

2021



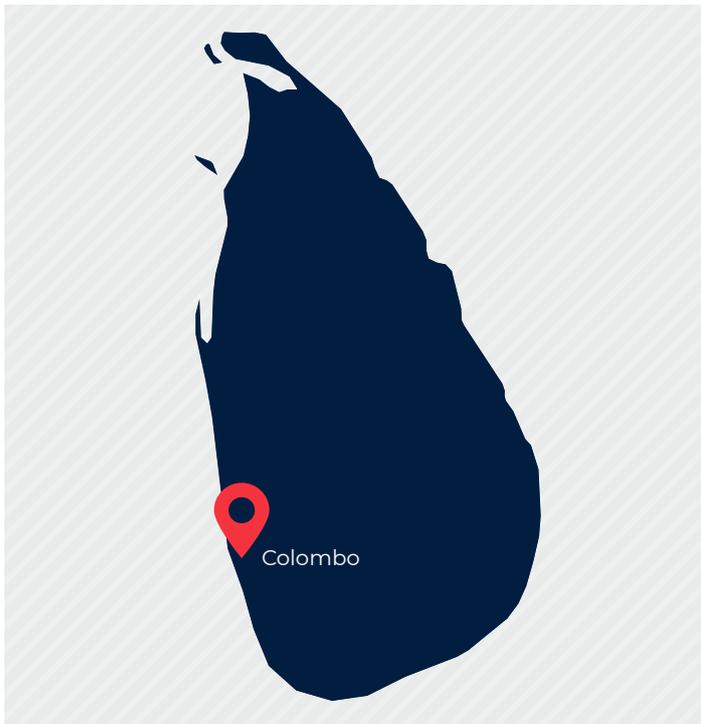
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SRI LANKA

IFRC COUNTRY OFFICE

Appeal number
MAALK002

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
2.1 million



Branches

25



Staff

118



Volunteers

6,000



People to be reached

7.5 million

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

21.4 million

2019 Human Development Index Ranking

71

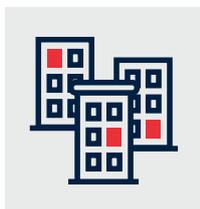
Vulnerabilities



Floods



Tropical storms



Urbanisation



Coastal erosion



COVID-19

Sri Lanka is affected by various hazards, including weather-related events such as cyclones, monsoonal rain, and subsequent flooding and landslides. Droughts are also common due to variations in the monsoons followed by lightning strikes, coastal erosion, epidemics and pollution. Of these, localised and seasonal flooding forms the greatest threat to people, and the flood risk profile is rising due to the expected increase in the impact and frequency of tropical storms. The Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 highlighted Sri Lanka's vulnerability to infrequent, high-impact events as well. According to Disaster Management Center Annual report-2019, in 2019, 1.8 million individuals were affected from Natural Disasters. From 1990-2018, Sri Lanka is habitually affected by recurring disasters, this caused nearly \$US 7 billion socio-economic loss.

However, the patterns mentioned above have been primarily affected by climate change leading to erratic disaster patterns, and their severe cascading effects which pose new challenges. At the same time, increased urbanization and the movement of people from rural to urban areas have significantly changed the vulnerability ecosystem. Also Urbanization with lack of infrastructure can lead to a disaster.

Many Sri Lankan people migrate to countries of the Gulf and Middle East for work, while the strategic geographical location of the island allows it to be a place of transit for the movement of people too.

Despite beginning to recover from a 26-year long civil conflict in a religiously, ethnically and politically diverse social setting, social cohesion and reconciliation remain central challenges. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic is posing its own various challenges.



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ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Established

1936

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) has been operating for the last eight decades in a range of humanitarian services. It formed as a volunteer-based organisation to assist in human-made and natural disasters, such as the malaria epidemic of 1934–1935.

After the country became independent, the Ceylon Red Cross Society was reformed in 1949 and was recognised as in 1952 as one of the IFRC National Societies. Today, the National Society has an established network with branches in all 25 administrative districts of Sri Lanka, more than 118 staff members and 6,000 active volunteers.

SLRCS work closely with Government Line Ministries, UN agencies and I/NGOs, Industrial corporations, the cooperate, Furthermore, in the process of building corporate partnerships with some of the leading organizations in country. Through the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Society has been playing a significant auxiliary role in the humanitarian and development action of the public authorities.

In 2019, SLRC reached overall number of 612,870 individuals via Health, Organization development, Disaster risk reduction, Cash Transfer Programing, Shelter, Migration, Livelihood and Social inclusion.

