

Development of National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in Nepal (NSDRM)

NSET Information Kit | 022 | 2011



BACKGROUND

NSET provided technical services to UNDP in assisting the Government of Nepal in preparing the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) in Nepal. The project was implemented with financial support from European Commission through its Humanitarian Aid department. The project prepared draft strategy documents for eight specified sectors: Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Education, Shelter, Infrastructure and Physical Planning, Livelihood, Water and Sanitation, Information, Coordination and Logistics, and Search and Rescue, Damage/Need Assessment and also the cross cutting issues such as Human Rights and Protection, Gender and Social Inclusion, Staff Safety and Security and Decentralization and Local Self Governance were addressed. All these collectively constituted the consolidated National Disaster Strategy for DRM. The strategy is expected to provide the road map for all sectors to prepare sector specific programs for DRM and formulate the necessary policy decisions for facilitating mainstreaming DRM into the development process.



The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA) was the beacon throughout the strategy formulation process. Reference to HFA was made not only because it recommends what every country should do for disaster reduction, but also because Government of Nepal had taken part in developing this framework and has made commitments to implement it. Hence, streamlining the National Strategy in line with the HFA is regarded as the most important approach to be adopted. The strategy is based on the ground realities and identified needs of Nepal. It has tried to capture the opportunities of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Nepal in line with the current international understanding, scientific progress and regional initiatives.

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THE NEED

While Nepal was one of the first countries in South Asia to have created a policy and legal environment for disaster risk management in early 1980s, there has been a growing realization on the need to redefine the existing policies in order to accommodate the considerable advances in the field of disaster risk management globally, especially those from the lessons learned from recent disasters such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004) and the South Asian Earthquake (2005). A recent study (UNDP/BCPR, 2004) ranked Nepal as the 11th most at risk country to earthquakes and the 30th for flood risk. Another study (World Bank, 2005) classifies Nepal as a 'hot-spot' for geophysical and climatic hazards. Moreover, improvement in the national policy is required also to fulfill the commitments made by the Government of Nepal to the international community in the UN World Conference on IDNDR (Yokohama, 1994) and the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction, Kobe, 2005 (WCDR 2005). The latter resulted in an international consensus on disaster reduction in the form of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2005- 2015, which needs to be translated into the local context for achieving the stated goals of disaster reduction in the stipulated time frame. Hence, the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) has been developed based on the HFA in consultation with the relevant stakeholders across all levels.



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ACTIVITIES

- Review of policies, guidelines, acts, regulations and other related literature on Disaster Risk Management
- Consult with technical experts, national and international institutions
- Prepare and present Inception Report to Steering Committee and to the stakeholders during Inception Workshop on NSDRM
- Hold consultation meetings with member of Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC) as well as Steering Committee members
- Assist UNDP in holding half day sectoral workshops and final sharing workshop
- Prepare sector specific strategies after getting feedback, comments and suggestions from the stakeholders
- Prepare final strategy document based on HFA guidelines after getting feedback, comments and suggestions from the stakeholders

OUTCOME

- National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management of Nepal including specific strategic priorities or various key development sectors
- Wide engagement and participation of stakeholders in the strategy development process resulting in greater ownership of the process and the outcome
- Enhanced awareness on HFA 2005-2015 and its implication for DRM in Nepal
- Ownership of DRM process by stakeholders of different sectors

