



State Ministry of Defence and Disaster Management

NEOP

National Emergency Operation Plan

August 2017



Disaster Management Centre

National Emergency Operation Plan

The responsibilities of the state sector stakeholder agencies for early warning, response, and coordination are depicted in the National Emergency Operation Plan. Responsibilities of individuals and standard operating procedures for performing the assigned tasks shall be depicted in the disaster response component of the Disaster Management Plan of the relevant institution.

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Preface

Extra Ordinary Gazette No 1933/13 issued on 21 September 2015 by HE the President as per the paragraph (1) of the Article 43 of the Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, list the duties and functions of the Minister of Disaster Management and empower the Minister to supervise the functions of all Institutions listed under the Ministry including the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM). Accordingly the Minister is responsible to formulate the National Emergency Operation Plan (NEOP).

As per the Disaster Management Act (the Act) Disaster Management Centre is responsible for assisting the NCDM to formulate and implementation of the NEOP. Up on declaration of state of disaster the Act provides for DMC to direct and coordinate the implementation of the NEOP. Further all ministries and state sector organizations are required to develop Disaster Management Plan (DMP) for the institute based on the National Disaster Management Plan and up on declaration of state of disaster, shall take action to implement the DMP of the institute to counter disasters and impacts. Implementation of NEOP and DMP of the Institute shall save lives and property, minimize harm and ensure physical and psychological health of survivors and immediate recovery of essential services.

NEOP incorporates coordination mechanism for multi-hazard early warning system, response, relief and immediate restoration of essential services. Disaster Management Policy and National Disaster Management Plan, as indicated in the Act, have been taken into consideration in preparing the NEOP.

Officials of sub-national administration at Provincial, Local Authority, District, Divisional and Grama-Niladari levels, relevant officers and personnel from Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, community leaders, etc., have been consulted and their comments were incorporated into this plan. The users of the NEOP would be all those identified for the implementation of the Plan. The DMC believes this document would be useful in responding to disaster efficiently and effectively.

The Disaster Management Center wishes to thank Honorable State Minister and the Secretary for their guidance for the preparation of the plan. DMC is profoundly thankful to all stakeholders involved in this process especially United Nations Development Programme and United Nations World Food Programme. DMC wishes to acknowledge the support offered by all officials of the Ministry and its agencies for the preparation of this document.

Director General
Disaster Management Center

Contents

Preface	2
List of Figures	6
List of Tables	6
List of Annexes	6
Acronyms and Abbreviations	7
Executive Summary	9
Chapter 1	11
1.1 Introduction	11
1.1.1 Disaster trends in Sri Lanka	11
1.1.2 Hazards covered in NEOP	14
1.2 Context	14
1.2.1 Need for a NEOP and the development Process	15
1.3 The Purpose	15
1.3.1 Scope	16
1.4 Goal and Objectives	16
1.5 Legislative background of the NEOP	17
1.6 Time frame and updating the NEOP	18
Chapter 2	19
2.1 Emergency Response Process in Sri Lanka	19
2.2 Emergency Response Phases	19
2.3 Emergency Response Process flow	20
2.3.1 Situation Monitoring and Forecasting	21
2.3.2 Emergency Watch	21
2.3.3 Assessing Emergency Situation and Early Warning	21
2.3.4 Dissemination	21
2.3.5 Issuance of Evacuation Order	22
2.3.6 Emergency Preparation and Activation of Emergency Operation Plans	22
2.3.7 Declaration of State of Disaster	22

2.3.9 National and International Search and Rescue (SAR) Assistance	22
2.3.10 Management of Safe Centers and Needs Assessments	22
2.3.11 Coordination of Disaster Response	23
2.3.12 Early Recovery Needs Assessment	23
2.3.13 Early Recovery Implementation	23
2.4 Agencies Responsible for Actions During the Emergency Phases	23
2.4.1 Chain of Command for Emergency Management	25
Chapter 3	- 26 -
3.1 Disaster Early Warning	- 26 -
3.1.1 Early Warning System	- 26 -
3.2 Technical Agencies Mandated to Issue Early Warning	- 27 -
3.3 Triggering factors for issuing Early Warning	- 28 -
3.4 Role of Media in Early Warning Dissemination	- 28 -
3.5 Role of Military and Police in Early Warning Dissemination	- 29 -
Chapter 4	- 30 -
4.1 Emergency Response at National level	- 30 -
4.1.1 Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)	- 30 -
4.1.2 Coordination of Search and Rescue Operation at National Level	- 30 -
4.1.3 Coordination by Emergency Response Committee	- 31 -
4.2 Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies	- 31 -
4.3 Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholder Agencies	- 32 -
4.3.1 First Responding Agencies	- 33 -
4.3.2 Essential Services (ES)	- 35 -
4.3.3 Facilitating Agencies (FA)	- 37 -
4.4 Responsibilities of Stakeholder Agencies Responding to Disasters	- 38 -
4.5 Emergency Operation Mechanisms at Sub-national Levels	- 40 -
4.6 Management of Safe Centers and Provision of Relief	- 40 -
4.7 Dead Body Management: Disaster Victim Identification (DVI)	- 41 -
4.8 Early Recovery	- 41 -
4.8.1 Restoration of Essential Services	- 41 -
4.8.2 Data/ Information for Post Disaster Need Assessment	-41-

4.8.3 Early Recovery Implementation	- 42 -
4.9 Financial Instruments in Disaster Response	- 42 -
4.10 Guiding Tools and Agreements	- 42 -
4.11 Emergency Response Coordination Framework	- 42 -
4.11.1 National Council for Disaster Management	- 43 -
4.11.2 Coordination with National Response Organization	- 43 -
4.11.3 Coordination of International Assistance	- 43 -
4.11.4 National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee (NDMCC)	- 43 -
4.11.5 Emergency Response Committee (ERC)	- 44 -
4.11.6 District and Divisional Coordination Committees	- 44 -
4.11.7 GN level DM Committee	- 44 -
4.12 Disaster Information Management	- 44 -
4.12.1 Preparation of Baseline Data	- 44 -
4.12.2 Disaster-related Data Collection Dissemination Process	- 44 -
4.12.3 Media Briefings	- 45 -
Annexes	
Annex 01 - Sample of Format for collection of data of affected population	-47-
Annex 02 - Sample of Daily Situation Report	-48-
Annex 03 - Definitions/ Terminologies	-49-
Annex 04 - Members of Emergency Response Committee	-57-
Annex 05 - Terms of Reference of the Emergency Response Committee	-58-

List of Figures

Fig.No.	Title	Page No.
1.1	Trend of total number of days with very heavy rainfall	12
1.2	Number of lives lost due to floods and landslides	13
2.1	Emergency Response Process in Sri Lanka	20

List of Tables

Table No.	Table Title	Page No.
1.1.	Average number of people affected during 5 year intervals	13
1-2	General classifications of disasters in Sri Lanka As per DM Act	14
3-1	Technical Agencies responsible for issue of warnings	27
4.1	First Responding Agencies	33
4.2	Organisations providing essential services	35
4.3	Organisations assisting response	37

List of Annexes

Annex No.	Title	Page No.
Annex 1	Sample of Format for collection of data of affected population	47
Annex 2	Sample of Daily Situation Report	48
Annex 3	Definitions/ Terminologies	49
Annex 4	Members of Emergency Response Committee	57
Annex 5	Terms of Reference of the Emergency Response Committee	58

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AEA	Atomic Energy Authority
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEA	Central Environmental Authority
CEB	Ceylon Electricity Board
CCCRMD	Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department
DoM	Department of Meteorology
DDMCU	District DM Coordinating Unit
DM	Disaster Management
DM Act	Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No.13 of 2005
DMC	Disaster Management Centre
DDMCU	District Disaster Management Coordinating Unit
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DVI	Disaster Victim Identification
EOC	Emergency Operation Centre
EW	Early Warning
ERC	Emergency Response Committee
GA	Government Agent/District Secretary
GSMB	Geological Survey & Mines Bureau
GN	Grama Niladhari (Village level officer functioning under the Divisional Administration. GN is somewhat similar to the Village Headman in the earlier days)
ID	Irrigation Department
IDMP	Institutional Disaster Management Plan
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
LAs	Local Authorities
MASL	Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka
MDM	Ministry of Disaster Management
MLGPC	Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils
MEPA	Marine Environment Protection Authority
MoH	Ministry of Health
NARA	National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency
NBRO	National Building Research Organisation
NCDM	National Council for Disaster Management
NDMCC	National Disaster Management Coordination Committee
NDMP	National Disaster Management Plan
NDRSC	National Disaster Relief Services Centre
NEOP	National Emergency Operation Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NWSDB	National Water Supply & Drainage Board
PC	Provincial Council
PRDA	Provincial Road Development Authority
RDA	Road Development Authority
S A R	Search and Rescue
SLAF	Sri Lanka Air Force
SLDRN	Sri Lanka Disaster Resources Network
SLPA	Sri Lanka Ports Authority
SLRCS	Sri Lanka Red Cross Society
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
WFP	World Food Programme

Executive Summary

Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act No 13 of 2005 require the preparation National Emergency Operation Plan (NEOP) and Institutional Disaster Management Plans to counter impending disaster or disaster of the country at national and sub national levels respectively. The Disaster Management Centre is endowed with the task of preparation and the implementation of the NEOP. In assigning duties and function, HE the President has given the responsibility of preparation of NEOP to the Ministry of Disaster Management.

NEOP outline the responsibility of ministries, government department and public corporations at national level to respond to disasters when the magnitude of the disaster exceed the coping capacity of agencies at district and divisional level while the roles and responsibilities and standard operating procedure for achieving identified tasks are outlined in the Institutional Disaster Management Plan. Due to the impact of climate change extreme disaster events are increasing and it has been observed that the impact on lives and people affected are very high. It establishes the relevant lines of authority and organizational relationships, coordinating all relevant actions in emergencies and disasters. It facilitates the utilization of personnel and resources identified under Disaster Preparedness Component of the Disaster Management Plan, actions to minimize the impact of disasters during response and recovery activities, and builds up inter/intra-regional cooperation for coping with disaster situations for protection of people and property.

Special provisions in the DM Act to declaring a state of disasters, direct, co-ordinate and use of available resources for implementing disaster counter measures and legal provisions supporting the emergency operation is highlighted in the plan. The NEOP addresses the natural, human induced and technological hazards which have been identified in the DM Act of Sri Lanka.

Emergency Response process map illustrates the activities performed at three stages of response, just before, during and just after disaster at national and sub national levels.

Minister of Disaster Management has the total responsibility for coordination of the management of the disaster situations in the country. The management of an emergency should be done through one national Emergency Operation Center. Honorable Minister will decide the requirement for additional emergency operation centers for coordinating different tasks depending on the magnitude of the disaster and the coping capacity of the EOC.

The entire Early Warning mechanism is addressed in three stages, namely, before, during, and after a disaster. The Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) at the DMC is responsible to disseminate the EW messages to district and divisional secretaries, DDMCUs, all national level emergency response agencies, Provincial, media and Emergency Response Committees (ERC). Further dissemination from divisional secretariat to the community shall be through the mechanism established in the subnational level plans described in sub national level Institutional Disaster Management Plans.

In order to achieve this objective, EOC is linked to sub-national level administrations with reliable communication systems, coordinates with relevant mandated technical agencies to disseminate warnings and information bulletins on impending disasters with possible

impact scenarios to district and divisional authorities. The role of media, military and police in early warning dissemination systems is also described in the plan. NEOP has identified agencies mandated to formulate and issue warning. Types of warning issued are; alerts, warning, evacuation, withdrawal and stand down.

The necessity of preparedness for response is emphasized and the roles and responsibilities of district and divisional level response organizations are stipulated in the NEOP, while the responsibility of individuals and Standard Operating Procedures for addressing the task assigned is given in the sub national level Institutional Disaster Management Plan. In the event of occurrence of a disaster, Ministry shall activate the NEOP while responding agencies at National, District and Divisional levels shall activate the Institution Disaster Management Plan of the respective institution to respond to the disaster.

