



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



CONTENT

MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY PRESIDENT OF SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY	1-2
OUR VISION	3
OUR MISSION	3
OUR FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES	5
6 CORE VALUES	6
OUR STRATEGIC AIMS	7
OUR BRANCH NETWORK	8
OUR PARTNERS	9
GOVERNANCE	10-11
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS-2019	12-14
DISASTER MANAGEMENT	15
CLIMATE RESILIENT INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT	21-29
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECT-HAMBANTOTA	30
EASTER ATTACK RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROGRAM	31-40
HEALTH AND CARE	41-49
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	50-57
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (RFL) AND MIGRATION	58-63
THE INDIAN HOUSING PROJECT IN PLANTATION AREAS	64-66
HUMANITARIAN VALUES	67-68
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS	69-70

ACRONYMS

Body Mass Index	BMI
Branch Disaster Response Teams	BDRT
Branch Executive Officers	BEO
Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation	CPR
Central Governing Board	CGB
Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project	CRIWMP
Disaster Management Centre	DMC
Disaster Risk Reduction	DRR
Information Education and Communication	IEC
International Committee of Red Cross	ICRC
International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies	IFRC
National Head Quarters	NHQ
Non-Communicable Diseases	NCDs
Non-food Relief Items	NFRI
Organizational Development	OD
Regional Director of Health Services	RDHS
Restoring Family Links	RFL
Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment	SLBFE
Sri Lanka Red Cross society	SLRCS
United Nations Development Program	UNDP
World First Aid Day	WFAD



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

We, at Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS), are diligently involved in myriad development and humanitarian activities across the island. Such activities range from disaster preparedness to response and recovery, to building resilience among vulnerable communities. And our capabilities in such endeavours were heavily utilized in the context of 2019.

Indeed, the year 2019 was extremely challenging for the SLRCS, mainly due to the unprecedented Easter Sunday Attacks that shook the whole country on 21st April. While grieving with all Sri Lankans, we immediately commenced our emergency operations in the affected areas. As the leading humanitarian organization in the country, we ensured our active presence immediately with short-term immediate responses such as blood donations, administration of First Aid for minor injuries, Hospital Support by volunteers, Patient Transport Support, Medical Camps and Assistance for Dead Body Management. Afterwards, we addressed the medium and long-term recovery needs of the victims through a multi-dimensional programme.

Our successful interventions within such a setting would not have been possible without the involvement and support of other active partners in the response. With their assistance, we were able to carry out an assessment to identify the areas of our support, and with the findings of the assessment report, we held discussions with the IFRC and other Red Cross movement partners, relevant government authorities, private organizations and civil society organizations to seek their coordination and support to address the identified medium and long-term recovery needs.

I am proud of everyone at the SLRCS who worked tirelessly to provide support to those victims through blood donation drives, psycho-social support, monetary support for livelihood development, first aid, restoration of family links, support for the maintenance of day-to-day life and social cohesion. Furthermore, I am happy that we were able support local authorities to continue with emergency responses such as medical services and dead body management. I would also like to convey my deepest gratitude to all our volunteers who were on standby since news of the attacks broke to support the authorities whenever their services were required.

Additionally, this year hailed the commencement and continuation of many of our other projects as well. Apart from disaster-related responses, we were actively engaged in Climate Resilience programmes and invested well in capacity-building. Our shelter programme in the estate sector, for instance, led to a significant improvement in housing for numerous plantation workers who had only received meagre support before the intervention. Thus, we handed over 642 homes to the workers, which were constructed under the Estate Housing project funded by the Government of India in the same year.

Towards the end of the year, the SLRCS also conducted a needs assessment for a Disaster Relief Operation to assist the people victimized by the north-east monsoonal rains, with its implementation set to begin in 2020.

As such, emergency response has always been a collective action that involves a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors who make various contributions in terms of expertise and other resources. In 2019 for instance, we trained 400 army personnel in camp management during disasters through 4 camp management training programmes. Moreover, our branches supported over 3300 persons through major and minor First Aid services held at religious, cultural, and sports events held in their communities and provided First Aid education to over 40,000 individuals in the country. Also, our Dengue Prevention programme initiated a range of prevention activities in six prioritized districts with high caseloads: Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Batticaloa, and Jaffna at the onset of the south east monsoons. We also conducted blood donation programmes together with the support of local institutions. Furthermore, the SLRCS Restoring Family Links and Tracing staff, with the assistance of ICRC, have been linking families with their kith and kin who had been separated from each other due to the country's conflict for decades: they continued to do so in 2019 as well.

Owing to its immense reach, SLRCS has an island-wide membership base with different membership categories that represent different age groups. Compared to the new memberships of 2018, I am happy to highlight there was an increase in new memberships in 2019 by 50%. Red Cross volunteers with different professional backgrounds and youth help us increase our strength and service delivery at the community level. Furthermore, our Organizational Development (OD) Programme portfolio has emerged to address organizational capacity requirements, institutional development, and system improvements within the organization in order to increase our service delivery.

Despite the challenges it brought with it, I am extremely happy that 2019 was a productive year in terms of assistance and development; it truly was a year that brought out the best of our capabilities and commitment.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who contributed to our humanitarian efforts in 2019 – 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 for the last eight decades in a range of humanitarian services. SLRCS was formed in 1936 as a volunteer-based organization named 'Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society' to aid man-made 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), recognized 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 organization, has an established island-wide network with its headquarters located in Colombo, branches in all 25 administrative districts of Sri Lanka, and 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, maximize capacities and mobilize resources to build community resilience and create a safer environment for those exposed to disasters, emergencies, and social exclusion

OUR FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

The seven Fundamental Principles are an expression of the values and practices of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. They are at the core of our approach to helping people in need during disasters and emergencies.



Humanity

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavours in its international and national capacity to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being. It promotes mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace amongst all peoples.



Neutrality

In order to continue to enjoy the confidence of all, the Movement may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.



Impartiality

It makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to relieve the suffering of individuals, being guided solely by their needs, and to give priority to the most urgent cases of distress.



Voluntary Service

It is a voluntary relief movement not prompted in any manner by desire for gain.



Independence

The Movement is independent. The National Societies, while auxiliaries in the humanitarian services of their governments and subject to the laws of their respective countries, must always maintain their autonomy so that they may be able at all times to act in accordance with the principles of the Movement.



Universality

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which all Societies have equal status and share equal responsibilities and duties in helping each other, is worldwide.



Unity

There can be only one Red Cross or one Red Crescent Society in any one country and it must be open to all. It must carry on its humanitarian work throughout its territory.

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, and guided by its statutes, we cooperate with the government and other organizations in line with the Fundamental Principles without compromising our emblems and the 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 among our biggest strengths and constitute an essential aspect of the SLRCS's approach to humanitarian assistance to deliver effective and sustainable results. We work with a wide range of partners from public to private sectors as well as 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 the main components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: the IFRC provides support in interventions related to Shelter, Health, Organizational Development and the climate change adaptation element of Disaster Risk Management, whilst the ICRC does the same in the fields of Health and First Aid, Humanitarian Values and Restoring Family Links. Our international counterparts offer their assistance in a similar manner: Kuwait Red Crescent, for instance, assists us in Relief activities, and the Hong Kong Red Cross and Austrian Government take an active stance in supporting us in the delivery of Response and Early Recovery Support and Livelihood Support as well.

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.

Our Easter Sunday Attack Response and Recovery programme would not have been a success without the support of our donors: the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Embassy of Switzerland, Hong Kong Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross, Muslim Aid, and other individual and cooperate donors, and the active partners in the response: government authorities, especially the Ministry of Health, tri-forces, the Police and the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Ministry of Education and other partners including UN Agencies and religious institutions.

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) and the funding assistance of the Green Climate Fund. 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 implemented 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, Central Environmental Authority, Ceylon Electricity Board, Road Development Authority, the respective local authorities, estate workers' housing cooperative societies and estate workers' trade unions.

In implementing the Climate Change Adaptation project in Hambantota with the funding assistance of IFRC, we have been partnering with the Department of Agriculture, the District and Divisional Secretariat Offices, Medical Officer of Health and the Educational Authorities in the respective project areas. 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 that we acknowledge their valuable contribution and pay tribute to them for being with us throughout our journey in 2019.

GOVERNANCE

The SLRCS is governed by a Central Governing Board (CGB) comprising the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, National Secretary and 10 other members. Policy and strategic decisions are taken by the CGB. The General Assembly elects the Chairman of the Finance Commission. Apart from this, the CGB can appoint three professionals with non-voting powers to obtain their consultation in taking policy decisions.

The CGB appoints sub-committees from the selected governance (CGB and branch-level) and the management members at the National Head Quarters (NHQ) and branches for core programme sectors as well as other needy programs, to ensure efficient functions of programs and to align with the policy directives of governance.

The CGB appoints the Director-General, finance commission, statutory committees, and other ad hoc committees to guide and direct the management to ensure adherence to policies and practices.

The current NHQ core management structure comprises the Director-General and a Deputy Director-General. There are eight 'Focal Points' appointed for programme areas such as Disaster Management, Health, al Development, Humanitarian Values, Communication, Human Resources, Finance, Transportation and Logistics, who execute programs through their respective program officers and managers.

The Branch Executive Officer (BEO) is the top management of each branch, and all accountants and other staff appointed function under the administrative authority of the BEO - directed by the Branch Chairman at branch level as well as the Director-General at NHQ level.



