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Final Report

Sri Lanka - Flood

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRLK012
Date of Issue: 28 February 2022	Glide number: FL-2021-000057-LKA
Operation start date: 22 May 2021	Operation end date: 30 November 2021
Host National Society: Sri Lanka Red Cross Society	Operation budget: CHF 499,498
Number of people affected: 43,701	Number of people assisted: 46,523
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) is a voluntary humanitarian organization; SLRCS has a strong branch network in all the 25 districts of the country, which is well capable in providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies. Over 150 staff and 7,000 active volunteers are trained in disaster response. National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) and Divisional Disaster Response Teams (DDRT) are available at National, District and Divisional levels. SLRCS is supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Sri Lanka Office in this operation, especially in providing the technical support and launching of the DREF	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL),, Disaster Management Centre (DMC), The National Dengue Control Unit, UN agencies, international non-government organizations (INGO), and other civil society organizations.	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

In May 2021, the southwest monsoon and activation of tropical storm “Tauktae” in the southeast Arabian sea triggered heavy rainfall across western and southwestern parts of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka’s Department of Meteorology reported a maximum rainfall of up to 336 mm in the Western province during the second week of May. Heavy rains and high winds caused flooding in several districts the following week. Colombo, Gampaha, and Galle were the worst affected districts, with a large number of damages and displacements. Flooding inundated the affected low-lying areas in nine districts, causing damage to residential areas. Moreover, agricultural lands and standing crops, as well as infrastructure. were inundated and damaged. As of 17 May 2021, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) situation report stated that 43,701 people (11,247 families) were affected across nine districts, with five deaths reported.

During the first week of June 2021, the intensity of rainfall increased, causing floods and landslides in the same districts where the DREF operation was still ongoing, as well as three adjacent districts in the country’s Western and Southeastern parts. Affected districts included Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Rathnapura, Puttalam, Kegalle and Nuwera Eliya. According to the Metrological Department, the highest rainfall of 331 mm rain was reported in Kalutara district. According to the DMC’s situation update on 5 June 2021, 15 people died and two people were reported missing. Furthermore, a total of 1,422 houses were fully or partially damaged, 266,923 people (66,476 families) were affected, and 26,842 people (2,221 families) were evacuated to 88 safe centres/evacuation shelters. Floods and landslides impacted the income sources of the most vulnerable people, which were exacerbated by the COVID-19 lockdown imposed in the country.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

The SLRCS has a strong branch network in all the 25 districts of the country, which is capable of providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies. Over 150 staff and 7,000 active volunteers are trained in disaster response. National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT), Branch Disaster Response Teams (BDRT) and Divisional Disaster Response Teams (DDRT) are available at national, district and divisional levels. SLRCS has also trained disaster response teams

specialized in water and safety, which has 150 active members. These members are well-trained in lifesaving techniques to assist rescue operations in times of need. Further, trained first aid volunteers are also available in all districts, in readiness for immediate deployment at the time of disasters for lifesaving purposes. SLRCS has a pool of 25 cash and voucher assistance (CVA) trained personnel, who can be deployed to set up and assist implementation of CVA activities.

SLRCS volunteers from Colombo and Gampaha branches provided the necessary support to people affected by the floods, in coordination with government authorities. To assist the most vulnerable people affected, BDRTs were deployed in the field to conduct emergency assessments. As the situation intensified, two SLRCS branches requested additional resources to assist with the response. Following this, NDRT members were deployed to required districts to assist with assessments and relief distributions.

SLRCS disseminated weather updates issued by the government’s meteorological department and put branches on high alert from the outset. Social media platforms such as Facebook as well as the SLRCS website were used to convey messages to the public and report on response actions. SLRCS closely tracked the movement of the depression strictly following the meteorological department’s early warning and then activated its branches.



Distribution of 'ferries' to affected locations. (Photo: SLRCS)

Table1: Summary of key response by sector

Sector	Activity	Target	Actual	Remarks
Livelihoods	Provision of cash grant LKR 15,750 (CHF 72)	3,500 households	3,500 households	Completed
	International and local procurement to replenish SLRCS stock	Stock replenished	Stock replenished	Completed
Shelter	Provision of essential household item assistance	800 households	800 households	Completed
WASH	Conduct well cleaning	3,000 wells	3,000 wells	Completed
	Conduct clean-up campaigns	35 campaigns	40 Campaigns (15,808 people)	Completed
Health	Development/printing of IEC materials for dengue campaigns	10,000 posters	10,000 posters	Completed
	Organize medical camps	10 medical camps (5,000 people)	10 medical camps (3,510 people)	Completed
	Conduct Dengue awareness campaigns	10 campaigns (1,000 people)	25 campaigns (46,523 people)	Completed
Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)	Integration of PGI activities across all operational activities and data collection process	All activities	All activities	Completed

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

SLRCS has a longstanding working collaboration with the IFRC and ICRC in implementing various programmes. During the disaster, IFRC and ICRC worked together in close coordination to provide technical support to SLRCS and shared information at the regional and sub-regional levels. In addition, Movement coordination meetings involving SLRCS, IFRC, and ICRC were regularly organized.

