

Section 1

1.

INTRODUCTION

In July 2005, the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No.13 of 2005 was enacted which provides the legal basis for instituting a disaster risk management system in the country. The National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM), is a high-level inter-ministerial body. The chairman and vice chairman of the NCDM are H.E. the President and Hon Prime Minister respectively. Other members are Leader of the Opposition, Ministers in charge of 20 selected subject areas, Provincial Council Chief Ministers and five members of the Opposition. The Act also provides for establishing the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) under the Council to be the apex body for the purpose of planning, co-ordinating and implementing of certain natural and other forms of disasters. The principal functions of the DMC under the said Act are to (i) Assisting the Council in the preparation of the

National Disaster Management Plan and the National Emergency Operation Plan and proposals for upgrading the same when it becomes necessary ; (ii) Taking responsibility for the implementation of the National Disaster Management Plan and the National Emergency Operation Plan, and upon the declaration of a state of disaster to direct and coordinate the implementation of the National Emergency Operation plan; (iii) Ensuring that the various Disaster Management Plans prepared by Ministries, Government Departments or public corporations conforms to the National Disaster Management Plan ; (iv) Based on Disaster Management Plans prepared by various Ministries, Government Departments and public corporations under section 10, preparing and implementing programmes and plans for disaster preparedness, mitigation, prevention, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities and coordinating of organizations which implement such programmes and plans and obtain financial assistance form the Treasury for such activities and release the same to the relevant regions and monitor and evaluate these activities ; (v) Issuing instructions and guidelines to appropriate organizations, non-governmental organizations, district secretaries and divisional secretaries on activities relating to disaster management and initiating and implementing work programmes in co-ordination with such organizations and secretaries ; (vi) Promoting research and development programmes in relation to disaster management and setting up and maintaining a data base on disaster management; (vii) Submitting reports to the Council from time to time and whenever required by the Council in regard to its activities.

This Act also provides for a framework for disaster risk management in Sri Lanka and addresses disaster management (DM) holistically, leading to a policy shift from response based mechanisms to a proactive approach towards DRM.

In terms of the Act following hazards come under the purview of Disaster Management:

- Floods
- Landslides
- Industrial Hazards
- Tsunami (Seismic Wave)
- Earthquakes
- Air Hazards
- Fire
- Epidemics
- Explosions
- Air Raids
- Civil or Internal Strife
- Chemical Accidents
- Radiological Emergency
- Oil Spills
- Nuclear Disaster
- Urban and Forest Fire
- Coastal Erosion
- Tornadoes, Lightening Strikes and Severe Thunder Storms

In July 2005 the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) was established under the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) to be functional under H.E. the President.

The first meeting of the NCDM was held on 12th October 2005 and granted approval for establishment of the DMC, Organization Structure of the DMC, appointment of the Director General of the DMC, staff cadre for immediate functioning of the Centre and their salaries / allowances, Budget 2005, Budget 2006, Disaster Awareness Programmes of DMC, Action Plan for 2006 and recruitment of staff etc.

In December 2005 a separate Ministry for Disaster Management was established under the Hon. Prime Minister. In February 2006 the Ministry for Disaster Management and Human Rights (M/DM&HR) was established with the subject of Human Rights listed under its purview. As per the gazette notification of February 2006 National Disaster Management Council, Disaster Management Centre and Department of Meteorology were placed within the purview of M/DM&HR. The DM functions implemented through the DMC according to this gazette notification are as follows:

1. Initiate and coordinate foreign aided projects for disaster mitigation, response and recovery
2. Liaising with Ministries, Government authorities and agencies, private sector agencies, NGOs and INGOs and all other relevant agencies to ensure timely execution of such responsibility.

3. Coordination and Management of relief activities pertaining to natural and man-made disasters.
4. Coordinating awareness programs on natural disasters and man-made disasters
5. Early warning systems.
6. Supervision of the activities of non-governmental organizations and social welfare voluntary agencies in relation to disaster management, provisions of relief and promotion of human rights,
7. Facilitation of and assistance to non-governmental organizations and social welfare voluntary agencies, in the fields of disaster management and human rights.

Initially with the establishment of the DMC, in order to commence awareness activities for coastal communities in the 9 tsunami affected districts, on a directive of H.E. the President, District Disaster Management Coordinating Units were established with a District DM Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and approximately 20 DM Assistants in each district reporting to the District Secretary. These units were staffed with officers and other ranks released from the Armed forces and the Police Special Task Force with a preliminary short trainer training on Disaster Management.

