

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Emergency appeal Sri Lanka: Drought

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Emergency appeal n° MDRLK004
GLIDE n° DR-2012-000177-LKA
2 November 2012

This Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 1,070,504 in cash, kind, or services to support the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) to assist 20,000 drought affected families (some 125,000 people) for 18 months. The operation will be completed by 28 April 2014. A Final Report will be made available by 28 July 2014.

CHF 145,336 was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation. Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.

Based on the situation, this Emergency Appeal responds to a request from SLRCS, and focuses on providing early recovery and longer-term food security assistance to the most drought affected families and complements the relief assistance provided by the Government of Sri Lanka.



Safe drinking water is a critical need for many drought affected families in Sri Lanka. **Photo:** SLRCS.

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal budget; here to link to a map of the affected area; or here to view contact details>](#)

Summary

According to the Government of Sri Lanka, drought is affecting an estimated 1.8 million people in Sri Lanka. Since December 2011, for the second consecutive season, rainfall has been scanty. Many of the water reservoirs as a result have dried up and people living in the worst hit remote rural areas do not have access to safe drinking water. Their condition is becoming critical. Since July 2012, the Government of Sri Lanka and other actors, including SLRCS, have been trucking in water to affected communities. However, with delayed and irregular rains additional resources are now required to sustain the water supply and help the affected families prepare for the next planting season. The Ministry of Disaster Management of Sri Lanka has appealed to international and local organizations and agencies to contribute to the Government of Sri Lanka efforts to assist the drought affected people.

This appeal seeks CHF 1,070,504 to provide assistance to 20,000 families (some 125,000 people) identified by SLRCS as worst affected. Immediate needs in SLRCS's assessment include safe drinking water and water storage for 125,000 people (when the rains arrive the needs will be re-assessed). Some 6,650 families will be provided with a cash grant to rebuild their livelihoods (restart farming or home gardening) or find alternative ways to sustain their families in the immediate to medium term. These are small farm holders living in rain fed and minor irrigation areas, whose coping capacities have been undermined by the prolonged drought

condition. The operation will also support the rehabilitation of small irrigation tanks and construction of agro wells in remote rural areas. Community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives planned by SLRCS under this operation, aim to strengthen resilience of some 25,000 people in seven drought affected districts.

The situation

The Government of Sri Lanka estimates some 1.8 million people are affected by persistent drought, which has developed as a result of poor rains since December 2011. For the second consecutive rain, rainfall has been scanty. According to the on-the-spot assessment by SLRCS, many reservoirs have dried up and people living in the worst hit remote areas do not have access to safe drinking water. Their condition is becoming critical. The most vulnerable will struggle to recover.

The worst affected districts are: Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Monaragala, Hambantota and Mannar. These districts are experiencing substantial harvest failure, water scarcity, and deteriorating pasture conditions.

Many families have lost their seed stocks raising concerns about their food security in the medium term. The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Rice Market Monitor Report on July 2012 warns the dry spell is presently expected to cut the 2012 Yala output by an estimated 33 per cent. Sri Lanka has two main cultivation seasons based on the monsoon rains. The Yala crop season is the drier of the two seasons and normally falls between April and August. Farmers mostly depend on irrigation water for the Yala season. Thus, there is a need to restore irrigation infrastructure such as water distributing canals and culverts in order to ensure success for this season's crop. As well as the need exists to de-silt small tanks and reservoirs to increase water carrying capacity.

A snap-shot overview per each of the worst affected district is provided in table 1.

Table 1: Estimated number of families in Sri Lanka affected by drought

District	No. of families
Anuradhapura	150,000
Polonnaruwa	34,585
Puttalam	40,000
Kurunegala	8,000
Monaragala	5,000
Hambantota	101,985
Mannar	8,645
Total	348,215

Source: District Secretariat

Due to volatility of wind patterns there have been intermittent showers in recent weeks but they have not had any tangible impact. Forecasts for the region indicate normal precipitation amounts. This will of course be monitored closely and cannot be confirmed. However, due to the prolonged dry spell it will require substantial amount of rain to saturate the soil so that ground water levels rise and fill reservoirs for water distribution to recommence.

