

FINAL REPORT



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

SRI LANKA: DROUGHT

26 April 2002

Appeal No. 25/2001

Launched on: 13 August 2001 for 6 months for CHF 1,258,427.

Budget was revised in October to CHF 495,307 (USD 296,000/ EUR 337,000) to cover the same original 6 months period.

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 100,000 (USD 60,000/ EUR 68,000)

Beneficiaries: The original target of 39,000 beneficiaries was changed to 21,000 beneficiaries with the revised budget in October 2001.

Operations Update No. 5 and Final Period covered: 21 January - 31 March 2002 (last Ops. Update issued 20th January 2002)

“At a glance”

Appeal coverage: Covered

Related Appeals 01.24/2002 South Asia

The Disaster/Situation The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, with Federation support, has completed an effective relief operation in support of vulnerable Sri Lankans affected by drought. The Red Cross led by example and was also one of the few humanitarian organisations that maintained a supportive presence on the ground via food distributions and other activities. The remaining balance of CHF 2,101 will be used for National Society organisational development programmes, as per the Sri Lanka country appeal 10.29/2002.

Operational Developments:

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has completed the fourth and final six weekly distributions of food rations to the total 3,716 families in the overall programme. This happened between 18th - 20th February in Lunugamvehera and Sooriyawewa AGA Divisions of Hambantota District, and on 24th March in Hambantota AGA Division.

The SLRCS used the results of its detailed house to house survey of 50% of the total beneficiaries, conducted between 10th and 15th January, to assess which families could be reduced to a half ration for the final phase. This led to an increase in the number of families receiving half rations. This decision was made with the agreement of the affected families surveyed, following Sphere standard guidelines.

The lack of adequate rainfall has continued to effect the poorest chenna cultivator families whose marginal lands did not receive enough rainfall for their crops to mature. The Regional Disaster Response Delegate was invited to Sri Lanka to conduct a joint assessment with SLRCS between 22nd and 24th March to assess the continuing and future needs of the most affected populations in Hambantota District. The assessment confirmed that the families who had been receiving the targeted Red Cross rations over the duration of the 6 month programme experienced notably improved conditions compared to families that did not receive assistance. Whereas some reserves were available in Red Cross assisted households, no reserves were available in the other households.

Once again, Sri Lanka Red Cross are the only agency to have conducted house to house surveys using their volunteers and penetrating interior areas very distant from public road access. Throughout the programme the questionnaires have gathered vital information about the changing levels of household income; distress indicators such as pawned and sold assets in the most vulnerable households; the nature, proximity, and quality of water and food available at household level; and health and disease trends, particularly keeping records of the ages and conditions of children in all households surveyed. This information maintained a vital link to the assistance which came from other support institutions such as supplementary nutrition feeding programmes sponsored by UNICEF. These could be well targeted to the most affected areas.

Local Government Agents who have attended all the Red Cross drought relief distribution operations have continued to work in close co-operation with the Hambantota District Branch. The situation regarding water needs is also being closely monitored by the Red Cross and Government Agents.

The joint Federation/SLRCS assessment conducted between 22nd-24th March recorded serious conditions continuing to face many areas. Farmers who had gambled in the early part of the rainy season last November reported losses after severer crop failures. In the most affected areas farmers have increased their indebtedness, lost another crop of vegetables, and have experienced diminishing labour opportunities as irrigation ponds have also continued to dry out.

The joint assessment noted that family consumption habits had changed and in many cases been reduced to two meals per day. Children had increasingly been sent to relatives in other regions when possible due to the lack of adequate food and water. The price of staple food has risen by approximately 50%, and vegetables are being replaced with tree leaves in some desperate cases. The food security situation is worsening and the Federation and SLRCS plans to conduct a detailed food basket assessment in mid-May prior to launching a new drought relief appeal in late May. This appeal will aim to extend the food ration component to highly vulnerable existing and new areas, and this time also incorporating a small but effective water provision component.

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

The Federation assisted SLRCS's drought relief co-ordinator at NHQ to make local community level assessments and monitoring visits to the affected areas throughout the whole programme. Assistance was also given to help SLRCS draw up with the Hambantota Branch appropriate questionnaires and assessment training to volunteers to assess the situation of drought-affected beneficiaries throughout the whole programme.

The Federation and UN Co-ordinator's Office have continued to share the learning from the drought relief operation to various institutions including the Consortium for Humanitarian Action' Emergency

Preparedness Focal Group. These key learning presentations were also used as advocacy opportunity to spread awareness about the needs of the drought-affected communities to wider donor audiences. Key presentations shared jointly between SLRCS, the Federation and the UN Resident Coordinator's Officer were held on 1st November 2001 at the UN Donor Forum Meeting in Colombo; and the second significant presentation was made to the General Assembly of the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies on 29th November 2001.

