



Sri Lanka

KEY PRIORITIES RELATED TO DRM IN THE COUNTRY

Natural disasters, especially floods and drought, are adversely affecting vulnerable communities in Sri Lanka. This is true in urban areas such as metro Colombo as well as rural areas, particularly in Eastern Province. The Government has dedicated significant resources, both financial and technical, to address urban flooding in Colombo; however, little has been done elsewhere, particularly in Eastern Province, which has been severely affected for the last three years.

Nationally, total fiscal impacts of disasters are largely underestimated. This is due in part to poor data collection and in part to lack of measurement of indirect losses. Sri Lanka has expressed interest in developing a better approach to disaster risk financing and insurance.

GFDRR ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

To address flood risk in metro Colombo, the Government is implementing a US\$321 million flood control project, including US\$213 million financed by the World Bank. Support provided by GFDRR for flood modeling, loss estimation, risk analysis,

and prioritization of investments helped guide the design and execution of this project, ensuring a major focus on the protection of Colombo residents from present and future flood risks.

LOOKING AHEAD

In consultation with the Government, two priority areas have been identified for technical support and financial assistance: Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance (DRFI) and comprehensive flood management in the East. Each component requires both international technical assistance and financing from domestic and international sources.

For DRFI, three activities are planned: (i) a fiscal disaster risk assessment; (ii) a contingent line of financial support in case of disaster; and (iii) support for development of a disaster insurance

market. In parallel, an Eastern Province Comprehensive Flood Management program is viewed as important for national development. The program would take a comprehensive approach with due consideration to upstream and downstream impacts. As a first step, better understanding of flood risk would be necessary, followed by a well-designed investment program to mitigate flood impacts. GFDRR is also prepared to support efforts to develop better understanding of flood risks as well as the prioritization of appropriate investment programs to be undertaken by Government and development partners.

Background

CLIMATE CHANGE & DISASTER RISK PROFILE

Sri Lanka's geographic and climatic diversity exposes the country to a number of natural hazards, in particular floods, droughts, landslides, and cyclones. Droughts occur about every four years and have caused economic setbacks. Although rare, cyclones have hit the country in the past with some significant impacts. In 1978 a cyclone affected over one million people and caused nearly one thousand fatalities.

Vulnerability to adverse natural events is significant, due to high population density and concentrated economic activities in flood-prone and coastal areas. It is predicted that climate change will exacerbate disaster impacts. By 2100, temperatures are projected to increase by 2.5°C, and mean rainfall is projected to change by 7 %, with almost all models showing a decrease in rainfall compared to historical records.

GFDRR ENGAGEMENT

Source of Funding	Japan SDTF, SRFF MDTF
Resources Awarded	US\$1,854,000
Resources Disbursed	US\$675,000
Number of projects	Ongoing: 1; Completed: 2

KEY INDICATORS

DRR Index*	WDI: n/a DRI Class: 357
Income Group	Lower-Middle
Population	20.9 million
GDP	US\$2,835/capita
Poverty	9% of population
Urban Population	15% of total

DRM/CCA IN POLICY PAPERS

(as assessed by the DRM specialist)

Mainstreaming:	Low	High
Government		
WB-CAS		
UNDAF		
PRSP		
NAPA		
EU-CSP		

NATIONAL PLATFORM

National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee. Declared to UNISDR.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Disaster Management Act No. 13 (2005).

*The World Development Indicators (WDI) Disaster Risk Reduction progress score is an average of self-assessment scores, ranging from 1 to 5, submitted by countries under Priority 1 of the Hyogo Framework National Progress Reports (1-5 scale; 5=best). The Disaster Risk Index (DRI) is a mortality-based index developed in order to enable comparisons of countries hit by different hazard types (7 classes; 7=high mortality).

