

# Sri Lankan Association of Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph and Cambridge

Report of the collection and  
distributions of the donations  
for flood victims in Sri Lanka

May, 2004



HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR SRI LANKA, OTTAWA, CANADA

No. CAN/HIC/GEN  
23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2003

Mr. Ary Gunasekera  
64 Uxbridge Crescent  
Kitchener, Ontario  
N2H 2P8

Dear Mr. Gunasekera,

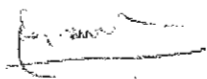
THE SITUATION REGARDING FLOODS IN SRI LANKA

I am sending herewith for your information a note on the Situation Regarding Floods in Sri Lanka.

The High Commission of Sri Lanka greatly appreciates any assistance and support of relief you would provide.

Thanking you and with best wishes

Yours sincerely,

  
Geetha de Silva  
High Commissioner

Sidhupatt. 1k ~ (Aby)

## **THE SITUATION REGARDING THE FLOODS IN SRI LANKA**

1. The districts worst affected by the floods are Ratnapura, Matara, Galle, Hambantota and Kalutara. While heavy rains are abating, flood waters have not receded in many places. Receding waters from Ratnapura are now causing difficulties in Kalutara. The number of confirmed deaths is in the region of 180 although the numbers missing (feared drowned or buried in landslides) would indicate that the death toll could be as high as 350. Due to logistics problems, particularly due to inaccessibility by road, provision of relief services, including food and medical attention has been difficult in areas which are submerged/isolated. The Police and the three Services are assisting in the efforts to reach those who are marooned or isolated.
2. The Hon. Prime Minister who visited the affected areas last Sunday has appointed a Disaster Management Committee headed by Hon. Karu Jayasuriya Minister of Power & Energy, to handle emergency relief operations. Other members of the committee are Hon. John Amaratunga, Minister of Interior, Hon. Tilak Marapana, Minister of Defence, and Hon. Ravindra Samaraweera, Minister of Social Welfare.
3. The first meeting of the committee was held yesterday morning under the Chairmanship of Hon. Karu Jayasuriya at his office. The Minister Assisting Foreign Affairs represented the Ministry at this meeting. Hon. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs was also present. Three Service Commanders, Inspector-General of Police and other government officials from relevant Ministries and Departments also attended the meeting.
4. The Ministry of Social Welfare and the Department of Social Services have established two offices to receive aid for the victims affected by floods. The Ministry office is situated at Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla and the Social Services Department office is situated at 76-1/1, Duminda Building, Bambalapitiya. (Tel: 888424, Fax: 877381 Attn: Mr. Athukorala). Overall co-ordination of flood relief/rehabilitation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Welfare.
5. Special Units have been set up at the Prime Minister's Office as well as at the Office of H.E. the President.

6. At a meeting held last afternoon (19<sup>th</sup> May) under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, all UN agencies were present together with representatives of the Missions of the US, Japan and Australia. Those participating and pledging support included the UNDP, WHO, UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF.
7. Three separate UN Teams are today visiting Ratnapura , Matara and Galle for meetings with the District Secretaries. The Teams will also visit Kalutara and Hambantota. This is to make on spot Needs Assessment Report of immediate requirements.
8. The Ministry of Social Welfare has identified a number of essential food and other materials urgently required for flood and landslide victims (Annex A). In addition, bottled water, clothing, electricity generators etc., are also being sought.
9. Following a request by Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sri Lanka, the Indian Government has rushed a Rescue Vessel, which has provided inflatable rubber dinghies and also the services of helicopters to reach those affected. The Indian Team includes divers, doctors and disaster management experts. The UK has agreed to provide £100,000; US-a preliminary cash grant of \$50,000; Norway Rs. 95 million. Other donors including Japan are awaiting the return of the Needs Assessment Group which will report to the government late tonight or tomorrow.
10. The ministerial Committee's assessment is that the long term rehabilitation in the 5 districts indicated would be a major operation. It is expected that the DPL- Missions in Colombo would be briefed by the government on the above situation.
11. The Government of Sri Lanka would greatly appreciate your support in this hour of need. If arrangements can be made to provide the items in Annex A, please inform the details to the High Commission together with delivery terms and conditions.
12. Financial contributions from the Sri Lankan expatriate groups are welcome and the High Commission would be pleased to receive these contributions and remit them to Sri Lanka. The High Commission would be issuing official receipts regarding such contributions.
13. With regard to the long-term rehabilitation requirements, a further report will be made.

May, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2003.

