



DREF Operation-Update

Sri Lanka| Extreme Weather

DREF n° MDRLK015	GLIDE n° LS-2022-000283-LKA
Operation update n° 2; 26 February 2023	Timeframe covered by this update: 17 August 2022 to 31 January 2023
Operation start date: 17 August 2022	Operation timeframe: 7 months (extended 1-mth); end date: 31/03/2023
Funding requirements (CHF): 499,554 (1st allocation of CHF 221,665 and 2nd allocation of CHF 277,889)	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 221,665
N° of people being assisted: 50,000 people	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Country Representation Office in Colombo, with the assistance of the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in New Delhi, have been working together in close coordination to provide technical support to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) in this response operation. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been present in Sri Lanka and coordinates with IFRC and SLRCS.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), Tri-forces (Sri Lanka Army, Air-force, Navy), Sri Lanka Police, Disaster Management Centre (DMC), The National Dengue Control Unit, UN agencies, international non-government organizations (INGO), and other civil society organizations.	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

The Government of Sri Lanka has announced that local government elections will be held on 9 March 2023. As some community leaders and stakeholders would be involved in the election, there was a risk that the planned cash distribution under the operation might be wrongly perceived by the affected communities if it was provided before the election. As a mitigation measure, the **cash grant distribution** has been **postponed until after the elections** to avoid any wrong messaging. Therefore, a **one-month extension** was approved for this operation - until 31 March 2023, to continue cash interventions, post-distribution monitoring and the lessons learned workshop.

Prior to this extension, following heavy rainfall and flooding that occurred in September and October 2022, the operation was expanded to include additional geographical areas of Colombo and Gampaha districts. Initially, an extension of the implementation timeframe from 31 December 2022 to 28 February 2023 was also required to complete the proposed interventions. Colombo district was included in the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) response by reallocating some resources from other districts, particularly for well cleaning, medical camps and dengue cleaning, without affecting the overall DREF budget.

This operation aims to reach 50,000 people in five districts - Kandy, Nuwara-Eliya, Rathnapura, Colombo and Gampaha districts - with identified activities suggested in the plan of action. Suggested activities covered the areas of unconditional cash grants, well cleaning, dengue cleanup campaigns, household-level dengue cleanup activities, First Aid and medical camps, including mobile services, school pack distribution and disinfection activities for public place cleaning.

During implementation, in Nuwara Eliya and Rathnapura districts, the number of households on conditional cash grants for house repairs was reduced. After conducting detailed needs assessments, the SLRCS branches found that government authorities had planned to relocate some affected people to safer locations. Therefore, in Nuwara Eliya district, 77 households out of 100 households were eligible for conditional cash grants, while in Rathnapura district, only 18 out of 40 households were eligible.

Similarly, the proposed number of First Aid camps was not implemented due to changed community preferences. Gampaha branch conducted only one First Aid camp. After considering community requirements, SLRCS reallocated all savings from changed activities towards the procurement of school packs. This was due to less attention and assistance given to school children in affected areas.

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

	1-8 August 2022	The southwest monsoon activation had been intensifying rainfall in Sri Lanka where the Northern, Central, Western, Southern and Sabaragamuwa provinces of Sri Lanka had been affected. Most damages were reported on 6 August, particularly in Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Rathnapura districts due to heavy rains, high winds, floods and landslides. According to the Department of Meteorology, massive rainfall of 243 millimetres was reported in the Northern sub-district, the Nuwara Eliya, Nawalapitiya and Delthota sub-districts in the Kandy district (Central Province), where several landslides and rock falls damaged houses and blocked roads and railway line. Rainfall over 100mm was observed in the Rathnapura district (Sabaragamuwa province), and the districts of Kandy and Nuwara-Eliya (Central Province).
	2-6 September 2022	The heavy rain that started from 2-6 September caused flooding in a few districts of Sri Lanka. The highest rainfall of 150 millimetres was reported in the Awissawella area in the Colombo district on 5 September. The severe weather, including strong winds and heavy rain, affected some parts of Colombo district, mainly in three divisional secretary areas. More than 1,000 families were affected due the flood.
	14-20 October 2022	According to the Department of Meteorology, several districts experienced heavy rains due to the influence of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ – the region where the Northern Hemispheric wind and the Southern Hemispheric wind converge) located in the vicinity of Sri Lanka. Heavy rains with thunder showers occurred in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central and North-Western provinces and in Galle and Matara districts. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall above 100 millimetres was experienced at some places in Western, Sabaragamuwa and Central provinces and in Galle and Matara districts.