From 2021 to 2025, the National Society will magnify its auxiliary support to the Government of Sri Lanka and enhance the National Society's capacity to respond effectively to the evolving crises. The National Society will invest in climate change and adaptation in the long-term and will tackle the challenges of non-communicable diseases, dengue, first aid and healthy ageing as vital areas of intervention.



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MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

- There are currently no partner National Societies supporting the National Society in Sri Lanka. However, the National Society works closely with the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- As the largest supporter of the National Society at present, the IFRC supports providing technical and financial supports, facilitate mobilisation of resources and coordination for the implementation of DREF operations, the ongoing COVID-19 operations in Sri Lanka, the National Society's operational plans and the Estate Housing programme, also with the support of the Indian Government. The programme assists plantation community members to build their own houses. IFRC also supports in developing Operation Plan 2020-25 and provide strategic guidance.
- The ICRC supports the National Society with its Restoring Family Links programme, which is a free service that helps people who have lost contact with their family as a result of conflict, a natural disaster or migration. The ICRC also supports the National Society with first aid and spreading important information to reach vulnerable people. The ICRC also supports the National Society to increase its acceptance, security and access to people and communities in need.
- The National Society works with the National Societies of Qatar and Kuwait on short-term programmes, especially those targeting Ramadan fasting.



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1,280,000

People to be reached

3 million



Sri Lanka is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. It is currently ranked sixth among the countries in the Global Climate Risk Index 2020. The consequences of climate change include a rise in temperature, rainfall variability and sea-level rises, which are critically affecting almost all economic sectors of the country. Natural disasters due to extreme weather conditions such as prolonged droughts, flash floods and landslides threaten people's lives and livelihoods.

25 per cent of people in Sri Lanka live within one kilometre of the 1,340 kilometres of coastline. They face a severe threat from sea-level rise caused by climate change, but also from tsunamis and cyclones. Being a small island nation with rich and numerous marine and coastal ecosystems, people that live on Sri Lankan coastlines rely heavily on fisheries, and nearly 250,000 families make their living on inshore and offshore fishing. Mangroves and other forms of coastal vegetation offer protection from tsunamis and cyclones. Still, less than one-third of the island is protected in this way, and these areas are under pressure from development. Furthermore, the central highlands have become more and more affected by human activity such as increased deforestation.

As an auxiliary to the disaster response and management action of public authorities, the National Society supports the Government national disaster risk management initiatives for which the climate and the environment are critical components. The National Society will assess the country's climate-induced disaster vulnerability so it can promptly respond to disasters and prepare for progressive disasters. It will also maintain a pool of team members to deploy in response to public authorities.

The Restore the Lost World project will play a vital role in adapting Sri Lankan communities to climate crises. The project helps people to take community-owned conscious action to manage climate risk. Activities will include sharing knowledge on climate change adaptations and tree cover restoration programmes targeting diverse ecosystems. The project will also introduce the green volunteer programme to corporate and public institutions.

🎯 TARGET 1.1

Volunteers will be engaged in Social Behavioural Communication programme as voices of change across 25 districts of the country.



25%
people living in areas
vulnerable to sea level rise

➡ ACTIVITIES

- The National Society will participate in national and sub-national level climate and environmental fora
- The National Society will host quarterly partner meetings with corporate, public, and non-governmental partners.
- The IFRC will support the National Society to train farmers in climate-resilient ways of agriculture such as rainwater harvest and climate-smart crops.
- The IFRC will support the National Society to run community sensitisation programmes in communities most vulnerable to climate risk and to empower community-based organisations to take the lead on knowledge sharing.



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EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
210,000

People to be reached
250,000



Sri Lanka is becoming increasingly vulnerable to unforeseeable disasters and their after-effects. Their frequency and impacts are alarming, considerably affecting the economy and development gains. The aftermath of disasters often cause more significant and long-lasting havoc than the event itself. Most of these are due to climate change and an overwhelming increase in urban populations.

Sri Lanka is a tropical island with two monsoon seasons. These used to follow predictable patterns of rainfall and monsoon-induced floods to which people had developed community-based coping mechanisms. However, climate change has altered the predictability of these events. Erratic rain patterns are more common, and the cascading effects of weather-related crises are rapidly multiplying. Communities are struggling to cope with mudslides, landslips and flash floods and people's ability to manage in urban areas and on their outskirts is even lower.

The National Society will enhance the level of risk awareness in all communities – urban, peri-urban and rural – and empower the marginalised and most vulnerable people in high-risk areas.

