Disaster Management Centre

Status of Early Warning System and Emergency Telecommunication in Sri Lanka
Legislative Background

- Tsunami (2004), floods and landslides (2003) and various small to medium scale disasters over the past few years have brought back into focus the fact that Sri Lanka is a disaster prone country.

- Need to strengthen all aspects of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) – both proactive risk reduction as well as reactive disaster response mechanisms

- Tsunami has reaffirmed the urgent need for a DRM legislation in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan Parliament passed the “Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No 13 of 2005.”
• The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) was established, as per the act

• The Disaster Management Centre (DMC) was established under the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) as the lead agency on disaster risk management in the country in implementing the directives of NCDM

• In December 2005, the Ministry for Disaster Management was established. On January 2006, above Ministry was renamed as the Ministry of Disaster Management & Human Rights with human right portfolio being added to the Ministry
Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act; No.13 of 2005

- 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
- National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) and Disaster Management Centre (DMC) established in accordance with the Act.
National Council For Disaster Management

Ministers in charge of:
- Social Services
- Rehabilitation & Reconstruction
- Home Affairs
- Health
- Science & Technology
- Housing
- Coast Conservation
- Irrigation
- Power
- Defence

Chief Ministers

National Council for Disaster Management
Chair Person: H.E. President
Vice Chairman: Hon. Prime Minister
Opposition Leader

Ministry of Disaster Management & Human Rights

Opposition MPs

DMC

Ministers in charge of:
- Police
- Finance
- Land
- Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
- Foreign Affairs
- Water Supply
- Highways
- Urban Development
- Education
- Environment
Vision:
Disaster Risk Management for safer communities and sustainable development in Sri Lanka

The Broad Mission:
To create a culture of safety among communities and the nation at large through systematic management of natural, technological and man-made disaster risks
Main Activities of the DMC

DMC will be directing, issuing guidelines, facilitating, coordinating, monitoring, where necessary directly implementing or enforcing activities related to:

1. Disaster Management Technology, Long-term Mitigation & DRR
   - Hazard Mapping and Risk Assessment
   - Information and Data Collection
   - Research and Analysis
   - Building Technology
   - DMC Website
   - Long term Disaster Risk Reduction
   - Specific risk reduction projects to reduce specific identified risks that can cause future disasters
   - DRR integration in Development
   - Long-term action planning
2. Early Warning

- Have systems in place for receiving forecasting and early warning
- Forecasting of impending disasters
- Early warning and Dissemination

3. Emergency Operations in case of a disaster

- Establishment of National Emergency Operation Centre
- Establishment of Emergency Operation Rooms at provincial, district and divisional levels
- Carrying out Emergency Operations, coordinating with armed forces, police and other related agencies at national and all sub levels
4. Preparedness Planning (National and other levels)

- Preparation of **National Disaster Management Plan and Emergency Operation Plans**
- Facilitating, issuing guidelines, coordinating, directing and monitoring of preparation of disaster preparedness and response plans at provincial, district, local authority, divisional and village levels
- Preparedness for timely and effective response, equitable relief distribution, speedy recovery, timely rehabilitation and reconstruction at national level and all sub levels

5. Training, Education & Public Awareness

- Training – Disaster risk reduction related training at all levels
- Education – integration of disaster risk reduction in school curricula and in university curricula as appropriate
- Social Marketing (Public Awareness) – Programmes for officials at all levels, school children and community level
Coordination Mechanism in Disaster Management

National Council for Disaster Management

Ministry of Disaster Management & Human Rights

DMC

Through District DM Coordinators

Provincial Councils

District Secretariats

Line departments

District NGOs and CBOs

Local Authorities

Divisional Secretariats

Other Agencies
DMC Working Mechanism

- District Secretary District Committee
- Emergency Op. Rooms
- Div. Level Committees
- GN Committees
- Village volunteer Groups
- Early Warning Subgroup, Medical / Health Subgroup, Search & Rescue Subgroup, Coordinating Subgroup, Village Task Force

