



PROMISE PROJECT

Sri Lanka

NARRATIVE PROGRESS REPORT

Implemented By:

The Asia Foundation

Submitted To:

ADPC

**Reporting Period:
JULY 2010**



The Asia Foundation

A. Activity Summary

The activities for the month of July 2010 are as follows:

Project Component 4: Advocacy for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

Activity 3.2 - Urban Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Training for the City Officials.

One day training workshop was organized on 15th July 2010 at the SamanMal Hotel Matara for 30 participants from officials of the local authorities in Matara, focusing on mainstreaming DRR in urban governance. Since PROMISE has already completed work on the amendment of municipal by-laws with the FSLGA and Southern Provincial Council with the Chief Secretary's initiatives, this workshop has been organized as a follow up activity with the intension of demonstrating the ways of integrating DRR in local government system and thereby advocating implementing DRR as a part of mandated role of Local Government under sustainable development and environmental management.

Component 2: Mitigation and Preparedness

Activity 2.1 - Implementing mitigation activities with communities

Two flood mitigation projects identified as priority projects jointly by the city officials with city communities have been commenced in mid July with the assistance of the Matara Municipal Council (MMC) for mitigation of flash/river floods caused in highly populated areas within Matara City with community participation. They are,

- Improvement of the canal from Vellawatta to Nawimana Road 2nd culvert, over an approximate length of 600 meters for mitigation of flash/river floods
- Improvement of the Piladuwa Ganga Mawatha 1st cross canal over an approximate length of 100 meters

The implementation work is in progress and about 200 meters of the canal surrounding area and bund have been cleaned, deepened and widened. The authorities are confident that the work can be completed in time as per the action plan.

B. Activity Reports

Project Component 4: Advocacy for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

Activity 3.2 - Urban Governance and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Training for the City Officials.

One day training workshop was organized on 15th July 2010 at the SamanMal Hotel Matara for 30 participants from officials of the local authorities and other planning authorities in Matara focusing on mainstreaming DRR in urban governance with the objectives of.

- Drawing the attention of Provincial policy makers and local authority officials on the importance of incorporating disaster risk management in local planning
- Highlighting the important role to be played by the Local Authorities in disaster risk reduction as the local planning authority
- Creating awareness on available legal provisions to engage in disaster risk management activities by introducing By-laws
- Improving the capacity of Local Authorities to perform better in their mandated role in Sustainable Development and Environmental management by improved awareness.

PROMISE has already completed work on the amendment of municipal by-laws with the FSLGA and Southern Provincial Council with the Chief Secretary's initiatives and this workshop has been organized as a follow up activity with the intension of demonstrating the ways of integrating DRR in local government system and thereby advocating implementing DRR as a part of mandated role of Local Government under sustainable development and environmental management.

This workshop created awareness among officers of both Central Government institutions and Local Authorities in managing the disaster risks in local areas by working together to integrate DRM at local level, as there was no clear understanding in the available legal provisions facilitating them to perform their DRR mandate. DRM has been identified as a function of Local Authorities by the National Policy on Local Authorities approved by the Parliament in last December.

PHOTO GALLERY



Highlights at training workshop on urban governance and DRR for city officials

Component 2: Mitigation and Preparedness

Activity 2.1 - Implementing mitigation activities with communities

A MOU between Municipal Council and the Asia Foundation has been established for the implementation of activities identified as priority projects jointly by the city officials with city communities for implementation by the Matara Municipal Council (MMC) for mitigation of flash/river floods caused in highly populated areas within Matara City with community participation. They are,

- Improvement of the canal from Vellawatta to Nawimana Road 2nd culvert, over an approximate length of 600 meters by performing the works of Cleaning the surrounding area and bund, deepening and widening the canal
- Improvement of the Piladuwa Ganga Mawatha 1st cross canal over an approximate length of 100 meters by performing the works of Cleaning the surrounding area and bund, deepening the canal and concrete lining of the canal bottom and two sides

The implementation work is in progress and about 200 meters of the canal surrounding area and bund have been cleaned, deepened and widened. The authorities are confident that the work can be completed in time as per the action plan.

PHOTO GALLERY



Implementing mitigation activities with community participation

C. Next month activities Planned

- Continuation of implementation of mitigation activities.
- School disaster management program
- Ward level community respondent training for first aid and emergency response
- Two day training program on Participatory Local Planning.

D. Issues encountered and solutions

These activities have been earlier scheduled for June 2010 and rescheduled for July and August due to the MC authorities were engaged and busy with the campaign of National performance evaluation of cities carried out by the ministry of Local Government of Sri Lanka.