

# Management response to the Midterm Review of Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project (CFGORRP)/Department Of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)<sup>1</sup>

Project Title: **Community Based Flood and Glacial Lake Outburst Risk Reduction Project (CFGORRP)/Department Of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM)**

UNDP Project ID (PIMS) #: **4657**

GEF Project ID (PMIS) #: **4551**

Midterm Review Mission Completion Date: **7<sup>th</sup> May, 2016**

Date of Issue of Management Response: **1<sup>st</sup> August, 2016**

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Cleared by: *The Commissioning Unit, UNDP-GEF RTA, Project Board*

## Context, background and findings

MTR was initially planned to carry out during September, 2015. Since, there was no significant work progress to showcase under component I, including the prolonged political disturbance in Terai from September 2015 until February 2016, MTR was re-scheduled for April 2016 in consultation with GON, UNDP and GEF.

The Mid Term Review of the CFGORRP/DHM has been during 6-26 April 2016. The team submitted the draft MTR report on 7<sup>th</sup> May and finalized the report during May, 2016 after review and inputs from UNDP and project team.

The MTR concluded that Project is on track and has been rated as 'Satisfactory'. The findings revealed that the project has achieved significant results despite of constraints faced and prescribes to focus more on sustainability aspects of the interventions. The MTR made nine recommendations, all concerned about the sustainability aspects of the project.

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<sup>1</sup> This template is in alignment with the [Management Response Template](#) for UNDP project-level evaluations in the Evaluation Resource Centre.

## Recommendations and management response

| <b>Midterm Review recommendation 1.</b> The project team should prepare a concise Monitoring and Contingency Plan for Imja construction period that specifies roles and responsibilities, technical checklist, reporting procedures, and the steps to be taken in the event of stop work orders, design revisions or unexpected hydrological or geological conditions.   |                        |                     |  |                         |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Management response:</b> Relevant and Accepted.   |                        |                     |  |                         |
| Key action(s)  | Time frame             | Responsible unit(s) | Tracking <sup>2</sup>  |                         |
|  |                        |                     | Comments   | Status <sup>3</sup>     |
| 1.1 Senior Technical Advisor (STA) of CFGORRP/DHM and International Consultant (IC) have teamed up to monitor and provide technical oversight of the works undertaken by Nepal Army. Contingency plan if any resulting due to field condition while undertaking construction work will be proposed in consultation with IC and TAG members. IC is responsible for providing technical guidance and quality assurance of the works undertaken. For this two site-visits for ongoing work has been planned, one such visit has been completed and report is being expected soon. | May 2016-October, 2017 | STA, PMU/DHM & UNDP | STA completed two visits to the Imja Lake Lowering site for monitoring and supervision of ongoing construction works.<br><br>IC undertook one field visit to Imja Lake lowering construction site during June. Next Visit is planned for last week of September, 2016. | On going                |
| 1.2 Imja Lake lowering monitoring protocols will be developed during the fourth quarter which will become a guiding document for long term monitoring for Imja Lake.   | Fourth Quarter, 2016   | CFGORRP/DHM         |  | Not Started Yet         |
| 1.3 Imja Lake lowering booklet / handbook a flagship knowledge product will be developed in fourth quarter which will be a marketing tool for DHM & UNDP.  | Fourth Quarter, 2016   | CFGORRP/DHM         | Initial work on Imja Lake lowering booklet/handbook has been initiated.  | Preliminary works begun |

<sup>2</sup> If the MTR is uploaded to the ERC, the status of implementation is tracked electronically in the Evaluation Resource Centre database (ERC).

<sup>3</sup> Status of Implementation: Completed, Partially Completed, Pending.

**Midterm Review recommendation 2.** The project should assist GLOF Risk Management and Coordination Committee, through SNP and BZMC, to institutionalize the project interventions, including clarifying and documenting the responsibilities of the DHM, SNP, BZMC and GLOF Risk Monitoring Committee in the operation and security of EWS communication systems, evacuation centers and related equipment, and public/visitor communications in the Imja Lake impact zone.

