

Sri Lanka

Consolidated Emergency Report 2018



Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction Champions, Kalutara District

Prepared by:

UNICEF Sri Lanka

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B. Abbreviations and Acronyms

BSDMA	Bihar State Disaster Management Authority
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CC-DRR	Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CHF	Common Humanitarian Fund
CRPOs	Child Rights Promotion Officers
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSS	Comprehensive School Safety
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFID	UK Department for International Development
DMC	Disaster Management Center
DPCCS	Department of Probation and Child Care Services
EPP	Emergency Preparedness Platform
EWEA	Early Warning Early Action
FR	Funds Reservation
GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
MDM	Ministry of Disaster Management
MoWCA	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
NAP	National Action Plan
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RCP	Representative Concentration Pathway
ROSA	Regional Office for South Asia
RR	Regular Resources
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
SLCO	Sri Lanka Country Office
SRIS	Social Registry Information System
WFP	World Food Programme

C. Executive Summary

Compared to the previous two years, Sri Lanka experienced smaller-scale natural disasters in 2018. During the year, heavy rainfall during the Southwest monsoon caused flooding in the Southern, Southwestern, Western and North Central regions. Over 188,000 people were affected with 26 deaths and 85,197 people displaced for more than a week. The total damage and losses calculated by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) amounted to Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) 331 million for emergency response and relief, as well as compensation for damage and losses in the housing, education, irrigation, transportation and drainage sectors.

In other parts of the country, the North-East monsoon brought much-needed heavy rainfall over regions affected by three years of prolonged drought. However, sudden heavy rainfall caused substantial damages and losses to properties and infrastructure and over 120,000 people in the Northern province were affected. The GoSL, both civil and military, provided search and rescue, evacuation and relief support to the affected people, which resulted in prevention of deaths and injuries to the affected communities. More than LKR 86.8 million was immediately disbursed to district authorities to provide emergency rescue, relief and shelter assistance and compensation for damages through the Natural Disaster Insurance Scheme. In addition, the GoSL allocated over LKR 100 million to rehabilitate damaged infrastructure through national development programmes¹. While the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) did not launch a common response plan due to the small scale of these disasters and GoSL capacity to respond, the HCT and sector-lead agencies did maintain high levels of preparedness and planning to ensure rapid mobilization of humanitarian assistance if required.

UNICEF Sri Lanka closely monitored the evolving humanitarian situation, including coordinating with relevant Government departments at national and sub-national levels to ensure children's protection, safety and wellbeing are considered as priorities when providing relief assistance. At the national level, UNICEF Sri Lanka led the protection sector preparedness and response activities as the Protection Sector lead. This involved organizing regular coordination meetings on preparedness, response to and monitoring of the humanitarian situation; issuing regular guidance; mainstreaming protection issues into other sectors; developing guidance and tools for rapid assessments of child and gender protection needs; and collection of disaggregated data in the safety centers.

In 2018, UNICEF Sri Lanka continued initiatives that commenced in 2017 focusing on adolescent engagement and empowerment through the use of Adolescent Kits, developed globally by UNICEF, which uses arts and expression methodologies to support positive outcomes in relation to their psychosocial wellbeing, life skills and positive and active engagement with their communities. The Kit has now been contextualized to the Sri Lankan context, prepositioned, and related manuals translated into the local languages. Capacity building initiatives were also undertaken for relevant officials and adolescents so that they can roll out the use of these Kits during an emergency.

UNICEF Sri Lanka also continued to support the GoSL to ensure that disasters are well-prepared for, and that the response is timely, appropriate and relevant, particularly for the most vulnerable children, women and other marginalized groups of Sri Lanka. A key component of this is ensuring that the UNICEF Sri Lanka Country Office is adequately prepared, as well as its counterparts and other partners. UNICEF Sri Lanka promoted a child-centered approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the country, and assisted the GoSL in implementing the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation

¹ WFP Report on Flood Impact by North East Monsoon, 31 Dec 2018, WFP Colombo

(SAARC) Framework and Road Map for Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (2015). UNICEF Sri Lanka has also undertaken an assessment of the shock-responsiveness of the existing social protection system and its potential as a mechanism for future disaster response in Sri Lanka. These assessments and generation of evidence enabled UNICEF Sri Lanka to position itself as a strategic partner in the overall design and decision-making processes of national policies and strategies for disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and social protection.

