



# SRI LANKA

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

14 December 2023

## IN SUPPORT OF THE SRI LANKA RED CROSS



25

National Society branches



100

National Society staff



12,500

National Society volunteers

## PEOPLE REACHED

Ongoing emergency operations



132,000

Climate and environment



12,000

Disasters and crises



66,000

Health and wellbeing



70,000

Migration and displacement



5,000

Values, power and inclusion



40,000

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

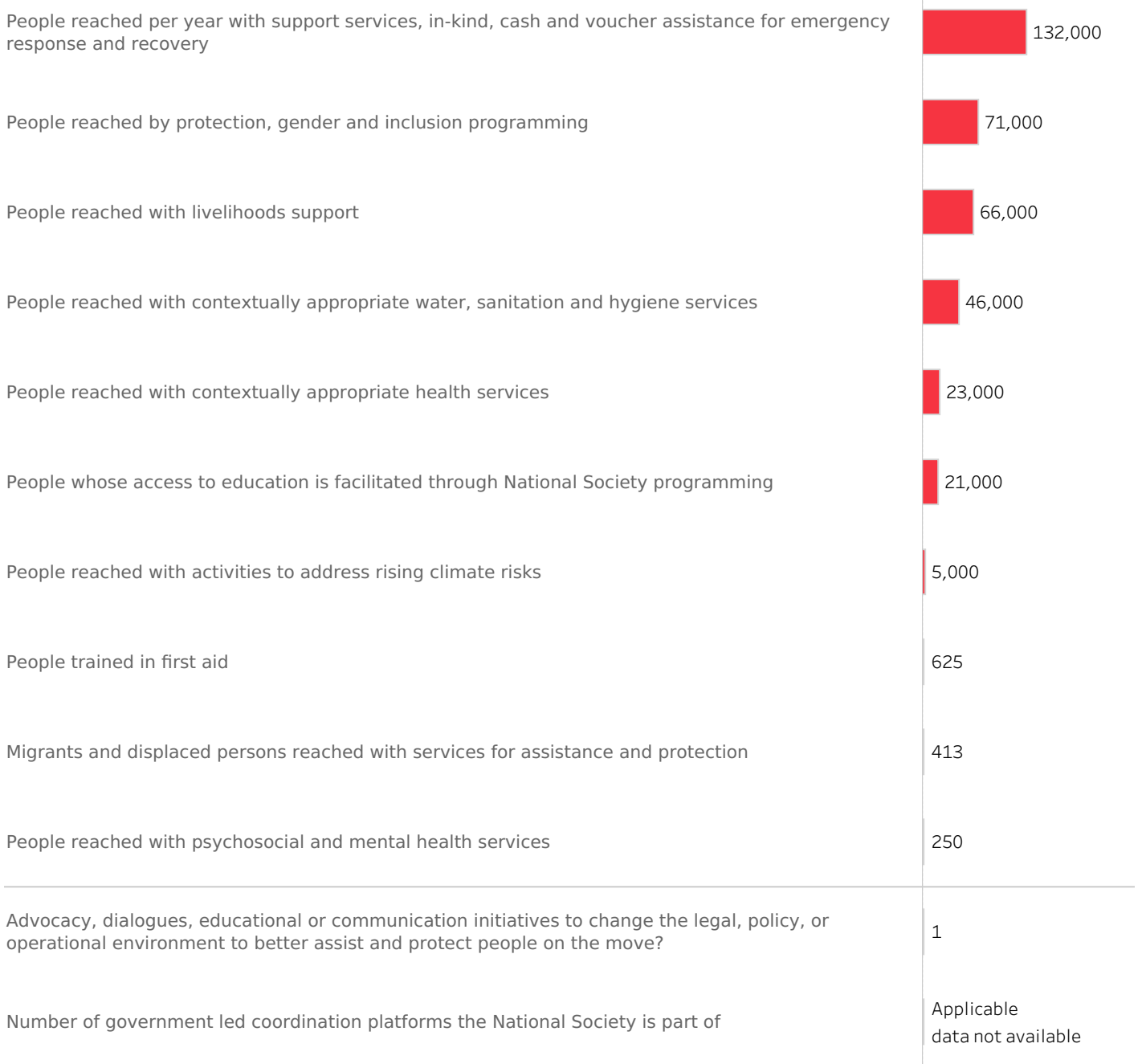
<b>Total</b>	Funding requirements	29.2M
	Emergency Operations	28.0M
<b>IFRC</b>	Income	3.6M
	Longer-term Funding requirements	623,000
	Income	73,000

