

Strategic Support to Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (SS2CDMP), Climate Change Adaptation Project (C-CAP) and DATA Project

Minutes of the Project Board Meeting

Date & Time : 26th January 2018, 10 am

Venue : Conference Room, Ministry of Disaster Management

Chaired by : Mr. M. Kingsly Fernando, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management (MDM)

Project Board Members:

1. Mr. M. Kingsly Fernando, Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management
2. Ms. Lovita Ramguttee, Deputy Country Director, UNDP
3. Dr. S. Amalanathan, Additional Secretary/National Programme Director (SLCDMP), and C-CAP
4. Representatives from NPD and ERD

Participants

1.	Mr. H.U.R Fonseka	Chief Accountant	MDM
2.	Mr. Chaminda Pathiraja	Director	NDRSC
3.	Dr. Vishaka Hidellage	Assistant Country Director	UNDP
4.	Mr. R.P. Samarakkody	Additional Director General	DMC
5.	Mr. A L K Wijemannage	Director	DOM
6.	Mr. R.M.S Bandara	Director (LRRMP)	NBRO
7.	Ms. Sureka Perera	Programme Analyst	UNDP
8.	Ms. Shyara Bastianz	Programme Analyst	
9.	Mr. M.D.N. Cooray	Assistant Director	MDM
10.	Mr. Kalana Cooray	Technical Coordinator	UNDP
11.	Mr. Sampath Abeyratne	Technical Coordinator	UNDP
12.	Mr. U.W.L Chandradasa	Consultant	UNDP
13.	Dr. W.M. A.D.B Wickramasinghe	Consultant	UNDP
14.	Mr. Athula Samarasinghe	Quality Assurance	UNDP
15.	Ms. Madushani Nawarathna	National Consultant	UNDP
16.	Ms. Florita Gunasekara	DRR Associate	UNDP- UNV
17.	Ms. Harini Nishanka	Biodiversity Assistant	UNDP- UNV
18.	Mr. Milinda De Silva	Communication Officer	UNDP- UNV
19.	Mr. Harinda Prashad	Development Officer	MDM
20.	Ms. Pushpika Nilanthi	Development Officer	MDM
21.	Ms Hasanthi Cooray	Management Assistant	MDM

1. Introduction

The 9th Project Board Meeting held on 26 January 2018 at the Conference Hall of the Ministry of Disaster Management was chaired by Mr. Kingsley Fernando, Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management. Dr. S. Amalanathan, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management, who moderated the meeting commenced with an invitation to the participants for self-introductions.

2. Remarks by Mr. Kingsley Fernando, Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management

The Secretary made his opening remarks highlighting impacts of three disasters experienced in 2017. Mr. Fernando stressed on the severity of the floods and landslides of 2017, and the prolonged drought continuing into 2018. He acknowledged the support extended by the UNDP and the World Bank to the Ministry of Disaster Management and the Ministry of National Policies and Economic Affairs in conducting the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and developing the Post-Disaster Recovery Plan. The Secretary commented that the Ministry expects to launch both documents soon. He further stated that the Ministry looks forward to the continued support and collaboration from the UNDP and the National Planning Department (NPD). The Secretary concluded his remarks noting that the two UNDP projects at the Ministry in 2018 are the Data Project and Recovery Project, and appreciated the support extended by the Programme Management Unit towards the establishment of the Information Management Unit at the Ministry.

3. Remarks by Ms. Lovita Ramguttee, Deputy Country Director, UNDP

Ms. Lovita Ramguttee, Deputy Country Director of UNDP, made her remarks noting that 2018 will be the final year of implementation of the Data Project. She thanked the Ministry of Disaster Management for the support extended to successfully carry out the project activities in the last two years. Ms. Ramguttee emphasized the close linkage between mainstreaming the use of data for evidence-based decision making and the two post-2015 agendas the Ministry contributes to: The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, Ms. Ramguttee said that the metadata portal currently being developed by the Data Project is “extremely important for Sri Lanka moving forward on data sharing.” She also acknowledged the support provided by NPD and requested the continued financial assistance to operate the metadata portal as the UNDP funding will be over by December 2018

The Climate Change Adaptation Project (CCAP) implemented by the Ministry of Disaster Management concluded on 30 November 2017. Ms. Ramguttee announced that CCAP was rated moderately satisfied by an international evaluator. Despite the rating, Ms. Ramguttee said, that the UNDP thinks CCAP was a great achievement given the numerous political and administrative challenges the project faced during the first two years of implementation. The best practices and lessons learned in CCAP will guide the implementation of the GCF-funded Climate Resilient Integrated Water Management Project.

