

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CAPACITY BUILDING

How it started.....

The NCCSL and Church of Ceylon – Diocese of Colombo jointly commenced Disaster risk reduction capacity building program for the NCCSL constituent members. The focus is to create awareness and equip it's members and community on Disaster preparedness and Management so that the risk will be reduced before disaster hits. The capacity building program contains, Regional trainings, formation of Disaster management committees and regional programs and activities related to disaster management. As first phase of the program there will trainings at regional level to educate and enhance skills of the Clergy and laity on disaster preparedness and response management.

Facilitators

A group of Church of Ceylon clergy and laity went through a 2 year comprehensive Training of Trainers program on Disaster Risk Reduction. The program was facilitated by expertise from CASA India, one of the expertised Organization in Development and DRR in India. The trained group as a follow up trained another group in the Diocese of Colombo coming. They are committed and working out the best to deliver a worthy training for the participants attending the training.



Beginning with the disastrous tsunami of 2004, and within a period of 5 years from then, task of responding to the needs of those caught up in the frequent and increasing threats from floods, droughts and earth slips accentuated by the twin factors of global warming and climate change. Then in 2008/2009 the conflict in the Vanni and the mass scale displacement of people was yet another major crisis that was confronted with. In all these disasters, both clergy and lay responded spontaneously as best as they could, with their firsthand experience, relationship with the Community and knowledge about the Community and area, but activities were carried out without much theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

We have only to open a newspaper, switch on the radio or the television and even read our SMS messages to realize the ever present and ever growing incidences of disaster,

both natural and manmade that impact on the world, bringing misery, destruction and suffering on many millions of people and more especially on the poor and the socially deprived.

Protecting, honoring and preserving life is very essential for Christians. The role of the Good Samaritan always reminds us that the wounded, the affected and the vulnerable are rescued and looked after. The Lord Jesus said that if we do something to the least among the brethren, we did it to Him.

Disaster Risk Reduction: the practice of reducing disaster risks through regular analysis and management of the factors that could cause a disaster. For example, reducing exposure to hazards, lessening the vulnerability of people and property, safely managing land and the environment and improving preparedness.

Churches and Ecumenical Organizations intervention on Disaster Management and Risk Reduction

1. The Churches have been responding to disasters generously based on their capacities and resources.... Donors locally and internationally has been supportive on major disaster.....but the funding from International donors declined over the past due to lack of systematic approach, disorder in response, program planning, management and inadequate skills and human resources to manage disaster... solution?
2. The institutions and Organizations has transformed it's way of working in the recent past...it has transformed from Charity (Relief) to Right based approach (Advocacy)..... emphasizing on response through Risk Reduction strategies and activities, than supporting only on Charity (relief)... Integrating DRR in Development programs and projects to ensure safer communities.... Enhancing policies and standards on Disaster Responses and Risk reduction Transformation needed?



Objectives

1. To have a trained ecumenical group in the regions to work towards disaster preparedness and response
2. Create a network between NCCSL members and strengthen the same for a coordinated work.
3. Strengthen the social empowerment Board of NCCSL on Disaster management
4. To provide awareness and equip Churches/ Communities to be prepared and manage disasters.

Target regions

Districts
Badulla and Nuwaraeliya
Kandy, Matale, Kegalle and Rathnapura
Galle, Matara and Hambantota
Batticaloa and Trincomalee
Ampara and Monaragala
Jaffna, Mannar, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya
Anuradhapura, Polonaruwa and Kurunegala
Gampaha - Puttalam Colombo North
Colombo - Kaluthara Colombo South



Course content :

1. Importance of Disaster Management and preparedness in Church context
2. Concepts and terminologies in Disaster Management and Preparedness
3. Overview and essentials in Disaster Preparedness.
4. Basic community vulnerability and capacity mappings.
5. Conducting damage and need assessments
6. Overview and essentials in Disaster response planning
7. Overview and standards in Disaster response and management
8. Coordination and networking in disaster response
9. Emergency proposal writing and reporting.
10. Monitoring and evaluation.
11. Field learning

Trainings

The regional training program commenced in April and completed two training in Kandy and North. There will another two training for Colombo South and Colombo South for this year. The other trainings will continue from 2017.

Follow ups

At the end of each training a Regional committee will be formed to coordinate and plan activities for their region. This will be a joint coordinated program by the NCCSL constituent members in the regions.

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