



# ANNUAL REPORT **2018**





SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY  
RATNAPURA BRANCH

**BDRT**

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

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# ACRONYMS

Branch Disaster Response Teams	BDRTs
Branch Executive Officers	BEO
Central Governing Board	CGB
Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project	CRIWMP
Disaster Risk Reduction	DRR
Director-General	DG
Green Climate Fund	GCF
International Committee of Red Cross	ICRC
International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies	IFRC
Medical Officer of Health	MOH
National Head Quarters	NHQ
Non-Communicable Diseases	NCDs
Organisational Development	OD
Regional Director of Health Services	RDHS
Restoring Family Links	RFL
Sri Lanka Red Cross society	SLRCS
United Nations Development Program	UNDP

## MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA **RED CROSS SOCIETY**

Vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka have always been at the centre of all our humanitarian endeavours. We, at Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS), are present right across development and humanitarian activities in the country, from disaster preparedness to response, and recovery, to assisting communities in strengthening their capacity to rebuild better. We derive our strength from our volunteers widespread among the communities, helping the most vulnerable people in responding to challenges they have to face. We are firm in our conviction that resilient communities are the foundation of sustainable development.

2018 was a challenging year for us, but we reached more than 100,000 people through our various community programmes in Sri Lanka, proving to be a vital auxiliary to the Government.

Floods were one of the key challenges we faced in 2018 as they disrupted the lives of over 175,000 people in several districts. We worked effectively with new means of coordinating with Government and Non-governmental Organisations to meet the challenges posed by these disasters. We were in the forefront, providing people with cash for immediate recovery, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities as well as health and care assistance. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), closely supported us, in our efforts.

Apart from the disaster-related response, we engaged in Climate Resilience programmes investing well in the capacity building. Our shelter programme in the Estate sector created a significant improvement in housing for plantation workers who have received meagre support for a long time. In 2018, we also handover 118 homes constructed under the Estate housing project funded by the Government of India in the year.

Victims of both man-made and natural disasters immensely appreciate our post-disaster psychosocial support.



We helped over 20,000 persons in more than 100 minor and 24 major First Aid services last year and engaged in AIDS awareness and prevention projects. Our Dengue Prevention unit has established itself as a leading partner of the Dengue Unit of the Ministry of Health with the annual SLRCS Dengue Symposium now a much sought- after event in their calendar. We also conducted blood donation programmes together with the support of local institutions. Furthermore, SLRCS Restoring Family Links and Tracing staff with the assistance of ICRC have been linking families for decades, with their kith and kin, separated due to the country's conflict.

Meanwhile, our Humanitarian Values Department has raised visibility and promoted our Principles and Values among the public, while our Organisational Development (OD) team is crucial to the upkeep and promotion and developing of our organisation.

I am extremely happy that 2018 was a productive year in terms of assistance and development, as one, that brought out the best of our capability and commitment. The milestone opening of the Red Cross Tower ushered in investors and tenants from around the world financing our humanitarian efforts.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to our humanitarian efforts in 2018 – the dedicated volunteers and staff members, the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Partner National Societies (PNSs), and all major donors and supportive well-wishers. I also wish to acknowledge our continued and strong engagement with the Government of Sri Lanka and affiliated institutions, with much appreciation and gratitude.

**JAGATH ABEYSINGHE**





## OUR HISTORY

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has been in operation over the last eight decades in a range of humanitarian services. SLRCS was formed in 1936 as a volunteer-based organisation named 'Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society' to aid manmade and natural disasters like the malaria epidemic.

After the country became independent, the Ceylon Central Council branch of British Red Cross Society was dissolved and reformed as the 'Ceylon Red Cross Society' in 1949. In 1952, the League of Red Cross Societies, which is now known as the International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) recognised the Ceylon Red Cross Society as one of their National Societies.

With the change of the country's name from Ceylon to Sri Lanka in 1972, the Ceylon Red Cross Society was re-named - the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society.

Today, the SLRCS as a reputed humanitarian organisation has an established islandwide network with the Headquarters located in Colombo, branches in all 25 administrative districts of Sri Lanka, over 118 staff members and 6000 active volunteers.

## OUR VISION

Communities vulnerable to risks  
and hazards are resilient and  
treated with respect and dignity

## OUR MISSION

We strive to enhance volunteer  
actions, maximise capacities and  
mobilise resources to build  
community resilience and create a  
safer environment for those exposed  
to disasters, emergencies and  
social exclusions

## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND CORE VALUES





# 6

## CORE VALUES

- **People:** we build the capacities of people and communities to work in solidarity in order to find sustainable solutions for their most pressing needs and vulnerabilities.
- **Integrity:** We work in accordance with our Fundamental Principles in a transparent and accountable manner.
- **Partnership:** As members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, guided by its statutes, we cooperate with the government, and other organisations in line with the Fundamental Principles, without compromising our emblems and independence, impartiality and neutrality that they represent.
- **Diversity:** We respect the diversity of the communities we work with, and of our volunteers, members and staff, based on non-discrimination and our principles of impartiality, unity and universality.
- **Leadership:** We show leadership and strive for excellence in our work, drawing attention to the rights, needs and vulnerabilities of communities and the factors that underline them.
- **Innovation:** We draw inspiration from our shared history and tradition, but are equally committed to finding creative, sustainable solutions to problems that threaten human well-being and dignity in a changing world.

## OUR STRATEGIC AIMS

To address the humanitarian needs of the vulnerable communities effectively, SLRCS is operating under three strategic directions that were formulated in alignment with the social, political and economic scenarios of the country. Our current strategic framework is set for four years spanning from 2018-2021; which guides us in efficiently setting priorities, using resources and strengthening our operations to address the needs of vulnerable, diverse communities in need of help. The three strategic aims are:

- 1 Building resilience among vulnerable communities to cope with disasters and emergencies,
- 2 Reducing risks of morbidity and mortality during health emergencies and promote healthy lifestyles among communities and,
- 3 Reducing stigma and discrimination in the society through improved community behaviours and increase social acceptance while upholding human dignity, working with different vulnerable disadvantaged groups

Specific objectives have been set with milestones under each strategic aim. From operationalising the plan to achieving its goals and milestones, the SLRC strategic plan is equipped with an operational implementation framework to deliver results-based outcomes. These are accomplished through strategies such as organisational monitoring and evaluations mechanisms of the core programs, financial plan, performance management systems and indicators.

## OUR BRANCH NETWORK

We have a well-established network of functional branches in all 25 administrative districts, with the capacity and a strong response mechanism to withstand any emerging natural disaster situations.