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Delhi and the Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur provided technical support to SLRCS in developing the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) for the DREF request, operations update, and final report, as well as coordinating with SLRCS for information sharing with the Movement and external partners. During the operation timeframe, additional DREF allocation was granted to expand the scope of the DREF operation to address the needs in the newly flooded areas.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The national and district level Disaster Management agencies and district administrative units led the floods and landslide response with the support of local authorities across the country. The government deployed the military for search and rescue operations, while local authorities took action to provide cooked food to affected families. Given the COVID-19 lockdown, DMC together with military and local authorities conducted assessments of the situation.

The DMC and local authorities in the respective districts managed safe shelters, where displaced persons were evacuated. Local organizations provided cooked food to displaced people in close coordination with the authorities. SLRCS branch officers regularly attended DMC meetings to provide updates on the DREF operation to government authorities.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

SLRCS, in coordination with local authorities, conducted a 24-hour assessment and identified the immediate needs and priorities of the affected population. The assessment was conducted by BDRT members residing in the affected areas and collected information on the most vulnerable groups affected by the floods. Initially, markets and essential services of the areas were interrupted due to the floods. However, local markets reopened as soon as floodwaters started receding.

In addition to the three districts (Colombo, Gampaha, and Galle) targeted during the first phase of the disaster, three additional districts (Rathnapura, Kalutara, and Puttalam) were identified for emergency assistance due to widespread impact due to flooding and landslide in the second phase. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown in the country, the needs were identified in close coordination and consultation with the district DMC, Divisional Secretariat and other relevant government agencies. SLRCS BDRT members residing in the affected locations assisted to provide information for the initial assessments.

The floods inundated and damaged houses. Families with damaged houses lost their household items including kitchen utensils and hygiene items. With markets not yet fully functional, and with COVID-19 restrictions, families were facing challenges in getting items to resume their basic life. Therefore, as people were struggling to cope with the flood situation, there was a need to provide essential household items to meet their emergency needs. SLRCS also focused on the distribution of relief items instead of cash assistance as the local markets and banks were not fully functional at the time. There was a risk of prolonging the response if the operation decided to provide cash grants.

A large number of shallow water wells were contaminated due to flooding and there was a need for well cleaning activities. Further, based on experience, mosquito breeding increases as a result of stagnant water, thus increasing the risk of dengue. Therefore, the need for cleaning the affected areas was important, as well as dengue prevention awareness. Priority was given to providing household items, medical and first aid services, well cleaning and provision of cleaning materials. After floodwaters started to recede, well cleaning activities started in all six districts and 3,000 wells were cleaned. Unfortunately, due to the upsurge of rain in early June 2021, some of the cleaned wells were inundated again.

Livelihoods and basic needs

Basic needs including food items, household items, safe drinking water and sanitation were highlighted as the main assistance required. Available information showed that severe losses impacted long-term food security in affected areas. Limited work opportunities reduced purchasing capacity of vulnerable families. Assessment findings highlighted that many of the affected people were daily wage labours who had lost their income with the lockdown and flood situation. Therefore, SLRCS selected the most vulnerable 3,500 households for cash and voucher assistance (CVA).

Considering the number of households damaged in the first and second phases of the disaster, it was planned to assist affected people with essential household items. CVA trained staff and response team members were mobilized from the branches and national headquarters to provide technical assistance where necessary. Most branches have CVA trained staff and volunteers for support as well.

It should be highlighted that those assisted during the first phase were affected again in the second phase of the flood. Apart from that, 800 households were selected for assistance with essential household items in the first phase were included in the CVA intervention as they belonged to the most vulnerable affected category and had also lost their daily income due to double disasters within a short span.

It is important to note that even with lockdown measures, people were able to purchase their essential household items, medicines and other household needs from government-designated supermarkets and small grocery shops in their neighbourhood. The government set up systems and structures that were put in place to supply food and household items across the country through cooperative societies and supermarkets. When the flood started receding, some of the other shops and markets started functioning within a few days.

