



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Welcome to our Annual Report-2022

2022 was another year full of events across the country in which our support was needed to alleviate the suffering of many people. We did our best to be there for the people who needed us the most. Without the help and generosity of our donors, partners, volunteers, team members, and everyone else who cared about us, we wouldn't have been able to reach as many people as we did. We thank everyone who has helped us in many ways to change lives for the better.

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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

**HUMANITY · IMPARTIALITY · NEUTRALITY · INDEPENDENCE
· VOLUNTARY SERVICE · UNITY · UNIVERSALITY**

Adherence to the core principles ensures uniformity in the activities of the Red Cross Movement around the world. These principles bind the National Societies together and guide our work throughout.

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ACRONYMS

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

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



I am once again pleased to write a message on our annual report for 2022. That indeed became a defining year for Sri Lanka.

With the economic crisis hitting Sri Lanka at the beginning of the year, after being battered by the Easter Sunday attacks, the COVID-19 pandemic and now an economic crisis, the people of our nation were put through the mill, yet I believe they faced it well.

With political unrest and the economic crisis thickening in the early months of the year, I commend our volunteers and staff for rising to the occasion to assist the people who needed them the most. From a First Aid post at the Galle Face Green to provide water for anyone arriving in the capital, Colombo, to showcase their rights, our volunteers managed to show the true spirit of the Red Cross.

The launch of an international appeal was another feat that proved that the Red Cross looks after its people from all angles. Launching plans to assist thousands of vulnerable communities that are facing adverse The impacts of the economic crisis showcased that the Red Cross is a people's organization.

With more to do and many challenges ahead, I would like to once again Thank our donors, supporters, volunteers, and staff for their tremendous team spirit that allowed the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to reach its goals and be truly an organization that works and serves Sri Lanka.

**JAGATH ABEYSINGHE
PRESIDENT
SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY**

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SRI LANKA **RED CROSS SOCIETY**



Our journey in 2022!

With events in late 2021 and early 2022 driving the worst crisis in the post-independent Sri Lankan economy, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) launched a heightened humanitarian response to supplement efforts by the Sri Lankan authorities to mitigate the adverse effects of this crisis in the country, despite the COVID-19 pandemic still needling through the country. Even as the crisis was seeded in early 2022, the National Society geared up to respond to any eventuality and was well prepared with its response as the crisis grew exponentially across our island nation.

As you read through, you will witness our humanitarian actions that have actively assisted the vulnerable and marginalized communities in Sri Lanka when they needed it the most during this complex emergency. In spite of the present crisis sapping most of our resources, time, and effort, we never failed to live up to our role as the foremost auxiliary to the Government of Sri Lanka in its humanitarian activities, throughout the year 2022.

Among our most visible interventions was an emergency appeal launched by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) intended to raise a total of 28 million Swiss Francs to fund our response. The appeal, which reflected the gravity of the situation through meticulous field research (Needs Assessment) has been widely quoted in the media. The research was also the basis on which the SLRCS and IFRC conducted diplomatic roundtable conferences that sourced a notable collection of donations from foreign governments, and/or diplomatic missions to whom we are truly and immensely grateful. Further, the SLRCS was able to attract the attention of Partner National Societies (PNS) and world-renowned corporate giants to fund the appeal through which the destinies of a lot of lives were changed.

Another innovative response to the lack of medical supplies to state-run free healthcare institutions to source donors and suppliers willing to contribute was the Elixir online platform. Developed and co-operated with volunteer software developers and other professionals and organizations, Elixir has already sourced critical life-saving medicines worth more than USD 397,085.21 to give much hope to patients unable to afford private healthcare. Meanwhile, our relief efforts

in this emergency so far have reached out to around 40,700 households with around 203,500 people and continue to this day.

While the urgency and severity of the present crisis have constrained focus elsewhere, the timely conduct of the more routine activities was never compromised. The Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP) continues to improve the lives and livelihoods of appreciative farmers in the dry zone. The hallmark First Aid trainings and services, the sought-after camp management and Disaster Response Team trainings, blood donations organized by Branches all over the island, and many more activities took place in spite of the re-direction of resources and effort.

Pre-departure training for migrant workers, Hygiene promotion and psycho-social awareness, dissemination on Safer Access, and preparations for the election of Central Governing Board (CGB) members for the next 04 years were some of the activities conducted by the SLRCS in 2022.

We have been persistent in encouraging and enabling beneficiaries in the decision-making process through Community Engagement and Accountability practices. We have also been thoroughly transparent and accountable to our donors and partner organizations in our financial transactions.

Perseverance by our volunteers, governance, members, and staff helped us overcome all challenges 2022 placed in our path, to serve the most vulnerable and marginalized sections of our society. My heartfelt thanks go out to all of them and our much-valued donors, without whose generous and timely contributions, many of our efforts would not have been possible.

I hope this reading will enlighten you on all relevant aspects of our journey in 2022!

DR MAHESH GUNASEKARA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL,
SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY

1. OUR STRATEGIC AIMS

We have three strategic directions that were made based on the social, political, and economic situations of the country. These directions help the organization meet the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable communities. Our current strategic framework guides us 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:

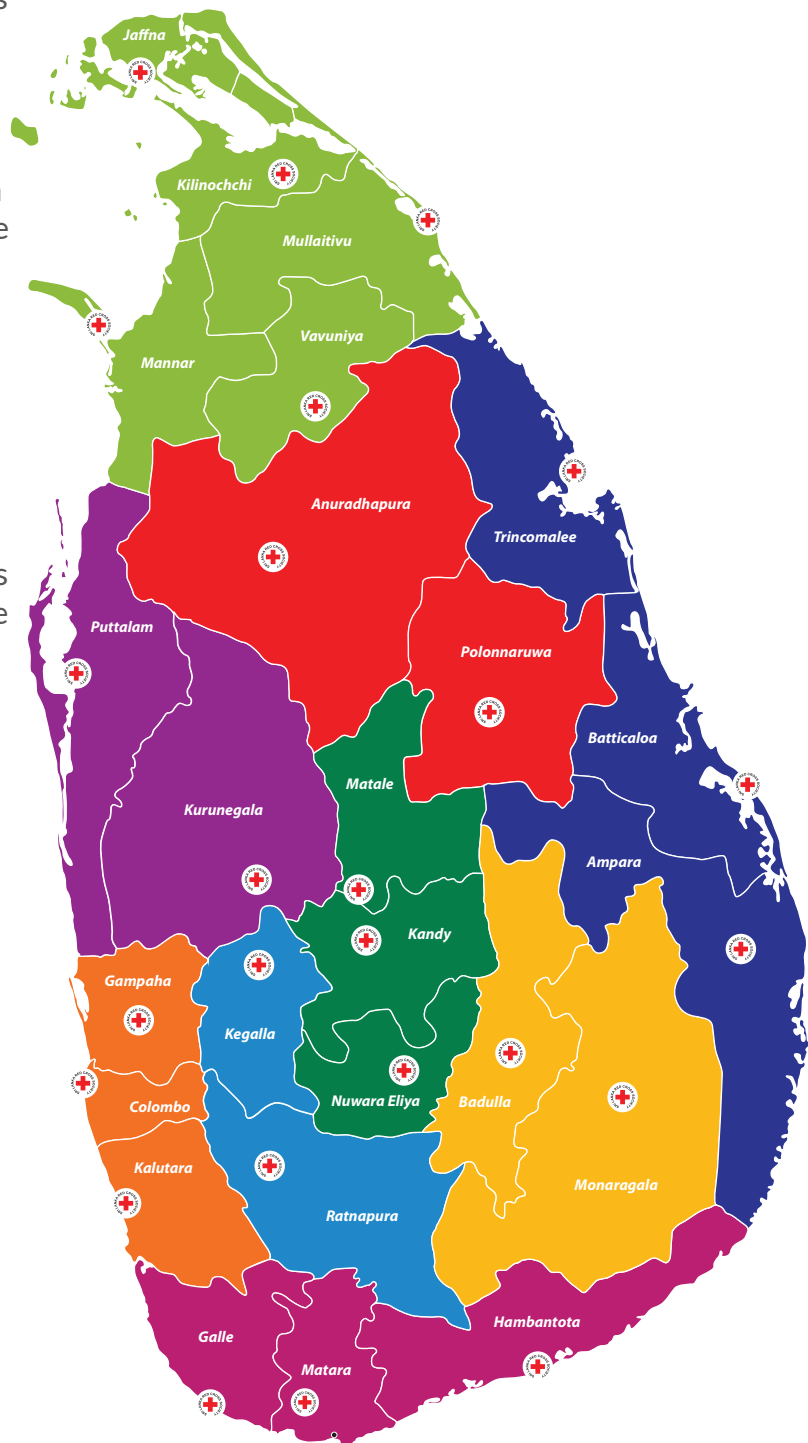
- 1 Building resilience among vulnerable communities to cope with disasters and emergencies,
- 2 Reducing risks of morbidity and mortality during health emergencies and promote healthy lifestyles among communities and,
- 3 Reducing stigma and discrimination in the society through improved community behaviours 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 operationalizing the plan to achieving its goals and milestones, the SLRCS strategic plan is equipped with an operational implementation framework to deliver results-based outcomes. These are accomplished through strategies such as organizational monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, a financial plan, performance management systems, and indicators.

