



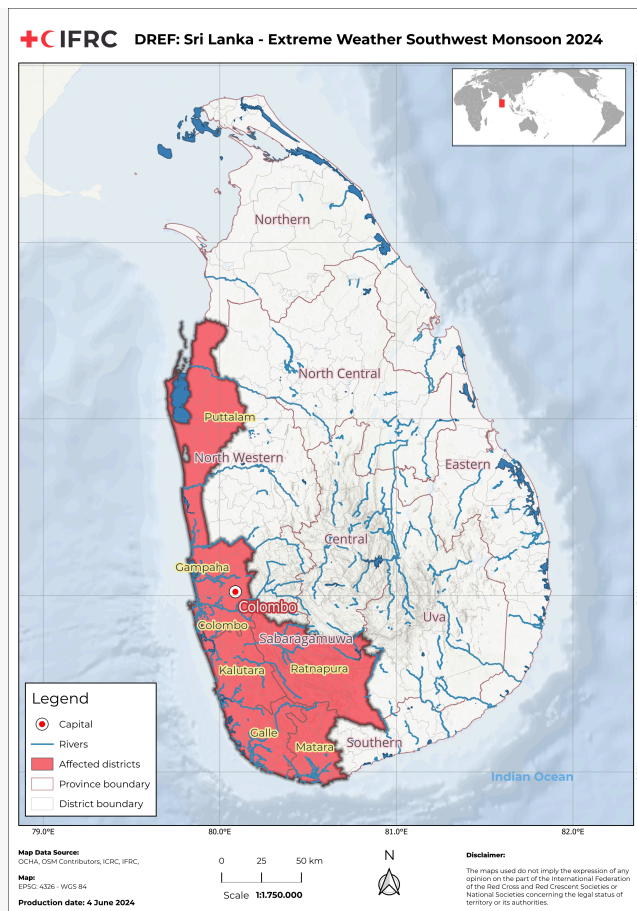
Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) evacuates residents to safer shelters and distributes clean drinking water in the Rathnapura district. (Photo: SLRCS)

Appeal: MDRLK019	Country: Sri Lanka	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 491,993	
Glide Number: FL-2024-000077-LKA	People Affected: 253,581 people	People Targeted: 77,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 20-06-2024	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 31-10-2024	DREF Published: 21-06-2024
Targeted Areas: North Western, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Western			

Description of the Event

Date of event

02-06-2024



Extreme weather - Severely affected districts. Map: IM IFRC

What happened, where and when?

In response to the significant intensification of the southwest monsoon, which commenced in mid-May 2024 and further escalated on 2 June 2024, an unprecedented rainfall of 400 millimeters was recorded in certain regions of Sri Lanka. This exceptional weather event has resulted in severe flash floods, mudslides, and substantial wind damage across the Western, Sabaragamuwa, Northwestern, Central, and Southern provinces

The water levels of key rivers, including the Nilwala Ganga River in Matara, the Gin Ganga River in Galle, the Kalu River, the Attanagalua Ganga River in Gampaha, and the Kelani River in Colombo, have risen, leading to overflow and affecting more families in low-lying areas [1].

The following districts have experienced the most significant damage:

- Western Province: Colombo, Gampaha, and Kalutara
- Southern Province: Matara and Galle
- Sabaragamuwa Province: Ratnapura
- Northwestern Province: Puttalam

Government and Organizational Response:

The Sri Lankan government has deployed its relief teams (Navy and Army troops) to assist the flood-affected districts. So far, the teams have rescued 102 individuals in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Ratnapura, Galle, and Matara districts. As a precautionary measure, electricity was cut off in up to five districts to avoid electrical shocks in flooded areas, causing many people to spend the night in the dark. Several flights arriving at Colombo's main international airport were diverted to Matale airport.



The Ministry of Education announced the closure of all schools across the island on June 2, 2024. Schools in the Galle, Matara, Gampaha, and Kalutara districts were closed on June 3, and schools in the Sabaragamuwa Province were closed on June 4 due to the adverse weather conditions. Many schools have been flooded, and students have lost their school materials and stationery.

Meteorological Warnings:

Landslide Risks - the severely affected districts are also at risk of landslides due to the prevailing showery conditions. The National Building Research Organisation (NBRO) has issued landslide warnings at various levels (1 to 3) for several divisions in these districts. The NBRO issued 'Red' (Level 3) landslide alerts for several areas in the Colombo, Kalutara, Ratnapura, and Kegalle districts. 'Amber' (Level 2) and 'Yellow' (Level 1) alerts were issued for several other divisions in the Southern, Western, and Sabaragamuwa provinces [2].

The Department of Irrigation extended flood warnings for the Gin River Basin in the Galle district, the Nilwala River in the Matara district, the Kelani River Basin in the Colombo district, and the Attanagalu Ganga River in the Gampaha district due to rising water levels above the flood alarming level. On June 3, 2024, a section of Gampaha town flooded due to the overflowing of the Attanagalu Oya [3].

The Department of Meteorology has warned that the Southwest Monsoon is set to intensify in the coming weeks due to global warming and the La Niña weather condition. This heightened intensity raises concerns about potential flash floods and related disasters. The increased intensity means a greater volume of rainfall in a shorter period, a departure from the usual spread over a more extended period. Recent weeks have seen rainfall intensity increase to 100 mm per hour, attributed to changes in atmospheric wind flow [4]. As the water level in the river continues to rise in downstream areas due to water flowing from higher lands, there is a high possibility of increased water levels in the low-lying areas of Ratnapura, Matara, Galle, and Gampaha districts. Additionally, there is a high possibility of a gradual increase in the current floods in the low-lying areas of the Ratnapura and Kalutara districts in the next 48 hours. The flood situation in the upstream low-lying areas of the Ratnapura district will persist, with a slight decrease expected.

