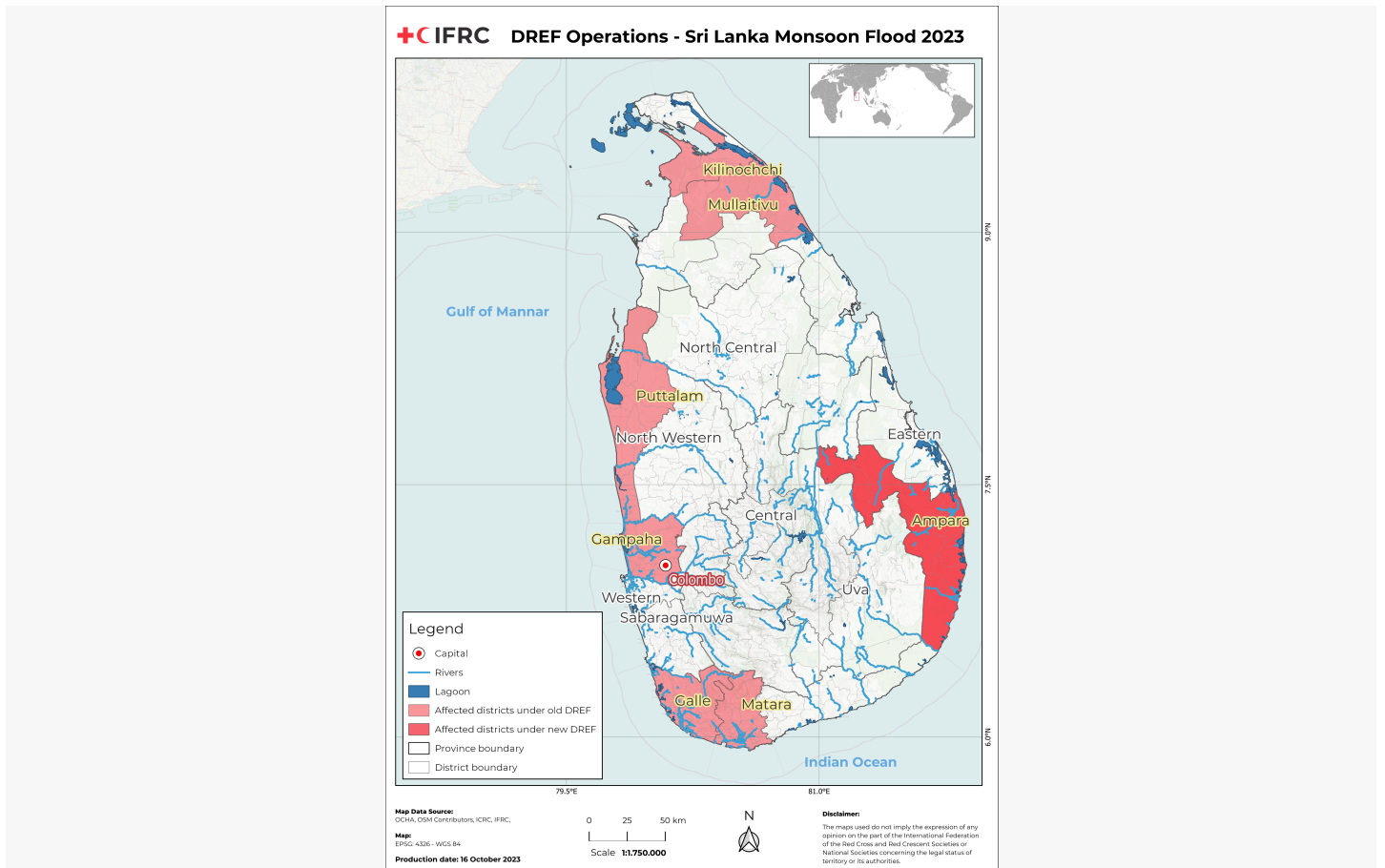




Volunteers from the SLRCS Mullaitivu branch cleaned the individual dug wells, helping people access pure drinking water. (Photo: SLRCS)

Appeal: MDRLK018	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 798,854	Crisis Category: Orange	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: FL-2023-000196-LKA	People Affected: 244,504 people	People Targeted: 99,750 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 19-10-2023	New Operational End Date: 31-07-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 9 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 06-10-2023		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 31-05-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		Targeted Areas: Eastern, North Western, Northern, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Western	

Description of the Event



Floods - Severely affected districts. Map: IM IFRC

Date of event

09-01-2024

What happened, where and when?

Initial Emergency Situation: October 19, 2023 (the initial IFRC-DREF operation was launched):

In early October 2023, Sri Lanka experienced heavy rainfall in the western, Sabaragamuwa, and southern provinces due to the intensification of the southwest monsoon. Severe rainy conditions were encountered in these provinces starting on 6 October 2023, and a red warning was issued to 7 districts on 7 October 2023. The Gampaha, Matara, and Galle districts were particularly affected, with a large number of people displaced due to floods and landslides. Seven deaths were reported, and more than 75,000 people belonging to 20,450 families in 13 districts were affected. The water levels of several rivers, including the Nilwala Ganga River, Gin Ganga River, and Kalu and Attanagalu Ganga Rivers, rose to alarming levels, causing flooding in low-lying areas. The National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) issued landslide alerts for several areas, and the Ceylon Electricity Board disconnected the power supply in Matara as a safety precaution. Mudslides damaged hundreds of houses, and many schools were flooded, causing students to lose their school materials and stationery. Water and sanitation facilities, including sewerage lines and drinking water sources, were also affected. Currently, the floodwaters, a result of the major rivers overflowing and the intense showery conditions in the districts, have now receded, and the displaced people have returned to their homes. According to the DMC report, there was no information on the affected population or further damage in these three districts as of 21 December 2023.

2nd Emergency Situation - 19 December 2023 (led to scaling up of operation, informed through Operation Update#1):

Since the beginning of December 2023, several districts in the northern province of Sri Lanka have been experiencing heavy rainfall and strong winds that have caused floods and severe weather-related incidents, with Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, and Puttalam districts reporting the greatest impacts. The main impacts were heavy rainfall, strong winds, floods, damage to houses and infrastructure, displacement of thousands of people, destruction of agricultural lands and crops, and limited access to essential goods and services. The districts of



Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, and Puttalam have been particularly affected. The floods have affected over 25,958 people and caused two fatalities and three injuries. The opening of spill gates at the Iranamaduru reservoir and overflowing reservoirs contributed to the flooding in these areas. More than 5,000 people were impacted, with the largest number of displaced people reported in Mullaitivu district. Floods and heavy rain have affected over 3,000 people in the Puttalam district. Additionally, over 10,000 farmers have lost their crops, and daily-wage farmers have been severely impacted. The ongoing economic crisis has further worsened the financial situation of affected households.

Rainstorms are still happening in the provinces to the north and northeast due to the ongoing northeast monsoon. However, the floodwaters that the major tanks overflowed and the extremely severe weather in the districts caused have now receded, and the displaced people are safely back at home. There was very little data available on the impacted population and damage in these three areas as of 12 January 2024, according to the DMC report.

