
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

Team Member/s:

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Place: Solukhumbu.

Overall objective of the field visit/ mission:

Objective:

- The main objective is to review the earlier mock drill report and Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) and come up with a new mock drill guideline & SOP in Nepali language. Conduct mock drill exercise based on the new guideline & SOP and come up with the final version based on the inputs/lessons learnt from this exercise.
- Empowerment of LRPs and Task Forces on emergency management and preparedness of GLOF involving them in the practical Mock Drill and raise awareness among local communities at the same time.

1. Key activities carried out based on the travel itinerary :

S N	Date	Description	Responsible	Activities/ involvement	Remarks
3	23.08.2016			Fly to KTM - Lukla	
4	24.08.2016	Trek to Surkey	Husna Banu Sheikh (HBS) and Menuka Acharya MA)	Preparation of MD by Husna Banu Sheikh and Menuka Acharya join Rajesh Lama and two LRPs at Surkey..	
5	25.08.2016	Mock Drill conduction at Surkey	Rajesh Lama, LRPs , HBS, MA, Nuru Jangbu and TF members, SNP staff	All Task Force members, LRPs and SNP staff , Local communities (teachers, students, elderly, women, children etc. participated in MD	Mock Drill conduction at Surkey Nuru Jangbu Sherpa (Dynamic representative) have Attend
6	26.08.2016	Trek to Ghat	Rajesh Lama, Husna Banu, MA, Nuru Jangbu, LRPs , SNP staff	Trek	Night stay at Ghat

7	27.08.2016	Mock Drill conduction at Ghat	Rajesh Lama, Husna Banu, MA, Nuru Jangbu, LRP, and SNP staff	All Task Force members, LRP and SNP staff, Local communities, Nepal Army/ Police will participate in MD	Mock Drill conduction at Ghat
8	28.08.2016	Trek to Fakding	Rajesh Lama, HBS, MA, Nuru Jangbu Sherpa LRP and TF members	All Task Force members, LRP and SNP staff, Local communities will participate in MD	Mock Drill conduction at Fakding
9	29.08.2016	Trek to TokTok	Rajesh Lama, HBS, MA, Nuru Jangbu. LRP	All Task Force members, LRP and SNP staff, Local communities will participate in MD	Mock Drill conduction at Toktok
10	30.08.2016	Trek to Benker	Rajesh Lama, HBS, MA, Nuru Jangbu, LRP, and TF members	All Task Force members, LRP and SNP staff, Local communities will participate in MD	Mock Drill at Benker
11	31.08.2016	Trek to Jorselle	Rajesh Lama, HBS, MA, Nuru Jangbu, LRP, and TF members	All Task Force members, LRP and SNP staff, local communities and Nepal Army/ Police will participate in MD	Mock Drill conduction at Jorsalle for Manjo/ Chhumawo as well
12	01.09.2016	Trek to Ghat			
13	02.09.2016	Trek to Lukla			
14	03.09.2016	Flight cancelled due to bad weather and stayed at Lukla			
15	04.09.2016	Flight cancelled due to bad weather and stayed at Lukla			
16		Back to Kathmandu			

2. Major observations/findings made from the field visit/ mission:

Followings are the major achievements till the time of field visit:

Mock Drill conduction:

- Task Force members, SNP staff, and local communities have participated in the Mock Drill in 10 places, covering 12 Task forces and 15 evacuation centers. Nepal Army participated in one event at Jorsalle.
- All Mock Drill participants were enthusiastic to know about progress of Imja Lake lowering. They were found satisfied after showing video on Imja Lake Lowering progress.
- LSAR, FA and Early Warning System equipment were checked and list was updated and a copy was provided to TF and CFGORRP.
- List of areas of Evacuation Center, LSAR, FA and EWS equipment were reviewed and updated with Task Force members.
- All task force members were requested to keep update all the equipment and store them in a safe place so that it could be easily available and used during GLOF and any other disaster.
- TF were requested not to use those equipment for personal purposes, replace the wear/teared and date expired equipment and update periodically.

