

# Nepal

## Interim national progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action

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Name of focal point : Mr. Thir Bahadur G.C.

Organization : Disaster Management Section, Ministry of Home Affairs

Designation : Under Secretary

E-mail address :

Telephone : 4211212, 4211274, 4211224

Fax : 4211286, 4211257

Additional Focal points/ other comments :

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# Strategic goals 1

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## Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

### **Strategic Goal Statement:**

First time in Nepal's history, the Tenth National Development Plan (2002-2007) consists of two separate chapters on disaster management. Chapter 17 emphasizes on the irrigation and water induced disaster preparedness, where as chapter 22 deals on population, environment and natural disaster management. Both chapters reiterate on policy formulation, strengthening institutional mechanism, risk assessment, information collection and dissemination, etc. Both the chapters also emphasized on the low costs disaster resilience construction practices. Similarly, the Three Year Interim Plan (2007/08-2009/10) also has a separate chapter (chapter 26) on natural disaster management. The interim plan emphasizes on policy formulation, strengthening institutional mechanism, EWS, coordinated approach for DRR and linking disaster management with climate change, etc.

## Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

### **Strategic Goal Statement:**

Ministry of Home Affairs is leading agency for disaster management activities with other eight key sectoral ministries namely; Agriculture; Education; Environment, Science and Technology; Health; Local Development; Physical Planning and Works; Water Resources; and Forest and Soil Conservation have set-up a separate unit within the ministry to look after DRR issue. Moreover, an institutional mechanism for the post disaster related and coordination activities at regional, district and local levels are already in place.

Several I/NGOs have been implementing DRR activities at community level through community based disaster risk management (CBDRM) approach. Likewise, CBDRM has been used not only for the DRR activities rather entire development initiatives at the community level.

## Area 3

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

### **Strategic Goal Statement:**

Several Municipalities in disaster prone areas have endorsed the Building Code. Likewise, technical staffs of the Municipalities and key Government ministries have received trainings on Building Code Implementation.

## Priority for action 1

*Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for*

## Core indicator 1

*National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralised responsibilities and capacities at all levels.*

### Level of Progress achieved:

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### Description:

Government of Nepal enacted the Natural Disaster Relief Act in 1982, which was revised twice. Despite of the revisions, it focuses on post disaster related activities. Soil and Water Conservation Act, 1982, Building Act and other concerned Acts have provisions of some component of DRR. But these legal frameworks are not comprehensive. Still, the role and responsibilities are not substantially operationalized among agencies and has not fully mainstreamed the pre-disaster activities and DRR in the Acts.

However, Ministry of Home Affairs has recently finalized the National Strategy for DRR in Nepal with help of stakeholders consultations and new DRR Act has been drafted and in pipeline for the approval, which covers all aspects of sustainable DRR, linking disaster with development and climate risk management.

### Context & Constraints:

Nepal went through a painful social/ political transformation process over the last 13 years. Therefore, despite of annual losses of life and property due to varieties of disasters, the disaster management did not receive adequate attention. Other challenges are:

- Difficult in mainstreaming and coordination among key stakeholders due to inadequate and untrained human resources,
- To some extent of duplication of roles and responsibilities at all levels,
- Lack of designated institutional mechanism to address the DRR from national to local levels.

To overcome:

- Political stability and commitment is inevitable,
- Formulation and enactment of new comprehensive Act related to DRR,
- National DRR strategy to be approved at the earliest possible,
- Redefining the institutional role and responsibilities and developing a strong mechanism to coordinate and monitor,
- Establishing new disaster management responsible authority at all levels with adequate resources,
- Capacity strengthening at systemic, individual, organizational levels.
- Decentralized budget system.