Considering the main functional divisions such as, Disaster Mitigation & Technology Emergency Operation, Training and Awareness, Preparedness, Response Planning Early Warning and Administration & Finance, the filling of cadre positions essential for its immediate functioning was commenced. District DM Coordinating Units (DDMCU) have been adopted as the coordinating and implementing unit at the sub-national level. Gradually, with recruitment of staff the DMC succeeded in establishing 22 District Disaster Management Units with limited facilities.

Within a short period of little more than a year the Disaster Management Centre became more visible both in the national and on the international arena for its active participation in Disaster Management activities.

Vision:

Safer communities and sustainable development in Sri Lanka.

Mission

To create a culture of safety among communities and the nation at large through systematic management of natural, technological and man-made disaster risks.

Section 2

2.1 **BRIEF PROFILE OF THE OFFICERS OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE**

Director General	Major General Gamini Hettiarachchi M.A in English & Admin (Sabaragamuwa) Dip in Human Resources Management–NIBM
Director (Technology & Mitigation)	Mr. U W L Chandradasa MSc Civil Engineering (Moscow) Dip in Water Supply & Waste Water Treatment Middlesex Polytechnic (UK)
Director (Preparedness Planning)	Mrs. Lalani Imbulana BSc (Engineering) - Moratuwa Master of Engineering (Water Resources Mgt)
Director (Training & Pub Awareness)	Dr. Buddhi Weerasighe B.Sc Hon (Peradeniya) PhD (Wales) Post Graduate Dip in Business & Fin. Admin (Netherlands & Sri Lanka)
Deputy Director (Personnel & Admin)	Mr. N W S W S de Silva B.A. Vidyod: (Ceylon) Cert. Heap. Manchester - UK Post Graduate Diploma in Management – Delft Netherlands Master of Public Administrations - Sri J – Sri Lanka LLB (Level 3) Completed – OUSL – Sri Lanka
Deputy Director (Emergency Ops)	Mr. A D Ramya Siriwanasa B A (Kelaniya) Master of Professional Studies in Food & Nutrition Planning (Philippines) Dip in Purchasing & Materials Management Post Graduate Dip in Provincial Administration
Deputy Director (Finance)	Ms. P A M Boteju B A (Peradeniya) Membership of the CIMA (London)
Deputy Director (Media)	Mr. W A S Lal Kumara
Assistant Director (Emergency Opn)	Wg Cdr S M D Wijayaooriya
Assistant Director (Information Tech)	Mr. S A K N Jayasoma BSc in Applied Science Dip in Computer Technology
Assistant Director (Trg & Pub A)	Mr. K P A Dharamarathna B Com (SP) – Peradeniya – Sri Lanka Post Graduate Dip in Community Development
Assistant Director (Trg & Pub A)	Mr. N W A M M K N Bandara BSc in Geology – Peradeniya – Sri Lanka MSc in Eng & Applied Geology - Thailand

2.2 THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

Chairman	HE the President, Mahinda Rajapaksha
Vice Chairman	Hon Prime Minister, Rathnasiri Wickramanayake
Leader of the Opposition	Hon. Ranil Wickramasinghe

Ministers in charge of the following subjects :-

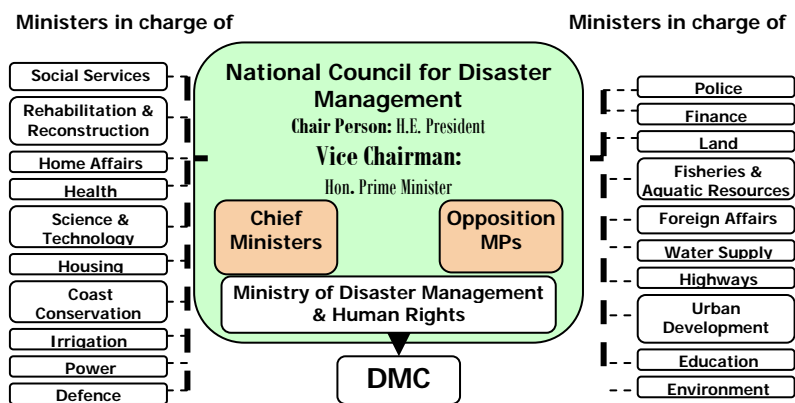
Social Welfare	Hon. Minister Douglas Devananda
Rehabilitation & Reconstruction	-
Environment	Hon. Minister Maithripala Sirisena
Home Affairs	Hon. Minister Chandrasiri Gajadheera
Health	Hon. Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva
Science & Technology	Hon. Minister Prof. Tissa Vitarana
Housing	Hon. Minister Ferial Ashraff
Coast Conservation	-
Irrigation	Hon. Minister Anver Ismail
Power	Hon. Minister W D J Senevirathna
Defence	HE the President
Police	HE the President
Finance	HE the President
Lands	Hon. Minister Tissa Karaliyedda
Fisheries & Aquatic Resources	Hon. Minister Felix Perera
Foreign Affairs	Hon. Minister Mangala Samaraweera
Water Supply	Hon. Minister Dinesh Gunawardena
Highways	Hon. Minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle
Urban Development	Hon. Minister Dinesh Gunawardena
Education	Hon. Minister Susil Premajyantha