To give at-risk communities actionable hazard information, it will conduct an assessment of communication methods to ensure it uses the most appropriate approach to share information with and listen to communities' needs.

The National Society will also increase its capacity to face evolving crises by reforming its internal response processes, aligning training with the IFRC and then delivering disaster response training to staff and volunteers.

In order to deploy experts quickly, the IFRC will provide the National Society with technical and financial support for training.

These processes will also help the National Society to strengthen its role as an auxiliary to public authorities.



100,000
males extremely
vulnerable to
evolving crises



150,000
females extremely
vulnerable to
evolving crises

→ ACTIVITIES

- The National Society will prepare 1,000 non-food item kits (for example, toiletries and household products) to respond to unforeseen disasters.
- The IFRC will support the National Society to establish mobile app-based roster to deploy people with necessary skills to the site of a disaster in less than 24 hours.



GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

210,000

People to be reached

2.4 million



Aside from the threat of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the island, people in Sri Lanka suffer from endemic non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, especially in urban areas due to a drastic transition of lifestyle and a shift from an agricultural to a service economy. The country also has a significant proportion of older people who require health support.

Though Sri Lanka's cases of water-borne communicable disease are relatively lower than the rest of the region, there are several water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs that need addressing. Menstrual hygiene is one of them, so the National Society will support nationwide menstrual hygiene management to understand girls' needs through a set of school-based WASH interventions in 2021. The National Society also considers positive wellbeing as integral to community health. To close the gaps in mental health and psychosocial services in the country, it will provide mental health training across the country.

First aid remains an essential priority of the National Society as its flagship intervention. It will digitalise its first aid training to make it accessible to a broader range of people, and from 2021–2025 it will deliver first aid training to every household in the country.

At the same time, rapid urbanisation and poor urban planning are areas of concern. There are increasing numbers of dengue fever among people living in urban communities – cases are spiking every year, recording the highest death toll from communicable diseases in Sri Lanka. In the current context, if instances of COVID-19 infections raise to a level where the health system of the country is overwhelmed, the death toll from other diseases, especially by dengue, may rise. Therefore, the National Society will support the national dengue control unit of the Government of Sri Lanka, as a central intervention of its auxiliary role to public authorities.

ACTIVITIES

- The National Society will deliver first aid training to every household in the country by 2025.
- The National Society will reach 2.4 million people by focusing on dengue, auxiliary support to the Ministry of Health and first aid as priorities by 2025.
- The National Society will launch a five-year flagship healthy ageing pilot programme in 2021 with support from the IFRC.
- The IFRC will support the National Society to review its health and WASH strategy.
- The IFRC will support the National Society to develop a campaign promoting healthy lifestyles and social behavioural change targeting dengue prevention and control and organise a national dengue meeting.



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MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

60,000

People to be reached

400,000



Sri Lanka is a significant country for many people on the move including migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees, internally displaced people and trafficked people. Sri Lanka is also a significant country of origin for migrant workers, with the majority of people working in countries in the Middle East and the Gulf Cooperation Council sub-region.

As of 30 September 2020, there were 475 asylum seekers and 993 registered refugees from 11 different countries in Sri Lanka, with most originating from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Myanmar. Sri Lanka does not have a legal framework to recognise asylum seekers or refugees and, as such, they are treated as 'irregular migrants'. They are therefore vulnerable to arbitrary arrest, detention and deportation.

Sri Lanka is both a country of origin and destination for trafficked people. Women and children in Sri Lanka are often trafficked into the sex industry, with young boys reportedly more vulnerable to sex trafficking within the country than young girls.

The National Society always integrates migration as a cross-cutting issue in its action. It will implement a long-term collaborative project with all stakeholders belonging to public, non-governmental and private organisations, called ARAKSHA to support the households of migrant workers employed in the Middle East and the Gulf counties.

The National Society will assess the migration landscape to set tangible goals and to identify relevant partners. It will conduct regular refresher training for staff and volunteers and it will provide educational support to the children of the most vulnerable migrant families.

TARGET 1

The National Society will reach a minimum of 400,000 migrant workers in Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan people employed in the Middle East and Gulf counties.

TARGET 2

The National Society will reach 100,000 households via the ARAKSHA project.



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VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
60,000

People to be reached
7.5 million



Sri Lanka is a country that has come out of a 26-year long civil conflict. Besides being politically, ethnically and religiously divided, divisive factors and discriminative actions can affect minority groups' access and right to humanitarian aid.

Gender-based violence, protection issues, and power dynamics in society have led to inequalities and grievances. The National Society will place the utmost importance on humanitarian values, gender, protection and inclusion across its work in all sectors.

