

Report

Sri Lanka National Consultation on the Post-2015 Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (Post Hyogo Framework for Action)

1st March 2013, Vidya Mawatha ,Colombo 07, Sri Lanka

Summary of key points of the national consultation on Post HFA

- 1) Sri Lanka has been achieved substantial progress with the HFA priority areas. After 2004 Indian ocean Tsunami new act and policies have been introduced. But implementation of policies and legislations has not achieved considerable progress due to legal and financial constrains.
- 2) National level Disaster Risk Management (DRM) programmes are very effective and there has been considerable progress. implementation of DRM activities in local level are not in satisfactory level. Therefore the post HFA should focus more on strengthening the resilience of local sector.
- 3) Early warning and disaster response activities have gained more attention so that lives loss due to disaster is reducing but still the disaster impact is increasing.
- 4) Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development process has been introduced to different sectors such as urban and physical planning, road development, housing etc. It has been identified that policy and legislation are highly required to practice the sustainable mainstreaming process.
- 5) Programmes to reduce risk and building resilience should be part and partial with the climate change adaptation programmes.
- 6) It was highlighted that still Sri Lanka spends more monetary funds to relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities rather than the disaster mitigation activities. Therefore mitigation activities have to be prioritized in the post HFA.
- 7) Sri Lanka highly recommend to established attractive, result based mechanism to enhance knowledge and community awareness on disaster risk management using modern technology.
- 8) Scientific risk assessment, rapid damage and loss assessment and disaster response needs assessment has to be encourage and standardized.
- 9) Post HFA frame work should enhance the proactive response from developed countries to developing countries in terms of DRM.

The Post-HFA National Consultation Process in Sri Lanka

Introduction

After the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Center (DMC) was established under the Disaster Management Act no 13, 2005. Since then DMC acts as the apex body in disaster risk management the country by coordinating DRM activities with other stakeholder agencies as well as implementing and facilitating DRM programmes in the country. Apart from that DMC has engaged in many DRM activities on Early warning, Preparedness planning, Emergency operation, Disaster mitigation with the international and regional organizations such as UNDP, JICA, SDMC ADRC etc.

The Disaster Management Center is the focal agency for the Hyogo Frame Work for Action 2005-2015 - Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, which is the policy frame work guide for all stakeholders on disaster risk reduction. In parallel to the HFA activities, DMC with the guidance of Ministry of Disaster Management has taken numbers of initiatives including policy, DM plans, and process to mainstreaming DRR into development etc. with the support of the stakeholder agencies representing government, private sector, civil societies in national and local levels.

DMC conducted a number of consultations at the national level to report on the HFA progress for the cycles of 2007-2009 and 2009-2011. The National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee which is the national platform for implementing DRM activities meets once a month and shares the information and the progress and the status of the DRM activities practicing by member agencies.

DMC considers its duty is to provide the negative and positive impact of the HFA frame work and national priorities for the formulation of post-2015 frame on DRR (post-HFA) through coordinating all the stakeholder agencies.

DMC has organized national consultation theme on "Post-2015 Framework on DRR for Resilient Community and Sustainable Development" at DMC premises on 1st of March 2013.

Objectives

The aim of the Post-HFA national consultation was to identify the gaps and challenges faced during the implementation of DRM activities under HFA priority area and to discuss which area should be prioritized and addressed by the post-2015 framework. The main objective was followed by the following specific objectives:

- To discuss the midterm progress report of HFA and indentify the areas that need more attention under HFA implementation.
- To enhance the understanding and knowledge on the post-2015 process
- To understand the importance of stakeholder participation for sustainable disaster risk management

- To discuss the importance of having joint programmes such as climate change adaptation, disaster management, use of space technology etc.
- To discuss the progress of the programme on "Mainstreaming DRR into development" and to identify the further steps necessary to be taken by the sectoral organizations

Participation

The National Consultation of the post HFA was carried out with active participation of 40 participants - representatives from government, academic, national and international organizations, which bare the membership of National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee (NDMCC).

