

GISCorps volunteer conducts spatial analysis post Sri Lanka floods

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On 15 May 2016 Sri Lanka was hit by a severe tropical storm that caused widespread flooding and landslides in 22 of 25 districts in the country, destroying homes and submerging entire villages. At least 104 people are known to have died following this disaster; 99 people are still missing, the majority due to a landslide in Aranayake, Kegalle District, which devastated three villages. An estimated 301,602 people have been affected by this disaster, including at least 21,484 people who remain displaced from their homes. As a result of the floods and landslides, 623 houses have been completely destroyed and 4,414 homes have been damaged; however, given that many affected locations remain underwater and others too dangerous to access due to the possibility of further landslides, it is likely that this number will rise once further assessments have been completed. On 25 May the Government of Sri Lanka estimated that a total of 128,000 houses could have been impacted by the disaster, with 30,000 in need of reconstruction or rehabilitation.

Image 1: Inundated Areas (people affected by flood)

Shortly, after the floods starting, GISCorps was contacted by HOTOSM to assist with analyzing the spatial data.

Denis and Blake worked with field data that was gathered by field-based volunteers. The analysis was conducted using INASAFE software and was based on various variables including flood area, population density, road network, and others.

Images included in this report demonstrate the result of the analysis depicting: inundated buildings, inundated roads and people affected by the flood.

Image 2: Inundated Roads

Image 3: Flooded Buildings