



Capacity Developing of the Poor for Reducing Risks of Disasters; The Sarvodaya Experience in Sri Lanka

Dr.Vinya S. Ariyaratne
Executive Director
Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement
Sri Lanka



Overview

- Disaster Risk Reduction in the community
- Sarvodaya approach to development
- Creating disaster resilient communities – The Sarvodaya approach
- Case Example: 'Evaluating Last Mile Hazard Information Dissemination Project' (HazInfo project)
Rationale
- Lessons Learnt



Disaster Vulnerability of Sri Lanka

- Floods
- Landslides
- Cyclones
- Drought
- Coastal erosion
- Tsunami
- Other natural disasters of lesser frequency



Our Philosophy

Sarvodaya = Awakening of All



Individual
Family
Village
City
Nation
World



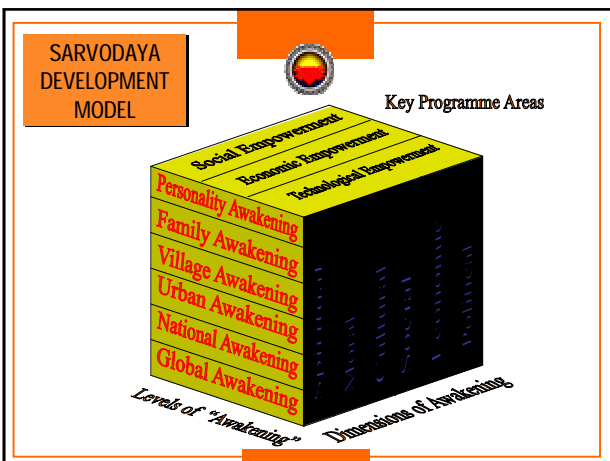
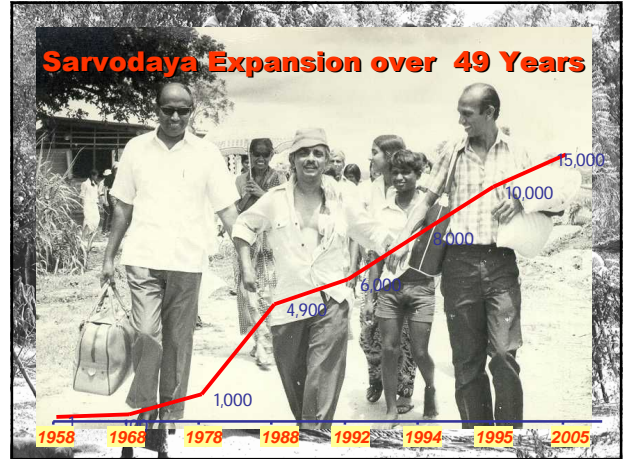
Spiritual
Moral
Cultural
Social
Economic
Political

