



Flash Flood Risk Reduction Strengthening capacity in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas

Training for Trainers Workshop on Integrated approach to flash flood and flood management

25 October 2 to November , 2010

Kathmandu, NEPAL

INTRODUCTION

The Himalayas, one of the youngest mountain ranges on earth is characterized by high relief, steep slopes, complex geological structures with active tectonic processes and continued seismic activities. Furthermore, the region has a climate system with great seasonality in rainfall. In combination, they make natural hazards, especially water induced disasters a common phenomenon in the region

Floods are amongst the most common forms of natural hazards in the region. Flash floods are the most damaging type of floods. People have paid less attention to flash floods due to poor knowledge of their causes of occurrence and mitigation measures as they often take place in remote mountain areas. Flash floods have short lag time and are therefore difficult to forecast compared to other types of floods. Community preparedness and awareness is a key mitigation measure for flash floods but has not been taken up in the region. The population in the Himalayas has become more vulnerable due to increasing exposure to flash floods in mountain regions related to climate change and rapidly shrinking glaciers. Vulnerability of the mountain people is a function of geographic location, livelihood and social arrangement which is partly driven by processes of uncertainty of climate and lack of access to services such as information, knowledge and technology.

Flash flood disaster risk is likely to increase due to expansion of glacier lakes and increase in high intensity precipitation events as a result of climate change on the one hand and increasing exposure to such disaster associated with rapid population growth and infrastructure development on the other hand. Moreover, the capacity of key stakeholders to manage the risk is rather weak. The workshop therefore aims to train Trainers to promote the concept of flood and flash flood management and flood risk reduction to key stakeholders in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region.

Flash Flood related initiatives of ICIMOD: In the past few years, ICIMOD has some initiatives towards reducing the vulnerability to flash floods in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region. To identify the nature of the problem and potential flash flood management measures, ICIMOD in collaboration with China Meteorological Administration (CMA) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and with the supports from Government of Norway and USAID office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), organized the Integrated “International workshop on flash flood and sustainable development in the Himalayas” in Lhasa People’s republic of China, from October 22 to 29, 2005. As a direct outcome of the workshop, since 2006, ICIMOD with the support from USAID/OFDA has been conducting activities targeted towards capacity building in the flash flood management.

“Phase I” was completed in 2006. The main activities of the project were to assess the baseline scenario on flash floods risk management, as well as the preparation of a comprehensive training manual on flash flood risk management in the region. The baseline assessment has provided

a comprehensive picture of the extent of flash flood hazards in the region and the existing policy, strategy, plans and institutional mechanism to manage it. The on-going project “Management of Flash Floods – Capacity building and awareness raising in the Hindu Kush-Himalayas” hereafter referred to as “Phase II” is also supported by the United States Agency for International Aid’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID-OFDA). The main activities of the ‘Phase II’ is to assess risk, raise awareness through social mapping and group discussion, test of training modules through training and prepare structural modules for flash flood disaster risk reduction. The training manual so far developed includes both technical tools as well as social tools for flash food management. Phase I had three pilot sites in the region as case studies for preparing the manual. Those pilot sites were used for testing and perfecting the capacity building modules. **Phase III** of the current project will supplement the activities of Phase I and II with wider application of capacity building modules through training and better understanding of the risk and measures for disaster risk reduction in an integrated approach.

The training workshop is being co-organized with WMO as WMO implements the Associated Programme on Flood Management, as part of a collaborative capacity building programme “Integrated Flood Management for Sustainable Development” for flood-prone countries, river basins and communities, with the aim of promoting knowledge and actions on integrated flood management to contribute to a minimization of losses of life from flooding and to an efficient use of flood plain resources. This programme is implemented since 2001 with funding including from the governments of Japan and Switzerland

Workshop Objectives:

The main objective of the training workshop is to train Trainers and to build their capacities in providing training at national and community level and act as a resource person in Integrated Flash Flood and Flood Management, including Risk Management and adaptation options.

Course Description:

The nine-day course is designed to improve the capacity of trainers and to familiarize them better with the concept of flash flood risk management including integrated flood management and to prepare them to identify possible paths of action towards implementation of the concept in their own field of work. The course will also provide them in-depth knowledge on the assessment of flash flood hazards, vulnerabilities and risk and structural and non-structural measures for the mitigation and adaptation together with social, environmental, legal, institutional and modelling dimensions of flash flood and floods.

Course goals and Learning objectives:

- Provide the participants (trainers) with better understanding of flash floods and floods – types, causes, frequency and magnitude
- Improve the understanding of flash flood hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment methods (technical and social methods)
- To equip trainers the full range of flood management measures (structural and non-structural measures) and risk management measure for specific types of flash floods
- Provide knowledge so that the participants are able to understand the rationale for applying an Integrated Approach to flash flood and Flood Management (IFFM)

- To equip trainers with an analytical framework to allow them to analyze the various dimensions of flash flood management and to identify the multidisciplinary input requirements for IFFM.
- To provide trainers with a balanced outlook on floods including flash floods, flood plains and the development process, and the role they play in the overall framework of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

- To equip trainers with knowledge about available tools and methodologies to improve their flash flood and flood management practices in their home institution and on a national level, where applicable.
- To provide a sufficient basis for future self-study on the issue and for an exchange network with other participants
- To provide necessary tools and materials so that the trainers can replicate the training in their respective work areas.

DATES AND VENUE:

The workshop will be held in International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development ICIMOD Kathmandu, Nepal from 25 October to 2 November 2010

PARTICIPANTS

Participation for the training workshop will be mainly by invitation targeting to governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, community based organizations, universities, especially targeted to flood and flash flood managers (including hydrologists and meteorologists). Participants joining this training should have prior knowledge and involvement in conducting training in the respective field. Having working experience or at least a general understanding about flood and flash causes, impacts and management aspects in their respective countries would be an asset. However other professionals are encouraged to contact the workshop coordinator with proposals.

A total of 30 participants are expected for the Training for Trainers workshop. Participants should have good communication skills in English to share knowledge and act themselves as trainers for training workshops.

LANGUAGE

The workshop will be held in English language.

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