Section 3

3. Review of Performance by Director General

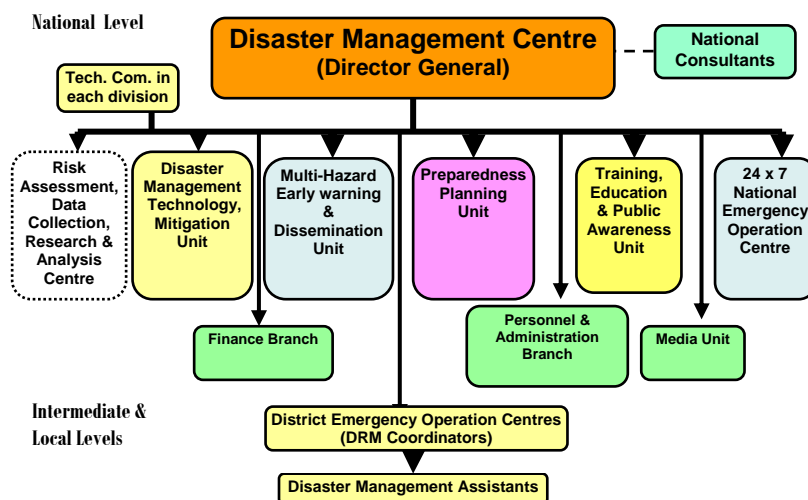
The National Council for Disaster Management established in terms of the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No 13 of 2005 shall be a corporate body with perpetual succession and a common seal.

3.1 Composition of the National Council



In terms of section 8 (1) of the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No 13 of 2005, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) was established under the National Council (NCDM) and commenced operation on 1st July 2005.

3.2 Structure of the Disaster Management Centre



3.3 **Recruitment of Staff**

With the commencement of activities of the Disaster Management Centre, schemes of recruitment of staff, cadre, salary and organization structure of the centre were drawn up with the assistance of UNDP consultants.

Organization structure and the cadre of the centre were approved by the cabinet of Ministers on 14.09.2005 pending approval of the National Council. The National Council at its meeting held on 12.10.2005 ratified the same along with the proposed salaries until the approval is granted by the respective authorities.

The cadre of the Disaster Management Centre was approved by the Department of Management Services and the salaries by the National Council for Administration with a revision.

Accordingly, the DMC succeeded in filling vacancies of approximately 70% of its cadre in 2006.

With the limited senior staff recruited already the Disaster Management Centre has established several Divisions viz Preparedness Planning, Training & Public Awareness, Mitigation & Technology, Emergency Operations, Administration, Finance and Media.

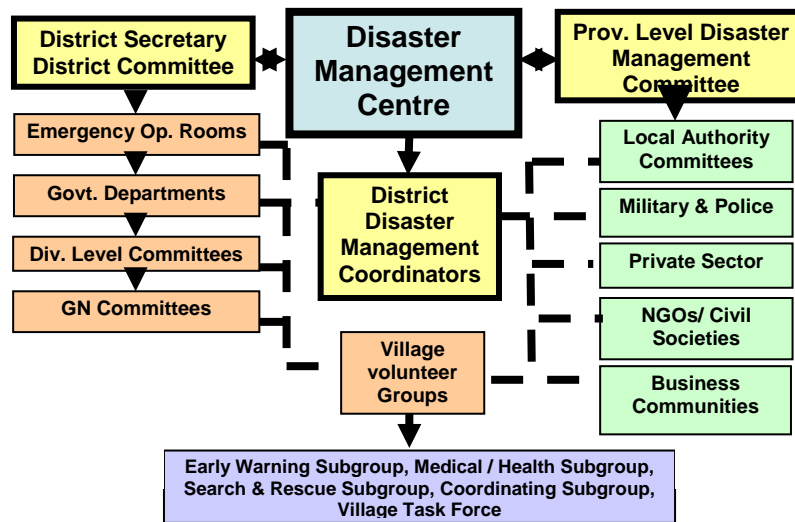
3.4 **Establishment of District Disaster Management Units**

Initially, the Disaster Management Centre established Disaster Management Units in 9 Districts. Viz, Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Puttalam, Trincomalle and Ampara Districts with staff released from Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force & STF)

There are 222 such Officers and Other Ranks released from the Forces.

Senior level officers were placed as coordinators in each of the districts while around 15 junior officers were placed in each district to assist the coordinators in Disaster Management Activities.

