



# SRI LANKA

## 2025 IFRC network country plan



Funding Requirement **CHF 0.6M**

7 April 2025

### In support of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society



**25**

National Society branches



**307**

National Society local units



**249**

National Society staff



**1,800**

National Society volunteers

### People to be reached



**75,000**

Climate and environment



**500,000**

Disasters and crises



**50,000**

Health and wellbeing



**25,000**

Migration and displacement



**50,000**

Values, power and inclusion

### IFRC network multi-year focus

#### 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 links

**INFORM Severity rating** **Low**

**INFORM Climate Change Risk Index** **Low**

**Human Development Index rank** **78**

**World Bank Population figure** **22M**

**World Bank Population below poverty line** **14.3%**

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

## Funding requirements

2025

**Total 0.6M** CHF

Through the Host National Society

→ **0.24M** CHF

Through the IFRC

**0.42M** CHF

### HNS Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**17,000** CHF

Climate & environment

**52,000** CHF

Disasters & crises

**78,000** CHF

Health & wellbeing

**8,000** CHF

Migration & displacement

**40,000** CHF

Values, power & inclusion

**48,000** CHF

Enabling local actors

### IFRC Breakdown

#### Longer term needs

**17,000** CHF

Climate & environment

**259,000** CHF

Disasters & crises

**117,000** CHF

Health & wellbeing

**5,000** CHF

Migration & displacement

**13,000** CHF

Values, power & inclusion

**9,000** CHF

Enabling local actors

## Hazards



Poverty



Food insecurity



Health



Cyclones



Violence

## IFRC Appeal codes

Longer-term needs:

**MAALK002**

*See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements*

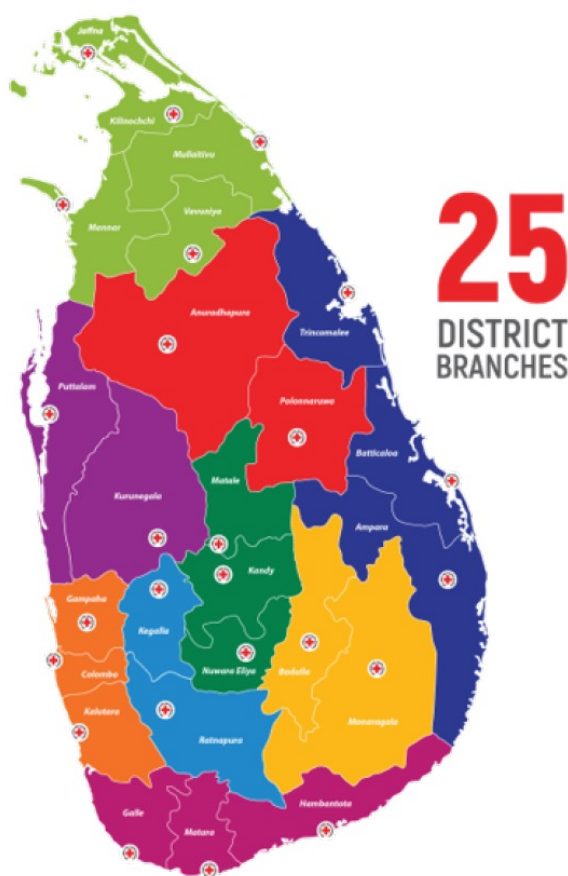
# NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

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 Society 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 new Strategic Plan 2024-2030 describes three strategic goals:

- Strengthen vulnerable communities through inclusive, gender-sensitive humanitarian services and risk-reduction programs, enhancing resilience to crises and ensuring timely, coordinated disaster response and long-term recovery
- Build organizational readiness, transparency, and governance to better serve vulnerable communities, promoting volunteerism, gender equality, and humanitarian values for sustainable impact
- Advance humanitarian efforts by mobilizing resources, enhancing external relations, effective branding, and knowledge exchange, expanding partnerships, and advocating for those in need

In 2023, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society reached 139,000 people with long-term services and development programmes and 968,000 people with disaster response and early recovery programmes.