The aim of these presentations was to use this and other learning to develop ideas for a national interagency supported Disaster Preparedness Plan for Sri Lanka. Government and other local and international NGOs who were also invited. Meetings were also held with the Government of Sri Lanka's National Disaster Management Centre to share ideas for policy development of a national Disaster Preparedness and management plan. These discussions are continuing, and the CHA also held a national level workshop in March 2002 to continue to try and find a multiple stakeholder approach to developing more effective disaster preparedness and management planning in the future.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w

The SLRCS national drought relief co-ordinator as well as the District level co-ordinator in Hambantota, the most affected District, successfully co-ordinated NHQ and Branch integrated assessment and implementation of the relief operation throughout the entire period.

The SLRCs have continuously gathered information from beneficiaries through house to house surveys and questionnaires throughout the programme, enabling them unparalleled ability to complete detailed assessments of the ongoing needs of the beneficiary families in the earlier distributions, and to gain further feedback on the situation as perceived by the families in the next few months.

The most recent house to house survey covered 1,478 families of a total beneficiary list of 3,718 families. It enabled the SLRCS to make sensitive adjustments to the final level of rations actually required by families. The survey forms developed with Federation technical support have recorded any new trends in the families' circumstances. This including specifically whether the Red Cross food relief package had proved adequate for the family needs, when the family had started cultivation and of which crops, what the progress in the cultivation was and when the next crop was expected, and finally any final comments as beneficiaries on the Red Cross relief programme to date. In this context the survey methodology followed throughout the operation followed the SPHERE standard guidelines for involving beneficiary perspectives in reviewing relief programmes. It also involves beneficiaries in assisting in further relevant planning of services to them.

The Government has also begun distributing more food rations in response to continuing needs in Hambantota District in early February 2002. The Government Agents have been closely co-ordinating with the SLRCS and have praised the Red Cross from the very outset of the operation as the only humanitarian institution which raised the profile of the drought affected families sensitively, consistently, and which delivered the required relief assistance through the full planned cycle.

Health w

There were no specific health objectives in the original Appeal. However, the SLRCS have conducted surveys through volunteers and noted a general improvement in the health conditions of the 1478 families (50% of the total families in the programme) that they visited in the house to house surveys in January 2002.

Objective 1 To establish regular exchange of assessment information with other Government, UN and INGO institutions on the prevailing health trends in the affected areas as gathered through the house to house Red Cross surveys.

Activity 1: *Contribute to co-ordinated efforts to raise health issues with other institutions*

The SLRCS volunteers who conducted the house to house surveys at key stages of the programme noted that there seemed to be no increase in disease prevalence. They also assessed the condition of children at a cursory level and found them to be markedly more active towards the end of the programme than in the earlier times. In January the children were going to school again and working on the farm sites engaged in family cultivation support activities.

The Government Social Services Ministry has informed SLRCS that it has also begun distributions of drinking water in Galweva, Maha Ara, Divulgamawa, Badagiriya, Kelyapara, and Gonnoruwa. The SLRCS is reassessing the operationalisation of their water bowser donated by SCF (UK) and will also begin distribution to targeted villages in the near future. Close co-ordination will be maintained with the local Government officials to avoid duplication of services.

WFP had earlier responded to health trend indicators by seeking to co-ordinate programmes with the Federation and SLRCS for supplementary nutritional feeding for pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 5 in the most affected areas. The Red Cross were asked by WFP to consider what roles they could play to assist the WFP in nutritional education programmes for drought-affected communities.

Relief distributions w

Objective 1 To procure and provide repeat relief distributions of food rations to 3,716 families at 6 week intervals

The earlier commitment to meet half of food needs of the worst affected families as measured against Sphere standards of calorific intake until the next harvest continued. The full cycle of relief distributions was maintained throughout the whole programme.

The final distribution of the fourth phase to beneficiary families in Lunugamvehera and Sooriyawewa AGA Divisions was completed on 18th-20th February. In response to the new data gathered in the January house-to-house survey of needs, families who identified increased income in the villages of Gonnoruwa, Veheragala Yala, and Weerawil Ara received reduced packages of half rations.

The final distribution to 835 families in Ketanwewa and to 584 families in Galwewa Maha Ara were completed by 25 male and 17 female volunteers. The other fourth phase distributions were completed at Lunugamvehera to 938 families from Weerawil Ara, Punchchi Appu Jambura, Ranawarawa, Pahalamattala, Maha Aluthgam Ara, and Bogahwewa. Here 18 male and 12 female volunteers completed the distribution. In Angulukolawewa 231 families from Deveramvehera, Weheragala Yaya, and Angulukolawewa received distributions from 7 male and 5 female volunteers.

