

SRI LANKA

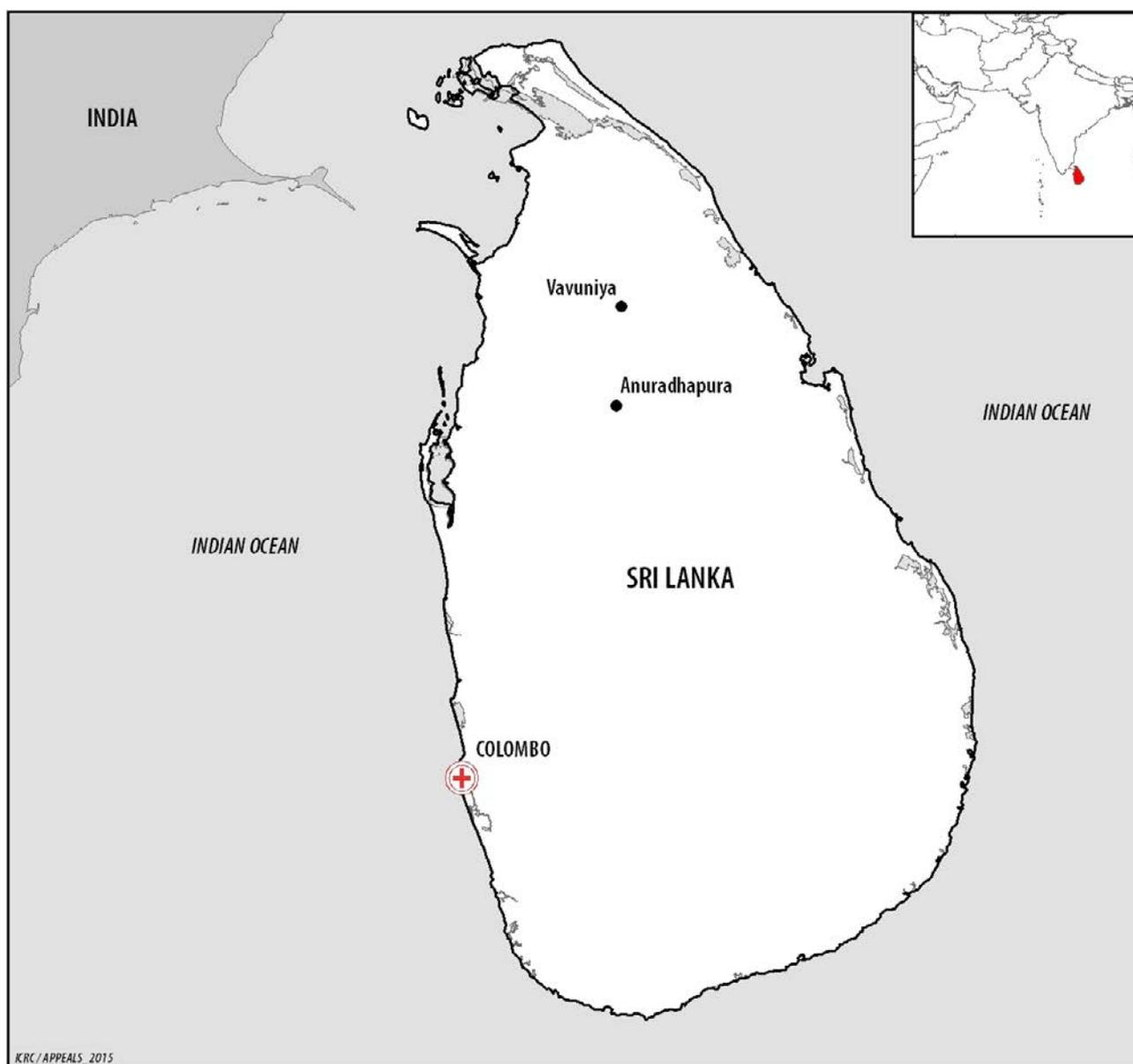
The ICRC has worked in Sri Lanka since 1989. Operations focus on assisting civilians affected by the past armed conflict, in particular working with returnees, former detainees and other especially vulnerable residents to boost their economic security; visiting detainees and aiding the authorities in improving prison management; helping clarify the fate of missing persons and supporting their families; and providing backing for the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society's family-links services. It also supports the armed forces' training in IHL.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	3,572
Assistance	3,008
Prevention	740
Cooperation with National Societies	355
General	80
Total	7,756
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>473</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	19
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	83



