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Operation Update Report Sri Lanka: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF n° MDRLK012	GLIDE n° FL-2021-000057-LKA
Operation update n° 2; 29 October 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 22 May 2021 to 15 October 2021
Operation start date: 22 May 2021	Operation timeframe: 6 months (extended); end date: 30 November 2021
Funding requirements (CHF): 499,498	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 135,615
N° of people being assisted: 41,507	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is a voluntary humanitarian organization; SLRCS has a strong branch network in all the 25 districts of the country, which is well capable of 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 is supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Sri Lanka Office in this operation, especially in providing the technical support and launching of the DREF.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), Tri-forces (Sri Lanka Army, Air-force, Navy), Sri Lanka Police, Disaster Management Centre (DMC), The National Dengue Control Unit, UN agencies, international non-government organizations (INGO), and other civil society organizations.	

Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:


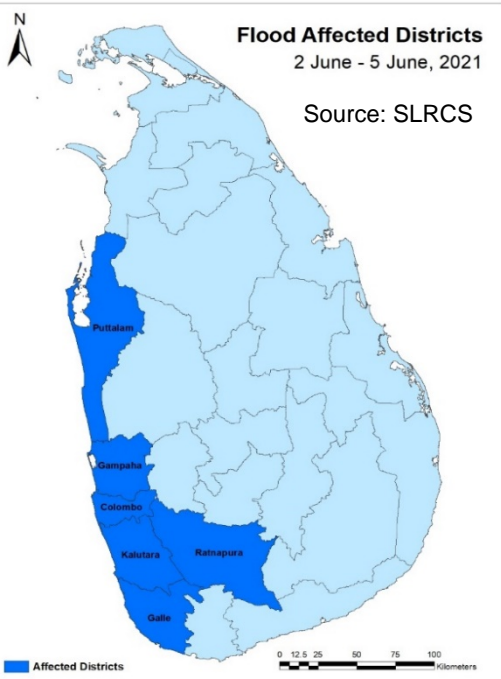






SLRCS distributed 800 kitchen sets from its' own stocks at the initial stages of the flood operation and requested IFRC to replenish the stocks through the DREF funding. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the global supply chain has been affected and as a result, the shipment of 800 kitchen sets to replenish SLRCS stocks were delayed several times since June 2021. Based on the latest development, the shipment will be further delayed till the end of the first week of November 2021 with a possibility of further delays.

This operations update informs the extension of the operational timeframe from 22 May 2021 to 30 November 2021 to accommodate the delays in the procurement process and to book the final settlement of the expenditure within the operational timeframe. All other activities have been completed.

Although the targeted population to be assisted was 17,500 at the planning stages of the operation, a total of 41,507 people have been reached thus far as public community activities such as medical camps, dengue awareness and clean up campaigns, well cleaning and cleaning of public places and schools have benefited more people than initially planned

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

	12-14 May 2021	The onset of the southwest monsoon season in Sri Lanka coupled with tropical depression (later named tropical storm "Tauktae" in southeast Arabian sea) triggered heavy rainfall across western and southwestern parts of the country. Sri Lanka's Department of Meteorology reported a maximum rainfall of up to 336mm in the Western province.	 <p>Flood Affected Districts 2 June - 5 June, 2021 Source: SLRCS</p>
	14-16 May 2021	Heavy rains and winds resulted in flooding in several districts with Colombo, Gampaha and Galle being the worst affected with high number of damages and displacements. A total of 43,493 people affected in all districts.	
	18 May 2021	SLRCS requested IFRC for DREF support to respond to the emergency and assist 1,500 families in the worst affected districts of Colombo, Gampaha and Galle.	
	22 May 2021	IFRC allocated CHF 135,615 to assist 1,500 families with Livelihoods and basic needs, WASH, Health and Care.	
	22 May- 1 June 2021	Rainy season continued with scattered low rainfall across West, South, Central and North western parts of the country without significant impact.	
	2-5 June 2021	<p>Intensity of the rainfall increased which caused floods and landslides again in the same districts where the DREF operation was ongoing, as well as three adjacent districts in the western and south western part of the country. Affected districts include; Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Rathnapura, Puttalam, Kegalle and Nuwara Eliya. According to the metrological department, highest rainfall of 331mm rain reported in the Kalutara district.</p> <p>According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) situation update on 5 June, 15 people died and two others were reported missing. The DMC and the local authorities in the respective districts are managing the safe shelters where displaced persons are evacuated (see under Non-RC actions). In addition, local organizations provided cooked food to displaced people in close coordination with the authorities. A total of 1,422 houses have been fully or partially damaged and 266,923 people belonging to 65,476 families were affected, and 2,221 families (26,841 people) were evacuated to 88 safe centres/evacuation shelters. The income sources of most vulnerable people have been affected due to floods and landslides, and further exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown in the country.</p>	
	11 June 2021	Flood water receded considerably and as of 11 June, about 90% the families have returned to either their own places or staying with host families. Since 98% houses are partially damaged people prefer to stay in their own places while working on repairs.	

