

Galle District

Affected Divisional Secretary Divisions

- (1) Hikkaduwa
- (2) Galle Four Gravates
- (3) Habaraduwa
- (4) Ambalangoda
- (5) Balapitiya
- (6) Bentota

Affected People

- Number of affected families: 26,728
- Total number of affected persons: 135,942
- Total number of deaths: 4,233
- Number of persons who were in welfare camps at the initial stage: 69,000
- Number of families who were in welfare camps at the initial stage: 9,160
- Number of welfare camps at initial stage: 185
- Existing welfare camps: 14
- Existing number of persons in welfare camps: 1,477

Damages to Different Sectors

Sector	Nature of the Damage	Estimated Cost (Rs.Mn.)
Road	04 concrete bridges , culverts and about 50 km. of roads	150
Telecommunication	05 out side plants, 01 transmission plants, 01 power plants, 01 switching plants.	295
Electricity	10, 000 consumer connections, bulk supply connections, 21 substations, tools and equipment, office premises and billing centre.	368
Fisheries	371 traditional crafts destroyed and 282 traditional crafts damaged, scenic beaches and fishing gears damaged.	1014
Health	02 hospitals	
Education	25 schools	
Other	Temples, Mosques, Churches and govt. offices etc.	
Total		1,827

Actions Taken

- Officials and other resources were mobilized systematically.
- Dead bodies were taken to hospitals without delay
- Arrangements were made to provide basic needs (food, dry rations, medicine, water, sanitary wares etc.) for the affected people.
- Appeals were made for cooked foods, other foods, medicine, and clothing for the affected people through media.
- Activities of various organizations involved in providing such needs were coordinated.
- Provision of food and relief were continued.
- Involvement of local and foreign armed forces, international and national NGOs in delivering basic services and providing amenities were coordinated efficiently.
- Dry Ration Coupons were provided to 127,963 people.
- Rs.2500 for each affected family was given to purchase kitchen utensils.
- Rs. 5000 for each affected family was provided to continue their day to day activities. 26,680 families were benefited from this.
- Rs.15, 000 for each dead person's family member was granted to under take funerals.
- Medical and sanitation facilities were provided to needy people.
- MOUs were signed with 34 donors for construction of 1500 housing units.
- Temporary shelters were provided to some homeless people.

Confronted Problems and Issues

- No properly established contingency plan for rescue operations in a difficult and devastated situation.
- Since initial stage, there is no coordination among officers between district and divisional levels.
- Absence of proper coordination among involving agencies.

Challenges Ahead

Relief Measures

- Establishment of a mechanism to ensure flow of correct data in correct time.
- Identification of major bodies responsible for rescue operations.
- Preventive measures to stop looting and robberies during a disaster situation.
- Identification and selection of alternative places for relief centers.
- Evacuation of people/residents from disaster prone areas.

Relocation of People and Housing Construction

- Understanding the socio-cultural differences of affected people and settling them accordingly.
- Selection of lands suitable for the housing construction in close proximity
- Meeting the increasing demand on raw materials and skilled manpower.
- Provision of safe water for newly constructed housing schemes.

- Finding stable solutions for the prevention of unauthorized constructions within the coastal buffer zone.

Livelihoods

- Economically empowerment of people, who were affected and still no any opportunities to initiate their livelihood activities.
- Relocation of Government Offices, hospitals, shops and other important structures in the disaster free locations.

Way Forward

- Formation of suitable framework for the disaster management.
- Preparation of district and divisional level disaster management plans.
- Effective coordination of divisional level officials with the national level authorities.
- Training of Government Officers in disaster management activities.
- Strengthening of administrative bodies at different levels.

Post Tsunami Recovery Process District Experience and the Challenges Ahead

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EXPERIENCE AND CHALLENGES AHEAD GALLE DISTRICT

Executive Summary

On 26th December 2004 Sri Lanka had faced to the most vulnerable disaster called Tsunami and never heard even in the past for a disaster like that.

