

Call for applications for DERF funding of rapid response interventions answering to the following humanitarian crisis:

Title: Sri Lanka Cyclone Ditwah

Country and location(s): Sri Lanka

DERF Funding Modality: Applicants are to apply for the DERF Funding Modality *Rapid Response* as per the DERF Funding Guidelines.

Call window for submission of applications: Applications are received and processed on an ongoing basis from 28 January 2026 until 16 February 2026 at 12:00 noon (CET).

Funds allocated for this call: The DERF allocates a total of up to **DKK 1.5 million** for this call. Applicants can apply for **maximum DKK 500.000** each.

Alert title and location(s)	Alert type, source and date	Crisis type	Information on the humanitarian crisis and emergency relief needs	Known DK org. in crisis location(s)	Assessment of DERF relevance
Title: Sri Lanka Cyclone Ditwah Country & locations: Sri Lanka	Alert Type: Local Alert Alerting Organisation: Partners (Frederiksberg Integrations Forening) Crisis Start: 11/12/2025 Sources supplemented with: Joint Rapid Needs Assessment, DMC, 2/12/25 Sri Lanka: Cyclone Ditwah Hum.	Rapid onset crisis	Background Cyclone Ditwah hit Sri Lanka on 27 November 2025, bringing intense rainfall and strong winds that led to severe flooding, landslides, and widespread destruction. Due to the cyclone's slow progression, some areas recorded more than 350 mm of rain within a 24-hour period, while heavy rainfall persisted for four consecutive days (around 10% of the country's average annual rainfall in a single day), triggering catastrophic flooding and slope failures (Disaster Management Centre, Sri Lanka, 02/12/25). According to the Disaster Management Centre's situation report issued on 29 November 2025, Cyclone Ditwah affected all 25 districts nationwide. This was followed by a UNDAC deployment on 5 December and a CERF activation request on 8 December. On 11 December, the Humanitarian Priorities Plan was launched based on a joint multi-sectoral assessment, which found that floods and landslides had resulted in hundreds of deaths and hundreds of people reported missing. The assessment further highlighted widespread housing damage, with many thousands of homes destroyed or partially damaged. Based on the consolidation of these assessments and the availability of a clearer overview of the scale and severity of the damage and impact, the start date is therefore assessed to be 11 December 2025. Humanitarian impact: As of 10 December 2025, joint multi-sectoral assessments reported 639 confirmed deaths and 193 people missing due to floods and landslides. Overall, all 25 districts in Sri Lanka were affected, with approximately 2.2 million people impacted by the disaster, representing about 10 percent of the total population (UNRC, 16/12/25). The scale of damage to housing and infrastructure has significantly affected living conditions and livelihoods across the country, contributing to widespread humanitarian needs (UN Humanitarian Priorities Plan, 10/12/225) Over 218,000 people from 61,000 families have been evacuated to 1,564 safety centres; as of 17 December, 66,000 people remained in 732 centres. Infrastructure damage includes 107,000 houses destroyed and 101,055 partially damaged (IFRC 16/1/26). Prioritised Emergency Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash and voucher assistance (CVA): Floods and landslides destroyed homes, household items, and livelihoods, leaving affected families in urgent need of cash support to meet basic needs. 	Number of organisations present in-country: 15 Number of organisations with external funding experience (both CSF and DERF grants): 8 Number of organisations present in specific localities: 8	Critical emergency and/or protection needs: Yes Particularly vulnerable groups: Yes Timeliness of potential DERF funded intervention: Yes Significant funding gap exist: Yes DERF funds available: Yes Recommend: Activate DERF

	<p>Priorities Plan, UN 11/12/25</p> <p>Situation Report, UNRC, 16.12.25</p> <p>Situation Report, UNRC, 23.12.25</p> <p>Operation Update #1, IFRC, 16/1/26</p> <p>Country Brief, WFP Sri Lanka, December 25</p> <p>Displacement Matrix, IOM, 9.12.25</p> <p>Urgent Call, FAO, 2/1/26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter: Displaced families urgently need temporary shelter materials and essential household items, as many homes were destroyed and current shelter support remains insufficient. • WASH: Flooding has contaminated water sources and damaged water infrastructure, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. Urgent access to safe drinking water and hygiene items is needed, particularly in evacuation centres. • Health: Damage to health facilities has reduced access to care and increased the risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases. Urgent medical services, including mobile clinics and mental health and psychosocial support, are needed to address immediate health needs. • Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI): Displacement in overcrowded safety centres has increased the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, requiring urgent psychosocial support and targeted protection measures for vulnerable groups. • Education: Flooding damaged school materials and disrupted learning, creating an urgent need for essential school supplies, temporary learning spaces, and psychosocial support for children. <p>Other needs may be prioritised locally based on contextual justification.</p> <p>Vulnerability</p> <p>Urgent assistance is required for both displaced people and communities remaining in cyclone-affected areas. The cyclone has disproportionately affected highly vulnerable groups, whose limited coping capacity raises significant concerns as needs continue to evolve. These include people without adequate shelter, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, female-headed households, and children.</p> <p>Funding Situation</p> <p>As of 11 December 2025, the implementation of the activities listed in the Sri Lanka Humanitarian Priorities Plan required a total of US\$35.3 million. Of this, the United Nations has already contributed US\$4.5 million from its CERF. As of 2 January 2026, FAOs Special Fund for Emergency and Resilience Activities (SFERA) enabling rapid response to humanitarian crisis was only 2.4% funded (targeting US\$16.5 million, FAO 2/1/26).</p> <p>Humanitarian Access</p> <p>As of mid-December 2025, only 30% of the national railway network was operational, with numerous bridges and roads damaged, limiting access to affected areas. Humanitarian access remains severely restricted, preventing humanitarian teams from reaching GN divisions (lowest administrative unit) and delaying access to essential services. On 16 January 2026, IFRC reported that access remains limited, with 200 roads and 22 bridges damaged. DERF applicants are to consider logistics constraints as part of their intervention target areas.</p>		
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