



नेपाल सरकार
गृह मन्त्रालय
राष्ट्रिय विपद जोखिम न्यूनिकरण तथा
व्यवस्थापन प्राधिकरण



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NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ANTICIPATORY ACTION

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ALICE RESTURANT, PULCHOWK



Event Proceeding Report







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FOREWORD

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) is pleased to present the event proceedings of the National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action that was held on 22-23 April 2022 in Kathmandu (Nepal).

These proceedings depict the rationale behind organizing a National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action, the constructive discourse that came about and the key takeaways derived from it. The National Dialogue provided an opportunity for all government and non-government humanitarian and development agencies to come together in a platform to discuss Anticipatory Action (AA), build a common understanding around the concept and exchange experiences and lessons based on concrete examples and experiences developed in Nepal. It will also inform the policy direction to be taken for AA in Nepal and guide the work of practitioners.

Nepal's increasing vulnerability to frequent and extreme disasters require increased investment in innovative solutions. Evidence from around the world shows that investing in early actions minimizes the loss of lives, properties, and infrastructures from predictable disasters. Although the concept of AA is relatively new in Nepal with the implementation of small-scale testing and piloting, there has been a rising interest in this approach with some initial evidence and experiences that also contributes to exploring the opportunity to further adapt this concept in the context of Nepal. Trust towards the country's weather forecasts is also increasing due to its increasing accuracy, creating an enabling environment for AA. Therefore, the NDRRMA felt the need to create a platform that brings together wider practitioners engaged in AA for learning, sharing and streamlining of the approach. It is within this context that the NDRRMA organized the National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action.

The National Dialogue has been a milestone in starting a constructive exchange of ideas and experiences around AA and ways of utilising the national social protection programmes to support timely and cost-effective anticipatory action and response. The key takeaways of the event that is presented here will inform the government's guidelines and policies. The mapping of the humanitarian agencies' work on AA in Nepal consolidated during the event will be featured on the Bipad Portal and will be a valuable resource for all actors to refer to in their planning and coordination process. Moving forward, the NDRRMA is also committed to providing guidance and technical backstopping by creating and entertaining common knowledge and platforms for further dialogue and offering consultations and collaborative opportunities.

Lastly, the NDRRMA would like to thank the European Union Humanitarian Aid Operations for their financial support and the Nepal Red Cross Society and the Danish Red Cross for their technical support in organizing the National Dialogue. And to acknowledge the active participation and contribution of the wider humanitarian and development partners during the event, thus demonstrating the common willingness to work in collaboration with the government and in a positive spirit of coordination and sharing of experiences and evidence to take the anticipatory action agenda forward in Nepal.

Anil Pokharel
Chief Executive
NDRRMA, Ministry of Home Affairs



1. Introduction

The Government of Nepal (GoN), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) - National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) with support from the Forecast-based Action-Shock Responsive Social Protection Community of Practice (FbA-SRSP CoP) and the Red Cross, organized a one and half-day National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action on 22-23 April 2022. The event brought together government ministries and departments, and humanitarian and development actors to discuss and define future processes with regards to the development of relevant policies, frameworks and other tools that will facilitate the implementation of Anticipatory Action (AA) approaches, in support of disaster-exposed populations across Nepal. The event was designed to reinforce collective understanding amongst all actors on AA and its components including some modalities related to Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP).

This event is a continuation of the 1st National Dialogue Platform on Forecast based Financing and Emergency Preparedness (FbF) (Anticipatory Humanitarian Action) held on 28th November 2019 by the Forecast-based Financing (FbF) working group with the presence of relevant government line agencies including the MoHA, NDRRMA and DHM. This initial working group comprised of the World Food Programme (WFP), Practical Action and the Red Cross Movement (Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), Danish Red Cross (DRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC)) and was created with the objective of streamlining anticipatory action-related experiences and promoting exchange about the initial pilot projects conducted by those agencies at the time, to support the development of AA in Nepal. In May 2021, the FbF working group was expanded into the

Forecast-based Action and Shock-responsive Social Protection Community of Practice (FbA-SRSP CoP). Considering the growing interest and experiences in AA developed by a wider group of organizations, the FbA-SRSP CoP was created as a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder group with the intention to support open and constructive discussion and coordination amongst interested parties to meaningfully contribute to the FbA and SRSP agendas in Nepal. It is meant to foster a dialogue around AA and issues related to it such as policy development, integrating SRSP into AA, legislation and financing etc. and streamline work done by all agencies in Nepal around it. To further this mission, the FbA-SRSP CoP supported the NDRRMA to organize the National Dialogue on AA.

The need to organize and engage in such dialogue was felt as AA is emerging as an effective and efficient approach to saving lives and livelihoods by utilising scientific forecasts to provide actors with reliable pre-warning of impending disasters such as floods, droughts and other extreme weather events. Pre-agreed early action plans linked to available financing sources allow actors to act before a disaster arrives, thereby mitigating, or in some cases, protecting populations from the impacts of shocks. The application of AA continues to gain both high-level endorsement and increasing investment in Nepal, since its introduction to the country in recent years. As such, significant opportunities now exist in Nepal to expand and institutionalise the use of AA approaches, due to the continued improvement of the climate forecast system in the country, the continued efforts to implement the decentralisation agenda, as well as the observed investment in complementary systems such as the country's financial service infrastructure and national social protection system.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

The specific objectives of the dialogue were as follows:

- i. Gather experts, practitioners and policymakers to exchange knowledge, experience/evidence and innovative ideas in the sector of anticipatory action
- ii. Explore and document the practices of anticipatory action and related approaches in Nepal that can be integrated into the BIPAD portal (Government of Nepal's disaster management portal)
- iii. Enrich the understanding of participants with regards to the components of anticipatory action i.e., triggers, early actions, financing mechanisms
- iv. Discuss the potential for shock responsive social protection, and cash assistance approaches more broadly, in the context of Nepal and how it can contribute to the design and implementation of anticipatory action
- v. Enhance inter-agency coordination to encourage discussion and exchanges around anticipatory action and specific components
- vi. Discuss the challenges and opportunities and identify jointly how all stakeholders can best contribute to the Government of Nepal's ongoing initiatives related to anticipatory action

The expected outcomes of the National Dialogue were as follows:

1. Develop a common understanding on what is anticipatory action and which direction it is taking in Nepal
2. Source a consolidated matrix detailing the work of organisations engaged in anticipatory action in Nepal
3. Agree on a list of recommendations to contribute to national policy efforts focused on advancing the implementation of anticipatory action in Nepal



3. Methodology

Planning

The FbA-SRSP CoP recognized the need to bring all relevant government line agencies and practitioners together in a platform to develop a common understanding on the AA approach and draw a road map to provide guidance for future work. Therefore, the National Dialogue was envisioned as a continuation of the FbA-SRSP CoP at a higher level. A preparation meeting was organized by the NDRRMA together with the organizing FbA-SRSP CoP members where the event modality, thematic focus, and expected objectives and outcomes were brainstormed. Based on the suggestions from the core organizing team, the concept note, agenda, presenters, and panelists were finalized with input of other key actors as well among donors and FbA-SRSP practitioners. The organizing team ensured that there was active engagement from key actors and decision-makers who could influence the direction for AA in Nepal through formulation of policies, designing of programmes and allocation of financial resources. To complement this, space was given to local government stakeholders, researchers and experts to present their experiences, lessons and recommendations, which could inform the policies and programmes. The event was organized with the NDRRMA as the lead with technical support from the Red Cross.