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal numbers **MAALK002, MDRLK014**

# ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRLK014 / Sri Lanka / *Complex Emergency*










## ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS (CON.)

MDRLK014 / Sri Lanka / *Complex Emergency*

By 2025, climate and environmental risks are factored into all our programmes and humanitarian operations	Yes
Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes
Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move are available	Yes
National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
Needs assessment for livelihoods and food security is used to generate criteria for targeting most at-risk people/households	Yes
One National Society Development plan is in place	Applicable data not available
PSEA policy is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Applicable data not available
Support # National Societies in developing, testing and implementing climate resilient strategies, plans and programmes, ensuring resources, knowledge and skills are available to the “last mile” communities.	1
Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	Applicable data not available

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

<b>Climate</b>	People reached with activities to address environmental problems	Applicable data not available
	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups	Applicable data not available
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Applicable data not available
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with livelihoods support	 66,000
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	 27,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	63
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 70,000
	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 14,000
	People donating blood	2,000
	People trained in first aid	250
	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	 5,000
<b>Migration and displacement</b>	Advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move?	1
	Data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move are available	Yes
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	 40,000
	People whose access to education is facilitated through National Society programming	 21,000
	People reached by National Society educational programmes	Applicable data not available
	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	1
<b>National Society Development</b>	One National Society Development plan is in place	Applicable data not available
	Strategy for strengthening the auxiliary role developed or implemented	Yes
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has demonstrated progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy	Yes
	National Society has functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions	Yes
	National Society has strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms	Applicable data not available
PSEA Action Plan is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Applicable data not available	
PSEA policy is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Applicable data not available	

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support					
		Climate	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
American Red Cross	●						
Australian Red Cross	●						
Austrian Red Cross	●						
British Red Cross	●						
Canadian Red Cross Society	●						
German Red Cross	●						
Irish Red Cross Society	●						
Italian Red Cross	●						
Japanese Red Cross Society	●						
Korean Red Cross	●						
Netherlands Red Cross	●						
Norwegian Red Cross	●						
Red Cross of Monaco	●						
Red Cross Society of China	●						
Swedish Red Cross	●						

■ Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

Sri Lanka is facing a complex emergency characterized by high inflation, a deteriorating currency, food insecurity, shortages of fuel, essential healthcare services, power cuts, 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% between 2010 and 2016. However, growth slowed in 2017 and the economy contracted by 3.6% in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 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. The crisis has led to increased vulnerability, poverty, and destitution among a significant portion of the population. This has resulted in people selling assets, becoming indebted, and cutting down on food, and their children are less likely to attend school.

Although civil unrest has largely subsided since its peak last year, protests and marches continue to occur on occasion since early 2023, connected to a variety of issues, including increased electricity costs, and rising income taxes. Several trade unions, including hospital doctors, state bankers, and port workers have called for significant strike activities. Sri Lankans are still facing a high cost of living (utility bills and taxes) and severe unemployment after being plagued for much of the year by power outages and shortages of food, medicines, essential goods, petrol, and cooking fuel.

The country still has a long way to go in rebuilding its damaged economy. The snaking fuel lines have vanished, as have the hour-long daily power outages and acute cooking gas shortages. However, excessive inflation continues to affect millions of people, and the government has halted payments of its foreign debt as its foreign exchange reserves have fallen to historic lows. The long-term consequences include a lack of secure jobs, child malnutrition, gaps in the public health system, and many migrants fleeing for better opportunities abroad, including skilled migrants (a total of 311,269 people left the country in 2022, the highest in history, of which one in five are domestic workers).

