

Scoping Study on Anticipatory Action in Nepal



Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	<i>i</i>
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations	<i>ii</i>
Executive Summary	1
CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND	3
1.1 Objectives of the study	3
CHAPTER 2: Methodology	5
CHAPTER 3: FINDINGS	6
3.1 Review of Existing Policies and Literature in Anticipatory Action	6
3.1.1. Federal Policies related to Anticipatory action in Nepal.	6
3.1.2. Provincial Policies and Plans	10
3.1.3 Local level Policies and Plans	11
3.2 Legal & Policy gap in cash assistance and anticipatory action in Nepal	12
3.3 Development Support Mobilization Challenge	14
3.4. Stakeholder Mapping on Anticipatory Action	16
3.4.1 Government Stakeholders Mapping	16
3.5 Anticipatory action related Programmes in Nepal	17
3.5.1 National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action.....	17
3.5.2 The second national anticipatory action dialogue:	18
3.5.3 7th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action in Kathmandu	19
3.5.4 Anticipatory Action Timeline	20
3.5.5 Indigenous knowledge and practice on EWS	21
3.5.6 Science and Technology in EWS	22
3.5.7 Review of Information Flow and Communication on EWS	24
3.5.8 Use of Both Scientific and Indigenous Techniques to Disseminate Early Warning	25
3.6. Experience of development partners implementing Anticipatory Action	27
3.7. Gender Analysis in Anticipatory Action	28
3.8 Gender Protocol on Anticipatory Action	31
CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATION	32
Annexes	35

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AA	Anticipatory Action
CfW	Cash for Work
CCG	Cash Coordination Group
DCA	Danish Church Aid
DHM	Department of Hydropedology
DRC	Danish Red Cross
DRR/CC	Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change
EWS	Early Warning Systems
FbA	Forecast-based Action.
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GLOF	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods
GoN	Government of Nepal
IBF	Integrated Beneficiary Framework
INGO	International Non-government Organization
KIIs	Key Informant Interview
LDCRP	Local Disaster and Climate Resilience Plan
LDMC	Local Disaster Management Committees
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
NARC	Nepal Agricultural Research Council
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NDRRMA	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority
NPC	National Planning Commission
NPDRR	National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
NRCS	Nepal Red Cross Society
PIN	People in Need
SRSP	Shock Responsive Social Protection
UN	United Nations
WBG	World Bank Group
WFP	World Food Program

Executive Summary

Nepal, rich in geographical diversity, is highly vulnerable to various disasters, making it crucial to develop and implement anticipatory action strategies. The scoping study on Anticipatory Action in Nepal aimed to understand the situation of anticipatory actions in Nepal, focusing on challenges and potential solutions for effective disaster mitigation and swift recovery. The research combined a detailed literature review, interviews with relevant stakeholders, experts and local leaders, group discussions, and direct consultations with communities affected by disasters. This comprehensive approach helped provide a deep understanding of the existing strategies, their successes, and areas for improvement. While Nepal's National DRR Strategic Plan of Action 2018-2030 guides federal disaster management, there are still gaps, especially concerning cash assistance and anticipatory action. Provinces across Nepal also show varying levels of policy gaps in anticipatory action.

Interestingly, while the term anticipatory action may not be explicitly mentioned, the provisions for forecast-based preparedness planning and comprehensive risk-informed investments in some policy documents represent the principles and objectives of Anticipatory action. The study also highlighted bureaucratic challenges, with several policy decisions stalling due to complex approval processes. While NDRRMA is keen on developing a policy on SRSP and anticipatory action, the DRRM Act 2017 states that the DRRM Executive Committee is responsible for approving related policies. Dozens of committee-approved policy decisions remain unimplemented due to a bureaucratic cycle where Ministries seek Ministerial cabinet approval. Still, the cabinet deflects responsibility back to the Executive Committee, causing policy initiatives to stall. MoHA believes that cash-based anticipatory action might disrupt societal cohesion. They argue that if relief is provided in anticipation of a disaster, and the disaster affects those without assistance while sparing those with assistance, it could spark conflict. Such disputes might escalate, potentially requiring federal intervention and force to maintain order.