Phase I- Summary of damages in the targeted districts (as of 8 August)

District	No. of Families	No. of People	Dead	Injured	Missing	Houses		Safe locations		
						Fully Damaged	Partially Damaged	No. of locations	No. of Families	No. of People
Rathnapura	1,934	7,444	1	0	0	0	1,015	0	0	0
Kandy	1,248	4,953	1	0	0	15	148	2	29	109
Nuwara Eliya	622	2,316	3	1	3	2	405	3	22	88
Total	3,804	14,713	5	1	3	17	1,568	5	51	197

Phase II- Summary of damages in the newly added targeted district of Colombo (as of 12 September)

District	No. of Families	No. of People	Dead	Injured	Missing	Houses		Safe locations		
						Fully Damaged	Partially Damaged	No. of locations	No. of Families	No. of People
Colombo	394	1,574	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Total	394	1,574	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0

Phase III- Summary of damages in the newly added targeted districts (as of 18 October)

District	No. of Families	No. of People	Dead	Injured	Missing	Houses		Safe locations		
						Fully Damaged	Partially Damaged	No. of locations	No. of Families	No. of People
Gampaha	11,157	46,797	0	0	0	2	25	12	219	1,016
Colombo	3,443	11,648	0	0	0	0	10	9	220	911
Rathnapura	502	1,902	0	1	0	0	32	0	0	0
Kandy	4	18	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Total	15,106	60,365	0	1	0	2	69	21	439	1,927

The above statistics are from the Government DMC Situation Reports, from August to October 2022. During this period, a total of 82,389 people were affected by the extreme weather, of which five people died, two were injured and three missing. A total of 17 houses were fully damaged whereas 1,754 houses were partially damaged due to the heavy rain and extreme weather conditions.

Summary of current response

Overview of Operating National Society Response Action

SLRCS has a strong branch network in all 25 districts of the country, which are capable of providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies. Over 100 staff and 6,000 active volunteers are trained in disaster response. National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) and Divisional Disaster Response Teams (DDRT) are available at National, District and Divisional levels. SLRCS has also trained disaster response teams specialized in water and safety, which has 150 active members. These members are well-trained in life-saving techniques to assist rescue operations in times of need. Further, trained First Aid volunteers are also available in all districts, in readiness for immediate deployment at times of disaster for lifesaving needs. SLRCS has a pool of 25 Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) trained persons, who can be deployed to set up and assist in the implementation of CVA programmes.

During the first phase, three SLRCS branches (Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Rathnapura) requested additional resources to respond to the disaster. During the next step, some of the planned activities were reallocated to the Colombo branch within the approved budget. In the second phase, the Gampaha branch requested aid and assistance for the affected population. Meantime, the Colombo branch also requested increased assistance to reach a wide area within their district. SLRCS headquarters kept NDRT members on alert to be deployed to the five worst-affected districts to assist the branches when a response was needed. The trained BDRT and NDRT members assisted with assessments, relief distributions and cash-based interventions further.

SLRCS has been taking part in national and district-level coordination meetings with the Government of Sri Lanka, DMC and international non-government organizations (INGOs). Currently, staff and more than 100 volunteers have been deployed to support the National Society relief intervention. SLRCS will continue to mobilise 100 volunteers in the five districts targeted. Some social media updates by SLRCS on the current response from the beginning of the operation can be found on the National Society's official [Facebook page](#).

Overview of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

SLRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and ICRC in implementing various programmes. During the disaster, the IFRC country office with the assistance of the IFRC CCD Delhi and ICRC have been working together in close coordination to provide technical support to SLRCS and shared information at regional and sub-regional levels. ICRC has been working with SLRCS, particularly in the area of migration with technical assistance on Restoring Family Links and Tracing.

IFRC has provided technical support to SLRCS for the operation, including developing the Emergency Plan of Action for the DREF operation and coordinating with the National Society for information sharing with Movement and external partners. The IFRC CCD Delhi and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) provided further coordination support for information sharing and resources.

Overview of other actors' actions in country

The national and local level disaster management agencies and district administrative units are leading the floods and landslide response across the country. According to DMC, Army, the Air Force, the Navy, and the Police were deployed to all affected locations. The Security Forces carried out rescue operations whenever necessary. The Army had rescued nearly 120 people, including children trapped in a landslide in Nuwara Eliya district while working on rescuing people affected in Kandy district.

The National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) issued level two (amber) landslide warnings to Hambantota, Kandy, Kegalle, Matale, Matara, Nuwara Eliya and Ratnapura districts. The Department of Irrigation monitored the water levels in river basins and low-lying areas and provided alerts and warnings to the general public in close coordination with the DMC.

The government took immediate action to close all the schools in Nuwara Eliya due to the risk of landslides, heavy wind, rock fall, road and rail line blockages during phase one. Further, trade unions and organizations had also been involved in the recovery events providing assistance in particular areas. They collaborate with NGOs and other organizations such as KENYA Life, World Vision, Sarvodaya, and Tea Field Federation in different response and recovery programmes conducted to support the affected population within the country. Similarly, temples, churches, religious organizations, village disaster management committees, youth societies, fisheries societies, local business societies have been collaboratively engaging in the response and carrying out activities to address the basic needs of communities within affected areas.

SLRCS also closely coordinated with the district DMC committees where partners ensure collaboration and avoid duplication. SLRCS branches closely coordinated and worked with district-level authorities on assessments and providing relief.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

SLRCS, in coordination with local authorities, conducted 24-hour and 72-hour assessments in the affected districts, particularly in Rathnapura, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Gampaha and Colombo, to identify the immediate needs and priorities of the affected population.

