

THE DANISH EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

ALERT NOTE

Guide to submission of alerts

NB: Only Danish organisations with local presence either through partner organisations or own organisation in the affected areas can raise an alert.

Please read the Danish Emergency Relief Fund's Funding Guidelines before submitting an alert (the Funding Guidelines are available here: www.cisu.dk/derf)

Instructions:

An alert is raised and submitted through the online platform *Vores CISU*. When submitting an alert

- a) basic information must be submitted online.
- b) an Alert Note (this document) must be attached.

In the Alert Note, you must fill either of the three sections:

- section B for rapid onset humanitarian crisis, or
- section C for slow onset humanitarian crisis, or
- section D for spike in a protracted humanitarian crisis.

Please note that the alert note must be completed with as much information as possible. CISU will need comprehensive information in order to assess the alert. The information provided has to be verifiable.

Formalities regarding the alert text (section b, c or d):

- *NUMBER OF PAGES: The text must not take up more than 1,5 pages (Arial, font size 11, line spacing 1.0, margins: top 3 cm, bottom 3 cm, right 2 cm and left 2 cm). Alerts exceeding this length will be rejected.*
- *LANGUAGE: The text can only be submitted to CISU in English.*

Section A: Basic information

Organisation:	Alliance Development Trust
Title of alert:	Rapid Onset Humanitarian Crisis
Type of crisis:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> € rapid onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section B) € slow onset humanitarian crisis (please fill out section C) € spike in protracted humanitarian crisis (please fill out section D)

Do only fill one of the following three sections, B, C, or D. You may delete the two which do not apply.

Section B: Rapid onset humanitarian crisis:

b.1 Where is the crisis? *Describe the areas affected*

The cyclonic storm *Ditwah* tracked across the Eastern, North-Central, Central, and Northwestern provinces of Sri Lanka, affecting densely populated and disaster-prone areas including Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, Badulla, Kandy, and the central highlands, placing thousands of households at heightened risk of flooding, landslides, and displacement. As of 9 January 2026, the Disaster Management Center reports 638 fatalities, 174 missing, and 129,435 houses damaged, including 6,121 completely destroyed and 114,314 partially destroyed, resulting in large-scale displacement and disruption to services and livelihoods.

The Central Province, particularly the districts of Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Badulla experienced catastrophic losses. Severe flash floods and slope failures in hilly terrain caused numerous landslides that obliterated entire settlements and cut off rural communities, making rescue operations extremely difficult. These areas recorded among the highest numbers of fatalities and missing persons in the country. (Source : [Daily Mirror](#))

Flooding was widespread across the **Eastern and North-Central provinces**, inundating flood plains and urban centres alike. Major towns and agricultural areas in **Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee, Gampaha, Colombo and Puttalam** were submerged, displacing residents and shutting down essential services. In low-lying western districts, rising rivers such as the Kelani overwhelmed embankments and urban drainage systems, forcing mass evacuations from densely populated neighbourhoods. (Source : [UN Flash Update 05](#))

b.2 What is the nature of the crisis? *Please describe the type of crisis (e.g. earth quake, other natural disaster occurring without warning) and describe potential local social and political implications (e.g. for specific target groups).*

The crisis can be described as an onset of events following the heavy rains which included deadly landslides, extensive flooding and critical service disruptions that isolated communities. The cyclone's impacts have disproportionately affected groups already facing social and economic marginalization:

Women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities have experienced intensified vulnerability due to displacement, loss of shelter, and disrupted access to health, sanitation, and protection services. Humanitarian actors have highlighted growing needs for gender-sensitive interventions and child protection services as core priorities. (Source : [UNFPA](#))

Children's education has been severely disrupted, with hundreds of schools damaged and many functioning temporarily as shelters compounding risks of educational discontinuity and psychosocial stress for displaced students (Source : [UNICEF](#))

Politically as well, the scale and severity of *Ditwah*'s impacts have triggered critical public scrutiny of government disaster preparedness and response capacity. Internationally, in terms of humanitarian appeals and bilateral support has catalyzed external engagement but also highlighted gaps in global and national preparedness for climate-exacerbated disasters. (Source : [People's Dispatch](#))

b.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information?

Please provide available information on

- *affected populations including specific vulnerable groups and access to these*
- *urgent emergency and/or protection needs*

- other actors responding and coordinating (including government, community structures, the UN, INGOs)

Cyclone Ditwah was a natural disaster that occurred without any warning. Among the social implications occurring through this crisis are that Vulnerable populations including children, older persons, persons with disabilities, women-headed households, and daily wage earners are disproportionately affected. 233,015 people (64,483 families) are sheltering in 1,441 government-run centers, many of which are overcrowded, with limited protection measures and insufficient MHPSS, especially for women and children. Child protection concerns are rising while exclusion risks remain high for persons with disabilities, refugees, and asylum seekers. UNFPA estimates 40,152 pregnant women require uninterrupted sexual and reproductive health services. Food insecurity is significant, with approximately 1.5 million people living in high- to moderate-risk districts and vegetable prices surging by 30–200% due to crop damage.