D. Humanitarian Context

Sri Lanka is a medium risk country (rated a score of 4.2 by the Index for Risk Management), with 96 per cent of its disasters related to climate, such as flooding, extreme winds and drought, and was ranked the fourth most affected country in 2016 according to the Global Climate Risk Index, 2018². Since 2005, the adverse impacts of climate change are already being felt in Sri Lanka where recurrent extreme weather events and irregular climate trends are annually and frequently causing damages and losses in physical, social and economic sectors. The annual cycle of floods and drought is causing severe household economic and social stress in Sri Lanka. This cyclical pattern gradually decreases the coping strategies of families and the possibility to return to normalcy in the long run. The 2016/17 drought - the worst in 40 years - reduced national output by 53 per cent and pushed 900,000 people into food insecurity. At its peak in September 2017, over two million people in 20 districts were drought-affected. The availability of water becomes a critical issue for both household and agricultural use, with dangerously low levels of water in rivers, reservoirs³ and wells. Of those affected, over 680,000 required external assistance to access drinking water in their villages⁴ and 340,000 people were severely food insecure⁵. Drought continued to affect over 970,000 people in 2018, with approximately 211,000 people lacking access to drinking water since 2016⁶. Major reservoir schemes still record significantly lower levels of water storage (29 per cent of total storage) and some schemes are almost reaching the dead storage levels (below 10 per cent).

There is no official and comprehensive assessment of the long-term drought impact on the health, nutrition, protection and education of children in Sri Lanka. Anecdotal reports from non-governmental organizations operational in drought-hit areas indicate possible adult nutrition deprivation due to skipping meals to feed children and consuming carbohydrate-concentrated food rather than a nutritious or balanced diet. Malnutrition continues to be a major challenge across the life-cycle of a child and repeated and frequent disasters further deteriorates the nutritional conditions of children, especially among the poor segments of society. The reports also indicate high school absenteeism due to a lack of water in schools and risks related to the protection and security of women and children who had to travel long distances to collect water. A joint assessment conducted in 2017 by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and humanitarian agencies⁷ indicated that families that were food insecure or on the borderline are resorting to negative coping strategies, such as selling livelihood assets, taking children out of school or reducing expenditure on health and hygiene.

² David Eckstein, Vera Künzel and Laura Schäfer. Global Climate Risk Index 2018. Bonn, Germanwatch e.V.

³ By 31 July 2017, the total stored water levels in all 72 major reservoirs in the country was only 18.6% of their total capacity

⁴ Disaster Management Center Situation Report on 8 September 2017

⁵ Sri Lanka Joint Assessment of Drought Impact on Food Security and Livelihoods, March 2017, Ministry of Disaster Management with technical support from WFP, UNICEF, FAO and Save the Children

⁶ Drought update by the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resource Management and Disaster Management, October 2018

⁷ Ibid

Simultaneously, in May 2018, the Southwest monsoon brought heavy rainfall once again to the Southern, Southwestern, Western and North Central regions. Over 188,000 people were affected with 26 deaths and 85,197 people displaced for more than a week. The total damage and losses calculated by the GoSL amounts to Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) 331 million⁸ for emergency response and relief, as well as compensation for damages and losses in the housing, education, irrigation, transportation and drainage sectors. Furthermore, during December 2018, the heavy rainfall of the North-East Monsoon affected over 120,000 people in the Northern province in Sri Lanka and caused substantial damages and losses to properties and infrastructure. A considerable extent of paddy cultivation was damaged due to over-spilling of major and minor tanks and over 4,500 houses were partially damaged with another 474 houses fully destroyed. The GoSL, both civil and military, provided search and rescue, evacuation and relief support to the affected people, resulting in the prevention of deaths and injuries amongst the affected communities. More than LKR 86.8 million was disbursed immediately to the district authorities to provide emergency rescue, relief and shelter assistance and compensation for damages through the Natural Disaster Insurance Scheme. In addition, the GoSL allocated over LKR 100 million to rehabilitate damaged infrastructure through national development programmes⁹.

Due to the scale of the disaster and confirmation by the GoSL that they have the capacity to provide all required humanitarian assistance to the affected people, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) did not launch a common response plan. Instead, individual agencies provided emergency relief assistance in their operational areas. In addition, UNICEF Sri Lanka closely monitored the evolving humanitarian situation in coordination with relevant Government departments at national and sub-national levels to ensure that children's protection, safety and wellbeing are given priority attention in relief assistance.

The Sri Lanka Country Office (SLCO) maintained a good level of preparedness to respond to disasters, investing in emergency preparedness and response. This included training of its staff on preparedness, using the Emergency Preparedness Platform and cluster coordination, and monitoring the flood and drought situation in the country, particularly its impact on women and children. This monitoring generated critical updates and information for relevant stakeholders and the media, as well as resources for the emergency response. This internal capacity helped UNICEF Sri Lanka support the GoSL in ensuring that disasters are well-prepared for, and that the response is timely, appropriate and relevant, particularly for the most vulnerable children, women and other marginalized groups of Sri Lanka. Specifically, UNICEF Sri Lanka promoted Child Centered Disaster Risk Reduction (CC-DRR) and climate change adaptation in the country and provided support to the Government in implementing the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Framework and Road Map for CC-DRR 2015. UNICEF Sri Lanka has already undertaken, with support from its Regional Office for South Asia, required capacity building measures for both UNICEF and the GoSL, in particular, officials of the Ministry of Disaster Management (MDM) and its Disaster Management Center (DMC), Ministry of Women and Child Affairs (MoWCA), Ministry of Education, among others, to effectively prepare for and respond to disasters, including implementation of the SAARC Framework and Road Map for CC-DRR.