The concept of AA was further divided into the following four thematic areas to encourage detailed discussion:

1. Framing a Forecast-based Action mechanism in the context of Nepal:

Triggers; localised forecasting capacities; risk assessment tools

2. Identifying Early Actions, including non-cash and cash assistance options:

Early Warning Messaging (EWM) linked with anticipatory action; ensuring active participation of exposed communities in defining them; leveraging and expanding social protection programmes to deliver assistance; Other cash-based assistance

3. Financing anticipatory action, including defining available financial sources for anticipatory action at local, provincial and federal levels, as well as the complementary role of donor, humanitarian and private sector funding sources

4. Shock responsive social protection, including its role in building resilience as well as meeting shock-related needs of populations before, during and after disasters

National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority Ambika Khatri, Anil Pokhrel, Anital Niraula, Dinesh Subedi, Dr. Dijan Bhattarai, Goma Poudel, Rajendra Sharma, Ranjana Shrestha, Reena Chaudhary	NTV Kishor Niraula Saroj Maharjan Saroj Sharma	Danish Red Cross Alina Karki, Anne-Sophie Petri Dhana OWD, Hemanta Dangal, Mark James Johnson, Shubhadra Devkota, Surya Paudel	Nepal Red Cross Society Bharat Raj Bhat, Bipul Neupane, Binod Lamichhane, Kashi Ram Khatri, Lantan Chaudhary, Niru Pradhan, Umesh Prasad Dahal
WFP Nitesh Shrestha, Rekha Adhikari	Janaki Rural Municipality Netra Prasadh Jaishi	SPCSN Nitu Bharnawal, Saroj Acharya	Ministry of Home Affairs Pradip Koirala, Tulsi Pd Dahal
DHM Raju Dhar Pradhananga	Khwopa Sarita Pancha, Sharmila Shrestha	Handicap International Animesh Acharya	British Embassy Sonya Gray, Sumit Dugar
DCA Dinesh	Mercy Corps Sajan Neupane	DMG Bharat P Koirala	Consultant Dhurba Gautam
IFRC Herve Gaheau	VIAMO Suyog Chalise	WVIN Luna Khadka	WVI Nepal Shomine
Atulya Foundation Pallav Pant Priyima Joshi	Action Aid Nepal Pratap Maharjan	Care Nepal Surendra Bam	Municipal Association of Nepal Jyoti Sharma
World Bank Jasmin Rajbhandari	OXFAM Prakash Kafle	PIN Astha Pradhananga, Rajesh Rai	Media Service Nepal Ramesh Khadka Saligram Dulal Shree Ram Lakha
Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration Reenu Thapaliya	The European Union Humanitarian Aid Operations Piush Kayastha	Tikapur Municipality Nirmala Chaudhary	Department of National ID and Civil Registration Sagar Mani Pathak
UNICEF Thakur Dhakal	DPNET Dr. Raju Thapa Ram F Gurung	Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security Bishnu Lamichhane,	Save the Children Bishnu Pokhrel, Sanjeeb Shakya
AIN Reshma Shrestha	OPM Dinanath Bhandari		

Agenda: The following section outlines the event's planned agenda. While the programme followed the majority of the schedule, some adjustments were made due to time limitations. For instance, the group work on identifying early actions were only presented and finalized during the FbA-SRSP CoP meeting organized on 18th May at the NRCS premise.

Time	Duration	Description	Facilitators/Speakers/Responsibility
DAY 1			
8:00	1 hour	Breakfast, registration and welcome	NDRRMA and NRCS
9:00-9:20	20 minutes	Opening speech and setting the direction of national dialogue	Moderator: Ms. Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary, Head of Task Force Chair of SRSP Guideline, NDRRMA
9:20-9:45	25 minutes	Introducing Anticipatory Action (AA): Initial interaction around the concept of AA and terminology	Moderator: Rajendra Sharma, NDRRMA Madhab Uprety, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC)
9:45-11:0:45	1 hour	Focused keynote speech and presentations based on guiding questions, covering: i. Framing a Forecast-based Action mechanism: triggers; localised impact assessment capacities; risk assessment tools ii. Identifying early actions: "general" EAs incl. early warning messaging/active participation of exposed communities to define them; Shock Responsive Social Protection; Cash iii. Financing anticipatory actions: opportunities at the local, provincial, federal and humanitarian/private sector levels iv. Shock Responsive Social Protection, including its role in building resilience as well as meeting shock-related needs of populations before, during and after disasters	Moderator: NDRRMA i. NDRRMA (Speaker) - Rajendra Sharma ii. Red Cross (Speaker) - Madhab Uprety iii. OPM (Speaker) - Dina Nath Bhandari iv. World Bank (Speaker) - Jasmine Rajbhandary

10:45-11:00	15 minutes	Tea/Coffee break	
11:00-12:30	1.5 hours	<p>Framing a FbA mechanism: triggers; localised forecasting capacities; risk assessment tools</p> <p><i>Panel discussion with guiding questions (Guiding Questions - separately provided to panelist)</i></p> <p>Wrap up with key takeaways.</p>	<p>Moderator: Madhab Uprety (RCCC)</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>i. NDRRMA - Rajendra Sharma</p> <p>ii. Practical Action – Dr. Dharam Uprety</p> <p>iii. ICIMOD – Dr. Mandira Shrestha</p> <p>Wrap up: Heera Paudel, Under Secretary, NDRRMA</p>
12:45-13:30	45 minutes	Lunch break	
13:30-15:00	1.5 hours	<p>Identifying early actions: "general" EAs incl. early warning messaging linked with anticipatory actions/active citizen's engagement/ institutionalisation of the concept/ Shock responsive social protection/Cash</p> <p>First part: Janaki municipality presents its plan for early actions for next monsoon</p> <p>Second part: Group discussion - break down in 3 separate groups</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group 1: What shall be the potential early actions in different climate forecast situations like riverine floods with 3 days lead time, flash floods with 12-hour lead time, cold wave, heat wave 2. Group 2: Engagement of at-risk citizen 3. Group 3: Institutionalisation of the concept <p>Wrap up with key takeaways</p>	<p>Moderator: Niru Pradhan (NRCS)</p> <p>Wrap up: Dr. Dijan Bhattarai, NDRRMA</p>
15:30-15:45		Tea break	
15:45-17:15	1.5 hours	<p>Financing anticipatory action: Opportunities at the local, provincial, federal and humanitarian/private sector levels</p> <p><i>Panel discussion with guiding questions (Guiding Questions - separately provided to panelist)</i></p> <p>Wrap up with key takeaways</p>	<p>Moderator: Bipul Neupane (NRCS)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>i. Geruwa Municipality – represented by Lautan Chaudhary</p> <p>ii. Unicef (Thakur Dhakal)</p> <p>vi. EU (Piush Kayastha)</p> <p>Wrap up: Pradip Koirala, Joint Secretary, MOHA.</p>
		Hi-tea	

DAY 2			
8:00	1h30min	Welcome back and Breakfast	In the meantime, organisers refine final statement
9:00 - 10:00	1 hour	Panel discussion: What role can SRSP play in both building resilience to shocks as well as meeting shock-related needs of populations before, during and after disasters? Wrap up with key takeaways	Moderator: Hemanta Dangal (DRC) Panelists: WB - Jasmine Rajbhandary UNICEF - Thakur Dhakal WFP - Nitesh Shrestha Tikapur Municipality - Nirmala Chaudhary Mercy Corps - Sajan Neupane DoNIDCR - Sagar Mani Pathak Wrap up: Anita Niraula (NDRRMA)
10:00 - 10:45	45 hour	Information session: key initiatives on AA and disaster risk financing	1. REAP/Anticipation Hub 2. CERF (UNRCO) 3. DREF (IFRC)
10:45 -11:00	15min	Tea	
11:00- 12:15	1.15 hours	Closing remarks	Anil Pokharel (Executive Officer - NDRRMA)
12:15		Lunch	

Delivery

The Master of Ceremony, Dr. Dijan Bhattarai (NDRRMA) opened the event by briefing the participants on objectives of the National Dialogue. For each of the thematic areas, a keynote speech was delivered by respective thematic area experts from the NDRRMA, the Red Cross Movement, the World Bank and the OPM on the four thematic areas. The keynote speeches set the tone and direction for the dialogue and discussions planned later during the event. This was an opportunity for the participants to understand the priority and progress on policy formulation and programme implementation of the government and other key actors that would determine the future work and direction for AA. The event was conducted in a seminar hall with a raised stage for panellists and round-table sittings for the participants, and an adjoining hall was used to exhibit knowledge products related to AA by participating organizations. The event was conducted in Nepali language while non-Nepali speakers were requested to organise personal translation service as required.

