

**External Evaluation Report of CARE and Save the Children DIPECHO  
Program in Nepal under the 6<sup>th</sup> Action Plan for South Asia**

***Consultants/Evaluators:***

***Mr. Shah Nawaz Ali***

***Mr. Kedar Shrestha***

***Professor Meen B. Poudyal Chhetri, PhD***

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## **Executive Summary**

Nepal is highly vulnerable to multiple hazards due to the variable geo-climatic conditions, young geology, unplanned settlements, deforestation environmental degradation and increasing population. On the other hand, increasing population, rapid and unplanned urbanization and other economic activities in vulnerable areas are other contributing factors to increase hazards. The effects of climate change have further aggravated the disasters in Nepal.

With a predominantly agrarian economy where about 85 percent of the over 22 million people reside in rural areas, traditional, self-sustaining hills and mountain farming systems have been disrupted by increased population and fertile top soil erosion. In addition - deforestation, migration from the hills and mountains to the fertile Tarai<sup>i</sup> region and haphazardly developed urban centers are increasing at an unprecedented scale. Consequently, the poor, uneducated and unemployed people are compelled to make a living by settling in flood and land slide prone areas in the hills as well as the plains and the urban areas. Lack of effective land use and settlement regulations has contributed to increased vulnerability to floods and other hazards caused by both natural and anthropogenic factors (Chhetri 2011).

The various government reports over the last 28 years have shown that each year, floods, landslides, fires, avalanches and epidemics kill hundreds of people and destroy property worth billions of dollars. They also have a negative impact on the nation's development activities. In addition to the above factors, the losses from disasters are increasing due to the reactive approach of the government and other disaster management stakeholders. As a result such approach is limited to disaster response and relief rather than complete approaches including planning, preparedness and recovery. Hence, Nepal is a global hot spot for several types of disasters. Therefore, there is the need of proactive, effective and community based and community oriented disaster risk reduction plan, program and projects.

The vulnerability to flood of large areas of the country, preparation and planning for the onset of floods is conspicuous by its absence. However, the lessons of the 1988 earthquake and the 1993 flood and landslide and 2008 Koshi flood disasters has brought about a shift of attitude on the part of planners, government officials, donor agencies, NGOs and INGOs towards the need for a coordinated disaster preparedness and response mechanism. However, still at the local level, community awareness and preparedness are inadequate.

In view of the above situation, CARE, Nepal and Save the children, Nepal have targeted backward communities and the people who are living in vulnerable areas. While targeting the communities and the people, they have selected the communities living in potentially hazardous areas. The primary beneficiaries of their projects are the local

population of the most vulnerable communities in the underprivileged VDCs in the three districts (Bardia, Kailali and Dadeldhura) of Far West Nepal and one district (Siraha) in the East Nepal.

After the successful completion of the above projects, Save the children, Nepal and CARE, Nepal hired three Consultants to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of their plan, program and activities in the project areas under the DIPECHO projects. The programs were implemented in four districts namely; Siraha, Bardia, Kailali and Dadeldhura. Most vulnerable communities and affected population were targeted in those four districts. For this purpose, they developed a Terms of Reference (ToR) which outlines the detail task of the consultants.

Major objectives of the evaluation were to assess, if the project activities of CARE and Save the children DIPECHO projects meet the 6<sup>th</sup> action plan guideline and measure the effectiveness, relevancy, replicability, potential impact and sustainability of the actions in order to provide recommendations for strengthening the scope of disaster risk reduction initiatives through DIPECHO program in Nepal.

With the above objectives field visits were carried out in the project sites of Bardia, Kailali, Dadeldhura and Siraha to see the impacts of the above mentioned projects. While visiting the project sites, it was found that except few exceptions all the projects were completed in due time and have achieved almost all of the set objectives. The beauty of the projects can be summarized as:

- enhanced response capability of the local communities,
- awareness towards the causes and consequences of hazards
- learned the ways and means to cope with the disasters;
- capacity building,
- formation of response mechanism by formulating various committees and subcommittees
- voluntary labour contribution
- ownership

Despite the strengths and the above beauty of the projects, it was revealed that the community people were not fully satisfied and their dissatisfactions in bullet point are as following:

- The projects were not as per the need of their requirements or needs
- Their suggestions were not incorporated
- The projects were donor driven
- Emphasis and investment was more on hardware part than software
- The projects have less focus towards recovery and rehabilitation.

In conclusion it can be said that the projects have to a greater extent fulfilled the needs of the community people of the project sites. Full satisfaction, of course, can't be

obtained from such small projects with small funding. While all the four districts are vulnerable to multiple hazards and it is not possible to mitigate them in such a short project cycle and limited funds. However, it can be considered as path finder, eye opener and a good start. More importantly, this initiative taken by the Save the Children and Care Nepal needs to be continued on the one hand and replicated in other districts and communities of the country. The above conclusion is based on the reactions or views expressed by the community people and the disaster management government and non-government stake holders.

## **External Evaluation Report of CARE and Save the Children DIPECHO Program in Nepal under the 6<sup>th</sup> Action Plan for South Asia**

### **1. Background:**

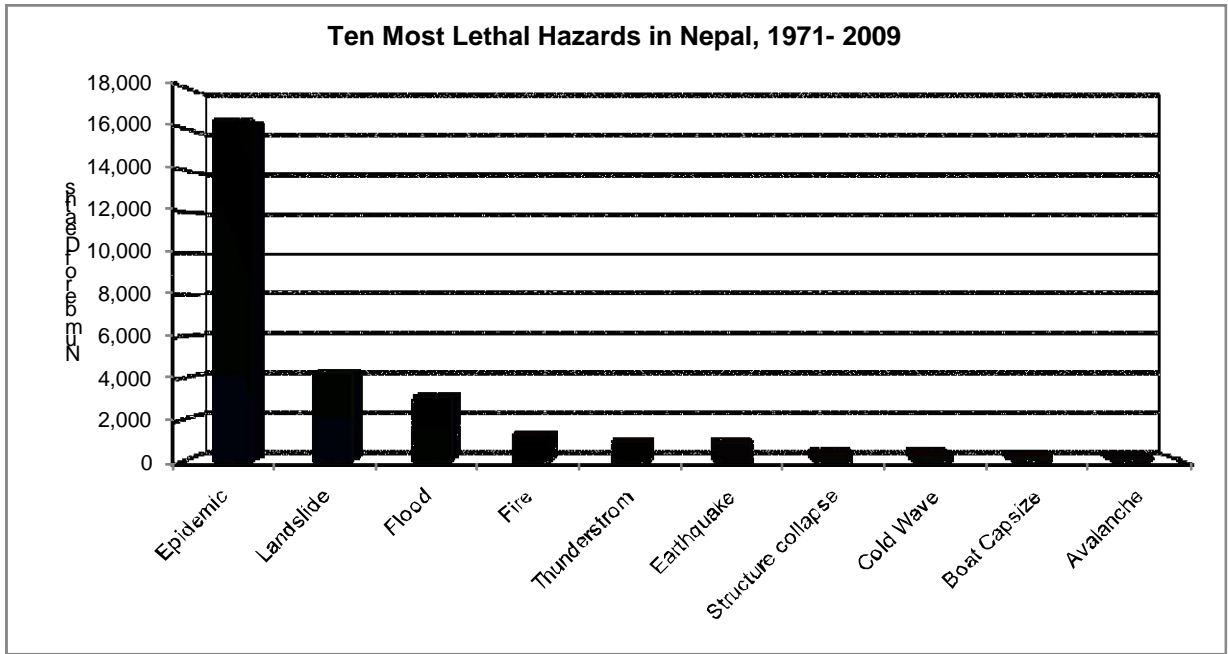
Nepal, a small and land locked country in South Asia is exposed to multiple hazards due to the variable geo-climatic conditions, young geology, unplanned settlements, deforestation, environmental degradation and increasing population. On the other hand, increasing population, rapid and unplanned urbanization and other economic activities in vulnerable areas are other contributing factors to increase hazards. The effects of climate change have further aggravated the disasters in Nepal.