Map of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society branches

*The map does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the IFRC or the National Society concerning the legal status of a territory or its authorities*

# 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. As a result, over 42 per cent of households are turning to food-based coping strategies, such as skipping meals, eating less-preferred food or limiting portion sizes. 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.

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. 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. It is estimated that over a quarter of the population is living below the poverty line.

Half a million jobs were lost in industry and manufacturing, mostly in urban subsectors including construction, transport, food, and accommodation affecting 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, non-poor households around the poverty line are especially prone to poverty.

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 16.5 per cent in 2023. It is expected to remain below 10 per cent in 2024 and 2025. There are signs of economic recovery as reserves and currency are strengthening. Agriculture, industry, and services all grew in the second half of 2023. These positive trends indicate a hopeful future for Sri Lanka's economy.



*The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society provided dry food packs of flour, lentils, sugar and rice, to help with household supplies to those struggling to cope with the economic crisis hits Sri Lanka, 14 June 2022. (Photo: The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society)*

# 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 totalling LKR 50 billion (USD 313 million), linked to housing, infrastructure, agriculture, and relief, due to hydrometeorological 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

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society is part of the [IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led, climate-smart, disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change; (3) addressing

climate displacement; (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

Due to the island state's vulnerability to climate change, there is an increasing demand for support from the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in the area of climate change. Accordingly, the National Society seeks to strengthen its internal capacity in climate-smart practices, risk communication, and knowledge of 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.

Further, the National Society intends to develop a local strategy to engage youth and school children at the community level, enhancing their knowledge and capacity for [Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation](#) (CCAM).

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.

The two primary objectives of the National Society are:

- Undertake urgent action to adapt to the rising and evolving risks from the climate and environmental crises
- Adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Train and capacity build on [climate-smart practices for communities](#), stakeholders, staff, and volunteers on climate-resilient ways of agriculture
- Introduce drought-resilient agriculture techniques and climate-smart irrigation systems for farmers in the dry zone
- Scale up and technically restructure tree planting programs and mangrove restoration at the local level
- Empower community-based organizations through technical partnerships so that they take a lead in the continuity of activities and dissemination of knowledge
- Develop contingency plans to support climate-vulnerable communities in responding to disasters
- Implement sustainable and context-specific livelihood programmes for women's empowerment mitigating climate-change risk



- Disseminate IFRC learning platform Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and climate change mitigation courses among staff and volunteers

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in implementing [climate-smart community resilience](#) projects



## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see the IFRC GO page, [Sri Lanka](#).

About 2 million people (9 per cent) of Sri Lanka's population are [farmers](#), and about [40 per cent](#) of the country's population is engaged in agriculture or livestock production. Surveys reveal that in response to the ongoing economic crisis, approximately 70 per cent of households have cut back on food consumption, resorting to measures such as skipping meals. Many households which have exhausted coping strategies are forced to turn to [borrowing money and selling their home and belongings](#) to get by.

Sri Lanka, highly vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change, has seen decades of [development gains reversed](#). As a tropical island with two distinct monsoon seasons, monsoon-induced floods are a recurrent disaster in Sri Lanka, which is further exaggerated by the sea level temperature changes. According to [a study](#), annual average mean minimum temperatures are rising, closing the gap between maximum and minimum temperatures. This alarming forecast adds to Sri Lanka's volatile risk profile. Temperature variations disrupt climate patterns in Sri Lanka and the water cycle, exacerbating water scarcity, water quality, and water-related hazards.

These frequent hazards seriously affect the socio-economic status and well-being of communities in addition to the country's achievement of development goals. Most of these impacts are the result of increased vulnerability due to rapid unplanned urbanization and development, lack of good governance, and, most significantly, the direct and indirect effects of climate change.

