



SAARC Disaster Management Centre (IU)



# Enhancing Preparedness for Responding to COVID19 and Extreme Weather Events

Experience sharing from the Member States towards recent compound disaster events in SAARC Region

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

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Disaster Preparedness and Response Division

Ministry of Health



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# Beutiful Memories at SAARC DMU@ GIDM



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## Outline: In relation to recent emergencies in Sri Lanka

- Unique features
- Dynamics of lead agency
- Factors promoting effective response
- Natural disaster preparedness during Covid-19
  - Three case studies
- Way forwards



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# Two Recent Emergencies in Sri Lanka



- Floods, landslides, and drought



- Covid-19



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# Key unique features



- Floods and Landslides
  - Both urban and rural areas being affected.
  - Large number of deaths associated with landslides
- Covid-19
  - Public Health Emergency of International Concern
  - Effects felt across the society



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# Lead response agencies of recent emergencies



- Floods and Landslides
  - Disaster Management Center/National Disaster Relief Services Center
  - Ministry of Health
- Covid-19
  - Ministry of Health
  - Ministry of Defense
  - Many government agencies



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# Factors Promoting Effective Response



- Floods and Landslides
  - Disaster Management Institutional Framework
  - Standard Operating Procedures
  - Emergency Operation Centers
- Covid-19
  - Resilient health system
    - Public health
    - Hospital Sector
  - Support of the defense sector – Tri-forces, Police and State Intelligence Service



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# Covid-19 Status of Sri Lanka As per 04.11.2020



## Epidemiology Unit, Ministry of Health

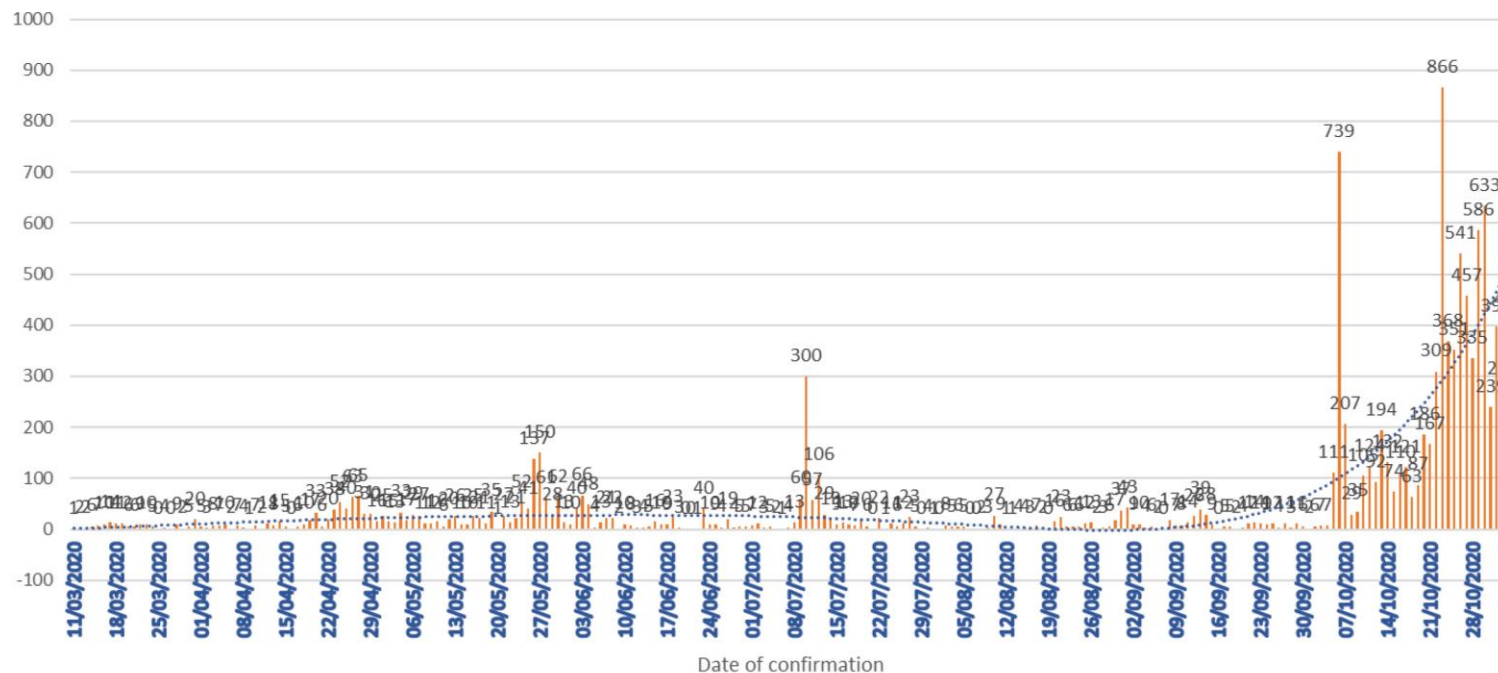
231, De Saram Place, Colombo 01000, Sri Lanka

