

OPERATION UPDATE

Sri Lanka | Complex Emergency

Emergency appeal №: MDRLK014

Emergency appeal launched: 07/06/2022.

Operational Strategy published: 30/06/2022

Operation update #4 (12-month update)

Date of issue: 12/07/2023

Operation timeframe: 18 months

(07/06/2022 - 31/12/2023)

Funding requirements (CHF):

CHF 28 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal

CHF 28.5 million Federation-wide

Glide №:

CE-2022-000199-LKA

Timeframe covered by this update:

From 07/06/2022 to 06/06/2023

Number of people being assisted: 500,000

DREF amount initially allocated:

CHF 741,000

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 28 million, is 18 percent funded including soft pledges with a gap of CHF 23 million. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS), with the support of the IFRC, to help mitigate the current food insecurity brought about by the economic crisis and help people affected by the civil unrest in the country through integrated food security, nutrition, livelihoods, health, and education interventions targeting 500,000 people.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Sri Lanka is facing a complex emergency characterized by high inflation, a deteriorating currency, food insecurity, shortages of fuel, essential healthcare services, threatened livelihoods, reduced public services, and rising protection concerns. The crisis has been exacerbated by a reduction in domestic agricultural production due to a failed organic farming transition.

The country experienced a 'peace dividend' between 2010 and 2016, with economic growth averaging 6.2 per cent between 2010 and 2016. However, growth slowed in 2017 and the economy contracted by 3.6 per cent in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ¹The decline of the global economy, rising commodity prices, a weak tourism sector, and a fiscal deficit contributed to a fall in the value of the Sri Lankan Rupee.



Multi-purpose cash grant was given to a family of five to help them meet their necessities. The family resides at Rappanock Estate, Udapussallawa, in a makeshift hut. (Photo: SLRCS)

¹ World Bank. Sri Lanka Overview. www.worldbank.org/en/country/srilanka/overview#4.

The Central Bank was unable to defend the currency due to insufficient international reserves, leading to the government defaulting on debt payments in May 2022. Inflation rates rose sharply since the government could not import essential commodities, including fuel, which further increased shortages and inflation. Inflation rates slowly dropped, with food inflation (Year-over-year) decreasing from 30.6 per cent in April 2023 to 21.5 per cent in May 2023, while non-food inflation (Year-over-year) decreasing from 37.6 per cent in April 2023 to 27.0 per cent in May 2023.²

The emerging crisis led to country-wide civil unrest. Following mass protests, which started in March 2022, a new government was installed in May, and the country's president was replaced in July. To help ensure support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the new government raised taxes to offset the external debt, adding to the economic burden, including that faced by the most vulnerable. On 20 March 2023, the IMF Board approved a 48-month extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility of SDR 2.286 billion (about USD 3 billion) to support Sri Lanka's economic policies and reforms.

The fiscal macroeconomic crisis resulted in a humanitarian emergency during the fourth quarter of the year 2022, causing millions of people to face widespread and chronic food, fuel, cooking gas and health services shortages. Unprecedented food inflation increased food insecurity, particularly among children under five, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. The poverty rate accelerated since the crisis began, with food inflation reaching a record high of 94.9 per cent in September 2022. Sri Lanka is ranked as having the world's sixth-highest food inflation.³

Humanitarian impact

According to UN OCHA,⁴ the humanitarian needs can be summarized as follows:

5.71 million

Estimated no. of people affected by the crisis



Agriculture and livelihoods

Price increase in agricultural inputs hit small-scale farmers lack fertilizers 3.45 million people in need



Food security

Lack of access across the country and certain food supplements 4.88 million people in need



Nutrition

Loss of income and shortages of essential food and household items

2.43 million people in need

Water

Lack of access across the country and certain food supplements.

2.58 million people in need



Education

Increase of high-risk child protection incidents

1.2 million people in need



Protection

Power cuts, access to public transport, and lack of stationery items 0.96 million people in need



Health

Severe shortages of life-saving medicines and medical consumables

1.97 million people in need

The Sri Lankan crisis has led to increased vulnerability, poverty, and destitution among a significant portion of the population. In 2021, 2.4 million people fell below the international poverty line for lower-middle-income countries, with more poor households losing over half of their income. This has resulted in people selling assets, becoming indebted, and cutting down on food, and their children are less likely to attend school. An estimated 5.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, with at least 4.9 million being food insecure. The crisis has disproportionately

² "Sri Lanka." Economic Forecasts from the World's Leading Economists, www.focus-economics.com/countries/sri-lanka.

³ ACAPS (2022). Overview: Sri Lanka Socio-economic crisis. https://www.acaps.org/country/sri-lanka/crisis/socio-economic-crisis.

⁴ WFP Sri Lanka Situation Report, 22 June 2022

⁵ UN OCHA (2022). Sri Lanka Multi-Dimensional Crisis Situation Report No. 2, 05 Sept 2022.

affected vulnerable populations, including children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, female-headed households, migrants, refugees, and marginalized ethnic and religious groups.

Support for these groups has decreased, making them even more vulnerable. Food insecurity has also made them vulnerable, including informal wage earners, minimum wage earners, single female-headed households, families with multiple children, low-income households, chronic illnesses, and disadvantaged farmers. Outbound migration is increasing, affecting skilled labor retention, and putting children of absent parents at risk of neglect.

Summary of response

Overview of the Operating National Society and ongoing response

People Reached by Sector					
Food Security & Livelihoods	Multi-Purpose Cash	Health & Care	WASH	PGI	Migration
					%
70,995	65,759	77,213	546,250	70,760	413

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) maintains 25 branches in all districts of the country. Over 100 staff members and 6,000 active volunteers are currently engaged in the response. Most of them are trained in disaster response and capable of providing relief assistance to affected people in times of disaster/emergencies. At the national, district, and divisional levels, there are National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT), and Divisional Disaster Response Teams (DDRT).

SLRCS also has trained disaster response teams specialized in water safety, which have 150 active members. These individuals are well-trained in life-saving techniques to assist rescue operations in times of need. Volunteers trained in first aid are available in all districts and are immediately deployable during disasters for lifesaving purposes. The SLRCS has a pool of 25 trained Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) personnel who can be deployed to set up and assist with CVA activities.

Since the onset of the crisis, SLRCS has been monitoring the situation closely, mindful of its sensitivity and the safety of its staff and volunteers. The headquarters has maintained close communication with the branches to discuss options, preparedness, and contingencies. To ensure safer access and acceptance, the National Society ensures its adherence to the Movement's Fundamental Principles. SLRCS teams provided first aid and ambulance support to people affected by the civil unrest, whether civilian or security personnel. They treated more than 22,600 people since April 2022, including transporting 1,000 people to hospitals. Branches participated in first aid training, medical camps, and emergency first aid activities. Teams also provided dry food, relief items, and cash support to people hit by the economic crisis and food insecurity.

As of 6 June 2023, SLRCS has been able to carry out the following activities to support the needs of the affected population, with the support of IFRC and its membership:

Cash and Voucher Assistance

Health & Nutrition

Education



- 13,150 multi-purpose cash (MPC); 1,002 Conditional grants disbursed.
- Another 2nd phase 5,490 MPC are in the pipeline.
- 413 MPC grants disbursed to migrant people and another 7 are in the pipeline



- 21,600 people provided with health assistance.
- over **1,000** people transported to hospitals.
- 2 high-performance tents procured and being used.
- A consignment worth CHF 100,000 essential medicines and medical consumables handed to MoH.
- 625 volunteers trained on PFA in all 25 branches.
- 16,079 schoolchildren in 119 schools in 13 districts benefits from the school feeding program.



• **20,875** school kits (stationery, school bags) distributed.