The various government reports over the last 28 years have shown that each year, floods, landslides, fires, avalanches and epidemics kill hundreds of people and destroy property worth billions of dollars. They also have a negative impact on the nation's development agenda. In addition to the above factors, the losses from disasters are increasing in the absence of proactive disaster management policies, laws and preparedness and risk reduction programs. Existing laws that deal with disasters do not address them in totality as the law is limited to immediate disaster response. As a result such focus as does occur is limited to disaster response and relief rather than complete approaches including planning, preparedness and recovery.

Disasters are made all the more devastating by poor governance and weak coordination among government agencies and other stakeholders, the unclear roles and responsibilities of various agencies, low managerial skills and the lack of resources. Low levels of awareness and the lack of technological skill further exacerbates adversity, as does the low capacity for conducting hazard mapping, vulnerability assessments and risk analysis. Due to the absence of proactive disaster management policies and other legal instruments – the trend of disaster losses are increasing instead of decreasing (Prof. Chhetri 2009).

Natural disasters affect not only the disaster victims; they also set back the economic development of the country. Thus the socio-economic costs of such disasters have long-term repercussions on local communities and on the entire country. Traditionally, we look at disasters mainly from a humanitarian angle and give priority to immediate rescue and relief works only.<sup>20</sup> But now it is high time to take preparedness actions and build a culture of prevention, so that we may save lives and property. The details of the loss of lives and properties caused by various types disasters in Nepal from 1971-2009 are given in the following figure 1.

Figure 1



Source: Nepal Disaster Database 2011

The types of natural and human induced disasters that occur in Nepal and the location are given in the Table 1 below.

**Table 1:****Types of natural and human-induced hazards in Nepal**

1. Types of Hazard	2. Prevalence
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	
<i>Earthquake</i>	<i>All of Nepal is a high-hazard earthquake zone</i>
<i>Flood</i>	<i>Terai (sheet flood), Middle Hills</i>
<i>Landslide and landslide dam breaks</i>	<i>Hills, Mountains</i>
<i>Debris Flow</i>	<i>Hills and Mountain, severe in areas of elevations greater than 1700 m that are covered by glacial deposits of previous ice-age</i>
<i>Glacier Lakes Outburst Floods (GLOF)</i>	<i>Origin at the tongue of glaciers in Higher Himalayas, Higher Mountains, flow reach down to middle Hill regions</i>
<i>Avalanche</i>	<i>Higher Himalayas</i>
<i>Fire (forest )</i>	<i>Hills and Terai (forest belt at foot of southern-most Hills</i>
<i>Drought</i>	<i>All over the country</i>
<i>Storms/ Hailstorm</i>	<i>Hills</i>
<b>Human-Induced Hazards</b>	
<i>Epidemics</i>	<i>Terai and Hills, also in lower parts of Mountain region</i>
<i>Fire (settlements)</i>	<i>Mostly in Terai, also in mid-Hill region</i>
<i>Accidents</i>	<i>Urban areas, along road network</i>
<i>Industrial/Technological Hazards</i>	<i>Urban / industrial areas</i>
<i>Soil erosion</i>	<i>Hill region</i>
<i>Social Disruptions</i>	<i>Follows disaster-affected areas and politically disturbed areas</i>

*Data from Nepal Country Report: ISDR Global Assessment Report on Poverty and Disaster Risk 2009, UNDP-ISDR, NSET (2010), Table 3.*



## **2. Save the Children and Care-Nepal Initiatives**

The susceptibility to flood of large areas of the country, preparation and planning for the onset of floods is conspicuous by its absence. However, the lessons of the 1988 earthquake and the 1993 flood and landslide and 2008 Koshi flood disasters has brought about a shift of attitude on the part of planners, government officials, donor agencies, NGOs and INGOs towards the need for a coordinated disaster preparedness and response mechanism. However, still at the local level, community awareness and preparedness are far from adequate.

The people living in western Nepal have the ravages of flooding. The flood disaster of in 2008 in Kailali killed 15 people whereas 28 went missing. According to the Ministry of Home and Affairs (MoHA), at least 16000 houses of 39 VDCs and two municipalities were affected and 15,019 families were displaced in the districts. Tikapur municipality, Lalbhoj, Satbigha and Pathriya VDCs were also one of the most affected areas in the flood. Similarly, 10 people were killed, 125 displaced, and seven went missing in the district last year. At least 25 houses were damaged whereas 10 were injured in the disaster.

Keeping in view the above situation, CARE, Nepal and Save the children, Nepal have targeted backward communities and the people who are living in vulnerable areas. While targeting the communities and the people, they have selected the communities living in potentially hazardous areas. The primary beneficiaries of their projects are the local population of the most vulnerable communities in the underprivileged VDCs in the three districts (Bardia, Kailali and Dadeldhura) of Far West Nepal and one district (Siraha) in the East Nepal.

### **3. Objectives of the CARE's SAMRAKSHAN – DIPECHO Project**

The objectives of the CARE's SAMRAKSHAN – DIPECHO Project carried out in Kailali and Dadeldhura have been set to:

- 3.1 Contribute to the disaster risk reduction measures in Nepal through community based disaster preparedness efforts;
- 3.2 Increase the communities' capacity by enhancing their knowledge and skills;
- 3.3 Cope with any type of disaster through information, education, training, provision of equipment, linkage and coordination.

The SAMRAKSHAN project is building on the experience and lessons learned from SAMADHAN III project and contribute to the achievement of the Hyogo Framework for

Action (HFA) in Nepal through the development of community resilience and sustainable disaster risk reduction measures.

The project is expected to enhance CARE's capacity to respond to disaster risk reduction and emergency response and to help women and girls at risk to obtain the power to make strategic choices that affect their lives. The project is influenced by several interconnected CARE strategies such as CARE International's, CARE Österreich's, Asia Regional Management Unit's of CARE, CARE Nepal and the recommendations of the Global CARE Poverty and Climate Change Taskforce.

#### **4. Objectives of the Save the Children Project**

The objectives of the Save the Children Project are to:

- 4.1 Strengthen the communities and local institutions to be better prepared to respond to disasters through mitigation;
- 4.2 Provide materials and tools that serve both communities as well as the institutions in Siraha and Bardia districts.

