

Towards a Disaster Resilient City

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Matara Initiatives

Geographical Location

- ✚ Matara is located in Southern Coast of Sri Lanka around 156 Km away from Colombo
- ✚ City of Matara is an economic zone and a rapidly developing urban commercial capital of southern province.
- ✚ Southern Province consists of three districts and Matara stands in between Galle and Hambantota.
- ✚ Nilwala River originating from central hills, is flowing through the city and falls to Indian ocean



River Nilwala



- River Nilwala (Blue Clouds), 3rd longest river in Sri Lanka, originates from Deniyaya and Rakwana hills and runs through Matara to join Indian Ocean at Thotamuna.
- River is extensively to irrigate lands on its way to Matara.
- Tea, rubber, cardamom, vegetables cinnamon plantations and paddy are served by Nilwala water
- Excessive water carries as floods create destructions. There is an embankment built for flood protection of Matara and suburbs

Matara is full of natural scenic beauty. The sandy and safe beaches are assets and fishing industry too is flourishing providing a source of income and supply of fish. The combination of these multi faceted natural resources has made Matara a popular tourist resort

City Profile

Demographic and Geographical Details

 Total Population	76,254 in 2007
 Male	34,326
 Female	36,709
 Total land area	21.2 km ²
 Total No. of wards	15
 Number of Households	15,497
 Number of families	15,838
 Government Buildings	570
 Commercial Buildings	4,130
 Roads/ Total Length	111.00 km

[Bituminous/ Asphalt -95 km , Gravel - 06.4 km Concrete - 10.1 km]



Floods

Major Disaster Risks

- Due to the over 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 upstream
- In 2008 floods, 1972 people affected and damaged 437 houses
- Poor drainage network with obstructions to natural flow and dumping of waste result in local floods
- Most of the land areas of Matara are flat and some are below the sea level. As a result city is becoming more water logging and more area goes under flood plain



Major Disaster Risks

- + **Tsunami** in 2004, washed away entire coastal area, seriously affected tourist and fishing industries, left 462 dead, injured 1862, damaged 2205 houses and affected 22943 people.
- + Occasional **landslides** occur in the eastern part of Matara. Severe landslide was reported in 2005 destroying 9 houses affecting 45 people
- + Although not frequent, **cyclones and high wind** occurrences can not be ruled out and may cause severe damages



DRR Partners in Matara

- + Community (ward based Citizen Committees)
- + City Council
- + Disaster Management Center
- + Matara District Disaster Management Coordinating Unit
- + National Building Research Organisation
- + The Asia Foundation
- + Federation of SL Local Government Authorities
- + University of Moratuwa
- + Asian Disaster Preparedness Center. (technical inputs)

Risk Assessment

Process in place

- ✚ Holding preliminary meetings with Mayor, officials, citizen committees to introduce concepts
- ✚ Conducting workshops participated by community, Irrigation Dept., Disaster Management Center, members of council and other stakeholders
- ✚ Assessing Hazard, Vulnerability, Capacity and Risk on ward basis through workshops
- ✚ Developing ward based multi hazard risk maps with community participation



