

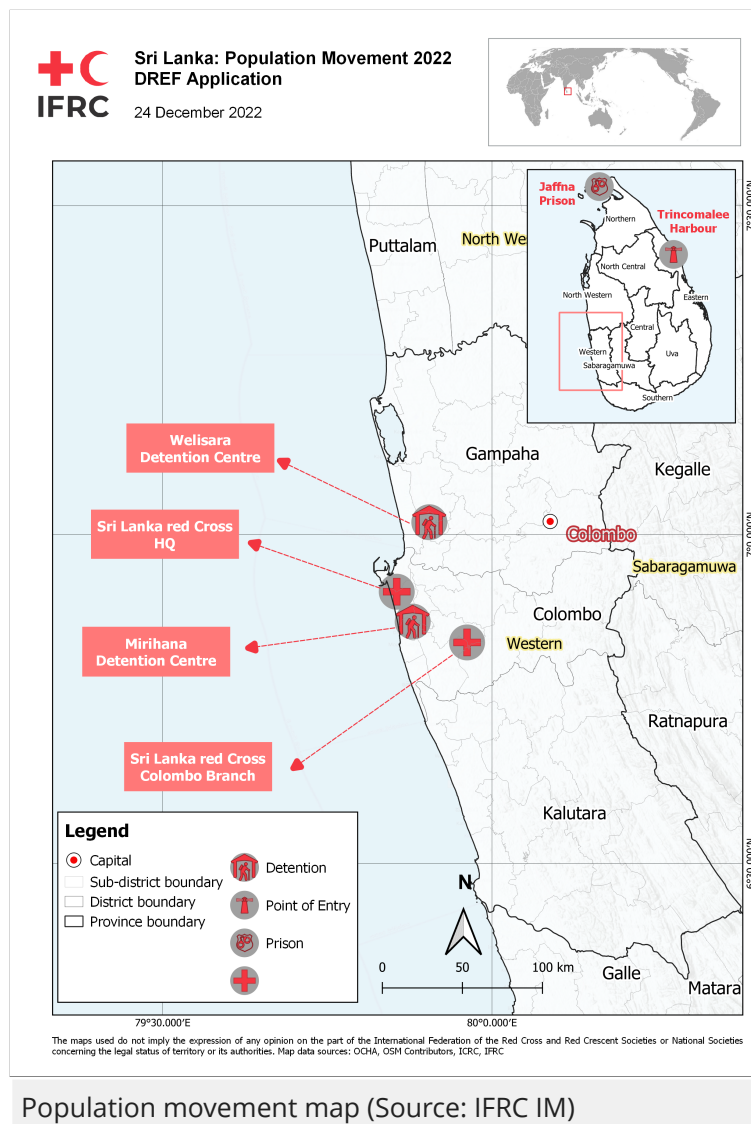


SLRCS Colombo branch distributing dry rations pack to migrants (Photo: SLRCS)

Appeal: MDRLK016	Total DREF Allocation CHF 91,140	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Population Movement
Glide Number: OT-2022-000380-LKA	People Affected: 104 people	People Targeted: 104 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 2022-12-29	New Operational end date:	Total operating timeframe: 4 months
Targeted Areas:	Western		

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks.

Description of the Event



What happened, where and when?

On 18 December 2022, Sri Lanka's Navy conducted a rescue operation, saving 105 migrants found adrift off the eastern coast of Sri Lanka. The boat was initially spotted 3.5 nautical miles (6.5km) from the shore by the Sri Lanka Navy. It was reported that the distressed craft had entered the island's territorial waters on 17 December, following a mechanical failure while transporting these people from Bangladesh to Indonesia. Promptly responding to the distress call received at the Operations Room of the Northern Naval Command on 17 December, the Navy rushed SLNS Fast Attack Craft and Flotilla, which are attached to the Northern Naval Command, to the reported area for the rescue of the 105 distressed people.

According to United Nations expert reports on 22 December 2022 [1], there were four vessels carrying migrants [2], all originating from Bangladesh. One vessel with 160 migrants was detected near the Andaman Islands, another carrying 154 migrants was rescued by a Vietnamese oil service vessel on 8 December and handed over to the Myanmar navy, and a third vessel carrying 100 migrants was at sea close to Aceh, Indonesia. The remaining vessel, with 105 Rohingya migrants, was rescued by the Sri Lankan Navy. These 105 Rohingya migrants, including the person who drove the craft, were taken to the Kankasanthurai harbor, where they received support with basic necessities and emergency medical attention.

Among the 105 migrants from Rakhine, Myanmar, there were 49 children (21 girls, 28 boys) and 56 adults (26 females,



30 males). Within this group, 21 unaccompanied children (8 boys, 13 girls) and one elderly person (68 years old) were identified among the arrivals, while no person with a disability (PWD) was found. Due to deteriorating health, three of the arrivals (two children and one woman) required admission to the hospital.

After the legal proceedings, all 104 migrants (excluding the person who drove the craft) were transferred to immigration detention centers. Among them, 22 children, including unaccompanied children, were housed at the detention center in Welisara, situated in the Gampaha district approximately 12 km from Colombo City. The rest of the migrants were accommodated at the Mirihana detention center in the Colombo district, about 7 km from the Colombo city center. The individual who drove the craft was detained in the Jaffna prison until the end of May 2023, after which he was transferred to the detention center in Welisara. Tragically, one migrant (an elderly man) passed away in April 2023 due to a critical health condition.

Subsequently, the UNHCR and the Government identified suitable houses, and an agreement was reached between the house owners and the UNHCR implementing partner, Muslim Aid. A one-year rental agreement was arranged, with the rent paid in advance each month. Currently, all Rohingya migrants have been relocated to rental houses within the Colombo district. However, the language barrier remains a significant challenge when communicating with these Rohingya migrants and comprehending their situation.

