



NATIONAL SHELTER, LAND & SITE COORDINATION SECTOR
MEETING
SRI LANKA

THU, 12 MARCH 2026

AGENDA

- **Welcome to participants**
- **Displacement site definitions** - Angela OSTI, IOM
 - Discuss harmonization of terminology
- **Badulla - Displacement sites status update** – Thanudi Nirasha WEERASEKARA, DTM team
- **Badulla - Safety Centers needs assessment update** – Mamen and Partners, SLSC sector
 - Needs assessment information and update from partners
- **Response progress dashboard** – Aeneas and Partners, SLSC sector
- **Focal points update** – Rinas and Mamen, SLSC sector
- **HLP Working Group update** - Sandra, SLSC sector
- **AOB** – ECHO HIP top-up



Join the WhatsApp group of the
SLSC Sector, Sri Lanka for live
communications and updates

DISPLACEMENT SITE DEFINITIONS

A displacement site refers to any location where displaced persons are collectively sheltering outside their habitual residence. This includes both formally organized and self-established settings, whether located in repurposed buildings, purpose-built camps, or informal group settlements. As such, it is the umbrella term for the identified sheltering typologies

Safety centers, Cyclone Ditwah, 2025—also referred to as Evacuation Centres or Safe Sites during previous flood and landslide responses (e.g. 2017)—are defined as collective centres. They consist of pre-existing structures such as public buildings, schools, religious facilities, community halls, or factories that are temporarily repurposed to host displaced populations. These facilities are generally pre-identified by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) at district level.

In line with government terminology and to ensure sectoral consistency, the SLSC Sector refers to these facilities as safety centres, even though they fall under the broader definition of collective centres.

Currently, safety centres operate under different modalities: some function on a 24-hour basis, while others are used overnight only, particularly in situations where habitual residences are partially unsafe or where communities continue to experience flooding. In several cases, evacuation centres have been identified and established directly by communities rather than through formal designation by district authorities.

Planned Camp— A type of planned settlement officially established and recognized by the authorities to host people affected by crises and disasters, addressing their immediate or longer-term needs. In the case of Sri Lanka local authorities are planning tented camps and temporary/transitional shelters camps.

Tents are set up as **Emergency/ temporary shelter**: a temporary structure which provides adequate shelter for a short period of time immediately after a disaster.

Transitional shelter: a structure which provides adequate shelter from the emergency phase until longer term durable solutions can be provided - if required these can be dismantled and relocated, and materials reused.

Informal Settlement/Informal Camp— Also called spontaneous settlements or self-established camps. They are a group of usually tented or other types of housing units established by the IDPs themselves or by actors, often erected on land that the occupants have no legal claim to and without the coordination with authorities. These can be also structures like safety centres ones, generally they are abandoned buildings



BADULLA DISPLACEMENT SITES STATUS UPDATE

Badulla District Displacement Sites

Key Figures

20

Total Locations

595

Total Families

1985

Total Individuals (IDPs)

