“Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) to the Private Sector for Sustainable Development”

06th September 2018
Colombo, Sri Lanka
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Recent disasters in Sri Lanka have demonstrated that natural disasters cause serious social and economic setbacks to development and poverty reduction programs and hence to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. Investments in productive and social infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods are affected and the limited development resources are channeled to relief and recovery. Following the floods and landslides in May 2016, the post disaster needs assessment (PDNA) findings highlighted the overall loss to be LKR 99.8 billion of which 90% were to the private sector (LKR 89.6 billion). The recovery cost as a result of the floods and landslides both in 2016 and 2017 is estimated at 257.4 billion. Investment in Disaster risk Reduction (DRR) has now become essential if not mandatory. Private sector resilience is important for a stable economy.

The Disaster Management Center (DMC), under the guidance of Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources & Disaster Management is in the process of introducing and implementing a mechanism to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into the private sector following the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Priorities. The Mitigation, Research and Development Department of the DMC has taken the initiative for an effective public private partnership addressing the need of the private sector in supporting business resilience. The lack of a cohesive platform in understanding and mitigating risks has been identified by the DMC and the organized consultation with key private sector is a way forward towards sustainable development. The Ministry's policy towards better preparedness and mitigation aims at reducing loss to lives and support a sustainable economy.

In engaging with the private sector to mainstream DRR into the development process, DMC collaborated with Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management Sri Lanka (A-PAD SL) to derive at essential conclusions in risk reduction for inclusion into the national action plan through Public-Private-Partnership.

Representatives from leading private sector companies participated in this dialogue, providing their recommendations and input in order to emphasize the urgency for mainstreaming DRR into private sector.
MAIN OBJECTIVE

“Mainstream DRR into development, policy decisions, building resilient infrastructure, businesses and communities”

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1) Incorporating & implementing DRR measures into private sector and also into day-to-day activities.
2) Issuing DRR guidelines to the private sector from the Ministry of Disaster Management.
3) Incorporating requirements and recommendations of private sector into National Action Plan of Disaster Management.
Dr. S Amalanathan welcomed all participants to this event and extended his gratitude for the keen interest shown by the private sector in streamlining Disaster Management. In addressing the gathering, he mentioned that Sri Lanka stands is considered a high disaster prone country in the world and as per the UNOCHA Climate Risk Index of 2015 – Sri Lanka stood 98th in the world and gradually in 2016 saw its way through to 4th. The private sector has been supportive during the immediate relief / response period, post disaster, leading to early recovery and long term recovery, such as provision of livelihood to affected communities. Dr. Amalananthan further commended the contribution of private sector during the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, where, over 50 metric-tones of relief items were sent from Sri Lanka.

Yet, Sri Lanka faces chaotic hurdles during its disaster operations, that is the supply chain. It has been observed that various stakeholders work in silos without monitored coordination. Thus, the actual needs remain unattended or duplicated due to the private sector and humanitarian supply chain coordination. He emphasized the importance of the business sector participation and input in mainstreaming DRR as a solution to existing discrepancies. Finally, he appreciated the enthusiasm of the Mitigation, Research and Development Unit.
Opening Remarks by Mr. Sisira Kumara, Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources & Disaster Management

Mr. Sisira Kumara, an engineer with over 30 years of experience in the irrigation sector, mentioned that Climate change plays a key role in making Sri Lanka, a susceptible nation to disasters frequently. Whereas, the vulnerability of Sri Lanka in the face of disasters were far less 10-15 years ago.

The Secretary enlightened the audience on the intensity of rainfall in Sri Lanka and the equal level of distribution between South/West and North/East monsoons. But the recent few years, intensity of rainfall is very high and the number of rainy days have reduced and dry days are increasing, resulting in recurrent drought and floods. Also due to the uneven monsoon patterns, along with high intense rain and speedy wind, cause landslides.