3rd Emergency Situation - 13 January 2024 (led to scaling up of operation, informed through Operation Update#2):

Widespread heavy rains due to the intensification of the northeast monsoon in Sri Lanka have caused significant disruption to life and infrastructure, with the Ampara district bearing the brunt of the impact. Vehicular movement on the main roads were disconnected from major towns, and a few roads on the coastal sides was restricted due to flooding and damage. Railway services were also temporarily discontinued due to floodwater along the railway tracks. Ampara, the hardest-hit area, experienced over 150mm of rain on 9 and 10 January 2024, causing heavy floods that displaced more than 2,000 families and relocated them to 31 temporary shelters as of the DMC update on 12 January 2024. The flooding in Ampara was due to the Moravil Oya, Gal Oya, Ekgal Oya, and Pallang Oya breaching their banks.

The biggest tank in the country, located in the Ampara districts, started to overflow on 10 January 2024, the second time in the last ten years. It reached a water level of 112 feet, and all its gates were opened to discharge the excess water, which connects all the small and medium-level reservoirs in the districts. The Ampara Iginiyala main road, a vital link within the district, was completely submerged from the Suduwella area onwards due to the combined spillover of Ampara Reservoir and Konduwatuwan Reservoir. Sri Lankan armed forces and police stepped in to assist with transportation services in the affected areas.

As per the DMC update on 12 January 2024, around 169,504 people were affected due to flooding only in Ampara districts, and 181 houses were partially damaged. Many schools were inundated. The agriculture and irrigation departments confirmed that the flood had already destroyed more than 26,000 acres of paddy land. Ampara is one of the major districts in the production of rice to meet the country's demand.

The affected population depends on government healthcare facilities in the affected regions to fulfill their healthcare requirements. Access to health and care facilities was restricted as a result of severe weather events, travel disruptions, and the need to relocate to safer areas. Moreover, the existing scarcity of medical supplies and disruptions to the healthcare system resulting from the ongoing economic crisis worsened the health status of the impacted population.

According to an initial assessment at the branch level, more than 20,000 farmers' harvests had been lost, and the closure of major roads and other transportation issues had a substantial impact on daily-wage farmers and other category daily workers. Essential home supplies were in high demand, and families may need assistance to fulfill their basic needs.

[1] http://www.dmc.gov.lk/images/dmcreports/Situation_Report_on_2024__1705117067.pdf

[2] <http://www.dmc.gov.lk/index.php?lang=en>





SLRCS branch volunteers distributing essential household items to flood-affected people. (Photo: SLRCS)



SLRCS engages in community clean up campaigns. (Photo: SLRCS)

Scope and Scale

Initial DREF operation:

According to the DMC situational report as of 9 October 2023, more than 75,734 people from 20,480 families were impacted by floods, severe winds, and mudslides in the low-lying areas of 13 districts. The SLRCS has requested an initial IFRC-DREF contribution of CHF 359,690 to meet the immediate needs of 2,950 impacted families across three districts.

2nd Top-up – Ops update 01 to scale up the operation:

According to the situational report as of 22 December 2023, more than 30,377 people from 9,402 families were impacted across 11 districts by the northeast monsoon heavy rainfall. SLRCS issued its first IFRC-DREF operational update to extend the response by three districts, timeframes, and financing of CHF 139,983, assisting 2,300 households.

3rd Top-up – Ops update 02 to scale up the operation:

According to the DMC situational report as of 12 January 2024, more than 169,504 people from 50,996 families were impacted by floods alone in Ampara district due to the intensification of the northeast monsoon. SLRCS published 2nd Ops update to scale up the operation context, timeframe, geographical areas, and requested additional financing to assist 13800 households.

Ops update 03 to increase the MPCA target households:

Through this update, SLRCS intends to scale up the total target under the multi-purpose cash intervention. More needs were identified during the detailed assessment conducted by the branch for livelihood support for the farmers and daily workers working in the farming fields. Thorough the assessment, 2,900 households were selected in 5 Divisional secretaries' areas and verified per the selection criteria.

As per the initial response plan, SLRCS supported 2000 households already with the cash. SLRCS is now looking for an additional 900 households to help with the Cash grants to the affected who are still the impact of the flooding and are not able to restart their farming activities due to the loss of their crops, leading to capital loss and their farming land was inundated.

Early this year and last, the southwest monsoon (uncommon persistence from September to early December 2023) exhibited an abnormal expansion. Particularly as a result of climate change-induced modifications to the weather pattern, each monsoon brought an unprecedented quantity of rainfall to the entire country. The primary cause of the rise in water levels in the main rivers and reservoirs in the affected districts was the continuous rainfall of over 175mm in most of the districts for two to three days, as reported by the meteorological department.

The water levels in the major rivers and tanks in each district arose to alarming, keeping floodwater, especially along the riverbanks, where residents cannot return home as there was always a risk because the river water began to overflow from the flood protection bund. The National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) also issued a landslide warning to several districts at different levels ranging from 1 to 3, during the period.

According to the DMC report, around 48 safer locations, such as temples and schools, set up by the Disaster Management Centre as temporary shelters for the displaced 7,143 people from 2,269 households were in 31 safer locations established by DMC alone in Ampara

districts.

The low-lying areas in the district were fully submerged by flooding, causing the overflowing water from the tank to bring additional soil and mud to the farming lands. This severely affected the crops and further delayed the preparation of the land for the next session. For some farmers, it additionally cost them to remove the mud and soil. A week of persistently heavy rain significantly impacted farmers' and daily workers' livelihoods, especially with the current economic crisis aggravating the situation. The branch conducted a detailed assessment, revealing the ongoing needs. It is vital to support the vulnerable group with cash assistance, which will allow them to cover their most essential needs until they restart their farming activities.

According to the National Disaster Relief Services Centre, over 175,000 people were affected by the floods, and 294 infrastructures (houses/small and medium enterprises) were either partially or fully damaged.¹ The Department of Agriculture (DOA) reports reveal extensive damage caused by the flood, with around 47,000 acres of paddy fully affected. This impact directly affects 20,064 farmers, constituting approximately 20 per cent of the total cultivation area in the 2023 Maha season (74,000 hectares).

Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture estimates that roughly 1,900 acres of maize have suffered damage from the flood, impacting 1,251 farmers. In terms of the overall cultivation area, this represents approximately 7 per cent. It highlights the further need for targeted interventions and support to address the profound impact on the agricultural sector in Ampara.

The country's current economic crisis has already lowered people's living standards. Food insecurity and malnutrition among pregnant women and children below 5 years are burning issues, and they were further exacerbated due to the flooding. Several households had temporarily lost their income and the ability to provide food and other necessities for themselves and their dependents. The overflowing of the major tanks affects poor and vulnerable individuals living along the riverbanks and surrounding low-lying areas who require assistance to meet their basic needs, such as food, medication, and other non-food items.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Rapid Food security assessment - WFP 2024 Ampara district.	https://reliefweb.int/report/sri-lanka/sri-lanka-rapid-food-security-assessment-flood-impact-ampara-district-february-2024

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	No
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	Yes

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

A. Initial DREF allocation: The initial DREF operation was approved on 19 October 2023. The response was planned to support those affected by the monsoon flood in three districts: Galle, Matara, and Gampaha in the western and southern provinces of Sri Lanka.

