

FIVE YEARS OF SRI LANKA PREPAREDNESS PARTNERSHIP (SLPP) 2017 - 2023

BACKGROUND

Sri Lanka Preparedness Partnership (SLPP) was formed under the flagship of Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP) in September 2017 with the collaboration of group of interested Public and Private sector representatives and Local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to reduce the impact of disasters on at risk people through locally led disaster risk reduction initiatives through building capacities of the respective stakeholders, providing networking opportunities, sharing knowledge and resource mobilization.

Funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and with the secretarial support of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) SLPP is currently co-chaired by the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and Janathakshan GTE Ltd with a partnership base of 20 public, private sector and Local CSOs in Sri Lanka.

After successfully completing the first operational cycle in July 2019, SLPP implemented the APP COVID 19 Support Programme during the period of June to December 2020.

Then in September 2020 the second operation cycle of SLPP was initiated with the objective of closing its 2nd Phase in February 2023.

In its initial 2 phases, SLPP has invested around USD 348,485.21 to strengthen the preparedness capacity of stakeholders, their preparedness and response coordination mechanisms and share the knowledge and experience nationally and internationally.

SLPP operates in national, subnational and grassroots level and during the above operations cycles its operations were mostly focused on several highly disaster prone districts and divisions in the country.

SLPP INITIATIVES

SLPP partnership supported in localizing and implementing the global disaster risk reduction (DRR) frameworks, national DRR policies, strategies and plans. SLPP contributed in supporting the national DRR coordination system through developing, updating and contextualization of various national guidelines and standards. SLPP supported in updating the national guidelines to develop institutional disaster management plans, updating Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs), developing comprehensive model village disaster management plans, Contextualizing humanitarian standards for safe center management etc. Further it supported DMC to enhance its capacity through provision of resources specially to cater the additional coordination demand during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Also, with the leadership and collaboration of co-agencies remarkable effort was taken by SLPP to develop the technical capacities of over 1700 public, private sector officials and CSOs at national, subnational and grassroots level.

50+ 
TRAININGS & AWARENESS

- CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING
- AWARENESS
- ORIENTATIONS
- CAMP MANAGEMENT

TOTAL NO. OF PARTICIPANTS

2036
 1274 | 762 



Technical capacity of local level stakeholders who are at the forefront of the preparedness and response missions in the respective localities were built through trainings, awareness programmes and simulation exercises on camp management, first aid, disaster management, mapping of disaster risk etc.

Further, untiring effort was taken to introduce, sensitize and train nearly 1000 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in various districts in the country on Business Continuity Management and Planning. Training manuals and guidebooks were developed and efforts were taken to institutionalize them.

Enhancement of the coordination and networking of stakeholders within the same sectors and between different sectors were given a higher priority. Innovative partnership models were tested and facilitated. Special attention was given to bring the local CSOs at national, provincial and grassroots level together and link them up with DMC and other public and private sector organizations to strengthen and facilitate the preparedness and response capacities of Local CSOs. The Sri Lanka Civil Society Action Network for Community Resilience (SLNCR) was formed as a result of continuous consultation and lobbying process.

Knowledge and lessons were collated and compiled into different formats and shared with national, regional and international stakeholders via different channels. Lessons and experience of other APP countries were internalized specially during the formation of SLNCR. The exchange visit to Pakistan and Philippine supported under the SLPP were very helpful in linking up with similar network and initiatives in this regard.



TOTAL NO. OF PARTICIPANTS



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PARTNERSHIPS AND STAKEHOLDER COORDINATION

IMPACT OF FIVE YEARS OF SLPP

- The common platform established through the SLPP project helped to bring all stakeholders together to strengthen existing disaster preparedness mechanisms. Prior to this initiative, the preparedness mechanism was mainly confined to the government sector agencies and in a few cases, some mechanisms involved technical agencies such as the Department of Meteorology, National Building Research Organisation, Irrigation department, UN agencies and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs).
- The new mechanism helped to establish a space for the private sector and LNGO involvement as well. As a result, the collaboration between partners improved mostly at the national level, bilaterally and multilaterally. The initiative also paved the way for recognizing the role of LNGOs and private sector organizations during the national progress review of the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) and the updating of the national disaster management plan.
- The private sector was lobbied for resilient actions and were invited to forums/meetings/consultations organized by the DMC and other government institutions. Prior to this initiative, the private sector involvement in disaster management was mainly confined to disaster relief activities. The partnership supported the DMC to mobilize the private sector for Covid-19 related emergency response activities in selected locations.
- This also resulted in the formation of the "Sri Lanka Civil Society Action Network for Community Resilience (SLNCR)".
- The SLPP also facilitated building sub national partnerships via district chambers of commerce in selected locations.



FINANCIAL & MATERIAL ASSISTANCE

- Upgrade the Kithulegoda Primary School at Paragoda West, Kalutara District as a Safe Centre
- Provision of 05 workstations (high end) including MS window and office and, high-definition webcams (for video conferencing) for Disaster Management Centre headquarters and District Offices
- Printing of 17 Village Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans



35

KNOWLEDGE
PRODUCTS

Case Studies

Presentations

Training Manuals

Training Handbooks

Guidelines

Brochures

Videos

Posters

Reports

Maps (GIS)

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT

- Higher involvement of business professionals as trainers, in contrast to limiting to the selection of disaster management professionals for the ToT programme on BCM has contributed to contextualizing the concepts from a business point of view.
- As a result of BCM training, regional chambers, banks, and interested other actors were equipped with the knowledge of how to build the resilience of MSMEs at local level. A BCM training was organised on the request of HNB and was conducted for hoteliers (SMEs) whose businesses were impacted as a result of Easter Sunday events in 2019. The officer of Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel who attended the BCM refresher training for the resource pool used the opportunity to share his expertise with the attendees about how the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel has taken preventative measures to avoid future incidents similar to the 2019 Easter Sunday attacks as the hotel was directly impacted by the events.
- The BCM training also contributed to developing an informal information-sharing platform through different sources. Especially, in flood-prone areas the business community has established a link with the Irrigation Department to obtain water levels in rivers during the rainy seasons.
- The beneficiaries of BCM also established a mechanism to share information related to resource needs for different SMEs during disasters through a social media network.
- This initiative has strongly contributed to setting up an entry point for streamlining the concept of BCM among stakeholders. The initiative also helped to advocate the concept of BCM, especially with the strategic direction of DMC. Initially, the damage to SMEs was not accounted for during any PDNAs. However, the introduction of BCM has paved the way for incorporating losses and damages to SMEs in PDNAs.
- Disaster Preparedness, First Aid, and Emergency Response: Different training initiatives with LNGOs and CBOs were utilised to establish informal disaster management forums. For example, in the Anuradhapura district, this training programme provided SLPP with a forum for informal discussions with the NGO consortium and other LNGOs in order to launch a local partnership model.
- Camp Management Training Programme: The programme organised by the SLPP project has established a mechanism for multi-stakeholder pre-disaster exercise for the camp management process. (Please refer section on CDPF for more information).

