



**First Session –
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**National Progress of
Hyogo Framework for
Action - Sri Lanka**

**5 - 7 June 2007,
Geneva**

Summary of Progress

- ◆ DRR has been made a priority in Sri Lanka since the enactment of Sri Lanka DM Act in the Parliament in May 2005
- ◆ The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) was established as the leading body for disaster risk management in Sri Lanka with the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) as the executing agency
- ◆ The Council is represented by Cabinet Ministers in charge of 20 subject areas

Summary – contd...

- ◆ All DRM activities focus around the DMC functioning under the M/DM&HR with stakeholders at different levels
- ◆ The major stakeholder agencies in these subject areas and other stakeholders have been identified
- ◆ Action has been initiated to establish the National Platform with stakeholder representation from relevant levels and two awareness workshops have been conducted

Summary – contd...

- ◆ **Minor shortcomings:**
 - Duplication / repetition of roles of different agencies;
 - Problems faced in establishing / expanding the DMC and the countrywide DRM mechanism; and
 - Problems during implementing district activities etc.
- ◆ **Some major stakeholders do not have mandate for functions which they are carrying out at present, which have to be corrected**

Summary – contd...

- ◆ For coordination of activities at district level, DMC structure was designed to include District Disaster Management Units with a DM Coordinator and assistants
- ◆ In prone regions DM Committees have been established at sub-national levels
- ◆ In many regions at sub-national levels (flood, landslide and tsunami prone) Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans are being developed; some completed
- ◆ Public awareness started initially in tsunami prone areas; subsequently extended to areas prone to other hazards utilising the District DM Units
- ◆ Capacity building is underway for community level volunteer groups for preparedness, SAR and early response

Some challenges in implementation of DRR initiatives

- ◆ Changing prevailing attitudes from reactive to proactive
- ◆ The inherent attitude of communities in forgetting past happenings very quickly.
- ◆ Immediately after a severe event, drills and community planning activities etc. are well received by the community, but interest fading away after some time
- ◆ Even with threat to their lives some communities do not heed to the alerts of landslides when other community members inform of the danger and resist quick evacuation
- ◆ Difficulties in resettling people living in identified high risk landslide prone areas due to social and political issues
- ◆ Timely intervention in the development of disaster preparedness and response plans at sub-national levels to enable the mechanisms to be placed for response in case of a disaster.
- ◆ Enforcement of the legal provisions already in place. E.g., land use zoning considering prevalent hazards

Summary of Impacts

- ◆ Oil spill incident on 9th September 2006 in Koggala in Galle District
 - Unexpected incident, but Marine Pollution Prevention Authority (MPPA) had a good Emergency Response Plan and the DMC District Disaster Management Unit was in place
 - Authorities were prepared
 - MPPA, the DMC (head office / district unit) and the district / divisional administrations worked together in the response activities - successful in many ways
 - Community participation in oil clearing activities; slow initially, but caught up later in clearing and disposing the waste

Summary of Impacts – contd...

- ◆ Community awareness about risk and early warning and evacuation has improved, as a result of the programmes conducted by the DMC district units and other NGOs and INGOs
- ◆ In March 2006 when there was a tsunami alert, the relevant coastal communities were alerted and were evacuated in an organised manner
- ◆ In some locations where landslides occurred in the recent past communities were alerted in time and their lives were saved
- ◆ November 2006 – flood disaster in 4 districts. Events were managed well in collaboration with relevant stakeholders
- ◆ All relevant stakeholders and community were involved coordinated by the DMC District Disaster Management Unit

Summary Recommendations for Future Actions



- ◆ Amendments to the Act as mentioned for speedy setting up of DMC and smooth functioning of the DRM mechanism
- ◆ Strengthen major stakeholders who do not have the legal mandates for carrying out the required functions
- ◆ Provide legislation to cover integration of DRR in all development projects and providing adequate funding for most urgent mitigation projects / activities on a priority basis
- ◆ To have one nodal ministry at national level to look after all phases of entire DM cycle

HFA Priority for Action 1:

Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation

1. Enactment of the Sri Lanka DM Act, Establishment of NCDM/DMC, M/DM&HR

- ◆ Sri Lanka DM Act, No. 13 of 2005 was enacted in the Parliament in May 2005
- ◆ Covers 21 natural, technological and man made hazards
- ◆ Council is represented by Cabinet Ministers in charge of 20 subject areas
- ◆ NCDM established as the leading body for DRM with DMC as executing agency
- ◆ Major stakeholder agencies in these subject areas and other stakeholders have been identified



Overall Country Wide DRM Framework

Legal Arrangements, Policy, National DM Plan

NCDM

M/DM&HR

DMC

**Hazard
Context**

Main DRM Activities

Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
Forecasting & Early Warning
Preparedness & Response Planning
Long-term Mitigation, Integration of DRR in development planning
Emergency Management (Emergency Operations, Response etc)
Relief, Immediate recovery, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction

Support Activities

Training, Education and Public Awareness
Monitoring & Evaluation, Performance Review, Revisions
Mainstreaming TDRM
Data Collection & Information Management
Databases, websites etc.
Research & Development

Stakeholder Contribution through Participatory Action

National/Provincial
Ministries/Agencies –
Covering all possible
hazards and all sectors
Districts/Divisions/Gra
ma Niladhari Divisions,
Local Authorities
UN Agencies, SL Red
Cross, NGOs, CBOs,
Volunteers, Private
Sector



**National Institutional
Framework for effective
TDRM**

NCDM

M/DM&HR

**Technical
Committees**

DMC

Agencies with DM Mandate
responsible for different hazards

Stakeholders:

Govt. Ministries & Agencies
representing subject ministries
mentioned in the Act and others as
relevant, Private Sector,
NGOs, INGOs, Red Cross, Civil
Society, Communities, Volunteers

International & Regional:

- Disaster Early Warning
Centres
- Databases
- Donor Agencies
- Disaster Websites

Media - TV, Radio,
Press

Ministry of Defense,
Ministries, Military, Police

Vital Installations - Air Port,
Harbour, Petroleum, Power,
Water Supply, Other

**Sub-national levels of
administration:**

- Provincial Councils
- Districts
- Divisions
- Local Authorities (MCs, UCs, PSs)
- Grama Niladhari divisions

2. Roadmap for Disaster Risk Management – 7 Thematic areas

- ◆ Policy, Institutional Mandates & Institutional Development
- ◆ Hazard, Vulnerability & Risk Assessment
- ◆ Multi-hazard EW Systems
- ◆ Disaster Preparedness Planning and Response
- ◆ Disaster Mitigation and Integration into Development Planning
- ◆ Training, Education and Public Awareness

Total of 109 proposals; **Total financial commitment – USD 609.395**

3. Formulation of Sri Lanka National Disaster Management Policy (Draft)

Main activities

- ◆ Formulating initial draft
- ◆ Incorporation of initial comments from Ministry and DMC
- ◆ Presenting at the National Advisory Committee and other relevant stakeholders and incorporation of their comments
- ◆ Obtaining approval of the National Council for the draft

4. Formulation of National DM Plan (NDMP) & National EOP

NDMP

- ◆ Drafts discussed at 2 WS with stakeholders
- ◆ Final draft will be circulated among stakeholders and National DM Committee before submitting to National Council
- ◆ To be completed by end of July
- ◆ Captures the support of following:
 - UNDP DRM Program
 - United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT) – FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, WHO & UNHCR, when present in the country
 - United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)