Various development partners have different takes on anticipatory actions. For instance, some projects of development partners have faced criticism in Nepal for their beneficiary predictions during disasters, leading to community discord in some cases. In contrast, some development partners adopted a strategy rooted in community consultations, aiming to identify the most vulnerable households and provide support based on specific needs. This approach led to more targeted and effective assistance, minimizing potential conflicts. One significant finding was the gender disparity in disaster impacts. The gender analysis in the context of climate change and disaster risk reduction revealed significant disparities, with a mean scoring of 77.10% compared to women's 48.08%, highlighting a substantial 29.02% difference between the genders across various criteria. The study thus stressed the importance of gender-responsive strategies for a more inclusive and effective approach.

Recommendations from the study were multifaceted. At the federal level, there's a need for clear guidelines on cash distributions and an official acknowledgment of anticipatory action's importance. Improvements in early warning systems, collaboration with international organizations for funding, and proactive community engagement were also emphasized. Local

governments were advised to focus on community-based early warning systems, while entities like Oxfam should prioritize advocacy, technology integration, and gender considerations for effective anticipatory action.

As Nepal faces increasing risks from various disasters, the need for robust, inclusive, and effective anticipatory actions is evident. With collaborative efforts, clear policies, and proactive community engagement, Nepal can ensure better preparedness and resilience against future threats.

CHAPTER 1: BACKGROUND

Nepal has a diverse geography ranging from the Himalayas to the plains of the Terai and presents a unique set of challenges when it comes to disaster risk management. Its vulnerabilities stem not only from its geography but also from socio-economic, environmental, and developmental elements. Intensifying the situation, climate change aggravates the frequency and magnitude of hydrometeorological hazards in the country. Against this backdrop, socio-economic challenges such as poverty, limited education, rapid urbanization, and inadequate infrastructure further heighten disaster vulnerability.

In the recent decade, development partners have been introducing various types of disaster management techniques in the country. The concept of Anticipatory action is increasingly relevant in today's disaster management discourse. Instead of merely responding to disasters post-event, Anticipatory Action emphasizes proactive measures to mitigate disaster impacts. As the world witnesses a surge in disaster events, there's a growing realization that traditional reactionary methods are insufficient. Anticipatory action goes beyond immediate relief. It integrates proactive strategies, like advanced forecasting and Early Warning Systems, which offer timely insights for community preparedness. Such a forward-looking approach not only prevents immediate suffering and loss but may also support resilience.

“Anticipatory action refers to actions taken before a crisis hits to prevent or reduce potential disaster impacts prior to a shock or before acute impacts are felt. The actions are carried out based on forecasts or predictions of how the event will unfold.” (IFRC)

Despite the progress in Anticipatory action, there remains a need for a comprehensive analysis to understand the efficacy of anticipatory measures holistically and bridge any existing gaps between disaster risk reduction policies and anticipatory strategies. Such an all-encompassing study can pave the way for a paradigm shift from reactive to proactive disaster management, ensuring resources and lives are safeguarded in the long run.

Oxfam has set its presence in Nepal for over four decades, focusing on resilience & climate justice, gender justice, and WASH & water governance. Through the years, it has played a pivotal role in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change initiatives. Its multifaceted approach encompasses community capacity building, early warning systems enhancement, policy advocacy, and research. Oxfam's holistic strategy promotes community-centric solutions, giving primacy to local insights in disaster management, thereby amplifying resilience and reducing vulnerabilities. The main motivation for this study was to map existing literature and governance structures along with community perception on anticipatory actions in order to lay the foundation of key strategies and entry points for Oxfam Nepal and its partners.