- TF were suggested to create a fund for replacement and purchase of equipments for sustainability.
- Monitoring and Evaluation of Mock Drill and some evacuation centres and LSAR, FA and EWS equipment was done by MEO and logistic support was done by AFA, PMU.
- All 9 MD conducted at the planned venue except Dingboche MD has to be shifted at Pheriche due to *dee* (Dingboche, close for one month – from August third week to September first week) and was not open until 7th September, 2016 as it was planned. Also the programme was disturbed by bad weather and Dingboche participants were trapped at Salleri.
- All participants were concerned about water release time from Imja Lake. GESI from PMU informed them that once water release date will be confirmed they will be informed atleast 2 days earlier.
- Practical sessions of EWS (information flow of disaster), Search and Rescue, First Aid was found interesting to participants. Though artificial practice was hilarious to the participants, they were involved seriously and learned.

Mock Drill participants presented as such:

- More than 427 participants (266 male/ 161 female) have participated in 10 mock drill events, most of them were from Janjatis and some were from other groups like hill Chhetris, Brahmins and Dalits. Women participation was significant which is encouraging, many local people have participated because of off tourist season.
- Five LRPs from Chaurikharka/ Nakchung, Toktok, Jorsalle/ Manjo, Phungithanka and Dingboche/ Chhukung were trained and developed as Mock Drill trainers, so that they could facilitate Mock drill at local level after the project phase out.
- Three Army personnel have participated in the Mock Drill at Jorsalle and gained knowledge and skill of Mock Drill.
- Eight personnel from Sagarmatha National Park (SNP), were trained on Mock Drill conduction so that they could be useful to support local communities during any disaster.
- Some school Children have participated in the Mock Drill and IEC materials were distributed to them as well so that they could provide other students to disseminate message widely.
- LRPs have requested for recommendation letter for their intensive involvement in the Mock Drill and developed themselves as a local trainer for future.

Key Recommendations and conclusions:

- It is good to conduct any activities in the khumbu region, during off tourist season to attract participants but, enough budget should be allocated for unpredictable number of participants.
- While conducting Monitoring and Evaluation, practical local tradition, culture and belief should be considered and be aware of, rather than just focusing on financial monitoring and be judgmental considering monitoring theory.
- LRPs who are intensively involved in the Mock Drill should be provided recommendation letter so that

they could conduct Mock Drill in future locally. Those LRPs could be used as a resource person even after project phase out.

- Final programme exchange needs to be conducted after completion of Imja Lake Lowering for local Task Forces.
- Communities needs to be informed for preparedness and to be ready to go to safe places before water release from Imja Lake. Enough time should be allocated for it, at least 2 days.

1. Outputs from the Field Visit/ Mission:

- A total number of 427 participants (266 male/ 161 female) have participated in 10 mock drills, and gained knowledge and prepared during disaster. Significant number of women participation and as a victims were quite encouraging.
- Five LRPs were trained and developed as Mock Drill trainers, so that after the project phase out they could facilitate Mock drill at local level and will be potential supporters during any disasters.
- Three Army force have participated in the Mock Drill at Jorsalle and gained knowledge and skill of Mock Drill will be useful to support community during any disaster.
- Eight personnel from Sagarmatha National Park (SNP) were trained on Mock Drill conduction involving in 10 events of MD, they could be useful to support community during any disaster.
- All participants, LRPs, SNP and Army personnel have gained knowledge on Imja Lake lowering progress through Video and are convinced and assured that now they are safe from Imja Lake. They said that now they feel relief from Imja Lake Outburst threat and can live peacefully.
- IEC materials are effective for the local people to convince others. Information of Imja Lake will be widespread through School Children since they will distribute IEC materials to others.

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

- Mock Drill could be held in 2017 as well for refresher.
- Torn Hoarding Boards needs to be replaced soon.
- Updates of LSAR, FA and EWS equipment should be updated periodically from the Task Force.

6. Major changes observed, if any, since the last field visit made:

- Positive attitude towards the project was observed..
- Level of preparedness for GLOF and other disaster among the Task Forces and the communities have been increased.
- Task Forces and communities are confident to handle GLOF hazards and other disaster.
- Communities feel threatless after showing video of Imja construction and are happy with the Project.
- Task Forces and the communities have started to think about sustainability of institutions, equipment, and establish fund maintenance and sustainability.
- Light Search and Rescue, First Aid and Early Warning System equipment and sub groups are now

prepared to face and handle any disaster.

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Submitted to: Mr. Top Bahadur Khatri, National Programme Manager