Save the Children is working in Nepal since 1980. Disaster preparedness and response programs are among its priority areas since 2000. It has its global dual mandate as development and humanitarian agency and is focusing a lot on DRR in 20 priority countries which includes Nepal. Save the Children is partnering with Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in Siraha and Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO) in Bardiya for community Preparedness for Disaster Risk Reduction (CPDRR). The project is developed on the basis of these programmes and subsequent assessment, evaluations, recommendations and lessons learned including consultation with communities and other stake holders.

#### **5. External Evaluation of CARE and Save the Children DIPECHO Programs**

CARE, Nepal and Save the children, Nepal hired three Consultants to evaluate the impact and effectiveness of their plan, program and activities in the project areas under the DIPECHO projects. The programs were implemented in four districts namely; Siraha, Bardia, Kailali and Dadeldhura. Most vulnerable communities and affected population were targeted in those four districts. For this purpose, they developed a Terms of Reference (ToR) which outlines the detail task of the consultants.

#### **6. Purpose of evaluation**

The main purpose of the evaluation is to assess, if the project activities of CARE and Save the children DIPECHO projects meet the 6<sup>th</sup> action plan guideline and measure the effectiveness, relevancy, replicability, potential impact and sustainability of the actions in order to provide recommendations for strengthening the scope of disaster risk reduction initiatives through DIPECHO program in Nepal.

## 7. Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of the evaluation were developed as following:

- 7.1 Measure the effectiveness at community level – did the Program meet beneficiaries’ expectations and needs as per specific results listed above;
- 7.2 Measure the relevancy of the action at community and national level – did the program address the identified needs correctly and is it in line with recommendations of the HFA and national initiatives in disaster risk reduction;
- 7.3 Measure the replicability of the action - can the action be replicated in other parts of the country without significant changes in the method, investment and materials employed;
- 7.4 Assess the potential impact of the program by analysing if the key actions at community level are replicable and scalable to higher levels;
- 7.5 Evaluate the sustainability of the program – which component of the program is likely to continue after the end of the DIPECHO funding and which part is not;
- 7.6 Identify the good practices and lessons learnt which can be used to improve and strengthen risk reduction initiatives through DIPECHO programs in Nepal; suggest reasons for particular successes and failures if any.
- 7.7 Issue recommendations for strengthening the scope of disaster risk reduction initiatives through the DIPECHO program in Nepal.

To attain the above objectives, the three member team carried out a comprehensive field study in Siraha, Bardia, Kailali and Dadeldhura districts.

The evaluation team basically focused on the **Effectiveness, Relevance, Potential Impact, Replicability, Sustainability and Good Practices** of the projects.

## 8. Methodology

While carrying out the field study in those districts the evaluation team adopted the following methodology:

- 8.1 Review of related project documents/agreements/progress reports, country strategies website information, etc.
- 8.2 Key informant interviews and discussions in the office of I/NGO/s before departure to project sites.
- 8.3 Focus group discussions with the beneficiaries and other project stake holders (including district and national).
- 8.4 Personal and physical inspections of the project sites.
- 8.5 Interviews with the executive office bearers of the government, I/NGOs after the field visits.
- 8.6 Discussions with the service recipients, contact officers, related line agency officials, etc.

## 8.7 Instruments:

- FGD Guidelines,
- Structured and non-structured questionnaires,
- Observation checklists,
- Evaluation forms and so on.

In addition to the study methodologies mentioned above, the study team applied other methods that were required to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

## 9. Brief Analysis of the Programs and Findings of the Evaluation

The DIPECHO Program under the 6th Action Plan for South Asia programs was formulated for a period of 18 months in Nepal. It started from April 2011 and ended on September 2012. Although the time was short, all most all the activities were completed in due time. The result or effectiveness of the programs in the selected communities of the following districts can be summarized as following:

### 9.1 Bardia

Save the Children carried out community resilience program in selected 9 communities and 9 schools of three Village Development Committees (VDC) of Bardia namely; Suryapatuwa, Khairichandanpur and Manau.

In Bangalipur ward number 6 of Suryapatuwa VDC one elevated tube well was constructed at the cost of Rs. 60,000.00. This cost does not include the voluntary labour contribution of the local people.

- 9.1.1 In the same locality, a bio-engineering work was also carried out on bank of Aurahi River. The embankment is about 350 meters long. For this embankment they planted bamboo, besharma plant, kharia, kans and sajiwan. Sacks, ropes, pegs and so on were also used for the construction of the embankment. The total cost of the embankment has been Rs. 5,50,000.00. The voluntary labour contribution of the local people has not been calculated in this amount. The local people contributed their labour for about 35 days. 115 people worked daily to complete the embankment.
- 9.1.2 In Suryapatuwa VDC 17 years old Shree Shahid Primary School is retrofitted at the cost of Rs. 2,20,000.00. One elevated tube well and two toilets have also been constructed in the same school. All the construction works were completed in four month's time.
- 9.1.3 In ward number 6 of Khairi VDC an emergency shelter/evacuation center has been constructed at the cost of Rs. 15,94,590.00. Out of this total amount, Save the Children provided Rs. 14, 01,200.00, the VDC provided Rs. 82,750.00 and the rest was the voluntary labour contribution from the local people. The shelter can accommodate about 70 people in the time of emergency.

## **9.2 Findings of the Evaluation in Suryapatuwa and Khairi VDC**

9.2.1 The local people of the Suryapatuwa VDC, ward number 6 Bangalipur were enthusiastic in protecting their community from flood and other disasters. The support of Save the Children is marked as the path finder and stimulant for them.

9.2.2 The community people of Bangalipur constituted an inclusive Community Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) consisting of 11 members

9.2.3 During the interaction, the local community people and the members of the CDMC highlighted their needs as following;

- a) Further extension of the embankment to the north and south;
- b) Fencing of the forest areas to protect the local people and crops from the forest animals, particularly from the elephants;
- c) Construction of road and culverts.

9.2.4 The teachers and students of the two schools in Bangalipur are aware of the hazards and vulnerabilities in their schools. Schools have developed their DRR action plan and have also established emergency funds. However, the schools are facing the problem of safe drinking water;

9.2.5 In Khairi VDC, the local community people were found more conscious than the people of Bangalipur. In Khairi, they have formed a Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC) consisting 25 members where the Overseer of VDC is working as the Member Secretary. They have also prepared a plan and task force for disaster mitigation in the area. Under the task force, they have carried out several activities like: plantation, culvert, elevated model house, grain contribution, relief fund etc.

## **9.3 Consultation with the CDO, LDO & DEO of Bardia**

9.3.1 The Chief District Officer of Bardia highlighted the need and importance of DIPECHO program. He said that Save the Children programs are compatible with the district level District Disaster Preparedness Plan (DDPP). He also said that NGO and civil society involvement in DRR is significant. However, the prime need is how to build the community capacity in the whole disaster management phase for which a prepared community is the prerequisite. Therefore, the programs should be designed in such a way that they reach to the targeted group. So far we are having reactive approach to address the disasters. More importantly, we have not been able to raise much awareness in preparedness. Importance should be given to the development of early warning system. Counselling during traumatic situation is necessary to the disaster affected people. He admitted that there is slackness in rehabilitation and less focus in recovery. He ended his remarks by saying that despite limited resources the district and local government of Bardia is taking DRR plan, program and projects seriously.

9.3.2 The Local Development Officer of Bardia expressed his satisfaction to Save the Children programs carried out in the district although he has not been able to go and see the field work.

