



## PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

- This report must be completed and signed by the Contact person.
- The information provided below must correspond to the financial information that appears in the financial report.
- Please complete the report using a computer.
- Please expand the paragraphs as necessary.
- The UN/ISDR secretariat reserves the right to reject any incomplete or badly prepared reports.
- The answer to all questions must cover the reporting period as specified in point 1.5.

### 1. Description

- 1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract:  
United Nations Development Programme –UNDP Sri Lanka
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person:  
Ananda Mallawatantri, Assistant Resident Representative –Environment, Energy and Disaster Management
- 1.3. Name of partners in the Action:  
Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, Disaster Management Centre of Sri Lanka
- 1.4. Title of the Action:  
Reaching the Unreachable- Enhancing Outreach Capacity for in Disaster Risk Reduction in Sri Lanka
- 1.5. Project duration:
- | S # | Project Duration    | Start Date    | End Date      |
|-----|---------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1   | Original agreement  | 01 Oct. 2008  | 31 March 2009 |
| 2   | No Cost Extension 1 | 31 March 2009 | 30 June 2009  |
| 3   | No Cost Extension 2 | 30 June 2009  | 15 Sep 2009   |
- 1.6. Target country(ies): Sri Lanka
- 1.7. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups (if different) (including numbers of women and men):  
School children, Vulnerable community groups in Sri Lanka and the General public<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> It is difficult to estimate the beneficiary numbers for this particular project as theoretically all Sri Lankans would benefit from the awareness and advocacy campaigns it will be used for.

## 2. Project Achievements

### 2.1. Summary

*(Please provide overall project summary towards achievements and their expected impact. There is no set format; however, please be sure to include 1) a brief background of the issue addressed by your project, 2) major achievements during the implementation period, and 3) how results of different activities carried out under the project contribute to the larger goal of Disaster Risk Reduction)*

#### ***Background of the issue addressed by the project***

Sri Lanka faces many low impact high frequency disasters such as drought, floods, landslides and coastal erosion every year. Most of the time communities affected by these disasters are living in remote areas of the country and have no access to information on the hazards and possible remedial measures they could take against these hazards. One of the main reasons for their low level of awareness on the disaster related issues is lack of avenues for them to access the information as most of the awareness creation programmes are limited to the major cities or peripheral town centres. Unavailability of facilities in villages to conduct awareness programmes and lack of facilities to transport exhibits to the remote villages have restricted the outreach capacity of disaster management related organizations such as Disaster Management Centre.

#### ***Major achievements during the implementation period***

With the support of other UNISDR supported project – Partnerships for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sri Lanka and the support of Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery of UNDP, Disaster Management Centre was able to develop a standardized training manual that can be used for awareness creation programmes throughout the country. Supplementary reading materials were also selected from a range of products available in Sinhala and Tamil (local languages). Therefore with the commissioning of the Mobile Awareness Generation Unit (MAGU) all pre requisites will be available for DMC to develop a national wide awareness creation campaign on disaster risk reduction. Even though the implementation of project activities got delayed by several months, that provided an opportunity for all the key stakeholders to debate over the usefulness of the MAGU and modify the facilities available with the MAGU to suit the exact needs of the country. By Mid November the Mobile Unit will be ready to with all the necessary equipments and the materials that are required to conduct programmes to suit the needs of different vulnerable groups living in Sri Lanka.

#### ***How project activities contributed to the larger goal of disaster risk reduction***

Disaster risk reduction is an unrealistic goal if causes of vulnerabilities to disasters are not being addressed properly. Lack of awareness is a major factor contributing to vulnerability. The MAGU will address the accessibility issues of key technical agencies to reach the most vulnerable communities living in Sri Lanka. Therefore it facilitates the awareness creation activities and in turn reduction of vulnerabilities of the country.

### 2.2. Overall Strategy adopted for the implementation of the project

The project was implemented under the National Implementation Modality of the UNDP in which the main implementing partners was the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights in Sri Lanka. As the Disaster Management Centre was coming under the MDM&HR the acceptance of the main disaster management institution to the concept of MAGU was ensured from the project designing stage. In addition to that possibilities to develop partnerships with disaster management stakeholders were always explored as the financial sustainability of the project initiatives depend on the ability of the DMC to develop partnerships with other stakeholders such as INGOs, NGOs and private sector companies. An enabling environment was created between the DMC and key private sector companies to develop partnerships. Therefore basically the project implementation strategy was of two fold; ensuring the national ownership of the concept and developing public private partnerships for ensuring sustainability of the initiatives.

