Nepal Red Cross Society

Risk Reduction Policies

2019

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Context

Nepal faces hydro-meteorological, geo-physical and biological disasters that impose serious risks to the people, their livelihood and infrastructures. In addition, changes in political, social, economic, cultural, technological and environmental elements may also contribute to increase risk levels.

Key National and International policy instruments provide an overarching framework to these policies. To this effect, the constitution of Nepal-2015 article 51, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (2017), Disaster Risk Reduction National Policy, and National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategic Action Plan (2018-2030) and other instruments such as local government operation act 2017, National Disaster Response Framework (2013) form major guiding documents. International commitments such as Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Federation strategy 2030 (Thematic Future S2030), A new urban agenda for 21st century (UNISDR,2015), The Paris Agreement on climate change adaptation (2015), and other appropriate policy instruments will also provide overarching guidance to these policies. The policies are well aligned with NRCS 7th development plan as well.

Strategic intent

NRCS considers that disaster, political, economic, socio-cultural, technological and environmental factors drive vulnerable individuals, families and communities towards higher risk levels. Therefore, these risks will be addressed through resilience building interventions, which would contribute to the sustainable development agenda goals (2015-2030) as well.

NRCS envisions that the communities have capacity and motivation to create resilience necessary for themselves. In this context, a "resilient community" is one that has built up its capacities and thereby reduced its vulnerability in relation to the threats or shocks it faces. As resilience increases, risk falls and level of threats (likelihood and magnitude) and vulnerability/ capacity determine risk levels(road map to resilience, IFRC,2016). In order to empower communities to move towards this direction, NRCS has set a mission to empower vulnerable people to effectively respond and adapt to crisis and disasters and to develop skills, capacities, behaviors and actions to deal with difficult situations. All these efforts of the NRCS will be guided by its seven fundamental principles.

Scope of policies

The risk reduction policy framework considers four key elements as minimum essentials for addressing risks: understanding risks, analyzing risks, taking actions for reducing risks and responding to the remaining risks (i.e. Disaster or emergency situation) if any. In this process, NRCS will work as an auxiliary to the government, at all levels, in times of disaster and emergency, which is its core mandate. In addition, it will engage in risk reductions initiatives as well.

These policies apply to all NRCS structures namely National Headquarters, provincial committees, district chapters, sub-chapters and Junior/Youth Red Cross. These policies will be provide a frame of reference to partners as well for developing projects/ programmes with the NRCS.

Guiding Principles

1) Acknowledge that communities are resourceful and their contribution counts significantly in sustaining resilience building efforts, both inherent and adaptive capacity[1], which eventually contribute to reduce their risks. Also, recognize indigenous knowledge, skills and practices in resilience building and complement them with scientific knowledge as well,
2) Strengthen a culture of safety and security, within the organization and in communities, necessary for a resilient society. In addition, promote safer access framework for increasing NRCS' access during disaster and emergency period,
3) In recognition to a complex nature of resilience building process, create conducive environment for a concerted effort of multiple stakeholders together with NRCS,
4) Comply with key international and Nepal government's policy frameworks for risk reduction and resilience building. While doing so, consider community-needs and delivery capacity of NRCS as well,
5) Promote norms and values of social inclusion with focus upon the most vulnerable groups and addressing wider issues around gender, poor, elderly, women, children and disabled people,
6) Comply with the government of Nepal's disaster risk reduction, emergency response and recovery policy frameworks and guidelines. Also contribute to major international policy commitments and adhere to the principles of gender and inclusion, Build-Back-Safer principles, Sphere Standards and safer access framework
7) Develop co-ordination, partnership and learning from experience as building blocks of NRCS capacity building approach

