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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Sri Lanka: Cargo Ship Fire

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>DREF n°</b>	MDRLK013	<b>Glide n°:</b>	<a href="#">FR-2021-000067-LKA</a>
<b>For DREF; Date of issue:</b>	13 June 2021	<b>Expected timeframe:</b>	4 months <sup>1</sup>
		<b>Expected end date:</b>	30 October 2021
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis:</b> Yellow			
<b>DREF allocated:</b> CHF 481, 250			
<b>Total number of people affected:</b>	50,000 (information from media)	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b>	15,000 <sup>2</sup> (3,000 families)
<b>Provinces affected:</b>	Western Province, Southern Province, Northwestern	<b>Provinces/regions targeted:</b>	Colombo, Gampaha Puttlam, Kalutara, Galle and Matara districts
<b>Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches):</b> Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has branches in 25 districts - over 150 staff and 7,000 active volunteers.			
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Country Representation Office in Colombo, with the assistance of the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in New Delhi, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been working together in close coordination to provide technical support to SLRCS in this disaster response operation.			
IFRC is providing technical support to SLRCS including developing the EPoA for the DREF request and coordinating with SLRCS for information sharing with Movement and external partners. The IFRC Country Representation Office, CCD in New Delhi and the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) have provided further coordination support for information sharing and resources.			
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL); Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), National Aquatic Resource Research Development Agency (NARA), Sri Lanka Coast Guard Authority, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, tri-forces (Sri Lanka Army, Air-force, Navy), and Sri Lanka Police.			

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

On 20 May 2021, cargo ship "X-PRESS PEARL with 1,486 containers onboard carrying dangerous cargo; 25 tonnes of nitric acid, caustic soda, solid sodium methoxide solution, cosmetics, methanol and vinyl acetate including microplastics, plastic pellets together with other cargo caught fire about nine nautical miles (16 km) off the coast of Colombo commercial shipping harbor. The fire continued to burn till the end of May and several small explosions were heard from the container ship during the fire. Sri Lanka Navy, Airforce, Coast Guard supported by the Indian Navy worked around the clock to contain the fire for nearly two weeks. The firefighting was made complicated by the southwest monsoon

<sup>1</sup> As per the operational strategy and the budget, implementation of the operation is planned for three months. However, given the COVID-19 situation, there can be unexpected delays. Therefore, overall operational time frame is scheduled for four months.

<sup>2</sup> Target population was determined based on the information provided by Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources through consultation meetings.

rains/ high winds and highly flammable poisonous cargo. The 25 crews of Indian, Philippines, Chinese and Russian nationals were evacuated and are currently being treated at hospitals in Colombo. One crew member was tested positive for COVID-19.

According to Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), this is Sri Lanka's worst environmental disaster in its history with unimaginable consequences to the marine environment. The situation was brought under control by 1 June 2021 and the fire was contained, although thick smoke plumes were seen emitting from the ship as well as small explosions continued to be heard from the ship. The MEPA was able to go to the ship only after the fire was put out and could assess the situation. This is the time when they could share also the first preliminary assessment report, and the coordination could start with SLRCS.



Sri Lankan Security Personnel Cleaning debris washed ashore from X -Pearl Ship (Photo: SLRCS)

The fire caused spillage of damaged containers, microplastics, an estimated 3 billion tiny plastic pellets, chemicals and other harmful toxic substance into the sea. The flotsam was spread across vast areas on the western side of the coastline affecting the districts of Colombo, Gampaha and Kalutara.

Chemical spills and plastic pellets have caused massive damages to the coastline, natural marine environment and ecosystem including damages to several popular tourist areas and resorts. Beaches were thickly coated with plastic pellets; microplastics and some oil slicks were visible in the water. The plastic pallets used to make polythene bags and other plastic products have already caused fatal damages to marine life and a number of dead sea turtles, fish and birds were seen along the coastline. Local people were strictly advised not to touch any of the debris as it could be highly toxic and harmful to the human body.

Fishing has been banned about 50 km stretch of the coastline mainly in Gampaha and Colombo districts and according to the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, more than 16,500 fisher folks and their families living along the Western coastline have been affected. The fisheries sector of Sri Lanka consists three main sub sectors, namely coastal, offshore and deep sea. Coastal fishing community is the most vulnerable as they are daily income earners, and they are the ones severely affected by this disaster. Prior to this incident, the fishermen could not venture into the sea for two weeks as they were warned of an adverse monsoon weather conditions with heavy rains in the western coastal belt. The fisheries sector has already been affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic and this incident has further exacerbated the conditions of lives and livelihoods of fishing communities.