1.1 Objectives of the study

The specific objectives of the study are:

- To map the existing policies, practices and governance related to DRR, CC and Anticipatory action at the national/provincial/local levels.
- To provide a gender-sensitive analysis of CC and DRR policies and practices, particularly to understand the level of engagement and involvement of women in disaster preparedness.
- To investigate and capture knowledge and learning on the extent to which the Anticipatory Action as well EWS approaches are playing an effective role in reducing climate vulnerability.
- To analyze traditional and non-traditional early warning information available to communities for making decisions related to Anticipatory Actions
- To establish key strategies and entry points for Oxfam Nepal and its partners, the research aimed to chart governance structures and know community perceptions regarding anticipatory actions.

CHAPTER 2: Methodology

The research incorporated an exploratory approach to understand the role and impact of Anticipatory actions in Nepal's disaster management and climate change efforts. A comprehensive literature review was undertaken, sourcing from government policies, academic writings, NGO documents, media articles, and insights from globally recognized organizations like the Red Cross and UN agencies.

Twenty different Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were carried out, involving stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, including governmental bodies like the Ministry of Home Affairs, international organizations, NGOs, academia, community leaders, and institutions like Oxfam. This ensured a multifaceted understanding of the topic. Two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were organized in Dadeldhura and Kanchanpur districts, capturing qualitative insights from local communities, women, and youth.

These FGDs were intended to explore Anticipatory actions and DRR strategies, highlighting gender-specific issues and the perspectives of the youth. Additionally, community consultations were organized in these districts to involve various groups such as disaster committees, youth, women, and people with disabilities. These consultations aimed to evaluate current early warning systems and actively involved communities in formulating district-tailored Anticipatory action strategies. Altogether, 90 people consulted through KII, FGD and community consultations with 61 female participants.

CHAPTER 3: FINDINGS

3.1 Review of Existing Policies and Literature in Anticipatory Action

The devastating earthquake of 2015 showed the importance of robust disaster management provisions in the Nepalese constitution. As a result, the Constitution of Nepal now emphasizes disaster management extensively. Following this constitutional change, Nepal replaced the 35-year-old Natural Calamity Relief Act of 1982 with the Disaster Risk Reduction & Management (DRRM) Act of 2017. Despite these significant steps, neither the Constitution nor the act explicitly addresses Anticipatory Action. The constitution does, however, delineate disaster management responsibilities. It designates preparedness, rescue, relief, and rehabilitation as shared responsibilities between Federal and Provincial governments (as per Schedule 7). While local governments are exclusively tasked with disaster management (Schedule 8), the responsibility is collaboratively shared among Federal, Provincial, and Local governments (Schedule 9). This allocation of duties is elaborated upon in the DRR National Strategic Plan of Action, spanning from 2018 to 2030.

3.1.1. Federal Policies related to Anticipatory action in Nepal.

3.1.1.1 National Policy for DRR, 2018

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy of 2018 has been introduced to strengthen the country's resilience by mitigating existing disaster risks and preempting the emergence of new potential threats, thus fostering a safer, more adaptable, and resilient society in the face of disasters. Objective 5.5 emphasizes the enhancement of disaster preparedness and response through improvements in the disaster information management system and the development and expansion of a multi-hazard early warning system. Point 6.6 promotes the adoption of innovative financial investments. As per point 7.9, there is a commitment to leveraging appropriate technology to strengthen disaster preparedness for an effective disaster Response. To this end, various entities, including the private sector, financial institutions, insurance companies, development partners, and donor agencies, will be motivated to invest in disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, in line with provision 7.42, there will be consistent monitoring and forecasting of natural hazards such as floods, landslides, droughts, thunderbolts, and others. The objective is to enhance disaster preparedness through the formulation and execution of Forecast-Based Preparedness and Response Plans, underpinned by a robust early warning system.

