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Emergency Plan of Action Final Report

Sri Lanka: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRLK008
Date of Issue: 17 January 2019	Glide number: FL-2018-000060-LKA
Date of disaster: 19 May 2018	
Operation start date: 30 May 2018	Operation end date: 30 September 2018
Host National Society: Sri Lanka Red Cross Society	Operation budget: CHF 358,257
Number of people affected: 153,712 ¹	Number of people assisted: 54,260 people (9,036 families)
N° of National Societies involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) actively supported the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) in this operation. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is present in the country. All Movement components in the country coordinated and shared information, as well as engaged with other humanitarian actors and external partners.	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: Government of Sri Lanka and state institutions including Tri-forces (Sri Lanka Army, Air Force and Navy), Sri Lanka Police and Disaster Management Centre (DMC). Other partners include UN agencies, INGOs, and other civil society organizations.	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The southwest monsoon weather conditions caused rainfalls since 19 May 2018 in the southwest parts of the island. By 21 May 2018, the precipitation triggered a flood and landslide situation in the country, which affected thousands of lives and livelihoods, as well as caused property damage. According to a situation update issued on 26 May 2018 by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of Sri Lanka, around 153,712 people in 19 districts were affected and 20 people killed due to heavy rains, strong winds, lightning and landslides. Some 19,519 families were evacuated into 339 welfare centres. Puttalam, Gampaha, Ratnapura, Colombo, Kurunegala, Kalutara and Kegalle were amongst the worst affected districts. The DMC coordinated the national response efforts and reported the need for drinking water, wells and area cleaning, since water sources have been contaminated. The National Disaster Relief Service centre also released 44.15 million Sri Lankan rupees (approx. CHF 276,000 Swiss francs) for the response.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has a strong branch network in all the 25 districts of the country. It has over 500 volunteers and staff trained in disaster response, which include members in National Disaster Response Team (NDRT), Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) and Divisional Disaster Response Teams (DDRT) that are available at national, district and divisional levels. SLRCS also has 150 trained disaster response team members specialized in water and safety and trained First Aid (FA) volunteers in all districts. Furthermore, SLRCS has a pool of 29 people trained in Cash Transfer Programmes (CTP), who are available for deployment to set-up and assist implementation of the CTP programmes.



Guidance is given to branch volunteers on response activities prior deployment to affected areas, **(Photo credit: SLRCS Gampaha branch)**

¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LHx_hFSXKqsHCK4WhUnoHmJe_VHZEJKb/view

Since the onset of the floods, the SLRCS has assisted approximately 15,000 flood-affected people. As the situation unfolded, SLRCS branches activated their BDRTs who supported the operations since 19 May 2018. NDRT were on alert but were not mobilized as there was sufficient capacity to respond. Branch volunteers were involved in conducting the 24-hour and 72-hour assessments, distributing non-food items (NFI), such as standard hygiene pack (adult and baby), sleeping mats, lanterns, bedsheets, dry rations such as rice, lentils, sugar and biscuits, and conducting search and rescue operations. The National Society provided first aid services and took part in the coordination meetings with the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), DMC and international non-government organizations (INGOs). Over 300 staff and volunteers have been deployed from the SLRCS to support the relief intervention in the country. The following tables summarize the response of the operation.

Table 1: Summary of people reached

Sector	Planned Intervention	Status	Target # of families/people	People reached
Livelihood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unconditional cash grants to buy essential households/commodities (LKR 10,000 = CHF 64.5) 	Completed	2,800 families	2,800 families (14,000 people)
WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cleaning of 3,500 wells Procurement of 250 pairs of rubber-boots, 500 pairs gloves, 250 raincoats and 20 ladders Procurement of 7 water pumps Replenishment of 20 water tanks with capacity of 2,000 litre 	Completed	3,500 families	3,500 wells cleaned, and the items were procured 3,500 families (17,500 people)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hygiene promotion (including safe water, food handling, cleaning campaigns vector control and public awareness) Soap and toilet cleaning material procured and supplied as a part of the hygiene promotion activities. 	Completed	2,500 families	630 families (3,150 people)
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct FA services in communities 	Completed	70 first aid services	Treated 2,441 patients in seven districts (male 1,046, female 1,181, and children 214)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize medical camps 	Completed	28 medical camps	Supported 2,440 people via 20 medical camps (male 641, female 1,347, children 452)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dengue awareness and cleaning campaigns Printing and dissemination of 50,000 health education brochures 	Completed	2,500 families	3,575 families (17,879 people) Printed and distributed 100,000 IEC materials
Total reached: 54,260 people (9,036 families)				

