

Disaster Preparedness-Prevention- Management Program (DPPM)



A concept paper by
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*Picture on front page taken by Claudia Hackel
who survived the tsunami but lost her beach resort in Tangalle.*

*The picture was taken just after the tsunami hit the southern coast of Sri Lanka.
Claudia Hackel now works to support tsunami victims in recovery and reconstruction.*

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Management Program (DPPM) –
A concept paper**

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1. Background

The Tsunami which hit the coasts of South East and South Asia distinguished one from other natural catastrophes because of the very high level of unpreparedness for what happened and an almost zero capacity to manage its multiple consequences even over a long term period. There is another distinct factor. That pertains to the clear message that the failure to keep in place preventive mechanism can in the future cause more havoc.

2. Need for action

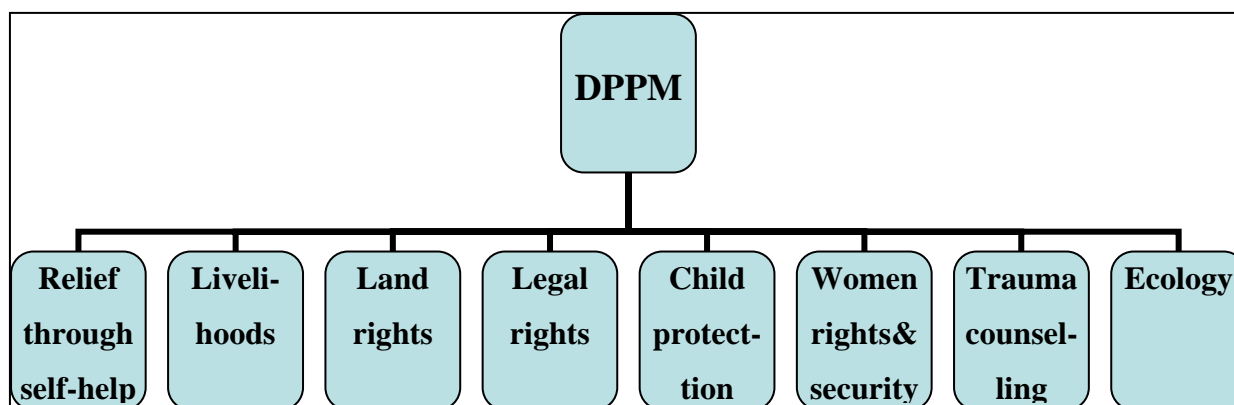
The Ecumenical Coalition on Tourism (ECOT) issued a statement and appeal the day after the tsunami drawing attention to communities living in tourism affected areas. Relief came quickly to those tourists that had survived the tragedy. The local host communities were not so fortunate. Most of them had neither the means nor the time to get away. In addition to the loss of lives it is important to understand that most of them lost their livelihoods, homes, their entire live savings and most of all their legal entitlements such as land title deeds. For many their homes had been theirs as a matter of inheritance. Today they are asked to prove their credentials for their claims to continue living there. In the absence of any legal evidence they are being evicted. Aside from preventive and preparedness mechanisms there had also been a lack of management capacity to cope with the large scale disruptions.

3. Disaster Preparedness Program Management (DPPM)

Our studies and research show us that while there are many disaster preparedness and management processes in place, very few, if any, actually deal with the core issues of people, communities, environment and ecology. Fewer still, tackle disaster from the perspective of human rights – preventive and corrective. In light of this, ECOT has decided that it should launch out on a “DISASTER PREPAREDNESS-PREVENTION-MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (DPPM)”. This program will immediately deal with the aftermath with the tsunami in South and South East Asia.

3.1 Focuses and issues

ECOT sees the need for tackling disasters using a multi-sectoral approach. The sectors that will be covered through ECOT’s strategy of DPPM include:



ECOT clearly will adopt a people centred/ community based approach. It will be directed to organising people to understand their reality, to determine their needs, develop their skills and capacities to fulfil their set goals, organise themselves in community based organisations and thus plan monitor and implement their own programs of development. In the ultimate analysis they will not only be enabled to recover but also be equipped to handle future crises situations.