Shelter

During the second phase of the disaster, a total of 15 houses were fully damaged while another 915 houses were partially damaged. Some 2,221 families (26,8410 people) moved to safe shelters managed by the DMC together with local authorities. The National Disaster Relief Service (NDRS) provided displaced people with food and other basic needs. Local community organizations and business organizations too provided cooked food to displaced people in close coordination with authorities. Some families moved to safe shelters before the disaster as the government warned them to evacuate from areas with high floods and landslides risks. These families were included in the SLRCS assistance, such as CVA in consultation with authorities. The government through the DMC had insured all damaged houses and insurance compensations will be paid by the insurance company.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Another main concern was the lack of safe drinking water. In all six districts, most of the water sources were contaminated. In Colombo, making this condition worse, furnace oil from large oil tanks at the Sapugaskanda Oil Refinery overflowed due to heavy rain and contaminated water sources in the neighbourhoods. The Sri Lanka Navy and Coast Guard took actions to prevent further spread.

The WASH interventions were carried out targeting the most affected households in six districts. SLRCS selected 3,000 wells to clean and to help resolve the drinking water shortage. Schools used as safe shelters and public places of the affected areas were cleaned through this operation. About 90 per cent of the wells selected for well-cleaning activities in the first phase of the operation were contaminated again during the second phase of the flooding and then cleaned again for the second time.

Health and care

The country was in a full lockdown and people were facing many difficulties in addressing their medical and first aid needs. Also, amid COVID-19, a large number of affected people were staying in shelters, this again posed a threat of rising COVID-19 cases. There was a need to provide necessary awareness in these safe shelters. As the floodwater started receding, there was a threat of an upsurge of dengue cases. Mosquito breeding usually increases as a result of a large number of water stagnant points and holes. There was a need to create public awareness to encourage people to clean their residences and gardens to control the increasing dengue threat in the area. Considering the safety of the Volunteers and staff, personal protective equipment (PPE) was provided for field-level activities.

Risk Analysis

Detail assessment was carried out in affected areas to select the target beneficiaries during mid-May 2021. With the upsurge situation, there were constraints in the affected areas due to blocked roads and landslides. Amid the bad weather, branch volunteers and staff are conducting relief activities. Taking into account the COVID-19 situation, SLRCS staff and members were provided with the necessary protective gear, such as sanitisers and masks to protect the lives of the volunteers. To reduce the risk for community transmission at the field level, volunteers are already trained on how to work according to COVID-19 guidelines to assure the safety of both volunteers and beneficiaries.

SLRCS distributed 800 kitchen sets from its' stocks at the initial stages of the flood operation and requested IFRC to replenish the stocks through the DREF funding. Due to COVID-19 restrictions supply chain was affected across the world. As a result, the shipment of 800 kitchen sets to replenish SLRCS stocks were cancelled several times since June 2021. The original operational timeframe was extended twice, particularly to accommodate the procurement process delays due to supply chain disruptions.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

This operation aimed to support 17,500 people (3,500) households in the six worst-affected districts of Colombo, Gampaha, Rathnapura, Kalutara, Puttalam and Galle with essential household items, basic needs assistance through CVA, WASH and health care assistance. The operation was implemented for six months.

The operation reached a total of 46,523 people through a wide range of assistance, including CVA to meet basic needs, household items, WASH and health care assistance. Priority was given to families with pregnant and lactating mothers, disabled family members, elderly people, and members with chronic illnesses.

Volunteers and staff were specially trained to work according to COVID-19 guidelines and community members. Details of the operational approach, the assistance provided, and people reached are as follows:

Table 2: Summary of people reached by sector

Intervention areas	Male	Female	Total
Livelihoods and basic needs	8,334	9,189	17,523
Shelter	2,058	2,058	4,221
Health	22,270	24,253	46,523
WASH	7,838	7,970	15,808
PGI	22,270	24,253	46,523

Note: During all sector activities, staff and volunteers ensured that PGI guidelines were observed.

Livelihoods and Basic Needs: Considering the damage that occurred to affected people's households, CVA was provided to 3,500 most affected households in six affected districts.

Shelter: During the first phase of the operation, household items including 800 adult sets, 400 Baby relief packs, 800 kitchen sets were distributed in Colombo, Gampaha and Galle districts.

Health: Access to health care facilities was blocked for a few weeks and the need of getting medical services was highlighted by many communities in Colombo, Gampaha and Galle districts. Therefore, 10 medical camps were set up to provide basic medical assistance for the local communities. Medical Officers, Public Health Inspector and other MOH officers participated in the Medical Camps

WASH: According to the need assessment conducted by SLRCS, soon after the water receded there was a threat of water borne diseases. Considering the need SLRCS conducted, WASH interventions targeting the most affected households. SLRCS selected 3,000 wells to clean to help resolve the drinking water shortage. Schools used as safe shelters and public places of the affected areas were cleaned through this operation.