Sri Lanka has also been affected by various hazards, including weather-related events such as cyclones and monsoon rain, along with subsequent flooding, landslides, and the dengue epidemic. Of these, localized and seasonal flooding have been the greatest threat to the population, and the flood risk profile is rising due to the expected increase in the impact and frequency of hydro-meteorological extreme hazards due to climate change. During the month of May 2023, Sri Lanka also experienced the impact of the intensification of the severe cyclonic storm "Mocha" over the east-central Bay of Bengal, heavy wind speeds (50–60 kmph) in sea areas, and heavy rainfall in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central and North-Western provinces, along with Galle and Matara districts.

In addition, dengue cases have been on the rise in the country since the beginning of 2023. The cases reported in 2023 are three times higher than those recorded during the corresponding period in the last two years. A higher number of cases have been recorded in the western, southwestern and eastern provinces.

# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Sri Lanka Complex Emergency
<b>Appeal code</b>	MDRLK014
<b>Operation timeframe</b>	19 months (7 June 2022 to 31 December 2023)
<b>Financial requirements</b>	Through IFRC Emergency Appeal: CHF 28 million Federation-wide: CHF 28.5 million
<b>Emergency Appeal link</b>	<a href="#">Emergency Appeal - Sri Lanka Complex Emergency</a>
<b>Last operations update</b>	<a href="#">Sri Lanka Complex Emergency Operations Update</a>

During the reporting period, nutritional services offered by the government to pregnant and lactating mothers and children under five have been interrupted due to severe shortages of the “Thripasha” nutrition supplement.

The surge of negative coping mechanisms due to the economic crisis, coupled with the civil unrest, have further exposed women, girls and marginalized groups to risks of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), child marriage and other child protection issues.

For instance, local authorities and civil society groups have reported an increase in domestic violence since the COVID-19 pandemic and there has been a 30 per cent increase in women joining the sex industry in Colombo since January, according to the Stand-Up Movement Lanka (SUML), the country’s leading advocacy group for sex workers.

The Emergency Appeal of CHF 28 million is to assist communities affected by the civil unrest and food insecurity in Sri Lanka. The Appeal is currently only 18 per cent funded. Supported by the IFRC, **Sri Lanka Red Cross** is looking to provide 500,000 people with support for their livelihoods and basic needs, safe drinking water, health and hygiene needs.

The National Society focuses its humanitarian response on the most vulnerable households: farmers across nine provinces, low-income fishermen in coastal districts, casual laborers in the country’s west, and the plantation workers of the estate community. It is also supporting the health sector with in-kind medications sourced through Movement partners and distributed through health facilities in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

The operation ensures that the most vulnerable and marginalized groups are able to meet their immediate basic needs with the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance. The cash assistance aims to mitigate the depletion of household livelihood assets and reduce negative coping strategies. The response also includes nutritional food packages for pregnant and lactating mothers, school packages for students in poor schools in rural and urban areas, and menstrual hygiene packages for female students. The operation is particularly focused on integrating Protection, Gender and Inclusion and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) considerations across all activities as well as in other community resilience-building initiatives of the National Society.

Sri Lanka Red Cross has 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).

The National Society also has 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 National Society 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, the National Society has been monitoring the situation closely, mindful of 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. National Society teams provided first aid and ambulance support to people affected by the civil unrest, including to both civilian and security personnel. More than 22,600 people have been treated since April 2022, which includes 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, affected by the economic crisis and by food insecurity.

As detailed in the most recent Operation Update no.3, the operation has been extended until 31 December 2023. The standard 12-month report covering the progress of the operation until 6 June 2023, was published in July 2023. The operation strategy and implementation plan until 31 December 2023, now incorporates the Sri Lanka country unified plan. The reporting of the operation is aligned with the bi-annual reporting of the unified plan of Sri Lanka and further information can be found at IFRC Go, [IFRC GO: Sri Lanka Complex Emergency](#)

## SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

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### Food Security and Livelihoods

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**Objective:** *Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods*

A total of 1,002 households were supported with conditional cash grants to recover and strengthen livelihoods. The selected households received conditional cash grant assistance of LKR 75,000 (CHF 230). 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. The National Society promotes climate-smart practices through this intervention.