Although some experts believe that some of the oil must have burnt with the fire, authorities however are preparing to face an oil spill as the ship had 278 tonnes of bunker fuel oil, 50 tonnes of gas oil and 20 containers of lubricating oil. Oil spills can have potentially devastating impacts to the marine environment and livelihoods of fishing community. MEPA has developed a contingency plan to deal with the potential oil spills and deployed assets and personnel to set up barriers around immediate vicinity of the ship, lagoon entrances as well as other identified locations along the beach. The extent of environmental damage is yet to be assessed in detail. However, experts believe that the ecological damage caused by this disaster is massive and unimaginable with long term negative consequences. NARA and MEPA are currently working on assessing the ecological damage. Click [here](#) to see the map of affected area.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of host National Society

The 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 disasters for life saving purposes. SLRCS has a pool of 25 Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) trained persons, who could be deployed to set-up and assist implementation of the CVA programmes.



SLRCS handed over PPEs to MEPA office for beach cleanup operation (Photo: SLRCS)

Due to lock down situation and considering the nature of the disaster, SLRCS response so far was limited to donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits to MEPA and two boat engines to NARA. Although plastic pellets are not harmful to touch, experts believe there can be toxic chemical substances washed ashore together with plastic pellets and other debris. Hence, only military and trained personnel were deployed for beach cleaning and debris removal.

SLRCS organized a stakeholder consultation meeting on Saturday, 5 June 2021, with the participation of MEPA, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, NARA and an active SLRCS member who is a Marine Biologist and have served at NARA previously. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and get a better understanding of the humanitarian consequences of the disaster and what actions can SLRCS take in collaboration with these agencies to minimize the sufferings of the affected communities and help restore the marine environment. MEPA welcome the volunteer support for cleanup operations and agreed to assist SLRCS with trainings.

#### **Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement actions in country**

SLRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and the ICRC in implementing various programmes. During the disaster, the IFRC country office with the assistance of the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) Delhi 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 are regularly organized.

IFRC is providing technical support to SLRCS including developing the EPoA for the DREF request and coordinating with SLRCS for information sharing with the Movement and external partners. The IFRC CCD in Delhi and the APRO provided further coordination support for information sharing and resources.

#### **Overview of other actors' actions in country**

Sri Lanka Army, Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force and Department of Coastal Guards, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources are working as the prime workforce in the coastal cleanup operation with the guidance of NARA, MEPA and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. MEPA has developed a contingency plan to deal with the potential oil spills and deployed assets and personnel to set up barriers around immediate vicinity of the ship, lagoon entrances as well as other identified locations along the beach. There is no lead agency to coordinate humanitarian response as DMC is not involved in this operation. MEPA is leading the operation in dealing with the ecological damage with the support of Military, NARA, Ports Authority, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Since this disaster has direct and indirect impacts on marine and aquatic resources, NARA has taken immediate actions to investigate the situation and assess the environmental damage caused by the series of fire incidents. In-situ water quality parameters were measured at the point of sample collection and further laboratory analysis currently is being carried. A team of scientists from both the Environmental Studies Division and the Marine Biological Resources Division of NARA has conducted a combined survey on 26 May 2021 in the area of the incident and Colombo coastal area to assess the environmental impacts.

### **Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment**

Although multi-day large fishing vessels are allowed to leave the coast for fishing in the deep seas, small-scale fishermen who fish on day-to-day basis in the affected area have lost their livelihoods as the small-scale fishing have been banned by the authorities first due to bad weather conditions and then due to ship fire disaster. The main reason for fishing ban is that plastic pallets and debris mixed with toxic substance have been washed ashore, and still floating in the impact area. There is a need to provide compensation and support to recover from the impacts particularly to the small-scale fishermen who have lost their livelihoods for the last one month. It is important to note that small-scale vendors whose livelihoods depend upon the general public who visit the beaches, have also lost their income and the COVID-19 lockdown measures have made it even more difficult to support their families and meet their basic household needs.

Furthermore, the fish consumption in Sri Lanka has gone down after the media broadcasted the news of chemical spills and when people saw the dead marine species on the TV. This will also have considerable negative effect on the fishing community in the weeks ahead. It is also important to factor the long-term impacts and needs of the fishing community due to potential oil spill scenario.

The communities demand that fishermen be made beneficiaries of whatever compensation and insurance payment paid by the shipping company, or any other companies and the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources is working together with the Attorney General Office to take legal actions to get compensations from the shipping company. However, this process may take months and even years to complete. Hence there is a need to provide immediate assistance such as food aid and cash assistance to meet basic needs to fishing families and small-scale vendors at least for the entire period that they are banned from fishing.

It is estimated that about 3 billion tiny plastic pellets and other debris from the ship have spread across an 80 km stretch of the beaches. A massive mobilization of human resources is needed to clean the beaches and remove debris. Furthermore, as the debris is mixed with toxic substance, general public are not allowed to visit beaches and touch the

debris on the coast. The cleaning personnel should be provided and equipped with necessary tools such as shovels, wheelbarrows, boots, goggles and small machinery for the cleaning efforts. There is a need for trained personnel and volunteers to deal with the toxic mixed materials as the whole cleaning process is labour intensive. During stakeholder consultation conducted to analyze the needs, MEPA indicated that they are willing to assist to train SLRCS volunteers in the cleanup operations. There is also a need to provide special PPE kits <sup>3</sup> to volunteers and authorities to minimize the risk of contact with toxic materials.

