

The A-PAD BULLETIN

A United Corporate Front for Humanitarian Assistance

ASIA
PACIFIC
ALLIANCE
FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT
SRI LANKA

The Recurrent Floods of 2017



Devastating approximately 630,000 people the monsoonal rains resulted in floods and landslides which took a toll on 213 lives. 15 out of 25 Administrative Districts faced continuous rising of flood water since the 25th of May and landslides on the other being quite recurrent.

Disaster times bring out the nation's spirit of oneness towards each other and it was this same spirit that was witnessed upon this time around as well. Those around the island were making every effort to lend a hand to our fellow communities which were being inundated.

Upon witnessing the severity of this disaster, A-PAD Sri Lanka initiated an Air Reconnaissance mission on the 26th of May 2017. A team comprising officials from the Disaster Management Center



The team of officials planning the route for tour

(DMC), National Building and Research Organization (NBRO), Department of Irrigation and A-PAD SL toured the country in order to capture a birds eye view of

the real ground situation. The team flew over Ratnapura, Embilipitiya and Galle monitoring the water levels and the severity of the calamity.





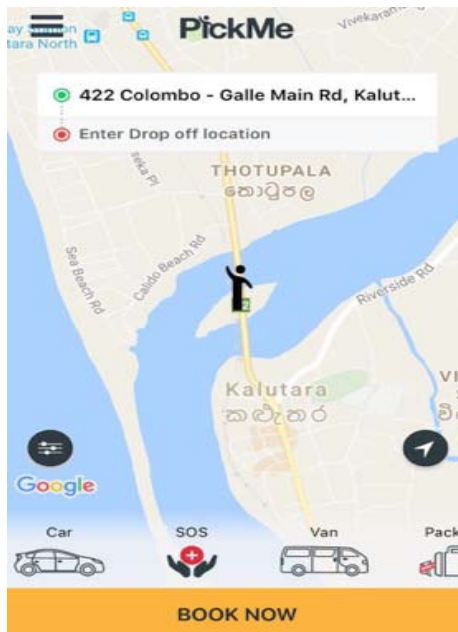
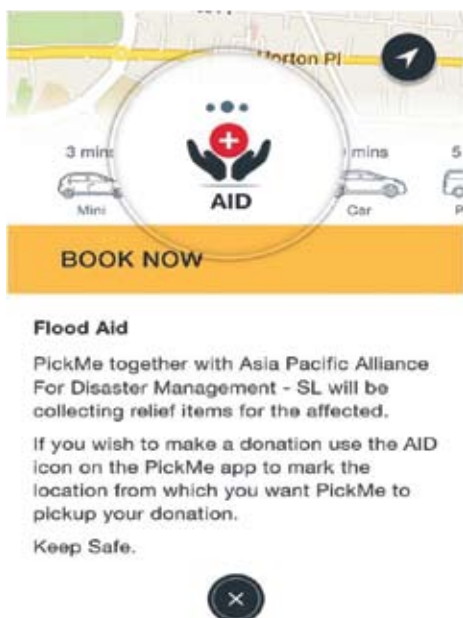
Search & Rescue Mission

Seals Volunteer Emergency Response Team (SVERT), an entity with volunteers who are trained to in Search and Rescue Operations partnered with A-PAD in obtaining directives and information of locations which needed reach immediately. The team of rescuers were briefed in terms of alternative routes that can be taken. The teams were also shown graphical presentation obtained during the Air Recce mission. Constant communication and dissemination of information to the rescue teams, led to further enhanced collaborations in terms of relief mechanisms and even the recovery phase.



A-PAD briefing the Search and Rescue Teams on route planning based on the Air Recce photographs

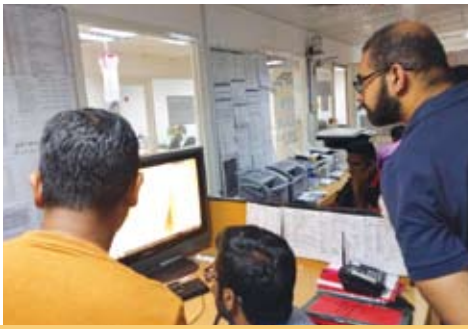
PickMe Partners with A-PAD SL in Enhancing Search & Rescue and Relief Operations



Sri Lanka's mobile app-based taxi hailing service PickMe, a member of A-PAD SL launched their unique inapp features – SOS and AID. PickMe partnered with A-PAD SL in providing this service to the EOC call centre. A-PAD SL further introduced this app to the Sri Lanka Air Force for direct connectivity with the people in distress for Air Rescue. Using PickMe's SOS feature, Sri Lankans who were stranded during the adverse weather could click the SOS icon on their app, helping PickMe to identify the exact location of people with the help of GPS tracking. A-PAD SL launched their unique



PickMe officials installing the operations at the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)



Using AID feature in the PickMe app, donors around Colombo and suburbs could handover their relief items to the PickMe who was present at the doorstep, rolled out the collected items and loaded at A-PAD SL premises.