Mr. Jagath Abeysinghe
President



Mr. Bharatha Jonikkuhewa
Vice President 1



Mr. Upali Sirimanne
Vice President 2



Mr. Nimal Kumar
National Secretary



Mr. Prasanna Dassanayake
Chairman - Finance Commission



Mr. Charles Corea
CGB Member



Mr. Ajith Sooriya Bandara
CGB Member



Mr. K. Balakrishnan
CGB Member



Mrs. Don Subadra
CGB Member



Mr. M. Chandrasiri
CGB Member



Mr. Anton Victoria
CGB Member



Mr. Sanath Abeyratne
CGB Member



Mr. Ajith Kumara Jayarathne
CGB Member



Mr. T. Vasandarajah
CGB Member



Dr. Amila Kankanamge
CGB Member



Dr. Mahesh Gunasekara
Director General

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS-2019

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Over **5,000** people reached through flood responses

260 volunteers trained in emergency preparedness and responses

All **25 branches** equipped with skilled BDRT members and updated Contingency Plans

90 BDRT members provided with training

4 camp management training for staff and volunteers

400 Army personnel trained in camp management

ESTATE HOUSING PROJECT

642 houses constructed out of planned 1,610 houses

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

6,000 registered volunteers

National Youth Biennial General Meeting held with **87** youth

Reviewed the National Youth Plan at the National Youth Committee Meeting

The Youth Action Plan drafted for 2020/21

Commemorated the International Youth Day

HUMANITARIAN VALUES

22 value dissemination programs reaching **2,209** people

786 volunteers and SLRCS employees trained in 'safer access'

Celebrating the World Red Cross Day with **1,352** persons

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS AND MIGRATION (RFL)

86 cases of missing people managed locally and internationally

5,401 migrant workers trained in safe migration

10,000 people received awareness on safe migration and RFL services

20 Branch Volunteer Tracing Coordinators received training

CLIMATE RESILIENT INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT

16 tanks and **3** anicuts
rehabilitated

371 Rainwater Harvesting
Tanks distributed

3 rural water supply schemes
established

4 advanced filtering systems
established

18 small filtering systems
established in 13 schools and
5 hospitals

58 climate-smart home
gardens supported

117 fruit farmers
supported

7 disaster preparedness plans
for 7 Grama Niladhari
Divisions

16,370 trees planted

2 Cascade Water
Resource Management &
Development Plans
developed

4,000 farmers received
awareness to adapt
climate- resilient interventions

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECT- HAMBANTOTA

5 communities
received knowledge
on climate change
and adaptation
strategies

187 school children
and teachers received
awareness on
maintaining
co-friendly environ-
ment

200 trees planted
in catchment areas of
4 tanks

170 trees planted
in **5** schools

Hazard and resource
mapping developed
for **5** communities

5 agricultural
sessions conducted
for community
members

450 children
educated on home
gardening and
eco-friendly waste
segregation

HEALTH AND CARE

Over **3,300** persons
received first aid services

8,000 Junior Red Cross
members trained in first aid

5,000 members of the
children's clubs
trained in first aid

875 volunteers
trained in first aid

24 first aid Instructors
trained

60 first aid instructors
provided with refresher
training

750 three-wheeler
and school bus drivers
trained in first aid

1,500 Police officers
trained in first aid

Celebration of the
World First Aid Day
with **100** participants
at the Deaf and Blind
School, Ratmalana

Commemoration of
World Restart a
Heart Day with over
5,000 individuals

28 blood donation
campaigns collecting
over **1,600** pints

Dengue Prevention Program:

Clean-up campaigns
benefitting over **400,000**
community members and
150,000 school children

Over **25,000** people
received awareness on
the prevention of
non-communicable
diseases

EASTER ATTACK RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Immediate Response:

2 blood drives in Colombo
and Gampaha

15 trained volunteers
deployed in managing the
morgue with dead bodies

246 victims received with
immediate medical assistance

Transportation provided to
injured victims

Connected **163** injured
persons through Restoring
Family Link services

Handled **10** international
tracing cases

Over **1,500** people
received psychosocial support

A need assessment conducted
to identify recovery needs

EASTER ATTACK RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROGRAMME

Recovery programme:

200 scholarships for children

Unconditional cash grants for **400**
families

Livelihood support for **98** families

Livelihood training for **100** families

Psychosocial support for **546** families

3 Crisis support centers established

5 recreational activities for **959**
children

Peer-support groups for **336**
individuals

Self-help groups for **310** individuals

Integration support for **27** Persons with
Disability

Medical support for **1,130** persons

17,843 community members reached
through 66 social cohesion activities

1,024 school children directly reached
through social cohesion
activities

123 Red Cross volunteers trained to
provide psychosocial support





DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disasters and emergencies can occur at any time. We are skilled, prepared and well-equipped to provide immediate assistance to the people in need and help them to take measures to minimize the risks and impact of disasters.

Sri Lanka experiences various hazards every year: mainly weather-related events. While some parts of the country experience floods or landslides as a result of heavy rainfall in certain months, several other parts of the country experience long dry periods due to the effects of climate change such as lack of rainfall and increasing temperatures, excessive use of groundwater, and poor management of water and its resources.

Being a leading humanitarian organization with extensive experience in disaster responses and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), we are committed to supporting people in times of disasters and emergencies and preparing them for disasters before they strike. We have been contributing towards many humanitarian activities with special emphasis on disaster relief, risk reduction, and development for more than seventy years.

Disaster Response Planning

We always work to ensure that a well-functioning and relevant disaster management and DRR system is in place to address the needs of vulnerable people and minimize their risks through a range of activities.

1. Capacity building of staff and volunteers

Our staff and volunteers play an indispensable role throughout the year to reduce the impact of disasters (Prevention and Preparedness), react during and immediately following various disasters and emergencies (Response), and help communities recover (Recovery). Over the year, we invested in the training and skill development of our staff and volunteers to maintain the capacity in prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. In 2019, we trained 260 volunteers (175 male and 85 female) with the support of the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) through a range of skill development activities.



Participants of a BDRT training program held in June in Kurunegala

a) Training Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRTs):

BDRTs are the first to activate in the immediate onset of a disaster. We have been constantly developing the skills of our BDRT members across the 25 branches to strengthen the branch-level surge capacity to empower them in managing disaster responses. BDRTs usually consist of SLRCS staff and volunteers, and they play a vital role when a disaster strikes. In 2019, we trained 90 BDRT members of Kurunegala, Anuradhapura, Mullaitivu, and Batticaloa branches through three BDRT training on the core areas of relief management, coordination and needs assessment.

b) Camp management training for staff and volunteers:

The knowledge in camp management plays a significant role in assisting disaster-affected 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 2019, the staff and volunteers attached to the Nuwara Eliya, Trincomalee, Killinochchi, and Vavuniya branches received training on the aspects of camp management through 4 programmes carried out with the support of ICRC.

2. Preparation of Contingency Plans

We are prepared to respond to emergencies effectively and in a timely manner throughout the year. A successful response needs a plan. Therefore, the branch-level Contingency Plan is the crucial tool that leads our disaster-relief operations. Throughout the year, the Disaster Management program worked with all the branches to either prepare or update their Contingency Plans to equip them with a successful response plan.

3. Supporting the civil-military cooperation

a) Training army personnel:

Emergency response has always been a collective action that involves a wide range of governmental and non-governmental actors who make various contributions in expertise and other resources. In 2019, we trained 400 army personnel in camp management during disasters through 4 camp management training programmes held in the Security Force Headquarters in Jaffna, and the Disaster Management Training School in Gampola.



b) Strengthening the disaster response system:

Floods are the most common natural disasters in Sri Lanka. To support the search and rescue operations during disaster response activities, we handed over four boats worth 10 million rupees to the Sri Lanka Army in September.



“ The Sri Lanka Army plays a pivotal role in managing the camps after disasters; therefore, they must be equipped with the knowledge in camp management and be familiar with the standard practices. We trained army personnel on warehouses management, setting up shelters for the displaced and international norms and practices in camp management. **”**

Damitha Chanaka,
Acting Focal Point-Disaster Management

Disaster Responses

The SLRCS has extensive experience in disaster relief and response work for both natural and man-made disasters. When a disaster hits the country, we become active to respond to the emerging needs as quickly and efficiently as possible. In 2019, we responded to various disasters that struck different parts of the country.

1. Flood response (Northern province)

The floods caused by torrential monsoon rains left thousands of people homeless and vulnerable in Killinochchi and Mullaitivu in December 2018. The Red Cross volunteers and our branch network across the country were able to work cohesively to support the affected people.

In early 2019, we provided Non-food Relief Items (NFRI) and an ample supply of drinking water for 4,500 affected people in both districts.



Furthermore, the Junior Red Cross (JRC) members attached to the Matale Branch launched a campaign to collect school supplies and drinking water from their respective schools to support the flood-affected school children. They collected stationery and other essentials worth over Rs. 200,000 and handed over to the, Vaddakkachchi Maha Vidyalayam in Kilinochchi.



The volunteers provided First Aid, engaged in search and rescue operations, distributed drinking water, and maintained the evacuation centers. The Youth Wing of Killinochchi branch conducted a timely cleaning campaign at the Wattakachchi Hospital which was also affected by the floods. This activity immensely helped the hospital to resume work to serve the people affected by floods.

2. Flood response (Southern Province)

The heavy monsoonal rains which prevailed in September 2019 resulted in flash floods in the Southern province. We carried out a range of response activities in the affected areas. Our volunteers and the BDRT members deployed boat services in the affected areas of Galle and Matara Districts to assist the flood victims.



The Galle branch distributed NFRI to the flood-affected families in Baddegama.



3. Responding to fire emergencies

Our Nuwara Eliya Branch volunteers provided relief to the people affected by the fire that destroyed 24 estate houses at Holyrood Estate in Thalawakele in June. 101 individuals belonging to these families were displaced due to this incident.



4. Completion of a two-story housing unit

In 2017, we initiated a housing construction project for 10 families affected by the floods in Morawaka, Matara. In June 2019, we completed the entire housing unit and handed it over to the respective families. This housing unit was built purely with the locally generated funds by the SLRCS with the technical and labour support of the Sri Lanka Army.





Water management is a vital element in climate change adaptation

The Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management project carried out training for the Water Controllers, leaders of farmer organizations, and the corresponding government officers in Mamunuwa (Polpithigama) and Anguruwella (Ehetuwewa) cascades on the equitable allocation of water. Taking the factors such as the water-holding capacity of a tank and the extent and types of crops cultivated into consideration, the farmers developed a downstream map marked with the water distribution points and a water release schedule for each tank. This will allow them to use every drop of water collected to the tank efficiently and effectively with minimum wastage. This will certainly help increase the extent of cultivation resulting in an increased harvest to ensure food security in the long run.



CLIMATE RESILIENT INTEGRATED **WATER MANAGEMENT** PROJECT

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

We are the community mobilization partner of this project in the Kurunegala District, where the smallholder farmers face numerous challenges in their livelihoods and living standards.

The project has a holistic approach that aims to enhance water security and agricultural productivity and includes climate-smart initiatives designed to address the effects of severe weather events on the irrigation and drinking water supplies. This long-term project will benefit over 8,000 beneficiaries live in four cascades, namely, Anguruwella, Kadawala, Mottapeththewa, and Mamunugama in the Kurunegala district.