Food Security and Livelihoods

In the severely affected districts of Rathnapura, Nuwara Eliya, Kandy, Gampaha and Colombo, most of the affected people were working as tea plantation workers while others were engaged in agricultural, fishing and small-scale businesses. Plantation workers and fishing people were the poorest and most vulnerable people among the five districts. The livelihood of these people was affected due to extreme weather and most of them were relocated to safe locations.

Due to heavy rains, most rivers and streams in the plantation areas were overflowing and workers could not cross these rivers and streams to go to work as there were no proper bridges across these rivers and streams. Furthermore, regular work in the plantation and other areas was also disrupted due to heavy rain and landslides. The existing economic crisis in the country has already worsened their level of living standards. A number of families had temporarily lost their income and the means to provide themselves and their dependents with food and basic necessities. Furthermore, families with infants, people with disability, people living with chronic illnesses and pregnant and lactating women needed special support and care.

Markets and essential services in the areas were interrupted due to floods, landslides, road, and rail line blockages. The situation is further exacerbated by the current economic crisis and fuel shortages. The local market actors reopen as soon as the situation normalizes, enabling people to access goods and services in the local markets.

Shelter

The line rooms or battery-type houses that the affected plantation workers are living in were built during colonial times and are in dilapidated conditions, which can be subjected to easy damage when faced with extreme weather events such as heavy rains and high winds. Most houses of the affected population in the targeted districts had been partially damaged and need assistance to repair them. People with houses damaged moved to host families in the neighbouring villages as the authorities did not want to use schools as safe shelters this time considering the negative impacts on the children's education. The number of families living in camps was not very significant. Due to displacement, damage to the houses coupled with livelihood loss, there was a need to provide severely affected families with assistance to repair the damages and procure some of the household items.

Education

According to initial branch assessments done together with the authorities, 3,013 families identified with 2,722 schooling children, whose school stationery was damaged or lost due to floods, landslides, house damages, etc. during the first phase. During the second phase, another 1,300 schoolchildren faced difficulties due to adverse weather within Gampaha district. As the houses of poorer and low-income areas were affected, school stationery and materials were damaged in some areas. Furthermore, school education was disrupted due to the relocation of families to safer places. There was a need to support the children of affected families with essential school stationery to help them re-start their education and schooling. Furthermore, the education of children was severely hampered and exacerbated by the ongoing economic crisis. The government took action to close the schools, particularly in the Nuwara Eliya districts as road and rail transport were disrupted. Both teachers and children could not commute to school.

Health and care

The affected population is dependent upon the government hospitals in the areas to meet their health needs. Access to health and care facilities is limited due to extreme weather events, transport disruptions and relocation to safer locations. Furthermore, current shortages of medicines and disruptions to the health and care system due to the current economic crisis have further exacerbated the health condition of the affected population. Therefore, there is a need to provide First Aid Services, and general medical and clinical care to reduce the risk of hospitalization and other health complications including mobile services for the victims who are trapped in some places. As dengue cases and water-borne diseases are rising during the rainy season, there is a need to conduct cleaning campaigns with disinfecting activities for public places and dengue awareness programmes.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

In the aftermath of the floods, drinking water was contaminated which limited access to the drinking water facilities in the affected areas. Thus, well-cleaning has been identified as an essential requirement within the inundated areas, particularly in Rathnapura, Kandy, Gampaha and Colombo districts. Further, given the poor condition of the existing sanitary facilities of the affected people, sanitation and hygiene states have worsened due to extreme weather conditions. There is a need to at least provide basic hygiene awareness through hygiene promotion using IEC materials to limit the spread of water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases. Similarly, conducting dengue awareness and cleaning campaigns is also prioritized as an immediate response activity since most of the areas have been

identified as dengue high-risk areas according to the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health.

Targeting

Through detailed assessments and household surveys, SLRCS identified the worst affected people in the five targeted districts, especially focusing on the damages and losses to their livelihoods, houses and impact on their health, as well as the education of the affected children. The beneficiary selection was a community-driven process and was carried out in close coordination with local authorities.

Based on the pre-designed criteria that have been customized according to the situation, the severely affected population in the Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Rathnapura, Colombo and Gampaha covered by this DREF with estimated female beneficiaries were higher than males. The government was assisting others who are affected, and moderately affected communities.

In its response, SLRCS ensured that activities under this operation are aligned with its gender commitments as well with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming. Specific considerations included the elderly, persons with disability, pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, and households with infants or young children. These groups were more vulnerable to challenges related to access to nutrient-rich food and safe water and are more susceptible to diseases/infections.

The five districts were also targeted under the ongoing [emergency appeal](#) operation (MDRLK014 - Complex Emergency). However, there was no overlap between the target groups in the two operations.

COVID-19 safe operation

To ensure the operation is COVID-19 safe, IFRC and SLRCS staff and volunteers in the field were provided personal protective equipment (PPE) and community sensitization and awareness in the context of COVID-19 prevention. All activities are conducted under the COVID-19 guidelines. For further information on the COVID-19 operation in Sri Lanka, please refer to [IFRC GO](#) platform.