Structure of the District Organization



With the recruitment of 12 District Disaster Management Coordinators and 80 District Disaster Management Assistant Coordinators the DMC succeeded in establishing 12 New District Disaster Management units in Monaragala, Batticaloa, Kurunegala, Kandy, Matale, Kegalle, Badulla, Ratnapura, Nuwara Eliya, Jaffna, Kilinochchi and Mulaitivu Districts with limited facilities. These officers were initially assigned to existing District Disaster Management coordinator units for on the Job training and assigned to Districts subsequently.

3.5 Activities carried out and in progress by the Disaster Management Centre

At National Level

- ❖ Developed 10 years master plan for disaster risk management from year 2005 to year 2015; *“The Roadmap for a Safer Sri Lanka”*, a compilation of over 100 short, medium and long-term projects.



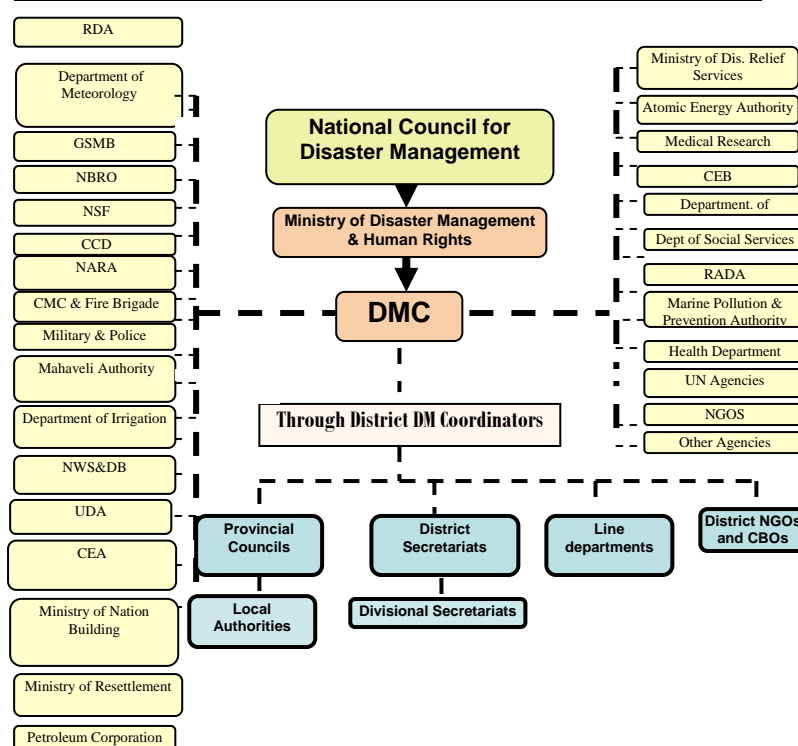
Launching of the Road Map

- ❖ Developed the National Policy for Disaster Risk Management in Sri Lanka.

- ❖ Establishment of National Technical Advisory Committee, Emergency Response Committee, Colombo Flood Committee, Technical Committee on DVI, Technical Committee for developing building guidelines in disaster prone areas.
- ❖ Prepared of the draft of National Disaster Management Plan.
- ❖ Information sharing – DMC web (www.dmc.gov.lk) & Newsletter.
- ❖ Lidar Survey – Undertaken by the Italian Government has been completed. Handing over ceremony on the 07th of Dec 2006. The funding was provided by the Italian government as an out right grant.
- ❖ National Safety Day commemorated and concluded successfully on 26.12.2006 in Galle with the participation of Hon. Prime Minister & Hon. Minister of Disaster Management & Human Rights and other distinguished invitees.
- ❖ An extensive media campaign was carried out through print & electronic media to coincide the National Safety Day.
- ❖ Commenced compiling historical data of natural disasters over 30 years (DesInventar).
- ❖ Commenced development of Sri Lanka Disaster Resource Network (SLDRN).
- ❖ Established networks / agreements with a number of key partners such as:
 - Youth Services Council.
 - Samurddhi Movement.
 - Practical Action.
 - Dialog GSM.
- ❖ Commenced establishment of SMS and cell broadcast system. Dialog pilot project is being conducted complete 2 x Teams.
- ❖ Established 2 x Tsunami Warning Towers in Hikkaduwa & Kalmunai. 3rd Tower is due to be established in Jaffna. Work is in progress.
- ❖ Establishment of ICS in Sri Lanka. Several workshops have been conducted by US Forest Services. This is a programme is funded by the USAID under the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System.

- ❖ National Emergency Response coordination during October 2006 floods in the districts of Puttlam, Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara and Hambantota.
- ❖ Commenced a Joint Damage Assessment for October 2006 Floods.
- ❖ Initiated strengthening of local authorities to meet flood situation by providing catamarans and angul.