5. Appointment of Technical Advisory Committees

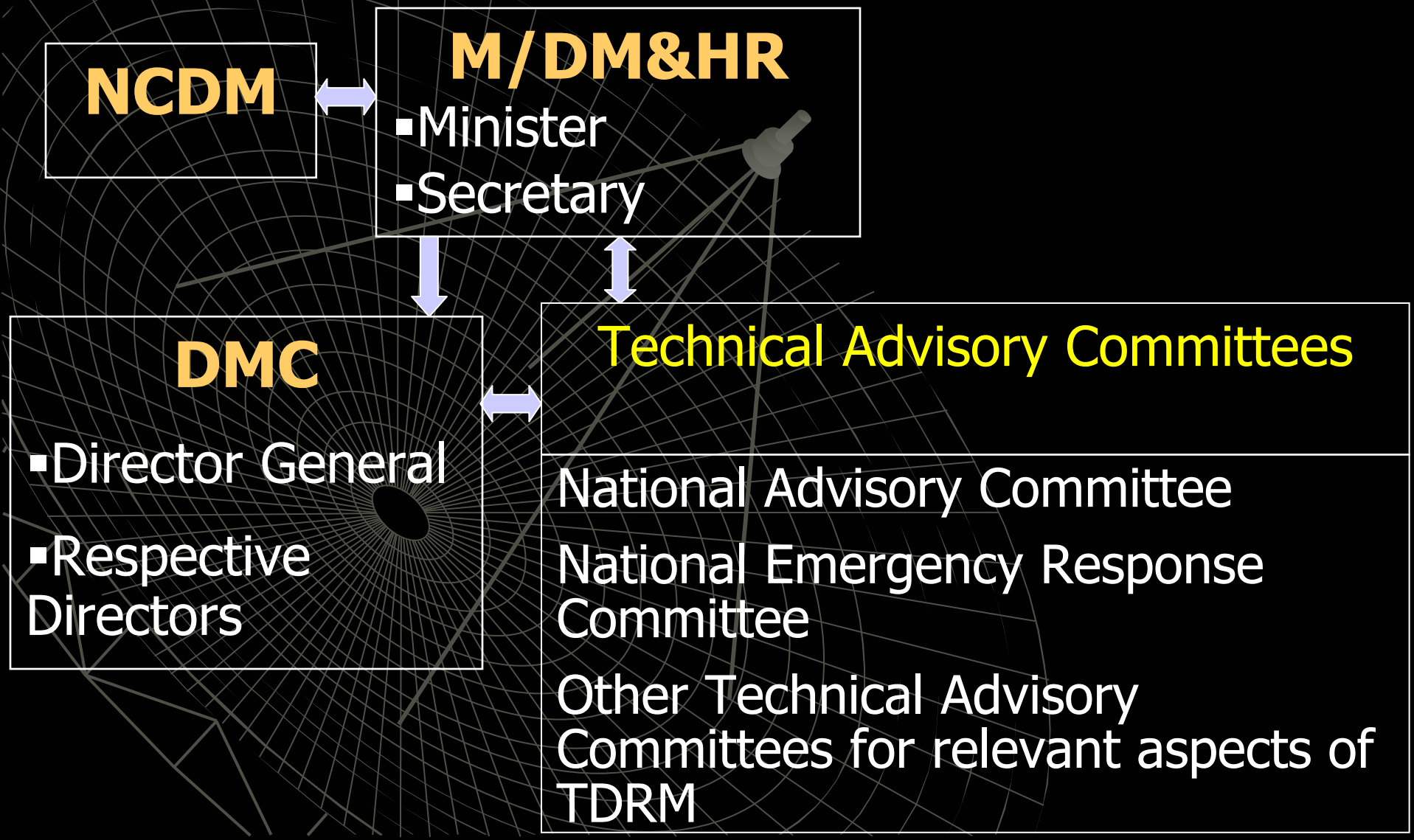
□ National level

- National Disaster Management Advisory Committee, Flood Response Committee & National Emergency Operations Committee, chaired by the Minister of Disaster Management & Human Rights, Ministry Secretary & Director General of DMC

□ Other committees functioning

- Building Guidelines Committee, Hazard Mapping Committee & Colombo Flood Committee

