

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

MERCY MALAYSIA RESPONDING TO THE SRI LANKA FLOOD

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 MAY 2017 – With the recent flood devastation that hit Sri Lanka, MERCY Malaysia will be deploying its team this Friday, 2 June 2017, and appeal for support for its Sri Lanka Flood Relief Fund to help further its humanitarian reach to civilians affected.

Sri Lanka's worst flooding in years has resulted a death toll of 169 people and 521,384 affected in 15 different districts located mostly in the Southern and Western parts of the country, leaving almost 10 million displaced in 376 safe locations. With the continual rainfall still occurring and some areas still inadmissible due to flooding, death tolls and the number of civilians affected is expected to rise, along with fear of more landslides occurring.

According to the Sri Lankan meteorological department, heavy monsoon rainfall is still expected over the next two days till the beginning of June (due to the formation of Cyclone Mora in the Bay of Bengal, which is heading north towards Bangladesh), resulting severe water level rise and water contamination. Given to the said situation, this has caused water-borne diseases such as Dengue cases to spike up to 20,000- 30,000 cases in the last 6 months, with 200 deaths, as well as diarrhea among others. The concern that lies ahead for MERCY Malaysia is the exacerbation of water-borne diseases during post-flood.

“With the increasing number of displaced people and lack of space in safe locations, temporary shelter and ensuring access to health services is needed. Disease surveillance and vector control is also a priority with the risk of communicable diseases. Over the past few months, health partners have recorded a significant increase in dengue cases (53,200 cases with over 125 deaths) compared to annual data from 2016.” said MERCY Malaysia's Director of Strategic Programme Development, Norazam Ab Samah.

Align with our mission in providing health-related humanitarian aid for vulnerable communities regardless of race, religion, culture, political affiliation, or geographic boundaries, in disaster-stricken situation as its main mandate, MERCY Malaysia in response will be deploying our first ever mission to Sri Lanka this year consisting of five (5) medical volunteers and two (2) MERCY Malaysia staff to the disaster-stricken areas affected by severe flood in Sri Lanka in order to initiate support services that allow our current health providers to manage their services effectively.



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This includes providing mobile clinics that provide Primary Health Care (PHC) for victims affected by flood. Apart from the PHC services, the deployment also aims to assess the needs on the ground and prepare for further

intervention according to our capacities and mandate for a week commencing on 2 June to 9 June 2017. The team will be engaging with the Sri Lankan Disaster Management Ministry, UN agencies, INGOs and relevant government agencies.

MERCY Malaysia is calling for the public to support our humanitarian efforts by contributing to our Sri Lanka Flood Relief Fund by donating through our website at www.mercy.org.my or to our bank account at,

CIMB: SRI LANKA FLOOD RELIEF FUND

ACC NO: **8000-7929-08**

ENDS.

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About MERCY Malaysia

MERCY Malaysia is a non-profit organisation focusing on providing medical relief, sustainable health-related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations. MERCY Malaysia recognises the value of working with partners and volunteers as well as providing opportunities for individuals to serve with professionalism. We uphold the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief and hold ourselves accountable to our donors and beneficiaries. As a non-profit organisation, MERCY Malaysia relies solely on funding and donations from organisations and generous individuals to continue our services to provide humanitarian assistance to our beneficiaries. For more information, please visit www.mercy.org.my

How is MERCY Malaysia funded?

To ensure independence and impartiality, MERCY Malaysia relies on donations from the general public for financial support. A portion of our income is obtained from institutional donors, individual government grants and other international organizations, which are given on project basis. MERCY Malaysia spends 80% of its income in carrying out its relief operations and support.

Important Note to Media: Usage of Wordmark MERCY Malaysia

In order to avoid confusion with other organisation(s) that uses "Mercy" as the organisation's name or part of the organisation's name, please take note that in addressing the name of our organisation, the wordmark for MERCY Malaysia is with capitalised "MERCY", followed by the word "Malaysia". When describing the organisation, the term "MERCY Malaysia" must always be used in full, and should not be partially referred to as "MERCY", or "Mercy". Thank you for your cooperation.