DMC damage report (as of 17 May 2021)

District	Families	People	Dead	Injured	Missing	Houses damaged		Safe centres		
						Fully damaged	Partially damaged	# of safe centers	Families	# of Persons
Gampaha	4,159	16,793	1	0	0	1	230	5	30	114
Colombo	3,384	14,159	0	0	0	1	307	17	322	1,465
Galle	1,296	3,836	2	1	0	2	359	2	3	15
Matara	663	2,806	0	0	0	0	98	0	0	0
Puttalam	402	1,361	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0
Kegalle	695	2,444	2	0	0	11	201	2	9	29

Kurunegala	244	840	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Kandy	29	115	0		0	0	29	0	0	0
Kalutara	323	1,139	0	2	0	1	140	3	13	35
Total	11,195	43,493	5	3	0	16	1,406	29	377	1,658

DMC damage report (as of 5 June 2021)

District	Families	People	Dead	Injured	Missing	Houses damaged		Safe centres		
						Fully damaged	Partially damaged	# of safe centers	Families	# of Persons
Gampaha	39,742	161,383	3	0	0	4	168	16	1,166	5,011
Colombo	16,156	65,342	1	0	0	0	29	47	487	21,295
Kalutara	1,150	4,476	0	0	0	2	59	10	48	183
Rathnapura	1,427	5,614	3	1	1	6	487	9	487	209
Puttlam	7,748	29,049	3	0	1	0	51	3	21	89
Kegalle	253	1,059	5	0	0	3	121	3	12	54
Total	66,476	266,923	15	1	2	15	915	88	2,221	26,841

Source: DMC, 5 June 2021

Summary of 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 of 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 in lifesaving techniques to assist rescue operations in times of need. Further, trained first aid volunteers are also available in all districts, in readiness for immediate deployment at the time of disasters for lifesaving purposes. SLRCS has a pool of 25 Cash and CVA trained personnel, who can be deployed to set up and assist implementation of the CVA activities.

SLRCS response in the first phase of the Disaster

At very short notice, SLRCS volunteers from Colombo and Gampaha branches provided the necessary support to the affected people in coordination with government authorities. To assist the most vulnerable people affected, BDRTs were deployed in the field to conduct emergency assessments. As the situation intensified, two SLRCS branches requested additional resources to assist with the response, and NDRT members were deployed to required districts with immediate effect. These trained members assisted with assessments and relief distributions.

SLRCS disseminated weather updates issued by the government's meteorological department to the general public and put branches on high alert from the outset. Social media platforms such as Facebook as well as the SLRCS website were actively used to convey messages to the public and report on response actions. SLRCS closely tracked the movement of the depression strictly following the meteorological department's early warning and then activated its branches.

SLRCS response in the six districts since 16 May 2021

District	Response	Challenges faced due to COVID-19 restrictions
Colombo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-hour assessments were conducted by the BDRT members who are residing in the affected areas and, with the consultation with the local authorities, observations and secondary data analysis. The assessment reports were sent to NHQ. Provided masks and sanitizer to Safety Centres to interact with the displaced community. Four ferry boats were provided for transportation of goods and services to inundated areas. Disinfections in Safety Centres to create a safer environment for the displaced persons. These disinfection services were conducted daily. 350 kitchen sets distributed 1,000 wells were cleaned 	<p>Due to the lockdown of the country (travel restrictions), it was challenging to conduct activities as planned. Most of the field locations under quarantine regulations.</p> <p>However, since SLRCS has permission from the authorities to travel for humanitarian work, some activities have been completed without any delays.</p> <p>See Facebook Updates below:</p> <p>Galle branch:</p>

District	Response	Challenges faced due to COVID-19 restrictions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three medical camps were completed. • Distribution of 150 baby relief packs • 350 adult relief packs were distributed 	https://www.facebook.com/133902706641597/posts/4454577304574094/
Gampaha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-hour assessments conducted by the BDRT members who are residing in the affected areas and, with the consultation with the local authorities, observations and secondary data analysis were sent to NHQ. • Six ferry boats were provided for the transportation of goods and services to inundated areas. • Deployed search and rescue teams for emergency response activities. • Distributed 500 water bottles (5L capacity) in safety centres. • Partnered with Coca Cola Pvt Ltd to assist affected people in the district through cleaning of 600 wells in Biyagama subdivision. This area was not selected for well cleaning under this operation. • 350 kitchen sets distributed • 1,100 wells were cleaned • Four medical camps were completed. • 10 Dengue cleanup campaigns were completed • 10 cleanup campaigns were conducted in public • 150 baby relief packs were distributed to most vulnerable families • 350 adult relief packs were distributed 	<p>Gampaha branch: https://www.facebook.com/133902706641597/posts/4457463140952177/</p> <p>Colombo branch: https://www.facebook.com/133902706641597/posts/4463047120393779/</p> <p>Dengue Campaign – Kalutara Branch https://www.facebook.com/133902706641597/posts/4785388508159637/</p> <p>Cash Voucher Assistance -Galle branch https://www.facebook.com/133902706641597/posts/4745913002107188/</p> <p>Cash Voucher Assistance – All branches https://www.facebook.com/133902706641597/posts/4723028661062289/</p>
Galle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-hour assessments conducted by the BDRT members who are residing in the affected areas and, with the consultation with the local authorities, observations and secondary data analysis sent to NHQ • 100 kitchen sets distributed • 100 wells cleaned • Two medical camps conducted • 100 adult relief packs distributed • 100 baby packs distributed 	
Kalutara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-hour assessments conducted by the BDRT members who are residing in the affected areas and, with the consultation with the local authorities, observations and secondary data analysis sent to NHQ. • Supported camp management facilities. • 200 wells were cleaned • Four cleanup campaigns were conducted in the affected areas. 	
Ratnapura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-hour assessments conducted by the BDRT members who are residing in the affected areas and, with the consultation with the local authorities, observations and secondary data analysis sent to NHQ. • A total of 22 ferry boats have been provided for the transportation of goods and services to inundated areas. • FA teams deployed to safety centres. • 200 wells were cleaned in the affected areas • One dengue awareness campaign were completed • Four community cleanup campaigns were conducted 	
Puttalam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-hour assessments conducted by the BDRT members who are residing in the affected areas and, with the consultation with the local authorities, observations and secondary data analysis sent to NHQ. • SLRCS volunteers supported the government in food distribution • 400 inundated wells were cleaned 	