### 2.3. Achievements against the strategic Objectives

(Please highlight only outputs against each strategic objective)

Objective	Intervention Logic	Title of Activity as reported above	OUTPUT [ <i>achieved / not achieved, if not reason?</i> ] + Please quantify and give narrative assessment of results
<b>3. Strengthened disaster risk reduction (preparedness, mitigation and response) capacities of local communities</b>	3.1 Capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk reduction at the community level strengthened.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purchasing a caravan to be modified as a mobile training and awareness generation facility</li> <li>2. Compile, translate and dissemination of information, education and communication materials in local languages</li> <li>3. Purchasing of equipments necessary for mobile training and awareness generation facility</li> </ol>	<p>Achieved. A medium size lorry was purchased and is being modified to the specifications given in the Annexure 1.</p> <p>Achieved. Landslide prevention best practices were developed into posters and printed in Sinhala, Tamil and English. These posters were developed in collaboration with the main technical agency responsible for landslide research and risk reduction in Sri Lanka, National Building Research Organization. The posters will be displayed in schools, key government and semi government department buildings and other public places of the landslide affected areas of the country.</p> <p>Achieved. As per the specifications given in Annexure 2, all the equipments necessary for the Mobile Awareness Generation Unit was purchased.</p>

## **2.4. Short / long-term impact of the project**

*(Please describe is there any visible short term impact and / or what long term expected impact has been envisaged)*

In the short run the project initiatives will support the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) and other members of the National Disaster Management Coordination Committee (NDMCC) to increase their outreach to the most vulnerable communities living in most remote areas of the country as well as other vulnerable communities. On the other hand vulnerable communities, local government authorities and civil society organizations working in remote areas of the country will be able to develop their capacities to face disasters with higher degree of confidence. As the MAGU is expected to deliver risk reduction related messages to communities gather in public places such as festivals, carnivals and fares, as a whole the Sri Lankans would benefit from the improved awareness on hazards and risk reduction techniques.

MAGU will provide a platform for many organizations to develop innovative programmes to reach targeted communities as in the past there was no mechanism to deliver programmes developed using state of the art technologies for large number of people. It is evident from the lack of localized edutainment programmes available in Sri Lanka to address risk reduction initiatives. The newly created mechanism will enhance the abilities of innovative programme developers to reach previously unreachable communities through interactive and sophisticated programmes.

In the long run the project initiatives will support the Sri Lankan government to realize its vision of Safer Sri Lanka and create a culture of safety in the country. As the culture of safety would mean promotion of risk reduction techniques as life skills among the citizens of the country, low cost delivery mechanisms such as MAGU would certainly support to realize the vision of Safer Sri Lanka.

## **2.5. Measures taken for the sustainability of the project initiatives**

*(What strategy adopted / activities carried out to ensure sustainability of the project?)*

DMC has adopted a two fold approach to ensure the sustainability of the project initiatives. First approach is to develop edutainment programmes to reach large number of communities within a given year so the cost per community would decrease opposed to serving few communities in a given year. Through this way the government financial allocation can be leveraged to maintain the MAGU as well as achieve the objectives of the awareness creation programmes. In addition to that partnerships will be developed involving private sector companies, international and national NGOs and other government institutions to develop awareness creation and training programmes using the facilities available with MAGU. The total cost of operation and maintenance of the MAGU would be around 1500 USD per month as predicted in the project designing stage and it is expected that with two to three strong partnership programmes this target can be achieved without any difficulty.

## **2.6. Overall Challenges / difficulties**

*(Please describe overall difficulties that you have encountered during the implementation period and the measures taken to overcome these difficulties / challenges)*

Mobile Awareness Generation Unit has been a novel idea for Sri Lankan disaster management. As Disaster Management Centre is a relatively young organization and the institutional structures are being established, some of the officials were skeptical about the success of the Unit. Therefore DMC wanted to ensure proper planning happened before commissioning the project. The planning and quality assurance took longer period of time than expected at the project designing stages.

The time taken for planning did not go waste as it provided an opportunity for everybody to familiarize with the idea of Mobile Awareness Generation Unit (MAGU). The DMC Training and Awareness Unit have taken several steps to develop knowledge products that will be useful in operationalizing the concept of MAGU.

