

## CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**For facilitation of effective policy making and ensuring mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and management into the development plans of the provinces**

### PROJECT 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 Assistance (USAID/BHA) is designed to build upon the Government of Nepal's effort in implementing the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act passed in 2017 and amended in 2019.

Under component 2 'Provide technical assistance to provincial governments in implementing the DRRM Act with inclusive response towards DRRM', seven consultations were organized with the Members of Parliament (MPs) from the seven Provinces of Nepal. The consultative workshops were conducted under the leadership of provincial assembly speakers and representing MPs to share and discuss their role on the process of mainstreaming DRRM into the legislation process and policy documents.

### The specific objectives of the consultations

**i**

To aware MPs on gaps and challenges regarding DRRM and increase their knowledge on DRRM to mainstream DRRM into the provincial plans and programs.

**ii**

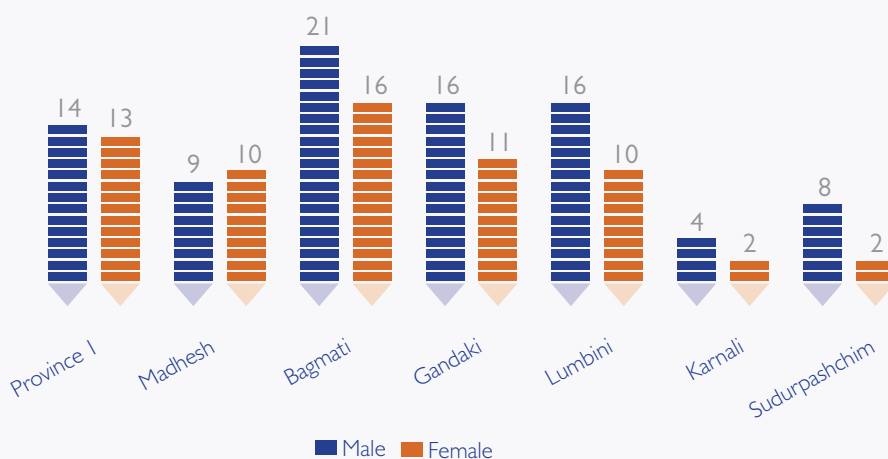
To discuss on localization of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 amongst MPs and their roles and responsibilities in raising DRRM concerns in the house, to oversight, prioritize and monitor government's plans, policies and strategies regarding DRRM.

**iii**

To provide a platform on discussing the DRRM issues such as land use planning policies, preparation of multi-hazard risk mapping, relocation of settlements from risk zone, integrate people-centric plans and policies.

A total of 152 (64 female, 88 male) MPs participated in the consultative workshops. The discussion centred around need for establishing a platform for cooperation amongst federal, provincial and local government levels for shared work strategy, integrating indigenous coping practices, initiating small scale mitigation projects for inhabitants residing in vulnerable areas to increase their coping capacity, research on mapping of vulnerable settlement areas with focus on ecological and topographical diversity, implementing hazard-specific settlement planning policies along with monitoring mechanisms, campaigning for awareness on DRRM.

### GENDER-DISAGGREGATED DATA OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (PARTICIPANTS)



## CONSULTATIONS

### Province I - 16 December 2020

The consultation was chaired by Honorable Speaker of Provincial Assembly, Province I, Mr. Pradip Kumar Bhandari and facilitated by Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. Ms. Lorena Lando, Chief of Mission, IOM Nepal, presented her welcome remarks by welcoming all the MPs in the virtual meeting with provincial assembly members on effective legislative frameworks on DRRM in the province. Mr. Kamal Bahadur Thapa, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law (MoIAL) Province I, presented on the ongoing activities for DRRM that has been coordinated by the Ministry and Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council presented on the basis for fundamentals of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) and the important role that lawmakers have at the provincial level for bringing changes. Honorable Mr. Pradip Kumar Bhandari thanked all the MPs for their participation and IOM team for the initiation in his closing remarks.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Integrate indigenous coping practices with technical expertise to mitigate risks.
2. Establish a platform for cooperation amongst federal, provincial and local government levels for shared work strategy.
3. Define coordination and communication channel between government agencies for preparedness and response.
4. Develop hazard-specific search and rescue team positioning at strategic locations. For instance, swimmers in river basin locations, firefighters in dense urban areas, veterinarian rescue team in forest areas and early-warning mechanism at landslides and flood-prone areas etc.
5. Conduct consultations to map hazard risks and formulate plan of actions.
6. Initiate small scale mitigation projects for inhabitants residing in vulnerable area to increase their coping capacity during times of disaster.
7. Research on mapping of vulnerable settlement areas in all local levels with focus on ecological and topographical diversity.
8. Implement hazard-specific settlement planning policies along with monitoring mechanisms.
9. Devise programs for human-wildlife coexistence and promote biodiversity.

