INTRODUCTION

While Nepal was one of the first countries in South Asia to have created a policy and legal environment for disaster risk management in early 1980s, there has been a growing realization on the need to redefine the existing policies in order to accommodate the considerable advances in the field of disaster risk management globally, especially those from the lessons learned from recent disasters such as the Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004) and the South Asian Earthquake (2005). A recent study (UNDP/BCPR, 2004) ranked Nepal as the eleventh most at risk country to earthquakes and the thirteenth for flood risk. Another study (World Bank, 2005) classifies Nepal as a ‘hot-spot’ for geophysical and climatic hazards. Moreover, improvement in the national policy is required also to fulfill the commitments made by the Government of Nepal to the international community in the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Kobe, Japan in 2005 (WCDR 2005). The latter resulted in an international consensus on disaster reduction in the form of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2005-2015, which needs to be translated into the local context for achieving the stated goals of disaster reduction in the stipulated time frame. Hence, the Government of Nepal is preparing the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (NSDRM) based on the HFA in consultation with the relevant stakeholders across all levels. UNDP is supporting the Government of Nepal in this process with financial support from the European Commission through its Humanitarian Aid department.

APPROACH

The Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 (HFA) will be the beacon throughout the strategy formulation process. Reference to HFA is to be made not only because it recommends what every country should do for disaster reduction, but also because Government of Nepal had taken part in developing this framework and has made commitments to implement it. Hence, streamlining the National Strategy in line with the HFA is regarded as the most important approach to be adopted.

The strategy is to be based on the ground realities and identified needs of Nepal. It will try to capture the opportunities of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in Nepal in line with the current international understanding, scientific progress and regional initiatives.

The Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015 (HFA)

In January 2005, 168 Governments including Nepal adopted a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards at the UN World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan. The Hyogo Framework of Action is a global blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts during the next decade. Its goal is to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015 – in lives, and in the social, economic, and environmental assets of communities and countries. Therefore, the priorities of HFA are as follows:

- Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
- Reduce the underlying risk factors.
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

SCOPE OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

What is this National Strategy Expected To Be?

- It is expected to be - a gap analysis of all the phases of the Disaster Management cycle for Nepal.
- It is expected to be - a road map of where Nepal intends to be by 2015 (the deadline for the HFA and MDGs) in the DRM sector.
- It is expected to be - a set of recommendations for an indicative framework of institutional and legal mechanisms for Disaster Risk Management.
- It is expected to be - a sector-wise SWOT of identified key sectors with respect to DRM issues.
- It is expected to be - a guide for future action planning for DRM in any of the sectors by any government or non-government institutions.
- It is expected to be – like an ‘investor’s index’ for those intending to allocate funding to this sector in Nepal.

The proposed formulation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management is aimed not only at filling the gap, but more importantly, in assisting to trigger a process of change in both aspects of disaster risk management - disaster reduction, and emergency response planning.

What is this National Strategy NOT Expected To Be?

- It is not expected to be - a set of activities like in a national action plan that needs to be implemented by the government, at the international community or civil society.
- It is not expected to be - a report on what Nepal has done in this sector thus far.
- It is not expected to be - a draft of legislation on Disaster Risk Management.
- It is not expected to be - a voluminous assessment of the vulnerability that Nepal faces from multiple hazards.

The activities on the development of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management will be limited to the formulation of the strategies including the priority course of action. The Strategy will serve as basis for the subsequent development, implementation and monitoring of individual DRM programmes, general or sector-specific or hazard-specific, at all levels, from central to local. However formulation of individual programs or projects are beyond the scope of the strategy development process.