There is no overlap between the target groups of Cargo Ship Fire DREF operation (MDRLK013) and this flood operation (MDRLK012). The target group of MDRLK013 DREF was not affected by flooding as fisher communities live very close to the coast. Usually, western coastal areas do not get flooded and inland areas were flooded due to heavy rains as rivers started overflowing. The target group for this operation are living far from the coastline and are not part of the fisher communities.

SLRCS is taking part in the national and district level coordination meetings with the GoSL, DMC and international non-government organizations (INGOs). As of now, staff and 180 volunteers have been deployed from the National Society to support the response.



Medical camp organized by Colombo district branch and Ratnapura district branch ferries in operation (Photo: SLRCS)



Well cleaning activities conducted by Gampaha and household items ready for distribution in Galle district (Photo: SLRCS)

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

SLRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and the ICRC in implementing various programmes. During the disaster, the IFRC country office with the assistance of the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in 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 in the development of the Emergency Plan of Action and Operations Updates of the DREF operation and coordinating with SLRCS for information sharing with the Movement and external partners. The IFRC CCD and the Asia Pacific Regional Delegation (APRD) are also providing further coordination support for information sharing and resources.

Overview of other actors in country

The national and district level Disaster Management agencies and district administrative units were leading the floods and landslide response with the support of local authorities across the country. The government deployed the military for search and rescue operations, while local authorities took action to provide cooked food to affected families. Given the COVID-19 lockdown, DMC together with military and local authorities conducted assessments of the situation.

The DMC and the local authorities in the respective districts were managing the safe shelters where displaced persons were evacuated. Local organizations too provided cooked food to displaced people in close coordination with the authorities.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

SLRCS, in coordination with local authorities, conducted a 24-hour assessment and identified the immediate needs and priorities of the affected population. The assessment was conducted by BDRT members residing in the affected areas and collected information on the most vulnerable groups affected by floods. Markets and essential services of the areas were interrupted due to flood initially. However, local markets reopened as soon as floods started receding, enabling people to access the markets.

The floods inundated the houses and incurred damage to the household items as well as the kitchens. The families with damaged houses lost their household items including their kitchen utensils and hygiene items. With the markets not yet fully functional, and with COVID-19 restrictions, the families were facing challenges in getting the items to resume their basic life. Therefore, as people were struggling to cope with the flood situation there was a need to provide essential household items to meet their emergency needs. SLRCS was also focusing on the distribution of relief items instead of cash assistance as local markets were not fully functional at the time. At the same time, due to the COVID-19 lockdown and travel restrictions, the banks were not fully functioning. There was a risk of prolonging the response if the operation decided to provide cash grants.

A large number of shallow water wells were contaminated due to flooding and there was a need for well cleaning activities. Furthermore, according to past experiences, mosquito breeding increases as a result of stagnant water, thus increasing the risk of dengue. Therefore, the need for cleaning the affected areas was important including awareness on dengue prevention. Thus, priority was given to providing household items, medical and first aid services, well cleaning and provision of cleaning materials.

Well cleaning activities were started in all six districts after floodwater started to recede - 3,000 wells were cleaned. Some wells that were cleaned during the first phase of the operation were inundated again due to an upsurge of rain in early July. These wells were cleaned again during the second phase of the operation.

In addition to the three districts (Colombo, Gampaha, and Galle) targeted during the first phase of the disaster, three additional districts (Rathnapura, Kalutara, and Puttalam) were identified for emergency assistance due to widespread impact due to flooding and landslide in the second phase. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown in the country, the needs were identified in close coordination and consultation with the district DMC, Divisional Secretariat and other relevant government agencies. SLRCS BDRT members residing in the affected locations assisted to provide information for the initial assessments.