Note:

a) Displaced people: The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement uses the expression 'displaced people from Rakhine, Myanmar' in place of "Rohingya" in all external communications, as an element in maintaining safety and operational access to provide vital humanitarian assistance to those in need wherever they are.

b) Migrants: The Movement uses a deliberately broad description in order to capture the full extent of humanitarian concerns related to migration. "A migrant is a person who leaves or flees their habitual residence to go to new places – usually abroad – to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. Migration can be voluntary or involuntary, but most of the time a combination of choices and constraints are involved." Thus, this includes migrant workers, stateless migrants, and migrants deemed irregular by public authorities, among others. It also concerns refugees and asylum seekers, notwithstanding the fact that they constitute a special category under international law.

c) Refugees: Any person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself/herself of the protection of that country.

Links:

[1]<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/12/coordinated-regional-action-urged-stop-rohingya-deaths-sea-un-expert>

[2]IFRC's description of 'migrants' is deliberately broad in order to capture the full extent of humanitarian concerns related to migration IFRC- Policy on Migration, "Migrants are persons who leave or flee their habitual residence to go to new places – usually abroad – to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. The displaced Rohingya people from Rakhine, Myanmar hereby referred to as " Rohingya migrants" and in general as "Migrants"





IFRC/SLRCS Finance and operation team distributes physical cash in envelope to the migrants (Photo : SLRCS)

Scope and Scale

The government authorities requested the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) to assist them with basic relief items, as well as other humanitarian services such as medical assistance, MHPSS, and First Aid, in order to provide humanitarian support to the migrants. The SLRCS/IFRC visited the immigration detention centers and conducted an initial assessment. Along with the primary information gathered by the team, secondary information provided by the authorities was analyzed. The infrastructure in the detention center was limited, and they lacked the capacity to accommodate 104 more people. There were no adequate services and facilities available for the new arrivals, and the immediate need was to provide them with all the basic services, including food, accommodation, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), and health care. After the initial assessment, SLRCS organized medical camps to provide immediate medical facilities to the 104 migrants, most of whom were infected with skin diseases and head lice. Furthermore, food items, including nutritional supplementary foods and basic personal hygiene items, were also provided to all the migrants while they were in the detention centers.

Once all migrants were transferred to the rental houses, their humanitarian needs changed. SLRCS conducted a needs assessment and identified some immediate needs, such as food, household essential items, medicine, sanitary items, etc. Therefore, SLRCS decided to assist the migrants with Cash and Voucher assistance (CVA) activities as they had access to the market and other places to fulfill their own needs. SLRCS provided value vouchers from selected shops where they could purchase food and essential items, including medicine and sanitary napkins. SLRCS, together with the national cash working group, decided on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), which determined the value of vouchers at CHF 20 per person. The migrants also received additional medical health check-ups once they were moved to the rented housing, although all the migrants had already received health check-ups while they were in the detention center.

The migrants now have access to local communities, though the language remains a barrier to communicate with local people. There are a few Rohingya migrants also living there who came in 2019 from Rakhine, Myanmar. They have learned English, and the local language, and can communicate with the local people. These people are assisting the new migrants in communication, especially with health issues or any other social issues. All the migrants are living near each other, therefore, can communicate with each other. UNHCR provides them with skills and language training so that they can communicate by themselves.

SLRCS team changed the operational strategy through an Operations Update in April 2023 because of the changing needs of the affected population. the DREF operation was also extended by one month to have sufficient time to cater to the needs of the people. There is a significant improvement in the living condition and the lifestyles of the migrants compared to their conditions at the time of arrival. Currently, all migrants are living in rented houses with children having access to playgrounds as well as improved social interactions. All migrants were registered with

UNHCR and all of them are aware of their rights. No negative consequences such as harassment, attack, or any other abuse were reported thus far.

Once all migrants were transferred to the rental houses, their humanitarian needs changed. SLRCS conducted a need assessment and identified some of the immediate needs such as food and household essential items, medicine, sanitary items, etc. Therefore, SLRCS decided to assist the migrants with Cash and Voucher assistance (CVA) activities as they have access to the market and other places to fulfill their own needs. SLRCS provided value vouchers from selected shops where they can purchase food and essential items Including medicine, sanitary napkins, etc. SLRCS together with the national cash working group decided on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of which the value of vouchers is determined at CHF 20/pp. The migrants also received additional medical Health check-ups once they were moved to the rented housing, though, all the migrants received health checkups while they were in the detention center.

The migrants now have access to local communities, though the language remains a barrier to communicate with local people. There are a few Rohingya migrants also living there who came in 2019 from Rakhine, Myanmar. They have learned English and the local language, enabling them to communicate with the local people. These individuals are assisting the new migrants in communication, especially with health issues or any other social concerns. All the migrants are living near each other, and therefore, they can communicate with each other. UNHCR provides them with skills and language training so that they can communicate independently.