⁸ South-West monsoon May 2018: Disaster Lost & Damaged Assessment, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and Disaster Management, Disaster Management Center

⁹ WFP Report on Flood Impact by North East Monsoon, 31 Dec 2018, WFP Colombo

E. Humanitarian Results

Table 1: Key Results in Child Protection

Indicator	Sector target	Sector results	UNICEF Sri Lanka target 2018	UNICEF Sri Lanka results 2018
Number of Child Rights Promotion Officers (CRPOs) trained on the use of the contextualised Adolescent Kit	n/a	n/a	43 CRPOs and 3 District Coordinators	300 government officers, including 168 CRPOs, were trained
Number of children's club members jointly trained with CRPOs on the use of the contextualised Adolescent Kit	n/a	n/a	129 children's club members	500 children's club members were reached
Documentation on the use of the toolkit and related best practices available	n/a	n/a	The contextualised adolescent kit is tested in four children's clubs	Completed

Child Protection

In 2018, Sri Lanka did not face any large-scale disaster events and only minimal international humanitarian assistance was required by the GoSL to respond to the floods during the Southwestern and Northeast monsoon periods. However, at the national level, UNICEF Sri Lanka continued to lead the Protection Sector, which involved organizing regular coordination meetings on preparedness, response to and monitoring of the humanitarian situation; issuing regular guidance; mainstreaming protection issues into other sectors; developing guidance and tools for rapid assessments of child and gender protection needs; and collection of disaggregated data in the safety centers.

UNICEF Sri Lanka also continued to implement a key component of its disaster preparedness work initiated in 2017, namely the introduction of Adolescent Kits, developed globally by UNICEF, which uses arts and expression methodologies to support positive outcomes in relation to their psychosocial wellbeing, life skills and positive and active engagement with their communities. The adolescent kit for expression and innovation looks at reaching and engaging children between the ages 10 – 18 in disaster or emergency contexts through education, child protection, youth development and peace building initiatives. The focus on adolescent girls and boys is due to profound deprivations they face during and after crises and their ability to be catalysts in rebuilding their communities.

In Sri Lanka, girls, boys and adolescents, representing 30 per cent of the total population¹⁰, have been impacted by disasters in a variety of ways, including separation from families and lack of access to critical services such as health, nutrition, water, sanitation, education and protection. In areas with other prevailing vulnerabilities, such as poverty, they are also increasingly vulnerable to chronic nutrition deprivation, food insecurity, increased school dropout, child labour, trafficking and exploitation. Girls, boys and adolescents are also part of the generation that have to deal with future climate change related adverse impacts, therefore the earlier they are involved in decision-making on climate change and DRR, the more equipped they will be in leading efforts to address this global crisis.

However, consultations with girls, boys and adolescents reveal that while they value their participation in emergency preparedness and response, their roles and responsibilities in these areas continue to be unrecognized and undermined¹¹. Despite this recognition of the disproportionate impact of disasters on children, most Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and DRR policies and programmes in Sri Lanka still tend to overlook the special needs of children and their potential capacities in building disaster resilience within their communities. Most disaster risk assessments and climate change impact analyses rarely even include data on children. This lack of child-focused policies and action planning to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on children in Sri Lanka represents a serious drawback to the country's preparedness for or adaptation to climate change.

In 2017, UNICEF Sri Lanka, in partnership with a Civil Society Organization (CSO), provided technical and financial support to the Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCCS) to contextualize the Adolescent Kit and its actions to Sri Lanka. The Adolescent kit is typically introduced and used during conflict emergency or man-made disaster, however, UNICEF Sri Lanka introduced this Kit in a natural disaster context through Child Friendly Spaces and Children's Clubs.

The adaptation and contextualization process of the Adolescent Kit commenced in four UNICEF-supported child friendly spaces in flood-affected communities in Ratnapura district engaging 500 adolescents who were members of Children's Clubs. Based on the experiences and lessons learned during the piloting of the Kit, as well as feedback from the adolescents themselves, the content was adapted, and the Adolescent Kit contextualized to the Sri Lankan context. The lessons learned and case stories from this contextualization process were shared with UNICEF Headquarters for further refinement of the Kit.