**25**  
DISTRICT  
BRANCHES



## OUR PARTNERS

Our partners are one of our biggest strengths and an essential aspect of SLRCS's approach to humanitarian assistance, to deliver effective and sustainable results. We work with a wide range of partners from public and private sectors as well as the civil society. Their support and guidance have encouraged us to reach thousands of people in need. Many of our humanitarian activities involve joint action with main components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; IFRC, ICRC and Partner National Societies. We also partnered with Oxfam to provide emergency response support during floods in 2018.

We are grateful for the trust and support extended by the authorities of the Government of Sri Lanka-the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Public Health Authorities, Blood Bank and the health officials during public health promotions. In implementing the Climate Change Adaptation project, we have been partnering with the Department of Agrarian Development, the District and Divisional Secretariat Offices, Medical Officer of Health Offices, Department of Forest Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Farmer Organisations in the Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Killinochchi and Mullaitivu districts.

SLRCS is the implementation partner (in the Kurunegala District) of the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project initiated by the Government of Sri Lanka with the coordination assistance of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) with the funding assistance of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In implementing the project, we have been partnering with the Ministry of Disaster Management, Ministry of Education, UNDP and the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment.

We implement the Indian housing project in the estate sector in collaboration with a range of partners. They include; the High Commission of India, Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development, Plantation Human Development Trust, National Building Research Organisation, Central Environmental Authority, Ceylon Electricity Board, Road Development Authority, the respective local authorities, estate workers' housing cooperative societies and estate workers' trade unions.

The support by all our donors and partners is our strength, and without them, we would not have achieved our success. Therefore, it is with deep appreciation we want to acknowledge their valuable contribution and pay tribute to them for being with us thought out our journey in 2018.



## GOVERNANCE

The SLRCS is governed by a Central Governing Board (CGB) comprised of President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, National Secretary, Chairman - Finance Commission, Director General (DG) and 10 other members. Policy and strategic decisions are taken by the CGB. The CGB appoints finance commission, statutory committees and other ad-hoc committees to guide and direct the management to ensure adherence of policies and practices. Thereby sub-committees are appointed from the selected governance and the management members both at the National Head Quarters (NHQ) and branches for core programme sectors as well as other needy programmes, to ensure efficient functions of programmes as well as to align with policy directives of governance.

The current NHQ core management structure comprises of the Director-General and a Deputy Director-General. There are seven “Focal Points” appointed for core areas such as Disaster Management, Health, Organisational Development, Humanitarian Values, Communication, Human Resources, Finance, Transportation who execute programmes through their respective programme officers and managers.

The Branch Executive Officers (BEO) is the top management of the branches and accountants and other staff if at all appointed function under the administrative authority of the BEO, directed by the Branch Chairman at branch level as well as DG at NHQ level.



*SLRCS is well equipped to deliver vital services to help communities in need during disasters and emergencies*





# DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Sri Lanka has topped the indexes of climate change vulnerable countries because of the series of extreme weather-related events - mainly storms and heavy rainfalls resulting in floods and landslides. In the past few years, while some parts of the country were affected by the severe floods and landslides, certain other parts of the country experienced prolonged droughts, indicating an increasing need for a strong disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response system. Being a leading humanitarian organisation with extensive experience in disaster responses and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), we are committed to supporting each other in times of disasters and emergencies.

## BUILDING CAPACITY OF SLRCS STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

During 2018, our volunteers and staff reached almost 50,000 disaster-affected and vulnerable people through diverse programs.

**Building the capacity of Red Cross staff and volunteers through a range of training makes them exceptional experts.**

**Training Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRTs):** We have a network of BDRTs consisting of staff and volunteers across the country who play a crucial role in disaster response. Improving their skills to manage emergency response activities is vital to us.

In 2018, we trained 247 staff and volunteers of BDRTs on their main responsibilities, with the support of our partners ICRC and IFRC.

**“** We want to ensure that our volunteers and staff are competent in disaster response. We provide training to carry out need assessments during an emergency, manage and coordinate relief efforts to help affected communities and, manage camps. Also, the trainees receive knowledge on other skills like reporting disaster response activities, and the terminology used in the Disaster Management context. **”**

**Damitha Chanaka**  
Deputy Focal Point  
Disaster Management - SLRCS



*A BDRT training held for the SLRCS-Hambantota Branch volunteers*

## Camp management training for staff and volunteers:

The knowledge in camp management plays a significant role in assisting disaster-affected or vulnerable people. The objective of camp management is to ensure that the displaced victims are provided with assistance and protection conforming with the agreed national and international laws and guidelines. In 2018, 80 SLRCS staff and volunteers received training on the aspects of camp management with the support of ICRC and IFRC.

**“** At the camp management training, I learned about the minimum standards of supplies, facilities and services, which needs to be considered when managing camps during emergencies. **”**



**Samithambi Kanusuthan**  
Red Cross Volunteer  
Batticaloa branch





*SLRCS volunteers and community members take part in boat riding training*

## Preparation of contingency plans:

### Early planning saves lives and makes responses cost-effective

Contingency planning is a crucial management tool that the organisations can use to prepare for emergency responses and to ensure timely and efficient provision of humanitarian aid.

Contingency plan development involves making prior decisions about financial and human resource management, communications and coordination procedures and being aware of the technical and logistical responses. In 2018, we prepared contingency plans for the SLRCS Batticaloa and Killinochchi branches.

## Boat riding and water rescue training:

Floods are a disaster that most regularly occurs in Sri Lanka. As such, to build disaster response capacity and rescue operations, we provided training to 25 community members and volunteers in boat riding at the SLRCS training centre in Bentota.



## DISASTER RESPONSES

### When a disaster strikes, we maintain a strong presence

The SLRCS has had extensive experiences in disaster relief and response work for both natural and manmade disasters. When a disaster hits the country, we become active to respond to emergency needs as quickly and efficiently as possible.



*SLRCS volunteers and the Branch Disaster Response Team of the Ratnapura branch engage in evacuating people affected by floods in May 2018*

In 2018, SLRCS, with the support of IFRC and ICRC launched search, rescue, relief operations and early recovery support assisting over 50,000 people who were severely affected by floods, which occurred in different parts of the country. During these operations, our trained staff and volunteers rescued 2,484 individuals.

Besides the rescue operations, the services provided included first-aid and ambulance assistance, ferry services, provision of cooked food and drinking water bottles with the support of private donors, medical camps, tents and tarpaulin, dry ration and hygiene kits etc.

**Well cleaning:** Flooding can severely impact the quality and safety of well water due to contamination causing severe illnesses. By quickly taking appropriate actions, risks associated with water-borne diseases can be greatly mitigated.

We cleaned 3,500 wells contaminated due to floods during 2018. Along with this, the Red Cross volunteers and staff continued to provide hygiene promotion awareness on safe water, food handling, cleaning campaigns and vector controls to the people affected.





