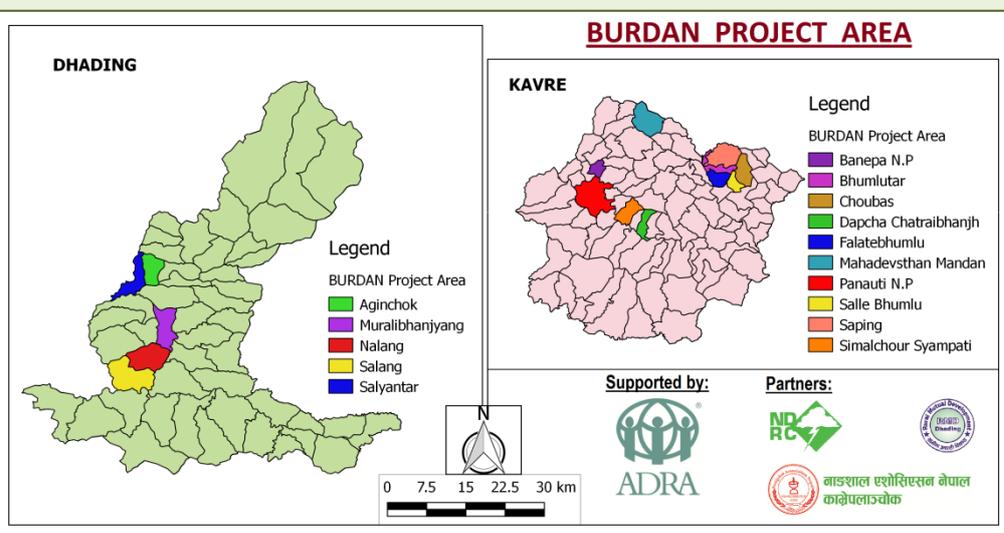


July-December
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NEWSLETTER

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PROJECT IN NUMBERS

- 5 Municipalities, 3 rural municipalities of 2 districts
- 15 communities, 15 schools
- 15,000 households, 4,500 children, 1,200 individuals
- 150,000 individuals indirectly
- 15 School Improvement Plans and School Disaster Management Plans
- 15 challenge projects
- 1 Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan

KEY INTERVENTION MODULES

- Developing DRR awareness and education
- Fostering DRR leadership training and capacity building
- Strengthening organisational and institutional capacity in DRR
- Initiating local DRR action: Urban DRR/CBDRM and SBDRM initiatives
- Administering policy research and advocacy

COMMUNITY SEARCH AND RESCUE (CSAR) TRAINING



Community Search and Rescue training was conducted for the School Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) members in Dhulikhel, Kavre district from 14-16th September 2017. A few days later, from 17-19th of September, the community DMC members including the Emergency Response (ER) task force were also trained in Dhading district. The training mainly focused on (a) the organisation of Community Search and Rescue operations, (b) safety precautions during CSAR operations, (c) personal protective equipment and its necessity, (d) appropriate actions that can be performed after a disaster and (e) development and improvement of search and rescue skills as well as the capacity of the schools and communities. The CSAR training qualified 30 people in Kavre and 22 people in Dhading to actively engage in the search and rescue of victims in the case of future disaster. After the Gorkha Earthquake in 2015,

several affected communities were in great need of rescue forces, but lacked the skilled human resources. These types of training programs are expected to fill such gaps. Active engagement in the search and rescue of victims after natural disasters is a risky but crucial mission to help minimize human loss and thus to reduce the dimension of tragedy.

I. FIELD ACTIVITIES

Training on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response (DPER)

On 12-14th of July, ADRA Nepal and its partner NDRC Nepal provided a three-day training for the project staff of partner organisations and the management team to strengthen their DPER. The training module included various technical sessions that increased the participant's knowledge of DPER, emergency planning and team management as well as the global standards of humanitarian action.



