

# Emergency appeal



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Sri Lanka: Floods and landslides

Revised emergency appeal n° MDRLK003  
GLIDE n° [FL-2010-000253-LKA](#)  
26 January 2011

This revised emergency appeal seeks CHF 4,622,804 in cash, kind, or services to support the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society in assisting 75,000 people (15,000 families) for 12 months. The operation will be completed by 31 January 2012 and a final report made available by 30 April 2012, three months after the end of the operation.

### Appeal history:

- This emergency appeal was initially launched on a [preliminary basis](#) on 14 January 2011 for CHF 655,670 to assist 70,000 people (approximately 14,000 families) in emergency relief for six months.
- Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF): CHF 100,166 was allocated from the [DREF to support](#) the national society in the initial stages of response.



Provision of safe water by SLRCS to the affected families. Photo: IFRC

Heavy rains and floods since November 2010 throughout the country have affected 24 of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka. As of 20 January 2011, government information indicates that over a million people are affected and some 300,000 people displaced.

The present revised flood response operation will run for the next 12 months and cover the relief and recovery phase. The main focus will be on providing support to 15,000 affected families through the provision of relief items during the initial phase, followed by support based on cash grants to 2,000 beneficiaries for shelter and 4,000 families for livelihood recovery along with preventive health, as well as water and sanitation interventions.

To date, contributions to this appeal have been made by Canadian Red Cross/Canadian government, Iranian Red Crescent, New Zealand Red Cross, and the Australian government. A greater funding response, however, is imperative to cover the needs of people affected by these floods and landslides.

On behalf of the Sri Lankan national society, IFRC would like to thank partners and donors for their prompt and invaluable support of this emergency appeal.

[<click here for attached emergency appeal budget; a map of the affected area; or contact details>](#)

## The situation

The flood waters that caused severe damage and displacement to people in several parts of the country have begun to recede as the rains have ceased over the past few days. However, the impact of the floods will

continue to be felt for several months as there has been extensive damage to crops, irrigation infrastructure, houses and livelihoods.

This season, the impact of the north-eastern monsoon has increased, due to unusual levels of rainfall triggered by wave circulation and low-level disturbance in the atmosphere. The country experienced heavy rain since early November 2010 with the highest levels of rain being recorded in the month of January 2011 which caused severe flooding and landslides in the districts of Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Vavuniya, Nuwara Eliya, Monaragala, Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Kandy, Hambantota, Badulla, Mullaitivu and Matale. According to the Minister of Disaster Management, this is the worst disaster to hit Sri Lanka since the 2004 Tsunami.<sup>1</sup>

As per the latest government figures, over one million people have been affected by the rains with 43 reported deaths.<sup>2</sup> Over 1,200 families are currently displaced in 32 temporary shelters. Districts in the east and north-east are the worst affected, as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Latest situation in the flood-affected areas (as of 20 January 2011)**

District	Affected		Deaths	Houses damaged		IDP camps		
	Families	People		Completely	Partially	No.	Families	People
Batticaloa	144,081	540,141	22	4,060	8,989	10	515	1,684
Polonnaruwa	24	88	0	723	3,186	2	22	78
Monragala	31	118	0	4	100	0	0	0
Nuwara Eliya	111	447	0	3	119	1	12	48
Annuradhapura	2,549	11,116	0	121	879	0	0	0
Badulla	357	1142	1	27	320			
Kegalle	4	18	0	0	7	0	0	0
Kandy	641	2,643	6	93	315	8	121	456
Ampara	120,732	458,538	11	1,148	4,674	6	486	2,245
Trincomalee	363	1,901	0	0	0	5	73	279
Matale	926	3,570	0	193	661	0	0	0
Ratnapura	162	716	0	48	201	0	0	0
Vavuniya	11,141	39,069	0	0	5509	0	0	0
Mullaitivu	498	1500	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mannar	45	192	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>281,965</b>	<b>1,061,194</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5,420</b>	<b>24,965</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>4,790</b>

Source: Government of Sri Lanka

### Early recovery support for shelter and livelihood

There is a clear need to support the flood-affected population in getting back on their feet and starting the process of rebuilding their everyday lives. Early recovery efforts need to focus on identifying and responding to the vulnerabilities and challenges being faced. In many ways, these floods can be termed a livelihood disaster of huge proportions. Incessant rains have led to both breaching and complete destruction of over 200 small to medium reservoirs in Batticaloa district alone, while over 150 irrigation reservoirs across the eastern and central parts of the country are overflowing. In other areas, heavy rains have resulted in the opening of sluice gates in 12 major water reservoirs leading to further flooding in the central and northern central parts of the country. Most of the main roads and the railway tracks in the central and eastern provinces are submerged, causing severe accessibility problems.

As the flood waters recede, it has become apparent that there is widespread damage and destruction to cultivated crops, many close to harvest. Initial government estimates suggest that at least 20 per cent of paddy rice has been lost. Damage estimates are as high as 80 per cent in Batticaloa and 35 per cent in Trincomalee districts, with similar rice losses reported in Polonnaruwa and Anuradhapura districts.