The EOC located in the DMC is operating on a twenty-four-seven (24 X 7) basis and assess the developing disaster situation and level of responses continuously. When the magnitude of disaster exceed the coping capacity of sub national agencies, EOC coordinate with the members of Emergency Response Committee to provide additional support in search and rescue and evacuation of communities at risk. National level response activities are coordinated by the DMC, while the district level activities are coordinated by the District Disaster Management Coordinating Units of the DMC. The necessity of response preparedness is emphasized and the roles and responsibilities of relevant organizations are stipulated in the NEOP. Emergency Response Coordination is undertaken at the National Council, Ministry, DMC, District, Divisional and Grama Niladhari levels

Special attention is given towards the working condition of the Emergency Operation Centre by mobilizing the required resources for continuously maintaining the “Readiness State” and operating on 24 x 7 basis along with an Emergency Call Centre. The EOC is linked to sub-national level administrations with necessary communication systems to disseminate warnings and other vital information to Provinces, Districts, DS Divisions and Provincial Councils and also inked to other major stakeholders and media.

The NEOP covers all activities which commence from just before disaster to just after disaster, including early stage of early recovery and Disaster Victim Identification.

Chapter 1

1.1 Introduction

Actions taken in the initial minutes of an emergency are critical in saving lives and safeguard livelihoods of vulnerable people. A prompt warning to at risk communities, will facilitate to the take the decision to evacuate to safe locations resulting reduced live losses. When an emergency occurs, the first priority is the safety of lives. The second priority is the stabilization of the incident. There are many actions that can be taken to stabilize an incident and minimize potential damage.

Sri Lanka is highly prone to natural hazards such as floods, landslides, droughts, cyclones and high winds, lightning strikes and forest and urban fires. Disaster preparedness activities are important as a precursor for a more effective humanitarian response and for reducing humanitarian caseloads during disasters. Experience confirms that an effective humanitarian response at the onset of a crisis is heavily influenced by the level of preparedness planning of responding agencies, as well as the capacities and resources available at all levels.

Preparedness planning for response implemented after the 2004 tsunami has improved the effectiveness of response to small scale disaster events at local level. However national coordination for large scale emergency operation, such as floods, droughts and landslides experienced in 2010, 2011, 2014, 2016 and 2017 need further improvements.

Sri Lanka, should therefore be prepared to respond to increasing number of disasters caused by natural and human induces hazards to reduce the live losses and damages to properties. Emergency operation and Disaster Preparedness are important component of risk reduction. It consists of actions intended to increase the coping capacity at national, district, divisional and local levels and make them more resilient to disasters.

1.1.1 Disaster trends in Sri Lanka

Global rainfall records show that the heaviest types of rains, those likely to cause flooding, have increased in recent years. According to the ' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2014 synthesis report, "The frequency of heavy precipitation events has increased over most land areas."

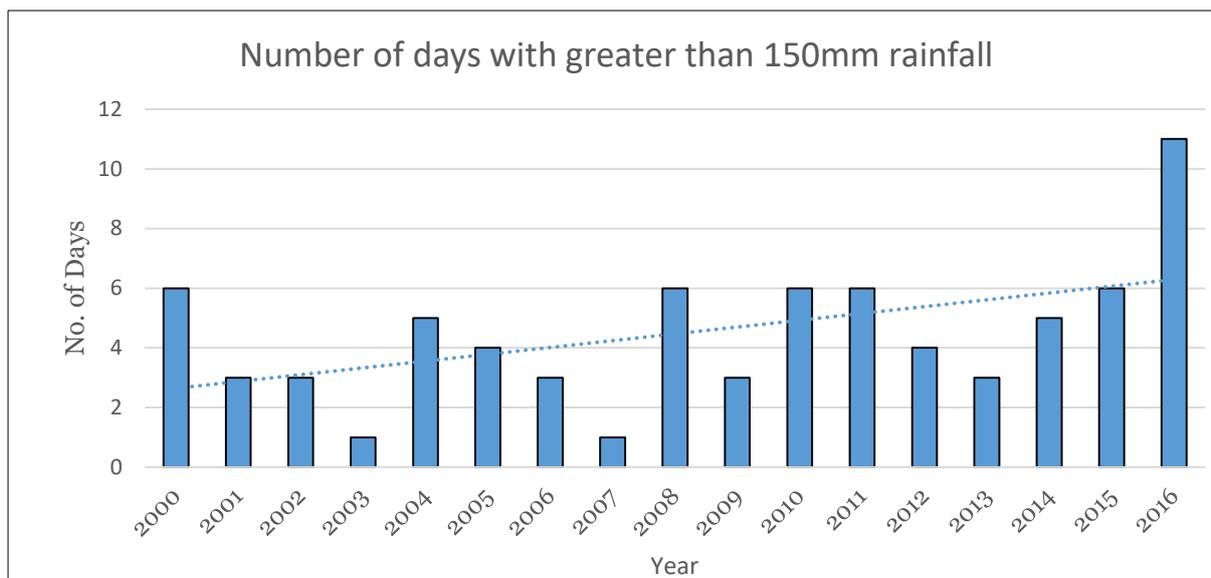


Figure-1.1 Trend of total number of days with very heavy rainfall
 Source: Meteorological Department

Rainfall more than 150 mm recorded at main meteorological stations in Sri Lanka since year 2000 indicate that extreme rainfall events in Sri Lanka are increasing and may continue to intensify resulting in frequent disasters caused by hydro-meteorological. The record-breaking heavy precipitation events in 2016 and 2017 that caused devastating landslides and floods, are good examples of these trends. On the other hand frequency of drought condition is also likely to increase.

Landslides

Landslides associated with intense and cumulative rainfall during monsoon and inter-monsoon seasons are the most pressing disaster in the central Highland of Sri Lanka. More than 13,000 km² (more than 20% land area of the country) within thirteen administrative districts are considered to be prone to landslides and almost 42% of the total population of the country is living in these districts.

As a result of the random extreme weather conditions caused by climate change impacts, changing monsoonal patterns and cyclonic situations in Indian Ocean bring very heavy and often localized rains to Sri Lanka increasing the occurrence of landslides and slope failures in an unprecedented manner.

Even though, there were about 254 deaths in 2003 extreme event, a gradual decrease of number of deaths have been recorded since then to 2013. However, despite of the enormous risk reduction efforts implemented by the government, economic damages and human losses are on the rise throughout the island since 2014 (Figure 1.2).

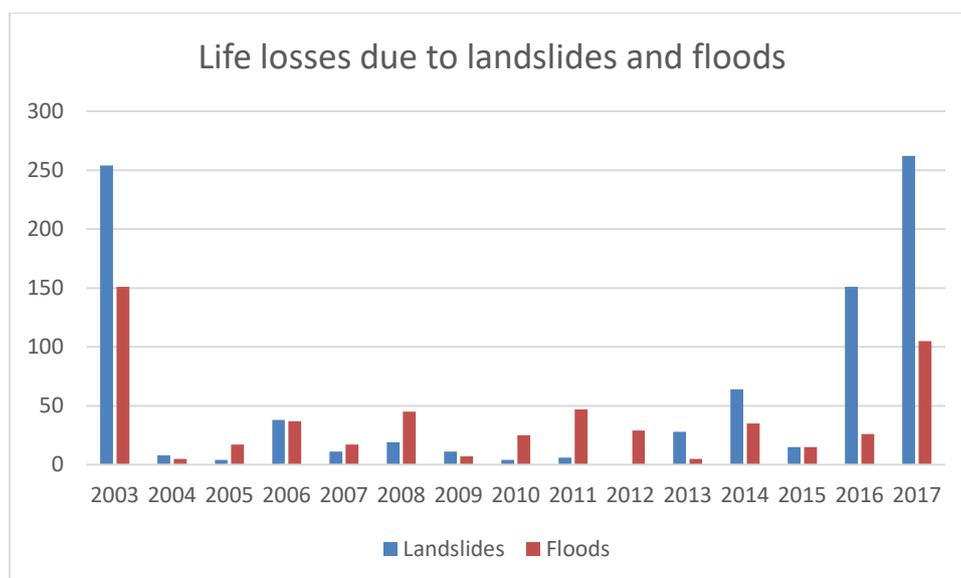


Figure 1.2: Number of lives lost due to floods and landslides
Source: NBRO and Desinventar database

Floods are common occurrence in Sri Lanka and during the period from 2000 to 2015 floods have impacted 23 out of 25 districts¹. Major floods are associated with the two monsoon seasons, south -west monsoon (May to September) and north-east monsoon. A combination of many factors, such as intense monsoon rainfall, topography, rapid urbanization, encroachment of water ways, inadequate maintenance of rivers and canal system, have exacerbated to this situation. Life losses due to floods have followed a similar pater as landslides. Compared to 2003 devastating flood event there had been a substantial reduction up to 2013 as a result of improved preparedness and search and rescue operations. Since 2014 this trend has changed and there is a rapid increase in life losses (Figure O2) as well as number of people affected (Table 1.1).

Duration	Average number of people affected
2000 - 2004	328,964
2005 - 2009	667,945
2010 - 2014	739,534

Table 1.1. Average number of people affected during 5 year intervals
Source: Desinvantar Database

Meteorological department has observed that the number of lightning event are increasing in some parts of the country. Though the animal attacks has not been identified as a hazard in the DM Act wild life department reported that there is an increasing trend in the loss of human lives as well as elephants due to encroachment of elephant habitat and elephant crossings by settlers.

¹Based on the Desinventar.lk database

With the increase of road network number of heavy vehicle transporting hazardous chemical including fuel has increased. Possibility of major accidents involving heavy commercial vehicle with passenger transport is also need to be considered. The emerging hazards need to be considered for inclusion in the future amendment of the DM Act.

1.1.2 Hazards covered in NEOP

The NEOP addresses the natural, human induced and technological hazards which have been identified in the DM Act of Sri Lanka.

Geological	Hydro-meteorological	Technological	Biological Hazard	Human-induced hazards
Landslides	Cyclone	Industrial hazard	Epidemics	Explosion
Tsunamis	Storm surge	Air hazard		Air raid
Earthquakes	Flood	Maritime hazard		Civil or internal strife
	Drought	Urban fire		Forest fire
	Forest fire	Chemical accident		Physical & Chemical induced Injuries
	Coastal erosion	Radiological emergency		
	Tornados, lightning strikes and severe thunder storms	Oil spills including inland and marine		
		Nuclear accident		

Table 1-2 General classifications of disasters in Sri Lanka As per DM Act

Though the hazards such as transport accidents and animal attacks, sea level rise, collapse of buildings and dam breach are not identified in the DM Act, NEOP should address those which could trigger emergency situations.

1.2 Context

Exercising the powers vested in the Constitution of Sri Lanka, HE the President has placed National Council and Disaster Management Centre under the Ministry and made the ministry responsible for the formulation of the NEOP.

The Disaster Management Center as provided in the Act has initiated the development of NEOP with the consultation of all stakeholder agencies. The plan focuses on the national level emergency operation and coordination of international emergency assistance. It also highlight the role of the Minister as the commanding authority of the emergency operation.

Disasters develop rapidly and create very complex emergency situations. Strengthening preparedness capacity of communities and agencies at all levels is as importance as the

emergency operation planning to effectively discharge its emergency management responsibility in a timely manner.

NEOP will address the emergency operation at national level. District and Divisional Authorities will have to activate the emergency response component of the respective Disaster Management Plans, developed based on the National Disaster Management Plan, to counter any disaster caused by natural or human induced hazards.

1.2.1 Need for a NEOP and the development Process

In case of a disaster situation, the all stakeholder agencies identified to respond to any type of disaster/emergency situation shall consider all aspects, including: early warnings, mobilizing prior identified, recognized and/or authorized volunteer teams, rescue teams and networks, access and manage information including numbers of affected families, individuals and their needs, provide immediate relief to affected people such as food, water and sanitation, medical, counseling assistance, shelters, clothes, etc., in an adequate, appropriate and timely manner, coordination of international assistance including goods and services, timely clearance of goods while ensuring national security and the quality of goods and services received, speedy restore public utilities and essential services that are damaged and destroyed due to disasters, prevent post-disaster health hazards, assure special attention for children, women, disabled and elders. In order to address these need in complex disaster situations efficiently and effectively properly developed and rehearsed plan is essential requirement.