The sessions were followed by open discussions to clarify issues and difficulties. The mutual consultation showed clearly that the training was a necessary measure that could benefit all 18 participants. As one of the staff member states:

“Before the training, we just had theoretical knowledge about Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response. But now we know about the need of an institutional contingency plan, stockpiling emergency materials and capacity building for the use of emergency response materials during emergencies.”

- Shila Prajapati

The major earthquake in 2015 served as a wakeup call to enhance the capacity of disaster preparedness and response. Still, many organisations that work in the field of DRR or DM do not have an own institutional disaster preparedness and response plan. The preparedness of the participatory institutions is an important aspect, as they need to function and to effectively respond to the community's needs during a disaster.

Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (HVCA) Training

A two day HVCA training was organized in the districts Kavre (25-26th of July) and Dhading (3-4th of August) that aimed to view the vulnerability of the community in a broad sense, including environmental, socio-economic, cultural and political aspects.



Feedback showed that many participants appreciated the program, as they were not aware of the interconnection of hazard vulnerability and other aspects as well as the importance of the application of HVCA tools in the schools and the community. One of the essential aspects of disaster preparedness is the assessing the risks being faced and alleviating them. After the training, the school authorities expressed commitments to form School Disaster Management Committees (SDMC) and a School Improvement Plan (SIP) and to construct earthquake resilient buildings in schools and the community.

Comprehensive School Safety Framework (CSSF) Training

For the sensitization of school safety and risk reduction in all school sectors, a special two day training for national and district stakeholders as well as school teachers and resource persons was organized, on 26-28th of June in Dhading and on 8-9th of August in Kavre. The main objective of this training was to impart knowledge about DRR terminologies, current disaster scenarios and Nepal's DRM strategies, disaster cycles, comprehensive school safety frameworks, policies and strategies as well as school based Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) processes (hazard mapping, status of preparedness and gap analysis). The training sessions were conducted through group works and power point presentations.

The outcome of the training revealed that the participants gained more knowledge about the planning, processing and integrating of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) into the School Improvement Plan (SIP).



These new qualities were of great value for the development and formulation of a disaster risk management and emergency plan. The training also promoted other educational aspects, such as sustainable development and the universal access to education in a safe environment.

Rural Municipality Level Induction in Dhading

A project inception workshop was held on the 11th of August 2017 in Siddhalek Rural Municipality, where 34 participants shared and discussed the project documents in order to share the project's objectives to the municipal level stakeholders. The workshop was held in the changed context of the election of municipality representatives following the development of new federal structure and new Rural Municipality. The project will work in coordination with the municipality. The workshop helped in enhancing the knowledge on DRR, to internalize and familiarize with DRR processes and to adopt proper risk reduction measures in the municipal level policy.



Orientation for Child and Youth Group on DRR

On 20th of September, the districts Kavre and Dhading received an orientation program that was conducted for the children and the youth as well as their teachers. They were sensitized on various aspects of DRR through power point and video presentations, to increase knowledge about natural hazards, disaster and climate change and their causes, impacts and consequences.

The orientation of the groups also improved their know-how on disaster preparedness and response. A total of 241 participants in Kavre and 16 participants in Dhading benefited from the program. As they got more aware of their constructive role throughout the phases of a disaster, they showed strong commitment to help improving the DRR sector in the communities.

PSA on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

In order to raise awareness and change the public attitude towards sustainable DRR, a Public Service Announcement (PSA) was regularly disseminated from June to October 2017. It was drafted and finalized under the guidance of the District Disaster Relief Committee (DDRC) in Dhading and Kavre. In both areas, the communities preferably listen to FM radio for their local updates. Therefore, various reports were shared in radio announcements.



In Kavre district, the PSA-contract has been concluded between NAN and four FM radio stations (Radio Namobuddha, Grace FM, ABC FM and Prime FM), while in Dhading it was concluded between RMD and three local FM radio stations (Dhading FM, Loktrantik FM and Radio Bihani). The PSA reported on sustainable disaster preparedness referring to flooding, landslides, thunderstorms, epidemics and earthquakes. Although the content of the announcements was quiet similar in Kavre and Dhading, the approach of the campaign showed variety. The PSA awakes the interest of the public in disaster and emergency preparedness and can lead to stronger participation of the whole community. Furthermore, it creates a growing awareness of local disasters and the necessity to prevent and to reduce them in a sustainable way.