Sectoral Structure

Strategy development process will move through a series of sector-specific workshops, and subject it to wide discussion, review, critique, and incorporation of the emerging ideas and suggestions into the draft strategy. Each of the sectors will include an analysis of the issues in the pre and post disaster phases

a) Sector-specific strategies for the following key sectors would be prepared:

- Agriculture and Food Security
- Health
- Education
- Shelter, Infrastructure and Physical Planning
- Livelihood Protection
- Water and Sanitation
- Information, Communication, Coordination and Logistics
- Search & Rescue and Damage/Need Assessment

b) The above strategies will cover the following cross-cutting issues wherever relevant:

- Human Rights and Protection
- Gender and Social Inclusion
- Staff Safety and Security
- Decentralization and Local Self Governance
METHODOLOGY FOR THE STRATEGY FORMULATION

Involvement of Stakeholders
The following types of stakeholders will contribute to the formulation of the Strategy keeping the vulnerable communities as the end beneficiary:

- GoN Ministries
- Local Government
- Corporate Sector
- National and International Organizations, NGOs and CBOs
- External Development Partner (Donors)

What are the incentives of different stakeholders to be involved in this strategy development process?

GoN Institutions:
- It would help regulate effective service delivery including disaster response and mitigation, risk free infrastructure construction and other disaster reduction works in the country.
- It would give them a guide on the incorporation of disaster risk reduction in all their policies, legislation and priority programmes.

Local Government:
- It would help them in planning, programming and implementing towards mainstreaming of disaster risk management at local levels.
- It would encourage and guide DRM at the community level.

Corporate Sector:
- It would protect business losses that occur from the impact of natural hazards affecting Nepal.
- It would provide better avenues for corporate social responsibilities.
- Some specific sectors like tourism, insurance, agriculture, construction etc. would have greater opportunities due to higher awareness of risk reduction issues.

National and International Organizations, NGOs and CBOs:
- It would ensure that the development projects they implement are less threatened by the risk of natural hazards.
- They are able to mobilize greater resources in the DRM sector in Nepal within their areas of expertise.

External Development Partner (Donors):
- It will help protect the resources they commit towards the long term development of Nepal.
- It will provide a guide to those partners who may want to invest in the DRM sector in Nepal.

Main steps in the development of the National Strategy:
- Establishment of an inter-ministerial steering committee under the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, comprising 7 ministries, the National Planning Commission, 2 nationals, 1 bilateral and 1 multilateral organisations.
- Review of literature on international and national policies and guidelines on DRM.
- Identification of sectoral consultants

- Consultation with Technical Experts for developing an inception report
- Concept presentation to the members of the Central Natural Disaster Relief Committee (CNDRC), the apex body for disaster management in Nepal comprising 24 ministries/departments of GoN, the National Planning Commission and 2 national organisations.
- One day National workshop with participation from stakeholders across all levels.
- Sector wise workshops facilitated by technical experts
- Draft Sectoral Strategies
- Draft overall strategy
- One day sharing seminar
- Revise final draft strategy based on the inputs received
- Separate presentation of draft strategy to the donor community
- Separate presentation of draft strategy to CNDRC
- Ratification from CNDRC
- Strategy submission by MOHA to Cabinet for approval

WORK PLAN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception Report</td>
<td>Dec 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Workshop</td>
<td>Jan 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector-specific Workshops</td>
<td>Jan 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector-specific Strategy Completed</td>
<td>Feb 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Sharing Workshop</td>
<td>March 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Strategy Sharing</td>
<td>April 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Submission to CNDRC</td>
<td>April 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Submission by MOHA to Cabinet</td>
<td>April 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultant: National Society For Earthquake Technology-Nepal (NSET)
1133 Devkota Sadak, Mahadevsthan, Baneshwor
Kathmandu, Nepal
Telephone: (977-1) 4486444
Fax: (977-1) 4490 943
E-mail: nset@nset.org.np
URL: www.nset.org.np

FINAL OUTCOME

The following are the expected outcome of the project:

Tangible Outcome:
- National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management of Nepal including specific strategic priorities for various key development sectors.

Intangible Outcome:
- Wide engagement and participation of stakeholders in the strategy development process resulting in greater ownership of the process and the outcome.
- Ownership of DRM process by stakeholders of different sectors.