Coordination and functioning of Technical Advisory Committees



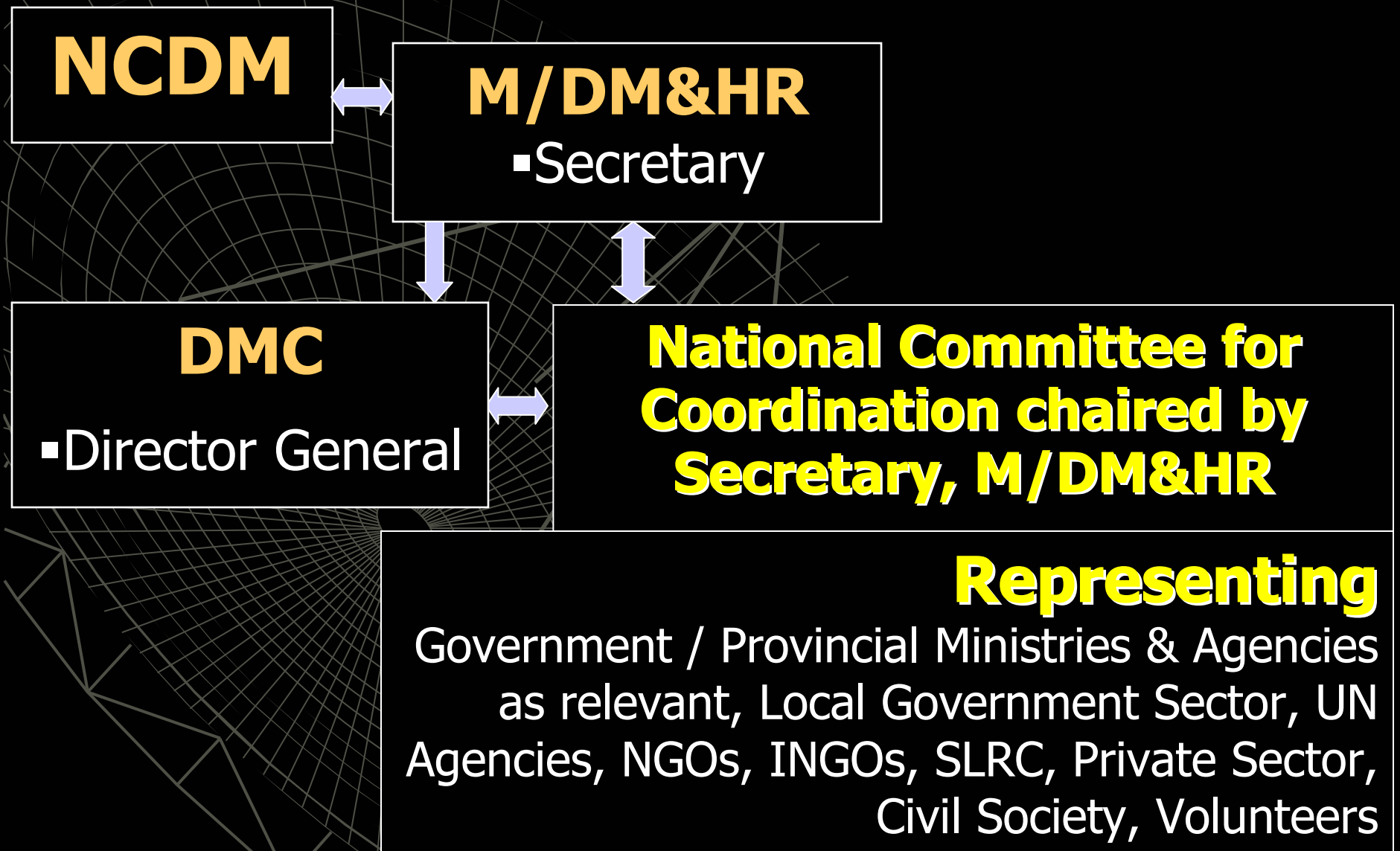
Proposal to establish the National Coordinating Committee (as the National Platform) Chaired by the Ministry Secretary

❖ Two awareness meetings conducted

❖ Members

- National/Provincial Ministries/Agencies
 - Covering all possible hazards and all sectors
- Local Government representation
- UN Agencies, SL Red Cross, NGOs, CBOs, Volunteers, Private Sector

Proposal to Establish National Platform for Coordination



HFA Priority for Action 2:

*Identify, assess and monitor
disaster risks and enhance early
warning*

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6. Disaster and Emergency Warning Network - (DEWN)
 7. Establishment of Nation-wide Emergency Communication System
 8. Erecting Multi-Hazard Warning Towers in Selected Coastal Areas
 9. RANET and WorldSpace Radio Broadcasting on Disaster Messages
 10. DesInventar
 11. Risk profile for Sri Lanka