With the recent cyclone that has passed through the northern region of Sri Lanka, there has been an increase in rainfall in specific locations, however it did not meet the requirement or duration needed to ensure a suitable situation to alleviate the drought conditions or allow for crop planting in all drought affected areas. The needs outlined below for those affected continue to persist.

In reviewing the longer term projection and trends within the area, the Metrological Department of Sri Lanka, indicates that rainfall on the island has been declining over last 30 to 40 years. This trend will potentially result in more frequent and sever drought and as such the SLRCS is advocating for climate smart programming in an effort to mitigate the risk of adverse weather events.

Coordination and partnerships

The Sri Lankan Government has provided immediate relief to the drought stricken farmers. The Ministry of Economic Development is co-coordinating a cash-for-work programme for affected communities. Under this initiative, members of affected families between ages 18 to 60 will be engaged in the rehabilitation of minor

irrigation systems, canals and rural access roads, for a period of eight to 12 days per month, whereby LKR 6,000 (approximately CHF 43) is provided to each family a month, in their locality. In addition, the government is planning to provide water pumps, fertilizer and seeds to farmers for the next cultivation season. The government's drought assistance programme is expected to reach some 50,000 families who are affected by severe water scarcity in the North Central Province (NCP). The plans announced include the distribution of safe drinking water in 12 districts and the dredging and renovation of 4,000 selected agricultural wells. The government plans also include rehabilitation of large reservoirs.

According to an SLRCS field mission, there are however significant gaps particularly in remote rural areas, which are not covered by the government-led large-scale schemes. Government programmes do not target small water tanks and minor irrigation systems and SLRCS reports there is a shortage of agro wells in many rural areas and farmers living in those areas will struggle to prepare their fields for the next rain season without support. In a meeting called by the Ministry of Disaster Management of Sri Lanka, the Secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management appealed to local and international agencies to contribute to the Government of Sri Lanka efforts to assist the drought affected people.

Assessments conducted by Oxfam GB, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and UNICEF, supported SLRCS findings. The agencies reported:

- Safe drinking water is severely impacted in drought affected areas. Many families have to travel two to three kilometres to fetch water.
- Many communities depend on hand-dug-wells for both consumption and personal hygiene but due to dry conditions many wells have become unserviceable.
- Local authorities are utilising trucks to deliver safe drinking water to common points in villages mainly for human consumption.
- Nutritional status of families is at high risk due to low intake of calories per day; families are increasingly deciding to eat once or twice a day. WFP estimates about 900,000 people are in need of immediate food assistance. WFP also indicates that households are spending more than 90 per cent of their income on food but are consuming insufficient quantities of nutritious food.
- Communities are resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as borrowing loans and pawning jewellery to purchase food and water for consumption.
- The affected population is concerned about preparation for the next rain-fed paddy season (Maha).
- Home gardening and daily-wage labourers are worst affected.

UNICEF distributed 1,000 and 2,000 litres of water tanks in Mullativu and Vavunia districts. The Asian Development Bank is drafting a drought mitigation programme.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In July, SLRCS undertook a field mission to review the conditions during the early stages of the onset of the drought in the affected areas in Polonnaruwa, Anuradhapura, Monaragala, Kurunegala, Puttalam, Hambantota, and Mannar districts. SLRCS identified that many remote and rural areas were already lacking access to safe drinking water and that the situation was worsening. Thus, SLRCS released LKR 400,000 (approximately CHF 2,875) in emergency funds from SLRCS's DREF to support four SLRCS branches in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Monaragala and Kurunegala districts to start distribution of safe drinking water. SLRCS branches procured and delivered water from various sources from within the districts to the worst affected villages. However, with drought conditions prevailing, SLRCS branches are requesting additional support to strengthen coping capacity of the most vulnerable.



Water distribution in Monaragala district by SLRCS Monaragala branch. **Photo:** SLRCS.

