

# Sri Lanka

## Consolidated Emergency Report 2016



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*Children playing in newly equipped Vishaka pre-school, Kegalle District*

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## B. Abbreviations and Acronyms

CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CC-DRR	Child-Centered DRR
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CFS	Child Friendly Spaces
CRPO	Child Rights Promotion Officers
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
HACT	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
I/NGOs	International/National Non-Governmental Organisations
MDM	Ministry of Disaster Management
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoWC	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
NCPA	National Child Protection Authority
NWS&DB	National Water Supply and Drainage Board
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### C. Executive Summary

From 14 May 2016 onwards, a low-pressure zone above Sri Lanka caused torrential rainfall all over the country, and in some places it was the heaviest recorded rainfall in more than 18 years. Due to the rising water levels in several major rivers, the country faced widespread flooding in 22 of the 25 districts and severe landslides in several divisions in Kegalle district. The worst landslide happened in Aranayake division in Kegalle district, where three villages were completely swept away and buried under mud and debris. Approximately 493,319 people (124,398 families) were affected according to the Ministry of Disaster Management; with reports of 93 deaths, 33 people injured and 117 people missing.

In response to emergency appeals, UNICEF received approximately USD 2.66 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), bilateral donors and emergency thematic funding to provide urgent Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), education, child protection, health and nutrition support to children and families affected by the disaster across the country, with priority given to the worst-affected district of Kegalle. UNICEF provided emergency assistance jointly with relevant government counterparts and International/National Non-Governmental Organisations (I/NGOs). As part of emergency preparedness, UNICEF also continued to focus on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), with attempts to better integrate Child-Centered DRR (CC-DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into ongoing development work and sectoral work plans.

In the WASH sector, UNICEF restored water supply for 175,000 people affected by the disaster living in temporary, semi-permanent and permanent locations, particularly those that are hard-to-reach. This was achieved through the provision of essential water supplies for storage, transport and treatment, such as water bowsers, pumps, tanks, filters, treatment plants, purification tablets/chlorine powder and specialised equipment for water quality testing. In some locations where displaced persons would remain for a longer period, UNICEF facilitated pipe-borne water, thereby ensuring more sustainable access to safe water. In the early recovery phase, the supply of heavy-duty sludge desilting pumps and portable generators helped the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWS&DB) in repairing damaged water intakes and distribution systems. Further, the construction of temporary and permanent latrines and bathing places, and provision of hygiene packs as part of hygiene promotion sessions, contributed to the overall improvement of sanitation, drainage and waste management in Kegalle district. As a result, 10,000 people gained access to appropriate sanitation facilities promoting their health and dignity.

As part of UNICEF's early recovery response, UNICEF procured 200 packets of supplementary therapeutic food (RUTF biscuits) enabling the Ministry of Health (MoH) to address the nutrition needs of approximately 1,000 of the most vulnerable disaster-affected children aged 0-5 years in Kegalle, Colombo and Gampaha districts. Further, through ongoing capacity building initiatives, there are now over 200 medical doctors trained on Nutrition in Emergencies island-wide who can be mobilised to provide surge support to any part of the country or world, when required. In the health sector, the supply of weighing scales and length/height measurement equipment was critical in ensuring that affected communities continued to receive maternal and child health care services through mobile services, particularly in areas where mobility was an issue after the disaster. Approximately 200,000 children in all 22 affected districts benefitted from the use of this equipment.

In the child protection sector, given that the camps were overcrowded and poorly managed, as well as did not take into account specific considerations for children, UNICEF partnered with civil society organisations to train 542 government officials on child safeguarding (prevention of harm to children and protection of children), child friendly camp management principles during emergencies and CC-DRR. This resulted in improvements in the camps, such as partitioning to give women and girls more

privacy; security and safety measures that take into consideration child safety and protection; and use of data management systems that included data on children and their needs. UNICEF also technically supported the National Child Protection Authority in the development and implementation of child friendly space guidelines, guidelines for volunteers and aid workers working with children during emergencies and child friendly camp management guidelines. UNICEF's support also extended to the establishment of 42 safe and protective child friendly spaces in welfare camps benefitting more than 700 children. Similar initiatives in areas of return, through the establishment of 40 children's clubs/committees, benefitted more than 1,400 children. Further, UNICEF also worked with civil society organisations, local government authorities and registrar general departments to organise mobile services that provided around 176 community members with copies of lost legal documents, which provided significant relief for those people during a time of extreme distress.

Another devastating impact of the flooding and landslides was the damage to pre-school and school buildings, equipment/furniture and play/learning materials. In response, UNICEF, together with the Children's Secretariat under the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, provided a package of items to 140 affected pre-schools benefitting 2,800 children (1,680 girls and 1,120 boys). UNICEF also supported the renovation and repair of 22 damaged schools, including water and sanitation facilities, restoring education services for 2,276 children, including 1,112 girls and 1,164 boys. Further, UNICEF renovated four schools catering to more than 200 children in the newly resettled areas of Jaffna district, which is home to communities that had been formerly affected by the conflict and, for some, the recent flood disaster.