4. THEMATIC DISCUSSIONS

A. Framing a Forecast-based Action mechanism: Triggers; localized forecasting capacities; risk assessment tools

1. Keynote speech by Rajendra Sharma, Under Secretary, NDRRMA on Risk Assessment, Forecasting and Trigger Development

Disaster Management in Nepal is continuously evolving, from acting in response to a disaster to complimenting disaster response with Early Warning Systems (EWS), and now moving towards the concept of Impact-based Forecasting (IBF). In this line, the priorities need to be refocused on the impact a weather-related hazard has on the exposed communities, specifically based on their vulnerabilities. Priorities need to be set on the loss of lives, injuries and missing people, displaced households, destroyed and damaged households, loss of livelihoods, disruption to critical services such as schools, healthcare, electricity, transport etc.

Triggers and thresholds can be predefined based on forecast. So, we have the window of opportunity to act in anticipation of a disaster and minimize its risk. Nepal has a scope to make accurate forecasts due to scientific development of an EWS with the help of some models such as Numerical Weather prediction, Global Forecast System, IBF Dashboard in BIPAD System of Government, and the Integration of Flood Forecasts & Inundation Layers, Multi-Criteria Risk Analysis, Real-time Quantification of potential flood impact level at household level that can be the effective means to map the risk. In the context of Nepal, AA can be one of the initiatives to reduce the impact of climate vulnerability such as heat and cold wave, flood and other shock related disasters.



2. Panel Discussion moderated by Madhab Uprety, Technical Adviser and Asia Pacific Focal Point, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

Panelists:

- Rajendra Sharma, Under Secretary, NDRRMA
- Dr. Dharma Upreti, Head of Climate Resilience, Practical Action
- Dr. Mandira Shrestha, Programme Coordinator, ICIMOD

Question: How can we assess the risk before any disaster for the effective AA to reach the vulnerable groups? What is NDRRMA's plan right now and how can we bring all the parties working in AA on a single platform to act together during such emergencies?

- Some of the government and non-government bodies are working independently to assess the risk of disaster. Because of the lack of coordination and integration, there are issues of duplication. To discourage duplication, NDRRMA has introduced the BIPAD Portal to streamline the work of all the agencies for effective coordination.

Question: What are the challenges to reach the vulnerable groups even though the actions such as Risk Assessment, Forecast and Early Warning Messaging (EWM) are in practice in Nepal?

- Forecasts are made based on certain parameters that are grounded on science. They are most often accurate. But the at-risk communities do not trust the forecasts. Next, EWM to vulnerable groups is the most important action to make them aware, however sometimes they may not understand the message that is delivered. Messaging needs to be well tailored. Keeping this concern in mind, the NDRRMA has a plan to establish 753 message centres at each local government level with dedicated personnel. Another challenge is that there is no notable progress in addressing multi hazard issues through early warning systems due to lack of policy and guidelines. The lack of prompt response and recovery could be another challenge. AA has the potential to reduce these challenges and risks.

Question: Based on your experience, what notable challenges have you faced to reach the vulnerable groups especially in the forecasting sector to save them from any probable upcoming disaster?

- The move from early warning system to AA is a notable progress in the context of Nepal. People have started to believe in forecasts today as the forecasts are highly accurate. Yet there is no drastic change in preparedness because of issues such as untimely delivery of the message, lack of information of the target population, inability in understanding the message, ignorance of the target people and so on. Rather than disseminating general messages we need the EWMs to be location and time specific. ICIMOD has developed its capacity to forecast weather 72 hours in advance, during which contextual EWMs can be delivered.

Question: We have been very much focused on the weather forecast. We have multi-hazard weather such as heat waves, cold waves, drought and so on. Would you let us know why we are not able to address these issues right now in Nepal?

- There are accurate thresholds to predict the weather forecast rather than multi-hazard disasters. The nature of disaster has been changing after the 2015 earthquake. We do not have sound scientific and technological tools to address multi-hazard issues. We should be able to analyze different variable thresholds along with the change in climate, geography, and setting of the settlement area. We have a lot to learn from international practices to address the concerns of multi-hazard issues.

Question: What further plan is the NDRRMA exercising to tackle upcoming probable multi-hazard issues in Nepal?

- To address this issue, we have already developed a concept note (to work with a joint and cooperative approach) on how to discourage multiple sources of information, relief and recovery work, and support the vulnerable people through a streamlined approach. This concept note will guide in developing an action plan. Keeping the same concern at the focus, for effective collaboration we have already introduced the BIPAD Portal. For the delivery of the information, we are thinking of channelizing a single window mechanism.

Question: How can we coordinate with the federal government and what role can it play in Anticipatory Action?

- The federal government is working on linking local, province and federal governments. Discussions have already started in Gandaki and Bagmati Provinces. Soon we will be reaching out to the remaining provinces. I hope the issue settles after the upcoming election.

- There are also plans to prepare a SOP to define the roles of the provincial government. AA may not be effective without clear coordination and clearly defined roles of all levels of government.

Question: What should we do to make triggers and risks dynamic?

- The NDRRMA is developing a simulating map (to see dynamic effect) so we can easily analyze and assess and forecast the risk with the help of this chart based on data input.

- ICIMOD is working on increasing prediction accuracy based on major rivers of the country and to make the predictions more dynamic. Regarding the flood of 2017, ICIMOD could not make a prediction as there was no early warning system in the rivers flowing through the Chure Range (hilly parts). We also need to bring change in the attitude of people so that they can be safe in case there is a disaster. Sometimes the casualties take place because the people do not take the information seriously as already discussed in the forum that some people died in the flood even though they were informed early. One more difficulty is that as long as the people are economically vulnerable, it will be difficult for them to manage their priorities (gathering driftwood was important for the river coastal community for livelihood despite receiving flood warnings).

Question: Does the BIPAD Portal provide data analysis and consolidation, or will it just provide raw data?

- The NDRRMA is planning to disseminate information through the federal government through a single window. The maps incorporated in the BIPAD Portal are the set files of non-consolidated raw data (Needs analysis data). Regarding the early warning system, we are working on the action plan. It is not possible to have an early warning system in all the rivers as we do not have resources.



3. Closing remarks by Heera Devi Poudel, *Under Secretary, NDRRMA*

Ms. Heera Devi Poudel thanked all the participants and panelists for the insightful discussion. The discussion has paved a way forward while providing ideas of overcoming prevailing challenges. She stressed that there are a lot of opportunities to go ahead with AA to minimize risks. Minimizing the risk needs collaborative, continuous and rigorous efforts with long-term scientific planning. For result-oriented outcomes, it is necessary to have a clear roadmap, action plan and SOP, and guidelines. The programme has also been quite useful to discuss ways of standardizing the BIPAD Portal.

4. Key takeaways

a. Localized forecasting: Resources should be planned to be able to provide specific targeted forecasting information, including better early warning systems that do not only apply to major river streams but also to small streams and tributaries. Also, there are various other hazards like heatwave, cold wave, drought etc. for which an early warning system should be developed. While technology is already available for this, we need to ensure investment.

b. Impact-based forecasting: Forecasts information should accompany analysis of the potential impacts on the communities and also the linkages between different weather parameters (rainfall, temperature, water level etc.).

c. Coordination: All layers of the government have a role to play that should be clearly defined and implemented. Municipalities and wards are first responders, but Provinces also have a key role to play to support AA. Identification of who comes into play and when is required. And a clear distribution of roles based on respective capacities and expertise, within the humanitarian agencies and between them and government, is also paramount.

d. Participation and representation: Communities need to be engaged in the process and existing resources at local level should be mobilized to address behavioral change and for implementation of possible AA.

e. Dynamic risk assessments and triggers: It needs to be dynamic and should adapt to evolving risks. We should consider a timeframe to review and update them after any major events. In case of no event then a fixed period such as every 5 years, should be embedded in policies and guidelines and linked to DHM monitoring. There is a need for major investment and effort in the multi-hazard risk assessment.

f. The resilience of communities does not only rely on AA, DRR, preparedness but also on proper planning by authorities of where they are living and of required mitigation/adaptation to address the changing climate risks and impact.