B. The first operation update was published on 29 December 2023 to inform the changes to the operation timeframe, geographical areas, and costs due to the intensification of the northeast monsoon. The response focused on three districts: Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, and Puttalam.

C. The second operation update was released on 19 January 2024. Modifications were made to the operational context, the expansion of the geographical area, timeframe, and cost, as well as the escalation of response efforts in an additional district, Ampara, in the



Eastern province. In response to the severe, intensified extreme weather triggered on January 9, 2023, that impacted over 50,996 families in the district, More than 20,000 farmers' harvests were seriously affected, and extensive road closures and other transportation concerns hit daily-wage farmers and laborers. The entire planned intervention, with the initial DREF to the extent up to the second top-up (Ops update # 02) released, was fully completed and archived the objective of the intervention, implemented in a total of seven districts, including the Ampara district as per the plan.

D. This is the third operation update for the DREF MDRLK018: with this third operation update, the National Society intends to increase multi-purpose cash assistance to 900 vulnerable farmer households. The total budget, timeframe, and geographical areas remain the same; cash grants for these 900 households will be covered by the additional savings derived from the budget under the line from school packs (CHF 25,837) and mosquito net (CHF 1,920) procurement and the allocation for surge support (CHF 27,941) that was not utilized during the implementation period, as the Operation Manager: Surge Support for this operation is supported by the German Red Cross.

The persistent downpours have hurt the local job market, and the economic crisis is worsening things for these families in Ampara district, one of the most vulnerable districts affected by the civil war and tsunami. These communities, homes to rural villages that rely on agriculture and farming, are facing significant challenges.

More needs were identified during the detailed assessment conducted by the branch for livelihood support for the farmers and daily workers working in the farming fields. SLRCS identified 2900 households severely affected by the flood and lost their means of income in the Ampara district; these households are from farming communities; they have lost their crops, the flood damaged their farming land, their daily income was affected, and excessive water overflowed in the tank—the most prominent tank in the district.

However, SLRCS supported 2000 households per the initial plan, and the needs of these 900 households still need to be fulfilled. Through this Ops update, SLRCS intends to help those 900 households as they have enough budget savings from the unused lines. SLRCS also works closely with the Agriculture Department to identify and verify the targeted most vulnerable farmers.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

10-01-2024



SLRCS distributes drinking water bottles at the safe centers. (Photo: SLRCS)



SLRCS engages in community clean up campaigns. (Photo: SLRCS)



SLRCS organizes medical camps to treat the emergency health needs of flood-affected people. (Photo: SLRCS)

Shelter, Housing And Settlements

The SLRCS distributed essential household items to 3,950 households in all seven branches (Matara 860, Gampaha 75, Galle 65, Mullaitivu 400, Kilinochchi 350, Puttalam 200, and Ampara 2000) to the people who lost their household items by the floods. This is 100 per cent of the target achieved. Additionally, 1000 mosquito nets were distributed to households in Galle 250, Matara 400, and Gampaha 350.

The essential household items were provided to the families whose houses were badly damaged due to floods with the guidance of the District DMCs and local authorities. The essential household items composed of Sarong, Kaftan, Bedsheet and Towel.

Multi Purpose Cash

4,850 households already received LKR 20,000 cash grants, whose income and livelihood were severely affected by the flood. This includes Matara - 1000, Galle - 300, Gampaha -



	<p>600, Mullaitivu - 400, Kilinochchi - 350, Puttalam-200, and Ampara - 2000 households.</p> <p>The respective branches conducted a detailed assessment, and the affected households were selected per the selection criteria and verified by the government authorities. During the verification time, CEA and the community feedback mechanism were fully implemented to be aware of the intervention and ensure a fair selection process.</p>
Health	<p>The SLRCS completed 36 medical camps (Matara 10, Gampaha 5, Galle 4, Mullaitivu 3, Killinochi 1, Puttalam 3 and Ampara 10). Initially, A total of 34 medical camps were budgeted but as there were more needs identified during the assessment, SLRCS conducted two more medical camps in Puttalam and Gampaha each. Further, SLRCS conducted 6 first-aid services (Matara 1, Gampaha 1, Galle 1, and Ampara 3). In both interventions, 100 per cent of the target has been achieved.</p> <p>The medical camps are mainly focused on post-disaster medical relief (wounds, minor injuries, waterborne diseases, etc.) The majority of the patients included women, pregnant women, elderly people, chronic patients, and disabled people. Also, 1000 mosquito nets were distributed to the affected people for dengue prevention. The entire medical camp was coordinated by the MoH, the PHI (Public Health Inspectors), and the SLRCS volunteers.</p>
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<p>The SLRCS branches, with the support of the Disaster Management Centre, Divisional Secretary Office, Community members and Trained volunteers, conducted 82 (Matara 20, Gampaha 15, Galle 10, Mullaitivu 5, Killinochi 4, Puttalam 4 and Ampara 25) clean up campaigns. The cleanup campaigns included cleaning of canals, drainage systems, culverts abandoned land as identified by the community and the local authorities</p> <p>SLRCS cleaned 1300 (Matara 500, Gampaha 150, Galle 250, Mullaitivu 200, Killinochi 100, Puttalam 100) wells. This is 100 per cent of the target reached to ensure people have access to safe drinking water. All the wells were cleaned according to OXFAM guidelines. Through this activity a total of 5200 people reached and enable them access to safe drinking water.</p> <p>Drinking water (5L): A total of 4,104 drinking bottles have already been distributed as per the plan in the districts of Matara and Galle under the initial response plan.</p> <p>4600 Sanitary napkin packs (06 pads per pack) were distributed to female adolescent students in Matara (2000 packs)/Galle (600 packs) and Ampara (2000 packs).</p> <p>Along with the distribution, menstrual hygiene management, and safe disposal awareness sessions were also conducted for the students. The distribution of sanitary napkins has a very positive impact on the school attendance of adolescent girls while they are experiencing their menstrual period. This is because poor families are unable to afford to purchase napkins.</p>
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<p>During the implementation of this DREF, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) concerns were incorporated into all activities, such as the capacity building of staff and volunteers on PGI and code of conduct, assessments, targeting, and community and household awareness. The operation aimed to involve individuals of various age groups by providing guidance and consultation, ensuring equal opportunities for both men and women. During the household needs assessment, data on sex, age, and disability were collected and analyzed using the disaggregated data collection method. SLRCS implemented community consultation processes to enhance beneficiary selection and hotline services, ensuring that their services are transparent and accountable to those they serve. SLRCS distributed beneficiary information sheets and awareness posters as part of the multi-purpose cash grant assistance program. These materials were designed to educate both the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.</p>
Education	<p>SLRCS supported 5600 school packs for school-going children in Matara (1800), Gampaha (1200), Galle (600), and Ampara (2000) districts to help the most vulnerable school children who lost their school materials in the floods and landslides. The packs included exercise books, a mathematical box, a pen, pencils, and a backpack. The children were</p>