3.1.1.2. National DRR Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030

The National DRR Strategic Plan of Action focuses on enhancing the country's resilience against natural disasters by improving preparedness, response mechanisms, and integrating disaster risk reduction strategies into national policies and frameworks. Guiding Principle 6 of the plan of action articulates the vital need to empower local authorities and communities in their efforts to mitigate disaster risks (Page 37). This empowerment is envisaged through equipping them with the

necessary resources incentives, and granting them appropriate decision-making responsibilities. An integral aspect of this principle is captured in Indicator 6, which calls for a substantial enhancement in both availability and accessibility to early warning systems that cater to multiple hazards. Moreover, this indicator seeks to improve access to vital disaster risk information and comprehensive assessments. Specifically, the plan measures the success of this indicator in three ways: First, by monitoring the proportion of the country's area that has established multi-hazard monitoring and early warning system (6.1); Secondly, by gauging the fraction of the population, especially in disaster-affected regions, who receive early warnings through either local or national information systems (6.2); and Thirdly, by determining the percentage of local administrative divisions in high-risk zones that have devised and implemented forecast-based preparedness plans (6.3) (Page 37).

The plan further explores Priority Area 3, emphasizing the importance of fostering a holistic approach towards risk-informed investments in disaster risk reduction, catering to private and public sectors (Page 122). Using this approach, development partners, notably UN agencies and INGOs, leverage Forecast-based financing as a modality. Such agencies are practicing cash-based anticipatory actions across various local governments and complementing this, under the priority actions in areas C (6.3) that aim at boosting private investment for disaster risk reduction. These include but are not limited to Forecast-Based Financing, micro-investments, micro-credits, and various insurance modalities, including reinsurance. It's worth noting that many development partners have identified this strategy as a key entry point to drive forward Anticipatory action initiatives. Moreover, as the plan underscores the significance of strengthening disaster preparedness to ensure an efficacious disaster response, it highlights a pivotal strategic activity on Page 133. This activity emphasizes the importance of revitalizing and adapting both the National Disaster Response Framework and the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan, with a keen focus on forecast-based emergency preparedness and response mechanisms.

3.1.1.3 National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy, 2020

The *National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy of 2020* envisions a Disaster Resilient Nepal that safeguards development achievements by minimizing annual disaster losses and employs risk transfer instruments through effective financing for disaster risk reduction and management. Its goal is to establish pre-arranged financial mechanisms that provide timely and adequate resources during disasters while fostering financial risk sharing among stakeholders, resulting in reduced financial, physical, social, and human losses from disasters.

One of its key activities is to enhance Hazard Monitoring and Disaster Early Warning Information Systems, emphasizing the enactment of essential laws and guidelines and establishing a Common Alerting System (CAS) to improve warning system effectiveness and responsiveness. Additionally, the strategy promotes proactive financial preparedness by integrating reliable Early Warning Information into pre-financing mechanisms. It also seeks to integrate weather-based forecasting into agricultural insurance and expand community access to index-based insurance

services. In the financial sector of disaster risk mitigation, the strategy aims to pilot test and implement innovative financing approaches to comprehensively address disaster risk reduction, strengthen economic and institutional resilience, and enhance overall disaster management practices.

3.2.1.4 National Climate Change Policy 2019

Nepal's Climate Change Policy shows its commitment to tackling climate change, especially in farming and food. The policy talks about growing different crops, using farming methods that are good for the environment, and mixing farming with tree planting. The policy intends to blend indigenous knowledge with new, environmentally friendly methods. It also aims to give farmers updates on the weather and a way to get insurance for bad weather events. For dealing with natural disasters, the policy stresses the importance of Early Warning Systems (EWS) to alert people ahead of time. Even if the policy doesn't specifically talk about anticipatory action for these disasters, the focus on EWS hints at it.

3.2.1.5 Province and Local Level Development Support Mobilization Standard, 2019

Point 17 of the *'Province and Local Level Development Support Mobilization Standard, 2019'* outlines the process for mobilizing support received from national and international non-governmental organizations. According to this provision, the Province and Local Government should collaborate with the Social Welfare Council to execute various development projects at the local level. These projects are designed to integrate with the programs of national and international non-governmental organizations affiliated with the council. The goal is to effectively harness and utilize the support provided by these organizations as part of the annual development program of the respective Province and Local Government. As this process is time-consuming and hectic, in some instances, development partners choose to undertake activities independently, bypassing the formal inclusion of their initiatives within the Local or Provincial Government's annual development program.