The SLRCS team changed the operational strategy through an Operations Update in April 2023 because of the changing needs of the affected population. The DREF operation was also extended by one month to have sufficient time to cater to the needs of the people. There is a significant improvement in the living conditions and lifestyles of the migrants compared to their conditions at the time of arrival. Currently, all migrants are living in rented houses, with children having access to playgrounds and improved social interactions. All migrants were registered with UNHCR, and they are all aware of their rights. Thus far, no negative consequences such as harassment, attack, or any other abuse have been reported.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	In-country IFRC team continually is in close coordination with SLRCS and ICRC. The PGI Delegate supported the initial assessment at the detention center led by SLRCS. IFRC CCD and APRO offices had supported SLRCS in preparing a DREF application and had planned the response. Furthermore, the IFRC CCD regularly shares in-country situation updates and developments with IFRC APRO. Following this population movement event, APRO is analyzing the regional situation of the migrants. Based on informal and formal updates from various sources, it is also in close contact with other IFRC Country Delegations in Myanmar, Bangladesh, Malaysia, India, and Indonesia.
Participating National Societies	There is no Participating National Societies (PNS) presence in the country.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has a presence in the country, and the IFRC country office coordinates closely with them. The ICRC and SLRCS visited the detention centers to assess RFL needs. The initial plan/activity focused on the following:	
1. Facilitate communication for the migrants to re-establish contact with their families. 2. Active tracing is considered to support people who have not succeeded in re-establishing contact with loved ones. 3. Measures to identify and register vulnerable individuals (minors, injured) without contact with their families,	



to trace their families.

So far, 73 migrants were connected with their family members through the RFL activities that took place at the two detention centers with the support of ICRC.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	SLRCS closely worked with the Department of Immigration and Emigration, and the UNHCR to coordinate the implementation of the activities and to ensure timely responses as well as exchange information with the stakeholders. SLRCS participated in a stakeholder meeting organized by UNHCR and the local government and SLRCS was requested to provide the necessary shelter and housing items as well as provide health assessments after reallocation and provide additional support in the form of cash and vouchers for food, medicine, and other basic needs of all remaining 104 migrants.
UN or other actors	UNHCR closely worked with the authorities and with their implementing partner, Muslim Aid, to provide other forms of basic requirements to the migrants. UNHCR is the leading agency to coordinate with all stakeholders, including with SLRCS, who have very good coordination and who have provided support to solve issues affecting the migrants.
Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?	
There is no formal coordination mechanism in place. To date, however, the government is leading the coordination in an informal and bi-lateral manner. SLRCS is in close coordination with the authorities, UNHCR, and other relevant stakeholders as needed, as well as working closely with the ICRC in the country.	



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The 104 migrants (excluding one person who drove the craft) were accommodated in a detention center upon their arrival. The government and UNHCR took the lead in coordinating the activities of the different stakeholders.

There were about 50 existing migrants in the Colombo immigration detention camp, and there was no additional space to accommodate new migrants. Additionally, the permanent facilities were also lacking to accommodate the additional 104 migrants. Therefore, there was a need to provide temporary shelter with adequate relief items.

UNHCR rented out two residences to separate women and children from the detention centers. There was no official communication of any shelter support to be provided by any other organization. Furthermore, there was a need to provide the migrants with basic household and relief items. As soon as the migrants were moved to permanent housing, SLRCS provided shelter and housing items.



Health

The SLRCS/IFRC team visited the detention centers and identified the need for immediate health services. They worked closely with the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS). Almost all migrants have skin infections and head lice. Accordingly, the government authority requested that SLRCS act on it as soon as possible. Therefore, SLRCS provided medical and volunteer assistance, including clinical services, laboratory testing, provision of medicine (through the RDHS), and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to protect and promote migrants' mental health and psychosocial wellbeing.

The Colombo and Gampaha branches supported the setup of six medical camps in the detention centers and resettled areas. This was done through coordination with the RDHS, with SLRCS providing support in their medical assessment to identify disease types and order medicines and other medical consumables for the medical camp. Additionally, after the migrants were reallocated to permanent housing, SLRCS provided health check-ups.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Menstrual hygiene needs of migrant adolescent girls and women were identified as an immediate need during the rapid assessment. There were no provisions of sanitary items/sanitary pads for women in the detention centers. As part of WASH interventions, SLRCS distributed appropriate menstrual hygiene products (sanitary napkins) to the girls and women who were in the detention centers from the available stocks immediately.

The Mirihana/Welisara detention centers had very limited facilities within the compound. The available toilets in the camps hardly served the already accommodated people. Additionally, the lack of lighting and sanitation items in the toilets was also reported.





Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) were collected with a focus on infants, children (including unaccompanied minors) pregnant and lactating women, persons with a disability, and the elderly. Initial assessment indicates that there are 21 unaccompanied children (8 boys, 13 girls) and 47 women and girls (including unaccompanied girls) and 1 elderly person among the migrants. The safety of children and women was a major concern and had been given priority, and living arrangements were organized at the immigration detention centers to ensure dignity, accessibility, and safety. Child-focused activities were implemented with close coordination with UNHCR to promote the mental well-being of the children in the immigration detention centers.

Objective and Strategy Rationale

Overall objective of the operation

The operational objective was to provide basic humanitarian assistance, focusing on basic relief, WASH, health care, and PGI to 105 migrants from Rakhine, Myanmar, for a period of four months. This included coordination with authorities and assistance to strengthen the National Society in planning and implementing the operation.

The operational objective was divided into two phases. Firstly, while the migrants were in the detention centers, IFRC/SLRCS focused on providing immediate support through health camps, hygiene promotion, and distributing dry rations. The second phase was after they relocated to rental houses, where SLRCS/IFRC focused on longer-term support by providing household items, cash and vouchers (CVA) to meet basic needs, PGI, and health activities based on specific needs.

Response strategy implementation

The government authorities requested SLRCS to assist 104 migrants from Rakhine, Myanmar, with immediate basic needs, covering Shelter assistance/relief items, WASH, Health, and PGI needs. As an auxiliary organization to the government, SLRCS took the initiative to support the government's efforts in providing basic humanitarian assistance and services to the migrants. (The target number was changed from 105 to 104, as one of the migrants passed away while being held in the detention centers.)

