

STATUS OF IMPLIMENTING HFA IN SRI LANKA

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Summary of Progress on Implementation of HFA

- ◆ DRR has been made a priority in Sri Lanka since the enactment of Sri Lanka DM Act in the Parliament in May 2005
- ◆ The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) was established as the leading body for disaster risk management in Sri Lanka with the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) as the executing agency
- ◆ The Council is represented by Cabinet Ministers in charge of 20 subject areas
- ◆ All DRM activities focus around the DMC functioning under the M/DM&HR with stakeholders at different levels
- ◆ The major stakeholder agencies in these subject areas and other stakeholders have been identified

Summary – contd...

- ◆ Action has been initiated to establish the National Platform with stakeholder representation from relevant levels and two awareness workshops have been conducted
- ◆ Minor shortcomings:
 - Duplication / repetition of roles of different agencies;
 - Problems faced in establishing / expanding the DMC and the countrywide DRM mechanism; and
 - Problems during implementing district activities etc.
- ◆ Some major stakeholders do not have mandate for functions which they are carrying out at present, which have to be corrected
- ◆ Various advisory & technical committees established

Summary – contd...

- ◆ For coordination of activities at district level, DMC structure was designed to include District Disaster Management Units with a DM Coordinator and assistants
- ◆ Similar mechanism being planned at provincial level to cover local authorities
- ◆ In prone regions DM Committees have been established at sub-national levels
- ◆ In many regions at sub-national levels (flood, landslide and tsunami prone) Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans are being developed; some completed
- ◆ Public awareness started initially in tsunami prone areas; subsequently extended to areas prone to other hazards utilising the District DM Units
- ◆ Capacity building is underway for community level volunteer groups for preparedness, SAR and early response

Some challenges in implementation of DRR initiatives

- ◆ Changing prevailing attitudes from reactive to proactive
- ◆ The inherent attitude of communities in forgetting past happenings very quickly.
- ◆ Immediately after a severe event, drills and community planning activities etc. are well received by the community, but interest fading away after some time
- ◆ Even with threat to their lives some communities do not heed to the alerts of landslides when other community members inform of the danger and resist quick evacuation
- ◆ Difficulties in resettling people living in identified high risk landslide prone areas due to social and political issues
- ◆ Timely intervention in the development of disaster preparedness and response plans at sub-national levels to enable the mechanisms to be placed for response in case of a disaster.
- ◆ Enforcement of the legal provisions already in place. E.g., land use zoning considering prevalent hazards

Summary of Impacts

- ◆ Oil spill incident on 9th September 2006 in Koggala in Galle District
 - Unexpected incident, but Marine Pollution Prevention Authority (MPPA) had a good Emergency Response Plan and the DMC District Disaster Management Unit was in place
 - Authorities were prepared
 - MPPA, the DMC (head office / district unit) and the district / divisional administrations worked together in the response activities - successful in many ways
 - Community participation in oil clearing activities; slow initially, but caught up later in clearing and disposing the waste
- ◆ Community awareness about risk and early warning and evacuation has improved, as a result of the programmes conducted by the DMC district units and other NGOs and INGOs

Summary of Impacts – contd...

