

# “Country Approaches to Disaster Risk Mitigation in Nepal: From Vision to Implementation”

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South Asian Countries"

Learning Lessons from Past Disasters - Preparing for the Future

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- Good morning and have a successful day
- I take note of this valuable opportunity to thank World Bank for organizing this Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Mitigation
- I welcome you all in this dialogue and sharing exercise.

# Basic Features of Disaster in Nepal

- ❑ Nepal faces a myriad of disaster hazards and vulnerabilities (structural, non-structural and developmental)
- ❑ Nepal stands 11th position to Earthquake vulnerability and 30th in Water-induced disaster
- ❑ Disaster has significant relationships with poverty alleviation, natural resource management, sustainable development
- ❑ Disaster has multi-dimensionality: geological, ecological, humanitarian, technological, behavioural, legal dimensions
- ❑ Nepal has
  - ❑ Three layers of tectonic fault zones
  - ❑ Unstable soil condition due to young mountains
- ❑ Lack of general tendency to maintain gradient in mountainous settlements
- ❑ Deforestation and vegetation loss due to unscientific agro-farming and livestock farming
- ❑ Culture of manipulating nature/environmental resources ***rather to add value to nature***

# Types of Disaster

## □ *Natural*

- Earthquake
- Floods and landslides
- Windstorms, Hailstorms, thunderbolts
- Drought
- Epidemics

## □ *Human-induced*

- Fire
- Landslides
- Industrial accidents
- Road accidents

# Major Impacts of Disaster in Nepal

- **Environmental**: productivity, stability, sustainability, climatic, loss of natural resources, bio-diversity
- **Humanitarian**: Quality of human life, food security, livelihood
- **Demographic**: Forced migration, human rights, social disorder
- **Political**: Instability, conflict, displacement
- **Economic**: Productivity, Revenue, investment, employment, imbalance
- **Infrastructural**: Damage of developmental infrastructures causing diversion of limited resources

# **Disaster Mitigation Response in Nepal: Approaches and Frameworks**



# Strategic Response: National Policy Framework

## Tenth Plan (2003-2008)

- Identified natural and human-induced disaster management as the core need of sustainable and broad-based economic growth
- Adopted policy on disaster risk reduction in Nepal
- Included preparedness activities for disaster management: national and community levels
- Provides local bodies, NGOs, community organizations and the private sectors opportunity for preparedness actions including rescue and relief
- Integrated the objectives of
  - making development and construction works sustainable, reliable and effective
  - mitigating disasters to secure life of common people through appropriate strategies and programmes

## ➤ Key Strategies adopted by Tenth Plan

- Adoption of suitable technology to minimize environmental impacts and losses
- Making rescue and relief reliable and effective
- Carrying out effective public awareness activities
- Strengthening earthquake measurement stations
- Preparing hazard maps of vulnerable areas
- Designating MOHA as National Focal Point for disaster management

# Programme Strategies for Disaster Risk

## Mitigation

- Carryout rescue and relief works in disaster affected areas
- Protect and reduce the loss of life and property and mitigate the sufferings of people
- Implement effective land use zoning, prepare hazard maps of the disaster prone areas.
- Raise disaster awareness in the people and provide training at the community level for effective disaster management
- Coordinate different stakeholders involved in disaster management and proper mobilization of non-governmental organizations in rescue and relief works
- Mobilize internal and external resources for rehabilitation and reconstruction
- Formation of teams and their mobilization in disaster areas to assist in relief works
- Assess the damages, collect and analyze data, and disseminate information

# Sector Strategic Responses

National Water Resource Strategy, 2002

- 5 years, 15 years and 25 years strategic targets set

National Water Plan, 2005

Water Induced Disaster Management Policy, 2006

Inclusion of disaster risk mitigation in decentralized planning

## ➤ Hyogo Framework of Action (2005-15) and Nepal's Response

- Preparing for National Strategic Plan to realize the priority actions at national level as envisaged by the framework.