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The SLRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and the ICRC in implementing various programmes. During the disaster, IFRC and ICRC worked 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 were regularly organized. The IFRC county cluster support team (CCST) in New Delhi and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) provided further coordination support for information sharing and resources.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The government of Sri Lanka and district administrative units lead the floods and landslide response across the country. Other INGOs are also involved in the response.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

The SLRCS, in coordination with local authorities, conducted 24-hour and 72-hour assessments in the affected districts to identify the immediate needs and priorities. The priority needs identified were non-food items (NFIs); medical and first aid services; water and sanitation; and hygiene promotion (WASH); cleaning materials; and unconditional cash grants for household essential needs.

It was identified that bottled water (approximately 14,190 litres) and NFIs were needed for the affected communities. Furthermore, there was a need for an unconditional cash grant to buy essential commodities as markets were functional in affected areas.

Due to flooding, drinking water sources were contaminated and toilets were damaged. WASH assistance at camps and for returning families were essential. There was a need for water tanks in 20 camps. Some areas were inundated more than three times within two weeks. The Government provided truck water to the camps, which were to be stored in the tanks provided by SLRCS. To ensure safe drinking water, there was a need to provide water storage containers.

Trained first aid volunteers provided first aid services to injured people at rescue points and evacuations centres. Medical and first aid items at branch level were deployed.

People were assisted in cleaning their houses and schools, and wells upon returning to their homes.

Risk Analysis

Blocked roads and landslides were constraints in the affected areas. Some areas were isolated due to floodwaters. Access was improved after a few weeks.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

This operation aimed to provide relief assistance over four months to 54,260 people (9,036 families) affected by floods and landslides attributed to heavy rains in the seven most affected districts of Puttalam, Ratnapura, Gampaha, Colombo, Kurunegala, Kalutara and Kegalle.

The strategy for this operation remained the same as outlined in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) and fully in line with SLRCS and IFRC policies, procedures, commitments and mandates. With the support of IFRC, SLRCS provided immediate support to the most vulnerable households among the affected populations in the seven targeted districts. The selection was carried out involving affected community members and in close coordination with the local authorities. Priority was given to the people displaced by floods and landslide who are living in temporary shelters or evacuation centres. Close coordination among partners ensured collaboration and avoid duplication.

The proposed strategy was formulated based on the short-term needs of the affected people and aligned with the government's strategy. Lessons learned from the previous flood responses were taken into consideration in this strategy, particularly the timeframe.

Since the markets are functioning well, and the National Society has experiences in adopting Cash Transfer Programming (CTP), cash grants were provided instead of NFIs. This is an effective and flexible way to support people affected by emergencies, maintaining their dignity and choice, while fostering local economies. Although this differs from the government's strategy, it was fully supported by the authorities.

As mentioned in the beneficiary selection section above, SLRCS ensured that this operation is aligned with its gender equality commitments as well with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming. Specific considerations included the elderly, differently abled people, pregnant women, lactating women, women-headed households, and households with infants or young children.

The floods and landslides response operation had a four-month duration to cover the immediate relief needs of the targeted population. The focus was to provide support to 2,800 families through distribution of unconditional cash grants, through bank transfer, to address the basic needs. The CTP was implemented along with preventive health, and water and sanitation interventions. SLRCS noted that some harder-hit families might already have received assistance in different sectors from authorities and other humanitarian actors. The interventions primary focus was on seven districts: Puttalam, Ratnapura, Gampaha, Colombo, Kurunegala, Kalutara and Kegalle.

The operation consisted of closely integrated sectors that provided:

- **Essential household assistance** via distribution of 2,800 households unconditional cash grants of LKR 10,000 (CHF 64.5), through a one-time instalment bank transfer, to fulfil the basic needs such as essential household items, medicine and other personal requirements. The amount of the cash grants was based on the government standard for household needs. SLRCS targeted 2,800 households for the unconditional cash grants, with the coordination among the Government agencies. SLRCS has a pool of 29 CTP trained staff, who could be deployed to set-up the mechanism and assist the operation, with the support of one experienced RDRT Cash.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion** interventions focused on improving access to safe water and hygienic behaviour by cleaning wells that had contaminated water. Awareness sessions on safe water, food handling, cleaning campaigns and vector controls were conducted to improve hygiene promotion. One emergency hygiene promotion campaign was conducted in each of the 20 camps. Vector-control activities were included promoting


general environmental health aspects of the camp such as solid waste management and removal of drainage water. These activities were targeted camps, as well as affected communities.

