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KEY FINDINGS OF PGI-CEA MAINSTREAMING MONITORING



Background:

Danish Red Cross (DRC) together with Mercy Corps Nepal (MCN) and Finnish Red Cross (FinnRC), with Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) as the implementing partner is currently implementing the "Strengthening Ownership and Governance in Disaster Risk Management together with the Government of Nepal, humanitarian stakeholders and the civil society"(STRONG in DRM together)-" project covers 12 Municipalities of Bardiya, Kailali, and Kanchanpur districts in Lumbini and Sudurpashchim Province. The project has been supported by the EU Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid.

We all know that disasters cause serious damage to buildings, and agricultural land, and death or injuries to people and animals. In emergencies and disaster situations women (especially pregnant and lactating women), children and persons with disabilities, senior citizens, and sick people become more vulnerable. They can be exposed to other potential risks when families and service providers cannot provide appropriate care and protection. Further risk arises in this situation because of inappropriate support and care.

The project aims to contribute to the resilience of disaster-affected communities through strong ownership of disaster risk management governance in all tiers of the government, informed by evolving climate risks, exposure, and vulnerabilities. and, has been supporting the GoN in developing a scalable, all-of-society, and risk-informed approach considering the latest evidence and the experiences created in Nepal around Anticipatory Action (AA), early actions, and shock-responsive social protection (SRSP).

The project is expected from the partners to ensure that protection is appropriately embedded throughout the action (risk analysis and mitigation, identification of individuals who may have difficulty accessing assistance, establishing appropriate accountability mechanisms, and other relevant protection mainstreaming (PM) approaches). The protection mainstreaming ensures all important aspects are considered and not just a minimum standard of "do no harm".

The Protection Mainstreaming (PM) requirements of EU Civil Protection & Humanitarian Aid which is the mandate of their Gender Policy, the Gender and Age Marker, and the Operational Guidance on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in EU-funded Humanitarian Aid Operations.

The PM encompasses several cross-cutting issues in humanitarian response, such as age, gender and diversity, child protection, disability inclusion, gender-based violence,

HIV/AIDS, and mental health and psycho-social support. EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations' approach to protection mainstreaming ensures that the specific mainstreaming requests are streamlined into one process.

The RCRC movement including NRCS and DRC Nepal, strategically and programmatically, PGI-CEA is taken as a high priority. Therefore, The Project has applied a PGI and CEA approach for ensuring the meaningful participation of the most vulnerable groups such as women, persons with disabilities, senior citizen children, and marginalized groups by supporting capacity building and awareness of local-level DRRM and social protection-related structure and committee so that the most vulnerable group will be equally benefited from this project.

In this context, The Protection Mainstreaming monitoring of the "STRONG in DRM together" project was conducted in 6 municipalities of Bardiya, Kailali, and Kanchanpur districts.

1. The main objectives:

- Assess protection mainstreaming and PGI-CEA integration in addressing vulnerable groups' needs.
- Review the effectiveness of IEWCC and feedback mechanisms with recommendations for improvement.

2. Methodology for Data collection, analysis, and reporting:

Preparatory phase:

- EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations Protection Mainstreaming Key Outcome Indicator (PM KOI) Survey tools 2017 and other project documents and reports were reviewed and contextualized.
- Clearly outlined the objectives, and key indicators for the monitoring process to ensure alignment with project goals.
- Customize or develop survey tools, interview guides, and observation checklists to collect relevant data on protection mainstreaming.
- Close consultation was done with Strong in the DRRM team, LEOC (DRR/GESI Focal), and community leaders, to inform them about the monitoring process and secure their cooperation.
- Necessary logistics arrangements (travel MO, accommodations, and communication tools) was done to facilitate smooth field visits and data collection.

