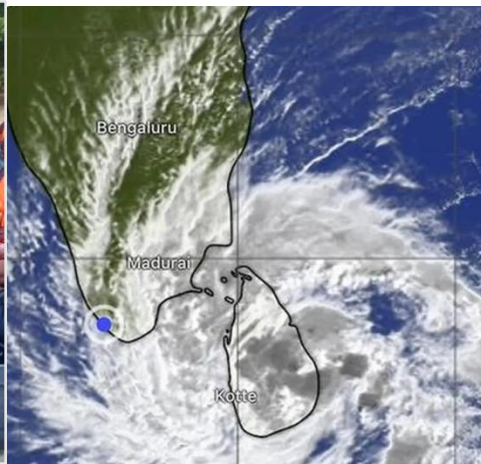


Sharing Experience from Rescue Missions During The Ditwah Cyclone: The Navy Perspective



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OVERVIEW

- Introduction to disaster
- Roll of SLN during HADR operations
- Sharing the experience of 'Ditwah' cyclone
- Lapses of medical responses
- Way forward for enhanced medical responses

Disaster (Definition)

A disaster is a **serious problem** occurring over a **short or long period** of time that causes widespread human, material, economic or environmental loss which **exceeds the ability** of the **affected community** or society to cope up **using its own resources** (2017-Red Cross)



Disaster history in Sri Lanka (2005-2025)

DISASTER	EVENTS	DEATHS	INJURED	MISSING	HOUSES DAMAGED	PEOPLE AFFECTED
Animal Attack	4921	271	149	2	3087	5,2790
Cyclone	61	0	0	0	484	2567
Fire	2053	37	75	0	722	11727
Floods	5501	403	306	102	96815	8,300,288
Landslide	1773	337	271	90	6399	217907
Lightning	501	291	168	3	373	2396
Strong Wind	3460	159	475	66	76609	520046
TOTAL	18270	1498	1444	263	184489	9,107,721

Why we need disaster management

Disaster management is **how we deal** with the human, material, economic or environmental impacts of disaster, it is the process of how “**prepare for, respond to and learn from the effects of major failures**”. Though often caused by nature, human origins



United Nation

ROLE OF SLN AT HADR

Role of SLN at HADR

‘OP CLOUD BURST’

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OP CLOUD BURST

SITUATION

1. During heavy rainfalls occur to different parts of the island, many valleys including the city of Colombo are prone to flooding due to the spill-over of reservoirs and rise in water levels of rivers, endangering/damaging the lives/property of general public and disrupting their day to day activities.

MISSION

2. To respond promptly to assist the general public affected by floods, utilizing own resources and to augment similar deployments of other stake holders such as the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG), the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Local Government Authorities and other relevant Government/Non-government agencies dealing with such calamity.

EXECUTION

3. All Area Authorities (AAs) need to analyse and identify the flood prone areas/ locations in respective TAORs and should be equipped to deploy sufficient number of relief teams with available resources. These teams with equipment should be kept standby at all times and should be ready in all respect to deploy within a short notice of 30 minutes.

4. General Outline. The SLN to provide relief assistance for the victims by rescuing and providing of safe water transportation to move to pre-determined evacuation centres. This will facilitate other relief services on the provision of providing the essential services to affected personnel.

5. Activation of ‘Op Cloud Burst’ According to the prevailing weather conditions and forecast, DGO/DNO will decide and activate ‘OP CLOUD BURST’ by a priority signal ‘STANDBY – OP CLOUD BURST’ with concurrence of the Commander of the Navy. In case

Role of SLN at HADR

STANDBY – OP CLOUD BURST



EXECUTE – OP CLOUD BURST



TERMINATE – OP CLOUD BURST

Role of SLN at HADR

Method of Deploying Flood Rescue Teams

- First Respondents will be 4RU
- SBS, Divers and Marines subsequently
- Finally other teams standby in each area



Experience sharing of Kala Oya bus straddle rescue mission

Kala Oya bus straddle location







Rescued bus passengers on roof top





Incident Location

Approached Location

Passengers taken in to the rescue site



Lapses of medical response during the Kala Oya incident

Delayed access to medical care

- Flooded roads, limited access and lack of resources prevented the ambulance access to the scene
- Victims transported to the hospital using light vehicles, increasing the risk of hypothermia and shock
- On-site medical presence (doctors or trained paramedics) was absent during the rescue phase reduced the effectiveness of rapid medical response
- Poor integration with medical teams & rescue teams due to coordination gaps between:
 - Disaster management/local authorities
 - Rescue forces

Lapses of medical response during the Kala Oya incident

Lack of on-site triage and immediate medical assessment

- No structured field triage system was reported at the rescue site
- Initial assessment depended largely on non-medical rescue personnel, which may result in:
 - Missed internal injuries
 - Delayed identification of high-risk patients (elderly, children)
- Local facilities appeared limited disaster-specific protocols and drills for sudden massive flood incidents

Way Forward for enhanced medical response in future floods

Strengthen pre-hospital emergency medical services

- Convert suitable terrain vehicles in to ambulance coverage in flood-prone rural areas and equip those with:
 - Flood-rescue gear
 - Hypothermia management kits
 - Near-drowning resuscitation equipment
- Train paramedics specifically in flood and water-rescue medicine

Way Forward for enhanced medical response in future floods

Deploy on-site medical response teams

- Establish Rapid Medical Response Teams (RMRTs) at district level
- Teams should include:
 - Medical officers
 - Nurses
 - Emergency medical technicians
- Position teams near flood hotspots during monsoon alerts

Way Forward for enhanced medical response in future floods

Improve coordination between rescue and health services

- Integrate medical officers into Disaster Management Centre (DMC) command posts
- Assign a Medical Incident Commander during major floods
- Conduct regular joint drills focusing on flood scenarios involving:
 - Health services
 - Police
 - Military
 - DMC



SRI LANKA

NAVY



Thank You