Accordingly, the “Disaster Management Centre” (DMC) assists Ministry of Disaster Management and the “Council” in the preparation of “National Emergency Operation Plan. “Standard Operating Procedures” (SOPs) developed by the DMC for number of responding institutions could be a guiding document in preparing SOP for the implementation of tasks outlined in the response component of the Institutional Disaster Management Plan. The DMC shall prepare guidelines for the development of institutional Disaster Management Plans and issued to responding agencies with the approval of the Council. If requested DMC shall assist the agencies to develop the Plan as provided in the DM Act. Emergency Operations could be effective to the extend the vulnerable communities are made aware of the disasters and prepared to be vigilant by conducting regular exercises.

1.3 The Purpose

This National Emergency Operations Plan (NEOP) establishes policies, procedures and identify emergency response organization, and assigns roles and responsibilities to ensure the effective management of emergency operations. The plan also identifies sources of external support through INGO, private sector and international agencies.

This plan establishes:

- The conceptual framework for emergency management in the country including lines of authority and coordination.

- The procedures required to protect the life of people private property from the effects of natural, human induced and technological hazards and immediate restoration of essential services
- Assigned roles and responsibilities of responding organizations. Public agencies assigned roles and responsibilities in this plan are required to develop Institutional Disaster Management Plan including standard operating procedures (SOPs) based on the National Disaster Management Plan and NEOP

1.3.1 Scope

Policies, procedures and provisions in this plan are applicable to all individuals and Public sector agencies, having responsibilities for emergency preparedness, response, recovery in the country. The plan applies to any disaster situation caused by natural or human induced or technological hazards which may affect any part of the County. Emergencies addressed by this plan include all disaster caused by the Hazards listed in the DM Act no 13 of 2005.

1.4 Goal and Objectives

The goal of this NEOP is to provide a framework for implementing effective disaster response activities, immediate restoration of essential services.

Objectives include:

- Establish a framework for the overall management and coordination of emergency response and recovery operations
- Outline the methods and procedures employed by emergency management personnel to assess disaster situations and take appropriate actions to save lives and reduce injuries, prevent or minimize damage to public and private property.
- Establish lines of authority, coordination and reporting for the management of disasters.
- Coordinate with ministries, public sector agencies, private organizations, INGO, media and international organizations immediately before, during and after the major disaster event.
- Facilitate the allocation of resources required by responding organizations at national and local level

1.5 Legislative background of the NEOP

Under the section 4(b) (c) of the Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005, the National Council for Disaster Management (Council) is responsible for the formulation and preparation of the National Emergency Operation Plan. Council also require to submit the Plan to the Cabinet of ministers for approval and monitor the implementation of the same. Section 8 (2) (a) of the Act provides for the Disaster Management Center to assist the Council to prepare and take the responsibility to implement the plan.

In addition, the Council facilitates and ensures that the resources available are used effectively by respective agencies in discharging their duties/ functions and assure adequate publicity is given for the NEOP.

Section 10 (1) of the DM Act provide for government Ministries, Departments and Corporations to prepare Disaster Management Plan for the Institute as per provisions in the National Disaster Management Plan and guidelines specified by the council.

According to the Extraordinary Gazette issued in September 2015 National Council and the DMC has been placed under the Ministry of Disaster Management and formulation of National Emergency Operation Plan has been listed under the duties and functions of the Minister. Therefore Minister has the responsibility to ensure the preparation of NEOP and obtain the Cabinet approval. Section 11(1) of the Act provides for the President to declare a state of disaster for an area or for the country as a whole. This “State of Disaster” will be valid only for 02 months and can be extended not exceeding 02 months at a time. Proclamation made by the President shall be placed before the Parliament at its first sitting immediately after the proclamation.

Special provisions in the Act to direct, co-ordinate and use of available resources in the area and get addition resources, enter any place for saving human lives, rescuing people, evacuate people from vulnerable area, close traffic on any road, remove any obstruction with the assistance of police or armed forces for implementing disaster counter measures will be avialble after declaration.

The following are some of the other legislations that has a relevance to emergency management in Sri Lanka.

Proposed Flood Risk Management Act: identify agencies responsible for managing flood risk and take necessary action to issue early warning for types of floods.

Marine Pollution Prevention Act: authorize the Marine Environment Protection Authority to develop National Oil spill Contingency Plan and implement it in the event of an oil spill of any scale with the assistance of Disaster Management Centre.

Sri Lanka Atomic Authority Act No 40 of 2014: provide for the development of National Nuclear Emergency Plan under the clause 58(1), (2) and (3) for responding to potential nuclear or radiological emergencies.

Police Ordinance No 16 of 1865: authorize the placement of police officers under the control of public officer to ensure peace in the area under the jurisdiction of public officer.

Legal provision for Armed forces engagement in an emergency.

Army Act No 17 of 1949- Clause 19 (1) (c) and 23 A (1) of the Act provides for the engagement of army for non-military duties in the national interest.

1.6 Time frame and updating the NEOP

The NEOP is an evolving document which would be updated/amended with the lessons learnt after a major disaster or conducting regular exercises with the involvement of all responding agencies

Chapter 2

2.1 Emergency Response Process in Sri Lanka

The “all hazards” approach allows ability to respond to a range of emergencies varying in scale, duration, and cause. The NEOP addresses response procedures, capabilities and procedures when the emergency is identified and which cannot be managed by the community, divisional, district and Provincial authorities. NEOP outline the responsibilities of ministries and state sector agencies and the process of coordination of national and international relief assistance and technical services, monitor and guide emergency response operation at district and divisional level. Emergency at district and divisional level will be as per the disaster management plans of the relevant response organizations. Emergency response will be based on the Exposure maps prepared by Disaster Management Center with the assistance of technical agencies or Community level hazard maps prepared under the process of developing GN level preparedness plans.

2.2 Emergency Response Phases

NEOP covers the Emergency Operations in three Phases before, during and immediately after the occurrence of a disaster. It is specifically noted that there is no specific boundary between these sub phases and that there is a certain overlapping in all disaster situations.

- **Before the Incident Occurs** - This phase will be from the time of issue of EW /Alert until the disaster occurrence, and evacuation activities can commence to the maximum possible extent, to ensure that people will not be affected when the event occurs. However the messaging can be continued until announcement of the stand down situation.
- **During the occurrence:** After the disaster occurred, evacuation /rescue will continue
- **After easing of disaster situation:** Search and Rescue will continue until such time the authorities decides to abandon the operation in consultation with search and rescue teams. Evacuation may still continue as necessary. Relief and response services, and immediate recovery of essential services may commence at this stage.

In reference to the scope of the NEOP, an emergency response process is mapped through consultations of related agencies and following diagram describes how the response process is inter-linked to each other during three phases and also at national, district and divisional levels.

2.3 Emergency Response Process flow

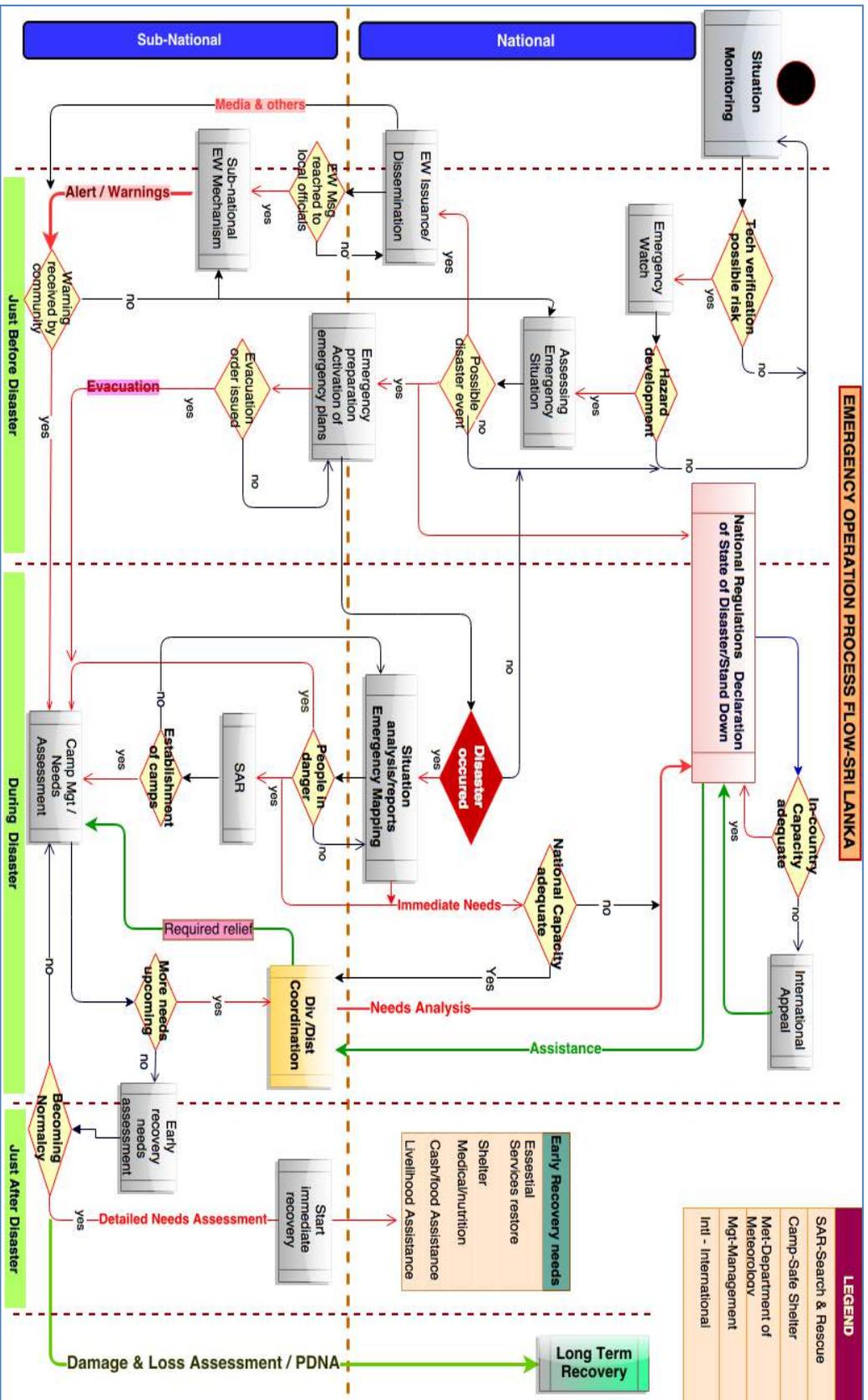


Figure 2.1 Emergency Response Process in Sri Lanka

Figure 2.1 depicts emergency response process in Sri Lanka. The processes are categorized in to main three phases 1. Just before the disaster, 2. During the disaster and 3. Just after the disaster and also interventions at national, district and divisional levels.

Sub-processes of the process flow describes as follows:

2.3.1 Situation Monitoring and Forecasting

This is ongoing process by the technical agencies on situation with regard to Meteorological, Hydrological, Biological, Technological and Human induced hazards. Once the technical agency found any deviation from normal condition they will inform the EOC at the DMC with a specific notice.

2.3.2 Emergency Watch

Upon receiving data on situation, the technical agencies issue a watch state to the EOC to take advance measures to notify any adverse situation to concerned parties to be standby for impending hazardous situation with extra caution.

2.3.3 Assessing Emergency Situation and Early Warning

Once information is received by the EOC with the verification from relevant technical agency the EOC continued to assess the situation for possible adverse impact to the normal conditions of general life of vulnerable people and prepare for impending disaster situation. Mandated technical agency informs the EOC therein with an early warning notice upon calibration of the situation through scientific classifications of Alert/Warning with recommendation to evacuate to save lives and safeguard properties.

2.3.4 Dissemination

With the establish communication mediums to reach the vulnerable communities, the EOC makes notification to at risk communities through district and divisional secretaries and Grama Niladharis to aware public on impending situation in three phases; 1. Alert: Knowing public of impending hazardous situation to take precautionary measures, 2. Warning: To take appropriate measures save lives and safeguard properties, 3: Evacuation: Through district authorities, the EOC will disseminate messages to public to vacate their normal habitats to safer areas identified during the preparedness planning process. Media will disseminate the early warning messages received from Technical agencies and DMC to general public.