The country office has maintained a good level of preparedness to respond to disasters, investing in emergency preparedness and response when necessary, including cluster coordination training for staff, and regularly monitoring the flood, and now drought situation in the country, particularly its impact on women and children. The information provided critical updates and information to relevant stakeholders and the media, as well as generated resources for the emergency response. Over the last few years, there has been increasing recognition within both UNICEF and the Government of Sri Lanka of the need to mainstream DRR into development programmes. This has involved incorporating risks from natural hazards into strategic frameworks and policies, institutional structures, planning processes and programme interventions. For UNICEF Sri Lanka, this shift in perspective is resulting in an integrated analysis of vulnerabilities and risks within a broader poverty and equity analysis. In this regard, in addition to various capacity building initiatives mentioned above, the government conducted a natural disaster vulnerability assessment in the Eastern Province with relevant national level stakeholder agencies, resulting in Sri Lanka's renewed commitment to implement CC-DRR at the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction. Further, UNICEF collaborated with Village Disaster Management Committees in Uva Province, the Disaster Management Coordination Unit in Badulla district and the National Building Research Organization to build capacity on emergency preparedness and community-based early warning systems for landslides. This area of work will remain a key priority in UNICEF's next country programme (2018-2022) to build resilience to future disasters in the country.

#### D. Humanitarian Context

In May 2016, cyclone Roanu caused devastating floods and landslides in 22 of the 25 districts of Sri Lanka affecting approximately 493,319 people (124,398 families) according to the Ministry of Disaster Management (MDM). It is reported that 93 people died (36 women, 43 men, 10 children and 4 unidentified), with 33 people sustaining injuries and 117 people remaining as 'missing'<sup>1</sup>. The majority

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<sup>1</sup> At the time of reporting, there was no update from the Government on whether these people had been categorized as 'dead'.

of deaths recorded (54 per cent) and missing (84 per cent) occurred due to the landslides in Kegalle district.

On 27 May 2016, the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs of the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) commissioned a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). The objectives of the PDNA was to assess the impact of the floods and landslides in the 22 affected districts with a special focus on the most vulnerable communities, particularly the low income urban areas of Colombo and the central province of the country that was affected by the landslides. The MDM led the PDNA with the assistance of United Nations agencies, the World Bank, the European Union and other relevant stakeholders. Government ministries led the sectoral assessments and UN agencies or the World Bank were co-leads. UNICEF took the lead in coordinating the WASH and Education sectors in the PDNA process, and actively contributed to the development of sectoral reports in the areas of WASH, health, gender, human interest and DRR, ensuring that the PDNA maintained a child-focused approach throughout the process and effectively captured age-specific recommendations.

As per the PDNA, a total of 58,925 houses were affected, of which 6,382 were completely destroyed and 52,543 were partially damaged, with over 85 per cent located in the Colombo and Gampaha districts. At the peak of the disaster, 114,035 people (29,474 families) sought safety and security in 350 transitional camps established by district authorities island-wide. An unaccounted number of affected people either stayed with friends or families or in makeshift locations, such as above the ground floor of inundated houses. These people who did not evacuate to a transitional camp were not considered 'disaster affected and displaced', which therefore indicated that the actual number of people affected by cyclone Roanu is much more than the official figures.

The PDNA deduced that out of the total number of people affected, 221,478 were women and girls. Of the total affected population, around 24,832 were children under the age of 18. As there is no practice of collecting disaster impact data with gender and age disaggregation in Sri Lanka, these are estimated figures using the national statistical proportion of gender and age distribution among the population. It has been reported that, in total, ten children were killed during the landslide disaster and floods. Four children lost both their parents and seven lost their fathers, who, in most cases, were the breadwinners of the family, resulting in seven new female-headed households.

Drawing on qualitative assessments, the PDNA reported that compared to men, women were disadvantaged by facing a greater burden from the floods and landslides in the six most affected districts. Where there was a dependence of women on agriculture and home-based economies, the only opportunity that those women had to basic production resources (farm land and home gardens) was lost due to flooding/landslides. The loss of these crops and food stocks made it difficult for women to achieve food security, which impacted family nutrition levels. As such, the loss of houses and household assets, in combination with imposed reproductive roles and social restrictions on mobility (potentially within certain ethnic groups), severely limited coping strategies and their engagement in economic activities, at a time when they needed income the most.

The absence of sex and age disaggregated data and gender analysis during the conduct of disaster impact assessments limited the understanding of protection issues that women and children had to face or continue to face as a result of the disaster. This is further compounded by the lack of pre-disaster baseline data. It has been reported that the experience of living in camps has been stressful for children and their families. The camps were overcrowded and initially lacked adequate partitioning facilities that provide women and girls with privacy for changing clothes and general protection. Separate toilets were provided for males and females, but the standard ratios were not respected, with some camps having as many as 66 people using only four toilets. The lack of attention to some of these issues by the poorly trained camp management officers, as well as to specific considerations

for children, meant that children, particularly girls, in camps were more vulnerable to the risk of abuse and exploitation. Reports indicated that parents would prefer to leave their children, where possible, with relatives or friends rather than alone in the camp due to safety lapses. It was observed by child protection agencies that parents appeared preoccupied with issues of shelter, food and income and often had to leave their children unattended and alone. Due to disruptions in schooling, some children spent considerable time aimlessly in the camps, which was also considered a risk, particularly amongst the adolescent age group who had easier access to alcohol and cigarettes in the camp setting.

