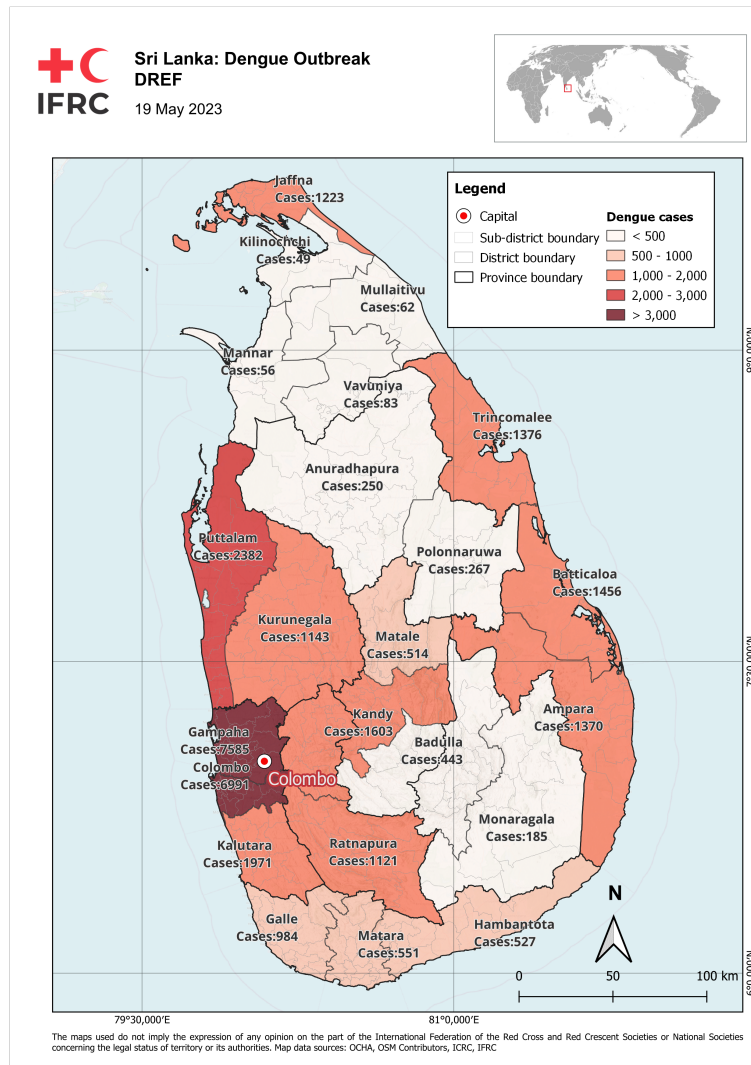




Dengue clean-up campaign in collaboration with Health Medical officers in Gampaha district. (Photo: SLRCS)

Appeal: <b>MDRLK017</b>	Country: <b>Sri Lanka</b>	Hazard: <b>Epidemic</b>	Type of DREF Response
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 348,470</b>	
Glide Number: <b>N/A</b>	People Affected: <b>48,728 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>236,000 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>2023-06-02</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>4 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>2023-10-31</b>	DREF Published: <b>2023-06-03</b>
Targeted Areas:	<b>Central, Eastern, North Western, Northern, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Western</b>		

# Description of the Event



Dengue affected areas. Source: IFRC IM

## What happened, where and when?

### DENGUE OUTBREAK:

Dengue cases have been on the rise since the beginning of the year in the country. Indeed, the cases reported are currently three times higher than those recorded in the corresponding period of the last two years. A higher number of cases are recorded in the Western, Southwestern, Central, and Eastern provinces, especially in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Galle, Kegalle, and Kandy districts.

The National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU) reported nearly 4,000 novel cases of the dengue virus within the first two weeks of May 2023, raising grave concerns about a potential epidemic, published "Adaderana" on 14 May 2023. The NDCU also revealed that the spread of the Den-3 variant of the Dengue virus is accelerating the virus spread across the country and a total of 33,742 dengue cases have been recorded across the island as of 15 May 2023.

More than 50 per cent of above-mentioned cases were reported from the Western Province. Indeed, Colombo District recorded the highest number of dengue cases, with 7,017 people affected, followed by 7,602 cases in Gampaha and 1,984 cases in Kalutara. The NDCU also indicated that 22 Dengue-related fatalities have been reported so far this year with seven of them being reported from the Western Province. This includes two deaths in Colombo, four in Gampaha, and one death in Kalutara. The government authorities have carried out several dengue prevention



programmes in various areas of Colombo. The highest number of dengue patients are being treated at the Colombo National Hospital, District General Hospital in Negombo, Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH), Colombo South Teaching Hospital (Kalubowila), Trincomalee General Hospital, Lady Ridgeway Hospital and the National Teaching Hospital in Kandy and they are barely coping with the number of cases admitted. On 15 May 2023 in 'Adaderana' local news reported that 'red notice' warnings have been issued on 1,308 houses and other properties in Colombo City where the respective premises were maintained in a careless manner allowing the breeding of mosquitoes.

#### CYCLONE MOCHA RELATED FLOODS:

With the intensification of the severe cyclonic storm "Mocha" over the East-Central Bay of Bengal, Sri Lanka has also been experiencing heavy wind speeds of 50-60 km/h, which increased up to 70 km/h in sea areas, and heavy rainfall in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central and North-Western provinces and in Galle and Matara districts, which are the most affected areas. Indeed, the heavy rains, high winds, and flash floods due to the water levels of the Nilwala and Gin Rivers have risen to alarming levels. In the Matara district, according to the Department of Meteorology Centre (DMC), most damages were reported on 16 May, and a total of eight Divisional Secretary divisions are severely affected.