The needs

Beneficiary selection:

With consideration of its outreach capacity and the analysis of the needs, SLRCS is targeting 125,000 people to provide safe drinking water and water storage, supporting and in effect reinforcing the government driven relief efforts. A recovery program aimed at building the capacities of the affected population will aim to find alternative ways to sustain the families in the immediate to medium term. A total of 6,650 families will be selected for cash grant assistance to help rebuild their livelihoods (restart farming or home gardening). Beneficiaries will be identified by SLRCS branches based on pre-agreed criteria in consultation with the local authorities. The pre-agreed criterion includes family income, marginalized groups, current livelihood, and living conditions. If required, the criteria for beneficiary selection will be further developed to best suit to serve the most vulnerable. The identification of beneficiaries who will receive livelihood grants will be selected via household economic survey by SLRCS experts. In addition to the cash grants, beneficiaries will also receive vocational skills training for those selected to explore alternative livelihoods solutions to help further increase their capacities and in turn their resiliency.

The operation will also support the rehabilitation of small irrigation tanks and construction of agro wells in remote rural areas. These activities will directly benefit some 20,000 families. Details are given in table 2 and table 3.

Table 2: Summary of SLRCS interventions in the seven targeted districts

No.	Type of intervention	No. of targeted beneficiaries
1	Provide access to safe drinking water	5,000 families (25,000 people) 100,000 schoolchildren from 280 schools
2	Provide vocational skills training	5,000 families (25,000 people, including some programme staff and volunteers)
3	Provide cash grants for livelihood activities	6,650 families (33,250 people) will be identified for one or some of the following livelihoods activities; agricultural input, alternative livelihood options, home gardening support or supplementary livelihood opportunities.
4	Rehabilitation of minor irrigation systems (irrigation water supply)	9,100 families (45,500 people)
5	Construction of agro wells	280 families (1,400 people) 28 wells will provide safe water for approximately 10 families/well
6	Conduct community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR)	14 communities (25,000 people)

Table 3: Red Cross Beneficiaries of 2012 Drought Response Operation per district

District	Access to safe drinking water		Cash grants				Rehabilitation of minor irrigation system	Construction of agro wells	CBDRR
	General	Schools	Agricultural input	Alternative livelihood	Home gardening	Supplementary livelihood			
Anuradhapura	714	14,286	250	100	400	200	1,300	40	714
Polonnaruwa	714	14,286	250	100	400	200	1,300	40	714
Puttalam	714	14,286	250	100	400	200	1,300	40	714
Kurunegala	714	14,286	250	100	400	200	1,300	40	714
Monaragala	714	14,286	250	100	400	200	1,300	40	714
Hambantota	714	14,286	250	100	400	200	1,300	40	714
Mannar	714	14,286	250	100	400	200	1,300	40	714
Total families	5,000	14,286	1,750	700	2,800	1,400	9,100	280	5,000
Total people	25,000	100,000	8,750	3,500	14,000	7,000	45,500	1,400	25,000

Immediate needs:

- To ensure 25,000 people (5,000 families) in the worst affected villages of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Monaragala, Hambantota and Mannar districts have access to safe drinking water (6 ltr per person per day in accordance with minimum sphere drinking & cooking standards) through improved water storage via distribution of water tanks, filters and water containers.
- To provide water tanks to 280 schools (100,000 schoolchildren) in the worst affected rural areas.
- To provide 1,750 families (8,750 people) with immediate cash grant to purchase agricultural input (seeds and fertilizers) to facilitate immediate crop planting in conjunction with the impending monsoon

season. There is usually a month long (dependant on weather) window of opportunity (mid-October through November) to accomplish the planting.

Longer-term needs:

- To strengthen resilience of 20,000 drought affected families in the districts of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Monaragala, Hambantota and Mannar via provision of cash grant for alternative livelihoods, home gardening or supplementary income generation activities, rehabilitation of minor irrigation systems and agro wells, and promoting risk smart programming.