B. Identifying Early Actions: Early Actions including Early Warning Messaging inked with Anticipatory Action; ensuring active participation of exposed communities in defining them

1. Early Action Plan for upcoming monsoon for Janaki Rural Municipality by Netra Prasad Jaisi, Disaster Management Focal Person, Janaki Rural Municipality

Janaki Rural Municipality has an Early Action Plan that defines the early actions to be taken as per the time frame of 4-7 days, 1-3 days, and 24 hours. In preparation for the 2022 monsoon, the plan is to:

- Hold a meeting to allocate responsibilities and mobilize resources.
- The additional roles and responsibilities of the municipal DM focal person will be put on hold starting from minus three days of the flood forecast with the approval of the Chief Administration Office. The focal person will only prioritize managing the forecasted disaster. An additional NRCS staff will also be deployed to support the focal person.

- Use GIS technology to map canal drainages and clear the canals.

- Make plans to inform, support and evacuate vulnerable households to safe sites, and to clean the drainage. Be prepared for early warning messaging through FM radio, SMS, miking and other communication channels.

- Strengthen the embankment with sand-filled sacks, prepare the provision of safe drinking water and food, early harvesting of crops, get ready for evacuation of people by prioritizing the most vulnerable individuals and their important documents, livestock and other assets to be relocated to a safe place, and make arrangements for the establishment of accessible safe temporary shelters.

- Prepare the provision of medical services and grievances handling desk at the temporary shelters



2. Group work to prepare Anticipatory Action plan for Flood, Drought and Cold Wave moderated by Niru Pradhan, Programme Coordinator, NRCS

The participants were divided into eight groups and were asked to think of possible early actions for three scenarios:

Scenario 1: Forecasted flood with three-day lead time

Scenario 2: Forecasted drought with a four-week lead time

Scenario 3: Forecasted cold wave with a one-week lead time

*Due to limitations of time during the event, this group work was presented and finalized during the FbA-SRSP CoP meeting organized on 18th May, at NRCS premises.

Question: Identifying early actions (EAs) including Early Warning Messaging (EWM) linked with anticipatory action, active citizen's engagement/ institutionalisation of the concept/ Shock responsive social protection/Cash

Scenario 1: Forecasted flood with three-day lead time

Readiness stage:

1. Call Emergency LDMC Meeting: division of roles and responsibility (local authority along with other stakeholders like first responders, local CBOs, media, NGOs, INGOs, activation of clusters for proper communication)
2. Organize the pre-identification of vendors to arrange essential food and non-food items
3. Orient volunteers and mobilize them for prompt EAs. Volunteers can be mobilized for disseminating forecasted information along with clearing culverts, drainages, monitoring of embankments and dams
4. Perform a detailed market assessment- availability of goods and services
5. Assess the capacity of service providers to deliver in-kind support
6. Market assessment to check how it is impacted before and after a disaster

Activation stage:

1. Risk communication- dissemination of flood forecast, contact information of focal persons, do's and don't's in the communities. Use multiple communication channels such as local messengers, FM radio, TV, recorded phone calls (IVR) can be used during - 3 days, while Siren and warning flags can be final warning on minus one day. Targeted messages should be provided based on the risk assessment. Ensure mobilization of community networks, structures and organizations
2. Update information on (risk assessed) critical infrastructure
3. Support most vulnerable families to safely store their harvest/crops
4. Transfer cash to most vulnerable families- SSA and non-SSA registered families
5. Manage food and shelter to the most vulnerable families and evacuated families
6. Manage WASH facilities/water purification kits at the temporary relocation sites
7. Validate the market assessment (this component should be further defined in a 3 day scenario).
8. Risk communication: Information on GBV/PGI should be disseminated. Messaging should be inclusive and reach the most vulnerable groups ahead of time. If issues are addressed for vulnerable groups, then needs of remaining groups will also be addressed.
9. Engage community structures and networks such as child clubs, women's groups, Community Forest User Group (CFUG) in information dissemination, fund and resources mobilization. For example, CFUG can contribute with timbers.
10. Evacuate most vulnerable families and communities to a safe location or temporary shelter. Ensure that the site is accessible and safe for all.

Scenario 2: Forecasted drought with a four-week lead time

DAY 2			
8:00	1h30min	Welcome back and Breakfast	In the meantime, organisers refine final statement
9:00 - 10:00	1 hour	Panel discussion: What role can SRSP play in both building resilience to shocks as well as meeting shock-related needs of populations before, during and after disasters? Wrap up with key takeaways	Moderator: Hemanta Dangal (DRC) Panelists: WB - Jasmine Rajbhandary UNICEF - Thakur Dhakal WFP - Nitesh Shrestha Tikapur Municipality - Nirmala Chaudhary Mercy Corps - Sajan Neupane DoNIDCR - Sagar Mani Pathak Wrap up: Anita Niraula (NDRRMA)
10:00-10:45	45 hour	Information session: key initiatives on AA and disaster risk financing	1. REAP/Anticipation Hub 2. CERF (UNRCO) 3. DREF (IFRC)
10:45-11:00	15min	Tea	
11:00-12:15	1.15 hours	Closing remarks	Anil Pokharel (Executive Officer - NDRRMA)
12:15		Lunch	

Scenario 3: Forecasted cold wave with a one-week lead time

Early Actions	Timeline to event
Establish a cold wave emergency fund	Preparedness
Provide awareness campaigns to be safe from firewood, heater, gas geyser etc.	Preparedness
Preparations to get livestock and crop insurance	Preparedness
Organise Inter-agency coordination for both state and non-state stakeholders and create basket funds for both cash and non-cash items (Foods, medicine, clothes, utensils, sanitary items) for support using the one-door policy. For example: all coordination should be done through the local government authorities.	7 days
Emergency Local disaster management committee (LDMC) meeting for call for action and support	7 days
Early warning messages to raise community awareness regarding the forecasted cold wave within one week. Dissemination of messages to farmers to keep the crops safe (vegetables, cash crops etc.)	7 days
Identify the most vulnerable (persons with disabilities, single women, vulnerable groups etc.) through available social protection data, other vulnerability and targeting information at municipal level	6 days
Actual delivery of cash, in-kind support to the identified HHs	5-7 days
Maintain probable data of vulnerable communities to provide emergency support.	5 days
Disseminate emergency contact number and message through radio/TV, SMS	5 days
Disburse insurance to the farmers for Livestock and crops insurance (preparedness)	5 days
Orientation to the volunteers for emergency mobilization	3 days
Distribution of cash support for individual needs to cope with the weather and of Non-Food Items (NFIs) such as firewood, warm clothes etc. for communal needs and people not having access to markets	3 days

3. Key takeaways

- a) EAs need to be people-centered; the system should be co-designed with the community. Protection, gender, inclusion, and accessibility should be central to defining and implementing AA.
- b) The processes to develop and implement EAs should be institutionalized as a part of the Government's DRM strategies.
- c) AA should not be limited to life saving activities only, but it should also consider the broader scope of potential impact including socio-economic impact. It should consider psychosocial counseling, referral mechanisms as an early action to ensure PGI.
- d) EAs should be contextual to the nature and scale of a disaster, geographical dynamics, vulnerabilities, risk exposure and prioritization in a particular area.
- e) Households who have been rendered landless due to disasters should also be given space within vulnerable groups category.
- f) Cash should be prioritized in combination with services which include PGI, nutrition, WASH etc.

- g) An EA framework should clearly divide the roles and responsibilities of different sectors, agencies and governance levels.
- h) Mapping of vulnerable groups is necessary along with capacity building at community level including members of the most vulnerable groups.
- i) An approach to AA should also be developed for other frequently occurring disasters (than e.g. floods) such as landslides, heatwaves etc. The development of an AA approach should be treated with a multi-hazard approach as one disaster can induce another one. For example, a drought can induce wildfire, while flood can induce landslides.
- j) As slow onset disasters offer longer lead times such as drought and landslides, the distinction might not always be clear between AA and preparedness. Therefore, it is important to distinguish between them. Defining triggers for such slow onset disasters is also unclear.
- k) For persons with disabilities, household level preparedness and early actions are required to address their diverse and unique needs. It is also necessary to engage community-based organizations, networks and structures representing various marginalized groups to ensure inclusion and accessibility.
- l) Identifying local actors, governments, influential persons in communities who are trusted by the community can support the efficient implementation of EAs. For instance, Female community health volunteers (FCHV), teachers etc. Neighboring communities who are not affected by the flood can also be engaged.
- m) Risk communication is a crucial part of AA; therefore, Early Warning Messaging should be clear, effective and accessible to all vulnerable groups. Multiple channels should be used for information dissemination. Messages provided should be reliable and communities engaged at an earlier stage to ensure they trust the information. They should be able to take timely EAs based on the Information.
- n) Communication channels should focus on two-way flows of information. Different channels should be used for risk communication. There should be coordination among all government agencies to streamline their communication.

