

Emergency appeal №: MDRLK014 Emergency appeal launched: 07/06/2022 Operational Strategy published: 30/06/2022	Glide №: CE-2022-000199-LKA
Operation update #1 Date of issue: 10/08/2022	Timeframe covered by this update: From 07/06/2022 to 22/07/2022
Operation timeframe: 12 months (07/06/2022 - 06/06/2023)	Number of people being assisted: 500,000
Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 28 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal CHF 28.5 million Federation-wide	DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 741,000

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 28,000,000, is 5 per cent funded including soft pledges with a gap of CHF 26.4 M. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS), with the support of the IFRC, to help mitigate the current food insecurity brought about by the economic crisis and help people affected by the civil unrest in the country through integrated food security, nutrition, livelihoods, health, and education interventions targeting 500,000 people



School children in Pollonnaruwa district in Sri Lanka receiving the school packs distributed by SLRCS to support their education (Photo: SLRCS)

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Sri Lanka is experiencing its worst **economic crisis** since its independence in 1948, which has deeply impacted the well-being of its population. Persistent fiscal deficits, a significant 2019 tax cut package, and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have made Sri Lanka's public debt burden unsustainable, while the collapse of tourism and reduction in migrant worker remittances have caused the foreign exchange receipts to plummet. To save its foreign currency reserves, the government limited the import of essential items. This resulted in shortages and sharp price increases for basic commodities like food, cooking gas, fertilizer, fuel and medicines. In March 2022, the Government of Sri Lanka had to declare daily electricity cuts due to the unavailability of imported fuel. The local food production has decreased due to fuel deficit and because the local agriculture has not adopted the chemical fertilizer ban, introduced by the government a year ago. Moreover, the currency has depreciated by 80 per cent, since March 2022, while foreign reserves continued to fall, further damaging the economy. Many households have lost their income or have it considerably reduced.

The profound disruption of the economic system has led to a **multidimensional humanitarian crisis** compounded by food insecurity, disruption of essential public services (medical, transportation, education), threatened livelihoods, as well as the risk of mass protest resumption. The instability in the country has also driven an increase in international migration through both regular and irregular channels, as well as associated protection concerns including human trafficking. If the crisis persists, the **spiralling inflation**¹ and persisting shortages of imported vital supplies will lead to further deterioration of humanitarian conditions: mass suffering from malnutrition, increasing number of deaths due to inaccessibility of vital medicines, further loss of livelihoods and wider spread of negative coping mechanisms. Vulnerable groups of the population are particularly pregnant and lactating mothers, children, persons with disabilities, elderly people, and those with chronic illnesses.

Millions of families are facing **shortages** of food, fuel, cooking gas, essential supplies, and medicines as the humanitarian impacts of the economic crisis continue to multiply. Around 6.7 million people are now in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and [2.4 million people](#) are already living below the poverty line in despair. With no income, people are barely able to cope with the worsening situation and are now selling their assets, getting into debt, and being forced to cut down on food while many children are not able to go to school. According to World Food Programme (WFP), 86 per cent of households have begun to limit portion sizes or skip meals. Furthermore, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report indicates around one-third of households in rural and urban areas are applying emergency **livelihood** coping strategies.

Besides that, labour **migration** to countries in the Gulf and the Middle East is increasing as people seek employment opportunities abroad. According to the Department of Immigration and Emigration, over 300,000 Sri Lankan passports were issued in the first six months of 2022, compared to a total of 382,000 passports issued in the whole of 2021. According to media reports, since May, the Sri Lankan navy has intercepted at least 10 boats at sea, carrying 353 men, women and children leaving Sri Lanka through irregular channels.²

¹ According to the Department of census and statistics in Sri Lanka, overall headline inflation increased to 58.9% in June 2022 compared to 45.3% in May, while food prices inflation increased to 75.8%, transport prices inflation 96.8% and hotels & restaurant prices inflation is at 80.5% (as of June 2022). However, according to economist Prof. Steve Hanke of Johns Hopkins University, Sri Lanka inflation stands at 130.4 % in June 2022.

