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Emergency Plan of Action Operation Update Sri Lanka: Easter Sunday attack

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRLK009	GLIDE n° OT-2019-000037-LKA
EPoA update n° 2 ; date of issue 26 August 2019	Timeframe covered by this update: 6 May to 15 August 2019
Operation start date: 6 May 2019	Operation timeframe: 6 months (extended) and end date: 6 November 2019
Overall operation budget: CHF 365,909	
N° of people being assisted: Direct 465 families (2,325 people), indirect 5,000,000 people	
Host National Society: The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is a voluntary humanitarian organization; SLRCS has a strong branch network in all the 25 districts of the country, which is well capable in providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies. Over 150 staff and 7,000 active volunteers are trained in disaster response. National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) and Divisional Disaster Response Teams (DDRT) are available at National, District and Divisional levels. SLRCS has also trained disaster response teams specialized in water and safety which has 150 active members. These members are well trained on life saving techniques to assist rescue operations in times of need. Further, trained First Aid (FA) volunteers are also available in all districts, in readiness for immediate deployment at time of disaster for life saving purposes. SLRCS has a pool of 25 Cash Based Intervention (CBI) trained persons, who could be deployed to set-up and assist implementation of the CBI programmes.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is actively supporting the SLRCS in carrying out the operation through DREF and Call for Support "C4S" mechanisms. Furthermore, IFRC is coordinating with SLRCS for information sharing with the Movement and external partners. The movement partners in country, SLRCS, IFRC and ICRC are maintaining a close coordination.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), Tri-forces (Sri Lanka Army, Air-force, Navy), Sri Lanka Police, Ministry of Health (MoH), Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Religious Institutions, Caritas Sri Lanka, UN agencies, INGOs, and other civil society organizations.	

Summary of the operation update:

This operation update informs on the extension of the implementation timeframe until 6 November 2019 due to these reasons:

- Challenges faced in implementing school programmes. After the attack, schools were closed for a few weeks and due to security reasons, the government also restricted school activities for a few months. Furthermore, the government also considered a shorter August vacation to compensate the unexpected school closure in end April-May. However, the vacation schedule has not been changed and schools will be closed for 28 days in August. At present, school activities are clashing with the school exams and school holidays.
- Furthermore, it has been observed that the needs of each district, as well as the overall context, has evolved in the past three months faster than anticipated. Therefore, some of the planned activities had to be changed.
- SLRCS is encouraging branches to follow community engagement process, which is very effective but time consuming. On the ground, efforts are underway in forming community level sub-committees together with other stakeholders to ensure that the projects are being organized and giving ownership to the beneficiaries. For some activities, multiple partners are involved (more and more partners are coming on-board) and therefore it takes time to coordinate with certain parties and organize such events.

The overall operation budget remains the same.

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

The explosions on 21 April 2019 killed at least 253 people¹ and wounded more than 500 people. At least 40 foreign nationals and at least 45 children² reported to be among the dead. A state of emergency was later declared by the government to maintain public security and essential services. The state of emergency has been extended a few times and currently is still in effect. Consequently, these attacks affected the country as a whole, with inter-ethnic anxiety rising in the affected districts as well as in the country in general. Tense situations also developed in several locations of the country as a result of these attacks, especially in the North Western province and Gampaha district. Several levels of curfew were declared per district or nation-wide by the government to maintain order and control the situation. During the search operations, the Sri Lanka Police and religious leaders requested the public to remain calm and peaceful, and to cooperate with law enforcement authorities.

Due to security threats, schools were also closed for two weeks after the attacks and the second school terms for students started gradually in May - students of Grade 6-13 started on 6 May and the lower levels started in mid-May, while some Catholic schools and International schools only started very recently. The Police and Security Forces also put extensive security measures in place to ensure security in school premises.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

SLRCS immediately went into action to provide life-saving care immediately after the attacks. First aid instructors offered first aid and relief to survivors at explosion sites, such as St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo, north of the capital, Colombo. SLRCS Gampaha Branch opened a first aid centre on its premises, where first aiders treated minor injuries and drove people to hospital.

First aiders also provided psychological first aid to people in distress. To help hospitals cope with a sudden influx of seriously ill people, the SLRCS helped transfer patients from Negombo Hospital to Gampaha Hospital. SLRCS asked its network of blood donors to donate, and as of early on Sunday afternoon, until supplies were believed to be enough to meet the demand.

