

Landslides/floods in Sri Lanka – 2nd Update – 03.12.25



Further to our initial response as detailed in the update dated 30.11.25, we have now been able to identify the following specific places through our network of coordinators and fellow directors. Even though the winds have abated and rain is minimal, the devastation caused in certain areas of the island is beyond imagination. The saddest realization is that the affected families have no homes to go back to or what they have is just a bare broken shell with most of their belonging rendered unusable. This is exacerbated by transport issues due to broken bridges, mounds of earth fallen on roadways, broken railway lines and unsafe footholds. More than words, the photos below can speak volumes.

Community based assistance given at Sri Vajiragnana Dharmayathanaya, Bamunugama, Palagala, Kalawela – Coordinator Reverend Vajiragnana Thera – around 150 families are given shelter, served meals, health issues addressed, kids are cared for etc. etc. CandleAid contributed a cash donation as an initial response.



Community in Chilaw identified through the Holy Emmanuel Church, Moratuwa – Coordinated by CandleAid's Head of Health, Ms Rukmal Silva – Nearly 200 people in the surrounding areas sheltered in a nearby building and in one of the neighbouring churches. Candleaid responded to an appeal made to parishioners by contributing 50 each of pillows, single bedsheets and towels.



Families in Madawachchiya identified by our Coordinator Dr Chaminda Jayathilaka – 15 families who lost most of their belongings in very rural villages such as Ataweeragollawa, Kalawelpoththa, Sangilikandarawa and Pihindigollawa in the Moragoda area were given the ability to buy whatever dry rations they needed.



Families in Mahawa identified by our Coordinator Priyanka Hitibandara – Several families who were severely affected and were unable to get to the shops, were given dry rations that were purchased and delivered.



CandleAid's coordinator Father Nadeep Sanjeewa of the Don Bosco Tech Kandy Sans any ethnic or religious bias, 196 families from surrounding villages of Bahirawakanda, Katukale, Gelioya, Thalathuoya, Asgiriya, Hanthana, Gurudeniya, Balagolla, Ampitiya, and Nillambe are given shelter with food, water, sanitation and health facilities – people who have virtually nothing left of their homes to get back to.



Sri Lanka Life Saving (SLLI) is a Non-Profit organization in Sri Lanka. CandleAid's own director Mevan Jayawardena was significantly instrumental in equipping this entity and providing training to its members. During this crisis members of SLLI have worked non-stop to rescue stranded families, evacuate high-risk communities and provide urgent support to those affected in over 100 severely impacted villages. Due to the scale and intensity of the recent operations, a substantial portion of their essential equipment; boats, OBMs, lifejackets, helmets, rescue tubes, and other critical rescue gear, have been heavily damaged or completely lost. CandleAid supported them direct using a donation made by its President, Capt. Elmo Jayawardena into its general fund enabling these life savers to continue the yeomen services they are required to render when lives are threatened by unexpected occurrences.



Our Director, Priya Cooray through a member of the Animal Rights Advocacy Organisation, RARE, learned that they are assisting 25,000 villagers in Mahavilachchiya area in the Anuradhapura District, where there has been extensive flooding. CandleAid immediately supported the cause by enabling them to purchase sanitary needs.



Similarly our Director **Aruna Fernando is reaching out to Rev. Jagath Fonseka in Bandarawela** to seek ways to assist families stranded in remote villages, details of which are yet to come.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: In the short period of time since CandleAid initiated the disaster relief fund, there has been a heartwarming response from its associated benefactors both here in Sri Lanka and abroad. We sincerely thank them for their kindness and the confidence placed in us. CandleAid is engaging its widely spread network of volunteer coordinators to access the victims of this calamity as while we do these relief initiatives, as always we are ensuring total accountability and credibility of the end use of funds disbursed.

Remittances can be made to CandleAid Lanka account at Nations Trust Ban, Moratuwa, A/c No. 014100008377 or through our online facility at www.candleaid.org or through any other fund transfer platform.

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