

NATIONAL POLICY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

2018



The Government of Nepal
Ministry of Home Affairs

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GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS



Singh Durbar
Kathmandu, Nepal.

Ref No.:

Date 12 Feb, 2019

Message

It is my pleasure that National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, 2018 has been endorsed by Disaster Risk Reduction and Management National Council meeting held on 18 June 2018 in line with the provision of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017. This is the first policy prepared aiming at ensuring a long-term policy provision in the area of disaster risk reduction and management.

This policy is formulated to systematize and streamline the work effectively in all stages of disaster management. It includes disaster risk reduction activities for effective relief and response operation after disaster and rehabilitation & reconstruction focusing on sustainable development along with the awareness raising programmes and actions.

This policy was developed based on the learning and experiences received from the implementation of different legal instruments of the past. And also from the learning and experiences of the 'Gorkha Earthquake 2015' and by making reference of other recent disasters in the country, so as to reduce the prevalent risks of disaster and for the effective prevention measures to the possible risks. I am convinced that this policy would be useful to government bodies in the recently implemented federal, province and local governments, development partners, non-government organizations, private sectors and even in the community level.

It is expected that disaster resilient Nepal can be built with the effective implementation of the policy-based provisions ensured in this policy which accommodates the country's needs and in line with the recent global agendas including Sendai DRR declaration, Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Declaration on Climate Change and others committed at international forum.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to different ministries of the Government of Nepal and all other agencies, development partners and others including private sectors for their contribution to prepare the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy. Likewise, I would like to thank the United Nations Development



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Programme (UNDP) and its Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme for providing technical and financial supports in formulating and publishing the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy. I would also like to commend the works of Joint Secretary Ms. Indu Ghimire and Under Secretary Mr. Bamsi Kumar Acharya for their coordination in publishing this National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy.

I am confident that the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, 2018 shall give information to all organizations and individuals active in disaster risk management field and all the general public in a clear and integrated manner to execute works in a more professional way in the days to come.

Prem Kumar Rai
Secretary



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Acknowledgement

It is evident that Nepal has witnessed various types of natural and non-natural disasters in the past. Nepal's geographical location, unplanned infrastructure development and rising urbanization have resulted into these disasters. Reducing the impacts of these disasters is the need of the hour. Realizing these realities, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management National Council held on 18 June, 2018 has endorsed the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, 2018 to broadly streamline the disaster risk reduction and management in a comprehensive manner. It is a matter of pleasure to all of us to publish this booklet of the approved policy and bring it to the access of all stakeholders.

This national policy shall offer a guideline to systematize and direct the overall aspects of disaster risk reduction and management through mainstreaming the diverse areas of disaster management, risk reduction, efficient and effective response as well as adopt the approach of Build Back Better (BBB) for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the post-disaster period. Nepal would immensely benefit from this policy with regards to disaster management at a time when disaster management stakeholders are active in making Nepal more resilient along with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I am confident that this policy would be useful to all government agencies, development partners, non-government sectors and others including private sectors at federal, provincial and local levels in Nepal.

The Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction declaration for 2015 to 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals for 2015 to 2030 are the recent major frameworks on disaster management for multi-dimensional aspects agreed in different international forum. This policy prepared by considering different aspects of disaster risk management of Nepal by keeping these all frameworks and goals into consideration has realized the need to build a resilient Nepal by the effective implementation different programmes based on the spirit of strategic policies of this document.



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I would like to thank the officials and experts of six different thematic groups, the then joint secretaries Mr. Krishna Bahadur Raut and Mr. Kedar Neupane, under secretaries, section officers, representatives from DPNET and AINTGDM for their contribution in preparing this action plan. Similarly, I appreciate the efforts and contribution of Mr. Bamshi Kumar Acharya, under secretary for his work in preparing and publishing the document. Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Vijaya Prasad Singh, United Nations Development Programme and Mr. Krishna Raj Kaphle from Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme, representatives from technical supporting agency and Dr. Narayan Bahadur Thapa, national coordinator and Dr. Dilip Gautam lead technical expert for their thorough engagement & contribution in preparing, finalizing and publishing the action plan.

