

Ditwah Cyclone, Floods, and Landslides Disaster

Sarvodaya 6-month Recovery Plan

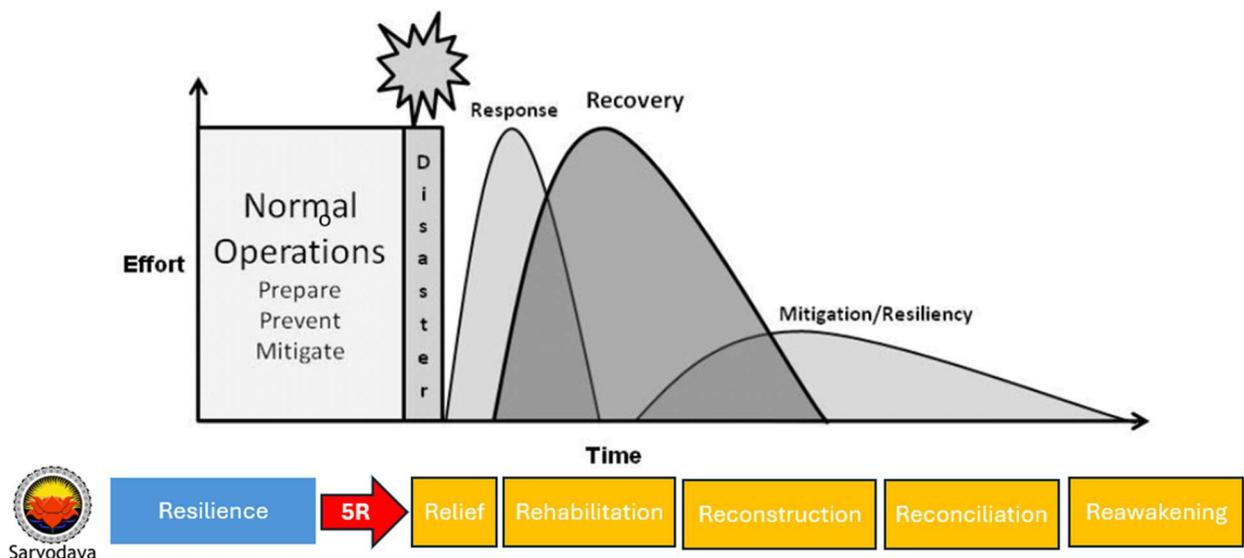
Introduction

Between 27 and 29 November, Cyclone Ditwah caused widespread flooding and landslides across Sri Lanka, affecting communities in all districts. The storm claimed lives, displaced many people from their homes and caused extensive damage to houses, roads, schools, and health facilities, with the most severe impacts recorded in the Central, Western, and North-Western Provinces. As of mid-December, more than 2.2 million people have been affected nationwide, with 643 fatalities reported and 183 people still missing as of 14 December 2025.

Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement responded swiftly by engaging in a well-coordinated set of actions based on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) the organization has developed over the years. The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of the Sarvodaya Community Disaster Management Centre (SCDMC) was activated on 25th of November when the cyclone warning was issued by the Meteorological Department. The work carried out by Sarvodaya have been documented in the 2 reports released on 30th November 2025 and 5th December 2025 (Annexures 1 and 2).

Sarvodaya will now gradually shift from the emergency response phase to early recovery and reconstruction phase based on its 5-R strategy. **The management of Sarvodaya has taken a decision to concentrate primary on the Sarvodaya service villages which have been affected by the Ditwah cyclone disaster, while continuing to respond to national needs based on resource availability.**

Disaster Response – Sarvodaya Approach



This paper outlines the strategy proposed by Sarvodaya management to implement a 6-months recovery plan to revive the villages impacted by the disaster through respective SSSs.

Proposed Plan

Approximately **210 Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies** have been affected at different levels by the Cyclone DITWAH disaster. A Total of 23 AD villages (out of 32) are also directly affected by the Cyclone effects.

To ensure an effective, coordinated, and people- centered recovery, societies will be categorized according to **four impact levels** and supported through a **6-month structured recovery plan (1st January – 30th June 2026)**. The plan integrates *physical recovery, livelihoods, economic empowerment, psychosocial wellbeing, institutional strengthening, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and facilitation of government recovery support.*

Of the above elements of the SSS Recovery Plan,

Categorization of Sarvodaya Societies

Sarvodaya Societies will be grouped based on damage and functionality:

H – Highly Affected:	Severe damage to houses and community assets; livelihoods disrupted; limited functionality.
M – Moderately Affected	Partial damage to houses/assets; livelihoods affected but basic functions possible.
L – Low Affected	Minor damage; self-recovery possible with limited support.
N –Not Affected	No physical damage but exposed to disaster risks; able to support peer recovery.

