

## Annex II

### Nomination form for cities and local governments to participate in the campaign

Please send the nomination form and the mayor's letter to [isdr-campaign@un.org](mailto:isdr-campaign@un.org). Nominations will be accepted on an ongoing basis throughout 2010-11.

City / Local Government (Please indicate the year the numbers were provided.)	
City name	Matara
Location (short description)	Matara city is located in the Southern province of Sri Lanka on the Southern coastal line around 156 Km away from the Capital of Colombo. There are 15 wards
Size (year)	21.2 sq. km
Population (year)	76,254 in 2007
GDP	
Hazard type(s)	Floods, cyclones, tsunami, landslides
Name of Mayor / Commissioner / Governor / Community leader	
Mr. S M W Upul Nishantha, The Mayor	
Which part of the city administration will be the focal point for the Campaign?	
The Mayor's Office	
Contact details Focal Point	
Name	Mr. S M W Upul Nishantha
Function	The Mayor
Address	Mayor's Office, Municipal Council, Matara, Sri Lanka
Email	nishanthasmw@gmail.com
Telephone	+94 41 222 2275, +94 41 222994
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Which local institutions will be engaged in the Campaign? (In addition to the local government.)	
Disaster Management Centre, The Asia Foundation, Matara District Disaster Management coordinating unit, National Building Research Organization and Federation of Sri Lanka Local Government Authorities	
Major Disaster Risks (Please indicate major disasters that have occurred, prevailing hazards and vulnerable conditions.)	
As one of the main rivers in Sri Lanka, Nilwala flows through the city, the main disaster is <b>floods</b> . Due to the over flow of it over flat lands of Matara, floods are common in the city. for Matara. In 2003, floods destroyed 1607 houses and affected 43750 people resulted by breaching of flood protection dykes constructed upstream	

of the river bank. In 2008, floods affected 1972 people and 437 families, inundating the area for few dates and damaging the roads of the area. **Tsunami** in 2004 was the worst ever disaster faced by the city in their history. The entire coastal area, a place for famous tourist attraction and fishing industry was washed away destroying hotels and guest houses and damaging boats and fishing tools. People gathered at the popular market were killed or missing. Many of the killed were from areas other than Matara city and 462 of Matara residents lost their lives with 1862 injured, 2205 houses damaged and 22943 people were affected. The eastern part of the city has elevated areas and minor **landslides** occur during heavy rain falls. Due to the geographical location of the city which is very close to the most southern point of the country and open to the Indian Ocean, **cyclone** possibilities can not be ruled out. Though there were severe winds, serious devastations were not reported.

**Achievements and plans in relation to the ten essentials areas**

A - Make an estimation of the **status** per essential as follows:

1 - poor/nothing in place, 2 - some progress in place, 3 - in place, well functioning, or N/A

B - Please describe main areas of **progress** and **achievements**.

C - Please identify **activities** and **plans** your city will pay special attention to **improve the current situation** during the campaign and beyond. Additionally, feel free to propose special events or activities your city would like undertake to raise awareness on disaster resilience. Please select the respective Essential(s).

**Essential 1 – Risk reducing organization and coordination in place**

Status – 3

**Progress and achievements** - Disaster Management Centre, The Asia Foundation, Matara District Disaster Management coordinating unit, National Building Research Organization and Federation of Sri Lanka Local government Authorities with the community are working together with a monitored coordination mechanism by the City council. At the ward level, “Pura Sabha” - Peoples committees were established for development activities that include the DRR as an integrated part of development. Each committee is comprised of community members, a ward development officer of Matara MC, heads of religious institutions such as Buddhist temples and churches and representative from NGO. In addition, The Matara District Disaster Management Center and the Southern Provincial Council have very close coordination in every step of the city’s DRR activities. The Federation of Sri Lankan Local Govt. Authorities links the city with other local authorities in sharing their strategies and conducting relevant training. The city was judged as the best Municipal Council of the country in 2010, where DRR interventions assumed as one of the criteria for selection.

