Participatory Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction
- Case Study from Nepal

By:

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Project Overview

- Project supported by Europeana Commission Humanitarian Aid department under the DIPECHO Fourth Action Plan for South Asia
- Project being implemented by seven international partner organizations
Project Fosus

- Addresses Disaster Risk Reduction targeting areas that prone to recurring natural disasters
- Main focus on “preparation” for response rather than “mitigation”
- Targets poorest and the most vulnerable
- Advocacy initiatives
- Contributes to the HFA Goal
DIPECHO Project Coverage in Nepal

- Community based initiatives in 22 districts
- National coverage in policy and DRR framework
- Over 500,000 people as target beneficiaries
- Emphasis to include most vulnerable
- Strengthening local and national capacity to respond to and manage disasters
- Working with local NGOs and partners
Objective

- Enhance the capacities of disaster vulnerable communities to respond to and cope with disasters
- Improve grassroots, community based institutions, who are the first respondents to any disasters
- Develop replicable models of preparedness
- Support national government in development of appropriate policy models in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response
Contributing to HFA

Hyogo Framework for Action

Five Priority Areas

- Ensure that DRR is a national and local priority
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risk and enhance early warning
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels
- Reducing underlying risk factors.
- **Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response**
The Approach

- Community centric
- Targeting multi-hazards
- Addresses Rural and Urban vulnerabilities
- Building grassroots capacities
- Strengthening community institutions
- Networking and advocacy, contributing to national DRR plans
Key Initiatives – IEC & Awareness

- Information, Education and Communication for Awareness on Disaster Vulnerability and Preparedness, 500000+ people covered
- Focus Group Discussions, Awareness Camps
- Posters, wall paintings, IEC materials widely distributed
- Radio Programs, News Articles to reach out to vulnerable people
IEC & Awareness Generation
Key Initiative: Capacity Building

- Building informed and skilled human resource base in the communities, preparing themselves to respond to emergencies
- 1900 volunteers received skill and capacity development training on CBDP, First Aid, Fire Fighting, Vulnerability Analysis, Participatory Methods, Light Search & Rescue and Fire Fighting
Grassroots Institution Building - DMCs

- Disaster Management Committees formed in all project locations
- Emphasis on wide representation, ensuring differentially vulnerable people are engaged in decision making
- DMC members trained in CBDP
- Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis conducted
Participatory Analysis of Vulnerabilities and Capacities

- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment and Analysis conducted in project areas through participatory methods (PVA, VCA etc.)
- Social maps, vulnerability maps, resource maps, historical analysis, venn diagrams, problem trees and seasonality charts constructed
- Profile of target areas developed
- Reports shared with local and district administration
- DMCs are taking informed decisions based on the VCA/PVA processes
Focus on Early Warning Systems in Bardia, Banke & Kailali districts
Introducing appropriate technology to advance information
Emphasis on building local methods based on local knowledge
Linking upstream locations, involving administration, closing the circle
Disaster Information Centres being strengthened in 5 districts
Small Scale Mitigation

- Replicable Small Scale Mitigation Measures
- Spurs, check dams, dykes, gabion-bolder embankments, school retrofitting, emergency shelters, culverts, retention walls… small measures acting as models
- Collaboration with government in mitigation measures
Getting Ready, Networking

- Action Plans developed in DMCs
- Plans shared with local administration
- Networking of DMCs initiated, linking them with local disaster management systems
- Planning for monsoon disasters
- Exposure visits, cross learning
Coordination

- Monthly meeting of DIPECHO partners
- Complementing initiatives of other stakeholders and networks
- Working with the government
- Coordination meeting of May 08 held in MoH, GoN
- Regular interaction and sharing with other stakeholders
- Joint initiative by partners (EQSD, IEC)
- Resource sharing and optimization
- Cross learning and exchanges
- Periodic Thematic bulletins
Addressing Cross Cutting Issues

- Emphasis given to include women, children, disabled and other differentially vulnerable groups
- Handicap International working with other DIPECHO partners to mainstream disability in disaster risk reduction
- Partners continuing efforts to link DRR to ongoing development programs
- Dhulikel Declaration signed by DIPECHO partners reiterating their commitment to have an ‘inclusive approach’ in Disaster Preparedness
Contributing to National Risk Reduction Initiatives

- UNDP working with Government of Nepal, extending support in adoption of National Strategy and Disaster Management Act
- Strengthening DPNet, national network of humanitarian agencies
- Building capacities of stakeholders in DRR, HFA Training
- Workshops and consultations with stakeholders
Key Challenges

- Restricted movement due to sudden strikes and blockades, security concern
- Input costs increased
- Need for informed and proactive administration
- Lack of professional resources
- Existence of multiple vulnerabilities
Way Ahead – Strategic Interventions

The revolutionary idea that defines the boundary between modern times and the past is the mastery of risk. Until human beings discovered a way across that boundary, the future was a mirror of the past or the murky domain of oracles and soothsayers who held a monopoly over knowledge of anticipated events...

.... Bernstein

- Institutionalizing DRR, as a pre-requisite strategic approach
- Integrating DRR with Relief
- Integrating DRR with Development, need for a holistic approach
- Building Human Resource Base within the country
- Need for national strategy and DM Act to be in place soon
- Strategic coordination among stakeholders
- Need for a central information base, data bank open and accessible to all
Finally…

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<tr>
<th>Disaster</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>People Killed</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>SIDR - Bangladesh</td>
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<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NARGIS - Myanmar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>150,000+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Community Based Cyclone Preparedness Program made the difference in Bangladesh!
THANK YOU!

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DIPECHO Project is supported by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department