*Recipients of the cash grants distributed in May 2018 at the National Youth Centre Auditorium in Maharagama*

## Cash grants for floods and landslide affected families: Giving cash is a helping hand for communities to recover

With the assistance IFRC, we distributed cash grants of LKR 10,000 to 2,800 flood and landslide affected families living in Kaluthara, Gampaha and Colombo districts to support their immediate recovery needs.





*"We have 120 acres of paddy fields that can be cultivated in our village. Since the tank is in a dilapidated condition and the water capacity is not sufficient, we have not been able to fully cultivate the lands, recently. Renovation of this tank will help us harvest more paddy in the future."*

*- The Agriculture Development Officer-in-charge of Pahalththanni*



# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS

## Climate Resilient and Health Project

While the effects of climate change disproportionately threaten everyone in the globe, we witness extreme weather patterns, diminishing water resources and falling crop yields everywhere. People who depend on agriculture and natural resources are the most vulnerable.

Dry Zone of Sri Lanka is particularly vulnerable to both droughts and floods. The livelihoods of people in the Dry Zone has been fully or partially shaped by agriculture. These weather conditions usually have severe impacts on their farming, irrigation infrastructure and quality and quantity of clean drinking water.

In order to deal with extreme weather conditions, and reduce their vulnerabilities, it is imperative to focus on adaptation methods to climate change by building resilience.

SLRCS is implementing a climate change adoption project named 'Climate Resilient and Health Project, with the funding assistance of IFRC to strengthen people's livelihoods and assist them in adapting to the climate changes in the dry zone.

Following a pilot project implemented in Mannar, this project is being implemented in four districts in the dry zone: Anuradhapura, Puttalam, Killinochchi and Mullaitivu.

The project directly reaches 800 families through a range of activities:

- ▶ Orientation programs to improve farmers' knowledge on climate-smart agriculture such as storage and disposal of agrochemicals, and training on home gardening,
- ▶ Distribution of drought- resilient plants and home gardening tools to encourage home gardening to sustain their food requirements,
- ▶ Renovation of an agri-road and small irrigation tanks used for agricultural purposes by the farmers, and formation of village-level committees for maintenance.



*Distribution of plants and home gardening tools in Anuradhapura*



## Climate-Smart Agriculture: we introduced measures to improve the nutrition level of the soil to improve the future paddy harvest.

*Back in the day, the areas surrounding paddy fields were covered by a tree called “Mee”. This bore a nitrogen-rich fruit with a hard nut that eventually fell onto the ground, decayed and increased the soil-nutrient content significantly, which in turn allowed the paddy to grow more abundantly. These trees are cut down and not visible anymore; hence, farmers tend to use fertiliser instead. Aiming to create a fertile soil, which can produce more harvest in the future, SLRCS initiated a re-planting programme of ‘Mee’ trees in the Puttalam district and distributed plants among 100 families.*



## OTHER INITIATIVES OF THE CLIMATE RESILIENT AND HEALTH PROJECT



Between the tanks and the paddy fields, there is a vast network of basic waterways, which were dug into the ground to irrigate the crops. The water runs through these canals gets absorbed into the soil before reaching the paddy fields. Building a concrete lining can prevent water absorption and increase the amount of water reaching the paddy fields. SLRCS provided financial aid to line a 2.3km long waterway in the Pahalathananaya area.



Construction of the agri road attached to the Anguruwella tank



Eco-system based agricultural practices- Training farmers on groundnut cultivation in Mottapeththewa and Mamunuwa cascades





*Construction of the bunt of Karuwalaghamula Tank in Anguruwella cascade in Ehetuwewa*

## Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers through integrated water management

Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP) is a seven-year project initiated by the Government of Sri Lanka in 2017 with the coordination assistance of UNDP, and funding assistance of GCF, to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers in the dry zone to the climate variability and extreme weather conditions.

SLRCS is the implementation partner of this project in the Kurunegala District, where the smallholder farmers face numerous challenges in their livelihoods and living standards.

The Project resources are invested in enhancing adaptation capacity and build the resilience of over 8,000 beneficiaries in the Kurunegala District through:

- ▶ Upgraded 19 village irrigation systems (tank-based cascading systems and infrastructure with 47 tanks) and promoting eco-system based agricultural practices,
- ▶ Enhanced community-managed water supply and management systems through a Rainwater Harvesting system to improve access to safe drinking water,
- ▶ Scaled-up decentralized drinking water systems and,
- ▶ Strengthened early warning, forecasting and climate advisories to protect farmers from climate-related impacts.



# IN 2018,

We provided the following support for the beneficiaries:

- Surveyed and designed the Mamunugama and Anguruwella cascades to start the renovation of 16 tanks
- Provided technical knowledge on Climate-Smart Agriculture to 600 farmers

**HOME GARDENING**  
292 beneficiaries

**COMMERCIAL CROP  
DISTRIBUTION**  
40 beneficiaries

**BUND CULTIVATION  
OF PADDY FIELD**  
220 beneficiaries

**BACKYARD  
POULTRY PROGRAM**  
8 beneficiaries

**CATTLE SHED  
DISTRIBUTION**  
8 beneficiaries

**GROWING PLANTS  
FOR SILAGE  
PRODUCTION**  
30 beneficiaries

**PLANT  
NURSERIES**  
04 established

**EFFECTIVE USAGE OF  
AGRICULTURAL  
MACHINERY**  
71 farmers

**ALOE VERA  
CULTIVATION**  
34 farmers

**GROUNDNUT  
CULTIVATION**  
71 farmers

**HERBAL PLANT  
CULTIVATION**  
14 beneficiaries

**BEEKEEPING**  
40 beneficiaries





**Drinking Water:** Through this project, we established 171 rainwater harvesting recharging units and created awareness among the families on the importance of rainwater harvesting to ensure year-round access to reliable and safe water supply despite climate shocks and stresses.



*Ranbanda, a farmer leader in Hungallewa in his green gram plot cultivated following the Bethma system*

## Climate-Smart Agriculture:

Through the project, SLRCS introduced a traditional cultivation system called “Bethma” (share), a Climate-Smart Agriculture practice that can be adopted in dry areas. According to the Bethma system, when water is not adequate to cultivate the entire land plots through irrigation tanks, the farmers cultivate only a part of the entire command area. They receive proportional land shares in the irrigated part for this purpose. This system increases the effective use of paddy lands as a result of cultivating other field crops in middle seasons.

