

Operations update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Sri Lanka: Floods and landslides

Emergency appeal n° MDRLK003
GLIDE n° [FL-2010-000253-LKA](#)
Operations update n° 1
7 February 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 14 – 5 February 2011

Appeal target (current): CHF 4.62 million

[<click here to view the attached emergency appeal budget>](#)

Appeal coverage: With contributions received to date, the appeal is 10 per cent covered in cash and kind, with more contributions in the pipeline. Including soft pledges, this appeal is 18 per cent covered. Funds are urgently needed to enable the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to meet the needs of most vulnerable flood-affected families.

[<click here to go directly to the updated donor response report, or here to link to contact details>](#)



Heavy rains resulted in severe floods in Sri Lanka, destroying homes, roads, water facilities and livelihoods. Sri Lanka Red Cross Society mobilized its staff and volunteers in response, supporting affected communities with food and non-food items and first aid. The National Society's boat services were essential in transporting affected community members to proper medical facilities. Photos: SLRCS

Appeal history:

- This emergency appeal was revised on 26 January 2011 for CHF 4.62 million for 12 months to assist up to 75,000 beneficiaries (15,000 families) affected by the floods.
- This emergency appeal was initially launched on a preliminary basis on 14 January 2011 for CHF 655,670 for six months to assist up to 70,000 beneficiaries (14,000 families).
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF):** CHF 100,166 was initially allocated from the Federation's DREF to support the National Society to respond to the floods.

Summary: Government figures released indicate that 1.03 million people are affected by the floods as of 5 February 2011. A rapid assessment was carried out by Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on 19 to 21 January 2011, while distribution of relief items commenced at the onset of the floods. It is estimated, based on stock movement and

delivery, that up to 6,050 families (approximately 30,250 people) were assisted by SLRCS as of 4 February 2011.

Partners who made contributions to the appeal to date include the Canadian Red Cross/ Canadian government, Japanese Red Cross, New Zealand Red Cross and the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent.

IFRC, on behalf of Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, would like to thank all partners for their generous response to this appeal.

The situation

Fresh rains continue to cause flooding in 18 districts in the eastern, northern, north-central and Uva provinces. As a result many of tanks (reservoirs) are nearly overflowing. Threats to the reservoirs have compelled authorities to open reservoir sluice gates across the island. Additionally, several roads continue to be inundated with flood waters, challenging government-led assistance activities. The number of affected and displaced persons continues to rise. Up to 30,000 houses are either partially or completely damaged.

According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), as of 5 February, a total of 1.03 million people (approximately 207,549 families) are affected by floods in the country, with Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Ampara and Anuradhapura the worst affected districts. According to the situation report, landslides have rendered some roads in Nuwara Eliya and Kandy districts impassable.

Government offices at divisional and district levels have taken the lead in coordinating response and relief activities, providing cooked food, managing temporary camps and mobilizing health clinics to support affected communities.

Coordination and partnerships

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS), supported by IFRC, in-country partner national societies and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), continues to coordinate at local levels with government authorities and district disaster management units in response to the floods. SLRCS branches work with government offices at district and divisional levels to manage evacuations, provide emergency first aid and distribute food and non-food relief items. In addition, assessments carried out in the affected districts are conducted together with government representatives, and findings and plans of interventions are shared to ensure no duplication in the process.

The IFRC country office continues to work in close coordination with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in sharing information and verifying the humanitarian needs of communities affected, and attends cluster meetings organized.

Red Cross Red Crescent action

Overview

SLRCS, assisted by IFRC, deployed 17 experienced disaster management staff and volunteers¹ to seven targeted districts of Ampara, Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Polonnawura, Matale and Monaragala to assist local SLRCS branches in rapid assessments, led by the National Society's Director General and accompanied by IFRC's head of office and senior coordinator, on 19 – 21 January.

Activities carried out to date by SLRCS branches include the distribution of food and non-food items, well-cleaning, emergency first aid, boat services (to evacuate patients to medical facilities) and medical camps in flood-affected districts.

Preliminary information from the assessments undertaken in this reporting period indicate that early recovery, livelihoods and shelter are the most important components which require attention and intervention. Crops were submerged and farmers do not expect to reap harvest in April. Under health and care, cases of diarrhoea were reported, linked to the fact that well and water sources were contaminated. Damaged latrines are also thought to have contributed to this, and concerns of a dengue outbreak are high as waters recede and debris is not cleared.

¹ National, branch and regional disaster response team members

Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 2,500 families will benefit from the provision of basic non food relief items to recover from the emergency situation, and 8,000 families receive cash grant for emergency food	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Families have received essential items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of relief items according to Federation standard and re-stocking of relief supplies from the warehouse • Distribute relief supplies in the affected areas through trained volunteers • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions

Progress:

SLRCS continues to distribute relief items from its warehouses, with pre-positioned stocks diminishing rapidly.

The urgent nature of the emergency required the immediate action of SLRCS, first responders in any disaster. As all capacity was diverted to assessments and emergency distributions, formal information tracking was not available in the early days, complicated by the fluid movement of affected people. It is estimated, based on stock movement and delivery, that up to 6,050 families (approximately 30,250 people) were assisted by SLRCS as of 4 February 2011. Click [here](#) for total number of items distributed and remaining stocks available.