Mr. Kumara continued to reiterate on the irresponsible means of housing / construction in low lands and along river banks, that do not meet the minimum standards of housing. The very same houses face fully/ partial damages during a flood. On the other hand, in the dry zone, where Sri Lanka is blessed with multiple water-ways, major/medium and minor reservoirs, rain fall distribution does not take place throughout the two seasons, resulting in low annual active water storage. This in turn affects the cultivation sector of the country. The Government of Sri Lanka has allocated millions of rupees for drought response and is continuing to do so.

Mr. Sisira Kumara, thanked the contribution of the private sector towards Disaster Management and the affected communities. Nevertheless, the time has now come to focus on disaster prevention and mitigation keeping in line with the Sendai Framework. The framework states that disaster victims should reduce by 50% from the year 2013 up until now. This task cannot be achieved solely by the government. There is a need for investment by the private sector in this area in order to mitigate drought and floods.

The Ministry of Irrigation, Water & Disaster Management is conducting a study with the support of The World Bank, on River Basins and how best drought and floods can be mitigated. There is a plan to construct more reservoirs in the river basins to store water during heavy rains, and discharge small amounts of water to the rivers without affecting those who live in low-lands. This will also help in alleviating drought, to a certain extent.

Though the private sector has shown its readiness to support disaster management, there is no apt platform to cater to the needs and requirements of the private sector in an organized manner. Therefore, the Secretary vouched that the Ministry will set up a platform within the ministry for this purpose.
“Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction to the Private Sector for Sustainable Development” by Ms. Anoja Seneviratne, Director, Mitigation, Research & Development, Disaster Management Center

The years 2015 /2016 / 2017 & 2018 have been recorded as the warmest around the world with the highest temperatures. Thus, mankind cannot avoid hazards, but, the effects if it can be minimized. The Ministry and relevant authorities cannot implement DRR activities on its own and requires assistance from all stakeholders, mainly the private sector.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), a global phenomenon, is at present being discussed at several global platforms, such as the Sendai Framework, Urban Development agenda etc. The representation of private sector at these platforms are not impressive. Therefore, the Ministry of Irrigation, Water & Disaster Management will pave the way for the business sector to step in to the limelight both locally and internationally. Ms. Anoja portrayed DRR as an opportunity for private sector. In quoting the Great East Earthquake of Japan and the speed at which the business sector and the country as a whole recovered, she emphasized that Sri Lanka must work towards achieving speedy recovery.

The workshop / discussion addressed the following:

- Ministry of Irrigation, Water & Disaster Management, issuing guidelines on how to incorporate DRR into private sector’s mandated activities.
- The recommendations and requirements of private sector that need to be incorporated into the National Action Plan of Disaster Management.

Statistics from recent years have proven the losses to private sector, during and post disasters. The figures are available for public attention, yet, the question of utilization of information is questionable. Adequate trainings and awareness regarding the availability of such information is essential and the Ministry of Disaster Management hopes to materialize this gap and enhance each other’s capacities.

Further on, Ms. Seneviratne raised few awakening questions to the audience with regard to:

- Considering the minimum and maximum water levels of a construction area or the risks to the environment.
- Over 75% of the country’s investments are from the private sector. Particularly the development sector. Thus, disaster risk is highly determined by the private sector.
Disasters impact development in both short and long-term sustainability.

Business opportunities create new vulnerabilities if DRR is not taken into consideration.

3 Ways to Invest Towards Disaster Resilience:

1. Increase resilience
2. Reduce disaster losses
3. Reduce volatility of earnings

Direct and Indirect Impacts to Private Sector:

All large-scale business operations are directly / indirectly linked to small and medium enterprises, resulting in losses, wider impact and macro-economic effects in the long run.