Hello Everyone,

As you are aware Sri Lanka has experienced the worst floods in its history in the last few weeks. Together with the loss of life, many people were rendered homeless and the total damage may account for billions. While expressing our sympathies for those who experienced these hardships, we as more fortunate brothers and sisters who are not affected and who are in a position to help them, we felt that we need to rise to the occasion. Your committee in a recent meeting, exploring ways to help out the flood victims, have decided as follows;

To explore the possibility of sending a consignment of items that would be useful to the victims who are really in need. If each family can donate any of the following items;

- \* **Used cloths (in fair condition),**
- \* **Canned food**
- \* **Kitchen utensils (cookware)**
- \* **School stationary**
- \* **Toys (bring a smile to a child),**

or any other items that you think will be useful to the needy. The cost of shipment will be about \$10.00 per cubic foot , and it would be nice if the party that donates the items could also donate the cost of shipping too, (according to the volume, however, about \$ 10 average) as we have no way of raising funds for the shipping expenses.

We know that we are a little late and it is likely that collecting these items and shipping would take another month or so. However due to the sheer devastation of the floods and continuing status of poverty and misery among the poor in Sri Lanka, it is better late than never. You also may promote the collections from your neighbors, fellow workers in your work place or from any body you feel is helpful. Please forward this message to all the other interested parties.

As we need a time line to do these things we have set a deadline for June 07th, before which we need to collect these items. The committee decided that to have 4 drop off centers two in Guelph (Herath contact number 766 4349, Dodan contact number 763 9448) and one in Kitchenr (Ary contact number 741 9696) and one in Waterloo (Dilkshan Dhanapala contact number 742 4414 or Sriyani Modaragamage contact number 746 5420). Please contact these drop-off centers and make your donation before June 7<sup>th</sup> **(It is extremely essential that we keep to this deadline as the next shipment is likely to leave before mid-June).**

We are exploring the possibilities of directing these consignments to the special unit "Overall coordination of flood relief/rehabilitation" of the Social Services Department. If anyone has any other suggestions please contact a committee member.

Thank you very much,

**Organizing Committee**

# CASH AND GOODS DONATIONS FOR THE FLOOD VICTIMS IN SRI LANKA

Ranjith Dayasundara	20.00	One box of clothes
Shantha Jayawardana	25.00	
Herbert Fernando	25.00	
Jaya & Janaki Ranasinghe	20.00	One box of clothes & school supplies
Asoka Amaratunda	20.00	One box of clothes & house hold items
Kumi Brandigampola	20.00	One box of clothes & shoes
Pushpa Sooriyabandara	20.00	one box of clothes & food items
Sheela Robinson	25.00	
Susantha Jayasundara	10.00	one bag of clothes
Rohan De Chikera	20.00	one bag of clothes
Rohan Jayasundara	25.00	
Dodan Gunasekera	25.00	
Vasantha Rupasinghe		one box of clothes
<b>(given to Dodan)</b>	<b>255.00</b>	
Ram Kumar	25.00	one box of clothes, toys, school supplies
Deepananda Herath	25.00	one box of clothes
Thomas Denagamage	20.00	one box of clothes
Ary Dhammage	20.00	Choclates (big box)
Leach (from Vet. College)	20.00	one box of clothes
Ary Gunasekara	20.00	one bag of clothes
Zarook	20.00	one box of clothes
Udaya Wethasinghe	20.00	one bag of clothes
Sampath Senaviratna	10.00	one bag of clothes
Puni Piyasena	10.00	one box of clothes, toys, school supplies
Wasantha Galagedara	10.00	one box of clothes, shoes
Rohan Perera	10.00	one box of clothes
Presanna Devapura	10.00	one bag of clothes
Kennedy Perera	10.00	one box of clothes
Kumudu Walisundara	10.00	one box of clothes
Jayantha Samarasinghe	10.00	one bag of clothes
Abdul Faizal	10.00	one bag of clothes
Udith Jayasinghe		one bag of clothes
Sriyani Peries		one bag of clothes
<b>Given to Herath</b>	<b>260.00</b>	
<b>Total Collection as of 2003 July 11th</b>	<b>515.00</b>	
<b>Gas for the two vehicles (delivery to Toronto)</b>	<b>40.00</b>	
<b>Balance in Hand as of 2003 July 11th</b>	<b>475.00</b>	
Jagath Perera	10.00	one bag of clothes and food items
Sumendra Saram	10.00	one box of food items
Sriyanie Modaragamage	10.00	one box of food items
Udaya Perera		one box of clothes
Piyal Samarasekera		clothes and food items
Thamali Punchihewa		clothes and food items
<b>Total as of July 11, 2003</b>	<b>505.00</b>	