This policy shall largely support the stakeholders in implementing the activities of disaster risk management in a more systematic, professional and objective oriented manner in the days to come. I am confident that this shall guide all to move ahead in the area of disaster risk reduction and management.


Indu Ghimire
Joint Secretary
12 Feb. 2019

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NATIONAL POLICY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, 2018

1. Background

Nepal is one of the most disasters prone countries affected by recurrent multiple hazards. Every year, the country suffers from great loss of human lives and damage to properties due to natural and non-natural disasters like flood, landslide, thunderbolt, fire, road accidents, and epidemics. The country is affected by natural hazards like earthquake, flood, landslide, soil erosion, inundation, lightning, drought, snowstorm, hailstorm, avalanche, glacial lake outburst, heavy rainfall, rainfall deficit, windstorm, cold wave, heat wave and forest fire due to the adverse geography, fragile geology, climate variability and climate change. Nepal is also affected by the non-natural hazards like road accidents, epidemics, famine, insect and micro-organism havoc, animal and bird influenza, universal contagious pandemic flu, snake bite, animal terror, accidents in mines,

air, water and industry, fire, poisonous gas, chemical or radiation leakage, gas explosion, poisonous food consumption, environmental pollution, deforestation or physical infrastructure damage and accident during rescue, The latest examples are Gorkha earthquake of April 2015, flood and landslide of 2014 and 2017 and great loss of lives and damages of properties by these disasters. Increasing population, poverty, unplanned urban settlement, and lack of risk-informed development activities have been further increasing the disaster vulnerabilities.

The Government of Nepal has developed various legal and institutional arrangements to plan and manage the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management activities. In this context, Natural Calamity (relief) Act 1982; Local Self Governance Act 1998; Building Act 1998; National Building Code 2004; National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management 2009, Climate Change Policy 2011, Land Use Policy 2012, Water Induced Disaster Management

Policy 2015; National Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Policy 2015; National Disaster Response Framework 2013, Basic Guideline related to Settlement Development, Urban Planning and Building Construction 2016; National Urban Development Strategy 2016 are important legal and Policy framework. Similarly, Constitution of Nepal 2015, and recently approved and enacted Local Government Operation Act 2017 and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017, are the latest major legal arrangements. In addition, Natural Disaster Relief Committees established from the center to the local level as per the law, various agencies and institutes of the Government of Nepal can be taken as important institutional arrangements. The National Council, Executive Committee, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority and Disaster Management Committees at Province, District and Local levels are new institutional arrangements as per the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017.

It is necessary to develop an umbrella policy for Disaster Risk Reduction considering the international agreements mainly the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Convention on Climate Change as well as national needs. Taking into account of the lessons learned and experiences gained from the implementation of National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management 2009, the learnings and experiences of the Gorkha earthquake 2015 and recent other disasters for reducing the existing disaster risks and preventing of new potential risks, this National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2018 has been prepared to build safer, adaptive and resilience nation from disaster risks. This policy has been approved by Disaster Risk Reduction and Management National Council as per the mandate of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017, Section 5(a) on 18th June 2018 (4 Ashad 2075) and came into effect thereafter.

2. Vision

The long-term vision of this policy is to contribute to sustainable development by making the nation safer, climate adaptive and resilient from disaster risk.

3. Mission

The mission of this policy is to substantially reduce the disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health as well as in the economic, social and physical infrastructure and cultural and environmental assets of persons, communities and nation and to increase their resiliency by implementing disaster risk reduction and management activities in a balanced way.

4. Goal

The goal of this policy is to reduce disaster mortality and number of affected people substantially, increase resiliency by reducing disaster damage to means of livelihoods as well as critical infrastructures and disruption

of basic services such as agriculture, industry, roads, communication, water supply and sanitation, education and health facilities, and reduce direct disaster economic loss.