SLRCS also activated its Restoring Family Links (RFL) to re-establish contact among family members who have been separated as a result of these incidents through accepting tracing requests, exchanging Red Cross Messages and offer phone calls. The objective of this service was to relay information about patients to their families to ease the anguish of relatives and relieve pressure on medical staff. Staff of the National Headquarters and trained RFL volunteers from SLRCS, Colombo Branch, visited the wounded at the National Hospital in Colombo to verify their needs and reconnect them to their families, including 163 patients receiving treatment in 15 wards, and 73 patients in the intensive care unit. In addition, the RFL volunteers from SLRCS, Batticaloa branch, have visited the injured persons in the Batticaloa Teaching Hospital to offer this service. There has been no RFL needs identified during this service. The SLRCS registered ten tracing cases including requests from abroad linked to Easter Sunday attack in which three of them were positively closed.

Some 15 volunteers supported the national hospital and Institute of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology on management in the morgue, with dead body management.

Furthermore, SLRCS trained volunteers provided first aid at the funerals for victims of the explosions. In addition, a Technical Advisor from the IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support, attached to the Danish Consulate, arrived in Sri Lanka for a short visit to help survivors. The technical advisor assisted in training volunteers and debriefing session of the volunteers.

SLRCS conducted detailed needs assessment in the three most affected districts; Gampaha, Colombo and Batticaloa, and 11 more districts where some of the affected people reside. After analysing the outcomes of the assessment report, SLRCS held discussions with movement partners, relevant government authorities, and the public and private sectors regarding medium to longer-term recovery initiatives for the affected people and their families. SLRCS is coordinating with authorities, and branches are on standby to offer more support.

During the initial post-math of the attacks, due to the grievance process and funerals, injured people were not in a position to obtain their own medical needs. For which, Gampaha branch deployed five mobile medical teams (each team

¹ <http://www.dailynews.lk/2019/04/26/local/183890/bomb-attack-deaths-253-health-dg>

² <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-statement-easter-sunday-attacks-sri-lanka>

included a doctor, nurse, midwife, Red Cross volunteers and few counsellors), to provide further medical assistance to the injured victims.

A medical camp was held on the 19 May in Katuwapitiya-Negombo. Over 300 victims received medical assistance on Ear Nose and Throat (ENT). This medical camp was organised by Gampaha branch together with Katuwapitiya St. Sebastian Church and the Katuwapitiya youth community. It was supported by the ENT unit of the Base Hospital Negombo, Government institutions, private and many other non-governmental organisations as well.

IFRC is not only supporting SLRC with DREF, but a 'Call for Support' was launched to complement the DREF allocation. The Call for Support mechanism in principle is a part of the Sri Lanka Country Operational Plan 2019 and is seeking a total of CHF 2 million to enable the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to deliver assistance and support on the following areas: Livelihoods and Basic needs, Health, and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI).

Sectoral progress under DREF operation, as of 15 August 2019

Sector	Activity	Target (# of families/people/etc)	Status	Remarks
Livelihood and basic needs	Multipurpose cash grant for post burial rituals and other social/spiritual activities that facilitate the process of grieving Per HH - LKR 15,000 (CHF 91) each in two instalments	300 households	Completed	
	Multipurpose Cash Grants for children, using for education Per child - LKR 15,000 (CHF 91) for four months	200 children	Ongoing	Selection completed. First instalment transferred to 187 students. Second instalment transferred to 86 students.
Health	Orientation for the volunteers and staff	3 branches	Completed	Initial orientation was conducted in HQ and subsequent 123 orientations in the branches
	Detailed qualitative assessment	3 branches	Completed	Assessment conducted in all 3 branches (a total of 465 houses visited)
	PFA training for Volunteers (20 volunteers per training)	3 training sessions - at least 60 volunteers	Completed	A total of 8 trainings have been conducted in all 3 branches with a total of 123 volunteers having been trained in 2 rounds of sessions.
	Volunteer deployment for psychological first aid (PFA)	10 days	Ongoing	To-date, a total of 31 volunteers deployed to provide PFA to the affected people
	Recreational activities for children	3 branches - at least 200 children	Ongoing	To-date, a total of 311 children reached
	Self-Help groups (strengthen the social support)	3 branches	Not started yet	The branches are focusing on creating the peer support networks initially and have planned to implement the self-help groups with the conclusion of the peer-support networks.
	Establish crisis support centre at head quarters	1 centre	Ongoing	To-date, identified number of cases 16
	Family visits	3 branches at least 300 families	Ongoing	Total number of home visits: 279
	Debriefing sessions for volunteers (Care for caregivers)	3 sessions at least 60 volunteers	Ongoing	Total of 5 sessions have been conducted to 52 persons
	Peer Support Networks (female head of households, single parents, disabled)	3 branches	Ongoing	Total of 279 persons reached
	Satisfaction survey	3 branches	Not started yet	Scheduled to be conducted in September
Protection, Gender and	Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) - newspaper for 4 months with 6	At least 5,000,000 people (in-directly)	Completed	Reached an estimated 5,000,000 people via newspaper, TV, radio