Currently massive beach cleaning up activities are taking place in Gampaha and Colombo districts. Small scale cleaning up is happening in the beaches of other districts - Kalutara, Puttlam, Galle and Matara - as there are less quantities of plastic pellets and debris compared to Colombo and Gampaha. Although manual labour is the prime workforce for cleaning up activities, some machinery such as light earth moving equipment are needed to help move piled up debris from the beaches in selected locations.

According to the media reports, MEPA and Sri Lanka Navy, currently there has been no oil spill - detected from the ship. However, international media reported of satellite images of possible oil spill patch in the vicinity of the ship which is not confirmed by the Sri Lankan authorities. Scientists are predicting possible oil spill can happen in the near future and SLRCS intends to support responsible agencies like MEPA that are preparing for oil spill scenario. Oil spill barriers or sea barriers (sea booms) might help reduce contamination of fresh water sources like rivers, canals and lagoons and protect freshwater tributaries. Also, it might help minimize damages to the marine environment and protect biodiversity. Given the complexity of the operation and current COVID-19 lockdown measures, it is challenging to deploy SLRCS volunteers to conduct emergency community level needs assessment. Hence SLRCS conducted stakeholder consultations at district and national levels to collect information related to needs and affected coastal communities due to this disaster. The Disaster Management Centre is not involved in this operation as the coordinating lead agency. The main focus of the scientific and research institutions such as MEPA and NARA who led this operation is to protect marine environment and address other long-term consequences to the biodiversity along the coast. There is less focus on the short-, medium- and long-term humanitarian consequences of the disaster hence SLRCS has an important role to play to support the most vulnerable to meet their immediate basic needs as well as to ensure their voices are heard at decision making platforms at national levels. This operation is designed primarily using the secondary information collected from the stakeholders.

It is important to note that, even with the lockdown measures people can still purchase their essential household items, drugs and other household needs from the government designated supermarkets and small grocery shops that are open in the vicinity of the households.

### Targeting

Considering the humanitarian consequences of the ship fire and potential oil spill scenario, livelihoods of small-scale fishermen have been severely affected, this operation aims to target 3,000 small-scale fishing families in the worst affected Colombo and Gampaha districts. Those whose livelihoods have been severely affected since the last four weeks and could be exacerbated further by future negative impacts due to potential oil spill. Furthermore, as the government has requested support from SLRCS for the beach cleanup operation, the operation will also provide assistance to agencies that have deployed skilled personnel with PPEs, tools such as shovel.

Around 300 SLRCS volunteers will also be trained on dealing with toxic materials with expert guidance from MEPA and NARA - 50 volunteers per branch will be selected from Colombo, Gampaha, Puttalam, Kalutara, Galle and Matara for trainings. Once trained, the volunteers will be deployed to assist authorities in the cleanup operations. PPE will be provided for SLRCS volunteers, MEPA officers and Military officers engage in beach cleaning activities.

Due to the absence of the DMC in leading and coordinating the operation, it is important to organize regular review and consultation meetings with the key stakeholders to exchange knowledge, seek technical guidance and get updates on the evolving situation.

**Table 1: SLRCS interventions**

Interventions	Quantity	Target in Colombo	Target in Gampaha	Other affected districts (Puttalam, Kalutara, Galle, Matara)
Cash Voucher Intervention	3,000 HH	1,000 HH	2,000 HH	N/A
Tools: Shovels, boots, Goggles	300	100	150	50
Wheelbarrows	50	10	20	20
Training of 50 volunteers per branch	6 trainings	1 training	1 training	4 trainings per branch

<sup>3</sup> Impermeable (Air sealed & Leak Proof), Disposable single use, Non-Woven, Spun bond Melt blown Spun bond (SMS) fabric with lamination, Elastic waistband for dynamic fitting, Taped seams for optimal protection and good visibility. Meets or exceeds ASTM F1670 class3 exposure pressure (ASTM F1670 is equivalent to ISO16603)

**Table 2 - PPE / gloves support for volunteers and other stakeholders**

Branch	No. of working days	No. of Volunteers - SLRCS	No. of Staff SLRCS	MEPA staff	Sri Lanka Army/Navy personnel	Total	Quantity - PPE	Gloves
Gampaha	36	50	6	5	100	161	5,796	5,796
Colombo	36	50	6	5	100	161	5,796	5,796
Kalutara	25	25	3	2	50	80	2,000	2,000
Puttlam	25	25	3	2	50	80	2,000	2,000
Galle	25	25	3	2	50	80	2,000	2,000
Matara	25	25	3	2	50	80	2,000	2,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>642</b>	<b>19,592</b>	<b>19,592</b>