2. OUR HISTORY IN A NUTSHELL

Over eight decades of service, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has helped countless people in need. In 1936, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) was founded as the "Ceylon Central Council Branch of the British Red Cross Society" by a group of volunteers to respond to natural and man-made disasters like the malaria epidemic. Once Sri Lanka gained its independence in 1948, the British Red Cross Society's Ceylon Central Council was dissolved, and the "Ceylon Red Cross Society" was established. The Ceylon Red Cross Society was officially recognized as a National Society of the League of Red Cross Societies (now the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, or IFRC) in 1952. When Ceylon officially became Sri Lanka in 1972, the local chapter of the Red Cross changed its name to reflect the new identity of the country.

Today, we have the ability and a strong system for responding to new disasters and situations. We also have a strong network of branches in each of the 25 administrative districts.



25
DISTRICT
BRANCHES

3. OUR DONORS

The world desperately needs aid more than ever with the mounting challenges that people continue to face in every part of the world. Despite the massive support the world needs, you still chose us to provide your support to the people in need of Sri Lanka. We want to sincerely appreciate the trust you have placed in us. Your contribution made a difference.

Red Cross Network

- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Austrian Red Cross
- Canadian Red Cross
- Hong Kong Red Cross (Branch of the Red Cross Society of China)
- Japanese Red Cross
- Qatar Red Crescent
- Red Cross Society of China
- Red Cross of Monaco
- Singapore Red Cross
- Swedish Red Cross

Governments

- China
- Netherlands
- United Kingdom
- Japan

Corporates

- Coca-Cola
- Uber Eats, Sri Lanka
- Microsoft
- Paypal

UN Agencies

- United Nations Development Programme



4. OUR STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The SLRCS is governed by a Central Governing Board (CGB), which is made up of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, National Secretary, and ten other members. The CGB makes policy and strategic choices. The Chairman of the Finance Commission is elected by the General Assembly. Aside from that, the CGB can nominate three professionals with non-voting authority to consult on policy choices.

The CGB appoints subcommittees from the selected governance, both at the CGB and branch level, as well as management members at the National Headquarters (NHQ) and branches, for core programme sectors as well as other need-driven programmes, to make sure that the programmes work well and are in line with the policy directives of governance.

The CGB is responsible for the appointment of the Director-General, the Financial Commission, Statutory Committees, and various ad hoc committees. The duty of these committees is to guide and direct management to make sure that policies and procedures are followed.

The Director-General and the Deputy Director-General make up the main management team at NHQ at the present time. There are eight 'Focal Points' that are assigned to programme areas such as disaster management, health, organizational development, humanitarian values, communication, human resources, finance, and transportation and logistics. These 'Focal Points' are responsible for the execution of programmes through their respective programme officers and managers.

The Branch Executive Officer, also known as the BEO, is the highest level of management in each branch. All accountants and other staff appointed by the branches are administratively managed by the BEO and are directed by the Branch Chairman at the branch level as well as the Director-General at the NHQ level.



“To build trust with communities, we need to understand and act on local knowledge and community feedback. It cannot be optional – we need to do so systematically and effectively.”

***Jagan Chapagain,
Secretary General, IFRC***

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

How are we applying CEA?

“Community engagement and accountability (CEA) is a way of working that recognises and values all community members as equal partners, whose diverse needs, priorities, and preferences guide everything we do.”

<https://communityengagementhub.org/>

The Red Cross achieves this by integrating meaningful community participation, open and honest communication, and mechanisms to listen to and act on feedback, within our programmes and operations.

MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

People have a say in decisions that impact them.

There were numerous emergency and continuing development projects in 2022; therefore, it was a busy year. We constantly discussed how to address their issues in order to make our responses more meaningful. We do not regard affected communities as passive recipients of our assistance. Instead, we involve people in determining what they need, understanding the local context, and developing and implementing our programmes to ensure that our interventions truly fulfill the needs of the community.

OPEN COMMUNICATION

We keep our communication lines open with them about who we are and what we do to ensure that people establish trust in us and connect with us. Our work is based on our mission and seven fundamental principles, which help us figure out which communities need our help the most. We use the Red Cross



The development and management of programs with community engagement promotes local ownership and sustainability. When the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP) began in the Kurunegala District, we got the Nildiyawara Community-based Organization (CBO) to work with the government and other project partners to plan a community-managed drinking water infrastructure project. At the time, the CBO and community members actively participated in the implementation of its Rural Water Supply (RWS) Plan. With trainings in leadership, financial management, auditing, and water supply scheme maintenance and operation, as well as exposure visits and cross-learning, the project offered knowledge and skills to the CBO. The Nildiyawara CBO is now completely capable of maintaining and taking charge of their RWS system.

Top Photo: A stakeholder meeting conducted by the Nildiyawara CBO.

Bottom Photo: Key members of the Nildiyawara CBO



A group of SLRCS Branch volunteers and Red Cross employees who successfully completed CEA training in 2022.

Safer Access Framework in our programs and decision-making so that our partners, staff, and volunteers in the Red Cross Movement can get to communities more safely.

Whenever we start a new program, we let the people in the area know about it. Clear communication is essential if we want people to trust us and accept what we do. To improve the CEA approach, we provide our volunteers and staff members with CEA training regularly. In 2022, 22 community volunteers and 10 staff members got CEA training.



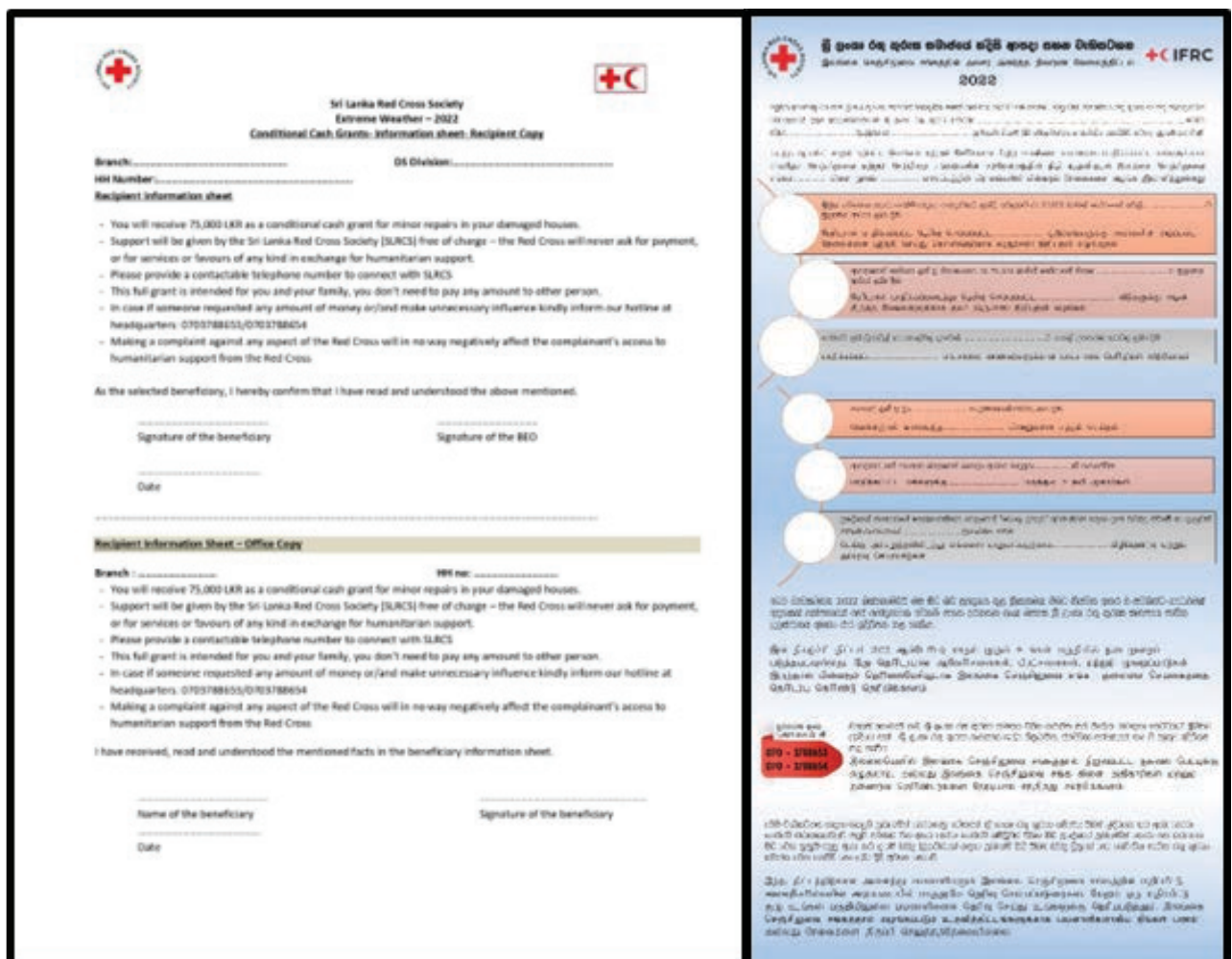
Even though there was civil unrest at the Galle Face demonstration site in Colombo, we continued to provide medical and first-aid services. We worked around the clock for three months with over 80 volunteers and doctors, providing first aid to over 20,000 people and taking over 1,500 ambulance shifts to take injured people to hospitals. We maintained that the Red Cross provided medical and first-aid services as part of its mandate; therefore, we remained approachable and unhurt throughout while maintaining neutrality, independence and impartiality and gaining respect from all parties.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK MECHANISM

We need communities to feel comfortable contacting us to air their concerns and provide us with feedback. That improves our service.

