



Community-Based Tsunami Preparedness in Sri Lanka and its Challenges

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Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Country Profile of Sri Lanka and Tsunami Vulnerability
- Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004
- Institutional Arrangements
- Tsunami Preparedness Initiatives in the Communities in Sri Lanka
- Challengers



Introduction

Community-based tsunami preparedness is the collective efforts of a community to prepare for and respond to the threat of tsunamis. Its Include;

1. Education and Awareness
2. Warning Systems
3. Evacuation Plans
4. Drills and Training
5. Community Engagement
6. Disaster Recovery Plans



Why Community-Based Tsunami Preparedness is Important

Local Knowledge and Ownership

Rapid Response

Effective Evacuation

Cultural and Linguistic Understanding

Social Cohesion

Bottom-Up Engagement

Resilience and Self-Reliance

Reduced Loss of Life

Sustainability



Community-Based Tsunami Preparedness is a proactive approach to disaster risk reduction and emergency response involving local coastal communities.

Community-based tsunami preparedness recognizes that local knowledge and action are essential for saving lives during tsunami events.

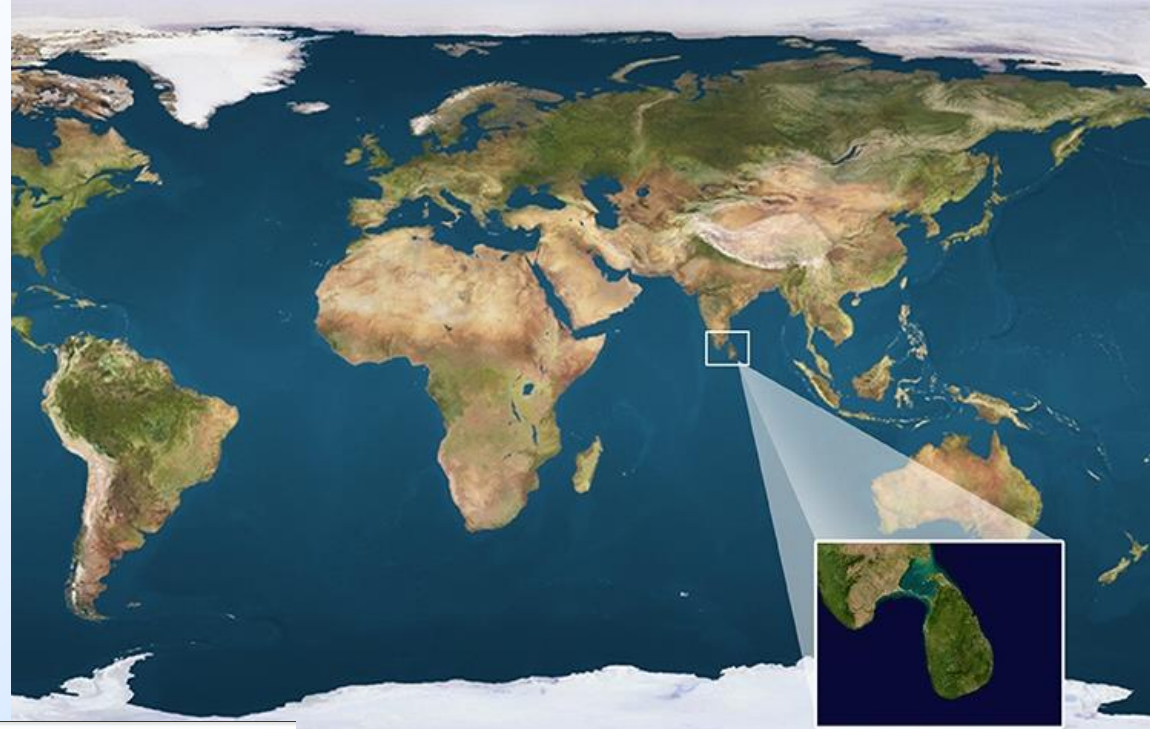
When communities are well-prepared and can respond effectively, the impact of a tsunami can be significantly reduced.

Tsunami preparedness is a matter of life and death in coastal communities.



