

CARE Nepal – Rapid Response Assessment Report Mid & Far West Floods

Contribution to UNDP-led Joint Assessment with a focus on Gender, Social Inclusion and Livelihood

1 Introduction

This is a brief report of stock-taking and scoping for Early Recovery to flood and landslides affected area in mid-western region of Nepal from 4th -9th September, 2014 with focus on Gender, Social Exclusion and Livelihood.

The objective of the mission was to obtain a realistic and up-to-date overview of the situation and identify some key entry points from the perspective of early recovery planning in the recent flood and landslides affected areas in Bardiya, Banke, Dang and Surkhet districts, through a random site selection basis covering some of the worst affected areas. The overview focused in particular on stock-taking and scoping for early recovery, for immediate support (to be provided urgently under UN system co-ordination in line with the government's plan) in the areas of Livelihoods, Agriculture and Livestock, Micro-Infrastructure, Energy and complementary recovery needs identified by other clusters, eg: Shelter, WASH, Education and Health.

The assessment team was led by a representative from UNDP's Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Programme (CDRMP). Team members were from UNDP programmes (working on livelihood, infrastructures, governance, conflict prevention and environment) and International NGOs (CARE Nepal, OXFAM and Handicap International).

The report explains the gender, social exclusion and livelihood context, gaps and gender action points for the recovery plan in Banke and Bardiya districts. The findings are based on consultation with four communities, various stakeholders and line agency heads, meetings and focus group discussions (FGDs) with affected men, women, boys, girls and observations of the affected area. The contexts of four communities are explained in the following section.

2 Gender and Social Exclusion Context

2.1 Banke District, Kachanapur VDC, Ward 9 Rajpur Tole (affected by the Paruwa and Jhijhoriya Rivers)

Thirty males and 27 females participated in this consultation. In total, 58 households are affected and resettled in the ground of Bansakti Community Forest group. Whilst some houses are fully damaged, others are damaged partially by the flood. Most of the households are from Janajati and Chetri community and four are from Dalit. While most males are in migration stations, five of the 58 households are headed by women. 50% of the households own 5 katha of land and some were found to be landless. The main source of income is agriculture, animal husbandry and kitchen gardening. Access to the market is also blocked. Most of the crops and stored food is lost. Most of the decisions are made by men. Women participated in the discussions but did not express specific issues and concerns other than food and safe space for their children.



Women are engaged in the cleaning of mud in the damaged houses, taking care of the family and the animals in the resettled shelter. Groups are surviving on inadequate and insufficient food intake. The workload of women has doubled, and they are experiencing sleepless nights. Women and girls spend the night talking with each other to protect themselves since no specific measures safety measures are in place. All of them spend nights in shelters that are like open spaces.

Women's voices in common:

Women's issues are not separately asked. This is the first time we are consulted separately.
I manage sleepless nights to ensure my girls safety.
I hold my breath and manage my work from my original damaged home and the resettled area

Source: FGD discussion September 2014

2.2 Banke District , Titahariya VDC ward 4 and 5, Gurudayalpur Tole (affected by Man Khola)

As a part of this consultation more than 26 males and 15 females participated. In this area 37 household's homes were totally damaged. Fifteen households are landless. The flood took away most of the animal shed, animals are now placed on the river bank nearby the settlement. People were able to save their lives by themselves moving away towards the upper part of the settlement. People are living in the same damaged house with cover provided by tarpaulins. The main family income is daily wages in the community and crop sharing. Some go to Nepalgunj and Kohalpur for daily wages (two hours up and down in bicycle or with local transportation). Livestock provides families with subsidiary income. Some income is sourced from rickshaw pulling. Women have been engaged in reconstructing the house. Men and women are the major decision makers at family and community level. There is no male migration in this community. The traditional social practices have not changed after the flood neither have the gender roles. Social networks are mobilized for relief and support. No issues of safety and security were raised in this community. Women and girls are walking freely. Many of the families are staying in one shelter with more than seven family members.

