



*Sri Lanka*

*Review Implementation of HFA in Sri Lanka  
Issues and Challenges*

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***Action 1-Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national  
and local priority***

**1.1 National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists**

- D M Act No.13 Sri Lanka enacted in 2005 is being amended to address gaps identified & strengthen implementation.
- With implementations amendments to the Act Institutional responsibility will be changed giving DMC more authority
- DM policy formulated and submitted for approval
- Five year Corporate Plan for DMC formulated and will be implemented from 2010.
- National Disaster Management Plan developed and awaiting approval

## 1.2 Dedicated and adequate resources are available

Govt. allocation for pre disaster activities

In 2008 - US\$ 8 mns

In 2009 - US\$ 12 mns

In 2010 - US\$ 14 mns

- Staff available in DMC 75 national level and 135 regional level
- DMC being restructured to make the staff permanent
- Act is being amended to strengthen Community participation

## 1.3 A national multi-sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning

National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee with the participation of 67 members of state and private sector organizations and I/NGO established in 2007 and functioning under the Chairmanship of Secretary Ministry of DM

## Action 2 - *Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*

### 2.1 National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available

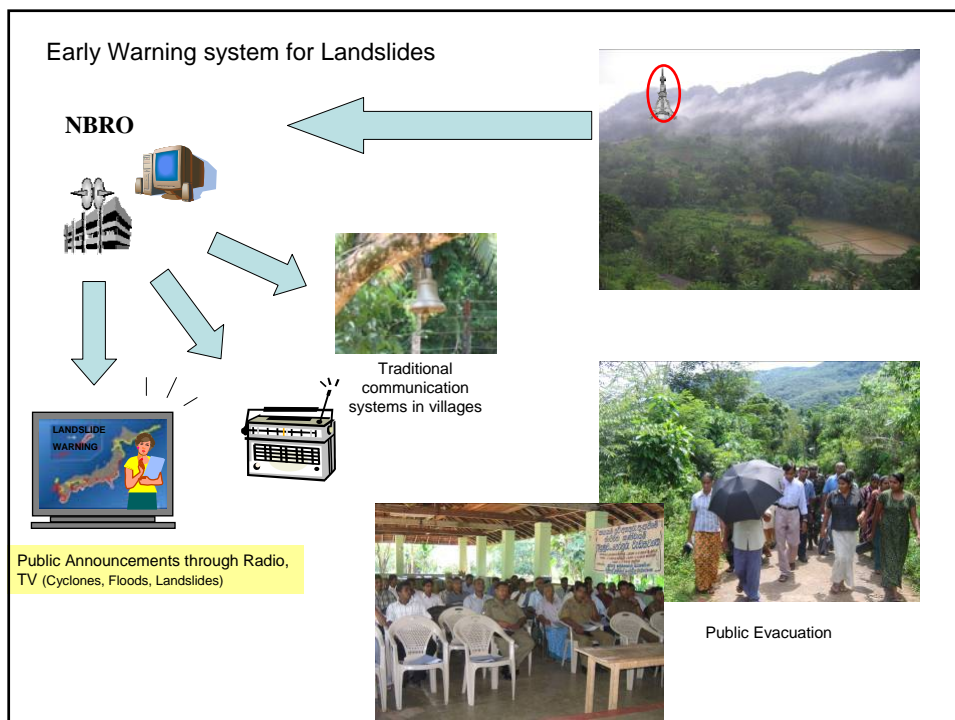
- Hazard maps are being prepared for land slides, floods, cyclone, drought and Coastal hazards will be completed in 2011.
- Data layers for preparation of vulnerability maps will be completed by Dec 2010

### 2.2 Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities

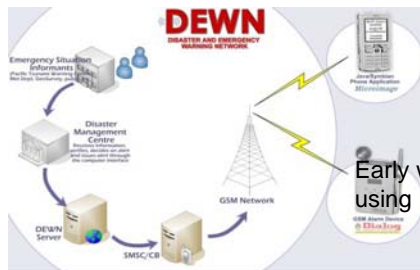
- Monitoring of disasters and updating data undertaken by District Disaster Management Coordinating Units.
- Information on disaster since 1974 collected and available in the web site [www.disinventar.gov.lk](http://www.disinventar.gov.lk)

### 2.3 Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities

- Technical agencies issuing warning identified and contact established with regional EW providers
- 55 nos Early Warning towers are established along the coast and system established to issue warning with in 5 minutes of receipt of messages
- System establish with mobile operators to disseminate messages using SMS and cell broadcasting
- Arrangements made to disseminate EW messages through Police and army communication system.
- Village level committee are strengthen with equipments and training to disseminate messages



## II. Early warning dissemination using Towers and DEWN system



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

#### 3.1 Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholder

- Conducting Public awareness on disasters and disaster risks through community based hazard mapping exercise, Evacuation drills, workshop and media interviews, national level exhibitions
- Development of hazard maps and publishing in the DMC website.
- Quarterly news letters and leaflets published by DMC

3.2 School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices

- DRR included in school curricula of different subjects for grade 6-11 and teachers guide book.
- Guidelines are developed to conduct school safety programme and safety plans prepared and evacuation drills conducted in selected school in vulnerable districts.
- Supplementary reading material of Disaster Management is being developed with the assistance of Educational Authorities.
- Essay and art competitions on DRR are conducted annually in a selected district and winning schools are provided with certificates and books.

3.3 Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened

- DMC with the assistance of UNDP encourage National Research Institutions and universities to undertake research and discuss findings at the National symposium held annually.

3.3 Country-wide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities

Declaration of 26th December as National Safety day by the government and island wide programme conducted involving media

National level Evacuation drills conducted regularly stimulate the disaster resilience at village and urban level.

#### *Action 4- Reduce the underlying risk factors*

- National physical planning Authorities have agreed to issue guideline to incorporate the DRR components in future physical development planning process.
- Guidelines for the construction of buildings in Disaster prone areas have been developed and issued to development agencies.
- EIA procedure incorporates Disaster Impacts to some extent. Discussions are in progress with Environmental Authorities to improve the procedure.
- Procedure develop by SAARC Disaster Management Authority will be studied to develop criteria to assess the disaster risk of project.
- Implementing Strategic Environmental Assessment incorporating DRR in all region will reduce the vulnerability of economic activities to disasters.

#### *Action 5- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*

- 24/7 Emergency Operation room established to coordinate response activities
- In the event of a disaster DM Act provides for the appointment of a appropriate authority for the Disaster Risk Management with powers to coordinate with any organization.
- Capacity of Local Government Authorities are improved with the provision of equipment to respond disasters
- Radio communication system established to coordinate emergency response activities.
- Disaster Preparedness plans for 20 districts, 114 divisions and 450 Villages have been completed.
- Drills are conducted regularly at village and national levels

## Issues and Challenges

- Non availability of digital elevation data for development of flood hazard maps
- Methodology for the development of disaster risk maps need to be finalized.
- Inadequate legal provisions for the implementation of DRR concepts in development projects
- Capacity of local government sector for the use of Risk maps inadequate
- Non availability of funds for immediate response
- Inadequate capacity to develop preparedness plans for all vulnerable villages

Thank you for your attention