Question: Authorities and humanitarians have now agreed on specific sets of early actions, to be implemented in the next disaster, in a specific area, however:

Q.1. How do we ensure that those early actions are actionable and acted upon by the exposed communities, with the support of authorities?

- EAs should be informed by findings from inclusive and participatory needs assessment, which will help in identifying the real needs of communities. Priority should be given to collecting input and feedback from the community while developing EAs, especially from the most vulnerable groups like pregnant women, senior citizen children and persons with disability with special consideration for accessible EWM and special support.



- Communication channels need to be developed in consultation with the community for effective two-way communication flow, including the preparation of EWMs in local language, and identification of appropriate channels for information dissemination. Mechanisms to monitor the effectiveness of risk communication should be established and tested.
- Local governments should take the initiative to develop a detailed AA plan and sector leads should supervise the implementation of EAs sector-wise for better efficiency, while the ward level and community-based committees and structures should be mobilized in support of EA implementation on the ground.
- Human resource and security forces should be trained and made available to facilitate relocation and evacuation.
- A number of preparedness elements support the implementation of EAs:
 - o Prepositioning of relief and response materials
 - o Risk assessment of all critical infrastructure and availability of tools
 - o Training on WASH in an emergency or emergency shelter
 - o Capacity building of DMC members on their roles and responsibilities is required, alongside the development of clear SOPs for disaster response including the implementation of EAs
- AA can contribute to behavior change through periodic simulation exercise.
- Specific SOPs for Cash Voucher Assistance and SRSP and orientation to local government are required.
- EAs should be included in local level policies and guidelines/AA included in Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans/Local Disaster Risk Management Plans (DPRPs/LDRMPs) ensuring availability of budgets for implementation/Policy, provision and guidelines should be enabling towards EAs.
- The plans and policies related to AA should be owned by the local authorities for it to be institutionalized through policy documents and guidelines in the longer term by creating a dedicated department/team.
- Database of SSA beneficiaries and at-risk families should be regularly updated and used to support EAs.
- Crop insurance is not actionable in the current scenario due to the cumbersome administrative claim process. Wide range insurance advocacy campaigns need to be in place before including this as an EA.

Q.2. What specific considerations may be needed for certain at-risk groups when conducting early actions (i.e., people with disabilities, gender considerations etc)

- Specific needs should be pre-identified during early stage and additional costs to support specific EAs and support to efficient support mechanisms should be addressed by EAs (disability-specific needs, lactating mothers, infants/children, elderly).
- Local government authorities, community-based organizations and networks should be empowered so that they can ensure disability, inclusion, and accessibility lenses are applied while developing and implementing AA strategies
- Socio-economic vulnerable population need to be specifically identified and listed
- Evidence-based programme planning- vulnerability indexing is key to identifying right groups of beneficiaries
- Meaningful participation of at-risk community members and analysis of the communities' needs through an intersectional perspective is required- persons with disabilities, lactating mother, elderly, landless and other vulnerable groups etc.
- Risk communication and early action information must be accessible to all at-risk groups
- Monitoring mechanism at the local level needs to be developed to ensure AA addresses specific needs of vulnerable populations.
- Additional services such as health, psychosocial counseling, education should be managed
- Incorporate EAs and trigger mechanisms in the local level preparedness plans such as DPRP and LDRMP including clear specific identification of specific support for the most vulnerable groups/members of the communities.
- Develop and maintain integrated data to support preparedness, AA, and response, including detailed disaggregated information to support specific targeting of the most vulnerable and marginalised members of exposed communities. This can be combined with development databases such as the social protection system as well to further refine targeting and the choice of modalities e.g. related to disbursement of cash support through the social security system

C. Financing anticipatory action: Opportunities from the government at the local, provincial, and federal levels, humanitarian and donor community, and private sector.

1. Presentation on experience of implementing early actions in Geruwa Rural Municipality by Lautan Chaudhary, Programme Officer, NRCS (on behalf of the Chief Administrative Officer of the Municipality who could not attend this dialogue session)

In the October 2021 flood, 310 households of 3 wards of Geruwa were affected. 83 houses were completely damaged, and 85 houses were partially damaged. Within a week the affected households were provided with NPR 20,000 cash by the Rural Municipality office. This experience proved that for small scale disasters, Municipality offices can easily support affected families with monetary assistance and other support

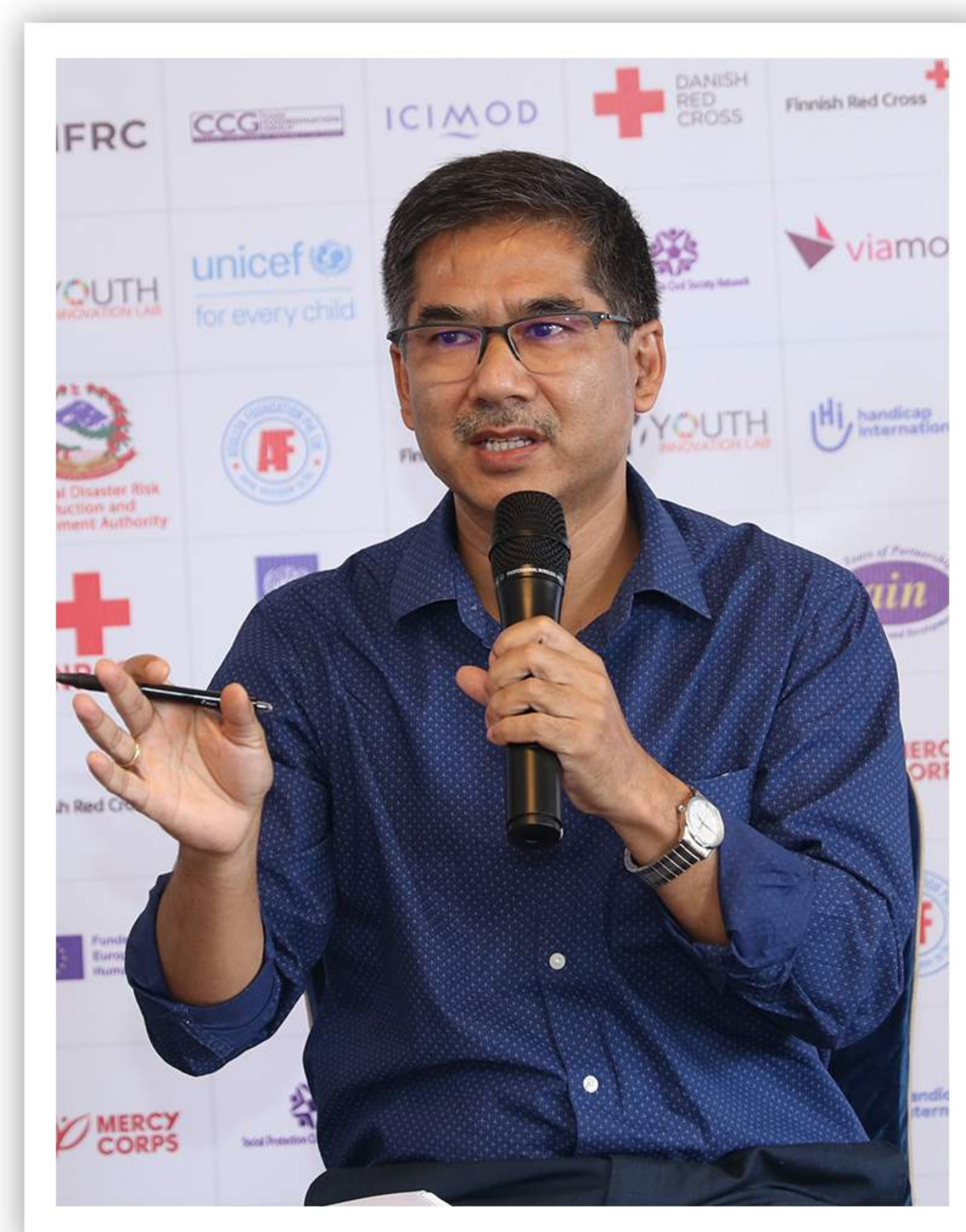
2. Panel discussion moderated by Bipul Neupane, Director of DM Department, NRCS

Panelists:

- Mr. Thakur Dhakal, Social Protection Specialist, UNICEF
- Mr. Piyush Kayastha, Programme Officer, ECHO

Question: How can we manage, utilize, and mobilize, local-level DM funds at the local level?

