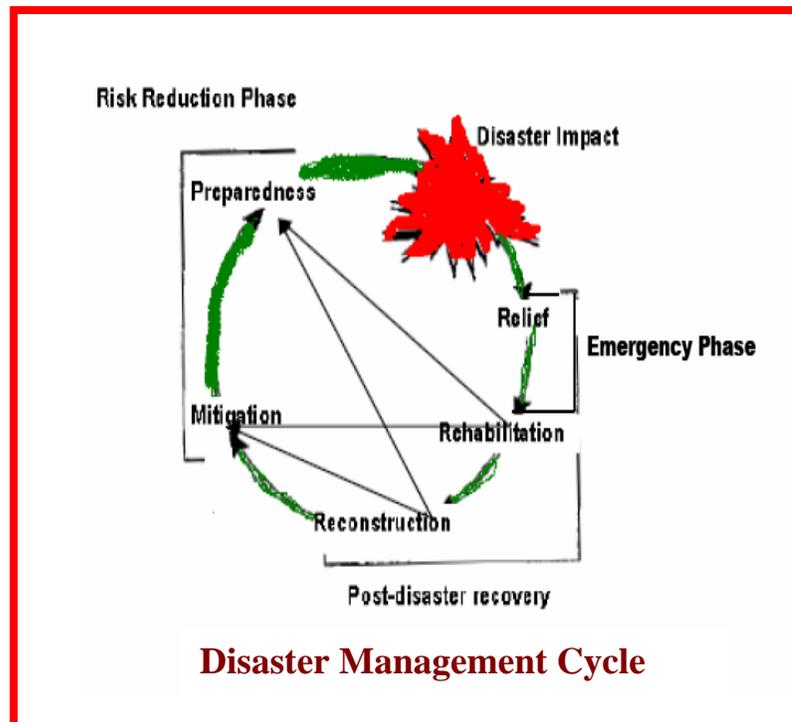


Nepal Red Cross Society Disaster Management Policy

(Approved by NRCS/CWC meeting no-213)



First revision-2008

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1. Introduction

Nepal is a disaster prone country due to its steep terrain, a rugged and fragile geomorphic condition, high peaks and slopes, volatile tectonic processes, variable climatic condition, very rural topography and other factors such as increasing population, poor economic condition, unplanned settlement, low literacy rate etc. Earthquake, floods, landslides, lightning, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), avalanche, epidemics often occur causing enormous physical damages and losses of human lives. Nepal is ranked 11th in terms of risk from earthquake and 30th in terms of flood risk according to global report on disaster risk as per 2003. All parts of the mountains are exposed to avalanche, landslide. Most parts of middle mountains and Terai are exposed to severe flooding. Most of the rivers in Terai suffer from soil erosion. Middle mountain is also exposed to debris flow.

Nepal Red Cross Society has actively been involved in providing relief services to the affected and sufferers (disaster affected population) of disasters since its establishment in 1963. Nepal's landscape is predominantly composed of hills and mountains, covering about 83% of the total area of the country. If disaster occurs in remote villages, because of geographic complexity, lack of transportation and communication facilities as well as insufficient resources, it becomes difficult to provide instant relief services from outside. Therefore, NRCS, has, therefore been continuously strengthening the disaster management capacity of its district chapters in all the 75 districts. It includes training, pre-positioning of non food items, local resource generation, and infrastructure development as well as establishing linkages with partners at different levels to maximize efforts to be prepared for and respond to disasters more effectively. NRCS has its' warehouse management committee in its regional and Zonal warehouses.. Similarly, it has a network of 27 warehouses (one central, four regional, two zonal and twenty one depots) in different strategic locations of the country.

Besides its continued engagement in providing relief services, NRCS started disaster preparedness activities with the establishment of network of warehouses in 1975. NRCS started community based disaster preparedness initiatives in 1997 and since then it has been implementing different community based disaster risk reduction programmes with different names with the main objective of enhancing the capacity of vulnerable communities to be prepared for, cope with and respond to disasters. Following the convention of South East Asian National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Beijing, China in 1993, NRCS revised its DM policy in 1997 and developed its' policy for community based disaster preparedness programme as well.

After World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction organized by the UN in 2005 in Kobe, Japan , there has been a lot of development in DM sector and particularly in disaster risk reduction with the introduction of Hyogo Framework of Action.(HFA). The

Government of Nepal is going to introduce the new Disaster Risk Management Strategy, Policy and Act.

Considering recent trends and developments in disaster management area, NRCS is revising its DM policy (1997) with careful consideration of its roles and responsibilities in the entire Disaster Management cycle. Due effort has been put to make its policy compatible with the global, regional and national policies, strategies, framework and other relevant actions.

2. Scope

The policy will consider all the components of the disaster management cycle. This policy defines the disaster response (emergency relief, post disaster recovery,), disaster risk reduction (Building safer communities, organization development, response preparedness as well as organizational and capacity building). For the refugees and internally displaced population, NRCS has a separate population movement policy.

3. Guiding principles

- NRCS will take in account the SPHERE standard to the best possible extent while planning and providing assistance.
- NRCS will coordinate with the Government, UN, Missions, I/NGOs, local agencies as well as Red Cross Movement partners to maximize the resources for disaster response and disaster risk reduction.
- NRCS will consider its' role as auxiliary to the government in humanitarian services and implement activities in close coordination with the Government. NRCS will play possible roles in the National and District level disaster management Committees.
- NRCS will implement all disaster management initiatives in accordance with the fundamental principles and code of conduct for the international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and NGOs in disaster relief.
- NRCS will appeal nationally and internationally to seek resources to implement needful initiatives for disaster response as well as disaster risk reduction in close coordination with its movement partners and other relevant stakeholders.
- NRCS may cover all affected area to the maximum possible extend based on the availability of resources, since it has functional present all over the country.
- NRCS will carefully consider the selection of safe and acceptable location as well as ensure adequate risk reduction (preparedness and mitigation) measures while implementing rehabilitation and reconstruction program under the recovery phase.
- NRCS will expand its' disaster management scope and coverage as per its' capacity and available resources for disaster response as well as disaster risk reduction.