Ms. Ramguttee concluded her remarks noting the completion of the PDNA 2017 and the Recovery Framework. She announced that the UNDP has allocated 200,000 USD to strengthen recovery and reconstruction efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka through the Floods and Landslides Recovery and Resilience Building Project.

4. Mr. Kalana Cooray, Technical Coordinator, UNDP

Mr. Kalana Cooray presented an overview of the Data Project. The goals and outcomes of the project, and key data generating agencies contributing towards the four thematic fields, which are land degradation, climate change, biodiversity, and disaster management, were briefed to the Project Board. Mr. Cooray remarked how certain data generating agencies contribute to all four thematic fields and emphasized the importance of inter-agency collaboration for the successful national reporting of the three Rio Conventions and the Sendai Framework.

Mr. Cooray presented a summary of the activities implemented by the Data Project in 2017 and the proposed action plan for 2018. The Ministry awaits feedback from the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment on the draft data sharing policy and the draft Cabinet memorandum on sharing environmental and disaster management data. The project supported the Land Resources division of the Ministry of Environment to strengthen the Technical Committee appointed as per the National Action Programme on combating Land Degradation, which meets once in every three months to discuss issues related to the reporting of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. The project will make efforts in 2018 to establish working technical groups related to the other three thematic sectors. Moreover, the project facilitating signing Memorandum of Agreement with at least 10 data generating agencies and three secretariats.

Updating on the metadata portal, Mr. Cooray reported that three data management workshops were conducted in 2017 to train 120 government officers at both senior and operational levels. The metadata portal, which has the working title 'data-driven decision portal,' will be launched in 2018. Moreover, a National Data Forum is also expected to be held in 2018. Other key activities for 2018 include the distribution of equipment to support information management in 36 data-generating government agencies, train 500 government officers at national and subnational level on evidence-based decision making, develop comprehensive Environmental and Disaster management databases at the district and divisional secretariats in Badulla and Gampaha districts, assist to develop an integrated research data repository in national universities, and to conduct a model disaster risk reduction project utilizing data at all stages of the project as a case study.

Reporting on the financial progress of the Data Project in 2017, Mr. Cooray mentioned that 51 Million rupees have been expended. He noted that some procurements conducted in 2017 will carry forward to 2018. The estimate budget for 2018 is 42 Million rupees, which will be subject to a budget revision.

The Annual Work Plan for the Data Project presented by Mr. Kalana Cooray was approved by the Project Board.

6. Ms. Sureka Perera, Programme Analyst, UNDP

Ms. Sureka Perera stated that UNDP provide support to prepare the Third National Communication (for climate change) and the Fifth submission on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Close collaborating with these two projects will add value to the Data Project.

7. Mr. Athula Samarasinghe, Quality Assurance Consultant, UNDP

Mr. Athula Samarasinghe started his presentation with a detailed introduction to the metadata portal. He highlighted the difference between the metadata portal being developed by the Data Project and the database developed by the National Spatial Data Project.

Updating the Project Board on the status of the metadata portal, Mr. Samarasinghe commented that the service provided has completed the proof of concept for the portal. However, the service provider has not adequately met the technical requirements on design documentation and system study. While the service provider's technical proposal was sound, they lack a strong development team. With only one developer working on the portal, the service provider is also experiencing time constraints in meeting deadlines. Mr. Samarasinghe said that upon identifying the challenges faced by the service provider, he has guided the development team and facilitated documentation.

Mr. Samarasinghe commented that the prototype developed by the service provider is adequate to continue the development of the portal. He proposed two alternative suggestions; to obtain written confirmation on quality compliance and continue the development process with the current service provider or engage a new service provider to develop on the existing prototype. Mr. Samarasinghe concluded his presentation stating that the first phase of the development of the metadata portal can be completed within three months.

The Board decide to continue with the present developer with strict monitoring by the project team emphasizing the need to meet the agreed time targets.

8. Technical Presentation by Sarvodaya Fusion – Mr Isura Silva

They introduced their role in mapping the data generating process, gap analysis and its action plan and lastly the campaigns. Mr Isura explained their approach on the deliverables and reported that they have visited 55 out of 60 data generating agencies and are currently in the process of analyzing gaps preparing the report which will be submitted by February 16, 2018. He also informed that they are currently designing the printing material for the campaigns and organizing school's IQ competitions. The segments of the campaign are civil society, schools, media, corporate sector, social media and government agents. Their objective is to promote evidence base decision and data usage.

Mr. Chadradasa advised Fusion to select prominent and crowded place when placing the print media for which Mr. Isura replied by explaining the street campaigns where they are planning to converse with the public.