## Core indicator 2

*Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels*

### Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

### Description:

Resources for DRR are not allocated on priority basis. For the last several decades, Government of

Nepal has been allocating small amount of resources annually primarily for relief and rescue activities. There is no any predictable amount of budget allocated for DRR in the country but mobilized according to the contingency need and necessary basis. However, several Government Departments such as, Water Induced Disaster Prevention, Soil Conservation and Watershed Management, etc. have been implementing activities related to disaster management. Despite of some activities being implemented both by Government and non-government agencies, a dedicated and predictable budget allocation is not a regular practice in Nepal.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Key Contextual Challenges:

Key challenges that jeopardized sustainable and predictable resources mobilizations for DRR activities in the country includes; no empirical studies on socio-economic impact of disaster in development and poverty; unable to convince the policy makers and planners on the pre-disaster investment is much more economical than the post disaster recovery activities; lack of awareness at different levels on the negative impact of disaster in overall development, etc. Likewise, local planning authorities are not adequately considering DRR activities; etc.

Some Recommendations:

Design and implement awareness raising activities on DRR at all levels; cross visits for policy makers and appropriate government officials to neighboring countries and trainings; large scale publicity of the negative impact of disaster on economy, environment, and social aspects; regular interactions and update with policy makers, donors and potential partners; empirical researches on different dimensions of disaster on different aspects; capacity building at all level on DRR; Local bodies should allocate budget for DRR related activities and implement through government agencies at local levels; Mandatory provision of allocation of certain percentage of annual government budget for DRR activities.

### **Core indicator 3**

*Community Participation and decentralisation is ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels*

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### **Description:**

The Local Self-Governance Act (1999) has given the authority and responsibility to the local government authorities (District Development Committees, Municipalities and Village Development Committees) to design and implement DRR activities at local level. However, there is no any systematic and assured mechanism of resource allocation and distribution to the local authorities from the central government.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Key Contextual Challenges:

Policy/ decision makers still lack updated and practical information on the importance of DRR; I/NGOs and donors still focused their DRM activities only on relief, rescue and response rather reducing impending risk of any disasters and linking disaster with development; Inadequate awareness at all levels; Limited sense of ownership and responsibilities by government institutions; Low level of technical capacity to link disaster with over all development.

Some Recommendations:

- Awareness raisings at decision/ policy making level; empirical researches on the impacts of disasters in daily life; environment and to sustain development gains; etc.;
- Developing and mainstreaming of DRR policy into local level planning;
- Technical knowledge and network development by imparting skills and resource, providing on-the job training at local development activities; and
- Establishment of Local Disaster Management Fund at District Development Committee level.

## **Core indicator 4**

*A national multi sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.*

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

### **Description:**

The Ministry of Home Affairs has already initiated process to establish a multi-sectoral national platform with representative from concerned government agencies, UN agencies, donors, INGOs, NGOs, media, academic institutions, private sector, and CBOs.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Key Contextual Challenges:

Bringing together to all above mentioned agencies in one platform is not an easy task. However, for effective and efficient disaster management and risk reduction in the country such cooperation and collaboration of all actors are imperative. Despite of the usefulness of working together in the field of sustainable disaster management/ risk reduction, it seem no concrete initiatives from different sector to form such national level platform comprising members from all walks of life to support government to successfully implement the HFA.

Some Recommendations:

MoHA in close collaboration with the National Planning Commission will take leadership role to establish such national platform at the earliest possible and also initiate process to convince the political bodies and individuals.

## **Priority for action 2**

*Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*

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### **Core indicator 1**

*National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk assessments for key sectors.*

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

### **Description:**

Few agencies (both government and non-government) have initiated local level hazard mapping in few communities. However, such information is scattered and scanty. There is no national level multi-hazard risk assessment covering regularly occurring disasters such as floods, landslides, etc. However, a

historical record of disaster occurrence called “Desinventar” for last 35 years at national level is available and regularly updated. Unfortunately, no proper use of such information on planning and decision making process as of now. Some NGO/INGO are undertaking research projects to better understand local adaptation strategies to natural hazard risks. International organization such as International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has initiated process to assess the socio-economic impacts of GLOFs and flash floods through case studies. Similarly, ICIMOD and UNDP together with relevant government agencies have been involved in GLOF hazards assessment and monitoring in specific areas.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Key Contextual Challenges:

No initiative by both government and non-government sectors to undertake a national level multi-hazard risk assessment covering major and annually recurring natural disasters such as flood, landslides, drought, fire, epidemics, earthquake, etc. Also most of the available information on disaster occurrences has not been used for any planning and decision making purpose.

