

The Need for a National Policy for Disaster Management

Sri Lanka is affected by several types of natural hazards. They include Cyclones, Floods, Landslides, Rock Falls, Land Subsidence, Earth Tremours, Earth Quakes, Drought, Storm Surges, Coastal Flooding, Coastal Erosion, Salinisation, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation, Salinity Intrusion in to Drinking Water Sources, Forest Fire, Tornadoes and others. More localised hazards such as lightning strike, epidemic and hazards related to environmental pollution are also prevalent. The Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 has also highlighted the vulnerability of Sri Lanka to such low-frequency, high-impact events. Earthquakes of low to moderate magnitude have been recorded over the past 400 years. Apart from the riverine floods, dam and reservoir related flash floods too are likely to occur in the country. The potential threat from these dams to life and property is sufficient to justify their careful monitoring and maintenance. None of the Dams have an adequate Early Warning System (EWS).

Frequency of natural disasters is on an increasing trend, which may be attributed mainly to uncontrolled development, environmental degradation and human intervention. It is an accepted fact that human intervention can increase the frequency and severity of natural hazards and that human intervention can cause natural hazards where none existed before. This shows that even if people can do little or nothing to change the incidence or intensity of most natural phenomena, they have an important role to play to ensure that natural events are not converted into disasters by their own actions. Some such human actions are undue land filling, deforestation, indiscriminate coral, sand and gem mining.

With the population of the country growing coupled with the scarcity of safe land, there is a greater tendency for people to occupy hazard prone lands increasing their proneness. Uncontrolled development, while it may yield immediate benefits, will challenge the development process by causing irreparable damage due to increased trend of triggering of hazards where these were non-existent before. Optimising development and maintaining its sustainability will only be possible by safeguarding the environment, which in turn will help arrest triggering of hazards. This emphasises the fact that development, environment and disaster management are very closely linked.

In addition to natural hazards, the country is exposed to various human induced hazards such as industrial hazards, major industrial and occupational accidents, air hazards, maritime hazards, urban fire, epidemics, explosions, air raids, civil or internal strife, chemical accidents (toxic chemicals, gas, fuel, other), radiological emergencies, oil spills including inland and marine oil spills, nuclear disasters, major transportation accidents including hazardous materials and terrorism related disasters such as weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Disasters resulting from ethnic conflicts and due to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear disasters (CBRN) also must be taken into account.

Disasters are exceptional events with overwhelming loss of lives and property. Even if predicted, disasters may not be completely averted due to reasons beyond human control. There is always likely to be a degree of loss, human as well as material. Disasters end up with internal displacement, multiple physical as well as psychological traumas; deprivation of safety and basic needs; loss of family, possessions and identity.

Existing public health infrastructure coped well to control and prevent infectious disease outbreaks during recent disasters and its capabilities and expertise was internationally recognized. However, new and emerging diseases and complex nature of disasters will continue to challenge health systems.

In this context, managing disasters in the 21st century requires a unified and a national approach which is highly concerted and coordinated. With the overall objective of reducing the risk, it

focuses on where possible preventing the occurrence of disasters, mitigating their impact and ensuring that there is adequate preparedness to guarantee an effective response.

It is required to assess the disaster risks and contributing factors in different parts of the country, in order to make disaster risk reduction interventions and have preparedness plans to respond if they occur, ensuring recovery at the earliest possible instance. This emphasises the need for a national policy on disaster management; a policy that will commit all organisations and communities to act in such a manner so that highest safety will be ensured for all citizens, property and infrastructure facilities.

Risk Reduction and Management therefore will be an integral part of sustainable development. Recognizing this necessity, the Government of Sri Lanka has recently provided the statutory background for disaster management.

The Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act

In May 2005, the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No.13 of 2005 was enacted with legal provisions for instituting a disaster risk management system in the country. The Act provides for the establishment of the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), which is a high-level inter-ministerial body, that provides direction for disaster risk management work in the country, and also the establishment of Disaster Management Centre (DMC), that will be the lead agency on disaster risk management. In January 2006 a separate Ministry for Disaster Management and Human Rights (M/DM&HR) was established with NCDM and DMC listed as organisations coming under the this ministry.