3.2.1.6 Draft Shock Responsive Social Protection (Operation & Management) Guideline-NDRRMA

Guided by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) and supported by the technical expertise of the World Bank Group (WBG), a specialized Task Group led by the NDRRMA has drafted Shock Responsive Social Protection (Operation and Management) Guidelines in 2021. Central to this initiative is the proactive distribution of monetary support and tangible resources, such as in-kind support, shelter, etc., to economically needy people and disaster-prone groups, informed by risk anticipation through early warning system disseminated alerts from various gauge stations or other means of communication channels such as radio. The primary aim is to alleviate the impact of natural disasters for upfront risk mitigation endeavors. This process entails supplying these select households with essential food and non-

food items, determined per the benchmarks of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) to ensure their day-to-day requirements are met.

The procedure emphasizes predictive monetary support, including measures such as acquiring or securely stockpiling essentials and considering farmers' agricultural practices and products. Such cash provisions are to be dispersed no later than ten days before the forecasted event. On the financial administration front, the guideline ensures all related expenditures flow through the Disaster Management Fund across Federal, Provincial, and Local Government, strictly in line with its operational protocols. The fund's revenue sources are aligned with its pre-established operational framework, with provisions for humanitarian actors to financially support the fund, aiming to address the distinct needs of populations affected by disasters at various administrative levels. This initial draft of the procedure is undergoing a review phase, but there is a bitter fact that over two dozen policy decisions carried out by the DRRM Executive Committee have not been effectively implemented.

NDRRMA has shown a keen interest in anticipatory action and is eager to formulate a policy on Shock Responsive Social Protection and Anticipatory Action. According to the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2017, the DRRM Executive Committee holds the power to approve policies concerning disaster management. However, a significant challenge has emerged. Over two dozen policy decisions introduced by the Executive Committee haven't been effective in practice, and many ministries hesitate to take ownership of them. The ministries argue that these policies should be passed through the ministerial cabinet. Yet, when these policies are presented to the cabinet, the responsibility is deflected back to the executive committee. This cyclic blame game has created a policy limbo in disaster risk reduction and management, leaving many initiatives in a standstill. (MoFAGA, 2023).

3.2.1.7 Draft Local Government's Cash Assistance (Operation) Guideline

To bridge the existing gap in cash distribution for the humanitarian agencies, MoHA and MoFAGA formed the Inter-ministry Task Team in 2020 to introduce cash distribution guidelines. However, no significant progress has been made. This delay has led to confusion among development partners regarding the distribution of cash.

3.2.1.8 Other Federal Policies

Components of Anticipatory Action are evident across multiple policy frameworks on DRR, agriculture, and climate resilience. The 15th National Plan (2019-2023) underlines the importance of DRR and the goal of a safe and resilient Nepal. A significant emphasis is placed on DRR, with provisions for a robust early warning system anchored in geographical information systems. Similarly, the Agriculture Development Strategy (2015-2035) intends to heighten farmers' resilience by investing in climate-smart agriculture practices such as crop diversification, organic farming, and agroforestry that can enhance resilience by making farming systems more adaptable to changing weather patterns. Apart from that, access to climate information and early warning systems is crucial, enabling farmers to make informed decisions and prepare for impending

disasters (Pg. 6), aiming at higher agricultural productivity even in the face of climatic adversities. It proposes a comprehensive climate and weather information system and climate-smart agricultural techniques such as Drought-Resistant Crop Varieties, Flood-Resistant Crop Varieties, Improved Irrigation Techniques, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The National Agriculture Policy 2004 emphasizes the necessity of a comprehensive early warning system focused on food security, ensuring stakeholders remain forewarned against potential threats. Moreover, the NARC (Nepal Agricultural Research Council)'s Strategic Vision for Agriculture (2011-2030) assigns early warning and disaster preparedness as cornerstones for ensuring food security in Nepal. Lastly, the National Determined Contribution (NDC), 2020 sets an ambitious target of multi-hazard monitoring and EWS to be established across all provinces by 2030.

These policies reflect Nepal's strategic approach to embedding Anticipatory Action in its core developmental and risk management frameworks.