² <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/jun/26/screened-out-before-arrival-questions-over-legality-of-australias-at-sea-asylum-seeker-rulings>

The **health** sector is also being impacted at scale. Around 145,000 women are currently pregnant in Sri Lanka and approximately 60,000 of them will require a Caesarean section. There have been reports that transport challenges due to fuel shortages have prevented pregnant women from reaching a hospital, clinic, or midwife for antenatal services, deliveries, and postnatal care. In addition, about 80 per cent of medical supplies are imported and medicines are in critically low stock. According to OCHA, there are 2,724 vital and essential surgical consumables out of stock. Medical procedures, including emergency surgery, are having to be cancelled. Malnutrition is also worsening and has been exacerbated by the suspension of the free meal programmes since 2021, as well as the change in diets due to the economic crisis, lack of food and cost of living. Since March 2022, SLRCS has recorded over 20 deaths due to protest violence and while waiting in long queues for essential commodities like fuel. During the last 100 days, only at the protest sites in Colombo, SLRCS has treated over 20,000 injuries and provided ambulance transportation to hospitals for about 1,000 people.

Furthermore, protection agencies have monitored an alarming increase of high-risk **child protection incidents** including cases of sexual assault, physical abuse, and child negligence in Nuwara Eliya, Batticaloa, Moneragala, and Mullaitivu districts. District officials have reported a rise in **domestic violence**, while acknowledging that these incidents are often underreported, given the limited means to monitor. There has been a 30 per cent increase in women joining the sex industry in Colombo since January, according to the Stand-Up Movement Lanka (SUML), the country's leading advocacy group for sex workers and many say this is the only way to provide their families with three meals a day.

Summary of response

Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response

SLRCS maintains 25 branches in all districts of the country. There are over 100 staff members and 6,000 active volunteers currently engaged in the response. Most of them are trained in disaster response and capable of providing relief assistance to affected people in times of disasters/emergencies. At the national, district, and divisional levels, there are National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT), and Divisional Disaster Response Teams (DDRT). SLRCS also has trained disaster response teams specialised in water safety, which have 150 active members. These individuals are well-trained in life-saving techniques to assist rescue operations in times of need. Volunteers trained in first aid are available in all districts and are immediately deployable during disasters for lifesaving purposes. The SLRCS has a pool of 25 trained Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) personnel who can be deployed to set up and assist with CVA activities.

Since the onset of the crisis, the SLRCS has been monitoring the situation closely, mindful of its sensitivity and the safety of its staff and volunteers. The headquarters has maintained close communications with the branches to discuss options, preparedness, and contingencies. To



SLRCS medical teams providing emergency medical services to those injured at the Colombo protest site (Photo: SLRCS)

ensure safer access and acceptance, the National Society will ensure its adherence to the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

In April, the governing board met to determine a potential mode of intervention. On 10 April, the Colombo branch of the SLRCS deployed trained first aid volunteers to provide their services close to the main protest site in Colombo. Since day one, the Colombo Branch of SLRCS has provided medical assistance at the main protest site in Galle Face Green, Colombo. At this site, SLRCS provided medical support to around 20,000 people, including citizens and police officers, who required essential medical assistance. This service is also offered at other First Aid Centres managed by SLRCS outside of Colombo. Over 1,000 people who required essential medical assistance were transported to hospitals.

As of 22 July 2022, SLRCS has been able to carry out the following activities to support the needs of the affected population, with the support of IFRC and its membership:

Cash and Voucher assistance



Out of 4,000 MPC grants planned, over 3,233 cash grants disbursed to beneficiaries and another 767 are currently being processed at SLRCS HQ

Health



Around 20,000 people provided with health assistance and over 1,000 people transported to hospitals

Education



5,000 school kits (stationery, school bags) procured, and distribution is ongoing at district level

WASH



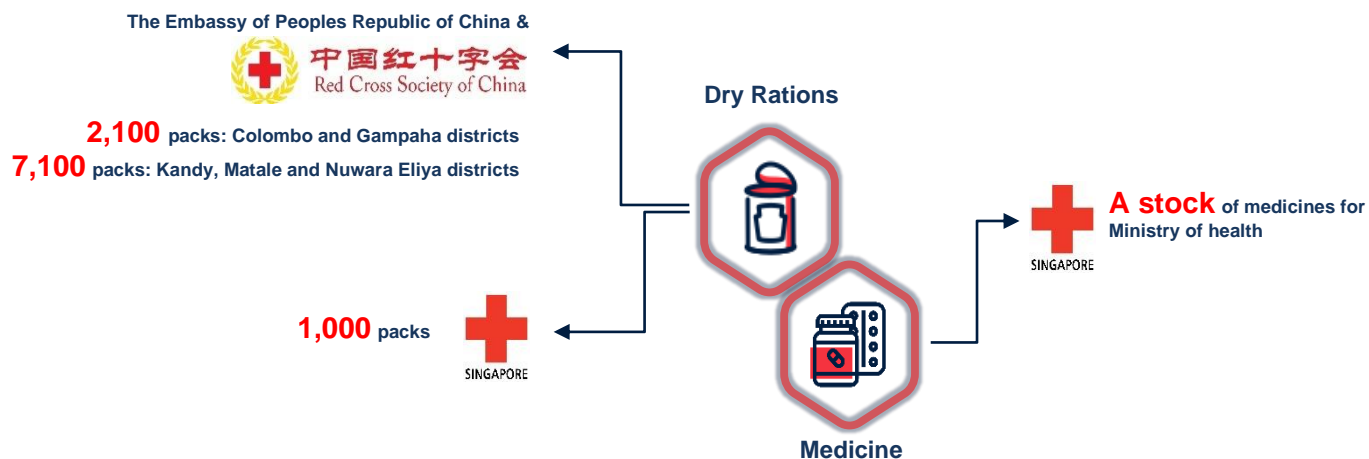
Around 8,000-10,000 people receive drinking water every day at long queues in 10 districts