Vision

To ensure

- Highest safety for all citizens from disasters with minimal harm to physical and psychological health of the survivors
- Protection for property and infrastructure facilities from damage and destruction
- Minimal disruption to economic activity and damage to environment and
- Sustainable development in the country through mitigation/prevention and integration in development to the best possible extent to reduce risk.

Overall National Aim

The aim of the National Disaster Management Policy is to establish and maintain sustainable mechanisms/systems, structures, programs, resources, capabilities and guiding principles for disaster risk reduction/management; mitigation; preparing for and responding to disasters and threats of disasters in Sri Lanka in order to save lives and property, minimise harm and ensure physical and psychological health of the survivors, minimise disruption of economic activity and damage to environment and to ensure the sustainability of development; immediate recovery of essential services in case of occurrence of a disaster; and medium and longer term reconstruction and rehabilitation to a higher standard than before, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders.

1. The National Disaster Management Policy

This national Disaster Management (DM) Policy is to have a uniform widely accepted framework for risk reduction which will be respected by all citizens in Sri Lanka to counter the disaster threat in the country and to provide for,

- i. the development of a National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) and a National Emergency Operations Plan (NEOP) and develop strategies to facilitate their implementation
- ii. the clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders concerned with disaster management so that disasters can be managed more effectively
- iii. the protection of life of the community and environment from disaster and the maintenance and development of disaster affected areas encouraging Community based Disaster Management (CBDM);
- iv. the development of mechanisms for accessing and effective use of resources for preparedness, prevention, response, relief, recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation;
- v. the assessment of the risks and vulnerabilities associated with various disasters;
- vi. capacity building, among stakeholder institutions, in relation to risk management and the application of disaster management and mitigation practices
- vii. the enhancement of public awareness and training to help vulnerable communities to protect themselves from disasters and promoting Community based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM);
- viii. capacity building, among persons living in areas vulnerable to disaster, in relation to risk management and the application of disaster management and mitigation practices; and
- ix. pre-disaster planning, preparedness and mitigation while sustaining and further improving post-disaster relief, recovery and rehabilitation capabilities.

This policy applies through all levels of the national structure and organizations – from national government level through provincial and local government, and community levels.

Priorities Accorded to the Main Elements of Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

The Main Components of the Policy are Mitigation/Prevention, Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Sustainable Development giving due consideration to the national economy of the country.

- During normal time the highest priority in DM will be accorded to Preparedness to ensure safety of the people; Mitigation/Prevention and Integration in Development to the best possible extent to reduce risk and ensure sustainable development in the country.
- Highest priority during a disaster will be accorded to protecting human life and meeting the immediate emergency needs of people, including rescue, medical care, food, shelter and clothing; and mitigating hazards that pose a threat to life
- Highest priority after a disaster will be accorded to immediate recovery of essential services, rehabilitation needs of people (temporary housing, livelihoods and employment), and to medium and longer term rehabilitation and reconstruction, to a higher standard than before the occurrence of the disaster.

Guiding Principles

1. Ensuring inter-ministerial, inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordinating mechanism for all DM activities.
2. Decentralising DRM activities with delegation of activities, resources and funds to PCs, LAs, District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats, GNs and Village Organisations