KRC / APPEALS 2015

 ICRC delegation

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ the authorities, the armed/police forces, key civil society actors and the ICRC consolidate their cooperation to facilitate post-conflict recovery, particularly in addressing the needs of vulnerable persons and detainees
- ▶ some 600 families of people missing since the past conflict improve their situation, notably through a project aimed at addressing their psychological, social, legal, administrative and economic needs
- ▶ in the northern and eastern provinces, resettled/returnee families, especially those headed by women or disabled people, and rehabilitees increase their income and improve their access to water through ICRC-supported activities
- ▶ some 5,400 detainees at 5 prisons benefit from better access to safe water, and improved premises and hygiene conditions, following infrastructure rehabilitation
- ▶ the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society boosts its capacities to respond to emergencies and to provide family-links services, including for migrants

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Cash	Beneficiaries	6,600
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	12,300

CONTEXT

Sri Lanka's recovery from the armed conflict, which ended in 2009, continues. Most IDPs have returned to their areas of origin following large-scale efforts by the government and aid providers to rebuild State services and demine large stretches of land. Still, many of the returnees have not yet recovered their livelihoods, and access to basic services in some areas remains inadequate. Thousands of people remain unaccounted for, leaving their relatives in anguish over their uncertain fate.

The government is taking steps to implement its action plan – based on the recommendations of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission – which sets out to tackle the humanitarian consequences of the past conflict and address the needs of those affected, including returnees, the families of missing persons, and detainees. It has completed an island-wide survey to compile a list of persons/families affected; the Presidential Commission to Investigate into Complaints Regarding Missing Persons is mobilizing government institutions to provide counselling services to the families of missing persons. The government has objected to a UN Human Rights Council resolution calling for an international investigation into human rights abuses and war crimes reportedly committed during the civil war.

People throughout the country struggle to deal with recurring natural disasters; in some parts of the country, inter-communal tensions occasionally lead to violence.

Presidential elections are scheduled for early 2015.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The Sri Lanka delegation will focus on deepening its working relationships with national authorities and institutions, and expanding cooperation with them in addressing the needs of people still affected by the past conflict – the families of missing persons, economically vulnerable returnee or resettled households, and rehabilitees – and improving the situation of people deprived of their freedom. It will raise awareness of and seek support – among the authorities, armed and police forces, and key civil society actors – for humanitarian principles and the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action in post-conflict Sri Lanka.

The ICRC will continue to offer its expertise to the authorities concerned. Drawing on the findings of an ICRC needs assessment, it will endeavour to further their understanding of the importance of clarifying the fate of people who went missing during the past conflict, and to support them in addressing the needs of the families of missing persons. This will include the implementation of a project to help the families meet their psychological, social, legal, administrative and economic needs.

With the authorities/organizations concerned, the ICRC will pursue efforts to help vulnerable returnee/resettled households, particularly those headed by women or disabled persons, restore/improve their livelihoods through conditional cash grants and training, and facilitate their access to clean water by rehabilitating/installing the necessary facilities.

Delegates will continue to visit, in accordance with standard ICRC procedures, people held in places of temporary or permanent detention – including Protective Accommodation and Rehabilitation Centres (PARCs) – to monitor their treatment and living conditions. It will pay close attention to those incarcerated in relation to the past conflict and particularly vulnerable inmates, including migrants, minors and the mentally ill. Afterwards, delegates will share their findings confidentially with the authorities, along with recommendations for improvements where necessary. To support the authorities in tackling prison overcrowding and its consequences for inmates – the impact on access to health care, for instance – the ICRC will provide technical expertise, rehabilitate infrastructure and evaluate potential projects.

The organization will continue – through regular communication, at meetings and events, for instance – to help parties concerned enhance their understanding of IHL and the ICRC's role in a post-conflict setting, including its part in addressing residual humanitarian needs. The ICRC will also foster broader debate/interaction on IHL-related issues/concerns, such as protection for medical services. The ICRC will provide technical advice/guidance/expertise and/or organize training/events to support: the authorities and national IHL committee, in advancing the domestic implementation of IHL; and the armed/police forces, in incorporating IHL and other relevant norms and internationally recognized standards in their operations, notably their peacekeeping missions, and in sustaining their IHL

training capacities. The ICRC will support the relevant authorities and other stakeholders in strengthening local forensic capacities.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and the ICRC will continue to make family-links services available to dispersed families, including those split up by migration or detention.

The ICRC will provide the National Society with various forms of support to help it strengthen its legal base and organizational capacities in: first aid, incorporating the Safer Access Framework in its activities, restoring family links and promoting humanitarian values and the Movement.

