

National Platform on Disaster Risk

Reduction (NPDRR Report 2018)

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Meeting of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction-2018

Background

National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) is a common platform of organizations working in the field of DRR for developing a common understanding on the issues of disaster risk reduction and management, policy advocacy, coordination and advice on priorities of DRR. NPDRR in Nepal, the nationally owned forum is led by Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA). The platform chaired by the Secretary of Home affairs was formed on 2065 B.S with reference to the guideline of Secretariat of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The consultative workshop on National Disaster Management Platform held on 24th October 2013 had decided to provide the role of secretariat to DPNet-Nepal and the responsibility for the technical support of the platform was given to UNDP.

Government of Nepal has endorsed the most awaited Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRR&M) Act, 2017 which was prepared through a long consultative process led by Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA). After its promulgation, the Act has formally replaced the Natural Calamity (Relief Act) 1982 to address the complex dynamics of all phases of disaster management. Similarly, various consultation activities are under way in Federal Government level to finalize Disaster Risk Reduction Policy (DRRP) & National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP), DRR&M Regulation.

On this regard, in order to strengthen the coordination among DRR stakeholders and to share the progress in legal frameworks of DRR after adopting the Sendai Framework for DRR in Nepal in the presence of wider stakeholders (Government agencies, I/NGO's, donor agencies, Un agencies and Academia), NPDRR meeting was organized by MoHA in collaboration with DPNet-Nepal and UNDP on 6th June 2018 at hotel Annapurna Durbar Marg Kathmandu. Altogether, 132 participants, disaggregated as Female: Male: 110:22, BCT: 100, JJ: 30 and Dalit:2 participated in the program. The invitees of the program were DRR focal persons of government agencies, I/NGO's, UN agencies, Donor agencies, Academia and DRR experts. Ms. Smita Paudel, Section Officer, MoHA provided her expertise in facilitating the program. In the very beginning she briefly shared the purpose behind organizing NPDRR meeting.

Additional Information

Inauguration

The program was formally started with the chairing of Mr. Prem kumar Rai, Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and seating of chief guest Hon. Home minister Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa "Badal" and guests Mr. Surya Prakash subedi "Pathik", advisor of Hon. Minister, Chief of security agencies and the country Director of UNDP Mr. Renaud Meyer in the front row. Hon. Minister inaugurated the program by lighting the lamp. The program was followed by national anthem and minute of silence for the peace of people who have lost their life in various disasters in Nepal. After that Mr.



Hon. Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa "Badal" inaugurating the program

Kedar Neupane, Joint Secretary and Chief of Disaster Management Division MoHA delivered welcome remarks along with the objectives of the meeting. He welcomed all participants stating that disaster risk reduction and management is the priority of Nepal and now the country has a good constitution, political stabilization and looks ahead for the implementation of DRR&M Act 2017 and other policies. He also focused his welcome remarks on the support of stakeholders in Nepal Government's campaign in DRR&M. He also shared that we have to walk together hand on hand to achieve the slogan of "prosperous Nepali, Happy Nepali. Furthermore, highlighting the importance of this meeting as a milestone for DRR&M in Nepal, he welcomed and thanked all participants for joining the program.

Presentations and launch of Nepal disaster Report 2017

After the formal welcome program, the first presentation was presented by Mr. Kedar Neupane, Joint Secretary and Chief of Disaster Management Division MoHA. His presentation was focused on the objectives, major provisions of DRR/M act 2017, and ongoing activities for the implementation of the Act. He highlighted that the act has provisioned the establishment of National Disaster Risk Reduction Authority and disaster management committees in province and local level, along with the space for five member expert committee including experts of environment, geology, infrastructure, medical doctor and disaster management expert. Furthermore, he added that the act has included both natural and human induced disasters, focus on all aspects of disaster management and has also provisioned the mobilization of volunteers and



Mr. Kedar Neupane, Joint Secretary, MoHA delivering the presentation on DRR&M Act

disaster response flying squad team. He also added that in order to implement the act, DRR&M regulation and DRRP&NSAP are in final stage of approval. Similarly, he also shared the communication system of National emergency operation centre (NEOC) and participation of Nepal in AMCDRR-2018. At the end he also highlighted the challenges in implementation focusing on strengthening the Disaster Information Management System.

After the brief sharing of DRR&M Act 2017, Hon. Home minister Mr. Ram Bahadur Thapa "Badal" launched the Nepal Disaster Report (NDR) 2017.