3. With respect to a given disaster, ensuring that only one designated responsible technical agency will issue the early warning and DMC will disseminate the warning messages accordingly.
4. Harnessing, integrating and coordinating activities of all stakeholders including NGOs, private sector and civil society towards a concerted effort with minimal duplication.
5. Ensuring all Ministries, Departments, PCs, LAs, District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats, NGOs/INGOs, GNs, Village Committees and village volunteer groups to formulate realistic and practical DM plans within the framework of the National Plan, which could be implemented efficiently and in a speedy manner.
6. Ensuring a comprehensive awareness programme is carried out as deemed appropriate, covering general public, government sector, schools, universities, hospitals and private sector on hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities.
7. Utilising media effectively for dissemination of information by the focal points creating awareness and giving warning on hazards to the general public.
8. Propagating a culture of volunteerism in villages by forming village volunteer groups for DM activities having periodic meetings and discussions for review.
9. Adopting Incident Command System (ICS) where possible in response activities at district, divisional and LA levels.
10. Ensuring effective performance on occurrence of disaster by conducting rehearsals / demonstrations / drills and training exercises on a regular basis.
11. Ensuring social justice, equitable distribution of relief, neutrality and impartiality in the provision of assistance and respect for the dignity, values and culture of affected persons in post-disaster situations.
12. Ensuring that gender based specific concerns, vulnerabilities and capacities are addressed in preparedness, emergency response, recovery and rehabilitation.
13. After a disaster ensuring immediate, mid-term and long-term comprehensive and efficient psychosocial interventions at community level, recognizing the functionality of existing social and healthcare systems and adopting a public mental health approach with locally effective planning and implementation methods.
14. Ensuring provision of safe housing (temporary or/and permanent), to those in IDP camps, if necessary relocating them from original locations within minimum possible time.
15. Ensuring speedy recovery of the disrupted livelihoods of the affected communities.
16. Creating a culture of insurance / micro insurance / reinsurance in the country as appropriate for people to recover speedily from disasters.
17. Recognising the importance of dead body management including identification of dead bodies and the missing, and providing a dignified burial as a crucial part of the overall DM, and ensuring a comprehensive forensic service including modern genetic capabilities. This will alleviate long-term psychological as well as legal consequences.
18. Research and Development will be an essential component DM.
19. Human subject research is an important aspect, but it needs to incorporate a national ethical framework to prevent exploitation of vulnerable communities.
20. Ensuring learning from the experience, good practices of other neighbouring countries
21. Ensuring International and Regional Co-operation
22. Ensuring obtaining professional expertise on DRM activities, both local and foreign when required.

23. Ensuring preparedness among younger generation and transfer of the knowledge of very rare but very harmful events such as tsunami to the future generations by integrating DRM in school and university curricula.
24. Optimising Donor Assistance for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities
25. Optimising coordination and maximise utilisation of resources
26. Maximising community involvement and awareness to develop preparedness and self-reliance
27. Exercising transparency and accountability in all spheres of activity at all levels
28. Ensuring high priority for protection of public utilities and infrastructure from impacts of natural/man-made disasters in the mitigation process.

Relationships with other Key Sectors

As DRM is multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral the DMC would coordinate with all ministries and line departments represented in the National Council to ensure a reliable, timely and dependable response in the aftermath of a disaster and during recovery phase.

Main areas of concern are environment and development including infrastructure, and these will be captured with the integration of DRR in development and in environmental management process. DRM concerns and activities of the following key sectors of development will be captured with the Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) strategies described in Section 3 below.

Physical Planning, Urban Development, Forestry, Lands, Agriculture, Land Development, Mining, Irrigation, Health, Sanitation, Education, Housing, Drinking Water Supply, Roads, Environment, Coastal and Marine Area Management, Tourism, Industry, Fisheries and aquatic resources, Power and Transport.

Funds for Disaster Management

All funds received from the treasury for the discharge of its functions; and by way of loans, donations, gifts or grants from any lawful source whatsoever, whether in or outside Sri Lanka, will be utilised by DMC in a transparent manner to the satisfaction of all concerned.

In all stakeholder organisations and at PCs / LAs / districts / divisions, a disaster management contingency fund will be created and allocated in the annual budget for response activities to be used in any disaster, on receipt of early warnings or otherwise, overseen by the M/DM&HR.

Monitoring and Review

The responsibility for monitoring and review of the policy will be with the M/DM&HR and its agencies.

Validity of the Policy

After a period of about 10 years or after a major disaster the Policy may be reviewed to provide an indication of whether the policy is valid, and if deemed necessary it may be reviewed and amended.

2. Strategies for Total Disaster Risk Management (TDRM) with all Stakeholders

I. Institutional Arrangements

Primary responsibility for dealing with disasters will rest with the national government, but decentralised to the PC and LA level; and District, Divisional, GN and Village levels. DMC under the guidance of the NCDM and the M/DM&HR will coordinate and implement the DM programme through a countrywide DRM mechanism.

Technical Committees will be appointed as specified in the Act, which will include specialists and members representing different stakeholder agencies handling different natural and human induced hazards covered in the Act. These committees will provide advice in specific DRM activities at the respective levels.

