

# Outline for National Reporting and Information on Disaster Reduction for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

(REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PREPARATION OF NATIONAL INFORMATION)

## Component-1

### *Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects*

1.1. Yes: Nepal has adopted the Disaster Relief Act, 1982 which covers the national policy, strategy and legislation addressing disaster risk reduction. A copy of act is attached herewith.

1.2. In our Disaster Relief Act we have Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee as a national body for multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction except Education and Agriculture Ministries are invited in the meeting of the Central Disaster Relief Committee. The composition of the body is given below:

1. Hon'ble Home Minister	-	Chairman
3. Hon'ble Physical Planning & Construction Minister	-	Member
4. Hon'ble Health Minister	-	Member
5. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs	-	Member
6. Secretary, Ministry of Finance	-	Member
7. Secretary, Ministry of Defense	-	Member
8. Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	-	Member
9. Secretary, Ministry of Physical Planning & Construction	-	Member
10. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources	-	Member
11. Secretary, Ministry of Information & Communication	-	Member
12. Secretary, Ministry of Forest & Soil Conservation	-	Member
13. Secretary, Ministry of Population & Environment	-	Member
14. Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children & Social Welfare	-	Member
15. Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Supplies	-	Member
16. Secretary, Secretariat of National Planning Commission	-	Member
17. Brigadier, Royal Nepal Army	-	Member
18. Inspector General of Police, Police Head Quarters	-	Member
19. Director General, Department of Mines & Geology	-	Member
20. Director General, Department of Hydrology & Meteorology	-	Member
21. Representative, Nepal Scout	-	Member
22. Representatives, Social Welfare Council	-	Member
23. Representative, Nepal Red Cross Society	-	Member
24. Secretary, Prime Ministry Office	-	On Invitation
25. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Planning & Special Division	-	Member-Secretary

1.3. His Majesty's Government of Nepal has planned for integrating disaster risk reduction into development sectors. Regarding the incorporation of risk reduction concept in the sectoral plans or initiative, the present Tenth Plan of the country has made it compulsory

that there should be environmental impact and natural disaster appraisal study of each infrastructure construction project before its implementation as well as other relevant sectors.

- 1.4. In the field of disaster risk reduction strategies in our Tenth National Plan, a separate emphasis is given on its implementation.
- 1.5. Yes, we have launched National Building Code since 1994. Due to lack of education and proper awareness it is not yet implemented effectively.
- 1.6. In our national budget the government has not allocated separate budget line item focusing the disaster reduction. We have the Central Disaster Relief Fund in our annual budget, which is used on relief activities. In addition to that the line agencies and non-governmental organizations are contributing their budget organizing various seminars and awareness activities in the disaster reduction efforts.
- 1.7. Yes: Private sectors, civil society, NGOs, Academia and Media are participating in disaster risk reduction efforts in their own ways. Civil Society is also active and creative in disaster prone areas for safeguarding people's wealth & property. Academicians have shared their knowledge and experience to control the possible threat of disasters. Similarly, media also has played significant role pointing out the crucial aspects of national importance.

In every districts (75 districts) there is a District Natural Disaster Relief Committee coordinated by Chief District Officer, district level governmental & non-governmental organizations and reputed social workers, which gives attention on the possible measures of disaster risk reduction.

## Component -2

### *Risk Identification.*

- 2.1 Yes, Department of Mines and Geology and Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention have carried out hazard mapping. But their proper assessment has not been done so far. The Department of Mines and Geology has carried out hazard mapping with the probable geological point of view and the DWIDP has prepared hazard mapping with water induced disaster point of view. The most recurrent disasters in Nepal are landslides, floods and fires, and are prevent in hills and plains regions of the country during the rainy season. These mappings include some of the characteristics, impacts, historical data, as well as multi-hazard approach.
- 2.2 To date, our country has not carried out vulnerability and capacity assessment on details. Sporadic assessments have taken place from time to time according the needs but they are, in fact, not sufficient and dependable. In short, in our country vulnerability is high on the one hand and on the other capacity is supposed to be near to naught.
- 2.3 Yes, The Ministry of Home Affairs is a focal point of disaster management. It has a mechanism for risk monitoring and risk mapping for this. Besides this, ICIMOD a Kathmandu based international agency has carried out risk mapping of the northern sector, Himalayan region.

- 2.4 Although, there is lack of systematic socio-economic and environment impact and loss analysis but HMG/Nepal has established a separate Ministry named The Ministry of Population and Environment, recently, which is responsible for systematic socio-economic and environment impact.
- 2.5 Really speaking for the purpose of providing early warning of the risk area settlements, we don't have separate early warning systems. But the daily weather forecasts by the Department of Hydrology and Meteorological, is supposed to significant role as an easy warning system.

