



ANNUAL ROUND-UP 2020

ICRC SRI LANKA COVID-19 RESPONSE

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

In a year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic and its dire consequences for health care, economies and the well-being of populations around the world, I would like to share with you the contribution that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) teams made in several critically affected countries in Asia and the Pacific during 2020. The efforts were aimed at supporting communities and the authorities in trying to prevent, control and manage the effects of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable.

Though we have stepped into 2021, the pandemic is far from over. With the second and third waves striking many nations across the world, countries continue to rely on restrictive measures and lockdowns to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. As I write this, more than two million people have lost their lives to COVID-19 worldwide and the confirmed cases have surpassed 97 million. Of these, 14.5 million confirmed cases and more than 228,000 deaths have been reported from Asia and the Pacific.

At the same time, there is a glimmer of hope in the vaccination campaigns that have unrolled in many countries. We are advocating to ensure that people affected by conflict and violence, who might otherwise be forced to the back of the queue, have an equitable access to the vaccine. Similarly, other marginalized communities like the internally displaced people, migrants, asylum seekers and detainees must be taken along in this journey towards immunization.

The ICRC, together with our National Red Cross and Red Crescent Society partners, is ready to support national vaccination campaigns and facilitate access to the COVID-19 vaccine for those in difficult-to-reach vulnerable and marginalised populations in countries affected by armed conflict and violence.

To continue supporting the efforts of local communities and authorities to respond to COVID-19 and other vulnerabilities, the ICRC is appealing for CHF 2.3 billion in 2021. That this is our largest-ever budget highlights the reality of the growing needs that we are witnessing in many countries. A significant part of this budget, including in the Asia-Pacific region, will be allocated to coping with the mid- to long-term impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities.

In the following pages, you will find the scope of our response in the Asia-Pacific region in 2020, ranging from providing support to hospitals and improving sanitary conditions in prisons to aiding the efforts of National Societies and in the forensic expertise involved in the dignified management of dead bodies. As part of our COVID-19 response in the region, at least 150 hospitals, 630 prisons, numerous detention and isolation facilities and police stations, 47 physical rehabilitation centres and over 34 camps for displaced populations have been supported in Asia-Pacific during the year.

Even as they continue to work hand in hand as and with responders despite challenging personal and professional circumstances, I am proud of my colleagues' efforts in helping increase proximity to the communities that were left even more vulnerable due to the pandemic. Moreover, I am thankful for the generous political and financial support we have continued to receive from all of you.

With the hope that 2021 will be an easier year for us all, especially those in the most vulnerable situations,

Yours,
Christine Cipolla
Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific

Disclaimer:

The information contained in this document only reflects ICRC's direct response to the pandemic. The data captured herein may differ from that in our Annual Report 2020 by virtue of different reporting timelines.

ASIA-PACIFIC

14,412,593

TOTAL CASES

13,562,290

TOTAL RECOVERED

228,877

TOTAL DEATHS

*Figures related to COVID-19 as on 20 January 2021



PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

- **47** Physical Rehabilitation Centres supported
- **150** Hospitals supported
- **34** IPD camp supported
- **25,000** PPE kits distributed



INFECTION-CONTROL IN DETENTION FACILITIES

- **512,735** Beneficiaries
- **45** Police stations supported
- **529** Prisons supported
- **28** Immigration Detention Centres supported
- **28** COVID-19 isolation facilities supported



HUMANITARIAN FORENSICS

We are working with the government authorities, funerary services, forensic experts and NGOs to devise specific protocols related to COVID-19. This includes dignified management of the bodies and material support, including body bags. Over **16,318 body bags** have been distributed as part of the assistance.



PARTNERING WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

In the Asia-Pacific region, **39 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** along with thousands of volunteers have been working tirelessly to extend the required support to multitudes of people at the grassroots. Apart from helping build capacities of the staff and volunteers, we are extending financial and material support to these National Societies.