A training module was developed in both local languages to train Child Rights Promotion Officers (CRPOs) and Children's Club members attached to the Divisional Offices in the targeted districts of Rathnapura, Kalutara and Galle on how to effectively use the kit during a disaster to respond to the needs of adolescent girls and boys and ensure their stability and safety. The Adolescent Kit training manual was finalized in early 2018 and the training rolled out at district and divisional level using resources of the DPCCS. This highlights the strong ownership and commitment of the DPCCS from the design to implementation stage of this programme, which will ensure the long-term and sustained use of the Adolescent Kit in Children's Club activities in the future.

The 300 trained officials and 500 adolescents now act as resource persons in UNICEF Sri Lanka's ongoing programme on CC-DRR to build capacity on DRR. The trained officials are on a stand-by roster and will be

¹⁰ Population Census 2012, Sri Lanka

¹¹ Our Voices Matter: The views of children on emergency preparedness and response in Sri Lanka, 2017, Save the Children and UNICEF

deployed during an emergency to support the use of the Adolescent Kit in Children's Clubs in disaster-affected areas.

Case Story of Nishi, 13 years, who benefitted from the use of the Adolescent Kit

'I have been living in Ratnapura District with my family for a long time. My village is prone to landslides and floods, which are frequent in monsoon seasons. Even a small amount of rain could result in flooding in our area and during that time we have to live in schools or temples. Sometimes we can return back to our house within a week or so but last time it took more than two months to return back to our home. I even lost a family member from the disaster. We always live in uncertainty and this kind of disaster affects my education and routine day-to-day activities. The situation has made me feel nervous and I've lost confidence in my future. When living in the camp so many unknown people visit the camp and ask many questions about my education and family, etc., but I am tired of repeatedly answering these kinds of questions. People try to get the information they want but they don't pay attention to our mental well-being

One day when I was in the camp I was invited to join an activity with other children. At first I joined for the sake of it and felt frustrated but after some time I realized this was different. I was not asked any questions but had the chance to be involved in activities and games. At the end of each game we talked about real-life situations and the main concept behind these activities. It was very interactive and encouraged us to share our own feelings and problems with them. I really enjoyed these activities and it was very useful. It made me realize that natural disasters are very natural, and we cannot avoid them, but we can reduce the impact of this disaster through good preparedness. Now, I work as a child animator and support CRPOs to roll out this training in other Children's Clubs. I strongly feel we can improve our life skills, resilience and preparedness during flooding through such activities in the Adolescent Kit.'

A senior CRPO stated that they struggled to engage adolescents, such as Nishi, engaged in activities but with the Adolescent Toolkit they now have the tools they need to actively involve every child and adolescent in age-appropriate activities and ensure their meaningful participation. The CRPO also noted that the children and adolescents seemed more relaxed and how such activities contributed to helping them cope with their negative emotions, especially in times of distress and natural hazard.

Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CC-DRR)

In 2018, UNICEF Sri Lanka continued to play a key role in promoting a child centered approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the country and supported the Government in implementing the SAARC Framework and Road Map for CC-DRR (2015). This involved facilitating more effective coordination and collaboration between the various Government entities at district level who did not previously work together. These entities included the CRPOs – responsible for child welfare in families and communities; educational officials – responsible for children in schools; and the DMC Assistant Director based at the District Secretariat Unit – responsible for disaster management. Through the CC-DRR programme, UNICEF Sri Lanka was able to bring together these three government departments for emergency preparedness and disaster risk management, with a focus on children. UNICEF Sri Lanka continues to advocate for more collaboration and coordination of these entities at national and sub-national levels.

To-date, UNICEF Sri Lanka built the capacity of 168 CRPOs on child-centered risk assessments; child-friendly camp management; and child protection in emergencies. Further, in 2018, UNICEF Sri Lanka facilitated an exposure visit to Bihar, India for 12 officials from the DPCCS to better understand CC-DRR and a study visit for eight education officials to the Philippines to learn more about the successes and

challenges of the Comprehensive School Safety model, which is being replicated in Sri Lanka. The results of these capacity building initiatives are reported under the below section on Humanitarian Thematic Funding.

F. Results Achieved from Humanitarian Thematic Funding

In Sri Lanka, girls, boys and adolescents have been impacted by disasters in a variety of ways, however, neither the GoSL nor humanitarian agencies have official information on how children were affected, including number of child deaths, during the repeated cycles of natural disasters over the past decade. UNICEF Sri Lanka supports the GoSL to ensure that disasters are well-prepared for, and that the response is timely, appropriate and relevant, especially for the most vulnerable children. A key component of this is ensuring that the UNICEF Sri Lanka Country Office is adequately prepared, as well as its counterparts and other partners.