Improving Communication Systems

- ◆ Disaster and Emergency Warning Network - (DEWN) Mobile technology; Dialog Cellular Phone
- ◆ Proposed to establish a radio communication system linking DMC with all sub-national administrations and other stakeholders
- ◆ Erecting Multi-Hazard Warning Towers in Selected Coastal Areas
- ◆ RANET is a satellite radio network system which broadcasts continuous audio and digital data (multimedia) on disaster warnings (especially tsunami) and related information using AfriStar/AsiaStar satellites

Tsunami & Multi-hazard Warning Centre

**Proposed –
At present
functioning in
temporary office**

- Police Communication
- Electronic Media
- TV Stations
- Radio Stations
- Early Warning Towers
- Cell Broadcast/ SMS
- Technical Devices

EOCs of
Provincial Councils,
Districts, Div, LA,
Local Authorities

Government
Agencies with
DM Mandate &
other
Stakeholders

**Connected
through Radio
& Satellite**

Output

Incoming messages

Inter National &
Regional
Disaster
Warning
Centres

Hot-line

SLT/
Dialog,
SMS

Fax

Internet

Satellite

Conference
Room

**Tsunami & Multi-
Hazard Warning
Centre**

EOC



***DesInventar* - Inventory of Past Disaster Impacts**

- ◆ A systematic, geo-referenced disaster inventory that captures time-series, local-level impacts of disaster events with information on past disaster incidents

Development of a Risk profile for Sri Lanka

- ◆ Multi-hazard assessment: Identify hazards and prone areas, Probability of occurrence (high, medium, low), Prepare or use existing hazard maps
- ◆ Vulnerability and Risk assessments
- ◆ Initially to be done for selected hazards in high risk areas followed by other areas

HFA Priority for Action 3:

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

12. DRM Training Programme

Activities

- ◆ For stakeholders at all levels
- ◆ Need Analysis
- ◆ Training strategy, curricula, training modules and training materials / handouts / manuals to support the implementation of the strategy
- ◆ Training Implementation – regular ongoing activity; reviews and revisions;
- ◆ Progress at different stages

13. DRM Public Awareness Programme

Activities

- ◆ For stakeholders at all levels
- ◆ Need Analysis and strategy for awareness creation at all levels
- ◆ Developing information, education and communication material to support awareness creation strategy
- ◆ Launching public awareness campaign as a lead up to the Annual National Safety Day on 26th December

13. DRM Public Awareness

Programme – contd... *Achievements*

- ◆ Need Analysis; Video clips on mock drills; Awareness creation among various groups of people; Designed and printed awareness posters and leaflets for dissemination
- ◆ Public awareness campaign launched (October to December) as a lead up to National Safety Day
- ◆ Activities carried out using mass media, school competitions concluding with the commemoration of the National Safety Day on 26th December
- ◆ Live broadcast on TV and Radio

13. DRM Public Awareness

Programme – contd... Next steps

- ◆ Design and develop school disaster preparedness plans, manuals and conduct mock drills
- ◆ Pilot Project for School Awareness using Community Radio in the Central Province in collaboration with GTZ & SLBC (To be formulated)
- ◆ Awareness creation for political and administrative hierarchy at District and Divisional level Half-day workshops (5 district level trainings for 2007)
- ◆ Awareness creation for Police. Half Day Programmes (5 district level trainings for 2007)
- ◆ Island wide Public Awareness Campaign using mass media

14. Integration of DM into School curriculum

- ◆ Planned to integrate disaster related subjects into the school curriculum
- ◆ Initiatives had already been made by an earlier project on Disaster Mitigation
- ◆ Integration already done in the subject of Geography
- ◆ At present the Ministry of Education, NIE, the National Science Foundation and the GTZ are collaboratively working on this activity

15. Capacity building for preparedness and response at community level

- ◆ Conducting participatory hazard mapping at community level, EW of the last mile and implementing mock drills for evacuation where necessary
- ◆ Training programmes for sub committee members on search & rescue, evacuation, first aid etc.
- ◆ In 9 tsunami affected districts in selected communities activities were conducted
- ◆ Expanding these activities in areas prone to other hazards