### Madhesh Province - 8 December 2020

The consultation was chaired by Honorable Speaker of Provincial Assembly, Madhesh Province, Mr. Saroj Kumar Yadav and facilitated by Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. Honorable Dr. Tuladhar presented on the DRRM context of Nepal with federal, provincial, and local level context. Honorable Speaker Mr. Saroj Kumar Yadav expressed the need of planning and executing the DRRM cycle and not just relief activities and expressed his commitment to contribute to DRRM in his closing remarks.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Emphasize on preparedness activities from local level in coordination with provincial and federal government.
2. Foster bilateral dialogue with the Government of India to address issues related to river basins.
3. Prioritize on river embankment and reduce flood risks.
4. Prioritize Chure Conservation in liaison with government of Province I and Bagmati Province.
5. Increase budget of provincial government on DRRM.
6. Contextualize DRM Act in all local levels according to specific hazards and risks.
7. Revise and highlight roles of Provincial Assembly members on DRRM.

### Bagmati Province, 7 October 2020

The consultation was chaired by Honorable Speaker of the Parliament Mr. Sanu Kumar Shrestha and facilitated by Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar. Chief of Mission, Ms. Lorena Lando welcomed all MPs in the program and expressed need of focusing on DRRM legislation to mitigate risks. She added that the program was in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the mission of leaving no one behind. Honorable Dr. Tuladhar gave a presentation on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) mainstreaming into policies and programs in Bagmati Province. Honorable Speaker Mr. Sanu Kumar Shrestha acknowledged the need of accountability and transparency and encouraged everyone to work on disaster risk sensitive planning in his closing remarks.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Fund more research related to DRRM and consider their findings for policy and planning.
2. Advocate for better monitoring mechanism and effective implementation of environmental policies.

3. Conduct consultation sessions on each hazard with experts to map risks and formulate plan of action.
4. Strengthen inter-agency coordination for better response and recovery..
5. Focus on resettlement related policy formulation and planning.
6. Integrate recommendations from Environmental Impact Assessment and Initial Environmental Examination into development projects.
7. Conduct local government capacity improvement programs.
8. Enhance sectoral technical expertise at the local level.

### Gandaki Province - 1 October 2020

The consultation was chaired by Honorable Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Netranath Adhikari and led by Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, Member, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. Chief of Mission, Ms. Lorena Lando welcomed all Members of Parliament in the program and expressed need of focusing on DRRM legislation for resiliency in communities. Honorable Dr. Tuladhar gave a presentation on highlighted on recent context, major learnings from drafting and implementing five-year plans and necessity of implementing longer term plans, recent disaster scenario, future need, further partnership, and major stakeholder ship on planning process. Honorable Mr. Adhikari presented on the efforts of the Provincial Government to improve collaboration amongst three tiers of governing bodies for preparedness effort along with necessity of drafting development plans with risk sensitivity and integration on time along with geographical survey and degree of exposure to risk in community level. He expressed his hopes for collaboration with IOM for mainstreaming DRRM in his closing remarks.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase technical expertise at MoIAL focusing on DRRM.
2. Establish database management system and dialogue for coordination between provincial and local levels on DRRM.
3. Conduct consultation sessions on each hazard with experts to map risks and formulate plans of action.
4. Adopt inter-thematic planning approaches in developmental plans and programs.
5. Develop integrated settlement planning guideline in terms of long-term land use plan.
6. Consult with farmers' group on climate smart technology for enhancing productivity.

7. Prioritize preparedness in close coordination with ministries, government agencies and development agencies.
8. Mainstream DRRM into school curriculum.
9. Build capacity of local government on DRRM.
10. Map and research on risk zones, and settlements areas.