PGI: Integration of PGI across all sectors and interventions above. Protection, gender, and inclusion were considered as mainstreamed in this operation. Among others, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection were included as focus topics. Mainstreaming of Protection, gender and inclusion also ensured that accountability lines were in place for GBV prevention and response. SLRCS committed to capturing sex, age, and disability disaggregated data for the purpose of understanding the number and specific vulnerability of females to males based on their gender roles and age (to understand if a higher proportion of women, boys, girls or men were made vulnerable).

Operational support

Human Resources

SLRCS assigned a full-time staff at NHQ to overlook the operation and a finance staff to ensure the smooth flow of settlements. At the branch level to implement the programme, a District Project Officer and a Community Mobiliser per each branch were hired. IFRC supported programme implementation via its existing staff. Mobilization of NDRT, BDRT and DDRT as well as staff expenses were covered from the operational budget.

Logistics and Supply Chain


Logistics activities aim to effectively manage the supply chain, including, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage and transport to distribution sites in accordance with the operation's requirements and aligned to IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures. SLRCS has a central warehouse in Colombo, which has pre-positioned kitchen

sets. A total of 800 kitchen sets were used from the existing stocks for distribution and the DREF funds were used to replenish the kitchen sets. SLRCS has its own vehicles which were used for transportation, cater to the increased needs during the disaster, and based on the needs, NS rented vehicles. NS's logistics, fleet and procurement departments handled the logistics and supply chain operations.

The supply chain strategy for this operation was to first use the pre-positioned stocks of the National Society to quickly meet the basic needs of the affected population. Sourcing of household items commenced upon completion of the distribution, to match the actual number of items distributed. In line with the audit guidelines, IFRC conducted the procurement process in close coordination with SLRCS ensuring the efficient and timely delivery of these items. Hence the new items procured were used to replenish the contingency stocks. IFRC locally procured adult relief packs and baby packs while kitchen sets were procured through the IFRC procurement system.

For the rest of the procurements, The IFRC country office provided logistics support to SLRCS to ensure transparency and accountability in the procurement process. PPE was procured locally through SLRCS systems following the ministry of health standards and specifications.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

 <p>Livelihoods and basic needs People reached: 17,523 Male: 8,334 Female: 9,189</p>		
Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of people targeted/reached support on basic needs and livelihoods</i>	17,500	17,523
Output 1.1: Skills development and/or productive assets and/or financial inclusion to improve income sources are provided to target population (off-farm livelihoods)		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of people provided with cash assistance</i>	17,500	17,523
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>A total of 3,500 cash vouchers were provided in all targeted districts (Colombo-975, Gampaha-1,600, Galle-125, Rathnapura-250, Kaluthara-250 and Puttlam-300). Beneficiaries were selected using agreed selection criteria and community consultation was carried out before finalizing the beneficiary list and it was done in close consultation with respective District DMC coordinators, Divisional Secretariat offices (sub-district offices), and Grama Niladaris (Village level government administrative officer). It was decided to use a cash voucher instead of cash assistance due to the COVID-19 restrictions, as an island wide lockdown was imposed during the period. The decision was taken after consultation with all respective branches. IFRC standard procurement process was followed to select the supplier (supermarket). Although LKR 15,000 (CHF 68) grant was planned through CVA, the final voucher value was LKR 15,750 as the supplier added a discount as the total contracted amount is relatively large. According to monitoring and observations, women's involvement was very high as most vouchers were collected by them. Cash vouchers were redeemed in the supermarket. The selected supermarket had an unrestricted supply chain in the country during the lockdown period.</p>		
Post Distribution Monitoring		
<p>Findings of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) shows that majority of the beneficiaries were socially and economically vulnerable. Among them 89 per cent are Samurdhi beneficiaries, 26.6 per cent are elderly and 34 per cent from women-headed households. Data of the PDM shows that 99 per cent of the beneficiaries used cash voucher to fulfill the basic household needs. Further it highlighted beneficiaries had more options to select essential items from the supermarket for their day-to-day household needs. It really supported the beneficiaries to get the essential food items without delay during the time as the supermarket had already reserved more essential items to provide for the cash voucher beneficiaries while local markets were not fully functioning.</p>		



One of the CVA programme recipients collecting cash voucher (Photo: SLRCS)

Challenges

The main challenge during the operation were the COVID-19 travel restrictions. Due to the lockdown situation in the country, it was challenging to conduct activities as planned. Furthermore, continuous rains and subsequent second flooding resulted in changes to the operation strategy and budget increase. Branches coordinated with local authorities to carry out response work following COVID-19 safe response practices. All volunteers were provided with PPEs. The price of goods in the supermarkets is high compared to open markets, small shops and wet markets. Hence beneficiaries prefer to receive cash so that they can purchase more goods with the same amount of cash.

