

# **National Policies, Framework and Strategies of Nepal in DRR:** *Best Practices and Lessons learnt*

**Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction in  
SAARC Region**  
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**Co-presented by**

Shesh Narayan Paudel & Shambhu Prasad Regmi  
Under Secretaries/ Asst. Chief District Officers  
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Nepal

# Presentation Based on 3 contexts:

- Nepal's shift from unitary to federal governance system**
  - **Federal (Central) government-1**
  - **Provincial (state) governments-7**
  - **Local Governments-753**
- Experiences, best practices and lessons learnt from**
  - April 2015 Nepal Earthquake:**
  - Heavy Flood and Inundation, August, 2017**
- Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**
- Key lessons and way forward**

# Nepal's Vulnerability to Natural Hazards

- **20<sup>th</sup>** in multi-hazard perspective
- **11<sup>th</sup>** in Earthquake
  - Nepal lies on Seismic Active Zone, according to Geological Study
- **4<sup>th</sup>** in climatic change effect
- **30<sup>th</sup>** in flood vulnerability
- Kathmandu is one of the most vulnerable cities among the **21<sup>st</sup>** megacities in the world

# Major Disaster incidents in Nepal

1. Flood
2. Landslide
3. Earthquake
4. Epidemics
5. Fire
6. Hailstone
7. Drought
8. Glacial Lake Outburst Flood
9. Avalanches
10. Windstorm
11. Cold-waves and loo (Hot-Wind)
12. Industrial accidents
13. Road Accidents

# 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 (7.6 magnitude), 26<sup>th</sup> April and 12<sup>th</sup> May Earthquake

- Followed by nearly 400 aftershocks greater than 4 magnitude
- 8980 (including 80 foreigners) casualties and about 22,300 injures
- 195 missing
- 1/3 population (8 Million) people affected
- Estimated cost of damage: \$ 10 billion ( half of nominal GDP)
- Out of 75 district, 14 districts severely and 17 districts partially affected

# April 2015 ...*contd*...

- The destruction was massive and widespread:
  - 800,000 houses completely destroyed
  - 7000 schools damaged
  - Large number of Government buildings, heritage sites, health posts, rural roads, bridges, water supply, agriculture land, trekking routes, hydropower plants, etc damaged
  - Hundreds of historical and cultural monuments at least a century old were either destroyed or damaged
- Thanks to God-25<sup>th</sup> April was a Saturday

# August, 2017 Flood and Inundation

- Heavy rainfall, 10-14 Aug, 2017
- Severe flood and inundation
- 161 people dead, 29 missing
- 36 districts affected, 18 severely
- 1 million people displaced
- 41000 houses destroyed fully
- 150, 000 houses partially damaged

# August flood...

- Terai-Madhesh (Southern plain) are badly affected
- Estimated cost of damage: NRs. 60 billion (3% of GDP)



*Biratnagar airport affected by flood*



# Implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Constitution of Nepal 2015:
  - Identifies addressing disaster risk as a key policy of the state.
- Periodic Plan: a separate chapter on DRR
- International Commitments
- National Law, policies, programs, action plan
- DRR: a Government priority
- DRR integrated in development planning
- Cooperation/coordination/collaboration with government agencies, NGO/INGOs, private Sector, civil society, media

# Implementation...

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017:
  - based on and emphasis to implement provisions of Sendai Framework for DRR
- National Strategic Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (2017-30):
  - in line with Sendai Framework for DRR, wide consultation made
- National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) 2009
  - provided the basis for a shift from a reactive and relief guided approach to disaster risk reduction, preparedness and effective response.

# Institutional Framework

Institutional set up: DRR mechanisms at all three tiers of governments:

