

<p>Emergency appeal №: MDRLK014 Emergency appeal launched: 07/06/2022 Operational Strategy published: 30/06/2022 Operational Strategy Revised: 16/01/2023</p>	<p>Glide №: CE-2022-000199-LKA</p>
<p>Operation update #3 Date of issue: 24/03/2023</p>	<p>Timeframe covered by this update: From 07/06/2023 to 31/01/2023</p>
<p>Operation timeframe: 12 months Initial timeframe: 07/06/2022 - 06/06/2023 Revised timeframe: 07/06/2023 – 31/12/2023</p>	<p>Number of people being assisted: 500,000</p>
<p>Funding requirements (CHF): CHF 28 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal CHF 28.5 million Federation-wide</p>	<p>DREF amount initially allocated: CHF 741,000</p>

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks CHF 28 million, is 17 percent funded including soft pledges with a gap of CHF 23.5 million. 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 having nutritional foods under the school feeding program in Kandy district. Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has initiated a 'School Feeding' program in thirteen districts (Photo: SLRCS)

The Transition of Emergency Appeal to Unified Plan

The impact of the economic crisis is still high in Sri Lanka, various studies highlighted that the crisis is not going away anytime soon, it will become protracted, and people's situation will steadily deteriorate further over time. 6.3 million people in Sri Lanka are still facing moderate to severe acute food insecurity and their situation is expected to worsen in 2023 if adequate life-saving assistance and livelihood support is not provided. Therefore, it is crucial to provide continuous support to crisis-affected people in Sri Lanka.

This **operational update** is issued mainly to inform that the operation is to be extended until 31 December 2023, and will be incorporated into the Sri Lanka Country Unified Plan. A **standard 12-month report** of the appeal will be issued by 31 July 2023 to inform the progress of the operation until 6 June 2023. Onwards, the project code for the operation will be maintained, and reporting of the operation will be aligned with the bi-annual reporting of the unified plan of Sri Lanka. Additionally, a work plan for the operation until the end of 2023 will be available by the time the 12-month report is issued.

Description of the crisis

The current crisis in Sri Lanka is affecting all sectors of society and has created the conditions for increased vulnerability, poverty, and destitution among a significant proportion of the population. In October 2022, approximately 9.6 million people (42 percent of the total population) fell below the international poverty line for lower-middle-income countries. More than 60 percent of families are eating less, and eating cheaper, less nutritious food. This comes at a time when financial constraints have forced the government to scale back on nutrition programs, such as school meals and fortified food to mothers and undernourished children.

According to UN OCHA, an estimated 5.7 million people (26 percent of the population) or more are now in need of humanitarian assistance, with at least 4.9 million (22 percent) being food insecure¹.

Operational strategy

The operational strategy will remain the same by the time of this report, but it will be reviewed in the coming months to strategize the operational approach by reviewing the intervention and humanitarian situation in the country.

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

Sector	Indicator	Target*	Actual
Livelihoods	# of people supported with livelihoods restoration and strengthening economic activities	120,000	0
Multi-purpose Cash	# of people reached with food assistance or cash for basic needs	75,000 households (375,000 people)	6,300 households (31,500 people)
Health & Care	# of people reached with emergency FA/clinical health care services during emergencies.	250,000	21,600
	# of people reached with mental health and psychosocial support.	1,000	250
	# of National Society staff and volunteers trained in Psychological First Aid (PFA) skills.	625	625

* Target figures have been updated in line with latest revised [Operation Strategy](#) dated 16 January 2023

¹ [WFP Sri Lanka Situation Report, 22 June 2022](#)

Sector	Indicator	Target*	Actual
	<i># of hospitals reached by the National Society with the provision of medicines to reduce relevant health risk factors.</i>	25	25
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	<i># of litres of water distributed</i>	24,000,000 L	24,000,000 L
	<i># of sanitary napkins provided for female students</i>	60,000	40,000
	<i># of awareness campaigns/cleaning drives/environmental sanitation activities conducted</i>	20	20
Protection, Gender, and Inclusion	<i># of households selected for implementation of multipurpose cash programming following a PGI-sensitive data analysis</i>	75,000 households (375,000 people)	6,300 households (31,500 people)
	<i># of people reached by PGI services</i>	375,000	31,500
	<i># of Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis conducted</i>	1	
	<i># of staff and volunteers provided training on PGI in emergencies, including minimum standards and SGBV prevention and response</i>	100	50
	<i># of Provincial level SGBV/VAC referral pathways identified or developed</i>	9	0
	<i># of PGI-related policies developed or updated</i>	2	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	<i># of people reached through risk communication and community engagement activities</i>	375,000	31,500
	<i># of staff and volunteers trained for CEA</i>	100	32
Migration	<i># of migrants reached with assistance to meet their basic needs</i>	500	21
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	<i># of staff and volunteers trained on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change adaptation (CCA)</i>	50	0
Education	<i># of students reached with school packs</i>	50,000	15,875
	<i># of children provided with school meals</i>	10,000	0