VILLAGES	FAMILY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	1-5 Age	6-18 Age	60 over	Preschool	Feeding	Disabled
Aanathapuram KN 16	51	74	93	167	36	08	16	03	11	03
Kattapuram KN 20	95	149	148	297	08	07	48	48	02	09
Thiruvaiyaru KN 20	08	08	08	04	-	-	-	-	-	02
Thiruvaiyaru West KN 21	08	04	02	06	-	-	-	03	-	-
Uthayapattinam KN 13	08	02	03	06	-	-	02	-	-	-
Kili Tocore KN 23	09	14	15	29	04	04	04	01	-	03
Thandamangalam KN 17	01	02	02	04	01	01	-	-	-	01
TOTAL	168	247	265	512	19	20	61	75	38	03

Display board in 1 evacuation center in Kilinochchi, December 2018

To-date, UNICEF Sri Lanka built the capacity of 168 CRPOs on child-centered risk assessments; child-friendly camp management; and child protection in emergencies. Through these trained CRPOs, 224 other relevant district level officials and around 1,250 children's club members have been engaged in risk assessment and preparedness initiatives. This investment in capacity building enabled the immediate deployment of child protection officers to the flood-affected areas of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts in December 2018 to ensure adherence to child friendly camp management and other child protection principles and guidelines. This was the first time in a disaster when CRPOs were deployed by district authorities to safety centers to understand the vulnerabilities, needs and wellbeing of children and adolescents affected by a disaster. The CRPOs played a key role in collecting age, sex and ability disaggregated data in the safety centers for the first time in recent history, as well as facilitating discussions with children and adolescents to obtain their feedback on the child-friendliness of the camp setting. Based on these good practices, UNICEF Sri Lanka is advocating with the DMC in Colombo to revise their Situation Report format to better reflect sex, age and ability disaggregated data at national level.

To further learning and exchange of experiences in the area of CC-DRR, UNICEF Sri Lanka facilitated an exposure visit to Bihar, India for 12 officials from the DPCCS, including the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner, and the Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. In Bihar, UNICEF India Country Office had engaged with the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) since 2010 to mainstream CC-DRR into Government development design, planning, implementation and monitoring.

The exposure visit gave the officials a first-hand experience of how communities and children engage in disaster risk reduction with high commitment and enthusiasm. There were many good practices identified for possible replication in Sri Lanka, such as the 'Safe Saturday' programme implemented by the State Department of Education, and learnings on how disaster risk reduction could act as a catalyst in finding solutions to more sensitive child protection and safeguarding issues at community and decision-making levels. The use of DRR

Change Agents was another good practice that highlighted how, two years after they were trained, these DRR change agents continued to make a difference in their school and community environments, including addressing wider social and cultural issues such as child-marriage, school drop-out and inadequate sanitation.

To take forward some of these good practices and learnings, the Sri Lanka delegation agreed to dedicate one day per month to discuss CC-DRR and enhance these programmes to i) increase engagement of children in non-disaster related risks, such as child abuse, trafficking and gender-based violence; ii) strengthen peer-to-peer education, including FirstAid and mock drills; iii) make CC-DRR mandatory in monthly CRPO meetings; iv) bring children into decision-making on DRR and emergency response under the DMC; and v) engage in school level DRR activities together with the CRPOs and provincial education authorities to promote child safety in schools, at home and on the road.

At the school level, UNICEF Sri Lanka supported the Ministry of Education to promote Comprehensive School Safety (CSS) at national and sub-national levels. A considerable number of schools are in high landslide and flood risk areas in Sri Lanka. However, due to a lack of funding and many other procedural and political limitations, these schools still operate despite this deadly threat. As a risk reduction measure, UNICEF Sri Lanka invested resources to promote CSS with Government and non-government stakeholders after the flooding in 2017. This included, capacity building of over 80 education officials and 25 students at school, zonal, provincial and national levels on CSS. Of the trained officials, eight officers were given the opportunity to visit the Philippines and learn more about the successes and challenges of the CSS model used by the Pasig City Education Department in the Philippines. The study visits involved interactions with children in three schools in Pasig City that were implementing CSS programmes. The insights and learnings have been valuable in supporting the implementation of more effective school



School Safety Committee members demonstrating emergency evacuation, R.K.M.V. Parsuuni School, Madhubani, Bihar, India.

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Commissioner of DPCSS addressing the de-briefing session in Bihar, India.