Some Recommendations:

Concerned Government Ministry in close cooperation/ collaboration with non-government agencies should initiate a national level risk assessment exercise covering major hazards in the country. This single exercise will enable all agencies working in the field of DRR to identify the most vulnerable communities, major hazards, disaster prone districts/ VDCs/ communities. This information can also be used for any development planning initiatives in the country.

## **Core indicator 2**

*Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities*

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

### **Description:**

Few agencies at the central and district levels regularly publish and disseminate disaster related information. However, transparent and effective systems to monitor and archive of disaster related data are still to be institutionalized. Similarly, as of now the focus to collect information at any level is only limited to any disaster occurrence or post disaster situation.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Key Contextual Challenges:

Disaster related information collected and disseminated by different agencies doesn't tally each other. The data collection formats are different for different agencies, the collection level is different, disaggregated information are not available at all levels. Manipulation of information is also a challenge, etc.

Some Recommendations:

In normal time, disaster related agencies can work together to develop information collection formats, software, pre-test, etc. Government has developed a Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) in early 2000s, before Desinventar and was in practice in six districts. This DMIS software can be updated and circulated widely for use at all levels.

### **Core indicator 3**

*Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

#### **Description:**

Few localized single hazard oriented early warning systems are in few places for last 2 decades (Tsho Rolpa GLOF, Chitwan Flood, etc.). However, there is no early warning system in place for major hazards with outreach to disaster prone communities (end to end EWS).

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Technical know-how, financial resources, trained human resources, and collaboration between government agencies and communities, are the major challenges to establish a fully functional and effective multi-hazard early warning system both at central and community levels.

#### **Recommendations:**

Identification of major hazards and institution to deal with such hazard, capacity of such identified agency for an effective and efficient early warning, networking with similar organization both within and outside country, appropriate policy and institutional mechanism will help to establish efficient and effective end to end early warning system. Government should initiate/improve public-private partnership for EWS (especially in case of GLOF, flash floods, landslides, etc.) and people centered EWS.

### **Core indicator 4**

*National and local risk assessments take account of regional / trans boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

#### **Description:**

National and local levels risk assessment is still a new phenomenon in the country. The need for regional cooperation and especially real time data sharing has been recognized by most stakeholders in different forums. Some initiatives have been taken place such as dialogue with India regarding inundation, regional flood information system initiative, etc. With the support from UNISDR, government of Nepal is undertaking the disaster-poverty interface study.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

National and local levels risk assessment is still a new phenomenon in the country. The need for regional cooperation and especially real time data sharing has been recognized by most stakeholders in different forums. Some initiatives have been taken place such as dialogue with India regarding inundation, regional flood information system initiative, etc. With the support from UNISDR, government of Nepal is undertaking the disaster-poverty interface study.

### **Priority for action 3**

*Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels*

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### **Core indicator 1**

*Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems etc)*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

Relevant and update information on disasters in the country are scattered and scanty. As of now, through the support of UNDP, historical information on disaster occurrences called "desinventar" has been collecting disaster related information for last 36 years (1971-2007) and updated regularly. Similarly, the Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention, Nepal Red Cross Society and few other I/NGOs have been collecting and disseminating the national level information on disasters annually or occasionally. However, as of now there is no any designated and fully functional central and district level data clearance house. Similarly, there is no any established mechanism to share such available information. Likewise, in many instances, the available information are not utilized for new programmes/ activities design and implementation.