**Plans** – Continue with the people centered coordination mechanism and involvement of them in decision making, project implementation and monitoring process. Plan to have a network with neighbouring urban and rural local authorities to jointly work on DRR

**Essential 2 – Budget assigned**

Status – 1

**Progress and achievements** - An allocation is available for relief during emergencies

**Plans** – From the annual budget, a portion will be allocated for mitigation activities. For large scale measures, funds will be sought from the Central Govt, Provincial Council and donors.

**Essential 3 – Risk assessment prepared**

Status – 3

**Progress and achievements** – After an initial awareness meeting, the risk assessment process commenced during the latter part of 2009. Three workshops with stakeholders and community of the area were conducted with the aim of hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment and development of a City hazard map. As a pre-requisite to these workshops, a study has been conducted to collect the secondary information relating to hazard history. Combining the data with community assessment, basic ward maps were prepared. Outputs of these community workshops were; verification of the secondary information relating to hazard history, hazard vulnerability assessment, and analysis of futuristic risks and identification of vulnerable communities, capacity assessment of the community and analyzing the land use pattern related to disaster dimension of each ward. Adding technology into the developed community based maps; a comprehensive desktop study using GIS technology was carried out for entire 15 wards of Matara.

**Plans** – To complete the maps and display at the city hall in a larger format so that, citizens, developers and other relevant people can make use for their purposes. Planned to make them available in printed format for sale on

a nominal cost. The risk assessment will be used to identify mitigation activities and for allocation of funds for implementation by city or central govt or donor funding. Plan to update the data periodically.	
<b>Essential 4 – Investment in risk reducing infrastructure</b>	Status – 2
<b>Progress and achievements</b> – The problem of drainage system is a consistent issue resulted by improper system, low elevated areas below mean sea level (msl) and the neglected maintenance. Therefore, on priority basis, a few from selected priority activities from the list developed at the City Action Planning Workshop are being implemented. Accordingly, improvement of Ganga Mawatha, 1st cross drain, improvement of canal across 2nd culvert-Velewatta Nawimana Road and side drain along Matara Dharmarathna Mawatha are being carried out. The community contributions for the activities are on labour. The total cost of them is Rs. 1,180,834 (USD 10,000) out of which the council will bear the part of the funds and the balance by a USAID/ OFDA funded project of (PROMISE) implemented by ADPC. Further, cleaning of canals are also partially completed. The Central Govt. has repaired the breached section of the embankment of Nilwala river, which prevents flooding the city and the suburban areas.	
<b>Plans</b> – Implement other selected structural mitigation activities, which depends on the availability of funding. Some are already included in the 2011 proposed city budget and some funds requested from the national budget through the Disaster Management Center.	
<b>Essential 5 – Safe schools and health facilities</b>	Status – 2
<b>Progress and achievements</b> - Soon after the Tsunami, under training and awareness and capacity building, a series of emergency response training was carried out for the school children selected from the coastal schools. In addition, awareness training programmes on flood disasters is being conducted for the school which are vulnerable for flooding. Recent outbreak of dengue fever is a serious threat with increasing deaths. City is continuing cleaning and clearing debris and comprehensive awareness to community and schools	
<b>Plans</b> – Since schools in Sri Lanka do not belong to local authorities, city plans to organize more awareness activities in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Matara District Disaster Management Center.	
<b>Essential 6 – Risk-compliant building regulation and land use applied</b>	Status - 2
<b>Progress and achievements</b> - The Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA) has engaged in a legal consultancy for the Southern Provincial Council to study and make recommendations to review and reform the existing Local Authority By-laws. This legal consultancy incorporated disaster dimension to Matara Municipal By-laws relevant to development regulations, in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction in development activities in the city. The study reviewed provisions in the local authority laws applicable to disaster management, provisions in existing by-laws pertaining to regulating the construction industry, proposed land use plan, building control and proposed special regulations for the development of the construction industry in Matara along the Southern Expressway Corridor. The final draft is ready and already in the process of formal approval by the Southern Provincial Council.	
<b>Plans</b> – Enforce the amended regulations	
<b>Essential 7 – Education programmes and training in place</b>	Status - 1
<b>Progress and achievements</b> - In addition to the school DM program, general awareness and Training for city officials on Participatory Planning to Consolidate the Land Use plan Recommendations has been carried out. Urban governance and disaster risk reduction training programs have also been conducted for the city officials.	
<b>Plans</b> – Continuation of training programmes	
<b>Essential 8 – Ecosystems and natural buffers protected</b>	Status – N/A
<b>Progress and achievements</b> - NO	
<b>Plans</b> – To work closely with Coast Conservation Dept. and preservation of natural mangrove is planned	