ii) Data Collection

Date of field visit	District/Palika	Individual interviews	FGDs	KII
21/09/024	Barbardiya - Bardiya	20 Cash in AA beneficiaries	1 FGD with Tharu Community	DCC focal
22/09/024	Gulariya - Bardiya	19 Cash in AA beneficiaries	1 FGD with Madheshi women's group	Badghar
23/09/024	Tiapur- Kailali	10 CEA beneficiaries	2 (person with disability and women group)	LDMC & ward chair representative
24/09/024	Janaki- Kailali	10 CEA beneficiaries	1 FGD with CDMC	GESI and DCC
25/09/024	Laljhadi- Kanchanpur	7 CEA beneficiaries	1 FGD with women groups	DRR foal person
26/09/024	Punarus- Kanchanpur	8 CEA beneficiaries	1 FGD with CDMC	GESI and FHCV
Total		74 II	7 FGDs	8 KII

3. Key findings of THE PGI-CEA Mainstreaming MONITORING

'Participation'

Major Achievements

- Positive recognition for NRCS efforts, with increased participation of women and marginalized groups in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) structures and activities.
- Disaggregated Data Collection by Sex, age, and disability data was improved for better targeting.
- Women's participation has significantly increased in DRM committees and structures (WDMCs/CDMCs) due to high male migration for employment and provisions of constitutional mandates ensuring women were represented in planning and decision-making.
- Some municipalities prioritized women's and child-focused networks, allocating specific budgets for PGI initiatives like pre-evacuation for children and single mothers, psychosocial counselling, and assistive devices for persons with disabilities.

Challenges:

- 16 HHs reported the exclusion of vulnerable groups like persons with disabilities and single women in community engagement programs.
- Cultural Barriers for women from the Madheshi community faced significant restrictions, limiting their participation and mobility.
- Symbolic Participation of marginalized groups particularly women and persons with disabilities often participated as a formality, with their inputs deprioritized and limited influence on decision-making.
- LGBTQ+ data were collected, but their specific needs remain unaddressed.
- Budget limitations restricted the scope of PGI-CEA integration activities, preventing targeted support for specific needs like menstrual hygiene and safe shelters.

Lessons Learned:

- Regular updates to disaggregated data are essential for addressing specific needs effectively.
- Continuous engagement and sensitization are needed to ensure meaningful participation of marginalized groups in decision-making processes.
- Strengthening disaggregated data usage and updating it regularly can help address marginalized groups' needs more effectively.
- NRCS should allocate at least 2% of the budget for marginalized group participation in DRRM.

Safety

Major Achievements

- 100% of cash support household beneficiaries reported feeling safe during cash collection due to accessible locations and transportation. However, 5% recommended cash-in-hand distribution during floods to avoid travel risks.
- 80% of community engagement program participants reported partial safety due to (bicycle for transportation, Inaccessible infrastructure for women and persons with disabilities, Risky locations, including jungle areas prone to snake bites, and Flood-day difficulties.
- In Punarwas Municipality, police were stationed at transit shelters during floods, contributing to a secure environment.

Challenges:

- Cultural norms increase risks for certain groups, such as Tharu women engaging in traditional fishing during flood warnings.

Lessons Learned:

- Safe shelters and improved infrastructure are essential to enhance safety during emergencies.
- Community-based awareness programs targeting safety risks for specific groups (e.g., women, and children) are crucial.
- Focused tailored awareness Programs, particularly for high-risk groups such as Tharu women engaging in traditional fishing during flood warnings to reduce risks.

Accessibility

Major Achievements

- Inclusive communication channels were developed in 12 municipalities where local leaders, teachers, ward representatives, and social media have been playing an effective key role in message dissemination.
- Early warning messages delivered effectively through inclusive communication channels (local leaders, phone calls, teachers, ward offices, social media) were accessible.

- 93% of vulnerable HHs received warnings, with 79% receiving 3-4 notifications before floods.
- 100% of participants who received early warning messages understood them because of attributing this to clear, locally in local/ understandable language.

Challenges:

- Physical Accessibility Issues: 13% faced difficulties due to unclear messaging, high transportation costs, and long queues at banks.
- Information accessibility: 30% misunderstood the cash support initially. Deaf individuals and those with multiple disabilities faced challenges in accessing program information, indicating the need for inclusive communication tools like sign language interpreters.
- Program Locations: Women from distant areas reported travel challenges (6 HHs) due to lack of bicycles and time constraints.

Lessons Learned:

- Need to address logistical and infrastructure barriers that can enhance participation and accessibility.