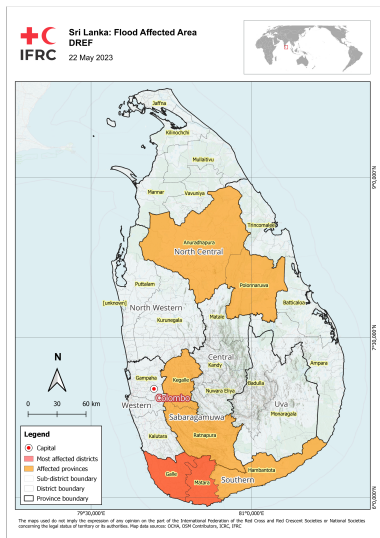
As a result of the continued heavy rains and strong winds (over 70 km/h) caused by the indirect impact of the cyclonic storm "Mocha", houses have been damaged and trees have fallen, blocking the main access to several districts. In addition, due to the severity of the situation, agricultural lands and standing crops have been damaged in low-lying areas of the districts of Galle and Matara caused by flash flooding, while houses, common buildings, and markets are inundated.

Due to the increase in the water level of the main rivers, the small and medium-scale bridges, and culverts have gone under the water, cutting off access roads at several places where people were stranded or forced to wait until the water receded. The DMC also reported that many schools have been flooded due to the heavy rainfall in those areas since 15 May and that students have lost their school materials/stationary during the flooding that affected their houses. Schools in several educational zones in the Southern Province were temporarily closed on 15 May due to the unfavourable weather conditions.

The Department of Irrigation has extended a flood warning message issued for the Gin River Basin on 16 May 2023. Accordingly, a significant level of flooding was experienced in the low-lying areas of the Gin River situated in Baddegama, Niyagama, and Nagoda Divisional Secretariat Divisions of the Galle district. As of 17 May 2023, the DMC situational report indicated that 14,986 people in 3,640 households have been affected by the flood in seven districts.

In total, the dengue and floods crises, have affected 48,728 people.





Flood affected districts, IFRC IM

Reported major dengue cases in weeks 19 and 18 of 2023 (Source: NDCU)

District	No of Cases					
	2022		2023		Up to week 19	
	Week		Week		2022	2023
	18	19	18	19		
Colombo	248	295	412	406	4394	6991
Gampaha	132	116	475	512	2759	7585
Batticaloa	46	84	106	85	594	1456
Trincomalee	70	90	97	107	752	1376
Kalutara	163	146	125	116	1947	1971
Kandy	76	84	136	163	945	1603
Kegalle	62	24	81	127	559	1256
Galle	76	107	76	86	1321	984
<b>Total</b>	<b>873</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>1,508</b>	<b>1,602</b>	<b>13,271</b>	<b>23,222</b>

Summary of the damages in the targeted districts (Source: DMC)

District	Families	People	Dead	Injured	Missing	Houses		Safe Centers		
						Fully damaged	Partially damaged	# of Centers	Families	People
Matara	3,390	14,097	0	1	1	3	83	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,390</b>	<b>14,097</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Most affected districts for Dengue and Floods (NDCU, DMC)

## Scope and Scale

As a result of the intensifying rainfall caused by the Southeast monsoon, Health departments have warned that the Dengue situation has the potential to become critical. According to NDCU, the ongoing inclement weather conditions will only further aggravate the breeding of mosquitos, hence worsening the spread of the outbreak. Notably, since the start of 2023, some 33,742 dengue cases have been recorded across the island, with the highest numbers recorded in Colombo, Gampaha, and Kalutara districts in Western Province, and Batticaloa, Trincomalee in Eastern Province, Kandy - Central province, Galle - Southwestern Province recorded high numbers of cases all around the country.

At the same time, during the Southern Province Dengue Review Committee meeting conducted on 15 May 2023, it was highlighted that the number of dengue cases reported within the Southern Province, including Galle and Matara districts, is significantly higher than the previous year.

The current monsoon is active in Western, South, Southwestern, and Sabragamuwa provinces which will further create a favorable environment for Dengue mosquito breeding which can only be eliminated by keeping the environment clean, at the same time, Northern, Eastern, and Central provinces also get remarkable rainfall during this period which can only aggravate the current situation.

Based on the NDCU update of 18 May 2023, there are eight districts (Colombo, Gampaha, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Kalutara, Kandy, Kegalle, and Galle) that have reported more dengue cases, and a total of 23,222 cases so far reported, according to the 19th-week update of NDCU. The NDCU and Regional Directorate of Health Services (RDHS) have identified those districts as high-risk zones, where dengue fever is rapidly increasing. The new cases in May alone have reached almost 6,000, raising concerns about the disease's rapid spread.

Overall, the above situation of an active dengue outbreak combined with prevailing weather conditions could quickly deteriorate to a situation similar to that of 2017, when the country faced a major outbreak in the same districts currently affected, with 68,053 cases and 205 deaths (of which 25 per cent were children) reported during the period. Approximately 42.40 per cent of dengue cases were also reported from the Western province in 2017.

