








Situation Report #1

Sri Lanka North-East Monsoon

Photo: © UNFPA/Sri Lanka

Country:	Sri Lanka
Emergency Type:	Climate disaster
Start Date of Crisis:	Nov 25, 2024
Date Issued:	Dec 20, 2024
Covering Period:	Nov 25, 2024 to Dec 18, 2024
Contact Persons:	Kunle Adeniyi, UNFPA Representative Sri Lanka Country Office, adeniyi@unfpa.org

Key Figures

 475,225 Total people affected	 118,806 Women of reproductive age	 5,152 Estimated pregnant women	 10,000 People targeted with SRH services	 5,000 People targeted with GBV programmes
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Highlights

- Deep depression in the southwest Bay of Bengal, located 170 km (106 miles) from Batticaloa and 240 km (149 miles) from Trincomalee districts, both on the east coast of Sri Lanka, intensified into Cyclonic storm 'Fengal' by November 27, 2024.
- A total of 475,225 persons were directly affected by the recent floods, with 17 deaths reported as of December 2.
- 106 houses were completely destroyed, while 2,516 houses were partially damaged.
- At the request of the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, UNFPA mobilized and distributed 869 dignity kits, 748 maternity kits, and 1,500 adolescent kits with support from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT).
- UNFPA is procuring an additional 2,000 dignity kits, 1,000 maternity kits, and 1,000 adolescent kits to be deployed under the ongoing Humanitarian Project supported by the Government of Japan's Supplementary Budget.
- UNFPA Sri Lanka has mobilized US\$300,000 in assistance from ongoing projects funded by the Governments of Australia and Japan. An additional US\$200,000 is required to meet urgent needs.
- UNFPA coordinates the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Working Group and the Gender-based Violence (GBV) Emergency Coordination (GBV AoR).

- UNFPA is supporting a government-led disaster assessment by providing technical support in health, gender and social inclusion.
- Urgent requirements include psychosocial support services for women and young people, risk mitigation and response to GBV, and cash assistance for older persons and persons with disabilities.
- Given the significant damage to livelihoods, particularly of women farmers and single-headed households, the needs are significant as reported in the rapid needs assessment by WFP.

Situation Overview

A deep depression in the southwest Bay of Bengal, located 170 km (106 miles) from Batticaloa and 240 km (149 miles) from Trincomalee districts, both on the east coast of Sri Lanka, intensified into Cyclonic storm 'Fengal' by November 27, 2024. This caused heavy rainfall, strong gusty winds and rough sea conditions, triggering floods, landslides, and severe weather-related incidents across nine provinces: Northern, Uva, North-Western, Western, North Central, Central, Sabaragamuwa, Eastern, and Southern. The continuous rainfall, lasting over a week, caused major reservoirs to overflow.



As of December 2, the Disaster Management Centre reported 17 deaths and 19 injured persons. A total of 475,225 individuals (141,151 families) were affected, with 106 houses damaged fully and 2,516 houses partially damaged. At the height of the situation on November 28, a total of 61,290 individuals (18,025 families) were relocated to 279 safe locations, with nearly double that number finding refuge with relatives. By December 2, this reduced to 7,308 individuals (2,170 families) placed in 78 safe locations. The floods also led to significant losses in agricultural crops and livestock, severely impacting the livelihoods of those affected. As of 12 Dec, all displaced people returned to their homes.

The widespread displacement, disruption of social services, and breakdown of support networks have heightened protection needs for vulnerable groups, including women, adolescent girls, persons with disabilities, and older persons. Inadequate shelters, poor sanitation facilities, overcrowding, and shortages of water, electricity, and essential commodities have increased the risk of gender-based violence for women and girls. Damaged public facilities, such as markets and shops, have further limited access to daily hygiene items, restricting women's and girls' mobility and their ability to access humanitarian assistance. The impacts of Cyclone Fengal and the resulting flooding will increase stress and mental health issues, making the provision of psychosocial support services critical to ensure the wellbeing of women and young people.

With the North-East Monsoon expected to continue through to February 2025 and further flooding expected to hit the Northern and Eastern provinces, already affected vulnerable populations face the threat of additional displacement and hardship, highlighting the need for continued support.

UNFPA Response

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) plays a crucial role in responding to disasters by addressing the specific SRH, menstrual health and hygiene, and GBV protection needs of affected populations, particularly women, girls, and vulnerable groups such as older persons. To respond to the developing situation, UNFPA activated its emergency response team to coordinate and provide immediate humanitarian assistance to the affected people in north and east of Sri Lanka.