Dignity

Major Achievements

- 85% of participants felt respected during interactions with NRCS staff, enhancing accessibility to aid.

Community Engagement & Feedback Mechanism

Major Achievements

- Community engagement through videos, meetings, consultations, flood orientation, and early warning and action initiatives identified activities as NRCS support. However, these activities were not extensive enough and sometimes lacked follow-up on agreed actions.
- Feedback mechanisms, though underutilized, were introduced as part of the PGI-CEA integration, although awareness remains limited.
- Community engagement programs including capacity-building and skill development, have been ensuring the participation of women person with disability and other marginalized groups.
- 90% of cash support beneficiaries shared that they were fully satisfied, while 10% had partial satisfaction due to location-related concerns.

Gaps and Challenges:

- There is lacking in Understanding of Cash in anticipation or cash as early action because 74% recognized its purpose for essentials like food and medicine rather than cash for anticipation during the flood.

- Despite mass community awareness, 88% were unaware of NRCS feedback mechanisms including the helpline. Only 21% knew they could report their concerns and issues directly to NRCS.

Lessons Learned:

- Need for promoting NRCS-specific feedback channels, mechanisms including NRCS hotlines 1130 Awareness through mass campaigns is vital for improving community accountability.
- Active engagement of GESI focal points and increased focus on culturally appropriate participation are needed to ensure accountability.

4. Recommendations

- Conduct mass awareness campaigns about the NRCS feedback mechanism, including helplines.
- Focused Tailored Awareness Programs, particularly for high-risk groups such as Tharu women engaging in traditional fishing during flood warnings to reduce risks.
- Suggested to allocate at least 2% of program budgets for establishing inclusive practices to ensure marginalized group participation in DRRM and ensure PGI-CEA activities are inclusive.
- Strengthen local Structures, especially community/ward-level disaster management committees, and ensure marginalized groups have meaningful participation in decision-making.
- Adopt and Implement Comprehensive inclusive community engagement tools for EW/EA, including sign language interpreters and assistive technologies, for broader participation.
- Conduct the CEA program appropriate location, and suitable time for participants to increase participation of women, persons with disability, and other marginalized.
- Strengthen Data Management with regular updates of disaggregated data for effective targeting.
- Conduct monthly and quarterly PGI-CEA progress reviews to assess integration effectiveness.

5. Annexes

Communities' quote

नमस्पालिका (पालिका) र वड-नगर सडक निर्माण, बिजुली, र अन्य विकासमा केन्द्रित छैन जहाँ PDA र CEA विशेषकर पूर्णतया प्राथमिकतामा पर्दछन्, जसले गर्दा सामुदायिक संरचना र जवाफदेहिता (CEA) पक्षहरूमा सबैभन्दा जोडिममा परेकाहरूको कम प्रतिनिधित्व हुन्छ।

हामी आफ्ना गनासा सरोकारका विषयमा टोल विकास वड, पालिका वा प्रदोरी कार्यालयमा (न्यायिक समिति) गएर भन्ने गरेका छौं। यद्यपि, हामीलाई NRCS-भन्दा सम्बन्धित सरोकारहरूको लागि 1130 हेलपलाइन सहित NRCS प्रतिक्रिया संयन्त्रको बारेमा जानकारी छैन। २०४५ को बर्सेको समयमा हामीले चोरी अनुभव गर्दा, यस वर्ष ट्रान्जिट शेल्टरहरूमा पुलिस सुला तैनाथ गरिएको थियो र युवा कालका सदस्यहरूले धोपारीकाको सुला गर्न मद्दत गरे, परिणामस्वरूप कुनै घटना बिना सुरक्षितसग बसियो।

मद्दलोग भारतम नोकरी करने गइला वोइ बसाई के कारण स्थानीय तहक योजना, बैठक, सामुदायिक संरचना गतिविधि वोर विपद जोडिम व्यवस्थापनमा महिलाक सहभागिता बढते रुपम बढला। लोकल मधेसी समुदायक महिला, सांस्कृतिक मान्यता र सामाजिक प्रतिबन्धका कारण अझि बहुत कमलोग बैठक र कार्यक्रमका सहभागि जावत है।

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महिला समुह तातपुर बर्दिया