*PPE Qty= Gloves Qty= # of working days x total*

*# working days in Gampaha & Colombo= 12 days per month x 3 months*

**Table 3: Volunteer Deployment for Beach Cleaning**

Branch	No of working days	No of Volunteers - SLRCS	Total Volunteers Days
Gampaha	36	50	1,800
Colombo	36	50	1,800
Kalutara	25	25	625
Puttlam	25	25	625
Galle	25	25	625
Matara	25	25	625
<b>Total</b>		<b>200</b>	<b>6,100</b>

**Table 4 - Volunteer Deployment – Assessment for Cash Voucher Assistance PDM**

Branch	No of working days - Assessment	No of working days - PDM	Total working days	No of Volunteers	Staff	Total no of persons	Total PPE
Gampaha	15	15	30	30	4	34	1,020
Colombo	10	10	20	20	4	24	480
			<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1,500</b>

### Scenario planning

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Worst case scenario	In addition to the environmental damage and livelihood loss caused by ship fire and subsequent massive plastic pellets and other debris flow into the coastal areas, potential oil spill will exacerbate the situation with devastating impacts on the marine environment as well as livelihoods of the fishing community. Therefore, it is important to plan for the worst case scenario for humanitarian assistance as well as to prepare to mitigate the damages to the marine environment.	Aim of this DREF operation is to assist the most vulnerable members of the fishing community in the worst affected districts of Colombo and Gampaha with CVA as well as to engage in the beach cleanup operations in close coordination with respective government agencies. A total of 3,000 families will be targeted with CVA while preparing and deploying SLRCS volunteers for cleaning up campaign. This operation will also prepare volunteers with training and provision of oil spill containment measures, including provision of tools, PPEs, and materials to install barriers for potential oil spill. In the case of escalation of impact, SLRCS will expand the operation based on the needs and potentially request for second allocation of DREF.

### COVID-19 safe operation

Cases continue to rise across Sri Lanka with over 216, 000 confirmed cases, over 2000 deaths with 182,000 recoveries as of 10 June 2021. The targeted areas for this operation are the western coastal districts of Colombo, Gampaha in the western province have reported highest number of cases. To ensure the operation is COVID-19 safe, IFRC and SLRCS staff and volunteers in the field will be provided PPE and community sensitization and awareness in the context of COVID-19 prevention. All activities will be conducted under the COVID-19 guidelines. For further information on COVID-19 operation in Sri Lanka, please refer to [IFRC GO](#) platform.

## **Risk Assessment**

Detail assessment will be carried out in affected areas during the operation once the lockdown measures are lifted to select the target beneficiaries. Accessibility to the affected areas will be improved once the lockdown measures are lifted. It is made mandatory to ensure volunteers are insured prior to deployment and to provide them with the trainings, necessary protective gears such as sanitizers and masks in order to prevent the lives of the RCRC volunteers at risk. With the prevailing COVID-19 situation there is a risk for community transmission in field level. These volunteers are already trained on how to work according to COVID-19 guidelines in order to assure safety of both volunteers and beneficiaries. Further trainings will be provided to volunteers on dealing with toxic substances in the cleanup operations and closer guidance will be provided with expert technical support from the scientific institutions that are leading the operation on the ground.

## **B. Operational strategy**

### **Overall Objective**

This operation aims to reach 15,000 people (3,000 households) of the most vulnerable small fisher folks/ fishing households from the two worst affected districts of Colombo and Gampaha through multipurpose cash (MPC) to meet their basic needs for one month. Additionally, the operation also aims to support the local authorities through SLRCS volunteers on the cleanup operations. The operation will focus on providing MPC, provision of special PPE kits, tools (shovels, wheelbarrows, boots, goggles etc.), materials to install oil spill barriers and machinery for beach cleanup activities, training of volunteers on dealing with toxic materials and oil spill scenario.

### **Proposed Strategy**

Beneficiary selection will be carried out in the two targeted districts for MPC distribution/assistance by involving Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, local authorities and affected community members. The proposed strategy is formulated based on the short-term basic needs of the affected people and aligned with the government's marine environment protection strategy.

The main focus will be on providing support to 3,000 families in Colombo and Gampaha districts with CVA to address the basic needs. The operation will include provision of protective gears such as PPEs, working tools such as shovels, wheelbarrows, goggles, boots as well as hiring of machinery for the cleanup operations. Materials to install oil spill barriers (containment booms) will be procured and distributed to respective authorities.

Attention will be paid for knowledge management and developing communication products from the experience gained from this operation. SLRCS will be receiving support from a surge with CBRN expertise with following tasks:

1. To understand the context of operation and to get expert guidance to engage with key stakeholders
2. To train and guide SLRCS staff and volunteers together with MEPA
3. To support in producing comms product/information materials
4. To strengthen SLRCS preparedness for future disasters of similar nature
5. To help prepare a road map (medium- and long-term plan) for SLRCS and key stakeholders

Regular reviews and updates will be made available during and after the operation. Actions will be taken to document the lessons learned and experience from this operation and shared widely within and outside the Movement.