Overall Goal

To restore and strengthen Sarvodaya Societies within six months by ensuring safe living conditions, restored livelihoods, economic recovery, psychosocial wellbeing, effective access to government support, and improved community disaster resilience.

Government Recovery Support Facilitation

The Government of Sri Lanka is providing multiple recovery assistance schemes, including:

- Housing cleaning and immediate relief grants
- Partial and full house repair / damage compensation
- Livelihood and small business recovery assistance

Many affected families **lack awareness and guidance** on eligibility, required documents, and submission processes. Sarvodaya will play a **facilitating role** to ensure eligible households can access these services, without duplicating government assistance.

Key Actions:

- Community awareness sessions on available government schemes.
- Rebuilding livelihoods, cash for work programs and Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSME) early recovery under overall economic recovery
- Guidance on preparing required documentation (NIC, land ownership, GN certification, damage assessment forms)
- Support for filling applications and organizing documents
- Follow-up and coordination with GN Offices and Divisional Secretariats
- Special assistance for elderly persons, women-headed households, persons with disabilities, pregnant mothers, and families with young children

06-Month Recovery Response Plan

Month 1–2 (January-February 2026): Stabilization, Awareness & Recovery Planning

Focus: Safety, information access, and coordination

- Validate damage data and confirm society categorization (H/M/L/N)
- Community consultations to identify priority needs including economic recovery needs.
- Awareness programmes on government recovery and housing assistance schemes
- Temporary repairs to houses, wells, pre-schools, and society buildings (H & M)
- Psychosocial first-line support for affected families and children
- Establish **Society Recovery Committees** and **Government Support Facilitation Teams**
- Establish support desks, mobile teams, and **call-centre / hotline services** for government scheme guidance

Month 3–4 (March – April 2026): Physical Recovery, Livelihoods & Service Access

Focus: Rebuilding, income restoration, and application support

- Support partial house repairs and community infrastructure rehabilitation
- Repair and cleaning of wells and WASH facilities
- Hands-on assistance for government support applications and follow-up
- Livelihood recovery support (tools, inputs, small enterprise restart)
- Cash-for-Work and community clean-up initiatives as part of livelihood programs
- SME enterprise recovery support, initiate green enterprises, strengthen the financial inclusion of network of entrepreneurs Support women-led, youth-led, and inclusive livelihood support and economic empowerment activities.

Month 5–6 (May – June 2026): Strengthening, Preparedness & Sustainability

Focus: Institutional capacity and resilience

- Strengthen Sarvodaya Society management, records, and financial practices
- Disaster preparedness, early warning, and first-aid training _ REACT Network
- Update Community Disaster Preparedness Plans
- Small-scale mitigation activities (drainage, safe storage, shelters)
- Final recovery review and documentation of lessons learned

Activity Coverage by Impact Level

Highly Affected (H)	Housing repair support, livelihood recovery, psychosocial care, intensive facilitation of government schemes
Moderately Affected (M)	Partial repairs, livelihood inputs, application support, preparedness training
Low Affected (L)	Awareness, preparedness, monitoring support
Not Affected (N)	Peer support, volunteer mobilization, preparedness strengthening

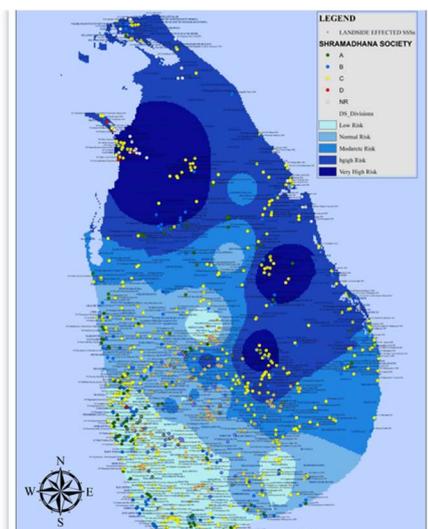
Strategic Approach – “Village to Village – Heart to Heart”

The conceptual and strategic approach Sarvodaya would adopt is “Village to Village – Heart to Heart”, a strategy that was adopted also during Tsunami recovery to connect the unaffected Sarvodaya villages with the affected Sarvodaya villages. In our Recovery Plan, each affected Sarvodaya village will be linked to an unaffected village in another district which also promotes psycho-social healing and reconciliation.

“ගමට ගමක් - හදට හදක්”

“கிராமத்திலிருந்து கிராமத்திற்கு”

“Village to Village – Heart to Heart”



A greater focus will be placed on ‘economic recovery’ to build self-sustaining gram swaraj villages building on the Artha Dharma transformation strategy. The economic recovery strategy is detailed out in Annexure 3.

Disaster Recovery Phase - Sectors, Sarvodaya Units and Funding

The table below includes responsibilities on Fundraising, Inter-agency coordination and Project Management which will be handled by each unit stated below.