The resources are invested in the following three key areas to achieve the goal of strengthening the resilience of farmers to extreme weather conditions:

- improving irrigation by introducing climate-resilient agricultural practices.

The project plans to upgrade four tank-based cascading systems and infrastructure with 47 tanks, and promote eco-system based agricultural practices in the catchment areas

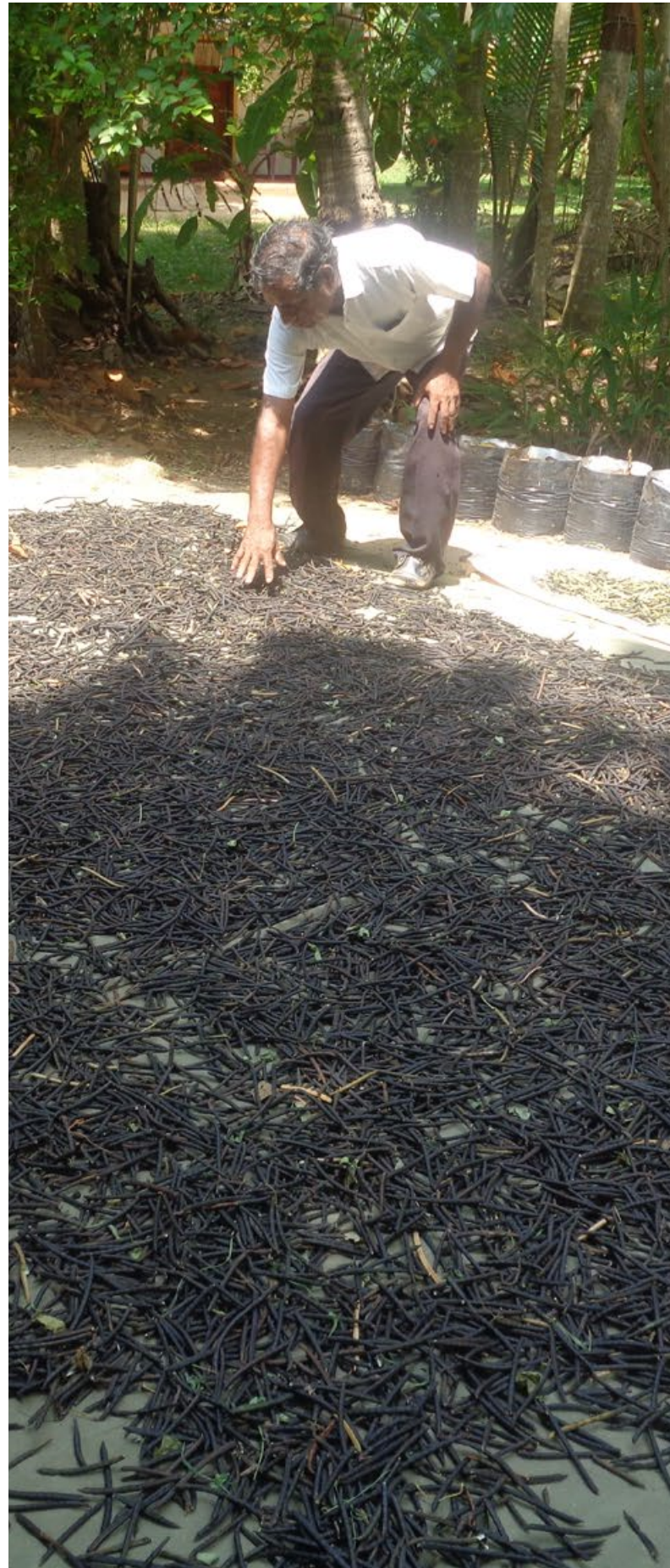
- improving access to potable water by enhancing community-managed drinking water infrastructure by a) establishing Rainwater Harvesting tanks and b) scaling-up decentralized drinking water systems.
- strengthening early warning systems and climate advisories to protect farmers and other vulnerable groups from climate-related impacts.

Mid-season cultivation: an eye-opener for farmers

Extremes in weather events and an increase in the ambient temperatures severely affect agriculture in Sri Lanka. The dry zone farmers face changes in rainfall patterns which lead to extreme events like floods and droughts, thereby resulting in reduced agricultural productivity.

Usually, the farmers cultivate only the Yala (May to August) and Maha (November to February) seasons, leaving the fields abandoned in the remaining four months (mid-season). Mr. R.M. Ranbanda, a retired principal, led a group of farmers in Hunugallewa and Ehetuwewa villages to trial out a 45-day crop- green gram - in his land located in the Hunugallewa tank commanding area, after harvesting paddy in February 2019 till the Yala season begins. Mid-season cultivation is not a usual practice in the Ehetuwewa area, hence most of the farmers were hesitant and did not have faith in it.

Each farmer received 3kg of green gram seeds free of charge from the Department of Agriculture along with the instructions to cultivate. Ranbanda was able to cultivate half an acre, since he received another 3kg of seed green gram from a farmer who lost his interest later. Ranbanda was able to harvest green grams three times from mid-April to early June and sell 90kg at the rate of Rs.205 a kilo while keeping a portion for consumption at home. This was an eye-opener for the farmers who did not believe in mid-season cultivation. According to Rambanda, all other farmers are now waiting to practice mid-season cultivation in the next round.





Green gram increases the soil nutrients by nitrogen fixation. "Once I harvested green grams, I planted Okra (ladies' fingers), long beans, groundnut, and chilies for the Yala season in the same field. Because the soil was nourished, I managed to get a good harvest during the Yala season without applying any fertilizer," says Ranbanda happily.

Key Achievements in 2019:

- ▶ Rehabilitating 16 tanks and 3 anicuts in Mamunugama (8) and Anguruwella(11) cascades with ecosystem development
- ▶ Providing rainwater harvesting tanks to 371 households with knowledge on operations and maintenance
- ▶ Establishing 3 rural water supply schemes in Thalakolawewa, Ihala Thimbiriyawa, and Mamunugama
- ▶ Establishing 4 advanced filtering systems in Madadenigama, Thimbiriyawa, Divulgane, and Hiddewa
- ▶ Establishing 18 small filtering systems in 13 schools and 5 hospitals
- ▶ Providing awareness and training to over 4,000 farmers to adopt climate-resilient interventions
- ▶ Developing 58 climate-smart home gardens and supporting 117 fruit farmers in 10 Grama Niladhari divisions
- ▶ Developing 7 disaster preparedness plans for each Grama Niladhari division in the cascades with the participation of stakeholders and communities
- ▶ Planting 16,370 trees with community members
- ▶ Developing Cascade Water Resource Management & Development Plan for Mamunugama And Anguruwella cascades



“ This project has brought new hopes to our lives. No one has ever renovated the Anguruwella cascade since those tanks were built by the ancient kings. We need to protect this amazing ancient irrigation system for the future generation. It is admirable that this project is working to upgrade and renovate the entire cascade in such a short period. ”

R M Karunadasa,
A beneficiary farmer in Hunugallewa



We mobilized communities to grow climate-resilient plants that have both environmental and economic value such as Aloe vera.



The project planted over 16,000 trees in catchment areas of the cascades with the support of Reforest Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka Army, youth volunteers, and community members.



Our Red Cross Youth developed maps of their villages with suggestions to transform their current village into an eco-friendly and a climate-resilient village.



Rainwater Harvesting has brought much relief to Shanika

Access to safe drinking water used to be one of the biggest challenges that Shanika and many other villagers who lived in Rekeula, Polpithigama faced. Being a mother of two young girls, Shanika worried about not being able to provide her daughters with safe drinking water.

Rekeula is yet another village that has a very deep groundwater table located in the Kurunegala district, hence, finding safe drinking was a great difficulty for the villages. The area receives rain only a couple of months during the entire year. Rainwater Harvesting is an attractive option that can bring much relief to the people live in dry areas where the fresh surface or groundwater is lacking.

Shanika is one of the beneficiaries of the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project who received a rainwater harvesting tank with the operational instructions just before the monsoon rains occurred in October 2019. Shanika thinks that this unit solved her pressing issue of finding safe drinking water. Ever since she received the rainwater harvesting tank, she has been using the water collected in the tank for drinking and cooking purposes.

“Those days we had to walk very far to find drinking water. Now we have a drinking water facility in our compound. I think we can manage this water until the next monsoon begins” says Shanika in relief. The tank has a capacity of 5000 litres, hence, it will be adequate for an average family for 8-9 months for drinking purposes.

With the establishment of rainwater harvesting tanks under the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP), not only Shanika's family but also 53 more families in the village received a domestic source of safe and adequate drinking water during the year. The project is being funded by the Green Climate Fund and is implemented by the SLRCS with the technical and coordination support of the UNDP to mobilize the dry zone communities towards year-round access to a reliable and safe water supply.

Under this project, in 2019, 371 families in the Kurunegala district received rainwater harvesting tanks to meet the family requirement of safe drinking water.



Shanika collecting water from the Rainwater Harvesting Tank to a can to store water in the kitchen.



Planting trees for a better future while connecting children with nature

Once matured, the trees can capture the carbon released by human activities. Tree planting is a fantastic way to help young students connect with nature and understand their role in helping the planet. The Climate Change Adaptation project organized tree-planting campaigns in 5 schools in the Hambantota district with the active involvement of school Environmental Societies, parents, and teachers. This is how two young girls at Dewananda Maha Vidyalaya, Yodakandiya were captured on our camera in November 2019 while they were planting a tree.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECT - **HAMBANTOTA**

In the recent decade, Sri Lanka has experienced a series of severe weather-related hazards attributed to climate change. The country's dry zones have been particularly vulnerable to both droughts and floods. These weather conditions usually have severe impacts on people's lives, especially in the areas of health and hygiene, safety and security, education, income generation, and sociocultural relations.

To deal with the results of climate change and reduce the vulnerabilities of communities, people must have knowledge on climate change adaptation measures to be more climate resilient. To improve the knowledge of communities on climate-resilience and enhance their capacities, we initiated the Climate Change Adaptation Project in the Hambantota district in April 2019 with the support of IFRC.

The project is being implemented in five communities in the Hambantota district, namely Sandungama, Ekamuthugama, Saddatissapura, Gemunupura, and Dutugemunupura. For communities to be climate-resilient, we believe that they should be able to plan for community-driven initiatives that are appropriate to the current and future climate change projections and be sensitive to the social, cultural, and economic circumstances.