Livelihoods & basic needs

Basic needs including food items, household items, safe drinking water and sanitation were highlighted as the main assistance required. Available information showed that severe losses impacted long-term food security in affected areas. Limited work opportunities for the few weeks reduced purchasing capacity of vulnerable families. Assessment findings highlighted that many of the affected people were daily wage labours who had lost their income since 21 May 2021, due to lockdown this flood situation further exacerbated their economic situation. Therefore, SLRCS selected the most vulnerable 3,500 households for cash and voucher assistance (CVA). Considering the number of households damaged in the first and second phases of the disaster, it was planned to assist affected people with household items. CVA trained staff and response team members were mobilized from the branches to provide technical assistance and also from HQ where necessary. Most branches have CVA trained staff and volunteers for support as well.

It should be highlighted that families assisted during the first phase were affected again in the second phase of the flood. Apart from that, 800 households selected for assistance with household items in the first phase were included in the CVA as they belong to the most vulnerable affected category and also, they lost their daily income due to double disasters within a short span.

It is important to note that even with the lockdown measures, people were able to purchase their essential household items, medicines and other household needs from government-designated supermarkets and small grocery shops in their neighbourhood. The government set up systems and structures that were put in place to supply food and household items across the country through Cooperative Societies and supermarkets. When the flood started receding, some of the other shops and markets started functioning within a few days.

Shelter

During the second phase of the disaster, a total of 15 houses were fully damaged while another 915 houses were partially damaged. Some 2,221 families (26,8410 people) moved to safe shelters managed by the DMC together with local authorities. National Disaster Relief Service (NDRS) provided displaced people with food and other basic needs. Local community organizations and business organizations provided cooked food to displaced people in close coordination with authorities. Some families moved to safe shelters prior to the disaster as the government warned them to evacuate from areas with high floods and landslides risks. These families were included in the SLRCS assistance, such as CVA in consultation with authorities. The government through the DMC has insured all damaged houses and payment of insurance compensations will be paid in due course.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Another main concern was the lack of safe drinking water. In all six districts, most of the water sources were contaminated. In Colombo district, making this condition worse, furnace oil from large oil tanks at the Sapugaskanda Oil Refinery overflowed due to heavy rain and contaminated water sources in the neighbourhoods. The Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard took actions to prevent further spread. WASH interventions were carried out targeting the most affected households in six districts. SLRCS selected 3,000 wells to clean and to help resolve the drinking water shortage. Schools used as safe shelters and public places of the affected areas were cleaned through this operation. About 90 per cent of

the wells selected for well-cleaning activities in the first phase of the operation were contaminated again during the second phase of the flooding.

Health and care

The country was in a full lockdown and people were facing many difficulties in addressing their medical and first aid needs. Also, amid COVID-19, a large number of affected people were staying in shelters, this again posed a threat of rising COVID-19 cases. There was a need to provide necessary awareness in these safe shelters. As the floodwater started receding, there was a threat of an upsurge of dengue cases. Mosquito breeding usually increases as a result of a large number of water stagnant points and holes. There was a need to create public awareness to encourage people to clean their residences and gardens to control the increasing dengue threat in the area. Considering the safety of volunteers and staff, PPEs were provided for field-level activities.



Medical Camp conducted by Galle branch (Photo: SLRCS)

Target - first phase of disaster

During the first phase, the operation targeted the most affected population in three districts: Colombo, Gampaha and Galle. The beneficiary selection was conducted in close coordination with local authorities as well as through community consultation.

Out of about 900 families with partially and fully damaged houses in the three districts, during the first phase, SLRCS decided to support the most vulnerable 800 households after consultation with branches and authorities. The other 100 families who were able to cope with their own resources or supported by others at the local level were excluded from the target for assistance. In addition, SLRCS planned to assist an additional 700 families with other activities such as well cleaning, dengue awareness and medical camps.

Priority was given to the people displaced by floods who were living in temporary shelters/evacuation centres (managed by the government) and affected people returning to their homes after the water level receded. In total SLRCS targeted 1,500 households (7,500 people) with the provision of safe drinking water, medical support and basic household items during the first phase of the disaster.

SLRCS worked closely with the district level DMC officers to avoid duplication and to act efficiently. A summary of the activities conducted during the first phase of the operation is given below:

Summary of activities during the first phase by districts

Activity	Total Quantity	Districts		
		Gampaha	Colombo	Galle
Adult relief pack	800	350	350	100
Baby relief pack	400	150	150	100
Kitchen sets	800	350	350	100
Medical points	10	4	4	2
Dengue clean-up campaigns	10	4	4	2
Well cleaning	1,000	450	450	100

Target – first and second phases combined

The second phase of the flooding impacted a larger geographical area and the target population for emergency assistance were revised accordingly. The worst affected districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Galle, Ratnapura, Kalutara and Puttalam were prioritized for emergency assistance. Also, the challenges faced during the first phase of the operation were taken into consideration and a revised target were adjusted according to the intervention areas.