We have established a grievance redressal mechanism to address the concerns and suggestions of the communities where we work in a serious manner, providing a trustworthy and open avenue for our beneficiaries to voice their problems, requests and suggestions. This system ensures that we always reach the people who need our help the most and leads our intervention to generate the biggest possible benefits for the communities we serve while maintaining our trust and reputation.

The National Headquarters offered hotline numbers (0703788653/0703788654) and information sheets printed in both Sinhala and Tamil at the distributions of cash vouchers and conditional grants for persons impacted by various hazards to share their complaints and concerns regarding any aspect of the distribution. In addition, the NHQ trained a team to manage hotline feedback, including recording the procedure.





Under the Community Resilient Integrated Water Management Project, we got six Farmer Organizations in 3 Grama Niladhari divisions to start constructing downstream of 16 small reservoirs in the Mamunuwa and Anguruwella cascades. This was assigned to the Farmer Organizations themselves under the technical supervision of the Provincial Irrigation Department and the financial supervision of the Agrarian Service Centers in the area under the Department of Agrarian Development. Because the construction is undertaken by the Farmer Organizations, they themselves have to address the concerns and complaints of the community members in relation to the construction work. As the community mobilization partner of the CRIWM Project, we always assist them in resolving those challenges while also linking them with the appropriate government authorities as needed.

Meanwhile, we have facilitated a consultative process with farmer organizations to design an effective downstream water distribution plan with community members to ensure that all farmlands receive an adequate water supply after the construction is completed using water management techniques. The preparation of an efficient and fair water distribution plan with



the consent of all farmers is not an easy task, as this process typically deals with many community disputes. Farmer organizations in charge of the entire process demonstrate a community-driven and built-in community feedback mechanism that leads the community to address their issues at the community level while resolving any disputes among themselves.

COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING

Investing time in understanding the context of a community and listening to people's needs, views, and feelings

Understanding the context of the communities we serve is a top priority for us because it enables us to tailor our programs to address the actual needs of the communities. Through speaking with the impacted communities and other governmental and non-governmental parties with an interest in our actions, we are able to gain this contextual awareness.

Together with the IFRC, we conducted a face-to-face survey with 2,871 households in 11 districts to get a full picture of the humanitarian effects of the economic crisis on the lives of the people. We heard the heartbreaking stories of people who were struggling to survive the economic crisis and saw how they were coping, which could have a big effect on their health, especially in households headed by women, people with disabilities, workers, or people who used to get daily wages but no longer did. When we designed the response program, this contextual awareness had great value.



Volunteers from the Colombo Branch met with flood victims in Kaduwela, Hanwella, and Avissawella to learn what they needed, what was most important to them, and how they wanted to deal with and recover from the damages caused by floods. We used this information to develop our flood response and recovery program and strategy for putting it into action. During emergency operations, this awareness helped us make sure that the aid we provided was based on what the affected communities needed the most.





6. DISASTER MANAGEMENT

In times of crisis, which can take many different forms, we need to figure out ways to be there for the most vulnerable.

Sri Lanka faced multi-faceted challenges in 2022, which made the year very hard for everyone while COVID-19 was still running. Various districts of the country endured severe weather. Besides, the country started manifesting the effects of its worst economic crisis since independence in 1948, with inflation, food insecurity, threatened livelihoods, fuel shortages, and essential medicine shortages making life extremely difficult for people, particularly the most vulnerable, resulting in significant



humanitarian needs. As a result of the multifaceted nature of the crises that the nation started to experience more deeply in 2022, our operations under the Disaster Management program were consequently multifaceted.

RESPONDING TO THOSE AFFECTED BY EXTREME WEATHER

In total, we reached 12,967 families (64,835 individuals) affected by severe weather in Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Rathnapura districts through immediate relief.

HIGHLIGHTS (FLOOD RESPONSE):

- **3,300** Non-Food Relief Item packs
- **217** Conditional grants
- **2,550** Unconditional grants
- **4,300** School packs
- **9** Medical camps
- **5,000** House cleaning
- **2,600** Well cleaning
- **22** Dengue awareness campaigns



The Southwest monsoon activation intensified rainfall in Sri Lanka in August, affecting the Northern, Central, Western, Southern, and Sabaragamuwa provinces. Heavy rains, high winds, floods, and landslides caused the most damage, particularly in Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, and Rathnapura districts. Later in October, severe weather, including heavy rain, high winds, and lightning strikes, hit the Western, Sabaragamuwa, Central, and North-Western provinces as well as the Galle and Matara districts, causing house damage, flooding, and displacements.

Our flood response involves a series of activities. We do not abandon the impacted communities by merely giving emergency relief; we also stand beside them to help them recover.

Immediate Relief:

Immediately after we heard about the bad weather and damage in Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Rathnapura in August, and Colombo and Gampaha in October, our branches activated the Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) to help the affected people right away. They also conducted needs assessments in order to plan for humanitarian aid to assist with immediate and recovery needs. With funding from the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), for the affected families in Colombo, Gampaha, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Rathnapura districts, we

- distributed 3,300 Non-Food Relief Item packs (a pack worth Rs. 6,712) to the severely affected families,
- provided 217 conditional grants worth Rs. 75,000 to support their recovery,
- provided 2,550 unconditional grants worth Rs. 20,000 for housing renovations so they could decide their priorities, and
- school supplies to 4,300 school children whose books and supplies had been destroyed by the bad weather.



Medical care:

Besides immediate relief, a large number of affected people were also in desperate need of medical care. Since the prevalence of diseases increases in flood-affected areas and to provide necessary medical care for any injuries the floods brought, our branches in Gampaha, Colombo, Kandy, and Rathnapura carried out 19 medical camps.



A mobile first aid and medical assistance program was provided to the communities, while women were given sanitary items in the Hanwella and Seethawaka areas.

Cleaning houses and wells:

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces in flooded homes and the area around them is a major task that needs to be done to keep people from getting sick from contaminated water and surfaces and prevent infections. We cleaned up 5,000 homes in Colombo to reduce the health risks for the people who lived there and to help them move back in.

It is common that the submerged wells get contaminated due to the pollutants

after the floods. We cleaned 2,600 wells in the Colombo and Gampaha districts to make sure that the people who were affected could get clean water.

Hygiene promotion:

Hygiene promotion is needed to minimize health hazards. Disaster-affected communities frequently lack access to clean water and sanitary services. They are frequently prone to a variety of diseases. People may find it difficult to follow their usual hygiene routines and frequently struggle as they are confused about what to do. Through hygiene promotion messages, our branches reached roughly 78,000 affected people throughout all five districts, reminding them of the proper hygienic behaviors to minimize health hazards.

Cleaning campaigns:

Flooding causes mosquito breeding, with stagnant waters providing ideal breeding grounds. In the aftermath of the floods, dengue fever spread to all areas. To mitigate any post-flood health hazards, our Colombo and Gampaha branches, with the Ministry of Health and the Primary Health Inspectors, launched a Dengue Awareness Campaign with 22 programs consisting of awareness sessions through posters and banners and cleaning campaigns.

Training is a crucial part of Disaster Response:

Disaster Response Teams are the first ones to respond to emergencies and disasters in the community, so they need regular training to make sure they are ready. Due to the fact that we rely on volunteers in disaster responses, making them ready for disaster operations is a must.

In 2022, with the funding assistance of the ICRC, we trained 228 members of the

Branch Disaster Response Team and 128 people in affected communities in camp management.

Furthermore, we distributed 3,125 First Aid kits to each branch in order to improve emergency health care services.



RESPONDING TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

In total, we reached 40,700 households and 203,500 people in the country through relief efforts.

Responding to the economic crisis-Highlights

- **47,200** families and **236,000** individuals reached through relief.
- **30,700** Dry rations/relief packs
- **6,000** Food vouchers
- **10,500** un-conditional grants
- Lifesaving medicine for hospitals worth **USD 97,085.21**
- **4,200** School packs

In 2022, Sri Lanka experienced its worst economic and political crisis. Many vulnerable Sri Lankans slipped into poverty as a result of a cost-of-living squeeze that pushed the country into the top five countries with the highest food price inflation, prompting the need for humanitarian assistance.



