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**Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE)**  
**Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)**  
**Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project (CFGORRP)**  
**Field Visit Report**

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**Team Members:**

Ms. Anita Adhikari, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (MEO)

**Overall objective of the field visit/ mission:**

The overall objective of this visit was to monitor the field level interventions of CFGORRP/DHM i.e. strengthening of evacuation centres and equipment support in vulnerable settlements, and take part in the mock drill events and interact with taskforce members and communities.

The visit was undertaken from 26 August- 05 September, 2016.

**1. Key Activities Carried Out During the Field Visit/ Mission:**

The details of the key activities carried out during the field visit are described in the table below.

Date/ Day	Districts/VDCs visited	Persons/ Groups interacted with	Description of Field visit Program/Activities
<b>Day 1:</b> <b>August 26,</b> <b>2016</b>	Kathmandu-Lukla-Ghat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel to Lukla from Kathmandu – by air and arrived Lukla at 7:30 am</li> <li>• Arrived at Ghat around 11:00 am by trekking.</li> </ul>
	Ghat	Meeting with Taskforce chairman Mr. Chewang Nuru Sherpa	Discussed with Ms. Husna Banu Sheikh, Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist (GSIS) and Ms. Menuka Acharya, Admin Finance Associate (AFA) about the mock drill events. Observed the Evacuation center at Ghat located in Pemacholing Primary School. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The toilets have been locked so could not see it from inside. However, toilets looked fine from outside.</li> <li>• The water taps for drinking water supply are in good condition and looks to be in use.</li> <li>• Team could not meet the management as school has been closed on second half at Friday.</li> </ul> Observed hoarding board installed at trekking route in Ghat, which is in a good condition. People reported that tourists stop over to read the messages from the board. Team held a meeting with Taskforce Chairperson, Mr. Chewang Nuru Sherpa. It is found the last meeting of taskforce was held on 2072/12/22. Since then, the taskforce has not met. The major issue raised by the chairperson is that the project did not consider the community demand to install gabion wall in the Dudhkoshi River. The river cutting has increased the vulnerability in the settlement. GSIS, tried to convince that the project made necessary coordination with the district level line agencies at Salleri to get work done. However, it could not be made.
	Night Stay in Ghat		
<b>Day 2:</b> <b>August 27,</b> <b>2016</b>	Mock Drill Event in Ghat		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mock Drill event at Ghat was observed.</li> <li>• Queries about the project and Imja Lake lowering works raised by the community people have been addressed by the CFGORRP/DHM team. The team from Sagarmatha National Park comprising of Ranger, Account Officer and Game Scouts have attended the mock drill event.</li> <li>• The FA, LSAR and CBEWS equipment has been checked and found to be kept safely.</li> </ul>

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	Travel to Phakding and night stay at Phakding		Team (GSIS, AFA & MEO) travelled to Phakding. On the way to Phakding, team observed the hoarding board and found that it has been damaged.
<b>Day 3: August 28, 2016</b>	Visit to Evacuation center at Phakding – Open Place	Participants of Mock Drill events	<p>Team (MEO &amp; AFA) visited the Evacuation Center located at open place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two toilets and one drinking water tap have been observed. However, the toilets were locked and could not be seen from inside. The water tap and toilets are found in a good condition.</li> <li>When discussed with the community people, they are happy to have the sanitation and drinking water facilities in the open space at hillside. The open space was used by community people many times during emergencies such as earthquake.</li> </ul>
	Phakding- Mock Drill	Participants of Mock Drill events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A mock drill event at Phakding was observed.</li> <li>Queries made by communities about ongoing lake lowering construction works by Nepal Army and automated early warning systems were responded by the project team.</li> <li>The mock exercise at Phakding was best as the team played their respective roles actively. Coordinators were aware about their roles. They contacted the line agencies at VDC and district for rescue of victims during the exercise.</li> <li>During the discussion session, community realized that there is a need of emergency fund to update and replace the First Aid (FA) and Light Search &amp; Rescue (LSAR) equipment. They are committed to establish the emergency fund as a part of disaster risk reduction preparedness.</li> </ul>
	Night stay in Phakding		
<b>Day 4: May 29, 2016</b>	Travel to Tok Tok		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team (GSIS, AFA &amp; MEO) travelled to Tok Tok from Phakding.</li> <li>Team observed the hoarding board in the trekking route. Locals reported that the tourists and guides also stop by and read the messages from the board.</li> </ul>
	Evacuation center at Pemacholing Ghumba, Tok Tok	Monks at Ghumba Mr. Nuru Jangbu	Team (AFA and MEO) visited Pemacholing Ghumba, an evacuation center for Tok Tok, to monitor the drinking water system strengthened by the project. When team asked with monks about the water scheme strengthened by project, they answered that they are unaware of any support from the