A-PAD SL partnered with PickMe services for the worthy cause of delivering optimum contribution to the affected people at the earliest with the help of the technology which provided by the PickMe, saved the lives of many being victimized to the water.

in-app-features- SOS and AID in PickMe App while providing the service to the EOC call center. Meanwhile, A-PAD SL introduced this service to the Sri Lankan Air Force for direct connectivity with the people

in distress for air rescue. Using PickMe's SOS feature, people who were marooned during the adverse weather could be easily identified by PickMe in their exact location with the help of GPS tracking.

Rescuing Animals In Disasters (RAD SL) Sri Lanka



RAD Sri Lanka consists of animal welfare organisations and individuals with a passion to assist animals in disasters. Facilitated and supported by A-PAD SL, the platform includes Embark, Best Care Hospital, Shilpa Samaratunge, Jonathan Williams and Ashani Gopallawa.

In addition to the local organisations, World Animal Protection, an international non-profit animal welfare organisation, contacted A-PAD SL to provide their fullest cooperation in animal rescue. The World Animal Protection visited the area of Kalawana with RAD Sri Lanka and two veterinarians from Best Care Hospital. They visited some farms and checked on



the livestock animals that were affected. They also assessed the situation in Galle and Matara and provided Vet Starter Kits to the local veterinary clinics that had lost

all their equipment in the floods. Mobile Veterinary Clinics were also convened in partnership with students from the University of Peradeniya.

The World Animal Protection discussed with RAD Sri Lanka to infer on the processes in place and enquire how to support our approaches and experiences from floods in 2016 and 2017. The need for training of trainers and equipment is vital to move forward. Educating communities through awareness programs and information leaflets will also be produced and circulated around Sri Lanka.

RAD Sri Lanka hopes to gain more volunteers and support in the near future.

Ground Visits



Following the Air Reconnaissance mission, A-PAD team travelled to disaster stricken areas on a frequent basis to identify the needs of those affected and also to identify the immediate recovery projects which can be implemented in these sites. Kalawana, Nivithigala, Kahawatta areas covering Ratnapura District and Kalutara District along with Mathugama and Galle. The teams met with Divisional/District Secretaries, Community and Religious Leaders, Principals of most affected schools, Samurdhi Development Officers, Grama Niladhari's, Government Disaster Relief Coordinators and also the affected communities themselves.



Ms. Anoja Seneviratne, Director, Mitigation, Research and Development, Disaster Management Centre in conversation with community members



Disaster Sites following the floods and landslides that affected Ratnapura District



In conversation with Divisional Secretaries of Ratnapura District

Camp Visits in Ratnapura

Rotary and Royal College Doctors Association (RCDA) Partners with A-PAD in Conducting Mobile Medical Camps



A-PAD officially partnered with the Royal College Doctors Association – the old boys arm of Royal College Colombo which has over 450 doctors (past pupils of Royal College) in conducting mobile medical clinics. Previous partnership with SVERT introduced RCDA to A-PAD. This was the first experience for RCDA in



disasters coordinated by A-PAD and SVERT. The medical team comprised of 8 RCDA doctors which included one consultant Gynecologist & three dental surgeons, in addition to the other doctors. Medical camps were conducted in Udapabotuwa, Delgoda Janapadaya and Pabotuwa Maha Vidyalaya in the Ratnapura district.

Volunteerism: A value addition at disaster stricken times



One of the most vital actors that come to play pre and post disasters are volunteers. They reach out to the affected just by giving their time with nothing in return but merely humaneness

and the satisfaction of being able to help. Recognizing this, A-PAD Sri Lanka called out for volunteers to support the process of relief segregation and distribution along with addressing them the importance they

bring in at times of disasters. The minimum standards of sphere, cultural ethics that need to be followed when volunteering were discussed extensively. The volunteers were then carried on with allotted tasks of



Brandix Lanka (Pvt) Ltd volunteers engaged in relief response at A-PAD office premises

relief packing and segregating them.

The salient characteristic here being that the volunteers represented spheres of academy, private sector, and also other individuals to make a significant difference in the process.

We appreciate their valuable time and A-PAD SL would like to thank each and every volunteer who supported in various means and made a difference.



Interact Club of St. Joseph's College, Maradana volunteering at A-PAD SL



Individual volunteers at work

What happened in Meethotamulla?



On left is the Little Rose Pre-School affected by the garbage dump

The auspicious Sinhala and Tamil New Year dawned on the 14th of April 2017, during which the nation was in a festive mood following the traditions and customs of this occasion. If any, the new year only brought down a garbage dump crushing habitats of those living in Meethotamulla. At 3pm on the 14th a 300ft high garbage dump partially collapsed on into human territory devastating 32 lives and causing extensive damage to infrastructure.

site first and also served in the community until temporary, yet concrete solutions were granted at a national level.