- Local governments can manage contingency funds from their own annual budget. They can also use the fund received from the Disaster Management Fund programmes or from non-state partners. They also can take approval from the Ministry of Finance or can create a contingency group of donors for the support. But a policy that guides local level government to coordinate with development partners seems necessary. There is an important role of coordination even with the private sector. Lack of coordination may cause conflict. We can also take approval from federal agencies that states that the local government will work with certain humanitarian partners in case of a disaster. UNICEF prepares its annual work plan that is approved by relevant ministries, which already includes a certain amount of funds that will be spent on a possible disaster. This mechanism makes it easier for partners to work with the local government.



Question: What is the EU Humanitarian Aid Operations' priority regarding funding AA and SRSP?

- Advancement in technology ensures that we can have highly accurate forecasts. Therefore, it is not enough for us humanitarians to wait for a disaster to hit the communities before we provide relief and support. Also, humanitarian needs are increasing in intensity and frequency. Donor agencies cannot meet the entire need. Investment in AA is important to save bigger probable expenditure if only acting in response. Because of AA many lives in African countries have been saved from high-risked probable disasters. The EU Humanitarian Aid Operations' stand is that 'If investing a dollar can save the worth of five-dollars, then why not invest in it'.

Question: What can be the humanitarian agencies and donors' role in terms of promoting coordination between the three-tier government?

- Coordination is extremely important not just between the governments, but also coordinating and mobilizing resources from the private sector. Therefore, the municipalities should be proactive in coordinating and seeking support from different levels and sectors such as the Red Cross, private sectors, District Disaster Management Committees etc. Without proper coordination, there might be conflict and tension at the communities as sometimes not everyone affected by a disaster that needs support to recover, gets the required relief.

Question: Implementing early actions has a different set of challenges as compared to acting in response. So, what are the challenges that we face while working on AA and are the policies favorable towards it?

- To implement early actions, we need to follow No-Regret Action in case of no event despite the forecast. Major challenge is that the expense made by the local government in anticipation is considered invalid during the audit of expenses as per the current law. Local governments have suggested that this issue should be addressed at the federal level, but there is a dilemma regarding whose forecast we consider reliable to decide to act in anticipation. There is a long process that we need to work out before we can bring policy clarity on this.

3. Closing remarks by Pradip Koirala, Joint Secretary, MOHA

To move forward with the work on AA, forecast accuracy and well-established Early Warning System are prerequisites. AA also needs to be complemented by DRR measures. Therefore, we have to take forward the dialogue on AA as a component of Disaster Management. While distributing cash, a single-window channel should be authorized to avoid duplication and other issues. The concept of basket fund should be developed with contributions of all stakeholders and individuals. Humanitarian aid should be designed by keeping the community's needs in focus. Volunteer mobilization and in-person support might be more beneficial to the communities before and during a disaster rather than cash support. Regarding cash assistance in anticipation, it needs to be guided by a guideline to ensure it does not create negative spillover effects that indirectly contributes to creating conflict, controversy, discrimination, transparency, and auditing problems. Before different agencies start implementing cash in anticipation in their own way, we need to streamline it and work in cohesion. Therefore, we need a guideline on Cash in AA and the SRSP Guideline should also provide clarity on it.

4. Key takeaways

- a. Resources are increasingly scarce to support relief and response operations across the globe; and humanitarian work overall. So AA is an important approach also from the perspective of saving resources.
- b. Targeting is key to AA. Good knowledge of the socio-economic and demographic profile of a population in a specific area allows authorities to quickly select those at risk of highest impact and most vulnerable.
- c. Policies and mechanisms should provide clarity around the use of cash as a modality to act in anticipation, so that funds can be released in a short lead time after trigger activation and in line with a no-regret strategy. (Also, there could be solutions explored where e.g. a portion of cash is provided in anticipation (i.e. 25% of the MEB for 1 month- so worth a week of support), while the rest (75%- 3 more weeks) is disbursed in response, once the event has actually happened, which reduces the risk and the amount potentially provided "in vain").

- e. The allocation of budget in yearly planning and subsequent mobilization of funds to support non-cash early actions (e.g. support to the most vulnerable to secure their assets, establishment of evacuation sites, early evacuation, early harvesting, drainage clearing etc.) will ensure that the resources required for the implementation early actions are available and also that the capacities required are developed (e.g. by providing specific trainings or refreshers to local human resources/volunteers to be mobilised in early evacuation or other aspects i.e. shelter); their pre-identification and availability ensured (e.g. pre-identification and mobilization of trained human resources, equipment, transport).
- f. All of this needs to be guided by clear policies and guidelines, either by revising existing ones or developing new ones, which will also support a no-regret approach.
- g. All the readiness activities should be considered as part of the broader preparedness and as a beneficial investment in support of overall DRM, not only AA.
- h. There are many options related to insurance, but its processes are too complex e.g. due to issues of land ownership of farmers for crop insurance. Therefore, additional preparatory work needs to be done before introducing insurance as AA

D. Shock responsive social protection: Its role in building resilience as well as meeting shock-related needs of populations before, during and after disasters.

1. Panel discussion moderated by Hemanta Dangal, Sr. Social Protection Officer, Danish Red Cross

Panelist:

- Ms. Nirmala Chaudhari, *Disaster Management Focal person, Tikapur Municipality*
- Mr. Sajan Neupane, *Policy and Advocacy Specialist, Mercy Corps*
- Mr. Nitesh Shrestha, *PPO, World Food Programme*
- Mr. Thakur Dhakal, *Social Protection Specialist, UNICEF*
- Ms. Jasmine Rajbhandary, *Sr. Social Protection Specialist, World Bank*
- Mr. Sagar Mani Pathak, *Director, National Identity and Civil Registration Department*

Question: How can we include affected families who aren't included in the SSA recipient list?

- That can be done by collecting the household data of at-risk population, analyzing historical flood data including details of households such as head of the household, vulnerability in the household such as members with persons with disability, pregnant, lactating women, socio-economic status of the household, knowledge, and coping capacity. This helps us understand the degree of vulnerability. Categorizing them in a probability group of vulnerability is important.

Question: In the case of Tikapur Municipality, the affected households could withdraw cash in an hour, is this possible in other areas too, especially in Nepal's geographical context?

- It is a proven model. In the 2015 earthquake, the UNICEF and the government used the same channel to reach 8000 households with cash relief. Tikapur Municipality has proven its success further. Many households in Nepal are listed under different types of Social Protection programmes. There are some data inclusion errors and other challenges. However, if it can be overcome, it could be one of the best models.

Question: What can we do to make the SRSP more effective as a programme in regard to Social Security and Disaster Risk?

- Social Protection and Disaster Risk are closely related. Shock Responsive Social Protection Guidelines should address how the Social Protection programmes can be used during disasters. Using a banking channel can be effective but the capacity of the bank is very important. There needs to be coordination between the registration department and the bank. Merging the beneficiary list of Prime Minister Employment Programme and Social Security Allowance into one integrated social registry is yet to be done. The integrated social registry will help to link Social Protection and Anticipatory Action together.