[1] https://www.dmc.gov.lk/images/dmcreports/Situation_Report_on_2024__1717580244.pdf

[2] https://nbro.gov.lk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=304:warnings-test&catid=20:warnings&lang=en&Itemid=299

[3] <https://www.newswire.lk/2024/06/03/extreme-weather-seven-updates/>

[4] https://www.dailymirror.lk/print/main_image/Southwest-monsoon-to-pour-in-high-volumes-in-SL-this-year/346-284040#google_vignette



SLRCS colombo branch dispatches trained volunteers to conduct an impact assessment in the most severely affected division. (Photo : SLRCS)



Volunteers from Galle branch provide first Aid services (Photo : SLRCS)

Scope and Scale

The Puttalam district was first hit by extreme weather due to the southwest monsoon, which brought heavy rainfall on 20 May 2024. As of the DMC update on 22 May 2024, 42,546 people from 11,194 families were affected in the Puttalam district alone. Vulnerable people living in low-lying areas in Puttalam continue to experience floods and struggle to return to normal life.

As of 5 June 2024, the DMC situational report revealed that the districts of Rathnapura, Gampaha, Matara, Kalutara, Colombo, Galle, and Puttalam are facing severe impacts from floods, strong winds, and mudslides. These events have affected an estimated 253,581 people from 66,906 families across 13 districts, predominantly in the low-lying regions. The Western province, particularly the districts of



Gampaha, Colombo, and Kalutara, has seen the highest impact, with more than 160,000 people from 41,886 families affected.

Affected Population and Casualties:

According to the latest DMC report dated 5 June 2024, these extreme weather conditions have regrettably led to 21 fatalities, distributed as follows:

- Ratnapura: 5 deaths
- Matara: 6 deaths
- Galle: 3 deaths
- Gampaha: 2 deaths
- Kalutara: 2 deaths
- Colombo: 3 deaths

Additionally, 5 people are still missing, including four members of the same family in Ratnapura and a mother of three in Gampola. Two sisters from Kayts island in Jaffna were also killed due to the inclement weather conditions.

Displacement:

As of 5 June 2024, 146 safer locations sheltering 10,215 people from 2,435 families are still in use across all districts except Puttalam. These individuals require support to meet their immediate needs. Water and sanitation facilities in these communities are in serious disrepair due to flooding, which has affected sewerage lines, drinking water systems, and community-based water purification centers. Households in low-lying areas have lost basic amenities due to flash floods and mudslides, highlighting a critical need for essential household items.

Infrastructure and Agricultural Damage:

The heavy rains, strong winds, landslides, and floods have caused significant damage to lives, homes, and infrastructure. A total of 177 Divisional Secretary divisions have been significantly impacted, with powerful winds exceeding 70 km/h causing extensive damage to residential properties and blocking essential access routes with fallen trees. Over 15,000 farmers have lost their crops, and daily wage workers are facing severe hardships, including the loss of household belongings due to flooding. Water levels have surged to 10 feet in some areas, leading to the submersion of homes, public buildings, and local markets.

Economic and Social Impact:

The ongoing economic crisis has significantly impacted people's lives, exacerbated by the continuous rain. Many families in the hardest-hit areas have temporarily lost their income, as most rely on daily wages. Impoverished and vulnerable farmers living along riverbanks and in low-lying areas have also lost their livelihoods. Families with infants, persons with disabilities, individuals with chronic illnesses, and pregnant and lactating women may require special support due to the sudden floods.

Due to the current situation and increased needs, IFRC-DREF assistance is required to help those affected by the adverse weather conditions, which are expected to worsen. Heavy showers of over 100 mm are forecasted in the coming weeks, according to the Meteorological Department's 9-day weather prediction [5]. The operation aims to extend assistance to severely affected people in seven districts (Rathnapura, Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara, Matara, Galle, and Puttalam). The operation will cover primary interventions, including first-aid services, medical camps to address health-related needs, disbursing multi-purpose cash to individuals who have suffered livelihood loss, supplying non-food items to households in need, conducting well cleaning to maintain potable water availability, and organizing clean-up campaigns in public places and inundated houses. Additionally, efforts will be made to mitigate the upsurge of dengue outbreaks, which are highly prevalent post-flooding.

[5] https://www.meteo.gov.lk/images/Weekly_FC_May_23-2024.pdf

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Metrological Department - Weather forecast	https://www.meteo.gov.lk/images/Weekly_FC_May_23-2024.pdf
2. Disaster Management Center - Situation update	https://www.dmc.gov.lk/images/dmcreports/Situation_Report_on_2024_1717580244.pdf



Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	Yes
If yes, please specify which operation	MDRLK015 2022, MDRLK017 & MDRLK018 2023 & 2024

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

Previously, five districts (Colombo, Gampaha, Matara, Galle, and Puttalam) were affected by the events described in the IFRC-DREF operations MDRLK015, MDRLK017, and MDRLK018. Support for dengue response in Gampaha and Galle was provided in MDRLK017, while only flood response support was provided in Matara. MDRLK018 provided support for flood responses in Gampaha, Galle, Matara, and Puttalam. The activities in MDRLK015 concluded in February 2023, those in MDRLK017 concluded in October 2023, and the operation period for MDRLK018 will be completed in July 2024.

The first and second phases of MDRLK018, covering Gampaha, Galle, Matara, and Puttalam districts, had all activities implemented in April. Phase III activities in Ampara are currently underway. However, SLRCS has completed all the planned actions under MDRLK018 at the ground level, and branches are working on cash settlements and the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey.