SLRCS is committed to work in line with SLRCS and IFRC policies, procedures, commitments and mandates to ensure that programmes under this operation are aligned with its gender commitments as well with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming. Specific considerations will include the elderly, persons with disability, pregnant women, lactating women, women-headed households, migrants, quarantine people due to COVID-19 and households with infants or young children. Since these groups are more vulnerable to challenges related to access to nutrient-rich food, safe water and are more susceptible to diseases/infections

### **Livelihood and basic needs- essential household assistance:**

Considering the impacts due to the ship fire and the ban imposed by the authorities most of the small-scale fisherfolks/ fishing households in Colombo and Gampaha districts have become vulnerable and lost their daily income. Therefore, this operation will provide a cash grant of LKR 15,000 (CHF 69) per month considering the prolonged impact on their livelihoods. The standard criteria to determine cash grant is to provide 50 per cent of average daily wage in 20 days which is LKR 15,000 (CHF 69). The amount is calculated considering 20 working days per month. This is the standard used in all other SLRCS DREF operations. The government is also providing LKR 5,000 (CHF 23) cash assistance to affected families per month as this is a special situation and SLRCS assistance will help recover from the current economic shock.

BDRT trained 50 volunteers will conduct assessment for MPC of the CVA programme (refer Table 4). During beneficiary selection, special attention will be given to vulnerable categories including female/single-headed households, households living with persons with disability and elderly people. Consideration will be given to families whose economic

condition has worsened due to the COVID-19 lockdown situation. The key steps to be followed for MPC transfer are:

1. Identification of most vulnerable beneficiaries - small fisherfolks/households for MPC transfer.
2. Mobilization, sensitization and planning with communities on the proposed intervention, including implementation plan.
3. Registration of beneficiaries.
4. Assessment of Financial Service Providers (FSPs) and finalization of contract(s).
5. MPC assistance to beneficiaries.

### **Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion**

According to the need analysis, about 3 billion tiny plastic pellets and other debris from the ship have already spread about 80 km stretch of the beaches. Currently, government entities are conducting beach cleaning activities, still there is need for more human resources to clean the polluted areas. Understanding the importance of engaging in the cleanup activities to minimize the impact of this environment pollution, reducing the risk of fishing communities, SLRCS will join the authorities to carry out beach cleaning activities in affected areas. Special training will be conducted for 300 SLRCS volunteers as they should have knowledge to deal with toxic mixed materials before deploying for beach cleaning up activities. All the necessary gears for cleaning will be supplied by the operation including special PPE kits. SLRCS will continuously get the support for conducting ground level activities from, relevant organizations including MEPA, Coastal Guard Department and Military officials.

Around 100 volunteers will be deployed in Colombo and Gampaha districts per day for three months for cleaning up activities, while less affected districts of Puttalam, Kalutara, Galle and Matara district branches will deploy 200 volunteers per day for three months (refer Table 3). Furthermore, materials to install oil spill barriers will be provided to MEPA and other relevant authorities and the branches will be involved in the installation. Fresh water sources and sea water contact locations such as lagoons, rivers and canal entries may be the places to install oil spill barriers and will be determined together with the authorities.

### **National Society Capacity building**

SLRCS is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response operation, supported by the IFRC and in-country Movement partners. SLRCS has well established cooperation with lead agencies such as NARA, MEPA, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Local Authorities, Ministry of Health and Ministry of disaster management. SLRCS Colombo and Gampaha branches have been working hand in hand with these agencies as all these agencies are located in the western province. However, training and skills development of staff and volunteers are needed to deal with these types of technological disasters such as chemical spills and oil spills. Around 300 volunteers will be trained from selected branches to work at the field level.

Furthermore, SLRCS seeks IFRC support to deploy Chemical, Biological, Radiological and/or Nuclear (CBRN) expert for one month to assist SLRCS to help train volunteers, have further consultation meetings with relevant agencies to analyze current and future needs, and to provide expert knowledge on how to prepare for future technological disasters.

### **Implementing lessons learned from previous operations**

Although SLRCS has implemented number of response operations on natural and manmade disasters, there is a limited experience in dealing with marine disasters. SLRCS will use the lessons learned from other operation to plan and implement the response activities. Most recent experiences, lessons learned, and knowledge gathered from the COVID-19 response activities and ongoing DREF operation will be integrated into this operation.

### **A Movement-wide approach**

SLRCS is 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, IFRC will mobilize resources via this DREF on behalf of SLRCS, while coordinating with the ICRC at the same time. The latter has a long-time presence in Sri Lanka and will, 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 will be covered by ICRC outside of this DREF. Contributions of Participating National societies will be considered and coordinated in the overall approach.

### **Support services Human Resources**

SLRCS will allocate full-time staff at NHQ to oversee the operation and assign a finance staff to ensure a smooth flow of settlements. Furthermore, at branch level to implement the programme, a District Project Officer and a Community Mobilizer per each branch will be hired. IFRC will support programme implementation via its existing staff. Mobilization of NDRT, BDRT and DDRT as well as staff expenses are covered in the operational budget.