- In combination with health activities, specific actions to remove mosquito breeding sites were conducted. The country was already going through a dengue outbreak which commenced last year. With the commencement of monsoons rains, a steep increase of dengue cases was seen. In addition, it is the epidemiological pattern for the dengue cases to shoot up after floods. Therefore, it was important to destroy these mosquito breeding sites.
- **Health and care** focused on providing basic First Aid, medical camps and dengue prevention activities. Soft tissue infections, fungal infections and minor cuts and bruises were the common injuries; hence the first aid services were needed and were provided by SLRCS first aid volunteers. Due to the inundation of roads, affected communities were cut off from health institutions. Therefore, medical personnel coordinated by SLRCS were deployed to the camps to set up medical post, to provide medical services to the affected population. Serious medical cases were referred to government hospitals. Psychological first aid including empathetic listening were provided to those who were in need. As mentioned, the dengue outbreak necessitates special actions. In addition to monitoring the epidemiological trends, prompt detection of people with fever and their subsequent referral to the government-health institutions were also conducted.

The following aspects were factored in the strategy for this operation:

- **The National Society Leadership:** SLRCS was responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response operation, supported by the IFRC and in-country Movement partners.
- **Implementing lessons from previous operations:** Over the years, SLRCS has implemented various large- and medium-scale operations that provided various lessons from which this response drew lessons. These included the largescale operation in response to the massive damage and resultant needs caused by the 2004 tsunami, support to populations who were internally displaced due to conflict through the Post-Conflict Recovery Assistance Programme (PCRP) 2010-2016, a medium-scale intervention following floods and landslides of 2011, 2016 and 2017.
- **A Movement-wide approach:** SLRCS was responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the disaster response operation, supported by all components of the Movement. Considering the nature and scope of the response, the IFRC mobilized resources via this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on behalf of SLRCS, while coordinating with the ICRC at the same time. The latter has long-time presence in Sri Lanka and was, among others, support restoring family links (RFL) interventions which – although included in this plan to reflect the totality of actions – are not factored in the budget. The budget for RFL interventions were covered by ICRC outside of this DREF operation.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Livelihoods and basic needs People reached: 14,000 (2,800 families) Male: 5,600 Female: 8,400</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people targeted/reached with safe and adequate livelihood and basic need	14,000 (2,800 families)	14,000 (2,800 families)
Output 1.5: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# households provided with emergency cash grants	2,800	2,800
Narrative description of achievements		

Unconditional cash grants

Emergency cash grant was the biggest component of the operation, targeting 2,800² families with unconditional cash grant of LKR 10,000 (approx. CHF 64.5). The modality was via fund transfer to individual bank accounts of the beneficiaries in one instalment. These grants enabled families to fulfil their basic needs such as essential household items, medicine and other personal requirements.

The programme was implemented in seven districts as highlighted below:

Table 2: Breakdown of families reached per district

No.	Districts	# of families
1	Colombo	500
2	Kurunegala	500
3	Puttalam	500
4	Rathnapura	400
5	Gampaha	300
6	Kalutara	300
7	Kegalle	300
	Total	2,800



SLRCS staff and volunteers checking beneficiary details at a cash grant distribution point, **(Photo credits: IFRC Sri Lanka Office)**

SLRCS deployed some of their well-trained CTP member for the operation.

These activities were conducted at each district level; selection of target areas in close coordination with Government authorities, conducted the stakeholder analysis at the Divisional Secretariat level, involving the Grama Niladhari³, and with other village level stakeholders, project orientations were conducted for staff and volunteers. Furthermore, families were selected via community participatory approach. This way, it helps to develop local capacity by raising awareness and developing skills in joint analysis, learning and decision-making at the community level. The selection process was done with the involvement of the Grama Niladhari, community leaders, SLRCS staff and volunteers. This was to ensure a very transparent process in the selection of the most vulnerable families. Upon selection, final lists were published at public places for grievances. During the reporting period, the National Society collecting beneficiary details; such as national identity copy and bank account details to facilitate the funds transfers. The National Society disbursed the funds initially at a national level function held in Colombo and subsequently in all the seven districts.