#	Sector	Sarvodaya Unit(s)	Fund Category	Focus During Crisis
1	Health & Nutrition	Planetary Health Unit	General Fund & Project Funds	Management of malnutrition, mobile clinics, and disease prevention.
2	Water, San. & Hygiene (WASH)	FOD/DMU	Project Funds	Immediate clean water trucking and emergency latrine construction.
3	Emergency Shelter & NFI	DMU/FOD	General Fund & Project Funds	Provision of tents, roofing sheets, and "Kitchen/Bedding" kits.
4	Food Security & Agriculture	Agri Unit, PMU	Project Funds	Distribution of dry rations, expertise on Seeds and farming.
5	Child Protection	EPMU/Project Based Staff	Project Funds	Setting up Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) and monitoring safety.
6	Education in Emergencies	PMU/Project Based Staffs/SIHL / ECDU	Project Funds	School kits and learning centers.
7	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)	Vishva Niketan / Shanthi Sena	General Fund & Project Fund	Spiritual healing, meditation, and Psychological First Aid.
8	Accountability to Affected Persons (AAP) and Legal Aid	AD Secretariat/ Deshodaya	Project Fund	Recovering lost IDs/Deeds and protecting rights of affected persons.
9	Economic Recovery	AD Secretariat / Project Based Staff	General Fund & Project Funds	Cash-for-work programs, micro-grants for small shops, Livelihood intervention (MSMEs), Business mentoring
10	Advocacy Govt. Relations	Deshodaya/AD Secretariat	General Fund & Project Funds	Liaising with government, UN Clusters, Joint Needs Assessment and Action Plans CSO collective and ensuring aid transparency and voice of Sarvodaya.
11	Digital presence	Sarvodaya Media Unit/Sarvodaya Fusion	General Fund	Appeals, pitch proposals with audio/visual materials
12	Reporting	Media Unit/AD Secretariat		SitReps and 6 Months Sarvodaya Engagement Report, Joint UN and Govt reports

Key Cross-Cutting Principles

- Protection and inclusion of women, children, elderly, and persons with disabilities
- Community participation, volunteerism, and transparency
- Strong coordination with government authorities and partners
- Accountability at society and unit levels

Expected Results

- Affected 210 Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies and AD related villages restored to full or improved functionality
- Specified number of affected HH have re-commenced their livelihood activities
- Specified number of enterprises have received business support and business mentoring
- Heart to Heart Economic Solidarity Model is implemented in a set of pilot villages
- Affected families regain safe housing and stable income sources
- Increased access to government recovery and housing schemes
- Improved psychosocial wellbeing and community cohesion
- Communities better prepared and resilient to future disasters

Resourcing and Financing

- The remaining balance of General Donations to the Disaster Response Fund (currently standing at LKR 12 million, as at 18th December 2025), will be allocated based on priority.
- Targeted project fund raising will be carried out by the respective units in a coordinated manner with the support of the Project Management Unit (PMU).
- We will also closely work with the UN Cluster system to obtain assistance to implement programs following the Humanitarian Priority Plan (HPP) and any national plan that will follow.
- In-kind contributions to the Recovery Plan would also be solicited in a coordinated manner.
- We will continue to engage volunteers including professionals to help implement the 6-Months recovery plan.

Appeal

We request all our partners to support us in realizing the Sarvodaya vision of “No-poverty – No-affluence society”.

Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne

President

Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement – Sri Lanka

e-mail:vinya@sarvodaya.org

18th December 2025

Annexures 1 & 2 – Emergency Situation Reports

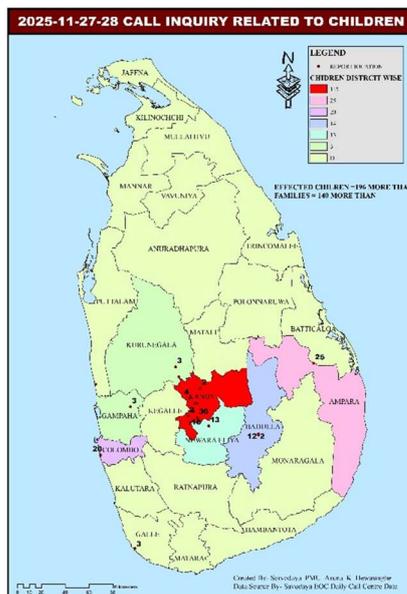
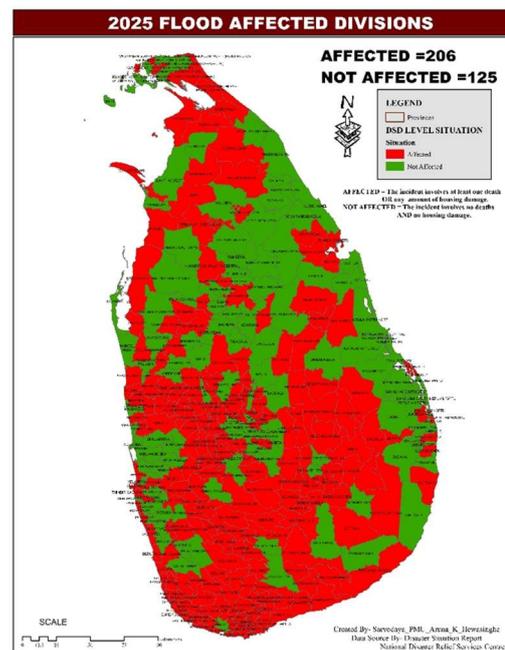
Sarvodaya Movement Cyclone Ditwah Emergency Situation and Rapid Response Report 1 (as of 6pm on 30th November 2025)