Location	Hunugallewa
No. of Farmers	33
Total Area	17 Acres
Total Harvest	2,488kg
Cropping intensity per season	146kg per acre
Average market price	210 LKR per kg
Total income per season	LKR 522,480
Income received per farmer	LKR 15,832 LKR





*First-aid service provided in Wattarama Temple in Sabaragamuwa for Vesak festival*



## HEALTH & CARE

**By delivering timely and effective interventions, we earn a unique reputation for addressing the health and care needs of vulnerable people**

Health and care activities conducted by SLRCS include a range of interventions: first aid and emergency response as well as epidemic control, health promotion and disease prevention activities through community-based interventions while enabling community empowerment.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE- HEALTH AND CARE

We have over 75 years of experience in providing first aid in Sri Lanka. Since our inception, first aid training and services have been a major activity of SLRCS. We employ a holistic approach to first aid meeting the physical and psychological need of the injured, their families and the volunteers themselves.

#### First aid during emergencies:

Basic first aid can save lives. When an emergency strikes, the immediate lifesaving medical care plays a vital role. Therefore, in emergency situations, it is important for first aiders to respond quickly and safely. Through 70 First Aid camps, we provided first aid to over 5,500 people affected by floods in 2018. A camp is generally carried out for a minimum duration of two weeks.



*Branch Disaster Response Team of the Colombo branch providing first aid during floods in Kolonnawa area in May 2018*





*A medical camp held in Mulleriyawa-north by the SLRCS-Colombo branch*

## Medical camps during emergencies:

The provision of health services is a crucial component to prevent and reduce any mortality and morbidity during emergencies. We provided access to essential health services prior to hospital visits, for both communicable and non-communicable diseases such as high blood pressure, asthma, heart failure etc. to over 12,000 flood-affected persons through 28 medical camps.

## Hygiene promotion campaigns during emergencies:

Water and Sanitation related diseases significantly increase during disasters such as floods, causing a noteworthy number of deaths and illnesses. During floods in 2018, we conducted 12 hygiene promotion campaigns targeting relief camps, schools and households in different parts of the country to create public awareness on accessing safe water, safe food handling, cleaning the environment, vector control etc., reaching 12,500 beneficiaries. We also distributed hygiene kits including soap and toilet cleaning material to the affected people.







**125**  
FIRST AID  
SERVICES

REACHING OVER  
**75,000**  
INDIVIDUALS

## FIRST AID FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Our volunteers across the country continued to offer first aid based on community needs, especially at religious or cultural events such as processions, campaigns etc., to help them deal with unexpected illnesses or injuries. During 2018, the SLRCS branches carried out more than 125 First Aid Services with the funding assistance of ICRC reaching over 75,000 individuals. This commitment strengthens our first aid volunteer force and builds people's trust towards SLRCS.

*First aid services offered by a group of first aiders attached to the SLRCS-Gampaha branch at a ceremony held at the Manelwatta temple, Biyagama*



## FIRST AID EDUCATION

First aid education helps empower individuals with the skills and confidence required to promptly and effectively respond to an emergency or an accident. We continued providing a range of training to volunteers (children and adults), community members, government officers or anyone else from the private sector to offer first aid services to the people.

### Junior First Aid Training:

The SLRCS youth divisions of all 25 branches trained over 7,500 children between the ages of 12-16 as junior First Aiders.

### Basic First Aid Training for Branch Volunteers and Community Members:

From natural disasters to traffic accidents, any emergency could occur demanding at least a little bit of know-how in first aid. We trained 418 volunteers and community members across the country in basic first aid during 2018.

### Advanced First Aid Training:

Hundred and thirty-six participants who successfully followed and passed the basic first aid examination were trained and sat for exams in Advance First Aid.



*SLRCS Colombo branch providing an advanced first aid training program for traffic police officers*

## First Aid Instructor Training:

From those who participated in the advanced training, we produced 24 fresh First Aid instructors by providing necessary qualifications to make them eligible to work as First Aid instructors in Sri Lanka. We also provided refresher training to 60 existing First Aid instructors in 2018.



*Participants learning teaching methods at a First aid instructor training.*

*A drama performed by the participants at the World First Aid Day Celebration held in Colombo*



## Celebrating the World First Aid Day 2018:

We celebrate the World Red Cross Day, on the second Saturday of September each year, by raising awareness on how first aid can save lives. "First Response to Road Crashes" was the theme of World First Aid Day-2018, recognising the importance of First Aid in responding to road crashes/road accidents. Going in-line with the global theme, SLRCS-NHQ and the branches dedicated the First Aid Day to educate over 700 school bus drivers, three-wheeler drivers, traffic police officers and driving school owners to be trained in First Aid to minimise the loss of lives and long-term disabilities caused due to road accidents.





## BLOOD DONATION

CONTRIBUTED  
**2,912**  
PINTS OF BLOOD

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The members and volunteers of the SLRCS branches continued with their enthusiasm to organise blood donation camps. In 2018, SLRCS contributed to collecting 2,912 pints of blood from different parts of the country for the National Blood Transfusion Service.



*A Blood Donation camp organised by the SLRCS Matara branch at Thelijjawila Samarasinharamaya Temple*



## DENGUE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Dengue epidemic has severe repercussions on public health in Sri Lanka. The disease is predominantly concentrated around urban and semi-urban areas. With the aim of reducing the morbidity and mortality of the targeted population due to Dengue, SLRCS commenced the Dengue Prevention Programme in March 2018, with the funding assistance of IFRC. The program is implemented in partnership with a range of institutions including the Ministry of Health, National Dengue Control Unit, Local Authorities, Municipal Councils and Grama Niladaris.

Dengue Prevention Programme contains three key activities:

- 1 Training the SLRCS Volunteers**
- 2 Organising Community and School Clean-up Campaigns**
- 3 Knowledge of Dengue among School Children**

## 1 Training the SLRCS Volunteers

### Providing knowledge:

Prior to starting the Dengue Prevention Programme, SLRCS with the involvement of Public Health Inspectors and Medical Officers of Health trained over 5000 Red Cross and village volunteers on areas such as dengue infection, identification, destruction of breeding sites, and self-care in the field through 208 training programmes.

### Training on upcycling waste:

Since improper waste disposal can develop breeding sites, the SLRCS trained volunteers to make useful items using waste materials to teach children on waste up-cycling



*SLRCS provided a self-care pack for the trained volunteers to use during the cleaning campaigns. The packs distributed included 8,400 mosquito repellents, 8,400 hand sanitizers, 8,400 pairs of gloves and 180 pairs of gumboots, 450 Red Cross jackets and 500 Red Cross caps.*



*Combination of humid monsoon weather, stagnant water from rains or flooding and mounting piles of rotting garbage creates abundant areas for mosquito breeding.*

## 2 Organising Community and School Clean-up Campaigns

SLRCS along with the Public Health Inspectors launched a massive door-to-door campaign to educate and raise awareness on the dengue crisis and eradicate breeding sites in many parts of the country. Along with this, we organised over 400 community and school clean-up campaigns and awareness creation programmes benefiting over 400,000 people.