The National Society is currently responding to the known complex humanitarian crisis in the country while grappling with the deteriorating economic situation through the Sri Lanka - Complex Emergency Appeal (MDRLK014), which is currently underway, with a target population of 500,000 people. The prevailing complex emergency is characterized by high inflation and livelihood losses, food insecurity, and shortages of fuel, especially essential health care. The limited resources in the government hospitals make it difficult to manage dengue patients hospitalised there.



Given the country's current situation and increased needs, this DREF assistance is required to support controlling the Dengue outbreak, which health authorities foresee to potentially worsen due to the current Southwest monsoon, which will bring more rainfall to the country. This DREF operation is critical for the National Society to receive financial and human resource (HR) support to respond and control the spread of the outbreak, as well as responding to the needs of the families most affected by the ongoing floods.

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	<b>Yes</b>
Did it affect the same population groups?	<b>No</b>
Did the National Society respond?	<b>No</b>
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	<b>No</b>
If yes, please specify which operations	-

### Lessons learned

Although there has been no Dengue response operation in the last three years, the response to Extreme Weather (MDRLK015) last year targeted five districts, including Colombo, Gampaha, Rathnapura, Kandy, and Nuwera Eliya. This new DREF operation will also cover Colombo, Gampaha and Kandy, so the learnings from MDRLK015 apply and are as follows:

- SLRCS and IFRC identified procurement of items as a lesson learned from the operation (MDRLK015), as some items were unavailable in the country due to the current situation and the procurement process was hindered. To mitigate this delay, an in-country level procurement plan is being considered during the planning phase of this operation.

- Cross-cutting sectors such as Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI,) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) are important to incorporate into planned interventions. As such, this operation will ensure that PGI and CEA are integrated across all sectors. Indeed, according to the post distribution monitoring survey, SLRCS maintains very successful community feedback mechanisms at the field level, 24/7. As such, the National Society will work on maintaining this system through a hotline to receive and respond to community grievances.

- The elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, and households with infants or young children are often more vulnerable to challenges related to access to nutrient-rich food and safe water and are more susceptible to diseases/infections. As such, this operation will ensure alignment with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversification in emergency programming, to secure due considerations for these vulnerable groups throughout implementation.

To note, the ongoing Emergency Appeal operation (MDRLK014 - Complex Emergency) covers all the districts in Sri Lanka. However, the two operations will not overlap between the target groups, hence will avoid duplication.

## Current National Society Actions



<p><b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b></p>	<p>Dengue Outbreak:</p> <p>SLRCS has close coordination with the Medical Office of Health Services in the districts where major cases are reported. Also, at the NHQ level, coordinating with NDCU to monitor the situation and to provide additional support to local authorities from the branch level.</p> <p>Flood Response:</p> <p>BDRT teams deployed and NDRT members are on the alert to deploy in case of need. Initial response activities are conducted in the Matara district where more people are affected. Contingency stocks will be used to assist the affected communities.</p>
<p><b>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</b></p>	<p>Dengue Outbreak:</p> <p>SLRC's branches in the Western Province already work with Health departments to carry out dengue clean-up activities and community awareness activities, especially in schools and public places.</p> <p>Flood Response:</p> <p>Branches are providing household items for the affected communities, including baby packs, adult packs, folding mattresses, towels, bedsheets, kitchen sets, and jerry cans in the flood-affected districts of Matara and Galle districts.</p>
<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p>SLRCS maintains close coordination with the NDCU to update data in high-risk areas. The MOH offices in the most affected districts have made requests to SLRCS branches to support their clean-up campaign and the volunteers are currently supporting the clean-up campaigns and community awareness programmes through public service announcements across public places at the district level.</p> <p>First Aid teams are deployed by both branches in Galle and Matara flood-affected areas from the floods. There is a need for medical camps in both flood-affected districts and trained first aid volunteers are planning to conduct medical camps to support the people who require basic medical check-ups and first aid services.</p>
<p><b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b></p>	<p>The volunteers are currently deployed for the clean-up campaigns which support cleaning the flood water stacked places and drainages.</p> <p>Safe drinking water is one of the main concerns in the affected area, therefore SLRCS is providing drinking water by establishing water tanks in the safe shelter locations and providing drinking water bottles.</p>
<p><b>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</b></p>	<p>SLRCS teams are maintaining minimum standards when helping all affected communities, ensuing additional focus in selecting the most vulnerable communities such as pregnant and lactating mothers, disabled communities, children, the elderly population, and the LGBTQ community.</p>
	<p>SLRCS is in close coordination with the Regional Directorate of Health Services (RDHS), Ministry of Health (MOH), and local authorities on the dengue</p>



