



Sri Lanka



*UWL Chandradasa
Disaster Management Centre*

Disaster Risk Reduction for Safer Sri Lanka

Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction 2008

I. Make disaster risk reduction [DRR] a priority

Activities and results

- Enactment of the Sri Lanka Disaster Management (DM) Act
- Roadmap for Disaster Risk Management – Towards a Safer Sri Lanka
- Formulation of Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Policy
- Formulation of National Disaster Management Plan and National Emergency Operation Plan

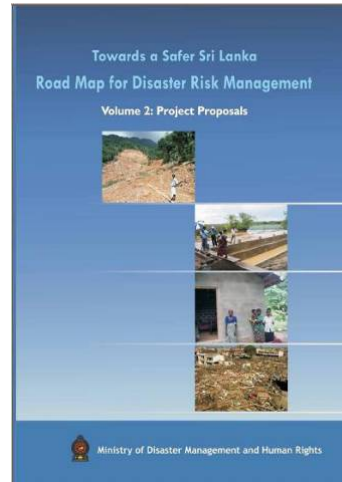
Gaps and challenge identified

- For speedy and smooth functioning of the DRM mechanism amendments to the act is required
- Some of the major stakeholders do not have the legal mandates for carrying out the required functions
- There no legislation to for integration of DRR in all development projects
- There are more than one nodal ministry at national level to look after all phases of DM cycle

Plan

- ❖ Cabinet approval obtain to amend the Act, restructure DMC and provided mandate to organization without mandate
- ❖ Amend the act to involve Local Govt. And Provincial Govt. in Disaster response

I. Make disaster risk reduction [DRR] a priority



II. Improve risk information and early warning

Activities and results

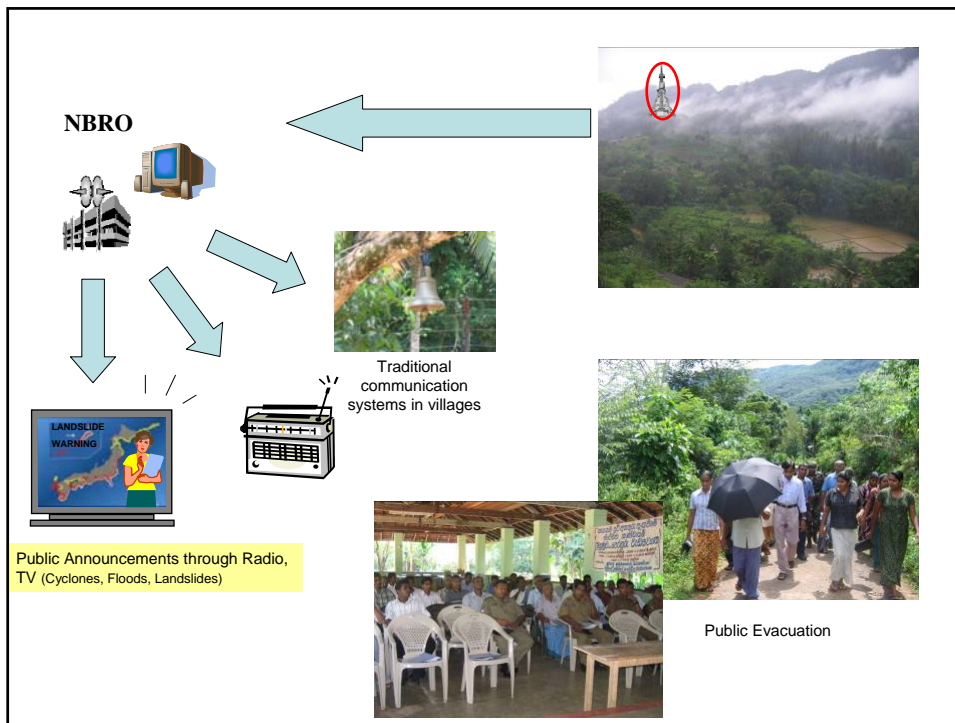
- Establish Disaster and Emergency Warning Network - (DEWN)
- Establishment of Nation-wide Emergency Communication System
- Erecting Multi-Hazard Warning Towers in Selected Coastal Areas
- Links with media and international level early warning providers established (PTWC, JMA)
- Establish early warning committees at village level and provide equipment to disseminate EW message

Gaps and challenge identified

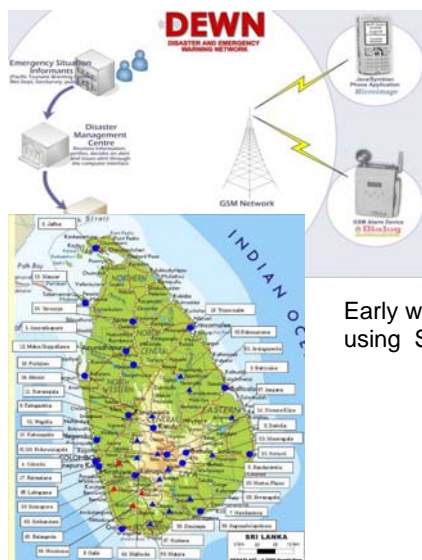
- The inherent attitude of communities in forgetting past happenings very quickly.
- Minimize issue of false warning by individuals and interested organisations
- Maintain the enthusiasm of village level EW committees
- Breakdown of communication system due to congestion
- Inadequate capacity of focal points to forecast early warning

Plan

- ❖ Strengthen the capacity of Early Warning committees at village level
- ❖ Encourage use of traditional systems such as drums, bells in religious places to warn public