Lessons Learned

One of the important lessons learned was the need of planning and carrying out different sector activities simultaneously. This would help operation to reach the target without postponing any activities even during an unexpected situation, such as a lockdown.

Cash voucher modality was highly successful during the COVID-19 lockdown period that ensured the uninterrupted supply of the essential items through supermarket chain to each affected beneficiary.



Shelter

People reached: 4,221

Male: 2,058

Female: 2,163

Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people targeted/reached with safe and adequate shelter and settlement	4,000	4,221
Output 1.1: Short, medium and long-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households provided with assistance NFI	800	800

Narrative description of achievements

SLRCS distributed 800 kitchen sets from its stocks (Colombo-350, Gampaha-350 and Galle-100). Additionally, baby packs 400 (Colombo-150, Gampaha- 150 and Galle-100) and adult relief packs 800 (Colombo350, Gampaha-350 and Galle-100) were distributed.



SLRCS staff and volunteers conducting household item distribution (Photo: SLRCS)

The essential household items were provided to the families whose houses were badly damaged with the guidance of the District DMCs and local authorities. The adult relief package consisted of toothbrush (5 pcs), sanitary napkin (2 packs), women's undergarment (12 pcs), men's undergarment (12 pcs), bath towel (3 pcs), comb (2 pcs), small torch (1 pcs), plates (5 pcs), cups (5 pcs), umbrella (1 pcs), and bed sheets (2 sets). Meanwhile, the baby relief package consisted of napkins (12 pcs), baby vest kit (1 pack), baby bowl (1 pcs), baby towel (2 pcs), baby flannel (2 pcs), feeding cup (1 pcs), baby bottle with bottle guard (warmer – 1 pack), spoon and cup (1 set), safety pin (1 pack), and diapers (1 pack).

During the post distribution monitoring, there were many requests from the beneficiaries to include some essential items such as soap, and toothpaste. The standard relief pack includes only non-expiring items, but strong need was identified also for some of the expiring items. The beneficiaries were highly appreciating some of the relief pack contents, such as ladies' underwear, which were really helpful for women soon after the disaster.

Challenges

While the lockdown situation in the country (travel restrictions) was the main challenge, delays in the procurement process too posed a considerable challenge to complete the operation. As a result, a timeframe extension was requested to accommodate the delays. The operation was conducted with SLRCS stocks and locally procured household items.

Lessons Learned

The challenges highlighted the importance of keeping adequate pre stock in branch and at headquarter level to be immediately distributed soon after the disaster. While CVA could in principle be also considered in the future, for the moment the CVA procedures and systems in place with SLRCS and documents required from beneficiaries render it too lengthy for the immediate relief response. IFRC is supporting SLRCS to enhance its CVA systems.

Another lesson learned during the operation was the selection of beneficiaries while the pandemic restrictions were in place. This was solved by approaching and engaging with community leaders and religious leaders which made the process easier amid the pandemic restrictions, and conflicts were avoided.



Health

People reached: 46,523

Male: 22,270

Female: 24,253

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of targeted people reached have their immediate risks to health reduced	10,000	46,523

Output 1.2: Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached by medical camps	5,000	3,510
# of Dengue awareness and clean-up campaigns	10,000	46,523

Narrative description of achievements

During the operation, 10 Medical camps and 25 Dengue campaigns were carried out by SLRCS. A total of 46,523 people were reached through these activities. Medical camps were conducted by Medical Officer of Health (MoH) in the area supported Public Health Inspector (PHI) and public health midwives. Since access to hospitals in urban centres were limited due to flooding, the government health staff provide treatments for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and injuries, water-borne diseases of affected communities. Volunteers involved in the operation were MHPSS trained, thus in need they applied also their MHPSS knowledge.

Dengue cases usually rise after every flood. Therefore, to mitigate the risk of Dengue cases spread in urban setting, 25 campaigns were carried out to raise awareness among public and to clean the community area. SLRCS volunteers with the support of PHI and local communities conducted regular dengue campaigns in the targeted districts.



One of the medical camps set up during the operation. People waiting in line to get treatment (Photo: SLRCS)

Challenges

Non availability of government health staff was a challenge at the initial stages of the operation as their services were required at the hospitals to cater to the demand created by COVID-19 treatment needs. Furthermore, government imposed strict lockdown measures from June-September 2021 in Sri Lanka as COVID-19 cases surged across the country. Public gatherings were strictly prohibited hence there was a delay in organizing the medical camps. Due to the lockdown situation in the country (travel restrictions), it was difficult and challenging to conduct activities as planned. Most of the field locations were under quarantine regulations. Branches coordinated with local

authorities to carry out response work following COVID-19 safe response practices. All volunteers were provided with PPEs.