About 40000 of people who dies and other 5000 of people who were disappeared or no any information regarding them by this moment. Still no any clear information about the damage assessment about the about the properties and livelihood activities.

How this devastation affects to the Galle District?

Galle district is bounded by a coastal belt, which is about 72 Km and the coastal zone embodies significant variations like bays, groins, lagoons, estuaries, etc. These uneven coastal variations and the nature of low elevation made a hazardous effect to the mankind and their properties. Galle was the 2nd worst affected district due to the Tsunami in Sri Lanka.

Worst affected divisions

1. Hikkaduwa
2. Galle Four Gravates
3. Habaraduwa
4. Ambalangoda
5. Balapitiya
6. Bentota

This report describes the nature of the damage taken places to the most affected sectors. A significant amount of the total damage was being recovered by most institutions means of local and foreign supportive agencies. But this is not match with the existing demand for the immediate recovery measures. At this moment we are planning to use various strategic events to accelerate this recovery process, according to the consents of the affected people.

Damage caused

Total Affected Families	26728
Total Affected Persons	135942

Total Deaths (Including Transit Passengers)	4233
Number of People who were in Sahana Centres (IDP Camps) at the initial stage	69000
Number of families who were in refugee camps at the initial stage	9160
Number of IDP camps at the initial stage	185
Existing camps (Sahana Centres)	14
Existing Number of persons in IDP Camps	1471

Damage on road sector

Road Development Authority (RDA)

According to the RDA four concrete bridges were completely damaged (Akurala, Sinigama, Magalle, Ahangama) to the Colombo – Matara main road. Damage assessment is about Rs. 121.10 million.

Provincial Road Development Authority (PRDA)

Damage were taken place to the bridges, culverts and about 50 Km of roads. Damage assessment is about 29.20 million.

Damage to Telecommunication

- Outside Plants - 05 Nos.
- Transmission Plants - 01 Nos.
- Power Plants - 01 Nos.
- Switching Plants - 01 Nos.

Damage assessment - Rs. 294 mn.

Damage to electricity supply

- Consumer connections about 10,000
- Bulk supply connections
- Substations 21 Nos.
- Tools and equipments
- Office premises and billing centers (Galle Deputy General Manager's Office)

Total damage assessment – Rs. 268.53 mn.

Damage to other infrastructure

- Temples, Mosques, Churches, etc 51 Nos.
- Hospitals 02 .
- Government Schools 25
- Galle Kachcheri, Hikkaduwa and Habaraduwa Divisional Secretariat Buildings NA
- Damage Assessment to the Navy Camp (including the buildings, machinery, vehicles etc) Rs. 192 mn.
- Most of Government and Private sector regional offices and trade centers were damaged severely NA

Damage to the fisheries sector

	Destroyed	Damaged	Value(Rs.Mn)
Multiday boats	66	106	542
3 1/2ton Boats	66	15	180
17'13boats	199	148	143
Traditional crafts	371	282	71.77
Beach scenic/fishing gears	75	2	76
Total	777	553	1013.67

Source: Fisheries sector-TAFREN

Experience

26th December 2004

- At 9.25 a.m. 1st Tide waves were entered towards the upland and after about 20minutes later, 2nd Tide waves attacked severely and the coastal part of the Galle town area inundated for about 20 feet.
- The situation worsened by 10.30 a.m., most of the coastal area was severely affected and nature of the vulnerability was reported by armed forces specially the naval authorities and civil agencies including the Police to the national level.
- Armed Forces, Police and other officials including provincial councils coordinated with the District Secretary. They wee mobilizing staff and other resources such as Divers, Ambulances, Trucks, for rescue operations.
- Injured people, Death Bodies were taken to the Karapitiya Treaching Hospital and near by hospitals in respective areas.