II. Improve risk information and early warning



Early Warning Tower

III. Build a culture of safety and resistance

Activities and results

- Conducting DRM Training Programme
- Public Awareness Programme on DRM
- Integration of Disaster Management into School curriculum
- Capacity building for preparedness and response at community level
- Govt has declared Dec 26 as a National Safety Day undertake programmes to improve awareness
- Establishment of National Platform at National level

Gaps and challenge identified

- Even with threat to their lives some communities do not heed to the alerts and resist evacuations
- Dependency of people on disaster relief provided Changing prevailing attitudes from reactive to proactive

Plan

- ❖ Conduct training programme to strengthen the 1st Aid, search & rescue capacity
- ❖ Conduct programme to change prevailing attitudes from reactive to proactive
- ❖ Introduce community based micro insurance programme at village level
- ❖ Establish platforms at sub national level to improve coordination

**EVACUATION PLANS, EVACUATION ROUTS, EVACUATION PLACES
IN TSUNAMI, LANDSLIDE AND FLOOD PRONE AREAS**

The collage illustrates various aspects of disaster preparedness and response:

- Top Left:** A group of people, including a man in a blue shirt and a woman in a white shirt, are gathered around a table, looking at a large map or document.
- Top Right:** A hand-drawn map on a piece of paper, showing a network of roads and areas marked with 'T' and 'D'. Red and blue lines are drawn on the map, likely representing evacuation routes or zones.
- Middle Left:** A photograph showing a concrete structure, possibly a bridge or a raised walkway, built along a riverbank or a path, used for evacuation.
- Middle Right:** A photograph of a mobile phone, likely used for communication during emergencies.
- Bottom Right:** A network diagram titled "Grant Aid : Intra-governmental Network Information Sharing by Dedicated Line". It shows a central node labeled "Central Level" connected to "NDRF" and "DOM". Below this, "Intra-state Networks" are shown with nodes for "DCM" and "DDI". To the right, "Out State Networks" are shown with nodes for "District DMC". A note indicates "Districts vulnerable for Flood and Landslide: Colombo, Gampaha, Kegalle, Rathnapura, Kalutara, Galle and Matara". The diagram also shows connections to "Internet" and "Mobile".

III. Build a culture of safety and resistance

Drought resistance paddy varieties



Strengthening community resilience



Hazard mapping exercise



IV. Reduce the underlying risk factors

Activities and results

- Development of guidelines for construction in disaster prone areas
- Assist district organizations to implement flood mitigation activities
- Development of Hazard maps and Risk profile for Floods, Cyclones, Tsunami, Droughts and Landslides
- Introduce methodology to incorporate disaster impacts in the development planning stage

Gaps and challenge identified

- Difficulties in resettling people living in identified high risk landslide prone areas due to social and political issues
- EIA process does not address impacts of disasters adequately
- Inadequate funds for DRR activities

Plan

- ❖ Enforcement of the legal provisions already in place. E.g., land use zoning considering prevalent hazards
- ❖ Develop criteria to mitigate disaster impact at project development stage & train stakeholder on the assessment of impacts
- ❖ Train stakeholders to use hazard maps and

IV. Reduce the underlying risk factors



Kospelena



DRR by Mitigating Floods



DRR by implementing Mitigating activities.

V. Strengthen preparedness to respond in an emergency at all levels in order to effectively and speedily assist those who are adversely affected

Activities and results

- Establishment of 24/7 Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs)
- Development of Disaster Preparedness & Response Plan
- Capacity Building of Local Authorities for Emergency Response
- Development of Sri Lanka Disaster Resource Network (SLDRN)
- Conducting evacuation drills at villages, schools and hospitals
- Introduction of Incident Command System for Emergency Response

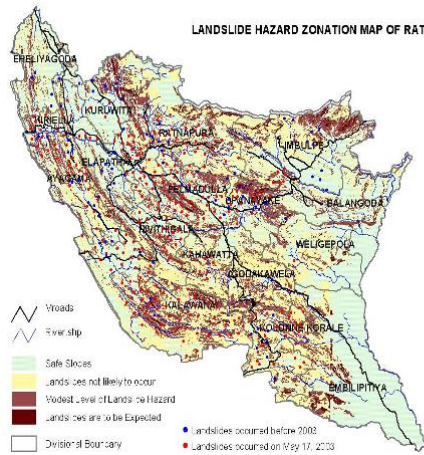
Gaps and challenge identified

- Immediately after a severe event, drills and community planning activities etc. were well received by the community, but interest fading away after some time
- Difficulty in sustaining the interest of trained volunteers at village level

Plan

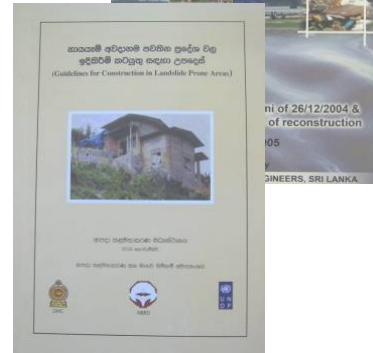
- ❖ Continue developing disaster preparedness and response plans at sub-national levels
- ❖ Promoting Community Volunteerism & continue developing coping capacity of people
- ❖ Integrate DRM activities with poverty alleviation programmes
- ❖ Practicing island wide evacuation drills on National safety Day.

V. Strengthen preparedness to respond in an emergency at all levels in order to effectively and speedily assist those who are adversely affected



Development of Hazard maps

GUIDELINES FOR BUILDINGS AT RISK FROM NATURAL DISASTERS



Guidelines for construction in hazard prone areas

Conclusion

- Establish a regional level Tsunami Early warning provider
- Encourage the sharing of data and information of frequent disaster in the region
- Provide more opportunities to share experience
- Assist to develop the capacity of those involved in disaster Management field.