**Context & Constraints:**

First and foremost, there is no any designated authority of the government to collect, collate, analyze and disseminate information regularly on disasters. Similarly, despite of several support from non-government sector, the available/ collected information has not been maintained well for further analysis and use. The regular transfer of senior government officials at the concerned Ministry(ies) is another challenge which has jeopardized the proper information collection, analysis and dissemination process in the country. Recently, AusAID has funded UNDP to support Government of Nepal to establish National Emergency Operations Center for collecting, collating, analyzing and disseminating information regularly on disasters and coordination.

**Core indicator 2**

*School curricula , education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

The current school curricula has limited amount of information on disaster management, however they are scattered and does not match the need of the country. In 2008, the secondary level of education curricula has recently incorporated disaster management component with the support of WWF and other institutions. In addition, so many extra curricula activities related to DRR have been incorporated in the existing secondary level curricula. The Ministry of Education (MoE) is reviewing the existing school curricula from grade 6 to 8 and willing to include DRR as a separate chapter. MoE is planning to integrate the DRR component into the teacher training curricula as well.

Since the recent past, several I/NGOs have been supporting the MoE to incorporate DRR in to School curricula, teachers training on DRR, awareness building classes, publication of various IEC materials on DRR and distribution to schools.

Similarly, the Administrative Staff College of the Government has incorporated DRR in most of their training programme for government officials

**Context & Constraints:**

#### Challenges:

- Inadequate Institutional and professional capacities in designing and developing the country context curricula on DRR and resource materials to the students and teachers.
- No or inadequate trained school teachers in the field of DRR.
- Inadequate enabling environment or opportunity for cross learning for school and college teachers in the field of DRR.
- Lack of support mechanism and networking in the implementation of DRR curricula.
- Synergy problems among the stakeholders.
- Inadequate linkages between formal and non-formal education sectors.

#### Recommendations:

- Assist MoE to review existing school curricula and include DRR along with developing resource materials for students and teachers.
- In close collaboration with the MoE, train teachers both at school and college levels in the field DRR.
- Design and organize exposure trips, modular training and internship for concerned government officials on neighboring country where school and college curricula contain DRR and learn from them.
- Establish support mechanism at the central and district levels.
- Establish information management mechanisms and network to share good practices on DRR related curricula and teaching materials.

### **Core indicator 3**

*Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

#### **Description:**

Science based disaster risk reduction/ management is a new phenomenon in Nepal. In the recent past, very few government and academic institutions have initiated empirical research on cost benefit analysis and mitigation practices in Nepal. However, with the support from UNISDR, Nepal is undertaking a national levels study on the relationship between poverty and disaster and Nepal is practicing some internationally accepted and practices tools for retrofitting of buildings and vulnerability assessment.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

The major hindrances for initiating empirical researches and developing tools are inadequate technical capacity and awareness at all levels, political and bureaucratic commitment and resources.

### **Core indicator 4**

*Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

#### **Description:**

Nepal has been commemorating the IDNDR/UNISDR Day since the beginning of the IDNDR and the Earthquake Safety Day for lasts several years. Some efforts have been carried out through school children by the use of IEC materials, quiz context, debate and discussions at the community level.

Similarly, several agencies have been posting/ erecting hording boards on DRR in different locations, organizing songs competitions and street drams; public announcements through radio and TV, etc. Likewise, few academic institutions have bee involved in pursuing researches on fire resistant thatch materials, etc. However, these awareness raising activities are inadequate to reach to the real mass or the potentially disaster prone communities of the country.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Major challenges includes; lack of systemic institutional mechanism and commitments from central to community levels; inadequate coordination and support mechanisms both at central and district levels along with government and non-government sectors, no focused programme to empower the community level institutions in DRR, etc.