In developing ward level hazard maps



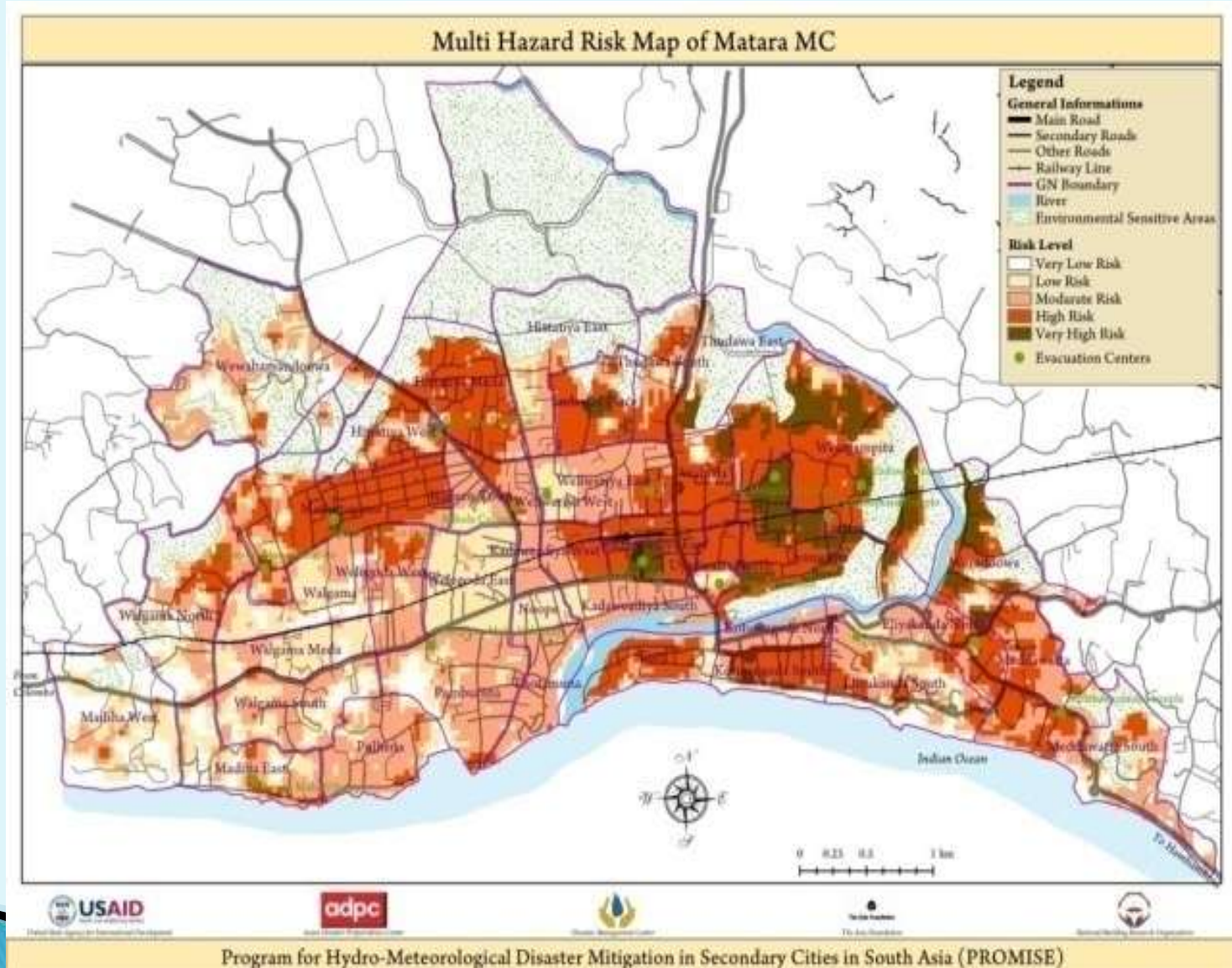
Risk Assessment

Process in place

- ✚ Preparation of city action plan with prioritized mitigation activities
- ✚ Analysing land use pattern relevant to disaster dimensions with subject experts' assistance
- ✚ Compiling ward based plans and developing city level multi hazard risk maps overlaid with land use plans



Multi Hazard Risk Map - Matara



DRR Initiatives

Mitigation and Preparedness

- ✚ Implementing small scale structural mitigation activities with council and community mobilization
- ✚ Formation of ward level volunteer teams to assist and respond to needs on emergency response and preparedness



Cleaning of canals
and drains



DRR Initiatives

Mitigation and Preparedness

- Strengthening fire, search and rescue service capacities by equipping with fire engines, trucks, water carriers, platforms with ladders, an ambulance and tools to deal with hazardous materials
- Introducing city fire emergency response plan and capacity building for first respondent teams on fire safety, SAR and emergency response
- Training of volunteer teams on first aid and emergency response. Trainees represented young community who will train their own people



DRR Initiatives

Training and Public Awareness

- ✚ Conducting school safety programs at school level to educate children and convey DRR messages at household level
- ✚ DRR awareness to school children on monitoring weather, safety measures at school and response while at school
- ✚ Awareness raising on Dengue fever prevention
- ✚ Awareness on promotion of home composting to reduce solid waste generation