2.3.5 Issuance of Evacuation Order

On receipt of the early warning and recommendation for evacuation, Secretary of the Ministry Disaster Management should issue the evacuation order at national and district levels.

2.3.6 Emergency Preparation and Activation of Emergency Operation Plans

Upon receiving early warning message from technical agencies and monitoring the hazard situation, DG/ DMC should authorize activation of NEOP and Institutional Disaster Management Plans (IDMP) of responding organizations related to the hazard after briefing the Minister/Secretary about the developing disaster situation and getting the approval from either the Minister or Secretary to activate the NEOP or IDMP.

2.3.7 Declaration of State of Disaster

With the development of impending disastrous situation and situation analysis done by the DMC in consultation with relevant agencies and concluding that the magnitude of disaster is beyond the coping capacity of the sub-national and national level organizations the Minister may advice the National Council /HE the President to declare a state of disaster to elicit additional powers to responding organizations. HE the President may declare the state of disaster in respect of any areas or covering the entire country.

2.3.8. Situation Analysis/Emergency Mapping: With incoming information from communities, national and international technical agencies, the EOC assesses the situation and possible impacts in high risk areas and informs the respective District and divisional secretariats, to mobilize search& rescue teams and to take appropriate measures to provide assistance to affected people as provided in the District and Divisional Disaster Management Plans. The DMC activates emergency mapping mechanism with available tools to obtain satellite and space data to produce impact maps and other reports for decision making together with its partner agencies.

2.3.9 National and International Search and Rescue (SAR) Assistance

With the situation analysis and verification of ground information the EOC shall ascertain that the disaster situation is beyond the coping capacity of the district authorities. Coordinate with the Armed forces to mobilize additional personnel to assist the district authorities. EOC to continuously monitor the situation and if the situation beyond the national level coping capacity and need external assistance, DG/DMC should brief the Minister to request international assistance through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2.3.10 Management of Safe Centers and Needs Assessments

Divisional Secretaries will mobilize officers working at GN level to establish safe centers and register the displaced people accommodated at the center. Management of the center will be done as described in the Divisional Disaster Management Plan and GN level Disaster Management Plan. National Disaster Relief Services Center (NDRSC) will collect segregated data from safe centers on a common format agreed by all agencies prior to the disaster. Rapid need assessment for food and non-food items will be undertaken by divisional and district administrative system with the support of external agencies/and volunteer organizations possessing technical expertise. Emergency needs will be decided after verification of numbers and categories of affected people against baseline data available with Information Management Unit of the MDM.

2.3.11 Coordination of Disaster Response

Disaster response activities will be coordinated at national and sub national level. Coordination framework given in Chapter 6 Emergency Response Coordination Framework.

2.3.12 Early Recovery Needs Assessment

Once the disaster situation is started to normalize Post Disaster Need Assessment will be conducted with the assistance of all sector agencies, district and divisional secretaries.

2.3.13 Early Recovery Implementation

This may include housing compensations, temporary shelters, food assistance, livelihood support, drinking water supply, rehabilitation of essential services and infrastructure. Further, designated early recovery plans may develop case by case based on the nature of the disaster impact as appropriate. The Ministry will take necessary measures to mobilize resources through treasury funds as well as international assistance for implementation of such plans through ERD.

2.4 Agencies Responsible for Actions During the Emergency Phases

The emergency response mechanism facilitates smooth implementation of early warning to early recovery actions to management the emergency with all stakeholders and step wise action are identified.

Phase of disaster	Activity	Organization responsible
Just before Disaster	Collection of hazard information from individuals, local communities, systems established and international organizations	Technical agencies
	Assessing, formulation and issue of early warning Issue order to activate NEOP and IDMP Check the readiness of safe centers	Technical agencies Secretary MDM with the approval of the Minister DM GN
	Dissemination of EW	DMC Armed forces Police District Secretary, Divisional Secretary Grama Niladhari Media (radio, TV , Social media)
	Issue of order to evacuate	Secretary MDM District Secretary
	Assist evacuation	NDRSC, GN and Officers Working at GN level Army, SL Red Cross Society,

		NGOs. Voluntary organizations,
	National Emergency Coordination Committee chaired by the Minister of DM	Secretary MDM
	Emergency Operation Committee meeting	DG/DMC
During disaster	Media briefing	MDM
	Assessing needs (food & non-food)	GN, NDRSC at Div Level
	Issue and dissemination of all clear messages	Technical agencies & DMC
	Release of funds to district Secretaries	NDRSC
	Coordination meetings at District level divisional level	District Secretary Div. Secretary
	Meeting with UN agencies and international donor community chaired by the Minister of DM	Ministry of Disaster Management
	Supply of cooked food	GN with Members of the management committee at safe center Voluntary Organizations
After disaster	Providing facilities and security at the Safe center	NWSDB, CEB, Police, LAs,
	Supply of non- food relief items	MDM, Private Sector organization, NGO,
	Declaration of state of disaster (if Needed)	President on the advice of the Minister of DM and the Council of DM
	Clearance, receipt and transport of international assistance	NDRSC
	Distribution of relief items	Divisional Secretary Private organisations with the concurrence of DS
	Restoration of emergency services	Relevant technical agency at district and divisional level
	Release of additional Funds as requested by Div. Secretaries	NDRSC
	Distribution of dry rations	Div. Secretaries, voluntary organizations
	Conducting Post Disaster Need Assessment	MDM with DMC and NDRSC

Table 2.1: Responsibility of Organisations in disaster phases.

2.4.1 Chain of Command for Emergency Management

As per the Disaster Management Act No 13 of 2005, National Council for Disaster Management is the apex body for providing policy guidance and directing ministries to respond to disasters mobilizing their resources. HE the President as the chairmen of the council coordinate the response activities with the relevant ministers.

HE the President has placed the National Council and the Disaster Management Center under Ministry of Disaster Management assign duties and function in terms of powers vested with the President under Article 43 of the Constitution. Accordingly the Minister of Disaster Management has the total responsibility for managing disaster situations in the country. On receipt of early warning of a pending disaster and briefing from DMC and other relevant agencies, Minister will chair a meeting of all responding agencies in government including armed forces, Private sector, UN agencies and I/NGOs including media to assess the readiness to respond without delay and coordinate the response and relief activities.

Minister will also coordinate international technical assistance and keep HE the President, members of the Council and Cabinet Ministers informed of the disaster situation and actions taken to address the complex issues. On behalf of the Government Minister will hold press briefings on regular basis until the disaster situation normalize.

There shall be only one operation center to coordinate the disaster response and relief activities under the direction of the Minister of Disaster Management. Additional centers shall not be established without the consent of the Minister in charge of the subject of Disaster Management.

On the directives of the Minister the Secretary will direct to activate the National Emergency Operation Plan and Institutional Disaster Management Plans to respond to pending disaster.

Director General DMC to chair a meeting of Emergency Response Committee and coordinate the national level response activities with the members of the committee. District and divisional secretaries shall command the emergency operations at respective levels.

Chapter 3

3.1 Disaster Early Warning

Timely issuance of Early Warning is well recognized as a critical life-saving activity for any hazards and warning services are recognized as an important link in an emergency response mechanism.

Early warning messages relay to different stages as defined below.

- I. **Alert:** Initial messages to the vulnerable communities/relevant authorities of a Potential disaster situation and to be standby.
- II. **Warning:** A message to warn vulnerable communities/relevant authorities of impending disasters to take appropriate action.
- III. **Evacuation order:** Order to the vulnerable communities to evacuate to a safer location.
- IV. **Withdrawal:** Cancellation of the warning messages.
- V. **Stand down:** Once the threat is over, communities are informed to return to normalcy.

3.1.1 Early Warning System

Government has established a comprehensive Early Warning (EW) system for the issue of timely EW of an impending disaster vulnerable communities at national and sub-national levels. Respective technical agencies (Table 2.1) are mandated to monitor different types of hazards listed in the DM Act and the responsible agencies should be equipped with a sound scientific basis for analyzing and forecasting pending disaster situation and issue reliable early warnings on 24 hour basis. The technical agencies may receive hazard alerts from its own in-country monitoring facilities/ mechanisms or from regional and international EW agencies. The vulnerable community itself could also be a source of information to the technical agency regarding an impending disaster.

The Emergency Operation Center (EOC) of the DMC receives the EW message from National Technical Agencies and also from International, Regional and local level organizations and community members. Dissemination of warning from national level to the grassroots level is divided into four layers, namely, National, District, Divisional and GN Level. EOC is responsible to disseminate the EW messages to district and divisional secretaries, DDMCUs, all national level emergency response agencies, Provincial and media and Emergency Response Committees (ERC). Further dissemination from divisional secretariat to the community shall be through the mechanism established in the subnational level plans described in Institutional Disaster Management Plans. In order to achieve this objective EOC is linked to sub-national level administrations with reliable communication systems.

A communication network inter-links the Technical Agencies, EOC, Police and the media, and the EOC is capable of retrieving any information automatically.

Early Warning is disseminated through District Disaster Management Coordinating Units (DDMCU) to the relevant stakeholders, agencies and also to the respective political authorities. Divisional level Early Warning messages are disseminated to the divisional

secretariat from DDMCUs. Divisional secretariat will disseminate the message to SAR teams, Police, District stakeholders and Grama Niladhari to warn the vulnerable communities. EOC interacts with national media for the timely and accurate dissemination of information to vulnerable communities, as well as responding and coordinating agencies.

3.2 Technical Agencies Mandated to Issue Early Warning

Following technical agencies are mandated to formulate and issue official early warning messages to the DMC and general public:

Hazard	Responsible Technical Agencies
(a) Landslide	National Building Research Organization(NBRO)
(b) Cyclone	Department of Meteorology
(c) Flood	Department of Irrigation (DOI) Mahaweli Authority of Sri Lanka/Department of Agrarian Development /CEB/ NWSDB –opening of spill gates
(d) Drought	DOI, Mahaweli authority - reservoir water levels, Dept. of Meteorology -deficiency in rainfall Dept. of Agriculture - data on soil moisture content Water Resources Board – ground water availability
(e) Industrial hazard	Central Environmental Authority (CEA),
(f) Tsunami	Dept. of Meteorology
(g) Earthquake	Geological Survey & Mines Bureau (GSMB)
(h) Air Raids	Airport and Aviation Authority
(i) Air hazard	CEA
(j) Maritime hazard	Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA)
(k) Urban Fire	Local Authority (Fire Brigade)
(l) Epidemic	Ministry of Health
(m) Explosion	Police Department
(n) Civil or internal strife	Police Department,
(o) Chemical accident (Land & Sea)	Ministry of Industries, CEA,
(p) Radiological or nuclear emergency	Atomic Energy Authority
(q) Oil spills including inland & marine oil spills	MEPA,
(r) Forest fire	Forest Department
(s) Coastal erosion	Coast Conservation & Coastal Resource Management Department (CC&CRMD)
(t) Tornado, lightning strikes and severe thunder storms	Department of Meteorology

Table 3-1 Technical Agencies responsible for issue of warnings

3.3 Triggering factors for issuing Early Warning

Technical agencies considers following triggering factors in issuing the warning messages to the EOC:

- i. **Tsunami:** At the time of the occurrence of an earthquake in the sea with a significant magnitude
- ii. **Flood:** Time at which the water level reaches the flood level in rivers or reservoir.
- iii. **Landslide:** Time at which the rainfall received and reaches the saturation level.
- iv. **Cyclone:** If the Cyclone path is identified to be crossed over the country within 72 hours or 550km away from the coast.
- v. **Drought:** If a significant rainfall deficit is forecast for long period or /and observation of prolonged dry spell, significant drinking/domestic water scarcity, significant food insecurity condition or significant agricultural impact
- vi. **Epidemic:** If a severe outbreak identifies causing widespread damage to human lives and environment
- vii. **Other hazards:** Prediction of following hazards with sufficient time to inform the people is not possible at present. However as soon as the event occur, people will be informed through the established systems and media.
 - a. Industrial Hazard
 - b. Earthquake
 - c. Air Hazard
 - d. Maritime hazard
 - e. Fires
 - f. Explosion
 - g. Air Raid
 - h. Civil or internal strife
 - i. Chemical accident
 - j. Tornado / severe thunderstorm

3.4 Role of Media in Early Warning Dissemination

NEOP recognizes the role played by media to disseminate early warning messages to communities at risk and provide information of safe evacuation and importance of following guidelines issued by respective authorities. There are several TV and R adio channels technically capable of covering the entire island. Radio are widely used in most of the rural communities where there is no electricity. Only very few media channel operate on 24 hour basis and services of majority stations may not be available during night. However whenever a disaster situation is announced media open special services in the night to disseminate disaster information to the public.

