



## Flash Floods in Northern parts of Sri Lanka: Situation report # 1 26 November 2008

Due to heavy rains over the past few days parts of the Northern districts of Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu have been affected by floods.

Specialized sources<sup>1</sup> report that a disturbance on the northern part of Sri Lanka is affecting the weather in the North and East but is moving north-west towards the southern parts of India (from Lat 10.6 N Long 79.6 E to 11.2 N 77.7 E). The current Tropical Storm is forecasted to be downgraded into a Tropical Depression, although adverse weather conditions are expected to continue to affect the Jaffna peninsula during the next 24hr, with projected winds up to 95 and 50 km/h tonight. The rainfall data for the 24hrs ending at 08.30 am on 25<sup>th</sup> indicate that Jaffna has received 197.5 mm of rain; Mannar 93.3; Katugastota 46.9 and Trincomalee 46.7. No data is available for Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu [the Vanni] where rains have affected areas where IDPs are concentrated and water reservoirs [tanks] are reported to be at risk of overflowing.

### Jaffna<sup>2</sup>

Since 22 November 2008, there has been 719.4 mm of rainfall and cyclonic winds up to 80km/hr in the Jaffna peninsula causing widespread flooding. There has been no electricity since 25 November 2008 at 2000. The sea level increased overnight and in some areas, the situation has been adversely affected by the blocking of drainage canals. Causeways have been flooded, isolating the Islands off the main Peninsula.

Government Agent Jaffna held a meeting on the 26th November 2008 where he requested support from Government partners, UN agencies, INGO, NGOs to assist the affected populations. Primary needs include food, shelter and water/sanitation and non-food related items.



Figure 1 & 2: Jaffna 26112008

The Government food stock has not been damaged; however, some of the food stocks in the WFP Kopay warehouse have been damaged.

<sup>1</sup> HEWS (Humanitarian Early Warning Service) service of the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC), the Pacific Disaster Center, TSR (Tropical Storm Risk) and the Sri Lanka Meteorological Department.

<sup>2</sup> UN District Team, Jaffna

The Government has indicated they have / will undertake the following actions:

- Provide cooked meals for 1 week;
- Electricity during the night-time will be provided to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital;
- Drinking water will be provided by browser to common areas where people have displaced;
- Roads will be cleared of debris to the extent possible;
- Landlines restored in most areas;
- School exams will be postponed until further notice;
- RDHS will assist with mobile clinics;
- GA will liaise with SLA to open canals.

Action by the UN

- UNHCR will coordinate NRFIs as soon the Divisional Secretariat's have finished their assessment;
- UNICEF will assist with WASH related items;
- WFP will provide dry rations at the request of the GA;

Weather permitting, a UN/NGO coordination meeting will be held tomorrow afternoon and a follow up meeting with the GA and government partners is scheduled for Friday afternoon. Coordination mechanisms are in place and the Jaffna UN Contingency Plan has been activated, although if rains continue, impassable roads and limited staffing will impact response capacity.

### **Mannar<sup>3</sup>**

Nearly 3,000 families have been displaced (2,555 in the Mannar DS division, 122 in Nanaddan and 355 in Madhu). Most displaced families are housed in public building such as schools and religious places. Assistance is being provided by the District Secretary

### **Trincomalee<sup>4</sup>**

Heavy rains in Trincomalee over the past couple of days have mostly affected Eachchilampattai, Kinniya, Kuchchaveli, Muttur DS, and Town and Gravets. The District Disaster Management Unit (DDMU) is currently collecting information from the different district and conducting assessment to the different areas.

