

Report on
A monthly Dialogue Program for Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practices
On
Crisis Management: Nepal and Denmark's Experiences

23 July 2012

Meeting Hall, Nepal Red Cross Society, Kalimati, Kathmandu



Organized by

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

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Abbreviation

AINTGDM	Association of International NGOs Task Group for Disaster Management
APF	Armed Police Force
CDF	Community Development Forum
CNDRRC	Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee
DEMA	Danish Emergency Management Agency
DHM	Department of Hydrology and Metrology
DM	Disaster Management
DP	Disaster Preparedness
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent
IFRC	
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
JMC	Jagaran Media Center
KVS	Kirtipur Volunteer Society
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
	National Network of Community Disaster Management Committees
NCDMC	
NDMF	Natural Disaster Management Forum
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NP	Nepal Police
NRCS	Nepal Red Cross Society
NRRC	Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium
NSET-Nepal	National Society for Earthquake Technology Nepal
RRN	Rural Reconstruction Nepal
UMN	United Mission to Nepal
UN	United Nations
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment

**REPORT
ON
*Crisis Management: Nepal and Denmark's Experiences***

1. Introduction

On 23 July 2012, DpNet-Nepal organized a Monthly Dialogue program on ***Crisis Management: Nepal and Denmark's Experiences***. The dialogue was held at Nepal Red Cross Society Meeting Hall, Kalimati, Kathmandu, from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm and was attended by 37 participants representing from a cross section of Government Agencies, NGOs, INGOs, UN Agencies, USAID, Red Cross Movement and Youth Organization. The main objective of the program was to share national and international experiences in the field of crisis management to DRR stakeholders. It also aimed to examine the gaps and areas for the correction in crisis management in Nepal.

2. Objectives

The main objective of the program was to share national and international experiences in the field of crisis management to DRR stakeholders.

The specific objectives were:

- To share the Crisis Management experiences from Denmark
- To share the Crisis Management experiences from Nepal
- To examine the gaps and areas for the corrections in crisis management
- To develop the way ahead for the better crisis management in Nepal

3. Outcomes of the Program

- Crisis Management experiences from Denmark are shared amongst the participants.
- Crisis Management experiences from Nepal are shared amongst the participants.
- Suggestions/ recommendations are made for better crisis management in Nepal.

4. Methodology/Modality

- Presentation on Crisis Management: Experiences from Denmark
- Presentation on Crisis Management: Experiences from Nepal
- Discussion and Interaction on the Crisis Management among the participants on the gaps and areas to be improved for better crisis management in Nepal.

5. Participants

Thirty seven people from 28 organizations attended the dialogue program. The participants were the representative from Government Agencies, Un Agencies, International NGOs, USAID, Red Cross Movement and national NGOs working in Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Response and Crisis Management. Similarly, the students, practitioners, and social workers of disaster management sector including youth organizations also attended the program. A full list of participating organizations can be found in Annex 1.

6. Date, Venue and Time

The DRR dialogue program on Crisis Management: Nepal and Denmark's Experiences was held on 23 July, 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. Dr. Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri, Chairperson of DpNet-Nepal, welcomed all the participants, presenters and guests to the program highlighted the objectives and importance of the program. He also highlighted that it was a great opportunity to all DRR stakeholders to share the national and international experiences of crisis management in a single forum.

8. Presentation Session

Presentation : Managing Crises preparing for Uncertainty by Sine Tarby Christensen, Head, Danish Emergency Management Agency, Denmark

Ms. Sine Tarby Christensen, Head, Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), Denmark had provided her presentation on **Managing Crisis Preparing for Uncertainty**. She said that Denmark is comparatively a small country with less population than Nepal. In Denmark flooding is a threat in some areas of the country but most areas are protected from the sea by a system of dikes. Though it is a country with relatively lower exposure to natural hazards but it has prioritized disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction. There are 5 regions and 98 municipalities in Denmark. She explained about the multi level emergency management system of the municipalities. The municipality may choose to have a municipal fire and rescue service or enter into a contract with a private company (most often Falck) or a voluntary fire brigade. She added that they may call upon the assistance of nine municipal and national support sites or the five national fire and rescue centers. The support site assistance can reach a site of damage throughout the country within an hour. This may be water tankers, lighting equipment or high-pressure compressors. The municipal and national support sites thus only offer equipment. In the case of comprehensive accidents requiring special equipment or large amounts of equipment and personnel, the municipalities may call on the assistance of DEMA's five fire and rescue centers all on 24-hour turn-out duty.