3.6 Stakeholders of the Disaster Management Centre



3.7 Local level Activities

Following activities have been conducted in the districts of Puttlam, Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ampara, Ratnapura;

- ❖ Established District Disaster Management Committees
- ❖ Established Divisional Level Disaster Management Committees
- ❖ Established Village Level Disaster Management Committees and sub committees.
- ❖ Commenced the development of Disaster Preparedness & Response Plans at district, divisional and GN levels

- ❖ Capacity building of village level volunteers on First Aid, Search & Resue, Life Saving, Swimming, Fire Fighting Programmes, Emergency Evacuations etc

- ❖ Awareness programmes.
 - ❖ General public.
 - ❖ Schools.
 - ❖ Government & Non-Governmental Organizations.
 - ❖ Hoteliers / Private sector etc.

- ❖ Evacuation Drills/ Rehearsals & warning systems.

- ❖ Coordinating the dredging of channels (Flood mitigations).

- ❖ Mitigation Activities such as Tree Planting.

- ❖ Community Based Hazard Mapping.

- ❖ Emergency Response. Coordination for recent Oil Spill in Galle in 2006.



Collection of oil spillage in Galle

- ❖ Coordination of IDPs requirements in Kantale after the Muttur Incident.



IDPs in Kantale

3.8 **Future Plans**

- ❖ Preparation of National Disaster Management Plan & National Emergency Operation Plan (in progress).
- ❖ To locate the DMC, Tsunami EW Centre, Multi-hazards EW Centre, National Data collection & Analysis Centre & 24 /7 National Operations Centre in one building in Colombo.

❖ This centre would be linked to District Secretariats, Provincial Councils, A.G.A. divisions, Local Authorities, Village Committees.

❖ Disaster Management activities to be decentralized with delegation of activities, resources and funds to district secretaries, provincial councils, A.G.A divisions, local authorities, and village organizations.

❖ To propagate culture of volunteerism in villages by forming village volunteer groups for DM activities.

❖ To have inter-ministerial , inter-sectoral and inter-agencies coordination in all DM activities.

❖ To Incorporate Government Administration, provincial councils, local bodies, all stakeholders, private sector, NGOs and the civil society in DM activities.

❖ All Ministries, Departments, District secretariats, Provincial councils, local bodies and village volunteer groups to formulate realistic and practical DM plans which could be implemented efficiently.

❖ Media to be utilized extensively for dissemination of information, creating awareness and early warning to the general public.

❖ DMC together with stakeholders would create awareness amongst general public, schools, Universities, and private sector.

❖ Optimization of Donor Assistance for DRR activities.

❖ Formation of Hazards specific technical committees.

3.9 **Restructuring**

With the experiences gained during the period of operation of the DMC it was found necessary to restructure the organization to meet the needs to undertake the mandate. It is proposed to restructure during 2007 with the approval of authorities.

3.10 **Constraints**

Within a spell of little more than one year since its inception, the DMC experienced difficulties in carrying out its task due to lack of power vested with it in terms of the legal enactment in force.

Transport & Communication

The EOC needs to be equipped with transport facilities to be able to respond to situations with minimum delay. Presently the District Disaster Management Co-ordinators are provided with a land phone and CDMA. Such officers use their personal mobile phones for purposes of communication. To overcome difficulties in

communication arrangements should be made to provide mobile phone facilities to staff recommended by the DMC.

The need for District Disaster Management Co-ordinator to be provided with 4 x wheeled vehicles was highlighted at the Planning Workshop 2007 in the event of a disaster, the necessity for the DDM Coordinator to invariably to reach the affected locations.

Office Accommodation & Infrastructure Development

Since its inception within one year the office of the Disaster Management Centre was shifted to 3 places from No 27, Independence Avenue to Board of Investment Premises (From 15 September 2005 to 31 May 2006) and From 01 June 2006 the office is housed at BMICH. Arrangements were made for construction of a multi-storied building for DMC within Meteorology Department premises. However the DMC is compelled to search for another venue due to reasons beyond its control.

Difficulties in Recruiting Staff

Due to non availability of suitable candidates, Non acceptance of appointments, Not releasing appointees from present place of work to accept the appointments, Uncertain future of contracts although there are indications of renewals, Recent salary increases in the public sector, Difficulty in attracting experienced staff with the present fixed salary without any other perks – transport & holiday pay, DMC experienced difficulties in filling the vacancies.

3.11 CONCLUSION

With the objective of guaranteeing smooth functioning of the DMC, the Act should be amended to remove the difficulties experienced since its implementation.

Condition of service of staff should be reviewed to retain the present cadre and to attract experienced persons for positions.