The flood-hit villages in these districts are highly vulnerable to recurrent climate-related disasters. Although the districts of Gampaha, Galle, Matara, and Puttalam overlap, the most affected DS and GN divisions are not always the same, and the impact often covers more areas within the same districts. The current impact is severe, with different vulnerable groups within the GN divisions affected. These districts experienced heavy rainfall (over 400 mm) within a short period, leading to overflowing primary water tanks and flooding with water levels exceeding 10 feet. This caused many households to be submerged and people to be displaced within the districts.

Lessons learned:

Below are some of the Lessons Learned from Previous Operations:

- 1. Capacity and Experience:** SLRCS branches have demonstrated sufficient capacity and experience to respond effectively to similar emergencies. Their ability to collaborate and coordinate with government stakeholders has ensured the prompt implementation of the IFRC-DREF interventions and activities.
- 2. Risk Mitigation and Activation:** SLRCS has a well-established risk mitigation plan, which was successfully activated when the DMC issued an alert about severe weather predictions. This proactive approach facilitated timely preparations and response actions.
- 3. Coordination and Deployment:** SLRCS promptly coordinated with all relevant branches, deploying volunteers, BDRT teams, and first-aid teams for immediate response. This swift mobilization was crucial in addressing urgent needs and mitigating the impact of the disaster.
- 4. Clear Selection Criteria and Orientation:** During detailed assessments, clear selection criteria were shared with government authorities and community members in orientation meetings. This transparency ensured that the selection process was understood and accepted by all stakeholders.
- 5. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):** The CEA team collaborated closely with local branch teams to provide training and establish a feedback mechanism during the implementation process. This approach ensured that community voices were heard and addressed effectively.

6. Integration of Cross-Cutting Sectors: SLRCS successfully integrated cross-cutting sectors such as PGI and CEA into planned interventions. This holistic approach ensured that these important considerations were embedded across all sectors.

7. Successful Community Feedback Mechanisms: According to PDM surveys, SLRCS maintained very successful community feedback mechanisms at the field level, available 24/7. This continuous engagement was critical in addressing issues promptly and improving service delivery.

8. Resilience of Vulnerable Groups: The operation highlighted the resilience of vulnerable groups, including the elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, and households with infants or young children. These groups showed remarkable strength in overcoming challenges related to access to food and safe water.

9. Commitment to IFRC Standards: Commitment to aligning with the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming. This ensured due consideration for vulnerable groups throughout the implementation, towards enhancing the overall effectiveness and inclusivity of the response.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

20-05-2024

Shelter, Housing And Settlements	In response to the needs of the affected communities, the branches are distributing essential household items. NS immediately dispatched 3,000 towels, 3,000 bedsheets, 900 mosquito nets, and 150 sleeping mats from their warehouse to all districts except Puttalam. Volunteers are currently deployed for clean-up campaigns, supporting the cleaning of floodwater-affected areas and drainage systems. This is being done in close coordination with government stakeholders.
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Assessment is being carried out, and the BDRT teams are deployed in the affected divisions.
Health	SLRCS is currently conducting medical camps in the Colombo district, and all branches are providing first aid services to people in safe centers. The BDRT team, comprising first aid-trained volunteers, has been deployed to severely affected divisions to support individuals in safe centers. They are using ferry services to reach inundated houses and provide treatment to those in neighboring homes.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	SLRCS immediately dispatched 6,500 drinking water bottles, 3,000 towels, 3,000 bedsheets, 900 mosquito nets, and 150 sleeping mats from their warehouse to all districts except Puttalam. Volunteers are currently deployed for clean-up campaigns, focusing on cleaning floodwater-affected areas and drainage systems. Safe drinking water remains a primary concern in the affected area.
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	SLRCS teams are maintaining minimum standards while assisting all affected communities, with additional focus on selecting the most vulnerable, including pregnant and lactating mothers, disabled individuals, children, the elderly, and the LGBTQ community
Coordination	SLRCS is currently collaborating with government agencies such as the DMC, district secretariats, and local authorities to address the ongoing flood situation. Additionally, SLRCS is closely coordinating with the IFRC Country Representation Office in Colombo, with support from the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in New Delhi and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for this disaster response operation
National Society Readiness	Since the beginning of May 2024, SLRCS has been monitoring extreme weather situations closely. They have conducted frequent coordination meetings and activated task forces to support their branches immediately. Due to delays in receiving updated information from the DMC, branch volunteers and staff promptly coordinated with government



	<p>stakeholders to obtain necessary information and shared it with NHQ. Branches have already started responding with available resources, distributing non-food relief items and providing first-aid services immediately. BDRT members and volunteers have been deployed at safe centers to support evacuees.</p> <p>SLRCS maintains a strong branch network at national, district, and divisional (sub-district) levels. This includes National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT), and Divisional Disaster Response Teams (DDRT). Additionally, SLRCS has trained 150 active members in disaster response teams specializing in water safety and life-saving techniques, ready to assist in rescue operations when needed.</p>
Assessment	All branches have deployed their BDRT (Branch Disaster Response Team), first-aid-trained volunteers, and trained volunteers to prepare a 24 and 72-hour assessment. They have analysed the situation and the market and submitted details of the immediate needs of the community. They are also working closely with government authorities to update and collect information from secondary sources to analyse the current situation.
Resource Mobilization	SLRCS branches work closely with government agencies to provide essential relief to affected communities. SLRCS has issued a media release calling on corporate sectors and the public to support relief efforts by donating items. They are currently receiving relief items, including water bottles and non-food items, at the SLRCS HQ warehouse. First-aid-trained volunteers are already on the ground, providing immediate first-aid services. NHQ has transferred advance funds to the branches to support immediate responses for the affected people
Activation Of Contingency Plans	BDRT teams deployed and NDRT members are on alert to deploy in case of need. Initial response activities are conducted in the Matara district, where more people are affected. Contingency stocks will be used to assist the affected communities.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The in-country IFRC team is in close coordination with SLRCS and the ICRC. The IFRC CCD and APRO offices have supported SLRCS in preparing this DREF application and planning the response. Furthermore, the IFRC CCD regularly shares in-country situation updates and developments with the IFRC APRO. IFRC is providing technical support to SLRCS for the operation and coordinating with SLRCS for information sharing with the movement and external partners. The IFRC CCD in Delhi and APRO provided further coordination support for information sharing and resources.
Participating National Societies	There is no Participating National Societies (PNS) presence in the country.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

SLRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and ICRC in implementing various programs. During the flood, the IFRC country office, with the assistance of the IFRC CCD Delhi and the ICRC, worked in close coordination to provide technical support to SLRCS and shared information at regional and sub-regional levels. ICRC has been working with SLRCS, particularly in the area of migration, with technical assistance on Restoring Family Links and Tracing.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The national and local disaster management agencies, along with district administrative units, are taking the lead in responding to floods and landslides across the country.



According to the DMC, the Army, Air Force, Navy, and police have been deployed to all affected locations to conduct rescue operations as necessary. The Department of Irrigation is monitoring water levels in river basins and low-lying areas, issuing alerts and warnings to the public in close coordination with the DMC.

The government has allocated immediate relief funds to the affected districts to support people currently in safe centers with cooked food and other essential relief items. Additionally, the tri-forces have been requested to repair houses damaged by landslides immediately.

A memorandum outlines the president's plans to provide immediate relief and long-term solutions for the Colombo suburbs and Kolannawa DS division. It instructs relevant authorities to take urgent actions, including refraining from allowing new construction on riverbanks, removing illegal constructions, suspending landfill activities, repairing drainage systems, and assessing the need for water pumping stations.

UN or other actors

Currently, there is no information about the UN organization's intervention in the floods in the mentioned districts. Save the Children is already responding to the people affected in Rathnapura and Kalutara districts, providing drinking water and assistance to schoolchildren.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The government is leading the coordination in an informal and bilateral manner. SLRCS is in close coordination with the authorities, DMC, and Metrological department and together with the divisional secretariat and irrigation department, are coordinating all the responses and early warnings activities about the ongoing adverse weather condition. SLRCS branches closely coordinate and work with district-level authorities on assessments and providing relief. Also, NBRO is middle of the coordination to inform and guide about the landslide risks and warnings.

The WASH technical working group organised the WASH cluster meeting. The water board and Irrigation department shared information on the affected details and the damage caused to the pipeline and water purification centres due to the flash floods. Also, their immediate action and recovery plans were discussed.

Needs (Gaps) Identified

Shelter Housing And Settlements

Since 2 June 2024, many homes in the targeted districts have been fully or partially damaged by extreme weather. According to the DMC update as of June 4, 2024, 15 houses are fully damaged, and 2,316 partially damaged houses have been reported. In Rathnapura district, more than 850 houses were partially damaged, mainly due to landslides and strong winds. The households that were fully inundated require essential household items.

People with damaged houses have been relocated to host families in neighboring villages or towns, and more than 7,500 people are in safer centers set up by government authorities.

Due to displacement and damage to houses, as well as the loss of livelihood, severely affected families need assistance to repair partially damaged houses and obtain household items, including non-food items.

The government has advised the tri-forces to immediately support the rebuilding of fully and partially damaged houses. Cleaning the mud inside houses when the water recedes is a priority, requiring additional tools and chemicals to disinfect kitchens, utensils, and clothes. It is also essential to clean stagnant water in houses and public drainages to reduce the risk of increasing dengue cases, which are expected to reach alarming levels in the same districts after water recedes.

Furthermore, the possessions of vulnerable people are submerged in water, and they urgently need access to essential clothing, sanitary napkins, and adult hygiene packs. SLRCS branches have received several requests from Divisional Secretariats in all districts, and during assessments, volunteers have witnessed the real need for these item





Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The severe weather has affected over 150,000 individuals in the seven targeted districts, leading to a loss of livelihoods and daily income. In these districts, more than 7,500 people have been relocated to safer areas and require food, water, and non-food items, including essential clothing and sleeping mats.

Additionally, over 15,000 farmers have been impacted, losing their crops and farming activities. These farmers need immediate assistance to protect their remaining crops until harvest time. Many vulnerable individuals in the affected districts, who are unskilled daily laborers, are unable to work due to inaccessibility and high water levels. Therefore, they require increased assistance to meet their basic needs. Furthermore, these individuals will need support to restore and clean their homes once the water levels recede, which will be challenging due to financial constraints.

Many of the vulnerable individuals from the worst-hit areas are unskilled daily laborers and coolie workers who work in farming fields and other businesses to support their families. The sudden flood destroyed farming fields and inundated working stations, including carpentry, masonry, and small businesses. Recovery and returning to work will take several days. Families with children and elderly members require immediate cash support to meet their urgent needs.



Health

The population affected by extreme weather events relies on government hospitals for their health needs. However, access to healthcare is limited due to transport disruptions and relocation to safer areas. Shortages of medicines and disruptions caused by the economic crisis have worsened the health conditions of the affected population.

The Health Departments have issued a warning to the affected districts, stating that several health issues have emerged as floodwaters recede. Common diseases such as diarrhea, leptospirosis, and dengue are affecting the public. There is also a high risk of contaminated water intake and the spread of diseases due to polluted water and fecal matter. Moreover, the Health Department has warned about the risk of skin diseases and respiratory disorders after floodwaters recede.