Through this project, we directly reached 635 community members, including the school communities, through a range of activities that promotes community-driven climate change adaptation measures.

These activities included:

- ▶ Orientation programmes to improve the knowledge of community members on climate change and the adaptation strategies in five communities
- ▶ Awareness programmes for 187 school children and teachers on the importance of addressing the waste issue and maintaining an eco-friendly environment
- ▶ Planting 200 trees in the catchment areas of four tanks and 170 trees in 5 schools
- ▶ Hazard and resource mapping with 5 communities to identify their vulnerabilities and community-driven solutions to cope up with them
- ▶ 5 agricultural sessions conducted for community members by the Medical Officer of Health and the Agrarian Officer attached to the Department of Agriculture on the cultivation of commercial crops
- ▶ 5 programmes with over 450 children in five schools to educate children on home gardening, eco-friendly waste segregation and making compost bins



When any disaster strikes, we maintain an active presence. Soon after the Easter Sunday bomb explosions, our staff and volunteers went into action by providing first aid and other relief services.



EASTER ATTACK RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROGRAM

The Easter Sunday explosions were a disaster that came out of the blue, but we were ready to actively respond.

Devastating serial bomb explosions on Easter Sunday, 21 April 2019, killed over 250 people and injured over 500 people in the Colombo, Gampaha, and Batticaloa districts. Around 200 children lost their family members. These attacks had severe impacts on every aspect of the lives of the victims, their families, and the whole population of the country.

Being a leading humanitarian organization, we launched a multi-dimensional program, firstly by responding with humanitarian assistance immediately after the attacks and secondly, by addressing the medium and long-term recovery needs of the victims.

Our successful interventions would not have been possible without the involvement and support of other active partners in the response such as the Government authorities, especially the Ministry of Health, tri-forces, the Police and the Disaster Management Centre

(DMC), Ministry of Education, IFRC, Partner National Societies, UN Agencies, religious institutions and other donors such as the Governments of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria.

Immediate responses

Immediately after the explosions, we deployed our staff and volunteers at the explosion sites in providing life-saving care.

First Aid services:

Our staff and volunteers offered first aid and relief services to the survivors at the explosion sites. We dispatched two ambulances on the day of explosions to transport victims to the hospitals. The SLRCS Gampaha Branch opened a First Aid Center on its premises, where the first aiders could treat minor injuries and drive injured people to the hospital when necessary. The first aiders also provided psychological first aid to the people in distress. Additionally, we deployed first aid teams at the mass funeral held at the Katuwapitiya church.



Fifteen Red Cross volunteers supported the National Hospital and Institute of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology in managing the morgue with dead bodies.

Blood drives:

We held 2 blood drives in Colombo and Gampaha branches and mobilized branch volunteers to take part in the blood drives.



Dead body management:

15 trained volunteers supported the National Hospital and the Institute of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology in managing the morgue with dead bodies.

Medical assistance:

Five medical teams consisting of doctors, nurses, midwives, Red Cross volunteers, and counselors in Negombo provided medical assistance in the affected communities. They provided 246 treatments for affected people and medicine for 41 prescriptions.

Patient transportation:

To obtain regular medical services at the hospitals in the aftermath of the explosions, we provided transportation to those who were in need in all three districts.

Restoring Family Links:

Amid a tragedy like the bomb explosions, families can be left with no clue of their family members' whereabouts.

We activated our Restoring Family Links (RFL) service through accepting tracing requests, exchanging Red Cross Messages, and offering phone calls to help them reconnect with family members who had been separated due to the explosions. We published notices in both print and electronic media requesting the public to contact RFL teams on missing people. Our RFL activities helped connect the patients with families, ease the anguish of relatives and reduce the pressure on the medical staff.

Our trained staff and RFL volunteers continuously visited the injured victims at the National Hospital to verify their needs and re-connect them with their families. Our RFL services connected 163 patients who had been receiving treatments in the wards and 73 patients who had been fighting for life in the intensive care unit to their families. Our RFL services also responded to the international queries received via social media and handled 10 tracing cases.

If any of your family/friends have lost connection due to the tragedy contact us!

+94 70 336 22 44 (Kamal) | info@redcross.lk

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS www.redcross.lk

Psychosocial support:

Hundred and twenty-three (123) Red Cross volunteers from Colombo, Gampaha, and Batticaloa branches visited 546 houses on regular basis and provided psychosocial support to 1,500 people in the affected communities. Before they engaged with the victims and their families, all the volunteers received training and debriefing sessions from the IFRC in providing psychosocial first aid to ensure quality service.



After the explosions, the Gampaha branch organized a special psycho-social support program for traumatized women in the Katuwapitiya area. The event was titled "Coffee with Sriyani" where the veteran actress Sriyani Amarasekera spent an evening sharing her life experiences with 140 affected women.

Medium and long-term recovery

Need Assessment

We conducted a comprehensive need assessment in the Gampaha, Colombo and Batticaloa districts, and 11 other districts where some of the affected people were residing to understand their recovery needs.

Nearly 200 children had lost their family members including the breadwinners of the families. More than 500 people had also been injured in 75 families. There were disruptions of people's livelihoods at different degrees. Some victims were not able to go back to employment due to severe injuries.

Inter-ethnic anxiety was rising not only in the affected districts but also within the country in general. People were panicked, tense, and uncertain about the future due to the rumors about more explosions and increased security checking across the country along with the state of emergency issued by the government.

With the findings of the assessment report, we held discussions with the IFRC and other Red Cross movement partners, the relevant government authorities, private and civil society organizations to seek their coordination and support to address the identified medium and long-term recovery needs. As a result, we received funding and technical support from a range of partners including the IFRC, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Austrian Red Cross, the Embassy of Switzerland, NGOs like Muslim Aid, individuals and corporates to address the needs identified by the assessment.



Our trained volunteers conducted a need assessment in Colombo, Gampaha, and Batticaloa districts to determine the needs of families affected by the Easter Sunday bomb explosions to support their medium and short-term recovery needs.

Addressing medium and long-term recovery needs

Our response was multi-dimensional and aimed at enhancing the overall wellbeing of the affected families while supporting their medium and long-term recovery in education, livelihood, and disability support. Developing cohesion among the ethnic groups was a vital component in enhancing the resilience of the targeted communities.

The key components of the project included:

Cash-based interventions:

The project provided three types of cash grants:

- ▶ **Unconditional cash grants:** providing Rs. 30,000 per a family to support the basic needs of 400 families within the first two months
- ▶ **Scholarships:** providing Rs.5,000 per child a month for a period of 12 months to support the basic and educational needs of 200 children who lost their family members
- ▶ **Livelihood support:** providing cash grants for 98 families with 9 livelihood training programmes depending on training needs to support the disrupted livelihoods of the families due to the deaths or injuries of breadwinners

Turning a hobby into a business

Mrs. Theresa Fernando is one of the survivors of the Easter Sunday attacks. She used to make hair clips as a hobby before she got injured at the attack.

Mrs. Fernando wanted to expand her hobby into a more income-generating business, so she attended the livelihood training provided by the SLRCS with the expectation of developing her business. With the cash grant she received under the project, she purchased the materials to upscale her hobby into a business and started to construct a building on a bare land adjoining her residence to use as a community center where she could rent out spaces to other victims who have initiated businesses with the cash grants and training provided by the SLRCS.



Mental health and psychosocial support:

To support the affected families and people who witnessed the traumatic event, we:

- ▶ Deployed trained volunteers in Psychological First Aid to visit the survivors and family members to follow up on the individual and family-level interventions
- ▶ Referred severe cases in the Colombo and Gampaha Districts to the Crisis Support Counselor at the National Headquarters (NHQ)-SLRCS and severe cases of the Batticaloa district to the Mental Health Units of the respective hospitals
- ▶ Carried out recreational and psychoeducational activities for children
- ▶ Created self-help groups to strengthen the social support
- ▶ Established peer support networks for female-headed households, single parents, and people with disabilities to improve their coping capacity
- ▶ Established a Crisis Support Center



Sharing experiences among individuals who went through the same situations is a healthy way to support each other to manage grief. We created peer support groups for children by providing them with a space to share their experiences with others.

Promoting social cohesion:

The affected districts, and the country in general, had to face a new challenge of ensuring ethnic cohesion by addressing the inter-ethnic anxieties that were emerging after the suicide bomb attacks.

Our programme implemented activities with community members and school children to encourage inter-ethnic dialogue to support them create cohesion among the ethnic communities, cultivate humanitarian values and develop harmony. The social cohesion programmes we carried out in communities and schools included:

- ▶ 17 inter-religious meetings with 388 people to understand the mentality of ethnic communities and sensitize each other
- ▶ 15 community murals and wall paintings under the theme of 'Strong Sri Lanka' with the involvement of 672 people from different ethnic groups
- ▶ Cleaning and painting 5 religious places with the involvement of 128 people from different religious backgrounds
- ▶ 5 child, parent and teacher activities focusing on social cohesion with 291 participants
- ▶ 9 paintings under the themes of social cohesion and reconciliation at 9 schools with the participation of 90 students
- ▶ 4 student leadership training programs focusing on team building, emotional resilience, emotional intelligence and understanding group dynamics within schools for 237 students

- ▶ 3 art and essay exhibitions held in schools under the theme of social cohesion with the participation of 160 participants.

Additionally, we reached the wider community focusing on Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) for social cohesion via broader communication channels, print media, television, and radio.

Medical support:

The injured persons and family members of the victims could not attend to their medical needs due to funerals and grievances. Therefore, we held 6 medical camps with the participation of 26 consultants and doctors, support staff and volunteers, and reached 1,130 patients with different health care needs.



A medical camp organized by the SLRCS Gampaha branch with Katuwapitiya St. Sebastian Church and the Katuwapitiya youth community to provide the affected people with medical assistance.

Capacity building:

To improve the capacity and readiness of our staff and volunteers in humanitarian and recovery responses, we trained 123 staff and volunteers in psychological first aid.

