REPORT ON

DISTRICT CONSULTATION ON FLAGSHIP AREA 4: INTEGRATED COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Taplejung

2nd March, 2012

Jointly Organized by:

Nepal Red Cross Society, Taplejung (NRCS, Taplejung)

District Development Committee, Taplejung

Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal

Supported by:

International Federation of Red Cross Society (IFRC)

Acronym

APF	Armed Police Force
UCPN Moist	United Communist Party Moist
CPN UML	Communist Party Nepal UML
DADO	District Development Office
DAO	District Administration Office
DDC,	District Development Committee
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DFCC,	District Forest Coordination Committee
DFO	District Forest Office
DHO	District Health Office
DEO	District Education Office
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users Nepal
FNJ	Federation of Nepali Journalists
NFN Federation	NGO Federation Nepal
RPP Party	Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal

Flagship 4 District Consultations

Event Report

1. Introduction

With the aim of introducing the Flagship 4 program that focuses to community based disaster risk reduction, the district consultation program was held on 2nd March 2012 in Jaya Hotel, Taplejung. The program was jointly organized by Nepal Red Cross Society, Taplejung, District Development Committee, Taplejung and Disaster Preparedness Network- Nepal with the support of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The district level consultation program intended to capitalize on the Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) activities and experience which has already accumulated to create more systematic and harmonized approach to CBDRR which will be conducted at VDC level. The main objective of the program was to increase interest and awareness about NRRC and Flagship 4. It also intended to increase the number of local partners involved in Flagship 4 and promote the Flagship 4 Information Platform.

The Flagship 4 District Consultation program was prepared with the series of meeting between DPNet-Nepal, Ministry of Local Development and IFRC. The Ministry of Local Development drafted the official letter to the concerned DDCs of program districts in order to invite the participants identified as the district stakeholders in Flagship 4 program. DPNet-Nepal has coordinated and corresponded with DDC, DAO and local partners to achieve the expected outcomes.

Out of the 10 consultations, the consultation in Taplejung was organized in headquarters of Taplejung. A total of 39 participants from 31 organizations attended the workshop, this included representatives from 9 Government agencies, 1 INGOs, 4 NGOs, 6 political leaders, 11 civil society leaders, 5 Media and 3 Academic institutions.

2. Consultation Summary

The workshop was composed with two sessions. The opening session that aimed to introduce the agendas, objectives and participants of the workshop was formal session and the technical session started immediate after the opening session focused to the overall technical parts of the consultation. The opening session of the workshop was chaired by Mr. Prem Kumar Shrestha, Local Development Officer, Taplejung and was adorned with the guests from district level security forces, senior level governmental officials and Mr. Eak Narayan Sharma from MoLD. The workshop began formally with the welcoming remarks of Mr. Ganesh Adhikari, chairperson of NRCS, Taplejng. Mr Adhikari expressed her gratitude to the senior level district officials and Local Development Officer for their keen interest and invaluable participation to the workshop.

Mr. Eak Narayan Sharma, Section Officer, MoLD highlighted the objectives of the program. He shortly described the national disaster scenario and how the governmental focal points are working for disaster risk reduction in Nepal. He also explained the role of Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal (DPNet-Nepal) for enhancing the advocacy campaign for the timely endorsement of act.

Mr. Prem Kumar Shrestha provided the disaster scenario of the district and the efforts made for the risk reduction especially with reference to the recent earthquake hit in September 18, 2011. He also highlighted that Taplejung district is highly vulnerable due to flood, landslide, earthquake, fire, avalanches and windstorms. The upper part is at high risk of landslide and the lower part is from flood.

The program went for 6 hours with full discussion and consultation. The participants from diverse fields actively participated in the discussion groups. The list of participating organisations is provided below: The workshop was attended from a cross section of Local Government agencies, Local NGOs, Academic Institutions, Media and Civil Society has demonstrated that the more engagement of community based organizations with Flagship 4.

3. Assessment of Sessions

Session 1:

The first technical session was started with the paper presentation on introduction to NRRC. The presentation for 20 minutes was made on the topic by Mr. Lubha Raj Neupane. Mr. Neupane briefly talked about Flagship program and its areas of consideration with progress made in the mean time for NRRC. The presentation also described about the current trend of disaster management in Nepal, National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management, National Earthquake Safety Day and Local Disaster Risk Management Plan (LDRMP) Guideline. He also provided a brief explanation on NRRC, its objectives, Flagship Areas, partners and progress of NRRC to date. A full copy of presentation is available on:

http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation.