3.5 Role of Military and Police in Early Warning Dissemination

DMC has direct coordination with national level coordination centers of military and police to disseminate the early warning messages to vulnerable communities. Military and Police posts are located in many areas in the entire country. Military and Police have their own communication systems which can access vulnerable communities and they can direct these communities to safe locations at ground level.

Chapter 4

4.1 Emergency Response at National level

The necessity of response preparedness is emphasized and the roles and responsibilities of national level response organizations are stipulated in the NEOP, while the responsibility of individual and Standard Operating Procedures for addressing the task assigned is given in the Institutional Disaster Management Plan. In the event of occurrence of a disaster Ministry shall activate the NEOP while responding agencies at National, District and Divisional levels shall activate the Institution Disaster Management Plan of the respective institution to respond to the disaster.

Ministry of Disaster Management, DMC and NDRSC has provided some of the basic equipment district and divisional authorities. Limited number of equipment and trained personnel are also available with divisional and district authorities to respond to a small scale disaster. However when the disaster developed beyond the coping capacity of sub national organizations assistance sought from national agencies to respond.

The Emergency Response Coordination Framework at national level is illustrated in the **Emergency Response Process Map** in the Chapter 02, Figure 2.1. Responsibilities of main agencies are categorized according to steps of the Emergency Response Process flow.

4.1.1 Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)

The EOC located in the DMC is operating on a twenty-four-seven (24 X 7) basis and assess the developing disaster situation and level of responses continuously. When the magnitude of disaster exceed the coping capacity of sub national agencies EOC coordinate with the members of Emergency Response Committee to provide additional support in search and rescue and evacuation of communities at risk. Further EOC has the capacity to coordinate with Air force to provide additional air support. EOC will use exposure maps prepared by DMC with the assistance of technical agencies in search and rescue operation. EOC is sufficiently staffed to collect, analyzes, and displays information about the incident to enable decision-making and coordinate resources to ensure an effective response in any emergency.

The EOC equipped with a call center with a dedicated non-bounding number of **117**. This number can be accessed on free-of-charge, round the clock for disaster related assistance. The center is able to provide appropriate advice through the personnel available as well as link up additional resources, as necessary. During a disaster situation call center has the capability received distress call for immediate assistance and communicate to search and rescue teams and health authorities for immediate response.

4.1.2 Coordination of Search and Rescue Operation at National Level

Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Coast Guard and Civil Security Department are coordinated by the OCDS. SAR Teams of the Army and Rapid Response Rescue & Relief Squadron (4RS) Teams by NAVY are supported for the rescue missions through the Office of the Chief of Defense Staff (OCDS).

Army Rapid Deployment Units

Army has established separate unit at district level to engage in search and rescue operation immediately on the receipt of early warning messages and request for assistance.

4.1.3 Coordination by Emergency Response Committee

Members of the Emergency Response Committee will take the responsibility of coordination of the response activities with the sub divisional units under their purview. Any gaps identified in field will be addressed by them in consultation with the head of the institutions.

4.2 Roles and Responsibilities of Agencies

Operating Guideline of the NEOP facilitates the assigning of responsibilities for organizations and individuals in an emergency that exceeds the capability or routine responsibility of any one agency. It establishes the relevant lines of authority and organizational relationships, coordinating all relevant actions in emergencies and disasters. It facilitates the utilization of personnel and resources identified under Institutional Disaster Management Plans and actions to minimize the impact of disasters during response phase and further builds up inter/ intra-regional cooperation for coping with disaster situations for protection of people and property.

National Council for Disaster Management

Disaster Management Act No. 13 of 2005, provides the legal framework to establish a “National Council for Disaster Management”; chaired by His Excellency the President. The Council will issue directives to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Disaster Management Center and to the National Disaster Relief Services Center for coordinating emergency response and relief supplies. Council coordinate the response activities with the ministers, who are members of the council. Considering the developing disaster situation beyond the coping capacity of the country, Council could advice the President of Sri Lanka to Declare State of Disaster to delegate more powers to responding organisations.

Ministry of Disaster Management

According to the subjects and functions assigned to the Minister by the HE the President through the Extra Ordinary Gazette 1933/13 of 21 September 2015 the Ministry is responsible to coordinate the response, recovery and relief in disasters caused by natural and man- made hazards. Managing an emergency cannot be handled by the ministry alone as it require a wide range of human and financial resources, tools and technology which could be achieved with the corporation of large number of government private sector institutions, I/NGOs, UN Agencies, International Humanitarian agencies. Ministry also has the responsibility of providing regular updates to President, Ministers and media regarding the developing disaster situation, response provided and gaps identified.

Minister also obliged to submit recommendation for declaration of state of disaster, responsible to assist in preparation of flash appeal for international assistance and coordination of international technical and relief assistance. Further the ministry may

request additional support from Sri Lankan embassies overseas through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Coordinating response activities with all ministries and stakeholder agencies to ensure the safety of people at risk locations is also comes under the purview of the Ministry.

Disaster Management Centre

Disaster Management Centre was established under the National Council for Disaster Management in accordance with the Sri Lanka Disaster Management Act and placed under the Ministry of Disaster Management. The Act list out functions which could be assigned by the council including the responsibility of assisting council to develop the National Emergency Operation plan and ensuring the preparation of Disaster Management Plan by Ministries, government Department and Public Corporation to address disasters, which could be experienced in the country.

National level response activities are coordinated by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), with the Emergency Response Committee appointed by the Centre. District Disaster Management Coordinating Units of DMC assist the District Secretary to coordinate the disaster response activities.

The Disaster Management Centre coordinates with relevant technical agencies mandated to issue warnings to district and divisional authorities, Military and Police communication centers and media. DMC also responsible to coordinate with international technical assistance including the technical teams in search and rescue operations.

Emergency Operation Centre operating on 24/7 basis linking with DMC Emergency Call Centre. The EOC is linked to sub-national level administrations with necessary communication systems to disseminate warnings and other vital information to Provinces, Districts, and Divisional Secretariats to other major stakeholders and the media.

National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC)

National Disaster Relief Services Center (NDRSC) is responsible for establishing safe centers, coordinating evacuation of people to safe centers, managing safe centers, conducting rapid needs assessment and provide funds district and divisional authorities for procuring emergency relief supplies. NDRSC also coordinate the collection and distribution international relief supplies and technical teams for erection of temporary tents and camps. NDRSC responsible to support the assessment of houses small businesses affected due to disasters and coordinate with the National Insurance Trust Fund to process the claims for payment of compensation.

4.3 Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholder Agencies

Disaster management is a complex process involving international, national and local organisations each with a distinct role to play during emergency situation. To respond to disaster situations a coordinated effort is required with specific role and responsibilities and central command system.

Stakeholder Agencies are categorized according to their main functions and for the easy reference. Those agencies monitoring the development of hazard and issuing warnings are categorized as Technical Agencies (TA), while those agencies reporting at the disaster location to safeguard the lives are named as First Responders. Agencies who are restoring basic services are categorized as Essential Services (ES) and others as Facilitating Agencies (FA).

4.3.1 First Responding Agencies

A *first responders* are likely to be among the *first* people to arrive at disaster location and assist at the scene of an emergency such as an accident, disasters caused any type of hazard or terrorist attack.

Number	First Responding Agencies	Number	First Responding Agencies
01	District Administrations	09	Local Government Authorities
02	Divisional Secretariat	10	Sri Lanka Police
03	Fire Brigade	11	Sri Lanka Army
04	Marine Environment Protection Authority	12	Sri Lanka Navy
05	Ministry of Fisheries	13	Sri Lanka Air Force
06	Ministry of Mass Media & Information	14	Sri Lanka Air Force
07	Volunteer Org./ Red-cross	15	Sri Lanka Coast Guard
08	Marine Environment Protection Authority	16	Civil Security Department

Table 4.1 – First Responding Agencies

District / Divisional Secretariat

Under the directives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, District and Divisional Secretariat/s of the relevant area will activate their respective Institutional Disaster Management plan, mobilise resources to respond to the disaster situation and coordinate the response activities within the administrative area and with agencies at national level.

Ministry of Health

In the event of a disaster Ministry of Health and Provincial Health services mobilise medical staff to provide emergency medical services to victims of disasters and maintain the services to face any disaster situation. Ministry also arrange medical clinics at the temporary safe centers to prevent outbreak of deceases.

Ministry of Local Government/ Fire Brigade

Ministry of Local Government Enhance the capacity of provincial and local government to exercise their powers and provide services; and, ensure public safety. Emergency Medical Response Dealing with trauma incidents, Para-medics teams are dedicated for this service. Structural firefighting. High-riser building, Factories etc., Mobilise vehicles and vessels of firefighting, tunnel firefighting, and confinement of the fire to the compartment or building of origin are some of the services provided by Fire Brigade officers.

Involvement of Armed Forces and the Police

Search & Rescue (S & R) Teams of tri-forces have been trained, equipped and stationed at strategic locations covering the entire country to respond to any emergency. In an emergency the military S & R team in the closest location will be contacted for assistance in response. DMC has established direct coordination with military and police to enlist their assistance to mobilize at short notice in any part of the country.

Ministry of Defense

Ministry of Defense facilitates the functioning of the Armed Services. Maintenance of internal security and Rescue operations and administration of Coast Guard Service in the sea.

Office of the Chief of Defense Staff

Sri Lanka Air Force, Sri Lanka Coast Guard and Civil Security Department are coordinated by the OCDS. SAR Teams of the Army and Rapid Response Rescue & Relief Squadron (4RS) Teams by NAVY are supported for the rescue missions.

Specialized Rapid Response Team

A Rapid Response Team at national level has been trained for effective response in case of an emergency regarding oil spills, hazardous material accidents, chemical and industrial accidents and radiological emergency. For disposal of lethal, toxic and adverse chemicals

after a technological disaster, the mandated technical agencies will work with the CEA, Police, Military and other agencies as appropriate.

Search & Rescue (SAR) Teams of tri-forces have been trained, equipped and stationed at strategic locations covering the entire country to respond to any emergency. In an emergency the military SA R team in the closest location will be contacted for assistance.

Sri Lanka Police

All the Police stations in the island are first to receive information of any disaster situation and present at the location to manage the situation until the first responders arrive at the scene. Police establish contact with the EOC to get additional support depending on the need.

Ministry of Mass Media & Information

Formulating, Facilitating, Implementing, Monitoring and Evaluating policies and strategies in order to establish a people friendly, development oriented, free and responsible Sri Lankan media culture. Media Ministry assist the Ministry of DM to conduct the media briefing on regular basis until disaster situation ceases.

Ministry of Fisheries

The ministry is responsible for the administration of marine fisheries sector in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 517,000 square kilometers and 489,000 hectares of the brackish & freshwater fisheries sectors. Fisheries Ministry maintain radio contact with fisherman in the deep sea area. In the event of any disaster EOC contact the Department of Fisheries and Fishery Harbour Managers to convey the warning messages to fishing community.

4.3.2 Essential Services (ES)

In the event of a disaster restoration of basic services such as water, communication, electricity and road network is utmost important to deliver food and essential supplies to disaster victims. Interruption of these services for long spell of time would endanger the life or personal safety of the whole or part of the population. Essential services are:

Number	Essential Services (ES)	Number	Essential Services (ES)
01	Ceylon Electricity Board	07	Road Development Authority
02	Lanka Electricity Company	08	
03	Ministry of Transport	09	Provincial Road Development Authority Western Province
04	Sri Lanka Railways	10	Sri Lanka Telecom
05	Transport Board	11	Health services
06	National Water Supply & Drainage Board	12	Local Government for Waste Collection and disposal

Table 4.2 – Organisations providing essential services

Ceylon Electricity Board

The Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) is the national institution charged with the responsibility of generating, transmitting and distributing electricity all categories of consumers nationwide. Whenever disaster event has been reported they disconnect the supply as a precautionary measure. CRB provide emergency power supply for rescue missions and temporary safe shelters.