Given the current challenges in the country, SLRCS has managed to achieve over 80 per cent of the initially planned 4,000 multipurpose Cash grants under the DREF operation. As there are more and more people in need of humanitarian assistance particularly to meet their basic needs, the Emergency Appeal needs more support to scale up the Cash and Voucher Assistance interventions to reach the most vulnerable people who are in need of assistance.

Medicine is becoming one of the utmost requirements of the country and with the operation. As part of the initial DREF emergency plan of action (EPoA), IFRC is in the process of procuring essential medicines (see details in section C) that will be donated to the Ministry of Health for further distribution to people in need, in close collaboration with SLRCS. Also, IFRC is procuring two high-performance tents to use during this operation and the delivery is in progress.

Despite the current challenges in the country, particularly due to the shortage of fuel, SLRCS has managed to implement activities planned as a part of the initial DREF operation which was allocated to kick start the response. In the framework of this response, CHF 529,703 has been spent out of the CHF 741,002 DREF allocation.

In addition, the following response activities were carried out through bilateral support:



Needs analysis

Needs analysis

In August 2022, the SLRCS, with technical support from the IFRC, is planning to conduct a detailed assessment of the humanitarian impact of the current multidimensional economic crisis. As this crisis is not induced by a natural disaster or a conflict, it is important to clearly analyse its humanitarian impact using both primary and secondary data. The assessment will help the SLRCS and other humanitarian agencies to make informed decisions on operational choices and priorities: the key sectors, population groups and geographic areas affected. Nevertheless, based on initial secondary data analysis³, the following impacts and needs have been outlined:

Food Insecurity

Markets are experiencing high price volatility, and prices for most essential food items have been sharply increasing from January to June 2022. Due to the Government of Sri Lanka's chemical fertilizer ban in April 2021, national food production decreased by 20 per cent in the first six months after its imposition, and a 50-60 per cent reduction is anticipated during the upcoming harvest season. Food inflation has increased to 75.8 per cent in June compared to 58 per cent in May 2022.

About 6.3 million people are food insecure (28.3 per cent of the population) and 6.7 million people are not consuming acceptable diets, 65,600 of which are severely food insecure, according to WFP's latest food security assessment. According to Food Security Rapid Assessment, 38 per cent of people are facing moderate and severe food insecurity. Many schools have already stopped serving meals due to the surging cost of basic food items. As food-based coping strategies, communities started eating less preferred and less nutritious food and reducing the amount of food eaten.

Livelihoods

More than 1,000 bakeries and cafeterias were reportedly closed, daily wage earners like three-wheeler drivers lost their jobs due to lack of fuel, and thousands of construction workers have lost their jobs too due to the very high cost of construction materials as people cannot afford to build houses anymore, affecting the livelihoods of thousands of

³ This secondary data analysis was processed collected and tagged using DEEP platform under the project called "Sri Lanka: JIAF SDR" with the valuable contribution from OCHA, IFRC and other organization. Due to the limited available secondary information and the limited time, the quality of the analysis and overall findings has limitations to be considered

people. Fishing communities do not have the fuel to operate their fishing boats. Small-scale farmers who lack fertilizers are hurt by a sharp rise in the price of agricultural inputs. Many daily wage laborers have lost their jobs and are finding it difficult to get fuel and food. There is a need to provide assistance to families who have lost their incomes to restore their livelihoods, particularly the poor farming community who are unable to cultivate their small plots of land due to a lack of fertilizer, fuel, and other agricultural inputs. Around 30 per cent of the labour force⁴ is involved directly in agricultural activities, making this group very vulnerable to the lack of fertilisers and fuel. It is estimated that rice and maize production has fallen by 50 per cent and 70 per cent respectively, compared to the previous season. Assistance to the small-scale farmers to cultivate their lands would help ease the food insecurity situation at least at local levels.