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# **REPORT ON RELIEF ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED TO FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES VICTIMS IN SRI LANKA SUPPORTED BY GUELPH, WATERLOO AND WELLINGTON SRI LANKA ASSOCIATION**

## **Organizational Profile**

Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation (SLCDF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) registered under the Companies Act in 2002, and evolved from Sri Lanka Canada Development Fund, as a country focus project supported by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), public and NGOs in Canada. The SLCDF project approach and practices have been participatory since the inception in 1987. At present, the SLCDF facilitated vibrant networks of over 3300 Community Based Organizations (CBOs) 332 NGOs and 16 District Consortia (DCs). which is a grouping of recognized NGOs in a district working together on a common mission and vision to promote and implement district development programmes. Further, SLCDF has developed 13 resource centres with CIDA support and facilitated to bring together NGOs to a common forum, an apex, known as NGO National Action Front (NNAF).

The SLCDF vision is to become Sri Lanka's dynamic resource centre for the needy and their civil society organizations to achieve sustainable human development. Our mission is to enhance the capacities and social capital of the needy and their respective organizations, by developing skills resources and technical support to take the responsibilities in programmes and policy for collaborative GO/NGO relationship towards reducing poverty and achieving sustainable human development.

## **Floods in Sri Lanka**

The worst flood that affected Sri Lanka after 34 years, was in May 2003. Five out of 25 Districts were under floods and major portions of Galle, Hambantota, Matara, Moneragala and Ratnapura districts were inundated and badly damaged during this national disaster (Enclosed some photograph illustrating the extent of damage). Over



250 lives were taken, 60,000 families lost their homes and severely damaged the properties and agriculture.

At this critical movement, Sri Lanka Centre for Development Facilitation conducted a number of programmes in all affected districts with the participation and support of local institutes and communities. The SLCDF provided 3,500 parcels of dry food rations where each parcel costed Rs. 700/= for a family. Canadian public through Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) supported this programme. Total funding support given by CIDA for flood relief was Rs. 2,000,000. (Some photographs enclosed).

The Sri Lanka Association of Waterloo and Wellington (SLAWW), which consists of Sri Lankans living in Guelph, Waterloo and Wellington, supported the flood and landslides victims by shipping 12 crates which included mainly clothes, for children and adults, some shoes, for children and elders and toys. In addition, SLAWW donated CND\$ 475/= during the disaster to purchase the urgent requirements of the community. At this crucial juncture it is our responsibility as a local NGO to monitor such activities to see that the most needy was benefited from this kind of gestures.

## **Methodology**

Initially, the staff of the SLCDF discussed with the leaders of the District Consortia (DCs) in the flood-affected districts to find out the extent of the damage. Further, DCs collected information from Grama Niladaries (GNs) and the head priest, of the temple, who can also provide accurate situation at the ground level. Information collected from above three sources were compared and further clarified, with Divisional Secretaries and a field visit by SLCDF staff, to identify the villages, communities and individuals worst affected from floods and landslides. Although, this was a tedious process, we have followed in order to get relief assistance to the disserving communities and individuals living in most remote and inaccessible areas that did not get benefits from the government's relief assistance programmes in the district.

## Implementation

The information gathered from the above sources helped us to identify the villages, immediate requirements of the children and adults to carry out the first flood relief project of SLAWW. Accordingly, two villages, Siyambalagoda and Illukpitiya were identified in the Matara district to distribute these items.

Initially, the SLCDF staff had to organize and arrange the items to be distributed, predominantly clothes and shoes mixed in crates, according to the age, the size and sex, before hand. This exercise took some staff time. These crates consisted mostly, clothes, limited quantity of shoes and toys. The arranged crates were loaded into two vehicles (mini-bus and a jeep) and taken for distribution among the victims in Siyablagoda village in the Matara district. For this visit Dr. Saman, some staff of SLCDF, Aruni's mother and the Grama Niladari accompanied us. We have distributed 09 crates in Siyablagoda out of 12. This programme originally targeted 80 families, however this number was increased up to 96 families in Siyabalagoda village (Please refer photographs of clothes distribution). The balance three crates mostly children's clothes were brought back.

The SLCDF received CND\$ 475, equivalent to SL Rs 33,250/= from the SLAWW just after their first programme to address the urgent needs of the flood affected areas. According to information, SLCDF identified that the urgent demand was for school stationery, especially exercise books and pens for school children of Illukpitiya village .

According to resources available, the SLCDF decided to support school children by providing their basic requirements. Children were given a parcel, which consisted of six 120 pages single ruled, one square ruled exercise book and a pen (a total of seven books of 120 pages and a pen). Some toys donated from SLAWW were given to a pre-school and some children in the village. We have distributed three boxes of children clothes and shoes in Illukpitiya and Kotapol. In these areas we have distributed 166 parcels consists of books and pens and yet to despatch 42 parcels.