Tele: (+94 11) 2695112, 4740490, 4740491, 4740492 2681548 Fax: (+94 11) 2696583

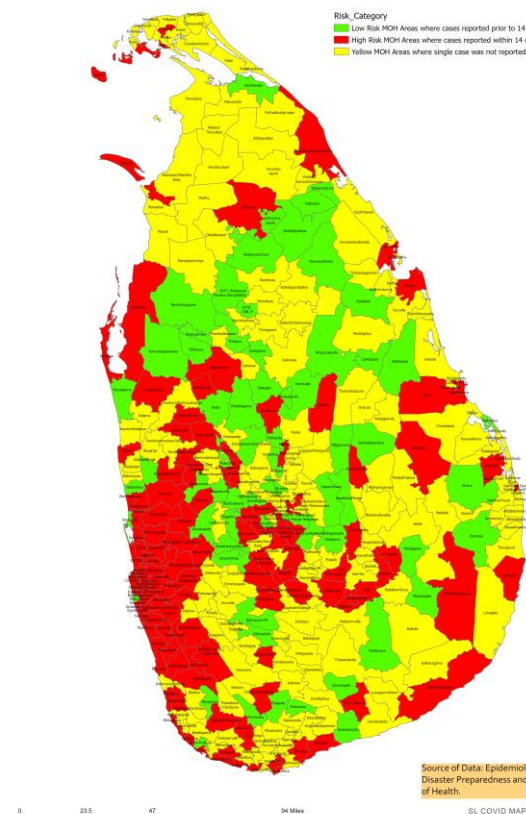
email: [chepid@slt.net.lk](mailto:chepid@slt.net.lk), [epidunit@slt.net.lk](mailto:epidunit@slt.net.lk) Web: [www.epid.gov.lk](http://www.epid.gov.lk)



Epi curve of COVID 19 patients, Sri Lanka (as of 03/11/2020)



Categorization of Medical Officer of Health Areas Based on Number of Cases Reported by Date and the Distribution of Quarantine Centers (QC) with Cases Reported within last 14 days as per 01.11.2020





# Natural Disaster Preparedness During Covid-19 Outbreak



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# Monsoon Preparedness during Covid-19 response



## GUIDELINES ON CAMP MANAGEMENT WITH COVID PRECAUTIONS- SOUTH-WEST MONSOON 2020

### Guidelines on additional measures, to be taken for camp management in the background of Covid-19 pandemic, during the rainy season 2020

Sri Lanka has taken numerous steps to prevent, mitigate, prepare and respond to the current pandemic of Covid-19.

Considering the fact that;

1. The global situation, the current level of the disease burden and the geographical distribution of cases in Sri Lanka, indicate that the pandemic is likely to continue at least for the next 2 – 3 months;
2. The inter-monsoon rains have started in April and the South-West Monsoon season is to start and continue from the month of May;
3. Landslides, floods and other related events are also likely to happen during this period as observed in the past;
4. Internal displacement of persons, to a varying degree, is also inevitable, following such events;
5. Covid-19 could be present in the host community and could be introduced into the camps and spread among inmates and supporting staff;

Following guidelines are issued, to be used in conjunction with the previous instructions in this regard, to facilitate the preparedness and response to any adverse events that may occur, during the rainy season.

### Objectives

It is extremely important to be prepared, establish and manage, safe locations for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in a manner to:

1. prevent introduction of disease in to the camp and in to the host community,
2. prevent spread of the disease within the camp and in host community,
3. prevent the introduction and spread of the disease among Health Care Workers and other supporting staff,
4. diagnose and treat infected persons as early as possible,
5. keep the inmates and the host community, well informed of the risk.

### Guiding Principles

All activities, aimed to achieve the above objectives are required to be carried out, under the following basic guiding principles:

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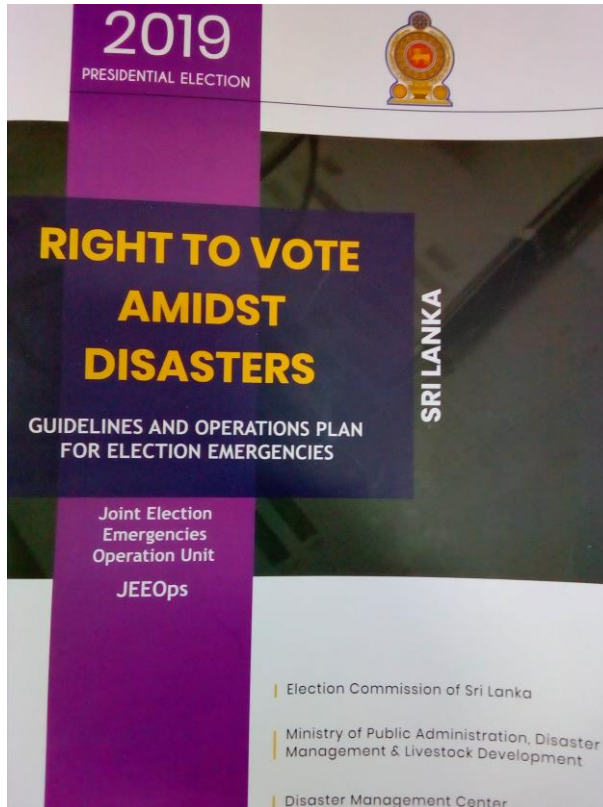


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# Natural Disaster Preparedness During General Elections held during Covid-19 outbreak



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# Preparedness in response to the Beirut Explosion



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# Way Forwards



- All hazard approach must be continued for the investments to be cost effective.
- Health – Disaster Management – Defense Sector coordination is critical for effective preparedness and response.
- Capacity building is the key for effective preparedness for future extreme events.



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Thank you very much!  
Hope to see you all  
in person in  
Sri Lanka soon!