A regional cash preparedness coordinator from the APRO paid a monitoring visit to Sri Lanka from 16-19 July 2018 to provide technical assistance on the CTP programme.

Challenges

At the initial stage, the National Society was planning to make the individual transfer via Visa card or mobile cash. These are novel methods for the National Society, which required partnerships with Financial Service Providers (FSP). However, the process of establishing partnerships with the service providers were taking longer time than expected. Consequently, the National Society in the end decided to proceed with the usual method of bank transfer.

Lessons Learned

The National Society will enter into pre-agreements with FSP in the near future, which will be beneficial during future disasters. This will ensure the individual cash transfers can be done in a timely and smooth manner.

² Breakup of the beneficiary 952 male and 1848 females

³ Village leader of the smallest administrative unit (appointed by the government).



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 17,500 (3,500 families)

Male: 7,000

Female: 10,500

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families reached in targeted communities have reduced their immediate risks of waterborne and water related diseases	3,500 (17,500 people)	3,500 (17,500 people)

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of wells cleaned	3,500	3,500
# of water tanks established	de-prioritized	de-prioritized

Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities	17,500 (3,500 families)	3,150 (630 families)

Narrative description of achievements

Well cleaning

Since wells were contaminated due to flood waters, access to safe water was a challenge for the affected population. A total of 3,500 wells were cleaned by the SLRCS volunteers, enabling greater access to safe drinking water for the families returning home. Wells were selected in close coordination with the district Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) and with the support of the DMC. The PHIs inspected and certified the quality of water after the wells were cleaned to ensure water quality meets acceptable standards.

Table 3: Summary of wells cleaned in each district

District	No. of wells cleaned
Colombo	1,346
Gampaha	500
Kalutara	300
Kegalle	54
Kurunegala	200
Puttalam	400
Ratnapura	700
Total	3,500

Water tanks established

SLRCS dispatched 20 water tanks from its current stocks to 7 districts, which were to be established at evacuation centers based on needs. Since the water level receded sooner than anticipated, SLRCS de-prioritized establishment of water tanks at evacuation centers. These tanks are stored at districts levels to be used for future disasters. DREF funds were utilized to replenish the tanks at central warehouse.

Hygiene promotion

Hygiene promotion programme implemented in villages in the seven districts. This programme was initially planned to implement in 20 camps reaching 3,500 families, due to the changing needs on the ground, the programme was implemented in communities, where the total number reached reduced to 630 families.

Families were chosen based on their vulnerability to waterborne diseases. A community mobilizer each were recruited per branch and in total seven mobilisers recruited to implement the programme. Technical persons at the NHQ prepared and shared the relevant curriculum, guidelines, and tools with the community mobilizers. An orientation session was conducted to orient the newly recruited staff on the programme and the implementation methods. Three awareness raising programmes per district were conducted totaling to 21 programmes, targeting 630 families. Then it is followed by the distribution of hygiene materials; including a combination of tooth-bush, tooth-paste, soap, dishwash liquid, toilet detergent liquid, nail clipper, sponge, and comb, which will help them in practicing hygienic activities in their daily routines, eliminating the risk of water borne diseases. Due to the systematic integration of routine hygiene habits awareness into the programme, a significant effect towards creating a behavioral change among the affected individuals can be seen. Furthermore, the following IEC materials were printed and distributed among the people as part of awareness raising - 8,000 hand washing posters and 16,000 cough stickers.



A hygiene promotion programme at community, facilitated by PHI staff, (Photo credits: SLRCS Colombo branch)



hygiene promotion – cough sticker



hygiene promotion - hand washing poster

Challenges

Well cleaning programmes field implementation were quite challenging, especially in the process of finding required equipment (water pumps, ladders with different heights) and in some areas, electricity supply was also disrupted. This affected well cleaning work in areas where water pumps were operated with electricity.

The changing needs on the ground also created some challenges on the actual implementation of the programme, especially in the hygiene promotion programme. Initially, the plan was to implement the program in 20 camps reaching 3,500 families. However, during the actual implementation people have started moving back to their homes and the needs were changing in the communities. Accordingly, the operation team had to revise the original plan to cater for the ground needs based on the evolved situation.

Lessons Learned

From the challenges and experience gained from the operation, it is important to procure water pumps and ladders required for well cleaning and maintain them in the stocks at HQ and branch level. This would avoid similar problem from happening in future operations.