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safety initiatives and increasing the commitment of relevant Government officials towards CSS and CC-DRR approaches in emergency preparedness actions. An example of how this has led to some positive changes includes the development of a Sabaragamuwa Provincial Education Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Plan, covering 16 education zones, as the basis for provincial education sector risk management and resource allocation for risk mitigation initiatives. The Provincial Director of Education in the Province, who participated in the study visit, took the initiative to develop such a plan based on his commitment to replicate a good practice he had seen during the visit. The plan, which will be institutionalized within the provincial education system, identifies and prioritises potential disasters and possible mechanisms in managing these at the zonal level.

The capacity building on CSS also resulted in the conduct of school risk assessments and risk reduction action planning in four schools in Ratnapura district. Under the leadership of the principal of each school, the students conducted child-centered risk assessments using innovative technology, such as drones for aerial mapping of locations to enable the compilation of maps for each school. With the identification of risks, the schools developed School Disaster Management Plans, which included risk mitigation recommendations for the school management.



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School risk assessment using drone technology in Ratnapura

In 2018, UNICEF Sri Lanka organized two workshops to bring together Government, the UN and non-governmental actors involved in disaster management, humanitarian assistance and social protection to share regional and global experiences and initiate discussions on how to establish a more permanent disaster response mechanism for vulnerable groups by building on the existing social protection system. UNICEF Sri Lanka assessed numerous and various existing social protection schemes in Sri Lanka, which included a multitude of consultations with Government and non-government stakeholders at national and sub-national levels. With the expertise brought in by UNICEF Sri Lanka in the social protection sector, UNICEF Sri Lanka currently leads the Social Policy Working Group among the UN, international/national non-governmental organisations and development partners. Additionally, in support of the GoSL, UNICEF Sri Lanka initiated a feasibility assessment of implementing the Social Registry Information System (SRIS) developed by the Government and the World Bank. This evidence generated through the assessment and pilot testing will be used in advocating for policy changes towards relevant adaptation of current social policy schemes.

To create awareness among the general public on the prevailing disasters in the country and the need for greater preparedness, UNICEF Sri Lanka launched in May 2018 four short films depicting the emergency response in 2017. The content reached a total number of 392,221 people on Facebook, whilst gaining a total of 113,400 video views with 1,239 people actively engaged in the content via Facebook reactions, comments and shares.

To strengthen climate change adaptation in Sri Lanka, including greater sensitivity to the needs and vulnerabilities of children and women, UNICEF Sri Lanka together with the Climate Change Secretariat under the Ministry of Environment conducted a research to understand how climate change affects women and children in five selected districts. This study investigated three climate-related disasters,

namely, the droughts, floods and landslides and their projected exposure based on two Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) climate scenarios - Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 4.5 and RCP 8.5¹². The analysis focused on four technical areas for women - health, protection, water/sanitation and socio-economic and four technical areas for children - health, protection, water/sanitation and education. A survey was conducted in 1,751 households located in drought, flood and landslide impacted areas in the country. The evidence generated through this research is being used to review the first two years of programme implementation under the current country programme and will enable more risk-informed and resilience-building programming in the next rolling work plan for 2020-2021.

a. Thematic Funding Case Study

Top Level Results

To further learning and exchange of experiences on Child Centered-Disaster Risk Reduction (CC-DRR), UNICEF Sri Lanka facilitated an exposure visit to Bihar, India for 12 officials from the Department of Probation and Child Care Services (DPCCS), including the Commissioner and the Assistant Commissioner, and the Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. The exposure visit gave the officials a first-hand experience of how communities and children are engaged in disaster risk reduction and identified many other good practices for possible replication in Sri Lanka, as well as learnings on how disaster risk reduction could act as a catalyst in finding solutions to more sensitive child protection and safeguarding issues at community and decision-making levels.

Issue/Background

UNICEF Sri Lanka is promoting a child-centered approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the country and provides support to the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) in implementing the SAARC Framework and Road Map for CC-DRR. More specifically, with technical and financial support of UNICEF Sri Lanka, the GoSL is currently mainstreaming CC-DRR into development policies and plans, to ensure that children are part of the overall disaster management decision-making. Within this context, UNICEF Sri Lanka, in consultation with UNICEF India, organized a learning visit to Bihar State in India to study the roll out and institutionalization of CC-DRR.

Allocated Resources

As part of our capacity development programme, Sri Lanka and DPCCS agreed to provide systematic support to CRPOs to strengthen the capacity of girls, boys and adolescents to take better care of themselves and their loved ones during an emergency and meaningfully participate in disaster-related preparedness, risk reduction and response. Within this context, under the South-South corporation strategy, UNICEF Sri Lanka Country Office, in consultation with UNICEF India Country Office, organized a learning visit to Bihar State in India to study the roll out and institutionalization of CC-DRR. The valuable thematic funding enabled UNICEF Sri Lanka to undertake this learning visit as a way of developing in-country technical capacity on CC-DRR and help mainstream it into development policies and plans.