9.3.3 The District Education Officer of Bardia said that the DRR projects which were implemented from the local people by the help of Save the Children and local contribution has educated the local people to save the human lives and physical properties from the possible disasters. He suggested implementing more innovative programs in the future. He specified the need of including DRR in school curriculum that educates the students about the first aid, search and rescue, simulation exercises etc. in more detail. He also admitted that it might take 5 to 10 years to change the curriculum, however. He mentioned that the District Education Office is collaborating with local NGOs in some awareness raising programs focused in DRR.

Prior to the remarks of the CDO, LDO & DEO of Bardia, the Consultants highlighted about the need and importance of the DIPECHO program as a whole and in the Bardia district.

#### **9.4 Samrakshan Program in Kailali District**

Samrakshan program in Tikapur of Kailali district can be considered as a model program. The VDC office has distinguished that 11 communities among total 34 are at mostly at risk. By the help of Care Nepal under the DIPECHO program, the local community of Patharaiya and Kutibhulaiya have built culvert, bio-engineering work and other small constructions. They have also developed early warning system. More importantly, four different emergency responding committees namely; Disaster Risk Reduction Committee, Search and Rescue Committee, Early Warning Committee and First Aid Committee have been formed as a part of disaster risk reduction. In addition to the above they have formed various Sub-Committees, Action Committees and Task Forces as well.

In this way, the most vulnerable communities are being trained by the CARE Nepal in coordination with local government and non-government organizations whereas rest 23 communities are in the process of safety preparation.

##### **9.4.1 Findings**

9.4.1.1 On 26 November 2012 one day disaster preparedness experience sharing program was organized in Tikapur, Kailali where a huge jamboree took place. In that program the community people and disaster management stakeholders from the district level government, Care Nepal, NGOs and other organizations were present. The objectives and outcomes of the DIPECHO program were highlighted.

While expressing their views, the community people said that “we confidently rescue people when there is flood in village.

It was learnt that 162 volunteers are working in the Pathriya VDC that consists of about 22,439 people. Four separate emergency response committees have been formed that enhances the risk reduction process in family, community and schools level, effective and functional community based early warning system established, functioning and institutionalizing.

In total, 368 community volunteers have been prepared under the DIPECHO project in various strategic locations of Kailali district. In a nut shell, overall outcome of the program was found satisfactory.

9.4.2 It was a matter of great satisfaction that the community people had formed various Committees and Sub-Committees having a total number of 1106 members.

9.4.3 Most of the members and other community people expressed the view that the partnership with Care Nepal has been fruitful and productive. The major outcomes were: identify the hazards and mitigate them in due time, adopt good practices, develop early warning system, embankment, plantation, search and rescue, first aid, learning by doing and replication of the good practices wherever applicable and necessary.

9.4.3 The community people have collected funds and grains for emergency situation. Voluntary labour contribution for DRR programs has been the part of their programs.

## **9.5 Sharing Meeting in Dadeldhura**

A sharing meeting with the major disaster management stakeholders of Dadeldhura was organized to assess the impact of Care Nepal projects under DIPECHO program. The views from the stakeholders were as following:

9.5.1 The Chief District Officer of Dadeldhura Mr. Rishi Ram Tiwari said that all the projects were formulated and implemented in close cooperation, coordination and collaboration with the district level government agencies, Care Nepal, Nepal Red Cross Society, District Chapter and the concerned communities. The three programs which have been completed satisfactorily need follow up and there is the need of additional three programs in different localities. The CDO realized that the community people are enthusiastic, conscious, aware and highly motivated in DRR plan and programs. The CDO found that the response capacity of the community people is highly enhanced.

The implementing partner of Care Nepal – Nepal Red Cross Society, District Chapter, District Social Conservation Office, concerned Village Development Committees and other DRR stakeholders greatly helped in achieving the goals of the three programs in the selected communities.

9.5.2 The Local Development Officer Mr. Yuba Raj Aryal admired the programs. The absorb capacity of the community is increasing, therefore, further and increased investment is desirable. He said that the local community people are more interested in roads, culverts, drinking water and electrification.

9.5.3 The District Education Officer Mr. Khubi Ram Adhikari said that the school students also have learned a lot about the need and importance of such programs through the initiatives taken by Care Nepal.

9.5.4 The District Deputy Superintendent of Police Krishna Prasad found the community people more aware of the possible hazards than before the start the Care Nepal program.

9.5.6 The Chairman of Nepal Red Cross Society, District Chapter who is also the leader of the partner and implementing agency stated the five strategic aims of the DIPECHO project. He outline the outcomes of the project as following:

- the community people became familiar with the causes and consequences of possible hazards;
- knew the hazards;
- became more aware of disasters;
- learned the ways and means to cope with the disasters;
- built their capacity by the trainings like: first aid, search and rescue etc.
- a total number of 5439 community people have been directly benefitted from the Care Nepal's "Samrakshan" program.

As the grievances of the community people the Chairman said that the community people were demanding for a warehouse and the training should be 4 days instead of 3 days. All the stakeholders emphasized for hardware than software.

## **9.6 Overall Analysis of the Evaluation**

### **9.6.1 Strengths**

9.6.1.1 The beauty of the Save the Children and Care Nepal projects under the DIPECHO was active and voluntary participation of the community people of all project areas.



9.6.1.2 Community people realized the need and importance of DRR particularly disaster mitigation plan, program and projects consisting of hardware as well as software part.

9.6.1.3 The community people have taken full ownership of the projects realizing that the projects have been formulated and implemented for their benefit.

9.6.1.4 In the various Committees and Sub-Committees, participation of women, dalits, janjatis and differently able persons have been actively and proportionately involved/represented.

9.6.4.1.5 Disaster awareness activities such as: simulation exercises, rally and campaigns, street dramas, song competitions and interaction and discussion programs have made the communities more resilient to possible disasters.

### **9.6.2 Weaknesses**

9.6.2.1 Some community people were complaining that the projects were not as per the need of their requirement. For example, they were in need of better roads, embankment, fencing to keep away the wild animals, bridge construction, safe drinking water etc.

9.6.2.2 Some community people were not happy while their suggestions were not well taken by the supporting agencies. They felt that the projects were donor driven.

9.6.2.3 There was less emphasis and investment in hardware part than software.

9.6.2.4 The projects focused less towards recovery and rehabilitation.

## **10 . Conclusion and Recommendations**

As the concluding remarks it can be said that the projects have to a greater extent fulfilled the needs of the community people of the project sites. Full satisfaction, of course, can't be obtained from such small projects with small funding. While all the four districts are vulnerable to multiple hazards and it is not possible to mitigate them in such a short project cycle and limited funds. However, it can be considered as path finder, eye opener and a good start. More importantly, this initiative taken by the Save the Children and Care Nepal needs to be continued on the one hand and replicated in other districts and communities of the country. The above conclusion is based on the reactions or views expressed by the community people and the disaster management government and non-government stake holders.