The dengue mosquito is most active during daylight. Therefore, the removal of dengue breeding sites at schools is critical in preventing and controlling dengue among children. We carried out over 500 school clean-up campaigns benefiting over 400,000 children in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Gampaha, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Jaffna, Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts.



රන් කරවු



න්ව, මව්පියන්ව, සහෝදර  
රද? අසලවැසියන්ව ආදරේද?  
වි පරිසරයේ මදුරුවන්  
තැන් විනාශ කරන්න.

බෙංගු වැළැක්වීමට දැනෙන බැව් කර්තව්  
සරසවි කරන්නා වූව

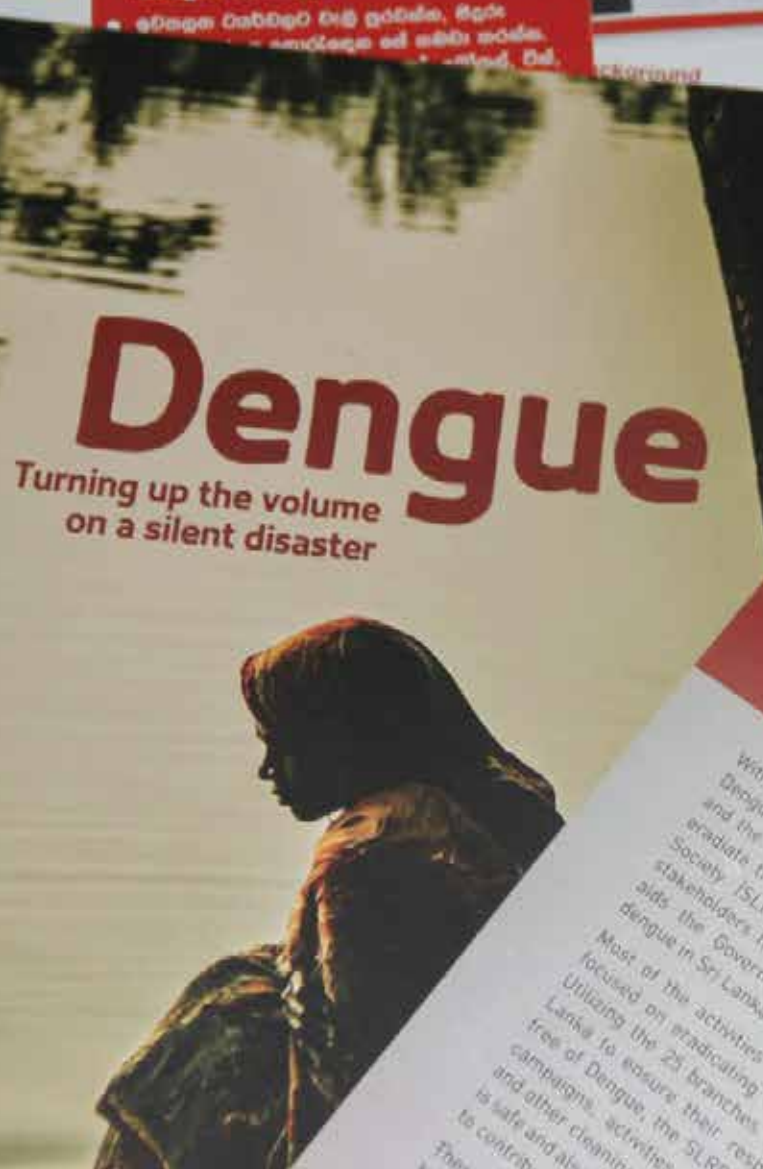
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# Dengue

Turning up the volume  
on a silent disaster

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## DENGUE PREVENTION PROGRAM

With the Sri Lankan Government announcing that  
Dengue has reached epidemic levels in Sri Lanka  
and the importance of carrying out activities to  
eradicate the disease, the Sri Lanka Red Cross  
Society (SLRCS) in association with several  
stakeholders has engaged in programmes that  
aid the Government's efforts in eradicating  
dengue in Sri Lanka.

Most of the activities of the Society have  
focused on eradicating dengue breeding  
Utilizing the 25 branches scattered  
Lanka to ensure their respective  
free of Dengue, the SLRCS  
campaigns, activities, and other cleaning  
is safe and also  
to contribute  
These

and design effective  
campaigns including  
Volunteers  
where  
high



## Towards 'A Dengue Free Kegalle'

SLRCS joined hands with the Kegalle Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS) Office to create a "Dengue Free Kegalle" under the Dengue Prevention Programme. We provided essential items worth LKR 2.5 million, which included volunteer kits, fogging kits, fogging machines, spray tanks, wheelbarrows, pipettes and larvae collection bottles for entomological analysis and megaphones to the RDHS Office Kegalle.

In the areas where dengue fever was highly prevalent, SLRCS carried out fogging and spraying programmes using the equipment donated by SLRCS.



## OTHER PREVENTIVE MEASURES INTRODUCED BY THE PROGRAMME



### Covering wells to eradicate Dengue mosquito breeding sites:

Used and unused wells were among s dengue mosquito breeding sites. To address this, SLRCS Batticaloa branch covered 160 community wells, and the Trincomalee branch covered 20 school wells with a lid made out of a net, which can be opened and closed when necessary.



### Cleaning obstructed canals:

When water stagnates in canals; they act as dengue mosquito breeding sites. The Gampaha branch of SLRCS conducted three canal cleaning programmes and instructed the community to maintain the canals up to required standards in the future.



### Home Gardening Exhibition in Matara:

Improper disposal of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste might act as mosquito breeding sites. Bio-degradable waste can be turned into compost (organic fertilizer) and can be used for organic farming. SLRCS Matara branch in collaboration with the Weligama Medical Officer of Health (MOH) selected 11 farmers and distributed compost bins to promote home gardening by waste management. After three months of distribution, SLRCS Matara branch with the MOH office conducted a home gardening exhibition and awarded valuable gifts to the winners.



### 3 Knowledge of Dengue among School Children

The Dengue Prevention Programme focuses on educating children and providing expertise and support needed to ensure that their school and community environment is free from dengue breeding sites. To assess the knowledge of students on dengue and create awareness, SLRCS used innovative approaches such as inter-school drama, art and quiz competitions titled “A Dengue Free School”, upcycling exhibitions and selection of the best dengue circle activity book.



