

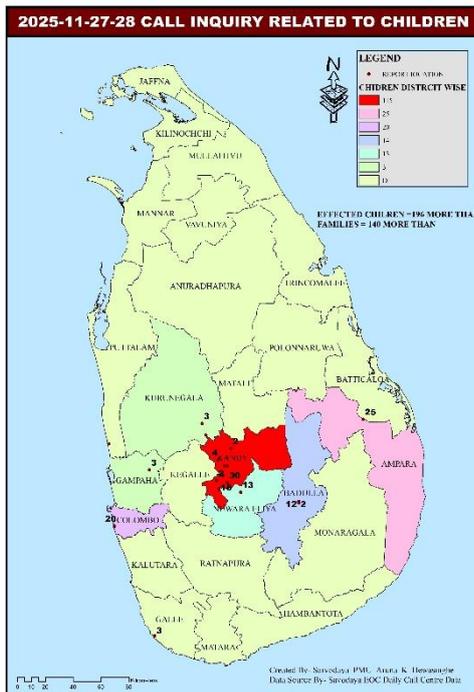
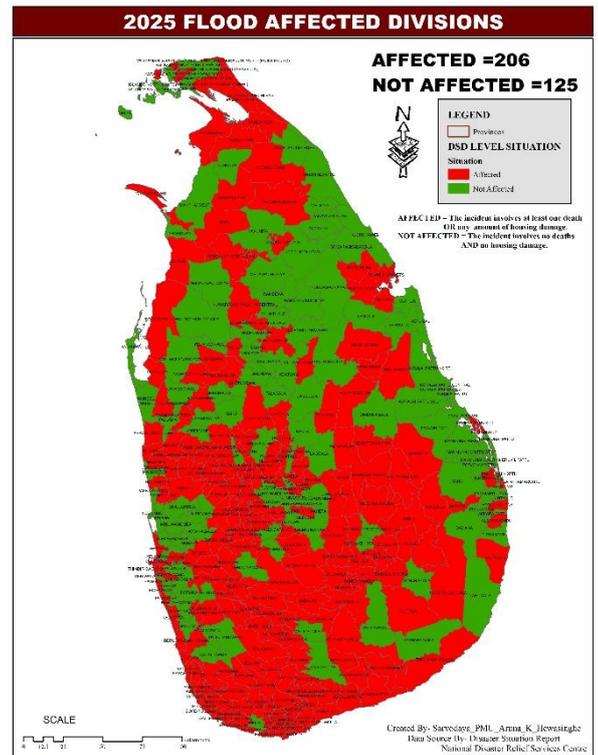
Sarvodaya Movement Cyclone Ditwah Emergency Situation and Rapid Response Report 1 (as of 6pm on 30th November 2025)



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



Total Affected	Safety Centers
1,156,860 persons 318,252 families Deaths: 355 Missing: 366	1529

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

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 Korallawella, 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

National Mechanisms

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:

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