

Progress report for the month of March 2006
PROMISE-Sri Lanka under Program for Hydro-meteorological risk mitigation for
Secondary Cities in Asia (PROMISE)

Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) - Sri Lanka

The project activities have been commenced in March 2006 as per the grant agreement signed between Sarvodaya Sramadana Sangamaya and ADPC for implementation of the Program for Hydro-meteorological risk mitigation for Secondary Cities in Sri Lanka (PROMISE-Sri Lanka)

As one of the first activities under the capacity building component of PROMISE Project in Sri Lanka, ADPC in collaboration with project partner Sarvodaya Movement-Sri Lanka conducted a CBDRM training workshop

- to provide a framework for Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk (HVR) assessment in the target city Kalutara and
- to enhance the organization's knowledge and skills in disaster preparedness and management.

The five-day course held during March 13-17, 2006 was attended by Sarvodaya staff members (33 participants), partner agencies such as Disaster Management Center (5 participants), and one representative each from partner NGO's namely, the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and the Green Movement and one delegate from the UNDP-Sri Lanka. Having other participants from the government and other NGO's the training helped to create awareness of each other's role and foster future coordination and partnership in DM work.

The training course consisted of five modules namely; (M1) Current context of CBDRM, (M2) Framework, (M3) and Participatory community risk assessment, (M4) Community level risk management planning, and (M5) Implementation & Institutionalization. More focus was given to modules 3 and 4 where a one-day fieldwork session was conducted for application of PRA tools.

Training team was comprised of two ADPC personnel (N.M.S.I.Arambepola, Program Manager-PROMISE and Ms.Emeli De Vera-TRG trainer) and Ms.Nguen Hoa-program coordinator of PROMISE project from Vietnam who has extensive practice of CBDM. The team was complemented and ably supported by SARVODAYA Disaster Management & Mitigation team director Mr.Nandana Jayasinghe and staff. Training venue was held within the Sarvodaya compound having a conference room with audio-visual and translation (headphones) facilities.

Over-all the training was rated as a very successful activity by the participants as CBDRM framework will be useful for the future activities of PROMISE- Sri Lanka as well it is in consonance with Sarvodaya's **Grama Swarajya** concept which empowers the villages to work as a unit and make their own decisions. Positive feedback was also noted for the sharing session of DMC, UNDP and SL-Red Cross Society concerns and programs. However, language problem (translations) and time constraints hindered deeper learning among the participants as stated in their course evaluation.

Recommendations.

Follow up activities of CBDRM training.

Recommendations include more training on the different components of disaster management with practical applications in the community level, and also to come up with a training manual and awareness materials on disaster preparedness in local languages to be used in Sri Lanka.

Activities for the month of April.

1. During the month of April, the Kalutara district team of Sarvodaya Sramadana Sangamaya attached to the project will focus on Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment in Kalutara city demonstration project area.

2. The elections for the Kalutara Town council will be held on March 31 and during the month of April the project team will try to organize a meeting with the Chairman and elected officials to brief about PROMISE project activities.

3. Other areas of activities include development of a methodology for modeling of flood scenario of the Kalu ganaga catchment which will be conducted in collaboration with NBRO and focus discussions on national level training activities targeted for training of local government officials which will be carried out in partnership with SLILG.