There has also been a widespread loss of livestock in Batticaloa and surrounding districts. In addition to rice losses, there are numerous reports of damage to vegetable and perennial crop cultivation. Many families dependant on agriculture now face a livelihood crises and food insecurity in the coming months. In addition,

<sup>1</sup> Source – www.newsfirst.lk

<sup>2</sup> Source- www.dmc.gov.lk

day labourers working on larger farms from irrigation, weeding and harvesting are now out of work. Brick making, a major cottage industry in the affected areas has been ruined and thousands will lose their jobs. Other important industries such as rice milling will also be affected leading to loss of jobs. Farm employment is likely to reduce further as the next cropping season will be badly affected unless damage inflicted on irrigation and water storage systems can be repaired in the next six months.

In addition to the loss of livelihoods, many families have had their houses damaged either partially or completely, while many mud houses were washed away. Others lost household items and other property due to loss of roofs from high winds and the strength of the flood waters. Storms and floods forced close to 52,000 families to seek shelter in temporary camps set up in schools and other locations. Many have now returned and found their homes destroyed and their belongings lost. The government guidelines recommend the provision of up to LKR 50,000 (CHF 500) to households to repair damage caused by the storms and floods.

People living in the worst affected districts: Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Polonoruwa and Annuradhapura, have had to face three major catastrophes in the last six years. The north and north-eastern districts were hit by the 2004 tsunami and the massive damage that ensued. Residents of these areas have also suffered from the civil war between army and militant dissidents which finally ended in 2009. These areas are socio-economically lagging behind the rest of the country and repeated disasters have severely eroded the coping capacity of communities living here. While these previous events have had a definite impact on the overall socio-economic status of the population living in these districts, the focus of the current Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) relief and early recovery interventions are to respond to the needs arising from the severe floods. While meeting immediate relief requirements and supporting the initial livelihood and shelter needs of the people, it is also important to assist in repairing infrastructure such as irrigation canals and water reservoirs to allow farmers to restart their agricultural activities and secure their next harvest.

**Responding to the floods: lessons learnt from Tsunami:** SLRCS responded to the massive damage and resultant needs of the Sri Lankan population caused by the 2004 Tsunami. Learning from its Tsunami experience, SLRCS has significantly strengthened the capacity of its branches in preparing and responding to disasters. Key lessons learnt include: the need to have better prepared branches for disaster response; the importance of working with the communities to build their resilience and preparedness capacity to respond to disasters; and the importance of having an effective communication strategy for reaching out to a wider audience.

In the last few years, SLRCS has trained a large number of its staff on various aspects of disaster management. Most of the affected districts have a branch disaster response team (BDRT) that comprises well-trained and motivated volunteers who have been deployed in the current disaster. With a lot of the eastern areas inaccessible from Colombo after the floods, these BDRT volunteers by virtue of being locally based have been able to undertake rapid field assessments and manage immediate relief distribution during these floods. With a team of staff and volunteers that have undergone regional disaster response team (RDRT) or national disaster response team (NDRT) training, SLRCS was able to rapidly mobilize staff to undertake field assessment. SLRCS is one of the few organizations to have a local presence in all the affected areas and thus informs the national level assessments led by the government. These assessments have added great value in informing the revision of this emergency appeal.

In addition to having trained volunteers, SLRCS has maintained a stock of non-food relief items (NFR) and hygiene kits in their two warehouses in Ratmalana and Annuradhapura which enabled all the branches to respond immediately. As part of the tsunami recovery program, SLRCS built a warehouse in Annuradhapura district. This 545 m<sup>2</sup> building can store relief items for up to 2,000 families at a time. Goods from this warehouse were distributed to the neighbouring districts of Polonoruwa, Batticaloa and Trincomalee. The presence of the two warehouses has added significantly to the SLRCS capacity in preparing for and responding immediately during the relief phase of this flood operation. During disasters, the two strategically located warehouses have been instrumental in enabling SLRCS to immediately dispatch the much-needed goods to the affected districts, with Ratmalana allowing quick access to the western, southern, eastern and central parts of the country; and Anuradhapura warehouse to northern, north-western and eastern flood-affected areas.

At the community level, SLRCS has supported communities in improving their resilience levels through the mapping of safe routes and shelters, and in building community centres that serve a dual purpose as evacuation centres. One such centre constructed in Nuwara Eliya has been used by the government to

evacuate six affected families in the district. The village disaster management committees (VDMC) formed by SLRCS have been trained on basic first aid, camp management and basic water rescue, and have been functional and valuable to the community during disasters. Members of these committees were able to respond effectively during this flood, including evacuating the villages, leading people to safe areas, advising them to bring food items during evacuation, cooking meals and providing first aid when necessary.

As flood waters continue to recede and populations in the 16 worst-affected districts move back to their homes, district health authorities discontinued the deployment of mobile health teams and resumed normal operations. Health partners continued to operate mobile health camps, particularly in the remaining temporary camps and for those with difficulty in accessing health facilities. Public health inspectors and midwives in affected districts have been mobilized to conduct chlorination of wells and other water points, and health education activities in communities to prevent the surge of water-borne and vector-borne diseases. Medicines and medical supplies have been covered by regional health authorities with support from the Ministry of Health's medical supplies division. No disease outbreaks have been reported so far, though the risks of water-borne, vector-borne and skin diseases remain.

### Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) response to the floods



Red Cross first aid volunteers treating school children for minor injuries and infections while giving health education.  
Photo: IFRC

Over the last two weeks in January 2011, SLRCS are providing efficient and effective services to the people affected by floods in the districts of Ampara, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Hambantota, Kandy, Mannar, Matale, Monaragala, Nuwaraeliya, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee, Killinochchi and Vavuniya through its branch network. Affected people are supported to meet basic needs through the provision of food items (dry rations), and non-food relief items (NFRI) such as sarees, sarongs, sleeping mats, tents, lanterns, candles, tarpaulin sheets, and hygiene kits. First aid services, basic first aid items, and drinking water are being provided through mobile first aid camps and mini health camps. Other services such as the cleaning of affected hospitals, houses, wells and schools; and the provision of emergency boat services

transporting the sick are also being provided. SLRCS activities are carried out in close coordination with government officials. Interventions conducted in different districts are mentioned in Table 2 below.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 2 : SLRCS response to the flood**

District	Activities
Ampara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisted victims to reach safe places and government camps</li> <li>Distributed dry rations</li> <li>Distributed 400 baby hygiene kits, 4,000 school exercise books to families</li> <li>Three mobile first aid teams mobilized to provide first aid services and first aid items distributed in 50 camps</li> </ul>
Anuradhapura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NFRI such as sleeping mats, jerry cans, candles and matches, lamps, adult hygiene kits, baby hygiene kits, kaftans, sarongs, bed sheets, kitchen sets distributed</li> <li>Dry rations provided to families</li> </ul>
Badulla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hygiene kits, sleeping mats, and baby kits provided to affected people</li> <li>Distributed dry rations</li> </ul>
Batticaloa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boat service provided in Porativupattu, Koralaipattu and Manmunai DS divisions to transport patients</li> <li>First aid service provided in Karyakan in Kathankudy DS division</li> <li>NFRI distributed in Paddiplai MSW DS division and Vakare MWS DS division</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Source: SLRCS. [www.redcross.lk](http://www.redcross.lk)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducted neighbourhood cleanup campaign (Shramadana) activities to clean schools</li> </ul>
Hambantota	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributed NFRI in Katuwana DS division</li> <li>Assessment conducted in Katuwana DS division to identify further needs</li> </ul>
Kandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributed hygiene kits and dry rations such as rice, dhal, flour, sugar, soya meat and milk packet in Gangawata Korale and Panvila DS divisions</li> </ul>
Mannar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the government anti-malaria campaign</li> <li>Distributed drinking water using two water tanks to affected people in Madhu, Manthai West and Musali DS divisions</li> </ul>
Matale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support provided to clean 80 houses in Dambulla DS division</li> <li>Volunteers mobilized to conduct search and evacuation</li> <li>Sleeping mats, rain coats, lamps, baby hygiene kits and candles were distributed to the affected people</li> <li>Mobilized volunteers to provide first aid services and cleaning of a hospital in Dambulla</li> </ul>
Moneragala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobilized volunteers and distributed item such as soap, toothpaste, clothes and sleeping mats to affected people</li> </ul>
Nuwera Eliya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volunteers mobilized to assist those affected to reach safe places and to conduct assessments</li> <li>NFRI distributed to affected people in Walapane, Hanguranketha and Nuwer Eliya DS divisions</li> </ul>
Polonnaruwa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided tarpaulin sheets to 132 families in Medirigiriya, Dimbulagala and Thamankaduwa DS divisions</li> <li>Distribution of dry rations to 542 families continues</li> <li>Distribution of mosquito nets, sleeping mats, sarong, sarees, jerry cans, lanterns and candles in Dimbulagala, Welikanda and Lankapura DS divisions</li> </ul>
Trincomalee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provided dry rations such as rice, flour, dhal, soya meat, curry powder and salt, and tarpaulin sheets to families in Kinniya, Morawewa, Thampalakaman and Kantale DS divisions</li> <li>Operating mobile health clinics in Kinniya, Thanbalagamam and Morawawa DS divisions</li> </ul>
Vavuniya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NFRI such as mats, tarpaulin sheets, sarees, sarongs, drinking water, soap, biscuits, milk powder and jerry can provided to families in Vavuniya, Vavuniya south and Cheddikulam DS division</li> </ul>

## Coordination and partnerships

SLRCS is coordinating at local level with the government authorities and the government district disaster management units (DDMU). The national society is also in dialogue with the Australian government (AUSAID) and UN agencies to work in partnership. In addition, SLRCS and the IFRC country office have set up a flood response team that includes representatives from their respective disaster management units along with participants from Canadian, Danish and German Red Cross, and ICRC. The task force members share information and have supported the development and implementation of SLRCS flood response plan.

The IFRC country office is in close coordination with UNOCHA in acquiring information and verifying humanitarian needs, and has also facilitated SLRCS in participating in the coordination meeting convened by UNOCHA. IFRC representatives also take part in the shelter/non-food item relief and health cluster meetings.

