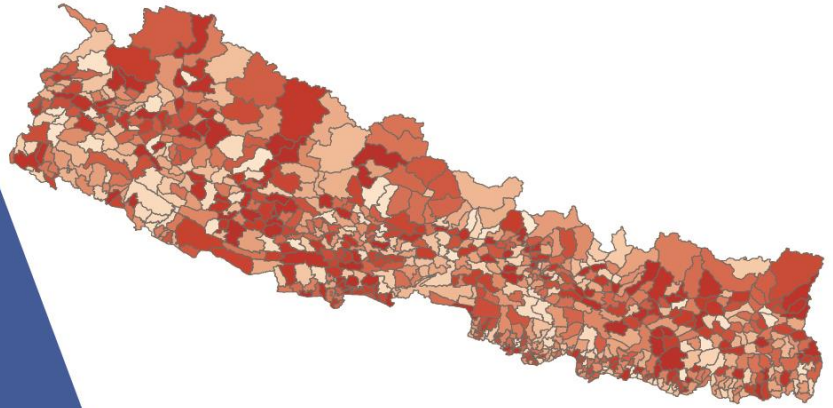
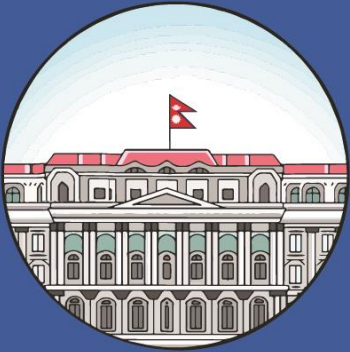
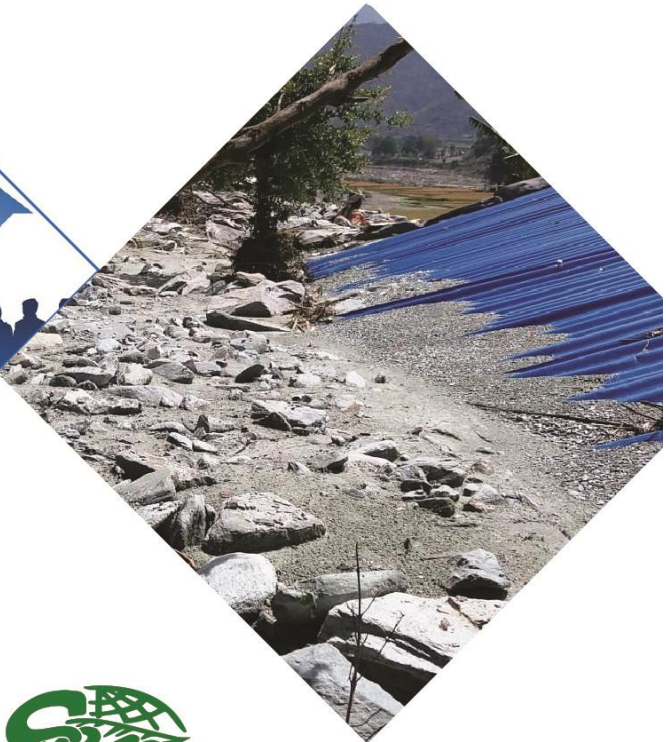
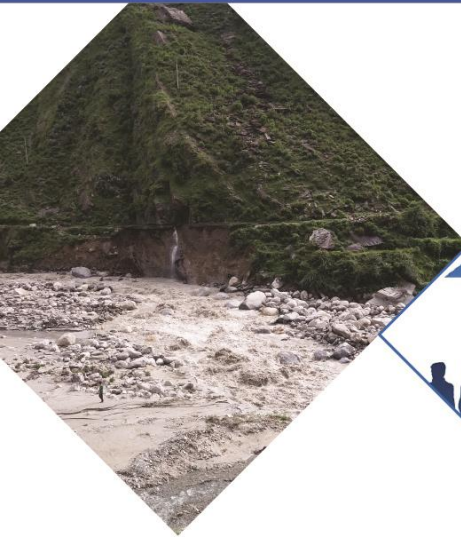


POLICY BRIEF

Role of Local Governments on Climate-Induced Disasters Management



Landslide Environmental Virtual Observatories (L-EVO)



Prepared By:
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Kathmandu, Nepal



unesco



Role of Local Governments on Climate-Induced Disasters Management

Policy Brief

Landslide Environmental Virtual Observatories
(L-EVO)