The niche of A-PAD being its diversified membership, approached potential partners who readily supported in reaching out to the affected communities not only in emergency response but also in the recovery and long term planning phases included.



Loss of lives	32
Injured people	11
Houses damaged - fully	60
Houses damaged - partially	22
Affected families	418
Affected people	1782

Being a national holiday, A-PAD was successful in reaching out to the disaster

INDIVIDUAL DONORS AND PRIVATE SECTOR DONORS

MAS Intimates	Ms. Mary Eusafally
Access Group	Mr. Sanjiv Perera
Maritime Placements	Mr. Harshana Athureliya
John Keells Foundation	Mr. J.K. Perera
Hayleys Business Solutions	Mr. Athula Herath
Mallika Homes Society Ltd	Mrs. Sabrina Azhar
Amante Sri Lanka	Ms. Linthi Angunawela
Ceylon Biscuits Ltd	Mrs. Suriarachchi
Hatton National Bank	Mr. Uchith Dahanayake
Nations Trust Bank	Mr. Lucky Mendis
Canaan Engineering & Consultancy Services	Mr. Kanchana Peiris
99X Technologies	Mrs. K. Peiris
Cargills	Ms. Gimhani Wijesinghe

Private Sector Engagement In Meethotamulla



Access Group

Access Group in partnership with A-PAD SL served as a collection hub for relief items following the need to provide emergency relief items. During the disaster, rescue operations required 1000 rubber gloves to continue search and rescue, which were immediately responded to by the Organisation. In the early recovery phase, affected communities in the transitional resettlement building were further supported by providing essential mattresses, relief items and in the assistance of logistics.



MAS Intimates

MAS Intimates has been engaged in emergency preparedness and also played an active role in emergency responses and recovery. Supporting the affected communities since the onset of the disaster, MAS Intimates Pvt Ltd acted as a collection hub, and continued to provide their immense support throughout the disaster.

Cargills,

Cargills, a long-standing partner of A-PAD consists of over 370 supermarket chain outlets around Sri Lanka. The partnership was further strengthened in providing the best prices of relief items and in the assistance of logistics.

Ceylon Biscuits Ltd

CBL supported in the areas of food security to the affected communities. Samaposh, pre-cooked cereal based nutritious supplement food packets and biscuit packs were provided by CBL.



Dialog Axiata PLC

A group of staff members from Dialog Axiata PLC handed over their personal contributions in order to assist the children who were in the camps at Terrance N de Silva School, following the disaster.

John Keells Foundation

John Keells Foundation supported the request made by EOC, DMC through A-PAD SL in providing the immediate need of 5000 oxypura face masks required for the search and rescue operations. They also provided relief items to the Terrence N De Silva Camp.

Mallika Nivasa Society Ltd

Through the engagement in the early recovery phase, A-PAD SL initiated new partnerships with several organisations. Mallika Nivasa Society provided mattresses to the families at the transitional shelter constructed by the Civil Security Department.



Hayleys Business Solutions



99X Technologies

Whilst A-PAD received local support on various forms, A-PAD Management Office in Japan also assigned a team which flew in to Sri Lanka for assistance and monitoring the fund raising mechanisms and also

expert knowledge in terms of disaster management. The team visited debris sites frequently as well as the camps and engaged in psychosocial support, creating child friendly spaces in camps etc.

This team also met with the Minister of Disaster Management in order to render international support in the needed areas.

STORIES FROM MEETHOTAMULLA



Mstr. Rashmi Nethsara

13 year old Nethsara had been at home on the day of Sinhala and Tamil New Year because, “my cousins came from my hometown and we were all having so much fun. Had we known such disaster would occur, we wouldn’t have even been in Colombo” says Rashmi who lost his Mother, Father & sister to the vicious garbage dump in Meethotamulla. He explains to us how he heard “explosions like many bombs were going off at the same time” and then they all came out of the house out find everyone screaming and running. He ran as fast as he could and that was the last time he saw his parents and sister.

Now little Anuja is the only survivor from his family and is currently living with his grandfather, at a relative’s place. Anuja attends Ashoka Vidyalaya, Colombo 10 and is an ardent reader, who not only inside the classroom is a star but also is a Kung Fu student, who went on to teach us some techniques. He also plays the violin and enjoys trying out new renditions by himself at home.

He aspires to be a doctor one day and there is nothing that can stop him from achieving his goal, not even the garbage dump that took away the lives of his dearest family.



