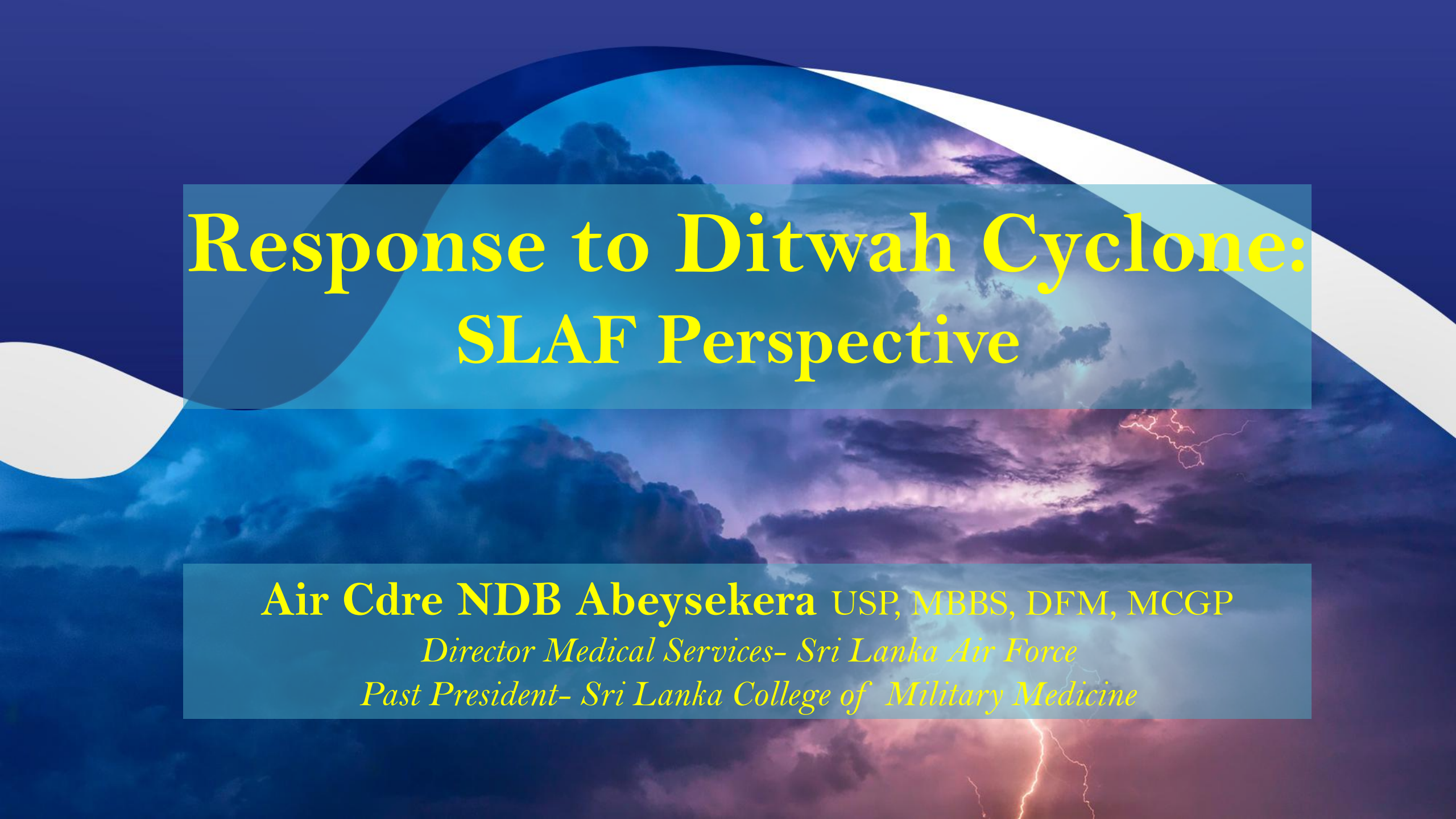


The background of the slide is a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds. A bright rainbow arches across the upper portion of the image. Several bright, jagged lightning bolts are visible, particularly on the right side. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, purples, and whites from the lightning and rainbow.