1. Advisory Committee to the DMC. To meet on a monthly basis.
2. National Emergency Response Committee. To meet on a monthly basis
3. Technical Committees for the following phases of disaster management cycle will include representatives of line departments, all other relevant stakeholders active in the area and specialists on very specific human induced hazards as appropriate.
 - Risk Assessment, Data Collection, Research and Analysis
 - Tsunami Early Warning
 - Multi-hazard Early Warning
 - Disaster Preparedness and Response Planning
 - Evacuation and Search & Rescue
 - Disaster Mitigation for Loss Reduction and Integration in Development
 - Training, Education and Public Awareness
 - Emergency Relief and Temporary Shelter Management
 - Post Disaster Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

These committees will be chaired and co-chaired by the relevant Director of the DMC and the main stakeholder agency respectively. These technical committees will present updates on their work to the Advisory Committee at its monthly meetings.

Under these technical committees, sub-committees may be appointed for specific short term activities/assignments as required with very specific objectives that would be monitored by the relevant technical committee.

4. Provincial Steering Committees will include Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries, District/Divisional Secretaries, Local Authority Heads, DM Coordinators, and representatives from Police, Fire Service, Military, provincial representatives of line departments and provincial agencies.
5. District DM Committee will include District Secretary, Divisional Secretaries, DM Coordinator, and representatives from Police, Fire Service, Military and line departments from the relevant levels
6. Divisional DM Committee will include Divisional Secretary, LA Mayor / Chairman / Commissioner / Secretary, DM Coordinator, and representatives from Police, Fire Service, Military and line departments from the relevant levels
7. LA level DM Committees will include LA Mayor/Chairman, Commissioner/Secretary, Divisional Secretary, Heads of different divisions of the LA, District DM Coordinator / Asst. Coordinator, and representatives from Police, Fire Service, Military and line departments from the relevant levels
8. GN/Village level Committees will include Grama Niladhari, presidents of formally established community based organisations (CBOs), community leaders such as Head Master, Chief Religious Leaders and other recognised persons.

Effective institutional arrangements will be ensured by,

- Locating Tsunami Early Warning (EW) Centre; Multi-hazards EW Centre; Risk Assessment, Data Collection Research and Analysis Centre; 24/7 National Operations Centre; and DMC in one central location and
- Linking Provincial Councils (PCs), Local Authorities (LAs), District Secretariats, Divisional Secretaries, Grama Niladharis (GNs) and Village Committees to the Centre.

II. Strategic Interventions for Effectively Managing Different Phases of Disaster Risk Reduction

Risk Assessment, Data Collection, Research and Analysis

A National Centre for Risk Assessment, Data Collection, Research and Analysis for all hazards will be set up to identify, assess and evaluate disaster risks, worsening of disaster risks, forecast future situations and identify strategic measures. All stakeholders will be represented at this centre.

In this context, multi-hazard mapping, vulnerability and risk assessment will be carried out for ensuring that all information and hazard maps pertaining to the disaster situation in the country will be available in one place; and ensuring that technology transfer will be in one central location when collaborating in projects with the international agencies providing technical assistance.

Priority areas for mapping will be selected based on the severity of proneness; importance of the sector – education, health, housing, agriculture etc. depending on the geographical area; and where development projects are being finalised as it is economically feasible to integrate DRR at the initial stage of the development.

Research studies on disaster related subjects to strengthen the data base on disaster information and assist in the disaster risk assessment studies in prone areas and social issues by R&D agencies and universities will be promoted. Specific studies will be undertaken on technological and human induced hazards; building fire risk; earthquake risk etc.

Tsunami and Multi-hazard EW Centres

A National Tsunami EW Centre functional and a Multi-hazard EW Centre on 24/7 basis with an effective early warning communication system will be established. For hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, adverse weather conditions, tropical cyclones and tornadoes, constant coordination with relevant regional and international hazard early warning centres will be maintained. Constant vigilance will be maintained with respect to local hazards such as river floods, flash floods and landslides, and the local systems already available for receiving warning will be strengthened.

The EW Centres will,

- Work closely with the special police emergency section
- Create awareness among communities and all concerned including Police on early warning and immediate actions to be taken
- Establish a reliable communication system with all facilities and having alternative communication systems in place
- Have the system established with public media and to ensure timely dissemination of information.
- Inform relevant PCs, LAs, District Secretariats, Divisional Secretariats, GNs, Village Committees of above through the established system
- Inform communities and fishermen in the sea likely to get affected.