OUR REACH THROUGH MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY ACTIVITIES	
Cash-based interventions	
Unconditional cash grants	400 families
Livelihood support	98 families
Livelihood training	9 trainings for over 100 families
Scholarship	200 children
Mental health and psychosocial support	
Families provided with psychological first aid	546
Crisis support centers	3 centers established in all three districts
Recreational and psychoeducational activities	5 activities for 959 children
Peer-support groups	336 persons
Self-help groups	310 persons
Social reintegration support for people with disability	1 activity for 27 participants
Health	
Medical camps	6 reaching 1,130 persons
People received with mobility, vision or hearing aid	2 people received hearing aids
Social cohesion activities	
Social cohesion activities in communities	66 activities reaching 17,843 individuals in three districts
Social cohesion activities in schools	18 activities reaching 1,024 children directly and 18,600 children indirectly
People reached through Behavior Change Communication	Over 5 million
Capacity building of Red Cross volunteers and staff	
Training programs	8
Volunteers and staff trained	123



When the emergency phase is ended, we immediately move towards providing medical services to the people affected by the disasters to prevent them from falling into further disasters. After the Easter Sunday bomb explosions, we continuously conducted medical camps and provided health care services to the victims who were in need. Over 125 people received medical assistance at one of the medical camps held at the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows in Colombo on September 9.



HEALTH AND CARE

Our health and care activities range from emergency response, first aid and first aid training, epidemic control and prevention, health promotion and disease prevention, psychosocial care, and blood donation. Through our community-based approach, Red Cross staff and volunteers actively work in communities to promote health, prevent disease, and demonstrate positive values through their behaviour while enabling community empowerment.

Medical assistance for the victims of disasters

We play an important role in meeting the healthcare needs of the people affected by natural or man-made disasters. Our teams have extensive experience in responding to sudden-onset disasters. When disaster strikes, our First Aiders visit the venues to provide lifesaving First Aid. We employ a holistic approach to support the victims in meeting their physical and psychological needs.

When the emergency phase ends, we immediately move towards providing medical services in affected areas to reduce further vulnerabilities of victims in falling into more disasters.

In 2019, both Colombo and Galle branches conducted 3 medical camps for flood-affected people reaching 345 direct and 1,725 indirect beneficiaries.



Our Galle branch organized a medical camp for the flood-affected people in Baddegama Division in Galle in September. Over 173 patients received medical assistance during the day.



A First Aider treating a dancer at the Annual Randoli perahera (procession) of the Bellanwila Raja Maha Viharaya in August 2019.

First aid for the public

First aid can save lives when an injury occurs

We are the leading first aid provider in Sri Lanka with experience of over eight decades. Our first aiders, volunteers, and Junior Red Cross members attached to all branches continued to offer first aid at national, religious, or cultural events such as processions and campaigns to help people deal with unexpected illnesses or injuries. During 2019, the SLRCS branches carried out more than 24 first aid services with the funding assistance of ICRC, treating over 300 individuals. Other than these key services, all 25 branches carried out minor first aid services at religious, cultural, and sports events held in their communities. This commitment strengthens our first aid volunteer force and builds people's trust towards the SLRCS.

Other than the first aid services held at events, in 2019

- ▶ The Matale branch continued to provide their daily first aid service at Sigiriya treating over 2,000 local and foreign tourists and;
- ▶ The Galle branch carried out their daily first aid service at the Tourist Board, Bentota, treating more than 1000 individuals.



A first aid volunteer attached to the Galle branch offering services to the officials deployed at a polling station on the day of Presidential election.

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 continue to provide a range of training to the volunteers (children and adults), community members, government officers and others to help them offer first aid services to the people.



Red Cross Junior First Aiders providing first aid to a child at the school sports meet.

Junior first aid training: A student who is well equipped with first aid skills is a great asset to a school as he/she can contribute to enhancing the safety of other students who can experience various accidents daily. Learning basic first aid skills could help a child make a real difference in an emergency. In 2019, we trained over 8,000 children of 325 Junior Red Cross Circles across the country in first aid.

First aid training for children's clubs: Our branches continued to deliver first aid training to the children's clubs across the country. In 2019, we trained over 5,000 members of the children's clubs in Sri Lanka.

First aid training for volunteers:

First aid is an integral part of humanitarian assistance. Hence, providing first aid skills to our volunteers is essential to empower them to save lives. In 2019, 875 volunteers received training in basic first aid through 34 programmes.

First aid Instructor training:

We annually conduct training for the volunteer first aiders to make them qualified to become first aid instructors. In 2019, 24 volunteers received advanced training to become qualified first aid instructors.

First aid Instructor refresher training:

We recommend our first aid instructors to refresh their skills every two years to ensure they are always prepared and equipped with updated knowledge. In 2019, we provided two refresher training programmes for 60 first aid instructors.

First aid training to assist the public:

We are one of the leading first aid trainers and providers in Sri Lanka. In 2019, we continued to provide first aid training to a range of recipients who could administer first aid in their job.

a) Training the three-wheeler and school bus drivers:

Many deaths on the roads have been attributed to the lack of knowledge in administering first aid by the people who could have assisted them when needed. Three-wheeler and school bus drivers are the key members of the community who spend a long time on the roads. Because they can help save the lives of people, especially at road accidents, we provided training to over 750 three-wheeler and school bus drivers on first aid and road safety.

b) Training police officers:

Road traffic accidents are one of the major causes of death in Sri Lanka, and the Traffic Police have the ability to assist the affected people on the accident sites. All our branches trained more than 1,500 police officers in the country in first aid to improve their ability in saving lives by administering first aid.

**Training employees at the Temple of Tooth Relic:**

In July 2019, the SLRCS Kandy branch trained 30 employees of the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic (Dalada Maligawa) and 10 police officers in first aid to assist devotees especially at the religious events, mainly the Esala Perahera.

Celebration of the World First Aid Day

The World First Aid Day (WFAD) is celebrated on the second Saturday in September globally. This day aims at raising awareness on the importance of first aid actions in the events of disasters or any crisis. The theme for 2019 World First Aid Day was “First Aid and Excluded People” to address exclusion through first aid.

We celebrated the WFAD on September 15 by providing knowledge on basic first aid and psychological first aid to the school children, teachers, and caretakers of the children at the Deaf and Blind School, Ratmalana.

About 100 teachers, caretakers, and children participated in this event. In the end, we donated two wall-mount first aid boxes to the school and gifted personal first aid kits for everyone who attended.

Meanwhile, our branches organized several activities across the country in line with the theme to mark the WFAD with persons with disabilities, elders, and the LGBTIQ community.



First aid training provided at the Deaf and Blind School, Ratmalana

Commemoration of World Restart a Heart Day

Restart A Heart Day - commemorated on 16 October 2019 - is a global initiative to raise awareness and education of Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

CPR is an emergency procedure that can help save a person's life if their breathing or heart stops. We took part in the national event organized by the Working Committee on Resuscitation in collaboration with the College of Anaesthesiologists of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka College of Emergency Physicians, Sri Lankan College for Emergency and Retrieval Medicine, 1990 Suwaseriya (the toll-free Government ambulance service) and St. John's Ambulance.

A group of medical professionals, Sri Lanka Red Cross first aid volunteers and members of several other organizations gathered at the Viharamaha Devi open-air premises and conducted a series of demonstrations to raise awareness among the public on CPR. More than 5,000 individuals such as school children, healthcare workers, university students, and many more individuals attended this event. Apart from this main event, all 25 branches commemorated the day in their respective districts by raising public awareness on CPR.



Blood donation

Like any other years, the employees and volunteers of the SLRCS branches continued with their enthusiasm to organize blood donation camps. In 2019, we conducted 28 in-house and outdoor blood donation campaigns, collecting over 1,600 pints of blood from different parts of the country for the National Blood Transfusion Service.





We urged the public to keep their neighborhood clean to avoid the spread of dengue while educating them to eradicate the breeding sites.

Dengue Prevention Program

The dengue epidemic has severe repercussions on public health in Sri Lanka. The disease is predominantly concentrated around urban and semi-urban areas. Intending to reduce the morbidity caused by dengue, we initiated a range of prevention activities in six prioritized districts with high caseloads: Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Batticaloa, and Jaffna at the onset of the south west monsoons. These prevention activities were carried out for six months.

The program was implemented in partnership with a range of institutions including the Ministry of Health, National Dengue Control Unit, local authorities, municipal councils, and grama niladaris.

The key activities of the Dengue Prevention Program included community cleanup campaigns, school cleanup campaigns through Dengue Circles, cleaning obstructed canals, and waste segregation programmes.

a) Community Clean-up Campaigns

With the involvement of the Public Health Inspectors, we launched a massive door-to-door campaign to educate and raise awareness on the dengue crisis and eradicate breeding sites. In parallel to this, we organized community cleaning campaigns and awareness-raising programs, benefiting over 400,000 people.



Our volunteers of the Galle branch investigated the breeding sites of mosquitoes with the Public Health Inspectors while they were educating the households.

b) School Clean-up Campaigns

Our Dengue Prevention Programme focused on educating children and providing the expertise and support needed for them to ensure that the school and community environments are free from dengue breeding sites. In 2019, we conducted 90 school clean-up campaigns in the target districts benefiting approximately 150,000 children.

We introduced innovative ideas in schools to increase awareness on prevention and minimize the risks of school communities. For example, the programme worked with 9 schools to establish dengue-free winning school billboards in nine districts (Ampara, Anuradhapura, Hambantota, Kalutara, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Matale, Monaragala and Vavuniya) under the guidance of the National Dengue Prevention Unit.

With the Ministry of Health, the Regional Director of Health Services (RDHS), and the Dengue Prevention Unit, the programme also introduced waste segregation for 30 primary schools to reduce breeding places by making behavioral modifications among children in waste management.



A dengue-free winning school billboard established at Muwapetikewela Maha Vidyalaya, Dehiattakandiya.

Healthy lifestyle to prevent Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)

NCDs such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases (coronary heart disease and stroke), chronic respiratory diseases and cancers are on the rise in Sri Lanka today. There is a significant need for the promotion of a healthy lifestyle to combat the NCDs. As a pilot project, we worked to address the main risk factors such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use, and excessive use of alcohol to advocate for behavioural change of the pre-school and school children, youth, adults, and elders in the Kegalle and Puttalam districts.

The RDHSs, Medical Officers of Health, grama niladharis and the police were the main stakeholders in the NCD prevention programme.