Construction of a building to overcome the accommodation of staff and also to attract donor agencies to assist in projects.

Section 4

4

PREPAREDNESS PLANNING DIVISION

4.1 Introduction

The Preparedness Planning Division is involved in the preparation of disaster preparedness plans for districts, Divisional Secretary Divisions and Grama Niladari Divisions. These activities are organized by the District Disaster Management Coordinators (DDMC) of the District Disaster Management Units (DDMU) established in District Secretary's office under the supervision of the Disaster Management Centre.

DDMCUs are functioning in nine districts - Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara, Galle, Matara, Hambantota, Ampara, Puttalam and Batticaloa and preparation of district and divisional preparedness plans are in progress in these districts and selected divisional secretary divisions.

The preparation of preparedness plans are done in different stages as given below.

1. Awareness programme.
2. Establishment of disaster management committees.
3. Data collection and draft plan preparation.
4. Discussion on the draft plan.
5. Finalization of the plan and printing.

4.2 Position of preparation of preparedness plans – December 2006

District	District Plan	Divisional Plans	GN Divisions Plans
Colombo	In progress	13 plans in progress	
Kalutara	Draft Plan completed	4 Plans in progress	20
Galle	- do -	8 plans in progress	30
Matara	- do -	7 plans in progress	80
Hambantota	- do -	7 plans in progress	44
Ratnapura	In progress	Not commenced	Not commenced

4.3 Continuity of Programmes

The following work will be carried out during year 2007.

1. Preparation of district preparedness plans for 18 districts and finalization of plans commenced in 2006
2. Finalization of divisional preparedness plans commenced in 2006 and preparation of new plans for 75 DS Divisions.
3. Preparation of Grama Niladari Divisional Preparedness Plans for selected divisions
5. Preparation of Provincial Disaster Preparedness Plans – 5 Nos

5

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

The role and task of the Emergency Operations Centre is to collect and collate data during an Emergency Situation, to provide necessary operational and relief assistance through Government and Non Government Organizations, in liaison with the District Disaster Management Coordinators. Monitoring the emergency situation and keeping the relevant authorities informed, coordinating emergency response and relief activities, monitoring damages caused due to hazards / disasters that are affected population, infrastructure and the environment. Release of accurate information to media on the situation.

The following are some of the activities carried out / coordinated by the Emergency Operations Centre:

- ❖ An officer from the Emergency Operations section along with a District Disaster Management coordinator got involved in settling an unrest situation that was developing to the stage of a communal conflict in Pambegama Estate in Kegalle District. On 29th June 2006 the aforesaid DMC officials visited the estate and met the Chief Minister Sabragamuwa, other political party representatives and the government officials to solve the crisis.
- ❖ Roofing sheets were provided to the occupants of the houses that got damaged due strong winds in the Central province in July 2006. The sheets were donated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- ❖ In August – September 2006, District Disaster Management coordinators of Puttalam and Kaluthara were attached to Kantale to coordinate matters related to relief activities at the IDP centers in Trincomalee district, following terrorist attacks in Sampur and Muttur.

An officer from the Emergency Operations section visited Kantale to check on the activities carried out by the attached DMC staff.

- ❖ On 29th September 2006 a Bangladesh oil tanker was sunk in Koggala – Habaraduwa area in Galle district. The District Disaster Management Unit Galle established a temporary Operations Centre in the area and got involved in clearing activities to minimize the damage to the environment due to oil spill.
- ❖ The Emergency Operations Centre was activated full time (24 hours operation) during floods October 2006. Monitoring of Kelani river water level and island wide weather, collection of data and passing information to media to educate the general public on the situation and coordination with District Secretariats and Government and non government organizations for relief activities were successfully handled by the Emergency Operation Centre.

- ❖ An officer from the Emergency Operations Centre visited Sepala Ela clearing area at Thummodara – Kelaniya on 13th November 2006 to forward a report to the Hon Minister of Disaster Management & Human Rights. The purpose of the visit was to find exact details on the clearing of Sepala Ela (due to a complaint made by a pradeshiya sabha member of Kelaniya).

- ❖ The Emergency Operation Centre in close coordination with the respective District / Divisional Secretaries and other Government and Non Governmental Organizations, coordinated all operational and relief activities during the Flood Situations in Gampaha, Colombo, Kalutara, Ampara and Hambantota Districts.

- ❖ The Emergency Operations Centre in close coordination with all the District Secretariats monitors the IDP state in respective IDP centre. Further, complaints made by affected persons are forwarded to respective authorities for relief assistance.

- ❖ DMC carried out a pilot project in collaboration with University of Moratuwa & Dialog Telecom Ltd in testing out Disaster Early Warning System equipment given by the Dialog Telecom Ltd.