Response to Ditwah Cyclone: SLAF Perspective

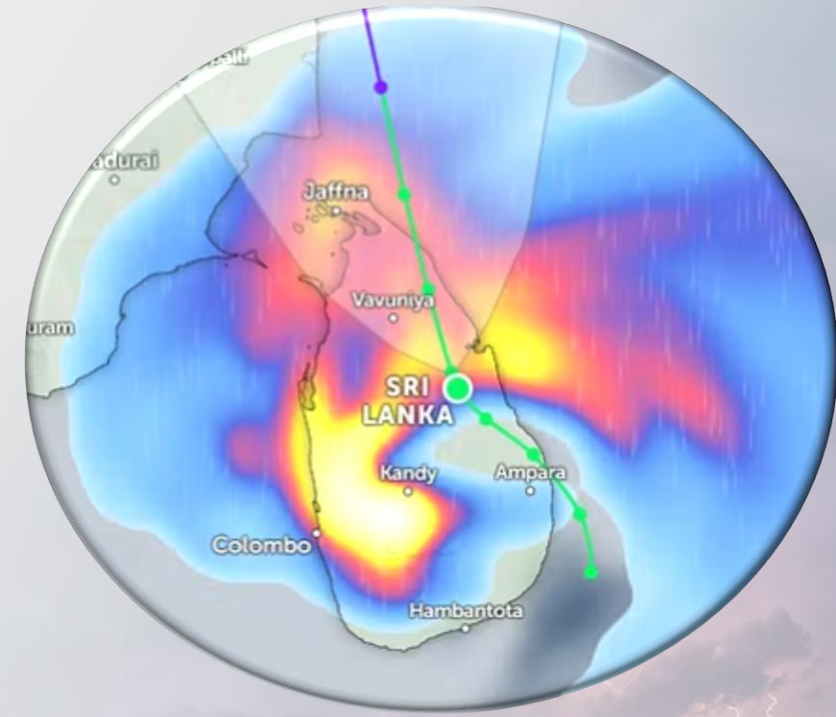
Air Cdre NDB Abeysekera USP, MBBS, DFM, MCGP

Director Medical Services- Sri Lanka Air Force

Past President- Sri Lanka College of Military Medicine

CONTENTS

- Introduction
- SLAF Response
 - ✓ Immediate Response
 - ✓ Search & Rescue
 - ✓ MedEvac Operations
 - ✓ Logistics Support
 - ✓ Health Service Outreach
 - ✓ Build Back Better
- Coordination with External Agencies
- Use of Air Assets in Disaster Management
- Challenges Encountered
- The Way Forward



INTRODUCTION

CYCLONE IMPACT ASSESSMENT (28 NOV 2025)

SECTOR: EASTERN COAST
REF: SITREP-001

METEOROLOGICAL DATA



LANDFALL

28 NOV 2025

EASTERN COAST, SRI LANKA



WIND SPEED

65 KM/HR
MAX SUSTAINED



RAINFALL

500+ MM
PER 24 HOURS

ALERT STATUS

Severe cyclonic conditions impacting coastal and inland districts.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT



AFFECTED POPULATION



2.2M

NEED ASSISTANCE



1.2M

DISPLACED PERSONS



250K

HOUSING DAMAGE

Fully Destroyed

6,000

Partially Damaged

108,000

TOTAL IMPACT: 114,000 UNITS

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE



Gov Buildings /
Hospitals



Roads & Bridges



Power Supply



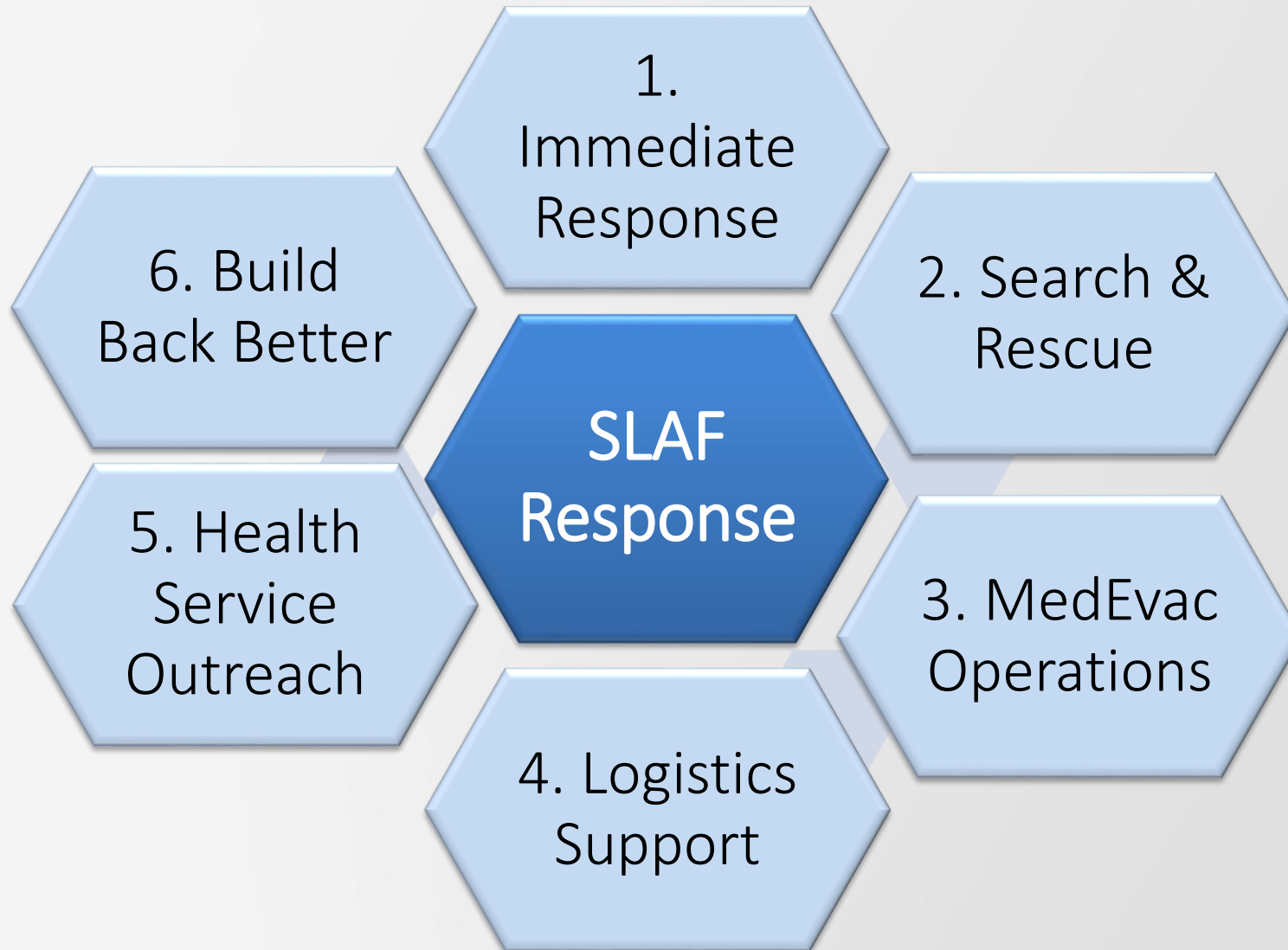
Telecoms



Irrigation Schemes / River Embankments

3

SLAF Response



Disclosure

- All Photos and Videos used in this presentation were taken either from the public domain or with prior authority from the respective entities

SLAF Responses

1. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

- Activation of SLAF Air Operation Centre at AFHQ, SJP
- Around the Clock Operations
- Representation from respective elements
- All SLAF establishments/personnel put on high alert ready to be deployed
- Coordination with the Central DMC, MoH, Tri Forces and other relevant entities
- Coordination with external stakeholders (i.e. USAF, IAF, PAF etc.)

SLAF Response

1. IMMEDIATE RESPONSE



SLAF Response

2. SEARCH & RESCUE

- Those who could not be reached by Land or by boat
 - ✓ SLAF : 495 individuals
 - ✓ IAF : 144 individuals
 - ✓ PAF : 4 individuals



SLAF Response

2. SEARCH & RESCUE



SLAF Response

3. MEDEVAC OPERATIONS

- Stand by 24/7
- Pregnant Mothers, Critically ill patients, Elderly patients
New born babies & patients who required Dialysis.



SLAF Response

4. PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT

- Providing Life saving supplies to regions isolated by land and water
- SLAF : Approx. 123,600 kg of Supplies
- IAF : Approx. 61,300 kg of supplies
- PAF : Approx 1,000 kg of supplies
- USAF



SLAF Response

4. PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT



SLAF Response

5. HEALTH SERVICE OUTREACH

No of Health Outreach Programs	Officers Utilized	ORs Utilized	Total No of Patients Treated
30	120	250	5,500

Chettikulum/Vavuniya District	Ja Ela/ Indiwitiya/Seeduwa
Doluwa	Madolsima/Gonakelle/Lunugala
Passara/Badulla District	Gallella
Piduruthalagala	Vavuniya
Anuradhapura	Nuwara Eliya