SLRCS planned and provided assistance in the following areas: Shelter, housing, and settlements; Health; WASH; and PGI, including RFL services. The shelter segment was executed by UNHCR, with SLRCS supporting through the provision of shelter and housing settlement items such as mosquito nets, pillows, bed sheets, mats, kitchen facilities, utensils, jerry cans, and the required amount of clothes until a more permanent solution was found. Although the initial request from the government was for tents, no support for shelter or tents was planned at the initial moment.

The shelter and housing settlement items needed for the migrants were planned and provided based on personal, family, and communal needs, and all procurement and distribution of relief items to migrants were 100 percent completed.

Health:

Upon arrival, the government, through the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS), conducted an initial health check and screening of the migrants before taking them to the military base. Based on discussions with RDHS authorities and rapid assessments, six medical camps were conducted, providing clinical services, laboratory testing, and medicine to migrants at risk of health issues. Trained volunteers were deployed to provide mental health and



psychosocial support (MHPSS) to all migrants, with a priority for children's mental well-being. SLRCS also provided logistical support to government doctors and camp personnel, including setting up a service center and ambulance services.

WASH:

Due to inadequate sanitation facilities in the detention camp, the operation initially planned to install five mobile toilets for men and women. However, the immigration and emigration officials stated that recently arriving migrants would be relocated to permanent rental housing soon, deferring the plan for mobile toilets at the detention centers. Water board authorities provided additional water connections. Hygiene and dignity kits, along with other sanitary items, were provided based on the needs of women and adolescent girls.

PGI:

PGI was integrated across all sectors, with a focus on activities targeting children for protection and inclusion. Unaccompanied children and other school-age children needed assistance to continue their engagement in education-related activities. SLRCS distributed 49 school stationary packages to support activities like drawing, writing, and painting. Arrangements were made with authorities to provide children with safe places for educational and recreational activities, and toys and stationary items were provided.

SLRCS coordinated with the Department of Immigration and Emigration and UNHCR to share information and coordinate the response. The IFRC country office contacted the ICRC delegation in Colombo to share information on the proposed DREF operation. SLRCS worked closely with ICRC to set up assistance points for RFL services, allowing Rohingya migrants to connect with loved ones in other locations through mobile phones and letters.

Transferring all 104 migrants from detention centers to permanent rental housing was a lengthy process. During the DREF implementation period, the first batch of 78 migrants was relocated to rental houses and continued to receive support from SLRCS. However, SLRCS was unable to complete its humanitarian objectives initially, as 26 migrants were released and transferred to rental houses in April 2023.

As the migrants shifted to rental houses, their humanitarian needs changed, requiring adjustments to the operational strategy. SLRCS requested a one-month no-cost timeframe extension until 30 April 2023 (the initial operation closing date was 31 March 2023) to support the remaining 26 migrants and analyze and address their changing needs.

Due to UNHCR scaling down its operations in Sri Lanka, the government and other stakeholders requested SLRCS to provide further assistance with available remainder funding for at least a month to meet food and basic needs. New activities were included, utilizing savings from procurement and the non-need for mobile toilets. SLRCS fully utilized the funds for the migrants' significant needs.

According to the needs assessment findings, when all migrants were transferred to rental houses, it was decided, based on a joint decision in a meeting held on 21 March 2023 with all stakeholders, including SLRCS, UNHCR, the Sri Lankan government, and other partner NGOs, that Cash and Voucher assistance (CVA) would be an appropriate option to support their immediate needs. The purpose of CVA was to ensure beneficiaries could buy food and essential items, including medicine and sanitary napkins, from local markets.

As an auxiliary organization to the government, SLRCS supported the government's efforts in providing basic humanitarian assistance and services to the 104 Rohingya migrants through this DREF operation, completing 99 percent of the activities in the operational strategy within the given timeframe.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

105 migrants, including 49 children (21 girls, 28 boys) and 56 adults (26 females, 30 males). Within them, 21 unaccompanied children (8 boys, 13 girls) and 1 elderly person (68 years) were targeted.



Later, one elderly person passed away due to a critical health condition.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The operation's objective was to provide 105 migrants from Rakhine, Myanmar with basic humanitarian assistance focusing on relief, WASH, healthcare, and PGI for a period of four months.

All the migrants were targeted and there were no selection criteria developed under the operation.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	26	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	21		100.00 %
Men:	29	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	28	0.00 %	
Total targeted population:	104		

Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Risk of distributing cash in envelopes in bulk at one distributing location to the migrants	The migrants cannot open bank accounts in Sri Lanka and the distribution of cash under the planned CVA was carried out through the cash-in envelopes modality. Bringing the cash in bulk to one place was a risk and it was planned and coordinated with UNHCR and Muslim Aid well in advance to bring more HR support during the distribution and double-checked the name list and ensured there were no changes at last time and completed the activity within the anticipated time.
Risk of Covid 19 and other communicable disease transmission	Deploy trained staff and volunteers provided with PPEs, worked closely with the government authorities, used masks, and hand sanitizer by staff and volunteers, Provided sufficient masks and hand sanitizers.
Legal issues and government policy decisions may limit access to the migrants	Established close coordination and cooperation with authorities to have updated information
Language and cultural barriers may slow the progress of the implementation	A translator was hired from existing local Rohingya migrants to get support to communicate with the new migrants. (Indo-Aryan / English/ Sinhalese language)

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The SLRCS security framework was applicable for the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, existing IFRC country office/ CCD security plans are applicable. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses.



The National Society has a good level of community acceptance countrywide, with established networks of community-based volunteers. It was requested to the NS by the government to provide assistance to the migrants thus there was very limited scope of any security concerns.



