

Nepal

Safe and Healthy Environment Thematic Report

January - December 2018



School child club members in Dhading district, Nepal
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Abbreviations and Acronyms

CC	Climate Change
CCDRR	Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction
CDCC	Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Consortium
CP	Country Programme
CSS	Comprehensive School Safety
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
LAP	Local Annual Plan
LDCRP	Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan
LDMC	Local Disaster Management Committee
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NatCom	National Committee
NDRRMC	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Committee
PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
SMC	School Management Committee
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Executive Summary

Nepal is highly prone to natural hazards which are both geological and hydro-meteorological in nature. Based on the 2018 Inform Global Risk Index of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness, and the European Commission, Nepal is a country with a high risk¹ to humanitarian crises and disasters. Among others, earthquakes and floods are among the primary hazards faced by the country.

Nepal is highly prone to earthquakes as it lies in an area with high seismic activity arising from the interaction between the Indian and Eurasian plates. The 2015 Gorkha Earthquake killed approximately 9,000 people, 3,000 of them children, while over 22,000 people were injured. The calamity resulted in US\$ 7 billion in damages and losses. In 2017, the Terai monsoon floods were triggered by the country's worst rains in 60 years, displacing 1.68 million people and killing 161 people.²

2018 is the first year in the new programming cycle of UNICEF Nepal. The Country Programme 2018-2022 integrates disaster risk reduction and climate change into the all programme sectors of UNICEF (Education, Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene [WASH], Health, Child Protection and Social Protection). DRR and CC form part of Outcome 7 of the CP (Programme Effectiveness - The country programme is designed, implemented, coordinated and monitored effectively and efficiently to deliver sustainable results for children with quality, at scale and in a holistic manner), and contributes to Goal Area 4 (i.e. Every child lives in a safe and clean environment) of the global UNICEF Strategic Plan 2018-2021. UNICEF's work on disaster risk reduction contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on climate action and given the organization's focus on safe schools and resilient WASH services, to SDG 4 on quality education and SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation.

Strategic Context of 2018

In 2018, Nepal continued to make consistent progress in its transition from a unitary government to federalism, following the series of local and parliamentary elections that took place over the course of 2017. The government embarked on a process of reorganizing its ministries and offices and reviewed their mandates and functions as part of its overall decentralization agenda, which increasingly empowered provincial and local governments. The following key DRR legislation enacted in the latter part of 2017 served to influence and shape the DRR work of UNICEF in 2018:

- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Act 2074 (2017). In September 2017, the parliament of the Government of Nepal endorsed the new Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act which replaces the Natural Calamity Relief Act of 1982. The new legislation signals the country's paradigm shift from disaster response to risk reduction. Its salient features include the establishment of a National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) chaired by the Prime Minister at the federal level which

¹ Scale: very low, low, medium, high, very high

² Ministry of Home Affairs, 2017.

will serve as the highest policy-making body on matters related to disasters and risk reduction. The law provides for the establishment of Disaster Management Committees at the provincial, district and municipal/rural municipal levels.

- Local Government Operation Act 2074 (2017). In September 2017, the country's new local governance legislation was endorsed by parliament. This new legislation replaces the 1999 Local Self-Governance Act and will serve as the governing law for newly constituted local governments. Under Section three of the legislation, disaster management is identified as among the primary functions and duties of local governments.
- UNICEF is providing technical and financial support to the local governments to develop Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Action Plan, DRM training module, Standard Operating Procedure for Local Emergency Operation Centre (LEOC) and Disaster Management Fund Utilization guidelines. Continued support to and advocacy with the Ministry of Education led to the development of Comprehensive School Safety Minimum Package Implementation Guideline and its Communication and Dissemination Strategy. All these upstream policy works contributed to enhancing the capacity by ensuring proper policy and mechanism in place for the implementation of National DRR Policy and Strategic Action Plan 2015-2030, which is Nepal's roadmap for the country-level implementation for the Sendai Framework for DRR.

The enactment of the above-mentioned laws helped to facilitate the DRR work of UNICEF by ensuring that DRR remains as a government priority under the new federal structure. However, there is a need to ensure that federal-level legislation is rolled out at the provincial and local governments for implementation. As the provincial and local governments were newly constituted institutions, it was also important to build the knowledge and skills on DRR of government officials and staff at the subnational level.