5. Objectives

The main objective of this policy is to substantially reduce the natural and non-natural disaster losses in lives and properties of persons, health, means of livelihood and production, physical and social infrastructures, cultural and environmental assets.

The other objectives of the policy are the following:

- 5.1. To increase understanding on disaster risk and ensure the access of information related to the disaster risk at all levels.
- 5.2. To strengthen disaster risk governance for disaster risk reduction and management.

- 5.3. To mainstream disaster risk reduction in all development processes by integrating it with climate change adaptation activities.
- 5.4. To enhance disaster resilience by increasing public and private investment in disaster risk reduction.
- 5.5. To make disaster preparedness and response effective by improving disaster information management system and developing and expanding multi-hazard early warning system.
- 5.6. To ensure “Build Back Better” approach for post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

6. Concept

Disaster risk reduction national policy is based on the following concept:

- 6.1. As per the Constitution of Nepal, to adopt the principle of coordination and

cooperation among local, provincial and Federal government in the disaster risk reduction, prevention and management.

- 6.2. As per the disaster risk governance principle, to pursue the involvement and partnership of all stakeholders of the society, and gender and social inclusion by embracing the principle of participation, accountability and transparency.
- 6.3 To pursue the concept of risk sensitive development.
- 6.4 To pursue the concept of multi-hazards disaster risk management.
- 6.5 To pursue the use of science and technology based on local characteristics and optimum utilization of local means, resources, knowledge and skills.

- 6.6 To follow the concept of innovative financial investment.
- 6.7 To pursue the concept of “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

7. Policy

The following policies will be adopted to achieve the above mentioned objectives:

- 7.1 The subject of disaster risk will be incorporated in the curriculum of school and the higher level of education.
- 7.2 The disaster information, awareness and learning will be increased up to the community level in an accessible way by preparing the programs on public awareness and information through effective use of information and communication system.
- 7.3 Natural and non-natural disasters will be monitored and measured regularly.

- 7.4 Disaster risk assessment and mapping system will be developed. Identifying vulnerable communities, capacity development activities will be conducted for them.
- 7.5 Identifying the probable road accident areas based on the disaster assessment and mapping, disaster prone areas will be decided and such information will be disseminated to the public to reduce the accidents.
- 7.6 Assessment and mapping of disaster risks will be conducted and disseminated in the areas of education, health, agriculture, industry, tourism, energy, housing, transportation, water supply, sanitation including infrastructure, and historical and cultural heritages.
- 7.7 Disaster risk will be assessed to reduce the probable risk on business, public health and nutrition.
- 7.8 Disaster information management system based on Remote Sensing

System, Geographic information system and open source technology will be developed and made easily available to the public and stakeholders.

- 7.9 An appropriate technology will be used for disaster risk reduction conducting the study and research on geology, seismology, geographical information system, remote sensing system, satellite technology, radar technology and early warning system including modern and traditional technologies.
- 7.10 National Disaster Risk Reduction Research and Training Institute will be established for research and capacity development on disaster risks, disaster prevention, preparedness, search and rescue as well as post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- 7.11 The participation and collaboration of government agencies, development partners, private and non-government

organizations, Red Cross, universities, research centers and other stakeholders will be promoted in the study and research on disaster risk.

- 7.12 Disaster management committees will be formed at the Federal, Provincial and Local level and their capacities will be developed.
- 7.13 The institutional capacity will be enhanced by establishing, developing, extending and networking the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), Volunteer's Bureau, Flying squad, Fire brigade, Emergency Operation Centers and Health Emergency Operation Centers.
- 7.14 National Road Safety Council will be formed and made active.
- 7.15 National Road Safety Strategic Action Plan will be developed and implemented to ensure the road safety.