The list of participants is provided in Annex II.

Consultation Method

Apart from the monthly NDMCC meeting national consultation was conducted at the Disaster Management Center premises with the participation of 45 numbers of stake holder agencies.

Presentations, plenary discussions, group works were the techniques applied during the consultation. Group work was facilitated by the set of questions prepared with respect to the consultation objectives. The first set of questions was to guide discussion on the process to prepare the post-HFA. The second set was on the progress of the ongoing HFA implementation and the post HFA. The first set of questions was discussed in plenary while the remaining questions were discussed in group work.

The final agenda and the sets of questions are given in annex I and III respectively.

Summary of group discussions

The following points were highlighted during the plenary and the group discussions based on the given questions.

- The HFA activities in Sri Lanka have focused more on early warning and disaster response activities than disaster mitigation and public awareness.
- Disaster risk assessment and mainstreaming DRR into development were not prioritized during the HFA process.
- Due to insufficient funds and technology transfer from international and regional organization, the implementation of HFA priority activities has not achieved its set targets.
- The HFA activities were prioritized based on the international and regional requirements rather than considering the national priorities. Therefore, at the national level HFA implementation achieved substantial progress but not at the local level

- National consultations with multi stakeholder participation encourage and facilitate the coordination of DRM activities in different sectors. The national consultation is very much useful to identify the different agencies work in different phases of disaster management and their challenges on the ground and their expectation to overcome the challenges. As all the agencies that work in DRR support the process they also expect technical or financial support from coordinating agency.
- National level DRM programmes should be formulated based on the national and local priorities, enabling the national consultation to inform the national requirements to international agencies who involve in the formulating of the post HFA.
- Education and awareness programmes should be organized giving high priority to awareness of local people rather than providing awareness for Government officials. More attractive and simple techniques should be applied to educate and change the attitude on disaster of the general public.
- There is national requirement to consider the impact of disasters on development as well as impact of development on the environment that trigger disasters, prior to approval of any development projects. Planning agencies and project developers should be equipped with risk assessment tools and applications.
- Disasters are triggered by human activities and natural hazards turn into manmade disasters as in the case of floods that have been experienced. In Sri Lanka, Colombo has not experienced revering flood for a long period. But urban flooding has become an annual event due to human activities such as rapid urbanization and population growth. Therefore land use planning and development planning should be implemented together to achieve sustainability.
- Loss of lives is decreasing thanks to the implementation of DRM activities but not the damage and losses to the infrastructures and services. Most of the damages happen to the government properties as the Government provides a lot of infrastructure. But losses mainly affect the private sector. More focus has to be put on the damage and loss assessment. Rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes should be prioritized and facilitated with rapid damage and loss assessment.
- Mainstreaming DRR into development is a very important process. DRR mainstreaming programmes should not be ad-hoc but supported by highest level national level policy and legislation for sustainable implementation.
- Disaster risk management should be decentralizes, ensuring the provincial council involvement.
- Climate Change Adaption (CCA) and DRR should go together following one action plan for coherent implementation
- Plans for building resilient schools and hospitals were completed and forwarded to the respective ministries for further action. But implementation requires additional funding. Therefore cost benefit analysis on this type of plans should be encouraged to convince the authorities on the benefits of resilience building.

- Disaster assessment is also incorporated into the existing Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) mechanism but it should be legalized and be more scientific-based. ISEA and DIA processes should also be encouraged.

Highlights of National Achievements in DRR

- The Disaster Management Act, National Disaster Management plan, National Emergency Operation Plan were made available
- Disaster risk reduction was incorporated into local government policy document.
- Disaster risk assessment details are incorporated into urban development plan and the physical development plan.
- Disasters are considered and evaluated during the EIA process carried out by the CC&CRMD.
- Disaster management has been included into school curricula, and the undergraduate degree programmes too. Two national universities started master level programmes also.
- Early warning systems have been established and aware the public through simulation excise and mock drills.
- Search and rescue teams have been established and ensure the timely evacuation of the people through simulations.
- Hazard profile has been completed and made available free of charge for public use under www.hazard.lk website.
- Organizational responsibilities have been identifies and SOP's were made available.
- Local authorities are identified as first responders and strengthening capacity ensuring the city resilience.
- Road development sector is applying check list system to minimize the impact of disaster as self assessment tool.