Operation Risk Assessment

A detailed assessment was carried out in affected areas to select the target population. It was mandatory for volunteers to be insured prior to deployment. They were also provided with necessary protective gear, such as sanitisers, masks and PPE since there was a risk of community transmission in the field. The volunteers were trained on how to work according to the COVID-19 guidelines to assure the safety of both volunteers and beneficiaries. Special attention was paid to the transportation of the staff and volunteers, and the distribution of items to selected locations due to the existing fuel shortage around the affected areas.

The high inflation rate and scarcity of essential food and non-food items may have consequences on the functioning of markets and cash-based interventions. An inadequate supply of fuel would slow down the implementation of the operation and monitoring visits to branches. In order to manage these risks, SLRCS will take action to closely coordinate and work with authorities to obtain adequate fuel supply as SLRCS is considered an essential service provider. SLRCS has been able to deliver essential services without significant delays during the severe shortages in June and July 2022. The authorities have introduced a fuel rationing system which has significantly reduced the number of queues with shorter lengths.

Although the prices of commodities are very high due to inflation, the supply of commodities and essential items has increased due to supply chain improvements in the past couple of weeks. Adequate budget provisions have been made to ensure that SLRCS will be able to procure essential household items and shelter materials despite high prices as part of this DREF operation. Besides, due to the continuous economic crisis and devaluation of local currency, it would be difficult for SLRCS to recruit and retain skilled and experienced staff as turnover is very high.

Despite all the above factors, the Sri Lankan government's decision to conduct an election in the country in March 2023, may influence the project rollout because most government officials would be reluctant to involve themselves in the cash intervention process before the election.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Operational Objective

This operation aims to support 50,000 of the most affected people (10,000 families) in the five most severely affected districts of Rathnapura, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Colombo and Gampaha with multipurpose cash (MPC) grants to meet the gaps in their basic needs (Livelihoods and basic needs), conditional cash grants to repair the damaged houses and

provision of household items (Shelter), well cleaning and hygiene promotion (WASH) and medical camps, first aid services and dengue awareness (Health and care) assistance, as well as provision of school exercise books and stationery. The operation is being implemented over seven months.

Implementation Strategy

The strategy for this operation is fully in line with SLRCS and IFRC policies, procedures, commitments, and mandates. With the support of IFRC, SLRCS seeks to provide immediate support to the most vulnerable households among affected populations in the five targeted districts. The selection was carried out involving affected community members and in close coordination with the local authorities. Places of intervention were decided after the detailed assessments covering the most affected population of the worst affected districts, Rathnapura, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, Colombo and Gampaha.

The proposed strategy was formulated based on the short-term needs of the affected people and aligned with the government's strategy. Lessons learned from the flood responses of the recent past like the advantage of deploying NDRT, deployment of cash programme-trained people, distribution of essential household items to the affected people on time and other learnings had been taken into serious consideration in formulating the strategy.

SLRCS noted that some harder-hit families have already received assistance in different sectors from the authorities. In close coordination with the authorities, SLRC has ensured that there is no duplication of assistance. SLRCS, utilizing its presence of staff and volunteers across the affected areas, has been actively engaged in disaster response since the onset of the disaster.

Summary of targets and progress by sector/intervention area (August 2022- January 2023)

Sector	Activities	Target Phase I	Target Phase II	Total number of targets	Progress up to now (completed/ people reached)	Remarks
Livelihoods and basic needs	MPC grant amounting to LKR 20,000.00 (CHF 56)	3,000 people (600 HHs ¹)	9,750 people (1,950 HHs)	12,750 people (2,550 HHs)	8,740 people (1,748 HHs)	Remaining 802 HHs will receive MPC grant by the end of the DREF.
Shelter (including essential household items, such as school stationery)	Conditional cash grant for emergency shelter and repair material/ services, amount LKR 75,000 (CHF 208)	1,200 people (240 HHs)	-	Revised number 975 people (195 HHs)	950 people (190 HHs)	Due to the government's decision to relocate the affected people, the total number of beneficiaries was reduced.
	Replenishment of distributed household items	Baby relief packs- 25 Kitchen Sets- 250 Bed sheet- 300 Sarongs- 300 Towels- 300	163 household items replenishment: 68 baby relief packs, 125 bed sheets (one per person), 125 towels (one per person), 125 lanterns - one per HH, 125 rubber slippers (pairs) - one per HH	Baby relief packs- 93 Kitchen sets- 250 Bed sheets- 425 Sarongs- 300 Towels- 425 Lanterns- 125 Rubber Slippers- 125	Baby relief packs- 39 Kitchen set- 250 Bed sheet- 799 Sarong- 180 Towels- 586 Lanterns- 125 Rubber Slippers- 125	