Health

About 80 per cent of medical supplies in Sri Lanka are imported. According to OCHA, currently, there are 2,724 vital and essential surgical consumables that are out of stock. There are 250 regular laboratory items and 600 complimentary items out of stock at the national level. Overall, the price of drugs has increased by 30 per cent around the country. At least 56,000 children under 5 with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) are currently in need of ready-to-eat therapeutic food (RUTF, BP -100). Pending results of ongoing nutritional surveys, malnutrition is likely to have worsened and been exacerbated by the suspension of the national nutrition programme since November 2021.

During the last week of May, some hospitals and health centres had decided to perform only urgent surgeries, as they were running out of several items of medical equipment and anesthetics. The constant power outages in the country also affect health services since hospitals must stop some medical procedures during power cuts. There have been reports that transport challenges due to fuel shortages have prevented pregnant women from reaching a hospital, clinic, or midwife for antenatal services, deliveries, and postnatal care.

According to Government Medical Officers Association (GMOA), medical staff are not able to perform their regular services as they cannot reach their working places due to fuel shortages. Most doctors and other medical staff report to work from their homes, and they are called for work in the middle of the night at times for urgent patient care. However, the medical staff is not able to travel to hospitals to provide essential services. Due to shortages of medicines at government hospitals, patients are asked to buy medicines from pharmacies and as the cost of medicines has gone up by about 100 per cent in certain cases, poor people are not able to afford thus making them adopt negative coping mechanisms like selling jewellery and other assets.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Days spent in the hot sun and rain waiting in long queues without drinking water and food have resulted in death and hospitalization of people. At least 10 people have died during the last three months and many were hospitalized while waiting in long queues due to WASH-related issues according to health professionals. People try to avoid drinking water to minimize the use of toilets as there are no sanitary facilities near fuel stations. This has caused dehydration and heat strokes as many people are forced to wait in the hot sun for days to get some fuel to carry on with their livelihoods. Recently, a pregnant woman had to deliver the baby in a shed while waiting to get her new passport to migrate to the middle east for better economic opportunities. It is reported that during power cuts, pumping water from stations could not match the demand, creating many difficulties for the urban population who rely on pumping water schemes. As reported by WFP on 3 June 2022, as 80 per cent of Sri Lanka's land is dry and frequently faces water shortages, access to safe drinking water is becoming a pressing concern in urban areas. The provision of safe water has been severely impacted by the electric power supply crisis.

⁴ <https://www.acaps.org/country/sri-lanka/crisis/socio-economic-crisis>

Education

Children's education is affected due to power cuts and lack of stationery items. Loss and unpredictability of income increased school absenteeism and dropout. A recent needs assessment by Save the Children showed that 50 per cent of families were struggling to support their children's education as a result of the crisis, and some children were already dropping out of school. On average, the cost of stationery items has increased by about 300 per cent making it difficult for poor parents to provide children with the required quantities of schoolbooks and school stationery. Furthermore, the government has officially announced that schools will be opened only for three days per week due to fuel shortages. Teachers and students alike are struggling to attend school due to limited public transport. Private school bus operators have also increased the monthly transport fee per student by about 200 per cent. While the overall cost of schooling has gone up dramatically, more and more children and students are adopting online and other distance learning methods to cover the school syllabus. This prevents direct spontaneous interaction between students and teachers, and their participation in sports activities which are an integral part of school education. The government has suspended the free school meal programme and the provision of nutrient-rich food supplement [Thripasha](#). Therefore, there is a need to assist at least the poor families with children by providing school stationery to ease their burden, providing psychosocial support where needed, as well as cash grants to families with school children to meet their basic food needs.

Protection Gender and Inclusion

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) risks have been present before the current economic crisis and are now being amplified especially for women, girls, children, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable people. The impact of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka is felt across all corners of the island. However, daily-wage earners, those dependent on micro, small and medium enterprises, the urban working poor and other communities living in poverty, and those who were already marginalised in society for their ethnic, religious, caste, gender and sexual identities are more affected by the deepening crisis. Vulnerable groups who are discriminated against and isolated without much social support, such as low-income LGBTQ people are facing homelessness and destitution. Rising prices of essential items have depleted their money in hand, this is in the context of living on subsistence wages before the crisis.