Furthermore, while sound and adequate DRR legislation is currently in place at the federal level, there is a need for UNICEF to continue its advocacy for children to ensure that the DRR programmes of government are socially inclusive and implements risk reduction initiatives from a children's lens. Towards this end, in May 2018, UNICEF signed the renewal of its Memorandum of Understanding on the Child-Centred DRR and CC Consortium (CDCC), which is an inter-agency partnership between UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan International and World Vision. CDCC is a platform for UNICEF to work jointly with these child rights organizations in advocating child-centred DRR. Following the signing of the MOU, the CDCC members conducted community consultations among children in Nepal leading to the preparation of a report on children's DRR issues, needs and concerns that was subsequently presented at the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in Mongolia in July 2018, which is part of regional processes under the global Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030.

Results in the Outcome Area

As the flagship programme of UNICEF Nepal on DRR, the CCDRR Programme seeks to prevent the loss of life and mitigate adverse social impacts of hazards on vulnerable children, their families and communities in risk-prone areas through a child-centred and convergent approach that reduces vulnerabilities and builds local capacities for resilience, risk reduction, and response preparedness. UNICEF's unique insight to the field is its commitment to realizing these goals by seeing children as change agent with skills that can be leveraged to strengthen and prepare communities, rather than passive victims needing protection.

Over the years of its implementation, the key activities of the CCDRR Programme in both Phase I and II include: (i) conducting risk assessments, focusing on risks affecting children, in communities and schools; (ii) DRR/CCA training for children/students, teachers, local government officials and community leaders; (iii) provision of technical assistance to local governments in the development of local disaster and climate resilience plans (LDCRP); (iv) incorporation into the LDCRP of children's issues and needs identified during consultations with children; community and school-based emergency drills; (v) structural mitigation works; (vi) development of IEC materials for children; and (vii) conducting of DRR/CC awareness-raising campaigns led by child clubs and school safety clubs.

The child-centred approach of the CCDRR Programme upholds the principle that DRR is a multi-stakeholder undertaking that must be inclusive and participatory and is based on a recognition that children, as tomorrow's leaders, must be involved in today's community and governmental DRR efforts. The focus of such approach has been on ensuring meaningful children's participation for identification of disaster risk, prioritization and mitigation against those risks. Through the engagement of children in these processes, the CCDRR Programme considers that the community's resilience to disaster risk reduction will be stronger and more relevant to the community's needs.

In 2018, the following key achievements were made:

- Local Disaster Risk Management Plans were developed by 16 local governments.

UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the local government in Provinces No. 2, 3, 6 and 7 to develop multi-hazard vulnerability and risk assessment and risk management planning. Through this support, 16 local governments in eight districts³ developed their Local Disaster Risk Management Plan (LDRMP). The LDRMPs were endorsed by the Local Government and were integrated into the local government annual and periodic plans. Furthermore, the capacity building efforts and continuous advocacy contributed in allocation of budget (ranging from approx. US\$ 5,000 to US\$ 60,000) for DRR activities.

- Capacity of local elected representatives on DRR, CCA and environmental management was enhanced resulting in risk informed local government annual plan development

³ (Triveni in Bajura; Kamlbazar in Accham; Dasharadchand in Baitadi; Gajuri in Dhading; Kalinchouk in Dolakha; Tilathi Koiladi, Khadka and Bodebarsain in Saptari; Muphiyapatti Musarniya, Kamala and Mithila in Dhanusha; Bindabasini, Parsagadhi and Jagarnathpur in Parsa district)

UNICEF provided training to more than 1,600 Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Chief Administrative Officers, and Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC) members on DRR and CCA from about 40 municipalities across the country. Support was also extended to school-based DRR in 581 schools under 63 local governments. A total of 98,547 children (48 per cent girls) from school and communities child club and 5,467 teachers and School Management Committee members (42 per cent female) were capacitated on DRR and CCA. The trained children were involved in risk identification, prioritization and developing risk mitigation plan, which was integrated into municipalities' annual plan. A child-centred approach to DRR and CCA focusses on the importance of disaster and climate risk assessments that consider children's vulnerabilities and special needs.

Through its participation in various government-convened platforms, forums and working groups, UNICEF coordinated with key DRR institutions such as the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, and sectoral ministries, to provide ongoing technical advice on children's issues and to advocate to mainstream disaster risk reduction, disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation.