2.3 Bardiya District, Padnaha VDC ward 8 and 9, Phulbansi Tole

As a part of the consultation more than 20 male and 16 female participated in the consultation. In this area 69 houses were fully damaged. It is a Tharu dominant settlement with 15 chetri households. Family size varies from 4-22 members. All the affected women and men live in their own damaged houses with the damaged part covered. The main sources of income are agriculture, livestock and skill-based activities. There is high male migration in the community. Women are left to reconstruct the house, take care of children and household chores. Affected men and women received support from adjunct VDC, relatives and friends, local agencies and groups. A few female headed and single women led household were reported as being more vulnerable in managing reconstruction work. They are unable to work themselves; neither can they hire others since they do not have money. Some women used to do tailoring work for family income but lost their sewing machines. Women and girls feel safe in the community. No issues of risks were shared during the FGD. Women's workload has increased in clearing the damaged houses, managing the care taking role and feeling insecure about livelihood and food. Women prioritized the need of rebuilding houses. Women are involved in social groups and networks. Potential livelihood options through micro-credit can be done immediately.

2.4 Bardiya District, Gulariaya Municipality ward 5, Rampaur Tappu

As a part of the consultation more than 20 male and 15 female participated. Out of them 13 were lactating mothers. Children were from 6 months to more than two years. In this area 36 HH were directly affected with 6 human casualties. All were Thakuri with 6 Dalit and 5 Janajati household. Families have lost their paddy and stored food. These families are resettled in football ground 2km away from their original place. The report living in vulnerable shelter with threats of snake bite, rain and other insecurities such as gender based violence. They are also insecure because of the threat of theft of remaining wood and other items from their damaged house. A number of the families do not have land certificates.

The main sources of family income are agriculture and livestock. Women's mobility is high. They are managing fodder for the livestock at a distance of 4km (up and down), visiting their original house,

clearing mud and coming to their shelter. Women are also the main caretakers. They are busy with household chores and taking care of the remaining livestock. Women did have access to relief distribution. Women do participate (in decision-making processes) but their participation is not meaningful (their voice is less heard). Men are the major decision makers for family and community. Women headed household do have their access to family assets however where male members have not migrated men are the decision-maker in the family and community. Traditional roles and cultural practices remains the same.

Ten lactating mother participated in the discussion. They do not have sufficient food to eat. They share that their primary need is food for their children and a safe space to live. They say: *“We cannot go back to the same place now, we do not know how we will survive!”*

3 Major Findings

3.1 Data management

- Gender disaggregated data has been collected efficiently however data compilation is slow to plan recovery responses. In Bardiya, classified data form was prepared, however data not compiled.
- Gender disaggregated data was not available. Data collection formats vary from one district to another
- Female headed household and vulnerable groups have not been classified in the data collection formats. This will further exclude them from recovery opportunities
- The protection cluster (Women and Children Office) shared that a survey is being initiated for women with focus on lactating, expecting and immediate child born but it may not be timely.
- Data collection prioritizes community needs and damage at the household level. It does not categorize needs of men, women, boys and girls.
- Padnaha VDC technical staff shared that no separate consultation was carried out with women for their issues and concerns except single women whose husband has migrated.

3.2 Coping Mechanisms

- The affected population are seeking support from their relatives, community members and adjunct VDC , local NGO and groups
- Women and girls stay together and spend sleepless nights to protect themselves
- No separate coping mechanisms for women, men, boys and girls are in place to address safety and security issues and concerns
- Protecting the remaining undamaged things like mattresses is an issue

3.3 Gender Differences

- The social and cultural context and structures of the community remains unchanged due to flood
- Men are the ones to be approached by those collecting information or doing consultations. Men speak about general basic needs for the family only. Men were the prime decision-makers at family and community level
- The emergency and subsequent coping mechanisms have not changed the traditionally practiced gender roles
- Women and girls are currently engaged in rebuilding the houses
- Specific needs and concerns of men and women, boys and girls are not addressed adequately and separately
- In all the community consultations it was revealed that women and adolescent girls have not been consulted for their issues and concerns separately. The team was informed: *“this is the first time we are asked separately about our concerns shared affected women during all community consultation”*

