FLAGSHIP 4
INTEGRATED COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Aim of Flagship 4

As Flagship 4 is a coordination and advocacy mechanism for community based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR) in Nepal. It aims to build a common understanding and approach among the many organisations contributing to CBDRR activities, to track progress against national targets and encourage greater investment for scaling up CBDRR across the country.

Flagship 4 does not itself implement any CBDRR projects nor have a budget for implementation but it tracks funding allocated to CBDRR projects in Nepal and through advocacy and coordination between partners can facilitate the channelling of funds to where they are most needed.

Background

International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) leads flagship 4 in partnership with Nepal's Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD)

Communities bear the brunt of most natural disasters in Nepal, which cost not only lives and property but also sets back development gains. These same communities are also at the forefront of disaster risk reduction and response.

Community-based disaster risk reduction is a practical approach that supports community efforts to increase their own disaster resiliency and allows them to better withstand the impacts of disasters. Reducing the community's vulnerability is also a cost effective way of mitigating risks that threaten lives and livelihoods across Nepal. For instance, when disaster strikes, the community and those from neighbouring areas are the first responders, so providing training and assembling taskforces enables communities to undertake light search and rescue, first aid and initiate relief measures to save lives.

Empowering communities to increase their resilience to natural disasters requires a sustained effort, tailored to the specific hazards in each area, and must be scaled up across the country to reach as many communities as possible. Nepal has over 3500 village district committees

(VDCs), each facing a range of risks to natural disasters, risks that are increasing due to climate change, improper land use, rapid population growth and urbanisation. Each VDC is unique, varying in size, density (including rural and urban settings) and landscapes that span mountainous, hill and flat Terai regions. The vulnerability of each community varies according to its geographical characteristics, topography, population, quality of infrastructure, access to services, existing economic opportunities and the level of social cohesion and social capital.

For example, a rural community at risk of flash flooding requires a different approach to an urban community at risk of a major earthquake.

There is also great diversity within each VDC and even within smaller communities, with multiple languages, ethnicities and religious groups represented. Such diversity in composition and capacity requires a customised strategy for disaster risk reduction.

Flagship 4's Target

Completion of 1,000 CBDRR projects at village development committee level within 5 years.
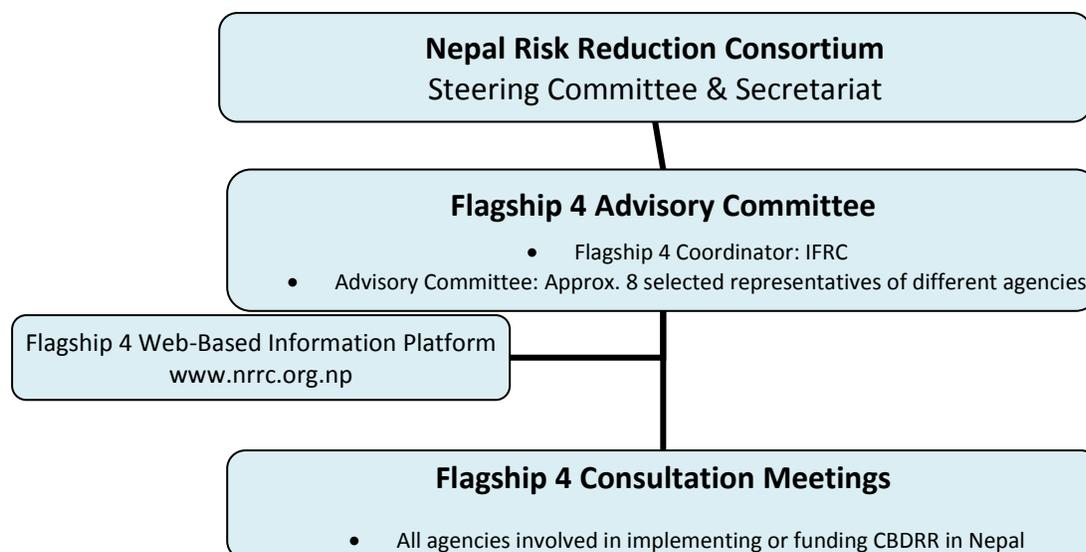
With the adoption of the HFA, the Government of Nepal (GoN) has committed to disaster risk reduction at the national and local levels. Based on this framework, the government's National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) acknowledges the role of the community in disaster risk management and prioritizes local level implementation capacity.

