

PRESS RELEASE

Sri Lanka Red Cross Society to Launch Elixir – Sri Lanka’s First Ever Medical Donation Matching Platform



Standing from left in the foreground: Chopa Edirisinghe (Head of Programs, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society), Janaka Sri Chandraguptha (Secretary of Health), Dr. Sunil De Alwis (Additional Secretary Health). Signed September 23rd, 2022 at the Sri Lanka Ministry of Health.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society has recently announced plans to officially launch Sri Lanka’s first-ever medical donation matching platform. Called the Elixir Platform, the initiative aims to provide donors the latest information on the most urgent medical needs, coordinate donations to avoid duplications, aggregate funds to bulk order medicines at reduced costs and provide full transparency to all stakeholders.

Elixir also allows public hospitals from across Sri Lanka to register their urgent needs or medicines and medical supplies.

Designed and operated by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, together with its global network of volunteers and professionals, and in partnership with the Sri Lanka Medical Supplies Division of the Ministry of Health, the Elixir Platform is a collaborative undertaking to help Sri Lanka overcome the shortage of lifesaving medicines due to the present economic crisis.

Discussing the initiative, Dr Mahesh Gunasekara, Director General at the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society said, “First, we must express our sincere gratitude to all the donors, including individuals, charities, corporations and governments, who have come to Sri Lanka’s aid at this time of need. With the large amount of donations, we found that it was becoming challenging to track and fulfil medical needs across the system and prioritize based on urgency. Other challenges including oversupply due to duplicative efforts, high costs due to not utilizing economies of scale, and other issues have arisen, along with a lack of transparency. Thus, Elixir is our answer to these problems, and will facilitate transparency and accountability throughout the entire supply chain for the benefit of all stakeholders. the Elixir platform will be audited on a monthly basis. On behalf of the Sri Lanka Red

Cross, I take this opportunity to thank all volunteers and partners in this endeavour. Elixir is a landmark achievement and we look forward to supporting Sri Lanka as it overcomes its present challenges.”

Dr. Dharmasiri Herath, Deputy Director General Medical Supplies Division, Dr. Anver Hamdani Coordinator in Charge Healthcare donor activities and Dr. Sunil De Alwis, Additional Secretary (Medical Services) both at the Ministry of Health have applauded the Elixir Project for providing a “centralized coordination platform that allows hospitals in Sri Lanka to connect with the donor community”. They have further highlighted the benefit Elixir provides to “serve as the reliable source for Sri Lanka’s urgent medical needs”.

The official launch date for the Elixir Platform has been set for October 19th.

The Sri Lanka Red Cross has been actively engaging with all stakeholders during the crisis to provide as much support and assistance as possible. Most recently, the International Committee of the Red Cross donated a consignment of 10,000 blood bags to the National Blood Bank, while the Sri Lanka Red Cross – Colombo Branch organized a blood donation camp in Colombo. The Singapore Red Cross has also recently donated medicines worth approximately USD 50,000 to Sri Lanka through the Sri Lanka Red Cross. Building on the success of Elixir, the Sri Lanka Red Cross is also now studying the feasibility of expanding and implementing similar donation-to-demand matching technology across its other initiatives as well.

Any individual or organization interested in making a donation to the Sri Lanka Red Cross to support Sri Lanka, both financially and materially, with regard to lifesaving medicines and medical supplies can visit <https://elixir.redcross.lk> to make a donation or learn more about this initiative.

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