- 7.16 For the community level disaster risk reduction, participation of local users, community organizations and community people will be ensured in formulation, implementation and management of plans for irrigation, river control, forest management, school, health institutions, drinking water and sanitation.
- 7.17 As per the National Land Use Policy, development and management of safer settlement will be promoted by formulating risk sensitive land use plan based on multi-hazard risk assessment at the local level. In addition, a policy will be adopted for relocation of unsafe settlements to a safe place.
- 7.18 Entire development process will be implemented and managed in reducing the prospective risks on the basis of multi-hazard risk sensitivity.

- 7.19 As per the principle of integrated water resource management, master plan will be developed and implemented for land and watershed conservation, addressing the river management and inter-relationship of upper and lower riparian areas.
- 7.20 Chure management master plan will be effectively implemented to reduce the potential risks in Chure area due to its fragile geographical formation.
- 7.21 Access, representation and meaningful participation of women, children, senior citizen, people with disabilities and the people from economically and socially marginalized communities will be ensured in all steps and structures of disaster risk reduction based on inclusive disaster management concept.

- 7.22. As per the concept of disaster sensitivity, public physical infrastructure (government offices, educational institutions, health institutions, community buildings and shelters etc.) will be made senior citizen, gender, people with disability and children friendly.
- 7.23 An institutional arrangement will be made to ensure effective mobilization of the volunteers for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management at the community level.
- 7.24 For the promotion of safer building construction from disaster risks, National building code and local bylaw will be updated periodically and implemented.
- 7.25 Disaster resilient infrastructure policy will be pursued in design and construction of physical infrastructure in development. In addition, climate

change adaptive infrastructure construction will also be promoted.

- 7.26 Risk reduction policy will be adopted conducting study for impact of disaster risks and climate change during planning, designing, construction and management of the mega projects for development.
- 7.27 Culture of disaster safety will be promoted and adopted to build safer society.
- 7.28 Organizational structure of the government agencies involved in disaster risk reduction and management will be reviewed and strengthened. Additionally, organizational and institutional development of National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority will be carried out for effective operation and management of the disaster risk reduction and management related activities.

- 7.29 An inclusive mechanism will be established at federal, provincial and local levels for effective monitoring and evaluation of the activities related to disaster risk reduction and management.
- 7.30 National Disaster Risk Reduction platform will be extended up to the local levels and strengthened.
- 7.31 The involvement of private sector will be encouraged in the disaster risk reduction and management activities.
- 7.32 Disaster resilient community will be developed by diversifying means of livelihoods.
- 7.33 Flood, inundation and draught resistant and climate change adaptive agriculture system will be developed with the support from Nepal Agricultural Research Council, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and other research centers.

- 7.34 Flood, inundation and draught resistant and climate change adaptive health service system will be developed with the support from Nepal Health Research Council and different health institutions including research centers.
- 7.35 The private sector, bank and financial institutions, insurance company, development partners and donor agencies will be encouraged for the investment on disaster risk reduction.
- 7.36 The community and cooperative institutions will be encouraged for the investment on disaster risk reduction.
- 7.37 Insurance of crops, livestock and business/livelihood for risk sharing and risk transfer of vulnerable communities will be promoted and made it easily accessible. In addition, disaster affected community will be provided soft loan from banks and financial institutions.

- 7.38 The social security programs will be included and implemented in disaster response, post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.
- 7.39 For the compensation of losses and damages due to disasters mandatory insurance system will be promoted for public, private, and community building, educational and health related infrastructure and other physical infrastructure including water supply.
- 7.40 Programs on disaster risk reduction and management will be conducted by the allocation of certain percentage in the annual budget of federal, provincial and local governments.
- 7.41 Disaster risk reduction works will be integrated and mainstreamed in the development activities. The recommendations in different sectors made by local disaster risk

management plan will be included and implemented with preference in the local development plan.

- 7.42. Natural hazards like flood, landslide, drought, thunderbolt, windstorm, hot wave, cold wave, fire, epidemics and glacier lake outburst will be monitored and forecasted regularly and Forecast-Based Preparedness and Response Plans will be developed and implemented by developing early warning system.
- 7.43 Community based disaster risk reduction activities will be implemented by the maximum utilization of local knowledge, skill, recourses and materials.
- 7.44 The capacity of emergency operation centers will be enhanced and incident command system will be extended and implemented up to the local level.