The proposed operation

Water and sanitation (emergency water supply)

Outcome: Some 125,000 people in the worst affected villages of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Monaragala, Hambantota and Mannar districts have access to safe drinking water.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
5,000 families (25,000 people) have access to safe drinking water through improved water storage via water tanks, containers and filters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritise worst affected villages based on a follow-up assessment. Procure and install in the worst affected villages 70 water tanks of 2,000 ltr capacity each. Provide information & support about the use of water storage and related hygiene promotion activities Procure and distribute water containers (two containers of 10 ltr capacity each per family) for 5,000 families. Procure and distribute ceramic water filters for 5,000 families. Regular monitoring and reporting by SLRCS staff and volunteers and ongoing technical advice by IFRC.
100,000 children in 280 schools have access to safe drinking water via water tanks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify 280 worst affected schools in the drought affected districts. Procure and install 280 water tanks of 1,000 ltr capacity each in school. Regular monitoring and reporting by SLRCS staff and volunteers and ongoing technical advice by IFRC.

Livelihood

Outcome: To strengthen resilience of 20,000 drought affected families (some 100,000 people) in the districts of Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Kurunegala, Monaragala, Hambantota and Mannar.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
5,000 families (25,000 people) have received vocational skills training in selected livelihood activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm required vocational skills training to prepare beneficiaries for livelihood activities. Conduct vocational skills training workshops in communities. Regular monitoring and reporting by SLRCS staff and volunteers and ongoing technical advice by IFRC.
6,650 families (33,250 people) have received cash grant for livelihood opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HES survey by internal livelihood/recovery experts. Beneficiary registration and validation. Dissemination of beneficiary list in communities. Distribution of a cash grant through IFRC/SLRCS standard procedure. Regular monitoring and reporting by SLRCS staff and volunteers and ongoing technical advice by IFRC.
9,100 families (45,500 people) have improved their livelihoods condition via rehabilitation of minor irrigation systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm minor irrigation systems (including canals, culverts) which require immediate repairs. Rehabilitation of minor irrigation systems (four village tanks, canals or culverts in each district) with the assistance of existing community based organizations. Regular monitoring and reporting by SLRCS staff and volunteers and ongoing technical advice by IFRC.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivation of vegetables under agro well (1.5ha in each sustainable area).
280 families (1,400 people) have access to functioning agro wells.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of 28 agro wells (four wells in each district; 8m diameter and 7-9m depth). • Regular monitoring and reporting by SLRCS staff and volunteers and ongoing technical advice by IFRC.
Drought risk has been reduced in 14 communities (5,000 families or 25,000 people) via community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct assessment and through participatory process design disaster risk mitigation projects tailored to the needs to each target community. The projects may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation programmes for protection, development, and management of vegetation to minimize surface run-off and soil erosion, increase water percolation into soil, enrich soil surface moisture, and improve micro-climate. ○ Awareness programmes to educate the communities (2-3 per district). ○ Implementation of programmes for proper use of ground water (via agro wells) for intensive farming. ○ Planting of wind-breakers around reservoirs to minimize surface evaporation caused by drying winds, stringent use of water in crop cultivation, maintenance of cover crops or organic matter coverage to minimize soil moisture losses through evaporation.

Logistics

The operation will be implemented by the SLRCS through its network of branches and volunteers.

There is no request for an international mobilisation of relief items and as such, no mobilization table has been opened for this operation. All the items included in the appeal are available in-country and can be procured locally following IFRC procurement standards and quality control. Direct livelihood support included in the appeal will be met through cash grant transfers. The IFRC country office has a logistics team in place comprising a logistics coordinator and adequate team supporting SLRCS in the procurement of relief supplies and other items, if necessary. The primary tasks of the in-country logistics support includes:

- Coordinating with SLRCS and IFRC, programme managers, and the zone logistics unit based in Kuala Lumpur for advise on local procurement should there be a need to ensure the timeliest and most cost-efficient sourcing option for items required in the operation.
- Utilizing existing warehousing facilities and vehicles for storage and efficient despatch of goods to final distribution points.
- Liaising and coordinating with other key actors to ensure that the federation logistics processes are followed and use all available information to be as efficient and effective as possible.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

SLRCS, supported by the IFRC, will develop a communication plan to ensure all relevant stakeholders, including beneficiaries, are well informed about the objectives of the operation, beneficiary selection criteria and other details. This will include but not be limited to leaflets distribution, radio messages, and regular community meetings.