The burden of a failing economy invariably falls on women as the economic risks are pushed down and into the home sphere. Women are now faced with an exacerbated double burden of earning an income, managing their homes, and the increased unpaid care burden in a context where both work and home domains are under immense stress. Mounting frustrations and fears about the uncertainty of living in a collapsing economy, experiencing hunger and lack of basic comforts are all dealt with within the home, causing violence to erupt that is most often directed towards women and children. Domestic violence is increasing as a consequence of the stresses on the family. It has become particularly difficult for women who are already living in abusive conditions.

Negative coping mechanisms during the crisis mean that women, girls and marginalized groups are at further increased risk of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), child marriage and other harmful practices. Psychological distress, erosion of gender equality gains, and reinforcement of existing power dynamics to the detriment of women, girls and other marginalized groups worsen. Women, children, the elderly and the sick, migrants in vulnerable situations and victims of trafficking are disproportionately affected. District officials have reported a rise in domestic violence, while acknowledging that these incidents are often underreported, given the limited means to monitor. Access to shelter facilities, health, and legal services for women are now hampered, as service providers are partially immobile due to limited resources and lack of fuel.

To better understand the impact of the crisis on diverse groups of people and their specific vulnerabilities, a detailed assessment is planned for August 2022, with PGI as a key component.

Migration and Displacement

In the first six months of 2022, Sri Lanka issued over 300,000 passports compared with a total of 382,000 passport issues during the whole of 2021, according to government data. Recently, a pregnant mother delivered a baby at a shed near the passport office and had to be admitted to the hospital for urgent medical treatment. Due to rising prices of essential items, as well as fuel and medicine shortages, many Sri Lankans are leaving the country through irregular channels by boats to nearby countries like India and Australia in a desperate bid to escape the unfolding disaster. More than 90 people have landed on India's shores, where they are being held in an existing refugee camp. Over 60 people were arrested while trying to migrate to Australia by boat. As of 24 May 2022, at least 84 people had fled to the state of Tamil Nadu in southern India to avoid the economic crisis in their country. All Sri Lankan arrivals to India by boats are treated as having entered India without permission.

There is a need to provide first aid and psychosocial first aid services for the people waiting in passport queues. The SLRCS is already planning to set up camps near the passport office. There is a small population of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Sri Lanka who do not have a regular income, hence the need to provide assistance to meet their basic needs. The Sri Lankans who intend to leave the country to work abroad need to be provided with pre-departure preparedness support and guidance.

Operational risk assessment

The biggest operational risk identified is supply chain and transport disruptions due to lack of fuel. This limits the movement of staff and volunteers for work and response activities. Some staff members and volunteers sustained injuries as a result of taking risks by using crowded buses and other unconventional transport systems like ambulances to travel between work and home. The unpredictable situation in the country, declaration of curfew and spontaneous protests and clashes could significantly increase the risks for staff and volunteers engaged in the implementation of the response operation. Transport disruptions may limit the movement of people and goods. The response operation is very underfunded as the funding coverage for the Emergency Appeal currently stands at about 5 per cent. And as a result, there is a risk that the SLRCS will not be able to address all the pressing needs of the affected people.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy


The Operational Strategy issued on 30 June 2022 remains the same. This emergency appeal will help mitigate the current food insecurity brought about by the economic crisis and help people affected by the civil unrest in Sri Lanka through integrated food security, nutrition, livelihoods, health, and education interventions targeting **500,000 affected people** across Sri Lanka. The operation will support the government's efforts to provide relief to poor people and cultivate two million home gardens by assisting low-income farmer communities to cultivate small plots of land through conditional cash grants. It will also contribute to the SLRCS's strategic vision and country plan to build the resilience of communities and enhance the capacity of the National Society to maintain organizational readiness to respond to future disasters and crises. The three interconnected enabling approaches (1 National Society Capacity Strengthening; 2 Coordination and Partnership and 3 Secretariat Services) will complement and further strengthen the SLRCS's ongoing efforts to build a strong National Society with systems and mechanisms in place to deliver high-quality programmes and services to most vulnerable people in Sri Lanka.