3.1.2. Provincial Policies and Plans

Several Provincial Governments have recognized the critical importance of EWS and forecast-based assistance, embedding these elements into their policies and strategic roadmaps. For instance, Karnali province has charted an ambitious plan to strengthen its disaster preparedness and risk reduction capacities such that, by 2030, they aim for 100% coverage of their territory with a multi-hazard monitoring and early warning system, compared to 20% in 2022. Similarly, by that year, the Karnali Provincial Government aspires the entire population (100%) in disaster-affected zones to receive early warnings, up from 20% in 2022. The province also aims to have a forecast-based preparedness plan by 2025 for all local levels in disaster-prone areas. Furthermore, they are targeting a 100% capability enhancement in risk communication regarding disaster preparedness and system building across local levels by 2030 to disseminate essential disaster risk information to the public. Adding a human-centered approach, they're driving an initiative to be able to move 100% of the population from hazard-prone regions post-disaster warning by 2030, which would be a considerable jump from a target of 30% in 2022.

Similar to Karnali Province, Sudur Paschim Province has set ambitious goals for its DRR strategic plan of action. With a total of 87 Local Governments, the Province aims to substantially enhance the availability and accessibility of multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments. For instance, by 2022, they aim to have at least five Local Governments equipped with multi-hazard monitoring and early warning systems. Yet, the team could not find any relevant information on it to shed light on whether the aim was fulfilled. On top of that, the names of the five local levels were not disclosed, making it difficult for the team to trace the progress. This goal escalates to 10 by 2025 and 20 local governments by 2030. Additionally, the Province plans to establish Local Emergency Operation Centers within their Local Governments, targeting five by 2022, 10 by 2025, and again reaching 20 by 2030.

Both provinces' plans acknowledge the need for data-driven decision-making, with plans to accurately analyze hazard data and forecasts, subsequently churning out timely early warning alerts aligned with their hazard calendar. To ensure this valuable information reaches vulnerable

communities, their architecting processes are simultaneous with Local Disaster Management Committees (LDMC), local communication pathways, and the hydro-meteorological center. The study has been carried out highlighting these two provinces as the study municipalities were in one of these provinces where remarkable works have been done in the DRM sector specifically in EWS establishment.

3.1.3 Local level Policies and Plans

Some Local Governments have implemented cash and voucher assistance anticipatory activities in support of various development partners' responses. With the collaborative efforts of development partners, especially the World Food Programme (WFP), Local Governments have been equipped to incorporate Anticipatory Action principles, actions, and triggering mechanisms into their Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan (DPRP) and forecast-based action initiatives. Additionally, several municipalities, in support of the WFP, have formally endorsed the Anticipatory Cash Guidelines. One noteworthy example is the Dodhara Chandani Municipality, which, with the support of Oxfam and Danish Church Aid, has pioneered the development of forecast-based preparedness procedures with specific lead times. These procedures emphasize the pivotal role of disaster preparedness grounded in forecasts, with the primary objective being to safeguard communities from potential disasters. This includes early action and disaster preparedness based on the forecast, preparedness, and early action based on seasonal outlook, preparedness and early action based on the fifteen-day, seven-day, three-day, and twenty-four-hour forecast, hazard surveillance, and disbursement of advanced relief assistance.

The measures include hazard and disaster risk analysis, robust monitoring systems, and an efficient early warning communication mechanism. Other integral components include streamlined early information analysis, task force formation based on forecasts, localized hazard surveillance, and adaptive measures tailored for specific hazards like cold waves, droughts, and pandemics. The outline also advocates for prompt financial support based on early hazard information and stipulates insurance coverage for teams engaged in disaster response activities.

Recognizing the value of setting disaster preparedness in the minds of future generations, some initiatives were embedded DRR and early warning knowledge into educational syllabuses and relevant training programs. For example, Wildlife Conservation Nepal, in coordination with Birendranagar Municipality has initiated "*Karnali Climate Action Education Program*" (KCAEP) for Karnali Province, which aims to address the current alarming situation caused by global warming through climate change education and to raise awareness of the issue among the younger generation as well as Assisting in the development of its local curriculum for all the schools of the Birendranagar Municipality, for basic level (grade 1-8) and introducing Green School Program. Additionally, a significant emphasis is placed on fortifying the information dissemination machinery and fine-tuning communication synchronization for disaster preparedness.

