



SRI LANKA

2024 IFRC network country plan

9 April 2024

Funding Requirement **CHF 0.69M**

In support of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society



25

National Society branches



197

National Society staff



831

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



75,000

Climate and environment



500,000

Disasters and crises



100,000

Health and wellbeing



15,000

Migration and displacement



30,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

- Complex emergency
- Extreme weather resilience

Longer term needs

- Food security and malnutrition
- Health and migration • Humanitarian diplomacy
- Developing the capacity of the National Society
 - Branch strengthening

Capacity development

- Disaster preparedness
- Protection, gender and inclusion
- Community engagement and accountability
- National Society development

Key country data

Population **22.2M**

INFORM Severity rating **High**

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index **Low**

Human Development Index rank **73**

Population below poverty level **14.3%**

IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan & Maldives, Delhi

Hazards



Poverty



Food insecurity



Health



Cyclones



Violence

Funding requirements

Total 0.69M CHF

Through the IFRC

696,000 CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

100,000 CHF

Climate and environment

354,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

100,000 CHF

Health and wellbeing

53,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

49,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

40,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

American Red Cross*

Australian Red Cross*

Austrian Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

German Red Cross*

Irish Red Cross Society*

Italian Red Cross*

Japanese Red Cross Society*

Norwegian Red Cross*

Red Cross Society of China*

Red Cross of Monaco*

Swedish Red Cross*

The Canadian Red Cross Society*

The Netherlands Red Cross*

The Republic of Korea National Red Cross*

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in the first half of 2023.*

IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

MAALK002

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

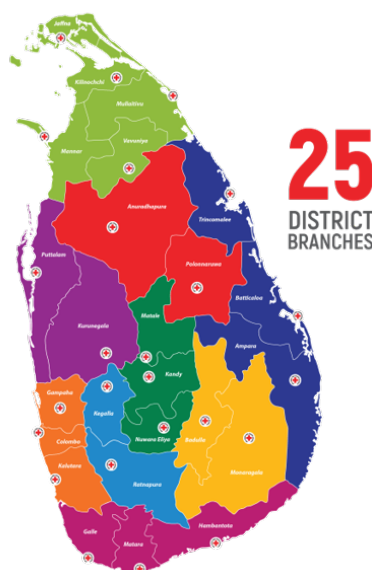
The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society was established in 1936 and admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1952. It has been operating a range of humanitarian services for the last eight decades. It was formed as a volunteer-based organization under the name Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society. Its primary purpose was to provide assistance during disasters, including the malaria epidemic. Today, the Sri Lanka Red Cross, a highly esteemed humanitarian organization, has an established island-wide network. The National Society has an extensive national network in first aid, blood, and health services and is recognized as an essential service provider.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross works closely with the Government of Sri Lanka, in particular with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Disaster Management. The National Society's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 (new plan for 2024-2030 is in draft stage) describes three strategic aims:

- Build resilience among vulnerable communities to cope with disasters and emergencies
- Reduce risks of morbidity and mortality during health emergencies and promote health lifestyles amongst communities

- Reduce stigma and discrimination in society through improved community behaviour and increase social acceptance whilst upholding human dignity, working with different vulnerable disadvantaged groups

In 2021, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society reached more than 17,000 people through its long-term services and development programmes and more than 1.5 million people through its disaster response and early recovery programmes over time.



IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Sri Lanka is facing its worst political and economic crisis since independence in 1948. Alarming rates of inflation have led to widespread economic hardship. Out of a population of 22 million, 3 in 10 households are food insecure. The inflation rate surpassed 54 percent in 2022, the most severely affected sectors being food security, agriculture, livelihoods, and health (WFP, 2022).

In 2022, a prolonged fiscal and debt burden, intensified by a series of shocks, pushed the country into a crisis of liquidity and insolvency. High inflation, rising commodity prices, power outages, and shortages of fuel and other essential items and services have left households struggling to meet essential

needs, damaging their welfare, and increasing vulnerability (Sri Lanka Development Update 2023). The pandemic has created a category of 'new poor' and this group is more likely to live in cities than pre-2020 poor households as households near the poverty line are prone to descending into poverty during negative shocks.