1. Central level

2. Province Level

3. District Level/Local level

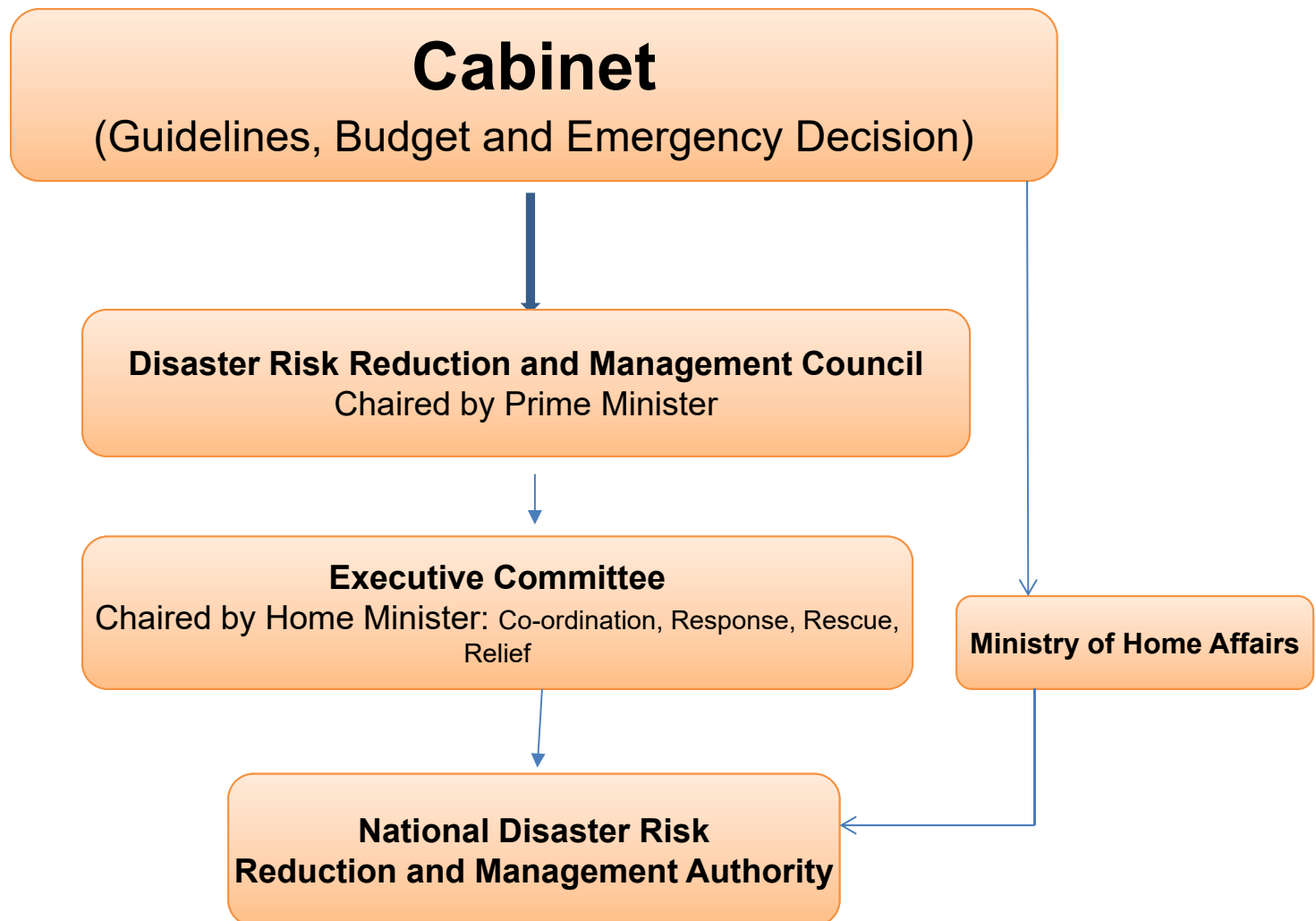
- District Emergency Operation Center
- Different clusters, lead and co-lead agencies,

4. National Reconstruction Authority (NRA)

- In response to April 2015 earthquake
- Reconstruct the damaged structures and rehabilitate the displaced people
- Laws formulated, CEOs appointed
- Field level offices
- Reconstruction under way

# Organizational Structure (Central level)

(Provision of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017)