HFA Priority for Action 4:

*Reduce the underlying risk
factors*



16. Comprehensive Study on Disaster Management in Sri Lanka

- 1) Integrated flood management plans for selected river basins (Kelani, Kalu, Gin and Nilwala Ganga)
- 2) Early warning & Evacuation System
- 3) CBDM
- 4) Capacity Building

17. Development of Building Guidelines

18. Establishment of Natural Barriers along the coast

19. Mitigating effect of drought at household level in drought prone districts

- Conducting training programme for selected people on construction of ferro-cement rainwater harvesting tanks
- Training people on how to collect rainwater and store in the tanks
- Construction of individual domestic storage tanks
- Construction of underground storage tanks for the use in community centre and preschool in a community housing scheme

18. Cleaning and desilting of canals in all districts affected by recent floods

HFA Priority for Action 5:

*Strengthen disaster
preparedness for effective
response*



21. Establishment of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs)

22. Development of Disaster Preparedness & Response Plans

23. Capacity Building of Local Authorities for Emergency Response

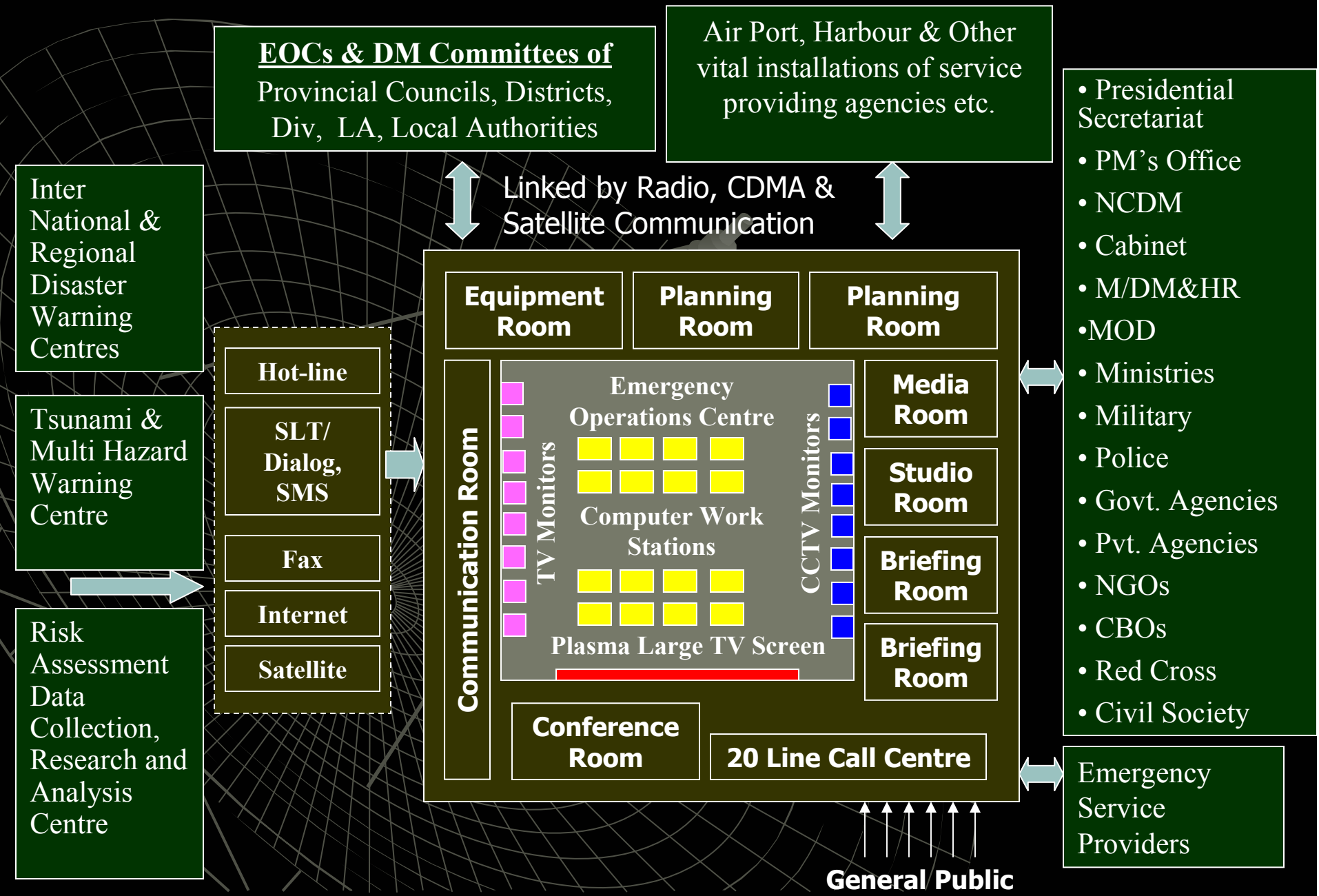
24. Sri Lanka Disaster Resource Network (SLDRN)

