

SRI LANKA

I. Natural hazards in Sri Lanka

1.1 Natural hazards likely to affect the country

Drought, Earthquake, Epidemic, Extreme Temperature, Famine, Flood, Insect Infestation, Slides, Volcano, Wave / Surge, Wild Fires Wind Storm

1.2 Recent major disasters

year	dis_subset	killed	injured	total_affected	dam (US '000s)
2004	Drought	0	0	3500000	—
2003	Flash Flood	235	0	695000	29000
2004	Flood	6	0	200000	—
2005	Flood	6	0	145000	—
2004	Tsunami	35399	23176	1019306	1316500

Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database www.em-dat.net - Université Catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium"

II. Disaster Management system

2.1 Administrative system

Conventional long form: Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Conventional short form: Sri Lanka
Government type: republic
Capital: Colombo
Administrative divisions: 8 provinces; Central, North Central, North Eastern, North Western, Sabaragamuwa, Southern, Uva, Western; note - North Eastern province may have been divided in two - Northern and Eastern

2.2 Legal system, legal framework

Forest Policy (1929)

Amended in 1951 and further amended in 1980. It gave emphasis on the preservation of environments, the need for peoples participation and for social forestry.

Constitution (1978) of Sri Lanka:

Recognized the need for environmental protection and management as a fundamental right, obligation and responsibility of both the state and the people.

National Environment Act (1980):

Established the Central Environmental Authority in 1981, the focal point for environment, coordination and implementation of environmental matters. In 1988, CEA's functions were expanded to licensing procedures and drafting of legislations on environmental impact assessment procedures for developmental activities. In addition, several new public institutions came into being in order to deal with specific environmental issues.

National Disaster Management Bill (2005):

The salient features of the Bill include setting up of a National Disaster Management Authority under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister; State Disaster Management Authorities in the States/Union Territories under the chairmanship of Chief Minister or Lt. Governor or Administrator, as the case may be; and the District Disaster Management Authority under the District Magistrate in each district.

The National and State Authorities shall be responsible for laying down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management. The District Authority shall act as the district planning, coordination and implementing body for all disaster management related functions. These functions will include mitigation and preparedness measures also, besides response, relief and rehabilitation.

2.3 Structure of disaster management

The National Disaster Management Centre (1996) under the Ministry of Social Services and Housing Development is the focal point for disaster management in Sri Lanka.

NDMC serves as a secretariat to the National Disaster Management Council. The Disaster Management Centre has been set up under the Sri Lanka Disaster Counter Measures Bill. The Disaster Management Coordinating Committee is the apex body today for disaster prevention. This committee looks into to the prevention, mitigation and recovery from disasters.

The Department of Social Services, Ministry of Social Services takes a lead role in disaster Management specially on emergency relief assistance for the victims of disasters , rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.

Provincial Councils, District Secretariats and Divisional Secretariats at

various levels prepare and direct recovery activities. The District and Divisional level Disaster Management Coordinating Committees monitors disaster management activities at the district and divisional levels. The department implements all prevention, relief and rehabilitation activities through the Divisional Secretariats. The Department and the Divisional Secretariats have middle officers, called the Social Service officers, to assist the Divisional Secretariats to carry out the prevention and relief work at the Divisional level. These Secretariats also have another grade of officers (Grama Niladaries), Administrative officers at the Village level, to implement the activities relating to disasters.

The grassroot level Disaster Management Committees coordinates all activities pertaining to disasters at the village level.

In addition, the Human Disaster Management Unity was created in 2001 under the Presidential Secretariat to implement preparedness measures for man-made disasters.

2.4 Priority on disaster risk management

Multi-Hazard Mitigation Project, which started in 1997 is the priority activity on disaster risk management. It is being implemented by the Centre for Housing, Planning and Building in collaboration with the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) and the Urban Development Authority. It has three components: demonstration of methodologies for risk reduction in pilot areas, networking and training.

III. Disaster management plan

In 1993, an **Action Plan** was formulated by the Government of Sri Lanka. The basic objectives of the Action Plan are as follows:

- a. Prevention and mitigation of disasters;
- b. Protection of life and property;
- c. Maintenance and restoration of order in areas effected by disasters; and
- c. Provision of facilities for emergency response, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

The plan classified the activities under the following groups:

- a. Preparedness
- b. Relief operation
- c. Recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction,
- d. Awareness and public education,

Implementation strategies for the plan:

- a. Introduction of improved professional practices in the areas of agriculture, land use planning, construction and maintenance;
- b. Encouraging participation of non-governmental organizations, private institutions and individuals, and soliciting and directing private donations to recipients in affected areas;
- c. Fostering scientific and engineering studies (e.g. landslide hazard mapping) as tools for sustainable development;
- d. Emphasis on pre-disaster planning and preparedness, while sustaining and improving post-disaster relief, recovery and rehabilitation capabilities; and
- e. Integration of disaster prevention and preparedness in the national as well as sub-national planning processes.

In order to coordinate the Disaster Management work at hamlet, divisional, district and provincial levels, the mandates the formation of committees at different administrative levels. These committees consist of personnel drawn from public and private sectors. The plan also spells out the functions of the National Centre for Disaster Management.

IV. Budget size on national level

The fund for disaster management activities is dependent on the annual budget of the Department of Social Services, which is very minimal compared to the activities that need to be conducted to prepare and enable people to respond effectively to any emergency.

V. Progress and situations of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

VI. Projects on disaster reduction headed by your Ministry

VII. ADRC Counterpart

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