This report covers the period from 6pm 26th November 2025 to 6pm 30th November 2025.

Highlights

- Sarvodaya commenced an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) on 26th November at 6pm at the Headquarters, Moratuwa with trained staff and volunteers.
- So far, we have coordinated and responded to 156 emergency calls that reached more than 1561 people in need
- Together with Life Savers, supported the physical evacuation of nearly 750 vulnerable affected people
- Established two temporary kitchens in Colombo and Ratnapura
- A total of 6,740 cooked food and food parcels/dry rations have been dispatched



<p>Total Affected</p> <p>1,156,860 persons 318,252 families Deaths: 355 Missing: 366</p>	<p>Safety Centers</p> <p>1529</p>
---	--

Disaster Management Centre, 1st December 2025

Situation Overview

Soon after the onset of the severe weather conditions resulting from Cyclone *Ditwah*, Sarvodaya activated its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at the Headquarters in Moratuwa at 6:00 PM on 27 November. The EOC has been staffed by trained personnel and volunteers and continues to function as a 24/7 operations centre.

As the cyclone progressed and intensified, weather conditions rapidly deteriorated. By this stage, several parts of the country were experiencing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and early flooding, with multiple areas already going underwater. By Friday, 28th November, the severe weather had expanded across most regions of the island.

Sarvodaya has been continuously coordinating with government disaster management authorities, Sarvodaya District Centres, partner organisations, and volunteer networks to assess the evolving situation and provide real-time assistance wherever possible.

Access to several affected areas became extremely difficult due to communication breakdowns, flooded access routes, and fully isolated communities. Despite these challenges, Sarvodaya maintained contact with some of these locations through its volunteer networks and coordination with government field teams. As of 30 November 2025, weather conditions have improved as the cyclone has begun drifting away from the country. However, flood risk remains high in low-lying areas and communities situated near riverbanks, where water levels continue to rise. Many displaced families remain in temporary shelters and are in urgent need of food, essential supplies, and medical assistance. While continuing to respond to immediate humanitarian needs, Sarvodaya is also planning medium-term interventions to support affected communities in their recovery and rebuilding process.

Funding

Sarvodaya has long been at the forefront of humanitarian assistance, consistently providing relief and response during disasters faced by the country. At the onset of any emergency, people who trust Sarvodaya's work spontaneously contributed in funds and in kind support, often in small amounts and quantities, enabling the organization to begin immediate response activities. After initiating operations, Sarvodaya issued a formal appeal for funds, which was met with strong public support and additional contributions, helping to sustain and expand ongoing relief efforts.

Sarvodaya has so far received Rs. 8,641,888.92 and spent around 2,811,044.78 for Community Kitchen, Dry rations, Pharmaceuticals and rescue and other relief operations.

Humanitarian Response

- Rescue and Relief Transportation
- Emergency Operations Call Centre
- Emergency Medical Services
- Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies
- Coordination Meeting and Donor Support
- Volunteer Support



Rescue and Relief Transportation

Response:

- Immediate deployment of trained personnel to assist in rescue operations through boats and transport essential supplies
- Coordinated safe evacuation of 750 people through government rescue operation centres across the country, including Sarvodaya rescue in 30 in Hanwella and 52 Kolonnawa DS Divisions (Angoda, Ambatale, Sedawatta)
- Transported and distributed 320 food packs to Hanwella and 475 to Kolonnawa (by boat)
- Utilized 3 boats coordinated with local authorities and partners.