	<p>selected through an assessment process; branch staff and volunteers worked with the zonal education offices, as well as the respective school principals and teachers, to identify those most affected by the bad weather.</p>
Community Engagement And Accountability	<p>A framework has been implemented to handle any complaints regarding the selection process of impacted individuals, with a focus on integrating the elements of CEA. The key tasks within the CEA framework included informing the beneficiaries about how they were chosen, teaching them about the support mechanism, and evaluating the effectiveness of market operations. The communications unit of SLRCS is dedicated to ensuring clear delivery of the Red Cross's relief activities to those affected. This team has produced photographs, video snippets, and journalistic pieces that have been extensively used across multiple media channels, including social networks, and has proactively disseminated important updates regarding the mission across various social media platforms.</p>
Coordination	<p>SLRCS is currently working closely with government agencies, such as the DMC, district secretariats, and local authorities, to respond to the flood situation. 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 Operations Manager and the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in New Delhi.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>SLRCS has been monitoring the extreme weather situation since the beginning of October 2023 and responding with the available resources. SLRCS has a strong branch network in all 25 districts of the country that can provide disaster and emergency relief. Over 100 staff members and 6,000 active volunteers have received disaster response training. At the national, district, and divisional (sub-district) levels, there are National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT), and Divisional Disaster Response Teams (DDRT). The BDRT and NDRT were deployed in the initial time of the floods and they carried out details assessment and market assessment and its functionality in the affected districts. They were also oriented on the CVA intervention together with CEA and Feedback mechanisms, which were aimed at implementing community participation in the selection of beneficiaries for each intervention,</p> <p>SLRCS has also trained 150 active members of disaster response teams specializing in water and safety. These members are well-trained in life-saving techniques and are ready to assist rescue operations in times of need.</p>
Assessment	<p>A detailed assessment has already been completed in all 7 districts, and based on these assessments, the branches are implementing the intervention planned for the DREF. The intervention plan, which was further updated as per the findings from the detailed assessment, was shared with the government authorities (Divisional Secretaries, GN officers, and DMC divisional officers) to make them aware of the SLRCS coverage within the district and the details of the selection and vulnerability criteria based on the context and the impact of the floods. This was crucial to avoid duplication, and also it strengthened the active participation of the communities supporting the identification and timely implementation of all activities.</p>
Resource Mobilization	<p>SLRCS Matara, Galle, Gampaha, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, Puttalam, and Ampara branches work with government agencies to provide the basic relief required by the affected communities. SLRCS is mobilizing the available resources in the SLRCS HQ warehouse, including essential household items, School kits, and sanitary napkins.</p>
Activation Of Contingency Plans	<p>BDRT teams and NDRT members were deployed for the assessment and distribution of essential household items and to provide first-aid services in the affected areas. Currently, the volunteers were engaged in cleaning and disinfecting the houses in the Ampara district. Initial response activities were conducted in all seven districts, where more people were affected. Some 1,000 households have already received essential household items from the Gampaha, Galle, and Matara districts. Meanwhile, 132 households are supported in the Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts. To date, about 1,132 essential household items and 22 dry rations have already been distributed in Galle district for the landslide-affected people.</p>



IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The in-country IFRC team is in close coordination with SLRCS and the ICRC. The IFRC CCD and APRO offices have supported SLRCS in preparing this DREF application and planning the response. Furthermore, the IFRC CCD regularly shares in-country situation updates and developments with the IFRC APRO. 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> <p>An operation manager (surge support) was deployed for two months to support the response activities at the field level. Operation Manager was seconded by the German Red Cross Society. He was coordinating all the response activities and worked closely with the National Society.</p>
Participating National Societies	There is no Partner National Societies (PNS) presence in the country.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

SLRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and ICRC in implementing various programmes. Since the beginning of this operation, the IFRC country office, with the assistance of the IFRC CCD Delhi and in good coordination with the ICRC, has been providing technical support to SLRCS for the planning and implementation of this DREF operation and sharing information at regional and sub-regional levels. ICRC has been working with SLRCS, particularly in the area of migration, with technical assistance in restoring family links and tracing. ICRC representatives in Sri Lanka are providing technical support to SLRCS for the operation, providing technical inputs to their SLRCS counterparts, and coordinating with SLRCS for information sharing with the Movement and external partners.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>The national and local-level disaster management agencies and district administrative units were responding to the flood and landslide response across the country. According to the DMC, the Army, Air Force, Navy, and police had 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 in river basins and low-lying areas and provided alerts and warnings to the public in close coordination with the DMC.</p> <p>The Agriculture Department has already assessed the impact on agricultural farmers, but still, no support has been provided to the affected farmers. The local civil society organizations, sports clubs, and committees of Hindu temples and mosques were providing cooked food to the displaced people in all divisions in the safer centers in the Ampara district.</p>
UN or other actors	WFP carried out a flood impact assessment in the Ampara district. Islamic relief provided dry rations to the affected families in some of the areas

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The government was leading the coordination informally and bilaterally. SLRCS is in close coordination with the authorities, DMC, and the Metrological Department, together with the divisional secretariat and irrigation department, coordinating all the responses and early warning activities about adverse weather conditions. SLRCS branches closely coordinated and worked with district-level authorities on assessments and providing relief. Also, the National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) is the focal point of coordination to inform and guide about landslide risks and warnings.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Over 400,000 individuals from approximately 85,000 households have been affected by floods since October due to the intensification of the southeast and northeast monsoons over the country.

The northeast monsoon has impacted more than 170,000 people (over 52,000 households) in the Ampara district. All flood-affected individuals who rely on livelihoods have lost their jobs. Extreme weather conditions since last October have led to the reported destruction of over 35,000 acres of paddy land, with 25,000 acres alone in the Ampara district. This has affected 35,000 farmers, causing them to lose their crops and farming activities in the affected districts.

Although the situation is returning to normal, vulnerable farmers whose land and crops were severely affected are still struggling to resume their everyday lives, having lost their yield and capital. Farmers who planted in small plots of land have been especially impacted, and daily workers who worked in the farming lands have faced job shortages, affecting their families' survival. This scenario will persist until the next planting season, commencing in September 2024. Assistance to meet their most basic requirements needs to be extended, as agriculture is the primary source of income in the affected districts.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Integrating community engagement accountability and feedback mechanisms has been pivotal for the operation, ensuring access to timely and accurate information about the services and conduct of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS). These mechanisms are crucial for maintaining transparency around SLRCS's assistance and volunteer behavior.

A hotline has been established by the SLRCS for recording community feedback, a practice that will continue. Additionally, community consultations, meetings, and household visits will be conducted to reinforce these systems, ensuring accountability and improving the quality and effectiveness of aid delivery. The program targets a specific group of affected farmers (900 households), and it is crucial to communicate the selection criteria to both the target group and the broader community through various communication channels.