- Child-friendly and gender-sensitive toilets and resilient water supply facilities (including intake, reservoir tank and tap stand) completed in 12 schools
- WASH situation assessment is done in all 20 schools (10 in Dolakha district and 10 in Dhading district). Based on the assessment, it was found that majority of the schools (12 out of 20) do not have a child and gender friendly toilet. Thirteen schools did not have water facility and 15 schools did not have handwashing station. It was found that majority of the school children as well as teachers were not properly aware about the WASH related risk reduction and DRR resilient WASH infrastructures.
- To address the identified risks, the construction of resilient water supply facilities, including intake, reservoir tank and tap stand was completed in 13 schools. Likewise, construction of the child friendly handwashing station is constructed in 15 schools out of the 20 schools assessed. s. Similarly, 20 school management committees were oriented on the importance of having disaster resilient WASH infrastructure in schools. Twenty community people from the host community of 10 schools received 5 days plumbing skills training. Those 20-skilled people will be available for the regular and emergency operations and maintenance work required in future
- Gender-sensitive toilets constructed and 575 students, of whom 308 were girls, participated in hygiene promotion sessions in 12 schools in Dhading and Dolakha districts.

UNICEF constantly promotes the use of a gender lens in the provision of WASH facilities. Recognizing that boys and girls in schools have differing gender needs, UNICEF constructed child-friendly and gender-sensitive toilets (i.e. separate latrines for boys and

girls) in 12 schools. Furthermore, based on the results of the above-mentioned WASH situation assessment, it was also found that students had low awareness on the importance of proper water, sanitation and hygiene practices, especially in the context of disasters. Therefore, the CCDRR Programme conducted hygiene promotion sessions in two schools in Dhading and Dolakha, districts in which 575 students participated. Fifty-four percent of these participants, (i.e. 308) were girls.

- 106 School Management Committee (SMC) and Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) members, of whom 43 per cent were women, oriented on comprehensive school safety and disaster risk reduction

The Comprehensive School Safety (CSS) framework is being rolled out by the government to ensure the overall safety of schools in Nepal, including in the context of disasters. The CSS framework focuses on three pillars, as follows: 1) safe schools facilities; 2) school disaster management system; and 3) resilience education. UNICEF conducted orientation sessions on CSS and DRR targeting members of SMCs and PTA to support localization of CSS approach. The orientation sessions provided key education stakeholders with the needed knowledge and understanding of CSS that will serve as the foundation for specific risk reduction activities in their respective schools.

The CCDRR Programme is being evaluated through external evaluators, Ernst &Young. A draft inception report detailing tools and methodologies was submitted towards the end of 2018. The inception phase will be concluded in early 2019 and data collection in the field will commence soon after.

Results Assessment Framework

For this reporting period, UNICEF has contributed to the indicators under Outcome 7 on Programme Effectiveness (i.e. number of risk profiles developed and integrated into the local government's annual plan). A total of 2 risk profiles (i.e. VCA and LDCRP) were developed in 2018 for the target municipalities of the CCDRR Programme in Dhading and Dolakha districts, and were subsequently integrated into their respective local government annual plans, contributing to the overall target of the CP.

Financial Analysis

Table1: Planned Budget by Outcome area

Outcome Area: Programme Effectiveness (DRR and Emergency)
Nepal
Planned and Funded for the Nepal Country Programme in 2018 (in US Dollar)

Program Area	Funding Type	Planned Budget
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Output 7.3: DRR and Emergency	RR	250,000.00
	ORR	513,332.00
Total Budget		763,332.00

Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to outcome area received in 2018

Outcome Area: Programme Effectiveness (DRR and Emergency)

Nepal

Country-level thematic contributions to outcome area received in 2018 (in US Dollars)

Donors	Grant Number	Contribution Amount	Programmable Amount
Output 7.3: DRR and Emergency			
Netherlands Committee for UNICEF	SC1899070002	73,207.36	69,721.43
Total Budget		73,207.36	69,721.43

Table 3: Expenditure in the outcome area

Outcome Area: Programme effectiveness (DRR and Emergency)

Nepal

2018 Expenditures by the Programme Areas (in US Dollars)

Organizational Targets	Expenditure Amount			
	Other Resources-Emergency	Other Resources-Regular	Regular Resources	All Programme Accounts
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	596,093.00	257,614.00	569,558.00	1,423,265.00
Total	596,093.00	257,614.00	569,558.00	1,423,265.00

Table 4: Thematic Expenses by Program Area

Outcome Area: Programme effectiveness (DRR and Emergency)
Nepal
Thematic Expenses by Programme Areas (in US Dollars)

Programme Area	Expenses
Other Resources-Emergency	503,744.00
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	503,744.00
Other Resources-Regular	21,365.00
24-03 Disaster Risk Reduction	21,365.00
Total	525,109.00

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

Outcome Area: Programme effectiveness (DRR and Emergency)
Nepal
Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes (in US Dollars)