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		Sherpa, Taskforce Coordinator- Tok Tok	<p>project.</p> <p>The team then held a meeting with monks and Mr. Nuru Jangbu Sherpa, Taskforce coordinator to discuss on the drinking water scheme. Coordinator briefed that financial support of NRs. 3,00,000 was made available by the project to strengthen evacuation center for Tok Tok. Then community realized that they need two evacuation centers as the people from settlement in other side of river will not be able to travel to Pemalcholing Ghumba in the time of emergency. Thus, the financial support was divided among two settlements in Tok Tok, to strengthen the evacuation centers at two locations. Hence, the locals from other settlement identified open space in Ngambuten, Tok Tok-5 as evacuation center. Hence, the financial support for both settlements were invested to strengthen the drinking water schemes at evacuation centers. Coordinator informed that the support amount of Nrs. 1,50,000 has been invested to construct the reservoir tank and plastic pipes in the water source. The water is now being used by the households in the settlement. However the team could not visit the water source to monitor the reservoir and pipes.</p>
	Tok Tok	Mock Drill event	<p>Observed the mock drill event in Tok Tok. More than 60 people participated in the event actively. In discussion session after exercise, community people realized the importance of preparedness at community level for risk reduction.</p> <p>Team also monitored the FA &amp; LSAR equipment provided by project to the taskforce.</p>
	Evacuation center at Ngambuten, Tok Tok-5	Mr. Milan Rai, Taskforce member	<p>Observed the evacuation center at open place in Ngambuten, Tok Tok -5. Private land has been planned to use as evacuation center. No paper agreement has been made to use the land as an evacuation center. However, the owner is ready to provide his land as an evacuation center in case of any disaster.</p> <p>Water reservoir has been built by investing the financial support from the project i.e. NRs. 1,50,000 and community contribution. Mr. Milan Rai, local resident informed that 49 families contributed NRs. 2,45,000 (NRs. 5000 each family) for the construction, as the water reservoir was assumed to provide access to drinking water for 49 households. Community people also provided labor contribution for</p>

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			<p>about five days to construct the reservoir.</p> <p><b>Current Status:</b> Due to the landslide at the water source, the source has been damaged. Hence, the water reservoir is not in use these days. Plastic pipes have been reused by users to fetch water from another source to meet their water demand. However, Mr. Milan informed that they are looking for resource leveraging from other organizations, so that they could fetch the water from other source located at distant. Then, they will re-use the reservoir tank to collect water from another source.</p> <p>For evacuation center, plastic pipe will be used to supply water from the reservoir and drinking water will be made available to the community people in time of emergencies.</p> <p>He informed that local people are coordinating with Buffer Zone Management Committee for resource leveraging.</p>
Day 5: May 30, 2016	Evacuation Center at Benkar	Local people	<p>Travel to Benkar and Night Stay in Benkar</p> <p>Team (GSIS, AFO and MEO) travelled from Tok Tok to Benkar.</p> <p>Team (AFO &amp; MEO) visited the evacuation center at open space in Benkar and observed the toilet constructed in support of project. For the drinking water, community people have brought the plastic water tank (about 300 ltr) with attached tap and pipes. They informed that the pipe will be used to fetch the water from nearby source and water tank will be used to collect water during emergency. It is found that the pipes and water tank have been kept safely at the individual house nearby the evacuation center. People opined that if the pipes and tank are kept in the open space, it will be unsafe and worn out soon.</p> <p>For the evacuation center at Benkar, the project supported a total of NRs. 1,50,000 and other half of the support i.e. NRs. 1,50,000 was used to strengthen the evacuation center at Chumao.</p> <p>Team felt that the amount 1.5 Lakh has been well utilized by the taskforce in Benkar for strengthening the drinking water and toilet facilities.</p>