In summary ECOT will use the following approaches in dealing with the issues:

3.1.1 Relief through self–help

More often than not, when disasters strike, systems of external help can not reach remote areas. Sometimes when such help arrives it is too late to tackle the problem. ECOT believes that the people must be self-equipped and provided the capacity to take immediate control before an impending disaster. This implies that people are trained to read the signs of a natural catastrophe in the making e.g. cyclones, storms, earthquakes, typhoons, tsunamis etc. This means people are taught to read natural warning signs such as behaviour of animals and the change of wind and water patterns etc.

ECOT also believes that people should be equipped to deal with the immediate aftermath. After the disaster has struck, there is a need for people who are trained for evacuation, first aid, temporary shelters especially for the elderly, children, and expectant mothers.

3.1.2 Livelihoods

The approach to livelihoods is not one of charity or welfare which can give rise to dependents. Rather it is one in which people are provided the skills and the start up required for them to become self-reliant. In order that undue competition among the people is avoided the livelihood will assume the form of collectives and utilise the micro credit and/ or the

revolving fund approach. The attempt of ECOT will also be to establish the fact that tourism enterprises can be small and geared to people local needs and local development. When larger infrastructure or economic enterprises become necessary because of their viability, then collective approaches will be used. In other words ECOT will consciously make real the slogan “Democratize Tourism”.

3.1.3 Legal and Land rights

In order to ensure that people have the sense of being the real stakeholders in the reconstruction, every effort must be made to ensure that land is given to them either on a collective basis or as individually owned land with title deeds. Those who have lost their land will require legal aid and support to reclaim their lost land and properties. This will also apply in the case of compensation for assets they once owned. Once land has been legitimized in the name of the people there must also be adequate training in knowing where land records were maintained and how in the event of future disaster they can be released.

In addition to the matter of rights there are other elementary and basic rights which people who are displaced should be made aware of issues such as

- The right to fair and adequate compensation
- The right to immediate first aid and medical attention
- The right to immediate security especially for women, children and elderly people
- The right to be insured and make the claims
- The right to alternative housing which provides dignity
- The right to food aid that is culturally appropriate
- The right to relief supplies that maintain the dignity of the receiver

3.1.4 Women’s protection

Given that women are almost always the most vulnerable in situations of displacement in a post disaster situation, there is need to develop systems that can bring urgent relief to women in the form of physical protection and security. It is equally vital that they will be quickly assisted and located with close family members – especially male members. Women are also vulnerable in the post disaster situation. Actions of men who control camps of displaced people should be monitored, and where complaints are made against such men for abusive behaviour, stringent and punitive action should be instituted. This applies also to relief workers too who are sometimes prone to exploit the vulnerability of women. Within this situation young widows and girls must receive special attention.

3.1.5 Child protection

The commercial sexual exploitation of children in tourism areas is well documented in the tsunami affected countries. Child prostitution and paedophilia thrive where there is economic and social vulnerability. In the aftermath of the tsunami many families have been driven into desperation. Neither do they make enough for their living, nor can they feed their children satisfactorily. The tendency is for children to fend for themselves. In the confusion set about by disaster, matters like well established child protection instruments and law enforcement quickly crumble while public attention is fixed on the disaster. It is this context that paedophiles thrive and exploit the situation. They get it easy and cheap because suddenly a desperate travel and tourism industry offers destinations at rock bottom prices and children are easier to abuse and to exploit because of their heightened vulnerability.

3.1.6 Traumatized people

In nearly every catastrophe the element of shock is very strong. Not all people can handle the psychological imbalance that shock creates. For some the shock and subsequent imbalance is overcome in quick time. Most people are traumatized and face acute psychological problems over a long time. This is particularly so for children and those who have seen very difficult tragedies unfold of their eyes.