Fuel, food, and medicine became increasingly difficult to get, and rising prices rendered what was left unaffordable for many Sri Lankans. Because of the dry season and a lack of imported gasoline, power plants that used to run on fuel and hydroelectric plants could no longer make electricity. Power outages became all too common. The price of cooking gas climbed roughly threefold. Long lines for necessities could be found all across the island. Surgery and intensive care unit treatments were halted in certain hospitals due to generator fuel shortages and a lack of critical drugs. The rising cost of pharmaceuticals and their availability were exacerbating a critical medical problem.

As a major humanitarian actor in the country, we stepped in to lessen suffering in this situation, in which the vulnerable were made even more helpless and poor.

Donors contributed to the Emergency Appeal:

- **Canadian Red Cross and the Government of Canada**

- **The Government of the Netherlands**
- **The Government of the United Kingdom**
- **Japanese Red Cross Society and the Japanese Government**
- **The Red Cross Society of China, Hong Kong branch**
- **Red Cross of Monaco**
- **Austrian Red Cross**
- **Swedish Red Cross**
- **Hewlett Packard Co. Foundation**
- **European Commission-DG ECHO**

Launching an Emergency Appeal through the IFRC:

We launched an emergency appeal with the IFRC for 28 million Swiss francs, aiming to help about 500,000 people in Sri Lanka get the help they need right away and get back on their feet for the long term. Through this call for help, several donors came forward to provide aid in various forms, such as food, menstrual hygiene products, cash grants, vouchers, medical supplies, and other kinds of help to people who needed it.

Sri Lanka Complex Emergency-Need Assessment (Report).

With the IFRC, we conducted a need assessment through a household survey to gain insights into the humanitarian impacts of the crisis, primarily in the fields of food security and livelihoods, health and protection, and related areas at the community level, in order to

identify priority groups, their needs, and the existing response programs to ensure that our assistance reaches the most vulnerable.

Face-to-face interviews with 2,871 families were conducted between September 8 and September 20, 2022, covering both urban and rural areas in 11 districts (Ampara, Colombo, Galle, Gampaha, Jaffna, Kegalle, Monaragala, Mullaitivu, Nuwara Eliya, Polonnaruwa, and Puttalam). These districts were selected to ensure that both urban and rural areas, significant ethnic groups, and sources of income were represented. Additionally, 300 households from 10 estates were selected for a separate case study of estates in Nuwara Eliya.

We appreciate the effort and commitment of everyone who participated in this exercise, especially the IFRC, the authors of the report, staff at SLRCS Headquarters, the Branch Executive Officers and staff of the relevant districts, and the community volunteers who tirelessly visited thousands of houses across these districts to collect data.

The assessment report was authored jointly by the IFRC Surge assessment team comprising of the following experts.

- Sinha Wickremesekera, MBBS, MSc (PGI Officer)
- Richard Aubrey White, PhD (Health Officer)
- Selvarajasingham Umakanthan (Primary Data Collection)
- Manik Saha (Food Security and Livelihoods)
- Tatiana Khrol-Lappalainen (Information Analyst)
- Tim Bray, PhD, MSc (Assessment Coordinator)



We also would like to thank Olaf Steenbergen, Senior Data Analyst, IFRC, for his support with mapping.

The results of this extensive assessment helped us start a dialogue with our donors so we could ask for their funding assistance and plan our response.



We met with the diplomats and officials from the IFRC and ICRC for a series of roundtable discussions on the economic crisis and also presented the key findings of the assessment and the areas that needed to be addressed through the relief efforts.



Our leadership also met with the Regional Director of IFRC Asia Pacific and the Honorable Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to further discuss the crisis and the communities' needs.



Key responses to the economic crisis:

Distribution of food packs:

Thanks to the generous support of the IFRC Appeal, we distributed dry ration/relief packs to 30,700 families living in Colombo, Gampaha, Killinochchi, Mannar, Matale, Mullaitivu, Nuwara Eliya, Vavuniya, and Jaffna, benefiting approximately 153,300. Of these packs, 20,600 went to pregnant mothers as nutrition packs.

Food vouchers:

In addition to the relief packs, with the generous support of the ICRC, we distributed food vouchers to 6,000 families living in the 12 districts (Ampara, Batticaloa, Galle, Jaffna, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Matara, Monaragala, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya).

Unconditional cash grants to help them rebuild their lives:

With the help of the IFRC Disaster Relief and Emergency Fund (IFRC-DREF) and the ICRC, we carried out another household survey in all 25 districts to find families whose livelihoods had been lost or affected by the economic crisis. We identified 10,500 households across all 25 districts and gave each of them Rs. 20,000 in unconditional cash to get back on their feet with the support of the IFRC and ICRC.

"We choose to respond with cash distributions because we think it is an efficient delivery method. Cash grants help them right away, which is obvious, but they also do more than that. When people receive cash, they have the freedom to spend it however they see fit, so the choice is theirs, which they highly value, and they want to be held accountable for their decisions. By doing so, we aim to increase their confidence as decision-makers. Also, when we provide cash to a community, it improves money circulation while helping the local economy, which in turn improves the quality of life in the long run."

- Dr Mahesh Gunasekara, Director-General -

Providing life-saving medicine:

In order to help donors from around the world support Sri Lanka during this tough period, we launched Sri Lanka's first-ever medical supply-to-donation matching platform on October 19, 2022, called Elixir.

The initiative was a volunteer-run, private-public-private partnership led by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society that allows hospitals and treatment centers across the country to register their needs for lifesaving medicines and medical supplies that may be in short supply due to the country's economic and foreign exchange crises in 2022.

Furthermore, "Elixir" offers a unified and streamlined portal for donors who want to help Sri Lanka during this crisis. It also enables matching medical demands and

donations for effective use of resources and time, as well as shortening the overall turnaround time for help and enhancing transparency.

In 2022, “Elixir” made it possible to give away important medicines and medical equipment worth more than USD 397,085.21. All donations were handed over to the Ministry of Health and hospitals across the country during the severe crisis, where needed medications were limited or unavailable at all.

Through this site, a number of donors, including the Singapore Red Cross, Microsoft, the Qatar Red Crescent Society, Uber Sri Lanka, Paypal, and the ICRC and IFRC, donated to help the country get the medicines and equipment it needed.

Besides, the ICRC donated a consignment of 10,000 blood bags to the National Blood Bank and other supplies, such as 300,000 face masks, as part of its response to the present humanitarian crisis.



A helping hand for school education amid the crisis:

Sixty percent (60%) of the survey participants (mentioned above in the assessment report) indicated that they were worried that kids might drop out of school because of the increased risk. We wanted to reduce this risk by helping the future of the country, which is the children. Working with the IFRC, we gave

packs of school supplies to 4,200 children from vulnerable households so they could keep going to school. A pack was worth more than Rs. 7500.

Menstrual hygiene is a neglected, unmet need that prevents girls from poor communities from going to school. Besides, poor menstrual hygiene practices can lead to health conditions among women and girls. We also gave sanitary napkins to 40,000 female adolescent students to improve their sanitary hygiene.



RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC

We continued our responses to COVID-19 from last year until the pandemic was under control.

We have been an active supporter since the onset of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka in the vaccination efforts of the health authority, disinfection activities, and the provision of essential equipment and materials to the hospitals.



The National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) thanked the Colombo branch for their work on COVID-19 prevention measures at a recent ceremony while presenting a token of appreciation. This was in appreciation of the Branch's significant contribution and unwavering dedication to patient care throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.



Accidents happen unexpectedly, so we're ready to help.

In June 2022, our trained Ampara branch first aiders provided extensive first aid services to those embarking on the renowned Pada Yatra foot pilgrimage from Jaffna to Kataragama. For many years, the SLRCS Ampara branch has done this annually, and this time, they provided first aid to almost 1000 people. First aiders from the Ampara branch, including medical professionals and first aid instructors, generously volunteered to run this first aid camp, which lasted for 21 days in the middle of a forest under challenging conditions.



7. HEALTH AND CARE

FIRST AID SERVICES

First aid has been at the heart of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, and we have been the country's leading provider and trainer in first aid. We believe that providing first aid is a humanitarian act and an important part of building strong, resilient communities. Our First Aid teams go into action when adverse weather conditions cause disasters and when people gather in massive crowds at national, religious, and cultural events to help people deal with unexpected illnesses or injuries.

The Kandy Esala Perahera, the Siripada pilgrimage, the Nallur Kovil Festival, the Thalavila Festival, and the Mahashivaratri celebration at the Thiru Konesvaram Kovil are some events where we provide first aid services every year.

In 2022, our First Aid teams at 17 Red Cross branches helped over 12,000 people at public events, gatherings, and disasters.

First Aid services at the Galle Face demonstration site:

There were a lot of protests caused by civil unrest in the first few months of 2022. Tens of thousands of protesters gathered in early April at the Galle Face demonstration site for a two-month demonstration. Our First Aid teams were stationed and stood by at the Galle Face demonstration site from April 9 to June 6 to provide First Aid services around the clock in coordination with volunteer medical personnel and First Aid teams. We extended our service in accordance with our mandate and under the guidance of the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, irrespective of their political opinions, views or any such differences.