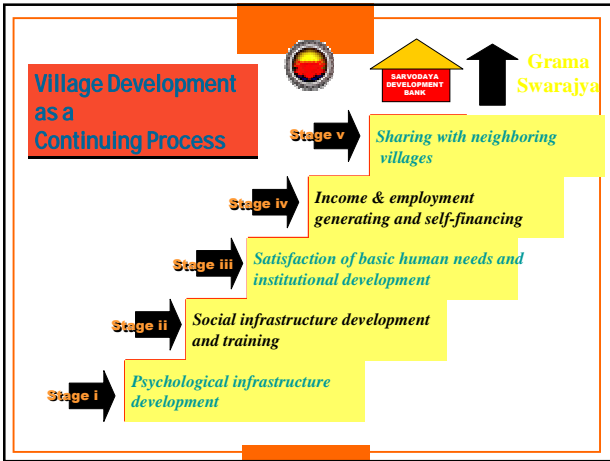
Sarvodaya Strategy

Spread the philosophy
Initiate process of self-development

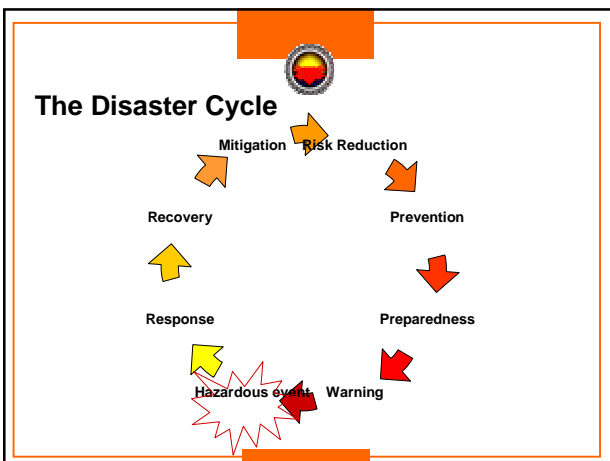



•Support those who pick it up as best as we can





- ### Objectives of the Sarvodaya Community Disaster Management Centre (SCDMC)
- To make all Sarvodaya Villages Disaster Resilient and Responsive
 - To enhance Sarvodaya Disaster Management Capacity and Practice



- ### Components
- Community-based Disaster Risk Management and Village Resiliency
 - Integration of Disaster Management Practice within Sarvodaya
 - Capacity Building
 - Communications and Command Center



Objectives for Component I: Village Resiliency

- To formulate a village resiliency model based upon the five-stage Sarvodaya village development model.
- To further develop existing hazard warning system capability by providing community disaster management training to strengthen village resiliency.
- To create a viable knowledge and expertise foundation in community-based disaster risk management at the SCDMC so that it can maintain, disseminate and receive relevant disaster information to and from Sarvodaya communities.



Activities

- Selection of 2000 (1000 Grama Swaraj) +1000 other Sarvodaya villages
- Village Resiliency Model
- PRAs
- Trainings to develop organizational & community capacity to identify prep procedures
- Resilience activities
- Train village leaders & members
- Train special interest groups
- Hazard mapping
- Conduct EW simulations/drills
- Identify & deploy appropriate technology for CDBRM
- Develop first medical responders, search & rescue, community health volunteer groups
- Create channels for direct input to policy and advisory processes from communities



Objectives for Component II: Capacity Building

- To train a cadre of disaster management staff, introduce the elements of disaster risk management to Sarvodaya program directors and senior management as well as train district coordinators in community-based disaster risk management.
- To develop and implement action plans based on documented tacit knowledge for integrating disaster risk management (DRM) within Sarvodaya programs focusing on Sarvodaya's unique community-based attributes and potential contributions to the field of community-based disaster risk management.
- To develop a Sarvodaya Emergency Response Plan to organize internal disaster response to disasters affecting staff at headquarters, district level as well as Sarvodaya villages.



Objective for Component II (cont'd)

- To establish national (and international) partnerships with research and educational institutions to enhance SCDMC knowledge and expertise and to share SCDMC knowledge and expertise in community-based disaster risk management.
- To link hotel industry experts and SCDMC disaster management staff through sustainability workshops designed to exchange and share best practices in security and disaster management.



Activities

1. Train 8 SCDMC staff
2. Analyze & integrate Sarvodaya community development programs contributions to SCDMC community-based disaster risk management.
3. Develop action plans
4. Conduct CBDRM training/workshops
5. Conduct CBDRM trainings with district coordinators
6. Integrate all disaster projects within Sarvodaya
7. Initiate partnerships with national (& international) education and research institutions for knowledge transfer
8. Select hotel industry experts and SCDMC staff for workshop to share ideas in security and DM.



Objectives for Component III: Communications and Command Center

- To improve the relationship between Sarvodaya and its internal stakeholders through the establishment of a Sarvodaya-tailored state-of-the-art communications system.
- To promote sustainability by continuing the development of early warning systems (such as the one piloted under the Last Mile Hazard Warning System project).
- To develop a communications strategy designed to enhance the role of the SCDMC in community-based disaster risk management nationally and internationally and to establish the SCDMC.