14

Safety Centres

1

Hybrid Centre

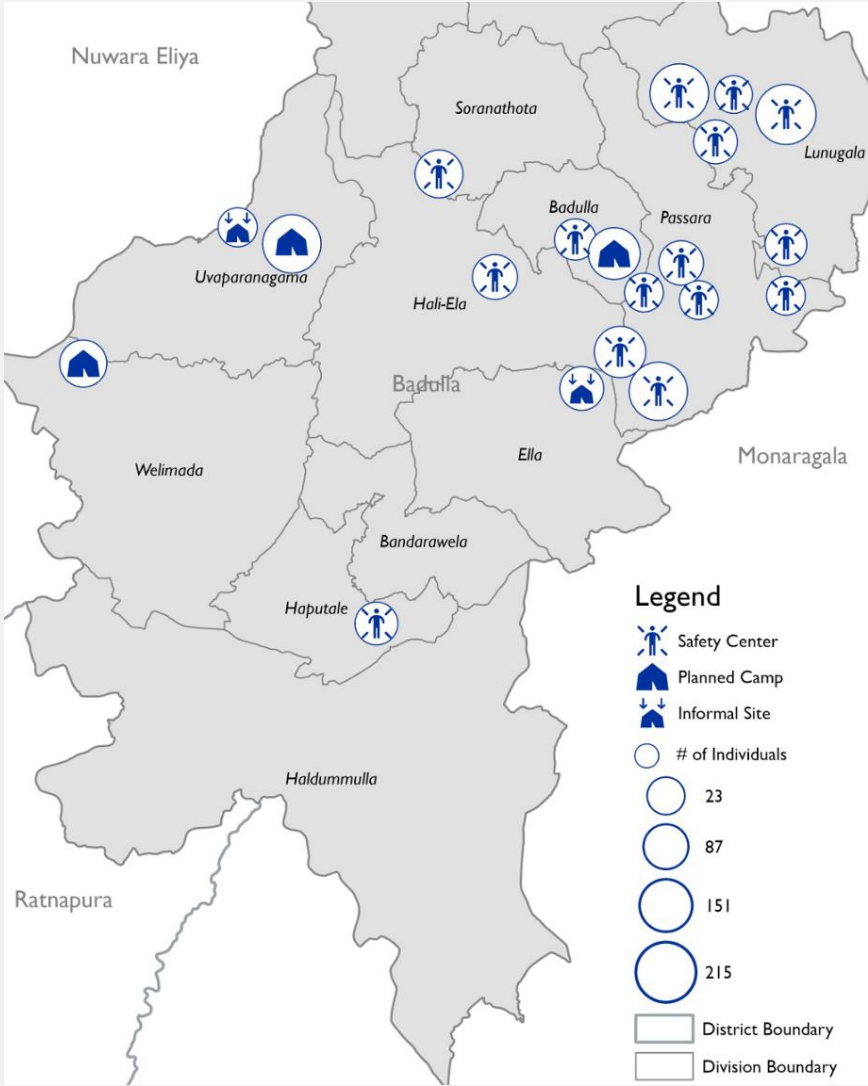
3

Planned Camps

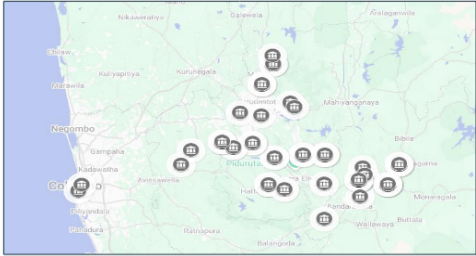
2

Informal Centres

Of 15 DS divisions in Badulla district, **9 divisions** have displacement sites. **Passara** and **Lunugala** divisions have the highest number of displacement sites — **5 each** (all formal safety centres).



ASSESSED SAFETY CENTERS



BACKGROUND

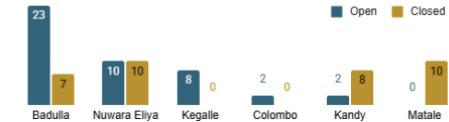
Starting in late November 2025, Sri Lanka experienced severe flooding and landslides triggered by Cyclone Ditwah, affecting all 25 districts across the country. Thousands of families were displaced, with many seeking shelters in safety centers including schools, temples, community centres, and other public buildings.

In response, the newly established Shelter, Land, and Site Coordination Sector, co-led by IOM and IFRC, coordinated a comprehensive needs assessment across all six districts with existing safety centers¹: Badulla, Kegalle, Nuwara Eliya, Colombo, Matale and Kandy. Data was collected through key-informant interviews with Grama Niladari representatives or center representatives, conducted either in person or through phone by sector partners. All figures and narrative in this report cover safety centers which were referred by district authorities. Findings are indicative of the situation in the centres at the time of data collection. This report provides an overview in the following thematic areas: site management, site environment, demographics, health, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), non-food items (NFIs), food provision, community feedback mechanisms, and most urgent needs.











OVERVIEW

In total, **80 sites were assessed**, 45 active, and 35 closed. Active sites hosted 4,729 IDPs with total capacity to host 5,602 individuals. On average, therefore, each site hosts 105 IDPs and has the capacity to host 124 IDPs². The presence of available capacity across the system indicates 997 additional spaces (18% surplus), however, distribution is uneven with Badulla district experiencing significant overcrowding. The most common types of sites were schools (40%), followed by religious sites (18%) and government buildings (13%). The highest concentration of IDPs is found in Badulla district (56% of total IDPs) which also experiences capacity deficit requiring immediate attention. Overall, the most frequently reported priority needs include NFIs, site repairs and upgrades, food services, and privacy arrangements.