FIRST AID TRAINING FOR RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS

We train our volunteers in first aid so that they can help the general public. Red Cross volunteers receive four types of training in how to give first aid: basic training, advanced training, teacher training, and junior training.

Basic First Aid:

We provided a three-day basic first aid training for 367 participants, who subsequently took an exam to advance to the next level of training. Of them, 246 individuals were qualified as basic first aiders as a result of the training.

Advanced First Aid:

207 volunteers from 13 branches completed a 40-hour (6-day) Advanced First Aid Training Course in 13 branches, and of them, 78 candidates were qualified as advanced First Aiders and qualified to become a First Aid instructor.

First aid Instructor Refresher

Training: We encourage our First Aid instructors to refresh their knowledge every three years to ensure they are always prepared. Throughout the year, we provided two refresher training sessions for 57 First Aid instructors.

Highlights

- First Aid for over **12,000** people
- **246** Basic First Aiders
- **78** qualified First Aid Instructors
- **57** First Aid instructors with refresher training

Celebrating World First Aid Day:

First aid is helpful in an emergency and, if done correctly, could save a person's life. We celebrate this day to promote and advocate everyone to become a trained first aider. Learning First Aid is thus not age-specific, and it should ideally be a lifelong pursuit. Thus, the Red Cross Movement has chosen "Lifelong First Aid Learning" as the topic for World First Aid Day in 2022. In celebrating this special day on September 10, we held a basic first aid training on Zoom for 150 people, including children, teachers, parents, and community members. On September 12, our employees at National Headquarters held another training session. Throughout the month, our branches also held training sessions.

BLOOD DONATION

A droplet of blood is a breath for someone.

Patients need blood to survive surgeries, cancer treatments, chronic illnesses, severe injuries, etc. This life-saving treatment is made possible thanks to the selfless generosity of blood donors. Blood is always necessary. Despite the ongoing crisis in the country, 2,365 voluntary blood donors stepped up to help our blood donation campaigns in an effort to save as many lives as they could. Our branches conducted 51 blood donation campaigns across the country, collecting 2,370 pints to support the National Blood Transfusion Service.



HYGIENE PROMOTION AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL AWARENESS FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN

Students' personal hygiene and psychosocial well-being are crucial to their academic success. Whenever possible, we continued to reach school students through our messages about improved hygiene, school safety, and psychological and social well-being.





8. WATER MANAGEMENT FOR **EXTREME WEATHER RESILIENCE.**

Climate change is a dire issue that must be addressed without delay. To prevent climate-related disasters, we must address environmental challenges while simultaneously equipping people to be resilient in the face of natural disasters.

Because of changes in weather patterns, natural disasters in Sri Lanka are happening more often and getting worse. Severe weather-related disasters, like flash floods, long-lasting droughts, and landslides, have cost lives and livelihoods and hurt almost every part of the country's economy. More importantly, how climate change affects agricultural production will have a big impact on farmer livelihoods and future food security. We are helping small farmers in the Kurunegala District secure their livelihoods through two projects: the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP) and Ground Water Recharging for Disaster Risk Reduction, and we are also enticing them to use irrigation and farming methods that are sustainable and more environmentally friendly.

CLIMATE RESILIENT INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECT (CRIWMP)

In the Kurunegala District, where smallholder farmer communities are largely dependent on rainfall and have no access to irrigation, we mobilized smallholder farmer communities to farm their lands five years ago in order to increase their resilience to unpredictable climate and extreme events. The district is particularly vulnerable to climate change due to its high rate of poverty, marginal smallholder farmers, and poor access to clean drinking water.

The Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP), also known as "Wew Gam Pubuduwa," is a seven-year project that commenced in 2017 and aims to

protect farmers from the effects of climate change. On this project, we work with farmers to improve irrigation and farming methods based on eco-systems, upgrade community-managed drinking water infrastructure, expand decentralized drinking water systems, and improve early warning and forecasting to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers in the dry zone to climate variability and extreme events.

The project is financed through a grant received from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), while the government of Sri Lanka has committed to co-finance the activities identified under the project as well. The Ministry of Irrigation is an implementing partner for this project, with technical assistance from the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) and works with a number of government institutions to deliver the project's activities and outputs while measuring its impact. The SLRCS mobilizes dry-zone farmer communities in Kurunegala district to adapt to climate-resilient agricultural activities.

Village irrigation system upgrading

Irrigation is critical for dealing with agricultural water scarcity and seasonal water shortfalls. Because limited rainfall and changing precipitation patterns have a negative impact on crop growth and quality, irrigation is the only way to provide a steady supply of agricultural products, particularly in the dry zone. In 2021, the project began to construct the downstream of 16 small-scale reservoirs in two cascades (Mamunuwa and Anguruwella) through Farmer Organizations to prevent water absorption by soil before the water reaches the paddy fields. This project will benefit 621 families spread over three Grama Niladhari Divisions. The construction is carried out by Farmer

Organizations under the supervision of the Provincial Irrigation Department and the Department of Agrarian Development.



Members of the Farmer Organization are building downstream canal systems of 16 small reservoirs in two cascades (Mamunuwa and Anguruwella). The soil absorbs the water that runs through these canals before reaching the paddy fields. Building a concrete lining can prevent water absorption and increase the amount of water reaching the paddy fields.

Climate-smart agriculture

We worked with smallholder farmers to help them use climate-smart agriculture so they could survive extreme weather, increase their harvest, and become more resilient in the face of climate risks. In 2022,

- **89** farmers engaged in paddy farming by adopting an alternate wetting and drying system.
- **199** farmers adopted traditional paddy farming technology.
- The construction of erosion-controlling contour soil bunds in the upstream homesteads of minor tanks benefited **101**.
- **180** farmers engaged in producing local-level seeds and planting materials.
- **657** farmers practicing mid-season green gram and cowpea cultivation in **529** acres

Growing Sunn hemp to produce nitrogen-rich soil to replace chemical fertilizer.

In 2021 and 2022, farmers in the dry zone had a hard time getting fertilizer because the government stopped importing it, which they used a lot. All farmers were worried about how to grow crops on their land without chemical fertilizers, especially urea, which is high in nitrogen.

With the start of this situation in the country, the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP) introduced many organic ways to improve nitrogen content in the soil, such as growing Sunn hemp as a mid-season¹ crop, using microbiology methods, and applying biochar, in addition to the



methods used by the Department of Agriculture, such as spreading compost, chicken and cow manure.

The experimental farming of Sunn hemp was done under the Athaudagama tank in Mamunuwa Cascade as a mid-season¹ crop. Sunn hemp seeds were spread over a 2-acre area of stubble land just after the Yala paddy harvest, allowing for the use of the residual moisture in the field. Two months after sowing, the plant had been plowed down for green manure in the early flowering stage since it decomposes more rapidly and has a positive nitrogen balance at this stage.



"Last year, the project supported us in cultivating green gram for mid-season, but we could not practice it this year due to less rain and less water in the tanks. Furthermore, because of the delayed rainfall, the Yala season was delayed, resulting in a short midseason insufficient for growing green gram. Therefore, the project introduced Sunn Hemp cultivation to use this short interval to prepare the farmers for the Maha season while providing a solution to the nitrogen fertilizer problem with an eco-friendly solution."

- Sasanka Dinesh, President of the Saliya Athaudagama Farmer Organization -

¹*There are two agriculture seasons, Maha and Yala, which correspond to two monsoons. The Maha Season runs during the "North-East Monsoon" from September to March of the following year. Yala season is effective during the period from May to the end of August. The period between the Yala and Maha seasons is known as the midseason.*

Green and sustainable approaches to resolving the human-elephant conflict

Sri Lanka has the most elephants in Asia. Most of them live in the dry zone of the country, especially in the northern, eastern, and northeastern parts. The population of Sri Lankan elephants is primarily restricted to the dry zone, and habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation are threats to this species due to increasing development initiatives and resettlement.

Wild elephant attacks on farmers and their crops, where the animals feed and wander, pose a serious threat to both livelihoods and priceless lives. The country's ongoing, unplanned developments have also made it harder for people and elephants to get along.

Residents of the by-tanks around Hunugallewa Grama Niladhari Division in Ehetuwewa Divisional Secretariat Division are in a region where elephant attacks are common. Driving the elephants away was a never-ending challenge, and farmers tried a number of traditional tactics, but none of them were successful.

The Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project (CRIWMP) worked with a young farmer named Dhanushka Lakmal. He showed the farmers a new way to address this challenge. Dhanushka built a "bio-fence" around his land with project assistance in an effort to keep out wild elephants. He built a bio fence along the property's edge, with two rows of plants planted in a zigzag pattern with a trench in between: hana (*Agave cantala*) and lime (*Citrus limon*).

Dhanushka now enjoys a life full of optimism. "With this wild elephant threat, I endured suffering for years.

I can't help but wonder why I didn't think of this wonderful idea sooner. This approach has never been used in our area. In comparison to other forms of fencing, this intervention is more cost-effective and long-lasting. This will undoubtedly protect us from wild elephants as well as other animals harming our crops, such as wild boars and porcupines. In addition, the lime plants allow me to make some money," says Dhanushka.