Sector	Activity	Target (# of families/people/etc)	Status	Remarks
Inclusion (PGI)	selected newspapers (Sinhala, Tamil & English)			and LED screens on public places
	SBCC - TV campaign for 4 months with 3 selected National Stations (Sinhala, Tamil & English)			
	SBCC - Radio campaign 10 times with 3 selected National Stations (Sinhala, Tamil & English)			
	Social cohesion activities - communities	120 activities in 3 branches, targeting 25 people each, total 3,000 people	Ongoing	A total of 57 social cohesion activities conducted in all 3 districts with the inclusion of a mixture of all ethnicities in the communities, reaching around 2,904 people
Social cohesion activities - schools	60 activities in schools in 3 branches, targeting 25 students each, total 1,500 students	Ongoing	Total of 18 activities were conducted in 16 school, reaching 385 students.	
SFI	PSS RDRT	2 persons to be deployed	Partially completed	RDRT on PSS was deployed for a period of one month.
	Surge Security	APRO security coordinator deployment	Completed	Regional security coordinator deployed for a week to review.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

SLRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and the ICRC in implementing various programmes. IFRC and ICRC have been working together in close coordination to provide technical support to SLRCS and shared information at regional and sub-regional levels. Movement Coordination meetings involving SLRCS, IFRC and ICRC held as necessary. The IFRC Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) in Delhi and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) provided further coordination support for information sharing and resources.

In addition to offering any relevant support to the RFL operations of the SLRCS, the ICRC delegation in Sri Lanka reached out to forensic authorities, in order to provide assistance at the aftermath of the attacks. The ICRC Forensic specialist conducts regular visits to the Institute of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology (IFMT) - its main partner organization, located at the premises of the Colombo morgue. In the frame of an agreement signed last year, the ICRC has provided IFMT specialized support in various areas, as well as donations of essential material such as body-bags, personal protective equipment etc. This contributed to the efficient organization and functioning of the institute during this critical time. The ICRC has also been in permanent contact with the police and security agencies, in order to follow up the arrest of several people in connection with the attacks, in the frame of its traditional detention activities in the country

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), Tri-forces and police are leading the security operation, together with (Sri Lanka Army, Air-force, Navy), Sri Lanka Police Ministry of Health (MoH), Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Religious Institutions, Caritas Sri Lanka and district administrative units are working together to assist the people affected.

SLRCS is also in close coordination with other partners/stakeholders who are working on the ground, especially religious leaders, organisations such as Caritas Sri Lanka and handicap international.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

There is a need to provide psychological first aid (PFA) to the people who were directly affected by the incident especially the survivors, witnesses and those families who have lost their family members. Up to 200 children have lost their family members and some of them are breadwinners for their families. More than 500 people were also injured and among those around 75 families whose livelihood have different degrees of disruption. Some of them will not be able to go to work due to injuries, and some have lost their physical ability to work. Inter-ethnic anxiety has risen in the affected districts as well as in the country in general. There are lot of uncertainty, tension and panic among people, due to ongoing threats of further explosions, ongoing security checking across country, suspicion about terrorists and state of emergency issued.

Targeting

The target beneficiaries of the DREF operation:

- 253 bereaved families of the deceased from the attacks.
- 500 people who are injured.
- Children who has lost their family members (up-to 200 children).
- PFA support to those who witnessed the traumatic event.
- Social cohesion activities in 30 communities and 30 schools (at least 180 activities reaching at least 4,500 people).
- Reaching the wider community focusing on Social Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) for social cohesion via broader communication channels; print media, television and radio (at least 5,000,000 people);
- SLRCS staff and volunteers who are involved in the response.

Operation Risk Assessment

Due to the nature of the operating environment, the SLRCS is applying all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of staff and volunteers engaged in this operation and it will be prioritized. SLRCS will continue to monitor the security situation of the country and liaise closely with relevant security institutions to reduce the risk in the field.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective

This operation aims to assist at least 6,000 people (1,200 families) affected by the Easter Sunday attack mainly in Colombo, Gampaha and Batticaloa districts. Furthermore, indirect support to at least 5,000,000 people in the wider community on SBCC via communication channels (print media, television and radio). Initially, the operation was planned to be implemented over four months period. Due to unavoidable circumstances mentioned at the beginning, two months extension is required making the overall implementation period to six months. The primary focus of the operation remains the same:

- Mental health and psychological first aid support to affected families and witnesses of the traumatic event.
- Cash-based interventions for affected families.
- Social cohesion activities in 30 communities and 30 schools.
- Supporting SLRCS to scale up to respond to this event, and in readiness for any related violence.