¹ HHs - Households

Sector	Activities	Target Phase I	Target Phase II	Total number of targets	Progress up to now (completed/ people reached)	Remarks
WASH	Well cleaning	414 wells (414 HHs)	2,400 wells (2,400 HHs)	2,814 wells (2,814 HHs)	2,414 wells (2,414 HHs)	The remaining 400 HHs wells cleaning will take place in Feb 2023. These required maintenance before thorough cleaning, meanwhile people used the water from neighbors' wells that had already been cleaned.
	Distribution of jerry cans (5 litres; replenishment)	250 families (500 jerry cans)	125 jerry cans for 125 HHs - one per HH in Colombo	625 jerry cans	625 jerry cans	
	Printing of hygiene promotion IEC materials and carrying out hygiene promotion activities	10,000 people	23,000 people	33,000 people	34,700 people	
	Public places disinfection and clean-up activities	-	20,000 people 15 events	20,000 people 15 events	20,000 people 15 events	
Health and Care	Emergency medical assistance	10,000 people 6 camps	30,000 people 15 camps	40,000 people 21 camps	40,000 people 21 camps	
	Dengue awareness and clean-up campaigns	9 events	12,500 people 25 community events	13,400 people 34 community events	13,500 people 34 community events	
	Household dengue surveillance and awareness	-	25,000 people 5,000 HHs	25,000 people 5000 HHS	25,250 people 5050 HHs	
	First Aid camps	-	4,500 people 45 camps	4,500 people 45 camps	1,000 people 1 camp	Considering community preference and existing needs this activity budget was re-allocated for school pack procurement
NS disaster response capacity enhancement	Provide logo-printed raincoats for volunteers and staff	100 items	-	100 items	Procurement is going on	Due to the unavailability of the items in the market, procurement has been delayed

Sector	Activities	Target Phase I	Target Phase II	Total number of targets	Progress up to now (completed/ people reached)	Remarks
PGI (and CEA)	All activities will be completed under the PGI guidelines and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) considerations	All activities	All activities	All activities	One feedback report published in IFRC CEA hub. Guidelines developed, educated branch staff and volunteers about them and strengthened a strong mechanism to ensure CEA and PGI within the operation	
	School pack procurement and distribution	1,800 packs	1,500 packs	Revised number 4,200 packs	3,300 packs	Additional allocation of 900 packs are passing through procurement process and purchase order has been issued

Livelihood and basic needs

Essential basic needs and household assistance: Based on the minimum expenditure basket guidance developed by the Cash Working Group and considering existing inflation fluctuation rates from May to July, multipurpose cash grants of LKR 20,000 (CHF 56) have been designed covering almost 50 per cent of the calculated gaps in meeting the minimum expenditure basket or almost 60 per cent of the calculated minimum food basket. CVA is an effective and flexible way to support people affected by emergencies, maintaining their dignity and choice while fostering local economies. Beneficiaries will be selected giving special attention to female/single-headed households, households with differently-abled people, pregnant and lactating mothers, families with infants and young children and elderly people. SLRCS has a pool of CVA-trained staff, who were deployed to set up the mechanism and assist the operations.

A grievance mechanism considering CEA components has been established to answer the issues that arise during the beneficiary selection process. A total of 19 feedback SLRCS received on Extreme Weather operation through its hotline number from 1 November 2022 to 13 January 2023. The feedback mainly related to cash assistance and operational update and SLRCS has responded to individuals.

Minimum food expenditure basket (MEB)

Item	Unit	Quantity per HH	Price per unit	Total price (LKR) per month (April 2022)
Essential food amount calculation				
Rice	Kilograms	30	200.00	6,000.00
Dhal (pulses)	Kilograms	4	440.00	1,760.00
Mukunuwenna (Green leaves)	Kilograms	25	80.00	2,000.00
Dried Salaya (fish)	Kilograms	4	700.00	2,800.00
Chickpea	Kilograms	5	680.00	3,400.00
Coconut oil	Litres	1.5	720.00	1,080.00
Dried Chilies	Kilograms	1	1,200.00	1,200.00
Total				18,240.00
Inflation adjustment (May to August 2022)				1,760.00
Total transfer value for Multipurpose Cash Grant based on gaps				20,000.00

Source: MEB developed by the Cash Working Group as of March 2022

Shelter

Household items: Replenish the stocks of household items which include 93 baby relief packs² (for families with children under five years old), 250 kitchen sets, 425 bedsheets, 300 sarongs, 425 towels, 125 lanterns, 125 rubber slippers, 625 water cans (5 litres), which have already been provided to affected displaced families.

Emergency shelter: Provide emergency shelter support via conditional cash grants of LKR 75,000.00 (CHF 208) to 190 households whose houses have been badly damaged and require assistance to repair their houses. Cash assistance will be more effective for the affected people since they have been facing many difficulties for months due to the current economic situation. Based on the initial assessments and estimations done at the field level, one or more of the below activities will be covered through this conditional cash grant programme to assist the affected people in early recovery.

- Replace or repair roofs
- Replace or repair door and window sashes/frames
- Minor repair of house walls
- Minor repair of house floor
- Replacement or minor repair of damaged house' wiring system
- Minor repair of water supply infrastructure

Further, the materials and services, such as, roofing sheets, cement, sand, cement/clay blocks, metal, timber, iron bars (10-12mm), electric wires, bulbs and skilled labour (masons, carpenters etc) and unskilled labour costs and material transportation costs will be possible to cover under the restricted cash allocation.