Revised target following specific interventions

Areas of interventions	Phase I			Phase II					
	Colombo	Gampaha	Galle	Colombo	Gampaha	Galle	Rathnapura	Kalutara	Puttalam
1. Livelihood and basic need									
1.1. CVA (HHs)	-	-	-	1,000	1,600	100	200	250	300
2. Shelter									
21. Household item distribution (HHs)	350	350	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.. WASH									
3.1. Well cleaning	450	450	100	550	650		200	200	400
3.2. Clean-up campaigns, targeting public buildings/community buildings/houses (events)	-	-	-	10	13	-	4	4	4
4. Health									
4.1. Medical camps (events)	4	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.2. Dengue cleanup camps (events)	4	4	2	5	8	-	4	4	4

The 800 households targeted for assistance with household items were also included in the CVA programme as they have lost their incomes since 22 May due to lockdown as well as due to the recent flooding. In order to avoid duplication and respond efficiently, SLRCS worked closely with the district level DMC officers. Although a number of areas were identified under the need analysis, SLRC only focused on the targeted interventions for emergency assistance considering past experiences, capacity as well as the assistance provided by the government and other agencies to address the other needs.

Scenario planning

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Most likely scenario	<p>As of 5 June, 16 people have died, 270,912 people affected, and 26,824 people have moved to evacuation centres or living with host communities due to house damages. Due to the impact on their livelihood, houses, land crops, etc., there is a potential of emerging needs in terms of food, emergency shelter and immediate basic needs. At the same time, there will be recovery needs in terms of shelter and livelihood, to be confirmed by a further detailed needs assessment.</p> <p>The prevailing COVID-19 situation has already disrupted the living conditions of the affected people and worsened by the flooding. The situation may get exacerbated due to the rise in COVID-19 cases, lockdown situation and expected monsoon rains, further complicating the operation.</p>	<p>DREF operation has been revised to address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable affected 3,500 households in terms of CVA, household items, health and WASH interventions. SLRCS will decide the need for further interventions depending on further assessments.</p> <p>Volunteers have already been trained on COVID-19 safe response practices and SLRCS will provide further orientation with required PPEs.</p>

COVID-19 safe operation

The country was on lockdown mostly during the operation. Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara in the western province reported the highest number of cases while other districts too reported an unusually high number of cases. To ensure the operation is COVID-19 safe, IFRC and SLRCS staff and volunteers in the field were provided with personal protective equipment and community sensitization and awareness in the context of COVID-19 prevention. All activities are conducted under the COVID-19 guidelines. For further information on COVID-19 operation in Sri Lanka, please refer to the [IFRC GO](#) platform.

Operation risk assessment

Detail assessment was carried out in affected areas to select the target beneficiaries during mid-May. With the upsurge situation, there were constraints in the affected areas due to blocked roads and landslides. Amid the bad weather, branch volunteers and staff are conducting relief activities. Taking into account the current COVID-19 situation, SLRCS

staff and members were provided with the necessary protective gear, such as sanitizers and masks to protect the lives of the RCRC volunteers. To reduce the risk for community transmission at the field level, volunteers are already trained on how to work according to COVID-19 guidelines to assure the safety of both volunteers and beneficiaries.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Overall Operational Objective (Revised)

This operation aims to support 17,500 people (3,500 households) in the six worst-affected districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Rathnapura, Kalutara, Puttalam and Galle with household items, basic need assistance through CVA, WASH and health care assistance. The operation will be implemented for six months.

Proposed strategy

With the support of IFRC, SLRCS scaled up the response activities in the six targeted districts in the second phase. The selection was carried out involving affected community members and in close coordination with the local authorities. The proposed strategy was formulated based on the short-term needs of the affected people and aligned with the government's strategy. The operation committed to working in line with SLRCS and IFRC policies, procedures, commitments and mandates to ensure that programmes under this operation were aligned with its gender commitments as well with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming. Specific considerations included the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, lactating women, women-headed households, migrants, quarantined 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.

Sectors	No. of HH targeted	Comments
Livelihood and basic needs	3,500	-
Shelter	800	
Health	2,000	Some of the people received support also under livelihood and basic needs
WASH	3,000	Some of the people received support also under livelihood and basic needs.
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	3,500	-

Livelihood and basic needs-essential household assistance: According to the assessment findings, most of the affected were daily wage income earners. Due to the lockdown situation, they were unable to earn their income and this flood condition have exacerbated their economic condition. To assist these vulnerable communities, CVA of LKR 15,000 (CHF 69) per family, which is 50 per cent of the average daily wage into 20 days was provided to 3,500 families to fulfil their basic needs, such as essential household items, food, medicine and other personal needs.

Shelter: Provision of household assistance via distribution of household items through adult relief packs, kitchen sets, and baby relief packs for households with children under five years. Selection of persons to be assisted paid special attention to female/single-headed households, people with disabilities, and the elderly. At the initial stages of the operation, SLRCS planned to distribute 800 kitchen sets from the existing stocks of the SLRCS warehouse and these stocks are to be replenished using DREF funds.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion: WASH interventions focused on improving access to safe water and hygiene behaviour (note that hygiene awareness was integrated into dengue awareness events). A total of 3,000 wells in six districts were planned to clean as water sources were contaminated. Furthermore, 35 cleaning campaign events including public buildings/community buildings/houses were planned to ensure proper hygiene and to minimize the spread of diseases.