Proposed strategy

The proposed strategy remains the same. SLRCS response aims at enhancing overall wellbeing of the affected families through a comprehensive mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) response that is linked to a long-term program focused on recovery and rehabilitation. SLRCS approach includes education, livelihood, disability support and social-cohesion under the MHPSS umbrella, considering them as vital components for enhancing resilience of the target families.

The assistance provided by IFRC via DREF funding is also linked to a medium and longer-term programming called 'Call for Support'. Additionally, SLRCS is mobilizing funds raised via SLRCS online donation platform and coordinating with other stakeholders for longer-term interventions. In this respect, SLRCS is also working closely with other stakeholders to ensure there is no work duplication. Trained SLRCS volunteers and staff are providing PFA for affected families. A Crisis Centre has been established in SLRCS NHQ to provide teleconsulting, referral support to mental health issues identified, and follow-up with the people.

Cash interventions for the response:

1. Multi-purpose cash grant will be given up to 300 families in two segments; LKR 15,000 (CHF 91) each, in order to cover for the immediate needs such as covering the post funeral rituals and other necessary expenses in the first two months.
2. Multi-purpose cash grant targeting 200 children who lost their family member(s) in the attack: LKR, 15,000 (CHF 91) for four months, to cover their immediate needs such as basic needs, food, and school fee. This amount is determined by taking reference from the lesson learned of the previous operation in Sri Lanka.

SLRCS has deployed people from its CBI trained pool to the branches to assist the implementation of the cash interventions. Furthermore, SLRCS is working together with financial service providers (FSP); banks, mobile companies, VISA card etc to transfer direct cash to people.

As inter-ethnic anxiety has risen in the affected districts as well as in the country in general, SLRCS social cohesion programme aims to reach people/communities/schools/wider communities. SLRCS in its response is mainstreaming social-cohesion in the following:

- Social cohesion programme in the 30 communities and 30 schools - 15 activities per branch each month and in total 60 activities; Activities include youth dialogue, interreligious dialogues, social behavioural change campaigns, and are incorporated in the Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change (YABC) programme.
- Social behaviour change communication in all three languages; Sinhala, Tamil and English via country wide media coverage; print media, television and radio. NS is planning to publish content in at least in 4 newspapers, audio clips in at least 3 radio channels and TV clips in at least 3 TV channels.

SLRCS will continue its readiness in case of further intercommunal violence, which will be included into the longer-term programming.

During the response, a detailed assessment has been conducted by trained SLRCS staff and volunteers in order to design a longer-term program tailored to specific needs of the affected households. Furthermore, a satisfaction survey and a post distribution survey will be conducted to identify the feedback from the people assisted. A lesson learned workshop will be held at the end of the DREF operation to identify the achievements, challenges and recommendations for future programming.

Key aspects factored in the strategy of the DREF operation:

- **The National Society Leadership:** SLRCS is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response operation, supported by the IFRC and in-country Movement partners.
- **A Movement-wide approach:** SLRCS is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the operation, supported by all components of the Movement. Considering the nature and scope of the response, IFRC will mobilize resources via this DREF on behalf of SLRCS, while coordinating with the ICRC at the same time.

Operational Support Services

Human Resources

A project coordinator, assistant project coordinator will be hired to coordinate the whole programme from SLRCS NHQ. Furthermore, a social cohesion expert, a crisis psychologist/ counsellor, a livelihood expert, will be recruited to provide the technical inputs. To support the finance and HR, two officers will be hired. At branch level, to implement the programme 3 branch coordinators – PSS and 25 branch social cohesion officers will be recruited. Furthermore, implementation will be supported by volunteers and staff members existing in both SLRCS and IFRC offices. Mobilization of NDRT, BDRT and DDRT as well as staff expenses are covered in the operational budget. A RDRT specialised on PSS will also be requested, to support in the National Society (NS) for a period of one month with possible extension.

Logistics and Supply Chain

The supply chain strategy for this operation was to source required items locally following SLRCS and/or IFRC procedures ensuring the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation. IFRC Sri Lanka Office is providing logistics technical support to SLRCS ensure transparency and accountability in the procurement process. Additional logistics support could be made available by the Asia Pacific Operational Logistics, Procurement and Supply Chain Management (OLPSCM) Unit and Country Cluster Support Team South Asia, as per need.

