**AHA- CENTRE EXECUTIVE (ACE) PROGRAMME**

**SIMULATION SCENARIO**

**FLOOD**

**MASTER SCENARIO**

**Scenario – Floods morning**

**General Situation**

Beginning Friday 6th February 2015, heavy inter-monsoon rains have caused flooding, high-winds, landslides and thunder and lightning storms in 10 districts in Sri Lanka. Eight of the districts are in the southwest and include: Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Kegalle, Matara, Puttalam and Galle.

The meteorological department of Sri Lanka has forecasted the severe rains will continue until at least the 9 February, which could lead to more areas and people affected.

The Department of Irrigation has indicated that rising water levels exist for 3 rivers in the country; the Kelani River in Kaduwela DS Division in Colombo District; the Kalu Ganga River in Palindanuwara DS Division in Kalutara District and Gin Ganga river.

The National Building Research Organisation has issued a Landslide warning (level 2 - be ready for evacuation) to Kalutara and Galle Districts.

There have also been warnings that landslides may close roads in Colombo and Gampaha Districts, especially those in high areas or cut into hills Country wide status

**Casualties**

As of the 7 February, 970,153 people (199,891 families) have been affected. This includes 55 deaths, 115 injured and the minor displacement of 290,000 people, with many still missing and unaccounted for. The floods hit in the middle of the night, when many were asleep at home accounting for the high numbers of people affected. The floods have also caused a number of landslides.

**Shelter**

The floods have caused extensive building damage with 24,500 people left homeless, up to 6,162 homes completely destroyed and a further 18,241 left partially unsafe. There are concerns many families may have returned to their damaged homes, which are at risk of collapse.

**Colombo situation**

The most heavily affected district in Sri Lanka is Colombo, particularly the Kaduwela division. The Korathota division is also badly affected and water levels are continuing to rise in other areas.

Infrastructure damage has been significant, with most major roads in the Colombo area either destroyed or covered by water. Most bridges have suffered severe damage and many have been rendered completely useless. The Colombo to Kaduwela road is impassable, leading to the by-roads becoming inundated with traffic causing long delays and hampering the aid efforts.

**Casualties**

Nine deaths have been reported and 14,600 families have been affected, 6,300 of whom are displaced.

**Shelter**

The Government has established 10 evacuation camps and is providing people with cooked meals. Two of these evacuation camps are established in Korathota division. Food and clothes are dire necessities, particularly for infants. Currently local governments are unable to provide basic necessities to people and this is causing minor unrest among displaced communities who feel they are not being helped.

There are also a number of people crowded into temporary shelters such as schools, temples and community centres, which have limited basic facilities.

While the heavy rains washed most mosquito-breeding areas away, the continuous drizzle means there is a higher chance of breeding grounds remaining intact. Combined with the fact many people are sleeping in inadequate shelters there is an increased risk of malaria.

According to Prishanthy Wijesinghe, a senior health official at the Ministry of Health Epidemiology Unit, the government is also concerned about increased cases of dengue and report they have already been seeing an increase in cases this year.

**Communications & media**

The media are already reporting the floods as one of the worst in Sri Lanka in recent times and anticipating that more than 50 people have died. News coverage is focusing on the impact of the floods and how people have been affected. There is very limited little provision practical advice for the population. There is widespread media criticism of the government and humanitarian response, which is fuelling unrest amongst those displaced.

**Government response**

The Government has been focusing on establishing evacuation camps and getting healthcare facilities reopened. The Government has requested RC support in the evacuation camps and more widely on shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion and community disaster risk reduction and preparedness in response to the possibility of more flooding and landslides. The Government has indicated it is planning a series of emergency TV broadcasts but the content of these is still unclear.

**International Response**

A number of International Teams have been arriving for the response. It is currently unclear from the government who and when the main International agencies will arrive. It is understood that there will be a large influx of Humanitarian responders and other groups who will try to assist in the response.

**Red Cross response**

The Red Cross National Society in their auxiliary role, at this point, have been taking a lead in the disaster and have been on the ground since the start of the disaster carrying out assessments on how to best communicate with communities and ascertain the needs of beneficiaries.

The NS are in the process of setting up a Communication Base camp that will eventually serve as a centre to receive information from the community. The NS plan to establish a feedback mechanism that allows communities and beneficiaries to communicate their needs directly to the NS. There has been some controversy around the setup of the system both internally and externally within the broader Red Cross and Humanitarian groups.