GFDRR KEY PARTNERS

National Services	Ministry of Disaster Management, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Management, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and agencies responsible for land use planning, urban development, and food security
International Organizations	World Bank, UNDP, OCHA, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Regional Organizations	Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
NGOs/CSOs	Practical Action, Oxfam, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, National Building Research Organization
GFDRR Donors	Australia, EU, Japan

Project

Description

PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2014

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management

US\$910,000 | Start date: 2011 (Ongoing)



This project is developing the technical capacity of the Government to assess and quantify flood and landslide risks, and to formulate appropriate policy and operational responses. An upgraded, high-accuracy hydrological and hydraulic model for Metro Colombo is under development, as part of a larger World Bank-financed project focused on urban development. The project has trained government staff on urban risk assessment techniques and integrating risk reduction into urban planning, as well as on Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). Fifteen telemetric rain gauges for creating a real-time landslide early warning model will be installed by the National Building Research Organization.

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment

US\$63,000 | 2011 (Completed)



This PDNA was implemented by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of the Ministry of Disaster Management with support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society. The PDNA provided critical inputs for the World Bank Metro Colombo Urban Development Project.

Improving Sri Lanka's Response and Recovery in the Aftermath of Natural Disaster

US\$162,000 | 2008 -2011 (Completed)



This project improved the national disaster management capacity to support recovery activities in the aftermath of disasters. The project confirmed the need for a comprehensive risk mitigation program, including: (i) linking disaster risk management with social protection systems; and (ii) to development of a DRM institutional framework.

Scaling Up Disaster Risk Financing

US\$200,000 | Start Date: 2013 (Ongoing)



This project will provide analytical and advisory services to develop comprehensive CAT risk financing recommendations for financial protection in Sri Lanka that will include a reserve mechanism, contingent credit, and risk transfer mechanisms. It will also include capacity building and technical assistance to improve the understanding of relative actors involved in risk financing.

Strengthening Capacity to Mainstream Disaster Risk Financing in Sri Lanka

US\$520,000 | Start Date: 2013 (Ongoing)



The objective is to strengthen the capacity of the government agencies in risk analysis and developing risk mitigation strategies for disaster prone urban areas. The key indicators would be; number of urban centres for which risk assessments are carried out and risk mitigation plans developed; number of people receiving landslide early warning, number of government staff/ professionals trained in risk assessment and areas related to mainstreaming DRM, availability of an online data sharing platform.

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) develops capacity and systems for effective preparedness, mitigation, and response to natural and man-made disasters at national and subnational levels.
OCHA	The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) coordinates emergency relief and strengthens the capacity of the government for effective emergency response.
Japan	The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is contributing to strengthening the capacity of government agencies and communities in disaster risk monitoring, forecasting, and effective response.
Australia	The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) supports the country to improve disaster resilience, increase preparedness for and to promote faster, more effective responses to humanitarian crises.
World Bank	<p>Metro Colombo—Towards a Flood Resilient Urban Environment:</p> <p>The objectives are to: strengthen the capacity of Sri Lankan agencies to carry out urban risk assessments, and significantly utilize the risk assessment outputs. Flood risk assessment will provide important information to develop the Metro Colombo Flood Risk Mitigation Strategy. The strategy will include(i) actions and investments for flood risk mitigation in the Metro Colombo area (ii) upgrading flood control and drainage infrastructure and (iii) development of an integrated flood and water quality management system (IFMS) for the Greater Colombo Basin. The project is financed by the Government of Japan's Policy and Human Resources Development (PHRD) Trust Fund.</p> <p>Metro Colombo Urban Development Project:</p> <p>The objective of this project is to support the government to: reduce flooding in the catchment of the Metro Colombo region, and strengthen the capacity of local authorities in the Colombo Metropolitan Area (CMA) to rehabilitate, improve, and maintain local infrastructure and services through selected demonstration investments. Expected results include a long-term urban development program for metropolitan Colombo. This will be achieved through reducing the physical and socio-economic impacts of flooding in the capital city area, and improving overall capacity for the operations and maintenance of metropolitan and local infrastructure.</p>