There is an urgent need for First Aid Services and general medical care to reduce the risk of hospitalization and other health complications. Cleaning campaigns and dengue awareness programs are crucial for an immediate response, especially as dengue cases and waterborne diseases increase during the rainy season.

Due to disruptions to their livelihoods, all districts are in critical need of food and water. People living in areas near the river are particularly vulnerable, having lost their sources of income and struggling to provide food for their children.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The floodwater level has risen above 10 feet, contaminating all drinking water sources, including pipe-borne water from the water supply systems. The strong flow of floodwater has also damaged water pipes and submerged purification centers, limiting access to drinking water facilities in the affected areas.

The Department of National Community Water Supply reported that 32,853 people were affected by the lack of drinking water, with 25,000 residing in Rathnapura district. SLRCS has promptly dispatched over 3,000 (5L) drinking water bottles to the branches for distribution to those in safe centers.

Household wells, the primary source of drinking water in the affected areas, have become polluted due to the high floodwater level, especially along riverbanks and in low-lying areas of the impacted districts. As a result, well-cleaning is an essential requirement in all inundated areas within the districts.

Given the poor condition of existing sanitary facilities, sanitation and hygiene conditions have deteriorated due to extreme weather. It is crucial to raise essential hygiene awareness through hygiene promotion using Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to limit the spread of waterborne and other communicable diseases.

Additionally, the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health prioritizes conducting dengue awareness campaigns and clearing debris that blocks drainage as immediate response activities, as many areas have been identified as high-risk for dengue.



Furthermore, addressing the need for sanitary napkins is essential to alleviate hygienic difficulties among teenage girls and older women in safe centers and neighboring households



Education

Following branch assessments conducted with the authorities, it has been determined that schoolchildren's supplies have been damaged or lost as a result of sudden floods, mudslides, and tree fall-related house damages. In many areas, the floodwater level exceeded normal levels, causing damage to school supplies and materials, leading to difficulties for schoolchildren and disrupting their education.

Moreover, school education has been disrupted due to families relocating to safer places. There's a need to provide support to the children of families affected by flooding, including essential school supplies to help them resume their education.

The government announced the closure of schools on 3 June 2024, across the entire island and on 4 June 2024, in Sabaragamuwa, Western, and Southern provinces. Inundation made access to schools challenging, as both teachers and students were unable to commute.

The most vulnerable families will be identified during detailed assessments for targeted assistance. Further, families impacted by landslides have lost their children's school supplies entirely. Stationery supplies are urgently required for low-income students in the affected districts.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The integration of community engagement and accountability into the operation ensures that those targeted for SLRCS assistance receive timely and accurate information about services, as well as the conduct of staff and volunteers.

The active participation of SLRCS volunteers and community members during detailed assessments throughout the operation cycle is crucial. This ensures a fair selection process and includes community involvement in planning, assessment, and beneficiary selection. A community feedback mechanism during the beneficiary selection process is essential, given the limited number of beneficiaries who will receive assistance.

Additionally, state branches are committed to closely monitoring and maintaining communication with recipients during relief distributions. Distribution points are equipped with clear banners and charts outlining the items being distributed.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

In many districts, the primary and internal roads near the riverbanks and low-lying areas remain completely blocked, with water levels exceeding 10 feet. The local branch has reported that they are unable to reach these areas to assess the needs of the people. They are also unable to distribute relief items to the residents in the neighbor's houses. The swift water flow has made it very challenging to use small ferries. The mobile networks are also limited as the power supply has been disturbed due to the high wind.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This operation aims to assist 77,000 people from 19,250 families in the seven most severely affected districts: Gampaha, Colombo, and Kalutara in the Western Province; Rathnapura district in the Sabaragamuwa Province; Matara and Galle in the Southern Province; and Puttalam district in the Northwestern Province.

The operation's implementation will span 4 months, depending on the severity of the impact and the coverage of the districts. Branch staff must visit the most affected rural GNs for assessment and beneficiary verification, which will require additional days as the water level recedes gradually.

Affected individuals will receive support in the form of non-food items, mainly clothing, distribution of drinking water bottles, multipurpose cash grants to fulfill their basic needs, well-cleaning, cleaning-up campaigns, medical camps, and first aid services.



Current weather patterns are anticipated to exacerbate vulnerability to dengue fever in these regions, which are already at risk of an outbreak following the flooding. Therefore, this operation will prioritize dengue mitigation actions and conduct clean-up campaigns in public places.

Operation strategy rationale

The operation's strategy aligns entirely with SLRCS and IFRC policies, procedures, commitments, and mandates. With the support of IFRC, SLRCS aims to provide immediate assistance to the most vulnerable households within the affected populations in the seven districts. The selection process will involve affected community members and will be carried out in close coordination with local authorities. Intervention areas (DS divisions and GNs) will be determined following ongoing assessments covering the most affected population. The proposed strategy is formulated based on the short-term, immediate needs of the affected people and is aligned with the government's strategy. The proposed flood response operation will run for the next four months and will address the immediate needs of the affected people.

(A) Multi-purpose cash grants: Targeting 12,000 people from 3,000 households

Based on a rapid needs assessment, it was highlighted that the poor and vulnerable people in all seven districts lost their income due to extreme weather conditions, resulting in a shortage of food in their homes. Many farmers lost their crops, and their farming land was inundated. A total of 3,000 households will be assisted in Colombo (600 HHs), Gampaha (780 HHs), Rathnapura (360 HHs), Kalutara (300 HHs), Galle (240 HHs), Puttalam (420 HHs), and Matale (300 HHs) accordingly.