Specific Intervention Codes	Total utilized
24-03-01 Risk informed Programming for resilience (including policy and strategy development)	320,245.86
24-03-02 Disaster risk reduction (including linkage to climate change)	251,876.16
24-03-03 Risk assessment and analysis (including conflict, disaster, climate, epidemics)	104,998.10
24-03-04 Risk management and resilience/research/evaluation evidence generation, synthesis, and use	41,437.44
24-03-99 Technical assistance - Disaster risk reduction	326,131.93
24-04-02 Urban/local policy, planning and budgeting	266,525.58
24-04-05 Resilience and environmental sustainability in urban/local governance	16,588.83

26-01-03 Humanitarian planning and review activities (HRP, RRP, UNICEF HAC)	7,073.93
26-06-08 Emergency preparedness (cross-sectoral)	88,387.17
Grand Total	1,423,265.00

Table 6: Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2019

Outcome Area: DRR and Emergency

Nepal

Planned Budget and Available Resources for 2019 (in US Dollar)

Intermediate Result	Funding Type	Planned Budget	Planned Budget	Shortfall
IR 7.3 DRR and Emergency	RR	250,000.00	261,135.00	(11,135.00)
	ORR	531,549.00	78,679.00	452,870.00
Sub-total Regular Resources		250,000.00	261,135.00	(11,135.00)
Sub-total Other Resources - Regular		531,549.00	78,679.00	452,870.00
Total for 2019		781,549.00	339,814.00	441,735.00

Future Work Plan

These activities will be financed through UNICEF regular resources and donor contributions, including from National Committees. Resource mobilization efforts with NatComs and bilateral donors are currently underway.

Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Nepal wishes to express its gratitude to its donors for making it possible for children and communities in Nepal to pursue actions to increase their resilience in the context of disasters. UNICEF Nepal especially appreciates the flexibility of thematic support which has enabled the organization to effectively address the complex and often changing needs and issues in disaster-prone areas.

Annexes

A safer path to school

A UNICEF-supported training inspires a school in Dhading District to take effective steps to improve road safety in the area

Dhading, Nepal – The Adarsha Secondary School in Gajuri Municipality in Dhading District has grappled with the ever-looming threat of road accidents. The school is located just a few hundred metres from the busy highway between Kathmandu and Pokhara. This meant that most students had to walk along the narrow edges of the highway, and then cross it to get to the school. This was very dangerous, given the speed at which large vehicles generally travel this route.



A pedestrian walking on the side of the Prithvi Highway, where vehicular movement has been obstructed by a road accident. Given the speed at which vehicles travel, and the absence of proper zebra crossings and traffic police, accidents are common along this route.

Not too long ago, a female student was hit by a vehicle while making the crossing. She is still in hospital, recovering. A few years ago, students from a nearby college were involved in an accident in the same area, with one of them eventually succumbing to his injuries. The frequency of such incidents had led to a sense of deep despair and frustration in the community, including among the students and teachers at the school.

A catalyst for much-needed change came in the form of a UNICEF initiative designed to help schools like Adarsha find ways to reduce risks in their surroundings. Indeed, it was after participating in UNICEF's Child-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR) Programme that the school was able to come up with concrete measures to minimize the threat of road accidents.

To begin with, equipped with information from UNICEF, the newly-assigned focal teacher had led the preparation of a DRR plan for the school. Students and teachers worked together to assess various risks, including from natural hazards, as well as from the danger of road accidents. Once the problems had been identified, the team sought practical solutions.

One of these solutions was the establishment of a community-based school bus service to collect and drop students directly at the school. Another was to paint a zebra crossing on the road, and request traffic police to assign an officer to regulate the crossing.

Just these few measures have had a visible impact in a short time. The bus service, for one, has benefitted not just Adarsha, but several other schools along the highway that had been facing similar issues. Students now feel safer travelling back and forth from their classes, and parents have proven more willing to send even younger children to school, as evidenced by the recent boost in pre-primary and ECD enrolment rates.

The zebra crossing, meanwhile, has come as a real blessing for students who live within walking distance of the school, and who have to cross the highway several times. They are assisted in doing this by the police officer stationed here in the mornings and afternoons. The preventive efforts have saved the time it takes for students to get to class. Where it took them around five to 10 minutes to wait for a safe gap in traffic before, they are now able to cross right over.

In addition to this, in collaboration with the local traffic police, the school also recently held an orientation on road safety for students.

The success of the CCDRR Programme in improving road safety in the area has inspired the management and students at Adarsha to continue the good work. They are presently discussing the possibility of setting up footpaths along the highway for a better pedestrian experience. They also hope to initiate similar preventive work on other risks affecting the school, particularly that of landslides.



1. Donor feedback form

English

French