Health

People reached: 22,760 including 4,501 school children (approx. 2,736 families)

Male: 9,104

Female: 13,656

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted people reached have their immediate risks to health reduced	12,500 (2,500 families)	22,760 (approx. 2,736 families)

Output 1.2: Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by first aid services	As necessary (via 70 first aid services)	2,441 (via first aid services)
# of people reached by medical camps	- (28 medical camps organized)	2,440 (via 20 medical camps)
# of people reached by dengue awareness activities	12,500 people	17,879 people ⁴
# of IEC materials distributed	Print 50,000 brochures	Printed 100,000 dengue leaflets ⁵

Narrative description of achievements

First aid

First aid is one of SLRCS core competencies. Well trained and experienced FA volunteers attached to branches were deployed to provide FA to affected people. A total of 2,441 people were assisted via FA services in seven districts of the country.

Medical camps

Sri Lankan Government has a well-established and well-functioning medical system in the country. Due to flood waters, access routes were blocked. People were finding it difficult to reach hospitals for medical treatments. SLRCS identified the needs and worked together with the medical officials to deploy mobile medical teams to four areas which had the highest need in medical assistance. These teams consist of doctors, nurses and SLRCS volunteers. A total of 20 medical camps were conducted and 2,440 people were assisted. SLRCS directed the people to necessary government medical services immediately after flood waters receded.

Dengue awareness

Dengue prevention activities were conducted from July onwards in all seven districts. Programme orientation to SLRCS staff and volunteers were conducted at each branch. At the community level, half-a-day volunteer trainings for selected community volunteers were conducted. They were mobilized together with SLRCS staff to conduct the clean-up campaigns in communities and schools.

Table 4: Summary of clean-up campaigns and volunteer trainings

Branch	Community clean up campaigns		School clean up campaigns		Volunteer training	
	# of campaigns	# of people reached	# of campaigns	# of children reached	# of trainings	# trained
Colombo	2	1,323	1	488	-	-
Kalutara	2	4,029	1	1,840	-	-
Gampaha	2	1,532	1	223	-	-
Kegalle	2	1,800	1	250	-	-
Kurunegala	2	1,432	1	400	-	-
Puttalam	3	1,500	2	500	2	39
Rathnapura	3	1,687	2	800	2	36
Total	16	13,303	9	4,501	4	75

⁴ Including 4,501 school children (2,736 families)

⁵60,000 sinhala and 40,000 tamil



School children reading the IEC materials distributed, (Photo credit: SLRCS Colombo branch)



Medical camp organized in the community, (Photo credit: SLRCS Kalutara branch)

Challenges

During the initial stage of the operation, it was quite difficult to reach the most vulnerable people via first aid services and medical services as the roads were blocked due to flood waters. Alternatively, the medical teams reached the affected areas by boats and ferries.

Lessons Learned

It is pertinent to identify risk areas and train/increase the number of community volunteers in the areas to reach the most vulnerable at the earliest. The volunteers also need to be equipped with first aid boxes and given basic first aid training and disaster management training prior to mobilization.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 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	7 branches	7 branches
Output 1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
# of volunteers insured	250	Insured under different programmes
# of volunteers involved in the operation	350	465

Narrative description of achievements

The strong branch network and the trained/skilled volunteer base are the strength of SLRCS. During disasters, they are in the fore-front providing assistance to the most vulnerable.

The programme was implemented in seven districts; Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Puttalam and Ratnapura, where SLRCS has strong branch presence. A total of 465 volunteers with different capacities were involved in the operation. These volunteers include; community volunteers, DDRT and BDRT members, FA volunteers and water safety volunteers. These volunteers were insured at the beginning of the year under different programmes.

Challenges

During the operation, volunteer turnover was the main challenge and losing trained/skill volunteers had a significant impact on the quick response on the ground. To mitigate this, close by branches supported the affected branches by mobilizing their volunteers/staff if and when required. In addition, NDRT was on alert for deployment.

Lessons Learned

Ensure trained volunteers are involved with red cross activities throughout the year and volunteers are appreciated for the good work they render. Furthermore, more volunteers coming from the communities need to be recruited.

