

A monthly Dialogue for Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practices

On

DRR and Response in WASH

(Flood Specific)

23rd January, 2012

Meeting Hall, NRCS HQ

Kathmandu



***Jointly Organized by
DP Net-Nepal and NDMF-Nepal,
Kathmandu***

ACRONYMS

CMCs	Community Mediation Committees
DDRC	District Disaster Relief Committee
DHM	Department of Hydrology & Metrology
DPNet-Nepal	Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DUDBC	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction
DWIDP	Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention
DWSS	Department of Water Supply and Sewerage
ENPHO	Environment and Public Health Organization
FSCN	Friends Service Council
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
KVS	Kirtipur Volunteer Society
NDMF	Natural Disaster Management Forum
NDRC	National Disaster Reduction Center
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRCS	Nepal Red Cross Society
SOHAM-Nepal	Society of Hydrology
SSE	School for shelter and Environment
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene

A monthly Dialogue for DRR Policy and Practices On Flood Specific DRR and Response in WASH

1. Introduction

On 23rd January 2012, DPNet-Nepal and NDMF-Nepal jointly organized a monthly dialogue program on ***Flood Specific DRR and Response in WASH***. The dialogue was held in Nepal Red Cross meeting hall, Kalimati, Kathmandu, from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm and was attended by 34 participants representing from a cross section of Government Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, UN Agencies and Red Cross Movement. The main objective of the program was to offer discussion forum for the DRR and WASH professionals and discuss on the issues, gaps and way forward to integrate DRR into WASH to cope with flooding in a challenging environment. Three technical papers were presented by the WASH professionals from OXFAM-GB, Nepal, Plan International and NDMF-Nepal.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the dialogue were:

- To discuss the indicators indicating flooding and also linking WASH services and floods
- To share challenges in order to address WASH services in the eye of Flood disaster risk reduction and response
- To compile the way forwards for WASH resilience to flood risk

3. Methodology/Modality

- Presentation on DRR and WASH
- Interaction on the flooding criteria and its impacts on WASH services in the country
- Floor discussion among stakeholders, experts, practitioners and policy makers on
WASH resilience to flood risk

4. Participants

Altogether 35 participants attended the program from different organizations. They were representatives from Government Agencies, Un Agencies, international NGOs and local NGOs

working in DRR sector. Similarly, the students, practitioners, researchers and social workers of disaster management sector including NGO Federation and youth groups were also participated in the program.

5. Date Venue and Time

The dialogue program was held at the Meeting Hall, NRCS HQ, Kathmandu from 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM on 23rd January, 2012.

6. Proceedings

The dialogue program began with a quick introduction among the participants and guests. Mr. Pitambar Aryal, Vice-Chairperson of DpNet-Nepal delivered the welcome remarks. Mr. Aryal welcoming all the participants, presenters and guests highlighted the objectives and importance of the program.

7. Presentation Session

Presentation I: WASH Humanitarian Capacity Building and Response by Ms. Sunita Sharma, Program Officer, OXFAM Nepal

Ms. Sunita Sharma presented a paper on WASH Humanitarian Capacity and Response. Ms. Sharma began her presentation explaining some WASH interventions to respond the Koshi Flood. Illustrating on some indication of success, she said that toilets are used by the majority of men, women and children and 95% households aware of how to prepare Oral Rehydration Solution and ORS used by 100% HH for diarrhoea management. She also informed that OXFAM has a good coordination and networking mechanism with various agencies like WASH Cluster, DWSS, DPHO, CMCs, UNICEF, DDRC KVS, Media and beneficiaries. Ms. Sharma explained the good practices and gaps found from the field during the response after occurrence of disaster. The details of good practices and gaps can be seen in DpNet-Nepal Website: <http://www.dpnet.org.np/docs/presentationManagement/12b0a59726b7c69520f1f19110a95b43.pdf>

Ms. Sharma also explained the lessons learned while some of the lessons were:

- Preparedness activities should include agency wise capacity assessment both at the local and the national level and gaps addressed.
- Government should be more proactive to ensure quality through developing standards and there should be a WASH coordinator at the local level from the beginning.
- WASH cluster should have contingency plans at the national and local level along with the mapping of agencies, resources trained personnel and vendors.
- Capacity building of WASH actors
- Capacity building of communities

Ms. Sharma emphasized on strengthening the capacity of national and district WASH cluster members and Water Supply and Sanitation Division Offices to prepare for and respond to the needs of children, women and vulnerable communities. Finally, she concluded her presentation highlighting on the WASH and DRR linkages. The copy of full presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website:

<http://www.dpnet.org.np/docs/presentationManagement/12b0a59726b7c69520f1f19110a95b43.pdf>

Presentation II: Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Plan Nepal by Nabin Pradhan, WASH Coordinator, Plan Nepal

The 2nd presentation was made by Mr. Nabin Pradhan, WASH Coordinator, Plan Nepal on Water Sanitation and Hygiene and DRR in Plan Nepal. Mr. Pradhan explaining on the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) situation in the country, Nepal, stated that about 80 % of population has coverage with improved basic water supply services, 68% of the population has access to improved water supply services and every year about 10500 children in Nepal die of diarrhoea due to poor water, sanitation and hygiene practices. He said that the country has the national goal on Water and Sanitation that all people in the country will have access to improved drinking water services by the end of 2017. It has also another goal that all people in the country will have access to basic sanitation facilities.