Key Challenges

- Lack of implementation and legislative powers to practice the DRM policies and frameworks. Policy gaps and individual agendas for DRM and CCA exist under different ministries.
- Hazard, disasters and risk are not accurately understood, reflected also in the hazard maps.
- High scale map are not available to prepare the local level risk maps. Lack of digital elevation models made draw back on flood modeling and hence forecasting and response.
- Knowledge gap exists between DRM and CCA

- Risk transferring mechanisms are not in practice, leaving all the burdens for the government. Individuals may not pay attention to DRM.
- Lack of financial physical and human resources at local level for the implementation of DRM activities.

Priority areas for post-HFA

- Mainstreaming DRR into development
- Enhance the culture of safety through CBDRM and paradigm shift from response to culture of disaster risk reduction & safety
- More focus on implementation of DRM programmes rather than preparing plans for DRM

Annex 1: Final Agenda.

National Consultation Meeting
Post – 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
1st March 2013, Vidya Mawatha, Colombo 07

Time	Event	Responsibility
9.00-9.30	Registration	Registration Desk
9.30 – 9.40	Welcome address	Director General- DMC
9.40- 9.50	Self introduction	Participants
9.50- 10.00	Introduction to the meeting: objectives, purpose and expected outcomes	Anoja Seneviratne- DMC
10.00-10.20	Introduction to the Post 2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	Madahvi Ariyabandu -UN ISDR
<i>10.20-10.45: Tea Break</i>		
10.45-11.15	Status of disasters, vulnerability in Sri Lanka, main findings and issues from the HFA monitor reports of last 3 cycles	U.W.L.Chandradasa Consultant UNDP
11.15- 11.30	Introduction to the guide questions for Post 2015 Framework for DRR and background reference material	Anoja Seneviratne- DMC
11.30-12.30	Linkages between the On- going HFA implementation process and preparation of the Post - 2015 DRR Framework	U.W.L.Chandradasa Consultant UNDP Anoja Seneviratne- DMC Madahvi Ariyabandu -UN ISDR
<i>12.30-1.30 lunch</i>		
1.30-2.30	Group work (Understanding between Disaster and development/ Governance for DRR and Accountability)	
2.30-3.30	Discussion on Group work	
3.30-3.45	Wrap up Actions and Recommendations	Anoja Seneviratne- DMC
<i>3.45 Tea & closing</i>		

Annex 2: Participants list.