A detailed assessment will precede the distribution, and the assessment team will analyze market conditions and the priority needs of flood-affected families. An initial assessment by the BDRT team revealed that markets at higher altitudes remained open, with people continuing to make purchases. However, regional markets experienced limited supply from Colombo due to flooded main roads from June 2 to June 4. By June 6, water levels had decreased, enabling primary transport to return to normal, and local markets began receiving stocks. Additionally, village-level grocery shops have ample stock available for sale to the public, with access to regional markets to order and replenish their stocks.

The value of the cash grant of LKR 20,000 per family is already determined based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) analysis by the Cash TWG, which coordinates with all organizations implementing cash interventions in the country. SLRCS is co-chairing the working group, conducting regular meetings with the network, and providing updates about cash interventions, including the number of people, geographical information, and the selection process. SLRCS's primary intervention is providing cash assistance, a method they have used for over ten years. During the emergency appeal, SLRCS supported over 18,000 households with multi-purpose cash and over 2,000 with conditional cash grants. SLRCS has a team of volunteers and dedicated staff at the national headquarters trained in cash and voucher assistance (CVA) and coordinating CVA and community feedback mechanisms (CEA) together. The targeted branches have prior experience in supporting CVA for affected people. SLRCS is already working with Sampath Bank PLC as a financial service provider (FSP) to transfer money to affected individuals. The bank has good branch coverage and ATM services across the country. SLRCS is further working to finalize an FSP agreement and is in the process of obtaining management approval.

There will be no restrictions on the use of the cash grants received to enable families to maintain their dignity by prioritizing the use of funds based on their specific needs. Once cash grant distribution is concluded, post-distribution monitoring will evaluate the effectiveness of this intervention.

(B) Essential household items: Targeting 14,000 people from 3,500 households

The most vulnerable people, whose homes have been inundated by floods and who have been displaced to safer locations, neighboring villages, and relatives' houses, will be targeted for assistance. According to the DMC report, over 10,000 people have been displaced, and branch assessments indicate over 25,000 people in relatives' houses and neighboring villages. The need for essential household items and the required quantity were determined based on initial assessments conducted by the branches.

These families will receive essential household items such as adult kits (toothbrush, sanitary napkin, underwear, towel, comb, small torch, plates, cup, umbrella, bed sheet), baby kits (napkin, vest kit, bowl, towel, flannel, feeding cap, feeding bottle, spoon & cup, safety pin, diaper), folding mattresses, towels, bed sheets, sarongs, and kaplan.

(C) Health: Targeting 21,000 people through medical camps and first aid activities

Due to transport disruptions and sudden relocations to safer areas, many people require immediate first aid as access to healthcare is limited. The need for first aid is due to the sudden floods and high water levels, which have led to injuries among people and children evacuating from their homes. Additionally, individuals with chronic diseases require immediate hospital transfer. Shortages of medicines and disruptions caused by the economic crisis have further worsened the health conditions of the affected population. Mobile medical camps are being set up to provide assistance to those trapped by floodwaters.

(D) Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: Targeting 30,000 people through the distribution of drinking water and well cleaning

WASH interventions involve well-cleaning, providing drinking water, and assisting vulnerable households in cleaning their homes and



surroundings. Volunteers will also participate in community clean-up operations to remove waste from low-lying areas and riverbanks to prevent dengue mosquito breeding. Additionally, volunteers will provide information, education, and communication (IEC) materials to promote good hygiene practices and educate the community on how to reuse plastic water bottles to minimize environmental impact.

In the targeted districts, SLRCS branches will conduct a detailed assessment to identify dug wells used by the most affected households for drinking and other purposes that have been contaminated due to floodwater. The cleaning process should be carried out under the guidance of public health inspectors from the respective medical offices in the area, following the Oxfam cleaning criteria.

SLRCS notes that some harder-hit families may already be receiving assistance from various sectors. A comprehensive assessment will be conducted, and relevant government authorities will be promptly informed and coordinated with to prevent overlapping assistance efforts. The initial list will be shared in advance with government authorities to ensure that those who truly need assistance are notified. SLRCS will ensure sufficient assistance is provided in the affected districts. At the end of the operation, SLRCS will organize a lessons-learned workshop to review the operation and identify areas for improvement.

In its responses, SLRCS will ensure that programs under this operation are aligned with its gender commitments and IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming. Specific considerations will include the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, migrants, and households with infants or young children. These groups are more vulnerable to challenges related to access to nutrient-rich food and safe water and are more susceptible to diseases and infections.

SLRCS always focuses on establishing a robust community feedback mechanism throughout the operation to ensure all voices in the community are heard and accepted. This is done by conducting more community meetings during implementation in all locations, in addition to hotline services. For conducting activities, SLRCS will set up a robust feedback mechanism to ensure community ownership is built throughout the operation.

Under this operation, the NS will cover certain staff members who will be directly involved in implementing the DREF activities. Since the economic crisis, the NS has found it very challenging to retain and support staff. This is the minimum staff needed, considering the geographical conditions of the affected areas, coordination, transport, and distance between the field, branch office, NHQ, and management of high-deliverable activities for the response within a span of four months.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Through detailed assessments and household surveys, SLRCS will identify the most severely affected people in the targeted districts, focusing on damages and losses to their livelihoods and houses due to floodwaters, river overflows, and impacts on their health. Beneficiary selection will be a community-driven process and will be carried out in close coordination with local authorities.

SLRCS has developed pre-established beneficiary selection criteria for Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), which will be further detailed and explained to the volunteers. Branches will coordinate with government authorities to identify the worst-affected Divisional Secretariat (DS) divisions, taking into consideration previous DREF operations, and ensuring inclusion of the most affected households to prevent duplication in geographical areas.

The list of selected beneficiaries will be shared with government authorities for verification and confirmation, making them aware of beneficiary details to avoid overlap with assistance from other partners. Once confirmed by Grama Niladhari (GN) officers (government authorities), the list will be posted in public places or GN offices at the village level, along with a hotline number for community feedback.