Value of DRR to Private Sector:

Enforcing DRR ensures business continuity, competitiveness and sustainability. Mitigation plans are in place to be adhered to and implemented.
SESSION 2
GROUP WORK, DISCUSSION & RECOMMENDATION

The participants were segregated into 4 groups, addressing the following thematic areas:

1. Group 01 - Understanding Disaster Risk
2. Group 02 - Disaster Risk Governance
3. Group 03 - Risk Sensitive Investment
4. Group 04 - Preparedness for Disaster Response and Build Back Better for Rehabilitation Reconstruction and Recovery
Group 01 – Understanding Disaster Risk

Proposed points for discussion:

- How are risk assessments conducted?
- Private sector’s contribution to risk assessments
- Is the private sector aware of the “know – how’s” of data collection?
- Planning of strategies to understand risks (risk assessment/evaluation and incorporating into action)

Scenario: Understanding disaster risk: Looking at Risk Knowledge

‘Disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment. Such knowledge can be used for risk assessment, prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response’.

Attitudes and behaviors of stakeholders towards risk identification and risk mitigation are key to DRR. A lot of scientific evidence already exists but better links into policy-making are needed to continuously deepen the ability to forecast, reduce and respond to disaster risks. Available data needs to become more relevant to decision-makers. Access to information by various stakeholders is limited due to various factors or unavailability of appropriate and manageable information.

Findings & Recommendations:

i. National and local government levels

   i. DMC looks at national level- we need PVT sector focused body (Philippines)/ organization similar to this in Sri Lanka

   ii. Guarantee of confidentiality on shared information by the private sector

   iii. Disaster management act to be actioned.

   iv. National and government level- what do we need

   v. Misconception between the private sector and government

   vi. Separate arm to cater private sector/ community separately

   vii. Creation of Risk Universe – this means, giving examples of types of disaster risks people should look for. Simply all what possibly could happen. This creates basis to funnel the thought process.

   viii. Establishing a criterion to rate disasters – this means, there must be a standard/ agreed method.
to rate disasters in a heat map in terms of impact and vulnerability (or likelihood).

ix. Use this (1.b above) as a common terms of reference (ToR) nationally – this helps to get everyone on the same page including NGOs, INGOs, Insurers, Businesses, Essential Services, etc.

x. Engagement with ADRIMP – the newly formed training facility DMC could be an ideal knowledge repository. Organizations should be able to seek corporate memberships.

xi. Private sector to shift its focus to - ISO 22301 standard for DRR, get as a reference point)/ toolkit

xii. Need for area based plans (information readiness is not available)

xiii. Registered email addresses and mobile numbers- Common alerting system/ platform (DEWN)- Proper early warning mechanism channel to general public (customized alerting system – geography based)

xiv. Improve the disaster risk information system (DEWN) and an automated system to update it.

xv. Strengthening education and awareness – DRR awareness at school, village and company level
Mr. Prasanna Balachandran, HEMAS Holdings presenting Group 02 findings and recommendations

Proposed points for discussion:

• Once risks are identified, lawful legislations must be operational. Are you aware of the existing rule and regulation of disaster management in Sri Lanka?

• Inclusions or amendments that the private sector opts in the policies.

• Private sector to demand advocacy programs on DRR and disaster impact annual reports from the government.

Scenario: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk

The SFDRR promotes disaster risk governance as a necessary component to address "existing challenges and prepare for new ones". It envisions risk governance as a part of wide ranging interventions that include rehabilitation, early warning systems, community engagement and investment in socio-economic institutions.

The key elements of risk governance associated with exante (knowledge, protection and insurance) and ex-post (coping) risk governance strategies. It will also explore the variety of risks - ranging from idiosyncratic risks to systemic risks - and the roles of different stakeholders when confronted by risks.