Implementation

	Protection, Gender And Inclusion	Budget		CHF 4,053
		Targeted Persons		104
		Persons Assisted		104
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of volunteers oriented on PGI		10	40	
# of children supported with recreational materials		49	49	
# of coordination meeting attended to promote PGI for the displaced people		3	3	
Narrative description of achievements				
SLRCS carried out various activities to promote a sense of inclusion among different groups of migrants, with particular attention to addressing the protection needs of the 21 unaccompanied children. Child-friendly games and activities were organized at the detention center to help them recover from their trauma. The children who are attending language and other subject classes conducted by UNHCR & Muslim Aid were provided with school bags including exercises book, drawing books, painting items, pens, and pencils. In addition, to enhance recreational activities and to improve the mental health and psychosocial well-being of the migrants, sports items including Carrom Boards, Cricket Bat, Balls, and badminton sets, were also provided to the learning center of migrants, set up by UNHCR coordination with Muslim Aid. A total of 46 male migrants were selected for Standard Push Bicycle distribution. This requirement originated from UNHCR during a coordination meeting with the IFRC Regional Migration and Displacement Coordinator for Asia Pacific. These bicycles are useful for their day-to-day travel, marketing, and also for their health and mental well-being. One male Rohingya migrant who received the push bicycle said: “We have 6 people in our family, including 4 children. I am very glad that I have my own push bicycle to do work on my own, no need to waste money on Tuk Tuk to go to market and transport my children to the learning center, I miss my own one I had in Myanmar, but now I have one in Sri Lanka”. Two PGI orientation training sessions were conducted for Gampaha and Colombo branch volunteers and staff, with 32 volunteers (17 males and 15 females) and 8 staff members (5 males and 3 females) participating in both orientation sessions. The training focused on addressing PGI concerns in maintaining the dignity, access, participation, and safety of the migrants, especially women, children, and the elderly, and providing them with the required assistance. SLRCS worked together with ICRC to assist migrants with RFL (Restoring Family Links) to connect with their family members. In the two events, IDD calls were made available for all migrants, and 73 migrants were able to connect with their relatives and loved ones to inform them that they are in Sri Lanka, and they also shared their contact details.				

Lessons Learnt

IDD calls for Restoring Family Links (RFL) provided were highly relevant and greatly appreciated by the migrants. During the operation, gender-segregated data was collected. Deployment of PGI-trained volunteers was planned, and both staff and volunteers received PGI training during the middle of the operations. The compilation of PGI activities designed specifically for migrants was a valuable lesson learned by SLRCS volunteers and staff..

Challenges

Language barrier to gathering for community engagement and working closely with migrants. Due to language issues, the migrants would not have been able to communicate their real needs, problems, and issues.

Lack of trained staff and volunteers who have prior experience in similar operations. However, the staff and trained volunteers of the branches quickly learned about the environment and migrants' needs and priorities by visiting them every day and trying to communicate with the migrants.

	Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Budget		CHF 11,619
		Targeted Persons		104
		Persons Assisted		104
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of people provided with hygiene kits		104	104	
# of people provided with excreta disposal facilities		104	0	
# of people reached through hygiene promotion		104	104	

Narrative description of achievements

According to the assessment report, the detention centers have extremely inadequate facilities. The bathrooms in the camps are hardly sufficient for the individuals who are already housed there. There are also reports of a shortage of toilet lighting and sanitation supplies.

SLRCS had initially planned to install six mobile toilets, separated for men and women, in the detention center at Welisara. However, the authorities provided them with permanent shelters that had adequate toilet facilities, making the installation of 06 mobile toilets unnecessary. It was also planned to distribute jerry cans to migrants for water storage, but the government water board provided adequate water facilities and drinking water storage at the detention centers.

SLRCS distributed sufficient sanitary napkins to the migrant adolescent girls and women, along with washing powder, toothpaste, body soap, and toilet cleaners to all migrants. Trained SLRCS volunteers, along with interpreters from ex-refugee groups and the Regional Director of Health Services staff, conducted hygiene promotion awareness sessions, including menstrual and personal hygiene education. The hygiene promotion activities mainly focused on personal and food hygiene practices, as well as COVID-19 protection measures at the detention centers. Separate Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) sessions for women and adolescent

girls were conducted by the health authorities (RDHS) at the detention centers. These activities were carried out with the help of interpreters from the existing migrant community.

Lessons Learnt

Hygiene and Sanitary packs and other toiletries provided were very relevant. Hygiene promotion was necessary and relevant but not adequate because of cultural norms and language barriers. The refugees preferred to have awareness based on their gender (separate awareness for males and females).

Challenges

Due to the language barrier, it was difficult to explain the hygiene practices and community-based health practices since these migrants came from the camp setup, especially the female migrants on hygiene practices due to the cultural barriers. With the help of an interpreter from an existing Rohingya migrant, awareness was conducted.

	Health	Budget	CHF 25,146
		Targeted Persons	104
		Persons Assisted	104
Indicators		Target	Actual
# of medical camps organized		6	6
# of people provided with food items		104	104
# of people reached with mental health and psychosocial support		104	104
# of people reached by the National Society with services (clinical) to reduce relevant health risk factors.		104	104

Narrative description of achievements

SLRCS conducted a rapid health assessment and found that almost all migrants had skin infections and head lice. Therefore, SLRCS provided medical and volunteer assistance, such as clinical services and laboratory testing. The government authorities requested that SLRCS support with medical services, including PSS (Psychosocial Support), under the supervision of the Ministry of Health.

Over a 4-month period, SLRCS organized six medical camps and two medical visits at Mirihana, Welisara, and Panadura, Sarikamulla resettled areas. SLRCS primarily provided medicines, health screenings, and Dengue prevention activities, with coordination and support from the Regional Director of Health Services doctors. Critical patients received treatment, referral services, and were supported with ambulance services. First Aid (FA) and Psychological First Aid (PFA)-trained volunteers provided mental health and psychosocial services, including organizing games and activities focused on kids and adults. SLRCS also procured and provided dry food to meet immediate nutritional needs, considering locally available dry food such as biscuits, chocolates, nutritional bars, nuts, and fruit drinks.