The availability of limited and often poor quality psychosocial support services for children meant that little or no attention was given for their well-being and in helping them to strengthen their coping skills to handle the stress and emotions they were experiencing. In Kegalle, parents noted that in the first two weeks, most children were having nightmares, clinging to their parents and afraid to be left alone. It was noted at the time of the PDNA field assessment that they were frightened of loud noises, which they associated, with the exploding sound of the landslide.

The disruption to education services also delayed a return to normalcy in their lives. While some children were able to return to schools that were not damaged or only partially damaged, many others could not, particularly in cases where the school was significantly damaged, had to be relocated or was used to house displaced persons. This meant a significant disruption to their education and, for many, having to attend another school in the area. At a time when children have suffered so many losses, the new and unfamiliar school environment is an added source of stress. Another factor for low attendance in schools during the early post-disaster period was the loss of education materials, uniforms and shoes, which compelled children to stay at home despite allowances made by the school. The children living in some displacement camps also had the added challenge of a lack of quiet spaces to study or do homework, as well as transportation difficulties in accessing the school. Low attendance rates and children reporting being unable to study due to stress are signs that more needs to be done in schools and at the community level to help children cope and recover from a disaster.

These issues necessitate the need to review and improve camp and shelter management standards through addressing gender and child concerns, training of relief workers and camp management committees. Most importantly, it is essential to find alternative grounds for evacuation camps in emergencies other than school buildings so impact on children's education and its quality could be minimised. Very few organisations, such as Save the Children, Child Fund and UNICEF, are engaged in activities that focused on the psychological well-being of the affected children. Children also reported feeling disengaged from the relief and recovery process and fearful of the unknown future ahead. It was also evident from discussions with affected children that they have not been involved in any efforts related to disaster risk reduction either at the community level or in schools as part of school safety planning.

In response to emergency appeals, UNICEF received USD 1 million from the CERF to provide life-saving WASH assistance in four severely affected districts, in coordination with other UN agencies working in the health and shelter sectors. In addition, UNICEF mobilized over USD 1.8 million through other bilateral donors and thematic funding to provide urgent child protection, health and nutrition and education support to children in need. UNICEF provided emergency assistance jointly with relevant government counterparts and I/NGOs to achieve key results for disaster-affected children and their families as detailed below.

#### E. Humanitarian Results

In 2016, in response to the floods and landslides disaster, UNICEF provided critical financial and technical assistance in the WASH, Health and Nutrition, Education and Child Protection sectors as

detailed below. As part of emergency preparedness, UNICEF Sri Lanka also continued to focus on DRR, with attempts to better integrate CC-DRR and CCA into ongoing development work and sectoral work plans. In this regard, UNICEF funded government officials to attend international workshops on DRR, CC-DRR and Child-Centered Risk Assessments to promote inter-country experience sharing. A key result emerging from this international exposure, as well as continued advocacy by UNICEF, was that the Ministry of Disaster Management integrated CC-DRR into the government's overall disaster management plan, with public commitment to such work by the Minister at the Asian Ministerial Conference for DRR. Further, UNICEF collaborated with Village Disaster Management Committees in Uva Province, the Disaster Management Coordination Unit in Badulla and the National Building Research Organization to build capacity on emergency preparedness and community-based early warning systems for landslides.

UNICEF also supported disaster vulnerability mapping in the Eastern Province by facilitating data collection and undertaking stakeholder consultations. The report forms a chapter of the 2015/2016 Situation Analysis with policy recommendations specific to children and women. In addition, a nutrition vulnerability mapping was conducted in 10 drought-affected districts by the MoH to inform UNICEF's future emergency response in these areas.

### **Child Survival and Development**

Immediately after the on-set of the disaster, UNICEF financially and technically supported the GoSL in providing life-saving WASH services for those affected by the disaster. UNICEF played a key advocacy role in the establishment of a sector coordination mechanism, under the Ministry of City Planning and Water Supply, to facilitate networking with government service providers for WASH, such as the NWS&DB and MoH, and other relevant NGOs such as World Vision, PLAN, OXFAM and ACTED. UNICEF also technically supported partners in this coordination mechanism to apply a stronger equity lens in service delivery and greater focus on resilience building as part of the emergency response. This led to a better coordinated and more effective response to the emergency and highlighted clearly where gaps in implementation needed to be addressed. Further, UNICEF led the PDNA in the WASH sector with the participation of key stakeholders. One of the key challenges highlighted is that the same staff of mandated authorities have to respond to the emergency, as well as continue their routine work, which threatened to compromise the quality and scale of the response.