Guiding Principles for EW - Arrangements will be made to ensure the following aspects in warning:

- With respect to every disaster, a responsible agency/officer will be designated to issue the warnings.
- Only the designated agencies/officers will issue the warning
- All warning systems and technologies to be maintained in working condition and checked regularly by the DMC and to be approved by the M/DM&HR
- Communities in disaster prone areas will be made aware of the early warning systems
- Alternative warning systems will be kept in readiness in case of technical failure (e.g. power failure)
- The warning will be very clear about the severity, the time frame and the area that may be affected to the extent possible.
- Rumour control action will be taken.
- All relevant agencies and organizations will be alerted.
- Once a warning is issued it should be followed-up by subsequent warnings in order to keep the people informed of the latest situation.
- In the event of the disaster threat fading away, an all-clear signal will be given.
- Haphazard announcements through electronic media to the public to be controlled.
- Regular media briefing to be done by DMC.

Capacities of Local Agencies - Any recognised organisations at present involved in coordinating, monitoring or issuing warnings on specific hazards, but not having legal mandate to so, will be strengthened with the necessary legal mandates. The shortcomings such as inadequate institutional capacity and information communication systems will be improved.

Early Warning Dissemination Systems – Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) at PCs, Districts / Divisions / LAs will serve as EW centres at those respective levels. Methods to convey the warning message to the communities from Police Stations, EOCs at respective sub-national levels will be incorporated in the plans at these respective levels. Each of these levels will be linked to the central early warning centre and the EW messages within that of the National Early Warning Centre.

Strategy for Disaster Response

Depending on the scale of the disaster, interventions for response at different levels will take the following model:

- i. Divisional Secretaries / LAs, GNs, Village DM Committees and village volunteers as first responders will be prepared with plans, incident command system, proper training, awareness and resources to respond on receipt of warning of an impending disaster or on occurrence of a disaster.
- ii. If they are unable to cope with the disaster, the District Secretary would intervene using resources in the district to respond to the disaster.
- iii. In the event that it is beyond the scope of the District Secretary due to the magnitude of the disaster or due to the inadequacy of resources, the Provincial Secretary and the PC will get involved with their resources under the guidance of the Chief Minister.
- iv. If it is beyond the capacity of the PC, then the central government will intervene in the response activities.
- v. If the disaster is of national magnitude, then the central government will take appropriate action from the onset of the disaster.

National Level Emergency Operations and Response

A National Level EOC functional on 24/7 basis will be established. This will encompass response activities with respect to natural and man-made hazards prevalent in different areas of the country having a database of resources available in different districts / divisions / local authorities. Assistance will be provided to sub national level EOCs to share resources. In addition, within the Centre capacity will be built to adequately respond to technological and man made hazards as well. Emergency telephone number will be made available to the public.

Disaster Management Committees at other levels

As mentioned in Sub-section I under Institutional Arrangements, it will be mandatory to appoint a Disaster Management Committee at each of the following levels. The committee will be responsible for ensuring the preparation of disaster preparedness and response plans, awareness creation and training, and for coordinating the response when a disaster occurs, with communication and other required facilities available at the EOCs established at each level with support from national government. Committees at all levels are to abide by the guiding principles presented in this policy.

<u>Level</u>	<u>EOC chaired by</u>
National level ministries	Minister / Secretary of responsible Ministry (Bi-partisan)
Provincial councils	Chief Minister / Chief Secretary
District level	District Secretary
Divisional level	Divisional Secretary
Local Authority level	LA Mayor or Chairman / Commissioner or Secretary (Bi-partisan)
Village level	Grama Niladhari

All other agencies too will be required to appoint an Emergency Management Committee with several members, the number depending on size of the establishment. Guidelines will be issued as to the constitution of the committees.

For effective response during a disaster all these groups have to coordinate and work together. Particular mention of the need to have very close relationship is made to Divisional and LA level EOCs and Disaster Management Committees, as these two administrative groups are functional within the same geographical area (with a few exceptions). For such an effective coordinated effort LA Head must be represented in the Divisional level Committee and EOC, and Divisional Secretary represented in the LA Committee and EOC. Further coordinated preparedness is required and the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders on occurrence of a disaster will be clearly spelled out in the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans (DPRPs).