Country Profile of Sri Lanka and Tsunami Vulnerability

- Sri Lanka is an Island
- Location
Indian ocean, Indian sub continent
- Latitudes 50.55' -90.55 N
- Longitudes 790.42' -810.52' E
- Land area : 65,610 km²
- Maximum Length :
445 km
- Maximum Breadth :
225 km



Population of Sri Lanka
21,893,579

Approximately 33 percent of Sri Lanka's population lives in coastal areas



Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26-12-2004

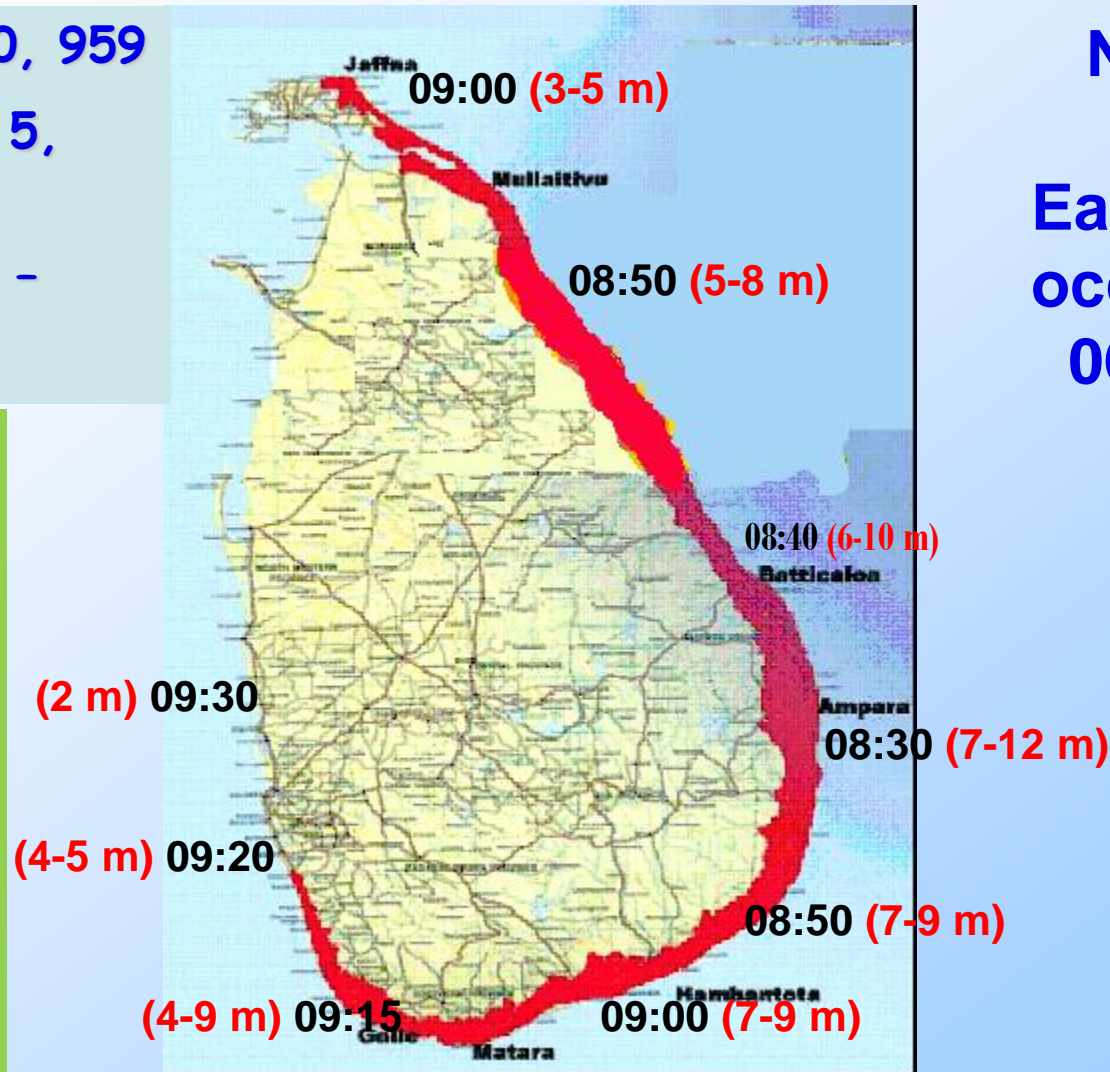
Number dead - 30, 959

Number missing - 5, 644

Number displaced - 500, 669

Most severely affected areas in SL

1. Batticaloa
2. Trincomalee
3. Hambantota
4. Galle
5. Matara
6. Ampara
7. Mullaitivu
8. Jaffna



Note: (9 Mw)
Earthquake occurred at 06:58 am

Time of arrival of first wave and estimated max. wave height



Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26-12-2004



Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26-12-2004



Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26-12-2004