- Women's meaningful participation in decision-making was not possible. They were still in shock from losing their houses, living in shelters and managing their workloads in a time of hardship
- Men's and women's roles and responsibility due to the flood have not changed substantially; although in the resettled community in Rampur Tappu men and women were sharing household loads
- Access and participation of women is ensured in community discussion but is not meaningful
- Access to existing resources and livelihood assets is more accessible for men than women
- Gender differences vary between contexts. It also depends on the homogenous and heterogeneous community settlements, major source of family income and occupations of men and women

3.4 Gender Based Violence and security concerns

- Most of the adolescent girls and young women expressed fears for their safety and security while sharing the common shelters
- Gender based violence and other forms of violence against women, boys and girls are not at manifested at this stage
- No awareness-raising and sensitization in the flood affected areas has been done on the prevention of gender based violence nor on how to handle incidences of gender based violence
- Women have spent sleepless nights protecting adolescent girls
- To date there have been no issues of gender based violence reported in the said communities
- Protection has not been seen as an important issue so far. Issues might rise if the situation remains the same: Furthermore adolescent girls and women can be at high risk of sexual assault, trafficking and other forms of violence as the frustration level of basic need fulfillments arises in the settlements.
- Communities are worried about theft of their remaining property as there was some event of theft occurred, especially single women with small children.
- The shelter clusters is not taking into account the protection issues of women, joint family are sharing common shelter. Women get less space to sleep.
- Security concerns of men, women, boys and girls is not addressed adequately
- No community mechanism and measure to address sexual abuse /gender based violence.
- In the coming days women may not have access to information about re-registration and distribution of different certificates like land holding certificates, citizenship. This can also make women insecure, especially with female headed household with children only.

3.5 Gender and Livelihood

- The major sources of family income are agriculture, livestock, daily wages , crop- sharing, kitchen gardening and skill-based activities
- Women are not sufficiently engaged recovery initiatives, neither in any decision-making processes nor in recovery planning
- Female headed household without land and existing skills are more insecure and vulnerable
- The flood has impacted on agriculture and livestock
- The equipment for agriculture, small irrigation canals, and pumps are damaged. Sewing machines of some communities has been damaged or lost
- Men and women are managing livelihoods after the flood but those households with male migration and single women face more livelihood challenges than other households especially in the families that are resettled to a new location
- Livelihood initiatives do not classify the different occupational status of women separately
- Collective/blanket approach to livelihood initiatives will not cater to vulnerable groups' needs and concerns adequately
- Existing skills and practices in the community are not assessed for livelihood initiatives
- Gender analysis is not being conducted before planning livelihood initiatives

- Workload analysis should be done as an important component of livelihood recovery planning

3.6 Findings of consultation and meetings with line agencies and various stakeholders

Good Practices observed:

Nepal Red Cross led the data collection process in coordination with Village Development Committee (VDC) and local police. Information form has gender disaggregation, 50% of women are ensured in data collection team. Team also receives gender orientation prior to field movement.

Initiations have been taken by response actors to make response Non Food Items (NFI) distribution more gender responsive

- District Disaster Reduction Committee (DDRC) is the main coordination committee for emergency response. All line agencies are members of DDRC. All the sectoral plans are shared in the committee meeting. Most have the plans are not gender responsive. During the consultation, line agency personal shared that gender is not integrated in plans, it is not practical in some community context but it is assured (women’s participation) during program implementation. Discussion with other line agency head also reflects the same.
- Protection issues is not seriously taken into consideration by all clusters/sectors while preparing response plan especially the shelter cluster is not so much serious in preparing gender responsive shelter.
- The intersection of protection and other cluster has not been understood by all actors and sectors. Furthermore the line agencies and clusters are not emphasizing to make the plans more gender responsive
- Protection cluster is lead by Women and Children Development Office (WCDO). During the discussion with the office staff it was shared that protection issues not seriously owned by other sector and actors. It was also shared that resource allocations of the plans are very limited.
- Inter cluster coordination is not strong enough and timely to ensure community safety and security during response and recovery phase of post flood.
- District Disaster Response plans, Emergency preparedness plans are gender responsive to some extent but no to the required extent e.g. if women’s and vulnerable groups are not explicitly mentioned in the plan, this will restrict their inclusion in during implementation. Furthermore if collected information is not disaggregated in terms of caste and marginalized groups it will not be inclusive.