In order to support communities becoming more disaster resilient, the GoN has been promoting community-based disaster risk management. This has been recognised in the *Local Self-Governance Act (1999)*, which emphasizes a number of risk reduction measures to be designed and implemented at the local level. The Local Disaster Risk Management Planning (LDRMP) guidelines *(2011)* were also approved by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and describe the process for developing a disaster management plan at the VDC level in consultation with community members. However these initiatives face a number of challenges, including limited institutional structures, lack of trained personnel in disaster risk reduction and insufficient budget allocation.

In addition to government mechanisms, an important contribution is being made by a large number of capable and empowered community-based organisations (CBOs), NGOs and other agencies, such as the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS). These organisations are helping at-risk communities to understand their vulnerabilities. They work with the community to undertake mitigation and adaptation actions, to act on hazard analysis and early warnings, and to plan and

prepare for their eventual need to react to disaster events as first responders. Depending on the implementing organisation, many of these activities use different approaches, thematic emphases and target different stakeholders. This makes it difficult to track and evaluate overall progress towards creating nation-wide disaster-resilient communities and reinforces the need for Flagship 4 as a mechanism for building consensus and ensuring good coordination and information sharing.

Flagship 4 Coordination Mechanism

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│           Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium                │
│            Steering Committee & Secretariat              │
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│             Flagship 4 Advisory Committee                │
│                                                          │
│            • Flagship 4 Coordinator: IFRC                │
│   • Advisory Committee: Approx. 8 selected               │
│     representatives of different agencies                │
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│ Flagship 4 Web-Based Information   │
│ Platform  www.nrrc.org.np          │
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│            Flagship 4 Consultation Meetings              │
│                                                          │
│   • All agencies involved in implementing or             │
│     funding CBDRR in Nepal                               │
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Flagship 4 Coordinator

Flagship 4 coordinator, appointed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), provides secretariat and technical support for Flagship 4, including coordination with stakeholders, managing annual work plan, and advocacy for FLAGSHIP 4.

Flagship 4 Advisory Committee

A small committee of representatives from IFRC, the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (MoFALD), Ministry of Home Affairs, UN, representatives from disaster management associations, and donors act as the Advisory committee and decision making body for FLAGSHIP 4. The Advisory committee meets regularly and has specific terms of reference.

Flagship 4 Consultation Meetings

There are meetings for all stakeholders interested in CBDRR, including representatives from Government, donors and implementing partners. These meetings are held periodically to develop and advocate the adoption of common approaches and tools for disaster risk management, as well as exchange information on the progress of FLAGSHIP 4.

Flagship 4 Technical Support (development of common tools)

Flagship 4's strategy is to provide a technical framework and references to partners, to facilitate quality outcomes for on-going and planned CBDRR projects, such as methods and lessons learned for ensuring community participation in the development of disaster management plans. As part of this work plan, Flagship 4 has developed some common tools for CBDRR projects in Nepal, including minimum characteristics of a disaster resilient community and training packages.

Minimum Characteristics of a Disaster Resilient Community

FLAGSHIP 4 has developed 9 minimum characteristics of disaster-resilient communities in Nepal that should be included as a minimum component in community based disaster risk reduction projects. These agreed indicators have been designed in consultation with Government of Nepal, INGOs, NGOs, UN, donors and Red Cross / Red Crescent movement.