Some of the devastation



Institutional Arrangements

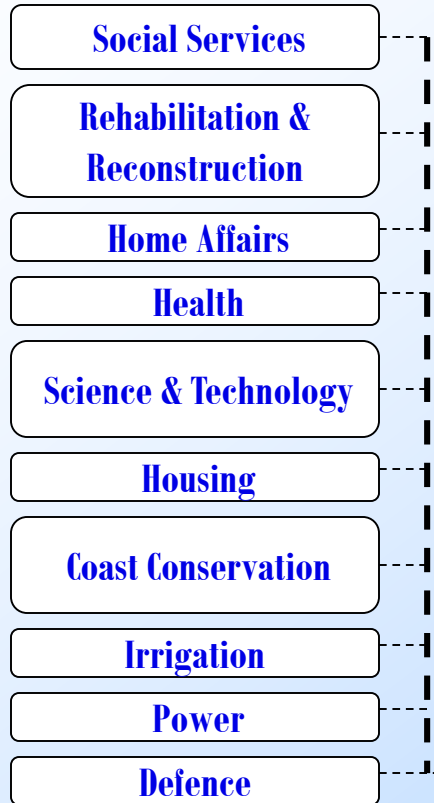
Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act; No.13 of 2005

- ✓ Provides for a Framework for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Sri Lanka
- ✓ Addresses Disaster Management (DM) holistically, leading to a policy shift from response based mechanisms to a proactive approach
- ✓ Measures have been taken to amend the act to address the DRM concerns after 05 years of implementation

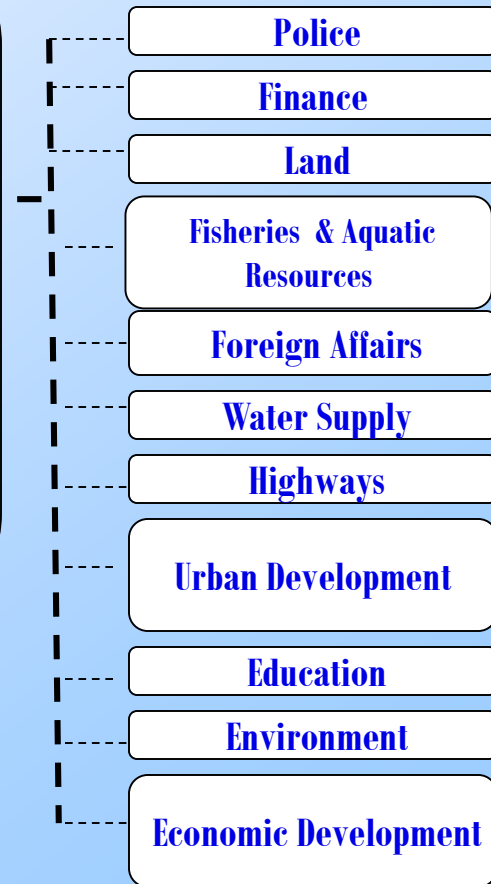


National Council For Disaster Management

Ministers in charge of



Ministers in charge of



DMC



Tsunami Preparedness Initiatives in the Communities in Sri Lanka

Established Tsunami Early Warning Systems



Community-Based Awareness and Education



Participatory Hazard Mapping, Community Mobilization and Preparedness Planning



Evacuation Planning



Established Community Organizations (VDMC)