### **Logistics and Supply Chain**

Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

In line with the audit guidelines, IFRC will conduct the procurement process in close coordination with SLRCS ensuring the efficient and timely delivery of these items. Hence the new items procured will be used to replenish the contingency stocks. Following items will be procured locally - adult relief packs and baby packs. Kitchen sets will be procured through IFRC procurement system. The IFRC country office will provide logistics support to SLRCS ensure transparency and accountability in the procurement process. Additional logistics support can be made available by the Asia Pacific Regional Logistics Unit and CCD Delhi, as per need.

### **Information technologies (IT)**

High-speed Wi-Fi internet connectivity is available in the IFRC Sri Lanka country office (CO) 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 and data protection will be provided to prepare the volunteers using the tablets or mobile phones for assessments.

### **Communications**

Throughout the operation, a regular flow of information will also be maintained between all stakeholders. 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. To maintain the transparency of the operation SLRCS will disseminate information via 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.

### **Security**

The SLRCS's security framework will be applicable for the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support deployed to the area, the existing IFRC country security plan, including security regulations, contingency plans for medical emergencies, relocation and critical incident management will be applicable. All IFRC staff, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. Staff and volunteers to be aware of the security situation and briefed on reactions in emergency before deployment in the operational area.

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.

### **Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)**

SLRCS will oversee and monitor 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 CO and CCD in Delhi will provide technical support in program management to ensure the operation objectives are met.

Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC DREF minimum reporting standards. A final report will be issued within three months of the end of the operation.

A post distribution monitoring on cash will be conducted and at the end of the operation a lesson learned workshop will be conducted to capture learning.

### **Administration and finance**

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

### **Crosscutting issues**

#### **Protection, gender and inclusion**

Protection, gender and inclusion considerations will be mainstreamed in this operation. Among others, areas of focus will include prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection. Mainstreaming of Protection, gender and inclusion will also ensure that accountability lines are in place for GBV prevention and response. SLRCS commits to capturing sex, age and disability disaggregated data for the purpose of understanding the number and specific vulnerability of females to males based on their gender roles and age (to understand if a higher proportion of women, boys, girls or men are made vulnerable).

#### **Community engagement and accountability (CEA)**

Even with the COVID-19 restrictions, efforts will be made to integrate community feedback mechanisms into the operation to ensure that affected populations have access to timely and accurate information on the nature and scope of services provided by SLRCS, expected behaviour of staff and volunteers and can share questions, suggestions, concerns and other feedback with SLRCS. Community engagement and accountability services will be implemented through context-specific channels, group discussions, face-to-face discussions and publishing of selected recipient lists. Movement-wide commitments and minimum actions for CEA will be mainstreamed into operations as much as possible.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 15,000 (3,000 HH)

Male: 7,000

Female: 8,000

Requirements: CHF 225,147

Sector	Needs analysis	Assistance planned and population to be assisted
Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ways of income has interrupted due to unpredicted incident</li> <li>Loss of income affects local economy.</li> <li>Need to stimulate local economy and restore dignity to population.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cash Grant of CHF 69 (15,000 LKR) will be awarded for 3,000 families to fulfill their basic needs</li> </ul>

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** Sphere standard and national nutritional guidelines.

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through basic needs support.	# of people targeted/reached support on Basic Needs and Livelihoods (Target: 3,000 families / 15,000 people)				
	Shelter Output 1.1: Short term basic needs and livelihoods support assistance is provided to affected households	# of households provided with emergency cash grants (Target: 3,000 families / 15,000 people)				
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
	<b>Households provided with emergency cash grants</b>					
AP081	Consult and agree with the selection criteria of target households (through a participatory process)		x			
AP081	Select beneficiary households, prepare beneficiary lists and sensitize them on the assistance process		x			
AP081	Conduct market assessment to identify whether the markets are functioning		x			
AP081	Provide cash transfers (CHF 69) through bank transfers/mobile cash to households		x	x		
AP081	Undertake post-distribution monitoring				x	



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 15,000 (3,000 HH)

Male: 7,000

Female: 8,000

Requirements CHF 230,989

Sector	Needs analysis	Assistance planned and population to be assisted
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contaminated plastic pellets and debris can cause diseases and limited access to the beaches and fishing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beach cleaning to clear plastic pellets and debris from the beaches</li> <li>Provision of PPE to relevant government authorities and volunteers tasked with clean-up activities.</li> </ul>

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** *Reference Sphere, Global Water and Sanitation Initiative and Safe Storage in Emergencies Manual.*

P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.3: Adequate sanitation which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	# of beach clean-up days (Target: 90 days) # of people reached by beach clean-up activities (Target: 15,000)			
		Month	1	2	3
AP026	Coordinate with the authorities to bring awareness about beach cleaning activity		x		
AP026	Procurement of beach cleaning equipment		x		
AP026	Procurement of PPE		x		
AP026	Conducting beach cleaning activities		x	x	x
AP026	Training of Volunteers on Environment sanitation		x		



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People targeted: 15,000

Male: 7,000

Female: 8,000

Requirements (CHF): NA

**Needs analysis:** The operation will ensure the promotion and participation of men and women of different age groups through orientation and consultation. While the household needs assessment will be conducted, sex, age, and disability Disaggregated data (SADDD) will be collected and analysed. A continuous dialogue amongst different stakeholders will be continued to ensure programmes from all sectors mainstream cross cutting issues relevant to the needs and priorities of the affected population.