Hon. Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa "Badal" launching the Nepal Disaster Report 2017

Mr. Vijay Singh, Assistant Country Director of UNDP shared the highlights of NDR. In his presentation, he highlighted some systematic issues like, disaster statistics not adequately utilized for systematic understanding of risk, investments and allocations not informed by risks, current reactive response focus only address symptoms of risks but not the underlying causes, lines of accountability are blurred. He also shared the key priorities to move ahead including, dedicated DRR institution (NDRRMA), instituting a practice of risk-informed development, allocation of adequate funding, capacity of federal, province and local governments for effective leadership, setting up an effective DIMS ensuring gender and disability responsive DRRM. According to the report, 900 people have lost their lives in 500 disasters.



Mr. Vijay Singh, Assistant Country Director of UNDP delivering his presentation about NDR 2017

The third presentation entitled "DRR Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030, revised draft" was presented by Mr. Umesh Kumar Dhakal, Under Secretary, MoHA. He briefly shared that the draft version of the document has come at this point due to the various consultative process for the formulation of the

policy and action plan. He also highlighted the major provisions of policies and share that the document consist of 57 policies. Similarly, he also shared the strategic action plan has set the baseline, short term, midterm and long term targets against the indicator. The NSAP has four priority areas along with 272 strategic activities. He also shared that the Draft Policy and Strategic action plan was/has been uploaded into DRR portal for wider inputs and the document is in final stage for further endorsement.



Mr. Umesh Kumar Dhakal, Under Secretary, MoHA delivering presentation on DRRP&NSAP

The fourth presentation entitled "Participation of Nepal in 8th AMCDRR-2018" was presented by Mr. Raju Thapa, General Secretary of DPNet-Nepal. He started his presentation with the introduction of platform for DRR and shared that Nepal has a history of participation in all past AMCDRR and the conference provides an opportunity to address disaster related issues through cross border leadership and solutions and also provides a unique opportunity for governments to show their political commitment to implement the Sendai Framework. In addition to this, he shared the initiation of MoHA for market place registration and Nepal's preparation for AMCDRR 2018.



Mr. Raju Thapa, General Secretary of DPNet-Nepal delivering presentation about AMCDRR 2018

Major concerns of the participants

The discussion session was facilitated by Mr. Kedar Neupane, Joint Secretary, MoHA. The major concerns of the participants are as below.

1. Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Himalaya Conservation Group

Monsoon is approaching so monsoon preparedness workshop should be immediately organized. With reference to SFDRR, DRR&M Act is achievement of Nepal; we can proudly share it in international forum. Similarly, the effort of security agencies in rescue and relief is exemplary so we have to celebrate this achievement as well. For immediate rescue, there is a need of helicopters in each province.

2. Mr. Deo Narayan Yadav, Executive Committee Member, DPNet-Nepal

Due to lack of equipment and resource there were many gaps in Nepal's side in Koshi Flood response, management of equipment and resource is a challenge, so how can we overcome the challenge, strengthen DEOC and coordinate with local level. People working on strategy level concentrates on construction of dam but overlooks the way for outflow of water. Furthermore, how can we minimize the conflicts in trans-boundary Rivers.

3. Ms. Kopila Rijal

How can we ensure inclusion of GESI and excluded groups in the formation of disaster response committee? How can it be gender responsive and we often work with gender cell of Nepal Police, but how can we localize it?

4. Mr. Jaganath Prasad Kurmi

Instead of replacing policies we need to focus on implementation. How can we implement Act and policies and how can we ensure access of community people.

5. Dr. Rishi Ram Sharma, Director General, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology

Do we have the provisions of departments in DRR&M Authority, if yes, DHM would be appropriate. Agency responsible for issuing alerts during disasters is quite confusing in DRRP. Water is not a curse, we need to change our strategy it's a gift and we have to implement the policy provisions.

6. Mr. Deepak Kafle, Director General, Immigration

Emergency is international cross cutting issue, health in emergency, education in emergency are considered likewise immigration in emergency has to be considered and addressed in the policy.

7. Mr. Bishnu Prasad Kharel, Save The Children

Investment of government in DRR is too low, unless we increase the investment, we can't achieve the goal.

8. Mr. Surya Narayan Shrestha, Executive Director NSET

Implementation chapter in NSAP is generic; implementation of working group in DRR in all level is confusing. We should have concrete framework and time line to accomplish the action plans. The responsibility of research is given to academic institution but we have to think about the need of research focused centre.