Lanka Electricity Company (LECO)

Responsible for the distributing electricity supplies to consumers along the coastal belt from Negombo to Aluthgama and Balapitiya to Galle. Services automatically shutdown in the event of a disaster with serious impacts. Service restored immediately if there is no further threat.

Ministry of Transport (Sri Lanka Railways and SL Transport Board)

Formulation of policies, programmers and projects, monitoring and evaluation in regard to the subject of transport and those subjects that come under the Department of Sri Lanka Railways, Sri Lanka Central Transport Board, Civil Aviation Authority, Airport and Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Ltd. Support the district and divisional authorities providing buses to transport disaster victims to evacuation centers. Railways has established a systems to suspend the rail services whenever early warning issued impacting rail services.

National Water Supply & Drainage Board

Water supply and & Drainage Board has plans to develop the water resources to meet the growing demands of the country in domestic, industrial and agricultural sectors. NWSDB has developed systems to restore water supply in the event of service disruption due to a disaster. Further they are equipped go provide water needed to temporary shelters located within their service areas.

Water Resources Board

Water Resources Board assess the availability of ground water mainly in dry zone and monitor the quality of ground water. WRB identify location of ground water sources in dry zone and amounts that could be extracted to supply water during drought periods.

Road Development Authority

The Road Development Authority (RDA) is responsible for the maintenance and development of the National Highway Network, comprising the Trunk (A Class) and Main (B Class) roads and the planning, design and construction of new highways, bridges and expressways to augment the existing network. Special maintenance gangs are kept in alert to remove any obstruction on the Road.

Provincial Road Development Authority and Local Authorities

Most of the roads used for evacuating people and supply of relief goods are maintained by PRDA and Local Authorities. It is essential that accessibility of these roads are ensure after a disaster to facilitate the uninterrupted delivery of essential item to disaster victims.

Telecommunication Services

Sri Lanka Telecom-Sri Lanka Telecom PLC. (SLTL) is the national ICT solutions provider and the leading broadband and backbone infrastructure services provider in the country. Maintaining communication with people standard in risk location is essential to success of search and rescue operations. During major disaster situation electricity supply may get affected and it is vital to restoring communication in such instances.

4.3.3 Facilitating Agencies (FA)

Number	Facilitating Agencies (FA)
01	Ceylon Tourist Board
02	Ministry of Agriculture
03	Ministry of Education
04	Ministry of Finance
05	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
06	Sri Lanka Customs
07	Department of Immigration and Emigration
08	Sri Lanka Ports Authority
09	Water Resources Board
10	Airport & Aviation Services (SL) Ltd

Table 4.3: Organisations assisting response

Ministry of Education

If school buildings are used as safe centers education of school children get disrupted. Re stating the education facility in some other location is a requirement. If the access to school are not distributed children must be encouraged to attend to school after taking precautionary measures for their safety.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Support the mobilization of international assistance for search and rescue missions and provision of relief items. Coordinate with Sri Lanka Embassies to get additional assistance to people affected by disasters.

Sri Lanka Customs

Sri Lanka Customs is mainly responsible for the collection of revenue and the enforcement of law. Could assist the Ministry of DM by clearing of goods and services received for International community to with least delays.

Sri Lanka Ports Authority

The Sri Lanka Ports Authority responsible for the supply and maintenance of cargo-handling equipment and other infrastructure, pilotage services, docking and slipping.

Ministry of Finance

Provide additional finance required relief operations. Provide guidance to develop emergency procurement procedure to expedite the procurement of essential items such as dry rations and material for search and rescue operations.

Airport & Aviation Services

Implement the systems practiced during Get Airport Ready Project to expedite the release of goods received from international humanitarian agencies.

Department of Immigration and Emigration

Department of Immigration and Emigration regulate the entry and exit of persons, and provide citizenship services, while safeguarding the nation's security & social order, and promoting economic development. Fast clearance of search and rescue teams and their equipment will assist the safe lives of disaster victims.

International/National Humanitarian Agencies

Upon calling of the ERC, the MDM together with DMC make aware the situation and ground requirement to the humanitarian agencies facilitating their response & relief actions through NDRSC as well as district authorities. The UN agencies, Red Cross movement, INGOs arrange their respective area of support through their own mechanisms and instruments available worldwide.

Voluntary and Non-governmental Organisations (NGO)

There are number of voluntary organizations and NGOs who has the experience in search and rescue operations. They could support the divisional authorities in the disaster locations to evacuate people in to safe centers and manage safe centers.

4.4 Responsibilities of Stakeholder Agencies Responding to Disasters

All national and sub national level agencies must take action as provided in the contingency response plan of the Institutional Disaster Management Plan to respond to the disaster situation. Responsibility of national and sub national level agencies is given in Table 4.1.

Actions	Responsible Stakeholder Agencies
General coordination of all activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative heads of Provincial, Local Authority, District, Divisional, GN levels • DMC at National level
Search & Rescue, Safety and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tri -forces, Police and civil defence • Fire Service Departments of LAs • Community Volunteer Teams • NGOs/ INGOs
Restoration of communication facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecom and other telecommunication agencies
Restoration of power supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEB / LECO
Emergency Clearing of roads, repairs and identifying alternative roads, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDA, PRDA, Local Authorities
Restoration of water supply and distribution systems , Sanitation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWS&DB, • Local Authorities
Assisting to maintain Law & order;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Forces Police, Para military forces, Fire Service Departments etc.
Temporary shelter, animal shelters, other facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Armed Services, Police, Para military forces, Fire Service Departments NGOs & CBOs, Communities • NDRSC • NWS&DB, CEB,
First Aid, medical aid, disposal of dead bodies, health & sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central and Provincial Ministries of Health; Govt. & Private Hospitals; SLRC / NGOs, Fire Service Departments; Communities
Relief activities, cooked food, dry rations, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDRSC, NGOs, INGOs, CBOs, Communities, etc., Dept. of Social Services if applicable
Rapid Needs Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NDRSC with the support of District authorities and DMC
Disposal of lethal, toxic and adverse chemicals, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEA, Police, Military, AEA, fire service departments, other relevant agencies
Provision of International Assistance * Relief items International Search Rescue teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Disaster Management, • NDRSC with the assistance of Airport & Aviation Services, Customs Dept., Dept. of Immigration & Emigration, Ministry of Health, Foreign Affairs, Defense, • DG/DMC

Table 4.4: Responsibility of responding agencies

4.5 Emergency Operation Mechanisms at Sub-national Levels

Emergency operation at sub national level shall be included in the respective Institutional Disaster Management Plan. District and Divisional Secretaries are responsible to activate the plan for the management of disaster at respective levels. District Disaster Management Coordinating Unit (DDMCU) assist the District Secretaries to convene the District Disaster Management Committee to get their support to respond to the disaster. Divisional Secretariats plays crucial role in an emergency providing necessary assistance to affected population through their administrative mechanism. Standard Operation Procedure for dissemination of early warning, emergency evacuation, camp management and distribution of relief items shall be included in the Disaster Management Plan of the Institute and responsibility of officers will also be given in the plan. In the event of a major disaster local level EOCs will be established and operated by DDMCU staff with the assistance of others attached from the district office.

Whenever necessary direction and the guidance of the political leadership either at the provincial or local authority level, need to be assured in the decision making process. The Divisional Secretary interacts with the respective Local Authorities (Municipal Councils, Urban Councils and Pradeshiya Sabhas) for resource sharing and other support services available at Local Authority level.

Mode of response to disasters depends on the nature of the event. If the magnitude of the disaster exceed the coping capacity of the district, assistance of the national agencies to be provided. The DDMCU also interacts with media for dissemination of ground information to public for better coordination efforts.

At the GN level (local level), the Grama Niladhari plays the lead role in interacting with the GN level DM Committee and sub-committees and stakeholders representing NGOs, INGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and private sector organizations to respond to disasters.

4.6 Management of Safe Centers and Provision of Relief

National Disaster Relief Services Center (NDRSC) coordinate the relief operation at national level. NDRSC officer at the Divisional Level with the support of other government officers working at the GN level establish and maintain the safe centers at locations identified prior to disaster. Maintaining register and segregated data of people occupying safe shelter is done by a person nominated by the GN or NDRSC officer. When evacuation shelter is in operation a beneficiary registration is maintain by local officials and mobilize required resources to assist the displaced people. The Data available at the Center will be used by the divisional and district authorities to get additional support for medical, food, shelter, water & sanitation etc.

Based on ground requirements, the NDRSC with the support of Ministry of Disaster Management will acquire additional financial resources from the treasury and disburse to targeted District authorities. Further, requirement of non-food items are mobilized by the NDRSC with the support of government as well as humanitarian agencies.

NDRSC officer at the divisional level with the assistance of GN other officers working at GN division provide services required at the safe center. Armed forces as well as police provide required services at ground in logistics as well as security and also supports camp management activities. GN organize the village level DM Committee to manage center and cook food in the center. Local authorities provide essential services including waste management to displaced population in evacuation centers until they are resettled.

4.7 Dead Body Management: Disaster Victim Identification (DVI)

The Disaster Victim Identification procedure is very appropriate for victims of a disaster. However, the appropriateness, practicability and usefulness of this procedure may be doubtful considering the criteria through which the dead bodies are identified, i.e., (i) fingerprints, (ii) dental records and (iii) DNA. A major segment of the population in Sri Lanka cannot afford even the minimum health care. In such a situation, the practicability of identifying victims through fingerprints, dental records and DNA, must be given due consideration as these may not be kept by even a small segment of the population. The secondary criteria are medical information, personal property and photographs.

A committee may be appointed to look into this and if feasible, to assist in setting up a suitable system with required training and capacity building of associated organizations, after identifying a donor who is willing to support this initiative.

4.8 Early Recovery

NEOP does not address the Post Disaster recovery needs and “Build Back Better” approached in the implementation of early recovery plans. However initiating Post Disaster Need Assessment and restoration of essential services will be addressed by NEOP.

4.8.1 Restoration of Essential Services

Most of the time access roads are obstructed by fallen trees, earth slips, boulders, damaged or destroyed culverts obstructing the emergency operation activities such as evacuation of affected people to safe centers, supply of food essential relief items. Therefore restoration of road network in disaster affected areas are required urgently. RDA and PRDA and Local Authorities are responsible for restoring the access roads to facilitate the emergency operation process.

In some areas water sources get polluted during a disaster and need urgent restoration to ensure supply water to affected communities. Electricity supply and communication systems also need to be restored immediately.

4.8.2 Data/ Information for Post Disaster Need Assessment

Although the Post Disaster Need Assessment is not under the emergency operation phase, all records relating to emergency operation including the segregated data relating to deaths, missing and affected people, expenditure for search and rescue operation etc., will have to be properly recorded for use in preparing PDNA.

4.8.3 Early Recovery Implementation

This may include housing compensations, temporary shelters, food assistance, livelihood support, drinking water supply, rehabilitation of essential services and infrastructure. Further, designated early recovery plans may develop case by case based on the nature of the disaster impact as appropriate. Cash based programmes could be used to support affected people during the early recovery stage based on existing regulation of the country through appropriate procedures. The Ministry will take necessary measures to mobilize resources through treasury funds as well as international assistance for implementation of such plans through ERD.

4.9 Financial Instruments in Disaster Response

The Sri Lanka government will allocate required funds through the treasury for a given emergency operation based on the severity of the disaster. The Natural Disaster Insurance scheme introduced by the government of Sri Lanka facilitates the relief efforts of the Ministry of Disaster Management as well as other compensations related to the disaster event assessed by the NDRSC.

However, if additional resources are required, the Government has the option to draw loan funds from the “Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat DDO) upon declaring a state of disaster.

NDRSC should initial the development of Emergency Procurement Procedure with the assistance of the Procurement Division of the Ministry of Finance to expedite the procurement essential goods during a disaster situation. Guidelines available with Humanitarian Agencies could be used in developing the procumbent procedure.

4.10 Guiding Tools and Agreements

This NEOP makes its best efforts to adhere to SPHERE Minimum Standards in Disaster Relief & Responses. Guidelines developed under the Get Airport Ready for Disasters (GARD) and other related guidelines available nationally and internationally could be utilized.