<p><b>National Society Readiness</b></p>	<p>situation in the respective branches. For the initial need assessment, a team comprised of NDRT and BDRT was deployed and coordinated with RDHS to collect the details of GN divisions and high-risk areas to carry out the awareness program to the public.</p> <p>The Medical Office for Health has already requested assistance from SLRCS to support Dengue control efforts, particularly in the districts of Colombo and Gampaha. Colombo branch is one of SLRCS's strongest branches, with a good number of volunteers and staff who will immediately begin working on the response. Until a new officer is recruited, the executive officer of the Colombo branch is overseeing the activities of the Matara branch; accordingly, the response operations for dengue and flash flood are being monitored by the Colombo branch, and an extended team has already been deployed to both districts to assess the situation.</p>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p>	<p>BDRT teams are already deployed in affected branches and completed the 24-hour assessment. Secondary information was gathered from the Disaster Management Centre and NDCU. However, disaggregated data for dengue cases are not available on that website. The assessment team and the branches are being coordinated with the respective Regional Directorate for Health Services (RDHS) and Medical Officer of Health (MOH) to collect the data on Dengue-affected cases.</p>
<p><b>Coordination</b></p>	<p>Sri Lanka Red Cross Society is currently working closely with Government agencies, such as Disaster Management Centre (DMC), the Military, District secretariats, and local authorities to respond to the current flood situation. As such, close coordination is happening with RDHS, MOH, and NDCU to get the update and plan for any activities related to the dengue outbreak.</p> <p>In addition, SLRCS is closely coordinating with 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, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for this disaster response operation.</p> <p>IFRC is providing technical support to SLRCS in developing the Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA) for this operation. The IFRC CCD in New Delhi and the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) have provided further coordination support for information sharing and resources.</p>
<p><b>Resource Mobilization</b></p>	<p>SLRCS Matara and Galle branches work with government agencies to provide the basic relief required by the affected communities. It is mobilizing the available resources in the SLRCS HQ warehouse including adult kits and baby kits. Galle and Matara's first-aid trained volunteers are already on the ground to support with first-aid services.</p>

## Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

	<p>The in-country IFRC team is in close coordination with SLRCS and ICRC. The IFRC CCD and APRO offices have supported SLRCS in preparing this DREF application and planning the response. Furthermore, the IFRC CCD regularly</p>
--	--



<b>IFRC</b>	<p>shares in-country situation updates and developments with IFRC APRO.</p> <p>IFRC is providing technical support to SLRCS for the operation and coordinating with SLRCS for information sharing with the Movement and external partners. The IFRC CCD in Delhi and APRO provided further coordination support for information sharing and resources.</p>
<b>ICRC</b>	<p>SLRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and ICRC in implementing various programmes. During the flood, the IFRC country office with the assistance of the IFRC CCD Delhi and ICRC worked 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.</p>
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	<p>There is no Participating National Societies (PNS) presence in the country.</p>

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	<p>No</p>
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>The President's Secretary has issued instructions to the MOH, urging them to continue implementing dengue control programs in collaboration with the Dengue Control Task Force. As such, the MOH has launched a comprehensive nationwide programme to control the spread of dengue and has advised the heads of government institutions, schools, and other establishments to inspect and clean potential mosquito breeding sites.</p> <p>The programme includes the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regular inspections of residential and commercial premises in urban and rural areas</li> <li>2. Information dissemination in the affected communities</li> <li>3. Identification of dengue patients</li> <li>4. Implementation of necessary measures such as fumigation and on-site inspections to destroy dengue-carrying mosquitoes and larvae.</li> </ol> <p>Despite these efforts, coverage of those activities is insufficient to limit the current rate of spread, and inadequate government institution capability is also a hindrance to conducting an effective dengue control programme. The MoH has requested SLRCS, in its capacity as an auxiliary to the local authorities in the respective branches, to support and extend comprehensive programmes in the communities and to be involved in controlling the Dengue outbreak in the country.</p> <p>In addition, and with regards to the ongoing flood, the national and local level Disaster Management agencies and district administrative units are leading the floods and landslide response across the country. According to the DMC, the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Police have been deployed to all affected locations. The Security Forces would carry out rescue operations when and where necessary. The Department of Irrigation has monitored the water levels</p>





	in river basins and low-lying areas and provided alerts and warnings to the public in close coordination with the DMC.
<b>UN or other actors</b>	There is no UN organization intervention related to the dengue outbreak and the floods in the mentioned districts.
<b>Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?</b>	
The government is leading the coordination in an informal and bilateral manner. SLRCS is in close coordination with the authorities, DMC, and NDCU - together with RDHS and MOH, are coordinating all the responses related to the Dengue control operations.	



# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Health

With the current extreme rain, the NDCU highlights that there is high potential for a significant increase in Dengue cases in the country, with already 2,055 cases in the second week of May. There is a dire need to support government clean-up campaigns to curb the rising trend of the outbreak. Based on the projection of the last two years, the reported dengue cases could start going down in the 30th week of June 2023, if SLRCS conducts Dengue campaigns from the 20th to the 32nd week (<https://lookerstudio.google.com/reporting/95b978f1-5c1a-44fb-a436-e19819e939c0/page/XRtTB>). This is the period when the highest number of dengue cases will be expected in selected most dengue-vulnerable eight districts of the country, so it is necessary to ensure proper control plans to reduce the risk in affected schools and communities in the area.

The initiatives that the government and other agencies have taken are very limited to stop or reduce mosquito breeding, due to heavy rainwater deposited in different places and from where mosquitos are getting enabling the environment to breed faster, increasing the dengue outbreak. Though commendable, the ongoing cleaning campaigns are insufficient and the awareness campaigns on dengue are very low in most of the communities.

Important to be highlighted, is the perceived poor level of understanding of dengue fever among the population, which requires proper risk communication and community engagement to improve their knowledge of what actions need to be taken at which stage to prevent the disease.

Further, In Matara districts, healthcare facilities are affected by the flood; therefore, communities are facing difficulty in reaching out to immediate health and care services. Moreover, the current floods increase the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.

