

# EMERGENCY APPEAL



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## **SRI LANKA: FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES**

*Appeal no. 13/03  
20 May, 2003*

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.  
For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### **In Brief**

***THIS EMERGENCY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,212,000 (USD 934,598 or EUR 801,424) IN CASH KIND AND SERVICES TO ASSIST SOME 125,000 BENEFICIARIES ON A PRELIMINARY BASIS FOR THREE MONTHS***

### **The situation**

Torrential rains accompanied by heavy winds and landslides in central and coastal Sri Lanka during the past 48 hours have left an estimated 200 dead (local newspapers have quoted government officials indicating that they expect the death toll to rise), with 700 missing, and over 171,000 families are affected displaced. Many thousands more are affected and these figures will likely rise in the coming hours. Many of those killed were buried alive in mudslides. The worst affected areas are Ratnapura and parts of the Galle, Matara, and Kalutara and Hambantota districts. 120,000 people so far have been evacuated to schools and temples, and helicopters are dropping emergency rations in villages that are cut off and cannot be reached. An estimated 500,000 people have been affected by the flooding and again this number may rise when the accumulated water reaches lower lying areas. Thousands of houses have been damaged, with a large number of them totally destroyed. Many buildings have been submerged, particularly in the Ratnapura District where the city's clock tower was reported to be under 15 feet of water. The majority of homeless are located in the Ratnapura District. Forty-seven bodies were recovered from one village after a landslide wiped out the entire village. The villages of Ratnapura, Elapatha, Thotagamuwa, Hangamuwa, Palawela, Dambuluwana, Karangoda, Muwagama, Godigamuwa and parts of Badulla road were inundated. Landslides have been reported from Ratnapura Rest House Road and Godigamuwa and Getangama on the Colombo-Ratnapura Road.

According to the Ratnapura Divisional Secretary, many thousands of families have been marooned. The landslides are causing difficulties in the relief operation and this has been aggravated due to the high tide conditions. This is the heaviest rain to hit the island country since 1947. Flood waters have destroyed power and communication lines, and this in turn has disrupted road transport and communications and seriously hampered rescue and relief efforts.

The police chief in Ratnapura has reported that road links with the capital had been restored and that water was receding from some areas. About a dozen police teams have been dispatched to remote areas to look for survivors. Ratnapura district, famed for its gem mines, is home to one million people. The government is tapping the President's fund for relief. A four-member special Presidential Secretariat Desk has been set up to handle the flood situation. The government has also appointed a four-member Disaster Management Ministerial Committee,

allocated 6 million rupees (US\$62,500) for immediate relief and announced it will pay 15,000 rupees (US\$156) for funeral expenses for each of the dead. The army and the navy have been deployed in support of the government's ongoing relief effort. Naval vessels and fishing boats have also been deployed for rescue and relief operations.

### **Action so far (non Red Cross)**

Both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Social Welfare have visited the affected area and the Ministry of Social Welfare has met the Sri Lanka Red Cross Director General and the Federation Representative for co-ordination purposes. The officials stated that the most urgent needs at the moment were clean water and emergency food rations. The Minister was considering an appeal to the local media to donate through the SLRC. Police, army, and navy personnel are involved in the rescue and evacuation activities, but have been hampered by a lack of rubber dinghies as other boat types are unfit to negotiate rapid water. The Indian government has reacted by sending a boat with rubber dinghies as well as medicines to the harbour of Galle. Inter-agency coordination meetings have been organized at the district level.

### **Red Cross Action:**

**The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS):** The Federation allocated CHF 50,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to assist the SLRCS to rapidly deploy two teams over the weekend to the disaster sites in Ratnapura and Galle. These teams have started to return with more detailed information on damage and needs. The SLRCS has appealed for urgent help while also mobilizing the trained volunteers of the branches and coordinating with government District Secretary offices. There have been two Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) training courses in the region, the most recent in Sri Lanka, and trained volunteers are available to support the national society as needed. Three of the officers from the National Society deployed for the assessment are RDRT trained. The Red Cross is appealing for assistance from donors both in Sri Lanka and outside. The SLRCS Director-General confirmed that the society is in urgent need of cash donations or local goods-in-kind to purchase food items and clothes to help the affected people. In the meantime the society has distributed food parcels from its emergency stocks. Newspapers have carried appeals for contributions to the Red Cross, and many calls are being received from the public in Colombo who wish to support the flood victims. The SLRCS has undertaken a fund raising effort to aid the flood-affected population. All other districts have been mobilized to receive local donations. A TV spot during an international cricket match currently underway in Sri Lanka, has been aired to mobilize the public for donations. Four trucks have been sent by the SLRCS to collect donations in-kind along the two main roads from Colombo towards the affected area.

**The Federation:** The Federation Team in Delhi and Sri Lanka are coordinating with the Secretariat and a FACT and RDRT alert will identify additional Disaster Response Team human resources should they be required. The Head of Regional Delegation is in close touch with the Federation Representative and other delegates who are close to the disaster-affected area. Some 25,000 food parcels have been distributed as follows: 10,000 food parcels to Ratnapura; 4,000 food parcels to Galle; 4,000 food parcels to Matara; 2,000 food parcels to Kalutara; 5,000 food parcels to Hambantota.

Non-food relief is also being sourced from the Red Cross warehouse. The national society has arranged to send convoys daily to the flood affected areas carrying relief items for the affected people. ICRC provided transport and additional relief items and has contributed 3,000 20litre water containers.

### **The needs**

Immediate needs: Support and cash contributions to procure emergency supplies such as food, shelter, water and health, and sanitation essentials.