The prescriptions, building on the HFA framework, call on governments to integrate DRR governance into the development agenda and provide the necessary legislative and executive support. Moreover, it calls on governments to increase coordination, decentralization and pay greater attention to local risk patterns. Serious challenges, however, continue to affect DRR governance. The disconnect between DRR theory/even policy and DRR practice continues. Unfunded mandates, weak regulation and poor institutions threaten to compound an already fragile situation.
Findings & Recommendations:

i. Localization of Sendai Framework – this must be done in the form of a SL DRR charter for local organizations (private & public) to sign-off as subscribing organizations. This would create the commitment to live up to. Though there is Government - Government commitment, there is a lack of Business - Business or Enterprise - Enterprise commitment flowing through.

ii. Creation of Governance Structure – opportunities could exist if a Chair with an Executive committee is set up for a quarterly review of events and perpetual activity under DMC with the participation of INGO and Business Community.

iii. Relevant policies are in place, yet there is a lack of awareness within the business community and stakeholder contributions remain a question.

iv. Centralized “one-stop shop” for relevant information than tedious processes which are in place at state institutions.

v. Creating core and large group teams with the leadership of state bodies and business sector entities to enhance communication and effective execution at responses.

vi. Banking sector to produce a set of strong guidelines for approval of loans that are DRR inclusive.

vii. Tax concessions for business that practice DRR.

viii. Cross-sectoral coherence – at local, provincial, national and thereafter across borders as well.
Proposed points for discussion:

• Cost benefit analysis / risk evaluation (tolerable and accepted levels)
• Partnerships that need to be developed in order to carry our risk free investments
• Risk transferring mechanisms (bonds, insurance schemes etc)

Scenario: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience: Focusing on cost/benefit analysis

The SFDRR recognizes that ‘public and private investment in DRR through is essential for resilient development that protects economic, social and environmental investments. The argument for DRR investment is that investing in systems to prepare and cope with disasters is often cheaper than responding to disasters after they happen. Yet, integrating DRR with scarce resources and making decisions for future benefits is a challenging proposition requiring allocation of resources based on costs and benefits. However, such systems are not widely used to make investment decisions and come with its own challenges. It is required to discuss how investment decisions are made, the challenges that they face and also explore the applicability of using CBA as a tool that can guide investment.

Findings & Recommendations:

i. Proactive action is conducive to cut costs and losses

ii. Government has a role in land planning and demarcating central resources for DRR
iii. Town and city planning needs to happen centrally and the information needs to cascade to all sectors

iv. Transparency and availability of data needs to be streamlined

v. There should be mechanisms to evaluate threats from cyber security as well

vi. Definition of the term ‘disaster’ could be virtual as well; social unrest and other disasters can result from cyber threats

vii. Health disasters (pandemics and epidemics) can be a disaster. How do we need to plan investments so that other aspects of disasters are included in DRR?

viii. Monitoring mechanism to screen the use of funds coming in through diverse institutions.

ix. In terms of risk transfer, should we insurance for disaster relief workers and construction labour be mandated so that they are adequately supported in times of a disaster to be able to recover.

x. Have a central source to collect resources to be utilised in disasters and give incentives to private sector such as tax reliefs to contribute to central funds (e.g. excess crop to be purchased and kept in storage for disaster relief

xi. Geo coding and mapping vulnerable spots – based on the data DMC has collated so far, a project could be extended to ADRIMP to turn this into meaningful information for business/ investment decisions.

xii. Organizational Disaster Risk Rating – as an outcome of 1 above, organizations could carry out voluntary disaster risk assessment by organizations under its ERM/ Sustainability processes, and share knowledge voluntarily.

xiii. Mapping concentration risk – Some authority has to embark this project. We may have situations where similar industries are located at the same place (e.g. IT parks), or we may have an accumulation of essential services organizations operate from a similar locality (e.g. Battaramulla) – what would it be to the nation if such a locality fails?

xiv. Scenario based risk modelling - Some authority has to embark this project too. What of any of the dams within SL bursts due to a seismic activity? What would it be to SL, if a seismic activity take place having its epicenter at Badulla? Once this assessment is done – the private sector/ INGOs needs to be proactively engaged.