The economy contracted 7.8% year-over-year in 2022 due to strong second-half declines. Due to this economic recession, national poverty is expected to double to 25% and urban poverty to triple to 15% in 2022. This expansion has added 2.5 million impoverished individuals, escalating two years of poverty increases.

Half a million jobs were lost in industry and manufacturing, mostly in urban subsectors including construction, transport, food, and accommodation that affect lower middle-income people. Thus, the 'new poor' formed by the epidemic and

economic crisis are more likely to live in cities than pre-2020 poor households. In a negative shock, nonpoor households around the poverty line are especially prone to [poverty](#).

Ongoing food insecurity in Sri Lanka leads to livelihood-based coping mechanisms that undermine human capital, health, and income, particularly affecting children. The cost of healthy food increases the likelihood of families entering a cycle of hunger, poor health, and poverty, reducing human capital development and health outcomes. As the economy shrinks, gender inequality and power imbalances deepen due to the pandemic and economic crises. Compounded vulnerabilities and dangers also disproportionately affect both rural and urban women, hindering their economic development and violating fundamental rights ([UNDP Impact](#)).

In March 2023, the IMF Board granted Sri Lanka a 48-month USD 3 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to support economic [reforms](#). The EFF-supported programme aims to restore Sri Lanka's macroeconomic stability, ensure debt sustainability, alleviate the economic impact on the poor and vulnerable, protect financial sector stability, and promote governance and growth. Despite challenges, there are tentative signals of recovery with inflation [peaking](#) at 69.8 per cent in September 2022 and dropping to 6.3 percent by July 2023. The slow recovery of tourism is helping the hospitality sector, which has faced repeated crises. The government has steadily lifted import restrictions, and the Central Bank has regularly lowered interest rates to boost economic activity.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Sri Lanka is an island state in the Indian Ocean with a land area of 65,610 square kilometres and a population of 22 million. Sri Lanka is ranked 23 in the 2000-2019 [Global Climate Risk Index](#) and is highly vulnerable to climate change, due to its high temperatures, unique and complex hydrological regime, and exposure to extreme climate events. Extreme weather conditions, such as prolonged droughts and flash floods, not only threaten people's livelihoods, but also the physical and social health of local communities.

Multiple years of climate-related natural hazards have harmed vulnerable populations, damaging harvests and livelihoods which has left communities in debt, food insecure, and malnourished, reducing their ability to adapt and respond. Sri Lanka ranks 106th out of 191 countries on the [INFORM](#) risk index.

The [National Disaster Management Plan](#) of Sri Lanka states annual disaster losses totaling LKR 50 billion (USD 313 million), linked to housing, infrastructure, agriculture, and relief, due to hydro meteorological and climatological hazards.

Sea level rise, storm surges, and coastal erosion are the most intense in the west, southwest, and southern coastal belt, where about 50 per cent of Sri Lanka's population lives. Vector-borne diseases are spreading at an [alarming](#) rate due to a changing climate conducive to mosquito breeding.

The ongoing economic crisis has also eroded future climate and environmental resilience following political instability, fuel shortages and inflation. This may lead to the failure of climate

policies and plans. Future concerns include the availability of [funding](#) for disaster risk reduction and climate mitigation activities.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Due to the island state's vulnerability to climate change, there is an increasing demand for support from the Sri Lanka Red Cross in the area of climate change. Accordingly, the National Society seeks to strengthen its internal capacity in climate-smart practices, risk communication, and knowledge on climate change. It plans to engage civil society, and its internal and external partners through digital platforms in climate action, raising awareness, advocacy, and climate-sensitive data management for disaster risk management and response.

The National Society also has a longer-term strategy to reduce its [carbon footprint](#), promote environmentally sustainable practices, and implement environmental policies. It also aims to avoid, reduce, and mitigate the adverse environmental impacts resulting from humanitarian response and long-term programmes while mainstreaming greener initiatives.