From the total amount of Rs 33,250 we had to spent Rs 8117 for Port Charges, Handling Charges, Service Charges and Tip for Porters Rs 6281 including Government Tax of Rs. 1836 (Bills attached in earlier e-mail)

The balance left over to purchase Exercise Books and Stationaries

(Rs. 33,250 - Rs 8,117) Rs 25,133

1520 Exercise Books Rs. 23,220

218 Ballpoint Pens Rs. 1,744

Packing Papers Rs. 169

**TOTAL Rs. 25,133**

The SLCDF like to appreciate and thanks the Sri Lankan living in Guelph, Waterloo and Wellington for the generous support extended during the grave period by providing assistance to flood and landslide victims. Although, you are far away from us we know that your sincere thoughts are with the oppressed in this country. Please do not hesitate to write us, for further clarification.

Warm regards from Sri Lanka

Abey.



**இதில் துன்பமில்லை பண வைப்பு  
CASH DEPOSIT**

பேரவைத் துறை

10/8/03

[illegible]

கிணுதி டொண்டா கணக்கு இலக்கம்  
Account Number

**ಅನೇಕ ವಿಷಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ**

08-1190

0017

Sri Lanka Ceylon  
Dewberry

1900



9/18/81

Depositor's Signature

[illegible]

74751-74759

1998

5005 Change Amount

பி.இ.எஸ்.

1938

Valid with Machine Print or Official Signature

BCG/Sm/02/2379

Customer's Copy

70050 - CA1 (DCT - 88) 2-2

GRAPHIC SYSTEMS - TEL. 662578





**TRICO MARITIME (PVT) LTD.**

50, K. Cyril C. Perera Mawatha,  
Colombo 13, Sri Lanka.  
Phone : 448270 - 432238 - 432237  
Fax : 432000

**U.P.B. WARE HOUSE**

414 / 17, K. Cyril C. Perera Mawatha,  
Colombo 13. Tel : 431227, 440114  
Fax : 440118  
VAT Reg. No. : 114016616 - 7000

Serial No.

82568

Date :

12/08/2003

Ref. No. :

630729

Time :

13:22:46

**U.P.B. WAREHOUSE INVOICE FOR SEA CARGO**

Name of Consignee

SRI LANKA CENTER FOR

B/L No.

- 18

GY No.

8429

Vessel

PROVIDENCE BAY 30/07/20

Port

CANADA

Unloaded on

31/07/2003

Passport / I.D. Card No.

171350090Y

No. of Packages

TWELVE - FULL

Bond Storage No.

07/13008-07/13019

Agent

TRICO INTL; CANADA

Volume

L 283

DESCRIPTION	RATE	AMOUNT
Sri Lanka Port Charges - Sea Cargo	270.00	648.00
Gift		18.00
Handling Charges ( Per Package )	225.00	3240.00
Destination Charges	0.00	0.00
Service Charges ( Per Cubic Foot )	50.00	1680.00
Demurrage Charges ( Per Cu Foot )		
Inclusive all Taxes		
<b>TOTAL</b>		

Rupees :

Rupees : 6101.00

( Demurrage will be charged from

SRI LANKA

ONE HUNDRED AND ONE ONLY

(50) -

6281 =

Prepared By: ALL TAXES #12

Amount Received - Cashier

Signature :

NO CLAIMS ON  
LOSS OR DAMAGE WILL BE  
ENTERTAINED AFTER REMOVING  
GOODS FROM WAREHOUSE  
within 60 days of arrival  
of goods at warehouse  
and no claims will be  
entertained after 60 days

CASH BILL



United Stationers (Pvt) Ltd.

Dealers in Paper and Stationery

13, Maliban Street,  
Colombo 11.

Tel : 381923, 438086  
Fax : 438086

Date: 28/1/2004

M/s.

Qty.	DESCRIPTION	Rate	Rs.	Cts.
158	lexi fm	87/-	1364	
<div>AMOUNT TENDERED 46834</div>				

CASH BILL



United Stationers (Pvt) Ltd.

Dealers in Paper and Stationery

13, Maliban Street,  
Colombo 11.

Tel : 381923, 438086  
Fax : 438086

Date: 19/01/2004

M/s.

Qty.	DESCRIPTION	Rate	Rs.	Cts.
420	NOS 120 p/c	16/-	6720	00
80	NOS PEN	8/-	480	00
7200/-				00
<div>AMOUNT TENDERED 78723</div>				