SCOPE OF ASSESSMENTS BY DISTRICT



KEY FIGURES

-  **80**
collective centres assessed across 6 districts
-  **45**
sites currently open and hosting IDPs
-  **35**
sites closed
-  **4,729**
displaced individuals hosted in open sites
-  **5,602**
total hosting capacity across open sites
-  **40%**
of sites are schools
-  **48%**
of IDPs are women and girls
-  **57%**
of sites report persons with disabilities
-  **93%**
of sites are managed by the government
-  **44%**
of open sites have a 24/7 focal point

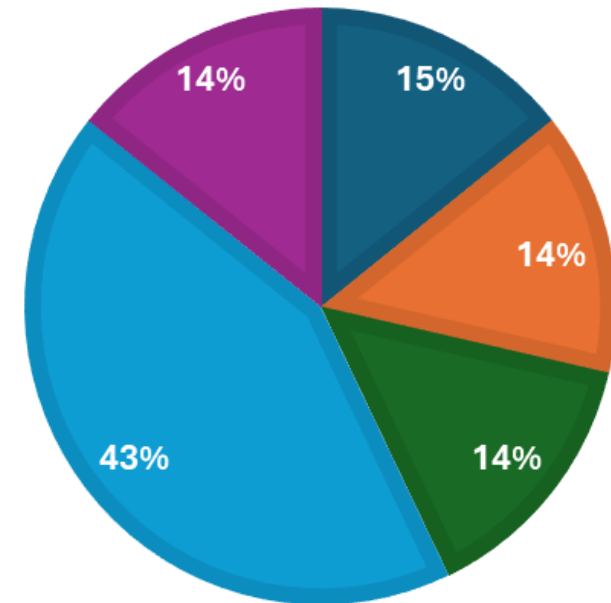
¹Safety centers are classified as collective sites—pre-existing structures that temporarily accommodate IDPs. In alignment with terminology used by the government in official communication, this report refers to such sites as safety centers.

²Capacity figures are based on available bed/mattress space within the site premises, rather than SPHERE standards

BADULLA DISTRICT SAFETY CENTERS NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

