

# 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° 2  
18 February 2011

Period covered by this Ops Update: 4 – 10 February 2011

**Appeal target (current):** CHF 4.62 million  
<[click here to view the attached emergency appeal budget](#)>

**Appeal coverage:** Including soft pledges, this appeal is 20 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 relief items, medical assistance and evacuations. Trained SLRCS first aiders provided first aid for the affected people. Photos: SLRCS/IFRC.

### 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 1.19 million people (319,451 families) are affected by the floods as of 10 February 2011. As a result of the fresh floods in early February, SLRCS/IFRC increased the number of hygiene kits to be procured from 2,500 to 6,000 kits.

SLRCS continues to distribute relief items in affected districts, with up to 308 volunteers and 38 staff mobilized in this reporting period to support relief distribution efforts. Meanwhile, a household economic security delegate

supported by British Red Cross will travel to Sri Lanka to assist the ongoing flood operation in cash-related programming activities.

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

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 in February caused flooding in 18 districts in the eastern, northern, north-central and Uva provinces. Although the rains have stopped in many areas, a few water supply reservoirs are still overflowing. Fresh rains in February caused flooding in 18 districts in the eastern, northern, north-central and Uva provinces. Although the rains have stopped in many areas, a few tanks are in spill level. Up to 30,000 houses are either partially or completely damaged. 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. Displaced families are being housed in more than 744 temporary evacuation centres such as schools and community buildings established by the government in 11 districts across the island. An estimated 300,000 hectares of rice paddy has been destroyed, prompting fears of price hikes for the country's staple food.

According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), as of 10 February, a total of 1.19 million people (approximately 319,451 families) are affected by floods in the country, with Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Ampara and Polonnaruwa the worst affected districts<sup>1</sup>.

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. Mine action authorities advise that there is a possibility of mines displaced as a result of the floods and requests that actors remain sensitive to potential areas of risk.

## 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

### Progress towards outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)	
<b>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 grants for emergency food</b>	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Families have received essential items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement of relief items according to Federation standard and re-stocking of relief supplies from the warehouse</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> DMC web site: <http://www.dmc.gov.lk/>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 provide reporting on relief distributions</li> </ul>
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**Progress:**

With the fresh floods in early February, the relief needs of the affected people were revisited and SLRCS/IFRC changed its procurement plans accordingly. IFRC increased the amount of hygiene kits to be procured from 2,500 to 6,000 kits with the available funding for the appeal. Other relief items will be procured once more funds are available.

SLRCS continues to distribute relief items in affected districts including Ampara, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Matale, Nowara Eliya, Polonaruwa, Trincomalee and Vavuniya from its disaster preparedness stocks. Click [here](#) for details of distributions completed on 4 - 10 February in the nine districts. Up to 308 volunteers and 38 staff were mobilized in this reporting period to support relief distribution efforts.

**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**

<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
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 150,000 water purification tablets and jerry cans for household water treatment for a two week period</li> <li>• Construction/renovation of 120 public school latrines</li> <li>• Form/ strengthen and train water management committee to manage rehabilitated water facilities</li> <li>• Conduct well cleaning operation for 2,000 wells</li> </ul>
At least 40,000 people reached out 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>

**Progress:**

IFRC will work with ICRC's water and sanitation team to start the well-cleaning operation in Ampara district from 22 February onwards. Between six to ten identified volunteers from the selected communities and branch staff will support the cleaning of an initial 1,000 wells over the coming weeks.

**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**

<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
3,000 families receive first aid services from trained volunteers  12,000 families receive health promotion interventions on relevant health issues through the CBHFA volunteers	<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 brief introduction of its usage</li> <li>• Conduct disease prevention and health promotion activities in camps and severely-affected communities using CBHFA trained volunteers working alongside PHAST volunteers.</li> <li>• Promotion of environmental sanitation through <i>shramadana</i><sup>2</sup> campaigns and health awareness</li> <li>• Closely coordinate with district health authorities and relevant partners in the delivery of health activities.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> community outreach

**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, common where people are exposed to standing water for long periods is identified to be spreading among the displaced people, and to address this, fungal ointment will be included in the SLRCS/IFRC household first aid pack.