Using these 9 minimum characteristics of a disaster resilient community, FLAGSHIP 4 aims to ensure that communities receive consistent community based disaster risk reduction support. The minimum characteristics also provide a means through which Flagship 4 can effectively track progress towards increasing disaster resiliency at VDC level across the country.

Flagship 4 advocates to implementing partners, donors and government for the inclusion of these minimum characteristics into existing and planned CBDRR projects. For more information on each individual characteristic including case studies on the implementation and challenges of each of the characteristic, see the minimum characteristics handbook, available online www.nrrc.org.np

Develop training package

As part of development and advocacy of the minimum characteristics, a training package has been developed for partners that can be integrated into partner organisation trainings of project staff and incorporated into planning discussions with community and government members. The package includes information on the NRRC, Flagship 4, minimum characteristics and mapping of CBDRR projects. In addition, materials such as a minimum characteristic one-pager and notebook are also available for partner organisations to distribute during training sessions.

Minimum Characteristics

of a Disaster Resilient Community in Nepal

Organisational base at Village Development Committee (VDC) / ward and community level

A functional organizational base at Village Development Committee / ward and community level for the implementation and sustainability of disaster risk reduction, which addresses the issues of protection, social inclusion (including gender balance), community ownership and participation and follows DRR initiatives.

1

Access to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) information

Coordination mechanisms and partnerships to enable access to disaster risk reduction information involving local, district and national level government structures, civil society organizations, private sector and vulnerable groups, including linkages with key institutions such as schools and hospitals.

2

Multi-hazard risk and capacity assessments

Ongoing, systematic, participatory, multi-hazard risk and capacity assessments which enable the monitoring and evaluation of disaster risk reduction at Village Development Committee and community level and which link into district and national monitoring and evaluation systems.

3

Community preparedness / response teams

This involves community teams that are trained and equipped to provide hazard warning and evacuation information, light search and rescue and basic first aid.

4

Disaster Risk Reduction / management plan at Village Development Committee (VDC) / municipality level

A plan at the local level which meets the Flagship's minimum characteristics listed and is regularly updated, implemented and tested.

5

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Funds

Funds accessible to communities for priority disaster risk reduction activities which are available at VDC / ward level and/or through community resource mobilization efforts.

6

Access to community managed Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) resources

Access to community-managed resources such as human and materials at VDC / ward levels for DRR initiatives.

7

Local level risk / vulnerability reduction measures

VDC / ward level initiatives on identification, prioritization and application of local level risk / vulnerability reduction measures.

8

Community based early warning systems

Inclusive, community based early warning systems that are integrated with VDC / ward, district, regional and national early warning systems.

9

For more information, contact:
Flagship 4 Coordinator
flagship4@nrrc.org.np or visit

www.nrrc.org.np

Common approach to vulnerability capacity assessment

Flagship 4 is assembling a virtual knowledge library of CBDRR materials specific to Nepal. As part of this, current vulnerability and capacity assessment models will be collected and analysed to identify commonalities and minimum elements recommended for inclusion in all assessments.

Selection of 1,000 vulnerable VDCs in Nepal

Flagship 4's target is to achieve CBDRR projects in 1,000 VDCs. Flagship 4 does not select these 1,000 VDCs, but endorses the process outlined in the LDRMP guidelines, for implementing partners to help with district level engagement to identify vulnerable VDCs.

The LDRMP guidelines, aligned with Flagship 4's minimum characteristics, outlines the process of how communities can come together at the ward and VDC level to identify their hazards, risks and vulnerabilities and discuss how these need to prioritised.