**Management response:** Relevant and Accepted.

| Key action(s)  | Time frame           | Responsible unit(s) | Tracking   |                 |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------|
|  |                      |                     | Comments   | Status          |
| 2.1 CFGORRP/DHM will coordinate with SNP/BZ through Department of National Park and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) towards operationalization of the automated EWS and CBEWS.                                     | Third Quarter, 2016  | CFGORRP/DHM         | A high level meeting with SNP stakeholders was held in SNP, Namche on May 22, 2016.<br><br>Coordination is underway with SNP, for implementation of activities in the Khumbu region. | Ongoing         |
| 2.2 DHM will also mobilize its field based staff stationed at Dingboche and Pangboche for regular operation and maintenance of the Imja Lake infrastructure.   | October 2017 Onwards | MoPE/DHM            |  | Not Started Yet |
| 2.3 DHM will allocate resources from regular budget for the sustenance and maintenance of the systems after the tenure of the project, as the hydro-met data are being provided to general public for wider use. | October 2017 Onwards | MoPE/DHM            |  | Not Started Yet |

**Midterm Review recommendation 3.** The Early Warning System in the Imja Lake impact zone should be fully tested and integrated into the community risk management training and awareness-raising components of the project, so that local residents are completely familiar with the EWS procedures, as confirmed by household survey.

**Management response:** Relevant and Accepted.

| Key action(s)   | Time frame             | Responsible unit(s) | Tracking |                 |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
|   |                        |                     | Comments | Status          |
| 3.1 The automated early warning systems are being integrated with CBEWS through reliable communication system mainly through VHF radio modems and sirens warnings generated by Iridium communications. Procedures on integration of AEWs and CBEWS and its functionality will be delivered to the local communities during the mock drill exercise planned in third quarter. This will be second such mock-drill event which is a part of the capacity building trainings planned for Taskforces, Local Resource Persons including vulnerable communities. A SOP of CBEWS has been developed for dissemination. | August-September, 2016 | CFGORRP/DHM         |          | Not Started Yet |

**Midterm Review recommendation 4.** The project should prepare an operations and maintenance plan for the Imja Lake EWS and identify budgeting requirements and implementation processes.

**Management response:** Relevant and Accepted.

| Key action(s)  | Time frame           | Responsible unit(s) | Tracking |                 |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
|  |                      |                     | Comments | Status          |
| 4.1 CFGORRP/DHM will prepare an exit strategy and finalize by the end of 2016. Based on the exit plan, project will come up with an operation and maintenance plan including budgetary requirement for its operationalization. | Fourth Quarter, 2016 | CFGORRP/DHM         |          | Not Started Yet |
| Based on the plan DHM will explore possibilities for leveraging funds for operationalization of Early Warning System (EWS) from downstream   | 2017 onwards         | MoPE/DHM            |          | Not Started Yet |

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| hydropower stakeholders. Such initiatives has already started in Bhote Koshi, Upper Tamakoshi hydropower project. |  |  |  |  |
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**Midterm Review recommendation 5.** The bioengineering aspects of the project embankments (6.5 km target) including green belts should be assessed in terms of plantation diversity and survival rates, natural regeneration, stabilization effectiveness and livelihood opportunities, with recommendations on best practices that can be adopted by government programmes.

**Management response:** Relevant and Accepted.

| Key action(s)   | Time frame          | Responsible unit(s)                            | Tracking |  |
|---|---------------------|--|----------|--|
|   |                     |  | Comments | Status   |
| 5.1 With due priority CFGORRP/DHM has already put in place bio-engineering works in the third quarter to ensure high survival rates through selection of native species to promote diversity and to maximize local use. Regular monitoring of bioengineering works will be undertaken in collaboration with CDMC/VDMCs through the involvement of a caretaker at the community level to promote greenery and wise use of resources. | Third Quarter, 2016 | CFGORRP/DHM (Field Coordination Office, Lahan) |          | Bioengineering works in embankment stretches are being undertaken during the monsoon period. |

**Midterm Review recommendation 6.** The project should assist VDRMCs and CDMCs in identifying opportunities to finance, from VDC budgets or elsewhere, the operation and maintenance of the community flood risk management structures and facilities that have been generated by the project, in accordance with a Maintenance Schedule provided by the project. Cost sharing of Imja EWS should be a part of the licensing requirements for future hydro-electric development.

