DISASTER MANAGEMENT: POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN NEPAL

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Ministry of Home Affairs
1. Nepal at a Glance

**Total Area**: 147181 Sq Km (848 km L and 193 km B)

**Elevation**: 70 M to 8848 M High

**Administrative division**: 5 Region, 14 Zones, 75 Districts, 3913 VDCs and 58 Municipalities

**Demography**: 27.5 Million population, 1.94 Per cent average growth rate, 102 ethnicity, 92 languages, 6 religion

**Socio-economic**: 63.69 Year Life expectancy, 86.5 Per cent Literacy rate, 25.4 per cent poverty, 3.3 Per cent GDP growth, 13 per cent Inflation, HDI 0.428, GDP per capita US $ 536
2. Disaster Profile in Nepal

Nepal falls in:

- 20th topmost disaster prone in the world
- 4th rank in climate change vulnerability
- 11th rank in earthquake vulnerability
- 30th rank in flood vulnerability
- Kathmandu valley is exposed to high risk among 21 megacities in the world
3. Major recurrent disasters in Nepal

- Flood
- Landslide
- Earthquake
- Fire
- Hailstone
- Windstorm
- Thunderbolt
- Cloudburst
- Drought
- GLOF
- Avalanches
- Epidemics

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5. Seismic Maps of Nepal

Seismic Zoning of Nepal

Source: Building Code of Nepal

Seismic Hazard Map of Nepal

Source: Munich re, 2001
7. Major Policies Related to Disaster Management

- Natural Calamity (Relief) Act, 1982
- Prime Minister Natural Calamity Rescue Fund
- Local Self Governance Act, 1999
- Three Year Interim Plan 2007-2010
- National Strategy for DRM 2009
- Sectoral Laws and Policies: Health, Environment, Building, etc
- District Disaster Preparedness Plans
8. Natural Calamity Act, 1982

8.1 Preamble of the Act, 1982

- Arrangement for relief operations
- Protection of lives and properties
8.2 According to Act, Natural Calamity (disasters) includes

- Earthquake
- Fire outbreak
- Storm
- Flood
- Landslide
- Drought
- Famine
- Epidemic
- Industrial Accident
- Explosion, etc.
8.3 Natural Calamities Relief Work Means

- Any relief work to be carried out in the area affected or likely to be affected
- To ease people’s grief and inconvenience
- Rehabilitation of disaster victims
- Protection of life and property of people
- Preparation and adoption of preventive measures
8.4 Government Institution, Procedures…

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) is designated as the lead agency responsible for implementation of the Natural Calamity (Relief) Act, 1982

- Central Natural Disaster Rescue Committee (CNDRC), chaired by the Home Minister, is accountable for preparing and ensuring implementation of national policies

- MoHA’s Disaster Management Section and National Emergency Operation Centre are under the Planning and Special Services Division
MoHA is also responsible for rescue and relief works, data collection and dissemination of funds and resources.

Currently, various Government of Nepal agencies are assigned with different aspects of Disaster Risk Management.

There is increasing involvement of the academicians, researchers, UN agencies, INGOs, local bodies and civil Society in disaster response.
8.5 Present Institutional Arrangement

**Cabinet**
(Policy, Budget, Emergency Declaration)

**Central Natural Disaster Rescue Committee**
(Home Minister-Chairperson including members of all key Ministries, Departments, NRCS, etc.)
(Coordination, Response, Rescue, Relief)

**Regional Natural Disaster Rescue Committee**
Regional Administrator chaired the committee
(Regional Resource Mobilization, Direction)

**District Disaster Rescue Committee**
Chief District Officer chaired the committee
(program Execution, Rescue & Relief, Data collection)

**Rescue and Treatment Sub-Committee**
Chaired by Minister of Health and Population

**Supply, Shelter and Rehabilitation Sub-Committee**
Chaired by Minister of PP$W

Ministry of Home Affairs
9. Three Year Interim Plan (Major Policy)

- 3-Year Interim Plan (2007-2010) recognizes disasters as one of the major impediments of national development process, and addresses DRM tasks in chapter 26.