With the support of Save the Children, Narainapur Rural Municipality and Rapti Sonari Rural Municipality have developed protocols to address the effects of cold waves. The development of the protocol involves risk analysis based on a two-decade long risk timeline, assessments of potential impacts on different demographic groups, and a thorough examination of triggers. The established protocol also dictates the precise modalities of early interventions, from disseminating life-saving messages to the distribution of warm clothing and financial support. Notably, their strategy ensures a no-regret approach and details beneficiary selection and registration processes based on various criteria such as senior citizen above 80 years, Lactating mother, etc.

Municipalities such as Dodhara Chandani, Bhajani, Beldandi, Bhimdatta and others have formulated cash distribution procedures embedding anticipatory measures. Meanwhile, District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC) in Dang, alongside Rajpur, Gadhawa, and Babai Rural Municipalities, in collaboration with Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS), have introduced their disaster risk management strategies which encompass monsoon preparedness, response plans, and flood contingency plans, with Anticipatory Action interwoven into their standard responsibilities as these plans have been formulated putting the anticipatory action component in the core.

3.2 Legal & Policy gap in cash assistance and anticipatory action in Nepal.

The inclusion of provisions of forecast-based preparedness plans within Nepal's Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Plan of Action and National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy reflects a forward-thinking and proactive approach to disaster management. These provisions signify the importance of early warning systems, timely response, and disaster preparedness. Forecast-based preparedness plans inherently adopt the anticipatory action approach by utilizing forecasts and early warning information to trigger predetermined actions and interventions. They acknowledge the need to act before a disaster strikes based on credible forecasts. By developing such plans at the Local Level in disaster-prone areas, Nepal is laying the foundation for anticipatory action. These plans are designed to provide communities with specific guidance on what actions to take and when to take them, and include the requirement of the resources in their disaster management plans to make the municipalities allocate resources in response to forecasted hazards.

Promoting comprehensive risk-informed investments in disaster risk reduction, as mentioned in the policy, also aligns with the anticipatory action approach. The policy emphasizes the importance of assessing and addressing underlying vulnerabilities and risks, not just responding to disasters as they happen. While the term "anticipatory action approach" may not be explicitly mentioned, the provisions for forecast-based preparedness planning and comprehensive risk-informed investments in Nepal's policy documents represent the principles and objectives of anticipatory action. However, the situation in Nepal regarding the execution of anticipatory action and the distribution of cash assistance, both post-disaster and in anticipation of disasters by non-governmental agencies, is characterized by several policy and legal gaps. The NDRRMA's Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan, 2023, permits only UN agencies to provide cash assistance based on forecasts, creating uncertainty about the participation of INGOs in such

initiatives. These issues and gaps create significant challenges and uncertainties in implementing these initiatives.

3.2.1. Government mechanism for cash distribution: Within Nepal's diverse and disaster-prone landscape, the incorporation of cash assistance in anticipatory humanitarian actions emerges as a strategic yet complex facet, necessitating for a prompt approach. This approach empowers communities by addressing their unique, immediate needs while navigating through the nation's socio-economic and logistical intricacies. By linking cash interventions with comprehensive anticipatory actions, the aim is to strengthen community resilience, ensuring that support is not merely reactive, but proactively mitigates and navigates through potential crises, safeguarding and reinforcing socio-economic stability in vulnerable contexts. Considering this fact, throughout this study, issues of cash has been considered largely.