¹² RCP refers to the greenhouse gas concentration (not emissions) trajectory adopted by the IPCC.

Progress and Results

To build capacity in this area, UNICEF Sri Lanka organized a learning visit for 12 officials to Bihar State in India to study the roll out and institutionalization of CC-DRR.

The Sri Lankan delegates learned the importance of mainstreaming DRR into other development programme planning from sub-national to grassroots levels. The delegates were convinced of the ability of children to act as catalysts in changing harmful behaviours and attitudes and promoting safer and cleaner environments. Further, they observed the critical role and commitment of Government in facilitating such engagement and empowering children. The importance of Village-level Disaster

Management Committees in community-based disaster risk reduction and the need to ensure their sustainability once external funding has been depleted was another key learning from the visit. One approach that could be applied from the Bihar context is the Integrated Child Development Scheme, which effectively brings together different Government departments for comprehensive programming on child safety and development. The Sri Lankan delegates agreed to explore increased engagement with other sectoral officials from Health, Education, Social Welfare etc. at district levels to replicate this approach.



Meeting with DRR Sentinels, Madhubani, Bihar, India on 6 March 2019

Criticality and value addition

This intervention is critical in supporting UNICEF Sri Lanka and the DPCCS, under the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, to implement a three-year programme on CC-DRR that is being launched in seven districts. The programme aims to enhance children's participation in disaster management decision-making at divisional levels. The learning visit was both an opportunity to advocate for increased action and commitment by the Government in engaging children in CC-DRR and identify good practices and learnings that could be replicated in Sri Lanka.

Challenges and Lesson Learned

The main challenge was in identifying an appropriate country programme on DRR to visit and organizing the visit to ensure that it met the learning objectives and provided good examples that could be taken forward. Beyond learning, the visit was used as a critical opportunity to advocate for increased Government commitment and leadership in engaging children in this area of work.

Initially, a programme by UNICEF Indonesia Country Office was identified, however, due to the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia the scheduled learning visit had to be cancelled. This caused delays in organizing the learning visit.

Moving Forward

As a first step, the delegates will organize an internal experience sharing workshop to highlight the best practices they learnt during their visit and how to take them forward. Further, the delegation members, which included the Secretary to the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, and Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner of DPCCS, are committed to include CC-DRR as a mandatory agenda point in the monthly meetings of the District Child Development Committee in all 25 districts. In addition, the DPCCS is planning to implement a programme similar to “Safe Saturday” under the Bihar School Safety Programme, where one day per month the District Child Development Committee will lead discussions on child-centered risks and risk reduction strategies. Further, the delegation members agreed to use peer-to-peer education as a means of reaching more children through CC-DRR awareness.



School Safety Committee demonstration, Madhubani, Bihar, India on 6 March 2019

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The delegates will continue to work together to develop and translate Sri Lanka-specific facilitator guidelines and tools on CC-DRR and Child-Centered Risk Assessment into local languages. UNICEF Sri Lanka will spearhead and facilitate this process together with the DPCCS and will also promote the use of these tools by national and sub-national level disaster management platforms. The capacity built by this learning visit will also be used to roll out CC-DRR through Children’s Clubs in selected high-risk districts, which includes training children on CC-DRR and linking them with the relevant local authorities. Using the experience of working closely with children in this area of work, UNICEF Sri Lanka, together with the DPCCS and the CC-DRR master trainers, will develop national guidelines on age-specific engagement of children and adolescents in emergency response and preparedness and overall disaster risk reduction decision-making. This would enable efficient mainstreaming of child-sensitive risk reduction measures in the Government’s national level policy and programme development.

G. Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

The HCT did not engage in an inter-agency needs assessment during 2018 as the scale of the disaster did not warrant international humanitarian assistance and the GoSL confirmed that they would be solely responsible for providing humanitarian relief to the affected people. However, as the Protection Sector lead, UNICEF closely monitored the situation and advocated for priority attention towards the specific needs of children and women. UNICEF Sri Lanka Kilinochchi field office based in the Northern Province, joined a fact-finding mission conducted by the World Food Programme (WFP) after the Northeast Monsoon related disasters to gather data on children and their specific needs. This involved discussions with key informants in the Government and visiting safety centers to understand the requirements. However, since the situation normalized rapidly and displaced people quickly returned to their areas of origin, UNICEF Sri Lanka did not plan any specific response interventions.

UNICEF Sri Lanka worked closely with relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Disaster Management, Disaster Management Center, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs, Ministry of Social Empowerment and Welfare and its Divisional Secretariat Division, Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs, Department of Meteorology, National Disaster Relief Services Center, Asia-Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management, local level district and divisional secretariats, and sectoral ministries, to monitor the situation and to provide guidance on ensuring child protection during emergencies.