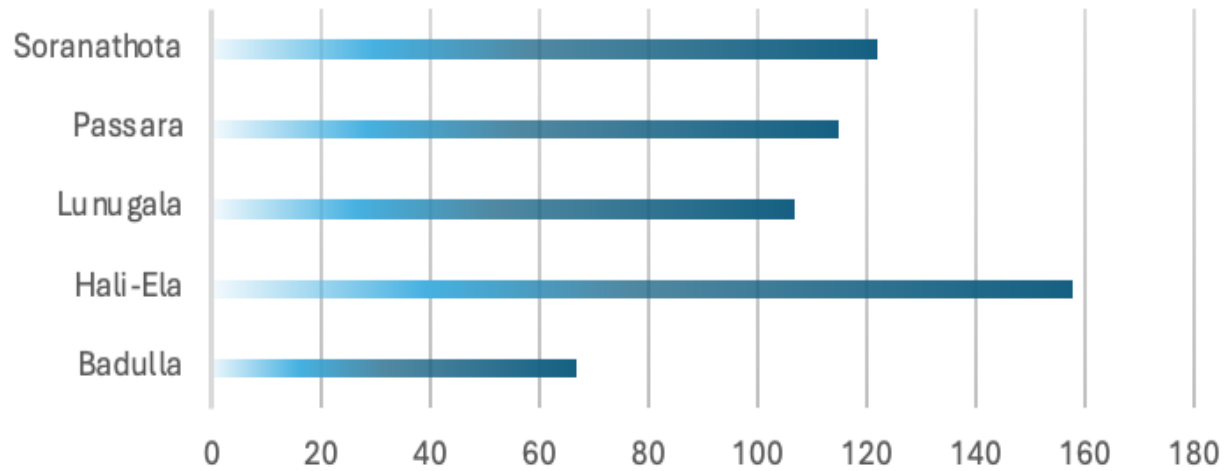
NUMBER OF SITES

■ Badulla ■ Hali-Ela ■ Lunugala ■ Passara ■ Soranathota

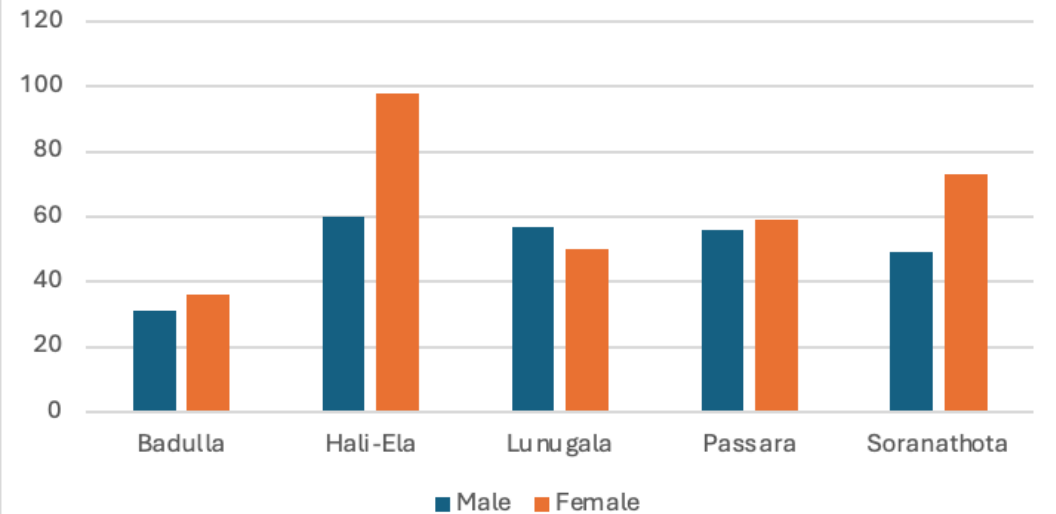


BADULLA SAFETY CENTERS NEEDS ASSESMENT UPDATE

DISPLACED PEOPLE



Badulla District



BADULLA SAFETY CENTERS NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

- **Adequate shelter and living conditions:** Overcrowding reported in some cases / Some structures require improvements to ensure safe and dignified living environments.
- **Access to essential services:** Reliable access to **safe water, sanitation, primary healthcare, and nutrition services** remains a priority for residents.
 - Some barriers to access to safe water in quantity enough reported
 - 60% of operating sites reported that regular visit of the health worker
 - Hali-ela DS division reported that they have the first aid kit or health post in their site.
 - Lunugala DS Division reported that they have challenges in accessing medicine.
 - Except for the site in the Lunugala DS Division, other sites have access to psychosocial, referral pathways to hospital, and maternal/general health support.

BADULLA SAFETY CENTERS NEEDS ASSESSMENT UPDATE

- **Education continuity for children**
- **Sustainable livelihoods:** Households face **limited employment and income opportunities**, increasing economic vulnerability and reliance on external support.
- **Protection and support for vulnerable groups: Women, children, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities** require strengthened community protection mechanisms and social support services.

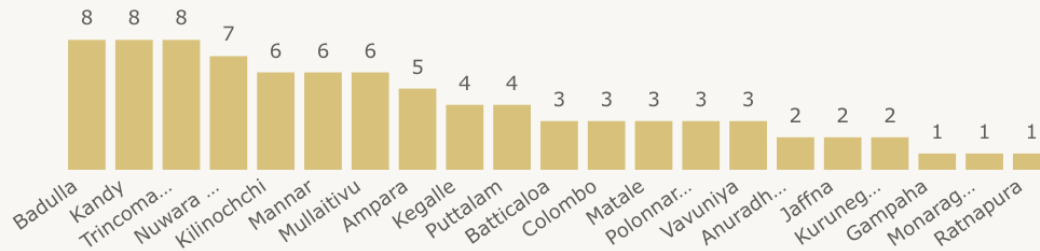
RESPONSE PROGRESS DASHBOARD

15

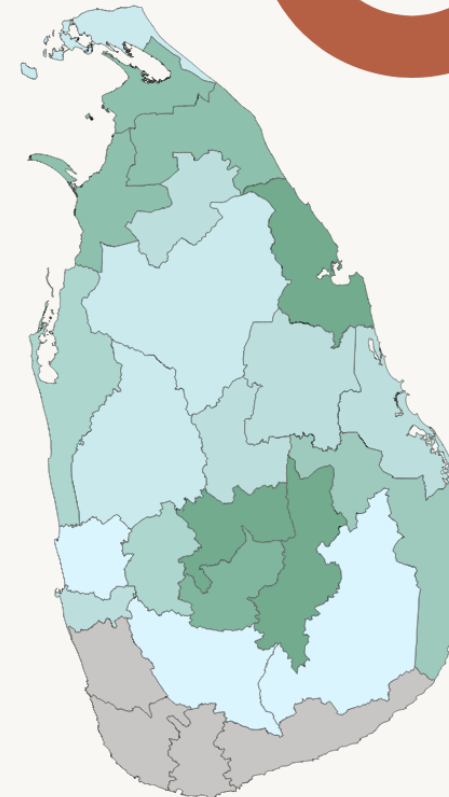
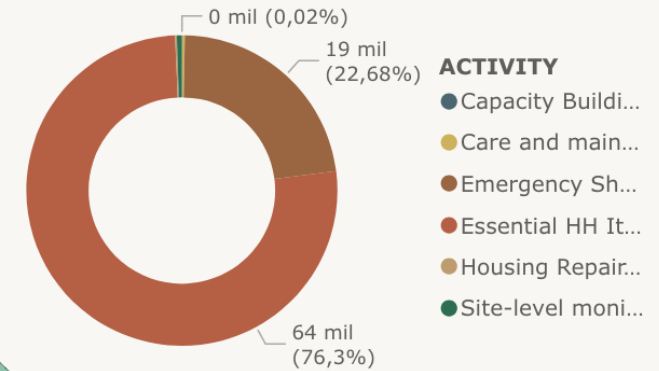
PARTNERS