Executive Summary

The Himalayas are highly susceptible to the impacts of climate change and disasters and it is increasing the vulnerability of communities and their livelihoods. Western Nepal is identified as one of the most vulnerable regions in Nepal, with both due to increasing occurrences of climate-induced disasters, most of which are characterized both by severity and impact. The management of such disasters is crucial and the roles of disaster risk management are shared among multiple stakeholders, including governments (of all levels), organizations, and communities. This study/analysis has been done as a part of the Landslide Environmental Virtual Observatories (L-EVO) project which is built on the Hyogo Framework for Action and Sendai Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Reduction for undertaking strategic actions to improve disaster risk governance and increase the involvement of the local communities and government. This policy brief synthesizes the findings from the project and offers actionable recommendations to strengthen the capacity of local government and enhance resilience at the local level.

Introduction

Geographically around 45% of the region of Nepal is occupied by hilly, mountainous regions and flood plains of rivers which are highly vulnerable to climate-induced disasters such as landslides and floods. In hilly and mountainous areas around 50% of the population of Nepal is settled (CBS 2074) thus half of the population is affected by landslides and climate-induced disasters. Climate change has exacerbated these risks and the communities are facing serious challenges in managing such risks. It is essential to manage such risks to enhance the resilience of the communities.

Through the L-EVO project, we are improving the awareness of the local stakeholders and communities on disaster risk information and management and enhancing the usability of scientific weather data gathered through a citizen science approach. The recommendations are provided based on the findings of the L-EVO project.

Approach and Findings

Information was gathered through consultation with the local stakeholders (government, communities, civil society organizations), and field observations to know the current scenarios of disaster risk management from the project areas (Bitthadchir Rural Municipality of Bajhang and Budhiganga Municipality and Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality of Bajura) of the L-EVO project. Several findings were obtained from the final sharing workshop where local government, students and youths, teachers and civil society organizations (CSOs), and communities were present. In present scenarios, local governments are mostly involved in rescue and relief after the disaster and some awareness activities before the probable seasons of the disasters. It was also observed that the infrastructure development processes in those areas are haphazard. These need to be adequately designed to be climate and disaster-resilient or nature-friendly. The allocation of the annual

budget for research on disaster risk reduction and management was lacking and it was due to the unavailability of skilled technical human resources. Nepal's constitution gives the power to the local governments to take action on disasters in every aspect, whether it is a part of research and disaster assessment or in relief, mitigation, and adaptation. Every local government must have a DRR committee with the Deputy Chair as the Chair to tackle disasters, but it was found that they are not much active due to a lack of skilled human resources on DRR and DRM, a proper understanding of disasters, responsibility, and awareness. Therefore, proper utilization and allocation of the budget and mobilization of the DRR committees are considered as some of the challenges.

Policy Recommendations

As mentioned above, in the disaster risk management and reduction sector, every municipality/rural municipality has its budget and a DRR committee. The following recommendations will help to improve the engagement of local governments in the management of climate-induced disasters.

Provide adequate resources: The local government should be provided adequate resources, including funding, technical assistance, and capacity building, to support in developing and implementing disaster risk reduction plans. Similarly, the budget for disaster risk reduction and management allocated for the local government must be based on the level of the disaster risks. A subsequent amount of resources must be allocated for research and data generation.

Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks: Policymakers should strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to support the role of local governments in disaster risk reduction. This includes establishing clear roles and responsibilities for local governments and promoting the use of innovative technologies to improve disaster response. Considerable time must be spent to understand the disaster issues and level of risks to the local governments.

Promote collaboration and partnerships: Policymakers should promote collaboration and partnerships between local governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and the national government to enhance disaster response efforts.

Strategies to reduce the impacts of climate-induced disasters: Local governments should develop comprehensive disaster risk reduction plans that identify potential hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks in their area. These plans should include strategies to reduce the impact of disasters, such as early warning systems, evacuation plans, and emergency response measures.

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The Small Earth Nepal (SEN) is a non-governmental organization established in March 2001. SEN was founded to develop and enhance scientists-teacher-student-community (STSC) networks to promote sustainable lifestyles through education and knowledge sharing. Action oriented research, science awareness, informed advocacy and capacity building of young researchers and practitioners are its primary approaches to this work. SEN supports activities that reduce the impacts of human activities on local, regional and global environments. It works broadly in the field of environment change research and practice, however, it focuses especially on water, weather and climate information; climate change issues; and advocacy for renewable energy.

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