With the prevailing economic crises, and the condition of the health system in the country, which is already in decline, it is difficult to manage the high number of dengue cases and hospitals are overwhelmed with patients. An increase in dengue cases and a potential water-related disease outbreak would worsen the situation, thus it is critical to provide support to the government through this operation.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Based on the rapid assessment, it has been highlighted that the floods have brought in excess water, thus multiplying the dengue vector breeding sites. Indiscriminate solid waste disposal with potential dengue breeding containers such as yogurt cups, empty cans, plastic bottles, polythene bags, and plastic bags also needs to be stopped urgently.

Schools and public places must keep proper waste management containers even to segregate the waste, which further helps to proper waste management at the end of the disposal cycle. As such, it is important to support government efforts in scaling up the cleaning campaigns to help control the spread of the dengue outbreak.

In addition, drainages clogged by flood water and debris require prompt interventions to eliminate stagnant water in the communities, especially in the flood-affected district (Matara) where access to safe drinking water is one of the main concerns. Wells are the main source of drinking water in most affected households and these wells are currently inundated.





## Education

A total of 63 schools have been affected due to floods in Matara and Galle. The rapid assessment highlighted that children in most of the affected households had their school packs (e.g. books, stationeries, etc.) and many houses located at the banks of the rivers (Nilwala and Gin rivers) have been flooded. The households do not have the capacity to buy school packs for their children, which is a serious concern for the families affected by the flood. Therefore, there will be a need to support them in terms of school stationaries and clothes when they return to school.

Schools in several educational zones of the Southern province remain closed from 15 and 16 May, due to unfavorable weather conditions. Affected schools may require internal and external clean-up to remove the mud and stagnant water in the classrooms to identify and eliminate the mosquito breeding sites to prevent the further spread of dengue in children. Proper solid waste management also needs to be in place in order to ensure that school children are safe both at school and at home.



## Migration

Due to flooding, very minimal displacement was reported in the Matara district, and the displaced families found safety with host communities. No public building was used as the camp. There are no migrations need/gaps identified due to the dengue outbreak or the floods.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

The need to provide accurate information to communities on Dengue prevention and transmission methods has been highlighted. In addition, it is important to make use of risk communication and community engagement strategies to ensure information on the disease is provided to communities in the right ways.

Moreover, it is essential to provide information to the dengue and floods affected communities on the assistance to be provided and the various beneficiary selection criteria. This would require SLRCS closely coordinate with the community members when planning the response activities.

SLRCS has also identified the need for establishing a community feedback mechanism throughout the operation, to ensure all the voices of the community are heard and accepted. For conducting the activities, SLRCS strategies will include a strong community engagement mechanism to ensure community ownership is built throughout the operation.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Following the floods, the most affected branch Matara conducted a rapid assessment and identified that most of the poor and affected households lost their daily income, as 90 per cent of affected households' income depends on daily labor in the plantation sector. With the floods, it is not possible to go out to work in the fields while



homes are flooded. The communities are worried about their children as the flooding resulted in a shortage of food availability, and after the water has reduced, they will need to repair their houses, which will be difficult as they do not have the means for it.



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

With the current flood context, as of 16 May 2023, 3,640 households (14,896 people) have been affected in 10 districts across the country, while Matara district (3,390 households) is reported as the worst affected. Indeed, the people lost their assets and means of income during this disaster. Though the displacement number is not significant, many people have moved from affected houses and staying in the host communities.

In the Matara district, the majority of the affected households are from either the plantation sector or fisheries communities. These people are considered vulnerable due to the current economic situation in the country and this natural hazard has increased their vulnerability. According to the DMC update on 17 May 2023, only three houses were fully destroyed by the flood. The government will provide assistance to households that sustained full damage from the flood.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The main objective of this operation is to curb the rising trend of the dengue outbreak with a view to reducing the current number of cases in the eight targeted districts across Sri Lanka, including Colombo, Kalutara, Gampaha, Trincomalee, Kandy, Batticaloa, Kegalle and Galle by reaching at least 231,000 people with Dengue awareness and clean-up activities.

In addition, the National Society also plans to support the quick recovery of at least 5,000 flood-affected people (1,000 households) in Matara districts through the provision of multipurpose cash grants to 750 households, provision of household items to 500 people (100 households) and providing 750 school children with the assistance of school packs. Further, 500 households will be supported through well-cleaning activities. The flood-affected people will also get medical and first aid services through the medical camps in 6 affected divisions.

Above services will be delivered to a total of 236,000 people (at least), within a four (4) month operational timeframe to ensure proper coverage of all targeted areas.

## Operation strategy rationale

The strategy for this operation is fully in line with SLRCS and IFRC policies, procedures, commitments, and mandates. The operation proposed by SLRCS focuses on complementing government initiatives in controlling the ongoing dengue outbreak, given that the NDCU projects further spread of the disease in the coming months due to the unfavorable weather conditions. As such, the response to the flood-affected people will only be considered in Matara district which have been affected by Cyclone Mocha-related heavy rains.

This operation is planned for a four-month duration as an emergency response and shall focus on the following



sectors:

#### 1- Health (Target: 236,000 people):

With the support of IFRC, SLRCS seeks to provide response and prevention support for the most vulnerable communities to reduce dengue cases in the eight targeted districts. Dengue mitigation activities, with a focus on response, will be implemented in the districts of Colombo, Kalutara, Gampaha, Trincomalee, Kandy, Batticaloa, Kegalle and Galle which are affected by the outbreak.