Health: Ten medical camps/ points planned to treat people in Colombo, Gampaha and Galle districts. However, medical camps for other districts were not planned in the strategy taking into consideration the challenges faced due to the COVID-19 situation in the country and the availability of limited medical professionals as COVID-19 response demand their time at the treatment centres. Medical camps were run by professional doctors and trained health staff/volunteers. These camps treat people with injuries, various diseases due to floods, chronic illnesses as the accessibility of hospitals in cities were limited due to the damage to roads and other infrastructure. 35 dengue clean-up and awareness campaigns were planned and dissemination of IEC materials happened in affected areas

The National Society leadership: SLRCS is responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the humanitarian response operation, supported by the IFRC. ICRC is also in-country providing support for COVID response and restoring family links.

Implementing lessons learned from previous operations: Over the years, SLRCS has implemented various large and medium scale operations that provided various lessons from which this response will draw. The lessons learned were drawn from the 2019 flood and landslide operation as well as the ongoing flood operation (MDRLK011) to better design this operation. The key highlights of challenges and remedial actions taken are given below:

Challenges	Remedial actions
Lack of IT infrastructure, knowledge and equipment at the branch level.	Branches are now equipped with necessary IT facilities and provide trainings on the use of Kobo toolkit. Branches are now using these skills to conduct assessments plan operations
Delays in relief distribution and insufficient supply have hampered the quality, outreach and timely response	SLRCS maintain a central warehouse with stocks and 100-200 household items are available at the branch level for distribution.
Delay in procurement process.	SLRCS senior leadership also highlighted this issue although in the most recent DREF operation in 2020, the IFRC country office managed the procurement successfully following IFRC technical guidance and also with the country office own experience gained previously. Technical support was provided by the IFRC CCD and Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management in Asia Pacific (GHS&SCM-AP) unit. Further analysis are needed to identify the bottlenecks and actions are needed to improve the process and avoid delays. This should be done during peacetime with the participation of relevant experts from all levels.
Though cash grants remained an overall success, there were unacceptable delays associated with the process. Further delay in processing CVA due to current COVID-19 Pandemic movement restrictions/ full lockdown as local markets and banks are not fully functional.	It is proposed to provide vouchers to the target beneficiaries instead of cash so that they can purchase food and other household items from the designated shops/supermarkets even with COVID-19 lockdown measures. Arrangements can be made with the supermarkets to deliver the goods to their doorstep if requested by the customers. SLRCS response teams follow IFRC relief guidelines for COVID-19 for the distributions protected with PPEs. Equipped with PPEs, SLRCS response teams can visit door to door to distribute household items wherever the household items are planned for distribution, catering to the needs identified of affected people.
Delays in financial reporting	Financial reporting of MDRLK011 DREF operation was delayed due to closure of the SLRCS HQ office because of Covid-19 infections and exposure. IFRC country office took immediate actions to organize a review meeting with the Director General, DM department and Finance department of SLRCS to discuss and analyse issue. Current digitalization of financial management systems may help speed up the reporting issues in the future. SLRCS management agreed to take necessary steps to avoid future delays for on going DREF operations.

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 mobilized resources via this DREF on behalf of SLRCS, while coordinating with the ICRC.

Support services

Human resources

SLRCS assigned a full-time staff at NHQ to overlook the operation and assign a finance staff to ensure the smooth flow of settlements. Furthermore, at the branch level to implement the programme, a District Project Officer and a Community Mobiliser per each branch were hired. IFRC supported 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

A total of 800 kitchen sets were used from the existing stocks of SLRCS Central warehouse in Colombo for distribution at the initial stages of the operation. Budget allocations were made under this DREF operations to replenish the 800 kitchen sets through international procurement. However, the delivery of the items were delayed due to global supply chain disruptions. GHS&SCM-AP Unit is closely monitoring the movement of the shipment and estimates that the items will be delivered to Sri Lanka during the first week of November. This operation is extended primarily to accommodate the delays in the procurement process and to book final settlement of the expenditure within the operational timeframe.

The supply chain strategy for this operation was to first use the pre-positioned stocks of the National Society country-wise to quickly meet the basic needs of the affected population. Sourcing of household items commenced upon completion of the NFI distribution, to match the actual number of items distributed. In line with the audit guidelines, IFRC conducted 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 were procured locally by IFRC; adult relief pack and baby pack. Kitchen sets have been procured through the IFRC procurement

system and awaiting delivery. For the rest of the procurements, The IFRC country office provided logistics support to SLRCS to ensure transparency and accountability in the procurement process. Additional logistics support were made available by the GHS&SCM-AP Unit and Country Cluster Support Delegation in Delhi, as per need. PPEs were procured locally through SLRCS systems following the ministry of health standards and specifications.

Information technologies (IT)

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

Communications

Throughout the operation, a regular flow of information was maintained between all stakeholders. SLRCS communications staff 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 disseminated information via social media platforms and in the national and international media. A proactive approach was 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 was created to share information and photos between volunteers, branches, NHQ and IFRC.