Explaining on the Danish Crisis Management Structure, the DEMA which is the agency for the Disaster Management and conduct the activities related to national risk assessments, preparedness planning and development of new methods within the area of resilience and preparedness planning. Ms. Christensen also highlighted on the political system and legal framework.



Ms. Sine Tarby Christensen during her presentation

She stated that the purpose of the Danish preparedness planning and crisis management is to prevent that major accidents affect life, welfare and environment. The Danish authorities are obliged to plan how operation of vital societal functions may be continued or re-established in the event of accidents or disasters. She also stated that the Emergency Management Act has established that the individual ministers are obliged to plan for the maintenance and re-establishment of societal vital functions within their area of responsibility in case of accidents or disasters. She emphasized on the coordination of the emergency management planning is required and volunteerism is popular in Denmark and how the country makes people prepared for the real time disaster. She also explained about the DEMA's approach to disaster preparedness and crisis management. She concluded her presentation highlighting on the challenges of crisis managers and giving way forward in the crisis management. A full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website: <http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation>.

Presentation II: Nepal Experiences in Crisis Management by Mr. Pitambar Adhikari, Section officer, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)

The 2nd presentation was made by Mr. Pitambar Adhikari, Section Officer, Disaster management section, MoHA on Nepal Experiences in Crisis Management. He said MOHA is an apex body for Disaster Management. The Ministry acts as a National Focal Point for Disaster Management; it leads the crisis management, Search and Rescue and Response. Mr. Adhikari gave a brief explanation on the disaster profile of Nepal. Explaining on the major disasters and remarkable losses in the major earthquake in Nepal, Mr. Adhikari highlighted on the Institutional Framework for Disaster Management in Nepal. Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC) is a policy making and recommendation body. The primary role of the Nepal emergency operation center is communication and networking. The District Natural Disaster Relief Committee and Local Natural Disaster Relief Committee have the role in rescue and relief work. The rescue and relief works are done in close

collaboration with governmental and non governmental agencies like Nepal police, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, Nepal Red Cross Society, I/NGOS and community based organizations.

Highlighted on the institutions/ organizations involved in DRR/ DP/ DM in Nepal, he explained on the present disaster management status and on going processes in Nepal. He explained that the three year plan focused on disaster management and recognized the importance of DRR and mitigation. The Prime Minister's Disaster Relief fund, Central Disaster Relief Fund and District Disaster Relief Fund are the financial mechanism for disaster management. **Mr. Adhikari during his presentation**



He said that 83 open spaces are identified for evacuation during emergencies and pre-positioning relief items within Kathmandu valleys. Dead body management guideline is prepared and building codes were adapted and practiced in municipality levels. Regarding the immediate action program, NRRC has identified 5 Flagship Areas in 2009. He concluded his presentation highlighting on the major challenges and way forward to disaster risk reduction in Nepal. A full copy of his presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website:

<http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation>.

Presentation III: Role of NRCS in Disaster/Crisis Management and its Response Capabilities for the Disaster Management by Mr. Krishna K.C, Program Coordinator, DM Department, Nepal Red Cross Society.

Mr. Krishna K.C., Program Coordinator, DM Department, NHQs, made a paper presentation on **Role of NRCS in Disaster/ Crisis Management and its Response Capabilities**. Mr. K.C. provided a brief introduction to NRCS and disaster situation and trends of disaster in Nepal. Explaining on the NRCS DM structure he highlighted that NRCS is actively involved in disaster response (emergency relief), post disaster



Mr. K.C. during his presentation.

recovery (early recovery) and disaster risk reduction (Building safer communities, organization development, response preparedness as well as organizational and capacity building) as development initiatives.