Information Technologies (IT)

High-speed Wi-Fi internet connectivity is available in IFRC Sri Lanka Office as well as in the NHQ of SLRCS. Staff members and volunteers in the field operation will be supported by 3G modems and internet data packages for their smartphones which will enable them communicating electronically with the headquarters and to send reports and pictures in quick time. Open Data Kit (ODK) based assessments will be carried out electronically through mobile applications on digital tablets or mobile phones. An orientation session on digital assessments will be provided to prepare the volunteers using the tablets or mobile phones for assessments.

Communications

SLRCS communications staffs are working in close coordination with the IFRC regional communications team to ensure that the evolving humanitarian needs and the response of SLRCS is well profiled and disseminated across social media platforms and in the national and international media. A proactive approach will be taken to maintain media outreach and to produce communication materials including press releases, news stories, photos/video, key messages and infographics for external promotion by National Societies in their domestic markets. A Viber group has been created to share information and photos between volunteers, branches, NHQ and IFRC.

To support the social cohesion activities, manage reputational and security risks, and increase acceptance, communications activities to reinforce the reputation of SLRCS as neutral and impartial will be undertaken, as budget allows.

Security

SLRCS and IFRC security focal points will continue to monitor the situation. Any security concerns will be handled with local authorities as per the existing security framework. Furthermore, to ensure both staff and volunteers under gone the basic security training, there will be an orientation on security and safety provided to all. All the staff and volunteers engage in the operations are insured. IFRC APRO security coordinator will be paying a technical mission in assessing the situation and provide necessary support.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, & Reporting (PMER)

SLRCS will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the flood affected area through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. IFRC, through its Sri Lanka Office and CCST in Delhi will provide technical support in programme management to ensure the operation objectives are met accordingly by end of operation.

A satisfaction survey, a post-distribution survey, and a lesson learned workshop will be conducted to capture the impact and the learning.

Administration and Finance

Operational expenses such as volunteer per-diem, accommodation, transportation, communication and coordination activities are factored in. Finance and administration support to the operation will be provided by SLRCS NHQ, with the assistance from the finance team of the IFRC Sri Lanka Office.

C. Detailed Operational Plan

 <p>Livelihoods and basic needs People reached: 1,500 Male: 600 Female: 900</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Indicators:		Target
<i># of people targeted/reached with adequate cash assistance</i>	1,500 (300 families)	1,500 (300 Families)
Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># families provided with unconditional cash grants</i>	300	300
<i># of children provided with multi-purpose cash grants</i>	200	187
Progress towards outcomes		
<p>Cash assistance to the affected people is the biggest component of the operation, with two types of cash assistance in place. To assist the implementation process, Cash Working Group at NHQ in consultation with the branches, prepared the cash programme implementation guidelines, selection criteria, and formats for data collection (beneficiary detail card). These were shared with branches and staff for better programming. Furthermore, SLRCS deployed three of its CBI trained persons to branches to assist with the operation.</p> <p>Unconditional cash grant Unconditional cash grant of LKR 30,000 (approx. CHF 162) per family have been distributed to the targeted 300 families (in two segments, LKR 15,000 each). These grants enabled families to fulfil their basic needs such as</p>		

funeral expenses, medicine and other personal requirements related to the bomb blast.

Selected households for this type of cash assistance are those who have lost family member(s) and households with injured member(s) during the Easter Sunday attacks. Funds were transferred to the individual bank accounts of the households. Filled beneficiary card, copy of the National Identity Card (NIC) and bank pass book are the supporting documents for the transfer. Branch maintains the individual file per each household and a copy-set were sent to NHQ for fund transfer. As per reporting period, all the targeted 300 families have received both instalments.

Multi-purpose cash grants for children

Targeted 200 children who have lost their family member(s) in the attack is being provided with LKR 15,000 (approx. CHF 81) for four months, to cover their immediate needs such as basic needs, food, and school fee. Affected children between 3 years up-to higher education are targeted. As per reporting period, selection done for all the 200 children, with the first instalment already transferred to 187 students and second to 86 students. SLRCS is linking with the government probational child care officers at district level for monitoring and sustainable well-being of the affected children.



Health

People reached: 2,325

Male: 1,124³

Female: 1,201

Outcome 1: Vulnerable people's health and dignity are improved through increased access to appropriate health services

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by psychosocial support	1,500 people	around 2,325 (465 families)

Output 1.5: Mental health and psychosocial support provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained on PFA	60	123
# of children supported with recreational activities	200	311

Progress towards outcomes

Psychosocial component of the operation includes interventions representing three tiers of Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) interventions pyramid (see Figure 1).