In the health sector, immediately after the onset of the emergency, UNICEF coordinated with the Disaster Preparedness Coordination Unit under the MoH and relevant Regional Directors to identify the urgent requirements of affected pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. As the focal authority for maternal and child health services in the country, the Family Health Bureau coordinated with UNICEF on the provision of essential nutrition services to prevent issues of malnutrition amongst children under five years.

The key results in Table 1 below were achieved by UNICEF in the area of Child Survival and Development through contributions received from the CERF and Governments of Norway and Italy, as well as emergency thematic funding, which included some private sector contributions.



Results Table 1

Indicators	Sector 2016 Target	Sector total results	UNICEF 2016 Target	UNICEF Total results
Number of people provided with access to safe water as per agreed standards	200,000	300,000	10,000	175,000
Number of people provided with appropriate sanitation facilities	200,000	100,000	10,000	10,000
Number of people reached with hygiene promotion messages	200,000	100,000	10,000	10,000
Number of children under 5 years provided supplementary therapeutic food	17,505	16,505	1,000	1,000
Number of children under 5 years measured their weight and height according to the guidelines	875,280	700,225	200,000	200,000
Number of doctors trained in Nutrition in emergencies using the training manual	100	50	50	50

### ***Supply of safe water to disaster-affected children, women and men***

As part of the immediate response to the disaster, UNICEF, in collaboration with the MoH and NWS&DB, supplied 500,000 water purification tablets to help 10,000 families purify water over a period of one month; 50 submersible pumps and 13 tons of chlorine powder to clean more than 5,000 contaminated wells; 150 water tanks to maintain interim water distribution for affected people; and 6,000 DPD tablets to improve field measuring capacity of chlorine in treated water. The provision of these supplies, together with technical support, was amongst the first, and largest, contribution the GoSL had received from an external stakeholder. This was critical in ensuring a rapid and quality response to meet the needs of affected children and families, as reflected by their sustained access to water both during their displacement and once they returned home.

In the severely affected Kegalle district, as an immediate response, UNICEF supplied 40 large capacity water tanks with heavy-duty tank stands, which enabled water storage facilities in 20 transitional camps<sup>2</sup>, as well as in more permanent locations once families returned to their homes. In 16 of these locations, which were housing displaced persons on a longer term basis due to damage caused to homes from the landslides, UNICEF facilitated pipe-borne water ensuring more sustainable access to safe water for 300 affected families. Under its early recovery response in the same district, UNICEF procured 50 heavy-duty sludge desilting pumps and 15 portable generators, which significantly increased the mobility and



*Water Tank donated by UNICEF, Deiyawala School Camp, Kegalle district*

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<sup>2</sup> In Kegalle district, the landslides buried about three villages. Until land was allocated and new houses were constructed, those affected lived in 'transitional shelters or camps' in semi-permanent structures. One camp remains operational housing 200 families.

capacity of the NWS&DB in repairing damaged water intakes and distribution systems. In the interim, till permanent water supply is restored, UNICEF supplied the NWS&DB with four portable water treatment plants, which restored water supply in the affected areas. Further, a vehicle and a water tanker were supplied to the NWS&DB, Kegalle office, resulting in improved capacity to transport water and monitor water supply in hard-to-reach landslide affected areas of the district.

Despite increased access to water, the quality remains a key concern. For those living in 10 transitional camps in Kegalle, UNICEF worked with World Vision Lanka to install chlorination units in each camp to ensure safe (microbial-free) drinking water for 275 internally displaced families. Further, UNICEF also supplied 8,000 vulnerable households with easy-to-use water filters at the household level to facilitate treatment of contaminated water. At the systems level, UNICEF helped improve the capacity of the NWS&DB on emergency field water quality testing and in-depth chemical pollutant analysis through the provision of 16 types of sophisticated equipment, including three portable water testing kits.

These interventions, which focused on building the capacity of mandated service providers in water source improvement, field maintenance, and water quality monitoring, as well as increasing their mobility to service deprived areas, were critical, both in terms of responding to this emergency but also in building resilience in the face of future disasters. This resilience is now being built upon to respond to the ongoing prolonged drought emergency in the country.

The dynamic and changing emergency context was a challenge in the planning and implementation of the emergency response, as well as administration of permanent settlement locations in Kegalle district. To mitigate this, UNICEF facilitated and engaged in coordination mechanisms ensuring a more coordinated, timely and effective emergency response. Further, the flexibility of funding from donors and thematic funding allowed UNICEF to more effectively respond to the changing needs of those affected by the disaster, as well as address needs across the spectrum of immediate to early recovery to more longer term needs.

It is also critical that Sri Lanka, as a middle income country that faces regular natural disasters, strengthens its emergency preparedness and response capacity, including the capacity of mandated authorities, such as the Disaster Management Centre. This includes greater focus on the integration of DRR and system resilience-building into routine development work of the country. UNICEF continues to advocate for this and strives to mobilise funding to build systems and structures that will be resilient to the impact of future disasters.