During 2010, Flagship 4 Consultation Meetings identified some of the most vulnerable districts in Nepal based on a number of key sources of secondary data. This data included the Nepal Multi-Hazard Scenario Assessment (Asian Disaster Pacific Centre, GeoHazards International, Centre for International Studies and Cooperation) and the Nepal Vulnerable Districts to Disasters, 1971-2007 (DesInventar: UNOCHA, GoN).
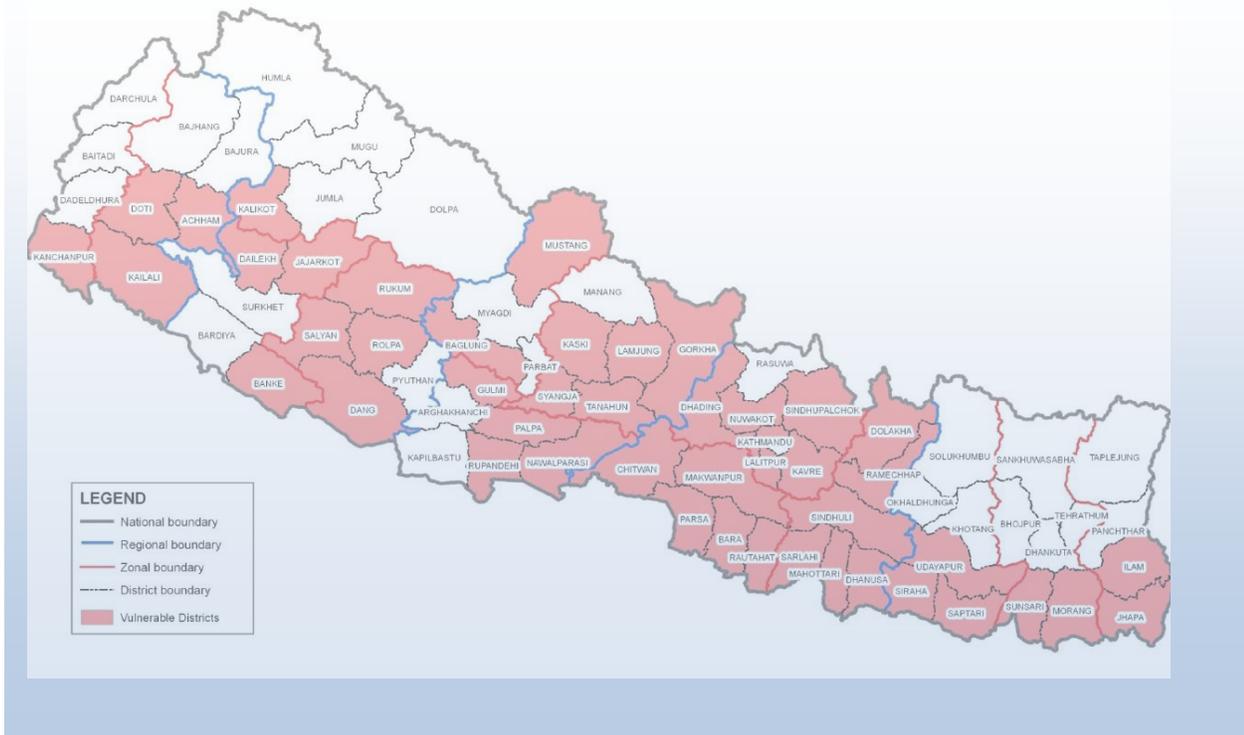
Local Disaster Risk Management Planning (LDRMP) Process

- Coordination and Initial preparation
- Vulnerability and capacity assessment
- Development of Local Disaster Risk Management Plan
- Approval and implementation of plan
- Monitoring evaluation and review

The LDRMP guidelines were developed by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and are aligned with Flagship 4's minimum characteristics of a disaster resilient community in Nepal.

These 47 'focus districts' are designed to act as a guide only and do not take into account very recent disasters, such as the 18 September 2011 earthquake.

Nepal's 47 Focus Districts

LEGEND
— National boundary
— Regional boundary
— Zonal boundary
- - - District boundary
▨ Vulnerable Districts

This information can be compared to the current location of known CBDRR projects at VDC level, to identify any gaps that exist. Potential implementing partners and donors may wish to use this information to determine the location of new projects.