- 8,000-10,000 people received drinking water while being in the queue in 10 districts.
- 416,250 sanitary packs (10 sanitary pads per pack) distributed to 46,250 adolescents students.



3,125 First Aid kits with 125 each for Sri Lanka Red Cross Society branches and **650** volunteer T-shirts



- 28,685 nutrition packs distributed to pregnant and lactating women.
- 6,200 nutrition packs distributed to severely malnourished children.
- 23,550 packs of dry rations distributed to the most vulnerable people.

Medicine is becoming one of the utmost requirements of the country and IFRC has already procured essential medicines in September 2022 (see details in section C) and donated them to the Ministry of Health for further distribution to people in need, in close collaboration with SLRCS.

In addition to the above support, the following activities were also completed with the support of corporate partners and ICRC.

ICRC

- Disbursement of 6,000 multi-purpose cash grants in 12 districts
- Distribution of 5,600 nutritional food packs for pregnant and lactating mothers in 14 districts

Uber

Distribution of 8,085 food packs in Colombo district

Coco Cola

 1,500 packs of dry ration distributed with the assistance of Coca-Cola in 10 districts: one pack worth LKR 25,600 (CHF 72)

Sri Lanka Paediatricians Association

• SLRCS provided logistics, staff, and volunteer time for the distribution of 6,200 nutritional food packs for families with Severe Acute Malnourished children in the Nuwara Eliya district.

Humanitarian Needs Assessment

IFRC, together with SLRCS, commissioned an assessment of the humanitarian impacts of the current economic crisis. IFRC with the support of the Canadian Red Cross, German Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross deployed an assessment team. The team supported the SLRCS to assess the humanitarian needs and impacts of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka. The survey involved a multi-stage stratified sampling methodology, which ensures that the survey is representative of the situation in both urban and rural contexts at the district level, with a high degree of precision, for those districts that were surveyed. The focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and predictive analysis were used to triangulate and verify the findings of the survey and provide further insights into the situation. The assessment report includes an analysis and recommendations based on a face-to-face household-level survey of 2,871 respondents in 11 districts across nine provinces, a separate case study of 300 households from 10 estates in Nuwara Eliya, 24 focus group discussions, 15 key informant interviews, and a predictive analysis, framed by extensive secondary data.⁶

- The assessment report can be downloaded at the GO platform here and the annexes to the assessment report
 here
- The assessment report can also be downloaded from Relief Web: <u>Sri Lanka Complex Emergency Needs Assessment Report, October 2022</u>

Market Assessment and Post Disaster Monitoring (PDM) Assessment

SLRCS conducted Market Assessment and PDM Assessment with IFRC CVA Coordinator's guidance. The results help strengthen CVA programmes and understand beneficiaries' cash assistance usage and impact on well-being. A survey in August 2022, with 200 respondents, was administered via telephone, representing vulnerable households in Sri Lanka's districts. The average household size was 4.8.

The monitoring exercise revealed that most respondents used cash assistance to meet their essential household needs, primarily for food, utilities, health, debt repayment, and transportation costs. SLRC's cash assistance contributed significantly to food security and the basic needs of vulnerable households; 76 per cent of respondents reported using cash to procure food, and 96 per cent of respondents found the cash support timely. However, only 13 per cent of respondents felt the 20,000 LKR per household was insufficient due to increased food and non-food item prices and transportation costs; 92 per cent of respondents were satisfied with service delivery, while 8 per cent had difficulties accessing assistance through banks. Low-income vulnerable households could purchase essential food, medicines, and NFIs using their income. SLRCS introduced a hotline and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) measures for grievances. However, their use was minimal, and SLRCS is now implementing additional measures to ensure CEA measures are implemented effectively.

Considerations for future

The following considerations are set out to make future cash assistance more inclusive and effective:

Targeting:

- A clear methodology for selecting communities and beneficiaries needs to be articulated.
- Selection criteria for locations need to be clearly communicated to internal and external stakeholders.

⁶ Secondary data was collected, processed, tagged and analysed using the DEEP platform in collaboration with UN OCHA and others ('Sri Lanka: JIAF SDR').

• Needs-based approach should be considered for covering districts. SLRCS should focus on the most affected areas only to ensure a more efficient response in terms of costs and timeliness.

Multipurpose cash grant transfer value:

- In coordination with the Cash Working Group, SLRCS will fix the transfer value to meet the basic need (Based on analysis of the Minimum Food Expenditure Basket). The transfer value should be determined based on an individual with a ceiling of five persons per household. Transportation costs need to be further reviewed.
- The transfer value will be determined in USD/CHF as the local currency LKR is not stable. SLRCS would transfer the grant to the selected households at the equivalent amount of LKR for the fixed USD/CHF amount as applicable on the date of transfer.

CEA:

- SLRCS should focus on CEA from the beginning of the Cash assistance programme and set up a feedback mechanism system.
- Information should be shared with all actors.
- Community consultation meeting
- Listen to and address individual feedback.
- Dialogue with beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries

Market Monitoring:

• Regular market monitoring should be conducted or gather information from secondary sources to determine the transfer modality.

Accessibility for older persons and people with disability:

• SLRCS to devise a mechanism in providing cash assistance in recognition of the physical access and risks for specific vulnerable groups to receive cash assistance.

Also further recommended that as the market situation is rapidly changing; therefore, it is important to assess the selected markets further, contributing to the final decision on whether cash is the best food assistance modality. These include:

- Logistic assessments focus on traders' stocking capacity and current pre-positioned stock availability and country-wide transportation facility and network. Analysis to determine the cost of cash transfers versus in-kind transfers.
- Lessons learnt from any organization that implemented cash transfers in the district or area; and
- Beneficiary modality preferences.

Needs analysis

The assessment findings highlighted the following needs in the report:

Food Security

Domestic agricultural production in Sri Lanka has decreased by nearly 50 per cent due to changes in fertilizers and agro-based practices. Only 24 per cent of cultivated land has been prepared for the next season in 2022. The country lacks foreign currency to import food, and a shortage of imported commodities resulted in record food inflation of 83 per cent in July 2022. This inflation, combined with a loss of income, negatively impacts families' purchasing power and food security. 74 per cent of households have had to adjust their food intake practices, limiting portion sizes, skipping meals, consuming less diversified and nutritious diets, and resorting to negative coping mechanisms.

According to the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the food security situation was expected to worsen further after two previous consecutive seasons of poor harvests, particularly from October 2022 to February 2023 lean season, due to poor harvests of staple foods (mainly rice), and the ongoing crisis.⁷¹

The WFP survey in 2022 shows that 79 per cent of households are adopting food-based coping strategies to cope with the crisis, affecting both food quality and quantity. Families are likely to resort to cheaper, unhealthy alternatives (78 per cent of families) and reduce portion sizes, leading

79% of households are adopting food-based coping strategies

- 78% are resorting to cheaper and unhealthy alternatives
- 49% are reducing portion sizes
- 39% are reducing the no. of meals

required intake of will prest

required daily calorie intake of individuals is not met



will present severe strains on the healthcare system in the future

Source: World Food Programme, (2022).

to undernutrition. This affects children's growth and increases child malnutrition rates in Sri Lanka. Additionally, undernourishment in adults, especially considering the rapidly ageing population, poses significant healthcare system strains in the future.