With the prevailing economic crises, the condition of the health system in the country is already in decline, thus it is difficult to manage the high number of dengue cases and hospitals are overwhelmed with patients. Given that hospital capacity has been extremely challenged with high number of dengue cases being reported, especially in the Colombo and Gampaha districts, trained volunteers will be deployed as health assistants to lead clean-up campaigns at the selected hospitals in the most affected areas. The neighboring districts, as well as others, are still at risk of outbreaks due to continuous interrupted monsoon rains, so awareness will be provided here to reduce the risk of active outbreak in these areas.

Further, community-based surveillance will be implemented through household visits and using adapted IEC materials to ensure community members are aware of the household dengue prevention and elimination actions to be taken if identified with dengue. During school cleaning campaigns, students need to be briefed at the morning assembly on dengue. Prior to these door-to-door visits, volunteers will be trained on the signs and symptoms of dengue, to ease their interactions with community members and this will help facilitate community detection.

Risk communication and community engagement techniques will be essential in implementing these dengue awareness actions as it will allow targeted communities have a better understanding of dengue prevention actions, how to determine symptoms and provide guidance on where to find help if suspected cases are detected.

Furthermore, information, education, and communication (IEC) materials containing details on dengue will be distributed among households and schools during these cleaning campaigns.

#### 2- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (Target: 50,000 people):

The need for environmental management for the elimination of dengue vector breeding sites remains the mainstay of managing the outbreak. Government-led clean-up campaigns are being conducted to eliminate these breeding sites, which are proliferating with the ongoing monsoon season. However, both human resources, as well as physical resources, are dwindling due to the ongoing crisis and the shortages of medicine. Hygiene and sanitation facilities were badly damaged in households and schools. At present, the corporate sector is showing satisfactory interest, but it could be a challenge to sustain this.

As such, clean-up campaigns, including solid waste management, will be organized in high-risk areas as suggested by the health authorities for the inspection and clean-up of dengue breeding sites. These campaigns will focus on schools, households, and communities and shall contribute to reducing the incidence of dengue spreading and relating hospitalizations. The clean-up campaigns will also prevent any other water and/or dirt related disease outbreaks as targeted compounds will also be disinfected. To note, proper solid-waste management is required in high-risk areas and public places to reduce breeding of dengue vectors and will be promoted during the clean-up campaigns.

Coordination with local authorities is vital to carry out the clean-up campaigns and solid-waste management during the dengue response as there should be sustainability in continuing to keep the environment clean to stop further mosquito breeding. As such, risk communication and community engagement techniques will be essential in ensuring long-lasting results of these community-based vector control actions.

The door-to-door campaign should go with government officials, PHI and MOH officers of the Dengue control unit to be aware of the proper and sustainable solution for eliminating the dengue mosquito breeding places which helps



households to follow the effective and no-cost practices at the household level.

Distribution of mosquito repellent to urban areas, especially to people and students who are mostly outside during the day, in the high-risk zone areas, will protect them from mosquito bites, which will reduce dengue infection. Throughout the response operation, SLRCS will focus on environmental sustainability. Especially, SLRCS will advocate to authorities to avoid activities such as fogging which will have a negative impact on the sustainability of the environment.

SLRCS will also ensure that the population has access to safe drinking water by providing water tanks to safe shelters and drinking water bottles to communities. The National Society will also be involved in cleaning of inundated wells.

Overall, the Dengue prevention programme awareness sessions will be prioritized throughout the operation period. All programmes will be conducted by closely coordinating the government health authorities at both National and local levels.

### 3- Multipurpose Cash (Target: 3,750 people or 750 households):

Based on a rapid need assessment, it was highlighted that the poor and vulnerable people in Galle and Matara lost their income due to unavailability of work, which resulted in a shortage of food in their homes. At the same time, repair works of their houses is a burden for them as they do not have resources. As such, the flood affected families in Matara district will be prioritized for multi-purpose cash assistance as they have been highly affected by the monsoon flooding. This cash grant will be distributed to 750 vulnerable households to fill the gap in their basic needs.

A detailed assessment will be conducted prior to the distribution, and the assessment team will analyse the market condition and the priority needs of the flood-affected families. The value of the cash grant will be determined based on the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) analysis, where the cost of repairing partial damages of the house will be considered. There will be no restrictions on the use of the cash grants received, to enable the families maintain their dignity by prioritizing the use of the funds based on their specific needs. Once the cash grant distribution is concluded, a post distribution monitoring will be conducted to evaluate the efficiency of this intervention.

SLRCS HQ has CVA-trained personnel to plan and implement the MPC activities on the ground, and at the same time ongoing MPC activities under the Emergency Appeal will also be taken into consideration to avoid targeting the same people.

### 4- Shelter and household items (Target: 500 people or 100 households):

The most affected vulnerable people whose houses are inundated by the floods in Matara from five GNs will be supported with household items such as folding mattresses, towels, bed sheets, sarong, and kaplan. These will be provided and distributed in kind by the SLRCS in the flood affected district Matara.

### 5- Education (Target: 750 students):

The rapid assessment highlighted a total of 63 schools have been affected due to floods in Matara and Galle and severely affected schools in Matara will be included in the clean-up campaigns and solid waste management will also be promoted in those schools. During school cleaning campaigns, students will be briefed at the morning assembly on dengue and will receive information, education, and communication (IEC) materials containing details for their education on dengue.