Gaps:

- Unexpected and rapidly rising water levels
- Overall limited access and shortages of essential materials in Anuradhapura, Colombo and Gampaha Districts.
- Shifting and increasingly unpredictable climate patterns
- Breakdown in Communication networks
- Rapid-onset flooding, with communities unprepared and not adequately oriented

1,070

This figure may increase or reduce

- Breakdown in Communication networks
- Rapid-onset flooding, with communities unprepared and not adequately oriented
- Gaps in national predictions, which did not fully account for typically flood-prone areas



Emergency Operations Call Centre

The Sarvodaya Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) received 156 emergency calls, which reached more than 1,561 affected individuals. Operating 24/7, the EOC team—comprising trained staff and volunteers—responded to each call, assessed urgent needs, and coordinated timely support. The centre connected callers with relevant government authorities, mobilized Sarvodaya district teams, and worked through volunteer networks to ensure assistance reached families wherever possible.

1,561+
Affected population

Sarvodaya established a dedicated Relief Coordination Centre at the Nagarodaya premises at Colombo District Centre joined by the trained Sarvodaya Community Lifesaving Team. This centre is now fully operational, coordinating critical humanitarian support, including the preparation and distribution of cooked meals to safe shelters as well as managing essential relief services for affected families. Sarvodaya Development Finance joined hands in this initiative, providing vital support to ensure the rapid and effective delivery of relief services.



Hot Meals preparation and distribution, and Distribution of Dry Rations

Sarvodaya’s immediate focus has been on providing hot meals and dry rations to displaced persons and severely affected families. Two temporary community kitchens were established in Colombo and Ratnapura, enabling the preparation and distribution of 4,200 hot meals. In collaboration with the Moratuwa Divisional Secretariat, Sarvodaya also prepared and distributed 500 food parcels in Korawella, Moratuwa, while an additional 1,900 essential food items were delivered to affected communities in multiple locations.

6,600

Dry ration packs covering essential non-perishables and ensured dietary needs were met where possible.



Emergency Medical Services

Sarvodaya deployed mobile medical teams to address immediate health needs in severely affected communities, emergency care across multiple temporary shelters through setting up of temporary medical camps. On 29 November 2025, two medical camps were established in Gotatuwa—at Kanda Vihara Temple and Gothatuwa Central College, supported by 4 volunteer medical officers and 10 volunteers. On 30 November, an additional medical camp was set up in Hanwella, Kosgama, at Kalampanna Sri Sumanagarama Temple and 1 infant), staffed by 4 volunteer medical officers and 10 volunteers and remains ongoing. Another medical outreach was conducted in Hanwella, Aswatta, providing care for with 4 doctors, 8 volunteers, and Sarvodaya staff supporting operations.

295
Affected population in need of health assistance

Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies

The affected and non-affected Shramadana Societies (SSS) are supporting each other during this crisis. Currently, we are conducting assessments and coordinating locally to organize relief efforts in an efficient and community-driven manner (Gampaha/Mullativu/Trincomalee/Mannar/Anuradhapura/Colombo/Polonnaruwa)

146
12/01/2025 Morning



Coordination Meeting and Donor Support

During the flooding events, Sarvodaya maintained close coordination with national and international disaster response structures. The organization operated a 24-hour emergency hotline, liaised with government authorities, and engaged directly with the President Defence Headquarters with representatives of non-governmental organizations to discuss coordination and provision of relief for populations affected by the ongoing disaster situation; meeting convened by the Prime Minister. Sarvodaya also actively participated in DMC, UNRC, and UN cluster meetings (Nutrition, Protection, WASH, Education), contributed verified field information and priorities to the UN Disaster Relief platform, and aligned operational activities—such as volunteer deployment, transportation of goods, medical camps, and distribution of food parcels—with district and national authorities. These efforts ensured that community-level relief was synchronized with broader national and international response mechanisms, enhancing efficiency and minimizing duplication.

Local Partnerships

Sarvodaya partnered with Sirasa–Shakthi Sahana Yathra and supported the distribution of rations to affected 612 families in multiple flood-impacted areas in Kolonnawa and Seethawaka. In addition, Sarvodaya collaborated with the Sri Lanka Life Savers Association to strengthen rescue and relief operations, ensuring timely assistance to communities in need.



Volunteer Support

Strong Mobilization: Sarvodaya successfully leveraged its extensive network of Volunteers to provide ground support during the disaster response. Local youth and community leaders were mobilized to assist in managing temporary relief and response operations. A total of 197 volunteers participated, including 10 trained lifesavers and 7 volunteer medical officials, ensuring efficient and timely delivery of relief and support services to affected communities.