25 K

HH REACHED



DISTRICT	Partners_List
Colombo	IOM, Muslim Aid, Caritas Sri Lanka
Kandy	IOM, Sarvodaya, SLRCS, LEADS, UNOPS, WDC, Chrysallis, IsraAID
Kegalle	IOM, SLRCS, Muslim Aid, Caritas Sri Lanka
Mannar	IOM, SLRCS, Muslim Aid, UNOPS, JSAC, Chrysallis
Badulla	IOM, WV, Sarvodaya, SLRCS, LEADS, UNOPS, Chrysallis, MSF
Nuwara Eliya	IOM, WV, SLRCS, ChildFund, UNOPS, JSAC, Chrysallis
Ratnapura	LEADS
Monaragala	Sarvodaya
Anuradhapura	Sarvodaya, SLRCS
Polonnaruwa	Sarvodaya, SLRCS, Caritas Sri Lanka
Matale	Sarvodaya, SLRCS, Chrysallis
Puttalam	SLRCS, Muslim Aid, ISRC, Caritas Sri Lanka
Batticaloa	SLRCS, UNOPS, Chrysallis
Vavuniya	SLRCS, UNOPS, Chrysallis
Gampaha	UNOPS
Ampara	WV, Sarvodaya, SLRCS, UNOPS, Caritas Sri Lanka
Jaffna	WV, SLRCS
Kurunegala	WV, SLRCS
Trincomalee	WV, SLRCS, LEADS, ChildFund, Muslim Aid, UNOPS, Chrysallis, Caritas Sri Lanka
Kilinochchi	WV, SLRCS, LEADS, UNOPS, JSAC, Chrysallis



FOCAL POINTS UPDATE

District-Level Coordination Focal Points

RCO and the District Secretariats

Focal point per district to liaise with district authorities, collect information, and ensure regular updates.

- BADULLA - IOM + Uva Shakthi Foundation
- NUWARA ELIYA - IOM +
- KEGGALLE -
- KANDY -

HLP UPDATE

- The **WG is a voluntary group** of CSOs, International organisations, independent experts of land rights/minorities, thinktanks, and LA counterparts.
- **Convened by IFRC and UNHabitat**, with **9 confirmed partners** and agreed ToRs working together for 8 weeks. (March-April). It is a working platform, not a presentation space.
- The group will remain **technical, practical and solution oriented**, ensuring that coordination efforts support ongoing response and recovery activities while avoiding expectations beyond operational and policy realities.

HLP UPDATE

1. Where are the most urgent HLP bottlenecks preventing shelter recovery today?

From your field work, which issues are blocking families from returning, repairing, or relocating? Land availability, tenure documentation, risk zoning, or something else?

2. What expertise can each of us bring to address these issues?

Which organisations can contribute on legal support, land access, community engagement, gender and property rights, settlement planning, or policy dialogue?

3. What should this group realistically deliver in the next eight weeks?

What concrete outputs would help your work on the ground: guidance notes, case mapping, joint advocacy points, or technical support to districts?

AOB

ECHO HIP TOP-UP

COORDINATION TEAM

Mamen Sacha – Sector Co-coordinator (IOM)

Msancha@iom.int

+34646770507

Sandra D'URZO – Sector Co-coordination (IFRC)

shelterclusterco.srilanka@ifrc.org

+41792173314

Aeneas Jerron Velu – Sector Information Management Associate (IOM)

avelu@iom.int / +94 76 484 1663

Aziza USOOF – Sector Technical Coordinator HLP (UN Habitat)

aziza.usoof@un.org



Join the WhatsApp group of the
SLSC Sector, Sri Lanka for live
communications and updates