Planned activities in 2024

- Training and capacity building on climate-smart practices for communities, stakeholders, staff, and volunteers on climate-resilient ways of agriculture
- Disseminate IFRC learning platform Climate Change Adaptation and climate change mitigation courses among staff and volunteers

- Introduce drought-resilient agriculture techniques for farmers in the dry zone
- Empowerment of community-based organizations through technical partnerships so that they take a lead in the continuity of activities and dissemination of knowledge
- Development of climate-smart irrigation systems to help farmers to adapt to climate change in the dry zone
- Develop contingency plans to support climate-vulnerable communities in responding to disasters
- Implement sustainable and context-specific livelihood programmes for women's empowerment
- Initiate discussions with technical agencies on combatting climate change and prepare communities to develop proposals with innovative ideas for short term projects
- Develop contingency plans to support climate vulnerable communities in responding to disasters
- Incorporate climate and environment-sensitive action in all disaster management modules of Sri Lanka Red Cross, from Branch Disaster Response Teams to National Disaster Response Teams

- Scale up and technically restructure tree planting programs and mangrove restoration at the local level
- Establish and maintain a prominent position in the Anticipatory Action sector within the country and effectively operationalize Early Action Protocols

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support these initiatives of the National Society:

- Making all activities and programmes more climate-smart and environmentally sustainable in 2024
- Nature-based solutions along with promoting awareness and behavioral change among the affected people.
- Support the National Society in developing a roadmap on anticipatory action and forecast-based financing
- Risk communication and dissemination through working with community-based organizations and reaching communities with early warning action



Disasters and crises

About 2 million people (9 per cent) of Sri Lanka's population are farmers, and about 40 per cent of the country's population are engaged in agriculture or livestock production. Surveys reveal that in response to the ongoing economic crisis, approximately 70% of households have cut back on food consumption, resorting to measures such as skipping meals.

Sri Lanka, highly vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change, has seen decades of development gains reversed. In 2023, amid a heat wave sweeping across Asia, Sri Lanka continues to issue heat warnings to the public due to much higher-than-normal temperatures and increased humidity, posing health threats. According to one study, annual average mean minimum temperatures are rising, closing the temperature gap between maximum and minimum. This alarming forecast adds to Sri Lanka's volatile risk profile.

Many of these impacts result from increased vulnerability due to rapid unplanned urbanization and development, lack of good governance, and above all, because of the indirect impact of climate change. Despite the ending of the Sri Lanka complex Emergency Appeal (MDRLK014) on December 31, 2023, the country faces a challenging recovery landscape amid a complex and protracted economic crisis.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Due to the island state's vulnerability to climate change, there is an increasing demand for support from the Sri Lanka Red Cross in the area of disaster risk reduction. In this connection, in 2024, the Sri Lanka Red Cross will revamp its national level in-house response mechanism and training for Branch Disaster Response Teams and National Disaster Response Teams. This effort includes a curriculum review aligned with IFRC's surge optimization process, and the enhancement of systems for rapid deployment. Given the likelihood of recurring large-scale unexpected disasters, Sri Lanka Red Cross will maintain stocks as a preparedness mechanism for effective and efficient response.

The National Society, with technical support from the IFRC, will also initiate the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process to assess its current capacity in disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and risk reduction.

Planned activities in 2024

The Sri Lanka Red Cross will carry out the following activities:

- Dissemination of early warning messages to at-risk vulnerable communities through branch networks and volunteers to ensure evacuation to safe places
- Work with authorities on simulations, drills, and contingency planning to assist disaster-affected communities to evacuate to safe shelters as needed
- Pre-position of relief stocks, tools, and equipment to ensure timely provision of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities
- Resilience building, appropriate shelter solutions and technical guidance to the estate workers to build and make disaster-prone settlements
- Design and implement environment-friendly prevention (adaptive) and mitigation activities
- Enhance branch-level capacities to mapping/Identify disaster-prone areas and enhance the external coordination with the Government and humanitarian community
- Implement Cash-for-Work (CFW) activities at the community level and conditional cash grants
- Develop and finalize Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) operational strategy and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a strategic Financial Service Provider to diversify cash and voucher distribution methodology
- Build National Society information management capacities, including a mobile app for surge roster and building information management capacities through a series of online or face to face training/workshops including mobile data collection, Emergency Assessment and Planning (LEAP), data literacy, IFRC's GO platform, data visualization and mapping training