Lessons Learned

The importance of collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to perform effectively during a pandemic: SLRCS has established strong working relationships with the District MoH (Medical Office of Health), the Dengue Unit, and other government authorities, allowing the organization to successfully execute all health-related tasks in the affected areas. Even during the pandemic, volunteers remained committed to performing these tasks, which was much appreciated by government officials.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 15,808

Male: 7,838

Female: 7,970

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached in targeted communities have reduced their immediate risks of waterborne and water related diseases	15,000	15,808

Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of wells cleaned	3,000	3,000

Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
#of clean-up campaigns at community places/public buildings including households	35	40

Narrative description of achievements



SLRCS staff and volunteers cleaning contaminated wells (Photo: SLRC)

Well Cleaning is one of the key activities when people return to their homes from evacuation centers or when the water recedes. Contaminated wells were cleaned and chlorinated by SLRCS. The Public Health Officer (PHI) of the area was involved in the process as well. A total of 3,000 wells in the six districts (Gampaha-1,100, Colombo-1,000, Galle-100, Puttalam-400, Rathnapura-200 and Kalutara-200) were cleaned. Oxfam well cleaning guide was used as technical material.

Clean-up campaigns were conducted to clean a) canals to mitigate future flood risks; b) the school's community centres and religious places which were used as evacuation centres during the floods. Furthermore, SLRCS helped beneficiaries with reduced mobility or possibility (e.g., elderly with disabilities, pregnant women) to clean their houses before returning after the floods.

Challenges

Apart from the countrywide lockdown from June to September 2021, continuous rains caused re-contamination of already cleaned water in some areas. SLRCS volunteers were re-deployed to clean these wells. Not having pre-positioned stocks were mentioned as major drawback in conducting WASH activities. Financial Procedures of selection of well cleaning contractor was also mentioned as an issue, as it exceeds Branch procurement threshold value and needed to be approved by HQ taking more time.

Lessons Learned

Considering the procurement difficulties, both branch staff and NS programme staff a suggested to revise the current branch procurement/tender thresholds in the existing financial procedures during selection of contractors.

Concern was raised about the re contaminated wells, as there are no existing operational guidelines. Therefore, the need of amending the well cleaning guideline was proposed.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: 46,523

Male: 22,270

Female: 24,253

Outcome 1: Communities identify the needs of the most vulnerable and particularly disadvantaged and marginalised groups, as a result of inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Does the operation demonstrate evidence of addressing the specific needs to ensure equitable access to disaster response services?	Yes	Yes

Output 1.1: NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Does the operation demonstrate evidence of NS programmes improve equitable access to basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors?	Yes	Yes

Narrative description of achievements

PGI activities are integrated across all operational activities and data collection process. Throughout the project phase Red Cross volunteers were educated to follow IFRC minimum standard for PGI in emergencies to ensure the dignity and safety of diverse ethnicities and gender. Data collection tools such as KoBo was designed to collection gender disaggregated data, information on children, elderly population, pregnant mothers and lactating mothers. Disable people, lactating mothers and woman headed families who are most vulnerable with limited mobility were catered considering their special needs as priority during the disaster time. National Society volunteers were advised to cater these people with special attention.

There was regular monitoring during the implementation of activities in all sectors to ensure that quality services were provided to communities addressing the needs of most vulnerable population. It helped the branches to identify issues in the community, to address the needs and mitigate safety risks.

Challenges

Communication gaps between beneficiaries and the national society volunteers on PGI related matters. Most of Sri Lanka Red Cross volunteers are males during this disaster as most of the female volunteers were reluctant to move with community due the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, while monitoring it was identified that affected female community was struggling to communicate their needs with male volunteers who were deployed. Besides, National Society volunteers are not specialised and trained enough to addressed the PGI with proper technical approach.

Lessons Learned

Sri Lanka is mostly with very traditional minded community and there were many communication gaps identified among affected people and National Society volunteers who were in the field. The need to train volunteers further in PGI concepts was already identified during earlier DREF operations and continues to be the case.

Strengthen National Society		
Outcome 1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of SLRCS branches that are well functioning	6	6
Output 1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers involved in the operation	180	180
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>With the changes to the operational strategy and increase in the budget with the second allocation at the end of June 2021, the operation was expanded into six districts from the initial three. Furthermore, additional numbers of volunteers were also deployed with an average of 30 volunteers per branch. Colombo, Gampaha and Kaluthara districts are the most densely populated districts in the western province of the country with about 30 per cent of the total population in Sri Lanka. The government paid particular attention to these three districts as the western province was the epicentre of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka. No NDRT members were deployed as there are trained NDRTs in the selected locations. All active BDRTs in each district were engaged in the operation from the initial stage.</p>		
Challenges		
<p>Some volunteers were tested COVID-19 positive and incapacitated for about 2-3 weeks as they were isolated as per quarantine regulations. Considering the needs, SLRCS provided sanitizers and masks for volunteers who involved in the operation. However, the three branches were able to work together with the authorities to complete most of the planned activities within the time frame</p>		
Lesson Learnt		
N/A		

