

Sri Lanka Cyclone Ditwah Disaster Relief Update



At the end of November 2025, Sri Lanka suffered massive destruction from Cyclone Ditwah. The effects will linger long. More than 600 people were killed, and 200 are missing. No train service is expected for one year. Paddy fields nationwide were devastated, and 20% of cultivated land was damaged. The loss of livestock—cattle, goats, and chickens—is overwhelming. Food prices are certain to soar next year. 206 major roads were damaged, and 40 bridges destroyed. The total loss in infrastructure is estimated at more than \$250 million.

Buddhist Relief Mission is pleased to have received more than \$3000, which has been distributed as food, drinking water, and medicine relief in the Kandy area. We are coordinating with various organizations which are working tirelessly to reach remote villages. The country is slowly recovering from the disaster, but the needs are still great. Your donations will be sincerely appreciated.



In the three photos on the right, you can clearly see how high the Mahaveli River rose. In the top photo, the water reached the third floor of the houses. In the bottom photos, the water flooded the road. Notice the cars on the far bank, at least six meters above the current water level.



Sylvia and her team distributed relief aid to quite a few landslide victims in Kandy and Pilimatalawa. The monk in the photo was injured in a landslide, and his brother was killed. Almost every neighborhood in Kandy suffered some damage.

As soon as the rain ceased, after 72 unbroken hours of downpour (600 mm), Jagath loaded vans and trucks with food and medical supplies for distribution to traumatized villagers in Halloluwa. Landslides had rendered the roads almost impassable. There was no electricity, so workers depended on the vehicles' headlights. It is impressive that so many throughout the country have come together in cooperation, ignoring differences in ethnicity and religion, for rescue and relief efforts.

Police and the military have earned great respect for their efforts to deliver relief aid.

Buddhist Relief Mission is registered as a 501(c)3 organization with the IRS, and all American donations are tax deductible.



The town of Gellioya, approximately 14 kilometers southeast of Kandy was almost completely destroyed by the flood. Particularly hard hit were the Muslim communities of Kalugamuwa and Pahingamuwa. Teams from Kandy were quick to provide relief to the victims. Our family doctor, himself a Muslim, has gone several times delivering food and other essential items and has set up a clinic to provide medical treatment to the victims.



Material donations of food, as well as used or new clothes and household items, are welcome. Please contact Buddhist Relief Mission to schedule delivery.



Many of the tea estates, upon which much of Sri Lanka's economy depends, were heavily damaged. Tea production is expected to decrease by up to 35%. Sri Lanka Cancer Society—Kandy Branch has concentrated relief efforts on Loolandura Estate, Sri Lanka's first tea plantation. 11 estate workers and 1 staff member were killed and more than 400 workers lost their homes in a massive landslide. The Society is appealing for funds to build temporary shelters for immediate relief.

Giving isn't about what you lose. It's about what you share. And when you share joy, it comes back around, usually when you least expect it. —Anonymous



Click this photo to view a short and horrific video of water gushing through Gellioya.

Donations may be made in Sri Lanka via:

Commercial Bank,
Anniwatte Branch
A/C 8254001210
Kenneth Kawasaki

in the U.S. via:

River Bank & Trust
Buddhist Relief Mission
A/C 262527856
ABA Code: 062206567

In case of a bank deposit, please send donor's name and the amount of the donation by SMS or WhatsApp to +94-77-964-9292 or by email to <buddhist@brelief.org>

For international bank transfer, please send a request for instructions.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=E4PWEKXHBG55G

A few days later, after some of the roads had been cleared, Jagath and his team again loaded trucks and vans with food, water, medicine, mats, and other essential items and headed for another village near Halloluwa. Unfortunately, the bridge which served as the main access to the village had been washed away, and the trip took seven hours. There are many such villages throughout the island, and thousands of citizens are destitute.



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The bridge giving the main access to the village was washed away.