

## CONSULTATION WITH PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT



Group Photo, Gandaki Province

### BACKGROUND

The 'Promoting Action for Disaster Risk Governance and Working to Achieve Preparedness for Risk Reduction through Technical Assistance in Nepal' – PARIWARTAN project funded by United States Agency for International Development/Bureau for Humanitarian Affairs (USAID/BHA) officially commenced from 15 August 2019. This project is designed to build upon the activities carried out through phase I project that contributed into Government's effort in implementing DRRM Act passed in 2017 and amended in 2019. The main objective of the project is to contribute to improved federal, provincial, and municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) legislative regulatory framework that facilitates timely and comprehensive disaster risk management with strengthened capacity to build resilient community.

As stated in the DRRM Act 2017, Provincial Disaster Management Executive Committee (PDMEC) has a lead role in executing DRRM of the province. The committee is chaired by the minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MoIAL)/Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA)/Ministry of Internal Affairs, Law and Communication (MoIALC). Members of the committee include chief secretaries of all provincial ministries as well as representatives from Nepal Police and Nepal Red Cross Society. Given the pivotal role of the committee in leading the DRRM of the province, it is important to enhance the capacity of the committee members as well as to develop a common understanding to jointly coordinate future actions for DRRM.

Interaction programs with members of the PDMEC in all seven provinces were organized in coordination with PDMEC, relevant staff from line ministry, representatives from Project Advisory Committee (PAC), and IOM team.

### OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the program is to enhance the capacity of PDMEC members and staff of MoIAL/MoIA/MoIALC on DRRM to improve their plans, strategies and coordination structure. The specific objectives of the program are as follows:

**1** To analyze current provincial DRRM legislative landscape of Province

**2** To discuss on challenges and way forward for mainstreaming and smooth execution of DRRM

## PROGRAM BRIEF

Honorable Dr. Gangalal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council led the program in all seven provinces. The program featured presentations from PAC members from the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

The program covered analysis of disaster risk reduction measures including existing legislative documents- particularly the roles of different tiers of government as stated by the Constitution of Nepal 2015, Local Government Operation Act 2017, and DRRM Act 2017, DRRM in the Fifteenth National Plan; concepts of climate change adaptation (CCA) and DRRM; steps ahead- short term, midterm and long terms actions as well as analysis of provincial DRRM legislative documents. Local Government Operation Act 2017 lays a solid cornerstone for DRRM localization and clarifies the role of local governments in all phases of disaster management cycle. Brief presentation included the past and recent activities for DRRM localization such as development of templates for local level disaster related legislative documents (e.g. acts, strategies), training manuals for DRRM and CCA mainstreaming, urban DRR toolkit, Local

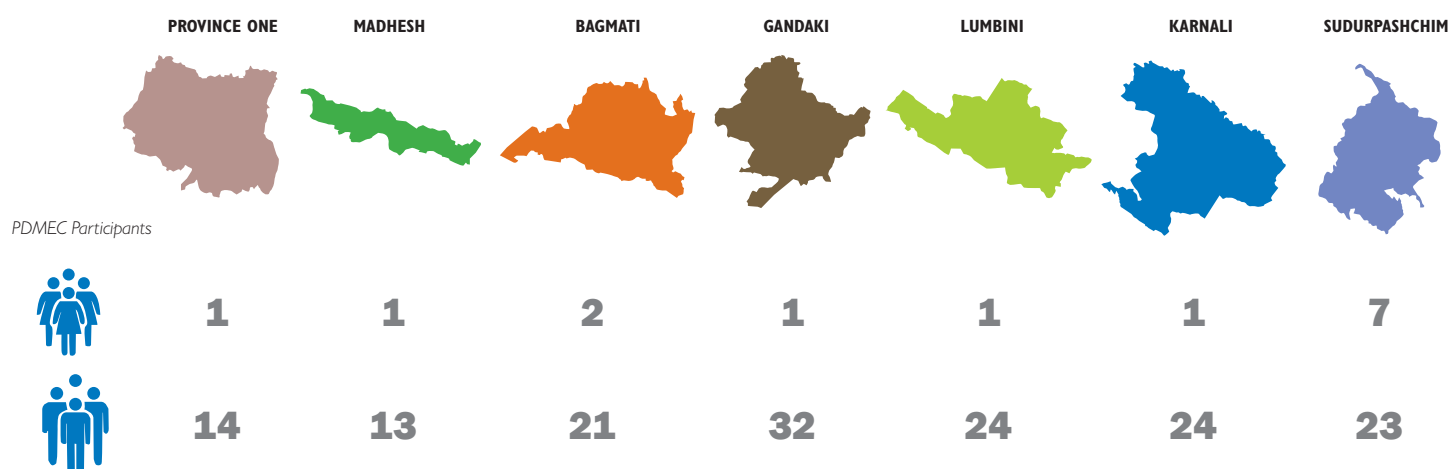
Government Institutional Self-Assessment Framework (LISA), DRR Governance Assessment Tool, DRRM, CCA learning center mobilization guideline and formation of Emergency Operation Center at different governance levels.