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. Other support to be extended includes:

- Providing technical support to the National Society to develop necessary plans, policy, strategy for community-based resilience programming
- Assisting the National Society in working with local governments to support locally-led livelihood possibilities, including climate-friendly livelihood alternatives
- Supporting cash and voucher assistance programming, including improvements to community infrastructure
- Supporting the National Society in its efforts to strengthen its Contingency Plan



Health and wellbeing

The economic crisis is directly impacting [healthcare](#) services in Sri Lanka, causing shortages of medicine and medical supplies. Dependency on imports, coupled with a lack of foreign currency reserves, has led to a significant decrease in the availability of pharmaceutical products. The Sri Lanka Chamber of the pharmaceutical industry predicts further worsening of the situation, with five percent of medicines already out of stock.

Sri Lanka is among the ten worst-performing low-middle-income countries in the world according to certain measures of child [undernutrition](#), due to low-nutrient diets among children under five. Prior to COVID-19, the prevalence of stunting was 17.3 per cent among children under five, wasting at 15 per cent and underweight at 20.5 per cent.

Sixty two per cent of households reported that their total monthly income had reduced compared to the previous year (down from 78 % in May 2022) causing a large dent in their purchasing power even though [inflation rates](#) have started declining.

In addition to the impact of COVID-19, rapid urbanization and poor urban planning is leading to the increasing prevalence of dengue fever in urban areas. It is spiking every year, recording the highest death toll from communicable diseases in Sri Lanka. The National Society launched a [DREF](#) during June 2023 and is currently implementing activities to support government health authorities to eradicate dengue.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Sri Lanka Red Cross has identified non-communicable diseases, dengue, first aid, and healthy aging as emerging key areas for intervention in the future. Accordingly, it will continue supporting the government's dengue control unit and prioritize First Aid as a flagship intervention. It aims to digitalize training in local languages for broader accessibility. The National Society will also collaborate with the Ministry of Health on essential medicines and engage with partners for procurement, based on Ministry requirements.

The National Society, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and numerous other donors, launched "[Elixir](#)," Sri Lanka's first-ever platform for matching medical donation funds. Medicines and medical equipment worth LKR 414,211,474 (CHF 1.2 million) have been donated to national hospitals and the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka via the 'Elixir' medical donation matching platform as of 30 June 2023. The partnership via the online platform 'Elixir' facilitates sharing information on pharmaceutical needs with donors and suppliers. By having numerous institutions register their requirements, the National Society can explore bulk orders for cost efficiency, benefiting all stakeholders. This collaboration will continue in 2024.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross also works closely with government to address Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) among the children. Sri Lanka College of Pediatricians is also collaborating with the National Society to address the issues, and UNICEF is working with the government to strengthen the health systems and provide nutrition support through its appeal in Sri Lanka.

Planned activities in 2024

The Sri Lanka Red Cross will undertake the following activities:

- Liaise with government officials on essential medicines and medical consumables and engage with partners on the procurement of medicines as determined by the health department
- Mainstream [mental health and psychosocial support](#) (MPHSS) and establish [community based surveillance](#) (CBS)
- Establish the [mental health and psychosocial support](#) hotline to support affected populations and psychosocial support to be provided to priority groups (link to CEA feedback mechanism)
- Design school [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene](#) (WASH) projects focusing on multi-sector engagement for community-led total sanitation and seek funding support to implement the school WASH programs and promote menstrual hygiene management awareness among teenage students
- Construct sanitation facilities at schools to reduce schoolgirls' dropout and absenteeism rates

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the development of community-level capacity through the following:

- [Community-based engagement](#) and [needs assessment](#) with the health cluster
- Expanding First Aid activities, capacity building of health staff and volunteers, psychosocial support, blood donation, [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#), community-based health programmes, and dengue prevention activities
- Emergency and climate-smart [WASH](#), including for schools and communities



National Society volunteers provide relief services in response to the 2023 floods (Photo: Sri Lanka Red Cross)



Sri Lanka is a significant country of origin, transit and destination for many people on the move including economic migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees, and people who have been trafficked. Disasters are the main trigger for internal displacement in Sri Lanka. There remain populations of internally displaced people (IDPs) in some parts of the country from the past long-running civil war. The ongoing crisis is prompting a large-scale migration. With the falling value of the Sri Lankan rupee, many seek to go abroad – moving by formal and informal channels – to earn money or study; many to leave the country permanently. On 1 August 2022, more than 550 undocumented migrants were captured from various parts of the country by the Sri Lankan navy, many of them try to migrate illegally to Australia.