In brief, following recommendations can be made for the improvement of present and future plan, program and projects:

9.6.1 Involvement of local government stakeholders and particularly the community people is highly desirable from designing to implementation phase of the projects. Because, the participation of local community in DRR is very vital.;

9.6.2 The hardware part should be given more weightage than the software;

9.6.3 Project area should be extended while the project area and scope have been found small and limited;

9.6.4 The support should also cover the recovery and rehabilitation as well.

## **Terms of Reference for final External Evaluation of CARE & Save the Children DIPECHO Program in Nepal under the 6<sup>th</sup> Action Plan for South Asia**

### **1. Background Information**

South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to natural disasters (especially floods/landslides, drought, earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and forest fires) and the growing concerns about the climate change's impact are of particular relevance in this part of the world. It is a region where the social and political structures, demographic pressures, the structure of settlements, agricultural practices and economic development result in a population which is extremely vulnerable to natural disasters. Not only people risk their lives but they also risk each time losing their livelihoods. Some populations are even more vulnerable as they live in very remote areas, belong to minority groups and are forgotten or neglected by their own authorities. The recurrence of disasters, even very small-scale, have each time a greater impact on these populations already suffering from extreme poverty.

The recent events in the region, the most important of which were the cyclone SIDR in Bangladesh end of 2007 and the floods in India and Nepal in 2008 and 2009, have drawn further attention to the importance of having prevention measures to reduce the impact of such natural disasters on the populations, especially the most vulnerable.

With a view to improving the preparedness of vulnerable populations in this region and their capacity to respond to the effects of disasters, DG ECHO has been present in South Asia with its DIPECHO programme since 2001. The current Action Plan has taken into account the lessons learned from the four previous Actions plans and tends at fine-tuning and replicating the good practices that have been identified over the last years.

### **2. DIPECHO in Nepal 6<sup>th</sup> cycle**

The Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO) is providing EUR 3.275 million (NPR approx 328 million) for disaster risk reduction in different parts of Nepal, under its sixth 6th Disaster Preparedness (DIPECHO) action plan for South Asia.

These DIPECHO projects focus on capacity building of vulnerable communities to help them prepare against natural disasters. The communities are supported to develop Community based Early Warning Systems, form Search and Rescue and First aid teams

and construct small scale mitigation measures like evacuation routes, shelters with water and sanitation facilities and bio-dikes to protect river banks from erosion. These actions are carried out jointly by the communities and project staff, where communities initiate the project after assessing their vulnerability and develop a contingency plan.

Besides the above community projects, three hospitals and two rehabilitation centres in the Kathmandu valley are supported to increase their readiness in the event of a major earthquake.

The projects are implemented by five leading partners in Nepal covering 9 Districts in 5 development regions, including various municipalities in the Kathmandu valley. The projects cover around 2 million direct beneficiaries.

Practical Action, Save the Children, Care, World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are the implementing partners. The projects are implemented over a period of up to 20 months.

Practical Action is partnering with Mercy Corps to implement the project "Strengthening capacity for communities for disaster risk reduction through early warning in Nepal" in Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Kanchanpur and Tanahu districts.

Save the Children is implementing the project "Community preparedness for disaster risk reduction in Siraha and Bardiya districts in Nepal while the "Samrakshan-building community resilience to disaster in far western Nepal" is being executed by Care.

Similarly, WHO has built a consortium that comprises of Handicap International, Merlin and Oxfam that implements the project "Enhancing emergency health and rehabilitation response readiness capacity of health system in the event of a high intensity earthquake in the Kathmandu valley".

Finally, UNDP, together with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Oxfam, implement a project on "Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and enhancing response capacity from local to national level in Nepal" covering all the development regions of Nepal.

### **3. Project objective of CARE (Logframe attached) Annex 1**

The overall objective of the CARE's SAMRAKSHAN – DIPECHO project is to contribute to the disaster risk reduction measures in Nepal through community based disaster preparedness efforts and to increase the communities' capacity by enhancing their knowledge and skills to cope with any type of disaster through information, education, training, provision of equipment, linkage and coordination. The SAMRAKSHAN project is building on the experience and lessons learned from SAMADHAN III project and

contribute to the achievement of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in Nepal through the development of community resilience & sustainable disaster risk reduction measures.

The project is expected to enhance CARE's capacity to respond to disaster risk reduction and emergency response and to help women and girls at risk to obtain the power to make strategic choices that affect their lives. The project is influenced by several interconnected CARE strategies such as CARE International's, CARE Österreich's, Asia Regional Management Unit's of CARE, CARE Nepal and the recommendations of the Global CARE Poverty and Climate Change Taskforce.

The primary beneficiaries of the project are the local population of the most vulnerable communities in the underprivileged VDCs in two districts of Far West Nepal. Other vulnerable communities, including youths of neighboring areas, also benefit from activities which are not confined to specific groups such as task force and disaster risk reduction committees. The awareness raising activities through radio programme, street drama, and cultural activities go beyond the directly targeted project communities.

CARE-Nepal is also working closely with other DIPECHO partners in the country to avoid overlapping, ensure cross learning, resource optimization and building the environment for policy level changes.

#### **4. Project objective of Save the Children (Logframe attached) Annex 2**

SC has been working in Nepal since 1980 and the disaster preparedness and response program has become one of its priority programmes since 2000. It has its global dual mandate as development and humanitarian agency and has been focusing a lot on DRR in 20 priority countries which includes Nepal. SC has its long term partnership with Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in Siraha and Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO) in Bardiya. This project has been developed on the basis of these programmes and subsequent assessment, evaluations, recommendations and lessons learned including consultation with communities and other stake holders.

This programme seeks to strengthen the communities and local institutions to be better prepared to respond to disasters through mitigation and by providing materials and tools that serve both communities as well as the institutions themselves in these two target districts.

#### **5. Purpose of evaluation**

To assess if the action of CARE & Save the children DIPECHO projects are in line with the 6<sup>th</sup> action plan guideline and measure the effectiveness, relevancy, replicability,

potential impact and sustainability of the actions in order to provide recommendations for strengthening the scope of disaster risk reduction initiatives through DIPECHO program in Nepal

**a. The specific objective of the evaluation is to:**

1. Measure **the effectiveness** at community level – did the Program meet beneficiaries’ expectations and needs as per specific results listed above;
2. Measure **the relevancy** of the action at community and national level – did the program address the identified needs correctly and is it in line with recommendations of the HFA and national initiatives in disaster risk reduction;
3. Measure **the replicability** of the action - can the action be replicated in other parts of the country without significant changes in the method, investment and materials employed;
4. Assess **the potential impact** of the program by analysing if the key actions at community level are replicable and scalable to higher levels;
5. Evaluate **the sustainability** of the program – which component of the program is likely to continue after the end of the DIPECHO funding and which part is not;
6. Identify **the good practices and lessons learnt** which can be used to improve and strengthen risk reduction initiatives through DIPECHO programs in Nepal; suggest reasons for particular successes and failures if any.
7. Issue **recommendations** for strengthening the scope of disaster risk reduction initiatives through the DIPECHO program in Nepal.