197

Volunteers

Priorities (Immediate)

1. Cooked Food for Temporary Shelters in the worst affected areas
2. Kitchen and Housing Utensils and community kitchens
3. Sanitizing House Cleaning when people are back in their homes
4. Cleaning of wells
5. WASH facilities implementation
6. Drinking water
7. WASH in temporary shelters
8. Mobile Health clinics for temporary shelters
9. Special focus on pregnant mothers and children

For further information, please contact:

Name: eoc@sarvodaya.org / 077 957 3582/076 871 8297

Sarvodaya Movement Cyclone Ditwah Emergency Situation and Rapid Response Report 2

(as of 6pm on 5th December 2025)



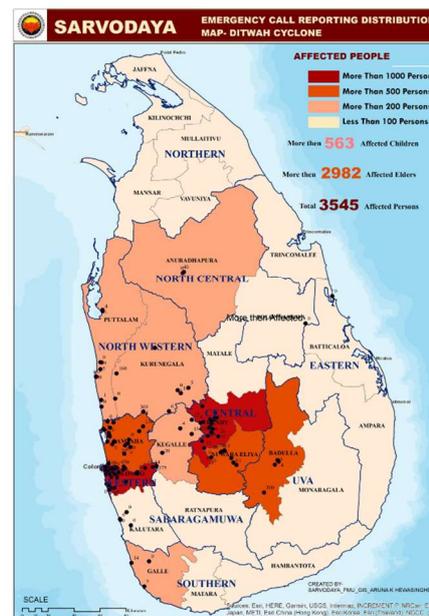
This report covers the period from 6 pm 30th November 2025, to 5th December 2025.

Highlights

- Sarvodaya continued the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) since 26th November. More volunteer staff gathered to support the efforts.
- So far, we have coordinated and responded to an additional 1,448 people, 265 families, and 184 children through the call centre operations.
- Established a new temporary kitchen in Yakkala, Gampaha.
- A total of 15,242 people received cooked food/dry rations/hygiene packs.
- Sarvodaya Response and Relief has so far directly impacted 11 Districts and reached over 21,822 persons. Our work has also reached the most needed hospital facilities in Mahiyangana and Chilaw.

<p>Total Affected 2,082,195 persons 43,715 families Deaths: 607 Missing: 214</p>	<p>Safety Centers 1211</p>
---	---------------------------------------

Disaster Management Centre, 6th December 2025



Situation Overview

Cyclone Ditwah has created one of the most significant humanitarian challenges Sri Lanka has faced in recent decades. As documented by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), nearly two million people have been affected, with families displaced, homes damaged, and essential infrastructure compromised. The high number of missing individuals highlights the severity of the disaster, reflecting both the scale of flooding and the disruptions to communication. More than 1,200 safety centres have been established, yet many remain overcrowded and under-resourced. These figures underscore the urgency of ongoing relief efforts and the importance of sustained multi-agency collaboration to stabilize affected communities.

Over the period from 30th November to 5th December, Sarvodaya’s emergency response has demonstrated the strength of its national presence and the speed of its community-based networks. The continued operation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) enabled efficient coordination, rapid verification of needs, and clear communication between districts and headquarters. Every call received by the EOC was addressed, reflecting Sarvodaya’s commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind. During this period, a new temporary community kitchen was established in Yakkala, Gampaha District, to support severely

affected communities. As new vulnerable areas emerge, Sarvodaya continued to expand its assistance, collaborating with partners, delivering hot meals, dry rations, and emergency supplies—showcasing its capacity to mount large-scale, coordinated relief efforts even in challenging and unpredictable conditions.

Funding

As of now, Sarvodaya has received Rs. 21 million in financial contributions. Of this, Rs. 5.022 million has been utilized for essential relief operations, leaving a balance of Rs. 16.267 million dedicated to continuing humanitarian activities. In-kind donations including water, dry food, rice, and sanitary kits, have also been received and distributed to affected communities.

Sarvodaya remains committed to delivering timely and effective support as the situation evolves.

Humanitarian Response

- Rescue and Relief Transportation
- Emergency Operations Call Centre
- Emergency Medical Services
- Temporary Community Kitchen
- Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies
- Coordination Meeting and Donor Support
- Volunteer Support



Rescue and Relief Transportation

Response:

- Rescue operations continued through boats and transport essential supplies. Direct Sarvodaya rescue so far: 92, and a total of 750 by all authorities in collaboration.
- Utilized 3 boats coordinated with local authorities and partners.

Gaps:

- Areas under water and issues to access
- New areas affected and people stranded and needing water and food
- Monsoon winds and rains

750/92

This figure may increase or decrease



Emergency Operations Call Centre

Sarvodaya Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) received 44 emergency calls, which reached more than 1,488 affected individuals. Operating 24/7, the EOC team comprising trained staff and volunteers, responded to each call, assessed urgent needs, and coordinated timely support.

1,488

Affected population



Hot Meals/Dry Rations/Water/Hygiene Packs

During the 5 day period ending 5th December, Sarvodaya continued its intensive relief efforts across the most affected areas. Within this timeframe, the organization distributed 6,710 food packets, 336 ration packs, and 321 sanitary and medicine packs to families in need. Additionally, Sarvodaya supplied 7,875 water bottles and 18,000 litres of water to hospitals and other facilities serving large groups of people. These efforts ensured that critical necessities reached vulnerable communities swiftly and effectively.