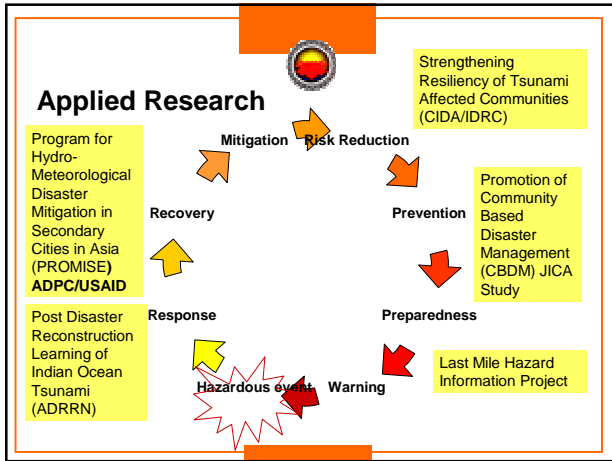
Objectives for Component III (cont'd)

- To establish a comprehensive emergency contact database that will list important contact details for villages, district and national level Sarvodaya staff as well as relevant donors, affiliates, government staff, etc.
- To create partnerships with select media to commence island-wide disaster awareness programs in Sarvodaya villages.



Activities

1. Emergency contact database
2. Consultation with internal Sarvodaya stakeholders, communications experts, disaster management experts, etc.
3. Communications strategy
4. SCDMC website
5. Radio ASR link
6. Continued development of early warning mechanisms
7. SCDMC command center
8. 24/7 operability of Hazard Information Hub (HIH)
9. Island-wide Sarvodaya village disaster awareness programs
10. Establish a hazard education center/museum at Ambalangoda

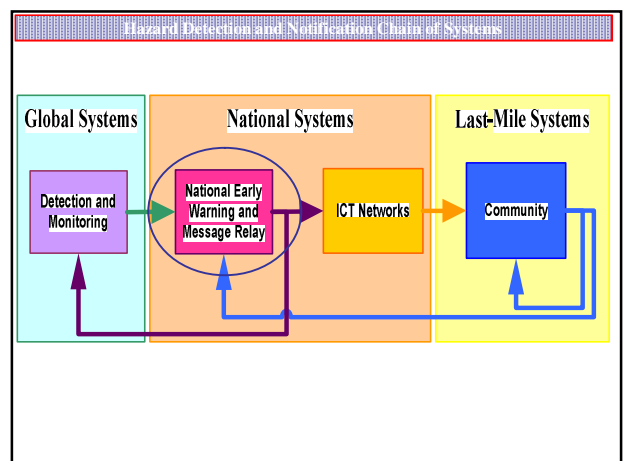


'Evaluating Last Mile Hazard Information Dissemination Project' (HazInfo project)

Rationale (supported by IDRC/Lirne Asia)

To warn communities about rapid onset disasters, improvements are required on at least three parallel fronts:

- the science of rapid detection and analysis needs to be fine-tuned;
- proper institutional arrangements have to be in place to decide on and issue credible, swift warnings; and
- there should be effective ways of communicating these warnings to everyone at risk.



Project Steps

- At its headquarters in Moratuwa, just south of the capital Colombo, Sarvodaya set up a Hazard Information Hub (HIH) to maintain round-the-clock links with the government's designated disaster warning agencies as well as international sources monitoring various hazards in the Indian Ocean region
- Twenty-six youth leaders from Sarvodaya's voluntary Peace Brigade (Shanti Sena) received training in community-based disaster preparedness. They took this knowledge and training to 32 chosen coastal villages (all impacted by the Indian Ocean tsunami) and mobilised local communities from muslim, Sinhala and Tamil backgrounds.
- In each village, a first responder was identified by the community to receive a warning from Sarvodaya's HIH and activate the local method of sounding the alarm. This voluntary responsibility was assigned to local level Sarvodaya leaders, which included many women.

