

Activities Responding to the Disaster in Jan-Feb 2011 –CBDRM and Evaluation and Revision of District Level Preparedness and Response Plan (PRP) were Conducted

After the flood in January and February 2011, JICA and Government of Sri Lanka agreed to conduct additional activities by DiMCEP.

Batticaloa and Matale district where got the serious damage by the flood were selected as pilot districts.

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- Workshops on Disaster Management in Community
- Evaluation and Revision of District Level Preparedness and Response Plan (PRP)

Community Based Disaster Management Activities for Batticaloa and Matale

Schedule

Additional Community Based Disaster Management has been conducted, following the schedule shown below:

Month	Activities
October	Discussion on the additional activities with c/p
	Selection of pilot communities
	Preparation of detail of activities
November	Baseline survey in pilot communities
	Planning of Detailed Community Activities
December February	Implementation of Workshops

To select the pilot communities, DiMCEP team took consideration on the social conditions such as income level, history of community activities in each district. As a result, Sittandi of Batticaloa district and Nawapadeniya of Matale district were selected as pilot communities. Both of the communities have needs to take disaster management activities since they had serious damage by flood in January and February 2011. At the same time, the low income level of both communities added urgency to the community based disaster management activity.

Workshops in Pilot Communities

DiMCEP team arranged 4 workshops in each pilot community. Activities in each workshop are as following:

【1st Workshop】

The 1st workshop is conducted to give the general knowledge of disaster management to participants. Participants can be aware of what disaster is and what

kind of disasters they have in communities.

【2nd Workshop】

In the 2nd workshop, town watching and hazard mapping is conducted. Participants can grasp the disaster of their own community. At the same time, they can consider what to do as countermeasures against the disaster.

【3rd Workshop】

Based on the hazard map prepared in the 2nd workshop, participants discussed countermeasures against the disaster in community.

【4th Workshop】

Participants implemented the countermeasures against the disaster in community.

Workshops in Sittandi of Batticaloa District

Sittandi is a community located along the lagoon and threatened by flood every year. People need to evacuate to school and temple and stay for several days until the water level is decreased.

After the 2nd workshop, it was revealed that the annual flood could not be prevented by structural countermeasures within the budget, though the participants expected the reduction of flood damage by structural countermeasures.

Therefore DDMCU and participants went to the border area of lagoon and community again in the 3rd workshop so that DDMCU officer could explain the situation and convince participants to find other nonstructural countermeasures.



Hazard mapping

Discussing the countermeasures

Workshops in Nawapadeniya of Matale District

Nawapadeniya is a community located in Dambulla city. Income level of the community is relatively low and

people have no measures to reduce the damage by annual flood. There are mainly 3 channels connected to the river which flows in eastern part of the community.

In the 2nd workshop, participants walked around the community to find out the location of channels. At the same time, they realized the water height during the flood. At the closing of workshop, they got two options as countermeasures: to rehabilitate the edges of each main channel or to construct 1 main channel.

In the 3rd workshop, participants discussed which option they should select as effective countermeasures. As a result, they decided to construct 1 main channel. 3 households in the community indicated to use the part of area where they live in for construction.

DDMCU supported the decision making of participants by preparing correct community map and introducing some flood countermeasures. Mr. Ranaweela, the assistant director of DDMCU Matale, suggested to collect funds from other donors in order to rehabilitate the river and channels of community in future.



Town watching



Discussing for flood countermeasures

Evaluation and Revision of District Level Preparedness and Response Plan (PRP)

Background

District level preparedness and response plan (PRP) is the comprehensive action plan for member organizations of DM committee in each district in case of emergency. PRP should be distributed and utilized by the member organizations.

However, existing PRP has not been utilized by relevant organizations because its contents are rather comprehensive and complicated for actual use. In fact, disaster management system mentioned in the PRP is different from the system practiced by district. Additionally, role and responsibility of relevant organizations in emergency are not clearly mentioned.

Therefore, DiMCEP team aimed to share the understanding toward PRP with members of DM committee of each pilot district at first and clarify "role and responsibility" of each member organizations by holding committee meeting and DIG session.

District Disaster Management Committee in Pilot Districts

【Matale District】

District DM committee was held in 10th February. DiMCEP team explained the concept of district level PRP and urged participants to understand "role and responsibility" mentioned in PRP by conducting Disaster Imagination Game (DIG).



DM Committee members gathered



Mapping the disasters by DIG

【Batticaloa District】

District DM Committee meeting was held in February 28th. In Batticaloa district, participants reviewed the existing PRP and "role and responsibility" of each relevant organization. The participants had group discussion in order to deepen their understanding toward "role and responsibility".



Taking lectures



Group discussion

【Debrief session in Colombo】

Debrief session was held in 2nd March in Colombo. Assistant directors of all districts gathered. They had discussed on the revision of PRP and its revised contents.



DG giving a speech



Discussing on the revised contents of PRP

Next Issue

- Training Program on Disaster Management in Colombo: Enhancement of Capacity for training program building

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JICA Expert Team

on Disaster Management Capacity Enhancement Project
Adaptable to Climate Change

c/o Disaster Management Centre, 2nd Floor,
No.498, R.A.de Mel Mawatha, Colombo-3, Sri Lanka

Tel: +94-(0)112-136-210 e-mail: jica.dmc@gmail.com