Sri Lanka's proximity to several regional conflicts makes it a destination for people from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar and other countries. However, it is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention. It does not have a national law and mechanism to offer permanent resettlement to refugees, and only hosts refugees temporarily for a few years. It is therefore only a temporary transit point for many people awaiting resettlement in a third country.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Between 2021 and 2025, the Sri Lanka Red Cross is implementing a long-term collaborative, flagship project with all stakeholders belonging to public, non-governmental and private organizations, called ARAKSHA. This is a multi-dimensional programme that aims to provide comprehensive support to the families of migrant workers who are employed in the Middle East and the Gulf counties. The estimated project outreach is 100,000 households. Besides the ARAKSHA project, other key areas of attention for the Sri Lanka Red Cross in 2024 and beyond comprise strengthening its capability in migration and displacement, integrating migration with other programming, and establishing strategic dialogues.

The National Society is also undertaking a migration and displacement needs assessment, focusing more on the documented and undocumented migration groups, related to the ongoing economic crisis.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross gives priority to mainstream support for migrants and displaced people from existing programmes and operations. Accordingly, it will continue to provide psychosocial support for refugees and asylum seekers which includes post-departure family visits and mapping, family fiscal management training for migrant workers families, and Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities, in collaboration with district offices.

Planned activities in 2024

- Humanitarian assistance for migrants and displaced people, (including relevant health, Psychosocial Support (PSS), safe referrals, Household Items (HHIs), food, WASH, shelter, cash and voucher assistance, information including Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), livelihoods, education, etc
- National Assessment on Migration and Displacement and adopt the recommendation and collaborate with key stakeholders
- Integrate migration and displacement into existing policies and strategies or develop a specific National Society Migration / Displacement policy and strategy.
- Mainstreaming of migration and displacement considerations across sectors

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Sri Lanka Red Cross in strengthening its capacity in migration and displacement through training, workshops and peer support. This will include enhanced access to digital platforms. The IFRC will support activities which facilitate the integration and social inclusion of migrants and displaced people into their new communities, including skills training. Technical support will also be provided in the form of regional or cross-regional discussions, consultations, and workshops to support work related to migration routes.



Values, power and inclusion

Sri Lanka, emerging from a thirty-year civil conflict, remains politically, ethnically, and religiously divided, with social divisions evident through violent attacks and communal violence. During disasters, these divisions often result in discriminatory actions, compromising the right of minority groups to receive fair assistance.

Gender-based violence in Sri Lanka has been aggravated by the country's response to the COVID outbreak and its ongoing economic crisis. One in five women reported experiencing marital abuse before the pandemic ([Gamage and Tummodara, 2021](#)). Societal variables that have been linked to gender-based violence include entrenched gender stereotypes, the economic disadvantages faced by women, and widespread poverty.

Complex emergencies in Sri Lanka are causing negative coping strategies due to work and food insecurity, particularly affecting women and girls who have lower social and economic capacity to prioritize wellbeing and are vulnerable to breakdowns in protection mechanisms. The Sri Lanka Joint Rapid Food Security Assessment (WFP, 2022) indicated that 'multiple district officials reported a rise in domestic violence, while also acknowledging that these cases are largely underreported, particularly, during the current economic crisis. (UNFPA 2022).