### Lumbini Province - 24 November 2020

The consultation was chaired by Honorable Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Purna Bahadur Gharti and led by Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar. Honorable Dr. Tuladhar highlighted on the fundamentals of DRRM and roles of lawmakers at the provincial level. The presentation was focused on the importance of distinguishing respective roles and responsibilities of three tiers of governance, having a set goals/plans, and understanding the local ambiguities and problems. Honorable Mr. Purna Bahadur Gharti reiterated on necessity to improvise the provincial and local mechanism to address the existing barrier to achieve expected results on DRRM in his closing remarks.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Highlight roles and responsibilities of MPs to include monitoring roles on the Government's activities and budget allocation.
2. Create a department in MoIAL dedicated to research and maintaining data related to DRRM.
3. Evaluate and re-assess impacts of ongoing development programs to mainstream DRRM in collaboration with private sector and non-governmental agencies.
4. Map disasters at a local level and create preparedness plans accordingly.
5. Promote sustainable settlement practices and formulate policies for relocation of vulnerable communities.
6. Prioritize urban sustainable settlement to reduce encroachment and avoid any potential disasters.

### Karnali Province - 9 November 2020

The consultation was chaired by Honorable Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Raj Bahadur Shahi and facilitated by Increase technical expertise at MoIAL focusing on DRRM. Chief of Mission, Ms. Lorena Lando welcomed all MPs in the program and stated on importance of legislation measures to reflect needs of the provinces to incorporate DRRM to respond to crisis in her

opening remarks. Honorable Dr. Tuladhar presented the DRRM context of federal Nepal with various perspectives of hazards, legal framework, cause and impacts of disaster risk reduction in Nepal, geographical complexity of Nepal, constitutional process, and progress on mainstreaming DRRM strategic action at the federal, provincial, and local level. Honorable Dr. Tuladhar shed light on how ignoring disaster risks while planning and implementing infrastructure related development activities could lead to retrogression and suggested to integrate development plan and disaster risks together for sustainability. Honorable Mr. Raj Bahadur Shahi stressed that continuous effort is required for addressing DRRM rather than performing only during disaster events. He added that hazards and disasters need to be forecasted and reflected in planning, budget allocation and formulation of plans and policies for the sustainability of development activities along with comprehensive multi-hazard risk map to be prepared and displayed in each ward in his closing remarks. Honorable Speaker Mr. Raj Bahadur Shahi in his constituency in Dailekh District relocated settlement from high risk flood prone area after he attended the consultation where Dr. Tuladhar shared the picture of existing settlement located in the vulnerable location.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Highlight roles and responsibilities of MPs on formulation of acts, guidelines and laws regarding DRRM and play active roles as DRRM envoys to carry out campaigns on disaster preparedness.
2. Aware MPs on their power to oversight the budget allocation for DRRM by provincial and local governments and monitor the activities for the efficacy of the activities.
3. Activate the Provincial Assembly Committee in planning and monitoring of DRRM.
4. Increase coordination and collaboration between the Provincial government, local governments and communities for effective implementation of DRRM activities.
5. Develop a comprehensive approach on integrated settlement planning. For instance, insights can be gained from global resettlement models where resettlements are done taking social, economic, cultural and environmental aspects into account. Also, Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet District, can be taken as best example of settlement planning.
6. Promote bioengineering in sloppy areas for bioengineering for disaster risk reduction and conservation of landscape.
7. Conduct intensive consultation on geo-technical, environmental, and engineering aspects for implementation of infrastructural projects.
8. Replicate provision of insurance of communities against disaster events as best practice.
9. Promote usage of technology to forecast disaster and its risks for preparedness.
10. Prepare comprehensive multi-hazard maps in ward level and disseminate amongst the community.

## Sudurpashchim Province - 14 December 2020

The consultation was chaired by Honorable Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa and led by Honorable Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar. Honorable Dr. Tuladhar cited on various examples of past disaster events in Sudurpashchim Province and the necessity to mainstream DRRM in provincial development plans to mitigate impacts of such disasters. Honorable Mr. Prakash Bahadur Shah, Minister, MoIAL, as special guest presented on structures working to address DRRM from the provincial level to the ward level. Honorable Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa reiterated on the implementation of prepared plans along with public participation and media involvement for ownership of the intervention in his closing remarks.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Highlight and sensitize role and responsibilities of MPs in DRRM.
2. Increase collaboration among three tiers of governance in implementation of development projects to minimize impact of disaster.
3. Formulate policies for regulation of use of heavy equipment to mitigate the negative impacts on the environment.



*Consultation in Progress, Karnali Province*

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