The winning drawings of the inter-school art competition



“ School-based health education is an important compliment in educating the communities and making behavioural changes to manage or eradicate dengue. We believe that the transfer of children's knowledge and behaviour to homes is an effective way to manage dengue cases. For this crucial reason, knowledge of school children plays a vital role. ”

Dr. Ovin Bandaranayake,  
Coordinator- Dengue Operations- NHQ



# NATIONAL DENGUE SYMPOSIUM 2018

In 2018, we jointly conducted the first ever National Dengue Symposium with the National Dengue Control Unit in Colombo with the objective of reducing the duplication of activities among different stakeholders, reducing the morbidity and mortality of the communities due to dengue, and enhancing the relationship between various stakeholders when working towards a Dengue Free Sri Lanka.



*An educational drama performed by the Kurunegala Maliyadeva Girls' School*

## Highlights of the symposium



*Prize giving – the winners of all island Dengue Poster Competition – 2018*

## ADDRESSING COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS THROUGH BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES

**Activities conducted under the Climate Adaptation Project:** Changes in climate can cause climate-sensitive diseases. Under the Climate Resilient and Health Project, we carried out a series of activities to reduce the community health risks by changing the behaviours of community members in selected areas of the project districts: Anuradhapura, Mullaitivu, Killinochchi and Puttalam.

Training Provided	Community Members
Good health habits focusing on hygienic practices such as toilet use	400
Household water treatment and safe storage	800
Safe storage, usage and disposal of agrochemicals	400
Safe storage, usage and disposal of agrochemicals	200



Additionally, the project distributed 800 clay water filters to enable access to safe and clean drinking water for the farmers



*We want to improve every day to be stronger and sustainable as an organisation,  
to enhance our capacity to serve vulnerable people in even greater numbers.*





## ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (OD)

Over the decades, SLRCS continued to develop its capacity to further enhance the ability to efficiently respond to the needs of the vulnerable people. Our OD Programme portfolio has emerged to address organisational capacity requirements, institutional development, and system improvements within SLRCS to deliver our services better. Therefore, SLRCS OD Programmes have been well-integrated into all organisational aspects, such as governance, programs, leadership, branches and the systems like communications, finance, Human Resource, IT etc.

The aim is to make our work easier, more effective and efficient and thereby achieving more rewarding and enjoyable accomplishments.

### GOVERNANCE

SLRCS has an island-wide membership base with different membership categories, which represents different age groups. The volunteers including the youth members with diverse professional backgrounds lead the service deliveries at the grassroot levels.

We focus on strong volunteer and youth development programs to provide them with required skills and encourage their retention with us.

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SLRCS wants the youth to be the next leaders and we encourage young people to get involved in our programs. We implement the youth programs in accordance with the Youth Policy of the SLRCS.



*Every year, we provide training programmes/platforms to the youth who are closely working with us to uplift their skill sets and enable them to understand their prospective contribution to a better society.*





*A beach cleanup organised by the youth attached to the SLRCS-Colombo branch*

# IN 2018,



*A car wash project carried out by the SLRCS youth in Colombo to raise funds to support a water source and a water filtration system for a school in Colombo*



We conducted a national youth camp in Gannoruwa, Kandy with the participation of 70 youth who engaged in activities to enhance their leadership and personal development. The camp also focused on educating the youth on agriculture-based income generation.



We provided leadership training to 40 youth members at the Red Cross Training Center, Thalawa, and worked with them to develop their Annual Plan.



At the SLRC Galle branch, 60 youth members and volunteers received training on resource mobilisation to empower them to be active in leading and participating in Red Cross activities and in the governance



Additionally, youth members and volunteers also got the opportunity to take part in other trainings conducted by SLRCS such as training on safer access to improve their safety, security and capacity.





## VOLUNTEERS

### Volunteers are indispensable, and they are our strength

The services we deliver throughout the country would have not been possible without the efforts of thousands of volunteers who are willing to sacrifice their time, skills and efforts to make a positive difference in the lives of other people. Since we started our operations in Sri Lanka, the volunteers have been our biggest strength. To date, we have over 6,000 registered volunteers.

SLRCS responds to many emergencies a year. Therefore, we recognise that our volunteers need to be suitably and meaningfully assigned, provided with orientation, training, tools and safety and security measures. This will assist them in effectively carrying out their work during incidents such as floods and other emergency. Therefore, we provide opportunities for our volunteers to grow, build their capacity and improve their skills through participating in Red Cross activities, special training, meetings and responsible assignments.



*A volunteer management training programme was conducted in Tissamaharama with the participation of 65 volunteers. During the training, our volunteers visited an elders' care home in the area and helped the elderly.*





“ The best part of volunteering is being able to serve people in need. Red Cross gives space to join and help the most vulnerable people. ”

A. Somasundaram  
First Aid Instructor-Batticaloa branch



In 2018, SLRCS directly provided training to volunteers on key program areas - Disaster Management, Humanitarian Values, and Health. Also, we enabled their participation at the training programs delivered by IFRC or ICRC on the areas like Humanitarian Law. Over 200 volunteers received training and skill development in 2018.

Two SLRCS volunteers attended the Regional Disaster Response Team capacity building activity held in Kalutara. (RDRT is an established disaster response tool of IFRC that are made up of Red Cross Red Crescent staff or volunteers with cross-sectoral expertise, such as health, logistics, water and sanitation, as well as generalist relief workers who can be deployed at a short notice to respond to a disaster.)

**“** We have around thirty volunteers trained in first aid, health, disaster assessment and response. This is our greatest strength. Skilled volunteers make our responses and community work easy, enabling us to carry out community-based activities with limited budget allocations and resources. **”**

**V-Premakumar**  
Branch Executive Officer  
Batticaloa

SLRCS ensures that volunteers and employees have equal access to training opportunities and Red Cross employment.

*“ I was initially a volunteer, but I’m the BEO today. The training and exposure I received helped my mobility in the career ladder. ”*



**V-Premakumar**  
Branch Executive Officer  
Batticaloa

SLRCS plans to involve more volunteers in innovative ways to improve our services in the future.

**“** Volunteers can help in many ways. We plan to use volunteers in more innovative ways in the future. Though some individuals like to get involved in volunteering after their formal retirement, their circumstances may not always support field-level activities. In such cases, they can be a volunteer who can contribute by other means such as undertaking office-based volunteering work such as administration, accounting, IT etc. This will help fulfil the existing needs at the SLRCS branches. Therefore, we have plans to get more experience and knowledge of the formally retired volunteers into our service in the future. **”**

**Premalal Ranasinghe**  
Focal Point  
Organisational Development

## CAPACITY BUILDING OF SLRCS EMPLOYEES

SLRCS recognises that employees' capacity building can make a significant impact on service delivery. The skills, knowledge, experience and shared learning improve our ability to deliver effective and efficient services. SLRCS supports the senior leadership and the employees working at the SLRCS branches to build their capacity in fundraising, strategic designing, management and implementation of the programmes.