To enhance the intake of nutritious food, 15,000 nutrient food packs were distributed to the most vulnerable pregnant mothers covering all 25 districts.

6,200 nutritional food packs were distributed to severely malnourished children under the programme with the support of the Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians.

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, each branch has received a quota of 180 on average and assisted 18,000 elderly people.

Additionally, 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).



### Multi-purpose Cash

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**Objective:** *Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs*

Sri Lanka Red Cross identified 13,150 vulnerable households, who by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, had received multipurpose cash assistance to meet their basic needs. 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 based on the recommendation of the Cash Working Group and calculated to meet the Minimum Food Expenditure Basket. The value of the grant for each household is LKR 20,000 (CHF 60).

All 25 district branches of the National Society worked together with the local authorities to identify the beneficiaries for multipurpose cash assistance.

According to the post distribution monitoring findings, conducted by Sri Lanka Red Cross, together with IFRC, 76 per cent of respondents used cash assistance for food followed by payment to utilities, medicine, education, and debt repayment. A total of 62 per cent of respondents spent most of their cash in local markets, as items were available, and 25 per cent went to district markets for lower prices, and 11 per cent spent most of their cash in local grocery stores. A further, 87 per cent of respondents mentioned that Sri Lanka Red Cross 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.

The National Society also conducted a market assessment in coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP) and shared the findings and recommendations with various stakeholders.



## Health and Care

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*(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)*

**Objective:** *Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community-level interventions and health system strengthening*

Sri Lanka Red Cross conducted a Psychological First Aid 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.

A total of 3,125 First Aid kits have been distributed to all Sri Lanka Red Cross branches and these have assisted 37,659 people in meeting their basic health needs in a timely way.

Sri Lanka Red Cross is implementing a school feeding programme to support the most vulnerable school children from the estate sector with providing nutritious food. A total of 119 schools in the 13 districts were selected for the programme and 16,079 children are benefitting from it.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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**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*

The procurement of 416,250 packs (10 pads per pack) of sanitary napkins was 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.



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

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**Objective:** *Communities identify the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs*

A total of 14,152 households (13,150 multipurpose cash recipient and 1,002 conditional cash grant recipients) were identified to be in the priority Protection, Gender and Inclusion category and were included in the beneficiary list.

The National Society completed three rounds of training on Protection, Gender and Inclusion for staff and volunteers. A total of 52 participants, 23 males, and 29 females, attended the workshop. The overall objective of the training was to enable participants to understand the key elements of Protection, Gender and Inclusion, their implications, and how they can be applied in their respective areas of work.



## Community Engagement and Accountability

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

Sri Lanka Red Cross conducted two Community Engagement and Accountability trainings. One was a three-day branch-level training in which 22 volunteers and 10 staff, 12 female and 20 males, were trained. In the second training with 27 participants, 11 female and 16 males, participated. These trainings included both theory and practical application of Community Engagement and Accountability concepts, including Kobo data management. The main objective of the trainings was to train the National Society staff and volunteers on the concept of Community Engagement and Accountability, on Movement-wide minimum actions for Community Engagement and Accountability, including in an emergency, as well as on the processing of feedback.

Currently, the National Society is actively maintaining records of the feedback received from the community, mainly from the people who received multi-purpose cash. The National Society established two hotline numbers that community members can contact 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Dedicated National Society staff at headquarters handle incoming calls and promptly provide any requested information and clarify common queries, such as when to get assistance and whether any additional documents are required to be submitted, among others.