**b. Scope and Focus**

The following outputs are required from the consultant:

- Analytic report that assesses to which extent the overall actions of CARE & Save the children DIPECHO Projects in Nepal have addressed the primary aims and specific recommendations of the 6<sup>th</sup> DIPECHO plan in South Asia.
- Analytical report that addresses the points “a” to “e” listed below.
- Review of good practices implemented under DIPECHO 5<sup>th</sup> as per point “f” below (this point would imply to CARE only).
- Specific recommendations to strengthen DRR initiatives in Nepal through the DIPECHO program.
- Analytical report that assesses to which level the project contributed to Hyogo Framework of Action and Nepal Risk Reduction Consortium (NRRC) Flagships programme.

a) **Effectiveness**

**Effectiveness** measures to which extent the activities funded under the program have achieved their purpose. Therefore, effectiveness should indicate the real difference produced through the funded activities and look in what way the intended beneficiaries

really benefited from the products or services the project made available. Points to be taken into consideration:

- Whether the planned benefits have been delivered and received - as perceived by the key beneficiaries - but also taking into account the views of donor management, responsible national government authorities and other interested parties (NGOs, local organisations, etc);
- Whether the balance of responsibilities between the various stakeholders was correct;
- Whether the project has been implemented efficiently to achieve the stated objects of the program;

**b) Relevance**

**Relevance** is concerned with assessing whether the program identified the problems and needs correctly and whether the projects funded under the program were in line with local needs and priorities as well as with donor policy. The evaluation will assess the **relevance** of the program, related to:

- How well the reality of problems and needs, as well as target beneficiaries were identified and incorporated into the Action Plan;
- Whether prior consultations were undertaken with relevant people on the spot, i.e national and local authorities, intended beneficiaries or other donors and aid organisations (the latter being particularly important to ensure complementarities and to avoid overlap);
- Whether the theoretical approaches promoted (CBDRM concept, Early Warning Strategies) have been practically implemented; What were the discrepancies;
- How local capacities for absorbing the assistance were analysed;
- How the program complements and enhances - rather than duplicates and hinders - related activities carried out by other EC services, governments and donors.

**c) Potential Impact**

**Impact** looks at the wider effects of the action. Impact can be short or long-term, intended or unintended, positive or negative, macro (region/country) or micro (community).

This section should therefore show:

- Whether there were any unplanned impacts (e.g. creation of dependency on projects activities) and how they affected the overall impact;
- Whether vulnerable groups with specific needs benefit from the action and how the action affects them;
- To which extend results can be scaled up from micro level (community) to macro level (region or country); Are any of the results already a scaling up from the

previous Action Plan; Analyse what elements of the program made scaling up possible and which elements prevented it;

- Whether the project directly contributed to saving lives/reducing risks.

d) **Replicability**

**Replicability** measures to which extent the action can be replicated in another area of the country without significantly changing in the methods, investment, resources and equipment involved.

This section should therefore show:

- Whether the action is adapted to the socio-cultural context and can be applied in other locations using local resources and local expertise;
- Is the action well documented so that guidelines and proper instruction can be available at the time of replication:
- Are any of the results already a replication from the previous Action Plan;
- Analyse what elements of the Program have made replication possible, and which elements have prevented it;

e) **Sustainability**

**Sustainability** is concerned with measuring whether activities implemented during the program are likely to continue after donor funding has been withdrawn and also whether its longer-term impact on the wider development process can also be sustained at district, region or country level.

The evaluation will assess the **sustainability** related to:

- Ownership of achievements, e.g. how far all districts and community stakeholders were consulted on the objectives from the outset, and whether they agreed with them and remained in agreement throughout the duration of the project;
- What was the level of support from governmental institutions, the public, businesses and civil society organisations; whether national bodies provided resources;
- Institutional capacity, e.g. the degree of commitment of all parties involved, such as government (e.g. through policy and budgetary support), implementing partner (e.g. through contribution and resources that complement the DIPECHO financial support); to which extent is the project integrated in local institutional structures; were counterparts properly prepared for taking over technically, financially and managerially;
- Financial sustainability, e.g. whether the products or services provided were affordable for the intended beneficiaries and remained so after the funding ended; whether funds were available to cover all costs (including recurrent, operating and maintenance costs) and continue to be so after the funding ended;
- Technical (technology) issues, e.g. whether (i) the technology, knowledge, process or service provided fitted in with existing needs, culture, traditions, skills



- or knowledge; (ii) alternative technologies were considered, when there was a choice; (iii) the intended beneficiaries were able to adapt to and maintain the technology acquired without further assistance; having minimal maintenance, operating and replacement costs and using national resources (notably, in creating jobs) together with minimum waste;
- Wherever relevant cross-cutting issues such as gender, disability, environmental impact, respect of human rights (cast), etc.

f) **Good Practice**

**The good practices** identified by the evaluation team are actions that have demonstrated all of the above mentioned criteria (efficiency, relevancy, replicability, impact and sustainability). This may also include good practises in project management and project processes.

## 6. Methodology of Final Evaluation

The study team will adopt the following methodologies for the evaluation:

- Review of related project documents/agreements/progress reports, country strategies website information, etc.
- Key informant interviews and discussions in the office of I/NGO/s before departure to project sites.
- Focus group discussions with the beneficiaries and other project stake holders(including district and national).
- Personal inspections of the project sites.
- Interviews with the executive office bearers of the I/NGOs after the field visits.
- Discussions with the service recipients, contact officers, related line agency officials, etc.
- Instruments:
  - FGD Guidelines,
  - Structured and non-structured questionnaires,
  - Observation checklists,
  - Evaluation forms and so on.

In addition to the study methodologies mentioned above, the study team may add and apply other methods that seem necessary to achieve the objectives of the evaluation.

## 7. Work Plan (subject to adjustment with consultant)

The methodology is expected to be participatory. Participatory tools may include:

- Observation & transect walks

- Interviews with beneficiaries
- Focus group discussions
- Interview with local and national authorities, donors and DRR stakeholders

What	Days	Time	Methods
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## 8. Reports

This consultancy will ultimately result in the provision of a final written report with a maximum length of 70 pages (including annexes). The report format should include as follows:

- 1. Cover page** (title of the evaluation report, country, project title, sector, date, name of evaluators, indication that *'the report has been produced at the request of DIPECHO partners (CARE & Save the children) in Nepal and financed by the European Commission (DG ECHO). The comments contained herein reflect the opinions of the evaluator only'*).
- 2. Table of contents**
- 3. Executive Summary** An Executive Summary of the main conclusions, lessons learned and recommendations of the evaluation should be no more than five pages with cross-references to the corresponding page or paragraph numbers in the main text. Proposed structure:
  - Purpose and methodology
  - Evaluated results findings
  - Main conclusions related to the evaluation criteria and cross-cutting issues
  - Specific recommendations for a) local implementing partners, b) CARE & Save the children,

- Lessons learned and good practices.
- 4. Main body of the report** The main body of the report shall elaborate on the points listed in the Executive Summary. It will include references to the methodology used for the evaluation and the context of the Program. For each key conclusion, there should be a corresponding recommendation. Recommendations should be feasible and pragmatic and should take careful account of available resources.
- 5. Annexes**
- Terms of Reference
  - List of persons interviewed and sites visited
  - Map of the areas covered
  - Abbreviations
  - All confidential information shall be presented in a separate annex.

The Consultancy Team Leader will respond to the report within maximum 10 working days and any concerns / comments raised will be incorporated by the consultant into the further development of stipulated outputs as per section 3.