SLRCS media department will prepare regular updates – press statements, human stories – for SLRCS and IFRC web pages. The SLRCS and IFRC communications teams will also facilitate field visits to the project sites for both local and international journalists. Powerful photos and stories will be sent immediately from the field giving instant coverage of the work.

Capacity of the National Society

SLRCS has a country-wide network of branches and volunteers. The National Society has undergone a major restructuring process, through which it re-emerged a stronger partner with a greater integrity. SLRCS has experienced staff and well trained volunteers. An evaluation by an independent expert commended SLRCS work in response to 2011 floods operation, which affected close to 1.2 million people. Under the operation,

SLRCS distributed relief items to some 7,500 people and provided 1,286 families with a shelter cash grant. Another 2,800 families were assisted to rebuild their livelihoods – paddy and other field crops, dairy cattle, inland reservoir fisheries and poultry. The operation also supported 27 community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives and built 95 latrines in schools located in flood prone areas.

SLRCS is successfully implementing an integrated programme for community safety and resilience in 50 communities throughout the island. It is a leading actor contributing to post-conflict reconstruction of the Northern Province emerging from nearly three decades of war. By looking to the ongoing integrated and resilience building programmes currently underway, the experience gained from these programmes will inform a harmonized methodology to support the current recovery operation and for ongoing and future programmes of the National Society at a community level, in turn building the capacity of SLRCS at local branch levels.

Lessons learned and experience gained through past disaster response operations will be an added strength to implement the proposed operation.

Capacity of the IFRC

IFRC has been supporting SLRCS for most part of the last 21 years. Currently, the IFRC country office has five delegates and 47 national staff members supporting SLRCS in running an array of programmes, including an integrated programme for community safety and resilience, which is focusing on nutrition, water and sanitation, promotion of hygiene and non-communicable diseases, community-based disaster risk management, organizational disaster preparedness, and promotion of humanitarian values, relationship building and resource mobilization. The programme team is supported by an experienced finance, administration, IT and logistics teams.

Budget summary

See attached budget (Annex 1) for details.

Jagan Chapagain
Acting Under Secretary General
Programme Services Division

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society:

- Tissa Abeywickrama, Director General, phone: +94 77 751 0706; email: tissa.abeywickrama@redcross.lk

IFRC Sri Lanka country office:

- Bob McKerrow, Head of office, phone: +94 77 326 1750; bob.mckerrow@ifrc.org

IFRC South Asia regional office:

- Azmat Ulla, Head of regional office, phone: +91 11 2411 1122, fax: +91 11 2411 1128; email: azmat.ulla@ifrc.org

IFRC Asia Pacific zone office:

- Mathew Schraeder, Operations coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5735, mobile: +6019 6200 758, email: mathew.schraeder@ifrc.org
- Alan Bradbury, Acting head of operations, phone: + 603 9207 5775, email: alan.bradbury@ifrc.org
- Chris Staines, Acting head of resource mobilization and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER), phone: +603 9207 5769, email: chris.staines@ifrc.org
- Please send all funding pledges to zonerm.asiapacific@ifrc.org
- Florent Chane, Zone logistics coordinator, phone: +603 9207 5752, mobile: +6012 298 9752, email: florent.chane@ifrc.org

æ

1. Click [here](#) for Emergency Appeal budget and map [below](#)
2. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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.

www.ifrc.org

Saving lives, changing minds.