Additionally, SLRCS provided face masks (12,000 in total) and distributed 315 dry ration parcels to migrants. The dry ration parcels included rice (5Kg), vegetable cooking oil (3L), Dhal (3kg), sugar (2Kg), tea (250g), canned fish (425gX3), and chili powder (250g).

Lessons Learnt

Organize small awareness sessions, especially for the migrants about the community and basic things like hygiene and sanitation. Provide training on the Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and prevention of Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) using audio clips to deliver messages to the migrants who are not familiar with the country's context. It was good practice and learning for the SLRCS branches to coordinate with other stakeholders to identify the needs of migrants from different communities and social contexts.

Challenges

Risk of Covid-19 and other communicable disease transmission: Trained staff and volunteers were provided with PPEs and worked closely with government authorities, while also providing sufficient masks and hand sanitizers.

Staff and volunteers were mainly trained to respond to natural disasters and not to this type of crisis. There were concerns and limitations regarding sharing and exchanging personal data of migrants and capturing beneficiaries' photographs. Data were collected following the IFRC policy on the protection of personal data.

Communicating with the migrants was a significant challenge due to language and cultural barriers. Health workers faced challenges while treating the skin diseases of women, as they refused to expose their hands even to female health workers.

	Shelter Housing And Settlements	Budget	CHF 18,687
		Targeted Persons	104
		Persons Assisted	104
Indicators		Target	Actual
# of people provided with household relief items		105	104
# of volunteer oriented on displaced people and cultural sensitivity		10	10

Narrative description of achievements

Once all migrants (104) moved to the rented houses, needs of the relief items were identified based on their needs, and the following items were procured as per the standard procurement procedures and distributed to the migrants. Kitchen Bin Large – (06), Electric Kettles – (03), Kitchen Pot set- (08), pedestal fans – (05), Rice cookers- (03), Plastic Box – (104), Spoon Kitchen set 04 pieces – (12), Stainless Steel Cups – (103), Plastic Bucket 5 liter – (10), Stainless Steel Bowl – (60), Bedsheet (40), Folding mats (87), Men's Underwear (55), Ladies Underwear (74), Mosquito Net (103), Rubber Slipper (50 pairs), Sarong (55), Tee shirts (55), Towel - Bath (85).

Procurement and distribution of shelter, housing, and settlement relief items under the intervention were completed. A leader was identified from the migrant community, particularly from the Migrants and he got

involved in the planning of the response to identify the relief items needed to meet the specific needs of the migrants.

Lessons Learnt

There was a need to clarify the specific needs of the migrants before planning the procurement process to purchase various relief items such as Nutritional food packs, sports items for children, household items, hygiene kits, temporary shelter items, and men's and women's clothes. That was well coordinated and arranged accordingly. This process strengthened the effective responses mechanism and procurement process of SLRCS where detailed specifications was shared with procurement to ensure the right/quality is being offered by the supplier.

SLRCS and the IFRC should have contacted the Bangladesh Red Crescent to better understand the types of relief items that have been procured to assist Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Challenges

The language barrier was a major issue during the assessment to find out what exact needs and household items were required. Migrants including children and unaccompanied individuals were not much aware of what household items they required. With the help of an interpreter from an existing Rohingya migrant, the needs of the migrants and appropriate household items were identified.

It was found during implementation that some of the items were not the priority needs of the migrants due to changing locations and conditions. A need assessment was conducted to identify the priority needs of the migrants after they moved to the rental houses.

	National Society Strengthening	Budget		CHF 14,858
		Targeted Persons		0
		Persons Assisted		0
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of assessment conducted		2	2	
# of lesson learned workshop conducted		1	1	

Narrative description of achievements

SLRCS performed two assessments, one of which was a rapid assessment completed after the migrants were moved to the detention centers established by the Immigration and Emigration Department in Colombo. This was done in both detention centers. Immediate emergency requirements were recognized, and the appropriate activities were taken to meet them. The SLRCS conducted the second assessment after the migrants moved into rental housing. This was mostly due to a shift in humanitarian requirements once they relocated from the detention center to the rental houses. Accordingly, cash and vouchers were given priority and the strategic intervention was changed.

SLRCS conducted stakeholder dialogues and lessons-learned workshops to better understand the objectives and expected results of this operation. The stakeholder dialogue was organized bringing related humanitarian agencies together with authorities who provide assistance to these migrants. It is important to reflect back on

the humanitarian responses by various agencies and analyze the strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and challenges including recommendations to further improve similar humanitarian responses in the future.

Lesson learned workshop:

The objective was to discuss to identify good practices and challenges of the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the operation.

Best practices identified:

- Affected migrants had access to the help they need at the right time.
- All groups (children, adolescents, male, female, adults) in the group included and prioritized (vulnerable groups, gender, diversity)
- A scientific needs assessment conducted with disaggregated data on gender, age, race, religion, skills, socio-economic status, and marginalized.
- Migrants received proportional help to those in need, resources, and assistance were distributed in a way that was proportional to the needs of the community or individuals. In other words, the more severe the needs of a community or individual, the greater the level of assistance they should receive.
- Efficient use of human resources including stakeholder's support for the operation was commendable. Efficient deployment of staff and volunteers for the operation with adequate numbers.

Due to the language barrier, the biggest problem was communicating with migrants in order to engage them in PGI-related activities. Cash-in envelopes were a first-time setting up that required extensive planning and additional clearances from authorities.