SLAF Response

5. HEALTH SERVICE OUTREACH



SLAF Response

5. HEALTH SERVICE OUTREACH



At Kaleivani Tamil School Doluwa. Kandy
20/12/2025

SLAF Response

5. HEALTH SERVICE OUTREACH



SLAF Response

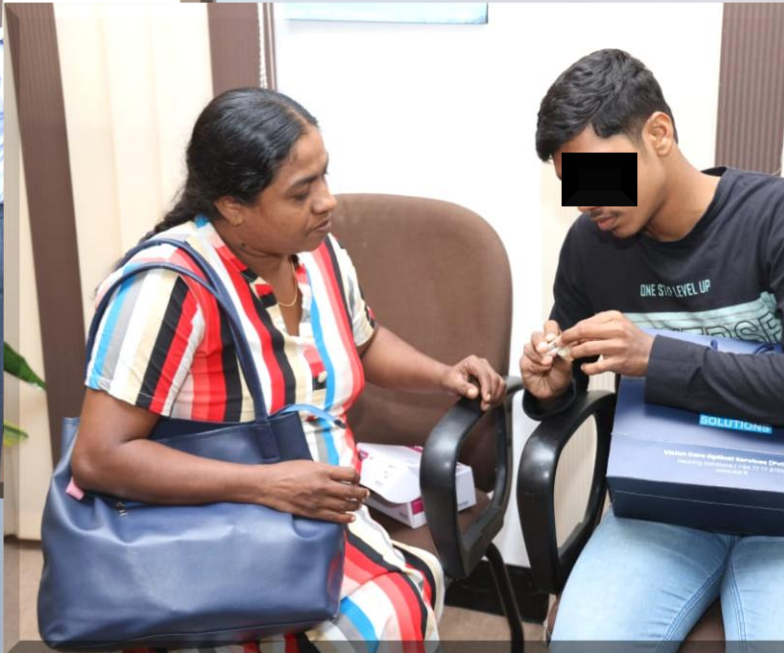
5. HEALTH SERVICE OUTREACH



SLAF Response

5. HEALTH SERVICE OUTREACH

- Care for the Elderly (i.e. Welcome Village)
- Care for the Children (i.e. donating hearing aids lost in the floods)



SLAF Response

5. HEALTH SERVICE OUTREACH - *“Mission Meemurai”*

- Completely cut off by land for over 1 month
- The MoH requested the assistance to manage Meemurai Hosptial
- Approximately 2,500 population in 5 separate villages
- No electricity, No communication, No road access, No Ambulance, Limited Provisions
- Reliance on:
 - ✓ Innovation
 - ✓ Grit
 - ✓ Dedication



SLAF Response

- Providing Healthcare Assistance- “Mission Meemurai”



SLAF Response

- Providing Healthcare Assistance- “Mission Meemurai”



SLAF Response

6. Build Back Better

- Labour assistance for cleaning and reconstruction



Assistance Received Through External Entities

- **REQUIREMENT TO COORDINATE WITH MULTIPLE ENTITIES:**

- International and Local
- Organizations and Individuals
- Civilian and Military
- Government and Non Government
- Offering Services and Providing Donations

Assistance Received Through External Entities

- **SERVICES FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES**

- Indian Air Force – “Operations Sargar Bandhu”
- US Air Force
- Pakistan Air Force
- Volunteers

Compassion Has No Borders ❤️



A Sri Lankan Family Was Saved By An IAF Pilot — The Mothers 'Thank You' Says It All

Assistance Received Through External Entities

- **DONATIONS RECEIVED**

- Multiple Sources
- Local Donations amounting to Rs. 4 Mil
- Donations from Overseas (i.e. IAF, US AF, Myanmar etc.)
- Philanthropic Organizations (i.e. Kalana Mithuri and Path to Nirwana Foundations etc.)



Assistance Received Through External Entities

- **DONATIONS RECEIVED**

- Two Self Sustaining Mobile Medical Units (from IAF)



Use of Air Assets in Disaster Management

- **ADVANTAGES**

- Rapid deployment
- Extended reach
- Access to remote or isolated areas
- Multi-role flexibility (i.e. Surveillance, MEDEVAC, Logistics support etc.)
- High readiness and scale



Use of Air Assets in Disaster Management

- **DISADVANTAGES**

- Dependent on Weather & Visibility
- Requirement of suitable landing sites
- Flight duration limited by fuel
- High operational cost
- Payload limitation
- Equipment Fatigue
- Crew fatigue



Use of Air Assets in Disaster Management



Challenges Encountered

- **Coordination with external entities**
- **Inconsistencies between requirements projected by central Vs regional health authorities**
- **Administrative and individual Bureaucracies**
- **Issues related to Accessibility**
 - Damaged road network
 - Bad weather
 - Landing site related issues
- **Communication issues**
- **Interruption to electricity supply**

Challenges Encountered

- **Resource constraints**

- Manpower
- Equipment

- **Issues related to donated medical supplies**

- Do not have NMRA registration (Issues with Quality and Safety)
- Different dosage forms from those used in Sri Lanka
- Close to expire
- Items which are usually not used in health outreach programs are also donated

The Way Forward

- Improve resilience of military health services in disaster management
- Improve readiness of military health services in disaster management
- Need for less bureaucratic roadblocks
- Better coordination between the D of HS of the Tri Forces
- Post mission reviews and integrating a lesson learned system in National level to strengthen the readiness in executing Military Medicine to face future situations.

Thank You

