

# DREF operation



## Sri Lanka: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRLK003  
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000253-KLA  
12 January 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 100,166 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,000 families (10,000 beneficiaries). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Incessant rains in Sri Lanka in the last week have caused widespread flooding in the north, north eastern and central parts of the country. Over 835,000 people are estimated to be affected by the flood and landslides.

SLRCS has joined the national response action and plans on providing relief distribution to 20,000 families (100,000 people) with support from IFRC, ICRC, German, Canadian and Danish Red Cross Societies. IFRC's DREF will support an initial 2,000 families of SLRCS's overall target. A Red Cross Red Crescent Movement taskforce has been formed, and will continually monitor and assess the situation. An Emergency Appeal will be launched in the coming days to further expand the scope of the response.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 31 March 2011. A Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation, by 30 June 2011.

[<click here for the DREF budget;](#)  
[here for contact details;](#)  
[here to view the map of the affected areas>](#)

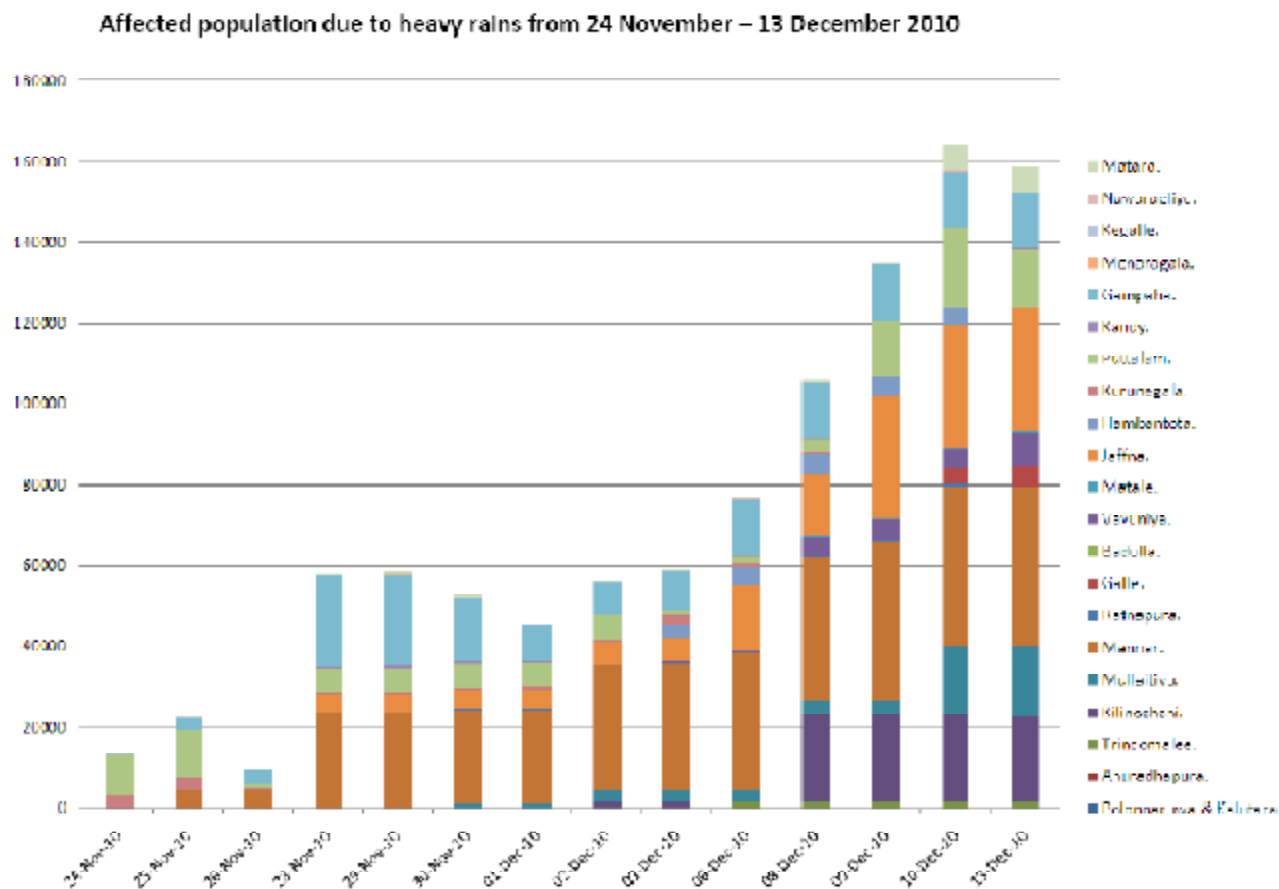


The water of Parakrama Samudraya reservoir in Polonoruwa has reached dangerous levels. Photo: Sri Lanka national media.

## The situation

The continuous heavy rains experienced across the country since early November 2010 has intensified the flood situation in the country, inflicting damage to human lives and crops. This season, the impact of the

north eastern monsoon has increased due to unusual levels of rain. The monsoon has brought heavy rains particularly to western, north western, north central, eastern, Sabaragamuwa and southern provinces, causing severe flash floods and landslides in 24 of the 25 districts in Sri Lanka. The number of people affected increased in the ensuing weeks.