Recommendation:

- There should be a contingency plan for population movement crisis in place to assist and respond properly to an emergency.
- Establish a coordination mechanism to discuss migration issues in Sri Lanka not only looking at emergency response aspects but also looking at other migration issues.
- Restructure the Migration unit to be part of the Disaster & Climate Crisis department to ensure Migration focal points have a good understanding of the DREF procedures and other operational requirements.
- Ensure proper coordination with each department on the emergency response operation, particularly during the planning of the operation as well as with specific thematic focal points at NHQ.
- Provide trainings to staff and volunteers of agencies involved in responding to refugee/population movement crisis. Specific skills needed may include : conducting repaid and detailed needs assessments, cultural sensitivities, Protection of Gender and Inclusion, basic health care and first aid services, communicating with migrants, and awareness creation through visual aids.
- Document past experiences and lessons learned of the previous responses including conducting a needs assessment on the current migration situation in Sri Lanka to help plan future migration response strategies.

Lessons Learnt

There was good support from the senior management who provided immediate advice and guidance to kick-start the operation. Branches were quick to respond and allocate their own resources without waiting for DREF funding from the NHQ.

Response activities were adjusted according to the changing needs and also based on the suggestions by the government authorities and stakeholders. This ensured the important of the continued and effective monitoring of the DREF activities and evaluation of the situation and migrants' satisfaction with the intervention.

Challenges

Due to the minimum involvement of the community, the staff and volunteers were not able to collect correct details about the migrants. (For example, they were unable to determine the number of girls and boys in order to estimate the appropriate number of essential items).



SLRCS placed close coordination with the government authorities to conduct a rapid assessment to find the immediate needs and issues of the migrants.

There were barriers to communicating with government agencies at the initial stages of the operation and there was inadequate support. As a result, the planning process was delayed. It was later overcome by SLRCS by conducting continuous meeting with the relevant authorities in coordination with other stakeholders.

	Multi-purpose Cash	Budget		CHF 2,080
		Targeted Persons		104
		Persons Assisted		97
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of value vouchers distributed		104	97	
# People supported with physical cash-in-envelopes to meet their necessities		104	97	

Narrative description of achievements

The humanitarian needs of the migrants changed when they shifted to rental houses. Therefore, it was discussed and coordinated in the coordination meeting with IFRC, SLRCS, UNHCR, Immigration and Emigration Department, Muslim aid, and other partners to focus on the real needs of the migrants. Need assessment was carried out, and based on the results, the actual needs of the migrants were changed to food security and basic needs. In addition, it was decided during the discussion to provide cash and voucher aid to migrants in order to support their growing humanitarian needs.

Furthermore, all of the migrants have access to the supermarket chain after they were relocated, so the CVA was appropriate for migrants to satisfy their immediate needs, and the migrants did not have any livelihood support once they were relocated to the rental houses, and migrants had lack of financial capacity to buy the items that they needed to their rental house. As a result, CVA was the perfect option to assist migrants. The goal of CVA was to ensure that migrants could buy food and other necessities such as medicine and sanitary napkins.

At the time the operation update was published, most of the planned activities had been completed within the timeframe based on ground-level requirements, and savings had been made from the budget allotted for health and WASH interventions. The distribution of dry rations to meet the nutrition needs of migrants was intended under health, but it was not fully accomplished because the government provided food to the refugees. Medicine purchase was also halted due to additional approvals required from Geneva and government agencies, which could not be obtained in time, and the cancellation of building up mobile toilets in the detention centers from the WASH budget were all combined to accommodate the savings from the initial budget from planned intervention to convert it into support with cash and vouchers assistance as per the humanitarian needs of the migrants.

As a result, the DREF's operation strategy was modified, with cash and voucher intervention integrated as the primary response approach to address the changed humanitarian requirements as a result of the migrants' relocation at the time. It was clearly stated in operation update #01 under the planned intervention multi-purpose cash, it was initially budgeted as CHF 20 for 104 migrants total of CHF 2080 support through the vouchers to use for food as the first round of distribution and agreed further with the team to support more cash and vouchers

as per the emerging humanitarian needs of the migrants.

Additionally, developments made to the CVA implementation are listed below:

- To support migrants with physical cash in an envelope to address their immediate needs on health and household items, as vouchers were not appropriate to use for medical checkups and meet physician for treatment and buy appropriate kitchen and household items.
- Determination of cash value LKR 24,000 based on Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) which was determined by the cash working group in the country and together with other stakeholders.
- To increase the value of cash and vouchers to meet the different needs of food security, health, transport and household and sanitary items.
- To support only 97 migrants out of 105 with CVA support as one migrant was in prison, one migrant passed away and six unaccompanied adolescent girls around 14-18 years old are in the orphanage under the government department of Probation and Childcare.

As the first round of cash and voucher assistance, SLRCS distributed vouchers based on the relocation plan from the detention camp to rented houses. A total of 280 vouchers were distributed among the 97 migrants in batches as not all migrants were released all at once. They received a voucher worth 2,000 LKR (CHF 6) four times till the end of March 2023 to cover their needs. The migrants were supported with vouchers. Due to the continuous lack of financial capacity of migrants, they could not access essential services. Therefore, SLRCS decided to further move forward with multi-purpose cash to support migrants which gives them freedom of choice and meets their diverse needs. In terms of the determination of value, SLRCS focused on Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and the recommendation from the Cash Working Group. The modality of distribution was physical cash in envelopes. Especially for housing items and health check-ups where vouchers would not be suitable options therefore, SLRCS decided to move forward with the combination of vouchers and physical cash.

The migrants were provided with another round of cash and voucher assistance to help them meet their basic needs. The amount of the value vouchers was LKR 52,500 (CHF 155), and the value of the multi-purpose cash distributed in envelopes was LKR 55,000.00 (CHF 165). The amount was decided with consultation of cash working group. SLRCS selected Cargill's Super Shop for value voucher programming. Based on certain criteria (e.g. access to beneficiaries, price of the product, reliability of the vendors, etc.) the vendor has been selected to support the program.