**Population to be assisted:** 15,000 people (3,000 families)

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** This operation will meet the minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion by ensuring that the following activities integrated with sectoral activities and budget as per [IFRC minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies](#).

P&B Output Code	Inclusion and Protection 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	Does the operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services? (Target: yes)				
	Inclusion and Protection Output 1.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.	Does the operation demonstrate evidence of NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors? (Target: yes)				
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
-	Organize orientation for staff and volunteers on the PGI minimum standards		x			
-	Collection and analysis of sex, age and disability disaggregated data		x	x		
-	Ensure community engagement and accountability (i.e. multi-sectoral community feedback mechanism, community engagement regarding selection criteria etc.)		x	x	x	

## Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 25,114

P&B Output Code	<b>S1.1: 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.</b>	<i># of SLRCS branches that are well functioning (Target: 7)</i>				
	<b>Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected</b>	<i># of volunteers insured target: 300 volunteers) # of volunteers involved in the operation (Target: 200 volunteers)</i>				
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
AP042	Ensure that volunteers are insured		x			
AP042	Provide complete PPE and briefings on volunteers' roles and the risks they face		x			
AP042	Ensure volunteers are aware of their rights and responsibilities		x			
AP042	Ensure volunteers' safety and wellbeing		x			
AP042	Ensure volunteers are properly trained to deal with toxic substance with support from expert		x			
P&B Output Code	<b>Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured</b>	<i>NDRT/RDRT deployed (Target: Yes) Ratio of people reached by the IFRC disaster response operations to the people affected by these emergencies (Target: minimum of 5%)</i>				
	<b>Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained</b>	<i># of RDRT deployed (Target: 1 person) # of NDRT deployed (Target: 3 persons)</i>				
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
AP002	IFRC CO support SLRCS with initial start-up and implementation of the operation		x	x	x	x
AP046	Request and deployment of one CBRN Surge for one month		x			
P&B Output Code	<b>Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved</b>	<i>% compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance (Target: 100%)</i>				
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4
AP065	Support SLRCS in compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance (CEA-related activities)		x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	<b>Output S2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced</b>	<i># of coordination meetings with other stakeholders (Target: 10)</i>				
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3	4

AP065	IFRC country office supports SLRCS in coordinating with other humanitarian actors on a regular basis	x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	<b>Outcome S2.2: The complementarity and strengths of the Movement are enhanced</b>	<i>Movement coordination is in place (Target: yes)</i>			
	<b>Output S2.2.1: In the context of large-scale emergencies the IFRC, ICRC and NS enhance their operational reach and effectiveness through new means of coordination.</b>	<i>Involvement in regular coordination meetings. (Target: yes)</i>			
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3
AP065	Movement coordination between SLRCS, IFRC, ICRC and possible PNS's, are in place when required	x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	<b>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.</b>	<i>IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues. (Target: yes)</i>			
	<b>Output S3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</b>	<i># of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.) (Target: 7)</i>			
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3
AP042	The SLRCS communications team is ensuring that Red Cross response efforts are effectively communicated amongst its key public audiences	x	x	x	x
AP042	SLRCS staff and volunteers across the country are actively contributing to institutional communications through their own social media networks.	x	x	x	x
AP042	SLRCS and IFRC staff will work together to generate high quality photos, video clips, and news stories for use across IFRC and SLRCS multimedia platforms.	x	x	x	x
P&B Output Code	<b>Output S3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.</b>	<i># of rapid and detailed assessment teams deployed at branch level (Target: 7 teams)</i>			
	Activities planned	Month	1	2	3
AP002	Mobilize SLRCS staff and volunteers to conduct assessments	x			
AP002	Ensure continuous monitoring of implementation by SLRCS and IFRC teams.	x	x	x	x
AP002	Conduct orientation programs for NHQ and branch staff	x			
AP002	Conduct progress review meeting		x		
AP002	Conduct post distribution survey to determine the level of satisfaction among people				x
AP039	Conduct lesson learned workshop				x
	<b>Outcome S4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability</b>	<i>IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability (Target: Yes)</i>			

P&B Output Code	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	% of financial reporting respecting the IFRC procedures (Target: 100%)				
		Month	1	2	3	4
AP065	IFRC country office's finance department supports SLRCS finance unit to comply with finance procedures and reporting standards		x	x	x	x

