

Lanka Jathika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya (Inc.)
**Cyclone Ditwah Emergency Situation and Rapid
Response Report 5**
(as of 6pm on 15th of June 2026)



This report covers the period from 6 pm, 22nd December 2025, to 15th June 2026.

Highlights

- As affected communities continued their journey from crisis to recovery, Sarvodaya remained actively engaged in supporting families to rebuild their lives with dignity. Guided by the 5R Framework, recovery and reconstruction efforts focused on restoring essential services, strengthening resilience, and addressing the evolving needs of vulnerable populations across affected districts.
- Through targeted Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions, Sarvodaya reached over 5332 people across 15 districts, helping communities restore safe water sources, improve sanitation conditions, and create healthier living environments. These efforts played a critical role in reducing public health risks and supporting the return to normalcy.
- Recognising that many families continued to face hardship months after the disaster, Sarvodaya provided food and nutrition assistance to the most vulnerable households, including 20 children who lost parents or guardians. The decline in emergency assistance requests during the reporting period reflects encouraging signs of community recovery and improved coping capacities. Children remained at the centre of Sarvodaya's recovery efforts. Through Child-Friendly Spaces, psychosocial support activities, school rehabilitation, and the provision of learning materials, over 3,823 beneficiaries and 3350 students received support to recover from the emotional and educational impacts of the disaster, helping them regain a sense of safety, stability, and hope for the future.
- To support families in rebuilding their livelihoods, Sarvodaya provided economic recovery assistance through MSME grants, multi-purpose cash support, and agricultural inputs. These interventions enabled affected households to restart income-generating activities, restore food production, and strengthen their ability to recover independently from the impacts of Cyclone Ditwah. Sarvodaya continued to play an active role in restoring access to healthcare services by supporting the rehabilitation of the Kandegedara makeshift hospital and the Doluwa MOH Clinic, while also contributing to national health coordination efforts. These initiatives helped ensure that affected communities maintained access to essential health services throughout the recovery period. Through Shramadana, strong local partnerships, and collaboration with government authorities, donors, and humanitarian authorities, Sarvodaya supported communities not only to recover from the disaster but also to build a stronger foundation for long-term resilience and sustainable development.

Situation Overview

Cyclone Ditwah, which struck Sri Lanka in late November 2025, is one of the most severe natural disasters in recent years, affecting all 25 districts and causing widespread flooding and landslides across the country. At the peak of the emergency, an estimated 2.2–2.3 million people were affected nationwide, with large-scale displacement reported across multiple provinces. The disaster resulted in over 640 confirmed deaths and more than 170 missing persons, while hundreds of thousands were temporarily displaced during the immediate response phase. Displacement peaked at over 200,000 people, with around 150,000+ people remaining displaced or staying with host families in the early recovery phase. Housing damage has been extensive, with assessments reporting over 6,000 houses fully destroyed and more than 100,000 houses partially damaged, particularly in central, Uva, and eastern regions. Many affected families continue to face unsafe or inadequate shelter conditions, with slow progress toward permanent housing solutions.

Critical infrastructure was also severely impacted, including roads, bridges, water supply systems, electricity networks, and sanitation facilities. These disruptions significantly affected access to essential services, especially in rural and estate communities. Livelihoods were severely affected, particularly in agriculture, fisheries, and the informal sector, resulting in widespread income loss and increased vulnerability among affected households. The Government of Sri Lanka, together with humanitarian partners, initially led large-scale life-saving interventions including search and rescue, emergency shelter, WASH support, and relief assistance. The response has now transitioned into early recovery and reconstruction planning, guided by the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA 2026), which highlights significant recovery needs across housing, livelihoods, infrastructure, health, WASH, and education sectors.

In support of the national response, Sarvodaya mobilized its island-wide grassroots network to deliver immediate relief and early recovery assistance. During the emergency phase, Sarvodaya supported distribution of essential relief items, including dry rations, hygiene kits, and emergency shelter assistance, while also facilitating evacuation support and rapid community-level needs assessments. Its volunteer network played a key role in identifying and reaching the most vulnerable households, including female-headed families, elderly persons, and low-income communities in remote areas.

In the recovery phase, Sarvodaya has focused on WASH rehabilitation, psychosocial support, and livelihood recovery interventions to help families restore basic services and restart income-generating activities. The organization is also supporting community-driven recovery and reconstruction efforts, including shelter rehabilitation and village-level infrastructure restoration, while strengthening disaster preparedness and early warning systems to build long-term resilience.

Despite stabilization of the emergency phase, recovery remains uneven, with many households still experiencing shelter insecurity, livelihood disruption, and partial access to essential services. The current focus is on durable housing solutions, livelihood restoration, and strengthening community resilience to reduce future disaster risk.

Sarvodaya Humanitarian Response – Funding Overview

Sarvodaya's Cyclone Ditwah emergency response and early recovery interventions have been supported through a combination of financial contributions from institutional partners and individual donors. These resources have enabled timely humanitarian assistance and continued support for affected communities transitioning from emergency relief to recovery.