Upon receipt of the **final** deliverables as per the schedule outlined in section 7, CARE & Save the children, will have two weeks to comment and make any claims in terms of unfinished work, before the consultancy can be considered completed.

A debriefing meeting will be arranged to share the preliminary findings with ECHO, CARE and Save the Children before finalizing the report.

## **9. Team composition and skills of the evaluators**

The **Team Leader** will have the following:

### Necessary qualifications

- Minimum 8 to 10 years of international hands-on experience in DRR sector (management, coordination, project evaluation, National DRR policies development, risk assessment & contingency planning).
- Proven experience in successful completion of international program evaluation through participatory evaluation methods, evaluation models.
- Familiar with DRR issues of South Asia and Nepal.
- Proficiency in writing in English at a professional level.

### Desirable qualifications

- Nepali language skills

- Familiar with gender and disability cross-cutting issues
- Familiar with the project management cycle of DIPECHO.

The **co-evaluators** will have the following:

Necessary qualifications

- Minimum 4 years hands-on experience in DRR programming (managing, coordinating, program development).
- Experience in evaluation of DRR projects through participatory methods
- Proven experience in running evaluations in Nepal in DRR and related sectors; including use of participatory evaluation methods, evaluation models.
- Familiar with DRR issues of South Asia and Nepal.
- Proficiency in writing in English and Nepali at a professional level.

Desirable qualifications

- Familiar with gender and disability cross-cutting issues
- Familiar with the project management cycle of DIPECHO.

## **10. Timetable**

The consultancy has been scoped as **15 days** of work, starting at the beginning of November 2012 and ending by 20<sup>th</sup> November

### **I. Payment and logistics**

The evaluation team will be paid a fee to include:

- Daily professional fee for the Team Leader and the evaluators
- Per diem/accommodation as per rates decided by CARE & Save the Children

CARE & Save the Children will provide wherever possible:

- Accommodation in lieu of accommodation payment as agreed with consultant
- Transport
- Supplementary documentation

Details on payment and payment schedule will be agreed in the contract.

## **11. Key Informants**

The evaluation should be structured as a participatory process, with beneficiaries fully involved in the investigative process. It is expected that the evaluators will be familiar

with participatory approaches. The Team Leader will meet with representatives of the MOLD, Media, UN, Donors, and DIPECHO international partners at national level. Evaluators will meet with representatives of DDRC and local NGO partners at District and community level.

## **12. Background information available**

The following documentation and material will be made available to the Consultant in English:

- Project documents (proposal, logframe, etc.) of each DIPECHO partner
- DIPECHO Reports to ECHO from previous phase
- Instructions and Guidelines For DG ECHO potential partners wishing to submit proposals under 6<sup>th</sup> DIPECHO ACTION PLAN FOR SOUTH ASIA
- COMMISSION DECISION on the financing of humanitarian actions from the general budget of the European Communities in South Asia (6<sup>th</sup> Dipecho Action Plan)
- Other relevant reports as per agreed information sharing

## **13. Notes**

### **Clauses relating to operations financed by the European Commission – including ECHO**

(a) The European Commission reserves the right to exercise its powers of control, on documents and on the spot, over all contractors and sub-contractors who have received Community funds, in order to verify the conformity of CARE,s and Save the children rules and procedures on procurement and its implementation.

Successful bidders therefore must agree to allow access to the European Commission to their premises and to documents relating to this tender and a possible resulting contract.

(b) CARE & Save the children have received a grant from the European Commission for the implementation of the humanitarian aid operation and intend to apply a portion of that grant to payments under this contract. The European Commission will establish the final amount of the grant and will liquidate it to the partners INGO on completion of the operation on the basis of the expenses presented and declared eligible. No party other than CARE & Save the children shall derive any rights from the grant or have any claim to its proceeds. Under no circumstances or for no reason whatsoever will the

Commission entertain any request for indemnity or payment directly submitted by the humanitarian organisation's contractors.

### **Ineligibility criteria**

Tenderers falling into any of the following cases are excluded from participation in the procurement procedure:

- (a) They are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) They have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement that has the force of res judicata;
- (c) They have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means that the contracting authority can justify;
- (d) They have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) They have been the subject of a judgement that has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (f) Following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the European Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.
- (g) They are engaged in the exploitation of child labour
- (h) They do not respect their employees' basic social rights and working conditions.

Candidates or tenderers must provide a written statement with their tender documents that they are not in one of the situations listed above.

### **Grounds for Exclusion**

Contracts shall not be awarded to candidates or tenderers who, during the procurement procedure:

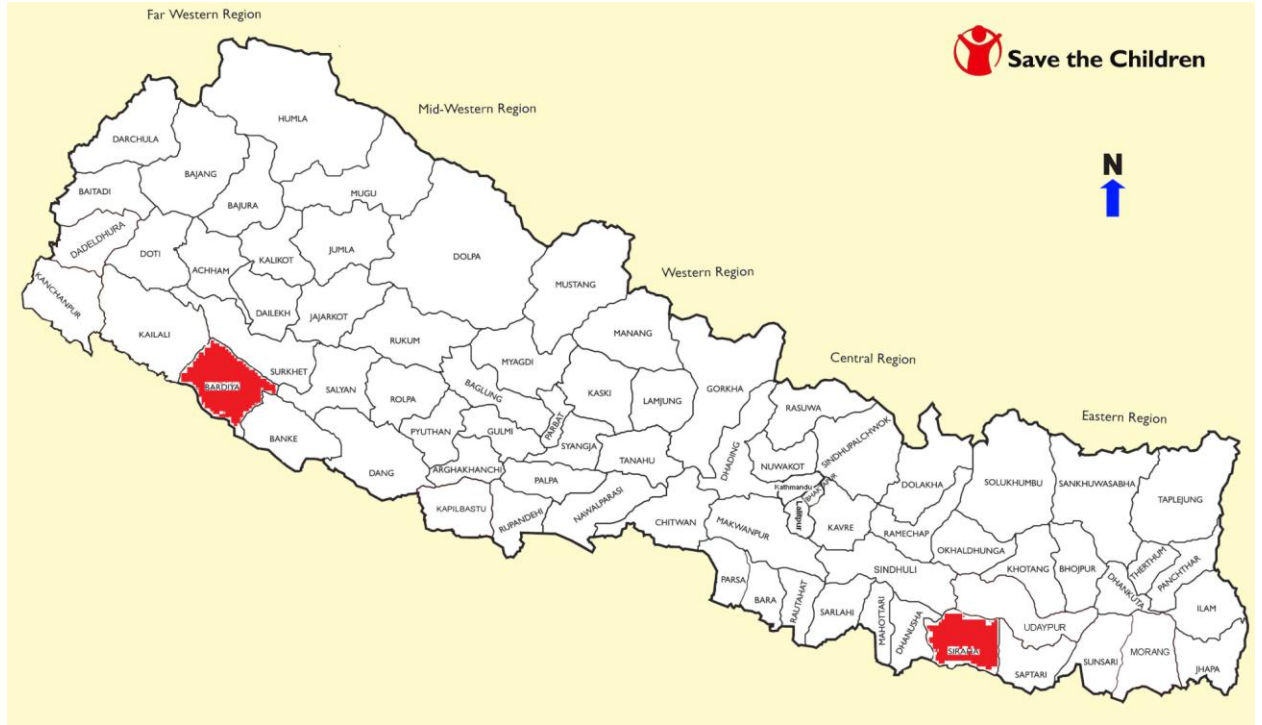
- (a) Are subject to a conflict of interest;
- (b) Are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the humanitarian organisation as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information.
- (c) Have engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive or coercive practices.