Security

SLRCS security framework was applicable for SLRCS staff and volunteers. IFRC security framework was applicable for IFRC and integrated PNSs staff. In case of need for deployment all IFRC staff must, 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 status and briefed on reactions in an emergency. SLRCS and IFRC security focal points continue to monitor the situation. Any security concerns are handled with local authorities as per the existing security framework.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

SLRCS oversaw and monitored all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the flood-affected areas through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. IFRC, through its Country Office and CCD in Delhi, provided technical support in programme management to ensure the objectives of the operation are met. Reporting on the operation has been carried out following the IFRC DREF minimum reporting standards. A final report will be issued within three months after the end of the operation. A post-distribution monitoring on cash and household items was conducted. At the end of the operation, a lesson learned workshop is being conducted to capture learning.

Administration and Finance

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

Crosscutting issues

Protection, gender and inclusion

Protection, gender and inclusion considerations were be mainstreamed in this operation. Among others, areas of focus included the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection. Mainstreaming of Protection, gender and inclusion also ensured that accountability lines were in place for GBV prevention and response. SLRCS captures sex, age and disability disaggregated data to understand 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)

Community feedback mechanisms were integrated 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. This enables the affected communities to make complaints, share questions, suggestions, concerns and other feedback with SLRCS if the behaviour of staff and volunteers are not in line with Red Cross principles and if the dignity of the recipient communities is not protected. Because only a fraction of affected populations were targeted, the selection criteria were communicated clearly to beneficiaries and wider communities, so that people understand the rationale behind targeting and have opportunities to ask questions about the selection criteria. This helps to prevent any potential tensions/frustrations by those people who do not meet the beneficiary selection criteria. Community engagement and accountability services were 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 were mainstreamed into operations as much as possible.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 17,523

Male: 8334

Female: 9189

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people targeted/reached support on basic needs and livelihoods	17,500	17,523

Output 1.1: Skills development and/or productive assets and/or financial inclusion to improve income sources are provided to target population (off-farm livelihoods)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with cash assistance	17,500	17,523

Progress towards outcomes

Activities already carried out

A total of 3,500 CVA were provided in all targeted districts (Colombo-975, Gampaha-1,600, Galle-125, Rathnapura-250, Kaluthara-250 and Puttlam-300). Selection of beneficiaries for CVA was done in close consultation with respective District DMC coordinators, Divisional Secretariat offices (sub-district offices), and Grama Niladaris (Village level government administrative officer). IFRC standard procurement process was followed to select the supplier (supermarket). Although LKR 15,000 grant was planned through CVA, the final voucher value was LKR 15,750 as the supplier added a discount as the total contracted amount is relatively large. According to monitoring and observations, women involvement is very high as most vouchers were collected by them.



A beneficiary collecting her voucher. (Photo: SLRCS)

Challenges

The main challenge during the operation was the COVID-19 travel restrictions due to the lockdown situation in the country, it was challenging to conduct activities as planned. Furthermore, continuous rains and subsequent second flooding resulted in changes to the operation strategy and budget increase. Branches coordinated with local authorities to carry out response work following COVID-19 safe response practices. All volunteers were provided with PPEs. The price of goods in the supermarkets are high compared to open markets, small shops and wet markets. Hence beneficiaries prefer to receive cash so that they can purchase more goods with the same amount of cash.



Shelter

People reached: 4,221

Male: 2,058

Female: 2,163

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people targeted/reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlement	4,000	4,221

Output 1.1: Short, medium and long-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with assistance household items	800	800

Progress towards outcomes

Activities already carried out

Branches distributed 800 kitchen sets from the SLRCS stocks (Colombo-350, Gampaha-350 and Galle-100). Additionally, baby packs 400 (Colombo-150, Gampaha-150 and Galle-100) and adult relief packs 800 (Colombo-350, Gampaha-350 and Galle-100) were also distributed.

The household items were provided to the families whose houses were badly damaged with the guidance of the District DMCs and local authorities.

Challenges

While the lockdown situation in the country (travel restrictions) was the main challenge, delays in the procurement process too posed a considerable challenge to complete the operation. As a result, a request for a one-month time frame extension was requested to accommodate the delays. The operation was conducted with SLRCS stocks and locally procured household items.



Household items distribution (photo: SLRCS)

The operation was conducted with SLRCS stocks and locally procured household items.



Health

People reached: 14,002

Male: 5,364

Female: 8,638

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	10,000	14,002

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by medical camps	5,000	3,510
# people reached with dengue awareness and clean-up campaigns	10,000	10,492

Activities already carried out

According to monitoring reports 10 Medical camps and 20 Dengue clean up campaigns were carried out by 15 October. SLRCS organized the medical camps in close coordination with the government authorities. A total of 14,002 people were reached through these activities thus far. Medical camps were conducted by Medical Officer of Health (MoH) in the area supported Public Health Inspector (PHI) and public health midwives. Since access to hospitals in urban centres were limited due to flooding, the government health staff provide treatments for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and injuries, water-borne diseases of affected communities. After every flood dengue cases usually

rise due to many stagnant water points in the affected areas which help mosquito breeding. SLRCS volunteers with the support of PHI and local communities conduct regular cleaning campaigns in the targeted districts.