Disaster Awareness Campaign in Communities

Between 27th of July and 19th of September 2017, several disaster awareness campaigns were organized in order to sensitize the communities regarding disaster preparedness and school safety. The orientation program focused on DRR terminologies, the differentiation between hazards and disaster, disaster preparedness measures and school safety.



The communities organized various activities such as street dramas, mass rallies or orientation programs with power point presentations with support from the project. The activities were attended by younger and older children and their parents, local government officials and teachers.

Awareness activities were selected based on locality and circumstances. The school children in Saping for instance were very active and motivated to conduct a street drama, whereas the mass rally took place in Banepa because the urban area was more suitable. A total of 630 people had the chance to participate in the disaster awareness campaign, 451 in Kavre district and 179 in Dhading district. The motivation of the community went hand in hand with the constructive approach of the campaign. Through activities for every age and background, the participants could improve their knowledge of DRR and the practical preparedness in the case of a disaster. Community awareness is a crucial part of the BURDAN project.

Distribution of First Aid Support Materials

On the 17th of December 2017, the CSAR and First Aid support materials were handed over to the CDMCs of Salang, Nalang, Muralibhanjyang, Aaginchowk and Salyantar of Dhading district as well as to the SDMCs of the project targeted schools. From now on the ER Task force – who is well trained to actively take part in

search and rescue measures – is able to use this material and confront a disaster more effectively. The distributed materials are based on the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) guideline and will undergo a regular checkup and inventory update by the SCMDs. Major materials provided include mega phone, safety helmet, shovel, pick axe, metal bucket, stretcher, life jacket, metal container, first aid kit box, gloves, whistle, mask, knee cap, headlight, fire extinguisher and goggles. The communities being equipped with these materials is a big step in the project, because now they can actually take action in the immediate crisis. The communities have achieved a new level of capacity and independence.

Training on Contingency Planning

On the 19th of December 2017, a contingency plan preparation program was held in Bhaktapur for all the BURDAN partner organizations (RMD, NAN and NDRC Nepal). Contingency planning is an essential component of any organization. Especially those who work in the field of DRR have to be familiar with the process of developing and updating contingency plans.



The participants showed a lot of motivation to carry on what they have learned. One of them concludes:

"Today's orientation on emergency contingency planning is fruitful. I learned that emergency planning is an important part in an organization and an essential tool in disaster preparedness. It includes all the sectors of an organization, and it needs to be developed before the occurrence of a disaster. I will try to apply the knowledge I gained today in the contingency planning process of my organization."

In total 14 members of the BURDAN partner organizations benefited from the training, they gained technical knowledge for developing a contingency plan, which all three organizations will formulate by the end of March 2018.

2. POLICY ADVOCACY

Urban DRR – Consultation Workshop on National Urban DRR

On 12th of August 2017, ADRA Nepal, NDRC Nepal and the Centre for Disaster Studies (CDS) organised a talk programme on "Current Issues and Practices in the Urban DRR sector in Mega-Cities in Asia" for experts of the DRR sector, representatives of I/NGOs and academics. It was aimed to motivate decision makers and policy planners to mainstream the concept of urban resilience in national level planning. Disaster resilience initiatives that are practiced in mega cities throughout Asia were shared in the program.



Within the workshop, a platform was created to share

information on urban resilience approaches and tools, and the adaptation of those in the context of Nepal. The program was hosted for the discussion with the presenter *Rajib Shaw* of Keio University, Japan, who is a member of the UN Science and Technology Advisory group.