IFRC is also coordinating with the in-country partners: ICRC, Canadian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross and German Red Cross who are working in the affected areas through the SLRCS coordination mechanism. Two coordination meetings have been held in the last seven days to share information and update partners on the situation and SLRCS response interventions. SLRCS aims to cover the needs of 20,000 families with the support of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and other external partners. Canadian Red Cross and ICRC have indicated their support to SLRCS in filling the gaps in its response plan.

The total budget for the IFRC flood response plan (which covers the immediate response and recovery phases) is approximately CHF 4.6 million. The IFRC country office will support SLRCS in seeking funding for their plan from various Movement and external partners including Canadian Red Cross, German Red Cross, Danish Red Cross and ICRC. In addition, interest to support the appeal has come from the AUSAID in-country office and Red Cross Society of China through their government. The Sri Lankan government has

launched a flash appeal seeking international support for USD 51 million through the UN system to respond to the floods. This appeal focuses primarily on providing immediate relief to the affected people. The IFRC emergency appeal will support 15,000 families in the proposed SLRCS response plan on relief and recovery intervention.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Field assessment

SLRCS, supported by IFRC, conducted an in-depth assessment of the flood situation in seven districts from 20 to 21 January 2011. The districts included Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Polonoruwa, Matale, Monragala and Annuradhapura. The assessment was carried out by a team of 17 SLRCS and IFRC staff who are either RDRT- or NDRT-trained. The senior coordinator of the Federation-supported internally displaced persons (IDP) programme was seconded to SLRCS for a week to lead, supervise and coordinate the overall assessment process. In addition, the SLRCS director general (DG) and the IFRC head of country office joined the assessment team in Polonoruwa, Batticaloa, Monragala and Ampara to obtain first-hand information of the situation on the ground.<sup>4</sup> The assessment teams visited the GN<sup>5</sup> divisions targeted by the branch for recovery interventions, and gathered information through direct observation, interviews with the affected people, branch officials and local authorities. The assessments were carried out based on standard Federation guidelines, and the consolidated assessment report will be made available on request.

### Modality of interventions

IFRC considers the current catastrophe to be a livelihood disaster and thus the focus during the early recovery phase is to enable people to get back to optimal living conditions. The shelter and livelihood needs will be met through cash grants as per IFRC guidelines. Up to 2,000 families will receive about CHF 500 each for their shelter requirements<sup>6</sup>. In addition, 4,000 identified families will receive about CHF 350 each to help re-establish livelihood activities. This package is similar in amount currently provided as part of the post-conflict recovery programme in the north of the country. In addition to the cash transfer to families, SLRCS/IFRC will also provide cash grants to local rural committees for small construction projects (approximately CHF 1,000-2,000 based on needs) to repair damaged irrigation canals and water tanks to allow preparation for the next harvest.

IFRC and SLRCS have considerable experience in cash transfer mechanisms from the tsunami recovery operations through the support of British Red Cross. The ongoing post-conflict recovery programme (PCRP) in the northern districts is predominantly based on cash grants for an owner-driven housing project. Approximately 68 per cent of the appeal budget is allocated for cash transfers provided directly to beneficiaries, allowing them to make appropriate decisions for their respective needs. All the materials required for repairing the damaged houses are available locally. In addition to shelter support, livelihood grants will enable families to buy seeds as well as repair and replace their farm equipment and tools according to their needs, allowing them to prepare for the next harvest.

This appeal will also support the national society in conducting health promotion activities in the identified districts along with first aid interventions as part of preventive health care for at least 15,000 families through community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) trained volunteers. The assessment reports from the branches highlight the need for families to access safe drinking water, but there is no significant damage to the permanent water supply, and as such, IFRC will focus on immediate support to families with household-level water treatment and safe storage using jerry cans and water purification tablets, and in encouraging families to boil water.

The assessments confirmed that the primary source of drinking water in the affected districts is from wells, and a majority of these wells have been contaminated by flood waters. SLRCS will be supported in carrying out the cleaning of 2,000 wells over the next six months, so that families can again access their regular safe water supply. As part of sanitation interventions, 120 schools will be supported with cash grants to carry out construction or the repair of latrines. Branch volunteers will also carry out hygiene promotion campaigns, including community mobilization drives to clean up their neighbourhoods (*shramadana campaign*) to effectively prevent vector-borne infections, a major concern due to stagnant water as highlighted from the assessment reports.

<sup>4</sup> Reflecting on Sri Lanka's Triple Whammy. By Bob McKerrow <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/11/11012001/>

<sup>5</sup> *Grama Niladari*: Group of villages at sub-district level

<sup>6</sup> As recommended by the government

IFRC will support the SLRCS capacity development process to better prepare for similar disasters in the future. SLRCS has mobilized most of its relief stocks while responding to the floods and these will be replenished. This warehouse, constructed with Federation support during the tsunami operation, is strategically located and provides storage facilities for relief goods that can be transported quickly to all the districts in north and east of the country. The material procured for well-cleaning, such as pump kits and consumable items like bleaching powder etc., will be pre-positioned in the branches following the decision of SLRCS. Selected volunteers in the implementing branches will be trained on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and assessment methodologies. Long-term costs for these interventions will be included in the Federation country plan in the future, thus linking recovery within this operation to long-term development.

