Disaster Management in Sri Lanka &
Initiatives for Risk Reduction

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Ministry of Disaster Relief Services

Sri Lanka
OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA

- Floods, droughts, cyclones, landslides and coastal erosions are frequent occurrences.
- Indian Ocean tsunami struck to Sri Lanka, causing severe damages to the country but it is a rare event.
- Natural disasters have caused immense damage to the society.
- Human made disasters in particular have claimed more than 64,000 lives and has destroyed economy, society and environment in the last 10 year period.
  - 34 major disaster events
  - 31,545 people were killed
  - 28.9 million people were affected
  - Total economic losses were US$ 5.96 billion
- In 2003, 137,221 families (720,500 persons) have been affected, 252 people were killed and 37,227 houses were damaged.
- The Govt. allocated Rs. 1740.15 million for relief and rehabilitation assistance.
- Total estimated economic losses were Rs. 7000 million.
- In 2004, 260,967 families (1.3 million) have been affected, 31,225 have been killed and the missing people are around 4,100.
- 108,467 houses have been damaged.
- Total estimated economic loss for tsunami is around US$ 3.6 billions.
- The country has been appointing several committees to design an act and a national plan since 1992.
- A National Disaster Management Center was established in 1996 according to Cabinet Decision No.94/1412/120/102 on 05 July 1995.
- Also, NDMC was allocated functions on disaster management in the Gazette of No.1015/12, dated on 18 Feb. 1998 issued by President.
- NDMC is handling pre and post disaster activities in the country.
- The disaster management bill and national plan were prepared by NDMC.
- In March 2005, the bill was passed by the Parliament and will be activated once the formalities are completed.
Background

Disaster Management Function

- Before 1977  Dept. of Social Services
- 1977 – 1988  Ministry of Social Services/Dept. of Social Services
- 1994 – 1995  Ministry of Health & Social Services
- 1995  Ministry of Social Services
- 1996  National Disaster Management Centre/ Dept. of Social Services
- Since 1996, while NDMC has been doing in Disaster management activities consisting Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery measures, the Dept. of Social services is providing relief assistance
- Meanwhile, M/ Rehabilitation and Reconstruction and several other organizations have been in assisting to displaced persons due to civil conflict
- Dec. 2005 – Under gazette No. 1422/22, dated on 08 Dec. 2005 Two Ministry were established
SRI LANKA DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT

THE ACT PROVIDES

- NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
- DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE
- TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES
- PREPARATION OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLANS
- THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF DISASTER
- THE AWARD OF COMPENSATION
LEGAL PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

- Direct, co-ordinate and use available resources to counter the effect of disasters or to mitigate such disaster.
- Direct, co-ordinate and use additional resources if when they need to prevent or mitigate impact of disasters.
- Issue directions and guidance to appropriate organizations at the disasters.
- Every ministry, department or other government organization take all measures necessary to implement DMP prepared under this Act.
NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

- UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION
- PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL DIRECTION TO IMPLEMENT DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN SRI LANKA
- THE COUNCIL WILL BE CHAIRMED BY PRESIDENT
- PRIME MINISTER WILL BE VICE PRESIDENT
- MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE
- THE MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, FINANCE, HEALTH, LAND & AGRICULTURE, FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING, WATER RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HIGHWAYS AND FISHERIES
- CHIEF MINISTERS OF THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ALSO WILL BE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL
- FIVE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT APPOINTED BY SPEAKER IN CONSULTATION WITH PARTY LEADERS
- SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL
Vision of the NDMC

“Safer Communities through Risk Reduction, ensuring Sustainable Development”
MISSION STATEMENT OF THE NDMC

“Protect human life, property and environment and reduce risks from disasters through measures on preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, ensuring Sustainable Development”
Objectives of the NDMC

- Minimize human suffering, material damage, loss and distress from disasters for providing response and recovery activities
- Contribute to the Sustainable Development of the country through mitigating of Disasters
- Achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG) through Disaster reduction
- Promoting and strengthening capacities to coping up impact of disasters
- Promote Community Based Disaster Management, ensuring safer Communities at Grass root level
- Develop preparedness programmes, making awareness of officials and general publics
- Implement Vulnerability and Risk reduction programmes
- Accumulate and Disseminate disaster information
Functions of the NDMC