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The strategy of the Sri Lanka Red Cross prioritizes values, power, and inclusion, in line with IFRC's Strategy 2030. In the coming year, the National Society will continue awareness workshops, institutionalize protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), and help communities in terms of social cohesion and reconciliation.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA) and PGI approaches will help to transfer critical themes in a safe way and personalize information to all groups. Feedback systems will be designed to handle sexual and gender-based violence, child safety concerns, and sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment, feedback systems.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross will intensify efforts to bolster community-driven initiatives, enhance local networks, include essential training, capacity development, and in-kind support to address community-identified priorities and issues. A significant focus will be placed on increasing the involvement of local government and community-based organizations, aiming to offer sustainable services to different population groups, including youth, women, transgender individuals, people living with disabilities, and resettled communities.

Youth empowerment is central to the National Society's plans to design innovative programmes. The National Society will implement youth policies and procedures and collaborate with the South Asia Youth Network (SAYN) platform for best practices, capacity building, youth empowerment and promotion of non-violence and peace.

Planned activities in 2024

- Strengthen the PGI programming by incorporating PGI toolkits in all sectors
- Ensure child-safe programming by reviewing the National Society's Child Protection Policy and ensuring child safeguarding risk analyses in different projects and programmes
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures and training modules on the CEA integration approach and Training of Trainers on the CEA integration approach
- Digitalization of the CEA hotline number and feedback database
- Empower youths to design innovative programs and commit to humanitarian services to address the current crisis
- Re-establish Youth Units and formation of school junior circles

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Sri Lanka Red Cross in mainstreaming PGI into sectoral programming and operations. This will include assistance to the National Society in revising its protection, gender and inclusion policy, and further help to develop a policy on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

IFRC's programmatic support will include child safeguarding risk analysis, disability inclusion in emergencies and conducting assessments of National Society's disaster response operations.

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in the capacity-building of its staff and volunteers on the Red Cross Red Crescent community engagement and accountability guide, IFRC Global Strategy, toolkit, and training packages.

Youth volunteers will be supported in designing innovative programmes and commit to humanitarian services to address the current crisis.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Sri Lanka Red Cross strives to fulfill its mandate as the humanitarian auxiliary to the public authorities, continually seeking ways to improve its services and engagement at every level. It seeks to enhance its capacity in planning, humanitarian diplomacy, digitalization of its systems and services, and branch coordination.

To strengthen its branches, the National Society will use the IFRC's Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment (BOCA) tool and contingency plan results to measure its achievement towards the National Society's strategic plans. The BOCA process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies branches as a whole, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society plays a significant auxiliary role in the humanitarian and development action of the public authorities. Accordingly, it aims to expand its auxiliary support to the government of Sri Lanka as well as enhance its own capacity to respond. The IFRC will also place a stronger emphasis on working better together as a network.

The National Society has also developed a plan to achieve multi-year investment through collaboration with development partners and incorporate capacity strengthening in partnership agreements. It aims to channel the investments towards strengthening the institutional capacities of local and national responders, including preparedness, response, and coordination capacities.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to provide coordination, financial and technical support to the National Society. The IFRC advocates for the needs of the most vulnerable communities and groups affected by the economic crisis with governments and in international humanitarian forums and with the Sri Lanka Red Cross maintains regular cooperation with the ICRC, the UN and other international humanitarian organizations. During emergencies, the IFRC provides support through mechanisms such as the Emergency Appeal and DREF. It also supports the Estate Housing programme funded by the Indian government.



National Society Development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Sri Lanka Red Cross will focus on working towards the implementation of the Red Cross Act. This process will facilitate the legal base of the National Society, that will reinforce its mandated position as auxiliary to the public authorities in disaster response. Given the political situation in Sri Lanka and the role of the military and other security services in disaster response, the National Society will also closely analyze methods of principled humanitarian action as a component of the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER).

The Sri Lanka Red Cross will utilize the capacity assessment and contingency plan results and measure its achievement

towards its Strategic Plan. It will also use the IFRC's [Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment](#) (BOCA) tool and contingency plan results to measure its achievement towards the National Society's Strategic Plan.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support localization efforts, with a strong focus on branch development and ensuring relevant services to the "end-user", which are key components for strengthening the effectiveness of the National Society and building trust at the local level.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Sri Lanka Red Cross will increase the quality of its communications and social media engagement to disseminate the National Society's activities. The National Society will also focus on instilling a 'humanitarian diplomacy' mindset into its

culture by encouraging individuals with advocacy, negotiation, communication, and other diplomatic experience or knowledge to bring their skills to the National Society.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society in its humanitarian diplomacy and public communication efforts.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Sri Lanka Red Cross will develop a fraud and corruption prevention policy and risk register both at national headquarters and at chapter level.