## The needs

Based on information gathered through its initial needs assessment, some identified needs include non-food relief items, safe drinking water and hygiene promotion.

### Beneficiary selection:

Of the total number of families affected, SLRCS has targeted reaching 20,000 families based on its existing response capacity, of which 15,000 families will be supported through this IFRC emergency appeal.

Selection will be based on vulnerability, focusing on families that have been directly affected and are unable to recover quickly. Households headed by single mothers, people with disabilities, and including young children will be a major focus.

## Needs

### 1. Relief

#### Immediate needs

The immediate needs as identified in consultation with the branches are given in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Overall target of the SLRCS operation and IFRC coverage**

<i>(no. of families)</i>	<b>Total target of SLRCS</b>	<b>Covered by IFRC appeal</b>	<b>%</b>
Relief items (food and Non-food)	20,000	8,000	40%
Shelter	7,000	2,000	28%
Livelihood	10,000	4,000	40%
Health	15,000	3,000	20%
Water & Sanitation	15,200	10,000	66%
<b>Total no. of families</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>75%</b>

Note: some hard-hit families may receive different services

The relief needs for the coming weeks as identified by branch assessment reports include kitchen utensils; hygiene kits; and household items such as sleeping mats, blankets, slippers, notebooks for children, soap/detergents, jerry cans and water purification tablets. All branches have mobilized these items from their existing stocks and these need to be replenished in the SLRCS warehouses.

### 2. Health

#### Immediate needs

Immediate health needs include provision of health and nutritional services for people staying in temporary shelters; medicines; mobile health clinics; and first aid and hygiene kits. While the government has been providing overall curative and nutritional services, SLRCS has provided hygiene kits, first aid and mobile health clinic services in the affected districts.

#### Longer-term needs

Health needs in the longer term include surveillance and preparedness for outbreaks of diarrhoeal disease and vector-borne disease, fungal infections (particularly in the lower limbs), provision of first services, and

health and hygiene promotion. SLRCS will focus on providing preventive health services through its trained community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) volunteers at the branches.

### **3. Water and sanitation**

#### **Immediate needs**

Provision of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, particularly to people staying in temporary shelters.

#### **Longer-term needs**

With flood waters receding and people gradually returning to their homes, the provision of safe water will be an important priority. Community and individual wells need to be cleaned; families need jerry cans to store drinking water; and water purification tablets are needed especially over the next two weeks; promotion of drinking boiled water as recommended by the government until the regular safe drinking water supplies can be restored; and public toilets in schools need repair.

### **4. Livelihood and food security**

#### **Immediate needs**

The water damaged or washed away food supplies in numerous households in flood-affected areas. Cooked food has been provided by the government, SLRCS and other agencies. In addition, dry rations have also been provided by SLRCS branches.

#### **Longer-term needs**

In Batticaloa, Trincomalee and regions in the eastern province, there has been severe damage to the paddy cultivation with most of the fields inundated with flood water. This will have a major impact on the livelihoods of many families. With crops damaged in the field prior to harvest, affecting supplies, vegetable prices sold at the Economic Centre Dambulla have started to rise. This will affect household food security in the short term. Livestock losses are reported from the affected districts, particularly in Batticaloa. Several small water reservoirs (tanks) and irrigation canals have been badly damaged. Without timely repair, the ability to plant the next crop in six months' time will be badly affected.

### **5. Shelter**

#### **Immediate needs**

Many families, particularly those in Batticaloa, needed to be relocated to temporary shelters – mainly schools, since their houses have been completely flooded.

#### **Longer-term needs**

Government figures indicate that an estimated 30,000 houses have been either partially or completely damaged. This figure is likely to go up as more assessments are being carried out. Shelter needs include provision of or access to construction materials like cement, bricks, corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets etc, and materials to remove the deposits, and clean the houses.

## **The proposed operation**

The proposed flood response operation will run for the next 12 months and cover the immediate relief and recovery phase. The main focus will be on providing support to 15,000 affected families through the provision of relief items during the initial phase followed by support based on cash grants to 2,000 families for shelter and 4,000 families for livelihood recovery along with preventive health, and water and sanitation interventions, noting that some harder-hit families may receive assistance in different sectors.

The interventions will focus primarily on seven districts; Batticaloa, Ampara, Trincomalee, Polonoruwa, Matale, Annuradhapura and Monragala, although these may be adjusted according to the needs and coordination with other key players.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Outcome:** 2,500 families will benefit from the provision of basic non-food relief items to meet their immediate needs, and 8,000 families receive cash grants for emergency food

Outputs	Activities planned
Families have received essential items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procure relief items according to IFRC standards and re-stocking of relief supplies from the warehouse</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies in the affected areas through trained volunteers</li> <li>• Provide cash grants for emergency food to selected beneficiaries</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities, and report on relief distributions</li> </ul>

### Emergency health and care

**Outcome:** 12,000 families in the affected districts have access to preventive health and first aid services through the IFRC community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) approach

