



**The 6th Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Bangkok, Thailand
22-26 June, 2014**

Concept Note for Side Event

Side Event	<i>Institutionalizing Early warning systems in Nepal</i>
Schedule	Panel discussion with short documentary and demonstration
Theme to be addressed	Sub-theme 1 - Enhancing Resilience at Local levels
Organizers	<p>Lead: DIPECHO partners</p> <p>Co-leads: MOHA / DHM / MOFALD</p> <p>Contact Details: Alejandro Berzosa Alejandro.Berzosa@practicalaction.org.np</p>
Background	<p>Nepal's Ministry of Home Affairs jointly with the Ministry of Federal Affairs and local Development and the Ministry of Science and Technology through the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology have shown a remarkable leadership in the institutionalization of early warning systems and its integration with disaster response mechanisms in Nepal over the past 6 years. This has resulted in a drastically improved ability of communities and local Government to prepare and respond to disasters resulting in limited fatalities in these areas (districts such as Kailali, Banke and Kanchanpur which previously encountered regularly fatalities have in the last 6 years experienced zero fatalities).</p> <p>The early warning systems activated during 2012 monsoon season, when the West Rapti river reached its highest level in recorded history and the Karnali river experienced the biggest flood in the last 100 years (with approximately 36 hours over the danger level). The early warning system in these areas were activated, communities were evacuated to their pre identified safer places and local Government were able to quickly deploy support for a coordinated response resulting in no fatalities.</p> <p>In recognition of the impact of an effective early warning system the Nepal Government is leading a processes to institutionalize early warning systems throughout Nepal and to date have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted the National Early Warning Strategy which is clearly integrated into existing response mechanisms and focuses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishing and strengthening linkages between communities, district and national levels ○ Institutional capacity building.

	<p>The strategy focuses on setting up systems and capacity that is able to replicated national across all districts in Nepal. .</p> <p>In addition the Government of Nepal is leading a policy harmonization process for local level disaster management. This harmonization process ensures the involvement of all local level sector ministries, and creates opportunity to mainstream early warning systems into regular planning processes.</p>
<p>Session Objectives</p>	<p>To outline and share the progress made by Government of Nepal in early warning systems that specifically address the issues of seasonal flooding and will examine the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing and strengthening communication linkages from community to the national level • Response coordination mechanisms • Integrating security forces and communities as first responders • Institutionalising replication strategy of early warning system by the Government of Nepal
<p>Speakers and title of their interventions <i>(Expected participation: *technical expert* please indicate names, functions, Organization/Country)</i></p>	<p>Facilitation by DIPECHO Nepal coordinator: Alex Barcena</p> <p>Panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoHA / MoFALD: Under Secretary • DHM: Director General, Dr Rishi Sharma • DIPECHO implementing partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yuwan Malakar (Practical Action) and ○ Sagar Pokharal (Mercy Corps) • NRCS: national master trainer • Flagship 4 coordinator: Becky-Jay Harrington
<p>Possible recommendations</p>	<p>How can other countries integrate early warning systems into response mechanisms?</p> <p>How to establish sustainable early warning system model that can be replicated by the local government.</p>
<p>Technical Equipment</p>	<p>Projector, computer, microphones, others: _____</p> <p>Projector</p> <p>Microphones x 4</p> <p>Ability to play dvd</p>