## **2.7. Good Practices**

*(Please provide details of good practices evident in result of your interventions at any level.)*

Mobile Awareness Generation Unit was a novel concept to Sri Lanka. The origin of the project design was happened when a UNDP official visit the Kobe earthquake memorial museum in Japan and happened to visit a Mobile Awareness Generation Unit owned and operated by Earthquake Museum. With the inspiration received from the versatility of the Kobe mobile unit, UNDP Sri Lanka team was determined to develop a similar system in Sri Lanka also as reaching the vulnerable communities living in remote areas was a felt need in Sri Lanka.

Traditional system used in awareness creation was a supply driven programme and it was mainly confined to the town centres of the country as there were not enough resources to develop demand driven programmes or to have village level programmes due to resource constraints. The MAGU was a relatively cost effective system to address these constraints and develop demand driven programmes as described elsewhere. Therefore the 'Kobe Caravan' was a good experience for Sri Lanka and it was a good example for the lessons 'South' could learn from the rich 'Northern' countries.

As described in the 'Lessons Learnt' section of this report, the internalization of the concept to the Sri Lankan conditions was not an easy task. But ultimately the merit of the concept was well identified by all the key stakeholders. But it would have not been possible to go this far without the support of UNISDR. With the traditional and conservative donors, the concept would have been rejected and at the best could have been delayed by several months. But with the creative, open and entrepreneurial decision making of the UNISDR, the project concept was approved and the financial assistance was available for the Mobile Awareness Generation Unit quickly. With this encouraging support received from the UNISDR, UNDP and the main implementing partner- Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights in Sri Lanka was able to design the concept further and adapt it to suit Sri Lankan context. UNISDR was supporting the development and encouraging the innovations rather than restricting the modifications to limit the scope of the programme as it understood the big picture and committed to make Hyogo Framework of Action a reality.

Ability of the local specialists of UNDP to identify suitable innovations from developed countries and the flexibility of UNISDR as a facilitator supporting the vulnerable countries to realize risk reduction aspirations were the main success factors behind the MAGU- A Sri Lankan approach to reach the otherwise unreachable thousands of vulnerable communities.

## **2.8. Lessons Learnt from project**

*(Describe your experience and lesson learnt during the implementation of the project, in term of project implementation / management, Building partnerships, community mobilization, capacity building, advocacy & awareness etc.)*

The MAGU was a revolutionary step for disaster management public awareness programmes in Sri Lanka. The MAGU had no predecessor and the concept itself was unheard of in disaster management sector in Sri Lanka. Therefore it took few months to digest the concept within the main implementing partner (Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights) and the Disaster Management Centre. Intensive debates over the maximization of the benefits from the MAGU occurred between the Ministry, DMC and UNDP officials. The debates and disagreements delayed the project implementation but it helped all the stakeholders to understand the concept well and design innovative programmes to suit the MAGU. As an example even though computer games were identified as a possible product that can reach the hearts and minds of children through the MAGU even at the project design stages, there were no localized computer games available for disaster risk reduction in Sri Lanka. Another example was the lack of standardized training materials available with the DMC to deliver programmes efficiently and effectively. There was no identification of resource materials available within the Sri Lanka and producing all the relevant materials would require lot of resources –financial human as well as time.

As mentioned earlier, the debates occurred over the MAGU cleared the concept to many officials and it was a good eye opener to develop information communication and education materials that are required for the MAGU.

With the support of Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) of UNDP and Sri Lanka Red Cross movement, DMC initiated a training module standardization process mainly in 5 key areas. Basic disaster management awareness, first aid, emergency evacuation at school and community level were among the key training modules identified for the standardization. Basic disaster management awareness training modules were standardized and the training materials were translated into Sinhala and Tamil languages as all the materials were available in English. As a part of this standardization programme, National Disaster Management Coordination Committee members were asked to contribute to this national programme voluntarily through providing all the resource materials they have developed on the risk reduction. That request was well received by different agencies and with their contributions, DMC was able to identify the IEC materials developed to suit local conditions. The translation process has been already started and the process will continue till the DMC acquire sufficient number of resource materials to conduct all relevant risk reduction awareness and training programmes in Sri Lanka.