To be able to take a society back into its pre-disaster frame of mind it requires that people are counselled and debriefed so they can deconstruct what happened and learn to live with the experience even it may never fade from their memories completely. Traditional forms of counselling will give way to situational approaches that are creative and cultural appropriate. This must be community based. In fact it will be crucial to identify and train people from within the community as counsellors. Also the context for counselling must be deliberately informal so as to encourage people to accept and receive this crucial support.

3.1.7 Ecological protection

It is common knowledge that if the natural protection systems had remained in place many lives and properties had been saved. The punishment that people took place was largely as a result of the disregard of environmental protection standards. In many places there was no sign of mangroves. The sand dunes were levelled, coral reefs taken away for industrial purposes and coconut plantations and other shrubs that could have blocked the tide did not exist. It is clear that in their greed for profits the tourism industry ruthlessly demolished all of these. Additionally there was the factor of shrimp farming that also caused ecological havoc. Preparedness for future disasters can not escape the need for reconstructing natural

protections. The call has been made to “green the coasts” and this has to be a program of peoples forestation based on their physical and economic needs.

3.2 Implementation of DPPM

3.2.1 ECOT` s part

ECOT will not be the local implementer. It will function as a facilitator, enabler, trainer and resource – information, human and financial. What ECOT will deliberately seek to do is to identify viable partners on the ground. These will have to be grassroots organizations which will mobilise community leaders willing to be trained as activists at all times but particularly during disasters.

ECOT` s strategic intents are fourfold:

- To be the trainer of trainers in DPPM in tourism areas
- To be a resource centre for information gathering and dissemination
- To be a monitoring and advocacy source on tsunami recovery strategies in tourism affected areas.
- To publish and disseminate alternative reports on tsunami recovery

3.2.2 Partner organizations

ECOT will work with a strategic sector partners who will cover the various disciplines involved in the training that is foreseen. These will include the fields of legal and land rights, protection of women and children, livelihoods and ecology. It will also work with people from the field of community organizations/ development training. Agencies and organisations identified as potential partners are

- ✚ Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)
- ✚ End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT)
- ✚ Human Rights Documentation Centre (INFORM)
- ✚ Mangrove Action Project (MAP)
- ✚ Asian Legal Resources Centre/ Asian Human Rights Commission (ALRC)
- ✚ The Asian Research Foundation (ARF-ASIA)
- ✚ National Council of YMCAs in Sri Lanka
- ✚ Friends of the Earth (FOE)
- ✚ MAPINDO School of Hospitality and Tourism
- ✚ Tourism European/ Ecumenical Network (TEN)
- ✚ Equations

Additional partners will be invited into the process according to needs and requirements.

3.3 Working principles

- To create multiplier effects within the community. In other words, ECOT will train trainers who will be held responsible to transfer their knowledge their knowledge and skills at community level.
- To involve women and young people as a priority target group.
- To adopt a learning community approach meaning that the training will be based on experimental knowledge in addition to external expertise.
- To develop a sustainable method of maintaining disaster preparedness and management in disaster prone also related to tourism that will include
- Curricula that can be used to train teachers who can impart the knowledge at school level
- Training modules that can be utilised by youth organization in their various programs
- Targeted training for women groups in protection from abuses and exploitation during a disaster and also training that equips women to launch economic initiatives that can help them to launch self-help-groups.
- Specific training programs to impart education on human rights to law enforcement authorities and government officials connected to relief work
- Provide specific training to community leaders in target areas and also at the level of broader society in issues of the sexual exploitation of children and how this can be prevented

4. Expected outcomes

- At national level there are comprehensive and integrated policies for disaster preparedness and management in line with emerging challenges. Also at national level there will be lobbying to ensure that there are viable mechanisms to implement exiting policies on disaster preparedness and management.
- Governments accept at policy level that disaster preparedness and management is best carried out at community level and hence extend support to the establishment of grassroots and institutions who will be on first call in times of disaster. This, in turn, will require allocation of resources and infrastructure for local DPPM Centres.
- Government should make it mandatory for schools to teach DPPM at schools.