A total of 133 schools will be provided with three sets of solid waste sorting bins along with training on their proper use. These bins will include a compost bin and three color-coded bins to collect polythene/plastic, glass, and metal.

Additionally, due to the houses being flooded, children from affected households lost their school items including books, stationeries. Their parents are currently not able replace these items and the children need to return to



school. Therefore, SLRCS will provide 750 students/pupils with school stationaries and clothes to facilitate a dignified return to schools in Matara.

Cross-cutting issues:

a) Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

Risk communication and community engagement on dengue prevention and response activities will be integrated to the health and WASH activities. Similarly, information on the floods-related assistance will be clearly communicated to the affected communities, focusing on the assistance-provision process. Volunteers from the local community will be engaged in the response and relief process. A feedback mechanism will also be established to address the grievances of the community.

b) Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI):

Once a disaster strikes, the population becomes more vulnerable, thus SLRCS with IFRC support, will ensure the dignity, access, and participation of all community members is secured during the intervention period. The most vulnerable members of the affected communities will be prioritized during the beneficiary selection process and assistance provision. SLRCS PGI-trained volunteers and staff will be taking part in planning the response activities.

The government authorities will be coordinating the national response plan. By the end of the operation in August 2023, the SLRCS/IFRC will evaluate through an assessment to extend, transit, or exit the Red Cross intervention.

c) National Society Strengthening:

The National Society will engage current and new SLRCS staff to be fully funded under the DREF for the duration of four months, to ensure proper implementation and monitoring of activities. This includes:

- One (1) project manager, three (3) Field Officers (ensuring coordination in eight districts and based in Branches),- One (1) Accountant, One (1) bookkeepers also based on the field.
- In addition, 17 Community mobilizers, will be hired to support field activities for 4 weeks across the targeted districts. This is to help intensify the clean-up campaigns.

To note, community mobilizers are people from the communities where the clean-up campaigns will be carried out. The community mobilizers are skilled people with knowledge and understanding of the communities, who understand the context and have experience/expertise on coordination while being well connected to local stakeholders, local government authorities and health practitioners. These community mobilizers would work as a bridge between the community and the SLRCS, to guide the volunteers by providing information and disease hotspots. According to the SLRCS volunteer policies, the community mobilizers cannot be volunteers as they are not trained by the National Society, which justifies why they would be paid according to the SLRCS salary scale.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

Dengue outbreak: A total of eight districts that are severely affected by the dengue spreading, 46,200 households (231,000 people) will be targeted as direct people under the dengue outbreak prevention responses during the households' visits.

Floods: Based on the flood need assessment, 1,000 households (5,000 people as direct beneficiaries) who are affected by the flood will be targeted in the Matara district for multi-purpose cash assistance (750 households), household items (100 households), and school packs (750 children representing 150 households) well and houses clean-up activities.

Total: In both responses under dengue and flood, 236,000 people will be targeted, with clean-up activities.



### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

SLRCS will closely work with NDCU, RDHS, and MOH to identify the high-risk areas recommended by epidemiologists from the Ministry of Health. Those areas including schools, markets, and public places, bare lands will be targeted for clean-up campaigns and for Health and WASH intervention. Identified GN divisions as high-risk zones will be included in door-to-door campaigns and distribute IEC materials, and solid-waste management practices and facilities will be targeted. Under the flood responses, based on the vulnerability criteria the selection criteria are to include the most vulnerable people affected or displaced due to the flash floods.

## Total Targeted Population

Women:	<b>120,360</b>	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	<b>375</b>	<b>40.00 %</b>	<b>60.00 %</b>
Men:	<b>115,640</b>	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	<b>375</b>	<b>1.00 %</b>	
Total targeted population:	<b>236,000</b>		

## Risk and security considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Risk of Covid 19 and another communicable disease transmission	-Deploy trained staff and volunteers provided with PPEs. -Work closely with the government authorities -Use masks and hand sanitizer by staff and volunteers. Provide sufficient masks and hand sanitizers.
Risk of contracting the dengue virus	This risk will be mitigated by providing self-care packs, which consist of mosquito repellents, gloves, and hand sanitizers, to all volunteers working in the field.
Ongoing southwest monsoon - delaying the implementation of the activities	Pre-planning of activities and better coordination with local authorities for implementation of activities without delay.

### Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation


The SLRCS security framework will be applicable for the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, existing IFRC country office/ CCD security plans will be applicable. All IFRC and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses. The National Society enjoys a good level of community acceptance countrywide, with established networks of community-based volunteers.







# Planned Intervention


	<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 3,441
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	236000
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of people reached through social media dengue campaign		236000	
# of people informed about the selection process of the beneficiaries		850	
# of staff and volunteers trained on CEA		600	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feedback mechanism receiving and addressing the grievances from communities</li> <li>2. Social media dengue campaigns</li> <li>3. Sharing the selection criteria with the community</li> <li>4. Strengthening feedback mechanism (hotline services)</li> <li>5. Operation staff training on CEA and PGI</li> </ol>	

