

REPORT on

A monthly Dialogue Program for Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practices

4th June 2012

Meeting Hall, Nepal Red Cross Society, Kalimati, Kathmandu



Organized by

Disaster Preparedness Network Nepal (DPNet-Nepal), Kathmandu, Nepal

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Abbreviation

AIN	Association of International NGOs
APF	Armed Police Force
DDRC	District Disaster Relief Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWIDP	Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention
ICIMOD	International Center for Integrated Mountain Development
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IOE	Institute of Engineering
KVS	Kirtipur Volunteer Society
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NDMF	Natural Disaster Management Forum
NDRC Nepal	National Disaster Risk Reduction Center-Nepal
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NIDS	National Institute for Disaster Survivors
NRCS	Nepal Red Cross Society
SSE	School for Shelter and Environment
UMN	United Mission to Nepal
UN	United Nations
VDC	Village Development Committee
WWF Nepal	World Wide Fund of Nepal

**REPORT
ON
Seti River Flash Flood of 5th May 2012 in Kaski**

1. Introduction

On 4th June 2012, DpNet-Nepal organized a Monthly Dialogue program on **Seti River Flash Flood of 5th May 2012 in Kaski**. The dialogue was held in Nepal Red Cross Society Meeting Hall, Kalimati, Kathmandu, from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm and was attended by 35 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 share the information and update partners on the recent flood in Seti River. It also intended to discuss on the Flood Response Policy and Mechanism and develop the way forward for the current and future disaster. Altogether five technical papers were presented by the representatives of different organizations.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the program were:

- To share the information and update partners on the recent flood in Seti River
- To discuss on the Flood Response Policy and Mechanism
- To discuss on the potential Flood disaster in the Hill/ Mountain areas
- To Examine cause and impact of Seti River Flood
- To develop the way ahead for the current and Future Flood disaster

3. Outcome of the Program

- Partner organizations were updated on the recent Flood in Seti River.
- Information was shared on the current and future challenges of Flood disaster in the Mountain Areas among the participants
- Gaps were found on the policy level and in coordination among the concerned stakeholders during response

4. Methodology/Modality

- Presentation on Current Flood in Seti River
- Discussion and Interaction on the potential Flood disaster in the Hill/ Mountain Areas among the stakeholders, experts, practitioners and policy makers
- Presentation of video on Flash Flood of Seti River

5. 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 Climate change, Flood and DRR sector. Similarly, the students, practitioners, researchers and social workers of disaster management sector including youth groups were also participated in the program.

6. Date, Venue and Time

The dialogue program on Flash Flood on Seti River of 5th May 2012 in Kaski was held on 4th June, 2012 at the Meeting Hall, NRCS HQ, Kathmandu from 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM.

7. Proceedings

The dialogue program began with a quick introduction amongst the participants, guests and paper presenters. 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. He also informed that DPNet-Nepal has planned this programme immediate after the flood occurred but due to the frequent Bandh and strikes across the country couldn't make it.

8. Presentation Session

Presentation I: Flood Response Policy and Mechanism and Situation Update on the Recent Seti River Flash Floods by Mr. Banshi Acharya, Section Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs

The first paper presentation was made by Mr. Banshi Acharya from Ministry of Home Affairs on **Flood Response Policy and Mechanism and Situation Update on the Recent Seti River Flash Floods**. Mr. Acharya said that the Emergency Operation Centre within the MoHA is the main authority coordinating efforts for emergency response and management in disaster situations. There is a District Disaster Relief Committee in each district. The DDRC provided the relief package of Rs. 25000 to each family on death of a person. The other amount is provided through the Prime Minister Relief fund and it is as per the cabinet decision. Mr. Acharya also gave the brief information that the disaster occurred on 5th May 2012(Baisakh23); Sardikhola, Machapuchre VDCs and Lantinbazar community-1 of Pokhara sub metropolitan city were affected; 32 people claimed dead, 5 injured and 40 were missing; 14 houses completely destroyed. He concluded his presentation highlighting on the urgency of effective coordination mechanism and collective efforts of all concerned organizations to respond such kind of disaster. A full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website: <http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation>.