With the assistance of the project, many farmers in Hunugallewa have started to build lime fences that form a zig-zag pattern along the border of their farmlands. Lime plants, which are also profitable for farmers with extra income, divert and repel elephants.

Hot chili peppers, a less vulnerable crop to drought

As a smart way to deal with climate change, the project brought in crop diversification to make farming systems less vulnerable to drought. Due to their ability to survive drought and pests, it was suggested that hot chili pepper varieties, which people in the area call Kochchi or Nay Miris, could be grown commercially. Also, this perennial crop grows as a bush, needs few inputs, and gives a harvest all year long, which

Later, her daughter discovered a few Facebook groups where people were enthusiastic about cultivating spicy peppers. The mother and daughter have added seed and sapling production to their crop as a means of boosting their income. "Currently, I am growing 500 seedlings for an order. I charge Rs. 30 for each sapling I sell, and this is a good way to support our lives," says Pushpa.



Creating an essential link in the ecosystem while promoting an eco-friendly source of income

Through this project, we taught beekeeping to farmers in the Kurunegala District. We did this to introduce and/or increase pollinators in the ecosystem and to give farmers who are struggling because of the bad effects of climate change a new way to supplement their family income. So, 48 farmers in the Galgamuwa, Ehetuwewa, and Polpithigama Divisional Secretariat areas received bee colonies and training. The only thing you need to start beekeeping is a bee box with a colony of bees and a small amount of space on the farm. Even though beekeeping is an agricultural business, many people keep bees as a hobby.

A farmer in Ihala Thimbiriyawa, Moragollagama, named Wimalawathie Menike, keeps bees to do both of these things. "In 2019, I got a bee box from the project. I now have two boxes for bees. I get three 750-ml bottles from one bee box every two to three

months and sell a bottle at a price of Rs. 2,000. This is a good way to make money on your own. The only cost is the time I spend collecting honey every two months. There is a large market not only for bee honey but also for bee colonies," says Wimalawathie.



Community-managed drinking water infrastructure

The communities in the project areas have significant problems acquiring safe drinking water year-round. In 2022, the project addressed the issue by offering alternative drinking water sources, which included:

- 3 Rural Water Supply Schemes for 1,089 families,
- 210 rainwater harvesting units to benefit 840 people,
- 255 people who received Rainwater Harvesting units in 2020 with awareness of their maintenance and operation.
- Training on Climate Resilience Water Safety and Security Plans (CRWSSP) for 189 people,
- 85 community members participated in the participatory monitoring committees in the community-based organization (CBO) to manage the Rural Water Supply Schemes built by the project in the previous years.
- 40 members of CBOs with knowledge on the operation and maintenance of their water supply schemes and
- Awareness for 1,032 community members and schoolchildren on water, sanitation and hygiene



Nishshanka, a village leader in Galgamuwa's Weherabandiyawa village, said that it was very hard for his community to get safe drinking water and water for other uses because most of the year was dry. He says that after receiving a rainwater collection tank, he realized how much free, high-quality water he could collect from the rain and how much water they had been wasting all these years.

Groundwater recharges water-bearing zones

Farmers in dry zones depend on rainfall and modest irrigation reservoirs to cultivate crops, but climate change has reduced the amount of water they receive over time.

The Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project built 42 groundwater recharging systems to increase groundwater retention and provide a stable base flow of natural water drains that keep smaller reservoirs full of water even during a long dry zone drought. These units collect rainwater and recharge subsurface aquifers with it. Promoting the same approaches in rural communities ensures soil water availability for crop viability and decreases drought-related crop loss.

Through education, training, and field trips, the project helped fill in gaps in knowledge about climate change, its effects, and groundwater recharge as a way to adapt.

Swarnakanthi, who is standing at her groundwater recharge pit in her home garden, says she always wanted to have a home garden, and it is now a reality since she can recharge her soil.



Early Warning & Disaster Preparedness

To protect farmers from the effects of climate change, the project also improved early warning, forecasting, and climate advisories.

In 2022,

- **3,045** farmers received water management advisories for farming in the Yala and Maha seasons,
- Agrometeorology advisories reached **32,011** farming households, and
- **4,055** farmers in four cascades with Village Disaster Preparedness Plans
- **4** schools in four cascades in the process of preparation of school level disaster management plans



Pathaha, a large runoff water collection tank

GROUND WATER RECHARGING FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROJECT

One of the main effects of climate change in Sri Lanka is the length of the dry seasons. Because of this, groundwater levels have drastically decreased, and traditional rain-fed farmers who depend on small irrigation reservoirs are suffering greatly from water shortages. As a result, the cultivation of most of the crops, like paddy, other field crops, and vegetables from the lowlands, which are Sri Lankans' main source of food, is disrupted.

With funding from the Emperess Sholen Fund, we started the Ground Water Recharging for Disaster Preparedness Project in June 2022 to deal with this problem in Ihala Palukandewa and Inhala Digana, two Grama Niladhari Divisions in the Kurunegala District. The project mainly includes two components:

Implementing ground water recharge practices by establishing ground water recharge units in catchment and tank

ecosystem areas to facilitate ground water retention and provide a continual base flow of natural water drains that carry water into minor reservoirs even during prolonged droughts. This would make sure there is enough water in the soil for crops to grow and reduce crop loss due to drought.

Educating people about how important it is to refill the groundwater by addressing the knowledge gap about climate change and its effects and groundwater recharge as a drought mitigation measure among drought-prone, vulnerable communities. The project is also working with undergraduates and academics at a number of universities to advocate for and promote groundwater recharge as a sustainable measure to deal with the effects of climate change.

While the project provides financial and technical assistance to the community, the community also contributes labor, traditional knowledge, and raw materials that are locally available.

The settlements of Ihala Palukandewa and Ihala Digana are being used as examples to demonstrate the importance of replenishing groundwater.

By the end of the project, we are planning to reach

- 100 families with approximately 400 individuals
- 2 schools with approximately 500 children
- 3 universities (75 students, 10 academics)

In the IFRC's Climate and Environment Innovation Challenge in December 2022, Tharindu Prasad Kumara, the Field Coordinator of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society's Ground Water Recharging Project, was picked as one of the eight climate reporters who are actual game changers in their national communities.



A community member with her groundwater recharge plan for the homestead



Through numerous activities, the project raises awareness among children about the importance of groundwater recharge. We held an art exhibition and distributed pomegranate plants at the U.B. Vanninayake College in Galgamuwa to help students internalize eco-friendly living and raise their knowledge about groundwater recharge practices.

9. RESTORING FAMILY LINKS AND MIGRATION

RFL SERVICES

It's painful to miss family and wonder where they are.

Restoring Family Links (RFL) and Migration are core activities of our portfolio. We work with the ICRC and the National Societies to help people find one another, exchange messages, reunite families, and find out what happened to missing people during conflicts, migration, detention, natural disasters, or other circumstances while offering international tracing services with our global partners.

Our RFL services include:

- locating missing people with the assistance of the ICRC, government agencies, and International Red Cross Movement Partners from around the world,
- delivering Red Cross messages via the Red Cross movement when normal communications are disrupted,
- obtaining health and welfare reports on family members who are sick, elderly, or unable to speak for themselves,
- assisting with the documentation required for family reunification procedures,
- referring cases to agencies that fall outside of the Red Cross's mission, and
- assisting the Department of Childcare in its search for biological parents of adopted children.

"In December 2019, the French Red Cross (Croix-Rouge Francaise) sent us a request to track down a biological mother in Sri Lanka. This girl's parents were French, and they adopted her in March 1989. She now lives in France. We transfer such requests to the Department of Probation and Child Care (DOPCC) as adoption search facilitators. On February 20, 2022, we got a message from the DOPCC that the biological mother had been found and the mother wished to maintain contact with her biological daughter.

In April, we set up a virtual meeting for both parties. Other than the biological mother and the daughter, the DOPCC, Sri Lanka Red Cross, and French Red Cross colleagues participated in this meeting. This virtual meeting was heartwarming. Both the mother and the daughter began to convey their emotions and feelings. Their reunion felt like the end of a long and painful journey."

-Kamal Yatawara, RFP Focal Person-

RFL and its community outreach:

We continued to perform our usual RFL services, such as locating missing people and assisting their families, with the help of our partners. Throughout the year, we

- handled 37 local and international cases of missing persons,
- collaborated with government officials, UN agencies (IOM and UNHCR), diplomatic missions, and civil society organizations to help reduce migration-related displacement,
- provided two refresher trainings to Volunteer Tracing Coordinators in the Southern and Northeastern provinces, as well as seven Branch Executive Officers in the Northern and Eastern provinces, in collaboration with the ICRC Sri Lanka Delegation Protection Team. This was done to assist them in learning more about RFL services, and

- conducted an annual session for 24 RFL volunteers in order to motivate and encourage them to participate in future activities.

OUR SUPPORT TOWARDS MIGRANTS

We want to keep migrants safe, make them less vulnerable, and spread the word about the benefits of safe, orderly, and regular migration.