**“** The opportunity that I received to attend the Workshop titled 'Enhancing a Victim-Centered Approach: Identification, Assistance and Protection of Trafficking Victims in the Asia-Pacific Region' organised by the Bali Process and held in South Korea added a lot of value to my work. The interactive workshop sessions, activities, case studies etc., helped me better understand issues like trafficking and smuggling, and the process of identifying and protecting the victims using the victim-centred approach. I'm already working on transferring my knowledge to the Red Cross volunteers and staff. I strongly believe that we can adopt a similar approach in Sri Lanka to address this issue. SLRCS has already initiated discussions on this with other RFL practitioners in Sri Lanka. **”**

**Kamal Yatawara**  
Focal point  
RFL Program

## SYSTEM STRENGTHENING OF HUMAN RESOURCE AND FINANCE MANAGEMENT

To practice sound financial management and strengthen financial reporting, we introduced a new accounting system QuickBooks, provided necessary equipment, installed software in the SLRCS branches and started training branch staff to better manage the accounts to deliver our work more effectively.

**“** So far, we have provided QuickBooks training to relevant staff in a few branches and have scheduled training for the remaining branches. This will definitely make a huge impact on our performance. Our accounting work used to be more paper based. The new accounting system will make the functions easier and more efficient. **”**

**Chamara Ekanayake**  
Accountant

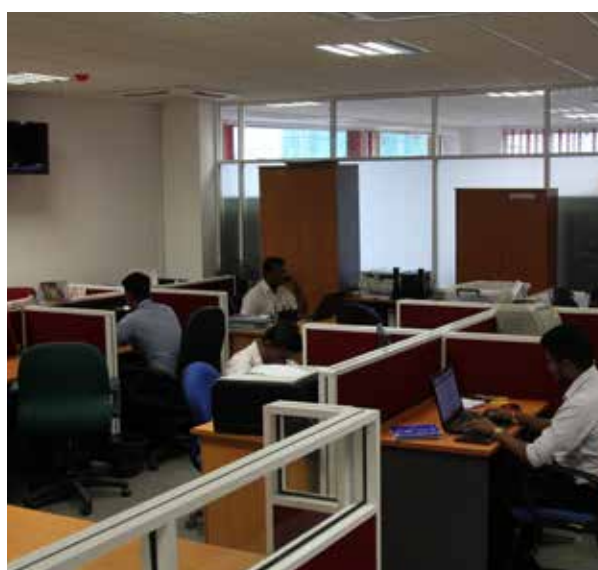
Human resources are the key element of the entire humanitarian operation. In 2018, the SLRCS introduced improved human resource management practices such as a human resource software and an employee periodical appraisal system.

The software maintains the records of all employees and volunteers. We hope the new employment appraisal system will enable us to provide adequate feedback to each employee on his or her performance resulting further improvements of the employees' performances and the SLRCS rewards.





**RED CROSS  
TOWER**



## RED CROSS TOWER

As a result of the high demand for funds to support our humanitarian activities; there was a severe need for us to launch income-generating projects to ensure uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian assistance, across the country, throughout the year. Our new office building, 'the **Red Cross** Tower' constructed with the funding assistance of the IFRC, aims to generate funds for our humanitarian work. The building construction began in 2017 using high standard building material, and skilled labour while ensuring the high construction quality and was completed in 2018 at a value of three million Swiss Francs. The new office building is located in an iconic landmark in the heart of Colombo and consists of eight floors with modern amenities. At present, the building has been a key funding source with 4 out of 5 floors rented out. The fifth floor of the building is occupied by SLRCS National Headquarters.



## Housing is a critical issue in the plantation sector. Owning a house is like a dream come true for Muniyandi



Muniyandi is a 54-year-old father of two. He has been working as a labourer for the Bogowana tea Plantation in Bogawanthalawa, central Sri Lanka. Muniyandi dreams for a house that he could build with his own hands, a house that he can someday pass on to his children and grandchildren. Many people like Muniyandi in the tea plantation sector do not live in a space that they can proudly call their own home. They live in houses built by their employers over hundreds of years ago with minimum facilities. This housing project will pave the way for this marginalised community to enjoy a dignified and decent life in the future.



## THE INDIAN HOUSING PROJECT IN PLANTATION AREAS

Although tea is a major employment generator and a high revenue earning export of Sri Lanka, the wellbeing and the living standards of plantation workers in the country remain significantly low. According to many studies, tea plantation workers appear to be among the most deprived working community in Sri Lanka. Poor living conditions in line rooms where they live is a leading cause of their health and other social issues. In addition, estates are highly prone to disasters, necessitating the provision of safe and quality housing units with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) features.



IFRC and SLRCS with the funding assistance of the Indian Government are working to help the plantation community to improve their living conditions by building 5,610 houses through owner-driven and community driven approaches while providing technical guidance.

Each house will be a minimum of 550 square feet consisting of two bedrooms, a living area, kitchen, verandah and a toilet with electricity, drinking water facility and other infrastructure facilities. For the construction of the basic components, a cash grant of LKR 950,000 is provided by the Government of India. However, as the project is an owner-driven housing programme, the beneficiaries have the flexibility to design their houses according to their choice and expanding the houses; after they complete the initial construction.

The Government of Sri Lanka provides funds for water, electricity and other infrastructure facilities of the project through the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages, Infrastructure and Community Development. Beneficiaries also provide their contributions in the form of labour.





*Without a doubt, people hold their family to be the most important aspect of their life. Coping up with uncertainty about a missing family member can be the worst grief. We offered international phone calls and tracing services for those who wanted to contact their family members.*



## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (RFL)

Restoring Family Links (RFL) is a central activity of SLRCS. We work with ICRC to re-establish and maintain the links between family members separated due to conflicts, migration, detention, or natural disasters, through the RFL programme.

The services include looking for family members, restoring contact and reuniting families and searching for the fate of missing individuals.

### We provided the following services under the RFL programme:

- ▶ Tracing missing persons with the support of ICRC, governmental institutions and the international Red Cross movement partners around the world
- ▶ Delivering Red Cross messages through the Red Cross movement when the normal communications are interrupted
- ▶ Obtaining health and welfare reports on the conditions of family members who are ill, elderly or unable to communicate

- ▶ Assisting documentation needed for family reunification processes
- ▶ Providing referrals to agencies who are dealing with the cases, which fall outside the Red Cross mandate
- ▶ Supporting the Department of Childcare to search for the biological parents of adopted children

The SLRCS-RFL Program has been continuously working on tracing the missing persons with the support of the ICRC, Red Cross movement partners and the government authorities. We deploy our trained RFL volunteers in providing RFL services.