The NEOP adheres to SAARC agreement on emergency response which was signed by all SAARC countries to support each other during major emergency situations by lateral agreements entered in by the Government with countries in the Asian Region.

4.11 Emergency Response Coordination Framework

The emergency response coordination framework at different levels facilitates commitment of agencies for effective response to an emergency from early warning phase to early recovery phase. The emergency operation system has been established for effective response during a disaster, and all relevant groups of people will coordinate and work together. The following committees will coordinate the response activities at different levels and provide guidance.

4.11.1 National Council for Disaster Management

As the apex body for disaster management in Sri Lanka, Council will coordinate with all members to ensure the maximum commitment to respond to the disaster situation. Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management will provide the secretarial support for summoning a special meeting of the council.

4.11.2 Coordination with National Response Organization

Immediately after activation of NEOP and Institutional Disaster Management Plans Minister of DM will Chair a meeting of Secretaries of Ministries, Heads of Departments of organizations involved in managing the disaster, Armed forces, DG of DMC, NBRO and Meteorological Department Director NDRSC and Information Management Unit (IMU) of the Ministry to assess the disaster situation and provide guidance to officers. Meeting of response organizations will be held when necessary to assess the situation, identify gaps and take corrective action.

4.11.3 Coordination of International Assistance

If the scale of the disaster is beyond the coping capacity of the country, Minister will chair a meeting of UN agencies, donor community, international aid agencies, INGO, humanitarian agencies to brief the developing disaster situation and emergency assistance required. DG/DMC will coordinate international assistance for search and rescue. 5Coordination of International Medical assistance including medicine will be the responsibility of Ministry of Health. Director NDRSC will coordinate the relief items (Food and Non-food) received through the international community and establishment of temporary safe centers.

In the event of declaration of State of Disaster by the President, Minister of DM may request UN assistance to prepare a flash appeal for assistance from international community. The Minister DM through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will make an appeal to Embassies of friendly countries in Sri Lanka for assistance. If government decides, further support from Sri Lankan embassies overseas through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Resources Department (ERD) will be sought. Once International appeal is publicized the Ministry of Disaster Management may call coordination meeting with concerned parties for better response arrangements.

4.11.4 National Disaster Management Coordinating Committee (NDMCC)

Representatives of national level state sector agencies, Chambers of Commerce, I/NGOs, academia, media and UN agencies, donor agencies who are involved with the disaster management activities shall be the members of NDMCC. Meetings shall be shared by the Secretary and in his absence an Addition Secretary of the Ministry. DMC shall perform secretarial function and update the list and contact details of members regularly. An Emergency meeting of NDMCC members, chaired by the Secretary of MDM shall be called to assess the readiness of agencies to counter disaster situation. After situation has become normal a meeting will be held to identify best practices and gaps for future improvements. DG/DMC will provide the secretarial support for the meeting.

4.11.5 Emergency Response Committee (ERC)

In consultation with Director Emergency Operation and other Directors, DG/DMC shall identify the agencies required to be in the Emergency Operation Committee and get the approval of the National Council or Interim Management Committee (IMC). Agencies approved by the Council or IMC shall be requested to nominate a representative for the ERC and DG/DMC shall issue a letter of appointment and a Terms of Reference to all members. DG/DMC shall chair the meeting of the Emergency Response Committee to coordinate the emergency operation activities. The ERC will coordinate the response activities through their line agencies to ensure timely actions. (Annex 4 –List of Agencies)

4.11.6 District and Divisional Coordination Committees

Representatives of agencies actively engaged in the disaster management activities shall be appointed as members of the district/divisional coordinating committees. District/Divisional Secretary shall issue a letter appointing members to the committee. The District Secretariat or Divisional Secretariat arranges regular coordination meeting with relevant government and humanitarian agencies to provide better coordinated responses to affected population. Whenever necessary, respective personnel informs situation and requirements to national regulatory bodies for further actions.

4.11.7 GN level DM Committee

Grama Niladhari supported by government officers working at the GN level will coordinate with the members of the GN disaster management committee to ensure orderly evacuation in time and management of safe center including the provision of food. These may be supported by community based organization who are actively working in affected areas. Special attention will be paid to the safety of women, children and disable persons in the center.

4.12 Disaster Information Management

4.12.1 Preparation of Baseline Data

High resolution hazard maps and segregated data of people in hazard prone areas will be essential to improve the efficiency of emergency operation including search and rescue operations. Although the DMC with the assistance of relevant technical agencies have prepared maps indicating prone areas for several hazards, the resolution is too low to be used for field level emergency operation. DMC shall prepared high resolution hazard maps for frequently occurring hazards (Floods, landslides) to be used for emergency operations. Assistance of Department of Census and Statics (DCS) shall be sought to prepare segregated data of GN divisions exposed to hazards. DMC shall ensure the hazard maps of high resolution is provided to DCS to prepare baseline data.

4.12.2 Disaster-related Data Collection Dissemination Process

EOC collect data on life losses, missing and injured people number of families and people affected and issue situation report on daily basis. When major disaster occur special situation reports are issued by EOC.

NDRSC also collect data to decide on the need for food and non- food items. Ministry of Women and Child Affairs collect information on children and women affected by the disaster to prepare programmes to assist them. DMC in consultation with other agencies requiring disaster related data should develop a common format and agree on the frequency of collection of data from ground level to avoid duplication of efforts to collect data and facilitate the more effective ground level response. The format agreed by all agencies shall be send to District and Divisional Secretaries and GN through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

DMC should maintain documents related to the alerts, forecasts, warnings, and situation updates issued by the EOC on a regular basis. Situation Reports are being sent or received by the EOC – during normal times, or on receiving EW or on occurrence of a disaster.

Emergency Mapping Mechanism (EMM) shall be activated by DMC when a disaster occurs to deliver mapping products to EOC to be used for effective response and relief planning. DMC shall coordinate with Survey Department, other national and international agencies producing maps in emergency situation to support the emergency operation and relief efforts.

Arrangement shall be made to analyze data relate to disasters, expenditure of responding organizations, identify relationships and trends and submit to the council, the Minister and secretary for policy decisions to improve future emergency operations. Assistance of DCS to be sought to compare the disaster data against the baseline to improve the accuracy. NDRSC to obtain baseline data of vulnerable communities prepared by the DCS using hazard maps to assess the immediate needs (Food and Non-food items), quantities required before the disaster occur and adjust the quantities after collection of data of affected population after disaster strikes. It is necessary to prepare specification for non- food relief items in order to avoid supply of substandard goods. List of requirements should be made available to local and international humanitarian agencies, UN agencies, Donors and INGO and LNGOs and well-wishers.

Disaster data/information will be released to media and public only by a person appointed by the head of the organization who holds responsibility for same.

4.12.3 Media Briefings

It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Disaster Management and other agencies under the purview of the Ministry to provide accurate data on the disaster situation of the country and its impact on people, infrastructure and economic assets to the media. Press releases shall be issued minimum of 12 hour intervals during 1st three days of the disaster occurrence and once a day thereafter.

Depending on the severity of the disaster press briefing may be arranged by the Ministry of Disaster Management or Disaster Management Centre. Ministry must ensure that agencies under the purview of the ministry do not issue contradicting data.

In addition to the above, in an emergency / special occurrence, special reports are generated and sent to the above parties.

Annexes

Annex No.	Title	Page No.
Annex 1	Sample of Format for collection of data of affected population	47
Annex 2	Sample of Daily Situation Report	48
Annex 3	Definitions/ Terminologies	49
Annex 4	Members of Emergency Response Committee	57
Annex 5	Terms of Reference of the Emergency Response Committee	58

Annex 3-Definitions/ Terminologies

Standard Definitions

Alert: Initial messages to the vulnerable communities at potential of disaster.

Disaster¹: A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.

Early warning system¹: The set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss.

Emergency: An unforeseen sudden occurrence or danger demanding immediate action. This may be due to the triggering of a natural / technological hazard, either man-made or natural, of large magnitude, affecting vulnerable people/ buildings/ other elements exposed, of such scale as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area.

Emergency management¹: The organization and management of resources and responsibilities for addressing all aspects of emergencies, in particular preparedness, response and initial recovery steps.

Evacuation order: Warning with the evacuation order to the vulnerable communities to evacuate to a safe location.

Hazard¹: A dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental damage.

Preparedness¹: The knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from, the impacts of likely, imminent or current hazard events or conditions.

Recovery¹: The restoration, and improvement where appropriate, of facilities, livelihoods and living conditions of disaster-affected communities, including efforts to reduce disaster risk factors.

Stand down: Vulnerable communities are advised to return safely.

Warning: A message to warn vulnerable communities of impending disasters.

Withdrawal: Cancellation of the warning messages and safe to return.

¹*United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)*

Air Hazard

Air hazard includes air pollution as a result of introduction of chemicals, particulate matter, biological materials or other harmful materials into the Earth's atmosphere that cause harm or discomfort to humans or other living organisms, or damages the natural environment. Primary pollutant examples include carbon monoxide from car exhausts and sulfur dioxide from the combustion of coal.

Air Raid

Air raid refers to an attack by aircraft. Also includes an attack on a ground target by military aircraft, especially when dropping bombs.

Chemical Accident

Chemical accidents refer to an event resulting in the release of a substance or substances hazardous to human health and/or the environment in the short or long term. Such events include fires, explosions, leakages or releases of toxic or hazardous materials that can cause people illness, injury, disability or death. While chemical accidents may occur whenever toxic materials are stored, transported or used, the most severe accidents are industrial accidents, involving major chemical manufacturing and storage facilities.

Civil Or Internal Strife

Civil or internal strife are the acts of people or a state of fighting or quarreling in violent manner against the prevailing law of the country.

Coastal Erosion

wearing away of land and the removal of beach or dune sediments by wave action, tidal currents, wave currents, or drainage. Waves, generated by storms, wind, or fast moving motor craft, cause coastal erosion, which may take the form of long-term losses of sediment and rocks, or merely the temporary redistribution of coastal sediments; erosion in one location may result in accumulation nearby. It may be caused by hydraulic action, abrasion, impact and corrosion. This includes formation and destruction of islands, beaches and sand banks and erosion of cliffs affecting populations, navigation, etc.

Cyclones And High Winds

A cyclone originates over tropical or subtropical waters. It is characterised by a warm-core, non-frontal synoptic-scale cyclone with a low pressure centre, spiral rain bands and strong winds. Cyclone is an occurrence due to high temperatures over the sea surface in tropical regions and high speed winds moving in a large circular path (rotating anticlockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere) with an extremely low pressure at the centre. The force developed by wind is proportional to the square of its speed, and as such the wind speed is the determining factor of the extent of damage to buildings and other structures.

Tornado, a violently rotating column of air that reaches the ground or open water (waterspout), is another type of high speed wind situation frequently encountered in Sri

Lanka. The basic difference between a tornado and a cyclone is that a tornado is more localised and short lived.

There are wind tunnels in certain locations, through which high winds flow in a particular direction.

Drought

Drought is an extended period of unusually low precipitation that produces a shortage of water for people, animals and plants. Drought is different from most other hazards in that it develops slowly, sometimes even over years, and its onset is generally difficult to detect. Although droughts can persist for several years, even a short, intense drought can cause significant damage and harm the local economy. Drought is not solely a physical phenomenon because its impacts can be exacerbated by human activities and water supply demands. Drought can be categorized in to three categories, viz., agricultural, meteorological and hydrological droughts, which are interrelated. For the purpose of relief distribution drought is defined as the loss of agricultural production in two consecutive seasons.

Earthquake

Earthquake is a sudden movement of a block of the Earth's crust along a geological fault and associated ground shaking. Earthquakes are measured using observations from seismometers. The moment magnitude is the most common scale on which earthquakes larger than approximately 5 are reported for the entire globe. The more numerous earthquakes smaller than magnitude 5 reported by national seismological observatories are measured mostly on the local magnitude scale, also referred to as the Richter scale. These two scales are numerically similar over their range of validity. Magnitude 3 or lower earthquakes are mostly almost imperceptible or weak, and those of magnitude 7 and over potentially cause serious damage over larger areas, depending on their depth.