Presentation II: Seti River Flood: NRCS Response, Existing Gaps and Recommendations by Mr. Sher B. Karki, Senior Officer, Nepal Red Cross Society

The 2nd presentation was made by Mr. Sher Bahadur K.C., Senior Officer, Nepal Red Cross Society on **Seti River Flood: NRCS Response, Existing Gaps and Recommendations**. Mr. Karki explaining the disaster situation of the Sardikhola, Machhapuchre VDC and Lantinbazar community, informed that 30 people claimed dead, 5 injured and 40 are still missing. He also provided the information that 14 houses were completely destroyed, individual and public properties have been damaged that is approx: individual property- NRs 13,155,500.00 & Public property-NRs 36,040,000.00. Total loss is about NRs 49.2 million. Mr. Karki showing the map of disaster hit areas gave the brief information on the response actions carried out by NRCS to a command control center has been established in coordination with district security personnel to collect the information about the missing people. A full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website: <http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation>.

Presentation III: Preliminary assessment of Seti River flash flood of 5th May 2012 by Mr. Samjwal Bajracharya, Remote Sensing Specialist, ICIMOD.

Mr. Samjwal Bajracharya, Remote Sensing Specialist, ICIMOD made a paper presentation on Preliminary assessment of Seti River flash flood disaster of 5th May 2012. Mr. Bajracharya explained on Seti Flood and its impact along the river. He also provided a brief information of Kharapani Village before and after Seti Flood. He also said that the flood and debris overtopped the Kharapani Village, thick debris deposited by the flood.

Mr. Bajracharya highlighted on the triggering factors of Seti Flood. The triggering factors are as: rain and snowfall in the catchment area, landslide dammed partially, ice/debris avalanche on Annapurna IV, temporary blockage on the channel and Karst topography. He also highlighted on the causes of Seti Flood. A full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website: <http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation>.

Presentation IV: Seti River Flash Flood of 5th May 2012 by Mr. Basistha Adhikari, Senior Divisional Engineer, Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention.

The fourth presentation was made by Mr. Basistha Adhikari, Senior Divisional Engineer, Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention. In his presentation, Mr. Adhikari highlighted on the flash flood in Seti river on May 5 2012. He explained that there was lots of debris and mud flow, about 72 people lost their lives, infrastructure- w/s pipeline, suspension bridges, damaged/washed away. Kharapani is the severely affected area. Explaining on the multiple use of Seti water, Mr. Adhikari mentioned the causes of Seti Flash Flood. He said, avalanche at Annapurna-IV-ice pieces seen in Kharapani, landslide / rock fall at 4,500 m-22 mill m³ of rock mass-NASA, river damming at the gorge deposited sediment- mostly fine gravel, pebble, huge amount of tree logs are the main causes of flash flood in Seti river. Mr. Adhikari also explained on the impacts of flash flood as the flood severely affected Kharapani-hotels, hot spring (Tapopani) resort, bus park, temporary settlements

and bazaar, suspension bridges- damaged/washed away, Mardi Dovan- w/s pipe line detached and broken, river crossing at risk, right pier damaged, sheds damaged, Jaubari Pokhara- Bal Kalyan Primary School at risk. Mr. Adhikari concluded his presentation highlighting that the warning system at Pokhara saved many people from river bed entering, flood warning system is essential-Sadal/Kharapani, flood attenuated when crossed Seti weir at Jaubari Pokhara and river bank settlement need to be transferred-Lantin Bagar, Masine Bagar. A full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website: <http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation>.

Presentation V: Situation Analysis and key areas of intervention to policy and practice in context of Seti River Flood by Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane, General Secretary, DPNet-Nepal

The fifth presentation was made by Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane, General Secretary, DPNet-Nepal on **Situation Analysis and key areas of intervention to policy and practice in context of Seti River Flood**. He said that on Saturday May 5, 2012 a catastrophic flood occurred in Seti River in Kaski district. He also shared that the death toll reached 31 and 40 are still missing, the loss of property worth Rs. 49.25 million according to the report made by DDRC. Mr. Neupane provided the details information of lost public property, injured persons, children who have lost their parents and the loss of human settlement, roads, vehicle, cattle, drinking water pipelines and also a suspension bridge which linked Kapuche and Machhapuchre VDCs.

Mr. Neupane also highlighted on some issues and challenges as the difficulties in preserving, identifying and estimation of dead bodies. The real cause of flash flood of 5th May couldn't be found to date. Many students are not able to attend the school. He also talked on the gaps on cluster activation according to the DDPRP and DEOC was not functioning properly.

