The Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium

Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal

In May 2009, the Government of Nepal launched the comprehensive Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC). The NRRC is a unique institutional arrangement, bringing together financial institutions, development partners, the Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, and the UN in partnership with the Government of Nepal. It bridges the spectrum of development and humanitarian partners, unifying under a common action plan. Participating organizations remain autonomous in implementing program activities but agree to contribute to a prioritized common set of DRR actions. The NRRC aims to increase investment in risk reduction, to ensure more efficient and effective allocation of existing resources, and to mobilize additional funding for DRR.

Based on Government priorities and inputs from over 30 national and international organizations, the following short to medium term disaster risk reduction priorities have been identified:

Flagship Areas

1. School and hospital safety: structural and non-structural aspects of making schools and hospitals earthquake resilient. This area aims to seismically strengthen 1000 schools and many hospitals in the Kathmandu Valley, as well as, raising awareness on constructing resilient structures.

2. Emergency preparedness and response capacity: Activities include institutional capacity building of first responders; disaster information, response and management planning; warehousing and stockpiling of food and non-food items for emergency response and; strengthening the preparedness for facilitation of international assistance

3. Flood management in the Koshi river basin: This flagship area will mitigate flooding through flood risk assessment; structural measures; flood forecasting and early warning system; strengthening institutional capacity.

4. Integrated community based disaster risk reduction/management: This flagship aims to conduct community based disaster risk reduction in 1000 communities, including developing community capacity for engaging in local level risk reduction action; and undertaking vulnerability reduction measures.

5. Policy/Institutional support for disaster risk management: Areas of focus include institutional capacity building; policy formulation & legislative enactment; orientation of financial mechanisms towards risk reduction and risk management; land use management planning; supporting of mainstreaming DRM and climate change adaptation into the development planning process at all levels.

The estimated total budget of the three-year Flagship programmes is US $146.8million.
Key Achievements

In addition to enhanced coordination and learning since 2009 the NRRC approach has helped galvanize increased action in DRR. For example,

- The Ministry of Education has started to include DRR as a separate activity in its annual budget, 15 Schools will be seismically strengthened with these funds during 2011.
- A National Emergency Operations Center was opened by the Ministry of Home Affairs in December 2010.
- A multi-hazard risk assessment for Nepal has been completed that captures information on all districts, a joint Government and International initiative.
- 26 Ministries, departments and agencies have allocated Disaster Risk Management Focal Points, with the majority having received basic orientation training.
- Over 20 international and national actors have begun to develop common characteristics of CBDRM project in Nepal and a baseline for improved coverage and service delivery in this area.

Key Challenges

1. Nepal is one of the 20 most disaster-prone countries in the world. More people are killed by disasters in Nepal compared to any other country in South Asia. Nepal is ranked 11th in terms of relative vulnerability to earthquakes (UNDP/BCPR 2004) and 30th with respect to floods.
2. The draft Disaster Management Bill is yet to be approved. The bill in process to be submitted to Parliament, and has been made a priority for the current Parliament session.
3. Funding for DRR in Nepal remains challenging. The total needs of the program are S146.8 million with funds raised being approximately 21.7 million. Programs have been identified and are ready for implementation with a need of $125.1 million.

The NRRC Approach

In May 2009, the Government of Nepal (GoN) launched the Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC). Under the leadership of the Government of Nepal, the NRRC brings together international financial institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, Red Cross / Red Crescent Movement, NGOs, the United Nations system (UN) and development partners in an ambitious program to coordinate and fund disaster preparedness and risk reduction. The consortium recognizes that no single agency alone can address Nepal’s disaster risk and that only a coordinated effort that builds on the strengths and mandates of its members can result in higher returns on investments in risk reduction. The NRRC bridges the humanitarian and development divide, and enables coordination between long-term national infrastructure development and community based risk reduction initiatives. The consortium has received unprecedented support from development partners and many have aligned DRR assistance under the priority flagship areas. The estimated total budget of the three-year Flagship programmes is US $146.8 million.
The founding members of the Consortium are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the World Bank. The US Government, the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO) and the Department for International Development (UK AID) also formally joined the Consortium in 2010/2011. More than 100 international and national stakeholders contribute to the common program of action.

### Funding Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 Flagship Programmes</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Committed</th>
<th>Gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School and hospital safety – structural and non-structural aspects of making schools and hospitals earthquake resilient</td>
<td>AsDB (WHO)</td>
<td>$50.8 million</td>
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<td>$45.1 million</td>
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<td>Emergency preparedness and response capacity</td>
<td>OCHA</td>
<td>$28 million</td>
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<td>Flood management in the Koshi River basin</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
<td>$24.2 million</td>
<td>$2 million</td>
<td>$22.2 million</td>
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<td>Integrated community based Disaster Risk Reduction / management</td>
<td>IFRC</td>
<td>$30 million</td>
<td>$2.4 million</td>
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<td>Policy/institutional support for disaster risk management (DRM)</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>$13.8 million</td>
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<td>$7.9 million</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$146.8 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>$21.7 million</strong></td>
<td><strong>$125.1 million</strong></td>
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*Figures represented in this table are based on information provided by participating organizations*