After the paper presentation on NRRC, a short question answer session was started for the response of the queries raised about the presentation. Responding the issues on the presentation, the flit chart was given to the participants and they were asked to discuss on the key challenges in the coordination at the district level and present the points they have noted. The participants noted the points in the flip chart and presented afterwards. The key challenges in the coordination at the district level presented by the participants are as follow:

Key Challenges:
- The district level authorities are built-up but there is duplication of service delivery.
- The policy for coordination between Government and Non-Government organizations is existed but no inclusive coordination practice in disaster management.
- Lack of transparency and accountability among the agencies working in the district.
- Lack of proper DRM knowledge among political leaders and social workers.
- No efficient DRM response mechanism built-up from the governmental sector in coordinate way.

- Lack of coordination in the planning and development phase for DRM integration.
- Lack of effective information sharing system of at district level instead of difficulty remained in geographical condition.

Recommendations for better Coordination:

- Integrated community Based DRR programs should be implemented at local level with proper planning at districts on the basis of vulnerability ranking.
- Develop short term and long term plan to address the issue of disaster in the district.
- Enhance proper coordination mechanism between GOs and NGOs while implementing development and other DRR programs.
- Need to be clear on the roles and responsibilities of different district stakeholders in the DRM.
- Enhance effective coordination mechanism and make decision to implement the program in the absence of elected local representatives.
- Develop the instant information sharing system.

Session 2:

The second session was started with the presentation of Flagship Four program and introduction of minimum characteristics. Mr. Lubha Raj Neupane presented the paper on Flagship 4: Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction highlighting on the objectives and its overall implementation mechanism. Mr. Neupane shared the expected outcomes and key challenges of the Flagship program. He said that the main objective of the Flagship 4 program is to bringing different stakeholders together to discuss a common approach to CBDRR and strengthening the linkage with government/administrative structures in Nepal to ensure sustainability from local to national level. He also provided the detail information about the initiatives made in bringing up the program and briefed on the coordination mechanism of NRRC. He also explained on the five year target of Flagship 4 program and joint Flagship 4 outcomes. The paper revolved round on the key challenges and possible outcomes of the program with the comparative analysis of the local aspiration of district level stakeholders. The paper was concluded with the highlighting on the key challenges of Flagship 4. A full copy of presentation can be reached to PNet-Nepal website:

http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation

The second half of the session focused to the introduction of minimum characteristics of flagship 4 program. The presenter highlighted on why the minimum characteristics have been designed and how these characteristics will work for maintaining the common standards of the program. Base on the prepared presentation, Mr. Neupane highlighted that the minimum characteristics were designed with the country context having broader ranged discussion at three times with all concerned stakeholders in Kathmandu. The characteristics were developed based the project duration for next five years and needs of the country. With the detail introduction of the minimum characteristics, a group discussion focusing to the application of characteristics was conducted. He informed that minimum characteristics of a disaster resilient community were developed throughout a series of workshops conducted in 2010 and 2011 involving the Nepal Government, UN, INGOs, NGOs, Donors and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. He also explained that these 9 minimum characteristics act as a guide for CBDRR projects and set the standard for what CBDRR projects should encompass. Highlighting on the 9 minimum characteristics, he informed that this is not intended to be a comprehensive list of characteristics, as many agencies may have additional characteristics they wish to achieve as part of their CBDRR projects. A full copy of presentation can be found on DPNet-Nepal website:

http://www.dpnet.org.np/index.php?pageName=presentation

After an in-depth introduction of the characteristics, the participants were asked to discuss on how they could incorporate these characteristics into their projects (past or present). Total three groups were separated to discuss on the 9 minimum characteristics developing the discussion framework.

The cumulative outcomes of the three groups with mix-features have been presented as follows.

Minimum Characteristics

Characte-ristics	Challenges	Measures for Solving the problems

1	- Lack of Awareness - Vulnerable Settlement - Poverty - Lack of Clear cut policy and directives	- Awareness program - Safe resettlement program - Fund Raising for emergency management - Adoption of clear cut policy and rules
2	- Lack of road/trail accessibility - Lack of accessibility of communication and information channelling - Lack of electricity - Lack of efficient manpower	- Infrastructural development for trail and roads for accessibility - Accessibility to communication - Electricity and solar energy - Technical and skilled manpower
3	- Lack of transportation - Economic Deficiency - Lack of skilled manpower	- Accessibility to transportation - Management of Funds - Skilled Manpower
4	- Lack of information networks - Problem of search, rescue and primary health services	- Establishment of Information Officer and management of information flow mechanism - Use of Information technology (Alarm, Bell, Whistle, loud voice) - Management of necessary skilled human resources and capacity building of the staffs with training and awareness