SLRCS volunteers and community members play a crucial role in assessing needs throughout the operation. District branches will keep in touch with aid recipients, ensuring continuous communication during relief distributions.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

There are no changes to the operational strategy as defined in Operational Update 2. However, with the publication of this third Ops update, the National Society intends to increase the multi-purpose cash assistance to the vulnerable 900 farmer households. The total budget remains the same; cash grants for these 900 households will be covered by the additional savings derived from the budget under the line from school packs and mosquito net procurement and the allocation for surge support that was not utilized during the implementation period, as the Operation Manager: Surge Support for this operation budget is supported by the German Red Cross.

A total of 900 multi-purpose cash grants (900 households) will be covered in the Ampara district with this Ops update; this operation aims to support 99,750 people from the 19,750 households in all seven districts. There is no change in the operation timeline, geographical areas, or intervention strategy, and it will be implemented in total for nine months, starting from October 2023 to July 2024.

Operation strategy rationale

The strategy for this operation is fully in line with SLRCS and IFRC policies, procedures, commitments, and mandates. With the support of IFRC, SLRCS is supporting the most vulnerable households among affected populations in all seven targeted districts.

The selection will involve affected community members is carried out in close coordination with the local authorities. Places of intervention were decided after based on the assessments covering the most affected population in the worst affected districts: Matara, Gampaha, Galle, Puttalam, Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu, and Ampara. The strategy was formulated based on the short-term needs of the affected people and aligned with the government's strategy. The response operation will run for nine months (from October 2023 to July 2024).



2024).

(A) Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA): The total target was 24,250 people from 4,850 households, covering all seven districts as indicated in the Ops update 2. Further, with this Ops update NS plan another 900 cash grants to the families, so total people will be reached through multi-purpose cash 28,750 people from 5,750 households.

A detailed assessment was conducted to select and identify the eligible beneficiaries for multi-purpose cash assistance. In Ampara districts, 2900 households were selected in 5 Divisional secretaries' areas per the selection criteria, and as per the initial response plan, SLRCS supported 2000 households, which is already processed, and the household received their cash. SLRCS is now looking for an additional 900 households to help with the Cash grants. SLRCS will go through the selection criteria with the coordination of the Agriculture Department to reverify the 900 households, who has still the impact of the flooding and are not able to restart their farming activities due to the loss their crops lead to capital loss, and their farming land was inundated.

In the detailed assessment that has already analyzed the market condition, a feasibility study revealed that the market is functioning at total capacity—the delivery mechanism for multi-purpose cash assistance bank account transfer. SLRCS has already worked with the Financial Service Provider (Sampath Bank Pvt. Ltd.). It has been confirmed that the banks are functioning in the affected districts. The CVA focal point works closely with the Cash Working Group (CWG) and determines the value of the cash grant (LKR 20,000) based on the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) analysis. The CWG-developed Minimum Expenditure Basket guidance serves as the basis for determining the cash value per household.

SLRCS will ensure that there is no duplication of beneficiaries with the people who received cash during initial response. There is no previous DREF implemented in Ampara district.

(B) Essential household items: The total target is 19,750 people from 3,950 households, covering all seven districts,

The most vulnerable people, whose houses are inundated by the floods and rescued to safer locations, neighboring villages, and relative houses, were selected through the assessment, and supported with them the essential household items. A total of 3,950 households: Matara 860, Gampaha 75, Galle 65, Mullaitivu 400, Kilinochchi 350, Puttalam 200 and Ampara 2000 distributed with the essential household items. This is 100 per cent of the target achieved.

(C) Health: The total target is 50,750 people through medical camps and first aid activities reached in all seven districts.

The SLRCS successfully organized and completed a total of 36 medical camps, exceeding the initially planned 34. During the assessment, additional needs were identified, prompting the SLRCS to conduct two additional medical camps in Puttalam and Gampaha. In addition, SLRCS provided First Aid Services in 6 interventions, achieving 100 per cent of the target in both cases. The medical camps primarily focused on post-disaster relief, addressing wounds, minor injuries, and waterborne diseases. The patient treated included women, pregnant women, older adults, chronic patients, and disabled individuals. Furthermore, SLRCS distributed 1000 mosquito nets to aid in the prevention of dengue among the affected population. The Ministry of Health (MoH) played a key role in coordinating the medical camps, with valuable support from Public Health Inspectors (PHI) and dedicated SLRCS volunteers.

(D) Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: The total 64,304 people reached through the distribution of drinking water, well cleaning, and sanitary napkin distribution and hygiene promotion and clean-up campaigns:

The SLRCS branches with the support of Disaster Management Center, Divisional Secretary Office, Community members and Trained volunteers conducted 82 clean up campaigns. The Cleanup campaigns included cleaning of canals, drainage systems, culverts abandoned land as identified by the community and the local authorities

The SLRCS cleaned 1300 wells. This is 100 per cent of the target reached to ensure people have access to safe drinking water. All the wells were cleaned according to OXFAM guidelines. Through this activity a total of 6500 people reached and enable them access to safe drinking water.

A total of 4,104 drinking bottles have already been distributed as per the plan in the districts of Matara and Galle under the initial response plan. 4600 Sanitary napkin packs (06 pads per pack) were distributed to female adolescent students in Matara. Along with the distribution, menstrual hygiene management, and safe disposal awareness sessions were also conducted for the students.

(E) Education: The total of 5,600 school children reached through the support with school pack.

To support the most vulnerable school children who lost their school materials in the floods and the landslides, SLRCS supported 5600 school packs for school-going children in Matara (1800), Gampaha (1200), Galle (600) and Ampara (2000) districts. The packs included exercise books, a mathematical box, a pen, pencils, and a backpack. The children were selected through the assessment; branch staff and volunteers coordinated with the zonal education offices and the respective school principals and teachers to identify the most appropriate and affected by the inclement weather.



(F) Dry ration distribution: The target was 250 people from 50 households.

A total of 22 households were supported, out of 50, and 110 people were reached. Dry rations support was initially planned to assist the people affected by the landslides and displaced to the safe centers. However, the Disaster Management Centre supported the remaining households (28), providing cooked foods and essential food items.

SLRCS ensured that assistance was not duplicated in the same districts. At the end of the operation, SLRCS will organize a lesson-learned workshop to review the operation and identify areas for improvement. In its responses, SLRCS will ensure that programs under this operation are aligned with its gender commitments and with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming. Specific considerations will include the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, lactating women, women-headed households, migrants, and households with infants or young children. These groups are more vulnerable to challenges related to access to food and safe water and are more susceptible to diseases and infections.

SLRCS has already established a community feedback mechanism to ensure that all the voices of the community are heard and accepted. For conducting the activities, SLRCS strategies will include a robust community engagement mechanism to ensure community ownership is built throughout the operation.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

SLRCS will identify the worst-affected households, explicitly focusing on the small-scale farmers who lost their crops and capital due to the flooding in the Ampara district. The targeting strategy will assess the damages and losses to their livelihoods, the impact on their health and education and the number of families in the family to identify the most appropriate household to whom assistance is vital. This approach will also ensure that the operations are consistent with the initial cash recipients. Beneficiary selection will be a community-driven process in close coordination with local authorities, the Department of Agriculture, and Divisional Secretariat offices.