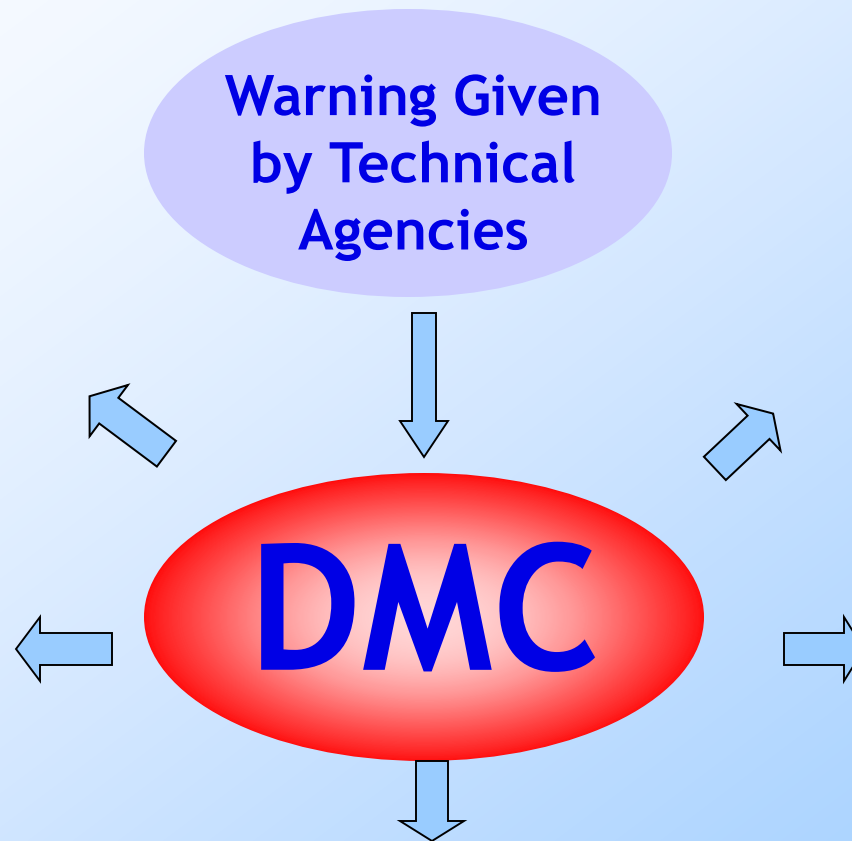


Established Tsunami Early Warning Systems

Receiving Technical Information from Various Agencies



Tsunami Early Warning Dissemination



**Vulnerable
Communities**



Multi-Hazard Early Warning Dissemination System

Receiving Early Warnings

USGS GDACS INCOIS **INDONESIAN MET** **AUS-MET** RIME S NARA DOM GSMB

Government Agencies, Critical Agencies & Stakeholders

- Police
- Media & General Public
- Military
- Regional & International Organizations
- UN System, INGOs, NGOs

Provincial Councils

- District Secretariats
- Divisional Secretariats
- Local Authorities
- Police Stations
- Hospitals
- Government Dpt.
- NGOs, CBOs

Multi-Hazards Early Warning Dissemination Unit of the DMC

24 hrs Emergency Operation Center

District Disaster Management Committees
Divisional Disaster Management Committees

Village level DM Committees

Out Puts

Radio Comm

SLT/ Dialog, SMS

Fax

Internet

Satellite com

Cell Broad.

