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Humanitarian Aid

STRONG in DRM



STRENGTHENING OWNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE IN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT TOGETHER

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Overview

The Danish Red Cross (DRC), in collaboration with the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), has pioneered a series of transformative projects to bolster Nepal's disaster resilience through anticipatory action (AA) and robust disaster risk management (DRM). These initiatives, funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, began with the Forecast-based Action (FbA) pilot (2017-2019) in Bardiya District, and later expanded through the Forecast-based Action and Shock Responsive Social Protection (FbA-SRSP) initiative (2020-2022) across Lumbini and Sudurpaschim provinces. Building on these, the Strengthening Ownership and Governance in Disaster Risk Management (STRONG in DRM) project continues to enhance Nepal's ability to proactively mitigate and respond to disasters. This comprehensive approach integrates cutting-edge technology, community engagement, and robust governance, ensuring timely, proactive, and effective disaster response.



Objective

To strengthen disaster risk management through a risk-informed approach to preparedness, anticipatory action, early response and shock responsive social protection in Lumbini and Sudurpaschim provinces.



Achievement

- Beneficiaries reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner
 - A total of 179 CEA sessions were conducted, successfully engaging 2,683 beneficiaries. These sessions were focused on imparting vital information regarding early warning and early action, targeting, financial literacy, risk communication and feedback and complain mechanism in the community.
 - All cash support household beneficiaries (100%) reported feeling safe during cash collection due to accessible locations and transportation facilities. However, 5% suggested cash-in-hand distribution during floods to minimize travel risks. Notably, 90% of beneficiaries expressed full satisfaction with the cash support process.
 - 93% of vulnerable households (HHs) received timely warnings before the floods, with 79% receiving 3-4 notifications prior to the event. All participants (100%) who received early warning messages understood them, due to the use of clear and locally understandable language.
 - 85% of participants felt respected during their interactions with NRCS staff, which significantly enhanced their accessibility to aid and overall sense of dignity.
- 40% of the targeted municipalities (5 of 12) have participatory and inclusive disaster risk management measures in their annual budgets and plans for the fiscal year 2024/2025.
- 288 civil society organizations and community-based organizations (CBOs) engaged in the local-level planning and budget-making process, particularly related to disaster planning process.



- 100% of the targeted municipalities (12 of 12) have increased their budget on disaster by an average of 22%. Notably, seven municipalities (Tikapaur, Bhajani, Gulariya, barbardiya, Thakurbaba, Laljhandi, Krishnapur) increase it by 31%.
 - NPR 23.4 million received by municipalities in Sudurpaschim province and NPR 3.5 million received by municipalities in Lumbini province from federal and provincial government in fiscal year 2080/2081.
- The Ministry of water, resource, and irrigation supported Laaljhandi rural municipality with NPR 7.5 million for embankment construction.
 - The Ministry of physical infrastructure development supported Bhajani municipality with NPR 9.5 million for construction of safe shelter.
 - The Ministry of internal affair and law supported Tikapur municipality and NRCS Tikapur Subchapter with NPR 2.9 million for construction of a safe shelter and disaster learning centre.
 - The Ministry of physical infrastructure development supported Barbardiya municipality with NPR 2.5 million for construction of embankment construction.
 - The Ministry of water, resource, and irrigation supported Suklaphanta municipality with NPR 3.5 million for embankment construction.
 - The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law supported Geruwa Rural Municipality with NPR 1 million for Search and Rescue training.
 - 9 municipalities across 4 river basins in close coordination with the federal government (NDRRMA) have installed a total of 26 multi-hazard sirens to strengthen risk communication mechanisms.

01 Target



The capacity of municipalities to implement inclusive Disaster Risk Management policies and plans is rooted in awareness of risks, specific needs and community capacities.

Achievement

- All targeted municipalities (12 of 12) have developed Early Action Frameworks which is a part of their Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan.
- 288 CBOs and CSOs engaged with municipalities to identify and develop new measures to support disaster response.
- 63,056 people at high risk of flooding have benefited from the intervention – activation of the Early Action Framework, community engagement and orientation on early warning early actions etc.
- Municipalities from each river basin hold regular coordination meeting for four river basins (Dodha, Mohana, Babai and Karnali) to improve disaster coordination and response.
- Community Engagement and Accountability feedback response mechanisms have been developed and are functional in all 12 municipalities.
- Automation of precipitation stations at Garbha Durbar, Kailali to ensure flood warnings are timely and actionable.
- Inclusive Early Warning Communication Channels developed at all 12 municipalities to ensure timely dissemination of early warnings through local actors and networks.

02 Target



Provincial and Federal Disaster coordination systems are reinforced through anticipatory action and early response developed and piloted at municipal level.

Achievement

- Integration of a separate module on Anticipatory Action and Early Response into the MoFAGA's Disaster Risk Management training packages in consultation with the NDRRMA and the MoFAGA.
- Organised the 3rd National Dialogue in coordination with the Community of Practice (CoP) on AA and the NDRRMA. Provincial level CoP has been formed.
- The flood risk assessment data collection questionnaire was standardized through extensive collaboration with government authorities and key stakeholders.
- Supported the local government in collaboration with Youth Innovation Lab, to develop Impact-Based Forecasting portal, a flood impact forecasting dashboard hosted on the Bipad Portal.
- Enhanced flood preparedness in partnership with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD):
 - PrakopAlert Mobile App: This free app delivers real-time weather and river discharge updates, empowering communities to take timely action.
 - SERVIR-HKH Science Applications: Training programs facilitated by NRCS and ICIMOD equip stakeholders with skills to utilize SERVIR-HKH's science applications for improved disaster preparedness.
 - Flood Inundation Mapping Tool: Real-time flood mapping aids in rapid disaster response.
 - High-Impact Weather Assessment Toolkit (HIWAT): Integrated with tools like PrakopAlert, HIWAT ensures that responders get actionable data during critical times.

03

Target



Nepal Red Cross Society delivers assistance to vulnerable people in targeted areas in anticipation to a forecasted flood.

Achievement

- On September 13, 2024 the decision to activate trigger was reached informed by weather forecast information in Babai river basin. Early actions taken included early warning messages, evacuations, and cash assistance.
- Multipurpose cash assistance delivered within four hours from activation to cash to 774 families with persons with disabilities, with some beneficiaries withdrawing their funds within an hour. Information regarding the cash transfer was provided to the recipients before and after the cash was deposited.
- Leveraged the government's Social Security Allowance (SSA) program's systems for targeting families with persons with disabilities from the program's registry and deposited the cash in their SSA bank accounts.
- Leveraged digital technology for AA during the activation in partnership with Rumsan. The Rahat Application for AA was developed and tested during the activation. The application helped to achieve streamlined early actions, ensure transparency in real time, reinforced data protection and supported in early warning message dissemination.

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