SRI LANKA

54,419

TOTAL CASES

46,594

TOTAL RECOVERED

273

TOTAL DEATHS

*Figures related to COVID-19 as on 20 January 2021



INFECTION-CONTROL IN DETENTION FACILITIES

Donation of cleaning materials and medical supplies:

37 Prisons; 31,356 Beneficiaries

(Colombo, Kalutara, Negombo, Pallansena, Mahara, Ambepussa, Homagama, Meethirigala, Kandewatta, Wariyapola, Hangilipola, Jaffna, Vavuniya, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Monaragala, Badulla, Taldena, Angunakolapelessa, Matara, Galle, Boosa, Pitabederra, Kadurugasara, Weerawila, Kuruwita, Dumbara, Kegalle, Pallekele, Kandy)



103,652

Soap bars



36,670

Toothpaste



36,670

Toothbrushes



35,350

Surgical masks



46,385

Pairs of gloves



27,450

Gowns



400

Coveralls



317

Eyewear



2,835 kg

Chlorine



761 units

Sanitizer



230 units

Bleach



72

Manual sprayers



43

Contactless thermometers



1,637

Face shields



581

Buckets



1,080

Pairs of shoe covers



1,500

Mats

- **Technical advice**, guidance and capacity-building
- **Others:** Masks, boots, sanitary napkins, razors, detergent, masks, boots, wheelbarrow, feet sanitizing mats, toilet cleaner, toilet brush, material for toilet construction and maintenance of kitchen

5 Police Stations; 125 Beneficiaries

(Colombo, Vavuniya)



120 L

Chlorine



1,067

Soap bars



25 units

Sanitizer



595

Toothpaste



595

Toothbrushes



850

Surgical masks



75

Mats

- **Technical advice**, and guidance
- **Others:** Gloves, goggles, contactless thermometers, handheld sprayers

1 Immigration detention centre; 123 Beneficiaries

(Colombo)



40 L

Chlorine



75 units

Sanitizer



590

Soap bars



290

Toothpaste



290

Toothbrushes



30

Mats

- **Others:** Gloves, eyewear, contactless thermometers, waste bins, etc.
- **Guidelines and technical expertise** shared with all places of detention



HUMANITARIAN FORENSICS

MEDICOLEGAL DEPARTMENTS

(Colombo, Jaffna, Batticaloa, Kilinochchi, Trincomalee, Nuwara Eliya, Mannar, Puttalam, Chilaw, Kegalle, Embilipitiya, Ratnapura, Balapitiya, Hambanthota, Badulla, Monaragala, Mulleriyawa)

- Donation of protective equipment and medical supplies to Institute of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, among other centres:
 - **555 Body bags**
 - **PPE kits** for chemical protection (doctors, technicians)
 - Material for maintaining chain of custody
 - **Disinfection supplies for mortuaries** and dead body holding areas
 - Materials for post mortem examination
 - Materials included aprons, gloves, masks, shoe covers, hair mesh, gowns, body tags and cable ties, eyewear, coveralls, face shields, boots, tents, biohazard labels, liquid soap, concentrated detergent, sampling labels, contactless thermometer, sprayers, sampling jars, Ziploc bags, etc.
- **Preventive measures** (Guidelines, capacity-building):
 - **Assessment conducted on biosafety measures** that need to be developed and implemented to minimize COVID-19 transmission. Various factors that lead to cross-contamination were identified and mitigation measures proposed
 - **Assessment conducted on COVID-19 diagnostic sample collection** from remains of individuals highly suspected of COVID-19 who will need an inquest into death and autopsy