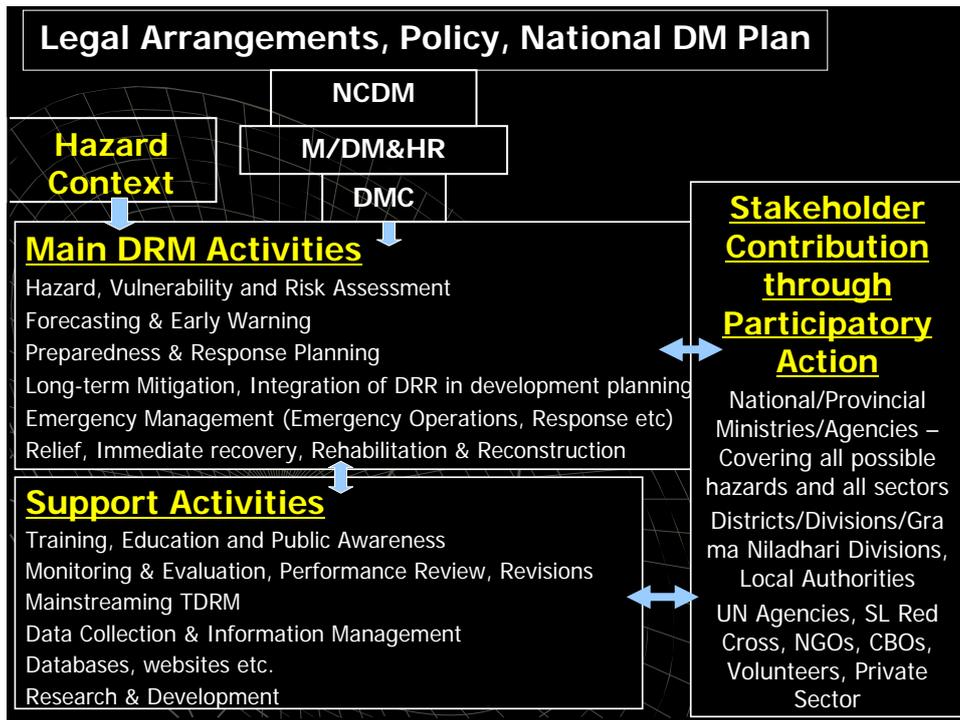
- ◆ In March 2006 when there was a tsunami alert, the relevant coastal communities were alerted and were evacuated in an organised manner
- ◆ In some locations where landslides occurred in the recent past communities were alerted in time and their lives were saved
- ◆ November 2006 – flood disaster in 4 districts. Events