Mr. Neupane concluded his presentation highlighting on some issues of policy intervention. He emphasized that the intervention should be made on relief package, settlement, riverbank management, Rehabilitation and Recovery, Early Warning System, review of District Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan and capacity building of the line agencies. A full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website: <http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation>.

9. Open Discussion

The floor discussion was held amongst the participants and presenters to discuss on the papers presented. Dr. Jushnu Subedi from Institute of Engineering mentioned that we are observing the frequent trend of surprising flood before few years. In this situation, we should make micro level study and need to measure hazards, organize awareness campaign in the vulnerable areas and develop Early Warning System.

Mr. Gehendra, Gurung from Practical Action commented that the Government response and function was fine after the flood came out, but the Gov. should think for the

endorsement of the proposed DM Bill since there are some constraints in the policy level. There is a challenge in Rehabilitation and Recovery that should be managed by the Government coordinating with the concerned stakeholders. He said that NRCS immediate response is fine but it would be better if the local youths are mobilized in rescue and response. He also added that it is learned that the management capacity need to be strengthen in local level. Regarding the ICIMOD presentation he said, it's more technical but it would be better if we could do anything in Early Warning System. He suggested DWIDP to make more research on Glacial Lakes.

Mr. Rajesh Shrivastav from Care Nepal highlighted that all concerned organizations should think on how to manage such kind of disasters. The GLOFs might be big flash flood so the NGOs, INGOs working in this sector need to make study on this issue.

Mr. Krishna Sigdel, Freelancer/Consultant put his query that what is the real cause of flash flood of Seti River of 5th May while some professionals are saying it is due to the Glacial Lake Outburst and some are saying it's because of landslide. Mr. Samjwal Bajracharya from ICIMOD said the flood was not due to the glacial lake outburst. There was not any glacial lake at that place; it might be that the heavy rainfall made a temporary dam that created the pressure of water which has been collected there. After that the dam burst and water came out; he also said that the actual cause is not found till date. He also informed that there are 14 Glacial Lakes which are in most dangerous stage. Mr. Ram Chandra Neupane from DPNNet-Nepal emphasized that the distribution in the relief package should be in humanitarian standards. Mr. Murari Pokhrel from SSE said that many big floods had gone in the past but we don't have enough data. So we need to aware communities, and map community hazards. Mr. Deepak Poudel from DPNNet-Nepal put his query that what status of the rainfall was during the flood occurred. He also asked about the timeline of the return period of the flood. Mr. Sunil Sun Shakya from NDRC commented that there is a District Disaster Response Plan in most of the districts but the plan is not activated during the Disaster. The protection committee was not working properly. Mr. Shiva Gyawali suggested that it would be better if all concerned agencies provided harmonized data.

10. Conclusion

The monthly dialogue program on Flash Flood of Seti River of 5th May 2012 in Kaski was organized by DPNNet-Nepal with the aim of updating partner organizations on the recent flood. The program was successful in sharing the information on the recent flood, current and future challenges of flood disaster in the hill areas. The discussion was made amongst the participants and presenters on the cause and effects of the flash flood. There were multiple facts that caused the Seti Flood. More than 40 Glacial Lakes are in dangerous stage so the research should be made and come out with some measures to reduce the risk to the downstream communities. It is learned that the local level management capacity should be strengthened and trained local youths should be mobilized to respond the disaster immediately. The District Disaster Response Plan need be activated and the Relief committee should take the roles and responsibilities to better respond the disasters in the days ahead.

Annex: 1

List of Participating organizations:

APF HQ KTM. DM Section	Gov.
AIN	Network Organization
CARE	INGO
DPNet-Nepal	Network Organization
DWIDP	Gov.
ECO-Nepal	NGO
ICIMOD	INGO
IOE	Academic Institution
JMC	Media
KVS	NGO
MOHA	Gov.
NDMF	NGO
NDRC Nepal	NGO
NIDS	NGO
NRCS	Red Cross Movement
Oxfam	INGO
Pashim Paaila	Youth Organization
Practical Action	INGO
Save the Children	INGO
SFH-Nepal	NGO
SSE	NGO
Surveillance Business Research & Consultant Pvt. Ltd	Private Company
UMN	INGO
WWF Nepal	INGO