- Developing and implementing programmes to meet the impact of disasters.
- Providing assistance to victims of disasters.
- Monitoring, coordination and evaluation of the activities of disaster response and recovery with relevant authorities and parties concerned.
- Implementation of Recovery Programmes to regain livelihood opportunities and economic activities of the victims displaced by disasters.
- Contributing to sustainable development programmes in the affected areas through disaster response and recovery.
- Awareness programmes for public officers, school children and the general public on risk and vulnerability reduction.
- Maintaining a Data Bank on disaster management for accumulation and dissemination of disaster information.
- Promotion of community based disaster management programmes.
- Setting up an emergency operations unit.
Activities of the NDMC

Education & Training
Providing Disaster Response & Recovery Assistance
Risk & Vulnerability Reduction Programmes

Drought Mitigation & Rehabilitation Programme

Objectives

- To uplift living conditions of the low income groups below the sustainable level in the areas affected by drought.
- To improve the basic infrastructure facilities especially connected with agriculture in the drought affected areas.
- To appraise the affected people of a coping up mechanism to mitigate the impact of drought in future.
- To change the mentality of dependency of people on relief.
- To create sustainable development through self-reliance.
PROJ ECS SELECTED UNDER THE PROGRAMME

- RECONSTRUCTION OF SMALL TANKS
PROJECTS SELECTED

- REPAIRING CANALS OF BUNDS
PROJECTS SELECTED

- CONSTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL ROADS
Rain Water Ponds
Rain Water Harvesting Tanks

Closed System

Open System
Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Programmes
Awareness Programms
Disaster Management Information

<table>
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<th>Data card No.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Duration in Dates</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>Province</td>
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<td>Events</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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<td>Missing</td>
<td>Injured</td>
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<td>Female Affected</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Total Loss US $</td>
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<td>Comments</td>
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**National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC)**
Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) - Data Entry Card

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Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) - Data Entry Card

**National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC)**
Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) - Data Entry Card
Disaster Related Publications

Agrowells for Drought Mitigation

Dr. C. Shanthi de Silva

National Disaster Management Centre
Ministry of Social Services of Lanka
Disaster Management Plans for Districts
Strengthening Capacity Building
International & Regional Cooperation

REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING
FOR EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE IN
DISASTER MANAGEMENT

at
KALUTARA TANGERINE HOTEL

DECEMBER 9 TO 13 - 1996

National Disaster Management Centre
Ministry of Health, Highways & Social Services
“Suwasiripaya” 385, Baddegama Wimalans Waththa,
Colombo - 10  SRI LANKA
Lessons learnt from previous Disasters

- Inadequate early warning
- Lack of Coordination
- Non-availability of institutional framework
- Lack of communication and information system
- Non-availability of a District and Divisional contingency plan
- Political will
- Inadequate risk, vulnerability, damage and capacity Assessment
- Effective and efficient contribution of officials
- International and Local support to cope up with disaster
Lessons learnt

- Stockpiling strategy
- Psycho-social intervention
- Lack of knowledge and skills of the officials related to response and recovery measures
- Lack of modern technological support
- Lack of public awareness and perception of the people regarding the disasters
- Unplanned settlement
Road Ahead

- Strengthen capacities of the new Ministry and NDMC
- Identify role and functions related to Disaster Management of the new Ministry and NDMC
- Gather all activities, institutes and branches concerned at the umbrella of the ministry in terms of the gazette and budgetary provisions in 2006
- Revise and modify existing circular instructions of the Relief assistance at Disaster
- Prepare and implement Risk Management Programmes to the country
- Making awareness on disasters among Children, General Public and Officials
- Enhance coordination with UN, International Agencies and NGOs in the whole process
Road Ahead

- Prepare the disaster preparedness and action plans to all levels - GNN, DSS and District levels to mitigate and then respond in an effective and coordinated manner
- Research & Publications - Disaster-related
- Develop the International cooperation related to Disaster Management
- Implement long term Risk Management, ensuring Sustainable Development
- Strengthen coordination among disaster-related organizations at the National Level
Thank you