### ***Improved access to adequate sanitation facilities for those most affected***

UNICEF contributed to the overall improvement of sanitation, drainage and waste management in eight transitional camps in Kegalle district benefitting 296 families. As part of early recovery efforts, UNICEF funded the construction of 150 temporary and semi-permanent latrines and 30 bathing places, which provided access to safe and dignified sanitation for 500 families. Highest consideration was given to females, particularly pregnant/lactating women and



*Male and female toilets, Hathgampola School Ground Camp, Kegalle district*

adolescent girls, and disabled individuals through the provision of segregated toilets and bathing areas, allowing adequate privacy, and dedicated facilities for those with disabilities. Further, 30 hygiene promotion sessions were conducted in the transitional camps and 1,000 families received hygiene packs, resulting in the promotion of good hygiene standards in these locations. This contributed to preventing an outbreak of communicable diseases after the emergency. In the medium term response, UNICEF financially supported the construction of 415 household toilets, with integrated flood-resilient features, and the safe management of human excreta.

### ***Management of the nutrition status of disaster-affected children and women***

UNICEF supported the MoH in implementing a comprehensive nutrition package through the public health system. As part of UNICEF's early recovery response, UNICEF procured 200 packets of supplementary therapeutic food (RUTF biscuits) to enable the Ministry to address the nutrition needs of approximately 1,000 of the most vulnerable disaster-affected children aged 0-5 years in Kegalle, Colombo and Gampaha districts.

UNICEF also provided financial and technical resources to the MoH to print nutrition in emergency training manuals to help the Ministry to build internal staff capacity on this particular issue. Further, a five-day training on Nutrition in Emergencies was held for 50 healthcare professionals in collaboration with the MoH. To-date, with continued financial and technical support from UNICEF, there are over 200 medical doctors trained on Nutrition in Emergencies island-wide who can be mobilised to provide surge support to any part of the country or world, when required. In addition, over 140 medical doctors and police officers were trained on disaster management and response in collaboration with the MoH. This has contributed to integrating emergency preparedness and response into routine health services as a mandatory component. A key challenge during implementation of the emergency nutrition programme was that rural health staff were severely over stretched managing both their routine and emergency duties.

In the health sector, UNICEF supplied 200 units of weighing scales and 200 units of length/height measurement equipment that were used in mobile services providing maternal and child health care to affected communities in all 22 districts affected by floods. This was critical as affected communities faced difficulties in accessing health care services, which are particularly important for families with pregnant women, infants and young children. On a longer term, in addition to strengthening the flood response, these units will be used to improve the overall quality and efficiency of services by respective district health authorities.

### **Child Protection**

At the national level, the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA), with facilitation support from UNICEF, led coordination efforts with key government and non-government child protection stakeholders in the emergency response to the floods and landslide disaster. This involved organising regular coordination meetings, undertaking joint rapid needs assessments in the welfare camps<sup>3</sup> in Kegalle district and conducting focus group discussions with affected people.

The key results in Table 2 below were achieved by UNICEF in the child protection sector through contributions received from the Governments of Australia and Norway, as well as emergency thematic funding, which included some private sector contributions.

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<sup>3</sup> Welfare camps/centres are places where displaced people assemble immediately after a disaster with the government providing first aid, cooked meals, and other facilities and services.

Results Table 2

Indicator	Sector target	Sector results	UNICEF target 2016	UNICEF results 2016
Number of children reached through psychosocial support services	2,000 children 100 Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) established	1,500 children 62 CFS established	1,000 children 62 CFS established	712 children 42 CFS established
Number of orphaned and separated children identified and supported	All orphaned and separated children identified and supported	04 orphaned children identified and supported	All orphaned and separated children identified and supported	04 orphaned children identified and supported
Number of children's clubs established and functional in return areas	50 clubs	45 clubs	40 clubs	40 clubs
Number of people provided with lost legal documentation	300 community members	250 community members	200 community members	176 community members
Number of Government officers trained on child safeguarding; child friendly camp management; and CC-DRR	600 government officers	542 government officers	600 government officers	542 government officers
Number of emergency guidelines developed and adopted	5 guidelines developed and adopted	3 guidelines developed and implemented on: child friendly spaces; volunteers and aid workers working with children during emergencies; and child friendly camp management	3 guidelines developed and adopted	UNICEF technically supported the development and implementation of all 3 guidelines
Report on children's views as part of PDNA available	Child Consultation Report available as part of PDNA	Child Consultation Report available as part of PDNA and used to inform future planning and programming	Child Consultation Report available as part of PDNA	Child Consultation Report available as part of PDNA and used to inform future planning and programming

***Increased access to safe and protective child friendly spaces in welfare camps and in areas of return***

In Kegalle district, in partnership with civil society organizations, such as World Vision, Save the Children and LEADS, UNICEF established Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in 42 (out of 62) welfare camps, which provided more than 700 children with access to safe and protective spaces where they can come together to engage in recreational and social activities. These children, and their parents, also received key child protection messages designed to address issues of concern that had been

documented in these locations. When interviewed, children reported that they enjoyed the social engagement with other children in the CFS and felt less scared. Parents also reported an overall improved wellbeing of their children and that it helped them attend to their routine work without fear of leaving their children alone. These CFS are served as an important entry point for the identification of children that are at-risk or victims of abuse, or require additional psychosocial support, so that they can be quickly referred to appropriate protection and social services. In addition, during periods when children were not able to access regular schools, these spaces were used for learning activities.