Challenges

Non availability of government health staff was a challenge at the initial stages of the operation as their services were required at the hospitals to cater to the demand created by COVID-19 treatment needs. Furthermore, government imposed strict lockdown measures from June-September 2021 in Sri Lanka as COVID-19 cases surge across the country. Public gatherings were strictly prohibited hence there was a delay in organizing the medical camps.

Due to the lockdown situation in the country (travel restrictions), it is difficult and challenging to conduct activities as planned. Most of the field locations under quarantine regulations. Branches are coordinating with local authorities to carry out response work following COVID-19 safe response practices. All volunteers are provided with PPEs.



SLRCS organised mobile medical camp to treat flood affected people (Photo: SLRCS)



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 13,408

Male: 6,948

Female: 6,460

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached in targeted communities have reduced their immediate risks of waterborne and water related diseases	15,000	13,408
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	3,000	3,000
Output 1.3: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population Insert relevant indicator		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of clean-up campaigns at community places/public buildings including households	35	35

Progress towards outcomes

Activities already carried out

Cleaning of 3,000 wells was completed in six districts. All cleaned wells were clearly marked in close consultation with PHIs and communities. Furthermore, SLRCS provided drinking water (5L bottles) for the displaced people in Gampaha district. Besides that, 35 cleanup campaigns were conducted in affected areas. Public buildings, community centres in the affected areas were targeted for cleanup campaigns.

Challenges

Apart from the countrywide lockdown from June to September 2021, continuous rains caused contamination of already cleaned water in some areas. SLRCS volunteers were re-deployed to clean these wells.



Well cleaning by SLRCS volunteers (Photo: SLRCS)



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 41,507

Male: 20,378

Female: 21,129

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Does the operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services?</i>	Yes	Yes

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

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Does the operation demonstrate evidence of NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors?</i>	Yes	Yes

Progress towards outcomes

Activities already carried out

PGI activities are integrated across all operational activities and data collection is progress. Data collection tools such as KOBO is designed to collection gender segregated data, information on children, elderly population, pregnant mothers and lactating mothers. Branches are at the final stages of compiling information after completion of the work and details will be reported in the final report. in

Challenges

As explained above, community engagement activities were limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. Community gatherings were totally banned during June – September 2021 period. With close coordination and consultation with local authorities and local leaders, SLRCS was able to implement activities at a slow pace.

Strengthen National Society

Outcome 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.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of SLRCS branches that are well functioning</i>	6	6

Output 1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of volunteers insured</i>	180	180

Progress towards outcomes

Activities already carried out

With the changes to the operational strategy and increase in the budget with the second allocation at the end of June 2021, the operation was expanded into six districts from the initial three. Furthermore, additional numbers of volunteers were also deployed with an average of 30 volunteers per branch. Colombo, Gampaha and Kaluthara districts are the most densely populated districts in the western province of the country with about 30 per cent of the total population in Sri Lanka. The government paid particular attention to these three districts as the western province was the epicentre of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka. Some volunteers were tested COVID-19 positive and incapacitated for about 2-3 weeks as they were isolated as per quarantine regulations. However, the three branches were able to work together with the authorities to complete most of the planned activities within the time frame.

International Disaster Response		
Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of people reached in targeted communities have reduced their immediate risks of waterborne and water related diseases</i>	15,000	13,408
Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of surge deployed</i>	1	1
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	12
Outcome S2.2: The complementarity and strengths of the Movement are enhanced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Movement coordination is in place</i>	Yes	Yes
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.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Involvement in regular coordination meetings.</i>	Yes	Yes
Progress towards outcomes		
Despite countrywide lockdown during June-September 2021 period which is in the middle of the operational time frame, SLRCS HQ and branches closely coordinated with authorities particularly at the local level to plan and implement the activities. The worst affected branches like Gampaha and Colombo work regularly with authorities not only for this operation but also for other activities implemented by the branches. Good relationships already established were very helpful during this operation.		

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>	7	6
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>	6	6
Progress towards outcomes		
At least six Facebook posts were published with pictures covering the activities in all districts. SLRCS Comms team visited the districts for photoshoots and capture important activities and events during the operation. SLRCS has trained BDRT in each branch and they were deployed for emergency needs assessment and to work with authorities on the selection of beneficiaries, selection of wells for cleaning and other planned activities. COVID-19 lockdown		

situation somewhat delayed and slowed down the implementation despite tireless efforts by volunteers to deliver the assistance.

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome S4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability

Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability</i>	Yes	N/A

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%	N/A

Progress towards outcomes

SLRCS finance department is currently working on introducing digital systems and applications to make the financial reporting more effective and efficient. Although the system is installed, there is still some more work to be done to train the staff before having it fully functional. IFRC Finance Manager in country is working regularly with SLRCS to ensure reports are submitted within the agreed time frame. A special meeting was held with Director General to discuss the delays in financial reporting and appropriate actions were taken to minimise the delays in the future. The process is still on going and will be closely monitored.

D. Financial Report

There is no budget revision for this update and the previously published budget remains the same. A financial report will be issued alongside the DREF operation final report within three months after the operation ends.



Click here for:

- [Previous 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.