Nutrition

The IFRC assessment highlights the alarming levels of undernutrition and wasting among children under five years. The government discontinued the regular provision of 'Thriposha', a locally produced nutritional food supplement, in November 2021 due to a lack of raw materials like maize. In January 2022, the government reduced the budget for school meals by two-thirds. The programme, which targeted 25 per cent of school-age children at underserved schools, has led to reduced school attendance and reduced food intake. School lunches now primarily consist of carbohydrates, leaving families struggling to feed their children. Over 30 per cent of Sri Lanka's population is "food insecure" and requires humanitarian assistance. A study by Save the Children in June 2022 found that 59 per cent of families were unable to meet all their food needs fully, and two in three respondents had to rely on less preferred or less expensive foods at least once a week. Over half of all children had to eat less preferred food and reduce their food intake, and about one in ten children had reduced their frequency of food intake (twice or less).

Livelihoods

The crisis has caused income to stop for 11 per cent of households and decrease for 62 per cent, with over 85 per cent adopting coping mechanisms. Around 70 per cent of the workforce is informally employed. Livelihoods were damaged by economic crises, including inflation, lack of fuel, and reduced tourism. The fuel deficit has impacted income-generating activities, especially for daily wage workers. The weekly fuel quota introduced in August 2022 is insufficient for self-employed workers in transportation, fishery, and agriculture.

However, in May 2022, fuel rations were revised, and new quotas were assigned to vehicles, although the fuel prices remained prohibitively expensive for the general people. Around 30 per cent of the labor force is directly involved in agricultural activities, making them vulnerable due to fuel and fertilizer shortages. The cost of paddy crop production has doubled, and animal feed production has fallen, necessitating high-nutrient animal feed and veterinary health kits. Small-scale fishers, especially in Jaffna and Batticaloa districts.⁸

⁷ FAO and WFP also provide an estimate of food insecurity that is higher than previous estimates: By June 2022, over 6.2 million people (28 per cent of the population) were said to be moderately acute food insecure.

⁸ ACAPS (2022). Overview: Sri Lanka Socio-economic crisis. https://www.acaps.org/country/sri-lanka/crisis/socio-economic-crisis..

In 2022, at least half a million people lost their jobs, most of whom were in the industry and services sectors and employed women⁹. Those already classified as poor saw a 65 per cent increase in their cost of living, while the increase was 57 per cent for the non-poor, highlighting the significant loss of welfare for all Sri Lankans.

Health, Water Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Sri Lanka's health system become strained by a lack of medicines, medical disposables, fuel deficits, and recurrent power cuts affecting surgical services, maternal, newborn, and child services, those with chronic illnesses, disabilities, and psychiatric conditions, and emergency health services. During the period of fuel shortages, transport (including medical staff, patients, and ambulances, although ambulances were prioritised in fuel queues) was affected, reducing the accessibility of emergency and routine medical services. ¹⁰

The impact of the economic crisis on health was multi-faceted. According to the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, an increased incidence of cardiovascular diseases during an economic crisis is due to high levels of psychological stress and a lack of affordability of health care services. Furthermore, poverty caused malnutrition resulting in poor immunity and causing higher communicable disease incidence in society. The risk of re-emergence of already controlled vaccine-preventable diseases due to a possible shortage of vaccines in the National immunization schedule is another threat to the economic crisis.

The disruption of sexual and reproductive health services had serious and life-threatening consequences for women and girls. Pregnant women, especially those living in remote rural areas, have had difficulty reaching hospitals and clinics, and antenatal and postnatal care have also been affected. Similarly, delivery of non-urgent surgeries was postponed, and shortages of blood bags and other consumables have a detrimental effect on national blood transfusion services, including the disruption to the treatment of patients with non-communicable diseases.

The power crisis and restrictions on importing purification and disinfection chemicals, such as chlorine, severely hampered the provision of safe water, raising the risk of diarrhoeal diseases. Environmental health control measures have also been affected. For example, Colombo Municipal Council has run out of chemicals and insecticides used for mosquito control, at a time when dengue fever has become more prevalent, as per the week 23 update of the National Dengue Control Unit, approximately 43,135 people were admitted to public hospitals.

Education

With its positive influence on health and livelihoods, social stability, and long-term economic growth, education is valued as a potent agent of change by families, and across society. In Sri Lanka, schools had been closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic during the two years before the current economic crisis. More recently, schools were closed because of fuel shortages and after a few weeks reopened, although power outages, limited public transportation, and a lack of school supplies continue to have an impact.

Children's education was also compromised by the closure of the government school meals programme, which had targeted 25 per cent of the most vulnerable school-age children. Consequently, families are less inclined to send their children to school, particularly affected are children from poorer households without access to online learning.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) assessments in nine districts of Sri Lanka, more than half (55 per cent) of households reported a negative impact on children's education, 34 per cent struggle to support their children to continue education, while in 1.4 per cent of households' children dropped out of school.

⁹ https://rb.gy/r92s3

¹⁰ Root, R. (2022). Out of Sri Lanka's tumult, a humanitarian crisis emerges. The New Humanitarian, 27 July 2022. https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2022/07/27/Sri-Lanka-crisis-food-aid-humanitarian-emergency.

Protection Gender and Inclusion

Typically, in complex crises, existing protective social norms and family systems deteriorate, support services become overwhelmed, and the increasingly volatile environment takes a physical and psychosocial toll, further marginalizing vulnerable groups and threatening lives.

Domestic violence, SGBV, and serious child protection incidents, such as sexual assaults, physical abuse, and child neglect, are reported to have been increasing since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and have worsened with the current crisis. The purported rise in the number of women entering the sex industry is an indicator of both the desperation and the exploitation that people are facing (in Colombo the number is said to have increased by 30 per cent since January¹¹). At the same time, the capacity of government services to respond is severely affected: protection service providers lack fuel for field and home visits, women's shelters have run out of space, and there is a lack of financial support for women and girls at risk of gender-based violence.

Parents have increasingly resorted to placing their children in institutional care because the family cannot provide for them and there are concerns about the welfare of children who are left behind when parents travel away from home for work.

Migration: According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the current crisis in Sri Lanka, together with the ending of COVID-19-related travel restrictions has added to the impetus for international and internal migration. In the first four months of 2022, over 100,000 workers are estimated to have left for employment overseas. This figure does not include undocumented migrant workers, who are expected to be numerous. Human trafficking has also increased, as have thwarted attempts, together with related protection issues ranging from forced labour to organ trafficking. Migration through unofficial channels often involves dangerous ocean crossings, with risks of capsizing and arrest by coast guards of both the destination countries and Sri Lanka.

People who were displaced internally because of the conflict which ended in 2009 continue to be vulnerable to macroeconomic fluctuations. At the end of 2021, 11,000 such people were still living in displacement. More than 121,000 climate-related internal displacements were recorded in 2021, which is the highest number recorded since 2017. Families are increasingly sending their children abroad to study, for example to India. Wealthier Sri Lankans are trying to migrate to the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Canada or the European Union (EU) to work or study. There is concern that emigration, particularly that of professionals, will cause a severe 'brain drain.'

Operational risk assessment

There are a few main risks that affect the operation:

- **Supply chain and transport disruptions** due to lack of fuel and related exceptionally high costs of local transport. This limits the movement of staff and volunteers for work and response activities. Transport disruptions may limit the movement of people and goods.
- **Price fluctuations** mainly due to the rapid depreciation of LKR against the USD too affect the procurement of goods and services. The exchange rate gains may be good to reach more people but pose challenges as even after full procurement of planned relief items, the final expenditure is less than what is originally planned.
- The unpredictable situation in the country, the declaration of curfew and spontaneous protests and clashes could significantly increase the **risks for staff and volunteers** engaged in the implementation of the response operation.
- The response operation is very **underfunded** as the funding coverage for the Emergency Appeal currently stands at about 18 per cent. And as a result, there is a risk that the SLRCS will not be able to address all the pressing needs of the affected people.

 $^{^{11}}$ Informal communication, Stand-Up Movement Lanka (SUML), the leading advocacy group for sex workers in Sri Lanka.