Project Steps (Continued)

- Based on a participatory hazard mapping process, each community prepared a plan on how to respond to such an alert or warning. This included identifying vulnerabilities, demarcating evacuation routes and designating safe locations for community members to assemble after evacuation
- Communities also decided on the most effective ways for locally communicating a disaster warning they would receive: choices ranged from runners and loud-speakers to temple bells.
- To assess how all these factors blend together, hazard warning simulations (which included evacuation drills) were conducted in each participating village.

Standard Commercial CDMA fixed line phones with 1xRTT facilities (www.slt.net.lk)

Remote Alarm Device, Dialog Telekom Mobile Communication Laboratory at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka (www.dialog.lk)

Addressable Radios for Emergency Alerts, WorldSpace Global Data Solutions (www.worldspace.com)

Sinhala/Tamil SMS with alarm for Java compatible phones, Dialog Telekom/MicroImage (www.microimage.com)

Very Small Aperture Terminal Internet Public Alerting System, Solana Networks (www.solananetworks.com)

HazInfo Project Research Design

		With ERP Training				No ERP Training			
Sarvodaya	Stage 1, 2, 3	VSAT Unawattha (Galle)	MoP Nalavur (Batticala)	FxP Thambakillar (Trancoastal)	AREA Moratuwa (Colombo)	MoP Madhavatha (Mannar)	MoP Thambakillar (Kalmunai)	FxP Oleville (Kalmunai)	AREA Miggewa (Kalmunai)
	Stage 4	AREA + RAD Modarapallasa (Hambantota)	AREA + FxP Waddegama North (Mannar)	AREA + MoP Palamanai (Batticala)	Control Village Obasingalappara (Ampara)	AREA + RAD Thondamatur (Jaffna)	AREA + FxP Karathivu (Kalmunai)	AREA + MoP Mantua (Jaffna)	Control Village Molana (Colombo)
Sarvodaya	Stage 1, 2, 3	VSAT Modaragama (Hambantota)	MoP Dyalagoda (Kalmunai)	FxP Periyakallar (Batticala)	AREA Panama North (Ampara)	MoP Sitar-Londagaya (Batticala)	MoP Sanadagama (Hambantota)	FxP Indiyama (Galle)	AREA Bahamanawatha (Galle)
	Stage 4	AREA + RAD Kalmunai II (Kalmunai)	AREA + FxP Sanadagama (Trancoastal)	AREA + MoP Valvespeda (Galle)	Control Village Mirana South (Mannar)	AREA + RAD Venamulla (Galle)	AREA + FxP Koragedi (Mannar)	AREA + MoP Thallala South (Mannar)	Control Village Thalpetta (Kalmunai)

AREA: Addressable Radio for Emergency Alerts, Class B configuration of WorldSpace System
 MoP: Java enabled Mobile Phone, Dialog-Microimage innovation MiDews application
 RAD: Remote Alarm Device, Dialog-University-of-Moratuwa Innovation
 FxP: CDMA Wireless Fixed Phones with 1xRTT functions, Sri Lanka Telecom
 VSAT: Very Small Aperture Terminals coupled with Internet Public Alerting System Innovative-Tech & Solana Networks



Lessons Learnt

- **Trusted technology:** Use ICTs that are reliable in performance, accessible at the local levels and trusted by the people.
- **Complementary redundancy:** Always have at least two different ICTs delivering information, to minimise transmission failures.
- **Credible information:** Tap only the most authentic sources of information at national and international level, reducing room for misinformation and rumour.
- **Right mix:** Achieve the appropriate combination of technology, training and institutional arrangements at the grassroots.
- **Be prepared:** Raise localised awareness and provide experiential training so community know what to do when crisis occurs



Lessons Learnt

- The approach to disaster resilience has to be an integrated one
- Each phase of disaster cycle has to be given equal importance and appropriate community interventions should be identified
- Sustaining the systems could be through partnerships with private sector (fee levying services) subsidizing the community components
- Ethical aspects of disaster related research should receive greater attention



Thank You