We worked with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment and key government officials, such as Migration Development Officers and Grama Niladharies, to promote safe migration. In 2022, we worked with the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment to offer 85 pre-departure training and awareness programs to more than 3,570 aspiring migrants in person and online across the country. The goal was to improve the safety and social welfare of migrant workers and educate them about the RFL service of the Red Cross Movement. In addition, we integrated messaging about safe migration and RFL services into eight other Red Cross campaigns.





10. HUMANITARIAN VALUES

The Fundamental Principles describe the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's values and practices. They provide us with directions for our actions as well as a shared identity for the Red Cross Movement. When humanitarian organizations need to make difficult decisions about who should receive assistance first in the event of a disaster, the following fundamental principles guide our decisions:

Humanity:

The concept of humanity encapsulates the utmost importance placed by the Movement on the necessity of taking action to prevent and alleviate human suffering. Everything we do is based on a commitment to upholding people's dignity and supporting those in need, no matter who they are or where they may be.

Impartiality:

Non-discrimination is one of the most essential aspects of human rights protection. It unequivocally states that no group of people will be denied assistance or given preferential treatment for reasons other than their needs. Only by acting impartially can we ensure that everyone has faith in the Movement's ability to help and support the most vulnerable.

Neutrality:

To maintain the trust of everybody, the Movement must not take sides in hostilities or engage in political, racial, religious, or ideological controversies at any moment.

Independence:

The principle of independence says that the Movement must resist any political,

ideological, or economic influence that could make it stop embodying the principles of humanity, impartiality, and neutrality.

Voluntary Service:

Our effort must be purely voluntary, with no desire for any benefit.

Unity:

Only one Red Cross or Red Crescent Society is recognized in a country. A National Society must be engaged nationally so that even the most inaccessible communities can receive support when necessary.

Universality:

The universality of suffering implies a universal response. Through our 192 member National Societies, we are present in virtually every country in the world, which is one of the Movement's greatest assets.

It is critical that the rest of the world understand the fundamental principles of the Red Cross, as this understanding considerably reduces our obstacles in implementing our decisions. At the same time, our donors and everyone else who helps alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable should be aware that their contributions directly benefit them. As a result, spreading the word about who we are and what we do means a lot to us.

SPREADING OUR VALUES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The National Headquarters Humanitarian Values Department, branch personnel, and trained volunteers continued to spread and promote humanitarian values and fundamental principles through various activities to increase public understanding of the Red Cross Movement. These public awareness campaigns contribute to

generating interest in our cause among the general public, which helps increase the number of members and volunteers we can recruit.



Dissemination programs:

Forty-four (44) special dissemination programs were provided by 23 branches, reaching 1,461 people and educating them about our humanitarian responses, fundamental values, and fundamental principles.

We have volunteer Dissemination Coordinators at the branch level who deliver Red Cross Dissemination programs around the country. As a result, it is critical to strengthen their dissemination capacity and enhance their key competencies. We hosted a capacity-building training for 24 Red Cross volunteers to help them keep disseminating our principles and values.



CELEBRATION OF THE WORLD RED CROSS DAY

On May 8, a global day to celebrate the uniqueness and unity of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. To commemorate this memorable day, we hosted a number of events in Vavuniya, including a special gathering of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society governors, staff, volunteers, and government stakeholders at the branch premises.



Following the function at the Vavuniya Branch, all participants went to the Church of Ceylon Tamil Mixed School in Vavuniya, where the Vavuniya Branch arranged a blood donation program to mark World Red Cross Day. Many volunteers donated blood in an act of "human kindness."

Following that, all participants convened at the Anbagam Mother Theresa Home in Vavuniya and donated some essential items to the home, which houses roughly 100 orphans, the majority of whom have disabilities. The National Headquarters provided 100 bed sheets to the inmates, and our Vavuniya Branch provided dry rations, sanitation and cleaning supplies, and wheelchairs. Following the donation, volunteers performed "Shramadana" and cleaned the premises, demonstrating their kind act.





In observance of World Red Cross Day, a tree-planting activity was conducted at the premises of Mother Theresa's Home at the end of the event.

While the major event series was taking place in Vavuniya, the remaining branches across the country celebrated World Red Cross Day with a variety of activities throughout the month.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS

A workshop was held in December 2022 for Red Cross staff attached to the National Headquarters to enhance their understanding of the concepts of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion in order to assist decision-making while engaging in humanitarian activities and increase their ability to identify the most vulnerable people.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO BRIGHTEN THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Scholarship Fund awarded scholarships to 50 students across the country who were experiencing financial difficulties. Each student received Rs. 2,500 per month, with the assurance that these scholarships would continue until the student finished his or her studies.

SAFER ACCESS FRAMEWORK (SAF)

We work on Safer Access because we want to reach and support those in need while also guaranteeing our own safety.

Our Red Cross staff and volunteers work closely with communities and are often drawn from them, but access to those in need is not always assured. Stakeholder perceptions affect our access and acceptance. People, communities, and beneficiaries

beneficiaries may question who we are, what we do, and why. These reservations may limit our accessibility and acceptability. SLRCS promotes the Safer Access Framework with the assistance of the ICRC to assist those in need while ensuring our safety.

We continued to train and guide our volunteers and branch employees in order to validate their capability to provide safer access to where they work. Like any other year, in 2022, we made the Red Cross's Safer Access Program stronger so that our staff and volunteers would be safer.

- In 2022, we formed a Safer Access Working Group to determine the next steps and held two Safer Access Working Group meetings.
- As part of the Safer Access initiative, we provided insurance coverage for a total of 235 volunteers from 12 branches. Under the volunteer safety program, we procured twenty respirators for the volunteers deployed at the first aid camp located at the Galle Face Green protest site during the year 2022. These specialized face masks were intended to provide protection against tear gas attacks.
- Twenty-nine (29) Red Cross personnel, including 15 Branch Executive Officers and Program Focal Points attended the Safer Access Framework National Workshop.
- At the regional Safer Access Framework workshop in Bangkok, we delivered a joint presentation with the ICRC on our first aid services offered during the Galle Face Green protest in 2022. This presentation was given through the lens of the Safer Access Framework in order to obtain additional program assistance from ICRC Asia-Pacific area representatives.

- We also strengthened the integration of the Safer Access Framework into other Sri Lanka Red Cross programs. In October, for example, we gave a special presentation to the Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) training program in Nuwara Eliya in order to better position the elements of the Safer Access Framework in their Disaster Management Program.
- Furthermore, as part of the Safer Access Framework, the Human Resource (HR) Department began revising SLRCS policies such as the HR Manual, Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), and child safety.





11. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We aspire to organizational excellence so that we can improve services and assist more disadvantaged people each year. To accomplish this, we must strengthen our capacity to deal with the most critical and vulnerable situations. Increasing capacity entails attracting more volunteers and staff with diverse skills who can be deployed meaningfully in a variety of situations, improving our system to achieve efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring sustainable and diverse incomes, and having strong leadership in charge of governance and management. We achieved a number of advances in 2022.

Expanding our role as an auxiliary to the government:

We continued to contribute substantially as a government auxiliary to both the humanitarian and development sectors. Working with several government ministries and agencies at the national, provincial, district, divisional, and village levels, we assisted the government with their responses. This was done in areas like disaster response and management, education, health and care, agriculture, irrigation, and climate action.

Investing our resources in development programs:

The Red Cross is well-known for its assistance in disasters and other emergencies both around the world and within its own country. We took a step forward a few years ago with the Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project and the Ground

Water Recharging Project in 2022, partnering with the Sri Lankan Government and other development actors to implement long-term projects to help vulnerable communities be resilient to climate-induced disasters. Our involvement in these long-term development programs expands organizational knowledge and capacity for managing development-oriented programs beyond emergency response.

Volunteers are the back born of the National Society.

Thousands of selfless individuals give their time, knowledge, and energy to help others.

Volunteers are an integral component of our response efforts. They bring a wide variety of skills, talents, and knowledge that help us do more, do better, and reach more people, so we are always ensuring that they have the proper assignments, training, equipment, and safety measures in place to do so. The help we get from them every year is crucial to our success. Our branches have been trying to enhance their membership and volunteer base, as well as the engagement, deployment, and retention of their members and volunteers, in order to better serve those in need across the country. In 2022, 804 volunteers (406 males and 398 females) affiliated with the 25 branches actively participated in our responses, providing invaluable services and enabling us to advance toward our aims.

Youth-focused initiatives are a significant investment.

We know how important volunteers are for preventing and alleviating human suffering, and we also know how important the youth are as agents of social change, especially because they



A group of volunteers receives a briefing before being dispatched for emergency first aid and medical services to assist with the Colombo flood response.



The Colombo branch held a volunteer and staff appreciation ceremony in October 2022 to recognize their invaluable assistance in taking part in our responses.