SLRCS, along with local authorities, engineers and technical officers, has provided technical support to accompany the conditional cash distribution to assist people in repairing their damaged houses. There are well-trained and experienced engineers available in the local authorities and the district branches have a very good relationship with them. Furthermore, the selection of beneficiaries will be done in close coordination with the local authorities.



SLRCS volunteers repairing roofs of damaged houses in Nuwara Eliya district (Photo: SLRCS)

SLRCS with the support of IFRC country/CCD and KL team have set up a strong monitoring mechanism to ensure the assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries and required technical assistance is provided to the beneficiaries to plan and carry out the repairs. Furthermore, cash has been transferred through the banks on an instalment basis to each beneficiary. The instalment plan has been developed based on the damage assessment for each house and the materials required to carry out the repairs.

In the initial stages of the current economic crisis, there were severe shortages of construction materials. At the same time, the prices of materials increased more than three times within four months. However, markets have adjusted currently and construction materials are available without shortages, but at a very high price. For example, a 50kg bag of cement now costs about LKR 3,200 while it was only LKR 900 in March 2022. A cash value of LKR 75,000 was decided considering high prices to cover the essential costs of house repairs. SLRCS conducted a market assessment in August 2022 and the findings of the assessment have been considered during the implementation.



An SLRCS volunteer replacing and repairing the roof of a damaged house in Kandy district (Photo: SLRCS)

SLRCS branches mobilized volunteers and provided orientation on the selection of beneficiaries, document collection including assessment report, beneficiary card verification with the government village headman, identity card copy, bank passbook copy and a request with estimation/quotation of the repair or replacement which is certified by the

² baby relief package consists of napkins (12 pcs), baby vest kit (1 pack), baby bowl (1 pcs), baby towel (2 pcs), baby flannel (2 pcs), feeding cup (1 pcs), baby bottle with bottle guard (warmer – 1 pack), spoon and cup (1 set), safety pin (1 pack), diapers (1 pack).

contractor (mason/carpenter, etc.). The branches submitted a request to transfer allocated funds to the selected beneficiaries' bank accounts and a final monitoring visit was done by the field mobilizer who provided an individual progress report, including photographs.



SLRCS volunteers engaged in well cleaning in Gampaha district (Photo: SLRCS)

WASH promotion: WASH interventions focusing on improving access to safe drinking water and hygiene safe behaviours in the inundated areas which comprised of cleaning up contaminated wells with chlorination at individual households, community wells as well as evacuation centres. A total of 2,414 wells have been cleaned in two districts that ensured people's access to safe drinking water. Hygiene promotion have been carried out at community and public places supplemented by relevant IEC materials and awareness campaign to enhance people's knowledge on hygiene practice.

Health and care: Health interventions have taken place focusing on providing basic First Aid, dengue prevention activities and medical camps, which are conducted by the technical teams including SLRCS branch volunteers to assist in the immediate medical needs of the affected communities. The inundation of roads and services has already disrupted the access to health services in the area, therefore 21 medical camps have been conducted to provide basic medical assistance needed to the community. Serious medical cases were referred to hospitals for further care. It is the epidemiological pattern for dengue cases to likely increase after floods. Therefore, it was important to remove potential mosquito breeding sites. Vector control activities were included to promote general environmental health aspects of the shelter such as solid waste management and drainage and well cleaning. A total of 34 dengue awareness and clean-up campaigns were conducted in the respective areas where 5,000 household awareness and clean-up activities were being carried out. This activity targeted affected communities as well and inundated 15 public places with disinfectants further. These activities were conducted under COVID-19 guidelines.

Key aspects factored into the operational strategy

The National Society leadership: SLRCS is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response operation, supported by the IFRC.

Implementing lessons learned from previous operations: Over the years, SLRCS has implemented various large and medium-scale operations that provided various lessons from which this response will draw. These include the large-scale operation in response to the massive damage and resultant needs caused by the 2004 Tsunami, support to populations who were internally displaced due to conflict through the Post Conflict Recovery Assistance Programme 2010-2016, a medium-scale intervention following floods and landslides of 2011, 2016, 2017 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

A Movement-wide approach: SLRCS is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the disaster response operation, with active support from the IFRC Country Office in Sri Lanka, CCD in New Delhi and APRO in Kuala Lumpur. SLRCS will keep relevant Movement partners informed about the operation's progress and challenges and will request their support as and when needed.

Support services Human Resources

SLRCS allocated full-time staff at the National Headquarters (NHQ) to overlook the operation and assign a finance staff to ensure the smooth flow of settlements. Furthermore, at the branch level, a district project officer and a community mobiliser were hired for each branch. IFRC supported programme implementation via its existing staff. Mobilization of NDRT, BDRT and DDRT as well as staff expenses are covered in the operational budget.

Logistics and Supply Chain

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage, and transport to distribution sites following the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

SLRCS has a central warehouse in Colombo, which has pre-positioned items, and each branch maintains a small stock sufficient for 100 to 200 families. SLRCS has its vehicles which are being used for transportation, and cater to the increased needs during disasters, based on the needs, SLRCS sometimes rents vehicles. SLRCS's logistics, fleet and procurement departments will handle the logistics and supply chain operations.

