensure support for education services in the camps; rehabilitation of damaged schools, including their WASH facilities; and support to keep children in school.
- 37 schools in the landslide-affected districts will function as safe locations/welfare centers for the next 5-6 months.

Health

- Joint statement by the Ministry of Health (MoH), WHO and UNICEF was released to appeal to all relevant parties to be mindful of the continued need for breastfeeding infants during the current flood and landslide emergency, and caution against unnecessary and potentially harmful donations and use of infant formula and powdered milk.
- The epidemiological situation remains stable, with no outbreaks of infectious diseases reported from the affected areas. The health authorities continue enhanced epidemiological surveillance. MoH is distributing prophylaxis to affected communities to prevent against diseases such as leptospirosis.
- While there are no reports of major structural damage to health facilities, loss of equipment, drugs and medical records is still being assessed by the Family Health Bureau of MoH supported by the Disaster Preparedness and Response Division.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

- By 24 May 2016, South-west monsoon condition had set in the country. Showers or thunder showers will occur at times in the Western, North-Western, Southern, Central and Sabaragamuwa provinces. Department of Meteorology Sri Lanka forecasts that showers will occur at times in the Western, North-Western, Southern, Central and Sabaragamuwa provinces particularly during the morning (Forecast issued at 05.30 a.m. on 27th May2016). Showers or thunder showers may occur in the Uva and Eastern provinces, particularly after 2.00 pm. Strong winds at times can be expected over the country (particularly over Western slopes of the central hills) and surrounding sea area.

- Most of the camps in the flood-affected areas are now closing (or are already closed), as affected people return to their houses. In the landslide-affected districts, the temporary welfare centres will remain active for another 5-6 months. Among those, 37 schools will be maintained as temporary shelters and as distribution points for humanitarian assistance.

- During the disaster, a high number of families did not relocate to safety centres but rather with host families. They neither received relief assistance nor were counted as ‘affected by disasters’. Therefore, the total number of disaster affected and displaced people could be significantly higher than the number presented by the Government.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

- The Government has a strong national structure for disaster preparedness and emergency operations and is leading the current response. The Disaster Management Centre has activated the National and Divisional Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs).
- Ministry of Disaster Management (MODM) initiated an assessment and INGOs are complementing the data with sectoral and demographic needs.
- While the Ministry of Disaster Management (MODM) has overall coordination responsibilities, sector coordination for response is also taking place with line ministries (such as National Water Supply and Drainage Board, National Child Protection Authority, etc.) leading in their own sectors. UNICEF participates in the WASH, child protection and education sector coordination meetings.
- Huge influx of humanitarian assistance was provided during the past 10 days from the general public, private sector, charitable organizations in Sri Lanka and the international community. However, coordination challenges hampered the government’s ability to organize and distribute relief assistance. This resulted in an uneven distribution of supplies to some safety centres.
- Under the leadership of the UN RC and with support from an OCHA Regional team deployed on 20 May, interagency coordination has been strengthened, and a US$5 million CERF proposal was submitted by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, WFP, IOM and UN-HABITAT. In addition, many donors are providing financial and technical assistance for humanitarian and early recovery needs through national and international non-governmental organizations.
- On 27 May, one cargo aircraft arrived in Colombo with much needed relief supplies provided by the Government of Bangladesh. On 30 May, another one is expected with an additional 9 MT of relief supplies. The assistance provided is in line with the official requirement list issued by the Sri Lanka Ministry of Disaster Management. Dialogue and interaction between the Government of Bangladesh/Armed Forces Division and in-country humanitarian partners was facilitated by OCHA.

Humanitarian Strategy

- UNICEF is discussing with relevant partners the use of cash transfers to boost early recovery especially in areas where livelihood was greatly impacted by the heavy rains, floods and landslides.
- The President of Sri Lanka, at the Presidential Task Force for the emergency, stated that the recovery from this catastrophe should be based on proper post-disaster needs assessments. UNDP is supporting the Government to
mobilize national and international experts to conduct a fully-fledged Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) once the situation normalizes.

- Serious efforts are underway among the UN and NGOs to complement government data and support line ministries for sector coordination to ensure a well-targeted, appropriate and timely response.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

- There is an ongoing staff deployment to the affected areas to assess the immediate needs of women and children in camp, community and family settings.
- A cash transfer mechanism is currently being devised as part of early recovery and to expand the targeted beneficiaries to include populations whose livelihood and productive assets have been directly impacted by the disaster and are usually unaccounted for social assistance mechanisms by the government.
- Through CERF funding, WASH interventions will be increased in the affected areas, in close collaboration with the Water Board and Ministry of Health.
- Technical assistance will be provided to the Ministry of Disaster Management in establishing guidelines for the public in buying, collecting and distributing relief items upon self-initiative. UNICEF is seen to contribute to this greatly by using social media in both English and Sinhalese to spread key messages that could instigate better public coordination and cooperation when it comes to extending humanitarian assistance in the affected districts.
- UNICEF-supported temporary or alternative structures, whether child-friendly spaces or temporary learning centres, will be risk informed to ensure the resilience of these facilities in case of more floods and landslides this monsoon season.

**Media and External Communication**

- Regional Chief of Communications provides technical assistance in developing key messages, producing communication materials and shaping a social media communication strategy.
- As mentioned above, a joint MoH/WHO/UNICEF press statement on the continued need for breastfeeding infants during the current flood and landslide emergency was released.

**Security**

- No security issues to report at present.

**Funding**

- The Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) provided US$50,000 to support SLCO’s response to the ongoing emergency. This is used to cover urgent supply procurement, freight costs and technical support actions as per the Core Commitments for Children (CCCs).
- The Italian Government contributed EUR 200,000 (approx. US$225,000) to UNICEF for the provision of safe water, temporary sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion in the areas affected by floods and landslides.
- The Australian Department for Foreign Aid and Trade (DFAT) provided AUD 500,000 (approx. US$360,000) to UNICEF to focus on affected children in the camps, and their return to education. The main partners for UNICEF are the Ministry of Women and Children’s Affairs (through their National Child Protection Authority) and the Ministry of Education.
- UNICEF also submitted to CERF a WASH proposal for US$1 million.

**Next SitRep:**

- This is the last update for the period 14-27 May 2016. Should the situation worsen due to Southwest monsoon conditions, reporting will resume accordingly.


Who to contact for further information:

**Una McCauley**
Representative
UNICEF Sri Lanka
Tel: +94(0)772237030
Email: umccauley@unicef.org

**Paula Bulancea**
Deputy Representative
UNICEF Sri Lanka
Tel: +94 112768555
Email: pbulancea@unicef.org