9. Mr. Suresh Adhikari, MoFAGA

Disasters are more likely in monsoon and we have to focus on capacity building of local level, we have to focus on relief and rescue materials in local level. Relief materials should be tangible like evacuation centre in local level.

Mr. Kedar Neupane, Joint Secretary and Chief of Disaster Management Division MoHA, thanked participants for the discussion and he said that the raised concerns are noted and will be incorporated in the DRRP&NSAP.

Speech/remarks

Mr. Ram Prasad Bhattarai, Acting Chairperson of DPNet-Nepal welcomed and thanked all participants stating that our way forward and destination is quite clear. He further added that, DPNet-Nepal is ready to work with stakeholder and collaborate with municipalities, I/NGO's, CBO's, Academia and private sectors. Furthermore, he also mentioned that collaboration with high scholars and above mentioned agencies is always needed and DPNet-Nepal is willing to provide technical support to all.



Mr. Ram Prasad Bhattarai, Acting Chairperson of DPNet-Nepal delivering his gracious remarks

Mr. Renaud Meyer, Country Director, UNDP thanked Hon. Minister for allocating time and praised the actions of securities agencies in disaster response. He shared that because of the vulnerability of the country climate change is highly impacting, events like this, beyond the government, whole of society approach, people are aware and empowered not only to respond disaster, but for preparedness as well. He further shared that the role of MoHA in leading to strengthen preparedness to ensure inclusiveness in key message, it should be participatory approach. Now the country has DRR&M Act much better from Natural Relief Calamity Act, two important



Mr. Renaud Meyer, Country Director, UNDP delivering his gracious remarks

frameworks SFDRR, along with UNISDR Nepal has a commitment to achieve the SDG. Government alone cannot achieve the goal, so reinforces partnership to achieve the goals. He also shared that in many countries, implementation of very good policies is like what is lacking beyond, so here is the role of all stakeholders for building resilience Nepal. Furthermore sharing the 95% involvement of man in disasters, he highlighted the need of gender lens for the involvement of women in this field. At the end of his remarks, he shared that local levels has a strong appetite to learn about DRR&M and the response has to be from local level not only from Kathmandu.

Hon. Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa "Badal" thanked all participants for their feedbacks and shared that ministry has given a serious attention to the feedbacks, which will be fruitful to incorporate in DRRP&NSAP. He shared that disasters



Hon. Home Minister Ram Bahadur Thapa "Badal" delivering his gracious remarks

originated since the origin of human and people at that time applied various method to manage disasters. He also added that these days disaster have seriously affected development and the loss and damage of disasters is in trillion, so human has to think about the way outs to face/solve these problems. The solutions can be through legal, political and ideological aspect. Furthermore, he added that disasters are accompanied with development and we are not able to reduce the loss and damage. Climate change and global warming are major problems, it's not only the problem of Nepal but it's a global problem and we have to deal globally and it's important to include the preventive measures of disasters in National Strategy. Lastly, he added that the government of Nepal has initiated a concrete step for DRR through the establishment of DRR&M authority, which will be started very soon.

The program was formally closed with the closing remarks of Mr. Prem Kumar Rai, Secretary MoHA, he thanked everyone for the participation, presentation and discussion. He shared that DRR&M regulation will be endorsed soon for implementation; likewise, the feedback received for DRRP&NSAP will be incorporated and finalized, monsoon is approaching so national working committee meeting will be organized. He also said that the government is focused in implementation of act and Policies. We have to look backward and forward about the implementation and prepare the framework accordingly, if not it won't be passed by cabinet. He further added that the directions will be released for 77 districts to organize monsoon preparedness meeting and report within 2-3 days. Similarly, he shared that all required data has to be computerized and updated in DMIS and in order to utilize the expertise of DRR experts we have to keep the contacts of all DRR experts in NEOC. There are questions about the transparency, so the financial status should be transparent to community people and all.



Mr. Prem Kumar Rai, Secretary MoHA delivering his closing remarks

Conclusion

It was a good opportunity to organize NPDRR meeting on the presence of Hon. Home Minister and representatives from relevant government agencies, I/NGO's, UN agencies, Academia and DRR experts. The program was successful in terms of wider representation of stakeholders working on the field of DRR, their curiosity, concerns and feedbacks about the DRM act, DRRP & NSAP 2017, NDR 2017. The feedbacks will be helpful in finalizing the DRRP&NSAP.

Relevant Photos



Banner of the program





Mr Ganga Lal Tuladhar raising his concern