Recommendations:

Establish systemic institutional mechanisms at the district level and assigned responsibility to identified organizations to design and initiate various district and community levels public awareness activities, provide technical and financial support to these lead agencies, etc. Plan capacity building program at the district and community levels.

## **Priority for action 4**

*Reduce the underlying risk factors*

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### **Core indicator 1**

*Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.*

#### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

#### **Description:**

The existing natural resources management Acts and Acts related to climate change does not include disaster management as an integral part of it. However, the National Disaster Management Plan developed in 1993 and endorsed by the Government in 1996 emphasized that the need to bring the natural resources management, climate change and development together with disaster management. It is anticipated that the forth coming National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management will bring synergy to integrate natural resources management (NRM) and climate change along with sustainable disaster management.

#### **Context & Constraints:**

Challenges:

The major challenges include integration of disaster risk reduction with NRM and climate change; lack of appropriate national level policy, plan and strategy, institutional mechanism and capacity to integrate these issues together despite of the opportunities and possibilities.

Recommendations:

- Enact an appropriate policy and institutional mechanism to look after DRR from a long term and cross cutting perspective because the current institutions have major roles in other sectors such as law and

order maintenance rather than disaster.

- Raise capacity at all levels to integrate DRR and other related issues/ subjects.
- Establish strong coordination mechanism at all levels and across sectors.

## **Core indicator 2**

*Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.*

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### **Description:**

Ministry of Health with the technical and financial support from different agencies has initiated the non-structural vulnerability assessment of hospitals in Nepal and also provided the recommendations to reduce the disaster risk. However, this initiative has covered only few hospitals. Similarly, there is no other national level initiative to reduce the vulnerability of population most at risk such as insurance policy, food security, etc. Government and few non-government agencies have been distributing subsidized food in food insecure areas. Similarly, risk assessment of major public buildings though building code has been implemented in selected municipalities as per the Nepal Building Act 2064 (amendment). At community level in some disaster prone areas, people have been practicing indigenous resiliency practices.

### **Context & Constraints:**

Challenges:

The major challenges to overcome this particular indicator is also due to lack of proper institution with the mandate, appropriate policy, lack of technology such as Department of Hydrology and Meteorology can issue weather forecast only for a day and inadequate trained human resources.

Recommendations:

Endorsement of the proposed DM Act, strategy, institution with mandate, well equipped and trained human resources, technology, etc.

## **Core indicator 3**

*Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities*

### **Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

### **Description:**

Despite of the fact that the 10th National Development Plan and the Three Years Interim Development Plan focuses on disaster risk reduction and integrating disaster with development, NO significant activities have been designed and implemented to achieve those objectives mentioned in the National Development Plans. Sectoral policies such as National Agriculture Policy 2004, National Shelter Policy 1996 (2053 BS), National Urban Policy 2006, etc. has incorporated the disaster issues. However, the implementation of these Acts are weak.

### **Context & Constraints:**

The challenges include; no any systematic studies and or information to identify the most vulnerable

economic activities and productive sectors in the country. Nepal Living Standard Survey 1996 and 2003/4 has identified economically vulnerable segments of the society. However, no linkages between economical vulnerability and disaster.

Recommendations:

- Design and pursue empirical studies on the vulnerable economic activities, detail analysis.
- Involve public and private sectors in designing and carrying out such studies/ researches.

#### **Core indicator 4**

*Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

3: Institutional commitment attained, but achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial

**Description:**

Land-use planning is a significant commitment by each and every periodic development plans. Unfortunately, the implementation and monitoring is weak due to several reasons. Building Code is made compulsory in municipal areas. New public buildings have been constructed according to the norms but needs rigorous monitoring mechanism. National Shelter Policy 1996. and National Urban Policy 2007 has incorporated to some extent the issue of DRR.

**Context & Constraints:**

- Human settlement program is not substantially designed and implemented from a building back better perspective only policy is formulated and not effectively implemented.