A lifesaving and water rescue training held by the Colombo branch for Junior Red Cross members.

play an important role in molding the country's future. Youth are very involved in all of our humanitarian work, and they have made a tremendous contribution in Sri Lanka over the past year by working hard on both relief and other programs. Therefore, the success of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society depends on how well we can use the skills and ideas of young people in our programs. We believe that focusing on young people is an important investment. We encourage all of our branches to create activities that will inspire young people to participate in humanitarian programs and build their capacity through various skill development activities, thereby encouraging youth volunteers and recognizing them as youth members.

We also set up **Junior Red Cross Circles** in villages and schools, get them involved in our programs, and give them different kinds of training to help them improve their response skills and join the National Society over time.

Also, our branches kept forming Kekulu Red Cross units for kids between the ages of 6 and 12 so that they could learn about the Red Cross programs and get involved in various community and school-level activities.

In 2022, our branches all over the island ran different programs to train them in various skills and disseminate Red Cross values. This was done to get more youth and children to join the National Society and to gradually integrate their contributions into the Red Cross movement.

Fundraising for making lives better:

Sri Lanka's economic crisis worsened over the course of the year, reaching a point of humanitarian emergency as thousands of people ran out of food, fuel, cooking gas, and medicine. We wanted to serve more people and couldn't wait to



The Junior Red Cross Circle of Visaka Vidyalyaya, Colombo, provided first aid service at the annual school sports meet.

rely solely on traditional donors, so we had to diversify our fundraising methods.

Launching Elixir: We launched Sri Lanka's first-ever medical donation matching platform named Elixir (<https://elixir.redcross.lk/>). Elixir enables hospitals and treatment centers around Sri Lanka to register their needs for life-saving medicines and medical supplies that may be in limited supply.

The Elixir platform, designed and operated by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Medical Supplies Division of the Ministry of Health, is a massive collaborative effort to help Sri Lanka overcome the shortage of lifesaving medicines caused by the current economic crisis.

"Elixir" matches requirements and donations for efficient use of funds through a unified and seamless platform in a rapid and transparent manner, by giving a single, streamlined interface for donors who want to support Sri Lanka. In 2022, many traditional and non-traditional donors, such as the ICRC, IFRC, other Red Cross Movement partners in Qatar, Singapore, and Canada, Microsoft, Uber, and Paypal, donated through this platform.



Launching an Emergency Appeal through IFRC: We launched an emergency appeal with the IFRC for 28 million Swiss francs to support immediate, vital relief and long-term recovery efforts for an estimated 500,000 people in Sri Lanka. Through this appeal, a number of governments, such as the Japanese government and the ICRC, contributed to reaching the vulnerable through various forms of support, such as food assistance, menstrual hygiene products, cash grants, vouchers, medical supplies, etc.



In response to the IFRC's call for help, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, the IFRC, and the ICRC held a successful roundtable discussion in June with foreign diplomatic missions in Sri Lanka to talk about how the current crisis is affecting people's lives.

Meanwhile, we continued to raise funds on our **online platforms**, like GiveAsia and Benevity, to supplement the COVID-19 response funds.

Branches partnering with humanitarian and non-humanitarian actors: With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, many of our branches continued to look for new funding and collaborative opportunities to expand their programs and reach more people. One example was how the Colombo branch collaborated with Uber Sri Lanka to provide dry rations to households in the Colombo District that had been particularly hard-hit by the economic crisis.

Some of our branches explored opportunities for partnerships and new initiatives to address the identified community-level needs and reach even more people.

"In collaboration with the Child Protection Authority, our branch developed a project for livelihood assistance for families with children with disabilities and single-parent households with UNICEF funding. We gave livelihood training to these families by using a resource person who is a successful businessman living in Badulla who started his ventures from scratch some time ago. He offered his knowledge of building a successful business. The project provided livelihood training, technical and financial support for 20 families and also assisted in the construction of five houses for the most vulnerable families."

-Ranjith Liyanage, Branch Executive Officer, Badulla branch.

Meanwhile, at the National Headquarters, we developed an Income Generation Program Unit to expand our services while also generating revenue to support humanitarian initiatives.

Broader engagement in national-level clusters and working groups:

We took part in the national-level cluster meetings and working groups operating in various fields to foster our engagement in national level dialogue, knowledge exchange, and networking. The clusters and working groups we represented were:

- Health Cluster, chaired by WHO (during the COVID-19 response),
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement, chaired by UNICEF,
- The Humanitarian Country Team, chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator,
- The Cash Working Group, chaired by WFP and the UN,
- Information Management Working Group, UN,
- Inter-Sector Coordination Group,
- Accountability to Affected Populations, Community Engagement, and Accountability Sector of the UN, and
- Food Security Working Group, chaired by the World Food Programme (WFP).

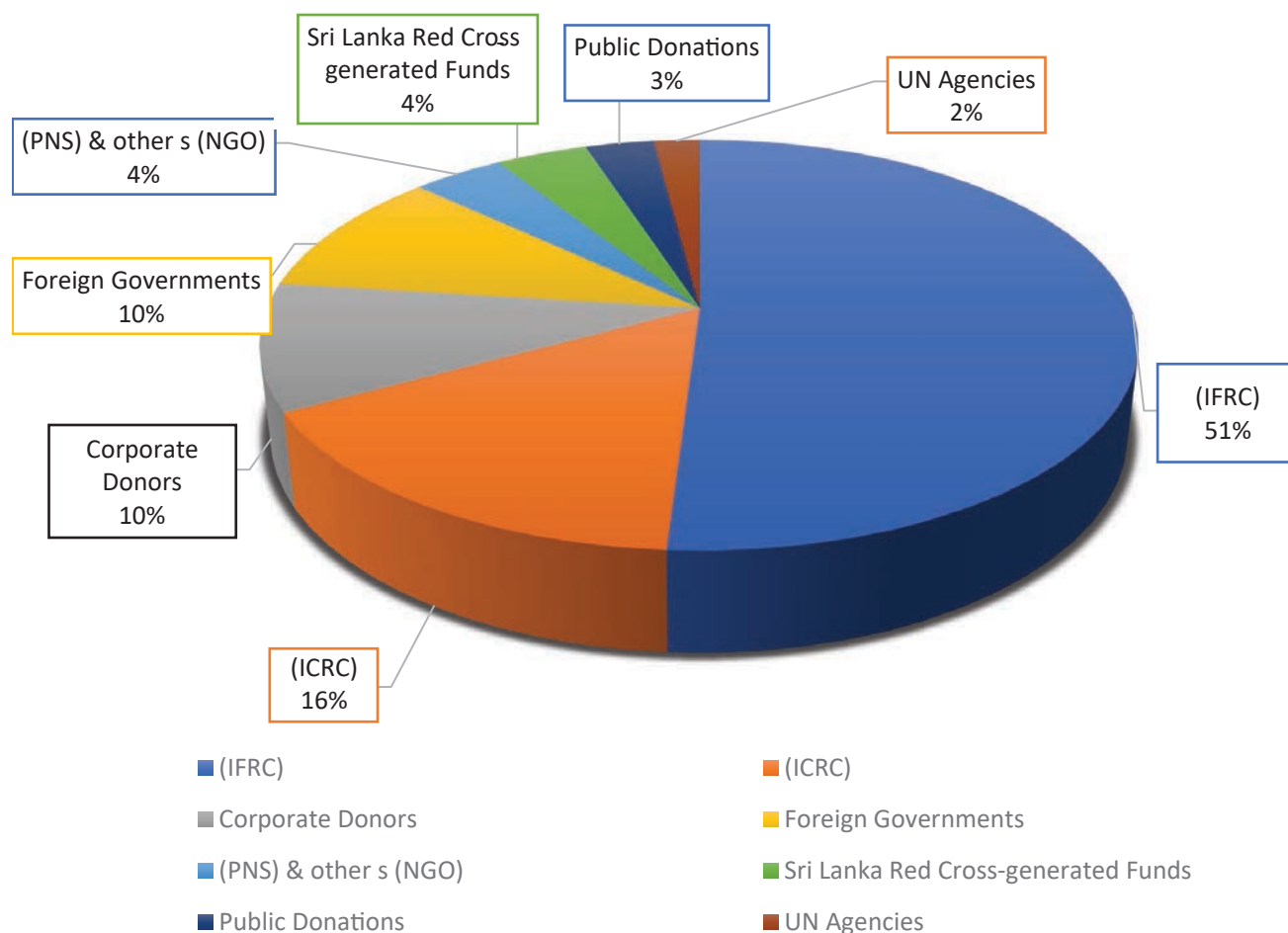


FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Funding for projects - 2022

Funding source	%
International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC)	51%
International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)	16%
Corporate Donors	10%
Foreign Governments	10%
Partner National Societies (PNS) & other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)	4%
Sri Lanka Red Cross-generated Funds	4%
Public Donations	3%
UN Agencies	2%
Total	100%

FUNDING FOR PROJECTS - 2022



12. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Expenditure by sector - 2022

Sector	%
Disaster Management Activities	74%
Health Activities	14%
Administration costs	11%
Organization Development (OD) Activities And cost of Income Generation Projects (IGP)	1%
Humanitarian Values	1%
Total	100%

EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR - 2022