xv. Mandate DRRs/ ESMS as a prerequisite in all projects (evaluate all 3 Ps)

xvi. Have a central mechanism to share information and have mechanisms
   - Have deterrents
   - To ensure ‘bad’ projects are not supported by other institutions (i.e. no insurance, no construction
support etc.) – objective is to facilitate organisations to check if the project (by location etc.) has been rejected by any institution and why

xvii. Mechanism to develop central resources for insurance

xviii. Invest in a volunteer force

xix. Evaluate the resilience of essential services in case of a disaster (have BCPs for essential services) – this should be an investment consideration as well (resilience investment, especially on local agencies)

xx. Invest in required resources for logistics in disaster recovery (e.g. fire engines that can reach higher floors in disasters, common water pools for dousing fires etc.)

xxi. Mechanisms need to be implemented to bring in supply chain and distribution channel resilience and vulnerability to risks. Impact identification should include the supply chain and distribution channels.

xxii. Agree on common risk indicators so that monitoring is integrated into mandatory, routine procedures.
Group 04 – Preparedness for Disaster Response and Build Back Better for Rehabilitation Reconstruction and Recovery

Mr. Asith De Silva, Dialog Axiata PLC, presenting Group 04 findings and recommendations

Proposed points for discussion:

• Inclusion of DRR into Business Continuity Plans

• Continuity of rehabilitation during the recovery process, post-disaster.

• Recovery is long term, but it needs to align and adhere with the Build Back Better concept. (How to engage in responses, planning contingencies)

Scenario: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction:

‘The growth of disaster risk means there is a need to strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, and ensure capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. The recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase is a critical opportunity to build back better, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures’.

Findings & Recommendations:

i. Risk Hazard mapping and continuous reviewing in terms of the recurrent disasters that affect Sri Lanka.

ii. Identifying key stakeholders in terms of capacity & strength during peacetime.

iii. Mitigation measure must start at schools and taken forward to communities and existing trainings conducted by the DMC should be publicized and promoted further.

iv. Frequent drills and exercises in local and national levels inclusive of private sector.
v. Educate the private sector on the existing SOP’s that are in practice by the DMC.

vi. Networking with multi-sector stakeholders.

vii. Sharing of best practices within the private sector when engaging in response.

viii. Response level requires one single point of contact at the DMC, improving communication strategies between DMC and the private sector.

ix. Inter-stakeholder communication/coordination and joint reviews during response.

x. In terms of rehabilitation and reconstruction, private sector could assist in the health sector, provision of water, self-identification of the strength of each sector and engage in response within capacities will be effective.
xi. Reviewing risks in frequent time intervals.

xii. Funding gap for capacity building – Some authority has to embark this project to do a capacity assessment of what we have vs what is needed. This could create triggers for organizations to voluntarily invest. Specially to avoid situations where too much of something and too less of another.

xiii. Organizational societal engagement at a disaster – each business could make voluntary pledges based on own its sustainability initiatives, which resources could be tapped on a layered/ prioritized basis.

xiv. Funding gap for BBB – Though government meager funding plus insurance recoveries may assist to reconstruct, BBB initiatives could be impacted. Should there be a transparent assessment for BBB initiatives? Who could assist SL via an INGO arm?

xv. Crowd-funding – should we consider community based funding as an option through credible platforms? (non-political/ transparent in nature) – Let us know if Dialog could help with a mobile app.
Mr. Denver DeZylva – Virtusa Polaris
• Disaster Management, Disaster Risk and Business Continuity Management are inter-related and inter-dependent topics. If business continuity management policies applicable to a company, disaster risk management becomes a part of it. Thus, enterprise risk is mitigated through business continuity management system that ensures a company to be at normalcy, during a disaster.
• The Disaster Management act entails all potential threats addressed to Sri Lanka. The best way to engage in Business Continuity Management is to understand the risks that each company is prone to and thereafter act accordingly at policy and decision making pedestals.

Ms. Anoja Seneviratne – DMC
• The DMC conducts several DRR programs to schools around the country, yet, the effectiveness is still a question mark. Because it is formally a lecture. This pattern needs to change with evolution. Technological support in terms of smart learning and creative learning tools are key areas in which the private sector could assist the government.
• DRR has already been included into the subject Social Studies.