- The implementation is behind the Plan of Action (PoA) due to many reasons but one of them being **limited human resources** at SLRCS with high turnover.
- The country faced **severe floods** in August and September 2022 that affected 10 districts in Sri Lanka which also delayed the complex emergency interventions.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

This emergency appeal supports mitigating the current food insecurity brought about by the economic crisis and helps people affected by the civil unrest in Sri Lanka through integrated food security, nutrition, livelihoods, health, and education interventions targeting **500,000 affected people** across Sri Lanka. The operation helps the government's efforts to provide relief to poor people and cultivate two million home gardens by assisting low-income farmer communities to cultivate small plots of land through conditional cash grants. It is also being contributed to the SLRCS's strategic vision and country plan to build the resilience of communities and enhance the capacity of the National Society to maintain organizational readiness to respond to future disasters and crises. The three interconnected enabling approaches – i) National Society Capacity Strengthening, ii) Coordination and Partnerships and iii) Secretariat Services –complemented and further strengthened the SLRCS's ongoing efforts to build a strong National Society with systems and mechanisms in place to deliver high-quality programmes and services to most vulnerable people in Sri Lanka.

The operation ensures that the most vulnerable and marginalized groups able to meet their immediate basic needs by providing them with **multi-purpose cash assistance**. Cash assistance aims to mitigate the depletion of household livelihood assets and reduce negative coping strategies. This response also included **nutritional food packages** for pregnant and lactating mothers, **school stationery packages** for students in poor schools in rural and urban areas, **menstrual hygiene packages** for female students, and **promotion on menstrual hygiene management** to adolescent girls. School feeding programmes provided **nutritious meals** to the **school children** in the selected school in the most vulnerable districts. **Drinking water** distribution at queueing hotspots like cooking gas outlets and fuel stations. Health Sector was also supported through **the provision of medicines and consumables**, patient **transportation**, and **first aid services**, and by helping to address mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs. The operation especially focuses on integrating PGI and CEA aspects across all activities and in other community resilience-building initiatives of the National Society.

The impact of the economic crisis is still high in Sri Lanka, various studies highlighted that the crisis is not going away anytime soon, it will become **protracted**, and people's situation will steadily deteriorate further over time. Approximately **6.3 million people** in Sri Lanka are still facing moderate to severe acute food insecurity and their situation is expected to worsen in 2023 if adequate life-saving assistance and livelihood support are not provided. Therefore, it is crucial to provide continuous support to crisis-affected people in Sri Lanka.

As informed through the previous update (Operation Update no.3), the operation has been extended until 31 December 2023, and it is transitioning to the Sri Lanka Country Unified Plan. This 12-month standard appeal-based report covers the progress of the operation until 6 June 2023. The operational strategy of this operation is being updated and will be attached to the 2023 Sri Lanka Unified Plan mid-term report, by the end of August 2023. **Annexe** 1, at the end of this report, outlines the plan of action during the extended period - from June until December 2023.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

	Food Security & Livelihoods	People Reached	70,995
		Female:	44,117
		Male:	26,878

Objective:	Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, rest	tore and strengthen	their livelihoods
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	# of people supported with livelihoods restoration and strengthening economic activities	50,000	5,010
	# of pregnant mothers supported with nutrient food packs	15,000	15,000
	# of malnourished children supported with nutritional packs	6,200	6,200
	# of elderly people supported with dry rations packs	18,000	18,000
	# of vulnerable people supported with dry ration packs to ensure local foods and supplements available for intake	25,000	26,785

The following key activities implemented under the food security and Livelihoods sector:

- 1. Provide conditional cash grants to vulnerable farmers to restore and recover their livelihoods.
- 2. Distribute nutrient food packs/nutritional packs to pregnant/lactating mothers and malnourished children.
- 3. Provide food for three months for people staying in elderly homes, children's homes, and other marginalized or disadvantaged groups.

As of 6 June 2023, based on the selection criteria, **1,002 households** were selected for conditional cash grant to recover and strengthen livelihoods. The selected households received conditional cash grant assistance of LKR 75,000 (CHF 230) each, which have been paid out in two instalments based on the success of the suggested agricultural livelihood activities (first transfer LKR 50,000, and second transfer LKR 25,000). Four districts – Colombo (100 households), Kalutara (102 households), Kurunegala (700 households), and Vavuniya (100 households) – were chosen based on the capacity and prior expertise of SLRCS branches in implementing income-generating activities, as well as the scale of the impact on people's livelihood in the district due to the current crisis.

The intervention's main goals are to increase community resilience, ensure that everyone has equitable access to enough, safe, and nutritious food, and lessen the effects of crises and disasters on people's lives and means of subsistence. Cash recipients were selected based on criteria related to agriculture and livelihood, including those who have experience or are already involved in agricultural activities, farmers seeking opportunities to develop their businesses or equipment due to the current economic crisis, and farmers who have land suitable for cultivation and are affected by the crisis.

During the assessment, the most vulnerable households were given priority, including those headed by women, those with pregnant or breastfeeding mothers, those with disabled members, and those with a larger number of

family members. All selected beneficiaries received a training on development of business plan and the objective of the training was to develop practical business plans for farming, raising livestock, and fishing. Government development and agriculture officers provided skill enhancement training on home gardening and livestock rearing. SLRCS and government agriculture officials continuously monitored the livelihoods activities that helped to make the interventions successful.

To enhance the intake of nutrient foods, **15,000 nutrient food packs** were distributed covering all 25 districts.

The below-mentioned criteria were used to select the most vulnerable pregnant mothers:

- Low Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Poor Weight gain during pregnancy

The Branch Executive Officers (BEOs) of each branch conducted their assessment in this regard and identified the most vulnerable areas with the most vulnerable pregnant mothers. The vulnerability of pregnant mothers has been measured based on the criteria mentioned above. Further, **6,200 nutritional food packs** were distributed to severely malnourished children under the programme with the Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians.

Dry ration packs for elderly homes were distributed in all 25 districts. In total, **4,500 dry ration** packs were distributed to the selected elderly homes by the SLRCS branch office according to the 1:4 ratio (1 pack for 4 people). Each branch has received a 180 quota on average and assisted **18,000 elderly people**.

Apart from this, **26,785 packs** of dry rations were distributed in all 25 districts with bilateral support from China (16,200 packs) and Singapore Red Cross (1,000 packs), and corporate partners such as Uber (8,085 packs) and Coco-Cola (1,500 packs).

	People Reached	65,759
Multi-purpose Cash	Female:	34,190
	Male:	31,560

Objective:	Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Key	Indicator	Target	Actual
indicators:	# of people reached with food assistance or cash for basic needs	75,000 households (375,000 people)	13,150 households (65,750 people)

All 25 district branches of SLRCS worked together with the local authorities to identify the beneficiaries for multipurpose cash assistance. Branches deployed volunteers to conduct house-to-house assessments based on the list provided by the authorities to verify the needs and identify the most vulnerable households. Based on the data analysis, the primary list of target recipients was prepared and shared with the community and respective government authorities for their feedback and opinion. After addressing all the grievances raised, a final list of target recipients was prepared and endorsed by the government authority. The SLRCS has a pool of 25 staff trained in cash and voucher assistance (CVA), who were deployed to set up and assist in the implementation of CVA activities.