In addition to financial support, Sarvodaya has received substantial in-kind contributions, including drinking water, dry food items, rice, sanitary kits, medicine and clothing. These contributions are being systematically distributed through Sarvodaya's island-wide grassroots network, ensuring last-mile delivery to the most vulnerable and remote communities.

Key Funding and Institutional Partners

Sarvodaya acknowledges the valuable support of its funding and strategic partners, including:

Swiss Embassy | Association of Professional Sri Lankans in the UK (APSL-UK) | Asia Securities (Pvt) Ltd | Mercy Singapore | Sri Lanka Medical and Dental Association UK | YAALA LABS (Pvt) Ltd | Citi Bank | Canva Foundation | Save the Children International collaboration with DFAT, Humanitarian Fund, H&M, CUMMINS Foundation Inc. and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) | Resilio Fund | Bath University Sri Lanka Association in the UK | HSBC Bank | Secours Populaire France | UNICEF | Hilton Foundation | International Monetary Fund (IMF) | Sarvodaya USA | UNDP | World Bank / IFC | Buddhist Global Relief and numerous individual well-wishers.

Sarvodaya remains committed to transparent financial management, accountable resource utilization, and effective delivery of humanitarian and recovery assistance in line with evolving community needs.

Humanitarian Response

• Food Security and Hot Meals / Dry Rations

Alongside the ongoing reconstruction and WASH initiatives, Sarvodaya prioritised nutritional security by providing targeted food assistance to displaced and vulnerable households. Supported by Secours Populaire Français, a dedicated three-month initiative provided dry rations to 20 children from families who suffered the loss of parents or guardians, ensuring they received consistent nutritional care during this transition. Additionally, through the Resilio-funded project, dry ration packs were distributed to 210 families in need of food support. As the reporting period progressed from December 2025 to March 2026, a significant decline in requests for emergency dry packs was observed, reflecting a shift in community needs as the focus moved further into long-term recovery and stabilisation.

230

Reach Direct
Beneficiaries

• Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

From 31 December 2025 to 15 June 2026, Sarvodaya implemented a series of WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) interventions as part of the reconstruction phase of disaster response, guided by the 5R concept. These activities focused on restoring community well-being and strengthening resilience in affected areas. Key interventions included the provision of cleaning kits, well cleaning, hygiene kit distribution, hygiene awareness sessions, and the cleaning of toilets, preschools, and play areas to ensure safe and healthy environments for communities, especially children. Through these coordinated efforts, Sarvodaya successfully reached a total of 5332 beneficiaries across 15 districts. These initiatives contributed not only to improving sanitation and hygiene conditions but also to supporting communities in transitioning from immediate relief towards sustainable recovery and reconstruction.

5332+

Reach Direct
Beneficiaries

• Health and Nutrition

In alignment with the 5R framework's emphasis on rehabilitation and long-term resilience, Sarvodaya integrated emergency medical services and specialized nutrition interventions to safeguard the health of the most vulnerable groups affected by Cyclone Ditwah. During the reporting period, and with the support of UNICEF, the programme provided essential transport assistance for children aged 6–59 months suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), ensuring their timely access to hospital treatment and follow-up care. Overall, the intervention reached a total of 1,091 registered children, of whom 1,007 children were enrolled and treated for SAM, while over 1,006 confirmed SAM cases were supported through structured nutrition and medical referral services. In addition, the programme delivered 10 outreach activities, 10 SBCC sessions, and 10 cooking demonstrations, alongside the distribution of 1,039 food packs to support household-level nutrition recovery. These integrated interventions combined clinical referral support, community outreach, behavior change communication (SBCC), cooking demonstrations, and direct food assistance, ensuring both immediate treatment and sustained nutritional recovery. The approach strengthened continuity of care for SAM-affected children while reinforcing community-based nutrition resilience in cyclone-affected areas.

1006

Children

1039

Food packs
for SAM
Children

• Child Protection and Psychosocial Support

Child protection remained a central pillar of Sarvodaya's recovery efforts, prioritising both the physical safety and psychological well-being of children through the targeted implementation of the 5R framework. In a strategic partnership with UNICEF, 15 Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS) were established within temporary shelters and safety centers. At the same time, psychosocial support programs were delivered across 17 schools, ultimately reaching 4119 beneficiaries through targeted interventions and the distribution of 83 recreational kits. This protective network was further bolstered through a collaboration with Save the Children International to provide robust Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS), executing 12 full-scale CFS TEAM UP sessions and maintaining CFS Light sessions across 21 locations in the Colombo, Badulla, and Nuwara Eliya districts. To ensure absolute accountability and safety across these initiatives, Sarvodaya conducted 12 safeguarding and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) training sessions for staff, volunteers, and community members, actively securing a protective, nurturing environment essential for long-term community resilience.

4500+
Children

• Education in Emergencies (EiE)

Through the rehabilitation of educational facilities, Sarvodaya focused on swiftly restoring learning opportunities to minimize the academic disruption faced by children following the cyclone. These reconstruction efforts included essential minor repairs and deep cleaning across 29 schools, ensuring that students could return to a safe and conducive environment. To foster a culture of literacy and emotional recovery, mobile reading corners and Child Reading Circles were established in 15 locations across the affected districts. These infrastructural and programmatic efforts were complemented by the distribution of back-to-school kits to 3,350 students, effectively removing barriers to education and empowering thousands of children to return to their studies with the necessary tools for success.