The project reached over 25,000 people through the following activities:

- ▶ distribution of Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials by the SLRCS branches to educate the public about the body mass index (BMI)
- ▶ establishing a walking club at an elderly home followed by medical check-ups
- ▶ establishing 7 sports clubs with adult and youth groups, and donating sports items to facilitate sustainable behavioural changes
- ▶ developing 2 school gardens to promote healthy fruit and vegetable consumption
- ▶ 12 demonstrations of food preparations to help pre-school mothers with new ideas of various nutritious recipes and educate them about hygienic food preparation
- ▶ 5 training programmes for pre-school teachers in helping children with nutritious food
- ▶ 3 wall paintings and poster campaigns to educate school children and the public about healthy food
- ▶ 2 school-based awareness campaigns for children and parents about the harmful use of alcohol
- ▶ 200 household visits by school children, teachers and SLRCS volunteers to educate them about NCD and BMI, and distribute IEC materials
- ▶ a series of awareness campaigns organized by the Kandy branch at the Chest Clinic of the Kandy Hospital about addressing air pollution and the increasing risk it carries for the development of chronic respiratory diseases



SLRCS Puttalam branch conducted household visits with school children and teachers to create awareness among community members about NCD and BMI.



As an effort to conserve the beautiful coast, the Red Cross Youth of the Colombo Branch joined hands with Sri Lanka Nature Conservationists and a few others to carry out a beach cleaning campaign in February. The campaign was guided by the international waste management standards and was completed successfully by removing a massive quantity of plastic, polythene, and organic waste from the Mount Lavinia beach.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Organizational Development (OD) is a key aspect of our portfolio. We always seek to improve our capabilities in all aspects to be stronger and sustainable, and thereby deliver effective and efficient services to the people in need across the country.

Our OD Program portfolio has emerged to address organizational capacity requirements, institutional development, and system improvements within the organization to increase our service delivery. Therefore, the OD programmes have been well-integrated into all organizational aspects such as governance, programmes, volunteerism, youth, leadership, branches, and systems like communications, finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, etc. to ensure that the organization, staff, and volunteers remain effective and deliver excellent services.

Also, the efforts dedicated to OD render our work easier, more effective, and efficient - thereby achieving more rewarding and enjoyable accomplishments.

Governance and Management

Our OD work is guided by the Governing Board and policies, management strategies, and decisions. Besides, we emphasize on establishing good governance and management practices, and adhering to internationally recognized transparency and accountability standards in delivering services to communities.

SLRCS has an island-wide membership base with different membership categories, which represents different age groups. Compared to the new memberships of 2018, there was an increase in new memberships in 2019 by 50 percent. Red Cross volunteers with different professional backgrounds and the youth help us increase our strength and service delivery at the community level. Red Cross volunteers and youth not only ensure the outreach of our operations but also strengthen the coping mechanisms of communities while building a strong civil society.



A group of Red Cross youth attached to the Kurunegala branch organized a cleaning campaign to commemorate International Youth Day, 2019.

Youth Development:

The Red Cross Youth is a great asset: they are active volunteers and the driving force of our humanitarian work. We desire that the youth become the next leaders in achieving humanitarian excellence. Therefore, we encourage young people to get involved in our programs. We implement the Red Cross youth programs following the Youth Policy of the SLRCS.

In 2019:

- ▶ Following the unit, divisional and branch level biennial meetings held in 2018 in all 25 districts according to the Youth Constitution, Rules of Procedures and the Circular, the National Youth Biennial General Meeting was held at the Puttalam branch on 20 July with the participation of 87 youth representing 22 branches. During the meeting, the National Youth Committee was elected for the next four years.
- ▶ The newly elected National Youth Committee reviewed the National Youth Plan at the National Youth Committee Meeting held in Nuwara Eliya.
- ▶ Fifty representatives from the Branch Youth Committees and the National Youth Committee gathered at the Red Cross training center in Thalawa, Anuradhapura and drafted an Action Plan for 2020/21. This activity was concluded with a team-building activity.
- ▶ On August 12, the Red Cross youth attached to all SLRCS branches commemorated International Youth Day by engaging in a range of environment-cleaning campaigns to create appealing environments for the public.
- ▶ The National Youth Secretary attended the Statutory Meetings and Youth Commission Election held in Geneva in December.
- ▶ Another youth member attended the International Mangrove Tree Planting Program organized by the Malaysian Red Cross in Malaysia in September.



Red Cross volunteers:

Volunteers are our strength. They enable us to do more, do better, and reach wider.

The services we deliver across the country would not have 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.

Our volunteers actively provide their services especially in times of disasters and emergencies. They provide relief and care, help communities to be safer in times of natural or manmade disasters, and provide the necessary support to the people in need.

We recognize 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 emergencies. Therefore, we ensure that both Red Cross employees and volunteers have equal opportunities to grow, build their capacity and improve their skills through participating in Red Cross activities, special training, meetings and responsible assignments.

In 2019, we provided training to over 200 volunteers in areas such as disaster response, water safety, tracing services and psychosocial first aid.

On 5 December 2019, we celebrated International Volunteer Day in gratitude for the thousands of volunteers scattered across the country doing an invaluable service for the organization.



A group of volunteers attached to the Colombo branch in the middle of a boat training program held in Bologoda in August 2019.

Strengthening Human Resources

Human resource management is one of the key elements of the entire humanitarian operation. In 2018, we introduced a human resource software and an employee performance evaluation system to all our branches. In 2019, we introduced the same system to the employees working at the National Headquarters. We believe that this performance appraisal system will help keep records of employees' job performances to enable performance appraisals and encourage merit-based rewards.

We strongly believe the professional development of our employees can make a significant impact on our service delivery. The skills, knowledge, experience, and shared learning improve our ability to deliver effective and efficient services. We supported our employees to take part in various national and international training programs to acquired learning and exposure under the different Red Cross program areas.

In June 2019, the Assistant Programme Manager- Restoring Family Links / Migration participated in the Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons Events held in Jakarta, Indonesia from 18-19 June 2019. This event was held to promote more effective and coordinated law and justice responses to combat trafficking in persons in the Asia-Pacific region.

“ Participation in this event helped me learn best practices and emerging trends of other Bali Process members and identify opportunities for future collaborations and coordination in responding to human trafficking. I will keep sharing my learning and exposure with my colleagues and other practitioners who work to prevent human trafficking, protect and assist victims in the country. **”**

Kamal Yatawara,
Assistant Programme Manager-
Restoring Family Links / Migration

Fundraising and resource mobilization

The National Headquarters and the SLRCS branches continued to raise funds through income generation projects at varied scales as an effort to achieve self-sustenance in addressing the social and humanitarian needs within their communities

- ▶ At present, the Red Cross Tower 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.
- ▶ The branches, volunteers and the youth continued to carry out income generation activities at different scales such as commercial first aid training and car wash projects to raise funds to address community-level social and humanitarian needs.

- ▶ We have launched our new online donation platform, <https://slred-cross.give.asia/> to seek donations from well-wishers to address the emerging response and recovery needs of the victims of disasters.
- ▶ Killinochchi and Mullativu branches have renovated their branch buildings with residential facilities to rent out rooms to earn extra income.

Partnership development

Junior and Kekulu Red Cross Circles:

As a result of continuous conversation, the Western Provincial Department of Education has provided consent to establish the Junior and Kekulu Red Cross circles in schools in the Western Province. Our Organizational Development unit reached around 500 vice principals at 10 training programs conducted by the Ministry of Education to provide training on the establishment of Junior and Kekulu Red Cross Circles.

Introducing professional development opportunities:

We held initial discussions with the National Youth Award Division of the National Youth Services Council to introduce the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Programme to the Youth and volunteer Coordinators of the branches. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is the world's leading achievement award for young people. The National Youth Award Division of National Youth Services Council is the license operator of 'The Duke of Edinburgh International Award' in Sri Lanka.



A car wash project carried out in March 2019 by the Red Cross youth at the Colombo branch to raise funds to build a water source and a water filtration system at the Lanka-pura Patunagama Kanishta Vidyalaya.

A determined woman humanitarian - **Minoli Malka**

Minoli Malka is the Assistant Manager of the Health Programme of the SLRCS. She joined the organization in October 2018 and currently manages epidemic control, non-communicable disease prevention, blood donation, water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion activities. Minoli joined the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society with great expectations and confidence in delivering a high-quality service to support the people in need while acquiring more skills and knowledge on the job to advance her career.

“Working for the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society is a fulfillment of a long-standing dream. My main motivation was the local and international reputation that the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society carried as a leading humanitarian organization. Being able to join the Red Cross Movement is a great achievement in my life.” says Minoli.

Being a woman humanitarian, Minoli believes that it is important to include more women in humanitarian action by providing women with more support, encouragement, and space in the organization as well as the society to increase their participation. This can be done by appointing female staff at all levels of the organization to strategize and implement gender-sensitive humanitarian operations and early recovery programs as failure to do so can impede an effective humanitarian response while risking the lives of beneficiaries. However, according to her, the persistent stereotypes of society do not support the fact that women have an equal or maybe higher



capacity than men to perform a key role as frontline responders at disasters and emergencies.

“When the Easter Sunday explosions occurred, my close family members initially did not want me to join the frontline responses mainly because I am a woman, however, later I managed to get their consent after many discussions,” says Minoli. In her opinion, the participation of a woman in humanitarian operations in the Asian context is challenging due to its tough nature and the amount of commitment that the responses require from the humanitarian actors.

Nevertheless, Minoli’s passion does not deter her from facing these challenges and moving forward in her career.

Minoli is glad that the Red Cross is striving to provide equal opportunities for women to shine in their careers. She is confident that the organization has so many achievements in terms of gender parity in its humanitarian operations and the human resource systems by providing equal opportunities for women in taking up more responsibilities.

“A role of a woman humanitarian cannot be underestimated. I want to be a change agent and a role model in the Sri Lankan humanitarian context to encourage further women’s participation in all types of humanitarian responses in the future,” says Minoli in a determined tone.



The SLRCS RFL (Restoring Family Links) team members and volunteers offered their support to trace the missing persons and restore family links after the Easter Sunday bombings in April 2019.



RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (RFL) AND MIGRATION

There is nothing more painful than dealing with the pain, anxiety, and uncertainty when someone does not know where their family members are. We have long-standing experience and expertise in tracing missing persons and dealing with their families.

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

Our RFL services include:

- ▶ 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
- We have been continuously working to trace the missing persons and support their family members with the support of ICRC, sister Red Cross Red Crescent societies, government and civil society organizations by deploying trained volunteers. In 2019, we:
- ▶ 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 normal communications are interrupted
 - ▶ obtaining health and welfare reports on the conditions of family members who are ill, elderly, or unable to communicate
 - ▶ managed 86 local and international cases of missing persons
 - ▶ networked with the government authorities, UN Agencies (IOM and UNHCR), Diplomatic Missions, and civil society organizations to support the prevention of migration-related displacement issues.