The operation will ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized groups are able to meet their immediate basic needs by providing them with multi-purpose cash assistance for three months. The cash assistance aims to mitigate the depletion of household livelihood assets and reduce negative coping strategies. This response will also include nutritional food packages for pregnant and lactating mothers, school packages for students in poor schools in rural and urban areas, and menstrual hygiene packages for female students. Drinking water distribution will continue at queuing hotspots like cooking gas outlets and fuel stations and will be scaled up to accommodate food outlets as well. Health Sector will be supported through the provision of medicines and consumables, patient transportation, first aid services, and by helping to address mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs.

The operation will be especially focused on integrating PGI and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) aspects across all activities and in other community resilience-building initiatives of the National Society. Particular attention will be paid to the operational activities in Western, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, and Central provinces where frequent floods and landslides occur during the northeast and southwest monsoon seasons. Therefore, immediate lifesaving activities will be prioritised and implemented in these geographic locations.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

 Livelihoods	Female:	0
	Male:	0


Objective: *Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of people supported with livelihoods restoration and strengthening economic activities.</i>	0	250,000

There are four main activities planned under Livelihoods:

1. Provide conditional cash grants to vulnerable farmers to restore and recover their lost livelihoods
2. Support 15,000 pregnant/lactating mothers and malnourished children
3. Provide cash/food for three months for people staying in elderly homes, children's homes, and other marginalized or disadvantaged groups.
4. Conduct a market assessment, post-distribution monitoring and analysis, and respond to livelihoods-related community feedback.

The above activities have not yet started due to low funding coverage.

 Multi-purpose Cash	Female :	8,406
	Male :	7,759

Objective: Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
		Number of people reached with food assistance or cash for basic needs	13,233 households (16,165 people)

All 25 district branches of SLRCS worked together with the local authorities to identify the beneficiaries for multipurpose cash. Branches deployed volunteers to conduct house-to-house assessments based on the list provided by the authorities to verify the needs and identify the most vulnerable households that need assistance.

Identification of initially planned 4,000 households have been completed. Most vulnerable households such as women-headed households, families with pregnant and lactating mothers, persons with disabilities and elderly people, have been prioritized for assistance.

One of the grants with a transfer value of CHF 65 has been disbursed to 3,233 households in 25 districts while the remaining 7,675 beneficiary files are being processed. SLRCS intends to continue with the multipurpose cash and will scale-up the operation based on the funding available.



SLRCS Gampaha district branch volunteers conduct assessments to identify most vulnerable families to provide multipurpose cash grants (Photo: SLRCS)



Health & Care

(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)

Female: **11,932**

Male : **11,013**

Objective:	<i>Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of people reached with emergency FA/clinical health care services during emergencies.</i>	22,600	180,000
	<i>Number of people reached with mental health and psychosocial support.</i>	250	--
	<i>Number of National Society staff and volunteer trained in Psychological First Aid (PFA) skills.</i>	95	625
	<i>Number of hospitals reached by the National Society with provision of medicines to reduce relevant health risk factors.</i>	0	25

For the last 100 days, since the unrest began, SLRCS provided First Aid and Emergency medical services to 22,600 people across the country, out of which 20,000 people were treated in SLRCS' Colombo First Aid Camp and Treatment Centre, SLRCS also provided ambulance services to transport over 1,000 people to hospitals for further treatments.

SLRCS conducted a PFA Training of Trainers (ToT) to 25 staff and volunteers of the 25 district branches. These trainers are currently training other volunteers in the branches: 70 volunteers have been trained on PFA so far. The SLRCS is also providing PFA services to the people waiting in long queues for days. While providing drinking water to people waiting in queues, SLRCS has targeted about 250 people who are in need of PFA support. There are also two high-performance tents being purchased for this operation, internationally procured directly from the supplier which will be used to set up first aid camps.

As a part of the initial DREF allocation to kick start the operation, international procurement of the following essential medicines worth CHF 100,000 has been completed and currently awaiting shipment to Colombo to be transferred to the Ministry of Health:

- Six medicinal items named Streptokinase 1.5M. IU,
- Powder for injection, vial. (50 numbers),
- Atracurium Besilate, 10mg/ml,.2.5 ml amp. (3130 numbers),
- Chlorambucil 2mg Tablet (100 numbers),
- Tacrolimus 0.5mg capsule (1600 numbers),
- Rituximab 500mg/50ml solution for infusion, vial (225 numbers),
- Paraffin Gauze 10cm x 10cm (209 numbers).

A [Mobilization Table](#) is being published for this operation for additional medicines and medical consumables needed, to address the needs for medicines via in-kind donations from partners as the medicines supply in Sri Lanka is running low.