Outputs	Activities planned
<p>3,000 families receive first aid services from trained volunteers</p> <p>12,000 families receive health promotion interventions on relevant health issues through the CBHFA volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploy trained first aiders to provide first aid for the flood-affected people</li> <li>• Provide basic first aid kits to 3,000 families, and a brief introduction on its use</li> <li>• Conduct disease prevention and health promotion activities in camps and severely-affected communities using CBHFA-trained volunteers working alongside participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) volunteers.</li> <li>• Promote environmental sanitation through <i>shramadana</i><sup>7</sup> campaigns and health awareness</li> <li>• Closely coordinate with district health authorities and relevant partners in the delivery of health activities.</li> </ul>

### Water, sanitation and hygiene promotions

**Outcome:** Risk of water-related diseases reduced through increased access to safe water and hygiene promotion for 10,000 families

Outputs	Activities planned
Safe water is supported for 10,000 families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue assessments and work with the government to identify water and sanitation needs</li> <li>• Distribute jerry cans and 150,000 water purification tablets for household water treatment for a two-week period</li> <li>• Construct/renovate 120 public school latrines</li> <li>• Form or strengthen and train a water management committee to manage rehabilitated water facilities</li> <li>• Conduct well-cleaning for 2,000 wells</li> </ul>
At least 40,000 people reached through hygiene promotion interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct hygiene promotions through community mobilization</li> <li>• Train 100 volunteers on participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) methodologies using trained volunteers</li> <li>• Produce and distribute key hygiene promotional messages at household and/or community level, using trained volunteers</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup> Voluntary community labour

## Livelihoods

**Outcome:** 4,000 families are assisted to recover from the damage to their livelihoods and food insecurity through cash grants over a period of 12 months.

Outputs	Activities planned
<p>Cash grants provided to 4,000 families as per the Federation cash transfer programme guidelines</p> <p>Small-scale construction interventions are carried out to repair identified village water tanks and irrigation canals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish, manage and closely monitor mechanisms for cash grant transfers to individual households. This mechanism will be developed in coordination with the shelter grant component.</li> <li>• Establish beneficiary selection criteria with SLRCS</li> <li>• Recruit 100 community mobilizers for a period of six months to assist in the cash transfer mechanism, in close collaboration with the shelter grant component</li> <li>• Agree on the use of the grant with selected recipients using pre-determined livelihood packages of support</li> <li>• Confirm proposed modalities with the identified beneficiaries including the opening of bank accounts for direct fund transfer</li> <li>• Follow up receipt and use of cash grants for livelihood interventions</li> <li>• Identify and establish linkages with the local village rural development committees including local <i>Samurdi</i><sup>8</sup> and agricultural department representatives</li> <li>• Identify the damaged irrigation infrastructure with the village committees for repair and how and when this will be done. Agree on a work and funding plan with timeframe, including all roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Provide conditional cash grants in instalments to the village committees for construction following the agreed plan</li> <li>• Conduct a review and satisfaction survey to assess the results of the interventions and inform future cash transfer programming</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> Representatives of the national poverty alleviation programme targeting poor communities

## Shelter

**Outcome:** 2,000 families have access to owner-driven solutions for repairing the damage to their homes through the provision of conditional cash grants over a period of 12 months

Outputs	Activities planned
Cash grants provided to 2,000 families as per the Federation cash transfer programme guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish, manage and closely monitor mechanisms for cash grant transfers to individual households. This mechanism will be developed in close coordination with the livelihood grant component</li> <li>• Mobilize, recruit and train volunteers/community mobilizers, in close collaboration with the livelihood grant component</li> <li>• Establish beneficiary selection criteria with SLRCS, local authorities and communities</li> <li>• Ensure community consensus for selected beneficiaries</li> <li>• Ensure selected beneficiaries hold land titles/ownership</li> <li>• Develop and disseminate <i>safe construction awareness training</i> to reduce the vulnerability for future natural disasters</li> <li>• Develop, print and disseminate <i>safe construction awareness</i> instruction materials</li> <li>• Socialize volunteers to disseminate the <i>safe construction awareness training</i></li> <li>• Develop the conditions and instalments for cash transfers in close cooperation with the community</li> <li>• Develop a supervision system to ensure proper construction practices and provide assistance to beneficiaries</li> <li>• Set up mechanisms for the funds transfers</li> <li>• Confirm the modalities with the identified beneficiaries including the opening of bank accounts for funds transfers</li> <li>• Make provisions for cash transfers under an SLRCS owner-driven mechanism.</li> <li>• Frequently record and document the construction activities using GPS and digital cameras</li> </ul>

## Organizational development – Sustained capacity building in the seven branches and target communities for better preparedness and disaster risk reduction (DRR)

**Outcome:** Improved branch and target community capacity to better prepare for future disasters

Outputs	Activities planned
100 staff/volunteers are trained on disaster risk reduction (DRR), vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA), and reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train staff/volunteers on planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (PMER) and effective communication to enhance branch capacity</li> <li>• Support development of reporting tools and mechanisms</li> <li>• Train staff and volunteers on DRR advocacy to enhance branch capacity to advocate for longer-term solutions with stakeholders</li> <li>• Train volunteers to enhance branch capacity in VCA and risk assessment</li> <li>• Support operational cost such as maintenance of the Annuradhapura warehouse, branch office rent and repair</li> </ul>

## Logistics

Logistics support will be provided following IFRC procedures to source and procure necessary relief items and to facilitate the efficient and timely delivery of these items for the success of the operation.