### 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 Society in disaster risk reduction. Therefore, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society intends to focus more on developing simplified [Early Action Protocols](#) to respond to and reduce the impact of recurrent disasters. Additionally, it intends to strengthen the analysis of disaster-related historical data and

at the community level. This will include the effective implementation of Climate and Environment Policies and Frameworks at the National Headquarters and Branch levels. The IFRC will further assist the National Society in establishing inclusive multi-hazard [early warning systems](#) for communities at risk with the aim of saving lives and properties by utilizing the forecast and real-time meteorological and hydrological data. This will be a part of the [risk reduction](#) programmes.

partner with other stakeholders to enhance the [Anticipatory Action](#) in the country.

In 2025, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society 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 review of the curriculum aligned with IFRC's surge optimization process and enhancing systems for rapid deployment. Due to the likelihood of recurring large-scale unexpected disasters, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society will maintain stocks as a preparedness mechanism for effective and efficient response.

Other objectives of the National Society include to:

- Support communities in taking actions to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards
- [Meet the needs of the people](#) affected by crises and disasters through access to in-kind assistance and support that is timely, adequate, flexible, and strengthens their agency
- Provide shelter assistance to those affected by crises and disasters to meet their shelter needs
- Support [food security and livelihoods](#) of those affected by crises and disasters to meet their food needs and improve income sources
- Provide [multi-purpose cash grants](#) to those affected by crises and disasters
- Respond effectively to the wide spectrum of evolving crises and disasters and leverage its auxiliary role in emergency response
- Expand leadership in the field of [disaster law](#) and improve official/legal recognition of its auxiliary role

### Planned activities in 2025

- Disseminate 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 in evacuating to safe shelters as needed
- Pre-position relief stocks, tools, and equipment to ensure timely provision of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable communities
- Provide 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 in vulnerable communities and support vulnerable families to strengthen/restore their adaptive and resilient livelihood
- Establish linkages between the community and other agencies who are implementing the income-generating activities including government resources, UN Agencies, International agencies, and local NGOs
- Implement Cash for Work (CFW) activities at the community level and conditional cash grants to strengthen the livelihood to ensure the household's income in disaster time as well as improve the community infrastructure
- Establish and maintain a prominent position in the Anticipatory Action (AA) sector within the country, it is

imperative to effectively operationalize the Early Action Protocol of the National Society

- Update and implement monsoon preparedness and response plan, district disaster preparedness and response plan, and contingency plan at the local and provincial levels

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society through 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. It will also provide technical support to the National Society to develop necessary plans, policies, strategy for community-based resilience programming. Additional assistance will be provided to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in providing monetary assistance for income generation as well as capacity-building programs for communities that are struggling.

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.



## Health and wellbeing

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The economic crisis is directly impacting [healthcare services](#) in Sri Lanka, causing shortages of medicine and medical supplies. Dependency on imports, coupled with a reduced foreign currency reserve, 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 per cent 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.

Around sixty-two per cent of households reported that their total monthly income had reduced compared to the previous year 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 are 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](#) in 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 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 are donated to national hospitals and the Ministry of Health in Sri Lanka via the ‘Elixir’ medical donation matching platform. The partnership via the online platform ‘Elixir’ facilitates the sharing of 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.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society will also work closely with the government to address Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) among the children. Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians 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.

Other objectives of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society include:

- Capitalize on its auxiliary role to ensure its position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy, and policy platforms and mechanisms
- Protect and improve the health and well-being of communities through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, and quality health services across the life course
- Maintain the health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks by providing access to appropriate health services
- Increase communities' access to affordable, appropriate, and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in emergency settings

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 and sensitize people to the importance of good hygiene practices in communities, households, and schools
- Raise awareness on personal, community, and environmental hygiene for dengue and other public health emergencies
- Distribute safe drinking water during emergencies and disinfect water points, install rapid latrines during emergencies, and supply hygiene promotion kits and dignity kits in an emergency

### Planned activities in 2025

- Establish community-based surveillance
- Continue to provide first-aid services through volunteer and continue primary health care services
- Establish the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) hotline to support affected populations and psychosocial support to be provided to priority groups
- Design school Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) projects focusing on multi-sector engagement for

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society with institutional readiness through the supply of medical items for epidemic and pandemic preparedness. The support will assist the National Society in reaching the community level for capacity building for epidemic and pandemic preparedness. In addition, the IFRC will also provide technical support to the National Society with regard to the development and implementation of WASH Interventions including climate-smart long-term WASH programme, and resilience program.