Projects taking place outside of the focus districts will still be included as part of Flagship 4 and will not be negatively impacted in any way.

Advice on methodologies and project proposals

When requested by partners, Flagship 4 is able to provide suggestions on methodologies and project design to facilitate the implementation of CBDRR projects. This includes reviewing projects to determine their compliance with the minimum characteristics of a disaster resilient community.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Project Mapping of CBDRR activities in Nepal

One of Flagship 4's objectives is to map where CBDRR projects are being conducted throughout Nepal and including such information as geographical location, funding, donors, implementing and local partners, number of beneficiaries and other areas the project may relate to such as climate change or health.

This mapping can be used to identify geographical gaps in CBDRR in Nepal and inform implanting partners and donors of areas potentially in need of CBDRR projects.

To view the current results of the mapping, which is being continuously updated please visited www.nrrc.org.np

Project Tracking Survey

A Flagship 4 project tracking system working group has developed an online project tracking survey to track how CBDRR projects being implemented in Nepal are contributing to the disaster resiliency of communities and more broadly, nationally, including how projects are achieving Flagship 4's 9 minimum characteristics.

Any implementing partner of a CBDRR project or project with a component of CBDRR is encouraged to complete the 15 minute online project survey. The survey will be launched via a workshop and clinics in the 3rd quarter of 2012. Printable versions will also be available online in both Nepali and English.

An analysis of survey results, which will be available online, will provide information such as:

- which of the 9 minimum characteristics are most frequently achieved
- which communities / VDCs have
    o completed disaster management plans
    o been trained in first aid, light search and rescue or other services
    o a community-based early warning system

Flagship 4 will use the survey results to track national progress in CBDRR, promote good practices and seek to identify any significant gaps.

Advocacy

As part of Flagship 4's advocacy and coordination mandate, Flagship 4 has conducted multiple national workshops and district consultations, with more planned for the future.

Knowledge sharing workshops

Encouraging CBDRR partners to share new knowledge and learnings on CBDRR and other key issues, such as social inclusion and climate change, is an important role of Flagship 4. In 2012 there are several thematic workshops planned, that will focus on Urban DRR, links with CBDRR and education, health, climate change and early warning systems. Flagship 4 aims to link CBDRR with other flagship programs and promote any synergies that may exist.

Cross partner field visits

Flagship 4 will facilitate field visits that visit multiple Flagship 4 implementing partner projects to discuss learnings, promote best practices, and identify how projects are integrating minimum characteristics into the community and what effects are they having. Field visits also serve to

promote work of Flagship 4 members and demonstrate the effectiveness of scaling up CBDRR across Nepal.

District consultations

FLAGSHIP 4 conducts district level consultations to strengthen the involvement of community-based organisations with FLAGSHIP 4, advocate for the inclusion of the minimum characteristics in CBDRR projects, and to create awareness of the importance of CBDRR at the community and local government level.

Online Information Platform www.nrrc.org.np

Flagship 4 information platform details all of the flagship information for donors, implementing partners, community members, government and other interested parties.

Information includes:

- Interactive map showing the location and details of CBDRR projects planned or currently underway
- Online project tracking survey and analysis of results
- 9 Minimum characteristics of a disaster resilient community in Nepal and related information
- Virtual knowledge library of CBDRR materials for Nepal, including best practices and case studies
- Flagship 4 documentary
- News, events and latest information on Flagship and CBDRR activities in Nepal
- Information and minutes from meetings

Materials

Flagship 4 actively promotes the work of the Flagship and NRRC to donors, implementing partners and other interested parties through the development of promotional materials, presentations and information sharing.

Resource mobilisation

Flagship 4 supports the identification of potential new funding sources for CBDRR activities and provides linkages with potential implementing partners. This includes the promotion of partner activities on the information platform and encouraging donors to promote their funding mechanisms on the information platform.