### **List of the Officials and People Interviewed**

1. Suryapatuwa Village Disaster Management Committee
  - 1.1 Chairman Mr. Ful Ram Chaudhary
  - 1.2 Vice-Chairman Ms. Kul Rani Chaudhary
  - 1.3 Treasurer Ms. Jyoti Chaudhary
  - 1.4 Secretary Ms. Sabita Chaudhary
  - 1.5 A number of other community people
2. School teachers and students in Shree Sahid Primary School
3. Khairi Chandanpur Village Disaster Management Committee
  - 3.1 Chairman Mr. Milan Ghimire
  - 3.2 Secretary Mr. Surendra Chaudhary
  - 3.3 Member Mr. Jiwanta Neupane
  - 3.4 Member Mr. Ratna B. Guragain
  - 3.5 Member Ms. Ganga Devi Paudel
  - 3.6 Member Mr. Rameswor Paudel
  - 3.7 Member Mr. Prabin Chaudhary
  - 3.8 Member Mr. Uttam Chaudhary
  - 3.9 Member Secretary Mr. Nagendra Prasad Dhakal
  - 3.10 VDC Secretary Mr. Dhurba Raj Paudel
  - 3.11 A number of other community people
4. District Disaster Management Stake Holders of Bardia District
  - 4.1 Chief District Officer Dr.Man Bahadur BK
  - 4.2 Local Development Officer
  - 4.3 District Education Officer
  - 4.4 Other Government Officials
5. SCF Partner Organization - Dalit Welfare Organization(DWO)
  - 5.1 Chairperson
  - 5.2 Project Manager Ms. Durga Chhetri
  - 5.3 Save the Children Staff Mr. Jha
  - 5.4 A number of other staffs
6. Care Nepal – DIPECHO Project Manager Mr. Rajesh Srivastava
  - 6.1 Assistant Project Manager Mr. Surendra B. Bam
  - 6.2 District Coordinator Ms. Sweksha Shrestha
  - 6.3 Secretary of DRR Committee Ms. Sarita Chaudhary and a number of other community members were interviewed in Tikapur, Kailali
7. Dadeldhura
  - 7.1 Chief District Officer Mr. Rishi Ram Tiwari
  - 7.2 Local Development Officer Mr. Yuba Raj Aryal
  - 7.3 District Education Officer Mr. Khubi Ram Adhikari
  - 7.4 Deputy Superintendent of Police Mr. Krishna Prasad
  - 7.5 Nepal Red Cross Society, District Chapter Chairman Mr. Surendra Singh Ayer
  - 7.6 Other Government Officials and a number of community people

Maps of the Project Sites

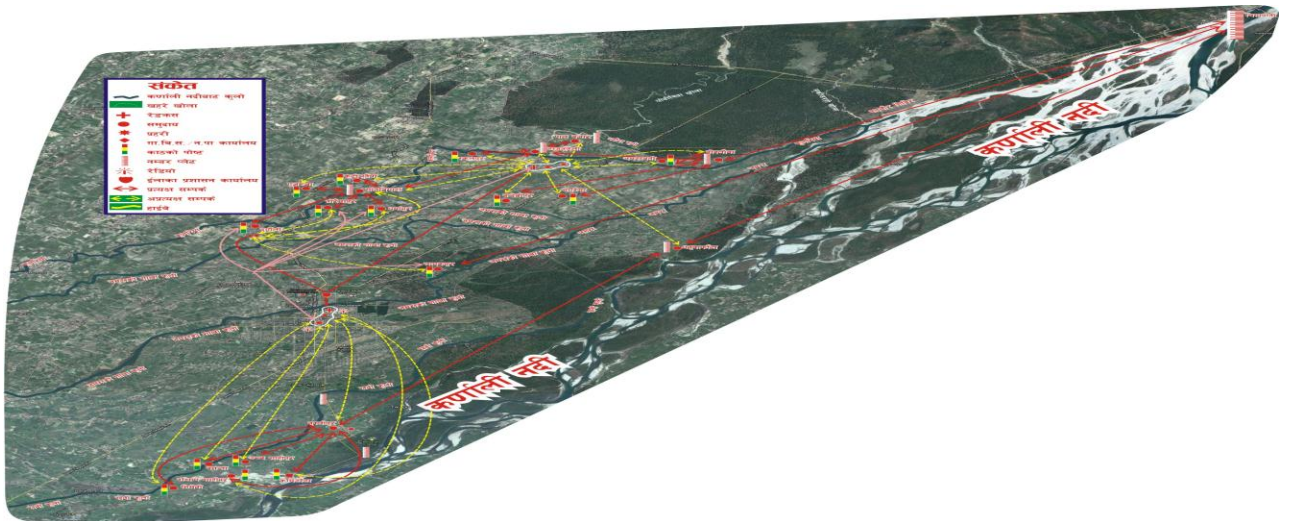
Map 1. Map of Save the Children Project Sites



- 8.
- 9.

Map 2. Map of the CARE Nepal’s SAMRAKSHAN DIPECHO project in Kailali

10.





**ABBREVIATIONS**

1. AAN - Action Aid Nepal
2. AusAID - Australian Agency for International Development
3. APF - Armed Police Force
4. CARE - Cooperation for American Relief Everywhere
5. CBDRM - Community Based Disaster Risk Management
6. CBO - Community Based Organizations
7. CDO - Chief District Officer
8. CDRC - Central Disaster Relief Committee
9. DAO - District Administration Office
10. DDC - District Development Committee
11. DDRC - District Disaster Relief Committee
12. DPNet-Nepal - Disaster Preparedness Network-Nepal
13. DRM - Disaster Risk Management
14. DRR - Disaster Risk Reduction
15. DWIDP - Department of Water Induced Disaster Prevention
16. DWSCM- Depart. of Soil Conservation and Watershed Management
17. FY - Fiscal Year
18. GO - Government Organization
19. GON - Government of Nepal
20. HFA - Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

- 21. INGO - International Non-Government Organization
- 22. LDO - Local Development Officer
- 23. LDRC - Local Disaster Relief Committee
- 24. MOES - Ministry of Education and Sports
- 25. MOFLD - Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
- 26. MOHA - Ministry of Home Affairs
- 27. NA - Not Available
- 28. NA - Nepal Army
- 29. NP - Nepal Police
- 30. NDRA - Natural Disaster Relief Act
- 31. NGO - Non-Governmental Organization
- 32. NPC - National Planning Commission
- 33. NRs. - Nepalese Rupees
- 34. NRCS - Nepal Red Cross Society
- 35. NSDRM - National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management
- 36. RDRC - Regional Disaster Relief Committee
- 37. SAR - Search and Rescue
- 38. SCF - Save the Children Fund
- 39. UNDP - United Nations Development Program
- 40. VDC - Village Development Committee

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<sup>i</sup> Tarai is a flat and fertile land mass of Southern part of Nepal that extends from East to West. It covers 23 percent of the total land of Nepal.