#### **Core indicator 5**

*Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

Fortunately for the last several years, Nepal did not face any major natural disaster that requires substantial post disaster related activities. However, the existing policy and practices doesn't include the "Build Back Better" concept in the post disaster activities.

**Context & Constraints:**

- The existing Disaster Management Act (1982) has overlooked the planning and management of human settlements incorporated DRR elements.
- The proposed revision of the DM Act is taking more time then expected for its endorsement.

Recommendations:

- Either revision of the existing DM Act with clear provision of DRR element in the planning and management of human settlements and enforcement of the Building Code or enactment of new DM Act embedding the DRR issue in the human settlement component and Building Code.
- Capacity building at all levels.

#### **Core indicator 6**

*Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

Government is aware of the need to incorporate and institutionalize disaster impact assessment (DIA) in major projects during its design phase such as EIA. However, it needs substantial revision of the existing DM Act or enforcement of new Act.

**Context & Constraints:**

Recommendation

Make DIA compulsory in all development projects and programs.

## **Priority for action 5**

*Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*

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### **Core indicator 1**

*Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

The current DM Act (1982) focuses on the post disaster activities. However, since the second World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Government of Nepal has initiated processes to reformulate its DRM/R policy and institutional mechanism through a very consultative/ participatory processes. The new DRM Act and the Strategy encompasses all elements of disaster management cycle, long term and sustainable disaster risk reduction/ management and linking disaster with development. The proposed Act and strategy also strongly emphasized the establishment of a national framework for disaster risk management which includes establishment of autonomous DRM authorities from the central level (NDRMA as an apex body) through all levels. Institutional commitment is required for the effective implementation of the plans and policy. It is also necessary to ensure compatibility between Act and the strategy for DRM.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges:

Nepal went through a violent social transformation process over the last 13 years. Therefore, the entire government machinery was engaged in peace process. This peace process sidelined the disaster related initiatives in the country. Similarly, the unavailability of predictable amount of government resources for programme design and implementation also jeopardized the formulation of policy, establishment of an appropriate institution and capacity building activities. Despite such conditions Nepal has implemented several good practices, methodology and templates which technically, socially and economically feasible. The real challenge is to upscale these practices through massive capacity building and creation of working conducive legal and policy environment at all levels. Lack of implementation mechanism is a challenge from the VDC level to the central level in every sector.

## Recommendations:

- Lobby/ advocacy for the enactment of the new DM Act and endorsement of the Strategy.
- Large scale capacity building and awareness raising activities from central to district and village levels focusing to policy and decision makers.
- Appropriate regulations commensurate with the act and strategy should be developed and integrated in the governance process at all levels from village to the national, to ensure incorporation of DRR into all development planning and implementation. This entails that all infrastructures are made disaster resilient all critical facilities are functional even after the disaster. Appropriate guidelines and "How To use such guidelines" should be developed and use for training.

## Core indicator 2

*Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.*

### Level of Progress achieved:

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

### Description:

Few districts of Nepal have developed District Disaster Management Plan based on GIS information during early 2000s. However, due to lack of coordination, technical capability, etc. these plans were not fully implemented and monitored. Similarly, Nepal developed the National DM Plan in 1993, which was presented during the First World Conference on Disaster Reduction (1994) and endorsed by Government in 1996. However, due to several reasons and laps, the activities were not successfully implement and monitored. Since then, several agencies both government and non-government are working in the field of DRM/R in a much more uncoordinated manner and without developing any plan at all levels.

Preparedness planning is still to be incorporated at VDC, Municipality and even district levels. Few prepositioning of relief materials have been experimented mainly in Kathmandu valley and this need to be expanded to other prone and densely populated areas.

NRCS has warehouses to store food and non food items at strategic locations for emergency use. This network of stocks should be expanded at least to all districts and possibly to the VDC level. This should accompanied by appropriate capacity building for inventory, periodically replenishment of supplies, and operation of preposition of the materials. Government should provide enabling environment for youth to work as volunteers in disaster preparedness and response.