There is a need for wider coordination for integrated disaster information management and relief and rehabilitation fund transfer between federal and provincial governments. Provincial government can collaborate with National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) in any of the eight priority work areas, which are: Risk information; Strengthening the system of governance at the federal, state and local levels; Promotion of public and private investment for risk reduction; Preparedness and response; Reconstruction and rehabilitation; Study, research and training; Early warning systems; and Disaster risk financial management.

The discussion centred on need of provincial government to work in line with the national priorities and objectives, implement and monitor DRRM related works at the provincial level, and coordinate, collaborate and foster healthy competition with other provinces and local governments.

## Gender-disaggregated Data of Participants

A total of 165 government officials (151 male and 14 female) participated.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Province I

- Establishment of Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (PDRRMA).
- Hazards mapping of vulnerable communities and digital profile of location and population.
- Provision of private house reconstruction grants release mechanism at local level.
- Profiling of DRRM volunteers and trained search and rescue volunteers.

### Madhesh Province

- Review past 4 years of work and prioritize long-term and short-term actions for disaster management
- Increase budget allocation in all government tiers for DRRM.
- Stockpile adequate relief materials.
- Enhance overall coordination among three tiers of governments, particularly on budget allocation, stockpiling, and disaster response and preparedness.

### Bagmati Province

- Implement programs to translate the available policies and strategies into action.
- Emphasize capacity building and disaster preparedness rather than relief distribution.  
Invest in safe settlement and rehabilitation.
- Collaborate with local and federal governments and improve networking among stakeholders.
- Promote use of information, communication and technology for disaster preparedness such as hazard mapping.
- Set up information management system, strengthen early warning system, and build capacity of emergency operation center staffs.
- Devise policies and programs for risk financing.
- Develop integrated action plan among provincial, district and local levels and clarity in work responsibilities, regular monitoring, review and reflection, consistency in data, regular update of action plan.
- Build capacity of communities for DRRM as first responders.

### Gandaki Province

- Emphasize implementation of program to put words into action for DRRM mainstreaming.
- Focus on capacity building and disaster preparedness rather than relief distribution.
- Invest in safe integrated settlement and rehabilitation.
- Collaborate with local government, federal government, and development partners to improve DRRM in line with the annual plan and priorities.
- Set up information management system, strengthen early warning systems and build capacity of operation center staffs.
- Devise policies and programs for risk financing.
- Consider ground reality and front-line worker empirics including the capacity, future risk, financial aid, and joint efforts while planning disaster risk reduction & management.
- Emphasize local pre-positioning in Mustang, Manang, and other remote & vulnerable districts in coordination with Nepal Army and other security agencies.
- Consider possible fire risks brought by unsecure storage of petroleum products, especially in Mustang due to lack of petrol pumps.
- Increase awareness and provide training to local guides on using weather forecast sites/applications.



Consultation Session in Progress, Bagmati Province



## Lumbini Province

- Review status of DRRM and work on the capacity building of frontline workers.
- Allocate daily allowances and other motivational factors to frontline security workers.
- Prioritize mutual working and learning between government and non-government.
- Prioritize establishment of Provincial Structure for PDRRMA.
- Frequent transfer of MoIALC's Secretaries is one of the major challenges for the Ministry and suggested political leaders to think and act on this issue.
- Develop and mobilize community volunteers.
- Stockpile at least 25 minimum preparedness materials in each ward and 5 essential search and rescue (SAR) materials to Nepal Police.

## Karnali Province

- Enhance coordination and collaboration amongst the government and non-governmental agencies to avoid duplication and create synergy for DRRM.
- Federal, provincial, and local governments should coordinate vertically and horizontally on DRRM issues.
- During the implementation of the integrated settlement program/ "Janata Aawas Karyakaram", priority should be given to livelihood opportunities that value culture and traditions.
- Support security agencies to strengthen their capacity both technically and financially.
- Promote the use of information, communication and technology and hazard mapping.

## Sudurpashchim Province

- The terminologies and concept used to define and explain DRRM must be simplified so that first responders/security personnel in ground are able to understand.
- Mobilization of disaster relief fund should be made easier and decentralized to district level and local level.
- Stockpile tents, NFIs and equipment for rescue and response in aftermath of disaster and coordinate with Nepal Police as they have plan for all unit upto smallest unit 'Chauki Level' to respond during disaster with specific focus on landslides in hilly area and flood in tarai.
- Explore provision of portable equipment and specific trainings considering difficult geographic terrain.
- Increase number of battalions to respond to disaster such that there are at least once in each province.
- Prioritize relocation of vulnerable communities residing in high risk areas and expedite finalization of land rights by federal government which falls under their jurisdiction.



Consultation session in Karnali Province

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