In Sooriyawewa AGA Division 735 families from Mahavelikkada and Adrarawewa received distributions from 18 male and 7 female volunteers, and 393 families received distributions at Wediwewa from 7 male and 10 female volunteers.

The final fourth phase distribution due in Hambantota Division took place on 24th March to 1419 families in Galwewa Maha Ara. 23 male and 12 female volunteers assisted in completing this last of the fourth phase distributions, which was also attended by the Federation's Regional Disaster Response Delegate.

As in all previous distributions the level of calorific intake of the food rations was made at 50% of Sphere standard needs in consultation with the beneficiary families who felt this was appropriate given their other sources of income.

Total distributions compared to objective 1: To provide one initial food distribution to 1,000 families in one district for 3 months utilizing available disaster relief emergency funds (DREF) funds:

Date of completed 6 week distributions	Planned amount of families to be supported	No. of supported families (approx. six persons per family)	Rice, 25 kgs	Flour 20 kgs	Dal 10 kgs	Sugar 4 kgs
31 August	1,000	1,293	X	X	X	X
9 September Partial distribution*	1'000	1,419	X	X	X	X

*This distribution targeted other selected and vulnerable people and was supported bilaterally by the Spanish Red Cross and through funds raised locally.

The following seven villages within the district of Hambantota were supported in the first distribution, for 45 days (1,5 months): Bogahawevea, Padavgama, Devranwehera, Ranawaranawa, Ilukpalassa, Una Alhwevea and Uda Mathala of Lungugamvehera Division. The 293 families could be added as not all of the most vulnerable families had six members, and those families with fewer members received reduced rations.

During the second distribution; the following villages were supported: Maha Ara, Namadagasweva, Suriyawewa, 8 Mile Post, Beddavadiya, Andaragaswewa, and Usgala (all located in the Hamantota district)

For further distributions towards this target group, please refer to below table for objective 2.

Total distributions compared to objective 2 (later on the only relief objective): To provide on food distribution to an additional 5,500 families and a second distribution to all 6,500 families (beneficiaries as per objective one and two).

In October, to take account of the Appeal income and the ability to spread available resources to a guaranteed number of families through all four distribution cycles envisaged in the programme, the budget and number of beneficiaries were revised down to CHF 495,307 and 3,500 or 21,000 beneficiaries respectively. Accordingly, due to the half-rations due to some families, the food available for 3,500 full family rations could spread to enable 3,716 families to receive both amounts of rations in total for all ensuing distributions.

Date of completed 6-week distributions	Planned amount of families to be supported	No of supported families (approx six persons per family)	Rice 25 kgs	Flour 20 kgs	Dal 10 kgs	Sugar 4 kgs
2:nd distribution						
19-21 October	3'500	3'716	X	X	X	X
3:rd distribution						
30 Nov-2 Dec	3'716	3'716	X	X	X	X
4th distribution						
18-20 Feb	3'716	3'716	X	X	X	X

The second distribution was targeting families in the Lunugamvehera and Suriyawewa Divisions (2,297 families and Hambantota division combine with third distributions for the 1,419 families (as stated in objective no 1).

The third six-week distribution was similarly targeting 2,297 families in Suriyawewa Divisions and 1,419 families in Hambantota Division.

Water-sanitation w

Although there were no specific water and sanitation related objectives in the original Appeal the Federation and Sri Lanka Red Cross have also decided to continue to assess appropriate responses.

SCF (UK) had very kindly provided SLRCS, and the Hambantota Branch in particular, with a water bowser under a Memorandum of Understanding for 3 years. The Branch has already used the bowser to good effect to bring water to those communities who were still experiencing water shortage even after the first rains came in the Hambantota District.

Given the latest needs assessment exercise carried out by the SLRCS and the Federation's regional Disaster Response Delegate on 22nd - 24th March, a new proposal is being drafted. This enable the Society to scale up its support to water provision to the most seriously water scarce areas in the next few months. This is in response to the lack of rain since 21st December that has still prevailed in many severely affected pockets of Hambantota District.

National Society Capacity Building w

The SLRCS regular house to house surveys throughout the programme has improved SRCS capacity to deliver targeted and appropriate relief in a timely manner.

The Society has continued to use an active learning approach to developing its capacities through review and learning processes throughout the programme. On 23rd November the SLRCS national co-ordinator on drought, together with the Hambantota District Branch Secretary, joint facilitated a "Lessons Learned" workshop with the Federation's Regional Disaster Preparedness Delegate and DP manager respectively for a half day. The workshop, which was held in the NORAD Training Centre in Hambantota, was attended by beneficiary representatives from affected communities, local Government, the District and Divisional SLRCS Branch committees, and the volunteers who have taken part in the programme from the beginning.