*Young boy sings at a children's club meeting, Wasanthagama Village, Kegalle District*

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In areas of return, UNICEF worked closely with the Probation Department and Child Rights Promotion Officers (CRPOs) to establish 40 children's clubs/committees that continue to provide children affected by the disaster with access to a safe and protective space within their community. Similar to the CFS, these clubs/committees engage children in recreational activities and life skills development programmes that both contribute to their social and cognitive development, as well as help in identifying, and where possible addressing, particular protection concerns in the community. The CRPO played a key role in supporting and monitoring the activities of the children's clubs and acting as a key referral point for protection issues.

#### ***Replacement of lost legal documents for those affected by the disaster***

UNICEF worked with civil society organisations, local government authorities and registrar general departments to assess how many children had lost required documentation, such as birth certificates, identity cards and other certificates, and advocate for authorities to take action on providing them. As an initial step, a comprehensive needs assessment was conducted covering 27 camps and 40 affected Grama Niladhari divisions (lowest administrative level) in Aranayake, Bulathkohupitiya and Dehiowita District Secretariat divisions in Kegalle district to assess who had lost documents and what type of documents, as well as identify the mandated departments and institutions to recover such documents. This was followed by a consultative workshop for officials of mandated departments and institutions to plan mobile services for the systematic recovery of lost legal documents. A special public awareness campaign helped encourage community members to participate in the mobile services, through which, around 176 community members, including 76 children, were provided with their lost legal documents. This was reported to have provided significant relief for those people during a time of extreme distress.

#### ***Strengthened government capacity on child safeguarding, child friendly camp management principles and CC-DRR***

Given that the camps were overcrowded and poorly managed, as well as did not take into account specific considerations for children, meant that children in camps were more vulnerable to the risk of abuse and exploitation. It was evident that camp managers were poorly trained on such issues. Therefore, UNICEF partnered with civil society organisations to train 542 government officials on various topics such as: child friendly camp management principles during emergencies; child safeguarding (prevention of harm to children and protection of children); and CC-DRR as a process to strengthen the resilience of communities in times of disaster.



As part of the camp management training, the focus was on the collection and management of data, including age and sex-disaggregated data, and camp set-up and security. As a result, improvements were observed in the camps, such as partitioning to give women and girls more privacy; security and safety measures that take into consideration child safety and protection; and use of data management systems that included data on children and their needs. UNICEF also technically supported the NCPA in the development of child friendly space guidelines, guidelines for volunteers and aid workers working with children during emergencies and child friendly camp management guidelines. All these guidelines were immediately adopted in Kegalle district during the emergency response and monitored through the NCPA officers.

With regard to child safeguarding, UNICEF and Save the Children developed more than 5,000 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to raise awareness on the importance of child safeguarding during emergency responses amongst targeted government officials and to support their leadership in promoting such practices among grassroots level officers attached to their respective departments. Through this, key officials of the District Secretariats, NCPA and the Ministry of Education, together with UNICEF, initiated a dialogue to generate national level consensus and acceptance on the need for integrating child safeguarding measures in emergencies as a disaster preparedness measure. This led to the development of risk mitigation plans for their respective DS divisions under five key areas: camp management, distribution of goods, visitors, media and other programmes. Post-evaluation findings indicate that 94 per cent strongly believe that they have a responsibility in safeguarding children during emergencies. However, only 56 per cent of them have seriously or somewhat considered child safeguarding during their work and 33 per cent have never considered child safeguarding in their work.

Under CC-DRR, UNICEF and partners used the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) framework for capacity building initiatives and provided technical support to integrate child-sensitive/child-related data into the disaster information management system. The training aimed at ensuring children are put at the center of and actively participate in DRR processes in the country.

### ***Children's consultations, as part of the PDNA, informing future emergency responses***

As part of the post-disaster needs assessment, UNICEF, together with Save the Children, consulted around 800 children affected by the 2016 floods and landslides in a safe and enabling environment so that they could share their voices and opinions on the impact of the disaster and emergency and post-disaster recovery efforts. The consultation report will be launched together with the government for relevant stakeholders involved in emergency preparedness and responses and will inform key advocacy on the need for age-disaggregated data prior to and during an emergency, as well as special considerations to the needs of children during rapid assessments. The report will also be used to revise existing child friendly guidelines during emergencies based on the feedback received from children. Further, the findings will feed into UNICEF's future risk-informed programme planning, as well as roll-out of DRR and CC-DRR initiatives.

## **Education**

In the aftermath of the disaster, the overall humanitarian response strategy also took into account more medium and longer-term requirements, such as restoring education services, especially when schools have been damaged or used as temporary shelters. At the national level, the Ministry of Education, with facilitation support from UNICEF, led coordination meetings with relevant government and non-government organizations to assess needs and plan coordinated responses to the emergency. With immediate needs, such as replacement of exercise books, school bags, stationary items and uniforms, being addressed through state and private contributions, UNICEF focused on the renovation and repair of damaged schools to restore education services. With regard to early learning,

UNICEF worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to assess the needs of affected pre-schools with a commitment to replace lost/damaged reading and learning materials, and furniture, to ensure that the pre-schools could resume functioning without significant delays.