- Two main bridges at Magalle and Akurala (Hikkaduwa) of Colombo-Matara main road were being destroyed completely and thereby land locked caused the accessibility and impeded the rescue operations.
- In the evening of the day the whole area covering coastal belt of 72 km were with full of debris including human and other dead bodies.
- 6 p.m. gathered Cabinet Ministers, Chief Minister and all key officials, Police and armed forces head to the Governor's Secretariat and decided to start an operation room.
- Decided to meet every day at 7 p.m. at the new District Secretariat after clearing the place.

27th December 2004

- An operation room was established in the Galle District Secretariat.
- District level political leaders, Governor and Senior Government officials and armed forces including police gathered at the new District secretariat and discussed about the provision of immediate needs to the affected people and arrangement of relief measures like foods, dry rations, medicines, water, sanitary wares etc.
- Managed to get electricity to part of the district secretariat building in the evening.

28th December 2004

- Indian Army and other foreign supporting armies reported to the District.
- Collection and distribution of food and other essential items commenced at the Kachcheri with the available staff.
- Converted Town Hall building to a store.
- Appeals for cook foods, other foods, medicines, and clothing for the affected were broadcast by means of media.
- HE the President appointed the district Secretary as the competent authority and Hon. Minister Mr. Piyasena Gamage as the Chairman of the District Management Committee. He chaired the committee comprising of armed forces and the competent authority. Several senior ministers, Governor and others assisted the committee.
- Various organizations including private sector and volunteer organizations were involving to provide cooked foods, medicines, cloths, milk foods for the people who were living in Temporary Shelters/Camps such as temples, Mosques, Schools and other public buildings.
- A series of meetings were held with respective Cabinet Ministers who were sent by HE the President to the District to help in numerous ways for the purpose of rehabilitation.

29th December

- Continuation of food and relief supplying were been carried out.
- Most of local and foreign armed forces as well as international and national NGOs they reached to the Galle and they were dispersed to the each affected areas for the supplying of basic amenity services like water supplying, well purification machines, garbage disposal, sanitation etc.

Problems and issues confronted at the operation

Early warning and evacuation

- Sri Lankan people who had never any experiences, on Tsunami, earthquake, like natural disaster, till this disaster was occurred. Even meteorology department and other respective agencies they have no any mechanism to receive information from outside. There should be an integrated disaster information control system, and should be able to aware people once the relevant authorities got information about disasters like Tsunami.

Rescue operations.

- Since there was no properly established contingency plan, rescue operations were not in a satisfactory level. If there was a plan like that it would be able to reduce the damage taken place to the lives of human beings at a considerable low level.

Emergency planning

- The incident was so most vulnerable that it was difficult to plan immediately, even for essential things. Because every communications linkages were out of order and electricity supplying was also ceased. No accessibility through coastal highway or railway.

Relief supply

- At the initial stage, the local residents, neighbours and most of philanthropists were active enough to help the affected people for providing relief, cooked foods and dry rations, for affected people.
- The coordination among district level officers with the divisional level was not possible at the initial stage owing to lack of proper arrangements, but later on the coordination activities among the district and divisional level became possible.

Coordination issues

- There was no proper coordination between each level at the initial phase. (Village level, divisional level, district level, national level) and there was no any quick and accurate mechanism to convey the informations for both directions (Top to bottom).
- Though NGOs and other various organizations involved to assist the people and distribute relief assistance it was not possible to lend the necessary assistance properly and meaningfully, owing to lack of information of affected areas and affected people.

Sector-wise coordination

- Due to the lack of proper coordination among involving agencies, most of contradictory information were being sent to the national level. This would be tends to make some negative impacts on decision making for treating people and rehabilitation activities.

Provision of dry rations

- In the Galle district 127,963 numbers of people are eligible to obtain dry ration coupons. Those coupons are being delivered by respective authorities to affected people.
- A dry ration package of Rs. 175 amounted per person per each week and a balance of other Rs. 200 was also being provided weekly for each ration coupon. Latest provision of essential food distribution is as follows.

Allowance for kitchen utensils

- A Rs. 2500 valued allowance was supplied for each affected families for the purchasing of kitchen utensils and 20939 numbers of people who were eligible for that allowance.