Mr. Pradhan shared the Plan Nepal's Programs to the participants. He said that at present Plan is working in health/WASH, education, household economic security, gender and child rights,

and child centered DRM. He also informed that Plan Nepal has supporting for community based WASH program, School based WASH program and WASH in emergencies. Explaining on the WASH program approach/ Strategies, Mr. Pradhan highlighted the learning. He said that DRR integration in WASH has been minimal and poor drainage systems in the Terai further supporting for the contamination of groundwater. A full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website:

<http://www.dpnet.org.np/docs/presentationManagement/12b0a59726b7c69520f1f19110a95b43.pdf>

Presentation III: DRR and WASH : Gaps and Way Forwards (Climate Extreme –Flood Specific)

Mr. Deepak Poudel, Chairperson of Natural Disaster Management Forum-Nepal (NDMF Nepal) presented the paper on DRR and WASH: Gaps and Way Forwards. Mr. Poudel said that flood is natural and recurring event for a river. He explained the Riverrine flood and Flash Flood which are the major types of Flood. Presenting the flood scenario of Nepal since 1954 to 2008, Mr Poudel explained on the floodplains as topographic, geo-morphologically and hydrological. He also shared the existing practices of WASH in Flood. The WASH services started in Preparedness when Cluster system introduced in different districts by some agencies. Highlighting on the gaps in existing practices in the sector of preparedness & Early Warning Measures, Livelihood and DRR for vulnerable groups, he emphasized that water and sanitation services need to consider the characteristics of flooding. He gave the details of the Flood prone zones of Churiya and Terai through the pictures. He also explained about the rainfall patterns in the different period of time. Finally, he concluded his presentation emphasizing on the coordination and knowledge at inter and intra organizational level. The Full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website:

<http://www.dpnet.org.np/docs/presentationManagement/12b0a59726b7c69520f1f19110a95b43.pdf>

8. Discussion

The discussion session was held amongst the participants focusing on the papers presented. Mr. Sunita Sharma suggested that the concerned government agencies should be involved in this dialogue program. She also emphasized that it would be easy to understand the status on the government policy and provisions regarding Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. She also said that concerned Government Departments and line ministries should be more responsible and take leading role in the WASH sector. Mr. Kabir Rajbhandari, Program Manager, Water Aid, emphasized that Government should be accountable and lead DRR and WASH. He also added that we all should assist the Government to carry out activities and lead through policies. Mr. Rajesh Adhikari from ENPHO said that the gaps should be identified in the policy level and sectoral lead agency need to be suggested.

Ms. Arina M. Shrestha from UNICEF highlighted that master plan in emergency should be directive to everybody. We should try to incorporate master plan in our plan rather than criticizing because it is a positive step in itself. Mr. Rajendra Bhandari, Senior Divisional Hydrologist, DWIDP said that the issue of WASH needs to be mainstreamed into mitigation plan in pre-disaster and in contingency plan in post disaster. It would be better if we do the hazard mapping of huge rivers. It is taken as an emergency issue now. Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari from NDRC Nepal highlighted that this kind of interaction program should be organized in district level. NGOs should be specialized in WASH sector. While floods in Hilly region are dangerous DpNet-Nepal should lead this discussion and local government should be more responsible. Mr. Phurba Moktan from Pachhim paila put his query that whether the Sanitation Master Plan is included in the proposed DM Bill or not.

Mr. Nabin Pradhan from Plan Nepal explained that WASH is a development issue and all concerned line agencies, local government and Ministry of Local Development should include WASH in their development plans. He also suggested that WASH need to be integrated in DRR and there should be a clear policy and guidelines.

9. Conclusion

The monthly dialogue program on Flood Specific DRR and Response in WASH was jointly organized by DpNet-Nepal and NDMF-Nepal with the aim of offering discussion forum for the

DRR and WASH professionals and discuss on the issues, gaps and way forward to integrate DRR in WASH to cope with flooding in a challenging environment. The program was successful in achieving its aims and objectives. The discussion was made amongst the participants on linking WASH services and Floods. The participants also discussed and shared about the challenges in order to address WASH services Flood disaster and response. The participants suggested that all the concerned stakeholders need to incorporate WASH services into development interventions. Local governance should be more responsible to address the issue of WASH in pre and post disaster. The gaps in policy level should be identified and addressed immediately to increase the community resilience.

Annex:

List of Participating organizations:

DHM Nepal	Gov
DUDBC	Gov
DWIDP	Gov
ENPHO	NGO
FSCN	NGO
IFRC	Red Cross Movement
KVS	NGO
Merlin Nepal	INGO
NDMF	NGO
NDRC Nepal	NGO
NRCS	Red Cross Movement
OXFAM	INGO
Paschim Paila	Youth Network
Plan Nepal	INGO
SOHAM-Nepal	Civil Society
SOPHEN	NGO
SSE	NGO
UNICEF	UN
WASH RCNN	NGO
Water Aid Nepal	INGO