International Disaster Response		
Outcome 2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC support to launch a DREF to raise financial and human resources	Yes	Yes
Ratio of people reached by the IFRC disaster response operations to the people affected by these emergencies	minimum of 5%	5%
Output 2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and NS surge capacity mechanism is maintained		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of surge deployed	1	1
Output 2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved		
Indicators:		
% Compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian	100%	100%
Output 2.1.6: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced		
Indicators:		
# of coordination meetings with other stakeholders	10	12

Outcome 2.2: The complementarity and strengths of the Movement are enhanced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Movement coordination is in place</i>	Yes	Yes
Output 2.2.1: In the context of large-scale emergencies the IFRC, ICRC and NS enhance their operational reach and effectiveness through new means of coordination.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Involvement in regular coordination meetings</i>	Yes	Yes
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>Despite the countrywide lockdown during June-September 2021 period, which is in the middle of the operational time frame, SLRCS HQ and branches closely coordinated with authorities particularly at the local level to plan and implement the activities. The worst affected branches like Gampaha and Colombo work regularly with authorities not only for this operation but also for other activities implemented by the branches. Good relationships already established were very helpful during this operation. IFRC had a disaster management consultant hired in-country that supported the operation throughout its implementation timeframe. During the operation IFRC did not take a lead role in Shelter Cluster coordination.</p>		
Challenges		
N/A		
Lesson Learnt		
N/A		

Influence others as leading strategic partner		
Outcome 3.1: The IFRC secretariat, together with National Societies uses their unique position to influence decisions at local, national and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues</i>	Yes	Yes
Output 3.1.1: IFRC and NS are visible, trusted and effective advocates on humanitarian issues		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of communications materials produced (social media, media articles, interviews, etc.)</i>	7	8
Output 3.1.2: IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluation that informs advocacy, resource mobilization and programming.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of rapid and detailed assessment teams deployed at branch level</i>	6	6
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>Beneficiary communication (social media, Media articles, Interviews)</p> <p>At least six Facebook posts were published with pictures covering the activities in all districts. SLRCS Comms team visited the districts for photoshoots and capture important activities and events during the operation. SLRCS has trained BDRT in each branch and they were deployed for emergency needs assessment and to work with authorities on the selection of beneficiaries, selection of wells for cleaning and other planned activities. COVID-19 lockdown public situation somewhat delayed and slowed down the implementation despite tireless efforts by volunteers to deliver the assistance.</p> <p>Lesson learned workshop</p> <p>Main objective of conducting the workshop was to create one platform to share the overall achievements, recommendations and how such learnings can be used for designing the upcoming operations.</p>		

Adhering to the COVID-19 protocols, all the relevant officials from branches and NHQ attended the event. Six branches involved in the operation participated to share their experiences. Achievements, Challenges and Recommendations related to the operation reported during the workshop.



Participants of lessons learned workshop for the operation (Photo: SLRCS)

Achievements - One of the key issues faced was the selection of beneficiaries during pandemic restrictions. However, to facilitate this, branches reached out to community leaders and religious leaders during the beneficiary selection process. Previous knowledge learnt from training conducted by other competent organizations was used in well cleaning process. One of the main achievements was the enthusiasm of the community to engage in the Dengue and cleaning activities. As a result, just like in previous year, this year too all branches were able to reach more people than originally targeted.

Challenges – COVID-19 was mentioned as one of the main key challenges faced during the DREF operation. The situation was worsened by lockdown imposed on a few selected areas.

Selection of financial service provider was done by both IFRC and SLRCS, which made the process more complex and time consuming. As a result, SLRCS was not able to provide the cash voucher within the first two months. Weather conditions were one of the main challenges faced by the staff, especially conducting well cleaning activities during rainy period was very challenging. Some of the wells cleaned during the first phase were inundated again, which required a second cleaning

Recommendation - considering disadvantages such as travelling difficulties and issues with formal documentation procedures, such as working with affected people with no legal documentations, it was recommended to conduct pilot project to customize CVA modalities according to the resources available in rural settings. Providing checklist and Annexes as supporting documents will assist staff in CVA. To amend the financial manual with Central Governing Board, at least during the DREF operation.