# Plan and Programme Responses

- **District Preparedness Plan and Action Plan**
- **Community Level Flood Management Programme**
- **Community Level Preparedness for Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)**
- **Community Level Preparedness for Earthquake**

# Legal Response

- Natural Calamities Relief Act, 1982 - the sole legal instrument to define disaster and reduce disaster risk
- Covers disaster mitigation measures to earthquake, fire, storm, flood, landslide, heavy rain, drought, famine, epidemic, and other similar natural disaster.
- The Act also includes industrial accident or accidents caused by the explosions or any other kinds of disaster
- Set up for different institutions for disaster response
  - Central Disaster Relief Committee
  - Regional Disaster Relief Committee
  - District and Local level Relief Committees

- Funding arrangements for mobilization and relief operations
    - Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund
    - Central Disaster Relief Fund
    - District Disaster Relief Fund
  - Local Self-governance Act
  - Building code and construction safety measures
  - EIA and IEE
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# Organization Structure for Disaster Management



# Reflections from the Past Experience

- Need of public awareness and sensitization on disaster preparedness
- Extension of partnership programmes at community, national and regional levels
- Need of a competent, professional, multidisciplinary and participatory National agency on disaster management
- Improvement needed in emergency response planning and building capacity
- Institutionalization of national system for disaster information management
- Identification of most vulnerable zones, vulnerability/hazard mapping and strategies to act upon
- Preparing holistic national strategic plan
- Mainstreaming disaster issues into national policies, plans and programmes

- Relocation of vulnerable/at-risk-settlements to a safer place
- Building emergency warehouses and mobilization centers across the country for emergency responses - rescue and relief
- Improvement in transportation and communication system
- Early warning system for prevention and preparedness
- Effective enforcement of building code and other relative legal/technical instruments
- Human resource development
- Rehabilitation of internally displaced community
- Collaboration at cross-border, regional and international levels

# Gaps, Challenges and Problems

## ❑ Strategic challenges

- ❑ Lack of comprehensive policy on disaster risk reduction and management
- ❑ Lack of strategic plan for prevention and preparedness

## ❑ Socio-cultural /Behavioural challenges

- ❑ Culture of submission to divinity
- ❑ Adequate information, education and communication
- ❑ Use of natural resources
- ❑ Settlement behaviour
- ❑ Lack of environment-friendly behaviour
- ❑ Complacent and non-demanding society

## ❑ Economic Challenges

- ❑ Poverty
- ❑ Lack of livelihood options rather to manipulate natural resources
- ❑ Capacity of national treasury to fund adequately

## □ Governance challenges

- Political commitment and priority
- Institutional readiness and capacity
- Systems and process
- International assistance
- Local self-governance persuasion

## □ Legal challenges

- Legal base for competent institution
- Adequacy: limited to immediate rescue and relief
- Standardization
- Non-obligatory
- Participatory-national and international
- Functional capacity of committees
- Resource base and mobilization

# Forward Moving Strategies: Priority Actions

- **A comprehensive national policy on disaster risk reduction and disaster management**
  - National Strategic Plan to respond Hyogo Framework of Priority Actions on disaster management
  - Conceptual clarity on disaster management
  - Mainstreaming disaster in sectoral development plans
  - Disaster budgeting
  - Mobilization of international support and assistance
- **Strengthening prevention and preparedness**
  - Behaviour change through information-education-communication interventions
  - Human resource development
  - Effective enforcement of building code
  - Change in the settlement behaviour

## ➤ Legal Reforms


- Amendment in the Natural Calamity Relief Act to enable preparedness and mobilization
- Ratification on the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations
- Accession to Framework Convention on Civil Defence Assistance

## ➤ **Institutional Capacity building**


- **National Focal Institution for Disaster Management - autonomous and professionally competent, multi-disciplinary and participatory**
- **Strengthening central, regional, district and community level disaster relief committees and make them capable of undertaking responsibility of carrying out preparedness activities**
- **Strengthening NGOs and Community-based organizations**
- **Human resource development**

## ➤ **Assessment, Information management and technical capability**

- **Vulnerability assessment and Hazard mapping**
- **Regular monitoring and evaluation**
- **Early warning system**
- **Tools and methodologies for mandatory disaster risk assessment**
- **Information sharing and networking**
- **Research and survey**

- Reconstruction of developmental infrastructure
  - Relocation of vulnerable/at-risk community
  - Effective rehabilitation for the displaced and affected population
  - Decentralized disaster management system
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# Regional Perspective

- Regional roadmap and strategy
  - Collective understanding and clarity
  - Collaboration and partnerships: GO/NGO - Bilateral and Multilateral
  - Information and experience sharing
  - Institutional Capacity development
  - Early warning system
  - Humanitarian support
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Any queries, comments  
and  
suggestions...PLEASE