There have been no requests for the international mobilization of relief items and as such, no mobilization table has been opened for this operation. Most items (non-food relief items) included in the appeal are available in-country and can be procured locally following IFRC procurement standards and quality control. The emergency food needs, shelter and livelihood support needs included in the appeal will be met through cash grant transfers. The IFRC office in-country has a logistics team in place comprising a logistics coordinator and an adequate team supporting SLRCS in the procurement of relief supplies and other items, if necessary. The primary tasks of the in-country logistics support includes:

- Coordinating with SLRCS and IFRC, programme managers, and the regional logistics unit based in Kuala Lumpur for the timeliest and most cost-efficient sourcing option for items required in the operation.
- Utilizing existing warehousing facilities and vehicles for storage and efficient despatch of goods to final distribution points.
- Liaising and coordinating with other key actors to ensure that the Federation logistics processes are followed and use all available information to be as efficient and effective as possible.

## Communications – Advocacy and Public information

SLRCS has significantly improved its communications capacity after the tsunami operation. While responding to the floods this time, SLRCS launched a large-scale communication campaign that addressed the ground situation, the plight of the affected people and its own role in responding to the challenge. Communication messages were sent out through various media; print, TV, radio, and the Internet. SLRCS has used social media quite effectively with regular messages going out on Twitter and Facebook. SLRCS also developed its new website last year and has been regularly posting stories and updates on the flood situation. As a result of the massive campaign, the website has seen a dramatic rise in visitor hits and online donations from individuals has increased significantly.

SLRCS, supported by IFRC, will maintain a steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders, supporting advocacy efforts and maintaining the profile of the flood operation. Both the national society and IFRC will be promoted by providing a platform for the interests of vulnerable people to be highlighted. Together with the operations team, greater quality, accountability, and transparency will be ensured through both the relief and recovery phases. Donors and national societies will receive information and materials they can use to promote this operation. High quality visual materials will be gathered, and used to highlight the impact of the national society's efforts.

All SLRCS volunteers and staff along with community organizations such as local village development committees, will engage with the beneficiary population at all times to appraise them of the operation. Up to 100 mobilizers from the target communities will be recruited to facilitate better interaction with the community members. These mobilizers will assist in beneficiary selection, monitoring of cash grants, and reporting to the branch on the operation. SLRCS will develop a feedback form for the beneficiaries as part of project monitoring.

## Capacity of the National Society

SLRCS has branches operating in all of the affected districts who are well-experienced in responding to seasonal floods. The society operates through a response mechanism which contains disaster response teams made up of trained volunteers and staff at the divisional, district and national level. The teams along with other trained volunteers have been conducting assessments, distribution and other related response activities in the affected districts.

SLRCS has also recently undergone a major re-engineering with the management now responsible for running all programmes. The director general is directly in charge of this operation and has instructed all the seven branches to carry out the required interventions in accordance to the SLRCS plan. All

procurement as part of this appeal will be done by IFRC in consultation with the regional logistics unit based at the Asia Pacific zone office in Kuala Lumpur. Local tender has been issued for the procurement of relief goods, while additional items may be procured at zone level, if so required.

## Capacity of the IFRC

The IFRC country office has a capable disaster management team comprising four national staff, one of whom is a senior disaster response manager. The team is headed by a programme coordinator who reports to the head of country office. In addition, the country office has a strong communication and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) unit consisting of a senior communication manager and three PMER officers. The country office also has adequate hardware such as computers, telecommunication equipment, vehicles, etc. to support an effective and efficient response.

## Budget summary

See attached budget for details.

**Matthias Schmale**  
Under Secretary General  
Programme Services

**Bekele Geleta**  
Secretary General

## 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 \(NGOs\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster 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.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:  
Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.  
Enable healthy and safe living.  
Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

## Contact information

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

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- Tissa Abeywickrama, director general, phone: +947 775 10706; email: [tissa.abeywickrama@redcross.lk](mailto:tissa.abeywickrama@redcross.lk)

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  - Alan Bradbury, head of resource mobilization and PMER, phone: +603 9207 5775, fax: +603 2161 0670, email: [alan.bradbury@ifrc.org](mailto:alan.bradbury@ifrc.org)
- For pledges of funding, please email [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