Source: UNOCHA situation report #5, dated 15 December 2010

The national disaster management centre (DMC) reported on 10 January 2011 that nine people were killed and over 800,000 individuals affected in Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura, Kandy, Ampara, Trincomalee and Matale districts, with Batticaloa the worst affected. A total of 124,000 individuals are displaced and sheltered in 334 temporary camps. The prevailing conditions have also destroyed 132,000 acres of paddy fields in the east and north central provinces.

Traffic was also brought to a standstill in several areas due to landslides and inundated roads. Several schools have also been closed in the east and central provinces due to the flood situation.

SLRCS, through its branches and with the support of in-country Movement partners, provided relief to affected victims throughout the monsoon season. SLRCS has also undertaken assessments to identify the current needs on the ground. The government and other international and local non-governmental organizations have also supported relief in the form of cooked food and non-food relief items.

According to the Department of Meteorology, low depression situation has developed in the atmosphere which will cause more rain in the coming week. Several manmade reservoirs' sluice gates have been opened in north and eastern parts which could cause further flooding in the surrounding low lying areas. The Meteorological Department has also predicted showers to continue around the country.

## Coordination and partnerships

The IFRC country office supports SLRCS in working in close coordination with UNOCHA in acquiring information and verifying the humanitarian needs identified, including participating in the coordination meeting convened by UNOCHA.

IFRC is also coordinating with in-country partners including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Canadian Red Cross, German Red Cross and Danish Red Cross, who are working in the affected

areas through SLRCS's 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 support the needs of 20,000 families with the support of Movement partners and other external partners. IFRC will support SLRCS to develop its overall disaster response plan which includes immediate and longer-term needs for 20,000 families. Canadian Red Cross and ICRC have indicated their support to SLRCS in filling the gaps in its response plan.

## Red Cross Red Crescent action

Throughout the monsoon period in November and December last year, SLRCS provided relief to nearly 98,000 people in the north and north-eastern districts with the support of Movement partners in-country. SLRCS distributed drinking water, dry rations, non-food relief items and set up medical camps to address the needs of the communities affected.

With the rainfall increasing drastically in January 2011, SLRCS deployed its branch disaster response teams and conducted assessments in affected districts. SLRCS is currently looking at the immediate relief needs of the affected people to mount an effective response. The National Society will conduct detailed assessments in the near future to identify and plan for longer-term recovery and rehabilitation requirements, including health and water, sanitation and livelihood needs.



SLRCS volunteers provide relief support to affected people in Ampara district. Photo: SLRCS

## The needs

Based on information gathered through its initial needs assessment, some identified needs include non-food relief items, clean drinking water and hygiene promotion activities. Funds released from IFRC's DREF will enable SLRCS to reach out to 2,000 families (10,000 people). The remaining families will be supported by SLRCS and other partners.

## The proposed operation

SLRCS plans to reach out to 20,000 families in the first phase of its relief operation, estimated to last up to two weeks, with an immediate distribution of relief supplies in the affected districts. In coordination with local authorities, rapid initial assessments conducted in the affected districts and branches have identified the immediate needs and priorities. Relief supplies stocked in two warehouses in Annuradhapura and Ratmalana will be mobilized and transported to the affected districts, with a major portion of stocks deployed to Batticaloa, the worst affected district. In addition, SLRCS aims to re-stock the diminished supplies in these warehouses as a part of its preparation for further floods that are forecast in the country.

The relief items stocked include non-food relief items (NRFI) such as kaftans, sarongs, bedsheets, mosquito nets, slippers and sleeping mats. In addition to the NRFI available in the warehouses, other relief items identified as a need includes water purification tablets, hygiene kits and school workbooks for children.

The branch disaster response teams in the affected branches continue to conduct assessments and provide first aid services to the vulnerable population at time of reporting. A Red Cross Red Crescent Movement taskforce has been formed, which will continue to monitor and assess the situation. An Emergency Appeal will be launched in the coming days to expand the scope of the proposed operation.

IFRC's DREF allocation shall contribute to the overall SLRCS plan of action during the relief phase and the country office will continue to work with the National Society's disaster management team on a longer-term plan of action.