A volunteer in conversation with a householder as part of a multipurpose cash grant assessment in Mullaitivu District. This coastal area is one of the most vulnerable in Sri Lanka owing to its high population of fishing and smallholder farming families. (Photo: SLRCS)

SLRCS identified 13.150 vulnerable households, based on selection criteria, out of which all identified households received multipurpose cash assistance to meet their basic needs (as of 06 June 2023). The most vulnerable households such as women-headed households, families with pregnant and lactating mothers, persons with disabilities, and elderly people, and the number of family members living under one roof, were prioritized for assistance. The grant value for each household for a month was determined based on the recommendation of the Cash Working Group to meet the basic need based on the analysis of the Minimum Food Expenditure Basket. The transfer

value is determined based on an individual with a ceiling of five people per household. The value of the grant for each household is LKR 20,000 (CHF 60).

SLRCS, with the support of IFRC, has completed post-distribution monitoring. Besides this SLRCS also conducted market assessment in coordination with WFP and shared the findings and recommendations with various stakeholders.

Post Distribution Monitoring findings

In August 2022, a survey was conducted via telephone, with 200 respondents providing information. A sample size of 5 per cent of beneficiaries was used to ensure representative results in districts where SLRCS supported vulnerable households through cash assistance.

Due to transportation issues, face-to-face interviews were not possible, although that would have been more interactive for discussion and information.

- 76 per cent of respondents used cash assistance for food followed by payment to utilities, medicine, education, and debt repayment. The situation is consistent across provinces, but urban recipients spent more on education than rural ones.
- 62 per cent of respondents spent most of their cash in local markets, as items were available, but the price was higher than at the beginning of 2022. 25 per cent went to district markets for lower prices, and 11 per cent spent most of their cash in local grocery stores.



Utilization of Cash assistance

- 36 per cent) mentioned that the wife decided to spend the cash assistance, whereas 35 per cent took a joint decision (husband and wife). 24 per cent of respondents mentioned husbands decided to spend the money because they always visit the market.
- 87 per cent of respondents mentioned that SLRCS' support helped them meet basic needs for a month, while 13 per cent mentioned the amount was not sufficient to meet their basic needs due to increased prices. Most respondents, mainly from urban areas, are burdened by rent for houses, which is not required for rural people. They suggest continuing cash support for at least three months to find livelihoods and avoid highinterest loans, which could negatively impact their financial situation.
- Most of the respondents (43 per cent) reported no difficulties in withdrawing assistance, while 25% mentioned spending more money and time due to transport issues. Remote areas (17 per cent) faced long lines and 9% experienced long lines or crowding when withdrawing cash from banks.

Health & Care		People Reached	77,213
	Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health /	Female:	40,151
•	Medical Services)		37,062
Objective:	Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the level interventions and health system strengthening	e population impacted	d through community
Vov	Indicator	Target	Actual
Key indicators:	# of people reached with emergency FA/clinical health care services during emergencies.	180,000	22,600
	# of people reached with mental health and psychosocial support.	1000	250
	# of National Society staff and volunteers trained in PFA skills.	625	625
	# of hospitals reached by the National Society with the provision of medicines to reduce relevant health risk factors.	25	25
	# of First Aid kits distributed to the branches to enhance the readiness for providing first Aid services to the affected	3125	3125 (37,659 people)
	# of school children benefitted from nutritious food under the school feeding programme.	15,000	16,079 (119 schools)

SLRCS provided First Aid and emergency medical services to **22,600 people** across the country, out of which 20,000 people were treated in SLRCS' Colombo First Aid Camp and Treatment Centre. The need for first aid services was lower than originally projected. SLRCS also provided ambulance services to transport over **1,000 people** to hospitals for further treatment.

SLRCS conducted a Psychological First Aid (PFA) Training of Trainers for **25 staff and volunteers** of the 25 district branches. To strengthen the capacity and ensure continuous provision of support, these trained staff and volunteers trained 625 volunteers all over the country on psychological first aid skills so that there will be no shortage of dedicated and skilled volunteers to provide the services. SLRCS also provided PFA services to people waiting in long queues for days. While providing drinking water to people waiting in queues, SLRCS identified **250 people** who need PFA support and provided services.

International procurement of the following essential medicines worth CHF 100,000 has been completed and handed over to the Ministry of Health:

- Six medicinal items named Streptokinase 1.5M. IU,
- Powder for injection, vial. (50 numbers),
- Atracurium Besilate, 10mg/ml, 2.5 ml amp. (3130 numbers),
- Chlorambucil 2mg Tablet (100 numbers),
- Tacrolimus 0.5mg capsule (1600 numbers),
- Rituximab 500mg/50ml solution for infusion, vial (225 numbers),
- Paraffin Gauze 10cm x 10cm (209 numbers).

A <u>Mobilization Table</u> was published for this operation for additional medicines and medical consumables needed, to address the needs for medicines via in-kind donations from partners as the medicines supply in Sri Lanka is running low.

A total of **3,125 First Aid kits** have been distributed to all Sri Lanka Red Cross Society branches to strengthen the capacity of the branches in providing timely first aid services to the needy. Specifically, **125 First Aid kits** have been distributed to each branch to improve the health care services in emergencies. With this provision of first Aid kits to the branches SLRCS supported 37,659 people. Each kit contains 31 first aid medical items such as a gauze bandage, dextrose, CPR pocket mass, cold pack, and anti-septic liquids.

The school feeding programme has been considered by SLRCS in the operation plan after consulting with the Ministry of Education. Together with the government's education department, schools have been identified based on the socioeconomic circumstances of the regions. The operation makes sure that the feeding programme



School feeding programme, providing 5 daily meals per week in Vavuniya district. (Photo: SLRCS)

includes the children who are most at risk. Taking into account the vulnerability of the children's families, each school selected the most vulnerable students for the feeding programme. Community involvement and accountability are

integrated throughout the procedure and SLRCS will hand over the school feeding programme to the government after August 2023.

Under the preparation of foods and procurements in each selected school, calls for quotations from nearby suppliers, facilitated with the SLRCS branches in selected districts. Tender board meetings selected suppliers based on criteria, including students' parents as food suppliers and other nominated candidates if no parents are interested. An agreement was signed between the SLRCS, the school principal, and the supplier.

Some **119 schools** in the 13 most vulnerable districts focusing on the school student living in the estate sector, were selected for the programmes; **16,079 children** are benefitting from the feeding programme. SLRCS has already provided this support for three months and has a plan to provide another two months till the end of July 2023. To ensure the quality of the food and its nutritional value, SLRCS involved government public health inspectors to monitor the quality of food items. On a monthly basis, SLRCS conducted the satisfaction survey and the impact of the programme. The major findings of the intervention are:

- School children, teachers, and parents are satisfied with the quality of food.
- School feeding programme increased the enrolment and attendance of poor children, especially from the estate community, who were severely affected by the current economic crisis, particularly girls.
- When combined with quality education, they improve cognition and educational success.
- The intervention provides short-term benefits after crises, helping communities recover and build resilience and long-term benefits by developing human capital.

This offers the greatest benefit to the poorest children, as missing breakfast can impair educational performance. During the monitoring visit to see the impact of the programme on the schools, one of the teachers stated that once the school feeding programme was introduced, the children became more active and enhanced their performance in learning subjects.

The SLRCS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and numerous other generous donors, launched "Elixir," Sri Lanka's first-ever platform for matching medical donation funds, in October 2022 to assist the public in overcoming the situation and finding a solution to the medication shortage. In a relatively short amount of time, "Elixir" has received favourable feedback from both the public and the nation's corporate leaders.

Elixir was given the chance to provide the Kandy National Hospital in Sri Lanka with the necessary medication. To assist Sri Lanka's healthcare system, 24 bottles of sevoflurane were given to Kandy National Hospital in December 2022. The donation was worth more than USD 6,000.

