National Health Perspectives on the Tsunami Crisis

Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka

- Land area 65,000 sq.km
- Provinces 9
- Districts 25
- Divisions 321
- Health Divisions 286
- Per capita GNP 754 US$
- Expenditure on health 1.8% of GNP
### Basic Health Information - Sri Lanka

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Population (‘000)</td>
<td>19, 259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Population aged 0- 4</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Population aged 10 - 24</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of Population aged 60+</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex Ratio of Population (F/M)</td>
<td>1/97.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude Birth Rate</td>
<td>18.9 / 1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crude Death Rate</td>
<td>5.9 / 1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of Natural Increase</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy for Males</td>
<td>70.7 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy for Females</td>
<td>74.9 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Health Information (Contd.)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literacy Rate of Males</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy Rate of Females</td>
<td>85.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality Rate</td>
<td>12.2 / 1000 live births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal Mortality Rate</td>
<td>12.8 / 1000 live births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maternal Mortality Rate</td>
<td>0.5 / 1000 live births</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of Married Women Per Midwife</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of Persons Per Medical Officer</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No of Pupils Per Teacher</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Natural Disasters in Sri Lanka

- Floods
- Land Slides
- Droughts
- Cyclones
STATUS OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN SRI LANKA

• Policy/Legal Framework
  • Awaiting Parliamentary Approval

• Existing Practice at National Level
  • Ministry of Health
  • Ministry of RRR for North East
  • Ministry of Social Welfare
  • National Disaster Management Centre – advisory committee

• Provincial Chief Secretaries, Provincial Health & Social Departments

• District Secretaries/Government Agents/Medical Officers of Health
Tsunami in Sri Lanka

26 December 2004
The Impact

(As reported on 14.02.2005 )

Deaths 31,141
Injured 23,033
Missing 4,245
Displaced 575,727
Families Affected 257,057

Damaged

Health Institutions 82
Schools 184
Houses 108,084
13 out of 25 districts were affected
Deaths

Of the 31,141 dead, considerable proportion was women and children.
Health services were overburdened with sudden influx of injured and dead bodies on a Sunday when the health facilities were running with minimum staff!
Initially authorities had to find temporary accommodation for 850,000 displaced, in 750 public buildings and schools, with poor water supply, minimal latrine facilities and other basic amenities with an impending risk of disease outbreaks.
The Destruction
Damage to the Health Infrastructure

Estimated cost for the restoration of damaged health facilities

US$ 68 million
(Rs. 6757 million)

Maternity (Teaching) Hospital, Galle

A Government Hospital - Eastern Coast
Damage to Health Infrastructure

- **82 health facilities were affected**
  - Hospitals
  - District Health Offices (DPDHS)
  - Health Units (Medical Officer of Health Offices)
  - Regional Drug Stores
  - Staff Quarters
  - Maternal and Child Health Clinics

- **Buildings, equipment, vehicles, medical supplies including vaccines washed away or damaged**
Health Sector Response

As of 24th April 2005
Acute stage

Problems identified

• Disruption of infrastructure
  – Destruction of health care institutions
  – Loss of supplies

• Effects on health care staff
  - Physical
  - Mental

• Massive demand for health care services
  – Curative services
  – Preventive services
Acute stage

Action taken

• Emergency deployment of health staff
• Emergency care
  - Resuscitation
  - Treatment of injured
• Provision of urgent food, water & medical supplies
• Identification and disposal of dead bodies
• Disposal of unidentified dead bodies
• Restoration of communication facilities
• Setting up of temporary camps
Emergency deployment of health staff

- From the unaffected areas and overseas
- With the assistance of the
  - Health sector trade unions
  - Armed forces and the Police
  - Foreign govts./ UN / INGOO/ NGOO
- For the rescue, resuscitation and treatment of injured

Provision of urgent food, water & medical supplies

With the assistance of
- Other govt. agencies
- General Public
- Foreign govts. UN / INGOO/ NGOO
Intermediate Stage

- Management of temporary camps
- Restoration of health services
- Environmental health activities
Intermediate Stage (Contd.)

• Management of temporary camps
  – Food, safe water supply
  – Sanitation
  – Provision of Health services
    • Maternal and Child Health
    • Ambulatory services
    • Psychosocial & mental health support
  – Disease control activities
    • Prevention of epidemics and disease surveillance
Intermediate Stage (Contd.)

• Restoration of health services
  – Setting up of temporary hospitals
  – Replacement of damaged / destroyed equipment and drugs
  – Deployment of additional health staff
  – Maintaining the preventive health services
  – Special programmes for children
Intermediate Stage (Contd.)

- Environmental health activities
  - Clearing and disposal of debris
  - Restoration of water supplies
  - Vector control activities
  - Pollution control
  - Waste management
  - Other environmental health activities
Agencies Involved

- Center for National Operations
- Ministry of Health
- Provincial Ministries of Health
- Commissioner General of Essential Services
- Armed forces and the Police
- Department of Social Services
- District Secretaries
- National Water Supply and Drainage Board
- Foreign Governments
- UN Agencies
- INGOO
- NGOO
- General Public
Rehabilitation

• Reconstruction of damaged health institutions
• Strengthening of health infrastructure in surrounding areas
• Supply of drugs and medical equipment
• Long term care of displaced populations
• Provision of psychosocial and mental health support
• Prevention of diseases
• Maintenance of health services
CHALLENGES ...

• Dealing with multiple agencies
• Co-ordination – inter and intra-sectoral agencies
• Sustainability
• Technical capacity e.g. hospital architecture, surveillance, MIS, logistics management … etc.
• Facing similar disasters in the future
THANK YOU