

## International Disaster Reduction Day Celebration

In four Districts in Northern and Eastern provinces, (Kilinochchi, Mannar, Batticaloe and Trincomalee) DMC Oxfam GB and Practical Action is implementing Disaster Preparedness initiative - ECHO (DIPECHO VI with funding assistance from ECHO in order to build back better and reduce the impact of impending hazards/disasters. Most of the target communities under the project areas are the recent returnees from the IDP camps.



In Mannar- Town Hall



In the backdrop of the International Disaster Reduction Day, the DIPECHO VI Action Plan-Sri Lanka has taken the lead role to mobilize children and youths as partners in DRR. This international Disaster Reduction Day celebration in Kilinochchi and Mannar included many features; at the community level where resettlement had took place some time

ago – awareness creation about the impending hazards/disaster in order to prepare for upcoming monsoon as well as to sensitize and



Celebration at Parapukadanthan, Manthai DS



encourage having discussions on disaster risk reduction took place in more than 40 GNs of Kilinochchi and Mannar. The community level meeting will continue throughout this month. Youths as Community Based Facilitators

(Trained under DIPECHO VI- 3 days training on CBDRR) took the leadership role for community mobilization and awareness building. Further, these trained youth would also facilitate the risk assessment, disaster risk reduction planning and implementation at the GN level. At the district level in consultation with the Zonal Education Director's Office, disaster management unit and the Government Agent Office, 40 schools each in Kilinochchi and Mannar were selected to provide one day training and orientation on the National Guideline on School Disaster Safety. More than 70 teachers participated from

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both the districts. At the end of this orientation, schools have developed follow-up action plan to implement the guideline developed by Ministry of Education with National Institute of Education, Ministry of Disaster Management and DMC including organizing interactive sessions with students, essay and drawing competitions. Partners such as **Save the Children, Oxfam Australia, Handicap International and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** have also joined hands to support this international event.