Under the directive of the Country Management Team, the Humanitarian Team devised a response strategy, incorporating scale-up and scale-down scenarios based on the existing UN Contingency Plan for the North-East Monsoon. Leveraging UNFPA's technical expertise and leadership in humanitarian programming, the UNFPA Sri Lanka has prioritized:

- Coordination of partners in health and hygiene, SRH, and GBV risk mitigation and response.
- Addressing the urgent SRH needs of women and girls with disabilities, including pregnant women, lactating mothers, and older women.
- Supporting GBV risk mitigation and response in affected communities and operating safety centres.

At the request of the Sri Lankan Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, UNFPA deployed 869 dignity kits and 748 maternity kits prepositioned under DFAT Regional Prepositioning Initiative. Additionally, 1,500 adolescent kits from the Resilience Fund provided by DFAT were redirected to this response. As of December 6, all of the kits have been distributed to beneficiaries in six districts in northern and eastern provinces.

Table 1. *Distribution of DFAT-supported Kits in Six Districts in Sri Lanka*

District	Adolescent Kits	Maternity Kits	Dignity Kits
Killinochi and Mullaithivu	225	162	119
Mannar	275	63	150
Jaffna	250	149	100
Batticaloa	275	137	165
Ampara	475	237	335
Sub total	1500	748	869

UNFPA is procuring an additional 2,000 dignity kits, 1,000 maternity kits, and 1,000 adolescent kits through the support of the Government of Japan's Supplementary Budget. Still the needs are substantial, with an estimated 118,806 women of reproductive age affected, including 5,152 estimated pregnant women.

UNFPA is working closely with the national and local governments and civil society partners to ensure response efforts are timely and efficient. UNFPA has partnered with the Sri Lanka Red Cross for the coordination and deployment of kits, along with delivery of health information sessions to pregnant women on maternal danger signs, and delivery of menstrual health awareness sessions to adolescent girls. UNFPA also partnered with the Family Planning Association in providing technical support on SRH, and with the Jaffna Social Action Centre in providing technical support on GBV programming. At the district level, UNFPA is coordinating with the District and Division Secretariats, Women Development Officers, and the Regional Directors for health services to ensure complementarity with partner efforts.

UNFPA leads coordination efforts through the SRH Working Group and the GBV Emergency Coordination (GBV AoR) mechanism, with the active participation of government and civil society actors. Additionally, UNFPA participated in the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group and ensured SRH and GBV are prioritized in the overall response of the UN. The Government of Sri Lanka

called for a post-disaster needs assessment meeting on 12 December to formulate a post-disaster recovery plan with a one-month timeframe. A damage and loss assessment will be performed in the impacted areas as a preliminary phase of PDNA, which UNFPA will support.

Results Snapshots



2,248

People reached with **SRH information and services**
100% female



869

People reached with **GBV prevention, mitigation and response activities**
100% female



3,117

Non-food item (such as dignity kits) distributed to individuals

Coordination Mechanisms

Gender-Based Violence:

- UNFPA Sri Lanka, as the sub-sector lead for GBV under the Protection Sector led by UNICEF, convened an emergency coordination meeting through the existing National Forum Against GBV.
- The GBV Emergency Coordination meetings were held on November 30 and December 3 to address the evolving flood situation. The impact of the disaster situation on the safety of women and girls, government support, and the coordination of assistance among development and humanitarian partners were discussed at the meetings.
- The meetings were well attended by key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka Police, and the Disaster Management Centre.

Sexual and Reproductive Health:

- The SRH Working Group, convened by the Family Planning Association of Sri Lanka with support from UNFPA, has been responding to the flooding in the north and east of Sri Lanka.
- The SRH Working Group meetings last 30 Nov and 4 December 2024, attended by government and civil society partners, served as the platform for coordinating humanitarian assistance. The coordination meetings resulted in a rapid local-level response from the medical officers of health across the regional directorate of health services.
- These meetings contributed to expediting the deployment of life-saving maternity kits to all local health offices on the ground, with all distributions completed within four days.

Funding Status

UNFPA Sri Lanka deployed prepositioned kits worth US\$300,000 through DFAT's Regional Prepositioning Initiative, DFAT's Resilience Fund, and the Japan Supplementary Budget to address urgent SRH and GBV needs on the ground.

As the post-disaster recovery plan is yet to be developed, the funding requirements are still being finalized. However, given the extent of damage and the significant impact on the livelihoods of women farmers and single-headed households, the demand for support is expected to rise substantially following the rapid needs assessment planned by the United Nations Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group.

Currently, there is a funding gap of US\$200,000, primarily needed to provide urgent psychosocial support services for women and young people, implement risk mitigation and response to GBV, and provide cash assistance to older persons and persons with disabilities.