- ❖ The Multi Hazard Public Warning Control System has been set up at the Emergency Operations Centre. The towers are located at Hikkaduwa and Kalmunai.

- ❖ Situation reports on Manmade or Natural disasters are forwarded to the Hon Minister of Disaster Management and Human Rights and Secretary of the Ministry.

The Emergency Operation centre is contactable through the Hot Line 2670002 and Fax Line 2670079 in any emergency situation.

Future Plans:

- ❖ To update contact details of all the important agencies at District level with the assistance of the District Disaster Management Coordinators.

- ❖ Establishment of District level Emergency Operations Centers.

- ❖ Establishment of Early warning towers at identified locations in Districts.

6.

TRAINING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

District Disaster Management Coordinators (DDMCs), Assistant Coordinators and Staff attached to District Disaster Management Coordination Units (DDMCUs) were trained adequately in Disaster Management approaches and Participatory approaches to work at community level. (around 240 pax).



They were also trained on how to conduct tsunami evacuation drills at community level. A video programme of a model drill was compiled and disseminated to all coastal districts with DDMCUs.

Conducted communication skills training for UNVs and District Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators to develop effective communication ability with stakeholders.

Contributed with resource inputs, to a multitude of awareness creation activities at various institutions and schools across the country.

Conducted a pilot programme to create awareness for elected members of local governments (300 pax) within the Central Province under the auspices of the Governor. This will be replicated in all Provinces.

Conducted an awareness programme for OICs of Police Stations in the Galle District (40 pax) as a pilot project. This will be replicated in all districts.

Conducted community training for five selected communities in Ratnapura on response to early warning of landslides.

Facilitated the development of a draft MOU for collaboration with National Youth Council as well as Samurdhi for disaster management work at village level using their widely spread network.

Translated two manuals, one on School Preparedness and the other on House-hold First Aid into Sinhalese and Tamil. Currently getting ready to print and disseminate them.

Five posters to create awareness on Tsunami, Floods, Landslides, Lightning and Cyclones were designed and printed for distribution.

An intensive public awareness campaign was launched (October to December) as a lead up to the National Safety Day on 26th December. The following activities were carried out.

Designed and facilitated a one page newspaper supplement for the World Disaster Safety Day (UNDP funding).

Eight weekly Full page Knowledge Supplements (Colour) in both Sinhala and Tamil languages were published with sponsorship negotiated with Practical Action. These have now been collated into a booklet.

Eight 20 minute TV discussions on disaster management were broadcast over ITN integrated with their morning show "Pahandora". (UNDP funding)

Fourteen 2 minute disaster management messages were broadcast with morning news over SLBC (UNDP funding).

Four 30 minute Radio discussions under "Subharathie" negotiated as free contribution by SLBC to the Safety Day.

Eight 20 minute radio discussions with focus on school children were broadcast over SLBC (GTZ funding).

Island wide school Essay and Art competitions were conducted and winners awarded at the National Safety Day.

The winning Essays, Art, and Radio discussions are being packaged into a print book plus CD for distribution to schools (GTZ funding).

National Safety Day commemoration was broadcast live on ITN and Lak Handa Radio (UNDP funding).

Many of these activities will continue into December and beyond into 2007.

Promotion of awareness among school children will take prominence. A school programme is being planned with GTZ for 2007 which will involve:

- Community Radio in the Central Province
- DEWN pilot in selected schools
- School preparedness plans

7. **MITIGATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

7.1 **Flood Mitigation Programme**

Rehabilitation of Drainage canal in Kolonnawa

On request made by the GA Colombo DMC provided Rs 13.2 million to dredge Kittampahuwa Canal, Pasanna Ela and the pond in Kolonnawa Divisional Secretary Area. Sri Lanka Land Development Corporation (SLLRDC) undertook the dredging work and Irrigation Department supervise and certified payments. Total value of the work done is Rs 16,528,952.00 Dredging work was completed.



Dredging of Bellanvila Ela

On request made by the Secretary to HE the President, Ministry of Disaster Management & Human Rights provided Rs 10.00 million. Dredging work was handed over to SLLRDC and they have completed 70% of the work.

Rapid assessment of flood damage in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara and Puthalam Districts

Teams consisting of officers from district organizations and NGO assessed the damages caused to infrastructure and reasons for the floods. Mitigation activities are identified on the reports submitted by the teams and will be implemented in 2007.

Colombo Flood Committee

It was observed that some of the drainage canals in Colombo district are blocked/obstructed and responsibility of ownership of canals is not properly identified. Committee chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry and representatives developed a programme to demarcate in the amp all canal and drains and boundaries of all water bodies including the canals. Work has been completed in four divisional secretary areas with the assistance of Agrarian Services Agency, UDA, Irrigation Dept. Survey Department and Grama Niladari. DDMC coordinated the work. Plan to complete the identification by end April.