Mstr. Rashindu Sankalpa

Rashindu Sankalpa has luck in abundance in terms of life because he was the only one who survived the nasty ‘kunu kanda’ of Meethotamulla when it collapsed on the 14th of April 2017. “My mother asked me to take a plate of sweets to a neighbour’s house located further away on the hill. After handing it over I met my friends and then got into playing with water and we even egged each other” says little Rashindu with gleeful eyes, hiding his tears. He learnt from a neighbouring lady of the collapse and yet, he goes on to say, “I didn’t take it so seriously. I thought the dump has fallen backwards”. Then he claims to have run at

full speed after realization, only to find his house completely crushed down to rubbles. His mother, father, older brother and younger brother suffered death with the collapsing of this garbage dump while this boy, survived rather a fateful life ahead of him.

Opening himself out to us for the very first time, we learnt that he dreams of becoming a part of the Navy and play rugby. He yearns to go back to school and get on the field to play the game and also continue his swimming lessons for which, he says “amma got me the equipment only two weeks before I lost her”.

Little Rose Pre-School falls prey to the Garbage Dump



The flood gates that opened up in May 2016, significantly affected the Little Roses where A-PAD responded to their little hearts.

A-PAD SL with the help of the donors undertook the responsibility of bringing the Little Roses back to their Pre-School by allocating the classrooms, providing the initial stationeries to start their lives back in Little Rose Pre-School.

Within a span of months, Little Rose Pre-School again had to discontinue the daily routine aftermath Meethotamulla garbage collapse.

A-PAD in restoring the Pre-School back to its norm heartily supported in providing an environment back to start schooling with the help of generous donors.

Little Rose also received myriads of educational equipment such as kits



comprising all stationery works includes bags and shoes also uniform kits for everyone.

It was inevitable for A-PAD to be partnered with Little Rose Pre-School and be with them whenever needed.

A-PAD expresses its sincere gratitude the generous donors for the valuable contribution towards the joy of little lives which made a significant for them and around the society.





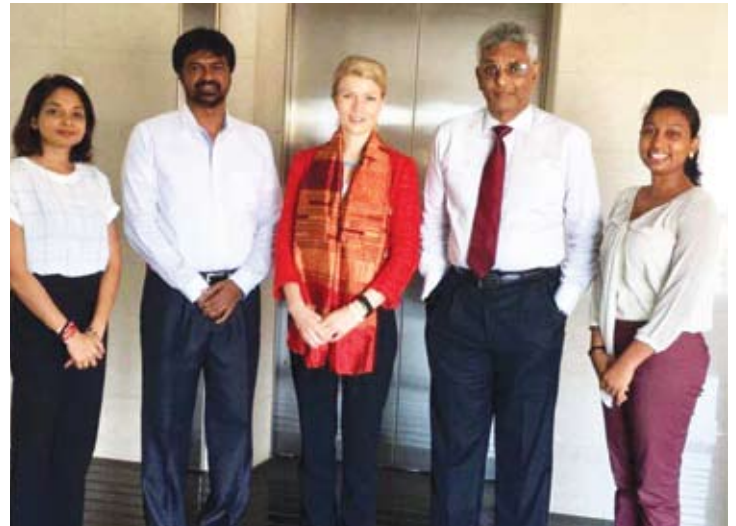
Seven year old Anish Prasath celebrated his seventh birthday in a very meaningful manner. He refused presents for his birthday and instead thought of supporting

his fellow sister and brothers who were affected by the Meethotamulla Garbage Dump. Little Rose Nursery was completely in need of relocation and once a location was finalized, Anish got all of his friends to bring stationary items, and other preschool necessities.

Anish along with his family members also provided learning items such as Animal prints, alphabet and numbers.

A-PAD Sri Lanka deeply appreciates little Anish's gesture in reaching out to fellow children at a crucial time.

Connecting Business Initiative (CBI) in Sri Lanka



Following the World Humanitarian Summit, the CBI was launched to advocate the private sector role as a strategic partner. The CBI is a demand driven multi-stakeholder initiative transforming the way the private sector engages before, during and after crises to create more resilient communities, increase local capacity and alleviate human suffering. Ms. Tiina Turunen, Consultant, Global Private Sector Programs, UNDP, and Connecting Business Initiative (CBI), visited

Sri Lanka to discuss working strategies, exchange views and strengthen relations with Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management Sri Lanka (A-PAD SL) in the commitment of the Connecting Business Initiative. The private sector engagement to the platform of A-PAD SL was discussed and the implementation of emergency responses aligned with the sphere standards were noted. A further update of project activities were strategized for the year were presented.

Dr. Rohan Fernando, UNGC Chairman in Sri Lanka, also the Director, Aitken Spence was further met with to understand the network in Sri Lanka.

Ms. Tiina Turunen, also made a visit to the shelter constructed by the CSD. The garbage dump was further observed to understand the issues concerned and the need for technical expertise in waste management.

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