Additionally, "Elixir" offers a simplified interface for donors who want to immediately assist Sri Lanka. By having all requests and donations come in through a single, seamless platform, the platform



SLRCS, MAP International and Seva Lanka Foundation donated medicines worth over USD 512,000 through 'Elixir,' Sri Lanka's first medical donation matching platform (Photo: SLRCS).

can then match requirements and donations for effective use of resources and time, as well as shorten the overall turnaround time for assistance and increase transparency.

As of now, **LKR 414,211,474 (CHF 1.2 million)** of medicines and medical equipment has been donated to National Hospitals and the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka via the 'Elixir' medical donation matching platform implemented by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society with the assistance of IFRC, ICRC, Qatar Red Crescent, Microsoft, MAP International, PayPal, and Uber.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People Reached:	546,250
Female:	96,250
Male:	450,000

Objective:

Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions

Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	# of litres of water distributed	24,000,000	24,000,000
	# of sanitary napkins provided for female students	60,000	46,250
	# of awareness campaigns/cleaning drives/environmental sanitation activities conducted	100	110

A total of 100 (1,000-litre water) water tanks procured at the initial stage of the operation were installed in 11 districts. These water points provided water for about 35 Approximately 24,000,000 litres of drinking water (an average of 8,000 litres per day, per water point x 100 locations x 30 days) was provided to people waiting in queues. An estimated 500,000 people (10 per cent females and 90 per cent males) used the water (approximately 40-50 litres per day per person, and some people use water for washing at night) across 11 districts.

Currently, the water distribution has been stopped as the government introduced a fuel pass system on 1 August 2022 to eliminate the long queues. There are no longer long queues at fuel stations, hence the water distribution targets are reduced. Furthermore, SLRCS



Sanitary napkin distribution along with menstrual hygiene management, and safe disposal awareness conducted by government health staff in one of the schools at Monaragala branch (Photo: SLRCS)

volunteers engaged with the authorities to clean the surroundings closer to the fuel stations and conduct environmental sanitation activities with awareness raising.

The procurement of **416,250** packs **(10** pads per pack) of sanitary napkins has already been completed and distributed to **46,250** adolescent students across all districts. Each adolescent girl received 9 packs of sanitary napkins. Along with the distribution, a total of **119** menstrual hygiene management, and safe disposal awareness sessions were conducted for the students who receive sanitary napkins in each school.

The distribution of sanitary napkins has a very positive impact on the school attendance of adolescent girls while they are experiencing their menstrual period. This is because poor families could not afford to purchase napkins, so their daughters are forced to use alternatives that cannot be used or changed while they are in school, which was the primary cause of the low attendance at the school. The sanitary napkins were dispersed to be used over the course of a year's time.

People Reached

2

		People Reactied.	70,760
	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	Female:	36,795
		Male:	33,965
Objective:	Communities identify the needs of the most at risk argroups, due to inequality, discrimination and other their distinct needs		~ ~
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	# of households selected for implementation of multipurpose & Conditional cash programming following a PGI-sensitive data analysis	75,000	14,152
	# of Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis conducted	1	1
	# of staff and volunteers provided training on PGI in emergencies, including minimum standards and SGBV prevention and response	100	52
	# of Provincial level SGBV/VAC referral pathways	9	0

identified or developed

of PGI-related policies developed or updated

0

70 760

A total of 14,152 households (multipurpose cash recipient 13,150 and Conditional Cash Grant recipient 1,002) received beneficiary selection criteria where it was mentioned that the households prioritized PGI category and included in the beneficiary list.

According to the IFRC assessment (conducted in August and September 2022), there were perceptions of an increase in domestic violence, sexual and gender-based violence, and serious child protection incidents. It was also acknowledged that the ability and capacity of government agencies to respond to these issues was severely constrained. To effectively respond to the complex emergency, it was crucial to ensure the integration of PGI into all response activities. The existing PGI capacity of SLRCS was very limited and there was an urgent need to build this capacity at both national and branch levels.

SLRCS completed three batches of training on PGI for staff and volunteers. A total of 52 participants, 23 males,



The Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) Core Training for the first batch took place with the participation of staff and volunteers from SLRCS NHQ and branches (Photo: SLRCS).

and 29 females, attended the workshop. The overall objective of the training was to enable participants to understand the key elements of PGI, their implications, and their application in their respective areas of work. This was achieved by learning about key principles and guiding them to analyse how dignity, access, participation, and safety can be integrated into programmes and institutional processes.

The staff and volunteers who were trained on PGI, apply practical strategies and tools to mainstream dignity, access, participation, and safety consideration into programmes and institutional processes. Also, they can assess PGI concerns within the community and evaluate the organizational capacity to carry out PGI activities during the implementation of activities. The branch staff and volunteers are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to deliver 2–3-hour interactive PGI sessions to their co-staff and the volunteers and community members.

The training curriculum and materials were translated into the local language (Sinhala & Tamil) and training was facilitated in the same language. SLRCS also drafted the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding policy (CSP) and shared them with Branches for their feedback, as soon as SLRCS HQ will get the feedback the document will share with the newly elected governance board for endorsement. Further, the Development of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials and flipcharts on PGI is currently in progress. Once the flipchart has been produced and printed, SLRCS will use these materials to raise awareness of PGI at the community level. To identify the existing and potential referral pathways available for survivors of SGBV. The available resources at district and provincial levels are being mapped out.



Community Engagement and Accountability

People Reached:	14,152
Female:	-
Male:	-

Objective:	Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	# of people reached through risk communication and community engagement activities	75,000	14,152
	# of staff and volunteers trained for CEA	60	59

SLRCS conducted two CEA trainings. One was a three-day branch-level training, conducted in Gampaha branch, in which 22 volunteers and 10 staff (12 female and 20 male) were trained. The second training was conducted at SLRCS national headquarters for branch executive officers, in which 27 participants (11 female and 16 male) participated. These trainings included both theory and practical application of CEA concepts, including KOBO data management. The main objective of the trainings was to train SLRCS staff and volunteers on the concept of CEA, Movement-wide minimum actions for CEA, minimum actions for CEA in an emergency, and feedback management. In line with the training, SLRCS developed a WhatsApp group for the training participants to convey messages easily.

In this operation, SLRCS developed a format to record complaints, suggestions, or any comments from the community, as a pilot implementation to ensure community participation at the field level. These formats were shared with BEOs in five districts to integrate CEA into Cash Transfer Programming including COVID-19 related activities. BEOs are deploying CEA-trained volunteers for information collection.

Currently, SLRCS is actively maintaining records of the feedback received from the community, mainly from the multi-purpose cash recipients. The National Society established and effectively maintains two hotline numbers that community members can contact 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Dedicated SLRCS staff at headquarters handle incoming calls and promptly provide any requested information and



SLRCS hosted a three-day CEA and IM training at the National Society. (Photo: SLRCS)

clarify common queries such as when to get assistance and whether any additional documents were required to be submitted, among others. If there are complaints or fraud, corruption, or nepotism-related issues, the staff immediately logs the information and shares the data with the management at both headquarters and branch levels, depending on the level of feedback based on the CEA guidelines of SLRCS. Subsequently, SLRCS responds to community members' queries and, if needed, investigates any issues as necessary.

~		i i	People Reached:	413
%	Migration	· F	Female:	28
		1	Male:	385

Objective:Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination)

Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	# of migrants reached with assistance to meet their basic needs	500	413

Based on selection criteria, a total of 398 migrants have already been identified in consultation with UNHCR. These migrants are living in two districts - Colombo and Gampaha. The first batch of cash grants were distributed to **392** migrants, with remaining migrants getting the assistance in end-June. As the migrants lack access to a bank account or phone, cash transfers were conducted as cash-in-hand since SLRCS cannot facilitate online transfers for them. SLRCS has established a control mechanism to ensure transparency during cash distribution.