Dr. Amalanathan informed that the ministry is reviewing the project proposal submitted for the school competition and request the consultants providing technical support for the public campaign to await decision of the ministry to proceed with the implementation of school competition.

Board approved the school competition subjected to the approval of the ministry.

9. Presentation of Floods and Landslides recovery and resilience building – Ms Sureka Perera – UNDP

Ms Sureka Perera thanked the Ministry of Disaster Management and Ministry of National Policy and Economic Affairs for the leadership provided to successfully complete the PDNA and National Disaster Recovery Plan and Framework for 2016 and 2017 flood and landslides. With a view to support the

government in implementing the recovery framework, UNDP has developed the project for Landslide and Flood Recovery & Resilience Recovery. Through this project UNDP will assist the Government to create resilience, address gaps, issues, policy reviews, developing technical capacities, etc to support recovery and reconstruction relevant to floods and landslides. . The outputs of the projects are as of following:

- Strengthen Recovery Policy
- Strengthen Sectorial building back better Plans
- Provide technical Assistance for DS via UNV to implement recovery activities
- Establish and strengthen insurance schemes and business continuity plans for SME sector.

The implementing partners of this projects are the Ministry of Disaster Management, Trade and Commerce, National Policies and Economic Affairs.

She further informed that the project will be operational from November 2017 – November 2018 in Colombo, Gampaha and Rathnapura Districts. The budget estimate for the project is about US\$ 860,000 US \$ and currently available are the US\$ 200,000 from UNDP internal funds. UNDP having discussion with other donor agencies to mobilize balance funds.

Additional Secretary advice to review the existing government insurance scheme as well. NBRO representative advised the project team to get support of other stakeholders imolement the plan for which Ms Sureka Perera agreed.

10. Presentation of CCAP – Mr Sampath Abeyrathne – UNDP

Dr Amalanathan introduced the project by stating its budget as 420M and the pilot project conducted in Kurunagala.

It was informed that the project was under the Ministry of Economic Development for 7 months without implementation and due to its time constrains the project was reviewed and strategized later on. The project finished in November 2017 with successful results.

Mr Sampath Aberathne stated that the main objective of the project was to increase resilience to climate change focusing on adaptation, capacity building and other activities to strengthen resilient to climate change. Though initially the project was planned to be implemented in 12 districts due to the time limitations it was implemented in Kurunegala, Puttalam and Rathnapura districts.

Department of Agrarian Development and Provincial Department of Agriculture were the main implementing partners.

The project was scored from successful to moderately successful and its sustainability was rated likely in project's evaluation.

The lessons learnt (like the established farmers' markets) from this project will be shared with locals, farmers, etc. and also via national and international platform publications.

Mr Nandana Cooray Assistant Director (Planning) requested the project to submit the final report to the Ministry of Disaster Management. Mr Sampath informed that the report is under review by the UNDP team and will be submitted to the Ministry soon.

Rainfall received in Kurunegala district was not sufficient to fill the reconstructed tanks in the cascade system and therefore the full benefit of the project could not be realized. This has affected the success of the farmer market also. However as a result of the climate resilient agricultural practices introduced during the project period farmers in the project areas was not affected by drought.

Mr Nandana further added the importance of recording the lessons learnt in the project as it could assist in the implementation of proposed climate smart irrigation project by the World Bank and to avoid duplication of work.

Dr Amalanathan thanked Mr Sampath and his team for successfully implanting the pilot project and concluding the project's work.

11. Distribution of Equipment Basic IT equipment for data generators Donated by DATA Project, MDM

In order to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of data generating agencies 36 computer systems (including printers and scanners) has been purchased by the DATA Project. In 9 tailly equipment were handed over to Disaster Management Centre, NBRO, Met Department, National Disaster Relief Services Centre and the Ministry of Disaster Management.

Discussions:

Mr Nandana questioned the UNDP regarding the request made by the Ministry at the last Project Board meeting for the release of Rs 15 Million for SLCDMP. Ms Lovita states that it is still under discussion at the UNDP headquarters and will be decided in a few weeks' time. She also mentioned that UNDP may not provide total amount requested.

Closing:

In closing Dr Amalanathan discussed the Disaster Contingency Plan, PDNA and Recovery Plan which were completed in 2017. He also described the National Disaster Management Plan which was completed by DMC. Ministry with the technical support of UNDP will review the document and submit views to the DMC for further action. Dr Amalanathan thanked all for participating and concluded the meeting.



M. Kingsly Fernando
Secretary
Ministry of Disaster Management