Overall the gender and social inclusion mainstreaming efforts seems appreciative by the line agencies, various stakeholders and response team but not enough. The emergency situations are guided by the context, its settlements, nature of population and their practices, family size , family and income, outreach of the affected area, damages, social cultural context. The gender needs and concerns will vary accordingly. Sometimes emergency effects can bring different changes in the roles and responsibilities for women, men, boys and girls. This can be ensured by Gender analysis as key component of all plans and program.

Gender Action Points

Gaps	Gender Action points /Recommendation			Remarks
	Intermediate	Intermediate	Long Term	
<p>Protection issues not mainstreamed in DDRC plans</p> <p>Protection issues sensitivity not owned by all members of DDRC/Clusters and stakeholders</p>	<p>Ensure the inter cluster coordination to address protection issues timely.</p> <p>Mobilizes existing WCDO structure to report and monitoring GBV.</p> <p>Conduct Safety and Security assessment in the affected community(especially resettled area)</p> <p>Increase awareness about GBV and other forms of violence in boys and girls men and women.</p> <p>Conduct studies on the intersection of Protection and livelihood also other cluster.</p>	<p>Ensure protection issues are taken into account during the next preparedness planning cycle.</p> <p>Ensure community consultation for efficient security models and mechanisms</p> <p>Incorporate the security measure in the preparedness plans.</p>		<p>Protection and safety security measures cross cuts most of the cluster plan programs. If people are not secured there will be implication on the entire recovery initiatives.</p>
<p>Shelter cluster not proactive to address safety and security concerns during shelter management</p>	<p>Explore , identify and mobilize community based safety and security mechanisms.</p> <p>Promote local level security monitoring mechanism</p>	<p>Ensure cluster coordination during planning meetings</p>		
<p>Flood response sectoral plans eg. livestock, agriculture are not fully gender responsive</p>	<p>Introduce the practice of gender analysis prior to program planning</p> <p>Ensure the gender concerns are mainstreamed in the upcoming plans</p>	<p>Line agency head and accountable personals ensure gender responsive planning in the next preparedness plan</p>	<p>Nepal government should review the existing plans. All sectoral plans must be reviewed to make it more gender responsive</p>	<p>If gender is not reflected in plans then it will not be mainstreamed during implementation</p>
<p>Gender needs and concerns not taken into accounts for response and recovery initiatives</p>	<p>Ensure Women and marginalized groups 's meaningful participation in livelihood recovery planning and economic initiative.</p> <p>Ensure needs of women and families with different categories based on their family income sources is catered while preparing</p>	<p>Ensure women implement the livelihood initiatives of their capacity.</p>		<p>Livelihood initiatives cannot be same for household with land and those who survive in daily wages</p>

	recovery plan.			
Data management and timely compilation	Ensure timely compilation of the collected information to contribute to recovery initiatives Enhance the existing capacity of data management team	Revisit data collection form and make is more gender segregated and explanatory in terms of caste and vulnerable groups		Bardia and Banke information collection formats are not the same.
Livelihood Implementation plan not prepared	Ensure livelihood Implementation plans(LIP) are prepared. Conduct gender analysis prior to implementing the plan. Focus on activities that provide immediate cash in hand. Ensure voices of the most vulnerable groups	Incorporate the livelihood plan in the DDRC preparedness plans		The next three month is very insecure for the affected population in terms of food security and other physical security. They are unable to initiate new corps, livestock can not improve immediately.
Livelihood initiatives not considering valuables communities needs	Ensure vulnerable community representation in preparing LIP.	Ensure plans more gender responsive especially for the population without land and existing skills.		
Social networks and community groups not mobilized	Mobilize local networks and groups for recovery initiatives. Ensure overlap of activities in the affected areas Create awareness about services available from Nepal Government to increase the access to government services	Social Network and community structure technical assistance can be helpful for successful implementation of LIP		