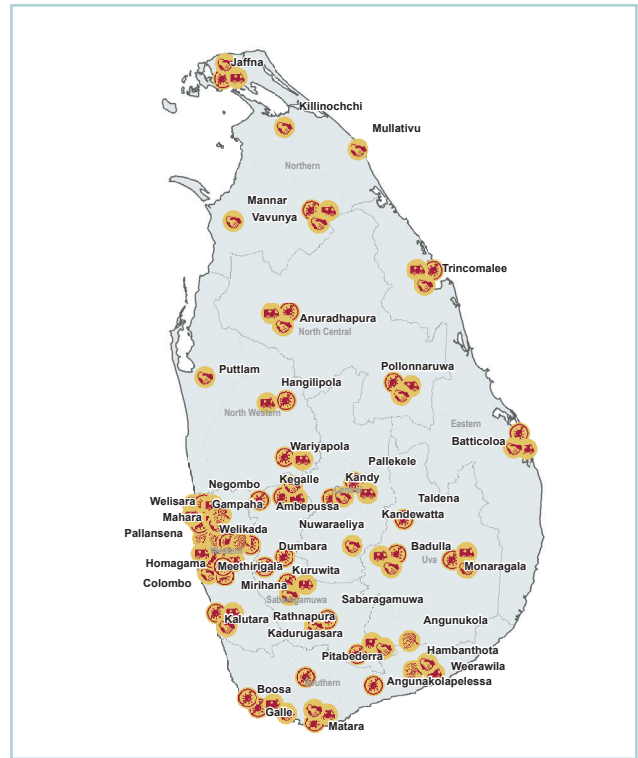
GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

(Ministry of Health in Colombo)

- **Donation of protective equipment and medical supplies** to benefit the morgues attached to the **35 COVID-19** treating hospitals:

 400 Body bags	 2,000 Body tags and ties	 2,000 Pairs of gloves	 2,000 Masks	 1,000 Shoe covers
 300 Gowns	 150 Coveralls	 70 Eyewear	 200 Hair mesh	 600 kg Chlorine
 22 Sprayers	 20 PPE kits			

- **Others:** Liquid soap, concentrated detergent



TYPE OF ACTIVITIES

- Infection-control in detention facilities
- Partnering with The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
- Humanitarian forensics

Disclaimer

The boundaries, names and designations used in this report do not imply official endorsement, nor express a political opinion on the part of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned. Maps are not to scale.

PRISONS

(Welikada Prison Hospital, Angunukolapelessa Prison, Negambo Prison and Mahara)

- **Donation of cleaning material, protective equipment and medical supplies** for mortuaries and dead body holding areas:

 300 Masks	 300 Pairs of gloves	 30 Gowns	 40 Body bags	 120 kg Chlorine
 400 Shoe covers	 150 Overalls			

- **Others:** Eyewear, garbage bins, sprayers, PPE kits, liquid soap, concentrated detergent



PARTNERING WITH THE SRI LANKA RED CROSS SOCIETY



Economic Security activities

Food assistance in partnership with National Society:

Ration: **1,500 households (7,500 people)** (*Colombo district, Puttlam, Jaffna, Kandy, Kalutara*)

- The nutritional value for the food packs distributed is of an average **2,100 kcal / person / day** as per WFP and UNHCR food assistance guideline by the UCL Institute of Global Health. One pack of food ration will cover the requirement for one week / household with **five** members



Food vouchers* distributed in partnership with NS:

- Households: **9,648 (48,240 people)**
- **3,500–4,500** Lankan rupees (LKR) per household

(*Ampara, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Colombo, Galle, Gampaha, Hambantota, Kalutara, Kegalle, Killinochchi, Kurunegala, Mannar, Matale, Matara, Monaragala, Mullativu, Nuwaraeliya, Polonnaruwa, Rathnapura, Trincomalee, Vavuniya*)

*The cash vouchers can be redeemed from any of the Lanka sathosa stores island-wide within a period of three months, in one go or broken down into any number of purchases within the granted amount based on the requirement



Preventive measures shared (Training sessions, guidelines, capacity-building): Shared guidelines on infection prevention and control within medicolegal settings



SLRCS headquarters:

- **Sfr 44,400** Financial contribution to the NS for purchasing PPE :



12,000
Coveralls



20,000
N95 masks



19,000
Pairs of gloves

- Donation of **500 overalls** to be given to Ministry of Health (**Sfr 5,160**)



Transmission risk reduction in public places:

(*Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara, Puttlam, Matale, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunagala, Nuwara Eliya and Jaffna districts*)

- Technical assistance in form of preventive measures and guidelines
- **Sfr 33,000** Financial assistance and technical assistance for disinfection, trainings, capacity-building
- **Sfr 2,350** Financial assistance for info-as-aid
- **Sfr 37,500** Material and financial contribution for cleaning items



- **Joint video produced by the ICRC and NS on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)**, broadcast in Tamil, Sinhala and English on SLRCS social media platform. Viewed by almost **48,000** people



- **Capacity-building: Technical support to produce awareness material** on Restoring Family Links (RFL) services

OPERATIONAL ORIENTATION

- The ICRC's response plan in Sri Lanka rests on three pillars – support to places of detention, support to public health structures and support to the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society – and it aims to prevent and / or mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Multipurpose cash aid (**5,000 LKR** each) given to over **2,500** families, benefiting close to **32,000** people living in Mullaitivu, Trincomalee, Kilinochchi, Mannar, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Matara, Hambantota, Monaragala, Rathnapura, Kegalle, Anuradhapura, Matale, Galle, Kalutara, Kandy, Polonnaruwa, Gampaha, Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara and Kurunegala.
- As many as **100 posters** (in English & Sinhala) on RFL services handed over to **Department of Prisons** for distribution in prisons and places of detention.
- **Support to families of those missing due to COVID-19** – Adapting our Accompaniment Programme (under MHPSS) by **signing an MoU with three partner organizations**. The remote MHPSS programme includes adaptation and development of the training tools for accompaniers. Training I content consists of refresher on MHPSS training, remote MHPSS communication and MHPSS to specific populations in isolation. Training II content includes sexual and gender-based violence, child abuse, substance abuse and suicidal ideation in Sinhala and Tamil and update of the resource mapping of service providers to refer beneficiaries in time of COVID-19.
 - **Tools to train the accompaniers** in providing psychosocial support remotely; designed and translated in Tamil and Sinhala.
 - Resource mapping of service providers updated.
 - **39** accompaniers trained in MHPSS through **23 remote sessions conducted by three ICRC psychologists**.
 - As many as **75** families were provided with information on services to help meet their economic, medical, mental health and legal / administrative needs. A follow-up was also done.
 - The accompaniers have conducted as many as **4,003** sessions for families.
 - As many as **284** families interested in the forthcoming accompaniment programme cycles were contacted telephonically to confirm their participation and to address any COVID-19 related questions.

“I used to work as a daily-wage labourer. About 6 months ago, I fell off a tree and injured my leg. I haven't been able to work since. I'm also taking care of my father who has a hearing problem. The last few months have been very difficult because I lost my income. The lockdown made it worse for us. We bought foodstuff from the shop nearby. This cash voucher is really helpful for us in this difficult time. “

- Anura Premaratne (49), Nilpalagoda, Gampaha district






“I work at a garment factory in Katunayake as a technician. I have three kids who are studying. I live with my in-laws. A few months ago, my husband died of heart disease. During the lockdown, I couldn't go to work. There are no shops in this area, so we found it difficult to survive. Our neighbours and relatives helped us, but times were tough for everyone. This assistance is meaningful and comes at a critical time. “

- Damayanthi Athukorale (37), Bomugamma, Gampaha district



International Committee of the Red Cross
29, Layards Road, Colombo 05, Sri Lanka
T: + 94 (11) 250 33 46 F: + 94 (11) 250 33 48
E-Mail: colombo@icrc.org www.icrc.org/lk
www.icrc.org
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 facebook.com/icrc
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