Disaster Management Centre

- District Disaster Management Coordinators

Prov. Level Disaster Management Committee

- Local Authority Committees
- Govt. Departments
- Military & Police
- Private Sector
- NGOs/ Civil Societies
- Business Communities
Protecting the life of community requires:

- Establishment of an effective pre-disaster EARLY WARNING SYSTEM which is capable of taking early warning message to remote villages
- Effective communication system for post disaster search and rescue and relief effort
- Improve awareness of people on disasters, preparedness, evacuation and rescue
Future Plans

To establish the following

- National Operations Centre
- Tsunami EW Centre,
- Multi-hazards EW Centre,
- National Data collection & Analysis Centre 24/7
Future Plans

- The DMC would be linked to District Secretariats, Provincial Councils, Divisional Secretariats, Local Authorities, Village Committees and stakeholders.

- Disaster Management Activities to be decentralized with delegation of activities, resources and funds to district secretaries, provincial councils, Divisional Secretariats, local authorities, and village organizations.
Future Plans

- To propagate a culture of voluntarism in village by forming village volunteer organizations
- To have inter-ministerial, inter-sectored and inter-agencies coordination in all DM activities
- To Incorporate Government Administration, provincial councils, local bodies, all stakeholders, private sector, NGOs and the civil society in DM activities
- All ministries, Departments, District secretariats, Provincial councils, local bodies and village volunteer groups to formulate realistic and practical DM plans which could be implemented efficiently
- Optimization of Donor Assistance for DRR activities
- Formation of Technical Committees
  - Advisory Committee to the DMC
  - National Emergency Response Committee
  - Hazards specific committees
Functions of Tsunami Early Warning Centre

- Early Warning system at Meteorological Dept is the legal entity for issuing a Tsunami early warning in the country.
- Receive data from GSMB, NARA and early warning centers in foreign countries.
- Analyze data and disseminate early warning message to the community.
- Issue warning through Telephones, Radio, Television channels, Police and military communication systems.
Early Warning Center depends on

- Land telephones
- Mobile Telephones
- Radio Communications
Methods of dissemination of information to communities at village level

- Land phones
- Mobile phones
- Loud speakers mounted on vehicles
- Television
- Radio
Difficulties in Communication in an Emergency situation

- Frequent break down and congestion of telephone systems
- Jamming of telephone systems due to overloading specially during and after a disaster
- Non availability of telecommunication facilities in remote villages
DMC communication requirements

- To have Island wide wireless communication network linking all stakeholders, District secretariats, Provincial councils, local bodies and village volunteer groups
- To have Telephone communication both Land /mobile phones
- To have satellite communication as a backup to district secretariat and provincial councils and to important stakeholders
- To have pre designated telephone lines for disaster communication
- To have emergency telephone communication system through mobile phones.
- SMS facilities to be made available for dissemination of information
- Action to be taken to prevent the breakdown of pre and post disaster communication
Enhance the community level communication to facilitate the dissemination of the early warning messages to people effectively.
Suggested Communication Network for the DMC

Ministry of Disaster Management & Human Rights

DMC

Emergency Operation Centre

District Secretariats

DEOCs

Local Authorities

Provincial councils

Community

Tsunami Early Warning Centre

Multi-Hazards Early Warning Center

Data collection, analysis & Research Centre

Service Providing Agencies

SLT, Dialog, Celtel, Mobiltel and others

Media

Other Agencies

Regional Development Authorities

Department of Meteorology

GSMB

NBRO

NSF

CCD

NARA

CMC & Fire Brigade

Military & Police

Mahaveli Authority

Department of Irrigation

NWS & DB

Atomic Energy Authority

CEA

CEB

Dept of Social Services

RADA

Marine Pollution & Prevention Authority

Medical Research Institute

Department of Agriculture

Health Department
Thank You