Police Com

Military Com

Warning Towers

DEWN

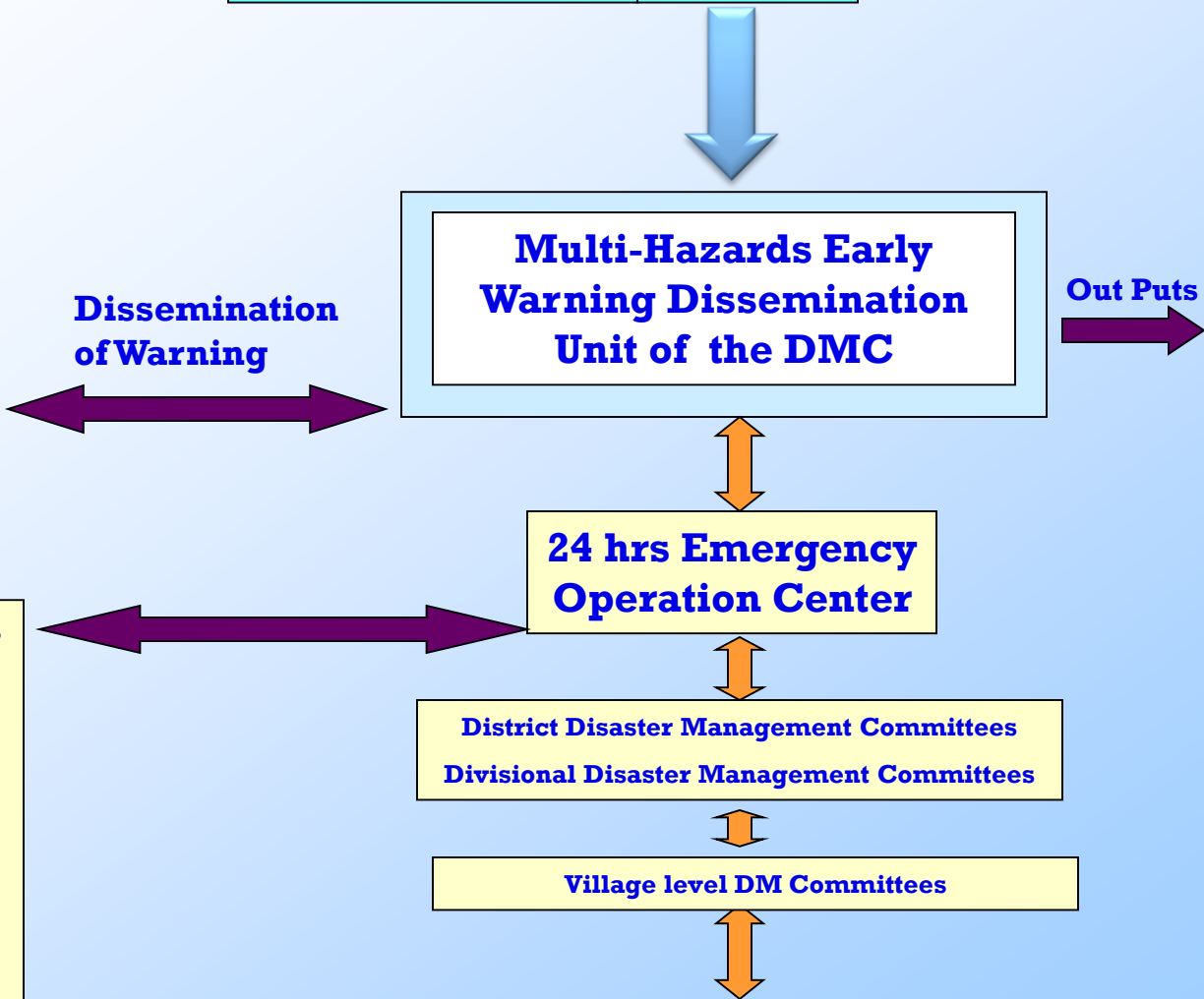
Media

Speaker Sys.