Mr. K.C. also stated that DRR major components covered more than 700 schools/ communities in more than 45 districts through NRCS in Nepal. He also explained about NRCS Framework for DRR process for building safer communities. Regarding the NRCS resources for crisis management it has significant numbers of trained people and Emergency Disaster Relief Fund. The Emergency Response Fund- able to provide NPR 50000 to each DC during the emergency and the disaster management Center/Emergency Operation Center- functional, equipped with system and equipments, linked with contingency plan. NRCS has been implementing DRR interventions for risk assessment and awareness, knowledge development, public commitments and institutional frameworks, applications of measures and Early Warning. He elucidated that NRCS provides assistance for immediate relief that are urgently needed during and after the disaster to assist affected people utilizing its standard assessment procedures. To reduce the impact of earthquake NRCS developed Earthquake contingency plan of Kathmandu Valley with the technical support of NSET. He also explained on the NRCS coordination mechanism in disaster management. Highlighting on the areas for coordination in DM, he talked about the actors for coordination in Nepal. Mr. K.C. concluded his presentation explaining on some lesson learned and recommendations for DRR/ DM in Nepal. The details of lessons learned and recommendations can be found in his presentation. A full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal Website:

<http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation>.

Presentation IV: Care Nepal initiation on DRR, Climate Change and Emergency Response by Mr. Santosh Sharma, Social Analyst and DRR Coordinator, Care Nepal.

Mr. Santosh Sharma, Social Analyst and DRR Coordinator, Care Nepal gave a presentation on Care Nepal Initiation on DRR, Climate Change and Emergency Response. Mr. Sharma provided an overview of Care Nepal. CARE Nepal is currently implementing 16 projects in 48 out of 75 districts in the country. It has the partnership with over 80 national and local NGOs, federations/networks, and over 1,000 Community Based Organizations. It has three core programs as Women's Empowerment, Natural Resources Environment/Livelihood and Equity and Justice.



Mr. Sharma during his presentation.

Explaining on the Care Principles, goals and strategic direction he highlighted on the Care strategies for DRR. Mainstreaming DRR into existing or future programs and projects and DRR focus programs and projects are the care strategies for DRR. He also explained on the DRR mainstreaming principles and Institutional capacity of Care Nepal. He added that Care has been involving in response activities like Koshi Flood, diarrhea outbreak in western part of Nepal and Earthquake response in eastern Nepal. It has been increasing active involvement in responding to other disasters in different parts of Nepal. He concluded his presentation emphasizing on the Care coordination with DRR network organizations like DpNet-Nepal, AINTGDM, Flagships coordination groups and different clusters (education, WASH, health, protection). 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 open discussion was held amongst the participants and presenters to discuss on the papers presented. Some key participants were asked to provide their short remarks. Ms. Becky Jay Harrington, Flagship-4 Coordinator, IFRC, said that various consultation programs have been made on the disaster risk reduction in Nepal. All these interaction programs helped to increase the engagement and awareness of many people to disaster risk reduction. The communication is also a significant part in disaster management so it needs to be discussed.

Mr. Ryan Gladding from USAID thanked to the organizer for inviting and giving an opportunity to make remarks. He said that this kind of program is important for bringing many organizations to a common forum for dialogue. He stated that USAID has a better coordination with NRRC and other organizations working in disaster preparedness and emergency response. Mr. Gladding also informed that USAID has been working in partnership with Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, Nepal Red Cross Society and NSET-Nepal in disaster preparedness and emergency response.

Lt. Col. Tika Ram Gurung from Nepal Army said that we have lots of disasters than Denmark. Since past 3 years Government of Nepal has been actively engaged in disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction. It also has been working for policy and strategy in Disaster Risk Management. Many things are going on now. He expressed that the experiences shared by the head of DEMA of Denmark may help us for integrating DRR into our development plan.

DSP Suresh Sapkota from Armed Police Force thanked to the organizer for providing an opportunity to make remarks. He said that DpNet-Nepal has been coordinating with various agencies working in DRR that is admirable. He stated that APF is also working in DRR. Though, it has been involving in emergency response but it has also started to work in disaster preparedness and mitigation including awareness activities.