Policy statements

1) Prepare NRCS for reducing disaster risks at communities through resilience building and delivering effective emergency response and recovery operations aiming at reducing disaster mortality, number of affected people, economic loss, and disaster damage to critical infrastructures and disruption of basic services. Refer to resilient community framework of the government of Nepal, road to resilience framework of the Federation as well as other relevant guidelines in this process.
2) Refer to minimum and common approaches[2] for NRCS engagement on risk reduction/ resilience building efforts. While doing so, consider major risks associated with hydro-meteorological, geo-physical and biological disasters and social, economic, cultural, environmental and technological factors as well. Ensure that those at- risk- are given priority and they are engaged in designing and implementing targeted interventions,
3) Ensure that risk reduction efforts are underpinned by resilience building actions promoting risk governance, application of risk reduction policies and strategies, capacity building of communities, encouraging private sector participation and addressing emergencies through NRCS volunteers mobilization,
4) Work closely with municipalities, district co-ordination committees, provinces, police and armed forces   (following SoPs) and the Federal government on risk reduction/resilience building, emergency response and recovery actions. Through this mechanism, plan to strengthen NRCS's mandate as "auxiliary to the government" in emergencies,
5) Engage NRCS network in addressing urban risks through resilience building of real and virtual communities and systems, with special consideration to natural disasters, climate change, depletion of resources, rapid population movement and development in information technology,
6) Allocate at least 5% budget from emergency response to manage risk reduction or resilience building interventions. Invest on core areas of NRCS capacity building with emphasis upon supply-chain management, forecast-based financing, cash transfer mechanism, climate change adaptation, early warning system, protecting

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[1] *Here, the term inherent condition refers to existing capacity within the community and an adaptive capacity refers to additional capacity of acquired by the community to cope up with vulnerability caused by disaster or emergencies.*

[2] *Refer to NRCS Disaster Risk Reduction operational approach paper for definition of minimum and core approaches*

livelihood assets, restoring family links (RFL), engaging in civil-military relations, information management system and developing specialized tools and infrastructures for emergencies

7) Take pandemic preparedness, non-communicable diseases and health in emergencies as major health concerns. Align risk reduction strategies with these priority health priority areas,

8) Actively engage with communities in all aspects of disaster risk reductions with focus on developing understanding about risks, analyzing the risks, taking actions for reducing the risks and responding to the residual risks (i.e. emergency response and recovery). Take initiatives for strengthening preparedness, relief and recovery capacity of disaster affected communities.

9) Well maintain and make use of Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) or a similar mechanisms, led by volunteers, for disaster preparedness and response at all levels. In addition, establish, develop and mobilize emergency response tools for local, national and international emergencies as well,

10) Establish a data driven approach, with emphasis upon vulnerable communities, for identifying any district or specific areas for risk reduction interventions and disaster response. Make use of secondary data from the government, UN agencies, academic or professional institutes to support such decisions making process,

11) Define minimum role and standard approach of HQs, provincial committees, district chapters, sub-chapters and Junior/Youth Red Cross circles in organizational preparedness, response, recovery and risk reduction/ resilience building in consideration with their strategic positions and establish relevant capacity building plans at all levels,

12) In terms of partnership modality, refer to NRCS Disaster Risk Reduction operational approach paper. And, encourage partners to work together with NRCS, technically and financially, while implementing risk reduction and resilience building efforts,

13) Establish and manage endowment funds, including Princep disaster relief fund, in line with NRCS bi-laws and support other levels, including district chapters, for establishing and managing such funds following a NRCS-wide standard approach,

14) Ensure access, representation and meaningful participation of women, children, senior citizens, people with disabilities and the people from economically and socially marginalized communities in all steps and structure of the disaster risk reduction based on inclusive disaster risk management concept,

15) Ensure that organizational capacity building is considered as an under-pinning factor for all risk reduction and resilience building, emergency response and recovery actions of the NRCS

Implementation

1) Engage disaster management department for implementation of risk reduction and resilience building interventions. Support the department for developing a collaborative approach with other units/departments and partners as well.

2) Roll out risk reduction / resilience building efforts developing minimum capacity at all levels of the NRCS. This will include, but not limited to, development of strategies, operational plans, working procedures, implementation guidelines/ tools, necessary human resources, networking, advocacy actions, local resource mobilization and developing basic infrastructures.

Planning, Monitoring and Reporting

1) NRCS will adhere to Nepal Government's guiding frameworks on resilience building. Similarly, IFRC's outcomes of resilience building will also be referred to while developing key performance indicators of all interventions.

2) The existing Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting system (PMER) of the NRCS will be integrated with all risk reduction/ resilience building interventions as a standard practice.

Endorsement and amendments

These policies have come into effect from ………………….. (date) as endorsed by the ……th (CEC meeting number) Central Executive Committee meeting of the NRCS. This committee has right to make any change in these policies when deemed necessary.