SLRCS has dedicated, trained staff available 24/7 to record community feedback, which branches will verify against the selection criteria. Based on initial assessments by the branches, SLRCS will target 6,500 households (26,000 people as direct beneficiaries) affected by floods in the seven districts. This assistance will include multi-purpose cash aid for 3,000 households (12,000 people) and non-food items for 3,500 households (14,000 people). Additionally, SLRCS will provide health interventions through medical camps and first aid services, covering approximately 5,250 households (21,000 people).

Under Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), SLRCS will cover 7,500 households (30,000 people as direct beneficiaries) through well-cleaning, distribution of mosquito nets and drinking water bottles, and support through community clean-up campaigns at public places.

Total target: 77,000 people (19,250 households) will be directly targeted through the response operation.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

This operation aims to provide assistance to the severely affected population in the districts of Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara, Rathnapura, Galle, Matara, and Puttalam according to specific predefined criteria tailored to the situation.

Priority will be given to people displaced by floods, mudslides, and heavy winds who are currently residing in safe centers, as well as those who have lost their livelihoods. Additionally, affected individuals returning to their homes after the floodwaters recede will be prioritized.

Special considerations will be made for vulnerable groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women, women-headed households, and households with infants or young children. These groups face greater challenges related to accessing food and safe water and are more susceptible to diseases and infections.

During the detailed assessment, more information on vulnerable groups such as the elderly, disabled, pregnant and lactating mothers, and women-headed households will be collected to target them for assistance. This information will be verified with government authorities. Areas previously covered by the last DREF operation will also be considered during the assessment to avoid duplication of efforts.

As communities moderately affected by the disaster begin to return to their daily routines, reducing the need for further assistance, the government is extending aid to those affected. In its response, SLRCS will ensure that activities under this operation align with its gender commitments and the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming.

Total Targeted Population

Women	31,722	Rural	60%
Girls (under 18)	8,161	Urban	40%
Men	30,320	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	6,797		
Total targeted population	77,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Risk of contracting the dengue virus: volunteers	This risk will be mitigated by providing self-care packs, which consist of mosquito repellents, gloves, and hand sanitizers, to all volunteers working in the field.
inadequate human resource capacity (NHQ & branches)	The presidential election in the country is expected to be in October. National Society will always plan to implement the main activities within the first three months and the last months for reporting (During October) Accordingly, NS will plan the HR requirement and allocate the required support to the branches of NDRT to support the response activities, and more volunteers will be mobilized to complete the entire activity before the end of October. NS plans and implements the activities through community engagement and partnerships with government stakeholders.
Delay in obtaining tax exemption for international procurement	For mosquito nets, NS first explores in-country procurement with the same specifications. if not, IFRC will immediately start the process of international procurement without delay. It will take



	the initiative to get the prior approvals in advance, as it has already coordinated with the relevant authorities and is familiar with the process.
Upcoming election & political intervention: delay the beneficiary selection	Better coordination with branches and government stakeholders will speed up the activities before the election. The selection criteria will be adhered to through the community-based process, and the CEA will be strengthened during the implementation period.
Ongoing southwest monsoon: delaying the implementation of the activities	Pre-planning of activities and better coordination with local authorities for implementation of activities without delay. NS had similar experiences implementing the intervention last year.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The SLRCS security framework will be applicable for the duration of the operation to their staff and volunteers. For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, existing IFRC country office or CCD security plans will be applicable. All IFRC and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged to complete the IFRC Stay Safe 2.0 e-learning courses. The National Society enjoys a good level of community acceptance countrywide, with established networks of community-based volunteers.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 38,001
Targeted Persons: 14,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of households provided with essential household items assistance	3,500

Priority Actions

1. Conduct a detailed assessment to identify 3,500 households (HHs) in the targeted districts severely affected by the disaster.
2. Procure non-food/household items, including: 3,500 bed sheets; 3,500 towels; 100 sarongs; 100 caftans; 600 mosquito nets; 200 folding mattresses; 50 adult kits; 50 baby kits.
3. Obtain approval from relevant government authorities for procurement and distribution.
4. Develop a distribution plan and distribute the items to the identified households.
5. Conduct monitoring during and after distribution, including post-distribution monitoring to assess the impact and effectiveness of the non-food item distribution.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 210,176
Targeted Persons: 12,000



Indicators

Title	Target
# of targeted households provided with cash assistance.	3,000
# of post distribution monitoring conducted	1

Priority Actions

1. Conduct a detailed assessment and beneficiary verification in the targeted districts.
2. Implement a community feedback mechanism to ensure the voices of beneficiaries are heard and addressed.
3. Collect all supporting documents and verify the Financial Service Provider (FSP).
4. Provide unconditional cash grants to 3,000 targeted households in the identified districts.
5. Conduct monitoring visits to confirm the delivery of cash.
6. Conduct Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) and publish a report to assess the effectiveness of the cash grants distribution.



Budget: CHF 35,929

Targeted Persons: 21,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of medical camps and First aid services conducted	35
# of people reached by medical camps and First aid assistance.	21,000
# of households supported with the mosquito nets	600

Priority Actions

1. Procure basic items for first aid and medical camps.
2. Establish 28 medical camps (4 in each district) and 7 first aid services (one in each district) to provide additional health assistance to affected communities.
3. Mobilize volunteers and provide incentives.
4. Coordinate with the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health officers for inspection and approval.
5. Procure and distribute 600 mosquito nets to prevent dengue breeding.