## Migration

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

A total of 413 migrants have been supported so far with multi-purpose cash grants to meet their basic needs. They were selected based on criteria and with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Because the migrants don't have access to a bank account or a phone, cash transfers were given in person since the National Society cannot send online transfers for them. The National Society has established a control mechanism to manage transparency during cash distribution.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery

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**Objective:** *The National Society's capacity to engage in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) programming is strengthened*

A total of 26 staff and volunteers received training on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Three staff and volunteers also received training on climate-smart agriculture that helped the National Society implement

livelihood interventions under the Emergency Appeal. The trained staff and volunteers also learned to promote climate-smart agriculture farming, ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and best practices for climate change.



## Environmental Sustainability

**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*

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. The National Society is very concerned to support the development of climate-smart farmers and entrepreneurs, as well as to help improve the economic, social, and environmental coherence within farming communities.



## Education

**Objective:** *School attendance of poor students is improved, and essential stationery items are provided*

As many children are unable to afford school stationery, the National Society gave 20,875 students in 25 districts, school packs that include stationery, a mathematical instrument box, and a school bag. These school packs were purchased locally, following approval from the Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management, Asia Pacific office.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

Under the climate and environment crisis strategic priority, the following two outcomes were prioritized in the unified planning 2023.

Outcome: Communities and Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) staff and volunteers undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises.

Outcome: IFRC and National Societies adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation.

During the reporting period, the National Society has been prioritizing capacity building on climate-smart practices and activities to strengthen and support the communities, stakeholders, staff, and volunteers on practices such as rainwater harvest, climate-smart crops, integrated natural resource management, land and water management and conservation. The National Society is engaging in major projects and working with communities, volunteers, and other community-based organizations on capacity building for climate-smart practices.

By implementing these community-based projects, it is empowering community-based organizations to take the lead in activities and ensuring that the knowledge is spread in the communities.

## **Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project – funding support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

This project supported by UNDP focuses on smallholder farmers in the Kurunegala district who were affected by climate change which adversely impacted their livelihoods and living standards. The project aims to improve access to irrigation and eco-system-based climate-smart agricultural practices, improve community-managed drinking water infrastructure, scale up decentralized drinking water systems and strengthen early warning, forecasting, and climate advisories to protect farmers, particularly women from climate-related impacts. The project aims to reach higher levels of food, water, and livelihood security for flood and drought-affected vulnerable communities.

The project has reached so far 2,155 farmers' households (10,775 people) with its activities to improve community-managed drinking water infrastructure, decentralize systems, and early warning, forecasting, and climate-related impacts.

## **Ground Water Recharging for Disaster Preparedness – Empress Shoken Fund**

This project aims to introduce innovative artificial water recharge methods that restore or buffer the depleted groundwater flow and safeguard vital regional water reservoirs. Instead of high-cost surface water retention, groundwater recharge emerges as a possible hope for parched lands in the dry zone. Other activities under this project included, increasing the drinking water quality by reducing the hardness of drinking water, increasing the green cover of the catchment area, and reducing the soil quality degradation that occurs due to soil erosion.

This project is funded by the Empress Shoken Fund through the IFRC. Awareness-raising programmes were carried out in two communities for 110 families, two schools for 528 students, and in the university for 105 university students. The main topics were, climate change and its impacts and groundwater recharging as a drought mitigation measure, which improves nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene in drought-prone vulnerable communities.

The project contributed to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) of Sri Lanka 2016–2025 (in line with the Paris Agreement commitment and the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions), under the priority actions in the Water Resources sector of the NAP. The project supported the Government of Sri Lanka to achieve its targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **Consultancy Services to conduct capacity needs assessment and capacity building, National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Readiness Support Project (NAPRSP) – funding support from Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and Climate Change Secretariate of the Ministry of Environment**

The National Adaptation Plan aims to strengthen Sri Lanka's capacity implement activities at the national, subnational, and community levels. In Sri Lanka, the Global Green Institute is the National Adaptation Plan's delivery partner while the National Society is working as the consultant for the Global Green Institute to implement the Readiness Support Project activities.

The National Society has been involved in organizing and facilitating nine provincial-level stakeholder consultancy workshops for the Readiness Support Project. Key officials of the respective provincial councils, academia, and officers of the central government participated in the workshops. The National Society carried out a provincial level capacity needs assessment of all nine provinces to understand the existing capacities of provincial councils to carry out the National Adaptation Plan.