**Management response:** Relevant and Accepted.

| Key action(s)   | Time frame          | Responsible unit(s) | Tracking |                 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
|   |                     |                     | Comments | Status          |
| 6.1 CFGORRP/DHM will facilitate VDRMCs/CDMCs to develop 8 Village Disaster Management Plans (VDRMPs) by end of first quarter, 2017. For this, necessary groundworks will be undertaken during the regular | First Quarter, 2017 | CFGORRP/DHM         |          | Not Started Yet |

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| quarterly consultative/networking meetings with local bodies/DDC and line agencies, to facilitate resource allocation from DDC/VDC for local CDMC/VDMC for rolling out VDRMPs including the operation and maintenance of existing structures.   |                   |             |  |                 |
| 6.2 CFGORRP/DHM will explore the possibility of partnering with potential hydropower developer in coming days to leverage funds for regular operation of EWS. Consultation with NEA will also be initiated for cost sharing of EWS Vis a Vis licensing requirements with hydropower developers.   | 2016-2017         | CFGORRP/DHM |  | Not Started Yet |
| 6.3 After the 1985, Dig Cho GLOF event in the Dudh Koshi basin, the hydropower plants developed in the downstream of the glacial lakes were made mandatory to consider GLOF flood in the design. In this line, DHM will develop a policy paper towards making mandatory provisions for levying fee for operation and maintenance of EWS by hydropower projects. | From 2017 onwards | MoPE/DHM    |  | Not Started Yet |

**Midterm Review recommendation 7.** A joint DHM-DWIDP-DSCWM monitoring team should provide regular oversight of the micro-watershed rehabilitation projects and report on the results of the gully control measures and implications for future watershed management.

**Management response:** Relevant and Accepted.

| Key action(s)   | Time frame             | Responsible unit(s) | Tracking |                  |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|----------|------------------|
|   |                        |                     | Comments | Status           |
| 7.1 CFGORRP/DHM will conduct a joint field visit with Department of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management (DSCWM) and President Chure Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board (PCTMCDB) to explore possibility of working together in upstream for sediment and gully | August-September, 2016 | CFGORRP/DHM         |          | Not Started Yet. |

|  |                      |             |  |                 |
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| control measures in Ratu and other targeted river systems.   |                      |             |  |                 |
| 7.2 CFGORRP/DHM will replicate the sediment control measures in other five major sediment laden tributaries of Ratu in upstream during the fourth quarter 2016. Lessons drawn from such interventions will be shared to DSCWM to give continuity of the interventions. | Fourth Quarter, 2016 | CFGORRP/DHM |  | Not Started Yet |

**Midterm Review recommendation 8.** The project should consolidate lessons from the project's Terai flood risk reduction activities and provide specific recommendations on opportunities and methods to promote community based approaches in the People's Embankment Programme and the President Chure-Terai watershed programme. Knowledge development should jointly involve DHM, DWIDP and DSCWM in learning and documenting the experiences at the project locations.

**Management response:** Relevant and Accepted.

| Key action(s)   | Time frame           | Responsible unit(s) | Tracking |                 |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|
|   |                      |                     | Comments | Status          |
| 8.1 CFGORRP/DHM will document the experiences, lessons and best practices as knowledge product based on learning from implementing integrated activities of climate change and disaster risk reduction.   | Fourth Quarter, 2016 | CFGORRP/DHM         |          | Not Started Yet |
| 8.2 Knowledge products will be shared during learning workshop to be organized at district and national levels as well as in other relevant forums. Project hopes that the products will be used as a reference materials in designing and implementing integrated flood risk reduction initiatives in different parts of the country through community engagement. | Second Quarter, 2017 | CFGORRP/DHM         |          | Not Started Yet |

**Midterm Review recommendation 9.** The project should develop, in collaboration with the President Chure-Terai Madhesh Conservation Development Board, a capacity development strategy for effective utilization of the Sediment Monitoring Protocol in watershed management, including measures to address gaps in capacity within DHM to effectively deliver support services linked to the emerging sedimentation and river profile databases.

**Management response:** Relevant and Accepted.

| Key action(s)  | Time frame                      | Responsible unit(s) | Tracking |  |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------|--|
|  |                                 |                     | Comments | Status   |
| 9.1 Necessary consultation will be made with DHM, DSCWM, Department of Water Induced Disaster Management (DWIDM) and PCTMCDB to effectively use/integrate sediment monitoring systems into their day to day business, training and annual plans.   | 2016-2017                       | CFGORRP/DHM         |          | First round of consultations have been held with collaborating partners including PCTMCDM for internalization of Sediment Monitoring works into their day to day work.                         |
| 9.2 Capacity building training will be conducted for officials from DHM, DSCWM, DWIDM and PCTMCDB on sediment monitoring to ensure that such learning would be put into practice by trainees into their respective institutions. Likewise, Project will also provide its technical expertise while delivering training sessions as part of technical capacity enhancement of collaborating partners. | Third and Fourth Quarters, 2016 | CFGORRP/DHM         |          | One training for the officials from district level line agencies on 'Flood Hazard Modeling & Sediment Monitoring of Churia (Originating River Systems)' has been conducted during August, 2016 |



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