<b>Livelihoods</b>	
<b>Outcome: 4,000 families are assisted to recover from the damage to their livelihoods and food insecurity through cash grants over the period of 12 months</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<p>Cash grants provided to 4,000 families as per the Federation cash transfer mechanism</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 use of 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 Identify and establish linkages with the local village rural development committees including local Samurdi<sup>3</sup> and agricultural dept representatives</li> <li>• Identify the damaged irrigation infrastructure with the village committees for repair and how and when this will be done. Agree a work and funding plan with time frame, including all roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Provide conditional cash grant 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>

<b>Shelter</b>	
<b>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</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
<p>Cash grants provided to 2,000 families as per the Federation cash transfer programme guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish, manage and closely monitor mechanisms for cash grant transfer 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 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 safe construction awareness training to reduce the vulnerability for future natural disasters</li> <li>• Develop, print and disseminate safe construction awareness instruction materials</li> <li>• Socialise volunteers to disseminate the safe construction awareness training</li> <li>• Develop in close cooperation with the community, the conditions</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> Representatives of the national poverty alleviation programme targeting poor communities

	<p>and instalments for cash transfers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a supervision system to ensure proper construction practices and provide assistance to beneficiaries</li> <li>• Set up mechanisms for the fund transfer</li> <li>• Confirm the modalities with the identified beneficiaries including the opening of bank accounts for funds transfer</li> <li>• Make provisions for cash transfer under an owner-driven mechanism of SLRCS.</li> <li>• Frequently record and document the construction activities using digital cameras</li> </ul>
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**Progress (livelihoods and shelter):**

UNOCHA reports that farmers in the east are working to recover any remaining harvests, regardless how minimal they are. Concerns are raised over the availability of seed for paddy and other crops, so food security will be an issue going forward.

A household economic security delegate supported by British Red Cross will travel to Sri Lanka to assist the ongoing flood operation for three weeks from 20 February to 10 March. The delegate will support the establishment of the cash grant mechanism for both livelihood and shelter components and development of the plan of action for the flood operation which will be essential to the implementation of the livelihood and shelter objectives, as well as train key staff on cash-grant interventions used in the operation going forward. Further details on technical support in shelter will be worked out once the household economic security delegate is in place.

**Organizational development – Sustained capacity building in the seven branches and target communities for better preparedness and DRR**

<b>Outcome: Improved branch and target community capacity to better prepare for future such disasters</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
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 mechanism</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>

**Progress:**

Volunteers and branch staff will be trained on well cleaning in order to enhance SLRCS' capacity to implement the well cleaning operation planned in Ampara. The training will be provided by the ICRC water and sanitation team with the support of the Federation.

To improve in-country capacity, the household economic security delegate will train SLRCS staff as well as IFRC Sri Lanka office staff on planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the cash grant mechanism set up for the livelihood and shelter components.

**Logistics**

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 with key audiences. The communications unit engages with the media and general public through local and international news organizations such as Al-Jazeera, BBC and CNN as well as social media platforms such as [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Press releases are shared on a regular basis, together with high-quality photographs, video content and volunteer and beneficiary stories. These are available on both the National Society's and IFRC's websites, at [www.redcross.lk](http://www.redcross.lk) and [www.ifrc.org](http://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:

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:

### Sri Lanka Red Cross Society:

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- For pledges of funding, please email [zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org](mailto:zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org)

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

## Activities and distributions on 4 - 10 February 2011

<b>District</b>	<b>Distributed Items</b>	<b>Volunteers/ staff</b>
Ampara	15 camps were distributed first aid items 110 families were provided with kitchen utensils 12 families were given tarpaulins 600 affected families received soap, sarongs, sleeping mats and candles. 100 baby hygiene packs distributed. Exercise books and stationery to 300	50 volunteers
Anuradhapura	560 beneficiaries were provided with sleeping mats, jerry cans, blankets, candles and matches 43 tents distributed 650 families provided with dry rations	25 and 8 staff
Badulla	306 hygiene kits 231 bed sheets 80 sarongs 1 tarpaulin sheet	10 volunteers
Batticaloa	8 boats at operation Provided cooked meals thrice a day for 3 days 1 <sup>st</sup> day- 570 persons 2 <sup>nd</sup> day- 410 persons 3 <sup>rd</sup> day- 810 persons 1,000 persons provided with dry rations	11 staff and 8 volunteers
Matale	350 meals provided 150 baby hygiene packs 100 hygiene packs 150 mats 200 bed sheets 50 sarongs 100 underskirts 500 soaps	60 volunteers and 8 staff
Nuwara Eliya	282 bed sheets 282 sleeping mats 141 hygiene kits 141 kitchen sets 141 lanterns 257 saris 257 sarongs	40 volunteers/ 6 staff
Polonaruwa	65 tarpaulins 24 kitchen sets 129 families provided with dry rations 709 hygiene kits 84 candle packs 129 jerry cans 84 lanterns 129 mats 84 mosquito nets 55 baby kits 84 bed sheets 84 saris 84 sarongs	50 volunteers/ 5 staff
Trincomalee	175 tarpaulins 100 mosquito nets Dry rations worth LKR 100,000.00 75 sarongs 40 saris	20 volunteers
Vavuniya	Relief food items 76 sleeping mats	50 volunteers

	246 bottles of water (1litre) 84 mosquito coils 45 tarpaulins 150 hygiene packs 100 candles	
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**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
Dsitribution & 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