<b>Essential 9 – Early warning and emergency response systems installed</b>	Status - 3
<p><b>Progress and achievements</b> – An island wide Tsunami warning system with warning towers has been installed along the Tsunami risk coasts of the country and it was tried and tested for functioning. Matara will be receiving appropriate warning and will work with District Disaster Management Center in disseminating warning and evacuation of the people. The community is trained and was tested with previous warning messages. Further, As a part of strengthening of urban local capacity development on emergency response, initiated by the Central Govt, Matara city has received fire emergency machinery, tools and equipment. They include fire engines, water carriers, snorkels, high power water jets, platform etc. and are capable to cater the emergency and fire services not only for the city, but for the neighbouring areas as well. To utilize the equipment in full capacity, fire fighters cadre has been increased and new recruits will assume duties soon. Once they report, a number of comprehensive and thorough fire fighting and emergency response training has been arranged to be conducted by the Fire Services Department of the Colombo Municipal Council. A selected number from the community respondents was already given training on basic fire fighting and first aid with the objective utilising them at the community level in the event of a disaster.</p>	
<p><b>Plans</b> – City plans to have a similar warning system for floods also.</p>	
<b>Essential 10 – Needs-based (survivors) reconstruction</b>	Status – N/A
<p><i>Progress and achievements - -</i></p>	
<p><i>Plans</i> – Planned to implement</p>	

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-11, UNISDR Secretariat, E-mail: isdr-campaign@un.org

Nomination for “Participants”  
City – Matara, Sri Lanka  
UN ISDR 2010 -2011 World Disaster Reduction Campaign “My City is getting Ready”

**City: Matara, Sri Lanka**

Matara is a city located on the Southern coastal line of Sri Lanka and around 156 Km away from Colombo. City of Matara is an economic zone as well a rapidly developing urban commercial centre of the south. The total population in the Matara district in 2007 is 813,000 out of which 70,000 people live in the city. The land area spread over 21.2 sq km with 15 electoral wards. A rapidly urbanised city has its employment generation through commercial sector (77%), industry (16%), agriculture (4%) and others (3%). One of the main rivers originating from central hills, Nilwala River is flowing through the city. During the monsoon seasons, the river carries flood waters from the up country hills and freely flows over flat lands often causing severe damages to crops, agricultural lands and finally urban built up area covered by the city.

Due to the flow of Nilawala river, floods are common for Matara. In 2003, floods destroyed 1607 houses and affected 43750 people resulted by breaching of flood protection dykes constructed on the river bank. Further, Tsunami in 2004 was the worst ever disaster faced by the city in their history. The entire coastal area, a place for famous tourist attraction was washed away leaving 462 dead, injuring 1862, damaging 2205 houses and affecting 22943 people.

Due to increase of occurrences of floods, authorities have taken initial steps to transform the city of disaster resilience. With the committed leadership and active community participation, a number of activities are presently ongoing. The Asia Foundation, Disaster Management Center and its district coordination office in Matara, The Federation of Sri Lankan Local Govt Authorities and National Building Research Organisation are the partners of this process. Technical inputs for the process is provided by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center with one of its project named Program for Hydrological Disaster Mitigation in Secondary Cities in Asia with the funding of USAID/ OFDA.