5	- Lack of strong commitment for the implementation of DRM and DRR plans	- Training and orientation to the VDC Secretary, DDC officials and Executive Director about DRR/DRM plans and policies - Management of the human resources based on the needs and workloads at local level
6	- Lack of awareness - Lack of resources at local level - Lack of proper knowledge and skills for the management of fund - Lack of proper coordination between the funds of different organizations at district levels.	- Awareness activities at district and local level - Certain percentage of the funds of local bodies should be allocated for the DRR activities and humanitarian activities - Social auditing of the funds managed at local level
7	- Lack of necessary economic provision - Lack of skilled and efficient human resources and volunteers - Lack of proper education	- Operation of cottage and indigenous industries - Training, workshops, seminars and other awareness activities - Syllabus, information and communication activities
8	- Vulnerable houses (weak physical houses) - Geographical difficulties	- Retrofitting of houses - Settlement shifting to the safer places
9	- Lack of medium of	- Management of informative

| | information flow | focal desks |
| | - Lack of electricity | - Management of energy sources |

Session 3:

After a short discussion among the participants on 9 minimum characteristics of disaster resilient community, Mr. Neupane provided the information on project database form. The project database forms were distributed to the participants intending to record all of the CBDRR projects going on at Taplejung district. The majority participant argued that the project database forms were difficult to fill up instantly due to the lack of proper institutional information from their organization. Hence, the project database forms were left for their complete workout as per the request of participants; and right now the information on CBDRR projects is being collected with the objectives of mapping CBDRR projects within the district.

Session 4:

The fourth session followed immediate after the third session was about Information Platform on Flagship 4. However, the LDRMP prepared just before by Nepal government was briefly presented by Eak Narayan Sharma, Section Officer of MoLD. He further explained that the implementation of LDRMP will be the base for flagship program. It is necessary to apply all the characteristics while designing and implementing the program which is a sought of LDRMP. The participants were well introduced about the LDRMP and immediate planning of Ministry of Local Development on how the DRM issues will be integrated in the local level development plan.

After the discussion on recent approved LDRMP, the main facilitator provided a brief explanation on information platform made for whole NRRC program and especially for flagship-4 program. The session introduced that how the information platform provides the detail information on flagship program and how it can be access for the local benefits. The facilitator instructed the participants how to visit the information platform website, what they can find and how they can upload their information regarding

CBDRR project information and materials into the website. The participants were found very interesting on the information platform and responded it was a wonderful work for information dissemination. The facilitator also informed that they can like the face-book page of NRRC.

Session 5:

The fifth and final session was for Action Plan of the district level partners on flagship 4. The main aim of the session was to develop an inclusive action plan to implement the flagship-4 program effectively and consolidated way. The agendas of the action plan were floored to the participants and they were asked to come up with an action plan. The action plan was prepared with the common discussion and understanding of participants which has been provided in the annex:

4. Consultation Outcomes

Expected Outcomes	Result	Justification
1.Increased awareness and knowledge on CBDRR	Achieved	Wider participation by the representatives of different district level organizations provided the feedbacks on workshop before officially concluding the program that the program was successful for creating local level awareness. Most of the participants mentioned that the program was much effective in sharing the information regarding the flagship program. They have learned much information on NRRC, flagship program, 9 minimum characteristics of Disaster Resilient Community, F4 information platform and LDRMP guideline.
2.Increased number of local partners involved in Flagship 4	Achieved	The wide participation from a cross sectional agencies- the governmental bodies, local NGOs, academic institutions, media and civil society organizations was obtained in the

		consultation.
3.Introduction to Flagship 4's Information Platform	Achieved	All the participants expressed their keen interest on the Flagship 4 Information Platform and they said that they would upload the information and materials related to the CBDRR Projects.
4.Collection of CBDRR projects for Project database	Partially Achieved	The number of organizations working on the CBDRR Projects is very low the district. They were not bringing the CBDRR project materials to the workshop but they expressed their commitment that they would fill up the form and upload the materials on F4 information platform or send to F4 coordinator.

Challenges and Lessons Learnt

Challenges

The hectic schedule for whole day program:
The program was planned for full day that was not more effective to the audiences. Allocation of time for full day for the participants especially based on their business is very difficult in the consultation. The result finally made that the fluctuation of participation during the program was observed in whole day.

Workshop was the less priority of concerned Local Government Authorities:
The consultation workshop was scheduled in February and March when almost all districts were attempting the district assembly. The program appealed the full preparatory and operation time from the local level authorities in one side and in another side the scheduled time is fully packed for these authorities due to their own business. Hence, the concerned government authorities were not contributing effectively for the workshop.

Collection of CBDRR information:

The number of Local Non-Government Organization working in CBDRR projects is very low in the district. The organization representatives participating in the workshop were not well informed on their project details. Hence, the participation in database form seemed very low.

Difficult in Human Resource Management:

Only one resource person was involved in a consultation which was technically difficult for the management of whole day delivery. Hence, the quality delivery from the technical person was questionable. The participants also felt monotonous from for a whole day delivery of a single person in the workshop.