It is currently building its capacity in data management including data literacy, data culture and infrastructure as well as setting up roles and responsibilities of personnel on the data and information management. To support data readiness efforts, the National Society will be focusing on connecting all branches digitally, increasing digital culture, and using data in all its operations and moving away from paper-based assessment tools.

The National Society is familiarising itself with the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system to facilitate effective and timely reporting using procurement, inventory and fleet management modules, finance system, budget variance report and programme information.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in strengthening its human resources department. Other support to be extended strengthening the procurement process and policy, the review and updating of the finance manual, and the implementation of an Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) system. The IFRC will also support the National Society with staff focus group discussions focusing on fraud and corruption prevention and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA).

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC is at present the main supporter of the Sri Lanka Red Cross. The support focuses on strategic and operational coordination, including supporting the National Society to execute its auxiliary role in emergency and disaster response, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. In recent years the National Society was supported through a number of Emergency Appeals and Disaster Response

Emergency Fund (DREF) operations in relation to floods, disease outbreaks, violent attacks, and accidents.

In response to the economic crisis and civil unrest in Sri Lanka, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal and continues to support the National Society with Disaster Relief Emergency Fund Appeals (DREF) as and when needed.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations, and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts

to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries. During the 2004 Tsunami operations, up to 23 participating National Societies were supporting the National Society and have now left the country after completing their projects. Participating National Societies currently providing remote support and assistance during emergency operations include **Red Cross Society of China, Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Singapore Red Cross Society** and **Turkish Red Crescent Society**.

Movement coordination

The Sri Lanka Red Cross collaborates with the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross ([ICRC](#)). During emergencies, the IFRC and the ICRC work together to provide technical support to the National Society in Sri Lanka, and to share information at regional and sub-regional levels. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC supports the National Society with migration, restoring family links, humanitarian values, safer access, first aid, and the dissemination of international humanitarian law. In Sri Lanka, the ICRC helps people affected by the past conflict, including detainees, the families of missing persons and economically vulnerable households. The ICRC also works with ministries, armed forces, police and universities to promote international humanitarian law and international human rights law.



Sri Lanka Red Cross volunteers distribute sanitary napkins in Vavuniya, in December 2022 (Photo: Sri Lanka Red Cross)

Coordination with other actors

The National Society has extensively collaborated with various ministries of the Sri Lankan government, particularly the [Ministry of Health](#) and the [Ministry of Disaster Management](#). It is set to expand its intervention in climate-smart practices by partnering with the [Ministry of Agriculture](#) and supporting the government in implementing the [National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\)](#) for climate.

The National Society maintains active and steadfast relationships with national and international partners in the public, non-governmental, and corporate sectors.

At country level, the National Society and IFRC serve as observers and actively participate in meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), convened during both disasters and non-emergency periods. They are involved in relevant government-led cluster information sharing, planning and analysis, with IFRC supporting the National Society's coordination efforts by representing it in other relevant clusters as required.

The IFRC and the National Society take part in Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings, Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) Sri Lanka, and Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) working groups. IFRC contributed to the formulation of AAP messaging for the Sri Lanka document and the revision of the [UN Humanitarian Needs and Priorities \(HNP\)](#) plan. While maintaining a strong collaboration and partnership with Movement partners, the National Society seeks to maintain close engagement, alongside the IFRC with national and international partners from the public, non-governmental, and corporate sectors.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross maintains active and close partnerships with national and international partners in public, non-governmental and corporate sectors. It works closely with UN agencies and others such as ZOA, Oxfam and USAID in the country. The National Society works with Dettol, Manchee and Maliban at a national level, and international corporate partners such as Coca-Cola. It also works with media networks such as Hiru TV and the Independent Television Network.



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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

This plan reflects the priorities of the National Society, its partner National Societies, and the IFRC Secretariat for 2024 and subsequent years. It is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

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