

Press Release

4 Dec 2023

STRONG in DRM: Powering Up for Greater Disaster Resilience!

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is thrilled to announce a substantial boost to our ongoing project, '**Strengthening Ownership and Governance in Disaster Risk Management**'—**STRONG in DRM**. Implemented with the consortium lead Danish Red Cross and partners Mercy Corps, and the Finnish Red Cross, this project focuses on innovative, adaptive, and inclusive solutions in disaster risk management.

The development is marked by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations' decision to provide an additional 200,000 Euros as part of their Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP) for 2023. The project is currently working to strengthen the capacity of the government to meet the needs of disaster-affected populations by acting in anticipation of floods based on scientifically determined weather forecasts in four basins – Babai, Karnali, Doda and Mohana –reaching affected families in early action and response during floods.

The top-up will incorporate a new result area, the Crisis Modifier, facilitating the testing of the anticipatory action mechanism through cash transfers and potentially leveraging Nepal's social protection system. The project's implementation period has been extended until 30 November 2024. This extension aims to allow sufficient time to test the anticipatory action mechanism during the 2024 monsoon season in Nepal, utilising the funds from the newly introduced Crisis Modifier.

Sagar Shrestha, Director of Disaster Management Department at Nepal Red Cross Society, stated, "Fulfilling our auxiliary role to public authorities on humanitarian ground; being the largest humanitarian organization in Nepal, NRCS has a historical legacy together with institutional memories in disaster risk management areas. This organization has witnessed and experienced various dynamism in emergency programming. To address the growing gaps in the humanitarian ground, we need a diversification in our approaches and tools. Connecting science and digitalization in emergency preparedness and response, 'Anticipatory Action' is the contemporary version of our continuous response mechanism which helps to cope and anticipate possible adversity before the hand. To stay relevant and to cope with the changing face of adversity in the modern world, especially in a country like Nepal where the disaster is obvious; initiatives like anticipatory actions prove itself a core part of the holistic response mechanism of the national society. We extend our gratitude to the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations for their ongoing support in advancing

our Anticipatory Action initiatives. We remain committed to replicating and mobilizing our initiatives sustainably."

Nepal Red Cross Society along with the Danish Red Cross extends heartfelt thanks to European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations for their continued support and trust in our mission. We are excited to continue this extended journey, enhancing our efforts to mitigate disaster risks and build resilient communities in Nepal.

