

## Disaster Management in Sri Lanka & Initiatives for Risk Reduction

Nimal Hettiarachchi  
 Director  
 National Disaster Management Centre  
 Ministry of Disaster Relief Services  
 Sri Lanka

## Sri Lanka – Location



### 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 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\$ 3000 MILLIONS.



- 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 13 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

### 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 CHAIRED 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

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES



- TAC ASSISTS THE COUNCIL, FACILITATING TECHNICAL ADVICE
- IT SHOULD BE COMPRISED OF THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVES
- NBRO, CHPB, RDA, CEA, GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPT., COASTAL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY, ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITY, DEPT. OF METEOROLOGY, FOREST DEPT., IRRIGATION DEPT. AND UNIVERSITIES
- THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL

## Vision of the NDMC



“ Safer Communities through Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development”

## MISSION STATEMENT OF THE NDMC



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

## Objectives of the NDMC



- To minimize human suffering, material damage, loss and distress from disasters
- To contribute to the Sustainable Development of the country through mitigating of Disasters
- To achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDG) through Disaster reduction
- Promoting and strengthening capacities to coping up impact of disasters
- To Promote Community Based Disaster Management, ensuring safer Communities at Grass root level
- To develop preparedness programmes, making awareness of officials and general publics
- To protect people and properties, disseminating early warning in time
- To Implement Vulnerability and Risk reduction programmes
- To coordinate and monitor all activities of disaster management in the country, combating impact of disasters

## Role of NDMC



- Prepare National Disaster Management Plan & Emergency Operation Plan
- Ensure Disaster Preparedness, prevention, mitigation and risk reduction planning
- Create awareness on above activities
- Facilitate and support local and community self-reliance
- Liaison with Local and International organisations/ persons involved in risk-reduction activities
- Enhance International and Regional Cooperation

### *Role of NDMC*



- Initiate Disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, rehabilitation programmes
- **Review and revise** the National Disaster Management Plan
- **Coordinate and monitor the implementation** of disaster mgt. plans of various ministries, departments and public corporations
- Establish a **Disaster Management Information System** on disasters at all levels
- Conducting Community Based Programmes
- Conducting Risk Management activities
- Preparation Divisional and Village level disaster preparedness and action plans

### *Preparedness Measures*



Since drought - 2001 and flood and landslide - 2003, we have been fulfilling the following activities:

- **Awareness generation through workshops** at the grassroots level involving experts, and organisations like NBRO
- **Drought prevention strategies** in the likely districts proposed involving NDMC, Open University and NGOO

### *Preparedness Measures*



#### **Prevention, Mitigation & Risk Reduction:**

- Conducting **Lessons Learnt Workshops** in all affected districts through District Secretaries with support from UNDP
- Assist District Secretaries in formulation of **District and Division level Disaster Preparedness & Response plans** with guidance from NDMC and UNDP
- **Community level Contingency plans**

### *Activities of the NDMC*

#### **Education & Training**

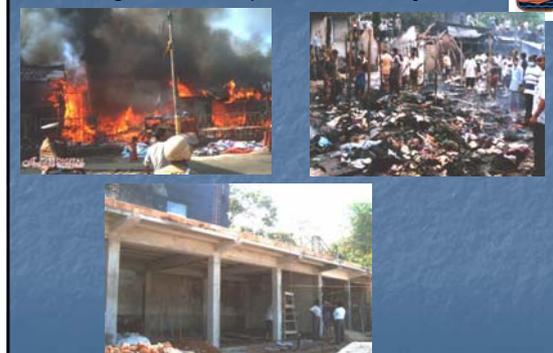


### *Community Based D/M Training*



### *Activities of the NDMC*

#### **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
- CREATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SELF-RELIANCE

PROJECTS 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

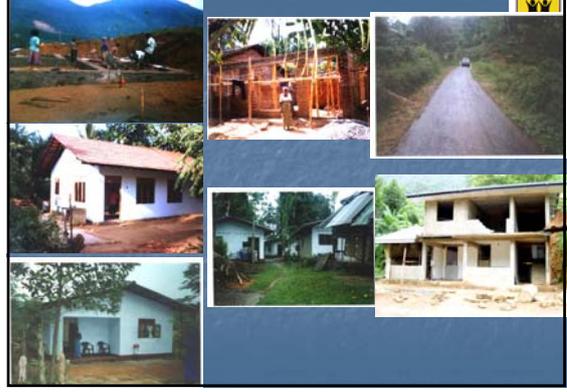
Closed System

Open System

### Coordination of Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Programmes



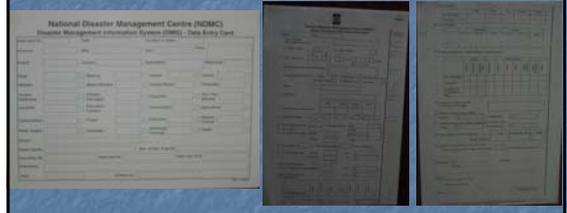
### Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Programmes



### Awareness Programmes



### Disaster Management Information



### Disaster Related Publications



### Strengthening Capacity Building



## International & Regional Cooperation



## *Road Ahead.....*



- Strengthen capacities of the new Ministry and NDMC
- Identify roll 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 NGOO in the whole process
- Strengthen coordination among disaster- related organizations at the National Level

## *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