25. Promoting Community Volunteerism

21. Establishment of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs)

- ◆ **Main Activities:**
- ◆ Rooms for EOCs of DMC and districts
- ◆ Provision for financial resources through annual budget from treasury
 - To activate any response/ contingency plans
 - For continuous (24X7) monitoring
 - Additional human resources for 24x7 functioning
- ◆ Establishment of EOCs with office and communication equipments
- ◆ Study tours /exposure visits of EOC members within the region

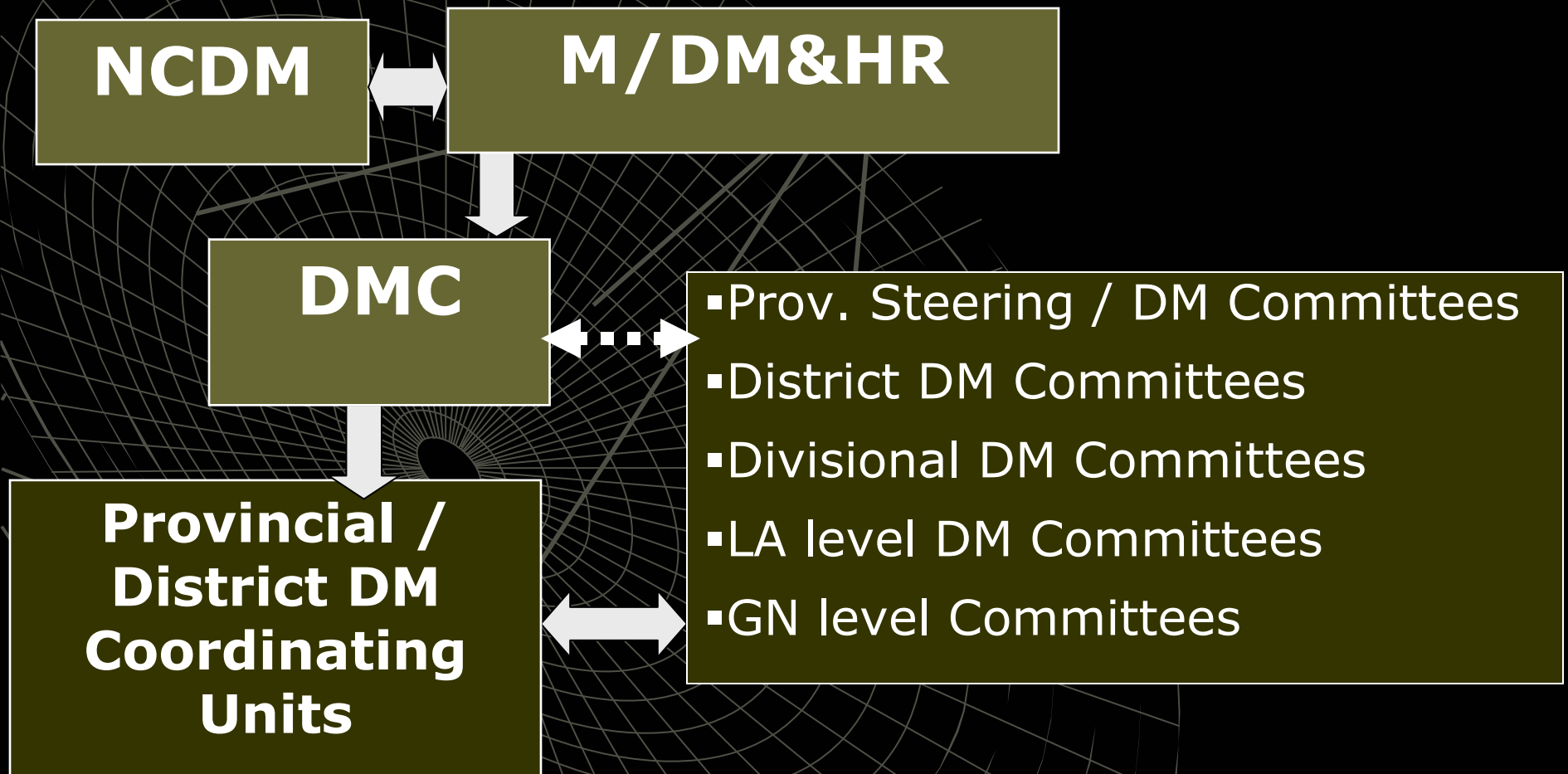
24 x 7 National Emergency Operations Centre