Budget: CHF 116,279

Targeted Persons: 30,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people reached by hygiene promotion activities during the response periods	30,000
# of people receiving protection from Environmental sanitation activities	7,000



# of people who have been supplied with an improved protected source of drinking water (well)	12,000
# of people supported with drinking water bottles	7,500

Priority Actions

1. Organize 7 clean-up campaigns to support vulnerable households in cleaning their houses, surroundings, drainage, and common buildings, including schools.
2. Conduct impact assessment to identify households using dug wells inundated by floodwater.
3. Procure and select well-cleaning service providers.
4. Clean 3,000 dug wells in the targeted districts (approximately 400 wells each) as per established criteria.
5. Develop Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials and distribute them during the clean-up campaigns and well-cleaning processes to promote awareness of best hygiene practices, safe drinking water, and vector control practices.
6. Procure and distribute 5-litre drinking water bottles to family members displaced by floods and landslides from their homes.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 77,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of individuals covered through dignity, access, and protection activities	77,000
# no of volunteers oriented on PGI and Code of conducts	350

Priority Actions

To ensure dignity, access, protection, and safety during community engagements across both responses, the following actions will be undertaken:

1. Conduct orientation sessions on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and the code of conduct for volunteers.
2. Print and prominently display Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) prevention messages at distribution and safe centers.
3. Identify and establish child-friendly and women-friendly spaces at safe centers as need



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 5,519

Targeted Persons: 77,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of people informed about the MPCA/NFI selection process of the beneficiaries	12,000
# of people reached through social media on awareness	77,000
# of staff/volunteers oriented on CEA and community feedback mechanism	350



# of community or orientation meetings conducted	42
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Priority Actions

To enhance community engagement and accountability (CEA) throughout the response, the following actions will be implemented:

1. Conduct refresher sessions and orientation on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) for volunteers and staff.
2. Activate a feedback mechanism to receive and address grievances from communities.
3. Share the selection criteria with the community during community meetings.
4. Strengthen the feedback mechanism through hotline services.
5. Set up a community desk at Grama Niladhari (GN) offices during community meetings.



Coordination And Partnerships

Budget: CHF 9,304

Targeted Persons: 77,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.)	8
# of volunteers supported with T-shirt, Caps and Jacket to ensure the visibility to the intervention	350

Priority Actions

1. Conduct monitoring visits to identify gaps and good practices.
2. Share and update interventions based on monitoring findings.
3. Collect and publish case stories, and produce video footage to highlight impact and success stories.
4. Procure jackets and t-shirts for staff and volunteers to create visibility for the intervention.
5. Share news updates and publish articles in newspapers to raise awareness and communicate achievements.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 14,652

Targeted Persons: 77,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of surge support deployed to during the implementation period	1
# of monitoring visits conducted	4

Priority Actions

To ensure effective response operations, the following actions will be implemented:

1. Identify the need for surge support based on ongoing assessments and needs.



2. Deploy surge support personnel to bolster response efforts.
3. Conduct monitoring visits to affected districts to oversee the implementation of activities.
4. Conduct and participate in coordination meetings and brief government stakeholders on operational strategy.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 62,134

Targeted Persons: 77,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of progress review meeting conducted	8
# of rapid and detailed assessment teams deployed at branch level (Target: 2 teams per branch)	14
# of project staff involved in the NHQ and branch-level	18
# of monitoring visits conducted at the NHQ and branch level	8
# of volunteers involved in the operation insured	350
# of lessons learned workshop conducted	1

Priority Actions

1. Recruit and deploy all local operation-based staff at NHQ and branch levels.
2. Ensure all staff and volunteers are insured, and protection is ensured throughout the operation.
3. Conduct assessments based on the situation and needs analysis.
4. Conduct monitoring by branches, NHQ, and IFRC.
5. Conduct progress review meetings at the NHQ level.
6. Conduct lesson-learned workshops to capture insights and improvements.
7. Produce case stories, news, and share good practices to highlight successes and promote learning.

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 350 volunteers (a combination of males and females) will be involved in this response. The profile will cover WASH and Health (including PSFA), CEA, and PGI sectors. Staff and volunteers from each branch and SLRCS HQ will be engaged as well directly. The operation will be run by a project manager (national staff) with a team comprising a project assistant, field officer, coordinator, finance, and driver, for a total of 18 staff and 20 management interns for the entire operation.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

Based on the situation, NS requests and operational needs surge (Health/Wash/Procurement/Operations/Finance) will be requested.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The market in Colombo is projected to be sufficient to supply the required items. Thus, there will be no need for international procurement. Since the requested items are available and within the threshold of in-country procurement, SLRCS will follow IFRC procurement standards.



However, for the mosquito nets, the procurement team will check the availability of the medicated WHO standard nets within the country. If not available, IFRC will need international procurement support from the CCD level.

How will this operation be monitored?

SLRCS will oversee all operational, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting aspects of the present operation in the affected areas through its country-wide network of branches and volunteers. IFRC, through its Country Office and CCD in Delhi and APRO in Kuala Lumpur, will provide technical support in program management to ensure the operational objectives are met. Reporting on the operation will be carried out in accordance with the IFRC-DREF minimum reporting standards. Regular updates will be issued during the operation's timeframe and a final report within three months of the end of the operation.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

SLRCS communications staff are working in close coordination with the IFRC regional communications team to ensure that the evolving humanitarian needs and SLRCS response are profiled across social media platforms and in the national and international media. A proactive approach will be taken to maintain media outreach and to produce communications materials, including press releases, news stories, photos/videos, key messages, and infographics for external promotion by Partner National Societies in their networks.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRLK019 - Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Monsoon Floods 2024

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	405,903
Shelter and Basic Household Items	38,001
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	210,176
Health	35,929
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	116,279
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	5,519
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	86,090
Coordination and Partnerships	9,304
Secretariat Services	14,652
National Society Strengthening	62,134
TOTAL BUDGET	491,993

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