With this scaling up, the entire operation will reach a total of 19,950 households (99,750 people as direct beneficiaries) affected by the flood will be targeted in the seven districts for multi-purpose cash assistance, essential household items, dry rations, school packs, drinking water bottles, sanitary napkins, wells, and house clean-up activities.

Specific considerations will include the farmer's families with the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, and households with infants or young children. These groups are more vulnerable to challenges related to livelihood loss, access to nutrient-rich food, and safe water, and are more susceptible to diseases and infections.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Based on the pre-designed criteria customized according to the situation, the severely affected farmers in the affected districts will be covered by informing through this Ops update, with estimated additional farmer households and the daily workers who work in the farming fields.

In general, the affected communities are starting their everyday lives again, so there is no need for further assistance except the MPCA for the vulnerable farmers who have experienced the impact and hardship of the flood and are still going through it. More needs are identified during the detailed assessment conducted by the branch for livelihood support for the farmers and daily workers working in the farming fields. The SLRCS has already covered 2000 households as per the initial response plan.

The intended additional support for the 900 households from the farming communities is that they have lost their crops, and their farming land got damaged by the flood, affecting daily income. SLRCS also works closely with the Agriculture Department to identify and verify the targeted vulnerable farmers.

In its response, SLRCS will ensure that activities under this operation are aligned with its gender commitments and with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming.



Total Targeted Population

Women	41,716	Rural	60%
Girls (under 18)	9,155	Urban	40%
Men	40,081	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	8,798		
Total targeted population	99,750		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Limited capacity in PMER might affect the timely reporting and collection of data or the conduct of PDM	SLRCS to consider having a resource in the PMER function at the NHQ level.
Cash intervention is mainly used in this DREF. Although cash is the best modality, it needs thorough training for the volunteers and staff so as to avoid any irregularities in cash transfers and ensure compliance is adhered at all stages. (MEDIUM)	SLRCS has a 3 step verification and validation process. One at the field, the second by the NHQ, and the last again by the NHQ to confirm that the beneficiary received the cash and that procedures were followed. Whistle-blower policy, and protection through mandatory training on corruption prevention. Oversight and management controls are in place and will be strengthened, including monitoring and support for the National Societies on measures to prevent any such incidents. raising awareness of the hot line and the National Society call center for feedback, the complaint mechanism, and dedicated resources for investigating fraud allegations and ensuring due process. The selection of people to be assisted and support for delivery processes are communicated to all affected populations.
Inadequate human resource capacity	National Society will plan in advance the HR requirement and allocate the required support to the branches. NDRT will be mobilized to support the response activities and more volunteers will be mobilized.
There is possible tension between beneficiaries who received the assistance and those who did not.	A strong CEA and communications approach ensures all affected populations understand the SLRCS/IFRC's operations and the targeting criteria used. SLRCS is already implementing this CEA and communications approach.

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.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes



Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 70,772

Targeted Persons: 19,750

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households provided with essential household items assistance	3,950	3,950

Progress Towards Outcome

The SLRCS distributed essential household items to 3,950 households in all seven branches (Matara 860, Gampaha 75, Galle 65, Mullaitivu 400, Killinochi 350, Puttalam 200, and Ampara 2000) to the people who lost their household items in the floods. This represents 100 per cent of the target achieved. Additionally, 1000 mosquito nets were distributed to households in Matara-400, Gampaha-350, and Galle-250.

Essential household items were provided to the families whose houses were badly damaged due to floods with the guidance of the District DMCs and local authorities. The essential food items are sarong, kaftan, bedsheet, and towel.

Challenges:

international procurement of Mosquito nets was delayed by 3 months because of lengthy procurement and clearance process. Selecting vulnerable beneficiaries and avoiding duplication of assistance also posed challenges, mainly because of the large number of affected families. However, with the assistance of the DMC, Divisional Secretary offices and Grama Niladhari (Local Authority), the branches were able to select the most vulnerable beneficiaries. As the most affected areas, which were given priority, were very scattered, diverse, and far from each other, the project team had to travel long distances, which was time-consuming.

Lessons Learnt:

Using local experts attached to the BDRT and NDRT for deployments (including trainee missions) would boost their response management capacity and increase their understanding of international operational mechanisms. It would also improve the branch's Response Readiness and the capacity of local volunteers



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 607

Targeted Persons: 250

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of households provided with dry rations assistance	50	22

Progress Towards Outcome

SLRCS distributed Dry Ration packs to 22 families affected by floods in Galle district. These packs were distributed to families who stayed for more than 1 week in the safety shelters. Due to floods, 22 dry ration packs were distributed to affected families in the Galle district. These 22 dry ration packs were received by those who stayed in safety shelters for more than one week.

The dry rations one pack for one family include 5 kg of rice, 1 kg of white our, 1 kg of sugar, one fish can, 1 kg of green dhal, 400g of salt, spices, 100g of chili, 100g of turmeric, 1 packet of noodles, 500g of sparts, 1L of coconut oil, and tea powder.



Challenges:

Identifying beneficiaries for dry ration distribution was quite challenging as the number of affected people was high. SLRCS selected those beneficiaries for dry rations who stayed in the safety shelters for more than one week.

Lessons Learnt:

Clearly define the selection criteria, and through CEA, ensure that these criteria are disseminated among affected people, to ensure transparency of Red Cross activities.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 383,436

Targeted Persons: 27,750

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of targeted households provided with cash assistance.	5,750	4,850

Progress Towards Outcome

The multi-purpose Cash Assistance of LKR 20,000 was received by 4850 families (Matara 1000, Galle 300, Gampaha 600, Mullaitivu 400, Killinochi 350, Puttalam 200, Ampara 2000). 100 per cent initial target for MPC has been achieved. The people mostly used the cash to buy food, household items, and medicines. A PDM survey is planned to be held in July 2024 to cover the activities carried out under the initial phase, while another is planned in June 2024 for the remaining phases.

SLRCS, with the support of local authorities, carried out assessments to identify the most vulnerable beneficiaries based on the list provided by the local authorities. The final list was shared with the community and the Government authorities for feedback and validation. After addressing grievances, the final list was prepared, which was endorsed by the Government Authority. The Selection criteria included the most vulnerable households affected by the flood, including women-headed households, families with pregnant and lactating mothers, persons with disabilities, and elderly people. The Cash Working Group recommended a monthly grant value (LKR 20,000 / CHF 56) for the affected family based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket to satisfy basic needs. Cash transfers were made directly to the individual bank accounts of targeted households.

Challenges:

In some districts, people had to travel long distances to withdraw cash from banks, and it incurred time and money. This was specifically seen in Killinochi and Mullaitivu,

Lessons Learnt:

The implementation of multipurpose cash grants primarily targeted vulnerable groups impacted by the flood. This approach proved highly effective in helping those who had lost their income and livelihoods due to adverse weather conditions. The main objective was to swiftly identify and verify the beneficiary list to support those in need through effective coordination with government officials. At the same time, this helps to the local market shop to sell their items.