Muttur:

- Villages seriously affected are Azath Nagar, Hagag Nagar and Dhaqwa. Water is stagnated and some roads are damaged, paddy fields as well as irrigation tanks are flooded. 150 people were temporarily displaced but have reportedly returned to their houses
- Due to the absence of drainage at the new ring road, Chenaiyoor is at risk for flooding as water is stagnated
- Nalloor and Neenakerny are affected by the flooding
- The pedestrian bridge between Afa Nagar and Muttur has been washed away which means access is through Thoppur only
- At Killivedy IDP transit site the toilets are flooded

Eachchipampattai:

- Mawadichanai (Verugal GN) approximately 150 displaced (people living in the Tsunami transition shelters)
- The Red Cross is providing assistance to the displaced

Kinniya:

- 14 GN divisions affected, 900 people and 177 families displaced who are staying with family or friends
- Meeting today at 14.00 hrs at the DS Office to discuss, among other issues, the response to the flooding.
- The majority of the displaced are with host families.
- PIN, GTZ, Kinniya Vision and others are providing assistance in Kinniya

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<sup>3</sup> Disaster Management Centre (DMC) Sri Lanka

<sup>4</sup> Source: UN OCHA Trincomalee

#### Kuchchavelli:

- The Yanoya and Padavaikattu ferries are out of order due to the weather
- 200 acres of paddy land flooded
- Yesterday 25/11 70 families in Cassinmanager were displaced (to family or friends), the situation improved today and most people were able to move back to their houses
- Roads in Kallampattai flooded

#### Vanni

Increasing water levels due to heavy rains over the past few days, have caused floods in the areas of Vaddakkachchi, Pu'liyampokka'nai, Ka'ndaava'lai, and Chu'ndiku'lam. Two to three reservoirs are at risk of overflowing in the area, which poses threats to populations and displaced settlements in Visuvamadu and Udaiyaarkaddu. Vehicle movement is obstructed by flood waters on the road between Puthukkudiyiruppu [PTK] and Tharmapuram. The status of the road between Palyiankulam and Nadunkerni is currently being assessed. People affected by floods are being temporarily accommodated at schools and other buildings. All schools have been temporarily closed.

Bad road conditions are also likely to affect the movement of weekly humanitarian convoys. The last Government Agent (GA) convoy turned back yesterday due to the condition of the roads. The next UN convoy is tentatively scheduled for 1 / 2 December.



*Figure 3 & 4: Mullaitivu 26112008*

More information will come in, as teams are liaising with the relevant authorities. IASC partners and agencies with the capacity to provide support are asked to liaise and report to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of the DMC.

**DMC Emergency Hotline**  
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**DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE - SITUATION REPORT**  
**25th - 27th November 2008: SRI LANKA**

District	DS Divisions	No of GN division affected	Damages to Human Being					As at 1000 hrs on 27.11.2008					Remarks
			No. Families Affected	No. of People Affected	No. Deaths Reported	No. of Injured People	No. Missing People	No. of Fully Damaged Houses	Number of Partially Damaged Houses	No. of IDP Camps	No. of Families in IDP Camps	No. of People in the Camps	
Jaffna	Jaffna									10	517	2225	
	Point Pedro		504	2002			9	490	9	485	1833		
	Uduvil		410	1653					4	328	1277		
	Kopay		20699	70355			630	3234	15	1260	4054		
	Maruthankerny		800	3600					1	181	681		
	Chankanai		451	1737			42	353					
	Chavakachcheri		602	2993									
	Kayts		900	3100									
	Delft		1215	5200					7	312	1209		
	Sandilipay		52	178			2	174					
	Tellipalai		1040	4125			170	253	7	540	2110		
	Nallur		1300	5610			213	315	11	840	2578		
	Velanai		678	2934									
	Karainagar		86	520			7	77	1	35	107		
Karaveddy		1854	6486			868	208	16	1459	5120			
		<b>0</b>	<b>30591</b>	<b>110493</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>5104</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>5957</b>	<b>21194</b>	
Mannar	Mannar	28	4860	21910									
	Nanaddan	1	122	579									
	Madu	3	154	615									
		<b>32</b>	<b>5136</b>	<b>23104</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Trincomalee	Seruwila		21	59							21	59	lived with their friends & relatives
	Kinniya	14	1186	5890							9	47	lived with their friends & relatives
	Town & Gravets	1	137	587									
	Kuchchaveli	4	69	250									
	Padavi Sripura	1	170	470					1	170	470	due to high tide	
	<b>20</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>7256</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>576</b>		
Monaragala	Tanamalwila	1	30						5				
		<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
Kandy	Thumpane	1	5										Due to Landslide
		<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>37345</b>	<b>140853</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>5109</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>6157</b>	<b>21770</b>	

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