A technical committee consisting of IFRC and SLRCS logistics and disaster management staff finalized the tender process for the local procurement of non-food relief items on 23 January 2011, with 27 bidders submitting sealed bids opened by a committee on 30 January 2011. The process was supervised by IFRC's logistics team in accordance with IFRC procurement standards and quality control. The following items will be procured based on funding availability:

1. Kaftan: 7,000 pieces
2. Sarong: 7,000 pieces
3. Sleeping mat: 7,000 pieces
4. Bed sheets: 7,000 pieces
5. Rubber slippers: 2,000 pairs
6. Hurricane lamp: 2,500 pieces
7. Kitchen set: 2,500 sets
8. Hygiene kit (adult): 2,500 kits
9. Hygiene kit (baby): 2,500 kits
10. Mosquito nets : 4,500 pieces
11. Blanket: 2,500 pieces
12. Jerry can: 2,500 pieces

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotions

Outcome: Risk of water related diseases has been reduced through increased access to safe water and hygiene promotion for 10,000 families	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Safe water is supported for 10,000 families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue assessments and work with the government to identify water and sanitation needs • Distribute 150,000 water purification tablets and jerry cans for household water treatment for a two week period • Construction/renovation of 120 public school latrines • Form/ strengthen and train water management committee to manage rehabilitated water facilities • Conduct well cleaning operation for 2,000 wells
At least 40,000 people reached out through hygiene promotion interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct hygiene promotions through community mobilization • Train 100 volunteers on participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation (PHAST) methodologies using trained volunteers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and distribute key hygiene promotional messages at household and/or community level using trained volunteers
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Progress:

Bottled water, water purification tablets and and jerry cans are being procured together with the other relief items detailed in the relief section of this report.

With health and care facilities in affected districts functioning, SLRCS water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities will be carried out in coordination with relief distribution activities. The IFRC water and sanitation unit has volunteered to clean the wells in areas of Ninthavur, Oluvil, Akkaraipattu and Addalachenai.

Emergency health and care

Outcome: 12,000 families in the affected districts have access to preventive health and first aid services through the Federation CBHFA approach	
Outputs (expected results)	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"> Deploy trained first aiders to provide first aid for the flood affected people Provide basic first aid kits to 3,000 families, and brief introduction of its usage Conduct disease prevention and health promotion activities in camps and severely-affected communities using CBHFA trained volunteers working alongside PHAST volunteers. Promotion of environmental sanitation through shramadana campaigns and health awareness Closely coordinate with district health authorities and relevant partners in the delivery of health activities.

Progress:

SLRCS staff and volunteers in affected districts continue to provide first aid and referral services as and when required. Health and care activities planned will be carried out simultaneously with relief distribution and hygiene promotion activities. A fungal infection is identified to be spreading among the displaced people, and to address this, fungal ointment will be included in the SLRCS/IFRC hygiene pack.

Logistics

Progress:

To date, 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 included in the appeal are available in-country and possible to procure locally following Federation procurement standards and quality control. The IFRC office has a logistics team in place comprising of a logistics coordinator and an adequate team supporting SLRCS in the procurement of relief supplies and other items if necessary.

Communications – Advocacy and Public Information

The IFRC communications unit continues to support SLRCS in producing timely updates on SLRCS/ IFRC response to share information and maintain the profile of the floods operations. The communications unit engages with the media and general public through local and international news agencies such as Al-Jazeera, BBC and CNN as well as social media such as [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Press releases are shared on a regular basis, together with high-quality photographs and volunteer and beneficiary stories, on both the National Society’s and IFRC’s websites, at www.redcross.lk and www.ifrc.org, respectively.

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:

- **Sri Lanka Red Cross Society:**
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 - Alan Bradbury, Head of resource mobilization and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting unit, phone: +603 9207 5775, email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org
 - For pledges of funding, please email zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org

*[<annex, budget and map of affected areas below;
click here to return to the title page>](#)*

Relief items distribution progress as of 04 February 2011

BRANCH	Mats	Hygiene parcel	Mosquito nets	Kitchen set	Baby hyg. kit	Saree	Sarong	Kaftans	Saree underskirt	Bed sheets	Blanket	Tarpaulin	Jerry Can- 10 litres	Plastic bucket	Lantern	Candles – 8 pcs.	Soap	Laundry soap
Ampara	300				500	500	500	300	300	400		100					500	500
Anuradapura	1300	208	25	50	125	100	100	100	950	100	100	100	700	25	50	500		
Badulla		300								500		200						
Batticaloa	200	1200			100	300	300	300				102						
Hambantota	800	500	500			500		100					250		200			
Matale	100		50		25	100	100	100	100	100		100	200	100	50	600	250	250
Monaragala	200		100		75	200	200	200	200	200		200	500	150	100	1,200	500	500
Nuwara Eliya	600			100	150			200	600		600	300	300	300	200	2,400		
Polonnaruwa	700	850	200	200	700					200	250	300	500		200	4,000		
Ratnapura	300		200		100	300	300	300	300	300		300	300		100	2,400	300	
Trincomalee	500	500	500		500	1,000	1,000	500	1000	600		300	500	100	300	2,400	750	250
Vavuniyava	300											300						
Matara		500										5						
Kilinochchi		600			100													
Total Issues	5,300	4,658	1,575	350	2,375	3,000	2,500	2,100	3,450	2,400	950	2,307	3,250	675	1,200	13,500	2,300	1,500
Available stock	295	50	250	0	1,100	2,003	550	100	397	1,060	0	1,765	1,600	18	400	1,000	600	998

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
Total Supplies	3,790,850	3,790,850
Storage	25,000	25,000
Dsitribution & Monitoring	3,000	3,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,500	4,500
Total Transport & Storage	32,500	32,500
National Society Staff	100,000	100,000
Consultants	20,000	20,000
Total Personnel	120,000	120,000
Workshops & Training	70,000	70,000
Total Workshops & Training	70,000	70,000
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
Total General Expenditure	327,311	327,311
Program Support	282,143	282,143
Total Programme Support	282,143	282,143
TOTAL BUDGET	4,622,804	4,622,804



Sri Lanka: Floods