# Funding Requirement

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

*all amounts in  
Swiss Francs  
(CHF)*

## DREF OPERATION

MDRLK013 - SRI LANKA - CARGO SHIP FIRE

6/12/2021

### Budget by Resource

<b>Budget Group</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Medical & First Aid	135,407
Other Supplies & Services	60,977
Cash Disbursement	207,373
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>403,758</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	3,226
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,940
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>7,166</b>
National Society Staff	6,880
Volunteers	15,574
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>22,453</b>
Workshops & Training	9,217
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>9,217</b>
Travel	5,333
Information & Public Relations	2,880
Office Costs	553
Communications	498
Financial Charges	21
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>9,285</b>
DIRECT COSTS	451,878
INDIRECT COSTS	29,372
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>481,250</b>

## Contact information

### Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

**For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:**

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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.



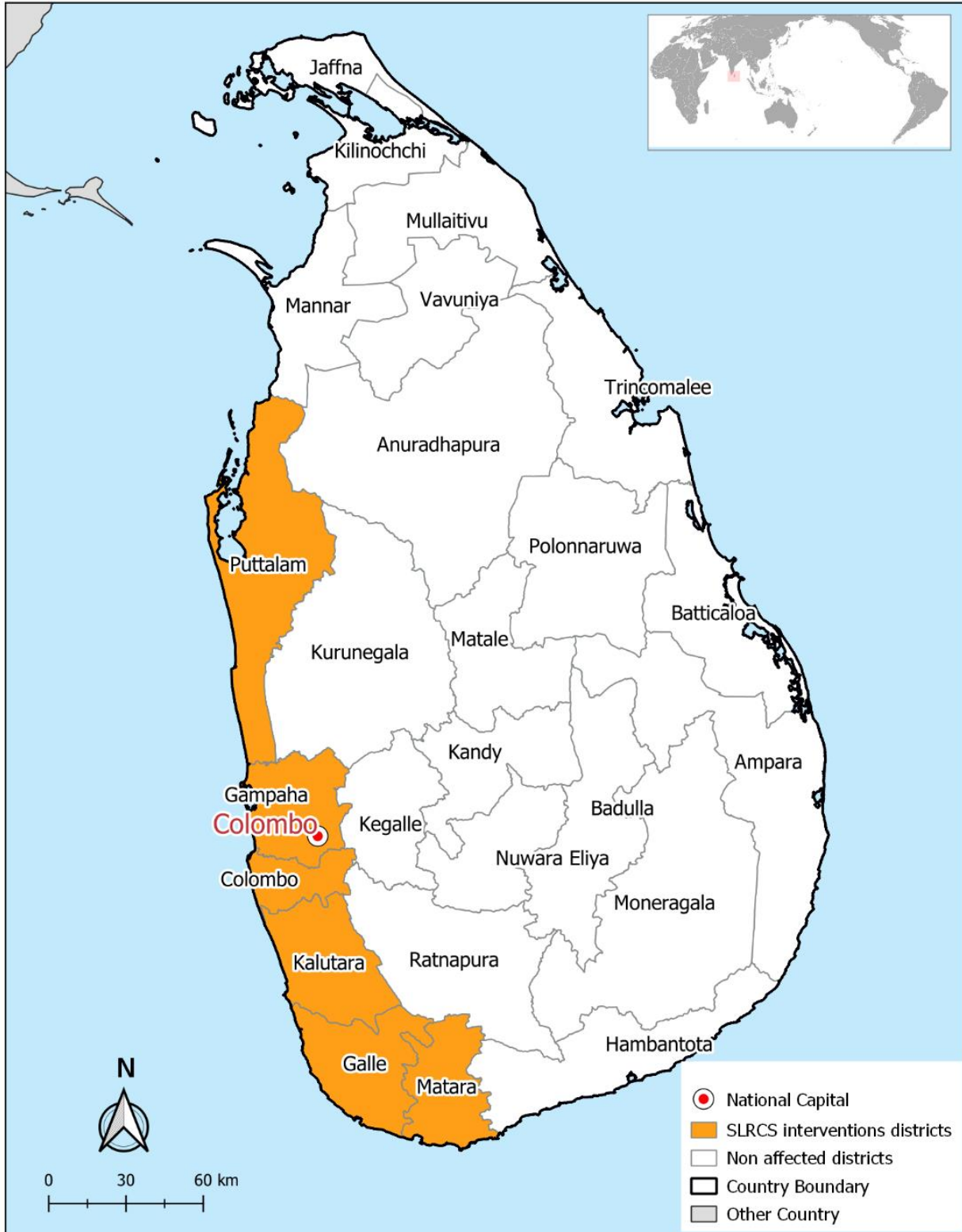
Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



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

## Sri Lanka: Cargo Ship Fire Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

12 June 2021



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of territory or its authorities. Map data sources: OCHA, OSM Contributors, ICRC, IFRC