*The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society volunteers provided relief, rescue, and aid support to over 300,000 people affected by the flash floods and landslides in Sri Lanka, 14 April 2021. (Photo: The IFRC)*





## Migration and displacement

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. There remain populations of [internally displaced people](#) (IDPs) in some parts of the country from disasters or long-running civil conflict. Sri Lanka is also a major country of origin for migrant workers.

According to [International Migration in South and South-West Asia](#), Sri Lanka has seen a tenfold increase in migrant numbers in the last two decades and current estimates suggest that about 1.7 million migrants work abroad, with an annual outflow of about 200,000 persons. More than half of such migrants are employed in the low-skilled and informal sector, including many women who work as domestic workers. The government is keen to support more people hoping to work abroad to boost remittances in order to support the foreign reserve shortages.

The ongoing crisis is prompting a large-scale migration, with many leaving the country permanently. In August 2022, more than [550 undocumented migrants](#) were captured from various parts of the country by the Sri Lankan Navy, and many of them tried to migrate illegally to Australia. Also, over 1,500 Illegal Sri Lankan Migrants were repatriated from Malaysia from March to April 2024.

As of September 2024, [UNHCR Sri Lanka](#) registered 246 refugees and 169 asylum-seekers. Among them, 101 refugees are in the resettlement pipeline and will depart the country for resettlement at some point. The majority originated from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, and Myanmar. At present, Sri Lanka does not have a legal framework to recognize asylum seekers or refugees and, as such, they are treated as 'irregular migrants' and are therefore vulnerable to arbitrary arrest, detention, and deportation.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Between 2021 and 2025, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society 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 countries. The estimated project outreach is 100,000 households. Besides the ARAKSHA project, other key areas of attention for the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society 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 Society will continue to prioritize the mainstreaming of 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.

Other objectives of the National Society include to:

- Provide migrants and displaced persons access to humanitarian assistance and protection at [key points along migratory routes](#) as well as access to durable solutions when appropriate
- Engage with migrants, displaced persons, and host communities to more effectively assess, understand, and respond to their priority needs

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### Planned activities in 2025

- Provide humanitarian assistance for migrants and displaced people including relevant healthcare, psychosocial support, safe referrals, household items, food, WASH, shelter, cash and voucher assistance, information including Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), livelihoods, and education
- Collaborate with key stakeholders revealed in the migration and displacement assessment and adopt recommendations
- Integrate migration and displacement into existing policies and strategies or develop a specific National Society migration and displacement policy and strategy
- Mainstreaming of migration and displacement considerations across cross-cutting sectors
- Undertake activities to facilitate the exchange of information and good practices between the components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in strengthening its capacity in migration and displacement through training, workshops, and peer support. This will include support for 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-19 outbreak and its ongoing economic crisis. [One in five women](#) reported experiencing marital abuse before the pandemic. 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 well-being and are vulnerable to breakdowns in protection mechanisms. The [Sri Lanka Joint Rapid Food Security Assessment](#) 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.

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The strategy of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society prioritizes values, power, and inclusion, in line with [IFRC's Strategy 2030](#). In the coming year, the National Society will continue to run 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 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 Society aims to disaggregate data according to the [Federation Wide Data Bank Reporting System](#) (FDRS) template. The National Society also plans to develop online learning modules to train personnel on clean and inclusive data collecting and equitable resilience using the [IFRC community resilience](#) approach.

