

Flagship 4 advisory committee meeting

Date: 31 March, 2015

Venue: Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development

Participants list

S.No.	Name	Designation/Organisation
1.	Dr. Somlal Subedi	Secretary/MoFALD
2.	Gopi Khanal	Joint Secretary/MoFALD
3.	Rishi Raj Acharya	Under Secretary/MoFALD
4.	Pradip Koirala	Under Secretary/MoHA
5.	Bishnu P Kharel	AINTGDM/CARE Nepal
6.	Bimal Gadal	DIPECHO / Oxfam
7.	Krishna Kumar K.C	NRCS
8.	Ramraj Narashimhan	UNDP
9.	Moira Reddick	NRRC
10.	Deepak K.C	UNDP
11.	Niyam Maharjan	LGCDP/MOFALD
12.	Anirudra Sharma	UNICEF
13.	Chinatsu Endo	Flagship 5
14.	Shyam Kanta Khanal	MoFALD
15.	Rita Karki	MoFALD
16.	Prof. Bishal Nath Upreti	DPNET
17.	Bhubaneshwori Parajuli	NSET
18.	Alejandro Barcena Berzosa	Flagship 4
19.	Alisha Ghimire	Flagship 4

Meeting Chaired by: Mr. Gopi Khanal, Joint Secretary, MoFALD

Discussion points

Agenda 1: 9 Minimum Characteristics and resilience study:

Following the NRRC Steering Committee request in February 2015 to present evidence of the extent to what Flagship 4 has met their target of 1,000 VDCs, MoFALD has decided to conduct this research study.

During the Flagship 4 advisory committee meeting, MoFALD presented the objectives and expected outcomes of the “9 Minimum Characteristics research study” aiming to satisfy the request of the NRRC Steering Committee. The study will help to generate understanding of the appropriateness of the 9 Minimum Characteristics when guiding CBDRR interventions; understanding of the sustainability of the results of the interventions guided by the 9 Minimum Characteristics; and developing a joint monitoring mechanism for Flagship 4 partners helping to draw evidence and learning from the CBDRR interventions and present jointly collective efforts. Both government and partners expressed that the study will help to analyse the work that has been done during the last 5 years.

The study will be focused on rural areas, because the 9 Minimum Characteristics have been mainly applied in this context (retrospectively it would be difficult to extract learning from elsewhere). Nevertheless, participants agreed that Urban DRR is a matter of maximum importance and substantial

efforts needs to be given to address it. The second topic of discussion of the meeting concentrated in Urban DRR (see below).

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development brought to the discussion the possibility to include the 9 Minimum Characteristics indicators into the Minimum Conditions Performance Measurement (MCPM) of MoFALD. This possibility would institutionalize the CBDRR work, bringing the opportunity to incentivize local government expenditure on DRR, and therefore covering the recurrent costs associated to CBDRR and potentially addressing issues related with sustainability.

MoHA requested that the product of the research study should be usable (action-oriented). They suggested that the study should allow the government to reflect on the shape of the NRRC post-2015. Also, they requested that the system (monitoring) should be linked to local government and DDRC to improve their capacity to make decisions regarding response preparedness and DRR. They also suggested to include best and worst case scenarios in the study, allowing having an overall picture of the community preparedness capacity. MoHA encouraged MoFALD to carry forward the 9 Minimum Characteristics beyond Flagship 4.

Advisory Committee members highlighted the need to include community perspectives and opinions regarding the contributions of the 9 Minimum Characteristics towards community resilience. They expressed that the design of the 9 Minimum Characteristics did not include community consultations, and therefore this study will be able to bring this angle to the discussion what is perceived as fundamental. They also suggested revising exiting project documentation to ensure that existing learning is incorporated.

All members of the meeting agreed on the importance to develop the monitoring mechanism and linked it with MoFALD.