3350+
Back-to
school kits
distributed

• Livelihood and Economic Recovery,

Sarvodaya supported early recovery of livelihoods and community resilience through small enterprise support and cash assistance. Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) received 20 grants and technical support, while multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) reached 838 affected households. These interventions helped communities stabilise income sources, resume economic activities, and improve access to essential services. Also, seeds, vegetable plants, and other farming tools and equipment were provided to 301 farmers to support their livelihood recovery.

1159+
Multi-
Purpose
cash
assistance
and MSME
livelihood
recoveries

• Community-led Recovery and Infrastructure

Through Shramadana and community-driven initiatives, Sarvodaya facilitated rapid debris clearance, road rehabilitation, and drainage improvements to restore access and improve living conditions. Community engagement and coordination with local authorities were critical in prioritising the most vulnerable households and high-risk areas.

****Note: Figures are based on available data; ongoing activities are expected to increase total reach significantly.

4352+

People benefited through community led recovery and infrastructure

Coordination Meeting, Donor Support and Advocacy

During the reporting period, Sarvodaya's strategic focus shifted toward comprehensive recovery, facilitated by the activation of the National Emergency Operation Center to coordinate nationwide support for affected communities. This central hub enabled seamless collaboration between national and international stakeholders, ensuring that relief and reconstruction efforts were both efficient and transparent. Guided by the 5R framework, Sarvodaya leveraged these partnerships to advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable while securing vital donor support for long-term rehabilitation. Key highlights of this coordination include high-level advocacy meetings and the coordination of multi-sectoral interventions—ranging from WASH to education—ensuring that the collective contributions of all partners were maximized to build lasting resilience across the country.

Renewing Health, Restoring Hope: Sarvodaya Revitalizes Kandegedara and Doluwa Health Facilities

In response to urgent healthcare needs, the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement also undertook the renovation of a makeshift hospital at Kandegedara. The facility was upgraded to meet required operational standards, enabling limited inpatient care and allowing medical staff to be stationed on-site on a 24-hour basis. The renovation was carried out under appropriate technical guidance and closely monitored by Sarvodaya's district-level and senior management teams to ensure quality and safety compliance.

The fully renovated Kandegedara makeshift Divisional Hospital was officially handed over to the Ministry of Health on 4 January. The facility became fully functional with in-house medical personnel and limited inpatient services, providing essential healthcare services to the surrounding community until a permanent hospital solution can be established at a safer location.

In addition, Sarvodaya's support to the Doluwa MOH Clinic continued, with assistance focused on restoring clinic infrastructure and supplying essential medical equipment and materials to facilitate the resumption of outpatient department (OPD) services for affected patients.



Joint High-Level Visit to Kandegedara Divisional Hospital by Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne- President of Sarvodaya and Dr. Rajesh Pandav – WHO Representative to Sri Lanka 28/12/2025



Kandedgedara Divisional Hospital re-opening after the Ditwah 04/01/2026

Strengthening Health Coordination for Recovery

The Health Cluster convened its 9th coordination meeting on 26 February, led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and co-chaired by the Ministry of Health and Sarvodaya. The meeting brought together key stakeholders to review ongoing flood response efforts and identify priority health needs as the country continues its transition into recovery.

During the session, WHO acknowledged and appreciated the contributions of Health Cluster members in consolidating inputs for the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), reflecting strong collaboration across partners. Updates from the Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) sub-cluster highlighted ongoing gaps in service coverage, particularly in hard-to-reach areas and among vulnerable populations. These discussions emphasized the importance of targeted and equitable interventions to ensure that no community is left behind in the recovery process.

The meeting reinforced the critical role of coordinated, multi-sectoral efforts in strengthening health service delivery and addressing emerging needs in the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah.



The Climate Spark: Connecting Stories for Change” on 19 March 2026, a British Council Youth Climate Ambassadors project showcase held at BMICH.



Discussion on ongoing Health Systems Review Mission, key civil society organizations engaged in the health sector and policy dialogue came together to reflect on the role of community engagement in strengthening Sri Lanka's health system.



Emergency Humanitarian Support Assistance Projects Activities

Secours Populaire officials visit to Kandy 12-15/01/2026



Swiss Embassy representative attended the field monitoring visits and the discussion in Mannar (17/02/2026)



Mercy Relief officials attended the field monitoring visits and the discussion in Kandy and Colombo (13-17/03/2026)



UNICEF representatives attended the field monitoring visit and the discussion with Government officials and Sarvodaya (05/05/2026)



District- Level Disaster Management Committee meeting at Rathnapura District Secretariat office.(14/05/2026)



Representing Sarvodaya for the AAR workshop organised by UNICEF with the participation of the Government and other Nutrition sector stakeholders.(20/05/2026)



Attended Kickoff meeting Strengthening Protection and Cash Assistance for Disaster-Affected Communities in Sri Lanka – ECHO Project (03/06/2026)


