

Executive Summary

Disaster Management Centre (DMC) is the apex body in disaster risk management related coordination and implementation arm of the Government of Sri Lanka, which is governed by the National Council for Disaster Management (NCDM) chaired by his excellence President with the provisions given by the Disaster Management Act number 13 of 2005. DMC is administratively governed by Ministry holds the subject of Disaster Management (currently Ministry of Irrigation, Water Management and Disaster Management). DMC has mandated to coordinate and implement disaster risk reduction as well as disaster response activities, in safe guarding citizen's safety and resilience, through all the sectoral ministries, organizations, private sector organizations as well as with the wider citizen's participation. DMC established 25 district offices housed in all the District Secretariats, with the purview of District Secretariats. DMC received approximately 1000 million from the treasury annually to implement national to local level risk reduction and response activities. The organization currently owned more than 300 staff, covering 25 districts.

Disaster information management is a critical process, especially during disasters, reporting of impact of such disasters to people, housing and infrastructure sector vital. All kind of strategic to operational decisions are made by timely and accurate information. However recent past it was identified that, information management, especially disaster reporting system was so inefficient led to make duplication by multiple organizations with erroneous reporting of statistics. Waterfall model was used to develop the system. Waterfall method is a conventional software development method consists with five incremental phases.

During the diagnosing phase three main problems were identified; (1) that, there is no disaster reporting practices and guidelines available, and (2) reporting mechanism create duplication (3) always disaster impacted statistics were reported erroneously. These issues trigger to conceptualize and implement a proper Disaster Incident Reporting System, through reporting standard and guiding framework.

The open source software called DHIS2 was used as software platform further develop and configure to make the online reporting solution, with the support of technical team appointed by internal and external members. District Health Information System (DHIS) was originally developed for the health related reporting, were coordinated by the Department of Informatics at the University of Oslo, and supported by NORAD, PEPFAR, The Global Fund to Fight

AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNICEF and the University of Oslo. The software covers, aggregated data and event data with the system support capturing of data linked to any level in an organisational hierarchy, any data collection frequency, a high degree of customization at both the input and output side. The DHIS version 2.x system has been configured to fulfill the requirements of disaster reporting requirement of DMC. In addition to that, Process Definition Manual which covers data collection, processing and dissemination was completed. Nearly 35 staff members were trained on the use of the Disaster Incident Reporting System online system and the Process Definition Manual.

Anticipated outcomes of this project were achieving efficient disaster reporting system tested to Gampaha district proves the technology and process eliminated existing issues in disaster incident reporting. The new system shows improvement of the reporting from 275 minutes to 45 minutes. The knowledge, skills, and experiences were adequate enough to extend the project to balance 24 districts and operationalize mobile based online disaster reporting system in next phase.