### Component -3

#### *Knowledge Management*

- 3.1 Yes: We have, in our country, disaster risk information system. We have information network from center to district and grassroots levels of civil and police administration. The Ministry of Home Affairs from district administration and police force receives risk information. Three authorities report to the respective authorities about the possible dangers of disasters in time and disseminated to the concerning ministries for immediate actions. Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Water resources, NGOs and INGOs are the main users of this information.
- 3.2 No: We do not have the academic and research communities in the country linked to national or local institutions dealing with disaster reduction. Due to the lack of consciousness of the communities about the disasters, academic and research oriented activities have not taken place. However, in the government sector DWIDP has conducted water induced disaster prone areas survey in the country. Similarly, MoHA Nepal has launched research works on the earthquake menace in the valley as well as in the country in collaboration with JICA Nepal. To speak the truth, academic and research works are few in the country and likewise the communities are also few.
- 3.3 Yes: We have educational programs relating to disaster risk reduction in our public school system for the students of 10-14 yrs of age group. To support the teachers in this area, we have tried to develop textbooks, posters, placards, banners and other necessary educational materials as required.
- 3.4 Specifically, we don't have training program available regarding disaster risk reduction purpose at any levels of organization. But sometimes foreign aid or sometimes with national initiatives, we do launch awareness programs for the people of the disaster hit areas. We have been confirmed that unless the people of disaster prone areas are made conscious about the aftermath of disaster, we can't reduce the impact of disasters. The scope and target of these types of programs is expected to make disaster prone areas.
- 3.5 In fact, we don't have traditional indigenous knowledge, wisdom and practices or trains programs on disaster risk reduction in our country. Traditional indigenous practices for disaster risk reduction are to sacrifice goats and other animals and pray to God to reduce the risk of disasters. Besides this, with the help of bamboo and wooden materials, local people make dams and barriers to possible dangers of disasters. Sometimes retaining walls are also found constructed to fight against the disaster risks in the local levels.

- 3.6 We don't have national public awareness programs or campaign on disaster risk reduction on a regular basis, but the MoHA time to time launch the awareness programs in disaster prone areas. The main players for raising public awareness are government-employee, local politicians, social workers, and the local teachers. In the national public awareness programs or campaigns on disaster risk reduction, mass media and school children are involved. We think that they carry the messages over to their relatives and neighborhoods of vicinity. Disaster prone areas of the society are the main target groups.

#### Component -4

##### *Risk Management Applications/Instruments*

- 4.1 However, the Tenth Plan has cast eyes over disaster reduction and environment linkage. Plans and policies formulation on natural and human induced made disaster management will be guided by the use and development of technologies that lessen harm on natural disaster and environment. And, in addition to making hazard maps of increasing urbanization, unplanned settlement and irrational use of land of the urban areas, the disaster resistance method will be applied in the lack of physical infrastructure development and the natural disaster management.
- 4.2 No, There are no financial instruments utilized in our country as a measure to reduce the impact of disasters. At the national level we have calamity fund as central Disaster Relief Fund. It is used only to meet the after shocks of disasters but not for precautionary measures.
- 4.3 Despite of technical measures or programs on disaster risk reduction we have tried to introduce some technological measures in certain parts of the country e.g. Sabo countermeasures, Bio-engineering, Embankment, Terrace improvement et al. Besides that awareness programs are carried out to make people aware of the disasters. It has helped to raise the level of consciousness of the people regarding the disaster risk reduction.

#### Component -5

##### *Preparedness and Contingency Plan*

- 5.1 Yes, we have prepared a disaster contingency plan in 1996 and now we are under process to its revision. Pleas find attached a copy of the above plan.
- 5.2 In central level we have Central Disaster Relief Fund, which is established according to the Disaster Relief Act, 1982. These funds are disbursed to the disaster victim people in the affected areas. As well as we have national and regional level storage facilities for emergency relief materials but it is not sufficient so in near future we are expanding the capacity of the storage in different places of five regions.
- 5.3 The Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for the coordination of disaster response preparedness. It is felt that the Ministry is not equipped with enough human and financial resources for the job. So we need to improve and strengthen to disaster management aspect.

## Component -6

### *Call for good Practices in disaster risk management*

- Tsho Rolpa Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)-1997. (Please search website at google)
- Watershed Management
- Dharan Dhankuta Highway (Bio-engineering)

## Component -7

### *Priorities to be addressed at world conference on disaster reduction.*

- Hazard Mapping.
- Effective implementation of Building Code 1994.
- Disaster Information Center in central and local levels.
- Rescue equipments.