As part of the documentation process, SLRCS verifies the refugee card provided by UNHCR at the time of the cash distribution in the presence of a UNHCR representative. Each migrant receives LKR



Multi-purpose cash grant distribution to migrants in Gampaha district. A total of 328 migrants assisted with Cash in envelopes (Photo: SLRCS)

20,000 (CHF 65). Additionally, SLRCS included **21 refugees**, living in the Western Province, in the response and provided LKR 20,000 cash grants to them. Therefore, 413 was the total number of migrants supported so far with multi-purpose cash grants to meet their basic needs.

Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

People Reached:	26
Female:	7
Male:	19

	Indicator	Target		
Objective:	climate change adaptation (CCA) programming is strengthened.			

Kev	Indicator	Target	Actual
indicators:	# of staff and volunteers trained on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change adaptation (CCA)	50	26

A total of 26 staff and volunteers received training on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Besides these, three staff and volunteers also received training on climate-smart agriculture that helped SLRCS to implement livelihood interventions under the emergency appeal. The trained staff and volunteers also promoted

climate-smart agriculture farming, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and the best approach and practices against climate change.

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Environmental Sustainability

People Reached: Female: Male: -

Objective:

Environmental protection measures are in place to ensure the operation will not cause a negative impact on the environment and instead contribute positively to protecting the environment by protecting, sustainably managing, or restoring surrounding ecosystems.

Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual

The operation is conscious of the environmental damage that it can cause during its implementation and takes measures for environmental protection such as minimal use of plastics and cleaning the surroundings of water distribution points. SLRCS is more concerned with the development of climate-smart farmers and entrepreneurs, as well as the improvement of economic, social, and environmental coherence within farming communities. There was no identified harm or adverse effects on the environment from the activities implemented under the complex emergency appeal.

Education		People Reached:	20,875		
		Female:	11,967		
		Male:	8,908		
Objective:	School attendance of poor students is improved, and essential stationery items are provided.				
Key indicators:	' Indicator Target				
	# of students reached with school packs	25,000	20,875		

During the economic crisis, when households were struggling to satisfy their most basic necessities, particularly food, poor households couldn't purchase school supplies (e.g., pens, notebooks, bags, etc.).

As many children were unable to afford school stationery, SLRCS offered 20,875 students at schools in 25 districts school packs that included stationery, a mathematical instrument box, and a school bag. These school packs were purchased locally, with technical approval from the Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management (GHS&SCM) – Asia Pacific office.

As a result of the timely intervention offered by SLRCS, school children were able to continue their education while parents were relieved of the burden of purchasing school supplies.



Some of the senior high school students who received school packs from Vavuniya District SLRCS Branch (Photo: IFRC)

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objective:	Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster					
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual			
	# of staff and volunteers recruited and inducted to implement response	625	250			
	# of volunteers trained on core disaster management areas	625	625			

A total of 10 district project officers, 10 community mobilisers and 250 volunteers were hired for the operation. Additionally, 625 volunteers were trained on PFA. Orientation of staff and volunteers on the operation was conducted while ensuring quality assurance regularly through bi-weekly review meetings.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective:

Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual
	The operation demonstrates evidence of an effective and coordinated international disaster response	Yes	Yes

SLRCS has an ongoing partnership and a good working relationship with the Ministry of Health. A joint online platform called Elixir was developed and launched on 19 October 2022, together with the Ministry of Health to share information on current medicine requirements, and potential donor interests to support procurement and to enable suppliers to share information.

Additionally, having a large number of institutions registering their requirements, allows the SLRCS and its network of global volunteers to consider bulk order placement, where possible, to obtain the best possible prices, delivering maximum cost efficiency to all stakeholders. Designed and operated by the SLRCS, together with its global network of volunteers and professionals, and in partnership with the Sri Lanka Medical Supplies Division of the Ministry of Health, the Elixir Platform is a huge collaborative undertaking to help Sri Lanka overcome the shortage of lifesaving medicines due to the present economic crisis.

IFRC and SLRCS continue to participate in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings, Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) Sri Lanka, engaging with Cash, Information Management, as well as with Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) working groups. IFRC provided inputs to the development of AAP common messaging for the Sri Lanka document and the revision of the UN Humanitarian Needs and Priorities (HNP) plan. A summary of the IFRC Emergency Appeal is included in the HNP overview published on 18 November 2022. Furthermore, SLRCS and IFRC presented the findings of PDM assessments and Market Assessments at the Cash Working Group (CWG) meetings.

A diplomatic round table was conducted in June 2022 with the participation of the embassies of Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the European Union (EU). Bilateral discussions and updates were provided to the embassies of Norway, China, Australia and France. The IFRC country team participated in the ECHO-organized virtual meeting on needs analysis and current response in the country.

The second virtual diplomatic round table was organized and conducted on 21 July 2022, with the participation of the embassies of Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Norway, France, USA, Great Britain, Malaysia, EU in Sri Lanka and USAID.

An extraordinary UN HCT meeting was organized on 12 October 2022, to present the findings of the IFRC/SLRCS Sri Lanka complex emergency needs assessment. A team led by the IFRC's Asia Pacific Regional Director visited the UN compound in Sri Lanka and presented the assessment findings to HCT members. Over 75 people participated in the meeting representing UN agencies as well as INGOs, NGOs, and donor agencies that are engaged in the humanitarian response in Sri Lanka.

The third diplomatic round table was organized and conducted on 14 October 2022, under the joint chairmanship of the SLRCS President, IFRC Regional Director, and ICRC Head of the Delegation. The following embassies and donor agencies participated in the event: Norway, Great Britain, France, India, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Thailand, Switzerland, China, EU, and USAID.

Following the round table, a media briefing was held by the SLRCS President and the IFRC's visiting Regional Director, and a member of the Sri Lanka Complex Emergency Needs assessment team presented a summary of the assessment findings to more than 50 Sri Lankan and foreign journalists. The briefing and the associated press release received wide media coverage.



Secretariat Services

Objective:	Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster					
Key indicators:	Indicator	Target	Actual			
	# of surge deployments	6	6			
	# of key messages/statements to profile/safeguard the SLRCS response	10	2			

In-country local surge was recruited to provide technical support to the operation at the initial stage. Six international surge experts were also deployed, including one remote deployment with the following expertise:

- 1. Humanitarian Diplomacy, Strategic Engagement completed the mission.
- 2. Regional Head, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships (two times) completed the mission.
- 3. Partnerships and Resource Development (twice) completed the mission.
- 4. Cash and Voucher Assistance completed the mission.
- 5. Communication (supported by the Australian Red Cross) completed the mission.
- 6. Procurement- completed the mission.

Furthermore, the following surge personnel were deployed for 6-8 weeks to conduct the assessment and completed their mission:

- 1. Humanitarian Impact and Needs Assessment Team Leader, supported by the German Red Cross.
- 2. CVA / Livelihoods and Food Security Coordinator, IFRC.
- 3. Protection Gender & Inclusion Expert, supported by the Canadian Red Cross.
- 4. Health Expert & Statistician supported by the Norwegian Cross.
- 5. Humanitarian Information Analyst supported by the German Red Cross.
- 6. Primary and Mobile Data Collection Officer, IFRC
- 7. Mapping and Visualization Officer, IFRC remote support

A set of key messages and a press release were developed and issued to profile SLRCS' work as well as to highlight the humanitarian conditions and needs in the country.