International Disaster Response

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC support to launch a DREF to raise financial and human resources</i>	Yes (DREF launched)	Yes
<i># of types of coordination tools and mechanisms in use</i>	1 (RDRT)	0 (Deployment couldn't be made)
<i>Ratio of people reached by the IFRC disaster response operations to the people affected by these emergencies</i>	minimum of 5%	15%

Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of RDRT deployed</i>	2	0 (Deployment couldn't be made)

Output S2.1.3: 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 S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced

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

Narrative description of achievements

Following the disaster, IFRC supported the National Society in the preparation till approval of the DREF application of CHF 358,257. Activities planned under the DREF operations were implemented in the seven flood affected districts.

Since emergency cash grants was the biggest component of the operation, a RDRT Cash member was planned to be deployed immediately. Though the alert was circulated twice, Asia Pacific RDRT was unable to find a suitable and available candidate to support the operation. However, to ensure necessary technical assistance was able to be provided, the regional cash preparedness coordinator from the APRO paid a monitoring visit to Sri Lanka from 16-19 July 2018.

The National Society had requested the second RDRT to be for PMER. The term of reference (ToR) were prepared, approved by National Society and circulated among the RDRT pool. Though the alert was circulated, a suitable and available candidate to support the operation couldn't be engaged for deployment.

SLRCS and IFRC attended regular meetings organized by DMC and HCT. This ensures effective and coordinate disaster response can be achieved. Also, weekly programme meetings were conducted at NHQ to discuss progress and challenges faced by the operation. Appropriate mitigation actions were identified and carried out to address challenges if any, as best possible.



The regional cash preparedness coordinator paying a monitoring visit to people supported via unconditional cash grants, (Photo credit: SLRCS Colombo branch)

Challenges

The main challenge was to identify suitable RDRT members to support the operation. No qualified applicants replied to the alerts.

Lessons Learned

Encourage RDRT members to apply for deployments and obtain technical assistance from APRO technical persons when required.

Influence others as leading strategic partner

Outcome S3.1: 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 S3.1.1: 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>	10	10

Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of rapid and detailed assessment teams deployed at branch level</i>	7	7

Narrative description of achievements

From the onset of disaster, SLRCS was fully engaged and activated its branches to carry out 24 hours and 72 hours rapid assessments and detailed assessments. SLRCS well-coordinated and liaised with the Disaster Management Centre and Meteorology Department to get updates about disaster situation. A total of 465 volunteers and youth participated and extended their support during emergency relief to the affected people.



Briefing DM Minister about the drones and its use for humanitarian assistance, *(Photo credit: SLRCS communications department)*



Drone footage, *(Photo credit: SLRCS Colombo branch)*



Drone footage, *(Photo credit: SLRCS Colombo branch)*

Furthermore, SLRCS used drone novel technology for disaster response activities. Drone footages helped to identify affected areas, identify people trapped and provide necessary rescue assistance. The environment is dynamic, we need to identify the changes in the environment and evolve response activities to ensure improved assistance to the people affected.

SLRCS posted regular updates on the social media, including Facebook and twitter. Furthermore, SLRCS website was also updated accordingly to share any updates on the operation.

Challenges

During the initial stage of the operation, reaching to areas affected by the floods to provide relief and also to conduct assessment was difficult as access roads were blocked. SLRCS relied on technology – drones footage, which helped to identify affected areas and provide necessary rescue assistance to the most vulnerable.

Lessons Learned

SLRCS used latest technology; drones and its boats placed in communities to reach most vulnerable. The use of technology to complement humanitarian response should be considered and applied in future operations.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Effective performance of staff supported by HR procedures</i>	Yes (HR procedures in place)	Yes

Output S4.1.3: 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
<i>% of financial reporting respecting the IFRC procedures</i>	100%	100%

Narrative description of achievements

The operation was ensured to adhere and follow standard IFRC procedures to ensure an effective, credible and accountable IFRC. Operational wise, SLRCS was responsible for the programme implementation, while IFRC provided the technical and monitoring support, as necessary.

Following the strategies laid out in the plan of action, no additional NHQ staff was recruited for the operation. Seven Community Mobilisers were recruited at field level to support programme implementation.



Joint monitoring visit by SLRCS and IFRC, (photo credit: FRC APRO)

Challenges

No major challenges were faced.

Lessons Learned

Conducting an audit for each emergency operation is something that could be considered including on-site verification activity, such as inspection or examination, of a process or quality system, to ensure compliance to requirements.

D. THE BUDGET

CHF 358,257 was allocated to respond to the floods in Sri Lanka. The operation utilized CHF 308,859 (86 per cent of the allocation). The balance of CHF 49,398 will be returned to the DREF pool.