SLRCS Colombo district branch volunteers are on standby and ready to provide emergency medical assistance at the protest site (Photo: SLRCS)



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Female:	11,600
Male:	104,400

Objective:

Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions

Key indicators:

Indicator

Actual

Target

Number of litres of water distributed

17,400,000
litres

1.8 billion litres

Number of sanitary napkins provided for female students

0

120,000

Number of awareness campaigns/cleaning drives/environmental sanitation activities conducted

20

100



SLRCS Kurunegala district branch staff preparing to dispatch the procured water tanks to install water points at long queues (Photo: SLRCS)

Out of the 100 procured 1,000L tanks, 87 tanks have already been installed in 11 districts. These water points have been providing water for the last 25 days. Approximately 17,400,000 litres of drinking water (an average of 8,000 litres per month per water point x 87 locations x 25 days) have been provided to people waiting in queues.

Approximately 348,000 people have used the water during the last 25 days (approximately 50 liters per day per person, as some people use water for washing at night). Assuming one person waited at least three times in the queues during the last 25 days, it is estimated that approximately 116,000 people have been reached with water distribution (approximately 10 per cent females and 90 per cent males).

The water distribution targets will be revised when the lengths and number of queues will be reduced in the coming months. Furthermore, SLRCS volunteers have also been engaged with the authorities to clean the surroundings closer to the fuel stations and conduct environmental sanitation activities with awareness raising. SLRCS branches are working together with the National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWSDB) and the local authorities in some districts to re-fill the water tanks.

Procurement and distribution of sanitary napkins have not started yet due to a lack of funding.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

Female:	4,979
Male:	4,596

Objective:

Communities identify the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of households selected for implementation of multipurpose cash programming following a PGI sensitive data analysis</i>	1,915 households	4,000 households
	<i>Number of Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis conducted</i>	1	1
	<i>Number of staff and volunteers provided training on PGI in emergencies, including minimum standards and SGBV prevention and response</i>	0	100
	<i>Number of Provincial level SGBV/VAC referral pathways identified or developed</i>	0	9
	<i>Number of PGI related policies developed or updated</i>	0	2

Although, SLRCS staff and volunteers have not been specifically trained in PGI, when they conduct assessments, they are trained to collect sex, age and disability disaggregated data. They are also on the look-out for categories such as women-headed households, pregnant and lactating mothers, households with children under 5 years, families with persons with disabilities, with intention to prioritize such families for multipurpose cash assistance. With the support of PGI focal point, during the operational strategy development process, the SLRCS conducted a Child Safeguarding risk analysis to assess possible risks and existing safeguarding mechanisms. An action plan will be developed based on this analysis.



LGBT community in Colombo district receiving assistance from SLRCS (Photo: SLRCS)



Community Engagement and Accountability

Objective:	<i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of people reached through risk communication and community engagement activities</i>	9,575	20,000
	<i>Number of staff and volunteers trained for CEA</i>	32	--

SLRCS has trained 22 volunteers and 10 staff in CEA. This has included both theory and practical application of CEA concepts, including KOBO data management. Among them, 21 were male participants and 11 were female participants. In line with the training, SLRCS developed a WhatsApp group for the training participants to convey messages easily.

In this operation, the SLRCS developed a format to record complaints, suggestions or any comments from the community as a pilot implementation to ensure community participation at the field level and shared the formats with Branch Executive Officers (BEOs) in five districts to integrate CEA into Cash Transfer Programming including COVID-19 related activities. BEOs are deploying the CEA-trained volunteers for information collection.

Currently, they are actively keeping feedback records that they receive from the community. Though the SLRCS introduced a hotline at branch level, it was not that much of success due to the current situation in the country. However, SLRCS took measures to enhance the integration of CEA through establishing a Hotline at the national headquarters and designating a separate person to record-keeping and responding to the phone calls. The SLRCS will include the CEA considerations also into the Post-Disaster Monitoring and Assessment questionnaire.

	Migration	Female:	0
		Male:	0

Objective:	<i>Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination)</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of migrants reached with assistance to meet their basic needs</i>	0	500

No progress to report at this point of time.



Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery

Female:	0
Male:	0

Objective: *Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	N/A	--	--

This activity has not started yet. However, all the already implemented activities, such as Health, WASH, and multipurpose cash, include disaster risk reduction by strengthening the resilience of affected population through providing timely assistance to meet their basic needs. The operation keeps up its awareness about the climatic and weather conditions in the country and uses forecasts and weather alerts before planning field activities.