The supply chain strategy for this operation is to first use the pre-positioned stocks of the National Society country-wise to quickly meet the basic needs of the affected population. Sourcing of household items commenced upon completion of the household item distribution, to match the actual number of items distributed. In line with the audit guidelines, IFRC has conducted the procurement process in close coordination with SLRCS ensuring the efficient and timely delivery of these items. The IFRC country office has provided logistics support to SLRCS to ensure transparency and accountability in the procurement process. Additional logistics support is also provided by the Asia Pacific Regional Logistics Unit and CCD in Delhi, as per need.

Information Technologies (IT)

High-speed Wi-Fi internet connectivity is available in the IFRC Sri Lanka Country Office, as well as in the NHQ of SLRCS. Staff members and volunteers in the field operation is supported by 3G modems and internet data packages for their smartphones which enabled them to communicate electronically with the headquarters and to send reports and pictures in quick time. Open Data Kit (ODK) based assessment has been carried out electronically through mobile applications on digital tablets or mobile phones. An orientation session on digital assessments and data protection has been provided to prepare the volunteers using tablets or mobile phones for assessments.

Communications

SLRCS communications staff are working in close coordination with the IFRC regional communications team to ensure that the evolving humanitarian needs and the response of SLRCS are well-profiled and disseminated across social media platforms and in the national and international media. A proactive approach has been taken to maintain media outreach and to produce communication materials including press releases, news stories, photos/video, key messages, and infographics for external promotion by National Societies in their domestic markets. A Viber group and WhatsApp group have been created to share information and photos between volunteers, branches, NHQ and IFRC.

Security

Adequate measures have been taken to ensure the safety and security of all Red Cross Red Crescent personnel involved in this operation. SLRCS security framework applied to SLRCS staff and volunteers. IFRC security framework applied to IFRC staff. In case of need for deployment all IFRC and SLRCS volunteers it was encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. SLRCS and IFRC security focal points have monitored the situation. Any field missions undertaken by IFRC personnel followed the current IFRC travel approval process, current health advisories and business continuity planning (BCP) guidance regarding COVID-19.

Civil-Military Relations

SLRCS has the auxiliary role to ensure core humanitarian values and Red Cross Red Crescent fundamental principles that was not compromised when working in the same humanitarian space as the military and other security services. SLRCS branches have been coordinating with military and/or other security actors, it has been done following the principles of last resort, do no harm, distinction, not resort to armed protection, sharing information that does not threaten the neutrality and independence of their humanitarian action and promote the proper use of the Red Cross emblem. All SLRCS staff and volunteers are advised to refer to the Principles and Rules for Red Cross and Red Crescent Humanitarian Assistance 2013 Section 6 – Relations with Public Authorities: Civil-Military Coordination and the IFRC Stay Safe – Guide to a Safer Mission when there is a need to cooperate and coordinate with the national military and/or other security services. IFRC and SLRCS operations and programme managers/coordinators are to adhere to the IFRC Stay Safe – Guide to Managers especially Chapter 5 – Working with the military.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, & Reporting (PMER)

SLRCS and IFRC have been overseeing and monitoring all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. IFRC, through its Country Office and CCD in Delhi, have been providing technical support in programme management to ensure the operation's objectives are met. Post-distribution monitoring on cash and household item distribution will be conducted at the end of the operation. A lessons learned workshop will be conducted to capture learning. Additionally, reporting on the operation has been carried out following the minimum IFRC DREF reporting standards; a final report will be published within three months of the end of the operation.

Administration and Finance

Operational expenses such as volunteer per-diem, accommodation, transportation, communication, and coordination activities are factored in. Procurement has been carried out according to SLRCS procedures with IFRC technical support. Finance and administration support to the operation has been provided by SLRCS NHQ, with assistance from the finance team of the IFRC country office.

Crosscutting issues

PGI

PGI considerations have been mainstreamed in this operation. Among others, areas of focus included the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection. Mainstreaming of Protection, gender and inclusion are also ensured that accountability lines are in place for GBV prevention and response. SLRCS commits to capturing sex, age, and disability disaggregated data to understand the number and specific vulnerability of females to males based on their gender roles and age (to understand if a higher proportion of women, boys, girls, men or LGBTQIA groups are made vulnerable). A total of 3,300 school packs have already been provided and 900 packs will be provided for school children who lost or damaged their books and schooling items during the floods and landslips.

CEA

Community feedback mechanisms are integrated into the operation to ensure that affected populations have access to timely and accurate information on the nature and scope of services provided by SLRCS, and the expected behaviour of staff and volunteers and can share questions, suggestions, concerns and other feedback with SLRCS. Because only a fraction of affected populations were targeted, the selection criteria were communicated clearly to beneficiaries and wider communities, so that people understood the rationale behind targeting and have opportunities to ask questions about the selection criteria.