Other objectives of the National Society include:

- Contribute to a positive change in communities through wider understanding, ownership, dissemination, and

application of [Fundamental Principles](#) and humanitarian values, focusing especially on young people's knowledge, skills, and behaviour

- Promote and support safe, equitable, and continuous access to quality education for all, especially boys and girls affected by disaster, crisis, or displacement
- Become safe and inclusive, ensuring dignity, access, participation, and safety for people of all identities
- Empower people and communities, vulnerable to and affected by crises, to influence decisions affecting them and trust the IFRC Network to serve their best interest

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### Planned activities in 2025

- [Re-establish youth units/branch/ national structures](#) and form school junior circles which include printing of badges, notebooks, and membership forms
- Empower and capacity-build youths to design [innovative programmes](#) and commit to humanitarian services to address the current crisis
- Build the capacity of staff and volunteers through regular PGI training and strengthen 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
- Digitalize the CEA hotline number and feedback database and strengthen community feedback and complaint response mechanisms throughout the projects and programmes

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### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the National Society by strengthening its PGI programming. This will include mainstreaming PGI and CEA into sectoral programming and operations through the minimum standards, policy, and toolkits. It will also provide technical assistance with feedback mechanisms linked to clear referral systems as part of the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation standard operating procedure.

# ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society strives to fulfil 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.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society will focus on working towards the implementation of the Red Cross Act. This process will facilitate the legal base of the National Society, which will reinforce its mandated position as an 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 analyse methods of principled humanitarian action as a component of the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER).

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, in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.



## Strategic and operational coordination

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Increase its cooperation and coordination with external partners to address major challenges facing communities
- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness through membership coordination in humanitarian actions and shift the mindset towards a Federation-wide network.
- Fulfil priorities for Movement Coordination and Cooperation, as outlined in the Council of Delegates meeting in 2019
- Ensure effective shelter cluster coordination with partners inside and outside the network with the National Society taking an increased role in shelter cluster coordination

- Effectively increase its financial resources, both through domestic fundraising and providing greater international support

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will support the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to strengthen its ability to coordinate national and international learning and coordination across various platforms and clusters. It will also provide financial and technical assistance to the National Society to uphold regular shelter cluster/working groups to monitor response strategy implementation, review, and contextualize key documents after medium/large responses and update Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedure.



## National Society development

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Continue to work as a network of relevant local organisations who are the trusted partners of choice for local humanitarian action with the capabilities to act in the global network
- Prioritize volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust in all contexts

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue its support to the National Society to strengthen the coordination and alignment of technical and financial support provided to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society by various partners in line with the adopted consolidated National Society development plan.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

Promote its image and advocate for change, affecting public behaviour, policies, and decisions on a domestic, regional, and global scale

### 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

- Work as a global accountable network
- Undergo a [digital transformation](#)
- Use innovative and transformative approaches to better anticipate, adapt to, and change for complex challenges and opportunities

### Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in strengthening its human resources department. Additional support will include strengthening the procurement process and policy, the review and updating the finance manual, and implementing an Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) system. The IFRC will also support the National Society with institutionalizing fraud and corruption prevention the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding risk analysis.

# THE IFRC NETWORK

## The IFRC

The IFRC is at present the main supporter of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. 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 2024, the IFRC supported the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society through numerous Emergency Appeals and [Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) operations in relation to multiple floods in [southwestern provinces](#), [central provinces](#), and [Sabaragamuwa](#) in addition to a [dengue outbreak](#).

## IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development

assistance and contributing to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

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 the **Red Cross Society of China**, **Kuwait Red Crescent Society**, **Singapore Red Cross Society** and the **Turkish Red Crescent Society**.



## Movement coordination

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. 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.

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## 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 the 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 Society 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 with international corporate partners such as Coca-Cola. It also works with media networks such as Hiru TV and the Independent Television Network.

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## 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 16 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.

### About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2025 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and 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.

### Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities
- Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
- IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- Figures for the years beyond 2025 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-estimation of the efforts led by all
- Reporting bias: the data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

### Additional information

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research databank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

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