**Name of Mayor**

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Municipal Council, Matara  
[nishanthasmw@gmail.com](mailto:nishanthasmw@gmail.com)  
Tel +94 41 222 2275, +94 41 222994

**Organisation and Coordination:**

The coordination of the present development activities are monitored by the council identifying the roles of the stakeholders. With cross team coordination and efforts, plans were drawn to assess the readiness for disaster risk reduction at the institutional and community levels. Out of the activities identified, promoting capacity building in DR, carry out community based risk assessment, institutionalisation of DRR into local governance through advocacy and strengthening the emergency response are some of highlighted issues. At the ward level, Peoples committees were established, comprised of community members, respective officer assigned to the particular ward and heads of religious institutions of the ward and they form to a successful vehicle in implementing DRR actions. .

**Prepare Risk assessment**

After an initial awareness meeting, the risk assessment process commenced during the latter part of 2009. Three workshops with stakeholders and community of the area were conducted with the aim of hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment and development of a City hazard map. As a pre-requisite to these workshops, a study has been conducted to collect the secondary information relating to hazard history and prepared basic ward maps. Outputs of these community workshops were; verification of the secondary information relating to hazard history, hazard vulnerability assessment, and analysis of futuristic risks and identification of vulnerable communities, capacity assessment of the community and analyzing the land use pattern related to disaster dimension of each ward. Adding technology into the developed community based maps, a comprehensive desktop study using GIS technology was carried out by the NBRO for entire 15 wards of Matara.

### **Infrastructure that reduce risk :**

The problem of drainage system is a consistent issue resulted by improper system, low elevated areas below msl and the neglected maintenance. Therefore, on priority basis, a few from selected priority activities from the list developed at the City Planning Workshop are being implemented. Accordingly, improvement of Ganga Mawatha, 1st cross drain, improvement of canal across 2nd culvert-Velewatta Nawimana Road and side drain along Matara Dharmarathna Mawatha will be carried out. The community contributions for the activities are on labour. The total cost of them is Rs. 1,180,834 (USD 10,000) out of which the council will bear the part of the funds and the balance (PROMISE), which is implemented by ADPC.

### **Safety of all schools:**

Soon after the Tsunami, under training and awareness and capacity building, a series of emergency response training was carried out for the school children selected from the coastal schools. In addition, awareness training programmes on flood disasters will be conducted for the school which are vulnerable for flooding during the year 2010.

### **Realistic, risk-compliant building regulations and land use planning principles**

The Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities (FSLGA) is already engaged in a legal consultancy for the Southern Provincial Council to study and make recommendations to review and reform the existing Local Authority By-laws. This legal consultancy incorporated disaster dimension to Matara Municipal By-laws relevant to development regulations, in order to mainstream disaster risk reduction in development activities in the city. The study reviewed provisions in the local authority laws applicable to disaster management, provisions in existing by-laws pertaining to regulating the construction industry, proposed land use plan and proposed special regulations for the development of the construction industry in Matara along the Southern Expressway Corridor. The final draft is ready and already in the process of formal approval by the Provincial Council.

### **Emergency Management capacities**

As a part of strengthening of Urban local capacity development on emergency response by the Central Govt, Matara city has received fire emergency machinery, tools and equipment. They include fire engines, water carriers, snorkels, high power water jets, platform etc. and are capable to cater the emergency and fire services for the neighbouring areas as well. To utilize the equipment in full capacity, fire fighters cadre has been increased and new recruits will be assume duties soon. Once they report, a number of comprehensive and thorough fire fighting and emergency response training has been arranged to be conducted by the Fire Services Department of the Colombo Municipal Council. A

selected number from the community respondents was already given training on basic fire fighting and first aid with the objective utilising them at the community level in the event of a disaster.