22. Development of Disaster Preparedness & Response Plans

- ◆ Plans at different levels
- ◆ Establishment of Disaster Management Committees at different levels
- ◆ Forming sub committees for specific activities, viz.,
 - ◆ Early Warning Dissemination
 - ◆ Search & Rescue and Evacuation
 - ◆ Shelter and Relief Management
 - ◆ Health and First Aid
 - ◆ Water, Sanitation and Carcass Disposal
 - ◆ Patrolling/ Vigilance

Coordination of DM Committees at different levels by the DMC and District DM Coordinating Units



23. Capacity Building of Local Authorities for Emergency Response

- ◆ LAs are not adequately equipped to respond to different emergency situations
- ◆ Need to assess & provide required response equipment; at least for major authorities selected so as they could facilitate the others surrounding LAs
- ◆ Equipments include ambulances, water bowzers, water pumps, fire engines, fire fighting equipments / accessories (hoses with jets, ladders etc.), fire extinguishers, rowing boats, motor boats with engines, life jackets, backhoes, dredgers, gulley emptiers, tractors, trailers etc.

24. Sri Lanka Disaster Resource Network (SLDRN)

- ◆ A web-based database of resources useful for responding to disasters with information regarding the contact persons, telephone numbers etc.
- ◆ Software and formats for data collection developed and provided by the UNDP Regional Office
- ◆ Will enable all levels of responders to locate necessary resources for early response

25. Promoting Community Volunteerism

- ◆ Vulnerable communities are not properly linked with government mechanism
- ◆ Need to to promote volunteers and establish community teams for DRM in a phased manner in all at-risk communities
- ◆ Prone GN divisions in the 10 selected districts prone to selected hazards - tsunami, cyclones, floods, drought, landslides and coastal erosion
- ◆ Discussions have been held with National Youth Services Council (NYSC) and Samurdhi Authority - Government institutions with networks with personnel serving at village level
- ◆ MOUs signed with these institutions

25. Promoting Community Volunteerism

Main activities

- ◆ Forming community DRM teams in each selected community to undertake Village level activities of EW, preparedness, response and mitigation (including the above 2 institutions)
- ◆ Developing volunteer facilitators inclusive of their capacity building and training
- ◆ Identifying and selecting volunteers to serve in vulnerable communities during disaster events (first aid, Search and Rescue (SAR), camp maintenance, etc.)

25. Promoting Community Volunteerism – contd

Main activities – contd..

- ◆ Providing training to selected volunteer groups
- ◆ Conducting periodic drills and rehearsals linked with SLRCS branch activities
- ◆ Establishing revolving funds at community level
- ◆ Establishing a database of volunteers at National level, in each district, and GN areas and at the LA level
- ◆ Provide Identity Cards /support local recognition



Thank you