### Context & Constraints:

Challenges:

The major challenges includes the poor realization of a need of planned disaster risk reduction/ management and linking disaster with development; inadequate capacity at all levels; motivation of staff engaged, implementation, allocation of fund for programme design and implementation etc.

## Core indicator 3

*Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.*

### Level of Progress achieved:

1: Minor progress with few signs of forward action in plans or policy

**Description:**

The Government has two sources of funding for response and recovery activities; The Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund and the Ministry of Home Affairs regular disaster relief fund. The resources for the first one come from individual and institutional donation/ contribution within and outside the country and the second one from government regular budget.

Government should encourage donors and I/NGOs to allocate at least 10% of their total annual budget for DRR activities. Similarly funds for DRR activities should be available together with relief funds at all levels from VDC to central.

Likewise, government should encourage corporate sector to be engaged in disaster preparedness activities.

Basic training on life saving; search and rescue; and relief collection and distribution should be designed and imparted at community level.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges:

- Political commitment
- Inadequate allocation of resources

Recommendations:

- Information/ experiences based allocation of resources
- Making a local mechanism of relief and rescue activities more target-oriented with the support from local authorities.

**Core indicator 4**

*Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews*

**Level of Progress achieved:**

2: Some progress, but without systematic policy and/ or institutional commitment

**Description:**

On an ad hoc basis several organizations organize lessons learnt sessions after the occurrence of any disasters in the country. There is no any concrete and well established forum for sharing such knowledge and experiences.

However, since 1996 a forum called Disaster Preparedness Network (DP Net) Nepal has been established by government, UN, donors, I/NGOs which is serving as a platform to share information, experiences, knowledge, capacity building and advocacy at central level.

SitReps are now systematically produced by OCHA and NRCS however the distribution of the information doesn't reach at all actors and even reached, it is not used for future planning and relief/response.

**Context & Constraints:**

Challenges:

Disaster management is a new phenomenon in the country and there were only few agencies involved

till recent past. Likewise, lack government commitment in the field of DRR also hinders the formation of such national and district levels forums to share knowledge, information and resources.

Disaster information management systems should be decentralized to the district level for analysis and use for planning purpose. First hand data on information on hazard and disaster impact should be collected from ward and village level. Necessary mechanism and capacity for this should be installed and update regularly.

Recommendations:

Government should initiate to form such national level platform to share information, knowledge, enhance coordination, avoid duplication and to finally to assist government to successfully implement the HFA.

## Drivers of Progress

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### **a) Multi-hazard integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and development**

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

#### **Do studies/ reports/ atlases on multi-hazard analyses exist in the country/ for the sub region?:**

Yes

#### **If yes, are these being applied to development planning/ informing policy?:**

No

#### **Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Not fully and the details will be provided later.

### **b) Gender perspectives on risk reduction and recovery adopted and institutionalized**

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

#### **Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

The current disaster management/ risk reduction practices at all levels by all organizations use a blanket approach for both male and female. As of now the assumption is that both males and females are equally impacted by any disaster in any give situation. This might be due to lack of gender disaggregated information and empirical research on gender wise impact of any disaster to any community. Similarly, the activities designed and implemented after any disaster does not differ between sexes. Recently gender and social inclusive issues are picking u in programme design, implementation and monitoring/ evaluation.

### **c) Capacities for risk reduction and recovery identified and strengthened**

#### **Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to

address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

Several agencies both government and non-government have been organizing different training in the field of DRR/M without doing the national level need assessment. Similarly, many INGOs are supporting local organization without doing the proper assessment of the need of that particular local organization from a long term perspective. Therefore, much of these capacity building activities are not strengthening capacity rather creating dependency. However the Three Years Interim Development Plan has given priority to disaster risk reduction strategy. Which need to be addressed by the local level disaster management plan and its successful implementation. Institutional level capacity development plan is also needed in the country.