Agenda 2: Urban DRR strategy:

The Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development delivered a presentation and gave remarks on their plan to develop a 5 years strategy on Urban DRR. This plan supports the prioritization of Urban DRR already expressed by the Ministry during the Flagship 4, Dialogue and Partnership Workshop in February 2015. The initiative shows MoFALD's determination to address in a coordinated manner this concerning issue, involving, engaging and acknowledging the role and expertise of Flagship 4 partners. This determination has also been exhibited by the Ministry in the recent achievements given below:

- 25 million budget allocation for necessary equipment sets for risk sensitive construction in new municipalities.
- 20 million budget allocation for necessary capacity building in 16 new municipalities inside Kathmandu Valley and 72 new municipalities outside the valley for Building code and Building Bilaw training.
- 14 million budget allocation for training on cost effective housing demo
- Decision on development of District and Municipality Sample DRM Plan

The process to develop the strategy will incorporate consultation of Flagship 4 partners, new and old municipalities and relevant Ministries. The Government suggested organizing the consultation in three stages. The consultation will map the geographical areas covered by the partners and their capacities and expertise in each subsector; identification of methodologies and tools needing to be developed; and

agreement on priorities and areas of attention perceived by government at all levels and partners when addressing Urban DRR.

The advisory committee members and government agreed on the need to develop a joint action plan, where geographical locations and areas of work will be defined. This will be a useful tool to coordinate the efforts of development partners and government to address Urban DRR. It will also allow all DRR stakeholders to have an overall picture of who is working where, what areas have been covered, and what areas need to be considered.

The Government shared that the strategy can consider different activities depending on the type of municipality (small, mid or large size). MoFALD expressed strong concerns about rapid urbanization. In this regard, the Ministry strongly recommends producing a strategy that can allow partners and government to move in a coordinated manner immediately. Time is an important factor since every day population migrate to municipalities. The risk increases and the potential economic cost of disaster rockets. The Government urged the advisory committee to engage all partners in this process with no further delay, and produce a strategy that if required will be refined or complemented later.

During the meeting Flagship 5 Coordinator shared with the rest of the committee members the work that the Ministry of Urban Development/ Department of Urban Development and Building Construction has been working on developing National Plan of Action for Safer Building Construction, and it has a strong implication to Urban DRR Strategy where Building Code is one of the areas. National Plan of Action can become instrument for Urban DRR strategy. Though MOFALD is already part of the DUDBC-led Safer Building Initiatives, the Coordinator advised the Ministry to re-ensure that this work has synergy & complementarity with Safer Building Construction initiative. The Government agreed to involve the relevant stakeholders in the consultative process.

Advisory Committee members underlined the need of developing common tools and approaches and some of them expressed their interest to actively contribute towards this goal.

Action Points:

- To organise a dissemination workshop among all Flagship 4 partners and relevant Government authorities the 6th of April, 2015. During the workshop the two topic of discussion of the advisory committee meeting will be shared and feed-back from all partners incorporated.
- Formation of two working groups: Urban DRR strategy and the 9 MC and resilience study.

During the Advisory Committee meeting, the following agencies expressed interest to be part of the task forces.

Urban DRR strategy task force under leadership of MoFALD:

- NRCS
- Oxfam
- MoHA
- UNDP/Flagship 5
- Flagship 4 Secretariat

9 Minimum Characteristics and resilience study task group under leadership of MoFALD

- CARE
- UNDP
- Flagship 4 secretariat

During the 6th of April, 2015 workshop, all partners will be able to join any taskforce as per their preference and interest.

- A workshop to be organized on April last week, 2015 to develop a Joint Urban DRR strategy for 5 years with participation of Municipal representatives, Government stakeholders and Flagship 4 partners (first consultative stage).
- The Urban DRR task force to draft a concept paper to present during the workshop.

Postponed agenda Items

Due to time constraints all agenda items were not addressed during the meeting. However, MoFALD proposed to discuss the harmonization of policy at local level (DDMP, DPRP and LDRMP, LAPA) during the next meeting together with the Ministry of Science Technology and Environment.

Closing remarks:

MoFALD Joint Secretary, highlighted the necessity of the Urban DRR strategy and collaboration with Flagship 4 partners, municipalities and concerned Ministries. MoFALD expressed their commitment to lead and support both, the 9 Minimum Characteristics research study and development of Urban DRR strategy.