The results of that participatory SWOT exercise showed that the strengths of the programme so far had included an enhanced and high profile image for SLRCS. RC volunteers have being seen by others (especially school children) as a role model of humanitarian service to others; the dedication and quick response by the RC Branch and volunteers; excellent co-operation with Government structures; and sustaining the relief programme through the required 6 month distribution cycle. Here it was mentioned that all other NGOs, INGOs, and institutions had not delivered as consistent a set of relief items as the Red Cross, and most had disappeared after the initial high profile activity in the first few weeks of the drought.

The more active engagement with vulnerable communities, and the Red Cross transparency in asking them for their perceptions of the RC relief programme and activities during the January survey has further strengthened the credibility of the SLRCS in the eyes of both the community and the local Government Agents at District and Divisional levels.

The planned relief distributions and preparatory planning exercises were attended by Federation staff . Feedback was given to help SLRCS continue to significantly increase the co-ordination, logistics and resource mobilisation skills not only of personnel in the NHQ but also at Branch levels.

Last objective - Coordination

The Federation has provided SLRCS with support throughout the relief programme, supporting the Red Cross Society's approach to assessment, programme implementation, monitoring, and narrative and financial reporting. This has included field visits to motivate volunteers and staff.

The Federation had earlier taken the initiative to convene a widely attended national level interagency co-ordination meeting. This to enable all agencies, key Government Ministries, and ICRC where appropriate to share assessments, co-ordinate sectoral responses, and plan to maximise the collective use of available resources.

The Federation's joint presentation with the Resident UN Co-ordinator's Office, for example, on the initial learning from the drought response to the UN's Donor Forum meeting on 1st November was well received. Participants from the diplomatic and aid missions, Government Ministry of Social Services, UN family agencies, and International NGOs discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the overall drought response at both operational Divisional and District levels, as well as national interagency co-ordination levels.

The local Federation Representative has continued to use every available opportunity (for example as a member of the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies' Emergency Preparedness Focal Group) to use the lessons learned from this high profile emergency to advocate for more effective co-ordination and a change in policies and practices of all institutions.

The SLRCS has continued throughout the relief operation to work closely with the Hambantota and other Districts' local Government Agents to ensure that there was no duplication of effort and that the most vulnerable families are all identified. SLRCS has nevertheless ensured that it acts independently in the final selection of beneficiaries.

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

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

This operation sought to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or long-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's web site.

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

Interim report	
Annual report	
Final report	X

Appeal No & title: 25/2001 Sri Lanka drought
Period: year 2001 up to March 2002
Project(s): PLK506
Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Reallocations	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget less Cash brought forward	495,307				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	495,307				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
Canadian Red Cross (DNCA)	25,825				25,825
CORDAID	65,951				65,951
Danish Red Cross (DNDK)	37,628				37,628
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	63,000				63,000
Norwegian Govt.via Norwegian Red Cro (D	166,050				166,050
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	18,450				18,450
Private donor Sri Lanka (DPLK)	5,430				5,430
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	84				84
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	249				249
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	59				59
Private Donors-online donations (DPOLD)	338				338
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DG	111,650				111,650
TOTAL	494,714				494,714
Coverage	99.9%				99.9%

II - Balance of funds

Opening balance	
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	494,714
CASH EXPENDITURE	-492,612

CASH BALANCE	2,102

Appeal No & title: 25/2001 Sri Lanka drought

Period: year 2001 up to March 2002

Project(s): PLK506

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	Appeal Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction						
Clothing & Textiles						
Food/Seeds	370,098	404,483			404,483	-34,385
Water						
Medical & First Aid						
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools						
Other relief supplies						
Sub-Total	370,098	404,483			404,483	-34,385
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.						
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures						
Sub-Total						
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>	32,000	8,195			8,195	23,805
Sub-Total	32,000	8,195			8,195	23,805
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)	15,475	797			797	14,678
Personnel (local staff)		14,741			14,741	-14,741
Training						
Sub-Total	15,475	15,537			15,537	-62
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Assessment/Monitoring/experts		517			517	-517
Travel & related expenses	6,000	958			958	5,042
Information expenses	10,500	5,229			5,229	5,271
Administrative expenses	6,750	1,792			1,792	4,958
External workshops & Seminars		701			701	-701
Sub-Total	23,250	9,197			9,197	14,053
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	54,484	55,200			55,200	-716
<u>OPERATIONAL PROVISIONS</u>						
Transfer to National Societies						
TOTAL BUDGET	495,307	492,612			492,612	2,695

Consumption rate:

Expenditures versus income

100%

Expenditures versus budget

99%