Health

Budget: CHF 34,381

Targeted Persons: 50,750

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
-------	--------	--------



# of people reached by medical camps and First aid assistance.	50,750	51,200
--	--------	--------

Progress Towards Outcome

The SLRCS completed 35 out of 35 medical camps (Matara 10, Gampaha 5, Galle 4, Mullaitivu 3, Killinochi 1, Puttalam 3, and Ampara 10) and conducted 6 first aid Services (Matara 1, Gampaha 1, Galle 1, and Ampara 6). 100 per cent of the of the target has been achieved.

The medical camps mainly focused on post-disaster medical relief (wounds, minor injuries, waterborne diseases, etc.) The majority of the patients included women, pregnant women, elderly people, chronic patients, and disabled people. Also, 1000 mosquito nets were distributed to the affected people for dengue prevention. The entire medical camp was coordinated by the MoH and the PHI (Public Health Inspectors) and the SLRCS volunteers.

Challenges:

During the initial stage of the operation, it was quite difficult to reach the most vulnerable people for first aid and medical services as the roads were blocked due to flood waters. Despite the challenges, the SLRCS medical teams reached the affected areas by boats and ferries. In Mullaitivu, the procurement of medicines was also an issue because of the inability to get the required medicines from one source. A lot of travel was needed to procure medicines. Also, the supply was intermittent; when a drug ran out, there were no pharmacies to get it immediately.

Lessons Learnt:

It is pertinent to identify risk areas and train/increase the number of community volunteers in those areas to reach the most vulnerable. The volunteers also need to be equipped with first aid kits and given basic refresher first aid training and disaster management training before mobilisation.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 85,539

Targeted Persons: 41,875

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	41,875	43,800
# of people supported with sanitary napkins	4,600	4,600
# of clean-up and disinfection campaigns at community places/public buildings including people places	83	82
# of water sources rehabilitated	1,300	1,300
#of households supported with drinking water bottles	7,052	4,104

Progress Towards Outcome

The SLRCS branches, with the support of Disaster Management Center, Divisional Secretary Office, community members, and trained volunteers, conducted 82 (Matara 20, Gampaha 15, Galle 10, Mullaitivu 4, Killinochi 4, Puttalam 4 and Ampara 25) clean up campaigns, achieving 100 per cent. The Clean-up campaigns included cleaning canals, drainage systems, culverts abandoned land as identified by the community and the local authorities

SLRCS cleaned 1300 dug wells (Matara 500, Gampaha 150, Galle 250, Mullaitivu 168, Killinochi 350, and Puttalam 100). This is 100 per cent of the target reached to ensure people have access to safe drinking water. All the wells were cleaned according to OXFAM guidelines. Also, Matara and Galle branches distributed 5-litre water bottles to affected communities that stayed in the safety camps.

Drinking water (5L): A total of 4,104 drinking bottles have already been distributed as per the plan in the districts of Matara and Galle under the initial response plan. 4600 sanitary napkin packs (06 pads per pack) were distributed to female adolescent students in Matara Galle & Ampara. Along with the distribution, menstrual hygiene management, and safe disposal awareness sessions were also conducted for the students.

The distribution of sanitary napkins has a very positive impact on the school attendance of adolescent girls while they are experiencing their menstrual period. This is because poor families are unable to afford to purchase napkins.

Challenges:

Continuous rains had an impact on the response to cleanup campaigns in all districts. Conducting clean-up campaigns in public places posed a significant challenge due to the high density of the population.

The implementation of the well-cleaning program was quite challenging, particularly when it came to finding the necessary equipment, such as water pumps and ladders, at various heights of the wells. Additionally, there were areas where the electricity supply was disrupted, and the use of electricity to operate water pumps had a significant impact on the effectiveness of cleaning work in various areas. The volunteers organized the well-cleaning team's schedule according to the availability of electricity.

Lessons Learnt:

From the challenges and experience gained from the operation, it is important to procure water pumps and ladders required for well-cleaning activities and water-pressure guns for clean-up campaign activities and maintain them in stock at HQ and branch levels. This would facilitate a prompt response and optimize efficiency. In most of the locations, community participation in cleaning activities was strong.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 98,750

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of individuals covered through dignity, access, and protection activities	98,750	98,105

Progress Towards Outcome

During the implementation of this DREF, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) concerns were incorporated into all activities, such as capacity building of staff and volunteers, assessments, targeting, and community and household awareness. The operation aimed to involve individuals of various age groups by providing guidance and consultation, ensuring equal opportunities for both men and women. During the household needs assessment, data on sex, age, and disability were collected and analyzed using the disaggregated data collection method. SLRCS implemented community consultation processes to enhance beneficiary selection and hotline services, ensuring that their services are transparent and accountable to those they serve. SLRCS distributed beneficiary information sheets and awareness posters as part of the multi-purpose cash grant assistance programme. These materials were designed to educate both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Challenges:

IFRC-DREF response efforts typically priorities addressing immediate needs, but there can be difficulties in maintaining the long-term sustainability of protection, gender, and inclusion initiatives, particularly after the emergency phase. The response plan needed to be implemented quickly, and there might be difficulties in efficiently and promptly incorporating all the considerations related to PGI.

Lessons Learnt:

During the implementation of the responses, SLRCS enhanced coordination and collaboration among different stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local community-based organizations. SLRCS improved its efforts and filled gaps in addressing protection, gender, and inclusion concerns by closely coordinating with stakeholders and sharing information on



time. This collaborative approach likely contributed to a more comprehensive and effective response to the complex challenges posed by the floods. Coordination and collaboration are crucial in addressing multifaceted issues, especially when dealing with emergencies and natural disasters



Education

Budget: CHF 102,748

Targeted Persons: 5,600

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of affected school children received School packs	5,600	5,600

Progress Towards Outcome

SLRCS provided 5,600 school packs to the children in Matara (1800), Galle (600), Gampaha (1200), and Ampara (2000) who were affected by the flood and lost their school supplies. The school packs include essential items such as stationery, a math instrument box, and a school bag. The school packs were bought from local suppliers, through the IFRC procurement guidelines process. A total of 5,600 school children from 93 schools in the district received school packs

Challenges:

The cost of school supplies fluctuated during the economic crisis, but the procurement and programme teams collaborated to find reliable suppliers while maintaining the quality of the supplies.