Communication products

IFRC issued a press release to highlight the key issues and what the SLRCS has been doing to respond to the crisis to coincide with the diplomatic briefing in October 2022. Furthermore, a Communications surge delegate was deployed from the Australian Red Cross to support the operation to profile the current response and share stories from affected people. The communication outputs of the operation thus far are as follows:

- 8 June 2022 press release: Sri Lanka's economic crisis spiralling into a food crisis
- 14 June 2022 web story: <u>CRIPPLING ECONOMIC CRISIS HITS SRI LANKA</u>: Severe shortages of fuel, food, and necessities are putting Sri Lankans at grave risk.
- 19 July 2022 web story: FOOD IN MY BACKYARD: Sri Lanka faces a colossal job crisis never seen before.
- 22 September 2022 web story: <u>ENDURING AN ECONOMIC CRISIS</u> Sri Lanka: people in the Northern Province dream of a better future for their children

- 26 September 2022 web story <u>LEARNING IN A CRISIS</u>: teachers and Sri Lanka Red Cross help students facing hunger and hardship
- 14 October 2022 press release: Sri Lanka's vulnerable forced to risk a pathway to destitution
- 14 October 2022 ABC Radio National interview, Alexander Matheou: Sri Lanka's economic and humanitarian crisis deepens
- 5 December 2022 web story: <u>CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE DRY ZONE</u>: lessons from the past help Sri Lankan farmers adapt to the future.
- More than 190 photos and more than 40 videos (edited and unedited) including information, details, and context captured either by IFRC staff or obtained from SLRCS staff.
- Regular exposure on IFRC Asia Pacific regional Twitter account capitalising on the photos, videos and information obtained.

Contributions to external articles and opinion editorials:

- The New Humanitarian: Out of Sri Lanka's tumult, a humanitarian crisis emerges.
- The Diplomat: Sri Lanka's Worrying Exodus accelerating migration caused by the economic crisis
- Video story: Climate change in Kurunegala: adapting traditional practices to climate change (sponsored by Australian Red Cross). Footage from this video was also used during IFRC's presentations at the COP27 meetings, Egypt, 6-18 November 2022
- Video story: Working hard to support our communities, winner of IFRC Innovation Prize, Solferino Academy Climate Change TVv
- Five short videos on the community members that have received cash grants in Sri Lanka. The Red Cross provides unconditional cash grants to the most vulnerable people in all 25 districts of Sri Lanka.
- One short video on Sri Lanka Red Cross providing medical aid to their community.

SLRCS is on social media: Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube @SLRedCross.

IFRC Asia Pacific regularly posts on the emergency response and issues: @IFRCAsiaPacific, as well as the website and story platform Exposure.

- SLRCS Market Assessment
- School stationery packs distribution1
- Psychosocial support workshops for expecting mothers and fathers to help them cope in these stressful times
- School stationery packs distribution2
- Beneficiary needs assessment

D. FUNDING

The overall Federation-wide funding required to support SLRCS is 28.5 million Swiss Francs. As of 6 June 2023, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks 28 million Swiss francs is 18.9 per cent funded (CHF nearly 5.28 million) and recording an expenditure of CHF 2.91 million (55.1 per cent of income). Click here for more operation details: IFRC GO-Sri Lanka: Complex Emergency and funding coverage details. Please refer to the financial report at the end of this report for more details

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Reference documents

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Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Operational Strategy

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere**) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. 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.

Annexe 1 - Plan of action – transitioning to country Unified Plan 2023

The below plan of action will be implemented during the extended period until the 31 December 2023, and will be incorporated into the Sri Lanka country unified plan. Reporting of the activities will be aligned with the bi-annual reporting of the unified plan of Sri Lanka.

		Number of			Mon	th wise	plan		
Sector	Activity	households/ events	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Multi-	2nd transfer of MPC for estate community to meet the basic needs	5,490							
purpose cash grants	3rd transfer for MPC for estate community to meet the basic needs	2,492							
	Post distribution monitoring	1							
	Conditional Cash Grant for strengthening livelihoods	2,000							
Livelihoods	Skill enhancement training on home gardening	2,000							
	Post distribution monitoring	1							
Health & Nutrition	School feeding programme for school children	16,076							
PGI	PGI workshop for branch staff and volunteers	2							
	Finalization of PSEA and Child safeguarding policies	1							
CEA	CEA workshop for branch staff and volunteers	2							
	National Disaster Response Training	20							
NS capacity	Cash and Voucher Assistance training	40							
	Lesson learned workshop	1							

¹ FAO and WFP (2022). Special Report – FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. September 2022. Rome. https://doi.org/10.4060/cc1886en...

ii IOM (2022). Current crisis in Sri Lanka and the impacts on international and internal migration of the country, rapid assessment, working draft, 27 June 2022.

iii Sri Lanka. IDMC. www.internal-displacement.org/countries/sri-lanka.

^{iv} Humanitarian Needs and Priorities overview, UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 18 November 2022 https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-humanitarian-needs-and-priorities-hnp-overview-18-november-2022

^v Working hard to support our communities, published 3 December 2022 https://twitter.com/IFRCAsiaPacific/status/1598721094412013568

Emergency Appeal INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

 Selected Parameters

 Reporting Timeframe
 2022/4-2023/5
 Operation
 MDRLK014

 Budget Timeframe
 2022/4-2023/12
 Budget
 APPROVED

Prepared on 05 Jul 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRLK014 - Sri Lanka - Complex Emergency

Operating Timeframe: 16 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2023; appeal launch date: 08 Jun 2022

I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	22,000
AOF2 - Shelter	0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	20,412,000
AOF4 - Health	2,193,000
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	899,000
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	37,000
AOF7 - Migration	128,000
SFI1 - Strenghten National Societies	3,883,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	426,000
Total Funding Requirements	28,000,000
Donor Response* as per 05 Jul 2023	5,278,837
Appeal Coverage	18.85%

II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	26,673	86,526	-59,852
AOF2 - Shelter	1,140	1,140	0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	2,988,561	1,633,112	1,355,449
AOF4 - Health	346,265	264,917	81,348
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	654,592	616,660	37,932
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	21,548	48	21,500
AOF7 - Migration	239	239	0
SFI1 - Strenghten National Societies	831,446	179,213	652,233
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	30,273	30,273	0
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	588	588	0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	375,759	101,508	274,251
Grand Total	5,277,083	2,914,223	2,362,860

III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2023/05

Occasion Delegan	•
Opening Balance	U
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	5,008,746
Expenditure	-2,914,223
Closing Balance	2,094,523
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	2,094,523

IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	741,002	Reimbursed :	741,002	Outstanding :	0



Emergency Appeal INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters				
Reporting Timeframe	2022/4-2023/5	Operation	MDRLK014	
Budget Timeframe	2022/4-2023/12	Budget	APPROVED	

Prepared on 05 Jul 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRLK014 - Sri Lanka - Complex Emergency

Operating Timeframe: 16 Apr 2022 to 31 Dec 2023; appeal launch date: 08 Jun 2022

V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance 0

Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
Australian Red Cross (from Australian Government*)	228,460				228,460	
Austrian Red Cross	49,803				49,803	
British Red Cross	89,679				89,679	
British Red Cross (from British Government*)	2,043,879				2,043,879	
European Commission - DG ECHO	205,035				205,035	
Hewlett Packard Co. Foundation	46,841				46,841	
Hong Kong Red Cross, Branch of the Red Cross Socie	24,308				24,308	
Japanese Government	987,560				987,560	
Japanese Red Cross Society	35,112				35,112	
On Line donations	2,588				2,588	
Red Cross of Monaco	29,180				29,180	
Swedish Red Cross	279,256				279,256	
The Canadian Red Cross Society	73,953				73,953	
The Canadian Red Cross Society (from Canadian Gov	589,222				589,222	
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	309,680				309,680	
The Republic of Korea National Red Cross	14,191				14,191	
Total Contributions and Other Income	5,008,746	0	0	0	5,008,746	
Total Income and Deferred Income					5,008,746	