**d) Human security and social equity approaches integrated into disaster risk reduction and recovery activities**

**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

The present policy, programmes have given attention towards the human security but not substantial social equitable perspective in their programme design and implementation.

**e) Engagement and partnerships with non-governmental actors; civil society, private sector, amongst others, have been fostered at all levels**

**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

The disaster actors in the country recognized the importance of the active involvement of disaster-development actors and community for any sustainable disaster risk reduction/ management. With this view, a network of disaster actors "DP Net" was formed in 1996. The main objective of the DP Net is to provide a forum for all disaster actors to share their experiences, enhance coordination among actors, design and implement activities together to maximally utilize the limited resources, avoid duplications and raise common concerns together in the field of DRR. Similarly, many agencies both government and non-government are using the community based disaster risk management (CBDRM) approach to design, implement and monitor DRR activities at the community level. Likewise, many agencies are not only using CBDRM for DRR related activities rather any development initiatives at the community level. At the central and local levels disaster relief committees, local level NGOs and private sector are included as members.

**f) Contextual Drivers of Progress**

**Levels of Reliance:**

Partial/ some reliance: Full acknowledgement of the issue; strategy/ framework for action developed to address it; application still not fully implemented across policy and practice; complete buy in not achieved from key stakeholders.

**Description (Please provide evidence of where, how and who):**

The Government of Nepal is committed to successfully implement the HFA. However, due to the insurgency in the country, the implementation of the activities under HFA have been delayed particularly the enactment of new DRM Act which encompasses all aspects of DRR/M, linking DRR with development and setting up of an appropriate institutional mechanism.

## Future outlook

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### Area 1

*The more effective integration of disaster risk considerations into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels, with a special emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and vulnerability reduction.*

#### **Overall Challenges:**

The Three Year Interim Development Plan (2007/08-2009/10) reiterates the importance of sustainable disaster management to retain the development gains and sustainable human development in the country. The only missing parts are the enactment of the DRR/M Act/policy and institutional mechanism.

#### **Future Outlook Statement:**

It is anticipated that in very near future the Government will endorse the proposed DM Act, strategy and will establish an appropriate institution to look after all aspects of DRR/M. The proposed Act, strategy and institution will entirely shift the disaster management paradigm from post disaster focused to DRR, conducive coordination and networking at all levels and out side the country, adequate resource mobilization from different sources within and out side country. This will also encompasses the linkages between DRR - climate risk reduction – poverty reduction and natural resource management.

### Area 2

*The development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, in particular at the community level, that can systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.*

#### **Overall Challenges:**

Challenges are categorized in three types:

The major challenges the DRR programmes are facing includes the political will, forwarding the proposed DM Act and the Strategy through the multiple channel of decision making to enact it and its successful implementation through all stakeholders & means!

#### **Future Outlook Statement:**

A more equipped institutional mechanism would be developed through devolution at local level, which eventually could cope with the challenge of the future.

### Area 3

*The systematic incorporation of risk reduction approaches into the design and implementation of emergency preparedness, response and recovery programmes in the reconstruction of affected communities.*

#### **Overall Challenges:**

- Lack of integrated approach of DRR/M central as well as local levels

- No national level risk assessment, haphazard/ ad hoc basis DRR/M planning and implementation of activities.

**Future Outlook Statement:**

Several studies (UNDP 2004, World Bank 2005, etc.) revealed that Nepal is one of the global "HOT-SPOTS" for natural disasters. Therefore, based on these studies and the annual sufferings from natural disasters, the Government has proposed drastic changes in the DRM policy, institutional mechanism and future activities with a view to create an enabling environment "Towards a Safer Nepal".

Once the national platform will be established, it will provide opportunity to all agencies to share their DRR related programmes/ projects to avoid duplication, unhealthy competitions and to maximally utilize limited resources.