

# Case Studies of Collaboration

The **InCollaboration Initiative** is being undertaken by a group of over 15 civil society networks working in DRR and resilience around the world. We are working together on some joint actions so that we may effectively achieve a shared goal:

*More systematic collaboration between governments and communities, and the CSOs that represent them, in the design of national and local DRR strategies.*

Towards this aim, we are looking for examples of where governments have worked together with communities or civil society organizations to design policies, plans or projects related to resilience. We will share these examples at the Global Platform for DRR in Mexico to generate discussion on the benefits of multi-stakeholder collaboration and how it can be achieved. The good practice we collect will also be drawn upon and referenced to develop a How-to Guide on Collaborative DRR for UNISDR.

Please send your examples to [lucy.pearson@gndr.org](mailto:lucy.pearson@gndr.org) AND [gcharles@ccic.ca](mailto:gcharles@ccic.ca) by May 4, 2017.

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Your name and organization:

World Vision Lanka

Location of example:

Sri Lanka

Name of organizations and institutions involved:

Sri Lanka, Disaster Management Center

Tell us the story of the collaboration. *What were they trying to do together? Who initiated the collaboration? How? What were the steps?*

## **Project: “Early warning to the last mile“**

In Sri Lanka, Early Warning message dissemination to the grass root communities had always remained a challenge. Disaster Management Center(DMC) implemented various other alternatives to disseminate early warning messages, such as SMS to people, relaying the message to respective Police stations and through their mobile transports the messages been communicated. In terms of, landslide warning dissemination, a common practice in the country are relying on manual rain gauges(75 mm to be vigilant, >100mm to be evacuated) and automated rain gauges which will automatically pass rainfall data to EOC(Emergency Operating Center) in Colombo, and then this will be verified through NBRO(National Building & Research Organization) then will be disseminated through local police and local news services. Due to unique challenges observed during the disaster such as flooding and landslide, there are several pockets of the community not been able to reach due to geographical nature of the terrain and also inundation of access routes. During the recent flooding which occurred due to river rising and rainfall in Colombo/Western Areas is felt as a rapid increase of water and flooding caused in many areas within 20-25 minutes. When comes to tsunami

threat, Sri Lanka had already installed Tsunami towers along the coastal and coverage is adequate when compared to the gap caused by other natural disasters.



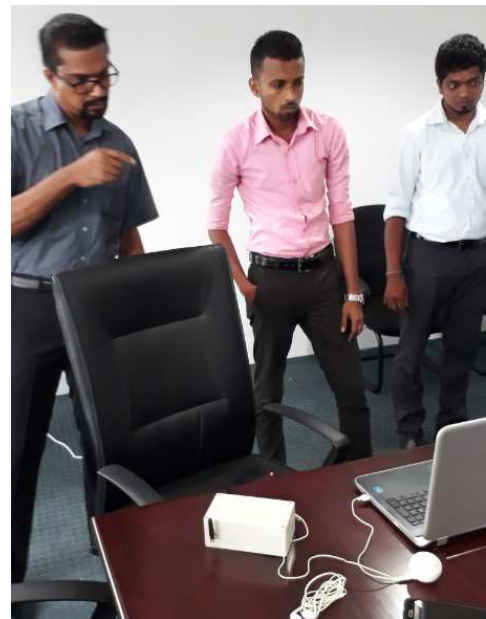
*Fig: WVL Staff Brian and DRR specialist Ajith Melder explaining to the Technical Officer of DMC.*

World Vision Lanka with the support of one of the local WVL staff member who is very much familiar with the electronic equipment and functionalities had started the engagement with the Disaster Management Center to help understand the challenges and urgency in addressing this crucial need/gap. After various discussion between the DMC officials and WVL staff. On 27th of April, WVL staff did a small demonstration of the functionality of the unit to the officials, which had increased the expectations and enthusiasm to build the unit as a working prototype. And the Director General

who attended the discussion had immediately invited all their technical team to be present and asked their official photographer to take some photos during the discussion and demonstration.

Further, the following decision had been taken/ instructed by the Director General:

- WVL should submit a fully functional prototype in real scale. DMC will provide a location based on the disaster vulnerability priorities. These units will be installed and monitored for 06-12 months.
- DMC will be forming a technical team consisting of the University of Moratuwa (Leader in electronic studies), Agrarian department, Irrigation department, etc. They will review the functionality against the product's reliability and submit a report to DG.
- DG throughout the process will keep the president and other ministerial people informed.
- Once the product proved to be a success, DG will get the approval through President of Sri Lanka and the Parliament of Sri Lanka. And will fund for full implementation across the Island. For them, getting funding for researching and prototype testing is a challenge but getting funding for implementation is much easier and possible through internal and external funding resources.



*Fig: WVL Staff Brian Fernando on left who had build the unit is demonstrating the functionality.*

DMC appreciated WVL's support in joining them to address this gap, and they felt positive and welcomes as this initiative will improve the local production capacities, and also this will improve the sustainability and problem-solving/troubleshooting requirements.

Further, WVL with the support of Humanitarian & Emergency Affairs team will be helping Brian and the DRR team to raise funds to build the working prototype and to do field testing.

Further, these units will be having the remote monitoring capabilities where through a registered and controlled mobile device, the status of the systems, battery level, etc could be checked and any malfunctioning will be automatically alerted to the maintenance staff. Basically, this device will be having greater flexibility to cater the requirement as per the context and nature of the disaster.

What were the positive outcomes of the collaboration?

- All the progress of the meetings and key discussion points will be filed at the DMC.
- The technical team will be formed consisting of various experts, including members from universities to carry out evaluation and monitoring during the field testing period.
- DG confirm that they could raise funds once the prototype is tested and proven. It will be procured from Brian Fernando(WVL Staff).
- DG mentioned that these types of models never exists in the world/anywhere, as these are specifically developed to the context and requirements. And this is something going to make Sri Lanka as country proud once we succeed.

What were some of the challenges faced in collaborating? How were these overcome?

- Due to the existing organizational policies do not provide flexibility to internal staff to involve in such activities, this may seriously need to be revised/reviewed and allow Win-Win solution. Such as Conflict of interest policy, etc. This will encourage internal talents to get expose and come forward with ideas to develop, etc
- The staff does not have a personal financial capacity to invest in building the prototype at this moment in time.
- Staff may decide to seek external funding support if he feels not fairly treated. But this may seriously lose a potential opportunity for WVL to gain better donor attention.

What do you think were some of the critical factors for success?

- WVL will be seen as an INGO trying build capacity of the Disaster Management Center to save lives of vulnerable communities who are prone to disaster.
- Sri Lankan Government will be seeing World Vision as their crucial partner in Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives and providing innovative solutions to challenges.
- Increasing donor attraction to World Vision for DRR interventions in Sri Lanka for new ideas and creative project models.
- The Bigger highlight for World Vision in the global arena for their contribution to DRR.