Lessons learned:

The needs assessment team from SLRCS conducted a thorough evaluation of the actual needs in the field. The economic crisis left vulnerable individuals in a precarious position, while the floods further exacerbated their vulnerability. Consequently, their ability to prioritize their children's education was severely compromised. The school supplies were efficiently distributed to the children from families who were struggling. Working together with the school administration made it easier to quickly identify the children and distribute the school packs.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 6,735

Targeted Persons: 98,750

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people informed about the beneficiaries selection process	98,750	98,105
# of people reached through social media on awareness	98,750	98,105
# of community meeting conducted to share the information about the operation	25	25
# of feedback comments collected, disaggregated by sex, age and disability, including sensitive feedback linked to SEA, fraud, corruption or protection concerns	210	210

Progress Towards Outcome

SLRCS selection criteria included female/single-headed households, households with individuals with disabilities, pregnant and lactating mothers, families with infants and young children, and elderly individuals. A mechanism for addressing grievances related to the selection process of affected people has been established, taking into account the components of CEA. The main activities under the CEA were making beneficiaries aware of the selection criteria, educating them about the assistance process, and assessing market functionality. The communications team at SLRCS is working consistently to ensure that the Red Cross response efforts are effectively communicated to the affected people. The communications team produced photos, video clips, and news stories that were widely utilised in various forms of media, including social media platforms, and actively shared important updates about the operation on various social networking platforms.

SLRCS established a hotline system as part of the feedback process. The SLRCS team at headquarters efficiently handled incoming calls and promptly provided the requested information. SLRCS consistently monitored community input by operating two 24/7 hotlines for community members

Challenges:

There is a shortage of volunteers and staff members with strong communication skills at the branch level of SLRCS. Creating effective communication materials at the branch level can be particularly challenging during times of emergency.

Lessons Learnt:

SLRCS recognises the importance of enhancing coordination and advocacy efforts through various platforms to secure additional funding. To effectively disseminate information, the Red Cross should prioritise radio and television broadcasts. Additionally, they should create and distribute more visually engaging IEC materials, such as posters and leaflets, within the community.



Coordination And Partnerships

Budget: CHF 11,043

Targeted Persons: 99,750

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.)	12	10
# of monitoring visits IFRC/SLRCS carried out to ensure the project implementation	21	16

Progress Towards Outcome

IFRC/SLRCS had already conducted monitoring visits to ensure the implementation of the activities. it was planned for two per district, accordingly, in the Ampara district more visits were performed than the no of visits planned.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 24,473

Targeted Persons: 1

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of person deployed to support the operation	1	2

# of post-distribution monitoring conducted	1	0
---	---	---

Progress Towards Outcome

The Operations Manager was deployed for 2 months (21st February to 21st April) to support the SLRCS in leading, managing, and coordinating DREF, following the expanded scope of DREF to cover 7 districts. Currently, the implementation of Phase 1 is at 100 per cent, Phase 2 is at 100 per cent, and Phase 3 is at 100 per cent completed by the end of May 2024 which will be 2 months before the scheduled end date of 31st July 2024. The CCD Surge team is also closely involved in the procurement of mosquito nets and school kits. Also, regular monitoring visits by the Senior Support Service Coordinator help in the decision-making process and support efficient implementation of DREF.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 79,120

Targeted Persons: 139

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of rapid and detailed assessment teams deployed at branch level	7	7
# of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.)	26	18
# of monitoring visits conducted at the NHQ and branch level	28	32
# of volunteers involved in the operation insured	139	-
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1	0

Progress Towards Outcome

SLRCS conducted 7 assessments in 7 districts. Post-distribution monitoring is being planned in the month of June in Matara, Galle, and Gampaha and in July in Mullaitivu, Killinochi, Puttalam, and Ampara. This will be concluded by a lessons-learned workshop in July 2024 to better understand the objectives, expected results, and responses and analyse their strengths, weaknesses, gaps, and challenges, including recommendations to improve future responses. About 135 volunteers were deployed in all 7 districts. The volunteers possessed a diverse range of skills and extensive experience in the field and were also provided with the orientation of Red Cross Fundamental Principles as well as other technical aspects of the operation, including CVA orientation. SLRCS NHQ officials, the IFRC Operations Manager, the IFRC CCD Representative, and the BEO conducted regular monitoring visits to the field to assess the progress of the operation. The monitoring visits contributed to the achievement of the operation's goals.

Challenges:

There is an urgent need for a dedicated MEAL role in SLRCS at the NHQ level to improve its reporting, monitoring, and learning functions. Also, retention of SLRCS volunteers at the branch level is a challenge since most of them are recruited for the operations period. Most of the volunteers are unable to continue their involvement after the operation period because there is a lack of implementation work in the field.

Lessons Learnt:

SLRCS improved service delivery by effectively utilizing trained volunteers throughout the project. SLRCS also highly values and appreciates the volunteers for their exceptional work. Working closely with government officials and conducting joint field visits with stakeholders from the government can greatly assist in resolving various on-the-ground challenges.



About Support Services

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

A total of 150 volunteers (initially around 100 volunteers, with a combination of males and females engaging in the initial response) were involved in this response. The profile covered the WASH and Health (including PSFA), CEA, and PGI sectors. Staff and volunteers from each branch and SLRCS HQ engaged directly as well.

A project manager (national staff) was responsible for the entire operation, along with a team that included a project assistant, field officer, coordinator, finance, and driver. There will be no additional human resources allocated to cover the response operation in the Ampara district with this revision of the operation update.

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

With the initial IFRC-DREF allocation, a procurement surge was deployed to support the operation. The procurement surge has worked with the SLRCS procurement focal person, as well as the IFRC CCD and regional office, to complete the procurement process for school packs and the international procurement for WHO-standard mosquito nets.

The Operations Manager was also deployed for 2 months (21st February to 21st April) to support the SLRCS in leading, managing, and coordinating DREF, following the expanded scope of DREF to cover 7 districts

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

In order to procure the WHO-standard mosquito nets, SLRCS requested the IFRC for international procurement only of mosquito nets. The procurement of school packs was done by the Country Cluster Office, Delhi, as the total budget amount exceeded CHF 50,000. This was done as per the IFRC procurement policies. Since all other requested items are readily available and fall under the purview of in-country procurement, SLRCS will carry them out following IFRC procurement standards.

However, there will be no further procurement with this Ops update, as it is only focused on MPCA for an additional 900 households to utilize the additional savings from the total budget.

How will this operation be monitored?

SLRCS will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the affected areas 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 programme management to ensure the operational objectives are met. Reporting on the operation will be carried out under the IFRC-DREF minimum reporting standards. Regular updates will be issued during the operation's timeframe, and a final report will be issued within three months of the end of the operation.

A post-distribution monitoring survey will be carried out to assess the effectiveness of the intervention and evaluate the problems encountered during implementation. Additionally, a lesson-learned workshop will be performed to gain insights from both the challenges and successes.

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 are 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

MDRLK018 - Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Monsoon Floods 2023 Sri Lanka

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	684,218
Shelter and Basic Household Items	70,772
Livelihoods	607
Multi-purpose Cash	383,436
Health	34,381
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	85,539
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	102,748
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	6,735
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	114,636
Coordination and Partnerships	11,043
Secretariat Services	24,473
National Society Strengthening	79,120
TOTAL BUDGET	798,854

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal

6/28/2024

#V2022.01

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



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, +919667438124

IFRC Project Manager: Meenu Bali, Programme Manager, meenu.bali@ifrc.org, +919971641414

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Udaya Kumar REGMI, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, udaya.regmi@ifrc.org, +919667438124

Media Contact: Afrhill Rances,, Reginal Communication Manager, afrhill.rances@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