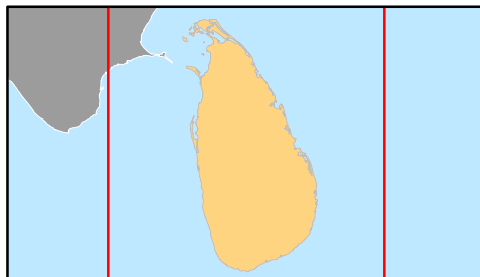
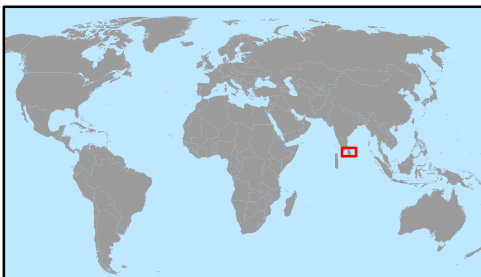
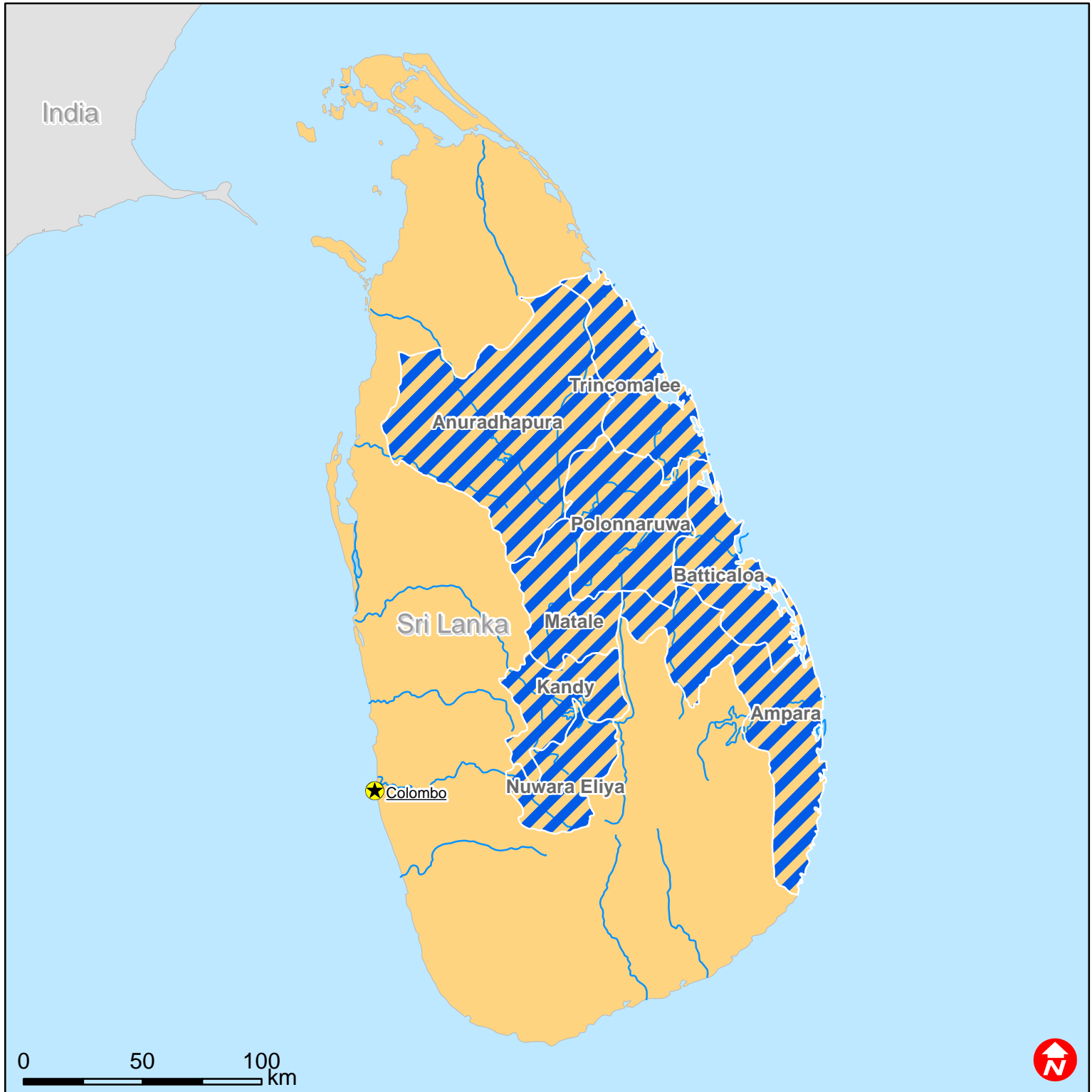
**[<emergency appeal budget and map below; click here to return to title page>](#)**

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	76,000	76,000
Construction - Materials	1,000,000	1,000,000
Clothing & Textiles	139,000	139,000
Food	160,000	160,000
Seeds & Plants	2,000,000	2,000,000
Water & Sanitation	130,400	130,400
Medical & First Aid	78,750	78,750
Teaching Materials	2,000	2,000
Ustensils & Tools	87,375	87,375
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	117,325	117,325
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>3,790,850</b>	<b>3,790,850</b>
Storage	25,000	25,000
Distribution & Monitoring	3,000	3,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,500	4,500
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>32,500</b>	<b>32,500</b>
National Society Staff	100,000	100,000
Consultants	20,000	20,000
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>120,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>
Workshops & Training	70,000	70,000
<b>Total Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>
Travel	3,500	3,500
Information & Public Relation	23,300	23,300
Office Costs	83,300	83,300
Communications	31,153	31,153
Other General Expenses	186,058	186,058
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>327,311</b>	<b>327,311</b>
Program Support	282,143	282,143
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>282,143</b>	<b>282,143</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>4,622,804</b>	<b>4,622,804</b>



# Sri Lanka: Floods



 Affected districts