In parallel to the RFL program, along with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE), we also worked to improve safe migration and social welfare of migrant workers through pre-departure training and awareness for migrant workers as they can be extremely vulnerable to various type of abuse. During these trainings and awareness programs, we made them aware of the RFL program which enables the migrant workers to seek any help to return home via the national Red Cross or Red Crescent society in the respective countries where they are working. In 2019, our volunteers conducted:

- ▶ 102 training and awareness programs reaching 5,401 migrant workers across the country
- ▶ 28 promotional activities during other Red Cross programs to promote safe migration and RFL services reaching over 10,000 people

Our milestones:

In 2019, we started using a platform called 'Secure file exchange' in the Family Links website launched by the ICRC to exchange RFL-related documents between and among the ICRC, IFRC and Partner National Societies. This initiative supports the implementation of the RFL code of conduct on data protection prepared by the ICRC and Partner National Societies. This new move will help protect the privacy and security of personal data of the individuals using RFL services.

Developing skills of RFL Coordinators:

Continuous learning and development are key to improving the quality of our services. In June 2019, 20 Branch Volunteer Tracing Coordinators received training to increase awareness and knowledge on RFL and related areas such as human trafficking, share experiences and success stories, discuss evaluation strategies of the implementation of new RFL Strategy 2020 – 2025 and RFL Code of Conduct on Data Protection.



Helping the lost find their loved ones

Mohammed Shamil Ashroff joined the SLRCS-Matale branch as a volunteer in 2000 after taking part in a value dissemination programme conducted by the SLRCS at his workplace. What Shamil learned at the programme inspired him to become a Red Cross volunteer with the belief that it is important to give something back to the community to make the world a better place.

Soon after joining the Red Cross as a volunteer, Shamil received training in First Aid and got through the First Aid examination. Since then, Shamil continued to provide first aid for a countless number of people in need.

According to Shamil, 2006 was a turning point in his life because he was lucky enough to get enrolled in the first batch to receive training in tracing under the RFL Program. That was the time when the civil war was at its peak, where the tracing facilities were greatly needed to help search for the people who disappeared. Shamil thought that it was an important mission to help find the people gone missing, and he seized the opportunity to become a Tracing Coordinator without a second thought.

"I knew I was going to enjoy my mission. Being a person who speaks Sinhala and Tamil languages made me extra qualified to fit into this work" says Shamil. Since he started to volunteer as a Tracing Coordinator, he helped many families and individuals to reconnect with the missing persons.



Among the many tracing requests Shamil handled, he recalls reconnecting Rukmani who went missing during the riots (of Black July) in 1983. Before the disappearance, 16-year-old Rukmani lived with her family in the town of Matale in the Central Province. Once her uncle and his family who lived in Mannar in the Northern Province visited them, Rukmani also went to Mannar with this family for a short stay. That was the time the riots began, and the Tamil people started moving to India to escape the violence. Once the situation settled, Rukmani's father went to Mannar in search of Rukmani - however, he could not find any trace of where she lived. Ever since, Rukmani's family had to live with profound sadness, grief, and regret for letting her go to Mannar.

In 2016, Shamil received a tracing request from the Indian Red Cross Society about a Sri Lankan refugee, Rukmani who was looking for her family. From that moment onwards, Shamil's mission was to find Rukmani's family who used to live in the Matale town. He visited the given address but could not find any clue about the family. It did not deter Shamil. He continued with his mission. One day he met an old lady who could barely remember Rukmani's family. According to her, the family had been moved to a neighboring village called Kaludawela.

Shamil approached this village as well and kept inquiring about Rukmani's family from every person he met until he met Rukmani's brother Nadaraja. Nadaraja lived with his mother as their father passed away a few months later since his sister disappeared.

"I still remember Nadaraja's face and his eyes full of tears upon hearing that Rukmani was still alive. He had almost given up the hopes of seeing his only sister again believing that she is no longer alive. Nadarajah never expected to see his sister after 33 years. I arranged a telephone call between two parties, and that moment was unforgettable." says Shamil.



When Shamil met Ranjani's brother, Nadaraja with the tracing request

Nadaraja and his mother were longing to see Rukmani, but their mother had died of cancer before the family reunited. According to Nadaraja, their mother was very happy until she died as she knew that her daughter was alive and happy.

According to Shamil, helping a grieving family to meet their loved ones who had been separated for so many years can be a great joy. He has helped not only Rukmani but also many other missing individuals, especially soldiers who went missing during the conflict and migrant workers who disappeared in the Middle East, to reconnect with their families. Because of Shamil's hard work, the Red Cross recognized him as the best Tracing Coordinator of the year 2010.

According to Shamil, the SLRCS branches do not receive many tracing requests compared to the past because of new technology that helps people stay in touch with their loved ones. Nevertheless, he works with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment to support the migrant workers in pre-departure preparation by providing them with knowledge on first aid, handling emergencies, social protection measures, and humanitarian assistance available for the migrant workers to ensure safe migration.

"The Red Cross tracing service has helped many people to reunite with their loved ones after many years and I am humbly proud to be a part of the Red Cross tracing service network." says Shamil with satisfaction.



A new beginning in a new home

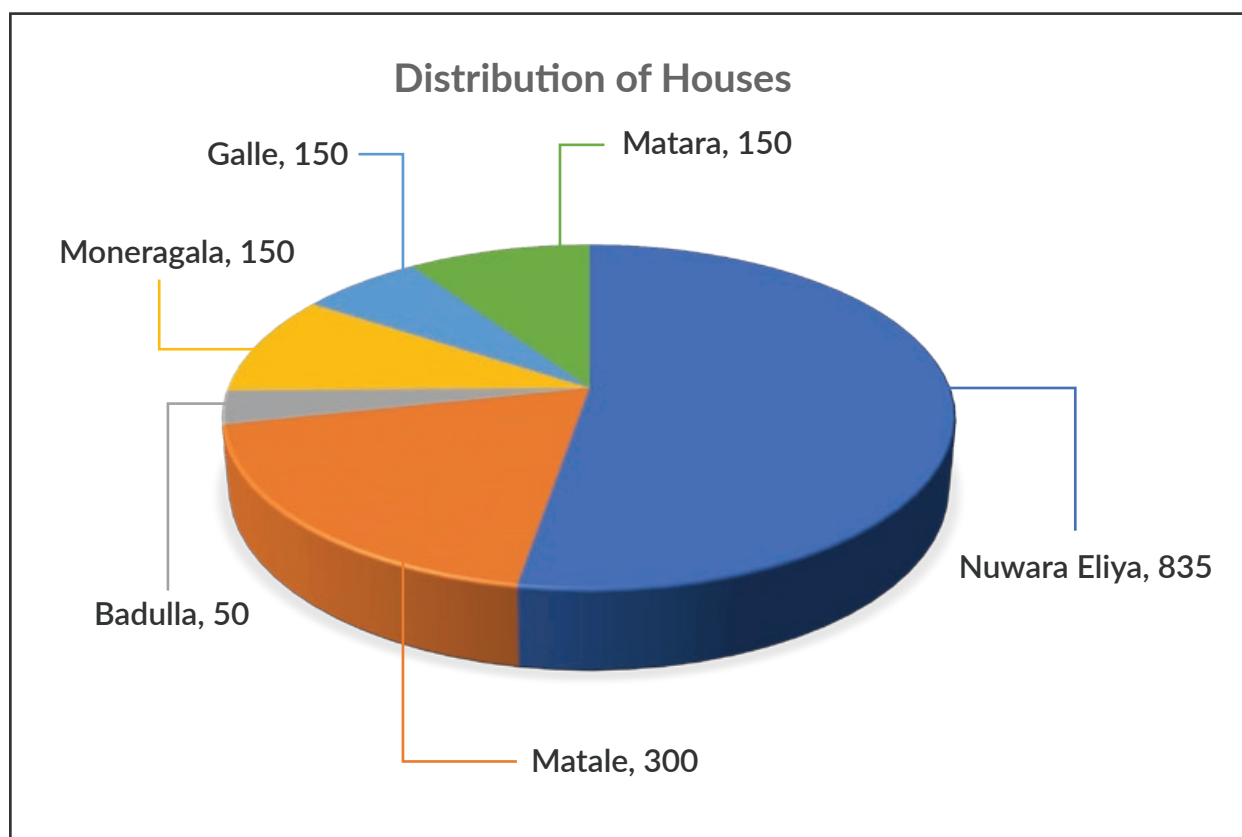
Annamalai is a 51-year-old father of two daughters and a son. Both Annamalai and his wife Vigneshwary have been working as labourers for the Drayton Estate in the Nuwara Eliya district for a long time. Their son is a daily-waged labourer working outside the Drayton estate and their elder daughter is unemployed; the younger daughter is still schooling. Owning a home was like a dream come true for the whole family as there is nothing like having a place to call home. Annamalai and his family started building their new home under the Indian Housing Project in August 2019. The whole family contributed towards building their home by carrying out earth work and supporting the masonry work. In March 2020, the family became a proud owner of a house. Many people like Annamalai in the tea plantation sector do not live in a space that they can proudly call 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 such marginalized communities to enjoy a dignified and decent life in the future. With Annamalai, 50 more families in their village received houses under the Indian Housing project.

THE INDIAN HOUSING PROJECT IN PLANTATION AREAS

There is a crucial need to improve the housing conditions of the people living in plantations in Sri Lanka. IFRC and SLRCS, with the funding assistance of the Indian Government, are working to improve the living conditions of plantation workers in Sri Lanka by building 1,610 houses through owner-driven and community-driven approaches while providing technical guidance.

These houses will enrich and enhance the quality of life of the plantation workers who currently live in line houses in various plantations - mainly tea, rubber coconut - in the districts of Nuwara Eliya, Matale, Monaragala, Badulla, Matara, and Galle. 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 program, the beneficiaries have the flexibility to design their houses according to their choice and expand the houses after completing 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. In 2019, the project completed construction of 642 houses with the active involvement of beneficiaries by making them proud owners of their homes.





The President of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, Mr. Jagath Abeysinghe, unveiling the plaque to honor the founder of the Red Cross Movement at the commemoration of the 156th World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day held in the Mullaitivu district.



