

Sri Lanka: Disaster Management Coordination

**Initiatives, Opportunities, Challenges
and Way Forward:**

For Community Resilience to Disasters

Disaster and Disaster Management in Sri Lanka

- ❑ Sri Lanka has been suffering from varieties of disasters
 - ❑ The disaster occurrence trend has been dramatically increased in the recent past
 - ❑ Large numbers of people in scattered geographical areas are affected,
 - ❑ Huge amount of development gains are being lost
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Disaster and Its Impact 1996 – 2006

Event	No. of deaths	No. of people affected	No. of Houses Destroyed	Relief Distribution in mil (Rs)
Cyclone	30	22,431	65,707	224.90
Drought	0	7,479,147	0	1,176.14
Flood	285	2,230,098	28,607	714.46
Landslide	211	20,636	1,367	15.37
Tsunami	39,143	419,142	43,504	153.46

Institution and Legal System

- Disaster Management Act enacted in 2005
 - National Council for Disaster Management was established in 2005
 - DMC was established in 2005
 - MDM&HR was established in 2006
 - Road Map for Disaster Risk Management "Towards a Safer Sri Lanka" was developed in 2006
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Opportunities

- ❑ Since 2003 floods and landslides, several INGOs/ NGOs/ CBOs and GOs are working in different aspects of DM in the country
 - ❑ Several donors and UN agencies have been supporting DRM activities and expressed interest to support in the days to come
 - ❑ There are more disaster prone areas to be covered by programme and ample opportunities to link disaster with development.
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- Little or No information at national level on **WHO is DOING WHAT?**
 - Less information on **mainstreaming DRR** into development activities and the **linkages**
 - Ample opportunities to **'replicate' successful initiatives**, and understand what approaches work most effectively, under what conditions. Also opportunities to learn from neighbouring countries.
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Challenges

- ❑ Large number of GOs/ INGOs/ NGOs/ CBOs are working in DRM in different parts of the country
 - ❑ In many cases organizations are working in isolation and competing for resources
 - ❑ Duplication of activities
 - ❑ Organizations interested to work in accessible, close by and district hqs
 - ❑ National level “**DRR Movement**” cannot be done without the active participation of ALL actors in the country
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Way forward for better COORDINATION

- ❑ Since 2004 tsunami, several rounds of meetings and information exchange among DM actors going on at different levels
 - ❑ UN agencies and DMC jointly organized IASC on DRM in November 2006,
 - ❑ NAC on DM Chaired by the Minister DM&HR and Coordinating Committee of Secretaries of relevant ministries Chaired by Secretary of DM&HR has established an effective coordination mechanism in state sector agencies
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Way forward for better COORDINATION

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- ❑ DMC/UNDP/ISDR organized National level meeting on April 2007 and endorsed by all to establish a national coordination mechanism
 - ❑ On 25 May 2007 in a national forum all participants agreed to form a national mechanism under the leadership of Secretary, MDM&HR
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Way forward for better COORDINATION Continue..

- A national DM Coordination Committee (NDMCC) is in process to form with representative from GOs, Donors, UN agencies, INGO, NGOs, Media, Academic institutions, Private Companies and CBOs under the leadership of the Secretary, MDM&HR
 - NDMCC will be developing its ToR *and will select its Steering Committee ????* to facilitate the national level coordination mechanism.
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Goal and Objectives of the NDMCC

Goal

- Contribute to the national efforts to **reduce the impact of disasters**, and **build disaster resilient communities**

Objectives

- To provide a **FORUM** for DM actors to **exchange and share information**,
- To facilitate the **documentation of good practices** and **lessons learned** on DRR,
- To **influence national policy** in a more effective manner,
- Better **COORDINATION** among **ALL DRM actors** for successful implementation of the “Road Map for Disaster Risk Management: Towards a Safer Sri Lanka”.

Thank You!