The fourth tier; specialised services, of the pyramid is not catered through the project as a direct intervention. SLRCS will refer the beneficiaries who needs specialized services; referral pathways will be mapped, and an operational referral and follow-up mechanism will be established via the Crisis Centre, and also via existing services at government institutions.

As per reporting period, field staff have been selected and appointed in all three districts. An initial orientation had been conducted at headquarters with participation of 15 staff from NHQ and the three branches. The branches also conducted one orientation each.

Volunteers have been selected and given two rounds of trainings – first was on basic pre-deployment while the second included Psychological First Aid (PFA). The first training involved 27 persons in Colombo, 20 persons in Gampaha and 32 persons in Batticaloa. These trained volunteers have conducted the detailed need assessment by visiting 465 houses.

The second round of training was a three-day training on Psychological First Aid based on new training curriculum with support from RDRT surge. These trained volunteers equipped with the necessary skills visited families who were directly and indirectly affected by the attacks. For the second training, 44 volunteers were trained - 18 persons

³ Estimated figure based on [2012 census](#) – 51.6% female, 48.4%

in Colombo, 11 persons from Gampaha and 15 persons from Batticaloa. In total, 123 volunteers have been trained from the two rounds of training.

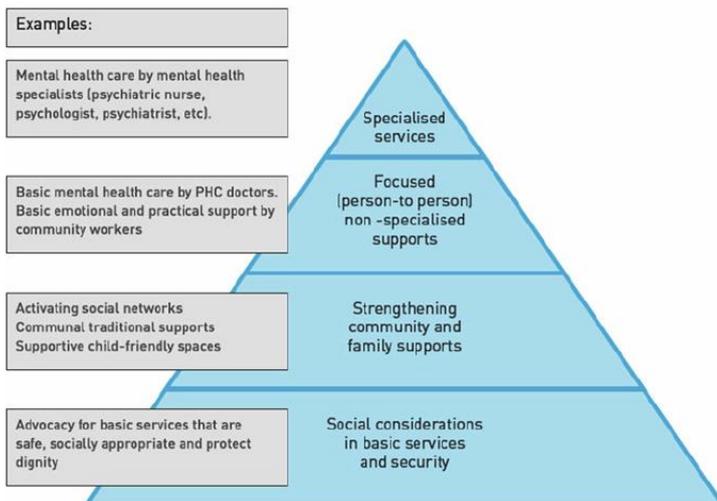


Figure 1: Intervention pyramid



Special psychosocial programme was conducted for the affected women. The event was titled as "Coffee with Sriyani" where veteran actress Sriyani Amarasena spent the evening sharing her life experience with 140 women participants. (Photo credit: SLRCS Gampaha branch)

Debriefing sessions have been conducted for volunteers (care for caregivers) involved in family visits: Colombo branch - 3 sessions (31 participants), Gampaha branch - 1 session (6 participants) and Batticaloa branch - 1 session (15 participants).

The debriefing sessions focused on ensuring volunteers are updated with information that is required if any questions are raised as well as identifying any individuals who have not recovered from the attacks and referring them towards the crisis centre. Volunteers who provide care services face many challenges and pressure when dealing with beneficiaries sharing their grief. Thus, it is of high importance for them to have a chance or platform to discuss these matters and engage in activities that would assist towards having positive mental health in their daily life. Therefore, it is vital that the sessions are conducted in a relaxed manner, helping them to relieve their stress through the sessions.

A stakeholder orientation programme was held in Gampaha district aiming to foster coordination among the partners/stakeholders involved in the response. Stakeholders included the government sector, probational child care officers and livelihood officer of the Divisional Secretariat (DS), representatives of the church, community members, youth groups, and external participants such as Muslim aid. The Batticaloa branch help formed an advisory committee comprising experts from the Zonal Office of Education Department of the Batticaloa district to discuss and structure the way forward for planned school activities.

Since affected people are not located in the same cluster for some districts, cluster programmes may not be practical to all locations. The key challenge in the response is that each intervention has to be tailored not only to the larger cultural context in each district, sub groups or ethnicity, but also according to each household. Therefore, the volunteers and staff need to spend more time with each household and individual than they would spend in a usual post disaster PSS programme, and the interventions are more household focused.

Furthermore, people affected by the Colombo attacks are geographically scattered. Out of the 99 families affected in Colombo, 27 families are scattered in 11 districts of the country. Beneficiaries living in the other districts may not get the full benefit of planned programmes, though the cash and household focused interventions will cover them.