Agencies at all levels responsible for roads, will take immediate action to clear the roads as the situation permits to assist in evacuation, Search and Rescue (SAR) and immediate relief activities for marooned groups.

At community level societies and volunteer groups for response will be encouraged. They will be provided training on SAR, evacuation, first aid, mock drills for evacuation, camp management etc. by the DMC.

Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans (DPRPs)

All government ministries; PCs; national and provincial departments; boards and corporations; district, division, LA and village administrations; private agencies including business communities, offices, factories, commercial establishments etc.; all educational establishments

including schools, universities, technical colleges, training establishments etc.; all hospitals and health facilities; and communities will be required to develop a DPRP based on the guidelines developed and circulated by DMC. DMC will coordinate and monitor adherence and progress.

National, Provincial and District level units of service providing agencies, in addition to their DPRPs for their respective agencies, will have Operating Procedures detailing out activities to assist National, Provincial and District level administrations in an emergency situation after a disaster at the respective levels. In the preparedness, protection of public utilities and infrastructure from impacts of natural disasters will receive high priority.

For assisting and monitoring of activities of private sector agencies, business communities, educational establishments etc. at district / divisional / local levels, a mechanism will be developed utilising the district, division and LA administrative set up.

As preparedness for increasing disaster resilience of communities, i.e., quick recovery after a disaster, tools available for micro-finance and safety nets will be used. A mechanism will be established to sensitise social and financial communities and institutions on their potential role in reducing disaster risk, and to raise awareness in the disaster and risk management community of the utility of existing financial tools and safety nets to reduce the vulnerability of hazard-prone populations.

Relief and Temporary Shelter Management

Emergency Relief and Temporary Shelter Management related activities will be implemented by the PC and LA levels; and district, divisional and GN levels of administration as specified in the Preparedness and Response Plans coordinating with government and private sector agencies; and NGOs, business communities, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) for getting their assistance and resources available. In carrying out these activities strict adherence will be ensured to social justice, equitable distribution of relief, neutrality and impartiality in the provision of assistance and respect for the dignity, values and culture of affected persons.

All agencies responsible for roads will take action for clearing the roads, to assist in the relief activities. National, Provincial and District level units of service providing agencies will assist by providing required services to any groups of marooned communities, those in temporary shelter and those in areas where services have been affected, as specified in the Operating Procedures.

DMC will coordinate as relevant with different levels of administration for organising additional resource requirements for the affected areas from unaffected areas.

Ministry of Disaster Relief Services will implement relief measures. Overall coordination and supervision of such relief will be by the M/DM&HR as per the Gazette.

Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

National, Provincial/LA and District/Division level units of service providing agencies will take immediate action to revive the affected public utilities to provide essential services in affected areas. LAs will immediately attend to all services within their purview. Where services are affected severely, action will be taken to take temporary measures for providing such services immediately. Depending on the scale of the disaster, the responsible agencies will prepare immediate, medium and long term plans for rehabilitation and reconstruction after carrying out assessments of the damages.

Arrangements will be made to provide safe housing (temporary or/and permanent), to those in IDP camps or temporary shelter, if necessary relocating them from original locations within minimum practically possible time.

Reconstruction and rehabilitation of services and public utilities will be carried out to a higher standard than before the occurrence of the disaster. DMC will coordinate as relevant with

different levels of administration and service providing agencies regarding funding requirements. With respect to reconstruction after the disaster DMC will particularly coordinate with the Ministry of Nation Building which is the main ministry for reconstruction after a disaster, and other contracting agencies. Funding assistance by Donors/NGOs/INGOs will be coordinated at national level by DMC and by the respective administrations at other levels.

In respect of speedy recovery of the disrupted livelihoods of the affected communities, maximum possible assistance will be provided to them within the minimum time, in coordination with government agencies and NGOs, adhering to social justice, neutrality, impartiality, values and culture of affected persons.