For physical cash distribution (Cash in envelope), SLRCS went to the place where the migrants were relocated in the rental house. In coordination with Muslim Aid/UNHCR and government authority, SLRCS identified a community meeting hall (close to migrant's rental houses) and inform migrants the date and time for the distribution of cash. During distribution, SLRCS used the master roll to keep the signature and thumb print of migrants and verified the migration certificate (status of refugee) provided by the UNHCR. In the presence of Muslim Aid, UNHCR, Government authority, and IFRC the cash has been distributed to the migrants.

A woman migrant who is 30 years old, a widow, living with two children expressed:

"After moving into this rented house, we didn't have any household items for our day-to-day life, so I purchased all the essential household items and food items from a Red Cross grant." I am thankful to the Red Cross, and I am also urging that monetary support be continued in the future since we do not have any other source of daily income to meet our living expenses."

Lessons Learnt

Cash-in-envelope modality related to the population movement crisis, The modality was the first experience that allowed SLRCS to assess the risks connected with this activity, as well as finance to involve in the process and assure transparency and accountability among the community and other stakeholders.

Strengthened coordination with authorities to get timely information such as disaggregated data of the migrants, relocation plan, and longer-term support of government and other stakeholders which enable SLRCS to design



operational strategies and the effective response plans. Lesson learned to SLRCS for future implementation in the event of bank transfer not being appropriate.

Challenges

The Cash-in-Envelope modality was used for the first time, with no previous experience, necessitating extensive engagement with many stakeholders and permissions, as well as challenging certain security issues due to the large quantity of money involved. The activity was well-planned taking into consideration the risks associated with this activity and coordinated with relevant authorities and stakeholders to get additional support during the implementation of the activity.

	Secretariat Services	Budget		CHF 14,697
		Targeted Persons		0
		Persons Assisted		0
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of surge delegate deployed		1	1	
# of monitoring visit conducted		1	1	

Narrative description of achievements

A procurement surge personnel was deployed through the ongoing emergency appeal who supported in the procurement process which took place in this DREF operation. Besides that, the IFRC thematic lead for Migration, and Displacement, conducted monitoring visits to engage with the lesson learned workshop and stakeholder dialogue held in March 2023.

The main objective of the visit was to discuss and analyze the SLRC's DREF operation, in terms of its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and coverage. IFRC thematic lead for Migration and Displacement also discussed, during the visit with SLRCS, and initiated the process on the following:

- A National Migration and Displacement Context and Needs Assessment (aligned with the IFRC Global Migration Strategy and the Manila Call for Action).
- Technical support that APRO can offer to IFRC and SLRCS in Sri Lanka.

Lessons Learnt

There was very good coordination with stakeholders at the national level and two coordination meetings were conducted. There was good coordination at the district level too with detention camp authorities, and the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS). Lesson learned to SLRCS on coordination with the Immigration and Emigration Department of Sri Lanka and experience in the population movement responses and initiatives with displaced refugees who came from another country.

Challenges

Limited capacity with SLRCS on displacement and migration. SLRCS strengthened the knowledge and capacity on migration and displacement and accepted the situation to respond to the migrant's needs immediately and had prompt coordination with the government and other stakeholders.

	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget		CHF 0
		Targeted Persons		104
		Persons Assisted		104
Indicators		Target	Actual	
# of people reached through feedback and community engagement		104	104	
Narrative description of achievements				
The CEA Self-Assessment workshop was also conducted at the branch level in the Gampaha branch to the staff and volunteers, collecting community feedback, working together with migrants, supporting them with any glitches, preparing FAQs together, and organizing community drop-in sessions. The trained team also visited the centers meeting with Migrants and received their feedback on the assistance provided under this DREF operation. Also, they collaborated with UNHCR and their implementing partner Muslim Aid to further assess the longer-term needs of the migrants.				
Lessons Learnt				
SLRCS has provided assistance immediately irrespective of gender and age to cater to the specific needs of the affected people. However, needs assessment conducted later during the operation provided data disaggregated by age, sex, and disabilities which enabled the agencies to provide adequate coverage based on specific vulnerabilities. The SLRCS branches had the experience to respond quickly to the situation and realized and further planned to the situation through proper assessment.				
Challenges				
Cultural and language barriers when treating people and lack of trained staff and volunteers who have prior experience in similar operations. The trained volunteers and staff have quickly adopted the situation and learned to carry out the activities as per the planned intervention.				

Financial report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/12-2023/6	Operation	MDRLK016
Budget Timeframe	2022/12-2023/4	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 28/Jul/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRLK016 - Sri Lanka - Population Movement

Operating Timeframe: 29 Dec 2022 to 30 Apr 2023

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	91,140
DREF Response Pillar	91,140
Expenditure	-82,664
Closing Balance	8,476

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	20,768	38,855	-18,087
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash		14,531	-14,531
PO04 - Health	25,146	4,096	21,050
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	11,618	3,679	7,939
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	4,053	1,157	2,896
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery		4,818	-4,818
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability		177	-177
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	61,585	67,313	-5,727
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	14,697	1,386	13,311
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	14,858	13,965	892
Enabling Approaches Total	29,555	15,351	14,204
Grand Total	91,140	82,664	8,476



[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

The total allocation for this intervention was CHF 91,140 for a total period of four months (with extension of one month) of implementation. By end of this operation, the total expenditure was CHF 82,664, with an overall balance of CHF 8,476 to be returned to the DREF pot. The total expenditure represents 91 per cent. Budget and expenses varied due to changing humanitarian needs of the target migrants.

DONORS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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[Click here for the reference](#)