Children are supported through the peer support network activities where the PFA trained volunteers will be conducting workshops on the topics of: **introduction, my life and my community**. The volunteers have been trained to conduct these workshops under the guidance of the RDRT during the PFA trainings. Gampaha branch conducted the first session with the presence of a well-known TV personality coming in for a discussion as well. There were 157 participants for this event. Batticaloa branch has conducted 5 sessions for children with the participation of 154 children.

Additionally, recreational activities are being conducted out to provide space for children to express themselves through creative means that would have therapeutic effects. All three districts have obtained permission from a number of schools in their respective districts and are in the process of designing training programmes and camps building resilience through a number of activities that are to be conducted when schools restart after the August school holidays.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 5,000,000 (indirect)

Male: 2,000,000

Female: 3,000,000

Outcome 1: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people reached through social cohesion activities	5,000,000 (indirect) direct 4,500	5,000,000 (indirect)

Output 1.3: NS educational and advocacy programmes raise awareness on humanitarian challenges, cultivate humanitarian values and develop relevant interpersonal skills

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of media releases for social behaviour change communication for social cohesion	60 times	88 times ⁴
# of social cohesion activities in the communities/schools	180	75

Progress towards outcomes

Social behaviour change communication for social cohesion:

SLRCS initiated the campaign publishing advertisements on “informing the public that SLRCS has conducted the detailed assessment, and if anyone affected are not contacted could share their details with SLRCS”. The campaign started on 12 May, content published on four newspapers; Lankadeepa, Divaina, Weerakesari, and Daily Mirror. Language-wise, it’s published in all three languages; Sinhala, Tamil and English.

SLRCS prepared two short videos with message on “unity and understanding among communities, under the hashtag #SriLankaStrong” which were telecasted on three TV channels from 15 May for a period of one month. These TV channels are; Rupavahini, Hiru TV and Siyatha TV. SLRCS is planning to prepare total of five short videos:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKYC0NRID48>

Three short video clips of #SriLankaStrong campaign videos shared on Sri Lanka Red Cross social media platforms (Twitter/Instagram/YouTube/Facebook).

Two External Facebook Pages used to make #SriLankaStrong videos viral.

#SriLankaStrong campaign aired on four radio channels for a period of one month (15 June to 15 July).



SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY

www.redcross.lk

⁴ Content published on 4 newspapers and media campaign on 3 TV channels from 15 May (28days*3 channels)

Video clips were played on 11 LED walls in public places in the main towns. Clips were played 10 times per day/per LED wall.

Video clips were broadcasted on the TV screens at main railway stations for a period of three months (10 times per day).

Social cohesion activities in the communities/schools started from the month of July. Further details:

- **Social cohesion in community;** each branch has been conducting a number of social cohesion activities which are most suitable depending on the community the branch is based at. With the main emphasis being on bringing together different communities together, a number of activities such as leadership dialogues, cleaning and painting religious and public areas, a free food stall, cricket matches are some of the activities that have been conducted by all three branches so far. A total number of 57 activities with the participation of 2,904 individuals have taken place so far.
- **Social cohesion in school;** a number of coordination meetings with parents, teachers, principals and other stake holders have taken place in all the branches while one student leadership training has also taken place. The School paintings have taken place in three schools so far as well which was designed by the students and teachers under the theme of social cohesion. Due to the constraints with regard to school exams and holidays, most of the school activities have been planned to take place when the schools reopen after the August holidays. At present 18 school activities have been conducted with the participation of 385 students from all three districts.



Interfaith dialogue as a part of the social cohesion programme (Photo credit: SLRCS Batticaloa branch)

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of SLRCS branches that are well functioning (for the operation)	3	3
Output 1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers insured	60	60
# of volunteers involved in the operation	60	123

Progress towards outcomes

The programme is being implemented in three districts - Colombo, Gampaha, and Batticaloa where SLRCS has strong branch presence.

The strong branch network and the trained/skilled volunteer base are the strength of SLRCS. During any emergency, they are in the fore-front providing assistance to the most vulnerable. These trained volunteers were deployed within the initial hours to help vulnerable people, especially in the hospitals to provide RFL services and first aid service. These volunteers include; community volunteers, DDRT and BDRT members, and FA volunteers.

Ensuring continuous volunteers support for the operation remains the main challenge faced by the branches. As designated, volunteers have to visit the same households throughout the operation. Furthermore, it was noted that it's an added advantage to have multi-skill volunteers, who could be deployed for any given disaster.