Mitigation for Loss Reduction and integration in development

DMC will work with relevant agencies and take measures for long term risk reduction by adopting suitable mitigation measures

- Safe Building Construction; Guidelines and Building Codes, and making their use mandatory by inclusion in planning and development regulations
- Specific mitigation projects
- Hazard specific mitigation measures as applicable for different sectors
- Promotion of insurance / micro insurance / reinsurance policies as appropriate for housing, livelihoods, agricultural crops, business enterprises etc. accommodating clauses pertaining to natural & man-made disaster impacts as a practice
- Take action for increasing community resilience by improving livelihoods and providing alternative livelihoods
- Integration of disaster consideration in land-use planning/zoning through Land Use Policy Planning Division (LUPPD)
- Integration in Land Use Zoning and Development Plans of LAs making the process mandatory through Urban Development Authority (UDA) regulations
- Careful consideration of locations of storage and industrial activities using toxic/ lethal chemicals, explosives etc. and their storage in land-use planning/zoning
- Ensuring compliance of factories / establishments with the factories ordinance
- Integration of DRR in Regional Structure Plans by National Physical Planning Department (NPPD)
- Integration of DRR into the National Development Process and the National Plan
- Inclusion of Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) in the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) process of the Central Environmental Authority (CEA)
- Imposing regulations against misuse of natural resources by individuals / agencies leading to triggering of hazards/disasters
- Integration of mitigation during reconstruction after a disaster
- Other mitigatory actions relevant for other man-made hazards
- Imposing regulations for storage, transportation and use of toxic/lethal chemicals, explosives and other hazardous materials, including the need to declare and the right of the general public to know of the availability of such materials.

In the mitigation process, protection of public utilities and infrastructure from impacts of natural/man-made disasters will be given high priority.

Action will also be taken on awareness raising, artisan training and transfer of appropriate technology with respect to mitigation at community level.

Disaster mitigation plans will be made a requirement for appropriate agencies, especially, LAs, districts/divisions/GN level administrations, infrastructure and service providing agencies, PC engineering organisations and other agencies as appropriate.

Training, Public Awareness and Education

DMC will work out programmes on Training, Public Awareness and Education by carrying out following activities as appropriate and collaborate with relevant agencies and administrations at different levels. Implementation of training will be assigned to appropriate authorities depending on the capacity of such authorities, subject to policy directives at national level.

- Analysing training and awareness needs
- Identifying target groups at national and sub national levels; government, private sector, NGOs, informal sector, Community Based DRM Training etc.
- Developing training and awareness plans covering all areas (all phases of the DM Cycle) as appropriate for all target groups
- Developing training and awareness plans for each district, drawing synergy with existing/ongoing efforts of other organizations
- Organising Public awareness programmes and campaigns including awareness for Communities for Livelihood Development and Poverty Reduction
- Liaising with relevant agencies for integrating of DM in school curriculum and for school awareness as appropriate in accordance with the programmes of the education sector including teacher training
- Liaising with relevant agencies for incorporating Disaster Management in Tertiary Educational Curricula – University and Other Tertiary Educational Establishments, including General DM awareness and Specific content to match the subject area of the courses

3. Promoting Different Stakeholders Outside the Government Structure for Achieving Maximum Effect

Private Sector

Private sector will be encouraged to organize themselves in to associations and to have their own plans within the framework of the National Plan and guidelines of the National Policy for responding to disasters and for rapid recovery after a disaster. DMC will facilitate in organizing and capacity building for these groups. At the same time DMC will coordinate with them to obtain resources available with them for post disaster response, having them captured in the National Resource database.

Promoting Culture of Volunteerism (Transcending political barriers - APOLITICAL)

M/DM&HR and DMC will take action to promote creation of a culture of volunteerism at village, LA and division levels for assisting in emergencies; to register volunteer groups by administrations at relevant levels and to provide training; to reward volunteers at place of work and rewarding employers for promoting volunteerism; to motivate employers who promote volunteerism.

Role of Media in Disaster Management

M/DM&HR and DMC will recognise the role of Media; create awareness among media emphasizing on their responsibilities towards the general public on issuing correct and timely information.

Role of NGOs in Disaster Management

M/DM&HR and DMC will coordinate with NGOs and INGOs to get their support in all relevant activities of DRM at all levels including resources available with them for post disaster response, having them included in the National Resource database; stipulate a framework within which they operate within Sri Lanka on natural and man-made disasters; recognise and facilitate NGOs active in the area of Disaster Management; and adopt a Code of Conduct for NGOs.

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