This helped to prevent any potential tensions/frustrations by those people who did not meet the beneficiary selection criteria. CEA services are implemented through context-specific channels, group discussions, face-to-face discussions, publishing of selected recipient lists, and the publishing of related information through the local language. SLRCS NHQ established a hotline service to directly connect with people and a mechanism was introduced to ensure responsiveness to public concerns from the SLRCS side via record keeping, action taken, and referrals made. One feedback report was published related to this operation and can be found [here](#); Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for CEA were mainstreamed into operations as much as possible.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

As this operation update is meant to be a quick and simplified update to mainly inform about the one-month extension, a more detailed progress update on the operation will be provided in the final report, due for publishing within three months after the operation ends. As mentioned earlier, the main purpose of the update is to inform the one-month extension to enable SLRC fully implement the remaining cash intervention. Section B describes the achievements to date in each sector with a summary which can be referred to under 'Summary of targets and progress by sector/intervention area (August 2022- January 2023).' Additionally, the previous update – Operation update No. 1 – can be accessed [here](#).

D. Financial Report

A total budget amounting to CHF 499,554 has been allocated for SLRCS to respond to the needs of the affected population. The final financial report will be provided in the final report, due within three months after the operation ends.



Click here for:

- [Previous update](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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How we work

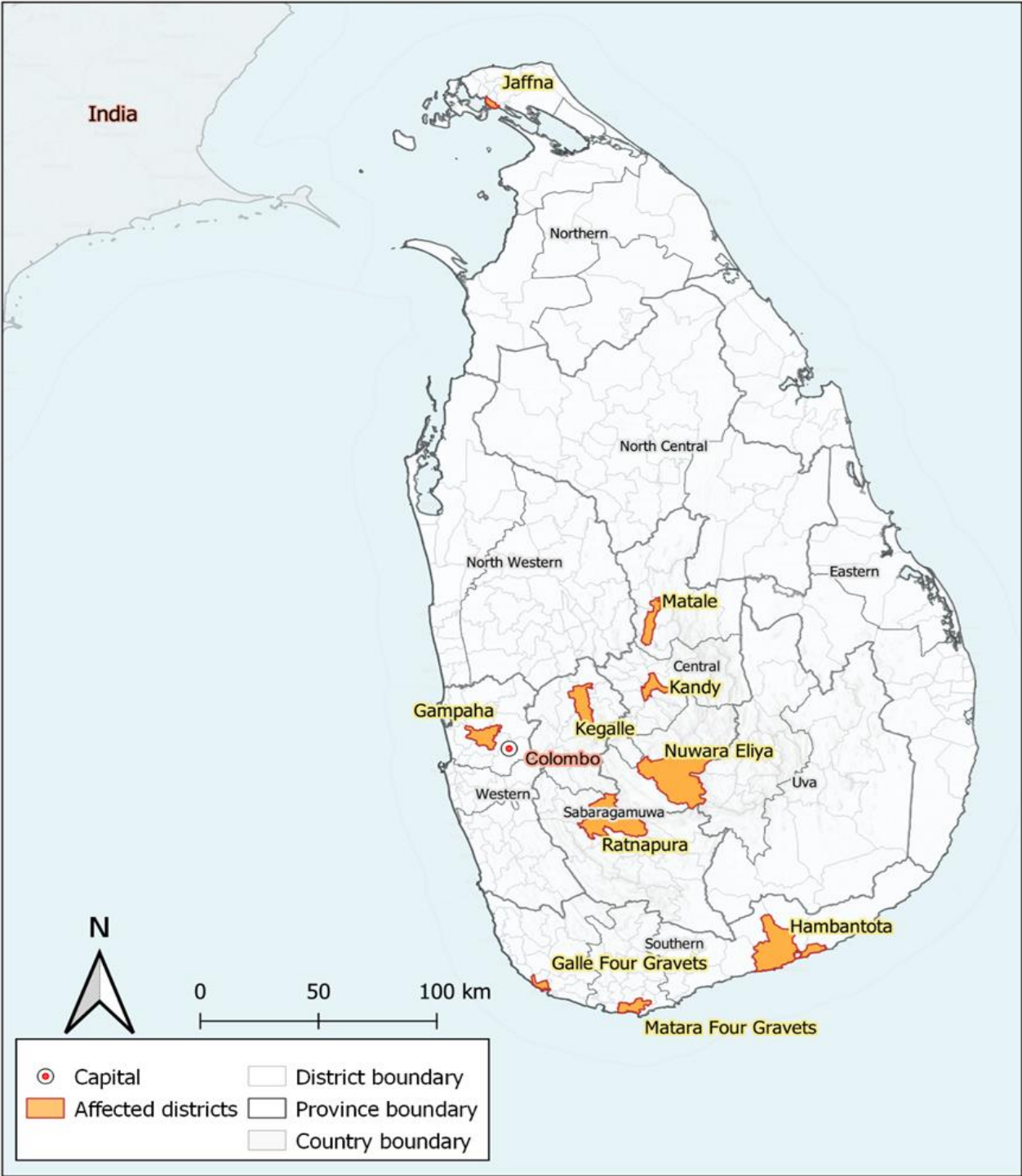
All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

Annex 1: Map of affected areas



Sri Lanka: Extreme Weather
Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

12 August 2022



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC

Annex 2: Additional photos of extreme weather operation



SLRCS conducting medical camps, clean-up of public places, dengue prevention activities, household awareness visits and verifying beneficiary data (Photos: SLRCS)