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	Mock Drill event at Benkar		Observed the mock drill event in Benkar. The Local Resource Person Ms. Pasang Rai actively took part in the event and enhanced her skills and knowledge.
		Mr. Dawa Chiring Sherpa Mr. Lakpa Nuru Sherpa Mr. Gange Karki	During interaction after the mock drill event, community people informed that they have rescued two dead bodies from rivers by using the LSAR equipment. In one case, they assisted Nepal Army and used the equipment. Both the victims were porters who had slipped off the route, fell down and died. They thanked CFGORP/DHM for the training and equipment support, from which they were able to rescue two dead bodies. People also shared that there were only one stretcher in the Monjo. People from four villages Monjo, Jorsalle, Chaumao and Benker used to have only stretcher then. Sometimes, it was difficult to get the stretcher during emergencies. Now with support from project and other organizations, they have four stretchers alone at Benkar.
	Field verification of Equipment		Observed the FA, LSAR and CBEWS equipment kept in the house of Mr. Dawa Chiring Sherpa, a local inhabitant and taskforce member. The equipment are stored safely. Locals informed that they made a system of rotating the responsibility for storing equipment among taskforce members. Hence, one will store and take care of equipment for a year and handover it to other member in a rotational manner. This will help to build community ownership for the equipment, they opined.
	Evacuation Center at Chumao		Team (AFA & MEO) along with the local inhabitants observed the evacuation center in open space at Chumao. Toilet and drinking water scheme with water tank have been managed with the support of NRs. 1,50,000 which are in good condition. Team also reviewed the minutes of Taskforce meeting at Chumao and found that issues such as equipment management and fund mobilization for evacuation center were well discussed and decisions were fairly made.
	Evacuation Center at Monjo		Team (GSIS, AFA and MEO) visited the School/Gumba at Monjo and monitored two toilets and drinking water facility strengthened by the project. As team reached the area during evening, team could not meet the people at Ghumba for other details.

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	Travel to Jorsalle & Night Stay at Jorsalle		Team travelled to Jorsalle and observed the hoarding board on the way, which is in good condition.
<b>Day 6: August 31, 2016</b>	Field verification of Equipment		Team (AFA & MEO) visited the house of local to verify the FA, LSAR and CBEWS equipment, where the equipment have been stored safely.
	Mock Drill event at Benkar		Observed the mock drill event in Jorsalle. The best part of event is that three army men from Monjo Sagarmatha National Park, Check point also participated in the event.
	Travel to Namche & Night Stay at Namche		Team (AFA & MEO) travelled to Namche & stayed at Namche.
<b>Day 7: September 01, 2016</b>	Sagarmatha National Park Office, Namche	Ms. Roshani Karki, Admin Officer-Acting Warden; Mr. Jayaram Neupane, Ranger; Account Officer & Game scouts	Team (AFA & MEO) visited the Sagarmatha National Park Office at Namche and met the SNP staff. Team briefed about the ongoing Mock Drill events at high risk settlements along Imja Dudh Koshi River Corridor and its objectives. Discussion about the ongoing Imja Lake lowering construction works was also made.
	Travel to Phakding and Night Stay in Phakding		Team (AFO & MEO) travelled back to Phakding from Namche and stayed at Phakding.
<b>Day 8: September 02, 2016</b>	Travel to Lukla and Night Stay at Lukla		Team (AFO & MEO) travelled to Lukla and stayed at Lukla.
<b>Day 9: September 03, 2016</b>	Lukla		Due to bad weather, flights were cancelled for the day. Hence, the team (GSIS, AFA & MEO) stayed at Lukla and waited for the weather to improve.
<b>Day 10: September 04, 2016</b>	Lukla		Bad weather continued and flights were cancelled for the day. Hence, the team (GSIS, AFA & MEO) stayed at Lukla and waited for the weather to improve.

Date/ Day	Districts/VDCs visited	Persons/ Groups interacted with	Description of Field visit Program/Activities
Day 11: September 05, 2016	Kathmandu		Team (GSIS, AFA & MEO) returned back to Kathmandu by air.



**2. Recommendations and conclusions:**

- Evacuation centers at Ghat, Phakding, Chumao, Benkar and Monjo are best among all. Structures built are in good condition. However, the centers at Tok Tok are quite unsatisfactory to see when you have centers at Chumao and Benker with drinking water and toilet facilities built with the financial support of NRs. 1,50,000 for each. The reservoir in evacuation center at Ngambuten, Tok Tok-5 is not in use.
- FA, LSAR & CBEWS equipment are kept safely by the community people and are being used as needed. The FA materials needs to be replaced on a regular basis. Team has discussed with locals and Taskforce members about the need of emergency fund for this. Active communities like in Phakding are ready to establish the emergency fund soon.
- Hoarding boards in some places were found to be damaged. Project plans to replace them soon.
- Mock drill events were organized successfully with active participation of community people. They realized the importance of preparedness for disaster risk reduction. The draft Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for mobilization of Taskforces during any GLOF and other disaster has been tested during the exercises. Feedbacks from the participants have been collected. The SOP will be finalized, published and distributed among the LRPs and Taskforces in the communities.

**3. Outputs from the Field Visit/ Mission:**

- First monitoring visit to the project areas under component I has been made. Interactions with the communities made. Updated the information of Evacuation centers and list of equipment.

**4. Likely Follow-ups that might be necessary after the visit (What Next?):**

- Drinking water schemes at both centers in Tok Tok needs to be monitored.

**5. Major changes, if any, since the last Field Visit:**

- NA