- 7.45 Emergency preparedness plan and disaster preparedness and response plan will be prepared and implemented at federal, provincial and local levels. In addition, business continuity plan for public, private, and non-government sectors will be prepared and implemented.
- 7.46 Search and rescue teams will be formed, and their capacity will be developed and enhanced at federal, provincial and local levels.
- 7.47 Disaster management fund will be established at federal, provincial and local levels as per the law to mobilize the resources.
- 7.48 Educational institutions, hospitals and shelters will be upgraded to make them useful in emergency situation.
- 7.49 Open spaces will be identified, developed and managed for disaster

preparedness and response as well as accessible and safe shelters will be constructed at vulnerable areas. In order to make disaster response effective, humanitarian support and logistic areas will be established, developed and expanded.

- 7.50 Emergency relief warehouses will be established, developed and expanded and necessary rescue and relief materials will be stockpiled for effective disaster response in the federal, provincial and local levels.
- 7.51 The necessary arrangements will be made for easy delivery of the humanitarian assistance from international community during big disaster.
- 7.52 Trauma care centers will be established in major cities.

- 7.53 The capacity volunteers to be mobilized during disaster at the local level will be developed.
- 7.54 The concept of “Build Back Better, Stronger and Safer” will be promoted to avoid future disaster risks and to reduce disaster risks in post disaster recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction works.
- 7.55 Communication and Dissemination System based on modern information technology such as web-based system, mobile phone based services (apps, short message service-cell broadcasting, interactive voice response), emergency telecommunication centers will be promoted for disaster preparedness and response.
- 7.56 Bilateral, regional and international coordination, cooperation and collaboration in disaster risk reduction,

preparedness, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction will be promoted.

- 7.57 Necessary arrangements will be made to mobilize the political parties and their sister organizations to support disaster responses like search, rescue and relief operation at federal, provincial and local levels.
- 7.58 The approach of cluster system will be established and implemented with the participation of all concerned stakeholders for effective disaster response work at federal, province and local levels.
- 7.59 Accountability, transparency and high-quality service will be ensured in the activities of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

8. Policy Implementation

The following approaches will be adopted to implement this policy:

- 8.1 The disaster risk reduction and management strategic action plan including periodic, annual and emergency plan will be prepared and implemented at the federal, provincial and local level for planned implementation of this policy.
- 8.2 This policy will be taken as the guideline during formulation and implementation of the program for the sectoral ministry, public entities, development partners and the private sectors.
- 8.3. This policy will be taken as the guideline during the formulation and implementation of periodic and annual program and plan at provincial and local levels.

- 8.4 The federal, provincial and local governments will allocate necessary budget for disaster risk reduction and management programs to implement this policy.
- 8.5 The necessary institutional structures will be formed as per the provision of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2017.
- 8.6 Line ministries and departments will be restructured based on organization and management study as felt necessary for effective implementation of this policy.
- 8.7 Necessary legal and institutional arrangement will be made to implement this policy.

9. Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation

- 9.1. A mechanism of coordination and cooperation will be established among the government, private sector, non-government organizations, Red Cross, political parties and other concerned

stakeholders at federal, provincial and local levels for effective implementation of disaster risk reduction and management related activities.

- 9.2 The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management National Council will monitor and evaluate the implementation of the policy at the national level.
- 9.3 While monitoring the contribution of disaster risk reduction activities, the attention will be given to the saved assets, advantages and services provided by the physical infrastructure made for risk reduction and prevention and the changes observed on resilience capacity of the disaster-affected community.
- 9.4 All efforts related to the disaster risk reduction and management will be updated and published annually on “Nepal Disaster Report”.

10. Policy Revision

The policy will be revised as deemed necessary.

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