



CONGREGATION OF
OUR LADY OF CHARITY
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD



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Cyclone Ditwah | Sri Lanka

Standing with the people of Sri Lanka – Urgent Relief for families in crisis

Rome, 4 December 2025

Dear Sisters, dear Partners in mission, dear family and friends,

we write with urgency about a humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Sri Lanka. Earlier this year, you responded generously to the earthquake in Myanmar. Today, we appeal to your compassion once more.

Between 26 and 28 November 2025, Cyclone Ditwah struck Sri Lanka with devastating force. It is now the worst rain-related disaster in the country's recorded history. In just 48 hours, over 300mm of rainfall—nearly the total average rainfall for the entire month of November—caused catastrophic flooding and landslides. More than 450 people died, over 350 remain missing, and over 1.5 million people have been affected.

The suffering is immense. Over 200,000 people are displaced with nowhere to go. Entire neighborhoods lie submerged under 6 to 14 feet of water. More than 30,000 homes are destroyed. Roads, bridges, water systems, and electricity remain severely damaged.

In this season of Advent, as we prepare to welcome the Holy Family, we are reminded that there was no room for them either. Today, over 200,000 people in Sri Lanka find themselves without shelter, without a place to call home.



Our Good Shepherd Sisters in Sri Lanka are responding to urgent, life-threatening needs. Since the late 1800s, they've been present in many of the hardest-hit districts: Gampaha, Colombo, Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Matale, Ampara, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee. They are witnessing the devastation firsthand.



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Families sleep in overcrowded evacuation centres without food or water. Children are sick from contaminated water. Women lack basic sanitary supplies. The elderly and people with disabilities have no access to vital medicines.

Around the Nayakakanda Convent, where entire communities remain underwater, the sisters are mobilizing fast. They are providing emergency relief to 1,000 families—around 5,000 people—and plan to reach 2,000 more in the coming weeks.

Immediate priorities include basic survival needs:

- ***Food and water:*** Cooked meals, dry rations, and clean water for families with nothing to eat
- ***Hygiene supplies:*** Soap, shampoo, sanitary napkins, toothbrushes, toothpaste, nappies
- ***Clothing:*** Undergarments and basic clothes for those who fled with only what they wore
- ***Bedding:*** Sheets, pillowcases, sleeping mats for evacuation centres
- ***Medicines:*** Paracetamol, herbal remedies, gripe water for children, treatment for waterborne illnesses
- ***Cleaning materials:*** Mops, brooms, detergent to begin clearing flood damage

These are the basic elements of dignity and survival for families facing their worst crisis.

The emergency is growing. Government resources are overwhelmed. Many areas remain unreachable due to destroyed roads. The most vulnerable—children, pregnant women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities—face the greatest risk.

Your support brings immediate, life-saving relief. We know we are asking a lot. The needs are constant, and your generosity has already been extraordinary. Still, the reality is stark.

The sisters in Sri Lanka are ready, and so are the people from Good Shepherd International Foundation. They know the communities. They understand the needs. They can reach the most vulnerable directly. What they need now are resources.

Every donation will provide food, clean drinking water, hygiene supplies, and critical items to families who have lost everything.

We ask you to respond with the same spirit of solidarity you have shown so many times. Together, we can bring urgent relief to thousands of families in crisis.

As we prepare our hearts to welcome the Christ child, let us also make room for those who have no room, no shelter, no place of safety. Let us be the ones who say: "There is room. There is help. There is hope."

Please donate to GSIF to support the Sri Lanka Cyclone Emergency Response. Donations can be made online or by bank transfer – more information [here](#).

With heartfelt thanks and renewed hope,

Sr. Joan Lopez, Congregational Leader

Cristina Duranti, Director of GSIF