DRR Initiatives

Training and Public Awareness

- ✚ Conducting seminars for city officials on application of DRR in service provisions for good urban governance (land use planning, waste disposal, health etc.)
- ✚ Training for city officials and elected members on participatory planning to maintain the sustainability of already conducted participatory planning workshops and meetings



DRR Initiatives

Strengthening Emergency Response

- ✚ Matara is benefitted with Tsunami warning through towers erected on the coast. City will work closely with the DMC for appropriate measures to disseminate warning to citizens, timely evacuation and other needs
- ✚ Fire services unit of the city is recently equipped with new fire engines, water carriers, platforms with ladders and tools for dealing with accidents and emergencies
- ✚ City is capable of assisting suburban areas in fire emergency situations, SAR and other humanitarian needs in a disaster

DRR Initiatives

Advocacy for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management

- ✚ Conducting seminars at Provincial level for local authority chairpersons, commissioners, local govt. officials and other decision making level officials of Southern Provincial council
- ✚ Inclusion of DRR actions identified at action planning workshops in the city development plan
- ✚ Inclusion DRR activities in the annual budget of the council

Seminar for
Southern
Provincial
Council



DRR Initiatives

Advocacy for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management

DRR components are successfully included in the proposed development plan in subjects of :

- ✚ **Land use planning** – building approval process, maintaining drains and water retention areas, infrastructure facilities
- ✚ **Health and Sanitation** – solid waste disposal, safe drinking water, food and sanitation habits, preventive measures, child and maternity care
- ✚ **Water supply and drainage** – water supply, waster water disposal, facilities to slum / under developed areas
- ✚ An annual allocation in the budget is available for relief and preparedness for disasters. A substantial portion is for public awareness including school awareness programs.

DRR Initiatives

Advocacy for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management

- ✚ Decentralization of disaster risk management and recognition as an integral part of city development
- ✚ Planned to finalise a four year development plan incorporating DRR proposals received at community participation and other means
- ✚ Review of municipal by laws and recommendation reforms to include DRR
- ✚ Introduction of new DM related by laws and the draft is in the process of approval by the Southern provincial council, the authority



DRR Initiatives

Draft By- laws on DRR

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උපද්‍රව්‍යය

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By Laws Matara Municipal Council

It is hereby notified that I, Guntinggna Wadu Shan Wijayal de Silva, Minister of Local Government in the Southern Provincial Council and Chief Minister have sanctioned by virtue of powers vested in me under subsection (1) of section 268 of the Municipal Councils Ordinance, Chapter 252 read together with section 2 of the Provincial Councils (Consequential Provisions) Act No. 12 of 1989, the By-Laws on the Management of Disasters and Catastrophic Situations in the Matara Municipal Council area, set out in the Motion No..... moved on 3rd May 2010 in the Municipal Council having being made by the Municipal Council by virtue of section 272 of the Municipal Councils Ordinance, Chapter 252 read together with section (1) of Section 267 of the Municipal Councils Ordinance, Chapter 252.

Guntinggna Wadu Shan Wijayal de Silva
Minister of Local Government and Chief Minister,
Provincial Council,
Southern Province.

Office of the Chief Minister,
Galle.

.....August 2010

Schedule

By-laws on the Management of Disasters and Catastrophic Situations

- These bylaws are defined as by laws on the management of disasters and catastrophic situations in the Municipal Council area of Matara
- These by laws are enacted with a view to minimizing the disasters and catastrophic situations that might arise in the area under the authority of the Municipal Council in Matara, providing relief to those who are liable to be inconvenienced during such a disaster or catastrophic situation or who are inconvenienced and to prepare the people in the Municipal Council area or those who migrate to that area to acquire beforehand, capabilities in facing such disasters or catastrophic situations and to provide for all matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- The bylaws shall not be considered as diluting the force of the provisions of any other written law or custom into force as a substitute for such law rather than as

Matara City will continue the dialogue of participatory Process of exchanging DRR information :

- ✚ To build up consensus among stakeholders to bridge the gap between decision makers and beneficiaries
- ✚ To plan, design, implement and monitor DRR intervention activities collectively and
- ✚ To build our city as one of the disaster resilient cities in Sri Lanka



Thank You