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.
-

EMERGENCY APPEAL

01-11-12

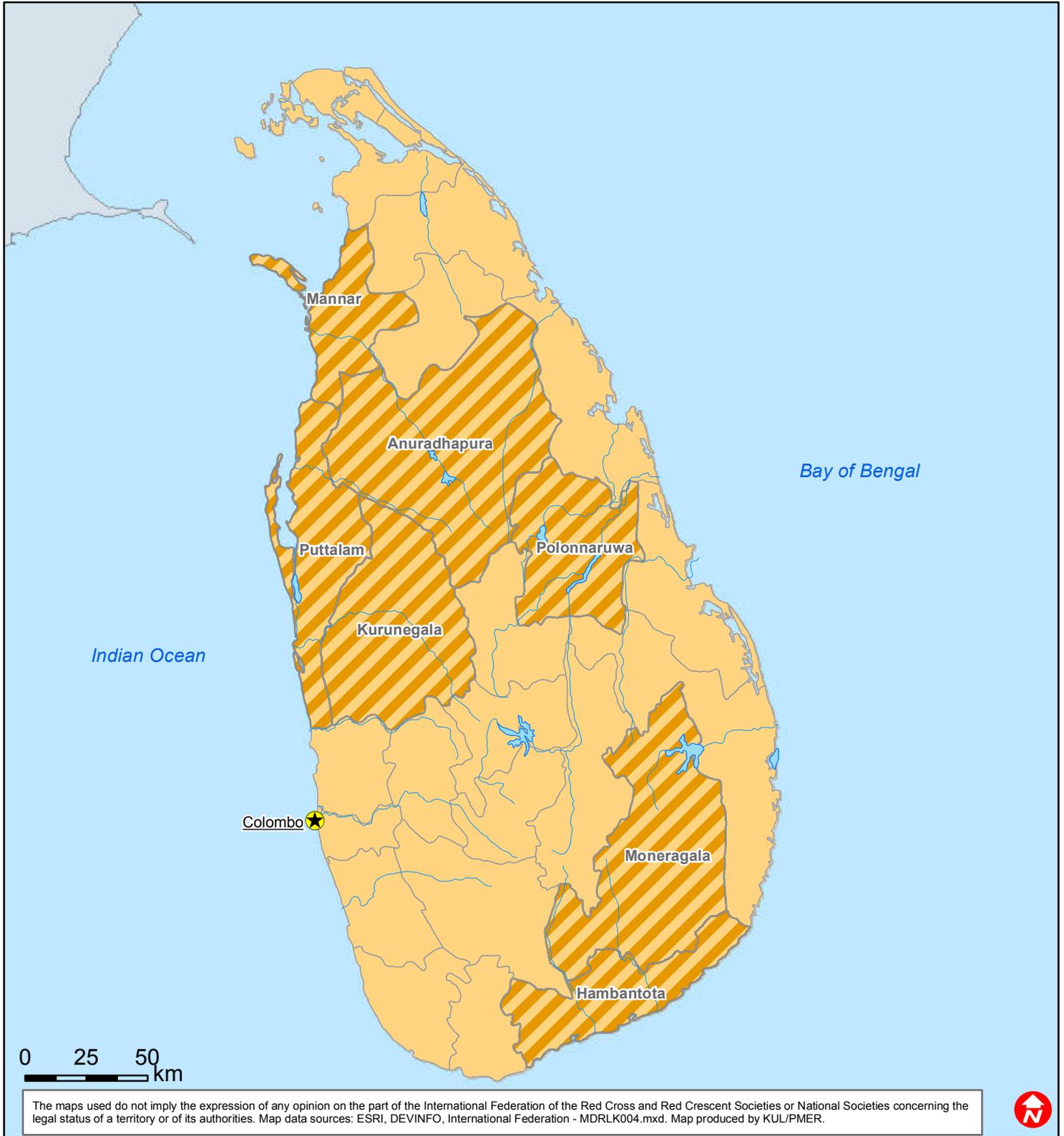
MDRLK004 Sri Lanka Drought

Multilateral Response
Appeal Budget CHF

Budget Group	
Construction - Facilities	96,923
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	216,115
Other Supplies & Services	2,154
Cash Disbursements	134,615
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	449,808
Vehicles	26,154
Computer & Telecom Equipment	9,231
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	35,385
Transport & Vehicle Costs	25,615
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	25,615
National Society Staff	132,085
Volunteers	5,654
Total PERSONNEL	137,738
Professional Fees	11,538
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	11,538
Workshops & Training	244,192
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	244,192
Information & Public Relations	646
Office Costs	19,692
Communications	10,902
Financial Charges	3,892
Other General Expenses	65,759
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	100,891
Programme and Services Support Recovery	65,336
Total INDIRECT COSTS	65,336
TOTAL BUDGET	1,070,504



Sri Lanka: Drought



Capitals



Affected districts