Sri Lanka Red Cross is currently conducting a capacity needs assessment of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Change Centre to assess the human and physical resources to carry out the national and international level climate change tasks assigned to the Climate Change Secretariat.

So far, the National Society has reached and worked together with more than 820 stakeholders countrywide from the various departments and government authorities, such as the Ministry of Environment, the Fisheries, Agriculture, Health, Energy, and transport industry sectors.



## Disasters and crises

**Outcome:** *Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards environmental crises.*

**Outcome:** *People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to assistance and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency.*

**Outcome:** *National Societies respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters, and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well-defined and recognized.*

In the Unified plan 2023, the National Society has set up targets to reach 500,000 people with a funding requirement of CHF 354,500. However, during the reporting period, the planned activities could not be fully implemented due to a lack of funding as well as to the ongoing situation of crisis in the country. Due to the crisis, the National Society has had to utilize its available human resource capacity to support the ongoing Emergency Appeal and DREF activities.

Sri Lanka Red Cross has worked closely with the Meteorological Department of Sri Lanka, the Disaster Management Center, and other entities such as the National Dengue Control Unit to obtain weather alerts, early warning messages, and active dengue case information. This helps the National Society to disseminate early warning messages through the branch network and through social media to the at-risk vulnerable communities and volunteers to help save lives and ensures evacuation to safe places. Sri Lanka Red Cross circulates messages using social media platforms regarding monsoon weather situations and about the dengue outbreak in the country.

The National Society puts the focus on Cash and Voucher assistance and continuing Cash and Voucher assistance as an effective and dignified emergency response method. The National Society is already in the process of developing a Cash and Voucher operational strategy and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). It is also working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the strategic financial service provider to diversify the Cash and Voucher distribution methodology. The National Society actively links focal points, staff, and volunteers from each department, to engage in capacity building on Cash and Voucher best practices under the ongoing Emergency Appeal and DREF Cash and Voucher interventions.

Sri Lanka Red Cross is in the process of reforming its national level in-house response mechanism and training related to Branch Disaster Response Teams and National Disaster Response Teams. The National Society has already worked on a curriculum review of this training, aligning it with IFRC's surge optimization process, and enhancing its systems for rapid deployment, taking into account the recurrent large-scale unexpected disasters.

The National Society conducted two camp management trainings in Puttalam and Kalutara district branches under the ICRC capacity building programme. A total of 63 staff and volunteers (32 Male and 31 Female) participated in both events. The main objective was to improve the knowledge and skills of the staff and volunteers on basic concepts of camp management, enabling them to respond to disasters effectively and efficiently and to better prepare for future disasters, and maintain organizational readiness to respond.

Sri Lanka Red Cross also initiated the policy revision on national level response strategies: response framework, relief manual, and standard operating procedures (SOP) on in-country responses to floods. An initial meeting was held in June 2023, and the approach was approved by the working committee of the National Society.

In addition to the response assistance provided under the Emergency Appeal operation, 26,785 packs of dry rations were distributed to families affected by the ongoing economic crisis in 25 districts with bilateral support from the Chinese embassy (16,200 packs) and Singapore Red Cross (1,000 packs), as well as corporate partners such as Uber (8,085 packs) and Coco-Cola (1,500 packs).



## Health and wellbeing

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**Outcome:** *National Societies capitalize on their auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms and mechanisms.*

**Outcome:** *The health and well-being of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course.*

**Outcome:** *The health and dignity of communities in emergencies are maintained by providing access to appropriate health services.*

According to Unified Plan 2023, under this strategic priority, 50,000 people were targeted with CHF 58,882.69 funding request. Regrettably, little progress has been made under this strategic priority because the National Society diverted all its resources and time to the Emergency Appeal and the DREF operation which has been a priority during the reporting period.