Ms. Trinushka Perera – MAS Intimates
• Private sector is connected to a wide range of schools through CSR activities. Therefore, private sector can come together in assisting DMC to implement school level DRR programs in a creative manner. Private sector can bridge the resource gap of the government on this aspect.

Mr. Mubin Sanoon – Dialog Axiata PLC
• Localization of Sendai Framework – this must be done in the form of a SL DRR charter for local organizations (private & public) to sign-off as subscribing organizations. This would create the commitment to live up to. Though there is G2G commitment, we don’t observe a B2B or E2E commitment flowing through.

Ms. Yasangi Randeni – Aitken Spence PLC
• Directives in terms of DRR to schools to be channeled through the Ministry of Education, rather than private sector companies working in silos.

Brigadier L C Perera – Private Consultant
• Concern with regard to the interest from the public sector with regard to Public-Private Partnership.

• Risks also create business opportunities.
• Sri Lanka is a community / cultural driven nation. The recently concluded war victory is a good example to prove how community driven Sri Lanka is. Likewise, the private sector of Sri Lanka also should be considered as a community that is ready to engage in partnership and response under the leadership of governing
Concluding Remarks

Mr. Firzan Hashim, Country Director, Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management Sri Lanka (A-PAD SL)

In conclusion it was mentioned that the initiative of Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources & Disaster Management through the Mitigation, Research and Development Unit of the DMC was commendable for engaging the private sector directly in this process. The need for private sector consultation in the development process, understanding the ground realities is of importance given the disaster related losses to country as a whole. Whilst the intent is to mainstream DRR to private sector the complementing efforts of the government will be vital to reduce risks and for business resilience. The diverse representation of the private sector provided insight to risks in different sectors and recognized the importance of partnership and networking. The formulation of the guidelines will certainly facilitate businesses to be resilient and most importantly towards an effective public private partnership.

Mr Hashim on behalf of the private sector thanked the Secretary to the Ministry of Ministry of Irrigation, Water Resources & Disaster Management, the Director General Disaster Management Centre and Ms Anoja Seneviratne, the Director of Mitigation, Research and Development for the opportunity to engage directly and voice opinions and contribute to the document. Mr Hashim further appreciated the attendance of policy level nominees of the private sector companies who represented their companies views in exemplary manner.

A-PAD in partnership with DMC will seek to finalize the conclusions into a national document.
Mainstreaming DRR into Private Sector

Anoja Seneviratne
Director (MR&D)
Disaster Management Centre

Floods and landslides 2016

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<th>Losses LKR (Billi.)</th>
<th>Total Effect LKR (Billi.)</th>
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Damages and losses- breakdown between private and public sector Floods and landslides 2016

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Damages and losses- percentages by sector from total- Sources: PDNA team.

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<th>Damages (%)</th>
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<td>Total</td>
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Disasters & Private Sector

- Still Disaster Risk largely ignored
- Private investment largely determines disaster risk: In most economies 70-85 percent of overall investment is made by the private sector...
- Disaster directly affect business performance and undermine longer-term competitiveness and sustainability: When business leaves it may never return.
- supply chains create new vulnerabilities, small and medium enterprises are particularly at risk...
- Insurance is critical to business resilience. Yet insurance pricing often does not reflect risk level or provide an adequate incentive...
- Tourism investment es comes with high levels of disaster risk...
- A new paradigm for disaster risk governance will include the private sector...

DRR Investment for Resilience

- Increase resilience
  
For every US$1 invested in resilience and prevention, between US$4 and US$7 are saved in response.

- Reduce disaster losses
  
Large businesses with strong risk management programmes reduced their disaster losses seven-fold compared to other companies.

- Reduce volatility of earnings
  
Multi-nationals with best practices in managing their property risks had 40% less volatile earnings than companies with less advanced risk management plans.