**“** Our tracing services are operational at each SLRCS branch in the 25 districts. The SLRCS National Headquarters in Colombo has the coordination Unit. Most of our RFL Coordinators working at SLRCS branches are volunteers. **”**

**Kamal Yatawara**  
RFL Focal Point  
National Headquarters





The destruction caused by the conflict that prevailed in Sri Lanka for nearly three decades cannot be measured. The loss to lives and property were immense; while many who's loved ones went missing or were separated still live with the hope of being reunited with them someday. Periyasamy Ramaiah was one among the countless number of people, who were separated from their families as a result of the conflict.

In 1989, when Ramaiah's wife, Ranjani with two of their children went to Mullaitivu to spend time with her sister, she never thought she'd never see her husband and the two other children again for three decades.

The war tensions occurred during her stay in Mullaitivu led to the closing of the road, which connected Mullaitivu and her hometown, Batticaloa.

Ranjani and her two children had no choice but to flee to a refugee camp in India to save their lives. She had no way to contact Ramaiah. Ramaiah and his two sons waited with grief, not knowing the fate of their family members, yet, they did not give up hope of seeing their loved ones someday.

One day, Ranjani's daughter, Jemila, heard the RFL services of the Indian Red Cross Society.

She decided to fill out a tracing request in search of her father and the two brothers. When the request came from the Indian Red Cross Society to the SLRCS Batticaloa branch, Ruthraj, a Tracing Volunteer undertook the mission of searching Ramaiah with a great passion and enthusiasm.

"When I went to the address that Jemila had given to us, no one in that community could remember Ramaiah's family, but that did not deter me. I went back to the community the next day and spoke to some of the elderly people in the community, who finally gave me contact details of another elderly person who might remember Ramaiah. I made a visit to the Eachanthivu area of Batticaloa, where this contact lived and finally found Ramaiah with his support" Ruthraj recalls.

Elated Ruthraj helped Ramaiah send a Red Cross message to his family in India right away. Later, the SLRCS set up an overseas phone call to the family to hear each other's voices. "It was an unforgettable emotional moment" says Ruthiraj.

"I had no means of searching for my family, and I lived year upon year with uncertainty and longing for an answer. I feared we might never be reunited before I die. And, now at the age of 75, my anguish is finally over." says Ramaiah.

# DURING 2018,

# WE

► Facilitated 6 new exchanges between family members who were in search of their loved ones

► Offered 40 international phone calls and tracing services for those who wanted to contact their family members

► Conducted 56 awareness sessions at the community level on RFL and tracing activities as measures to prevent displacements

► Networked with the government and other authorities including the Australian High Commission to support the prevention of migration related displacement issues







*The SLRCS Mullaitivu branch conducted activities to promote humanitarian values in schools*

*Humanitarian services of SLRCS have always been guided by the seven Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We believe that the adherence to these values can change the behaviours of the people we work with and promote human dignity in all what we do.*

*Through our efforts, we aspire changes in knowledge, mindsets, attitudes and behaviours of everyone we work with to build a caring, safe and peaceful environment that respects human dignity and diversity*





# HUMANITARIAN VALUES

Humanitarian services of SLRCS have always been guided by the seven Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. We believe that the adherence to these values can change the behaviours of the people we work with and promote human dignity in all what we do.

The Humanitarian Value Department at the NHQ along with the SLRCS staff and trained volunteers continued to disseminate and promote the Red Cross Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values through different programmes, and create awareness and knowledge about the Red Cross Movement, Geneva convention, fundamental human rights etc.

**Dissemination programs:** During 2018, we delivered value dissemination programmes reaching 2,996 people ranging from community leaders, community members, youths and children to make people aware of the SLRCS humanitarian responses, fundamental principles and values. With this value dissemination programs, more new members joined the SLRCS.

**Safer access programs:** SLRCS employees and volunteers work in many different environments during humanitarian responses. Therefore, it is vital that they are safer and secure and aware of the dangers in the environment they are serving. We worked to enhance the security and well-being of volunteers and SLRCS employees by orienting and guiding them to ensure safe access to the communities they work in. During 2018, SLRCS provided training on 'safer accesses' to 769 volunteers and SLRCS employees.

## Celebrating the World Red Cross

**Day:** On 8 May, we celebrated the World Red Cross Day in collaboration with the ICRC and IFRC with a special event in Aranayake, Kegalle, the site of the 2016 landslide. School items were distributed to students affected by the landslides. The event was held under the patronage of the President of SLRCS, Jagath Abeysinghe along with volunteers, staff members and many other dignitaries from the IFRC and the ICRC Sri Lanka Delegations. Meanwhile, the SLRCS branches across the island conducted several other activities to celebrate World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day.



## WORLD RED CROSS DAY 2018



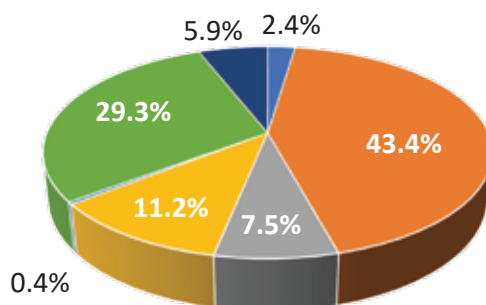
HV department also work with different vulnerable, and disadvantaged social groups, to reduce discrimination in the society, and increase social acceptance towards socially excluded groups. In this context, the HV department addresses the following issues;

- ▶ Social Cohesion and reconciliation
- ▶ Matters related to LGBTIQ
- ▶ Sexual gender-based violence



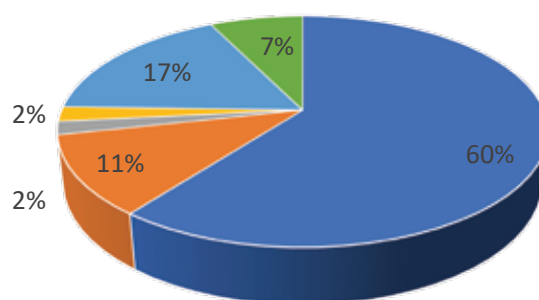
# FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

## Funding for Projects



- Foreign Governments' Funds
- International Federation of Red Cross
- International Committee of Red Cross
- Other NGOs
- Public Donations
- Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Generated Fund
- UN Agencies

## Expenditures by Sectors



- Disaster Management
- Health & Care
- Humanitarian Values
- Organization Development
- Administration Cost
- Project Operation Cost of Estate Housing Project