The ICRC will coordinate with its Movement partners and other humanitarian actors in areas of common interest to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication of effort.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

In the northern and eastern provinces, vulnerable returnees and resettled IDPs, particularly households headed by women or disabled people, do not have the means to start/resume livelihood activities, or are prevented from doing so by socio-cultural factors. People linked to the past armed conflict, who have been rehabilitated at PARCs and released (rehabilitees), face the same problem, and have difficulty in reintegrating into society. Communities in these areas often lack access to adequate drinking water and sanitation facilities because of insufficient/damaged infrastructure and limited local capacities for addressing these shortcomings.

Numerous families still remain without news of relatives missing since the civil war. The government is taking some steps to address the issue and the families' needs (see *Context*). Many migrants, passing through or freshly arrived in the country, need help to contact their families.

National forensic capacities during disasters are limited and under-funded.

Objective

The families of missing persons receive appropriate support. Civilians who have returned to or resettled in secure areas have access to adequate infrastructure and restore their livelihoods.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

Restoring family links

- ▶ to help the National Society boost its capacity to restore family links, provide technical/material/financial support that enables it to:
 - provide tracing and RCM services to separated family members, particularly migrants, including those in detention (see *People deprived of their freedom*)
 - strengthen links with other Movement partners, through regional training events/conferences and other means, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement
- ▶ contribute to addressing the various needs of the families of missing persons by completing an assessment of

such needs; on the basis of findings and recommendations gleaned from the assessment:

- hold bilateral and multilateral meetings with government ministries, State institutions and civil society actors to deepen their understanding of the importance of clarifying the fate of people unaccounted for and addressing their families' needs; in particular, encourage them to set up a comprehensive national mechanism with a clear humanitarian mandate to coordinate such efforts, in line with the principles governing data protection
- implement, with the support/involvement of the authorities and partner institutions, a project to help some 600 families meet their psychological, social, legal, administrative and economic needs (see below)

Assistance

Forensics

- ▶ to prevent people from becoming unaccounted for, assist the authorities, forensic professionals and other stakeholders in strengthening national forensic expertise and capacities; in particular:
 - provide technical advice for developing standard guidelines and tools incorporating best practices, and for validating and eventually disseminating draft national guidelines on managing human remains in emergencies
 - organize workshops for them and facilitate their participation in courses abroad
 - support the development of an anthropology/archaeology curriculum at a teaching institution

Economic security

- ▶ help vulnerable people resume or start livelihood activities, thereby enabling them to cover their basic needs and facilitating their reintegration into society; in line with existing government programmes, and with the support of trained staff from local NGOs and/or the National Society, provide training and conditional cash grants, including to improve communal services/facilities, to enable up to 1,250 returnee, resettled or rehabilitatee households (5,000 people), including those headed by women or disabled people, and some families of missing persons to boost their income by 35-45%

Water and habitat

- ▶ through rehabilitation/construction work on water systems and schools, help ensure that up to 7,500 resettled people have access to water sources, within 500 metres of their dwellings, to cover household/agricultural needs, and up to 4,800 schoolchildren benefit from improved conditions, including upgraded sanitation facilities
- ▶ provide material support and coaching/training to help local health/water authorities boost their capacities to address the water needs of communities during emergencies

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The government is set to end, in mid-2015, the rehabilitation process for people arrested in relation to the former armed conflict; most of them will be released and the PARCs gradually closed down or converted into facilities for people imprisoned for drug-related offences. Fresh arrests are made for alleged offences in relation to the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Certain practices in the judicial system, including limited use of alternatives to incarceration, contribute to overcrowding in prisons, which adversely affects health, sanitation and general living conditions, and causes tensions among inmates. The authorities are in the process of building nine new prisons.

Some detainees do not have the means to keep in touch with their families or to travel home upon release.

Objective

Detainees are afforded living conditions and treatment in line with internationally recognized standards, benefit from essential judicial guarantees and procedural safeguards, and are able to keep in touch with their families.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ carry out regular visits, according to standard ICRC procedures, to detainees held in places of temporary or permanent detention, to check their treatment and living conditions, paying close attention to those held in relation to the past conflict and other particularly vulnerable inmates, such as migrants/asylum-seekers, minors and the mentally ill
- ▶ after such visits, share the findings confidentially with the authorities, along with recommendations where necessary; work with the authorities to ensure that detainees' treatment and living conditions, including in relation to procedural safeguards, judicial guarantees and access to essential services (see below), comply with relevant domestic/international law and internationally recognized standards
- ▶ with the detention authorities and the Health Ministry, assess detainees' access to health care in prisons, including the impact of overcrowding on health services (see below), and organize a workshop to discuss the findings; be prepared to support projects at up to 3 pilot sites to address the issues identified in the assessment/workshop
- ▶ support the authorities concerned, including a proposed working group to be chaired by the Justice Ministry, in addressing the causes and consequences of prison overcrowding; to this end:
 - offer technical advice – research studies, for instance – to help them examine contributing factors and implement tangible measures to address the issue; encourage the development of tools to monitor overcrowding more effectively
 - co-organize workshops and study tours to facilitate coordination among parties concerned and enable them to draw up an inter-institutional action plan to address the issue
- ▶ help detainees, including migrants, maintain family links through National Society/ICRC services; provide support for family visits for up to 500 detainees