Epidemic

Epidemic is a rapid spread or increase in the occurrence of new cases of a certain infectious disease affecting many persons in a community at the same time and spreading from person to person in a locality, where the disease is not permanently prevalent. This is when the disease, in a given human population, and during a given period, substantially exceeds what is expected based on recent experience.

Explosion

Explosions occur whenever the volume and release of energy (mechanical, chemical or nuclear energy) in a sudden and often violent manner, rapidly increase in such a way as to generate extremely high temperatures and the release of gases, sometimes with a loud and sharp noise. It can be a violent bursting as a result of internal pressure. These energy transferences are typically experienced as gigantic blooms of red and orange fire followed by acrid, black or gray smoke.

Fire (include Urban and forest fire as listed in the Act)

Fire is a frequent hazard. The effect of fire on people usually takes the form of skin burns and is usually dependant on the exposure time and the intensity of the heat. Fire can also

produce toxic fumes like Acrolein (a colourless acrid liquid of pungent irritating odour formed in the destructive distillation of glycerin), Carbon monoxide and Cyanides. Physical structures can be damaged either by the intensity of the heat or combustion. It may also have an effect on essential services like power and instrumentation, which can cause an escalation of the incident. The negative effects of fire include water contamination, soil erosion, atmospheric pollution and hazard to life and property. Fire can be classified in to several categories: forest fire and urban fire.

Urban Fire can include building fire, house fires, or fires that have spread into a larger area affecting several buildings / houses. This is especially challenging when a large residential area is affected, where there are no fire gaps between the buildings / houses and particularly in heavily inhabited slum and shanty areas.

Forest Fire is an uncontrolled fire in a wooded area, due to combustible vegetation that occurs in the countryside or a wilderness area. A forest fire differs from other fires by its extensive size, the speed at which it can spread out from its original source, its potential to change direction unexpectedly, and its ability to jump gaps such as roads, rivers and firebreaks. Forest fires are characterized in terms of the cause of ignition, their physical properties such as speed of propagation, the combustible material present, and the effect of weather on the fire. Forest fire can be triggered by lightning or human actions.

Flood

A flood is a body of water that rises to overflow into land settlements, which are not normally underwater, or temporary inundation of an area of land, which otherwise is not usually under water. Physically, flooding can result when the total ingress of water to a locality becomes higher than the total outflow from it. Floods can display a great variation in the depth, the extent or the duration of inundation. Magnitude of those parameters will determine whether a flood will be perceived as minor or major, and the amount of damage it may cause. There are several categories of floods:

Flash Flood is a heavy or excessive rainfall in a short period of time that produce immediate runoff, creating flooding conditions within minutes or a few hours during or after the rainfall, especially in hilly areas.

Riverine Floods: This is natural or seasonal flooding due to overflow of rivers, due to heavy rain fall. Flooding occurs in well-defined areas when the rivers or canals cannot contain run off from the catchments. When people are settled near waterways and low-lying areas, the risk of flooding is high.

Reservoir Related Floods: A dam or a bund is the barrier across flowing water that obstructs, directs or slows down the flow, creating a reservoir or lake for irrigation, hydropower generation, water supply or other purposes. These have a spillway or a weir over which, or through which, water flows, either intermittently or continuously. Unexpected floods downstream can be caused due to opening of reservoir gates. A breach of the dam / bund, or the spillway can cause immense damage and loss of life in downstream areas. Dams are considered as "installations containing dangerous forces" under International Humanitarian Law due to the massive impact of a possible destruction on the civilian population and the environment.

Urban Floods are caused by reduction in the surface absorption due to increased paved areas causing higher volumes of runoff, reclamation of wetlands for development work, construction of roads without providing adequate drainage and culverts, and allocation of land uses without considering the flood risk levels. Also may be due to population growth and low-income families occupying flood plains, which are demarcated as reservation.

Local Floods are due to lack of adequate drainage or retention to accommodate the water inflow into the area. In rural areas this may be due to change of wetlands for agricultural uses and construction of road network across flood plains.

Coastal Floods - When water levels are higher-than-normal along the coast caused by tidal changes or thunderstorms that result in flooding, which can last from days to weeks.

Storm Surge - An abnormal rise in sea level generated by a tropical cyclone or other intense storms.

Industrial Hazard

Industrial hazards are accidents that can be caused by industrial establishments, either by accident, negligence or incompetence. They are a form of industrial accident where great damage, injury or losses of life are caused. Industrial hazards consist of four principle hazards. This is because industries employ many different processes involving a wide range of different raw materials, intermediates, waste products and final products. The hazards encountered are fire, explosion, toxic / chemical release and environmental damage. Fire, explosion, toxic / chemical release are covered separately. Environmental Damage, though not taken separately as a hazard here, is partly covered by Air hazard, Fire, Chemical and Drought.

Landslide

Landslide is a geological phenomenon which includes a wide range of ground movement, such as subsidence, rock falls, deep failure of slopes and shallow debris or mud flows. Although the action of gravity is the primary driving force for a landslide to occur, there are other contributing factors affecting the original slope stability. Typically, pre-conditional factors build up specific sub-surface conditions that make the area/slope prone to failure, whereas the actual landslide often requires a trigger before being released. Subsidence refers to the sinking of the ground due to groundwater removal, mining, dissolution of limestone, extraction of natural gas and earthquakes. Debris flow, mud flow and subsidence occur due to heavy rain. Haphazard development activities on hill slopes very often trigger landslides, e.g., cutting failures. According to NBRO rainfall exceeding 100mm per day could trigger landslides.

Lightening Strikes And Severe Thunder Storms

Lightning is a high-voltage, visible electrical discharge produced by a thunderstorm and followed by the sound of thunder. The electrostatic discharge can be between electrically charged regions within clouds, or between a cloud and the earth's surface. The charged regions within the atmosphere temporarily equalize themselves through a lightning flash, commonly referred to as a strike if it hits an object on the ground. Lightning at can cause life loss and damage to buildings and structures. Lightning is more frequent in particular areas but could occur anywhere.

Thunderstorm is a form of turbulent weather characterized by the presence of lightning and its acoustic effect on the earth's atmosphere known as thunder. Thunderstorms are usually accompanied by strong winds and heavy rain.

Maritime Hazard

Maritime hazards are any event or situation whether natural or manmade that threatens the activities in the marine environment including any sea going vessel either surface or submarines deemed a serious hazard to navigation within the territorial boundaries of Sri Lanka. These may be caused by hazardous chemicals or hazardous substance in shipyard employment, which is defined as any substance that may cause injury, illness, or disease, or otherwise harm an employee by reason of being explosive, flammable, poisonous, corrosive, oxidizing, irritating, or otherwise harmful. A substance may be considered to be hazardous if it poses a physical or health hazard, or if it is classified as a simple suffocating gas, a combustible dust, a pyrophoric gas (immediately causing fire on exposure to air), or a hazard not otherwise classified. Tidal currents also may be considered as maritime hazards.

Nuclear Disaster

Nuclear disasters are defined by the International Atomic Energy Agency as "an event that has led to significant consequences to people, the environment or the facility". Examples include lethal effects to individuals, large radioactivity release to the environment, or reactor core melt.

Oil spills including inland and marine oil spills

Oil spills are the release of a liquid petroleum hydrocarbon into the environment, especially marine areas, due to human activity, and is a form of pollution. The term is usually applied to marine oil spills, where oil is released into the ocean or coastal waters, but spills may also occur on land. Oil spills may be due to releases of crude oil from tankers, offshore platforms, drilling rigs and wells, as well as spills of refined petroleum products (such as gasoline, diesel) and their by-products, heavier fuels used by large ships such as bunker fuel, or the spill of any oily refuse or waste oil.

Radiological Emergency

Radiological emergencies involve the release of potentially dangerous radioactive materials into the environment. Such incidents can occur anywhere radioactive isotopes are used, stored, or transported.

Tsunami (Seismic Wave)

Tsunami is a series of waves (with long wavelengths when traveling across the deep ocean) that are generated by a displacement of massive amounts of water through underwater earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other underwater explosions, landslides, glacier carvings, meteorite impacts and other disturbances. Tsunami waves travel at very high speed across the ocean but as they begin to reach shallow water they slow down and the wave grows steeper. An Earthquake to cause a tsunami must measure at least 7.0 on the Richter scale, and also must be a thrust-dip and dip-slip type of quake involving the vertical movements as the seafloor lifts and pushes the water on the ocean surface.

Biological Hazards refer to a naturally occurring material that can cause harm. Examples of biological hazards include viruses, bacteria, plants, insects, animals, birds and in some cases, humans. These may include living organisms and their toxic substances (e.g. venom, mold) or vector-borne diseases that they may carry. Examples are venomous wildlife and insects, poisonous plants, and mosquitoes carrying disease-causing agents such as parasites, bacteria, or viruses (e.g. malaria). This can include medical waste or samples of a microorganism, virus or toxin (from a biological source). These may pose a threat to the health of living organisms, primarily that of humans. It can also include substances harmful to animals. The term and its associated symbol are generally used as a warning, so that those potentially exposed to the substances will know to take precautions.

Note:

Biological hazard is not included in the DM Act 2005, but under the Institutional Responsibilities explained in this NEOP and all the mechanisms in place for other disasters, this disaster too can be dealt with and response will be made considerably simple.

Annex 4	Members of Emergency Response Committee
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No	Members
1.	Director Operations, Office of the Chief of Defense Staff
2.	Director – Operations, Sri Lanka Army Headquarters
3.	Director – Operations, Sri Lanka Navy Headquarters
4.	Director – Operations, Sri Lanka Air Force Headquarters
5.	Director General, Department of Government Information
6.	Director General, Central Environmental Authority
7.	Commandant, Field Force Headquarters, Sri Lanka Police
8.	District Secretary, District Secretariat, Colombo
9.	Head of National Authority for the Chemical Weapon Convention
10.	Chairman, Atomic Energy Authority
11.	Director, National Disaster Relief Service Centre
12.	Chief Fire Officer, Fire Services Department, Colombo 10
13.	Chief Engineer, Ceylon Electricity Board
14.	Head of Region, Sri Lanka Telecom Ltd
15.	Director – Training, Colombo Municipal Council
16.	Director – Maintenance, Road Development Authority
17.	Security Manager, Sri Lanka Ports Authority
18.	Manager (Colombo City), NWS & DB
19.	Chief Medical Officer of Health, Colombo Municipal Council
20.	Deputy Director, Department of Sri Lanka Coast Guard
21.	National Coordinator, DPRD, Ministry of Health
22.	Head of Operation, Ceylon Electricity Board
23.	Director General, National Building Research organization
24.	Director General, Department of Metrology
25.	Director General, Department of Irrigation
26.	General Manager, SLLRDC
27.	Secretary, Ministry of Education
28.	Provincial Director, Provincial Education department (Western)
29.	Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs

Annex 5

Terms of Reference of the Emergency Response Committee

Members are selected for the committee representing stakeholder agencies having a responsibility or geared to respond to specific disasters caused by natural and man-made hazards. The committee members will meet regularly under the chairmanship of the Director General of DMC. The broad TOR will be advising, guiding, assisting and facilitating as necessary in specific emergency operations and response related activities listed below. As the need demands the different groups of committee members may separately meet for emergency operations and response with respect to different types of disasters. Broad activities within the purview of the committee are listed below:

- 1 Assemble at the EOC as soon as the receipt of notification from the DG DMC regarding the disaster situation of the country
- 2 Activation of respective Institutional Disaster Management Plan to respond to disasters
- 3 Advice on the performance of activities of the National EOC
- 4 Coordination of response and immediate restoration activities of the agency representing the EOC at national and regional level
- 5 Assist to restore any situation that comes under the purview of the organisation the member is representing
- 6 Immediate response on issuing of Early Warning
- 7 Cordoning and Surveillance of the affected area, Safety and Security at disaster sites
- 8 Coordination of human resources, equipment other logistics
- 9 Ensure the safety of responders of the agency and providing safety gear
- 10 Coordinate the Search and Rescue operations and evacuation
- 11 Emergency Operations and Response, including nuclear and radiological emergencies, and need for quarantine and detention of passengers landing in the airport, with respect to severe epidemics spreading from abroad
- 12 First-aid, immediate health facilities and medical assistance for injured and sick
- 13 Other as appropriate