The National Society will deliver awareness sessions, embed protection, gender and inclusion within the organisation and support communities in social cohesion and reconciliation in 2021.

The National Society has developed a flagship programme for inclusive humanitarian action called Equitable Resilience. The programme focuses on the SCORE methodology – social cohesion and reconciliation – and emphasises fostering resilience equitably despite the diversity of society. The programme will include sub-activities, such as building the capacity of institutions, communities, and community-based organisations. It will also facilitate discussions and implement social behaviour change campaigns. The programme will reach a minimum of 7.5 million people between 2021–2025, including at least 1.5 million people in 2021.

The National Society will develop digital and school-based programmes on humanitarian values and movement principles to scale up humanitarian education, focusing on young people. It will also create a scholarship programme for the schoolchildren of the most vulnerable disaster- and conflict-affected households.

To apply the agreed minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies, the National Society will review its policies that cover these areas and develop a guidebook concerning inclusive approaches to fieldwork. The National Society will also adapt all its reporting formats for age, gender and disability to ensure they are accessible to all.

🎯 TARGET 1

The National Society will reach 1.5 million people through the Equitable Resilience programme.



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ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

The National Society will strengthen its engagement with partners within and outside the network to work collectively on challenges facing communities. To achieve this, it will actively participate in national, regional and international forums in the core areas of its function. The National Society will also take part in national, regional and global coalitions, consortiums and collaborations for advocacy and influencing policies on urban resilience. These activities will help to increase the National Society's visibility and improve its resources to assist at-risk communities.

The National Society will influence both public behaviour and policy-change at domestic, regional and global levels. The IFRC will support the National Society to develop relationships with leading media editors and journalists. This will support the National Society to be the first to market with media, social media, and appropriate photos and video content in disasters and crises, including pandemics. The IFRC will support the National Society to invest in gathering audio/visual content for use in media and social media. This content will tell human stories that highlight to donors and important audiences the disaster and crisis response, as well as the broader humanitarian work of the National Society.

The Sri Lanka National Society will adopt digital technology to transform its services. Communities and volunteers are at the centre of all digital transformation, so the National Society will introduce a new online volunteering platform with a data protection policy to ensure all data and information is safe and secure. It will also introduce a mobile digital data management system with end-to-end encryptions so that only the users can read the messages.

The National Society will enhance its Management Information System to ensure that its tools, programmes and services are inclusive of gender, diversity, language, and mobility.

SLRCS as an organization auxiliary to the government of Sri Lanka play vital part in decision making platforms by influencing policy making in both humanitarian and development activities. This can be enhanced by strengthening national society capacities.

TARGET 1

The National Society actively participates in national regional and international forums in the thematic areas (core areas) of its function.



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ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

30,000

The IFRC works with National Societies to ensure accountability and transparency. In 2021, the National Society will introduce a new finance system to ensure that resources are safeguarded and managed effectively, efficiently and transparently. It will deliver finance refresher training to staff. The IFRC will support the National Society in this work.

The National Society will also develop a policy on the prevention and response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. It will introduce the policy to all its networks.

🎯 TARGET 1

118 National Society staff are trained on new upgraded financial procedures

👉 ACTIVITIES

- Ensure accountability and validity of National Society activities



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ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

240,000

The IFRC will support the National Society to become the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action, with the capabilities to act in the global network.

The National Society will assess its development needs, revise its legal base and plan to better address the sustainability of its services to diversify its volunteer base and become more robust.

The IFRC prioritises the development of volunteers and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action. To allow young people and volunteers to contribute to decision-making, innovation and strengthening the domestic network, the National Society will ensure that youths are represented in the central governing board.

The National Society will introduce mandatory volunteer insurance before deploying them as humanitarian workers. It will also ensure that psychosocial support is available to volunteers.

People and communities that are vulnerable to and affected by crises should be empowered to influence the decisions affecting them. The IFRC will support the National Society to create programmes that enable effective community engagement and respect for local knowledge, expertise and perspectives. The National Society will ensure that its programmes are designed based on community and stakeholder consultations and feedback. It will take a participatory approach to all phases of its programmes including planning, implementation and monitoring.

The National Society's programmes will include Movement-wide commitments and it will integrate minimum actions into its policies and programmes. All programmes will have grievance and complaints mechanisms.

● TARGET 1

Youth represented in the central governing board

● TARGET 2

All volunteers get are insured before the deployments

● TARGET 3

PSSPsychosocial support is made available for to all volunteers .

● TARGET 4

All 6000 volunteers are insured by 2025 and provide PSS support for all



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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