- AA focuses on triggers, early actions, risk assessments and pre-managed financing, whereas Social Protection is more concerned with finance. If we merge them into one, early actions can function effectively.

- The UN has a Central Emergency Residents Fund, and the Coordinator Office plans to finance AA. There are 4 agencies to see its different components exactly. The budget has not been finalized. We planned last year but the action did not trigger, but we are still planning to work on it this year. We have a team who oversees its implementation this year. The release of funds from the UN head office within a few days of the lead time (in 3 days once the triggers are on) is a challenge that is foreseen. UNICEF plans to provide the fund to the municipalities three days in advance but there might be another challenge to refund if the disaster does not take place.

- Financing is a major challenge of AA since it is not a poverty alleviation programme. There needs to be a clear definition of vulnerability to set clear objectives of the programme. So, we can think of financing approaches. No programme can go ahead without any guidelines and system to ensure contingency of financing.

- Financing to connect AA and SRSP is not the most critical issue. We are deviating from the trigger in the name of financing. Early warning messages based on a trigger have not been able to reach the municipality, ward, and community levels. Study of the trigger is the most important priority to start with. In-kind and other forms of support such as training and simulations can also be other ways to minimize the risk. Cash may be recommended at the moment of high risk. Bank's capacity is also very important to look at while dealing with the transfer of large amounts of cash.

- Today about 5,900 wards use the Civil Registration facility. Even this data changes every day. There are 8 types of social security provisions in the country that cover 11.94% of the population. There is not enough coverage to transfer funds using only the SP system's existing coverage. All social protection programmes are not concentrated on socio economics criteria. Nepal spends Rs.100 billion on Social Security every year. There needs to be a balance between cash relief and in-kind relief to meet the affected families' needs as well as ensuring it doesn't have a negative spillover effect in the economy. The banks might not always have the capacity to transfer the amount in beneficiaries' account immediately. Additional work is required to find solutions to update data regularly, developing Integrated Social Registry, enhancing banking capacity and local government's commitment for effective SRSP and cash transfer as AA.

Questions: How did the persons with disabilities (category A) access the bank, did they have a separate disability account and how did the bank cooperate with them?

- The cash was deposited in an existing account of the disability allowance recipients in the Tikapur cash pilot case. Five banks in their respective wards were used so that they could collect the cash hassle free. For persons with disabilities, the banks that provided their service from the ground floor were selected. Questions: Did local authorities in Tikapur provide any help for farmers to harvest the crop? Crops worth Rs.11.87 billion were damaged but the compensation was quite nominal. What difficulty did you have to save the crops as there was a warning 48 hours ago? Also, was cash transfer in higher priority than saving the crops? Did all the people of Tikapur Municipality get an Early Warning Message, understand it and act accordingly?

- In Tikapur, the information was disseminated to the people on time. Regarding the crops, the Municipal office decided not to harvest, supposing that rain would settle soon and considering that paddy tolerates water. There was more concern about the breach of the embankment. However, this assumption was wrong as the embankment breached from a different location. Then the priority shifted to saving the life rather than the crop. Moreover, crops of two affected wards were saved using tractors. Regarding the question of cash transfer, with the support of the Red Cross, it was only provided after the disaster.

Questions: The Social Security System is based on a blanket approach. Rather than depending on it, SRSP should create a mechanism to categorize poverty (extreme, average, and normal) otherwise dissemination of relief may cause social conflict. It is also important to provide EWM effectively and flexibility of social security programme for early delivery to help the farmers act before the disaster.

- The relief should not be given to all the households at risk. Rather it should be given to those who are at high risk and are also vulnerable. Poverty should be taken as the index. SRSP should cover those who are eligible for the support yet are not included in the programme and also create an integrated social registry. This will ensure inclusion and wider coverage that is necessary to provide the relief. In Nepal, Social Security is based upon Inclusiveness, Universality, and Right-based Approach. It is not the poverty data.
- Regarding the flexibility of the early releasing of the Social Security fund, it may be possible if the Action Plan is slightly amended. NICRD will note this issue (however it is important to note that the reliability and regularity of SSA payments is key for SSA beneficiaries and regular SSA payments should not be substituted into relief support in times of disaster. Relief support where required and relevant should come as an addition to regular payments).
- Integrated list of the beneficiaries into one social registry needs to be piloted.
- There is a lack of standardization of risk assessments. Hence, adapting scientific measures so that it would be reliable even for future purposes may be suggested. To reduce the risk and enhance recovery all the risks need to be consolidated. Functionality of the market for cash distribution is also an important consideration as in some places the market may not function during disasters.

2. Key takeaways

1. The development of an integrated national social registry is seen as a key to SRSP and will support the identification of broader solutions for horizontal expansion and mobilization of resources to support the implementation of early actions. At present, while the social registry is still a work in progress, the combined registry of SSA and PMEP can still be a useful tool to reach the most vulnerable groups with support, e.g. by organising cash for work with the PMEP registered workers to support early actions such as evacuation, drainage clearing, early harvesting etc.; or by referring to the SSA lists for fast targeting of specific groups of most vulnerable beneficiaries i.e. persons with disabilities (but keeping in mind that the SSA lists remain incomplete and should best be complemented with additional vulnerability data).
2. The SSA programme gives some opportunities to implement SRSP in Nepal with some operational and legal considerations, such as:
 - Making the SSA programme shock responsive by.....
 - o Exploring the introduction of other cash payment mechanisms such as ATM cards and mobile phone payments solutions to provide SSA recipients with a range of flexible and accessible options to receive and spend emergency cash top-ups (applicable also to regular allowances).

- o Ensuring targeting and SSA registry data is shared between local authorities responsible for social protection and disaster risk management and utilized for early action targeting and disaster response planning.
- o Including dedicated shock-responsive social protection clauses within the SSA legal, policy and regulatory frameworks.

- Making the SSA programme resilient by ensuring consistency in the delivery timing of SSA payments to recipients across all local authorities.

3. SRSP approaches should be systematically included both at the local and federal level Disaster Management plans and policies and in conjunction with development policies related to Social Protection. There needs to be further clarity on how SRSP fits into AA and how we can take it forward i.e., whether it should be

4. In addition to the SSA programme, other instruments that are part of the existing Social Protection programme in Nepal should be considered such as the PMEP and explored as offering potential solutions to support AA and thus, move the SRSP agenda forward.

3. Closing remarks by Anita Niraula, Joint Secretary, Head of Task Force Chair of SRSP Guideline, NDRRMA

The National Dialogue has been a good opportunity to learn about AA and understand the benefits of linking Social Protection programmes with it. In the context of Nepal, AA is very useful to minimize the risk and vulnerability of the people. We need to continue building conceptual clarity and learning from international practices. The discussions have been very helpful to understand that the existing Social Protection programmes can be adapted to support and deliver disaster relief. We need to develop an integrated database to avoid duplication, which is one of the existing

challenges. There is also a need for legal policies amendments for the involvement of development partners, for its effective practice through a single window mechanism. The SRSP Policy is going to provide a guide on how we can move forward with the SRSP. Currently, we are at the initial stage and are consulting with the World Bank team. We will also be inviting the FbA-SRSP CoP members and wider practitioners for consultation in the next steps. The dialogue on AA is also useful for SRSP as it is complementing one another.



5. SUMMARY OF KEY TAKEAWAYS

Principle agreement:

1. Humanitarian and donor agencies, and in connection with development agencies, should commit to compliment and build upon each other's work to strengthen AA in Nepal. For instance, all agencies should support the successful piloting of the NDRRMA's IBF or World Bank's integrated social registry.
2. All agencies' work on AA should be built upon a standard definition of AA. The definition should be common for all disasters to ensure that the government and all agencies have a common understanding of AA. Protection, Gender and Inclusion should be a key component of AA.
3. Policies and guidelines should provide clarity on SRSP approaches. The Social Protection policies and acts should provide clarity in means with which emergency cash assistance can be transferred by leveraging the social protection programmes. Likewise, DRM policies and acts should also include SRSP approaches as a means to take AA.
4. The Cash Guideline should provide clarity on delivering cash as relief in AA and response.
5. There should be policy clarity on AA and no regret policy.
6. Communities and other key local stakeholders need to be meaningfully engaged while defining and developing AA.