- The Plan recognizes the need to foster collaboration and coordination among key DRM players and institutions active in different sectors of the national economy.
10.1 Background, vision and objectives

**Background:** HFA 2005  
**Vision:** Disaster Resilience Nepal  
**Objectives:**

- Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into sectoral development policies and planning  
- Development and strengthening of institutional mechanism and capacities to build resilient communities  
- Systematic incorporation of different approaches into Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery programmes
10.2 Directive Principles of DRM Planning

- Mainstream DRM into development plans
- Ensure life safety and social security
- Emphasize gender and social inclusion
- Adopt decentralized implementation
- Follow a holistic approach
- Prioritize staff safety and security
- Follow one-window policy and cluster approach
- Work with participation and coordination
10.3 Sectoral Strategies for DRR

- Agriculture and Food Security
- Health
- Education
- Shelter, Infrastructure, Physical Planning
- Livelihood Protection
- Water and Sanitation
- Information, Communication, Coordination and Logistics
- Search and Rescue, and Damage and Needs Assessment
- Forest and Soil Conservation
10.4 Proposed Institutional Arrangement

National Disaster Management Council - Chaired by Prime Minister

Technical Committees
• Preparedness
• Rescue and Relief
• Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

Regional Disaster Management Committee

District Disaster Management Committee

Local Disaster Management Committee

National Disaster Management Authority
11. Sectoral Policies Related To Disaster Management

- Local Self Government Act, 1999
- Soil and Water Conservation Act, 1982
- Environment Protection Act, 1996
- National Agriculture Policy, 2004
- National Shelter Policy, 1996
- National Urban Policy, 2006
- Water Induced Disaster Management Policy, 2006
- Health Related Policies
- Other Policies
12. Flagship Approach

Five Flagship Program endorsed on 2009 October

- School and Hospital Safety
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Capacity
- Floods Management in the Koshi River Basin
- Integrated Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Management
- Policy/ Institutional Support for Disaster Risk Management
13. Proposed New Disaster Management Act

• Develop and strengthen **new institutional mechanism**; especially **National Disaster Management Council (NDMC)**
• **Cover full cycle of DRM**; prevention, mitigation, emergency preparedness, response and recovery program
• **Decentralize** disaster management at the local level
• **Wider coverage of disaster types both natural and non-natural disasters**
14. Disaster Preparedness initiatives

- Lessons Learned and Disaster Preparedness workshop at the central level has been held based on the recommendation of district level workshop (Bottom-Up approach).
- The national workshop has identified and recommended 21 issues to MoHA.
- MoHA forwarded these issues to CNDRC and got approval for implementation.
- Regional level workshop was held at 5 development regions and developed SOP.
- District disaster preparedness plans have been made in 67 districts.
Disaster Preparedness initiatives

- Earthquake Simulation Exercise (INSARAG) has been conducted in 2009.
- Model agreement between GON and UN to expedite import/export and transit of relief consignments in the event of disasters and emergencies, 31 May, 2007
- 64 open space for evacuation during emergencies identified within Kathmandu valley
Disaster Preparedness initiatives

- Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) trainings has been initiated since 1998, includes:
  1. Medical First Responder (MFR) to Fire Department, Red cross, Police, Rescue Organizations
  2. Collapsed Structure Search & Rescue (CSSR) to Fire, Department, Red Cross, Police, Search and Rescue group associate with Local and national emergency Response System
  3. Hospital Preparedness for Emergency (HOPE) to Hospital Administrators and Leaders, Doctors, Nurses, Hospital Engineers, and other medical and Management Staff
Disaster Preparedness initiatives

• Get Airport Ready for Disaster (GARD) is being done

• Nepal Hazard Risk Assessment has been made which covered Earthquake, Drought, Flood, Landslide and Epidemic. It also analyzed projected economic losses from hazard

• National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) on climate change has been prepared and launched

• National Early Warning Strategy is being developed
15. Coordination Mechanism……

- Established a DRM Focal Points in Different Ministries, Departments including PM Office, NPC and security sectors. Monthly meeting in MOHA.

- Established a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)

- Established a Risk Reduction Consortium to coordinate Five Flagship Program.

- CNDRC meeting is held as and when necessary under the chairpersonship of Home Minister.
….Coordination Mechanism

- Established National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) in MOHA to coordinate emergency rescue and relief during disaster.

- One window policy and UN Cluster approach has been adopted to implement DRM in a coordinated way.

- At the district level, DDRC - chaired by Chief District Officer (CDO) - is responsible for coordination and implementation of DRM.
16. The way forward

• To implement **NSDRM 2009** in an effective, efficient and collaborative way

• To enact **New Disaster Management Act** in line with NSDRM 2009

• To develop a scientific and comprehensive **Relief Standard**

• **Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** into national and local level planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation frameworks
The way forward

- Strong institutional base for effective implementation of DRM: networked, decentralized, entrepreneurial, collaborative, professional and virtual.

- Strengthening prevention and preparedness: systems, mechanisms, methodologies and actions.

- Scientific, educational and technological interventions.

- Behavioural-change: Awareness raising.

- Strengthening sub-regional, regional and international cooperation and collaboration: SDMC, ADPC, ADMC and UNISDR.
KNOW DISASTER = NO DISASTER
Thank You Very Much for Your Kind Attention