	<b>National Society Strengthening</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 58,950
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	600
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of monitoring visits conducted at the NHQ and branch level		10	
# of volunteers involved in the operation insured		600	
# of lessons learned workshop conducted		1	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruit and deploy all local operation-based staff at NHQ and Branch level</li> <li>2. Stationeries, fuel, transport, and all other resources needed for the implementation</li> <li>3. All staff and volunteers are insured, and protection is ensured throughout the operation.</li> <li>4. Conduct assessment as per the need for the situation and need analysis</li> <li>5. Conduct monitoring by Branch/ HQ/ IFRC</li> <li>6. Conduct progress review meetings at the NHQ level</li> </ol>	

	7. Conduct training on communication for volunteers and staff of eight branches 8. Conduct lesson learned workshop.
--	--

	<b>Secretariat Services</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 9,569
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of person deployed to support the operation		1	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		1. Deployment of surge support through IFRC surge system	

	<b>Shelter Housing And Settlements</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 3,736
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	500
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of households provided with household items assistance.		100	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		1. Procurement and distribution of household items including 100 folding mattresses, towels, kitchen sets, and jerry cans to the people severely affected by the flood in the Matara district.	


	<b>Multi-purpose Cash</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 52,795
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	3750
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of targeted households provided with cash assistance.		750	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		1. Provide unconditional cash grants to targeted 750 households in flood-affected areas. 2. Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring	

	<b>Health</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 79,275
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	236000
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	

# of people reached by medical camps and First aid assistance.	5000
# of people reached with Dengue awareness on door-to-door campaigns	236000
# of volunteers trained on Epidemic control	600
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct epidemic control training will be conducted for 600 volunteers covering all the eight branches</li> <li>2. Conduct community surveillance and door-to-door visits covering 46,200 households, which includes mobilization of volunteers, incentives, coordination with the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health officer's inspection, and use of tools to clean up and identify the dengue breeding places.</li> <li>3. Distribution of 2,660 mosquito repellents to the high-risk zone schools and public and government offices.</li> <li>4. Establish six medical camps and continuation of first-aid services to provide additional health assistance to affected communities</li> <li>5. Conduct National-level training on Health in Emergencies to strengthen the health pool of a total of 25 volunteers and staff</li> </ol>

	<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 122,190
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	50000
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of clean-up and disinfection campaigns at community places/public buildings including households		60	
# of water sources rehabilitated		500	
# of people reached in targeted communities have reduced their immediate risks of waterborne and water-related diseases.		50000	
# of schools covered through clean up and school-based awareness programs.		133	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conduct 60 cleanup campaigns in communities under vector control.</li> <li>2. Cleaning of 500 wells in the flood-affected districts.</li> <li>3. Conduct five clean-up campaigns covering only flood-affected districts to clean floodwater stacked places such as drainage and common buildings including schools.</li> </ol>	

	<p>4. Cleanup and school-based awareness programmes - 133 Schools are covered in 12 districts</p> <p>5. Provide safe drinking water to the flood-affected communities with support from the branch resources</p>
--	--

	<b>Education</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 18,515
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	750
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of affected school children received Schools packs.		750	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		1. Access to education is ensured via providing necessary school stationaries to continue affected children’s education	

	<b>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 0
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	236000
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of individuals covered through dignity, access, and protection activities		236000	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		1. Dignity, access, protection, and safety are ensured via PGI activities across both responses when engaging with the communities. 2. Considering the most vulnerable and disabled children under the provision of education support	

## About Support Services

### How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 600 volunteers (with a combination of males and females) will be involved in this response. The profile will be covering WASH and Health (including PSFA), CEA, and PGI sectors. Staff and volunteers from the Colombo branch and SLRCS HQ will be engaged as well directly. The operation will be run by a project manager (national staff) with a team comprising a project assistant, field officer, coordinator, finance, driver, etc.

### Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

Depending on the situation, surge personnel (Health, WASH, or Operation) will be deployed to support the operation.

### If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

It is projected that the market in Colombo will be sufficient to supply the required items. Thus, there will be no need for international procurement. Since the items requested are available and within the threshold of in-country procurement, it will be done by SLRCS following IFRC procurement standards.



### **How will this operation be monitored?**

SLRCS will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the dengue-affected area through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. IFRC, through its Country Office and CCD in Delhi and APRO in Kuala Lumpur, will provide technical support in program management to ensure the operational objectives are met. Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF minimum reporting standards. Regular updates will be issued during the operation's timeframe and a final report within three months of the end of the operation.

### **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.**

SLRCS communications staff are working in close coordination with the IFRC regional communications team to ensure that the evolving humanitarian needs and SLRCS response is well profiled across social media platforms and in the national and international media. A proactive approach will be taken to maintain media outreach and to produce communications materials including press releases, news stories, photos/videos, key messages, and infographics for external promotion by Partner National Societies in their networks.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRLK017 - Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Dengue Outbreak & Floods

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>279,952</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	3,736
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	52,795
Health	79,275
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	122,190
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	18,515
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	3,441
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>68,519</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	9,569
National Society Strengthening	58,950
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>348,470</b>

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)





# Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **National Society contact:**

Dr Mahesh Gunsekera, Director General, mahesh.gunasekara@redcross.lk, +94 7003471084

- **IFRC Appeal Manager:** Udaya Kumar Regmi, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, udaya.regmi@ifrc.org

- **IFRC Project Manager:** Manik Saha, Operations Manager, manik.saha@ifrc.org

- **IFRC focal point for the emergency:**

Udaya Regmi, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, udaya.regmi@ifrc.org, +919667438124

- **Media Contact:** Afrhill Rances, Regional Communication Manager, afrhill.rances@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