# Organizational Structure (Province level)

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017

## **Province Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee**

Chaired by Chief Minister

Provincial Storage house for rescue  
and relief materials

# Organizational Structure (Local level)

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017

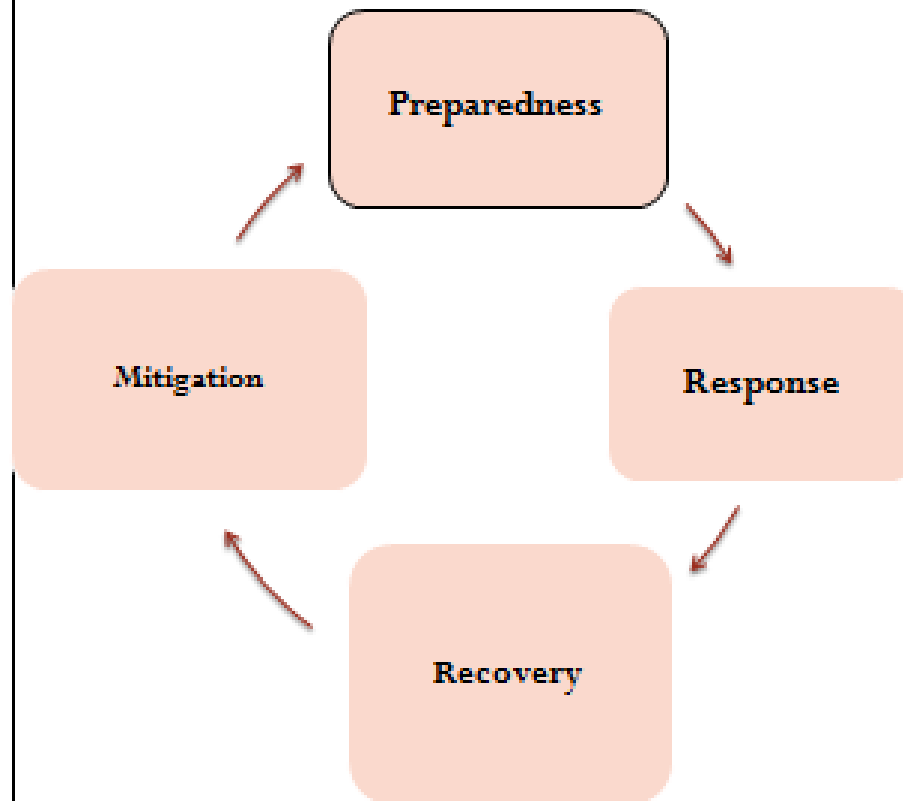
## 1. District Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee

- Chaired by Chief District Officer
- Includes relevant government offices, NGOs, private sector, civil society, media etc
- District Disaster Management Plan

## Local Level Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee

- Chaired by Mayor/ chairperson of local level
- Responsible for DRR related activities at local level
- Local Disaster Management Plan

National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC): *a unit under Ministry of Home Affairs*



A DRR portal: [www.drrportal.gov.np](http://www.drrportal.gov.np)

# Best practices

- . Flexibility:

- laws, rules, procedures during crisis and emergency

- One door policy:

- not applicable during relief stage but applicable to reconstruction phase

- Volunteer mobilization of NGOs

- Cooperation/partnership



# Key lessons learnt

## 1. Understanding Disaster Risk Reduction

- Poor understanding and sensitization
- Lacking mechanism to communicate risk
- Mobilize/make partnership with NGOs/civil society
- Strengthen and equip local governments/offices
- Data/information gaps

## 2. Immediate Rescue and relief

- Role of district/local level offices, especially security wings- prominent
- Availability of rescue equipments to security very necessary
- Be careful while announcing relief package- politicization may further degrade the situation
- Media mgmt and expectation mgmt
- Right information flow, Data mgmt- very imp
- Policies, action plans and other preparation at the center mismatch with local reality, no time to ponder upon
- Multiple chain of command during rescue, relief- creates confusion
- Fake victims (who pretend to be victims)
- Protection /rescue/camping of vulnerable people, gender /child issues

# Key lessons...

## 3. Increase investment for Resilience

- Awareness for resilience structure -low,
- Needs to integrate in dev planning
- Code enforcement issues
- Capacity issues, cost issues

## 4. Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction

- Sustainability of the Fund
- Proper utilization of the resources, corruption issues
- Politics, cheap popularity
- Inconsistent decisions
- Ethical/moral issues of victims
- Resource gap: financial , technical, data and manpower

# Way forward

- More investment in DRR
- Proper utilization of Fund
- Effective Coordination needed
- Community mobilization, sensitization
- Need of Risk transfer instruments like insurance, social protection
- Reduce overdependence of victims to government, government can fulfill need but not greed
- Political responsibility, honesty
- Leadership at the district and local level offices- most important
- Strengthened and Equip at Field Level

THANK YOU  
&  
NAMASTE