

## Disaster Resilient City Development Strategies for Sri Lankan Cities - Phase I

<b>Funded by:</b>	Government of Australia (AusAID)
<b>Partners:</b>	University of Moratuwa, Urban Development Authority, Ministries of Local Government and Disaster Management, Four Selected Municipal Councils/Urban Council, NGOs and Communities
<b>Implemented by:</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
<b>Budget:</b>	AUD \$1,000,000
<b>Locations:</b>	Batticaloa, Ratnapura, Kalmunai and Balangoda Council Areas
<b>Duration:</b>	January 2012 - March 2013 (15 Months)

### Background

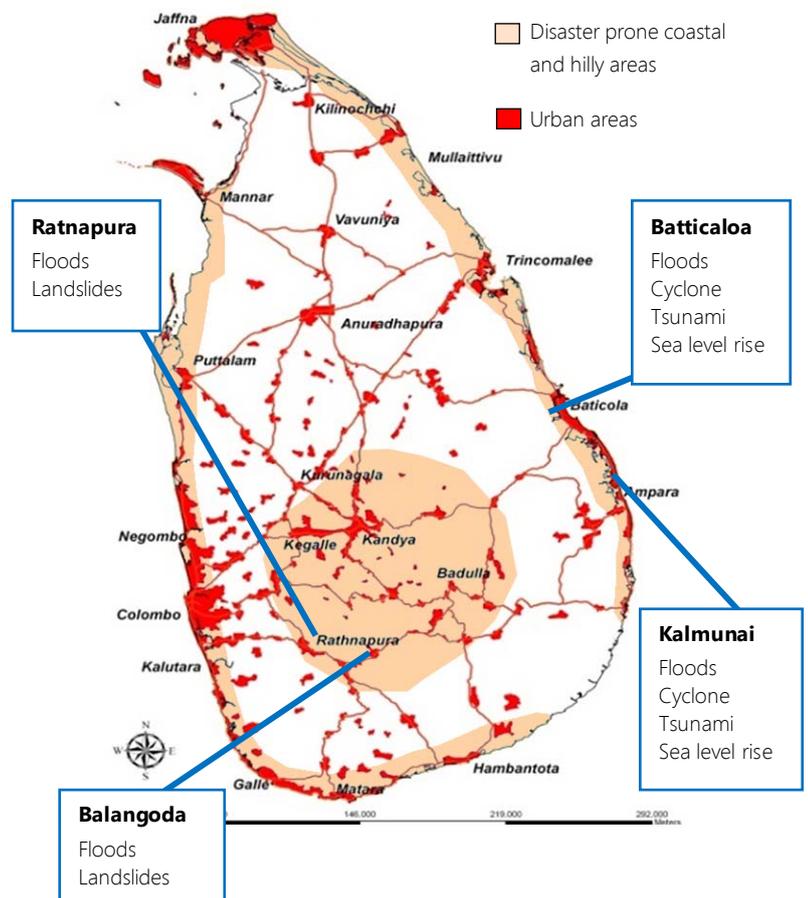
Sri Lanka is urbanizing rapidly, with at least 50% of its projected 22 million population expected to be living in urban local authorities by 2020. The estimated urban growth is 3% annually and the urbanization trends shows a rapid transformation of rural areas to urban. Whilst the Government's Mid-Term Development Framework recognized the positive impacts of urbanization, around 70% of this population and 80% of national economic infrastructure is concentrated in coastal cities and cities in disaster prone hilly areas. These cities are highly vulnerable to disasters and predicted climate change impacts including sea level rise, storm surges, floods, landslides and malaria/dengue epidemics, all of which negatively impact human settlements, city productivity and service delivery, especially for the poor. These frequent disasters have directly contributed to constrain the country's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, specifically at local level.

The increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters over the past few years has resulted in major socio-economic impacts on townships and human settlements, especially in disaster prone provinces. Frequent flooding in the Eastern Province and landslides in the Sabaragamuwa Province have resulted in displacement, loss of livelihoods and loss of life. Despite this vulnerability, there is an increasing trend to expand built-up areas through unplanned development activities.

### The Project

This project aimed to establish sustainable disaster resilient and healthy cities and townships in disaster prone regions of Sri Lanka. It was implemented in three Municipal Councils and one Urban Council (MCs/UC) – Kalmunai, Batticaloa, Ratnapura and Balangoda, which are vulnerable to multiple disasters. These cities are situated in two lagging regions – the Eastern and Sabaragamuwa

### Project Sites and their Most Frequent Hazards



Provinces of Sri Lanka. These four councils were selected based on vulnerability to multiple disasters, declaration as urban development areas under the UDA law, which indicates potential for urban growth, and unavailability of development and land use plans.

The increase in localized disasters has necessitated a corresponding increase in disaster preparedness and response capacity at the community and local government levels. Similarly it is important that Physical Planning should not occur in isolation. This scenario presents a unique opportunity to prepare development plans and land use plans taking into account climate change impacts and the need for disaster risk reduction as an integral part of the planning process.



2013/05/13  
Flood Across Mudduwa Road in Ratnapura

## Project Approach

The project was implemented by UN-Habitat in partnership with the Urban Development Authority, Ministry of Local Government and Provincial Councils and the Disaster Management Centre to prepare land use plans and development plans incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) features.

The selected MCs/UC were supported in assessing vulnerability, preparing Disaster Preparedness Plans and developing building guidelines. A Project Unit was set up in each selected MC/UC and a Steering Committee was established to enhance coordination and provide linkages to other similar projects especially those funded under Enhanced Humanitarian Response Initiative / AusAID.

UN-Habitat and the University of Moratuwa provided technical inputs in the areas of Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessments and Strategic Town Planning. Communities were linked to local authorities and empowered through increased awareness on DRR. Community-based Disaster Response Teams were trained and worked closely with LAs to implement Disaster Risk Reduction Preparedness Plans.



Community Participatory Mapping in Ratnapura Municipality

## Key Outputs

- City-wide and community-specific vulnerability and risk assessments in the four MCs/UC.
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Plans for four MCs/UC.
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Plans are aligned to City Land Use Plans and City Development Plans.
- City Disaster Preparedness Committees established with women's representation in each MC/UC and made mandatory through council resolution.
- Introduced DRR into the building guidelines based on the risk assessments.
- Community-based Disaster Response Teams, including women's teams, established and linked to each MC/UC and the National Disaster Management Centre.
- Disaster Mitigation pilot projects implemented in each MC/UC with potential for up scaling under the City Development Plans.
- Lessons learned and good practices in selected MCs/UC were captured, documented and disseminated in local and international forums.



Design and Construction of Drainage in Kalmunai Municipality



Flood Mitigation and Rehabilitation of the Dorawela Oya in Balangoda

### Contact Us:

#### Disaster Resilient City Development Strategies for Sri Lankan Cities Project

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 202-204, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka

Telephone: +94 (0) 112580691, Fax: +94 (0) 112581116; Web: <http://www.unhabitat.lk>