

Flagship 4 Urban Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction / Management Symposium

Kathmandu, Nepal

Tentative date 26 November 2013

Background

Classified as a global 'hotspot' (World Bank, 2005), Nepal is vulnerable to multiple natural disasters, suffering an average of 900 natural disasters each year resulting in lost lives and damaged livelihoods (MoHA, 2009). Nepal is also experiencing the fastest rate of urban growth of any South Asian country (World Bank, 2013). This rapid urbanisation is only adding to the ever growing complexities of working in the urban environment continue to present challenges in building disaster resilient communities. Urban CBDRR work although on-going has been fragmented and learning to date has been limited. With the creation of multiple new municipalities in Nepal and urban growth increasing, the difficulties of balancing the needs of the Kathmandu valley with emerging urban needs elsewhere will require increased confidence amongst actors.

In August 2012, Flagship 4 organised an urban CBDRR workshop to discuss the various efforts of stakeholders in addressing this issue. Challenges of coordination in the urban context are widely acknowledged and were discussed in the workshop. One outcome was the agreement that greater coordination and learning of activities in Urban CBDRR/M is required to maximize implementation at all levels. At the request of implementing agencies Flagship 4 has begun to coordinate a monthly Urban CBDRR coordination meeting at the operational level and established a Google group for circulation of related research, news and advances in this field, in an attempt to try and improve coordination at the ground level. It is too soon yet to know what effect these efforts may have but feedback is positive and there is appetite for yet more activity. Building on these experiences and recognising the challenges faced it is the intention of Flagship 4 to hold a Symposium which will focus on specific areas requiring immediate attention.

Theme

"Strengthening approaches to Urban Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction" will be the overarching theme of the symposium, with the following sub-themes likely:

- Programmatic approaches to urban CBDRR / community development
- Engagement of urban communities
- Linkages and points of intersection between CBDRR with other sectors

Overall objective:

There has been significant investment already in urban CBDRR Nepal, from implementing agencies, Government and donors. There continues to be a lot to learn and much that we, as a DRR/M community do not know or have not tested. The objective of the symposium is to advance work in urban CBDRR in Nepal and to examine how new research, lessons learnt, differing approaches and case studies can be applied to shape urban CBDRR moving forward.

The symposium will target policy makers and implementers who are already grappling with challenges of urban CBDRR/M and who are seeking ways forward and new approaches to address these.

Format

Sessions will provide evidence, learning and discussion to support the humanitarian and development communities in Nepal in their effort to build community resilience in the urban context. A call for papers/presenters for the symposium will be undertaken, followed by a peer review, to select those presentations that are most relevant.

The workshop will include a market place, where organisations will be encouraged to set up booths to showcase their programmes / projects in CBDRR and other sector work that is occurring in the urban context in Nepal, that inter-relates with urban CBDRR/M. In order to strengthen the linkages between Flagships and sectors it's important that the NRRC and all related Flagships are involved in the symposium, or at the very least represented in the market place.

Possible presentation topics

As there is a broad range of possible topics that could be discussed, Flagship 4 will use the sub-themes to narrow the discussion. It is will not be possible to discuss all topics related to urban CBDRR/M. Presentations / papers are encourage to be from within Nepal though papers from a regional perspective will also be considered.

Organisations interested to present on a specific topic related to the sub themes are asked to complete the 'proposal submission' form and return it to Flagship 4 by 21 October 2013 flagship4@nrrc.org.np Based on the quality of topics selected and the ability to meet the below criteria, through a process of peer review, the final papers/presentations will then be selected to present at the symposium.

Presentations selected will then be required to submit final presentation a minimum of 7 days prior to the event to ensure coherence on the day can be ensured.

All presentations from the day will be published in a report shared both within Nepal and participating organisations regional and headquarters level.

Criteria for presentation / paper submission

The following criteria needs to be addressed by any presentations / papers submitted to Flagship 4 for consideration:

- Identify which sub-theme the topic relates to
- Identify current dilemmas / challenges and potential options for collaboration and ways forward.
- Include analysis of topic presented. A list of project activities and challenges will not be suffice.
- Should be solution focused

Where possible, organisations are encouraged to submit papers / presentations that are compiled by more than 1 organisation and represent collective work on a shared topic.

Marketplace

Organisations are invited to showcase their urban CBDRR/M programmes/projects as part of the marketplace area. The marketplace will allow organisations an opportunity to show what urban CBDRR/M 'looks like' and informally share lessons learnt. Stands can include photos, promotional materials, videos, examples of games and IEC materials. For those interested in setting up a booth, please contact NRRC secretariat Giovanni Congi for more information giovanni.congi@one.un.org

Timeframe of symposium

It is intended that the symposium run for 1 day, however if a number of quality papers/presentations are submitted, it is possible for the symposium to carry over to 2 days.

Expected Outcomes

1. Provide tangible guidance to policy makers and implementers on how to address challenges faced in urban CBDRR. Including clear directions on how increase coordination between stakeholders.
2. Develop clear steps forward in implementing operational linkages between sectors in Urban CBDRR.
3. The NRRC secretariat will be present during the symposium with the objective to determine if enough valid data and if there is enough clarity around linkages between Urban CBDRR and other sectors, that a 3 day workshop across all Flagships in 2014 would be useful.