Please insert link(s) and/or attach relevant documentation to the alert. Documentation may be found at UN OCHA, ACAPS, or other internationally recognised sources.

Information comes from **Government of Sri Lanka reports, UN agencies, and partner field assessments**. The scale of the crisis has placed heavy strain on government response capacities, requiring coordination with UN agencies, INGOs, and community-based structures to address urgent humanitarian needs. ([Government Rapid Needs Assessment](#), [UN Situation Report](#), [UNICEF Sri Lanka Report](#))

b.3.1. Describe as specific as possible when the crisis has started.

Mention specific dates if possible. Provide documentation for this.

A low-pressure system that developed over the southwest Bay of Bengal near Sri Lanka on 25 November 2025 rapidly intensified into a deep depression by 26 November, bringing heavy rainfall and strong winds that threatened communities across the island. As the system moved north-northwestwards to within 100 km of Sri Lanka's eastern coast, the Department of Meteorology and the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) issued early warnings to support preparedness efforts. On the morning of 27 November 2025, the alert was escalated to a **Red Level Warning** as the system intensified into Cyclonic Storm *Ditwah*.

Source : https://www.dmc.gov.lk/images/pdfs/Rapid_Needs_Assessment.pdf

b.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population?

Please consider the following points:

- *Rapid disbursement*
- *Short intervention (0-9 month)*
- *Meeting needs of hard to reach populations not catered for by other donors*

ADT has activated its emergency response to Cyclonic Storm *Ditwah* in the most severely affected areas, working in close coordination with the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) and relevant Divisional Secretariats to support government-led lifesaving actions. With the immediate backing of some funding, ADT is rapidly mobilising assistance to reach highly vulnerable households facing flooding, displacement, and loss of livelihoods, while locally led fundraising efforts are providing critical flexible resources to address urgent and evolving needs. These coordinated actions enable a swift, targeted response at a time. DERF funding (200,000 DKR) would provide rapid, short-term (0–9 months) assistance to stabilize affected communities. Priority interventions include mobile health camps, water sanitation and hygiene services, and relief packs for food security, focusing on hard-to-reach populations and groups not covered by other donors. The support will reduce health risks, prevent disease outbreaks, address

immediate nutrition and hygiene needs, and provide critical protection and MHPSS services, particularly for women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities. DERF funding will help communities withstand immediate impacts and bridge the gap until longer-term humanitarian assistance is mobilized.

Section C: Slow onset humanitarian crisis

c.1 Where is the crisis? *Describe the areas affected*

c.2 What is the nature of the crisis? *Please describe the type of crisis (e.g. climate change disasters, environmental degradation, desertification or other slow onset crisis) and describe potential local social and political implications (e.g. for specific target groups).*

c.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information? *Please provide available information on*

- *affected populations including specific vulnerable groups and access to these*
- *urgent emergency and/or protection needs*
- *other actors responding and coordinating (including government, community structures, the UN, INGOs)*

Please insert link(s) and/or attach relevant documentation to the alert. Documentation may be found at UN OCHA, ACAPS, or other internationally recognised sources.

c.3.1 Provide as strong as possible evidence of why there is a change in the current slow onset crisis. Describe also when the change occurred (mention specific dates if possible).

c.3.2. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population? *Please consider the following points:*

- *Rapid disbursement*
- *Short intervention (0-9 months)*
- *Meeting needs of hard-to-reach populations not catered for by other donors*
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c.4 Are you already responding to this emergency? In which locations/sectors? For which target group? Through which forms of local presence? What is the outcome of your latest assessment and what have you done since then?

Section D: Spike in a protracted humanitarian crisis

d.1 Where is the crisis? *Describe the areas affected*

d.2 What is the nature of the crisis? *Please describe the type of crisis (e.g. armed conflict, famine or other situation where significant portion of the population is acutely vulnerable to death, disease or other disruption) and describe potential local social and political implications (e.g. for specific target groups).*

d.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information?

Please provide available information on

- *affected populations including specific vulnerable groups and access to these*
- *urgent emergency and/or protection needs*
- *other actors responding and coordinating (including government, community structures, the UN, INGOs)*

Please insert link(s) and/or attach relevant documentation to the alert. Documentation may be found at UN OCHA, ACAPS, or other internationally recognised sources.

d.3.1 Do you consider there to be a spike/change in a slow onset/chronic crisis or in a protracted humanitarian crisis? If yes, provide as strong as possible evidence for this current spike (*how has the situation changed*).

d.3.2. Describe as specific as possible when the spike has started.

Mention specific dates if possible. Provide documentation for this.

d.3.3. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population? *Please consider the following points:*

- *Rapid disbursement*
- *Short intervention (0-9 month)*
- *Meeting needs of hard-to-reach populations not catered for by other donors*

d.4 Are you already responding to this emergency? In which locations/sectors? For which target group? Through which forms of local presence? What is the outcome of your latest assessment and what have you done since then?