

MRC-PRS/2025/002

08th December 2025

PRESS STATEMENT

Maldivian Red Crescent extends call for donations towards “MRC Sri Lanka Relief Fund”

In light of the catastrophic flooding and landslides caused by Cyclone Ditwah and the urgent humanitarian needs outlined in the IFRC Emergency Appeal of CHF 5 million, the Maldivian Red Crescent (MRC) announces the extension of the MRC Sri Lanka Relief Fund.

The initial donation period was scheduled to close on 8th December 2025. However, the scale of devastation, the critical need for sustained assistance and due to the public appeal towards the extension of the fund, we are extending the period for donations till 10th January 2026. As of 2pm, 8th December 2025, the fund has raised **MVR 186,201.94** and **USD 4,671** reflecting the continued generous support of the Maldivian community.

Following the closure of the fund, these contributions will be entirely remitted to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) via the IFRC Emergency Appeal to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance, such as critical Health Services, essential supplies for the operation of humanitarian facilities, transfer of the sick and wounded, search and rescue, provision of clean water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and provision of basic relief items (including food, clothing, and household essentials).

Given the vital role played by the Sri Lankan Red Cross Society, MRC appeals to the Maldivian community to continue their support towards MRC's Sri Lanka Relief Fund and to support the dedicated efforts of Sri Lankan Red Cross Society who are working tirelessly on the front lines.

The bank account details are as follows: -

Bank of Maldives	Maldives Islamic Bank
Account Name: Maldivian Red Crescent	Account Name: Maldivian Red Crescent
Account Number: 7730000379010 [MVR]	Account Number: 99010155500036100 [MVR]
Account Number: 7701176022002 (USD)	Account Number: 99010155500036200 (USD)

Donate via mFaisaa by Ooredoo
mFaisaa Account Number: 9766211

08th December 2025

Situation Update Sri Lankan Red Cross Society (as of 4th December 2025)

Cyclone Ditwah struck Sri Lanka on 27 November 2025, with torrential rainfall exceeding 350 mm in 24 hours and triggering widespread flooding and landslides across all 25 districts. The disaster has affected over 1.46 million people, making it one of the worst crises in Sri Lanka in decades. Authorities report hundreds of deaths, with many people still missing as search and rescue operations continue. More than 230,000 people remain displaced, sheltering in overcrowded safety centers with limited access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. Over 20,800 homes have been damaged or destroyed, while severe infrastructure damage 78 roads and 15 bridges impacted, nearly 278,000 buildings inundated, and more than 65,000 power and telecommunications outages continues to restrict access to affected communities. Flooding remains a serious risk in downstream areas, with river levels in key basins still rising despite reduced rainfall.

Summary of Response from SLRCS and about IFRC Emergency Appeal

The IFRC has provided vital technical and financial support to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS), enabling the pre-positioning of essential stocks such as shelter materials, hygiene kits, and health supplies in high-risk areas. This support also strengthened preparedness for disasters through Early Action Protocols and climate adaptation.

To enable immediate action, IFRC has already released CHF 100,000 from its Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), with a further CHF 1 million allocation underway to scale up operations ahead of the full appeal. The IFRC Emergency Appeal will support emergency shelter, health, water and sanitation, livelihoods, and protection services, while strengthening community resilience to future climate-related shocks.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has mobilized more than 3,500 volunteers, who are conducting rapid assessments, supporting evacuations, providing first aid, and distributing safe water, hygiene kits, bedding, and food rations.

"Our volunteers are working tirelessly to support communities who have lost everything," said Dr. Mahesh Gunasekara, Secretary General of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. "Urgent needs include cooked food, safe water, medicines, and shelter, but the scale of devastation means sustained support is essential to prevent worsening food insecurity, disease, and poverty."

Essential services have been severely disrupted. Hospitals and health facilities remain flooded or damaged, limiting access to care and disrupting maternal, child, and reproductive health services. Overcrowded evacuation centers are struggling to meet the needs of pregnant and lactating women, older persons, and people with disabilities, while mental-health and psychosocial needs are increasing. Access to safe drinking water remains critically compromised due to damaged and contaminated water systems.

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سُورَةُ الْاِنشِرَافِ

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 مُنِيبٌ مُبِينٌ مُبْدِيُ السَّاعَةِ الْآخِرَةِ

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