15,242
Persons
18,000ℓ
Water



Emergency Medical Services

- As part of its ongoing emergency response, Sarvodaya deployed two medical teams during the reporting period to provide much-needed healthcare support in affected communities. One team was assigned to New Gothatuwa Mahinda Vidyalaya, where 1 doctor and 6 volunteers worked together to assist 9 individuals, including 3 women and 6 men.
- A second team operated at Dharmapala School in Kotikawatta, consisting of 2 doctors and 8 volunteers. Their efforts enabled them to treat 83 people, among them 26 women and 57 men. Altogether, the two teams provided medical care to 92 individuals, ensuring timely support for those in need during this challenging period.

92
Affected population in
need of health
assistance

Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies

The total number of Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies (SSS) affected stands at 230. Currently, the SSS in non-affected areas are supporting the severely affected communities.

230
8/12/2025 Morning



Coordination Meeting and Donor Support

Sarvodaya continued to engage at national and district levels.

#Sarvodaya represented the CSO collective participating at the Health Cluster of UN Humanitarian Team convened by the WHO and co-chaired by the Director General of Health Services. We are honoured that Sarvodaya President, Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne will serve as a Co-Chair. The health cluster will coordinate support among health sector partners to enable a streamlined response.

National
Mechanisms

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17xL3uyyoV/>



Sarvodaya actively contributed to the Joint Rapid Needs Assessment carried out by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), UN clusters, and civil society organizations. Through this collaboration, the first Rapid Needs Assessment was completed. A more detailed second assessment is scheduled to begin on 9th

December, and Sarvodaya teams will be supporting and participating in this effort as well.

In parallel, Sarvodaya took part in the UN-led cluster discussions, including the Food and Nutrition Cluster, the Health Cluster, and the Cash-Based Transfers (CBT) Cluster, helping to coordinate and align response strategies. At the district level, Sarvodaya's teams worked closely with Provincial and District Health and Relief Services, as well as District Secretaries, ensuring that urgent needs in affected areas were identified and addressed promptly. Through these collaborative efforts, Sarvodaya continues to play a key role in delivering timely and effective humanitarian assistance.

In addition, Sarvodaya received significant media attention for its humanitarian efforts. The organization was featured in high-profile national and international outlets, including interviews on Rupavahini and coverage by The Hindu and The New York Times, highlighting Sarvodaya's role in the ongoing emergency response.



Volunteer Support

Sarvodaya continued to demonstrate strong community mobilization during the disaster response. Building on its extensive grassroots network, the organization activated local youth groups, REACT team members and community leaders to support temporary relief and response operations on the ground.

285

Volunteers

A total of 285 volunteers were mobilized across the affected districts, including teams from Gampaha and Badulla. Among them were trained lifesavers, volunteer medical officials, whose expertise helped ensure the efficient and timely delivery of essential relief services and community volunteers. Their collective efforts played a vital role in reaching affected communities quickly and effectively.

Priorities (Immediate)

1. Hospital support and temporary medicine camps
2. Drinking water
3. Kitchen and Housing Utensils and community kitchens
4. Sanitizing House Cleaning when people are back in their homes
5. Cleaning of wells; WASH facilities implementation
6. Special focus on pregnant mothers and children
7. Village resettlements

For further information, please contact:

Name: eoc@sarvodaya.org/ 077 957 3582/076 871 8297

Annexure 3 - Economic Recovery Strategy



Sarvodaya

A Policy Brief

Towards a People-Centred Economic Recovery After Cyclone Ditwah

Overview

Cyclone Ditwah, which made landfall on the 28th of November 2025, has caused widespread disruption to livelihoods, local economies, and community resilience across Sri Lanka. While immediate humanitarian assistance has been critical, there is an urgent need to transition toward a coherent, inclusive, and sustainable economic recovery strategy.

Drawing on Sarvodaya's six decades of grassroots engagement and global best practices and the Artha Dharma Transformative Framework, this policy brief proposes a People-Centred Economic Recovery Framework that restores livelihoods, revitalizes local economies and strengthens economic resilience.

Context & Problem

The impacts of Cyclone Ditwah extend beyond physical damage:

- Loss of income for daily wage earners, farmers, producers, fishers, and MSMEs
- Disruption to agricultural production and food systems
- Damage to small businesses, informal markets, and community infrastructure

- Increased vulnerability of women, youth, elderly, and marginalized groups

Without targeted economic recovery measures, affected communities risk falling into prolonged poverty and dependency.

Early assessments of scientific surveys across the country indicate the following, which could further deteriorate in the weeks and months to come.