International Disaster Response

Outcome 2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC support to launch a DREF and emergency appeal to raise financial and human resources</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Coordination tools and mechanisms are in use for the operation</i>	NDRT / RDRT	RDRT
<i>Ratio of people reached by the IFRC disaster response operations to the people affected by these emergencies</i>	50% (min)	50%

Output 2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of NDRT deployed</i>	2 persons	-
<i># of cash local cash trained persons are deployed</i>	3 persons	3 persons
<i># of RDRT deployed</i>	2 persons / 1 person for 2 months	1 person for 1 month

Output 2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>% compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance</i>	100%	100%

Output 2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of coordination meetings with other stakeholders</i>	10	5

Outcome 2.2: The complementarity and strengths of the Movement are enhanced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Movement coordination is in place</i>	Yes	Yes

Output 2.2.1: In the context of large-scale emergencies the IFRC, ICRC and NS enhance their operational reach and effectiveness through new means of coordination.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Involvement in regular coordination meetings</i>	Yes	Yes

Progress towards outcomes

Following the disaster, IFRC supported the National Society in the preparation till approval of the DREF application of CHF 365,909. Presently, activities under the DREF operations are being implemented in the three districts.

Since the operations involves a lot of PSS activities, RDRT – PSS was deployed for a month.

SLRCS and IFRC are attending the regular meetings organized by Government authorities. IFRC initiated and coordinated a “coordination meeting” at national level with government, UN and non-government agencies to learn what other organisations are doing, what are the gaps and how best to coordinate.

Furthermore, SLRCS President and Director General met the Archbishop of Colombo to brief about SLRCS assistance to the victims and discuss on possible coordination. SLRCS President and Director General also met a prominent and influential Buddhist monk in Sri Lanka and handed over the assessment report.

Weekly programme meetings are conducted at NHQ to discuss progress and challenges faced by the operation. Appropriate mitigation actions will be identified and carried out to address challenges if any, as best possible..

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome 3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</i>	Yes	Yes

Output 3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.)</i>	7 times	88 times

Output 3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Rapid and detailed assessment teams deployed at branch level</i>	Yes	Yes
<i># of surveys conducted</i>	2	-
<i># of lessons learned workshop conducted</i>	1	-

Progress towards outcomes

Communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.)

SLRCS posts regular updates on the social media, including Facebook and twitter. Furthermore, SLRCS website is also updated accordingly to share any updates on the operation. Full details are reported under PGI.

Rapid and detailed assessment teams deployed at branch level

From the time of the attack, SLRCS has fully engaged and activated its branches to carry out 24 hours and 72 hours rapid assessments and detailed assessments. SLRCS consolidated the detail assessment data and presented the results to the Archbishop of Colombo and an influential Buddhist monk in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, if organization is interested in receiving the assessment details, SLRCS share upon written request to Director General.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome 4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Effective performance of staff supported by HR procedures	Yes	Yes

Output 4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of financial reporting respecting the IFRC procedures	100%	100%

Progress towards outcomes

The operation is being ensured to adhere and follow standard IFRC procedures to ensure an effective, credible and accountable IFRC. Operational wise, SLRCS is responsible for programme implementation, while IFRC provides technical and monitoring support, as necessary. Following the strategies laid out in the plan of action, one project coordinator – PSS was recruited, and three branch coordinators are recruited to implement the programme.

In-line with the security situation in the country and to ensure better security risk management, following steps have been taken:

1. APRO security coordinator visited Sri Lanka from 14-19 May.
2. The overall country security situation evaluated especially in Sri Lanka office.

3. External meetings with UN, ICRC, EU also with SLRCS held to assess the present security situation.
4. Conducted security trainings for all IFRC staff and few SLRCS staff on Critical Security Management introduction and Security Risk assessment familiarization etc.
5. Field visit to Gampaha Branch to analyse the security situation in the field.
6. Worked through all Country Security documents (to be finalised).
7. Reviewed office building assessment etc.
8. Conducted meeting with Cinnamon Red Hotel to assess the hotel risk assessment

D. BUDGET

"The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the national society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions."

CHF 365,909 has been allocated to assist at least 6,000 people (1,200 families) affected by the Easter Sunday attack mainly in Colombo, Gampaha and Batticaloa districts. Furthermore, indirect support to at least 5,000,000 people in the wider community on SBCC via communication channels (print media, television and radio).

Following the two months extension, the DREF operation final report along with the financial report showing the utilization of the allocation will be due in February 2020.



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [DREF EPoA](#)
- [Call for Support](#)
- [C4S EPoA](#)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.