Action points:

1. The FbA-SRSP CoP should work towards having a partnership with key government agencies involved in AA i.e. NDRRMA, DHM to provide technical backstopping under their leadership.
2. Similar dialogues and consultations need to continue on regular intervals to streamline the approaches and work on AA.
3. The mapping of work on AA by various agencies will be integrated into the BIPAD portal for improved coordination and information management- and regularly updated.
4. The leveraging of existing government funding from all three levels should be prioritised to support the implementation of early actions.
5. Triggers and AA need to be developed for other frequently occurring disasters such as landslides, droughts, cold waves, heat waves etc. based on the methodology and processes taken already one step further for floods. AA should be treated with a multi-hazard approach as one disaster can induce another one.
6. Clearly defined roles and responsibilities of the three tiers of the government, different humanitarian, UN, and donor agencies are required. Improved coordination with all relevant line agencies while moving forward as well.
7. Clear distinction between Preparedness and AA, especially for slow onset disasters such as drought and landslide.
8. Risk communication is a crucial part of AA; therefore, further investment and efforts are needed to strengthen EW systems and messaging and to make them effective and accessible to all vulnerable groups. There is also a clear need to build the trust and understanding of communities on the EWMs and the need to take early actions based on the information.

9. Dynamic risk assessments and triggers need to be dynamic and should adapt to evolving risks. A timeframe to review and update them after any major events should be considered. In case of no event then a fixed period such as every 5 years, should be embedded in policies and guidelines and linked to DHM monitoring. There is a need for major investment and effort in the multi-hazard risk assessment.

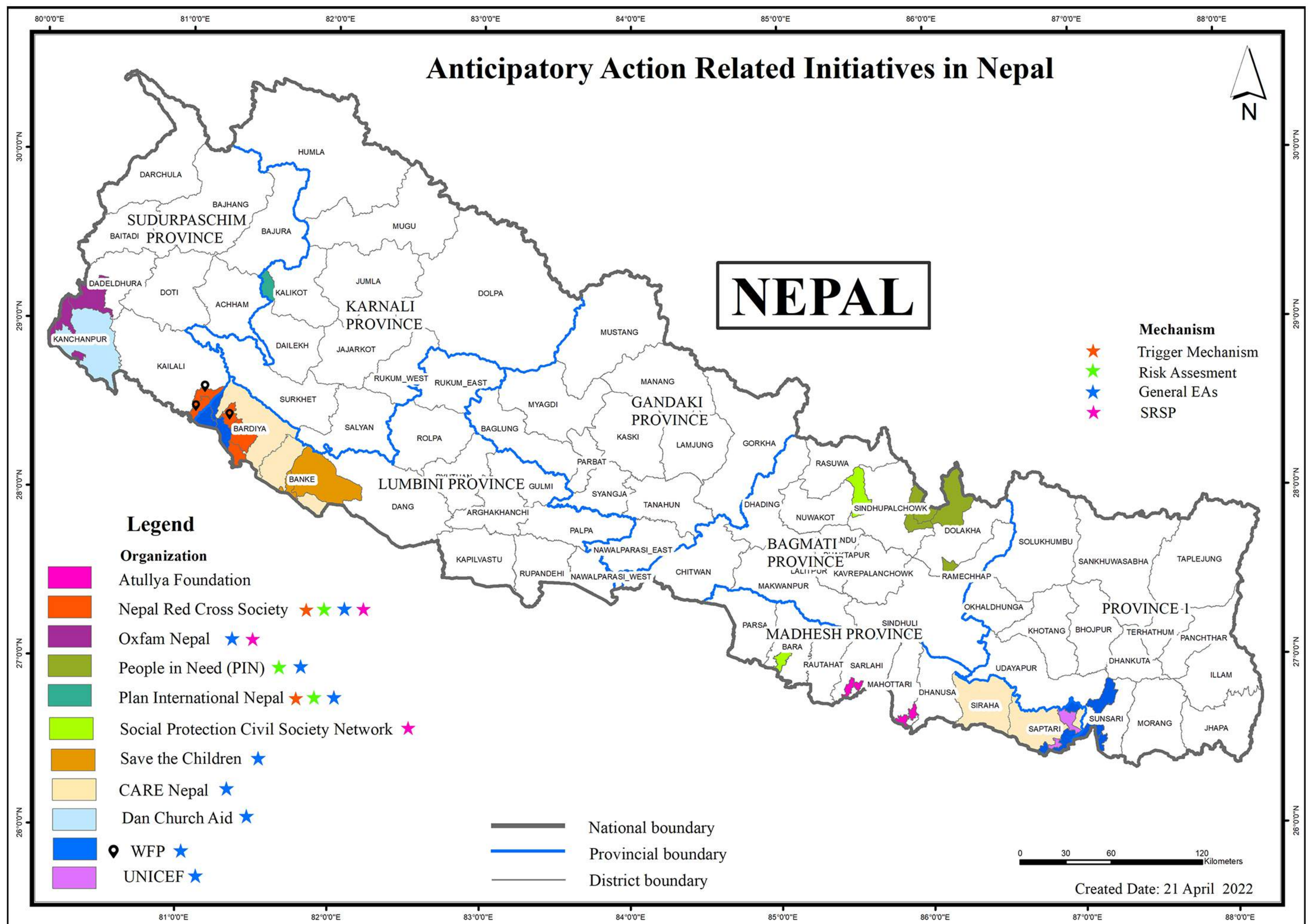
6. WAY FORWARD

As a way forward, Mr. Anil Pokharel, Chief Executive of the NDRRMA shared key takeaways of the National Dialogue that provides a way forward:

1. Develop an action plan to be followed at different stages of AA work. Commence the initial phase with preparatory work such as household survey for risk assessment, structural and human vulnerability data for exposure mapping etc. The SRSP guideline that is currently being formulated will guide all the cash distribution process. This is planned for the next phase of AA.
2. Continue to hold similar dialogues on a regular basis to continue with knowledge exchange and streamline the work. The focus will be to eventually phase out Anticipatory Action by building the capacity of people through an appropriate Action Plan and utilizing the knowledge and experiences from all partners.
3. Plan and prepare for a budget for the coming monsoon season. For this, an email has already been sent to key actors and their response is expected for clarity on collaborative opportunities. NDRRMA is ready to work in collaboration for the preparation of guidelines on Anticipatory Action or SRSP. The donor community and humanitarian partners are expected to contribute financially to the budget of the GoN.
4. Commence stocktaking regarding who can do what. This will be fed into a page in the BIPAD portal which will include all organizations working at different geographic locations in Nepal. This will be a valuable resource for all actors working in AA in Nepal.
5. The local governments should prioritize AA and preparedness for the monsoon as other hazards are also interrelated to it. We can minimize the risk this monsoon.
6. Design a clinic or a desk in the NDRRMA for effective implementation of guidelines such as guideline on conducting exposure mapping, risk assessment, managing online learning resources, working manuals etc for all relevant technical and professional support on AA.

Building on the learnings and outcomes of the National Dialogue, the FbA-SRSP CoP will continue with further discussions and consultations with the government and wider stakeholders to streamline the work on AA in Nepal. During the National Dialogue, the task team that is working on formulating the SRSP guideline has ensured that the key actors working on AA and SRSP will also be consulted to inform the national policy.

7. CONSOLIDATED MAPPING OF AA IN NEPAL











नेपाल सरकार
गृह मन्त्रालय
राष्ट्रिय विपद् जोखिम न्यूनिकरण तथा
व्यवस्थापन प्राधिकरण



Funded by
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NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON ANTICIPATORY ACTION

EVENT PROCEEDING REPORT

For additional information, please contact:

Dr. Dijan Bhattarai: NDRRMA, Under Secretary, dijansmita@gmail.com

Bipul Neupane: Nepal Red Cross Society, Disaster Management Director,
bipul.neupane@nrccs.org

Hemanta Dangal: Danish Red Cross, Sr. Social Protection Officer,
heman@rodekors.dk

Niru Pradhan: Danish Red Cross, Sr. Project Officer, nipra@rodekors.dk



Climate
Centre