- Nutritional conditions in cyclone-affected communities have deteriorated sharply, with a significant number of households reporting reduced meal consumption, reflecting both food shortages and loss of income.
- Families have resorted to borrowing to meet basic needs, indicating rapidly declining coping capacity and heightened economic vulnerability.
- Impact on vulnerable groups is severe with impact on women-headed households and pregnant women reporting insufficient food intake, raising serious risks for maternal and child nutrition outcomes.
- At the same time, communities report a high reliance on external assistance, with majority of households depending on Government support to survive.

- While this assistance remains critical, affected populations consistently emphasize the urgent need for cash assistance, tools, and livelihood inputs to restore income-generating activities and move toward sustainable recovery.
- Approximately 210 Sarvodaya Shramadana Societies (SSS) have been affected; and nearly 15 out of 32 AD model based villages are also directly hit and nearly 10 villages by livelihoods and economic activity, by the Cyclone effects.

Sarvodaya’s Vision for Economic Recovery

Sarvodaya advocates for a people-centered, inclusive economy recovery rooted in community self-reliance, solidarity, and resilience, guided by the principle of *Sarvodaya*, the awakening of all.

Recovery will be:

- People-centred and community-led and value based
- Inclusive of vulnerable and marginalized groups
- Locally driven, strengthening village economies

Economic Policy Goal

To restore and strengthen cyclone-affected local economies by supporting livelihoods, small enterprises, and community assets while building resilience to future disasters. Here, the main focus will be on Sarvodaya-engaged communities and the villages they currently serve.

- Climate- and disaster-resilient
- Complementary to Government-led efforts

Recovery Pillars and Policy Options

- Pillar 1: Value-Based Economic Recovery through Inter-Community Solidarity: Activate Sarvodaya’s nationwide community network to enable solidarity-based recovery across districts. Flagship: *“Village to Village – Heart to Heart.”*
- Pillar 2: MSME and Informal Enterprise Recovery
- Pillar 3: Livelihood Restoration and Stabilisation: Food Systems and Green Enterprises
- Pillar4: Strengthen Financial Inclusion & Social Protection

Proposed Interventions

“Village to Village – Heart to Heart.”

To restore livelihoods, rebuild community assets, and strengthen resilience by activating inter-district solidarity networks where strong Sarvodaya Societies support the less affected, guided by the ethical and economic principles of Artha Dharma and the empowerment framework of Grama Swaraj.

Community-to-Community Support

Each matched pair of communities will collaborate on:

- Restore the affected village/s
- Joint enterprise mentoring
- Tools, seeds, equipment donations
- Cash to work Programs
- Agricultural and livelihood training exchanges

Provide Livelihood Restoration Support/Grants

Support/acquire support for Small, flexible grants for, Farmers, local producers

Replacement of tools, seeds and equipment, delivered through SSS networks

Support MSMEs and Informal Enterprises

Recovery grants and concessional credit for damaged MSMEs

Business advisory services and market-linkage support

Rebuild Livelihoods

Distribution of climate-resilient seeds and planting materials

Support local value chains and food processing

Invest in Green Livelihoods

Promote green and climate-resilient livelihoods: by Sustainable agriculture and small industry and eco-enterprises

Strengthen Financial Inclusion & Social Protection

Temporary income support for the most vulnerable

Expand access to micro-insurance and savings mechanisms

Strengthen community-managed revolving funds

Implementation Approach

Sarvodaya recommends a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach:

- Artha Dharma National Initiative with its mandate will be the focal point
- Partnerships within the Movement for resource allocations, resource mobilisation and implementation
- Partnerships with CSOs, NGOs, UN agencies, and the corporates

- Community-based planning and monitoring

Phased Approach

Immediate (0–3 Months: Response/Recovery)

- Assessment of Sarvodaya Community Related direct enterprise/livelihood loss
- Pilot Project on Heart-to-Heart Intervention and learning
- Expand program based on learnings

Recovery (3–9 months)

- Network plan for at least 500 entrepreneurs of the 3000 entrepreneur network
- Livelihood Stabilisation and Grant program
- Business Support Services

Resilience-building (9-12 months)

- Strengthen community-managed revolving funds
- Sustainable agriculture and small industry

Outcomes

- 100 HHs have re-commenced their livelihood activities/able to meet basic needs
- 20 Sarvodaya supported communities experience food security vs post disaster (Dec'25-Jan' 26)
- At least 100 entrepreneurs receive business support service or mentoring in the economic recovery
- 5 pilots of Heart to Heart Village economic recovery programs
- 2 stable SSS led enterprise

Building up

- Artha Dharma Economic Model for Resilience-building

- Existing partnerships and MOUs for collaboration and extended support
- Strong SSSs as Enterprises to scale up
- Existing entrepreneur networks to strengthen community-managed revolving funds