Mr. Sujan Shrestha, Inspector of Nepal Police also made remarks. He said that Nepal Police serves in security but it also works for rescue from the very beginning during disaster and post disaster. He stated that Nepal Police is doing all these activities without less tools and equipments. He explained that it has a good coordination with local and international organizations and have a good database system. We can get data of occurred disasters and the status of loss in Nepal. He further informed that Nepal Police is planning to make some training on DRR. Though, in all districts there is a rescue team but NP is still looking for more trainings and resources on crisis management.

Ms. Siny Tarby put her query that is there any general model in emergency response and relief distribution in Nepal. Mr. Santosh Sharma said that majority of the humanitarian principles can be adopted in emergency response. Mr. Krishna K.C also emphasized that the programs of DRR can be different based on the vulnerability of the society but NRCS has adopted global tools for Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA). However the VCA depends to the nature of the cluster or community.

Regarding to the technological disaster in Denmark, Ms. Tarby said such kind of unlikely things happens in Denmark so we need to be much careful.

Mr. Anup Phaiju, Deputy Project Manager, Practical Action put his query that the volunteerism is growing in Denmark, what makes to motivate in volunteerism and is there any Early Warning mechanism to disseminate before disaster occurred.

Ms. Siny Tarby stated that mainly the volunteerism takes place during the emergency in Denmark since it's a humanitarian matter. People involved in emergency response voluntarily during disaster or after disaster. The volunteerism arises itself to a human being. Sometimes, the disaster affected family members; friends or colleagues might be the factors to motivate other people in volunteerism. Ms. Tarby also shared that the early information of any disasters is disseminated by government websites and media. Media works for disseminating information mostly during disaster and post disaster.

Mr. Dinesh Baral from ADRA Nepal shared that the gaps in allocation of resources was realized during formulating District Disaster Risk Management Plan in the districts. Mr. Pitambar Adhikari from MoHA informed that district disaster management guideline was developed and tested in few districts but MoHA also realized some gaps. He also assured that the government will work out for the correction on the gaps in the guidelines.

Finally the program was concluded by Dr. Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri, Chairperson of DpNet-Nepal. Dr. Chhetri extended his sincere thanks to Ms. Siny Tarby for her presentation on Denmark's experiences on Crisis Management. He expressed thanks to the paper presenters from HoMA, NRCS and Care Nepal. Dr. Chhetri also thanked to the participants for their presence, constructive

feedbacks and commendations made during the program. He informed that DpNet-Nepal has been organizing this kind of program regularly in different DRR theme and will come up with another theme in next month.

10. Conclusion

The monthly dialogue program on *Crisis Management: Nepal and Denmark's Experiences* was organized by DpNet-Nepal with the aim of sharing experiences from Denmark and Nepal in crisis management to DRR stakeholders. The program was successful in sharing the national and international experiences from Denmark and Nepal. However, Denmark is a country with relatively lower exposure to natural hazards but it has prioritized disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Nepal, being one of the most vulnerable countries with many natural hazards is not in a good position for emergency response and rescue during and after disaster. While there are also many significant initiatives are being undertaken, particular at the national level, to reduce the risk of major disaster impact in Nepal and to increase the effectiveness of response and recovery but there is much work to be done to reduce vulnerability and strengthen capacity. The policy discussion programs are important to identify the gaps on the policies and make recommendations for better crisis management in Nepal.

Annex: 1

List of Participating organizations

1.	ADRA Nepal	INGO
2.	APF	Gov
3.	CARE Nepal	INGO
4.	CDF	NGO
5.	Danish Red Cross	Red Cross Movement
6.	DEMA	Denmark Gov.
7.	Dept of Mines & Geology	Gov
8.	DHM	Gov
9.	DPNet- Nepal	DRR Network
10.	Eco- Nepal	NGO
11.	IFRC	Red Cross Movement
12.	JMC	NGO
13.	KVS	NGO
14.	MoHA	Gov
15.	NCDMC	NGO
16.	NDMF	NGO
17.	NEEO	NGO
18.	Nepal Army	Gov
19.	Nepal Police	Gov
20.	NRCS	Red Cross Movement
21.	NRRC	DRR Consortium
22.	Paschim Paila	Youth Network
23.	Practical Action	INGO
24.	RRN	NGO
25.	Shapla Neer	INGO
26.	Social Service Center	NGO
27.	UMN	INGO
28.	US Embassy	Embassy