4. Frame work for DM policy

4.1 Emergency Response Phase

4.1.a. Relief :-

- NRCS will include/deliver essential services and activities for immediate relief that are urgently needed during and after the disaster to assist affected people utilizing its standard assessment procedures. These services and activities include: First Aid, provision of drinking water and/or water purification liquids/tablets, garbage removal/management, sanitation, food/non-food distribution, health care including psychological support, restoration of family link and management of temporary shelter as well as camp management.
- NRCS will undertake/deliver relief services in accordance with the fundamental principles and code of conduct for the international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and NGOs in disaster relief.
- NRCS will continue its relief services until the acute threat to life and health has been abated.
- NRCS will carry out the rapid assessment mobilizing its' all level trained human resources.
- NRCS will collect resources at local and national level and in the event that these resources are inadequate to respond to the situation. It will also receive international support to meet the needs.
- NRCS will immediately mobilize its' emergency response fund as quick as possible.
- NRCS will play a proactive role to support authorities and partners for effective search and rescue operation.
- NRCS will operate its Emergency Operation Centre on a 24/7 basis during the large scale disasters or depending on the emergency situations.
- NRCS will mobilize its response teams and available logistic capacity including communication facilities in the event of any disaster/emergency.
- NRCS will function all over the country and will cover the affected area to the maximum possible extend based on the availability of resources.

4.2. Post disasters recovery phase

4.2.a. Rehabilitation and other recovery activities:-

- NRCS will also get involved into the rehabilitation program after disaster as per availability of resources.
- NRCS will implement recovery activities focusing on livelihood; organize community informal/formal network, psychosocial support, and restoration of family links as and when needed after disaster.
- NRCS will considers its' rehabilitation efforts to be a part of long term development plan of the government.

4.2.b. Reconstruction and other recovery activities:-

- NRCS will also get involved into the reconstruction program after disaster as per availability of resources.
- NRCS will involve in reconstruction of public building like school, communities building, and health post etc to restore life lines.
- NRCS will involve in distribution of complete or partial construction materials and supplies.
- If needs are immense, NRCS may involve to construct/reconstruct complete infrastructure of community building as well as individual houses.
- NRCS will consider its' reconstruction efforts to be a part of long term development plan of the government.

4.3 Risk reduction Phase

4.3.a. *Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction*

- NRCS will focus on risk reduction initiatives to mitigate the impacts of disasters primarily at a community level up to the best possible extent.
- NRCS will participate in local, national and international forum of Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives to learn and share.
- NRCS will make its Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives compatible with local needs, national policy as well as global framework.

- NRCS will integrate DRR components, as applicable, in its community based programmes.

4.3.b. Promotion of knowledge and best practices

- NRCS will involve or take lead to develop relevant curriculum, education and advocacy materials.
- NRCS will develop case studies, prepare success stories as well as best practices and explore possibilities for replication and promotion of risk reduction initiatives at different levels.
- NRCS will promote the concept of exchange visits, ideas, documents, volunteers and professionals and use appropriate forums nationally and internationally for dissemination.

4.3.c. Community based disaster risk reduction initiative

- NRCS, will focus on community based disaster risk reduction initiatives in possible extent,
- NRCS will facilitate to establish informal community structure/network.
- NRCS will facilitate to enhance community capacity to conduct VCA.
- NRCS will facilitate to develop community level Disaster Preparedness plan and encourage communities to update it.
- NRCS will conduct different social mobilization initiatives to sensitize communities on risks associated with different hazards, climate change adaptation, vulnerabilities etc..
- NRCS will facilitate and encourage communities to establish community level early warning system.
- NRCS will involve with communities and other partners for small scale structural and nonstructural mitigation as well as small scale development centered initiatives.
- NRCS will expand its initiatives to reduce the impact of disaster at community level as per context and needs.
- NRCS will facilitate to establish emergency disaster relief fund at community level.

- NRCS will design and conduct different training programs to enhance skills and knowledge of the community people.
- NRCS will engage and mobilize its all level networks to promote the cooperation and collaboration to ensure linkages at local level for sustainability.
- NRCS recognizes the lead role of the communities and its' facilitating role in community based initiatives.
- NRCS will explicitly plan to phase out its role/intervention from the communities in a certain period of time.

4.3. d. Organizational development and capacity building

- NRCS will continue to enhance capacity of its networks at different levels for effective response preparedness and minimize the impact of disasters.
- NRCS will continue to enhance skills and knowledge of volunteers as well as expand its' volunteer network.
- NRCS will continue to increase its financial resource capacity.
- NRCS will develop required contingency and response plan and update periodically.
- NRCS will continue to strengthen its Emergency Operation Centre (EoC) at HQ level and explore the possibility to establish similar centre at regional and district level.
- NRCS will continue to strengthen its' GIS capacity and facilitate to ensure access to quality data about vulnerability and risk.
- NRCS will continue to form a pool of trained human resources (disaster responders) at different levels.
- NRCS will continue to strengthen its DM resource centre at the Hqs and explore the possibility to establish at regional level as well.
- NRCS will do needful action to stock the relief materials at its different level warehouses and facilitate to stock minimum relief items and community level.
- NRCS will continue to strengthen its logistics capacity, emergency communication systems and management information system.

5. Target population

- People living in disaster prone areas.

- People affected by disasters.
- Refugees and internally displaced population