Training on Core Humanitarian Essentials on Sphere, CHS, EiE and CPIE

From 15 to 17th, and from 20 to 22nd of August 2017, a three-day training on core humanitarian standards was organised by NDRC in collaboration with the District Disaster Relief committee (DDRC) of both districts and with the partner NGOs NAN and RMD. It focused on Sphere and CHS guidelines, components and legal bases of Education in Emergencies (EiE) and Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE), global minimum standards of Interagency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and emergency preparedness. The training developed and strengthened core competencies of district level stakeholders in global standards for humanitarian action and emergency preparedness and aimed to mainstream DRR in reconstruction.



In Dhading and Kavre, a total of 57 people participated. The participants realized that so far they were not adequately following the Sphere and CHS guidelines during an emergency response. And the authorities who are directly concerned with disaster preparedness and response were not updated on the recent happenings in the global standards for humanitarian action. The training could close all these deficits and furthermore increase awareness on the importance of an accurate and updated policy and of the quality and accountability of humanitarian assistance.

Formulation of the new DM Act 2017

A major success in the history of DRR was the passing of the “Act to Revise and Integrate Acts Related to the Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management 2017” on 25th of September. Much effort has been made from within the BURDAN project to contribute to this achievement. It provided financial support for 7 events that were held to formulate the new DM Act as well as policies and strategies on DRR. The project also helped to identify the gaps between the Natural Calamity Relief Act 1982 and the present context, which further facilitated the formulation of the new DM act.

The act is a concrete guideline for any form of disaster risk response, risk reduction, preparedness and management intervention in an event of a disaster in the country. It aims for setting up a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, whose function is to endorse disaster management-related national policies and plans. This council will also prepare necessary policies that are related to the disaster management for the local and state levels. The act further includes a clause on the formation of a separate disaster management fund on central level, and the formation of a disaster management committee at local and provincial level. The main focus of the passed bill is to protect public life, public and private property, natural and cultural

heritage, physical properties as well as to minimise disaster risk. Besides that, it will also support the adoption of School Safety DRR priority and the strengthening of disaster risk governance and management.

3. CASE STORY

School Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) - Backbone of School Improvement Plan (SIP)

With the aim to involve local people and organisations in the planning, management and implementation of local education development, the Basic and Primary Education Program (BPEP) introduced the so called School Improvement Plan (SIP). It is a 5 year roadmap which contains the mission and vision of a school, for the improvement of its facilities, teaching and educational material. It is usually formulated by local people (SMC/PTA), teacher, social worker and educationists and is revised annually, based on the current status and priorities of the school. The SIP provides guidance for future education development and is an important tool for a continuous increase of a school's quality. The schools in Kavre and Dhading district follow a SIP, but so far they mostly emphasised on the development of infrastructure rather than on education quality or school safety. Most of the school structures have been damaged during the Gorkha Earthquake in 2015. Some of the buildings are in the middle of reconstruction. Naturally, it is common in many communities to think that a safe and strong building is the only counting aspect of school safety.



Within the scope of the BURDAN project however, the focus of the SIP is gradually shifting towards an emphasis on education quality and disaster management. In this context, RMD Nepal – in collaboration with the DEO and DDRC – organised a three-day training on CSSF in Dhading. Its main focus was to develop curricula that incorporate DRR as well as school safety policies and the integration of SDMP into the SIP. The training was a clear success in changing the attitude of the local stakeholders towards the issue. They now see the SDMP not as complementary but as an integral part of the SIP:

“Fortunately, we have an SDMP along with the SIP. It is a milestone for mainstreaming DRR in the education sector. It is the backbone of the SIP. The problem is that - so far - we were doing injustice to the SDMP. We ignored it, considering it only as an annexe of the SIP. But now the time has come to change our mentality and to keep DRR related activities within the school improvement activities and policies”.
(Shobhakar Regmi, Acting DEO, Dhading)

It will be crucial for the local stakeholders to give each other support and to work together for the implementation of an effective SDMP. Otherwise, school safety will stay a theoretical plan that cannot reduce the risk of the community in future disasters.

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