The key results in table 3 below were achieved by UNICEF in the education sector through contributions received from the Governments of Australia and Norway, as well as emergency thematic funding, which included some private sector contributions.

Results Table 3

Indicators	Sector Target	Sector Results 2016	UNICEF Target	UNICEF Total Results 2016
Number of damaged schools renovated in Kegalle district	54	41	22	22
Number of students who benefitted from access to restored learning services in Kegalle district	10,278	6,315	2,296	2,296 (Girls 1,112 & Boys 1,164)
Number of damaged schools renovated in the resettlement areas of Jaffna district catering to conflict and flood-affected people	16	4	4	4
Number of students who benefitted from access to restored education services in resettlement areas of Jaffna district	1,409	209	209	209 (Girls 95 & Boys 114)
Number of affected pre-schools that received a package of items in Kegalle, Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunegala, Ratnapura and Mullaitivu districts	181	140	140	140
Number of pre-school students who benefitted from quality learning materials and child friendly pre-school environments in Kegalle, Colombo, Gampaha, Kurunegala, Ratnapura and Mullaitivu districts	3,620	2,800	2,800	2,800 (Girls 1,680 & Boys 1,120)

***Access to quality learning materials and child friendly pre-school facilities for affected children***

Very young children are predominantly susceptible to catastrophic conditions. The formative years from birth to age eight is the time frame where intelligence, personality and social behaviour is shaped. The greatest risk for young children is a repressive environment that blocks creativity and lacks conditions for healthy physical and mental development, which is often the case in the aftermath of a disaster.

In Sri Lanka, the flooding and landslides damaged pre-school buildings and furniture and destroyed play and reading materials. To respond to this, UNICEF, together with the Children's Secretariat under the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MoWC), provided a package of items to 140 affected pre-schools (out of the 181 affected pre-schools) in the flood and landslide affected areas of Colombo, Gampaha, Kegalle, Kurunagela, Rathnapura and Mullaitivu districts, benefitting 2,800 children (1,680 girls and 1,120 boys). The package of items, designed by a Technical Committee of high level government officials, comprise of reading materials (in all three languages), play materials, furniture and water filters. Furniture items included children's chairs and tables, junior cupboards, book racks, teacher's tables and chairs and first aid boxes. These materials were of higher quality than the previous

ones, thereby ensuring that children in disadvantaged areas have access to high quality learning and reading materials and child friendly preschools that promote a more conducive learning environment.



*Child playing with learning materials donated by UNICEF, Jayasinghe Pre-school, Kegalle district*



*Learning materials donated by UNICEF, Vishaka Pre-school, Kegalle district*

Some delays were faced during the delivery of the package of items due to competing priorities of the Early Childhood Development officers, under the Children's Secretariat, responsible for coordinating and overseeing this delivery. To mitigate this, in some areas, such as Mullaitivu district, community members took a more active role in helping with the delivery of items and had reported being extremely happy that, after several decades of armed conflict, their young children finally have quality reading and learning materials and more child friendly classrooms to foster their early learning. Based on such feedback from communities, and continued UNICEF's advocacy, the government plans to use this package of items as a standardised package for preschools across the country to ensure compliance with minimum quality standards.

### ***Restoration of education services in targeted affected schools***

In Kegalle district, UNICEF coordinated with the Provincial Director of Education, Provincial Planning Director and three Zonal Education Offices on a needs assessment to identify the damaged schools and their needs. Based on these assessments, it was identified that 35 schools were severely affected directly by the landslides and another 19 schools suffered damages from being used to house those displaced by the disaster. Out of the 35 schools directly affected, UNICEF worked with the Provincial Department of Education to repair and renovate 22 schools, including water and sanitation facilities, in the district, which restored learning for 2,276 children, including 1,112 girls and 1,164 boys.



*Kids studying, Asmadala Primary School, Kegalle district*

UNICEF also supported the renovation of four schools in Jaffna district that were damaged during the time of the conflict and are now being used to provide education services for newly resettled communities formerly affected by conflict, and, now, the recent flood disaster. A total of 209 children, including 95 girls and 114 boys, attend these schools and are benefitting from a more conducive child friendly learning environment.



## F. Monitoring and Evaluation

UNICEF Sri Lanka Country Office (SLCO) has a dedicated Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation unit whose task is to provide guidance and quality assurance to all planning, monitoring and evaluation processes. In addition, in 2016, the SLCO conducted Results-Based Management training for all staff members to ensure enhanced capacity within the office to promote a results-based approach to programming and reporting.

SLCO has a robust monitoring system, which includes progress reports by partners, field monitoring visits by UNICEF staff, and periodic reviews with partners and stakeholders (quarterly, bi-annual or annual – depending on the size/duration of the programme). This serves to improve planning, refine implementation strategies, document good practices and lessons learned and adopt risk mitigating actions. Further, SLCO is compliant with the UN Development Group Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) framework and related guidance on programme resource (funds) management for cash transfers. In-line with global UNICEF guidance, SLCO also ensures that evaluations are done for major programmes at least once during a five-year period to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our programmes. With regard to reporting, UNICEF SLCO adheres to global standards ensuring quality results-based reporting.