were managed well in collaboration with relevant stakeholders
- ◆ All relevant stakeholders and community were involved coordinated by the DMC District Disaster Management Unit

Five priorities for action

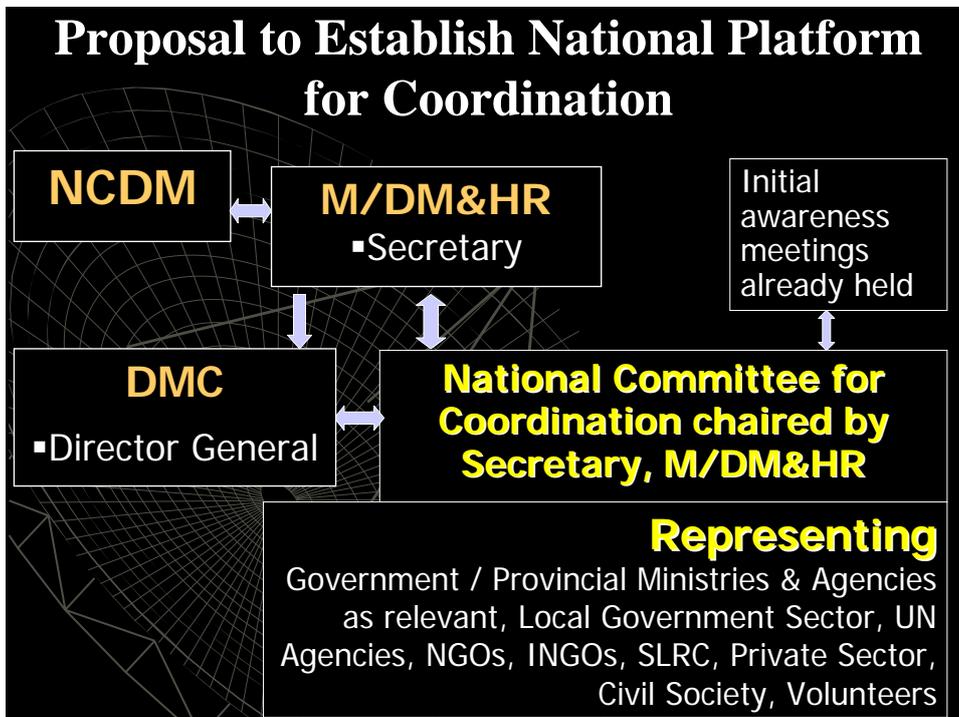
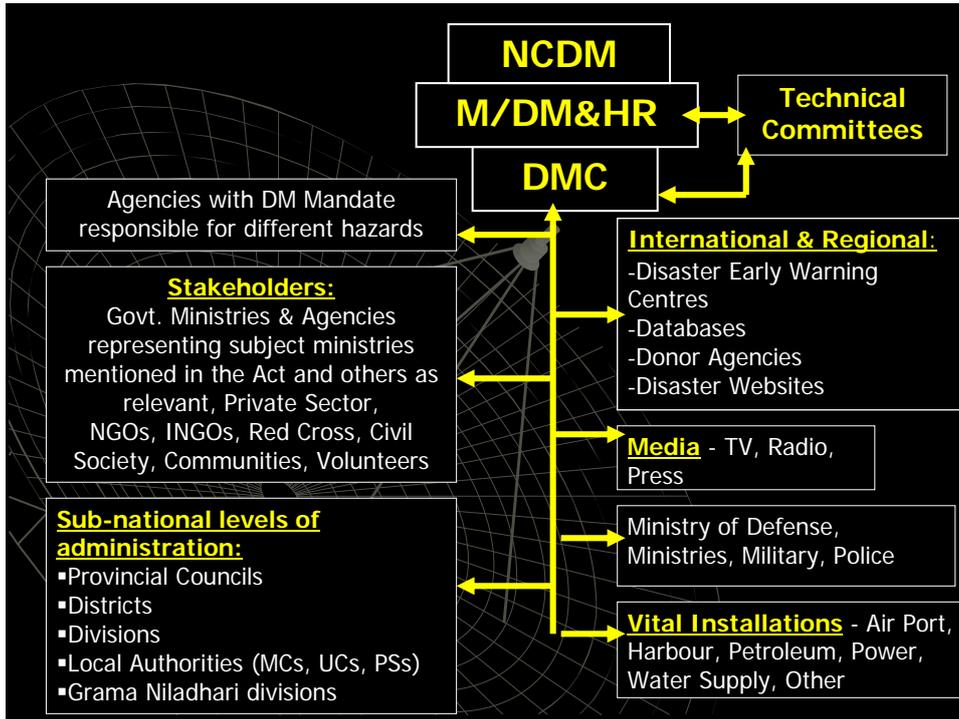
Action 1: Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation

- a. Enactment of the Sri Lanka Disaster Management (DM) Act, Establishment of NCDM/DMC, M/DM&HR
- b. Roadmap for Disaster Risk Management – Towards a Safer Sri Lanka
- c. Formulation of Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Policy
- d. Formulation of National Disaster Management Plan and National Emergency Operation Plan
- e. Appointment of Technical Advisory Committees

Overall Country Wide DRM Framework

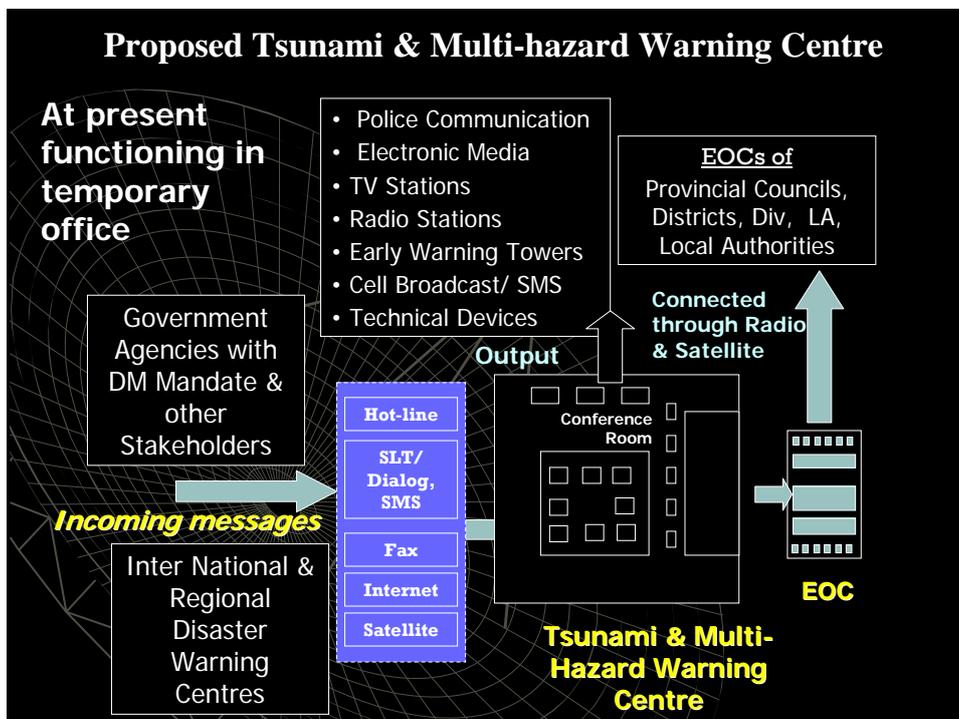


National Institutional Framework for effective TDRM



Action 2: Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

- a. Disaster and Emergency Warning Network - (DEWN)
- b. Establishment of Nation-wide Emergency Communication System
- c. Erecting Multi-Hazard Warning Towers in Selected Coastal Areas
- d. RANET and World Space Radio Broadcasting on Disaster Messages
- e. DisInventar
- f. Risk profile for Sri Lanka



Action 3: Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

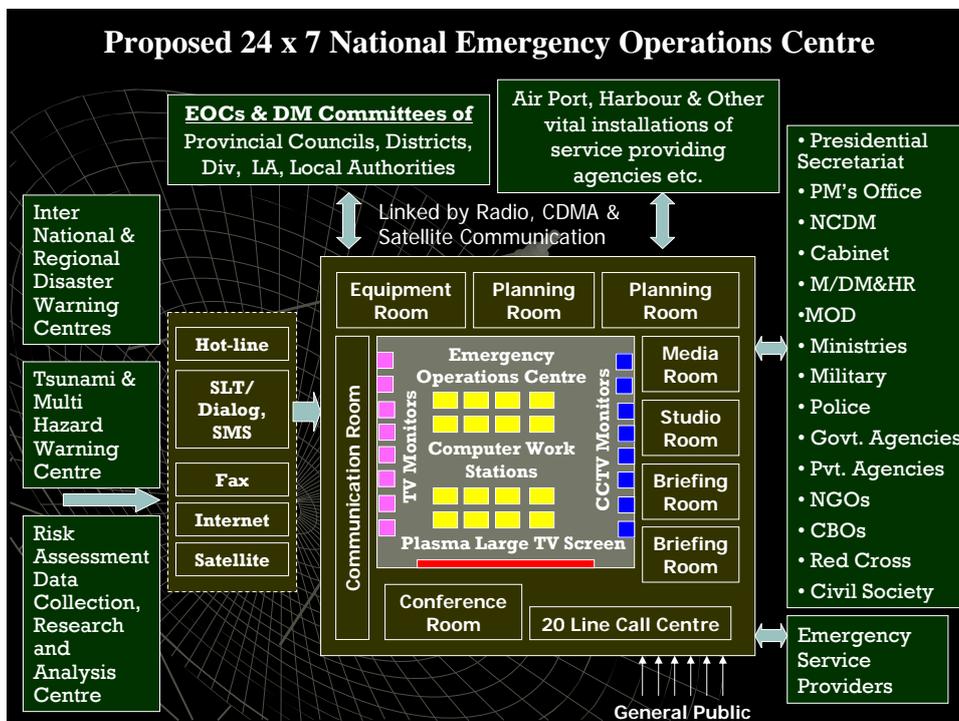
- a. DRM Training Programme
- b. Public Awareness Programme on DRM
- c. Integration of Disaster Management into School curriculum
- d. Capacity building for preparedness and response at community level

Action 4: Reduce the underlying risk factors

- a. Comprehensive Study on Disaster Management in Sri Lanka
- b. Development of Building Guidelines
- c. Establishment of Natural Barriers along the coast
- d. Programme to mitigate the effect of drought at house hold level in selected drought prone districts
- e. Cleaning and de-silting of canals in all districts affected by floods in 2006 and 2007

Action 5: Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response

- a. Establishment of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs)
- b. Development of Disaster Preparedness & Response Plans
- c. Capacity Building of Local Authorities for Emergency Response
- d. Sri Lanka Disaster Resource Network (SLDRN)
- e. Promoting Community Volunteerism





Thank you

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SRI LANKA**