The following are the details of the variances in the budget lines:

Table 5: Budget lines variance analysis

No.	Budget line	Analysis on variance
1	Logistics, Transport and Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The underspending in “Distribution & Monitoring and Transport & Vehicles Costs” are due to, SLRCS using its own stocks which were prepositioned at branches, where there were very less logistics and transport assistance required than planned. Furthermore, there is no expenditure recorded under “Logistics Services”, as the warehouse cost is covered from a different project.
2	Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The underspending in the “National Staff” category, due to exchange rate fluctuations. The amount paid to the newly recruited staff in LKR was the same, but due to exchange rate fluctuations the actual cost in CHF was less. The underspending in the “National Society Staff” is mainly due to cost of volunteers factored into other major lines. Note: SLRCS mobilized over 250 volunteers for the operation.
3	Workshops and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The underspending in the “Workshops & Training” is also due to exchange rate fluctuations. The lessons learned workshop was successfully completed but was less costly than the initial budgeted amount.
4	General Expenditure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The underutilization in the “Travel” budget line is due to planned RDRT deployments. Two RDRTs were to be deployed but were not able to find a suitable or available person. The underspending in the “Information & Public Relations” is due costs are factored under different budget lines. Overspending in the “Office Costs” mainly due to more stationery items being used for cash grant program. All the supporting documents; individual beneficiary details (bank books, national identity card) were kept in original and a photocopy form, resulting in more stationery costs incurred than budgeted. Underspending in the “Communications” line is mainly due to exchange fluctuations. Variance in the “Financial Charges” is due to forex losses. The overspending in the “Other General Expenses” are mainly due to additional admin costs incurred during implementation. These admin costs are in line with the planned project

Click [here](#) to view the financial report at the end of this report.

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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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 Organizations (NGO's) 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**.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRLK008 - Sri Lanka - Floods

Timeframe: 30 May 18 to 30 Sep 18

Appeal Launch Date: 30 May 18

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2018/5-2018/11	Programme	MDRLK008
Budget Timeframe	2018/5-2018/11	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget			358,257			358,257	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>			358,257			358,257	
C4. Other Income			358,257			358,257	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)			358,257			358,257	
D. Total Funding = B + C			358,257			358,257	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income			358,257			358,257	
E. Expenditure			-308,859			-308,859	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)			49,398			49,398	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRLK008 - Sri Lanka - Floods

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Selected Parameters

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Budget Timeframe	2018/5-2018/11	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)				358,257		358,257		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Food				852		852	-852	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	61,935			54,352		54,352	7,584	
Medical & First Aid	9,032			7,748		7,748	1,284	
Teaching Materials	8,699			11,059		11,059	-2,361	
Other Supplies & Services	11,468			13,232		13,232	-1,764	
Cash Disbursement	180,645			174,039		174,039	6,607	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	271,779			261,282		261,282	10,498	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	3,613			1,772		1,772	1,841	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	14,968			5,529		5,529	9,439	
Logistics Services	3,000						3,000	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	21,581			7,301		7,301	14,279	
Personnel								
National Staff				173		173	-173	
National Society Staff	9,659			8,187		8,187	1,473	
Volunteers	6,428			233		233	6,194	
Total Personnel	16,087			8,593		8,593	7,494	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	3,000			1,899		1,899	1,101	
Total Workshops & Training	3,000			1,899		1,899	1,101	
General Expenditure								
Travel	15,890			1,544		1,544	14,347	
Information & Public Relations	3,000			356		356	2,644	
Office Costs	1,290			4,457		4,457	-3,167	
Communications	997			267		267	729	
Financial Charges	317			994		994	-677	
Other General Expenses	2,450			3,315		3,315	-865	
Total General Expenditure	23,945			10,933		10,933	13,011	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recove	21,865			18,851		18,851	3,015	
Total Indirect Costs	21,865			18,851		18,851	3,015	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	358,257			308,859		308,859	49,399	
VARIANCE (C - D)				49,399		49,399		

Disaster Response Financial Report**MDRLK008 - Sri Lanka - Floods**

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Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2018/5-2018/11	Programme	MDRLK008
Budget Timeframe	2018/5-2018/11	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL3 - Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development							
Disaster risk reduction	358,257		358,257	358,257	308,859	49,398	
Subtotal BL3	358,257		358,257	358,257	308,859	49,398	
GRAND TOTAL	358,257		358,257	358,257	308,859	49,398	