Challenges

N/A

Lesson Learnt

N/A

Effective, credible and accountable IFRC

Outcome 4.1: The IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and accountability

Indicators:	Target	Actual
IFRC enhances its effectiveness, credibility and ac-countability	Yes	yes

Output 4.1.3: Financial resources are safeguarded; quality financial and administrative support is provided contributing to efficient operations and ensuring effective use of assets; timely quality financial reporting to stakeholders		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of financial reporting respecting the IFRC procedures	100%	100%
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>The SLRCS finance department is currently working on introducing digital systems and applications to make financial reporting more effective and efficient. Although the system is installed, there is still some more work to be done to train the staff before having it fully functional. IFRC Finance Manager in country is working regularly with SLRCS to ensure all DREF related reports are submitted within the agreed time frame. A special meeting was held with the Director General to discuss the delays in financial reporting and appropriate actions were taken to minimize the delays in the future. The process is still on going and will be closely monitored.</p>		
Challenges		
N/A		
Lesson Learnt		
N/A		

D. Financial Report

A DREF fund of CHF 499,498 was allocated to respond to the flood. The operation utilized CHF 473,281 (95 per cent utilization). The balance of CHF 26,217 will be returned to the DREF pool. All planned activities under the DREF operation were fully completed. The savings were mainly due to exchange gain.

The major donors and partners of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO and Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, and Fortive Corporation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Full financial report is attached at the end of this report.



Click here for:

- [Previous updates](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

In the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society

- Mahesh Gunsekera, director general; email: mahesh.gunasekara@redcross.lk
- Damitha Chanaka, assistant manager DM; email: damitha.chanaka@redcross.lk

In the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation, Delhi

- Udaya Regmi, head of CCD Delhi; email: udaya.regmi@ifrc.org
- Meenu BALI, Senior Officer Programmes, email: meenu.bali@ifrc.org

In the Asia Pacific Regional Office, Kuala Lumpur

- Joy Singhal, head of HDCC unit; email: joy.singhal@ifrc.org
- Eeva Warro, operations coordinator; email: OpsCoord.SouthAsia@ifrc.org
- Siokkun Jang, logistics manager, email: siokkun.jang@ifrc.org
- Antony Balmain, Communications Manager; phone: +60-12-230-8451; email: antony.balmain@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Eszter Matyeka, senior officer, DREF; email: eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org
- Christina Duschl, senior officer, Operations Coordination; email: christina.duschl@ifrc.org

For resource mobilization and pledges

- **In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office:** Alice Ho, partnership in emergencies coordinator; email: partnershipsEA.AP@ifrc.org

For planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) enquiries

- **In IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office:** Fadzli Shaari, acting PMER manager; email: fadzli.shaari@ifrc.org

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/5-2022/1	Operation	MDRLK012
Budget Timeframe	2021/5-2021/11	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 22/Feb/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRLK012 - Sri Lanka - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 21 May 2021 to 30 Nov 2021

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	499,498
DREF Allocations	499,498
Expenditure	-473,281
Closing Balance	26,217

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	2,443	653	1,789
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	319,744	318,078	1,667
AOF4 - Health	18,320	14,097	4,223
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	59,967	61,348	-1,381
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	400,474	394,176	6,298
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	83,821	71,377	12,444
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	14,837	7,728	7,108
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	366		366
Strategy for implementation Total	99,024	79,105	19,918
Grand Total	499,498	473,281	26,217

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2021/5-2022/1	Operation	MDRLK012
Budget Timeframe	2021/5-2021/11	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 22/Feb/2022

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MDRLK012 - Sri Lanka - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 21 May 2021 to 30 Nov 2021

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	397,821	384,753	13,069
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	62,041	57,438	4,603
Medical & First Aid	38,073	33,480	4,594
Teaching Materials	2,294	2,084	210
Utensils & Tools	18,349	15,952	2,397
Other Supplies & Services	36,239	38,007	-1,769
Cash Disbursement	240,826	237,792	3,034
Logistics, Transport & Storage	23,853	24,620	-766
Distribution & Monitoring	15,138	14,702	436
Transport & Vehicles Costs	8,716	9,214	-499
Logistics Services		704	-704
Personnel	20,643	18,459	2,184
National Society Staff	20,450	18,459	1,992
Volunteers	193		193
Consultants & Professional Fees	13,702	4,065	9,637
Consultants	13,702	4,065	9,637
Workshops & Training	7,110	5,622	1,488
Workshops & Training	7,110	5,622	1,488
General Expenditure	5,883	6,879	-996
Travel	115		115
Information & Public Relations	2,752	2,514	239
Office Costs	917	998	-81
Communications	2,064	528	1,537
Financial Charges	34	-350	384
Shared Office and Services Costs		3,189	-3,189
Indirect Costs	30,486	28,886	1,600
Programme & Services Support Recover	30,486	28,886	1,600
Grand Total	499,498	473,281	26,217