In addition to the resources identified from other organizations DMC itself launched a new IEC material development programme to suit the MAGU. As an example a computer game is being developed with over 1,000 multiple choice questions to suit three age groups. The game will be available in all three languages and it will be featured through the DMC web site as well.

The delay caused in purchasing the vehicle for the MAGU allowed DMC to modify the specifications to suit the emerging needs of DMC and as described above the time was wisely invested in developing materials and approaches required for the successful implementation of programmes through the MAGU. This is especially important as now the programmes are available to drive the enthusiasm produced by the MAGU without any lapse.

The lesson of the delays caused and the temporary setbacks experienced by the project is that by allowing time to 'digest' new ideas within the government institutions would turn into advantages if the 'lagging period' can be converted into a constructive debate involving all the key stakeholders. The forum for this constructive debates were available to UNDP by the project design itself as the Project Steering Committee was chaired by the Secretary to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights and the DMC officials were also represented in the Steering Committee itself. It is recommended for other project management agencies also to have a Project Steering Committee comprised of national stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of the project initiatives as well as to ensure that the project is delivering something relevant and necessary for the country rather than something that has no relevance to the national challenges and requirements.

## 2.9. Visibility

*(Please provide instances/approaches taken to highlight the visibility of EC and UNISDR.)*

As per the visibility guidelines provided through the European Commission and the UNISDR, the relevant logos were appropriately demonstrated in all knowledge products.

## 3. Partners and other Co-operation

How do you assess the relationship between the formal partners of this Action (i.e. those partners which have signed a partnership statement)? Please specify for each partner organization

### 3.1. How would you assess the relationship between your organization and State authorities in the targeted countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

Ministry of Disaster Management and Human rights is the main implementing partner of the project. UNDP has a good experience in implementing disaster management projects with the Ministry since its creation in 2005. The Secretary to the Ministry is chairing the Project Steering Committee and guides the project implementation together with other senior officials of the Ministry and the Disaster Management

Centre of Sri Lanka. The partnership with the ministry is cordial and the Ministry considers UNDP as a trusted partner in developing a Safer Sri Lanka as per their vision.

**3.2. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organizations involved in implementing the Action: N/A**

- *Associate(s) (if any)*
- *Sub-contractor(s) (if any)*
- *Final Beneficiaries and Target groups*
- *Other third parties involved.*

**3.3. Where applicable, outline any links you have developed with other actions**

As described in the 'Lessons Learnt' section the project developed many links with other UNDP managed other projects. As an example training module standardization process was supported by UNISDR funded Promoting Enabling Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction and Partnerships project and the Capacity Development Initiative supported by the UNDP-BCPR South and South East Asia regional programme. These programmes were linked to the project in addition to the Public Awareness and Training programmes conducted by the DMC. Many member organizations of the National Disaster Management and Coordination Committee assisted the training module standardization programmes and some of the key contributors were Practical Action, Red R-UK, Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies Sri Lanka and St. John's Ambulance Services.

#### 4. Performance Monitoring Table

S#	Outcome / Output Indicator	Baseline Value	Cumulative		Quarter -1		Quarter -2		Quarter -3		Quarter -4	
			Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
3.1.1w	1. Purchasing a caravan to be modified as a mobile training and awareness generation facility	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
3.1.1x	2. Compile, translate and dissemination of information, education and communication materials in local languages	0	4	4	0	0	2	2	2	2		
3.1.1y	3. Purchasing of equipments necessary for mobile training and awareness generation facility	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1		

#### 4.1. Means of Verification (MOVs)

*(It is mandatory to attach MOVs against the reported indicators, during the project time-period, therefore please provide MOVs against each indicator, as described in the table below)*

Ind. #	Unit	MOVs
3.1.1w	1. Purchasing a caravan to be modified as a mobile training and awareness generation facility	Specifications for vehicle-Annexure 1
3.1.1x	2. Compile, translate and dissemination of information, education and communication materials in local languages	Soft copies of the landslide posters developed in collaboration with the NBRO –Annexure 3
3.1.1y	3. Purchasing of equipments necessary for mobile training and awareness generation facility	Specifications for equipments-Annexure 2



## 5. Annexure

- *Any other publications / significant documents which, is not part of the MOVs above*
- *Any other printed material developed and utilized during the project time frame (Newsletters, brochures, leaflets etc.)*

Name of the contact person for the Action: Mr. Ananda Mallawatantri

Signature: .....

Location: Colombo, Sri Lanka