### **Coordination**

The SLRCS will lead the relief effort supported by the Federation Secretariat Regional Delegation staff and coordinated through the Asia/Pacific and DMC resources in Geneva. The UN/OCHA have posted an alert for an

UNDAC team and the Federation is in contact with the OCHA Office in Geneva to coordinate a UNDAC team with the Red Cross on the ground. WFP will be consulted on food security, food parcel, and other food support to ensure harmonization and quality control in service delivery.

## **The proposed operation**

This appeal is being issued on a preliminary basis to cover the immediate needs of some 125,000 of the most vulnerable population. The first Operations Update (to be issued shortly) will reflect an update of the current situation and assessments, the assistance delivered to date, and the revised needs (including any potential rehabilitation plans under consideration). The intended operation will address the priority needs for food, clothing and water. Concern for ongoing needs, such as shelter, health and other longer-term needs will be assessed over the coming days and incorporated in the revised operation. Lessons learned from other major flooding such as in Orissa (India) and Bangladesh where the impact on the community went considerably beyond the loss of homes, clothing and kitchen equipment is being incorporated into this appeal planning.

**Emergency relief (food and non-food) distribution: 25,000 families (125,000 people).**

**Objective 1: To ensure the affected population to be assisted by the Red Cross is provided with essential food, non-food, clothing, water and health needs to survive the immediate weeks.**

Activities planned to reach this objective

- Provision of relief food supplies for survivors and the immediately affected population (10,000 families with an emergency ration of cooked food for seven days; 15,000 families with a post emergency dry ration of rice, sugar, flour, and cooking oil.)
- Provision of safe water for 15,000 families (emergency drinking water for 7 days; post emergency water purification tablets for chlorination of about 100 water wells.
- Provision of the following non-food items emergency supplies for 3,000 families: clothing; blankets; saree/sarong; soap; sleeping mats; lanterns; kitchen utensils (sauce pans, cups, plates).
- Provision of logistics and transportation support to ensure effective delivery of relief supplies: vehicle rental and fuel, including meals for volunteer mobilization.
- Financial and administrative support at the SLRCS national headquarters and branches.
- Provision of coordination services and support (Regional Delegation, RDRT and FACT.

### **Expected results**

- Minimize further loss of life and maintain reasonable state of health.
- Immediate alleviation of consequences of loss of shelter, food and water supplies.
- Mitigate and if possible eliminate threat of further health and sanitation problems.
- Rapid action and service delivery by reinforced capacity of national society.

**Objective 2: To reinforce the SLRCS's capacity to respond to the immediate needs.**

Activities planned to reach this objective are:

- The SLRCS, with Federation assistance in training and administrative support, will reinforce and ensure effective response capacity at the national headquarters and branch level.
- The Regional Delegation will provide additional capacity building services and support in the areas of reporting and financial management to ensure appropriate accountability for the operation.
- The Secretariat will provide information, and DM coordination services to the Regional Delegation, the SLRCS, PNS and other agencies to ensure a well-coordinated Red Cross response.
- The SLRCS and the Federation will evaluate the impact of last years training programmes in DP and DR, including RDRT.

### **Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and priorities**

The Federation response will be carried out in a manner governed by the Principals of the Movement, the Principals and Rules of Disaster Response and the Code of Conduct. Wherever possible SPHERE Guidelines will be respected.

### **Communications – Advocacy and Public information**

The Federation human resources currently in the region will be able to deliver immediate support in communications and reporting through the presence of information and reporting delegates to assist the SLRCS. The DMC Disaster management and Information System (DMIS) will continue to supply daily updates and information on the disaster and the response by the SLRCS and Federation staff and resources.

### **Capacity of the National Society**

The SLRCS has a solid background in Disaster Response, participating in recent trainings in Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT's) in India and Sri Lanka, raising the capacity both in the society and if needed from neighbouring countries national societies.

### **Budget summary**

See Annex 1 for details on this preliminary budget.

### ***For further information please contact:***

- ***National Society, Director-General Chandra Ranawickrema on 0777/278642; Ananda Lecamwasam, Director, Communications & Fund Raising 0777/278641, 075/370726, email [anandale@sltnet.lk](mailto:anandale@sltnet.lk)***
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- ***DMC Head of Operations Iain Logan; [iain.logan@ifrc.org](mailto:iain.logan@ifrc.org)***

*All International Federation Assistance Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.*

*This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

Abbas Gullet  
Director  
Disaster Management and Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel  
Secretary General

## **BUDGET SUMMARY**

APPEAL 13/03

### **Sri Lanka: Floods and landslides**

TYPE VALUE

**RELIEF NEEDS** IN CHF

ANNEX 1

## **BUDGET SUMMARY**

APPEAL 13/03

### **Sri Lanka: Floods and landslides**

TYPE VALUE

**RELIEF NEEDS** IN CHF

Blankets and sleeping mats 50'000

Food (cooked and dry) 600'000

Water and sanitation (chlorination and soap) 3'000

Drinking water 65'000

Utensils and tools (kitchen sets) 100'000

Clothing and textiles 40'000

Other relief supplies (kitchen kits, drums, gas tanks, etc.) 15'000

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**TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS** 873'000

### **CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Telecom. equipment, computers

### **PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme support (6.5% of total) 79'000

### **TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS**

Transport and storage 140'000

Logistics and volunteers 20'000

### **PERSONNEL**

Expatriate staff 30'000

National staff 30'000

### **ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES**

Travel & related expenses 10'000

Information expenses 5'000

Administrative & general expenses 25'000

External workshops & seminars

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**TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS** 339'000

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**TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES** 1'212'000

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**LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)** 0

# **BUDGET SUMMARY**

APPEAL 13/03

## **Sri Lanka: Floods and landslides**

TYPE

VALUE

**RELIEF NEEDS**

IN CHF

**NET REQUEST**

1'212'000