

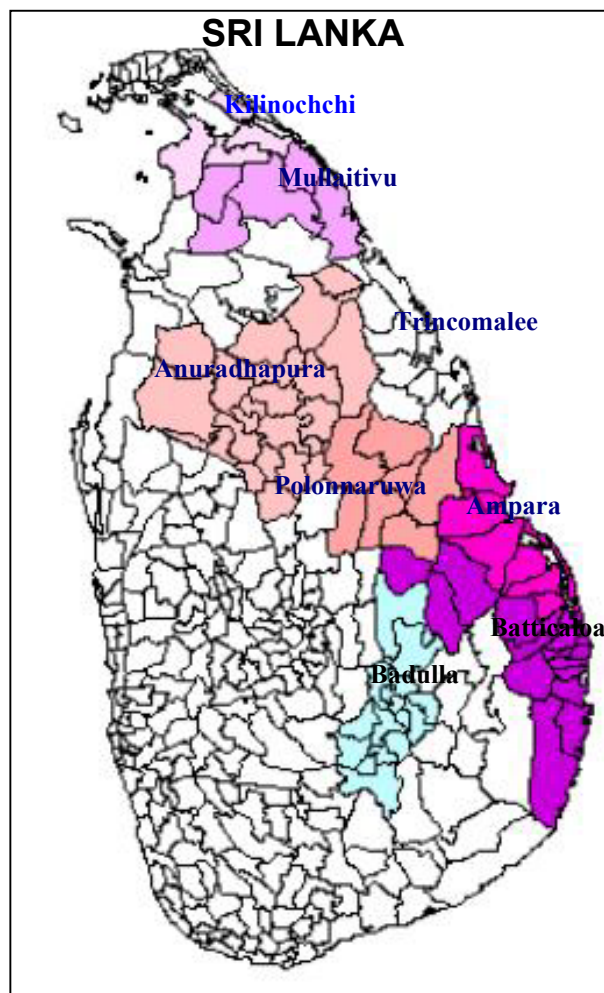
## Situation Report- Floods in Sri Lanka

December 15, 2004 - 18:00 Local time

Floods caused by incessant rains over the past few days have affected seven districts of North, Eastern and North Central Provinces of Sri Lanka. Nearly 149,150 families in the Ampara, Batticaloa, Mullaitivu, Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura districts, Kilinochchi and Trincomalee are estimated to be affected due to the floods and around 600 families due to landslides in Badulla district.

Heavy rains in the months of November and December are common due to the North-Eastern Monsoons in these areas. The forecast of the Department of Meteorology indicates that the north-east monsoon conditions have been activated again and a cloud band has developed to the east of Sri Lanka due to which heavy spells of rains are expected in the North, East, North-central, Central and Uva Provinces. There is also a low level disturbance in the Bay of Bengal to the east of Sri Lanka, which might bring in heavy rainfall if it intensifies into a low-pressure system. Currently it appears to be dissipating and further development on this may be ascertained later tomorrow.

The details of the families affected in each district are given below:



	District	Total Divisions	Divisions Affected	Families affected	Families displaced	Houses damaged (fully/partially)
1	Ampara	19	16	72,773	10,500*	2000
2	Batticaloa	14	14	61,000	3,000	165
3	Mullaitivu <sup>2</sup>	5	3	13,000	-Not Available-	-Not Available-
4	Polonnaruwa	7	7	3,000	-Not Available-	-Not Available-
5	Anuradhapura	22	6	150	60 <sup>#</sup>	150
6	Trincomalee	12	-Not Available-	2,000	-Not Available-	-Not Available-

7	Kilinochchi	4	-Not Available-	1,300	-Not Available-	-Not Available-
	<b>Total</b>	67	46	153,253	13,560	2,315

\* Out of 10,500 families displaced, around 3,000 families are living in temporary refuges – temples, schools etc; rest are living with neighbours, friends and relatives

# 10 families are completely displaced and living in temporary welfare centres

<sup>2</sup> Figures as of 14 December 2004

**Source:** *District Secretaries in the affected district secretariats*

In Batticaloa, 6 divisions are seriously affected while the other 8 are moderately affected and 2 deaths have also been reported. In Badulla district, 6 landslides have occurred in 6 divisions killing 4 people, damaging 20 houses and affecting 600 families. If the rains continue more landslides are feared.

### **Governmental Response**

The District and Divisional Secretaries have been asked to provide cooked meals, and if needed, dry rations for a week. Meanwhile the district authorities are collecting more information and making an assessment of damage to houses and crops and other sectors.

**For any further information:** contact [ramraj.narasimhan@undp.org](mailto:ramraj.narasimhan@undp.org)