Assistance

- ▶ provide training and/or technical expertise to support detention authorities in bringing prison facilities in line with internationally recognized standards; work with them to mitigate the impact of overcrowding, including by rehabilitating infrastructure at up to 5 prisons, thereby enabling some 5,400 detainees to have a supply of safe drinking water, improved premises and better hygiene conditions

- ▶ encourage the authorities and, where feasible, mobilize other actors to help ensure the provision of basic hygiene items/cleaning materials to detainees; where necessary, provide basic hygiene items, clothes and recreational materials to inmates, as well as crutches for disabled detainees
- ▶ assist up to 100 detainees to return home after their release
- ▶ help prison medical staff and judicial officials strengthen their professional skills by facilitating their participation in workshops/conferences

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The armed forces regularly support the police in conducting law enforcement operations and emergency response activities during disasters. They contribute troops to peace-keeping missions abroad. The police forces are in the process of finalizing their revised departmental orders.

Civil society actors, including the media and academic institutions, help keep residual humanitarian issues before the public, including beneficiary communities, and pass key messages to decision-makers, thereby contributing to shaping debates on these matters and, where possible, to establishing concrete measures to address them.

Objective

The authorities and the armed/police forces understand and respect IHL, international human rights law and other relevant norms, and internationally recognized standards governing law enforcement, and incorporate them in their decision-making processes. The media, academia and other key members of civil society help foster awareness of residual humanitarian issues in post-conflict Sri Lanka and of IHL and international human rights law among the authorities and the wider public, thus securing greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the work of the Movement.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

- ▶ promote awareness of humanitarian principles among the authorities, military/police forces, journalists and other pertinent members of civil society, and gain acceptance and support for the ICRC's role as a reference organization on IHL and for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian activities in post-conflict situations, particularly by:
 - maintaining regular contact with them – through meetings and by distributing information materials, for instance – highlighting in particular the needs of the families of missing persons, detainees and other vulnerable people, and the ICRC's response (see above)
 - facilitating their participation in workshops/round-tables and other events, including abroad, to foster an environment conducive to debate/discussions on broader IHL-related issues, such as sexual violence and the protection of medical services during armed conflict
 - helping universities promote interest in studying and teaching IHL among students and lecturers, including through IHL competitions
- ▶ enhance knowledge of and respect for IHL, other relevant humanitarian norms and internationally recog-

nized standards, and facilitate their incorporation in domestic legal and policy frameworks; by providing technical advice/reference materials and organizing workshops/seminars, encourage:

- the national IHL committee to facilitate Sri Lanka's accession to/ratification of IHL-related treaties
- the national IHL committee and law-makers to: incorporate the provisions of the Biological Weapons Convention in domestic law; adopt measures in support of the families of missing persons; and keep abreast of developments in IHL, including in relation to the "Strengthening IHL" process and the application of IHL to cyber and other new means and methods of warfare
- national authorities and the armed/police forces to consider adopting, in operational practice, the recommendations made at experts' workshops linked to the Health Care in Danger project
- the police to implement their revised standard operating procedures, which include internationally recognized standards on the use of force/firearms during arrest/detention, and to train their troops accordingly
- the armed forces to incorporate IHL/internationally recognized standards on law enforcement in their training and operations, and to maintain their IHL training programme, at their peacekeeping institutes and elsewhere

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Sri Lanka Red Cross, with support from other Movement partners, is developing its technical and institutional capacities, in line with a new strategic plan for 2015–17. It is working to define responsibilities at its branches with regard to disaster response, and to maintain their capacities in this area.

Objective

The Sri Lankan Red Cross has a strong legal basis for independent action. It is able to carry out its core activities – assistance programmes, restoring family links and promoting humanitarian values – effectively. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ through financial/technical/material support and training, help the National Society:
 - strengthen its legal base and operational and financial management capacities
 - boost the capacities of its branches, primarily in the northern provinces, in contingency planning and disaster response, including first aid and application of the Safer Access Framework
 - strengthen its family-links services (see *Civilians*)
 - increase its capacity to promote humanitarian values/the Movement
- ▶ through meetings/workshops, coordinate with other Movement components to ensure a coherent approach