7.2 Establishment of Rain water harvesting facility as drought mitigation activity

Rain Water harvesting project at Yodakndiya, Tissamahatamaya

Construction of 68 household tanks and 2 nos underground tanks for the community centre, Library and Montessori school was undertaken by the Community Organization in Hambantota at a total cost of 2,486,720.00. Work has been completed. Community was trained to operate and maintain tanks. A total of 300 families will be benefited.

Water harvesting project at Hanguranketha and Pathahewahata

Hadabima Authority of Kandy was entrusted with the construction of 20 tanks at Hanguranketha and 30 tanks at Pathahewahata. People living in these two villages suffer annually due to shortage of rainfall. Construction was undertaken with the participation communities. 5 Masons were trained at different stages of construction. Fifty families are directly benefited. Total value of the project is Rs 1,269,568.00.

7.3 Establishment of Natural Barrier along the coast

Planting of trees and clearing the coast at Moratuwa

Unauthorized structures on 7 km coastal stretch from Modara- Panadura towards Colombo was cleared trees were planted. Width of the area planted with trees varies from 25m to 40m. Total value of the work done is Rs 2,479,000.00. Plants suitable for the coastal environment were selected with the assistance of Agricultural Department.

Planting of trees along the coast in Matara, Weligama, Devinuwara and Dickwella Divisional Secretary Areas.

Planting of trees in the coastal belt was undertaken with active participation of communities. Kottamba, Mudilla and Wetakeiya species were planted. people living near the coast were entrusted with the maintenance of plats. Total value of the work done was Rs 340,200.00

7.4 Mitigation of land subsidence

Project to Mitigate Land Subsidence in Matale District

NBRO has commenced the study to determine the reasons for land subsidence at Matale and recommend mitigation activities. Survey of 2500 houses in the Matale area was completed. Drilling of critical areas were undertaken to assess the cavity formation in the rock layer underneath. Houses in critical conditions were identified and occupants were provided with temporary houses with the assistance of a NGO. More than 50% of the work is completed.

Project to Study the effect of Landslides around Kothmale reservoir and recommend activities to mitigate.

NBRO was entrusted to undertake the study in Kothamle area to determine the reasons for the increase of landslides in villages facing the reservoir. A group of professionals from university of Peradeniya, Institute of fundamental Studies, NBRO, Irrigation Dept. and Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka visited the area and had identified the main direction of the study. However due to land slides in Peradeniya town priority was

changed and entire team of geologist were engaged to study the reasons for massive landslide and made recommendations to mitigating activities. On the advice of the NBRO, Road Development Authority cleared debris from roads and excess earth from the steep slope. Ministry allocated Rs 5,000,000.00 to remedial activities and RDA has done work to a value of Rs 2,500,000.00.

7.5 **Other Activities**

Technical advisory Committee on Development of guidelines.

Technical Advisory Committee appointed by DMC is formulating guidelines for construction of buildings in disaster prone areas. Workshop was held in November to obtain the views of Professionals in public and private sector institutions as well as individuals. Proposed to issue guidelines covering following items;

- Construction in landslide prone areas
- Designing of buildings against cyclones and strong winds
- Design guidelines for earth quake resistant buildings

7.6 **Disaster management project and Improvement of metrological and Disaster Information Network Assisted by JICA**

JICA assistance is provided to improve the capacity for flood forecasting and early warning. DMC is coordinating with Irrigation and Metrological Department NBRO, Police, Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation and Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation to implement project activities. Consultants have commenced work. Community based workshops were held in Rathnapura, Matara, Colombo and Ampara Districts. Project will be complete in Feb 2009

7.7 **National Water Management Project(NAWAM)**

Project implemented by Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka (MASL). Discussion with consultants to include dam safety components identified in the Road Map is in progress. DMC request the establishment of authority for inspection of dams independent of implementing authorities.

7.8 **Launching of Web Site**

DMC designed a web site and launched in October 2006. Links were established with other relevant agencies. Web site addressed is www.dmc.gov.lk

7.9 **Early Warning Dissemination**

Establishment of Warning Towers

UNESCAP assisted DMC to establish three warning towers at Hikkaduwa, Kalmunai and Jaffna. Towers at Hikkaduwa and Kalmunai has already been completed and connected to EOC in Colombo. Tower in Jaffna will be established by May. Total financial assistance received amounts US\$ 286,000.00.

Provision of Public Address systems to Police Stations

DMC provided 15 police stations public address system to be used for disseminating early warning messages to public along the coastal areas.