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

**Outcome: 2,000 families within the affected areas of Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura, Kandy, Ampara, Trincomalee and Matale districts will receive basic non-food relief items including mosquito nets, sleeping mats and sarongs to meet their immediate needs resulting from the floods.**

#### Outputs and activities planned:

- Continue assessments and work with the government to identify beneficiaries
- Procure relief items according to Federation standards and re-stocking of relief supplies from the warehouse
- Distribute relief supplies within the affected areas of Batticaloa, Polonnaruwa, Nuwara Eliya, Anuradhapura, Kandy, Ampara, Trincomalee and Matale districts
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions

### 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 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:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. 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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**[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)**

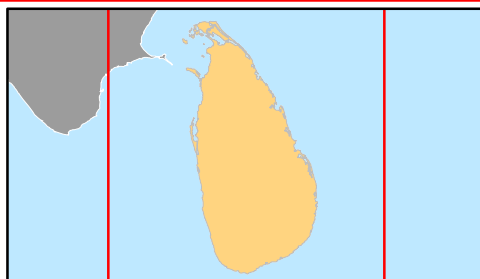
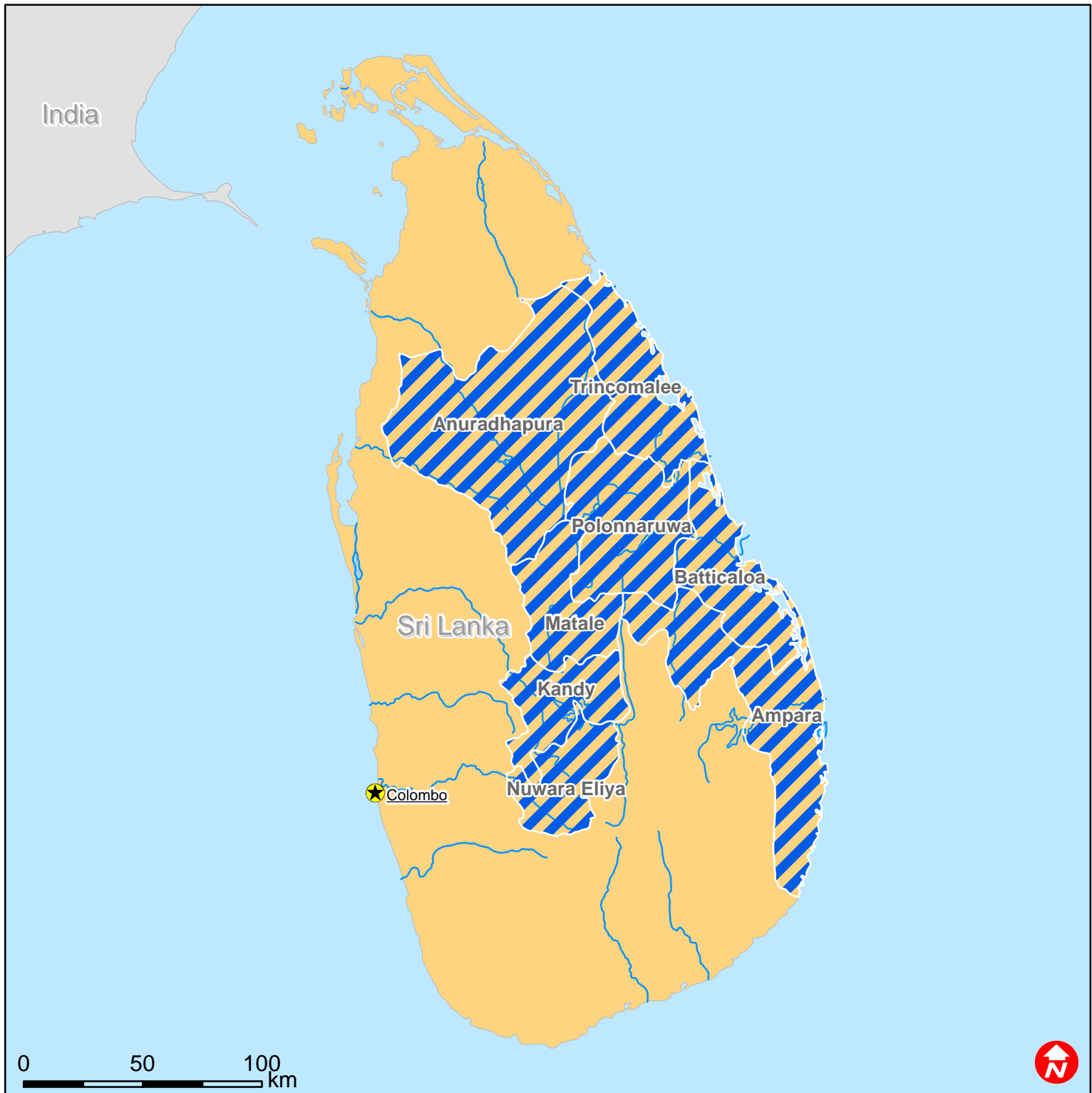
## MDRLK003 - SRI LANKA FLOODS

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Clothing & Textiles	37,000	37,000
Water & Sanitation	400	400
Teaching Materials	2,000	2,000
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	42,000	42,000
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>81,400</b>	<b>81,400</b>
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Travel	2,000	2,000
Office Costs	2,500	2,500
Communications	4,000	4,000
Other General Expenses	3,153	3,153
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>11,653</b>	<b>11,653</b>
Program Support	6,113	6,113
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>6,113</b>	<b>6,113</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>100,166</b>	<b>100,166</b>



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 Affected districts