Sri Lanka Red Cross, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and various other donors, launched “Elixir,” Sri Lanka’s first-ever platform for matching medical donation funds. As of 30 June 2023, LKR 414,211,474 (CHF 1.2 million) worth 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. “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 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.

Sri Lanka Red Cross is implementing a “Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in School” initiative to address the lack of proper disposal facilities for masks, other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and sanitary napkins in school premises. The National Society also aims to encourage adolescent girls to attend school during menstruation days, to improve proper disposal of sanitary napkins, and the water and sanitation facilities and privacy arrangements in the selected 47 schools in two schools. A total of 23,299 school children (9,726 male and 13,573 female) were involved in the awareness campaigns regarding menstrual hygiene, environmental and personal hygiene promotions, and water and sanitation facilities.

Providing training on first aid and providing first aid services are core activities of Sri Lanka Red Cross. Despite challenges with the complex economic crisis in the country, the National Society was able to reach around 13,500 people through 57 major first aid services conducted in 17 districts during the reporting period. These first aid services are conducted at temples and general festival events where people gather at large scale.

The National Society reached 220 participants, 126 male and 94 female, through the first-aid trainings conducted in the classroom. First aid instructor training was also carried out for 30 participants, 18 male and 12 female. A basic first aid exam was conducted across the country with 284 candidates participating and 197 passing the exam and being awarded certificates.

Other health services such as blood donation campaigns were carried out during the reporting period. A total of 39 blood donation campaigns were organized and 2,335 blood donors donated blood. The blood was handed over to the blood bank in the general hospital.



## Migration and displacement

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The following outcomes were planned alongside implementation of national level programmes:

**Outcome:** Migrants and displaced persons have access to humanitarian assistance and protection at key points along migratory routes as well access to durable solutions when appropriate.

**Outcome:** National Societies are able to engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to more effectively assess, understand and respond to their priority needs.

The number of people targeted was 10,000 with a funding requirement of CHF 21,388. Here again, very limited progress has been achieved during the reporting period due to the challenges faced by the economic crisis and a lack of funding.

Sri Lanka Red Cross has initiated discussions with stakeholders such as UNHCR, ICRC, Sri Lanka Employment Bureau, and the Immigration and Emigration Department, to conduct a migration and displacement needs assessment. The main purpose of the assessment is to understand the consequences of and humanitarian needs related to migration and displacement, to, from and within Sri Lanka itself. The assessment will also identify the key stakeholders and their respective roles and responsibilities, any gaps in service provision and opportunities for cooperation, as well as opportunities for Sri Lanka Red Cross to further strengthen its role as an auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, in relation to migration and displacement.

With the support of ICRC and in partnership with Sri Lanka Foreign Employment Bureau, 280 pre-departure briefings sessions were conducted. At the district level, a total of 4,852 migrant workers who intend to leave the country as economic migrants to Middle Eastern countries, participated in the awareness programmes. Sri Lanka Red Cross provided tracing services among 20 families, which included four successful outcomes that led to the files being closed.



## Values, power and inclusion

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**Outcomes:** *National Societies contribute to a positive change in communities through a wider understanding, ownership and concrete application of humanitarian values and fundamental principles, focusing especially on young people's knowledge, skills and behavior.*

**Outcome:** *National Societies promote and support equitable access to quality education for all boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis or displacement.*

**Outcome:** *IFRC and National Societies are safe and inclusive organizations, where ensuring dignity, access, participation, and safety for people of all identities is central to all that we do.*

Limited progress has been made under this strategic priority mainly because Sri Lanka Red Cross diverted all its resources and time to the implementation of the Emergency Appeal and DREF activities during the reporting period.

A total of 19 special Red Cross Red Crescent dissemination programmes for 639 people, 134 children, 23 general public, 194 volunteers and staff, 288 professionals) were conducted during the reporting period. A total of 20,000 Sinhala dissemination leaflets and 5,000 English dissemination leaflets were also printed and distributed.

Sri Lanka Red Cross gives high priority to the integration of Protection, Gender and Inclusion into every emergency operation. Education-related humanitarian needs are prioritised and, during the initial assessment of every disaster response, data is disaggregated by age, sex, disability, and vulnerability status information is collected and assessed.