Direct & Indirect impact to the Private Sector

- **Direct losses**
  Complete / partial destruction of assets and stock
- **Indirect losses**
  Business disruption, supply chain impacts, impacts on clients, partners and suppliers
- **Wider impacts**
  Loss of market share, competitors taking clients, costlier insurance, negative effects on image
- **Macroeconomic effects**
  Higher interest rates, labour shortages, reduced demand of goods and services

DRR add Value to the Private Sector by Ensuring Business Continuity

- **Provides for stable environment**
  Reduces the risks of disasters
  Protects the natural resources
  Reduces social and economic vulnerability
  Protects critical infrastructure

- **Protects employees and their communities**
  Reduces health and safety risks
  Reduces vulnerability of communities
  Protects employees’ families
  Protects employees’ property

- **Safeguards long-term investment**
  Protects manufacturing sites
  Protects warehouses and inventory
  Protects company offices
  Protects company records and archives

Ensures business continuity, competitiveness and sustainability

Group Work

- **To identify the Demand Roles and Responsibilities of Private Sector on…….**
  - Understanding Disaster Risk
  - Disaster Risk Governance
  - Risk Sensitive Investment
  - Preparedness for Disaster Response and Build Back Better for Rehabilitation Reconstruction and Recovery.
Group 01 – Understanding disaster risk- Knowledge

- National and local government levels
  - DMC looks at national level- we need PVT sector focused body (Philippines)/ organization similar to this in Sri Lanka
  - Guarantee of confidentiality on shared information by the pvt sector
  - Disaster management act (act according to the act)
  - National and government level- what do we need
  - Misconception between the private sector and government
  - Separate arm to cater private sector/ community separately

- Understanding risk
  - Multiple risks private sector have to focus on- (Go for a ISO 22301 standard for DRR, get as a reference point)/ toolkit
  - No readily made information- We need area based plans (information readiness is not available)
  - Registered email addresses and mobile numbers- Common alerting system/ platform (DEWN)- Proper early warning mechanism channel to general public (customized alerting system – geography based)

- Risk management plan (How do you understand and what do you need from the government)
  - Improve the disaster risk information system (DEWN)
  - Automatic platform to update it

- Strengthening education and awareness
  - DRR training at company level- awareness at local level
  - DRR strategies in the school curriculum
Recommendations
Disaster Risk Governance
Group 2

Fact base advocacy for national and local DRR policy and regulation

• Relevant policies are in place, but lacking awareness and contribution
• Centralized “one-stop” shop for information retrieval e.g. DMC. This should provide clear communication in terms of roles and responsibilities. E.g Pradeshaya Saba becoming the one stop shop or CEA approval incorporating all necessary regulations
• Incorporating DRR as a mandatory educational curriculum in all schools
• Rules & regulations of DRR to be included in DRR policy guidelines which companies have to follow
• Certification through external parties
• Consistency of policy implementation

DRR mainstreaming into local sectorial development plan & funding

• Banks to have a clear set guidelines for approval of loans including DRR
• Tax concessions for businesses practicing DRR guidance

Cross sectorial coherence

• DRR plan for each organization
• Provincial learning platforms
  • Learning from other countries and practices

DRR multi-stakeholders & multi-levels coordination platforms

• Calling for conferences to generate awareness among public & private sectors
• One information source on disasters and responses
• Appointing a core team and an enlarged team for each type of disaster. E.g. Flood, landslides etc.
  • Core team – DMC and Military
  • Enlarged – Private sector
• Effective two-way communication process in terms of alerting a Disaster

Linking DRR mainstreaming with natural resource, land and urban planning and funding

• Learnings from Egypt & Israel in water management
Group 03 – Investing in DRR for Resilience

**General views:**

- Proactive action is conducive to cut costs and losses
- Government has a role in land planning and demarcating central resources for DRR
- Town and city planning needs to happen centrally and the information needs to cascade to all sectors
- Transparency and availability of data needs to be streamlined
- There should be mechanisms to evaluate threats from cyber security as well
- Definition of the term ‘disaster’ could be virtual as well; social unrest and other disasters can result from cyber threats
- Health disasters (pandemics and epidemics) can be a disaster. How do we need to plan investments so that other aspects of disasters are included in DRR?
- Monitoring mechanism to screen the use of funds coming in through diverse institutions