## G. Financial Analysis

**Table 1: 2016 Funding Status against the Appeal by Sector (in USD)**

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Requirements (SLCO Response Plan)</b>	<b>Funds Available Against the Regional HACT Appeal as of 31 December 2016*</b>	<b>% Funded</b>
Health and Nutrition	150,000	92,784	62%
Education	360,000	412,753	115%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	1,670,000	1,445,870	87%
Child Protection	272,000	200,082	74%
Disaster Risk Management	500,000	527,902	106%
Social Protection (cash transfer)	3,000,000	0	0%
Programme Coordination	0	61,284	0%
Support Services	0	104,137	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,952,000</b>	<b>2,844,812</b>	<b>48%</b>

*\* Funds available includes funds received against current appeal and carry-forward from previous year.*

**Table 2: Funding Received and Available by 31 December 2016 by Donor and Funding Type (in USD)**

Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment reference	Overall Amount*
<b>I. Humanitarian funds received in 2016</b>		
<b>a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
See details in Table 3	SM/14/9910	503,074
<b>b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		
Norway	SM/16/0342	546,333
DFAT	SM/16/0276	333,307
Italy	SM/16/0281	203,106
DFAT	SM11/0183	108,580
Government of Malta	SM/16/0416	25,864
<b>Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds</b>		<b>1,217,190</b>
<b>c) Pooled Funding</b>		
<b>(i) CERF Grants – USD 942,251</b>		
<b>(ii) Other Pooled funds – USD 0</b>		
CERF	SM/16/0290	<b>942,251</b>
<b>Total humanitarian funds received in 2016</b>		<b>2,662,515</b>

\* Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost.

**Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2016 (in USD)**

Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2016 Donor	Grant Number	Programmable Amount (in USD)	Total Contribution Amount (in USD)
Country-specific thematic humanitarian funds	SM/14/9910	3227	3,227
Allocation from global thematic humanitarian*	SM/14/9910	499,847	527,498
<b>Total</b>		<b>503,074</b>	<b>530,725</b>

\*Global thematic humanitarian funding contributions are pooled and then allocated to country and regional offices. For a detailed list of grants, please see the 2016 Annual Results Reports.

#### H. Future Work Plan

Building upon existing achievements and lessons learned, the key priority actions in 2017 are presented below:

- **Disaster-preparedness:** UNICEF will continue to actively promote a child-centered approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the country. Specifically, UNICEF will technically support the Government in implementing the SAARC Framework and Road Map for Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (2015). This will involve various capacity building initiatives for both UNICEF staff and Government officials (such as from the Ministry of Disaster Management and its Disaster Management Center, Ministry of Women and Children, among others) in order to effectively prepare for and respond to disasters, and to implement the SAARC

Framework and Road Map for CC-DRR in an inclusive and sustainable manner. In addition, complementary technical support will be extended to the GoSL to put in place innovative measures for disaster response, such as cash transfers in emergencies, as well as to scale up good practices in CC-DRR and CCA in various districts and divisions under high risk of seasonal floods and landslides. UNICEF will generate evidence on how disasters and climate change impact on children and women in the country and how the relevant mitigation actions could better target these most vulnerable population groups. In addition, the evidence generated would enable risk-informed decision-making and policy changes.

- **Data collection, management and analysis of the impact of disasters on women and children:** UNICEF will review and revise existing needs assessment formats used by the Ministry of Disaster Management at the onset of a disaster to integrate the specific needs of women and children, enabling the collection and analysis of such data in the future. Further, UNICEF will establish a database system in the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs to keep track of, maintain and update data on women and children at risk of or affected by disasters.
- **Case Management Guidelines for Disasters:** Currently, case management guidelines exist but have not been adapted for use during an emergency. This is critical as case management is used to provide integration solutions for child protection issues and should address issues of child separation, accompanied children, orphaned children, etc., that emerge during an emergency. UNICEF will provide technical assistance to the MoWC in the development of these guidelines based on a review of what already exists and best practices.
- **Provision of a standard package of materials to affected pre-schools:** UNICEF will support another 30 affected pre-schools with a standard package of items, including play materials, reading materials, furniture and water filters.
- **Renovation of 16 flood-damaged pre-schools:** UNICEF will renovate an additional 16 damaged pre-schools based on available needs assessments.

#### I. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF would like to take this opportunity to express its sincere appreciation to all donors for their generous financial contribution in support of children in Sri Lanka. On behalf of the entire UNICEF Sri Lanka team, we thank you for helping to advance our shared commitments to protecting the rights and improving the well-being of children affected by the devastating floods and landslides in Sri Lanka. The valuable funding UNICEF Sri Lanka received from donors and flexible emergency thematic funding have helped achieve significant results for children in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene; health and nutrition; child protection and education.



*Kids playing, Dumbuluwewa Muslim School, Hemmathagama, Kegalle*

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