Sri Lanka Red Cross has strengthened Community Engagement and Accountability approaches linked with Protection, Gender and Inclusion, and supported the meaningful participation of communities. The National Society has prioritised the inclusion of disabilities in all initiatives to address immediate needs and ensure that people living with disabilities have a platform to be involved in the decision-making, design, and implementation of all community interventions.

Effective community feedback mechanisms are already in place to manage the grievances of the selected beneficiaries under emergency response activities, mainly under the multi-purpose cash grant distribution, as well as to address the allegations of sexual and gender-based violence, child protection concerns, and sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

IFRC's Country Cluster Delegation in Delhi and the Sri Lanka country team provided coordination, along with financial and technical support to the National Society. The IFRC continues to advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable communities and groups affected by the economic crisis with governments and in international humanitarian forums. IFRC maintains regular cooperation with the ICRC for greater Movement impact and coordination with the UN System and other international humanitarian organizations.

Sri Lanka Red Cross has a large network all over the country. The National Society has been recognized as an essential service provider because of its first aid, blood and health services. Sri Lanka Red Cross has been supporting and collaborating with the government and has extensive operational coverage across Sri Lanka that includes a network of 25 branches through 6,000 active Red Cross volunteers.

IFRC and Sri Lanka Red Cross continue to participate in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings, Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) Sri Lanka, and engage with Cash, Information Management, as well as with the 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.

The National Society, while maintaining a strong collaboration and partnership with Movement partners, also maintains active and close partnerships with national and international partners in both public, non-governmental, and corporate sectors. In the non-governmental, humanitarian, and developmental areas, the National Society works closely with the UN agencies present in the country, non-governmental agencies such as Zoa, Oxfam, and USAID. Sri Lanka Red Cross also maintains partnerships with international corporate partners such as Coca-Cola and UberEats and national level cooperate partners such as Dettol, Manchee and Maliban.



## National Society development

The National Society has been keen to enhance the capacity of its staff since the pandemic situation. All branches were evaluated on their capacity, and branch executive officers were included in the pool to receive technical skills development. A total of 10 district project officers, 10 community mobilizers, and more than 250 volunteers were hired for the different response operations under the Emergency Appeal and DREF. Additionally, 625 volunteers were trained on Psychological First Aid (PFA). Staff and volunteers received an orientation on every response operation that was being conducted through bi-weekly and monthly review meetings.

Sri Lanka Red Cross has revised its Constitution and suggested amendments were presented for initial endorsement in the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM) and then submitted to the Joint Statutory Committee (JSC).



## Humanitarian diplomacy

Sri Lanka Red Cross has engaged with more programming partners and increased the quality of its external communications during this period. Internally, Sri Lanka Red Cross built their capacity in data management including data literacy, data culture and infrastructure and set up roles and responsibilities of personnel on the data and information management system. To support data readiness efforts, Sri Lanka Red Cross aims to connect all branches digitally, increasing the digital culture, and moving away from paper-based assessment tools.

Sri Lanka Red Cross further increased the quality of its social media engagement on Facebook and Twitter to disseminate its activities with photo and video content, in disasters and crises including pandemics. These communication activities are very useful for resource mobilization and to showcase the work of the National Society with donors, the private sector and international agencies, and other key audiences.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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Sri Lanka Red Cross is in the process of digitizing records and archives in finance, assets, logistics, planning, budgeting, and reporting, to improve information management and support systems. The National Society has already initiated recordings with Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) to facilitate effective, efficient, and timely reporting, using procurement, inventory, and fleet management modules, finance system, budget variance reports, and programme reporting information, based on the criteria provided by programme departments.

Alongside the implementation of the new finance system, practical training also has been conducted for Sri Lanka Red Cross headquarters and selected branch personnel on the new finance system. The refresher training was also carried out in May on the finance manual, policies, and procedures for headquarters and branch staff, including the Human Resources and Fleet and Transport departments.



## The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

### DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)

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