5. Appendix

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

is based in Bangkok and is a non-profit organization supporting the advancement of safer communities and sustainable development, through implementing programs and projects that reduce the impact of disasters upon countries and communities in Asia and the Pacific.

<http://www.adpc.net>

End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT)

Is based in Bangkok and is a network of organisations and individuals working together to eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children. It seeks to encourage the world community to ensure that children everywhere enjoy their fundamental rights free from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

<http://www.ecpat.net>

I Human Rights Documentation Centre (INFORM)

Human rights organization. Since the tsunami, they have worked with women's networks on women-specific issues. INFORM is also working to ensure that women are able to participate fully in decisions regarding resettlement and reconstruction, and that land for resettlement is allocated in a non-discriminatory fashion.

<http://www.madre.org/countries/SriLanka.html>

Mangrove Action Project (MAP)

Partnering with mangrove forest communities, grassroots NGOs, researchers and local governments to conserve and restore mangrove forests and related coastal ecosystems, while promoting community-based, sustainable management of coastal resources.

<http://www.earthisland.org/map/index.htm>

Asian Legal Resources Centre/ Asian Human Rights Commission (ALRC)

Based in Hong Kong and an NGO having General Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. It is a body committed to the development of legal self-reliance and empowerment of people. It will place particular emphasis in its work on the areas of cultural, social and economic rights and the right of development. ALRC will work closely

with and support regional, national, and local groups involved in this field, taking care, at the same time, to protect the autonomy and independence of such groups.

<http://www.alrc.net/>

The Asian Research Foundation (ARF-ASIA)

The Asian Resource Foundation promotes the spirit of caring and sharing in the light of cultural and spiritual values. They support holistic development, which empowers the poor and other marginalised and vulnerable groups. They also work to strengthen cooperative actions among the people of Asia and beyond for a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

<http://arf-asia.org/arf/index.html>

National Council of YMCAs in Sri Lanka

The vision is to commit its membership to fulfil God's mission to establish just and human society. The vision and mission are put into practice with a set of specific, measurable activities (goals) designed by several sub-committees, the Ex-Co. The Council assess the goals accomplished, recommend corrective measures and set new goals for the very same vision and mission.

<http://www.ymca.int/index.php?id=504#1277>

Friends of the Earth (FOE)

An international environmental organization that promotes solutions to environmental issues with an influential, international network of grassroots groups in more than 70 countries. Friends of the Earth seeks to influence policy and practice through an honest, accurate and open approach by working local to global, by solutions based research and by enabling campaigning.

<http://www.foe.co.uk/>

MAPINDO School of Hospitality and Tourism

Is a church supported and applied tourism school. Related to the Dhyana Pura Hotel, students of Mapindo gain practical experiences. The school has a excellent reputation and in based in Bali.

<http://www.triatma-mapindo.ac.id/index.php?act=7>

Tourism European/ Ecumenical Network (TEN)

TEN stands for Third World Tourism Ecumenical European Net. It is a network of development agencies, aid agencies, church groups, solidarity groups and individuals who are active in the field of tourism and the effects it has on the people of the Third World. This working group understands Third World tourism within the context of the North-South-conflict and denounces and fights unjust practices in tourism.

TEN acts as a partner to the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism (ECTWT) as well as to other issue-oriented nets.

<http://www.ten-tourism.org/>

Equations

Is a non-profit organisation established for research, training and the promotion of holistic tourism. They work towards transforming the inherently exploitative nature of mass commercial tourism. They question the real benefits of tourism to the host communities as well as its socio-cultural and economic impacts. Their activities include documentation, publication, research, seminars and the investigation of alternative tourism policies and structures.

<http://www.equitabletourism.org>

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