* Target figures have been updated in line with latest revised [Operation Strategy](#) dated 16 January 2023

Enabling approaches

Enablers	Indicator	Target	Actual
National Society Strengthening	<i># of staff and volunteers recruited and inducted to implement response</i>	625	250
	<i># of volunteers trained on core disaster management areas</i>	625	625
Coordination and Partnerships	<i>The operation demonstrates evidence of an effective and coordinated international disaster response</i>	Yes	
Secretariat Services	<i># of surge deployments</i>	6	4
	<i># of key messages/statements to profile/safeguard the SLRCS response</i>	10	2

Summary of response

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

As of 31 January 2023, 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



6,300 MPC grants disbursed to beneficiaries and **another 12,500 grants are in the pipeline** and currently being processed at SLRCS HQ and Branches

Health



Around **21,600 people** were provided with **health assistance** and over 1,000 people were transported to hospitals. Two high-performance tents were procured and used. A consignment worth **CHF 100,000 of essential medicines and medical consumables** was handed over to the Ministry of Health, 625 volunteers trained on PFA in all 25 branches

Education



15,875 school kits (stationery, school bags) procured and distributed. **Another 5,000 are in the pipeline** and currently being processed at SLRCS HQ and Branches. Identified schools for feeding programme to support 15,000 children for three months.

WASH



Around 8,000-10,000 people receive drinking water every day at long queues in 10 districts. **40,000 (nine packs for each) adolescent girls received the sanitary napkins** and procurement of **56,000 packs is under process**

In addition to the above, the following food and essential items are being distributed to affected populations before December 2022:

Food and Non-Food Items	Quantity	# of people assisted by December 2022	Geographical coverage
Sanitary Napkins	180,000 packs (10 pads per pack)	20,000 female adolescent students	All 25 districts
Dry Rations	4,500 packs (family size)	For 18,000 elderly people living in elderly homes (each pack shared among 4 elderly)	All 25 districts
Nutrition food packs	15,000 packs	For 15,000 pregnant and lactating mothers	All 25 districts
First Aid Kit (SLRCS Standard)	2,500 kits	Distribution to all branches	All 25 branches

Challenges

- The implementation is behind the Plan of Action (PoA) due to many reasons but one of them being limited human resources at SLRCS with high turnover.
- On-going economic crisis in the country which led to procurement delays and delivery of items due to shortage of fuel, limitation on availability of items, inflation.
- The country faced severe floods in August and September 2022 that affected 10 districts in Sri Lanka that also delayed the complex emergency interventions.
- Due to uncertainty of funding, the scope of work had to be changed numerous times which also led to the delay in the implementation of the activities.

Next Steps

A review is being planned to be carried out during the month of May 2023 to inform the operation strategy forward, and to evaluate what has been done, the effectiveness and assess the operations and humanitarian landscape in the country after one year of implementation of EA. Based on the review, the operational strategy will be revised, plan of action will be developed and will be included in the 12-month report.

Financial Report

A financial report will be provided in the next report – a 12-month report – within July 2023.

Contact information

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

At the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society

- Mahesh Gunasekera, Director General; email: mahesh.gunasekara@redcross.lk
- Damitha Chanaka, Assistant Manager DM; email: damitha.chanaka@redcross.lk

At the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation, Delhi

- Udaya Regmi, Head of CCD Delhi; email: udaya.regmi@ifrc.org
- Manik Saha, Operations Manager, Sri Lanka; email: manik.saha@ifrc.org

At the IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

- Alexander Matheou, Regional Director; email: alexander.matheou@ifrc.org
- Joy Singhal, Head of Health, Disaster, Climate, and Crisis; email: joy.singhal@ifrc.org
- Nikola ANgelovski, Operations Coordinator; email: Opscoord.SouthAsia@ifrc.org
- Nuraiza Khairuddin, Senior Officer, Regional Logistics; email: nuraiza.khairuddin@ifrc.org
- Afrhill Rances, Regional Communications Manager; email: afrhill.rances@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Christina Duschl, Senior Officer, Operations Coordination; email: christina.duschl@ifrc.org

For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support

- Rachna Narang, Senior Officer, Strategic Engagement and Partnerships; email: partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

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

- 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.