HUMANITARIAN VALUES

Humanitarian services of the 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 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 programmes

During 2019, we delivered 22 value dissemination programmes in different parts of the country reaching 2,209 people, ranging from community leaders, community members, youths and children to make them aware of the SLRCS humanitarian responses and fundamental principles and values. These programmes develop the passion of people towards the Red Cross Movement and motivate them to become a Red Cross member to deliver services on behalf of humanity.

Safer access programmes

SLRCS employees and volunteers work in many different environments during humanitarian responses. They need to be prepared to face complex challenges when responding in unpredictable humanitarian contexts. Therefore, they must be safe, 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 of all 25 branches by orienting and guiding them to ensure safe access to the communities they work in through the development of Safe Access Frameworks. During 2019, SLRCS provided training on 'safer accesses' to 786 volunteers and SLRCS employees, and this knowledge will help them better plan to mitigate risks when accessing different humanitarian contexts.

Celebrating World Red Cross Day

On 8 May, we celebrated World Red Cross Day in collaboration with the ICRC. The National Programme was held in the Mullaitivu district in collaboration with the ICRC. The National event was held under the patronage of the Honorary President of SLRCS, Mr. Jagath Abeyasinghe along with the governors of SLRCS, volunteers, the SLRCS staff, and many other distinguished guests.

This commemoration of the event was accompanied by a tree-planting campaign. Meanwhile, all 25 branches across the island conducted several activities to celebrate World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day with the participation of 1,352 persons.

“ In 2019, we commemorated the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day with heavy hearts with grief and sorrow for the 253 lives that were lost due to the Easter Sunday bomb explosions.

Our staff and volunteers were at the center of the responses by providing first aid services, donating blood to the injured, rushing the victims to the hospitals for treatment, and making temporary shelters for those who needed it. As the smoke cleared, our volunteers started supporting the authorities to manage the bodies in a dignified manner and tracing missing people to reunite them with their families.

These humanitarian services of SLRCS have always been guided by the seven Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. According to Nadaraja, their mother was very happy until she died as she knew that her daughter was alive and happy. **”**

Dr Mahesh Gunasekara
Director-General, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society

The HV department also works with different vulnerable, and disadvantaged social groups, to reduce discrimination in society and increase social acceptance towards socially excluded 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:

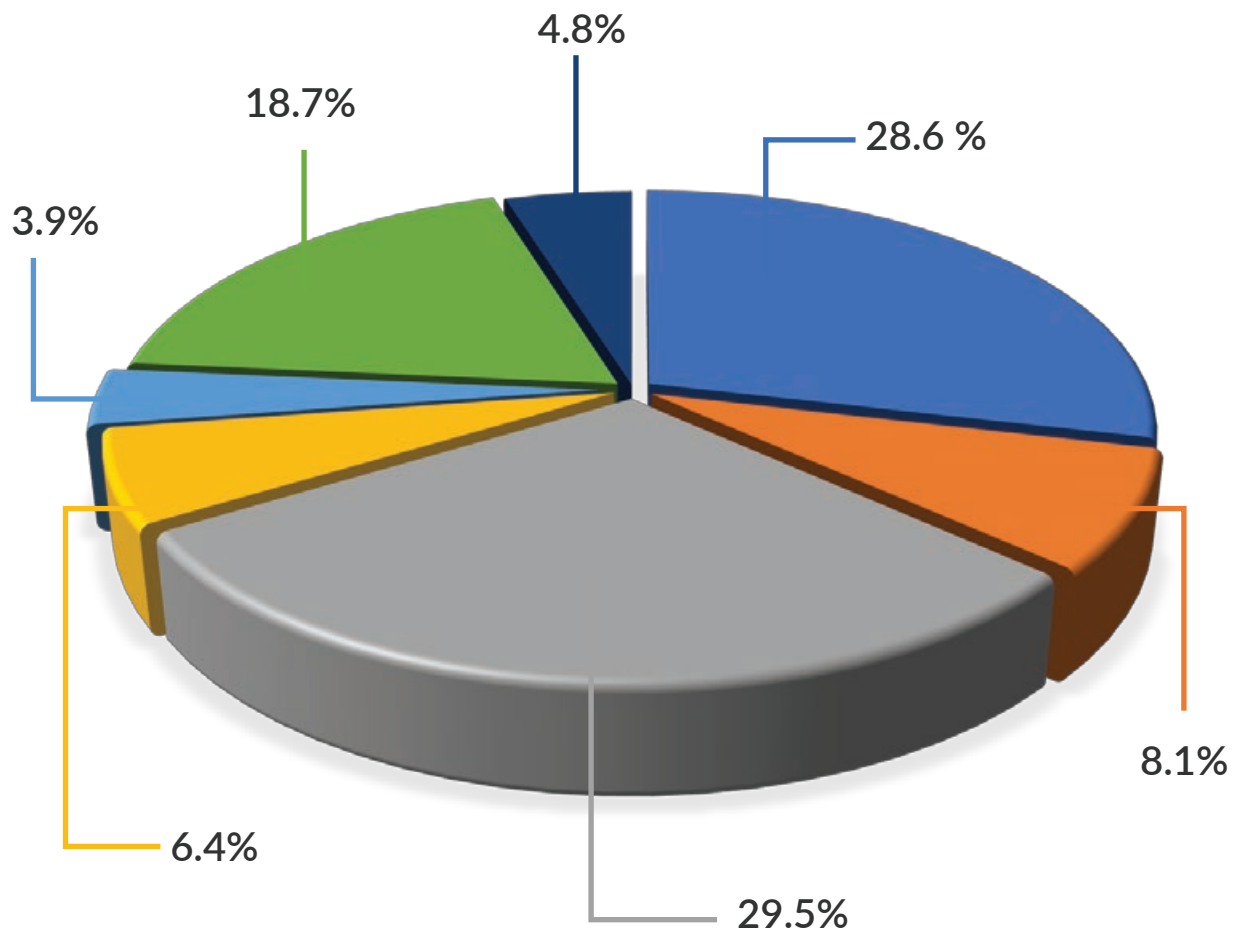
- Social Cohesion and reconciliation
- Matters related to LGBTIQ
- Sexual gender-based violence



As an effort to build peace and social cohesion among different ethnic groups, the SLRCS Colombo branch organized a cultural show in November 2019 with the participation of children from diverse ethnicities.

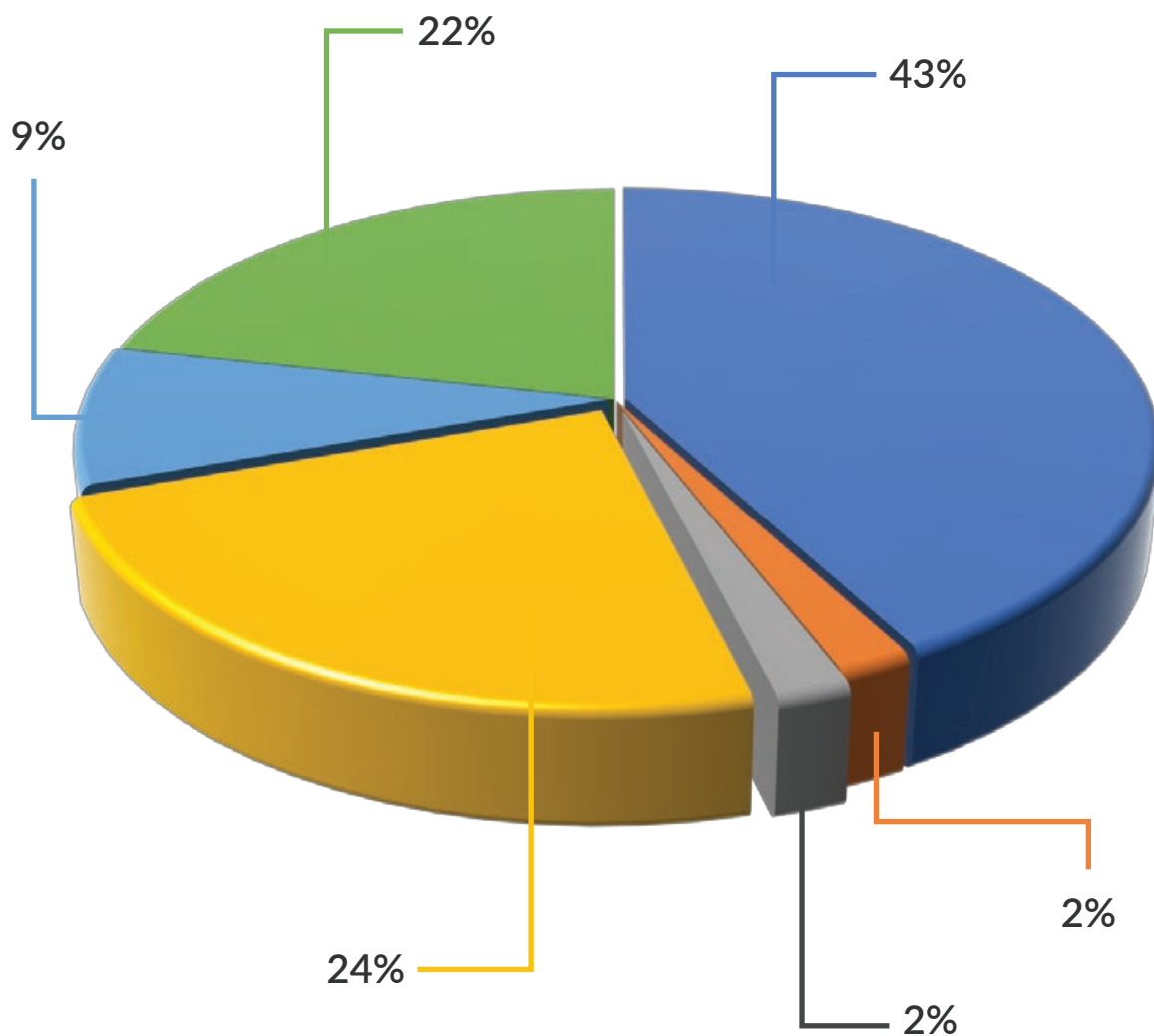
FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Funding For Projects



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

Expenditures by Sectors



- Disaster Management
- Health & Care
- Humanitarian Values
- Organizational Development
- Estate Housing Project
- Administration Cost



www.redcross.lk