Bells / Sirens

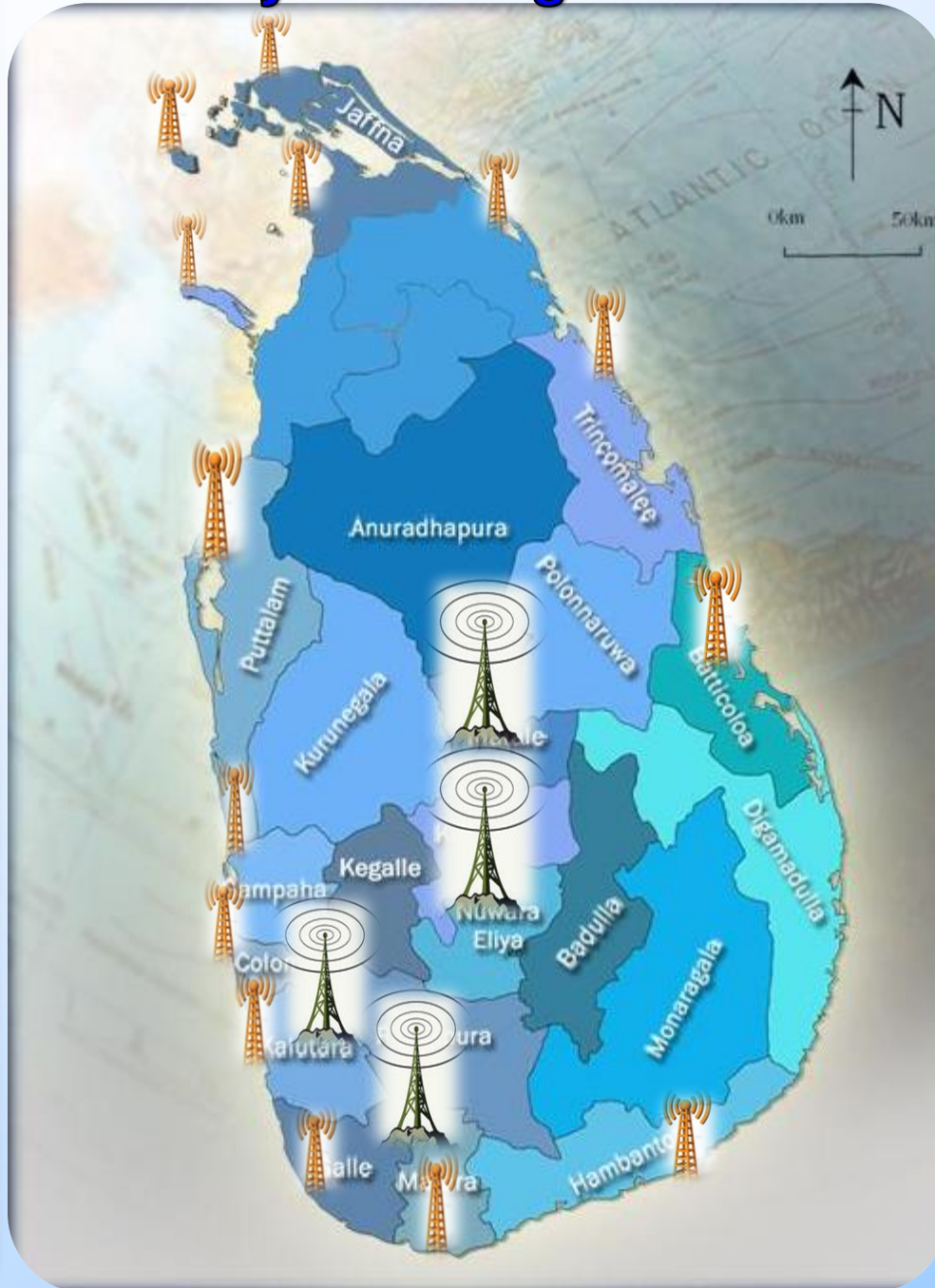
Messengers

Riders / Cyclers



Early Warning Tower Locations

74 Early Warning Towers



Repeater Stations

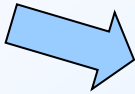


EW Towers



Community level Last-mile dissemination

Electronic media



DEWN

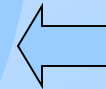


Messengers/Runners
Motor cyclists/Cyclists
/Three Wheelers
Sirens/Bells
Speaker systems in
villages
Telephone/Mobiles
Police vehicles with
speakers
Hand held VHF set

RADIO



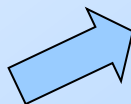
E-Communication



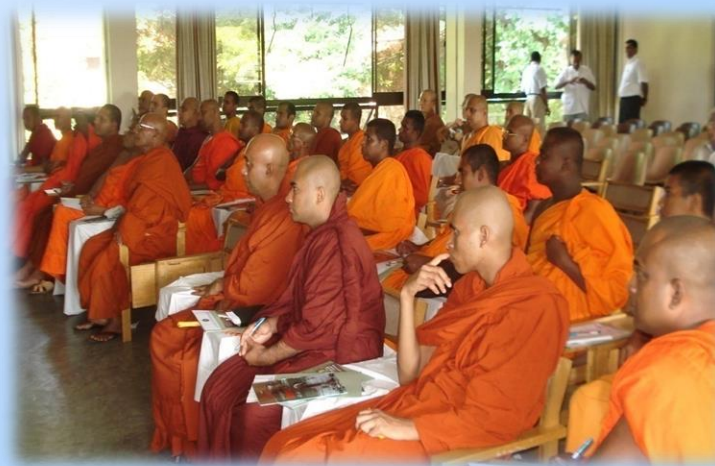
Warning
Towers



Telephones
Mobile/SMS



Community-Based Awareness and Education



Participatory Hazard Mapping, Community Mobilization and Preparedness Planning



Community Evacuation



Mock Drills to ensure timely evacuation



Established Community Organizations (VDMC) AT GN LEVEL

- Early Warning
- Medical / Health
- Search & Rescue
- Camp Management
- Village Security



Future Challenges

- Resource constraints
- Less community engagement and ownership
- The community-based DRR committee is not legalized
- Limited government resources



Thank You