**Frameworks that can integrate DRR**

- IFC Performance Standards
- Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) – Banking sector requirement in funding
  - Minimum standards maintained across the banking sector
  - Monitoring mechanisms could be more robust
- There needs to be more awareness about such frameworks so that individuals and organisations are more aware of the requirements

**What about the individuals who do not want loans?**

- This is where governance systems need to come in – standard frameworks such as EIAs could integrate DRR
- Even within the banking sector investments below 15Mn are not screened
- Public administration mechanisms need to be updated (e.g. building plan approvals etc.)
**Risk Transfer**

- Should we make insurance mandatory? For example, insurance for disaster relief workers and construction labour so that they are adequately supported in times of a disaster to be able to recover
- Have a central source to collect resources to be utilised in disasters and give incentives to private sector such as tax reliefs to contribute to central funds (e.g. excess crop to be purchased and kept in storage for disaster relief)
- There are ‘trust’ issues that we may need to consider as well

**What could go wrong?**

- Subjective – ESMS implementation could be at different levels for different projects
- Benchmarks need to be clear

**Recommendations**

- Mandate DRRs/ ESMS as a prerequisite in all projects (evaluate all 3 Ps)
- Have a central mechanism to share information and have mechanisms
  - Have deterrents
  - To ensure ‘bad’ projects are not supported by other institutions (i.e. no insurance, no construction support etc.) – objective is to facilitate organisations to check if the project (by location etc.) has been rejected by any institution and why
- Mechanism to develop central resources for insurance
- Invest in a volunteer force
- Evaluate the resilience of essential services in case of a disaster (have BCPs for essential services) – this should be an investment consideration as well (resilience investment, especially on local agencies)
- Invest in required resources for logistics in disaster recovery (e.g. fire engines that can reach higher floors in disasters, common water pools for dousing fires etc.)
- Mechanisms need to be implemented to bring in supply chain and distribution channel resilience and vulnerability to risks. Impact identification should include the supply chain and distribution channels
- Agree on common risk indicators so that monitoring is integrated into mandatory, routine procedures
Group 04 – Preparedness for Disaster Response and Build Back Better for Rehabilitation Reconstruction and Recovery

Preparedness

- Identification
  - Risk mapping, to be reviewed on a regular basis
  - Floods, Droughts, Landslides, Epidemics, tremors, Wind Speeds, Man made (chemical, etc.)
  - Identifying key stakeholders
- Mitigation
  - Awareness creation – At different levels, starting from school level.
  - Rehearsals
  - Standards (SOP)
  - Networking
  - Support from forces, Logistics, Communication
  - Good practices

Response

- Single point of contact
- Communication
- Mapping to know the locations
- Coordination with different agencies and review
- Relief

Rehabilitation and reconstruction

- Health,
- Drinking water
- Working to the sectors strengths ex. Banking, Health, Insurance, Manufacturing,
- Reviewing the risk (for escalation)
- Lessens learnt – what was done right and what went wrong. Audits and Reports
# Annex C: List of participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Mr. T.M.W Chandrakumara</td>
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<td>Mr. M.N Pharishandra</td>
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<td>Mr. Bevin Mack</td>
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<td>ACM Kolitha Gunathilaka</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mr. Caesar Fernando</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Mr. Roshan Ferdinandusz</td>
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<td>Mr. Mahesh Jayasuriya</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Major Udaya Perera</td>
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<td>Mr. Sushara Vidyanage</td>
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<td>Mr. Senaka Jayasinghe</td>
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<td>Prima Ceylon Ltd</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<td>Mr. Sajeeth Illyas</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>Ms. Yasangi Randeni</td>
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<td>Ms. Trinushka Perera</td>
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<td>Mr. Lakmal Maniksagara</td>
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<td>Mr. W. Hudson</td>
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<td>Mr. Dushan Soza</td>
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