The allowance of Rs. 5000

The objective of provision of this allowance is to initiating of affected people's day today activities. This allowance was being provided to 26680 numbers of families who were affected in the Galle District Area on monthly basis.

Allowance of Rs. 15,000

- Rs. 15000 each for death person's family members were paid for funeral arrangements.

Providing of medical facilities

- Broken out of vector borne diseases had not been occurred after the Tsunami and proper supplying of medical facilities, maintaining of public hygienic conditions and provision of purified water for the affected people like activities might be caused to protect people from the post Tsunami affections.
- These are district level committees for the sanitation and water supplying and other sectors that is chaired by the Government Agent.
- These Committees meet in every week and discuss about the monitoring and the progress reviewing on sanitation, etc. Most of NGOs who are involving to this, in addition to the Government involvements.

Housing

Provision of housing to the affected people is a very important matter and there should be a sustainable programme for that after the considering of –

- Social Economical, Cultural conditions of the affected peoples.
- Land availability and suitability.
- Livelihood conditions of people.

At the national level, Task Force for Rehabilitation of the Nation (TAFREN) and Urban Development Authority (UDA) will provide the suitable lands and the registration of donors who are willing to provide shelters for homeless people and at the district level the Government Agent who coordinated all the activities related to the housing constructions with the TAFREN and UDA as well as District and Divisional level officers.

At the Galle district context the selection and acquiring of lands for housing constructions was completed and MOU's are signed by 34 numbers of donors for the construction of 1500 number of housing units for the Galle District (Annexure 01 provide detailed information)

Transitional Shelters

It is impossible that the provision of shelters on permanent basis at once, because of the finding of suitable lands, clearing of lands, availability of required raw materials and selection of people for each land will take a considerable time.

The Government has launched a programmed for the provision of shelters on transitional basis and number of NGOs and INGOs who are involving with this.

Provision of temporary shelters for homeless people (Annex 02 provides detailed information).

Challenges ahead

Relief measures

- Identification of mechanisms for the flow of correct data at correct time.
- Identification of major bodies required for rescue operations strengthen of related agencies with skillful manpower and required equipment for a proper disaster management.
- Preventive measures for the looting and robberies during a disaster situation.
- Identification and selection of alternative places for relief centers.
- Evacuation of people/residents from disaster prone areas.

Relocation of people and housing construction

- Understanding of socio-cultural differences of affected people and treating them by considering of those differences.
- Selection of lands according to the requirement of the housing construction. (availability of bare lands, suitability of lands for housing construction, etc.)
- Accomplishment of the increasing demand of raw materials required for the construction of houses (sand, cement, bricks, etc).
- Finding appropriate and feasible solutions with sustainability, as preventive measures for the post Tsunami environmental degradation.
- Provision of water for newly constructed housing schemes.
- Finding stable solutions for the prevention of unauthorized constructions within the Buffer Zone.

Livelihood activities

- Empowerment of people, who were affected and still no any opportunities to initiate their livelihood activities.
- Relocation of government offices, hospitals, shops and other important structures from affected areas.

Suggestions

- Formation of a District Level Disaster Management Committee by focusing of the objective of mitigatory measured is crucial and this committee has to be continuation their activities on the disaster prone areas.

The Committee has to discuss on

- The formation of proper framework for the disaster management (natural or manmade disasters)
- Preparation of a district and divisional level disaster management plan, by considering of the nature of the disaster is essential. The planning process may vary with the nature of the disaster (Ex. Flood, Tsunami, Earth Quakes)
- Provision of a proper coordination among each district level officials of the relevant authorities and keeping the coordination with the national level authorities.
- Provide training to the Government officers for the preparation of a disaster management preparedness programme and implementation of the programme.
- Strengthen of each level administrative body for the provision of an effective service to the affected general public is crucial.
- Realigning of development initiatives and provision of required infrastructure facilities for livelihood activities on the basis of provincial level is vital.