Lessons Learnt

The Event Time should be made suitable:

Before planning of workshop and fixation of its duration, a wide ranged consultation with the local level authorities should be done. Until the local hosting body is encouraged and understand the integrity of the program, the program will remain less effective and the implementation of the program will face difficulty.

The participants should be encouraged to engage for the whole workshop

The critical participants are important to make the program more effective and achieve the objective. Hence, the focal persons from each organizations should actively aware engaged for the whole workshop. Attending the program by the non related participants will obviously disturb to achieve the objectives of the program.

Need to be aware to avoid the duplication of events on the day in the district

The district stakeholders participating in the events organized in the districts are almost same. If there are more events organized in the districts, the government officials are expected to participate in every events, so the organizer should be aware to avoid the collide of the events on same day.

Recommendations

Assign two facilitators for each consultation

Facilitating a whole day workshop by a single facilitator is not an easy task. To make the workshop more effective and ease the facilitation it would be better to assign at least two facilitators in each consultation workshop.

Engage more participants from community level

The participants in the district consultation were the representatives of district level organizations. If the participants invited from the community the information can be shared in the local level. The expected participants could be the representatives of School Teacher, VDC Secretaries, Local Women Group, Youth Group and Youth Clubs.

Conclusion

The district consultation program organized with the aim of increasing the engagement of community based organizations with Flagship-4 and other CBDRR initiatives was able to involve the wide ranged people at district level. The one day consultation program also aimed to promote the Flagship 4's Information Platform and collection of CBDRR projects for project database. The wide participation from a cross section of Local Government agencies, Local NGOs, Academic Institutions, Media and Civil Society has demonstrated that the more engagement of community based organizations with Flagship-4. Before concluding the workshop, the participants were asked to give their comment and feedback on the workshop. Most of the participants mentioned that the program was much effective in sharing the information regarding the Flagship program. They also expressed that the information platform is very interesting and useful for all those organizations working on CBDRR projects. They said that they have learned about NRRC, Flagship 4 Program and Flagship 4's Information Platform.

Annex 1: List of Participated organizations:

S.N	Name	Organaization	Designation
1	Raj Kumar B.K	DEO	DEO
2	Tulassi Ram Dahal	Armed Police	Coy Commander
3	Maja Krishna Khadka	Nepaly Army	Coy Commander
4	Shiva Pd. Bhattarai	btane Radctose	

5	Anil Pd. San	Survey Office Taplejung	
6	Badri Narayan Yadav	DHO Taplejung	PHI
7	Raju Subba	Raditamar VSM	
8	Pradhan Gautam	Free Lancer	
9	Indra Sarowa bajgai	Radio Taplejung	
10	Kishor Rai		
11	Ghana Shyam Khadka		
12	R.K Paudel	C.P.M (UML) TPJ	
13	Khadga P. Gurung	V.D.C Kalikhola	
14	Rita karki (rijal)	NRCS Taplejung	Community Trainer
15	Bandana Kadoriya	M.B	
16	Nirmala Dahal	Woman& Children Act, WOD	Act WDO
17	Diegha Pd. Gautam	A.D.B	A S.
18	Hari Narayan Yadiv	DLSO, Taplejung	V.O
19	Nabin Kumar poudel	CSIDB Taplejung	J.O
20	Shiva Nandam Yadav	DSCO, Taplejung	Acting DSCO
21	Motilal Yadav	D.A.D.O Taplejung	Senior Asn. Dev. Off
22	Ran Narayan Yadav	D.F Office Taplejung	Acting D.F.O
23	Lila Adhikari	R.J Parti Nepal	
24	Puspa Ratna Ranjit	DTOT	Disaster Engineer
25	Bal Bahadur Okharabu	DTCO Taplejung	
26	Indra Thalang (limbu)	R.J.M.P	D.P
27	Jit Bahadur Thuparo	N.F.C Tep	Branch Chief
28	Enkas Chau	IFRC	DRR Advisor
29	Khadka Raj Rai	DDC	Planning Officer
30	Dr. Netra Bdr. Basnet	D.A.H.C	Medical Officer
31	Ins. Lokdarsan Thapa	D.P.O	Inspector
32	Indra Kumar Shrestha		
33	Prem Kumar Shrestha	Dist. Dev. Committee	LDO
34	Eak Narayan Sharma		Sec. Off
35	Kalpana Dahal	NRCS	
36	Ganesh Adhikari	NRCS	President
37	Jhalak Gurung	R.P.P	

| 38 | Gyan Bdr. Tamang | CARE Nepal | District, P.O |
| 39 | Lubha Raj Neupane | DPNet Nepal | P.O |

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