UNICEF Sri Lanka led the Protection Sector on the development of a needs assessment template and tools to be used during rapid and slow-onset disasters, which were finalized in December 2018. For rapid onset disasters, an online child protection rapid assessment tool was developed by UNICEF Sri Lanka with technical inputs from the Protection Sector members. It was agreed by the Protection Sector that this online tool will be used by all member agencies when conducting 24 – 72hr assessments in a disaster-hit area.

H. Financial Analysis

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

Sector	DRR Requirements *	Funds Available Against Appeal as of 31 December 2018*		% Funding Gap
		Funds Received in 2018	Carry-Over	
Health and Nutrition	100,000	0	19,132	81%
Education	300,000	0	0	100%
Water and Sanitation	20,000	0	0	100%
Child Protection	50,000	0	35,718	64%
Social Policy	330,000	1,400	49,864	85%
Disaster Risk Reduction	900,000	208,519	130,759	85%
Coordination and Support Services	20,000	3,362	511	97%
Total	1,670,000	213,281	235,984	86%

*There was no emergency response in 2018, therefore no emergency appeal.

Table 2: Funding Received and Available by Donor and Funding Type (in USD)

Donor Name/Type of funding	Programme Budget Allotment reference	Overall Amount*
I. Humanitarian funds received in 2018		
a) Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Thematic Funding through Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA)	SM/14/9910	70,000
b) Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
DFID	SM/17/0463	100,000
Through ROSA	SM/16/0384	50,000
Total Non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		150,000
c) Pooled Funding		
n/a		0.00
d) Other types of humanitarian funds		
n/a		0.00
Total humanitarian funds received in 2018		220,000
II. Carry-over of humanitarian funds available in 2018		
e) Carry over Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Thematic Humanitarian Funds	SM/14/9910	233,475
f) Carry-over of non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		
Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)	SM/17/0292	2,509
Total carry-over non-Thematic Humanitarian Funds		2,509
Total carry-over humanitarian funds (e + f)		235,984
III. Other sources (Regular Resources set -aside, diversion of RR - if applicable)		
n/a		0.00
Total other resources		0.00

* Programmable amounts of donor contributions, excluding recovery cost.

Table 3: Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2018

Thematic Humanitarian Contributions Received in 2018 (in USD): Donor	Grant Number ¹³	Programmable Amount (in USD)	Total Contribution Amount (in USD)
ROSA allocation - Global Thematic Humanitarian	SM149910	70,000	70,000
Total		70,000	70,000

¹³ International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) requires all grants to be listed in reporting. <http://iatistandard.org/>

I. Future Work Plan

Given that Sri Lanka is prone to frequent and recurrent natural disasters, preparation for emergencies was a key priority. In the first quarter, UNICEF Sri Lanka successfully transitioned from Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) to Emergency Preparedness Platform (EPP). This was a great opportunity to build capacities of the Sri Lanka Country Office staff on emergency preparedness and define emergency response plans for the floods/landslides and drought cycles. Though UNICEF Sri Lanka did not respond to any emergencies during 2018, the office maintained high preparedness levels, including monitoring of the emergency situation; planning and coordination with Government and non-governmental partners; and actively reaching out to donors for preparedness funding. UNICEF Sri Lanka also commenced a three-year programme (2018 – 2020) to implement CC-DRR in order to inculcate a culture of emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction among children from an early stage. Under this programme, UNICEF Sri Lanka supported the DPCCS to develop a 3-Year National Action Plan (NAP) to implement CC-DRR throughout the island. The objective of this Action Plan is to reach 1,000,000 children through CC-DRR in three years. The NAP will facilitate not only the implementation of CC-DRR in Sri Lanka, but also promote coordination among the different actors involved in DRR and CCA, under the leadership of DPCCS.

By the end of the first quarter of 2019, the NAP will be finalized by the Steering Committee, including discussion on resource estimations for each activity. During the initial phase of the NAP, UNICEF Sri Lanka will contribute resources towards its implementation, while facilitating the mainstreaming of the CC-DRR budget into the DPCCS's annual plan and budget as the responsible Department for CC-DRR. With regards to the response phase, the activities captured in the NAP on emergency response are integrated in the humanitarian Protection Sector strategy and plans. The Protection Sector group periodically follows-up and updates the relevant actions during the preparedness and response phases of monsoon seasons. In line with the NAP, UNICEF Sri Lanka will focus on building the capacities of 200 CRPOs on child protection in emergencies, child-centered risk assessments and child-friendly camp management, including the effective use of adolescent kits during emergencies. Over 5,000 children will be reached through these capacity building activities and the relevant tools and guidelines will be regularly updated based on stakeholder feedback.

J. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Sri Lanka 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.