Environmental Sustainability

Female:	0
Male:	0

Objective: *To be completed*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	N/A	--	--

This activity has not started yet, However, the operation is conscious of the environmental damage that it can cause during its implementation and takes measures for environmental protection such as minimal use of plastics and cleaning the surroundings of water distribution points.



Education

Female:	2,600
Male:	2,400

Objective: *To be completed*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of students reached with school packs</i>	5,000	25,000

As many students struggle to buy school stationery due to very high prices, at the initial stages of the operation, the SLRCS provided 5,000 school children in 10 districts with school packs which comprised stationery,

mathematical instrument box and a school bag. These school packs were purchased locally, with technical approval from GHS&SCM AP office. Depending on the availability of funding, additional 20,000 school packs will be procured to reach more school children in the coming weeks.



School children in Polonnaruwa districts receiving school packs from SLRCS Polonnaruwa district branch (Photo: SLRCS)

Enabling approaches



National Society Strengthening

Objective:

Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Key indicators:

Indicator

Actual

Target

Number of staff and volunteers recruited and inducted to implement response

250

625

Number of volunteers trained on core disaster management areas

95

625

Ten district project officers, 10 community mobilisers and at least 250 volunteers were hired for the operation. Orientation of staff and volunteers on the operation was conducted while ensuring quality assurance on regular

basis through bi-weekly review meetings. SLRCS national headquarters is planning to recruit two more officers for Cash and Livelihoods.



Coordination and Partnerships

Objective: *Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of an effective and coordinated international disaster response</i>	--	Yes

SLRCS has an ongoing partnership and a good working relationship with the Ministry of Health. A joint online platform is being developed together with the Ministry of Health to share information on current medicine requirements, and potential donor interests to support procurement and to enable suppliers to share information. IFRC and SLRCS continue to participate in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings, HCT Inter-Sector Coordination Group Sri Lanka, engaging with Food Security, Cash and Information Management working groups, and with the Health Cluster. A diplomatic round table was conducted in June 2022 with the participation of Embassies of Australia, Canada, France, Italy, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the European Union (EU). Bilateral discussions and updates were provided to the embassies of Norway, China, Australia and France. The IFRC Country Team participated in the ECHO-organized virtual meeting on needs analysis and current response in the country.

The second virtual diplomatic round table was organized and conducted on 21 July 2022, with the participation of the Embassies of Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Norway, France, USA, Great Britain, Malaysia, EU in Sri Lanka and USAID



Secretariat Services

Objective: *Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster*

Key indicators:	Indicator	Actual	Target
	<i>Number of surge deployments</i>	4	6
	<i>Number of key messages/statements to profile/safeguard the SLRCS response</i>	2	10

In-country local surge was recruited to provide technical support to the operation at the initial stages. Four more surge experts were deployed, including one remote deployment with the following expertise:

1. Humanitarian Diplomacy- completed the mission
2. Strategic Engagement and Partnerships
3. Cash and Voucher Assistance
4. Humanitarian Information Analysis.
5. Communication

A set of key messages and a press release were developed and issued to profile SLRCS's work as well as to highlight the humanitarian conditions and needs in the country.

SLRCS and IFRC are planning to deploy an assessment team to conduct an assessment of the humanitarian impacts and needs arising from the current economic crisis. The assessment team will be comprised of the following experts:

- Assessment Coordinator for 6 weeks,
- Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer for 6 weeks
- Primary Data Collection Officer for 6 weeks,
- Mapping and visualization Officer for 6 weeks,
- Food security & Livelihood (FSL) Officer for 6 weeks
- PGI Officer for 6 weeks,
- Health Officer for 6 weeks,

In addition, thematic experts on Food Security, Livelihoods and Nutrition, WASH, Migration and Displacement, and Education will support the assessment

D. FUNDING

The overall Federation-wide funding required to support SLRCS is 28.5 million Swiss francs. The [Operational Strategy](#) issued on 30 June 2022 details the targets and budget allocation of the IFRC Secretariat's support to the SLRCS plan for 28 million Swiss francs.

As of 01 August 2022, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks 28 million Swiss francs is 5 per cent funded (CHF 1,525,308). Click here for more details: [IFRC GO-Sri Lanka: Complex Emergency](#) and [funding coverage details](#). A financial report will be provided in the next operational update.

Contact information

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

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For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support

- In IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office: Rachna Narang, Senior Officer, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships; email: partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability support (planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting enquiries)

- In IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office: Alice Ho, Head of PMER and Quality Assurance; email: alice.ho@ifrc.org

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Operational Strategy](#)

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. 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.