National Consultation Meeting 2012.03.01

No	Name	Organization	Designation
1	Wing.Cdr.V.G.G.Buddhika Piyasiri	SLAF	FOCAL Point Rep.
2	Mr.P.D.L. Gunarathna	Land Ministry	Director(Policy)
3	Mr. Nilanga Alahacoon	IHRA/UOR	External Programmer
4	Mr. Ranasinha Parera	Practical Action	Team Leader
5	Ms.Michelle Berman	IOM	Program Coordinator
6	Mr.Nilantha Piyadasa	MEPA	Assistant Manager
7	Lt.Cdr.Jagath Jayakody	SL Navy	LCDR
8	Mr. S. Sivanandaraja	Survey Department	
9	Mr Minori Arai	JICA	JICA Expert,
10	Mr. T. Ranasingha	WHO	NPO
11	Ms. Wathsala Jayamanna	OCHA	DRO
12	Ms. Madavi Ariyabandu	UNISDR	Program Coordinator
13	Lt.Col.D.P.Welagedara	SL Army	GSOI (OPS)
14	Mr. F.A. Cador	Care International	Program director
15	Mr. Saliya D Silva	Policy Department	Director 119
16	Mr. R.A.S. Ranawaka	Coast Conservation Department	senior Engineer
17	Mr. N.T. Nasumutheen	Ministry of Education	Assistant Director
18	Mr.Rohan cooray	ADPC/DMC/PIP	Program Coordinator
19	Mr. D.D. Mataraarachchi	Ministry of Ports & Highways	Director
20	Ms.K.P.C. Subhashini	MCDWA	Assistant director Planning
21	Mr. T. Bhahirathan	Handicap International	Dept. Coordinator
22	Mr. Jayathissa	NBRO	Senior Scientist
23	Mrs. C. Senanayake,	NPD	Dy. Director,
24	Ms. Gothami Chandrarathna,	SLRCS	Program Officer
25	Mr. G.K.T. Samarathunaga	MASL	D/WUS
26	Mr. A.H.P.P. Karunapala	Meteorology Department	Meteorology
27	Mr. Colin	IFRC	
28	Dr. Usha Perera	Ministry of Health	Coordinator of Disaster Preparedness and Response Division
29	Ms.Prasadi Indrawimala	OCHA	GIS Associate
30	Major general Gamini Hettiarachchi	DMC	Director General
31	Mr. Sunil. Jayaweera	DMC	Director (PP)
32	Mr. Palitha Bandara	DMC	Assistant Director
33	Mr. Chandradasa	UNDP	Consultant DMC

34	Dr. Anil Premartha	CCD	Director General
35	Mr. M.N.P. Ranasingha	Ministry of Environmental	EMO
36	Dr. U.K.L. Peiris	Department of Wild life	Assistant Director
37	Eng.(Ms.) Thilaka samarathunga	Mahaweli Authority	Director-Water Management
38	Mr. Laksiri Nanayakkara	WFP	Senior Programme Associate
39	Mr. T. Ranasingha	World Health Organization	National Planning Officer
40	Dr. Edwin salvador	World Health Organization	Technical Officer-Emergency health
41	Mr. Ajith Tennakoon	Sewa Lanka Foundation	Regional Director
42	Eng.Badra Kamaladasa	Department of Irrigation	Director General
43	Ms. Padma Wijesinghe	Urban Development Authority	Planning Officer
44	Mr. A. Melder	World Vision Lanka	CBDM Coordinator
45	Mr.Tharindu Abeyjeewa	UNHabitat	Project Officer

Annex 3: A set of questions used at the consultation

(as provided in the Guidance for National Consultation on a Post-2015 framework on DRR, UNISDR, 2012)

As part of the consultations on a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction a set of questions are proposed to consider in discussion and dialogue. The questions are aimed at guiding and prompting discussions. The key aim of the consultations is to identify the substantive issues for further actions in disaster risk reduction.

1. The first set of questions focus on the consultations and the existing Hyogo Framework for Action.

- 1.1 What key elements do you think are missing in the consultation process?
- 1.2 What are the opportunities and challenges in the national consultation process?
- 1.3 What are the key successes (or achievements) in disaster risk reduction since implementation of the HFA in 2005 and what contributed to the successes?
- 1.4 How do you view the post-2015 development agenda (post MDGs) and proposed sustainable development goals as they relate to disasters?

2. The second set of questions focus on some of the identified substantial issues in the Mid Term Review and outcomes of early consultations.

- 2.1 Emphasis has been placed on the integration or mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development planning and sectors? Has this been successful? Can you provide examples?
- 2.2 What progress has your government made in linking disaster risk reduction with climate change adaption?
- 2.3 Can you identify the good practices in your country in land use planning? How much risk assessment is taken into account in urban planning in your country?
- 2.4 What has been done in making schools and hospitals resilient to disasters in your country? How were the actions carried out?

3. The third set of questions relates to what you believe are important elements for the future of disaster risk reduction.

- 3.1 What is the approach that has made progress on reducing disaster risk?
- 3.2 How would you incorporate more accountability in disaster risk reduction?
- 3.3 What are the top three significant elements that should be addressed in a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction?
- 3.4 What kind of post-2015 framework would you like to see?