The Federal Government has established its own mechanism for cash distribution as part of post-disaster relief efforts (for example, Disaster Victim Rescue and Relief Related Standard, 2019), channelling these funds through entities such as DDMC or LDMC. This distribution is exclusively managed by the Federal Government based on the standard, preventing other non-government agencies from directly distributing cash. Non-government agencies are limited to providing in-kind support through a one-door system (*A "one-door system" refers to a streamlined approach where all assistance/relief and coordination are centralized and disbursed through government agencies such as DDMC at the district level, simplifying access to relief, and improving response efficiency.*)

However, development partners can contribute funds to the District Disaster Management Fund. This restriction has led to the need for cash distribution guidelines for the development partners. While collaborating with local implementing partners, these organizations engage with communities. However, after a disaster, government authorities request development partner's assistance, but they are constrained to provide assistance through one-door system. Generally development partners preference is to distribute cash, but the absence of clear cash distribution guidelines prevents them from doing so despite having the necessary resources.

3.2.2 Lack of Cash Distribution Guidelines: To bridge the existing gap in cash distribution for the humanitarian agencies, MoHA and MoFAGA formed the Inter-ministry Task Team in 2020 to introduce cash distribution guidelines. However, no significant progress has been made. This delay has led to confusion among development partners regarding cash distribution.

3.2.3 Engagement of Development Partners in Anticipatory Action:

The Ministry of Home Affairs has been expressing significant reservations about anticipatory action and cash distribution initiatives. Contrarily, other governmental agencies are attempting to create a favorable environment for such anticipatory actions. For instance, MoFAGA is working on introducing a 'Cash Distribution Guideline', while NDRRMA is developing guideline for Shock

Responsive Social Protection (SRSP). The SRSP task group formed under NDRRMA interprets that anticipatory action is a vital component of SRSP. However, policies initiated by NDRRMA have often been met with reluctance from other governmental ministries, who believe that such policies should be endorsed through the ministerial cabinet. This bureaucratic complexity creating major hurdle to introduce policy on anticipatory action promptly.

Nonetheless, no existing policies directly restrict development partners, like Oxfam, from engaging in anticipatory action and cash distribution. Such interventions, however, should be flexible and embraced by local governments and the communities they impact. For example, if a flood is predicted and development partners distribute cash and material support in anticipation a few days prior, but the flood alters course, affecting a different populace, complications arise. Those unsupported household but affected by flood may seek assistance from development partners or even the local government, potentially causing agitation that involve the Ministry of Home Affairs to manage tension. In this way, anticipatory actions by development partners could unintentionally disrupt social cohesion and harmony.

Thus, it is crucial for development partners to engage in thorough community counseling as well consultation, even if anticipatory actions do not align with actual event outcomes, ensuring community agreement with the distribution approach. A level of flexibility is also important. If unanticipated households are affected by a disaster, development partners should be prepared to provide equivalent assistance to those homes. By operating within this grey area, development partners can execute anticipatory action while mitigating potential social tension.

3.3 Development Support Mobilization Challenge

Point 17 of the ‘Province and Local Level Development Support Mobilization Standard, 2019’ outlines the process for the Province and Local Government to mobilize support received from national and international non-governmental organizations. According to this provision, the Province and Local Government should collaborate with the Social Welfare Council at the center to execute various development projects at the local level. These projects are designed to integrate with the programs of national and international non-governmental organizations affiliated with the council. The ultimate goal is to effectively harness and utilize the support provided by these organizations as part of the annual development program of the respective Province and Local Government. As this process is time-consuming, in some instances, development partners choose to undertake activities independently, bypassing the formal inclusion of their initiatives within the Local Government or Provincial Government’s annual development program. This can be attributed to concerns held by

"Various organizations engage in activities within the municipality across different sectors, often commencing their work without extensive consultation or collaboration with us. We are typically invited to participate towards the conclusion of their projects, where we serve as observers, listening to their reported achievements." "

Purshottam Joshi
DRR Focal, Beldandi Rural Municipality"

certain Local Governments for not including their program activities in their development plan. Specifically, there is apprehension regarding anticipatory cash distribution, stemming from the potential for conflict and unequal distribution of support when emergencies arise. This uncertainty makes it challenging to persuade Local Governments to adopt anticipatory cash support.

3.3.1 Varying Approaches to Local Government: The Local Governments (Municipalities) have the autonomy to formulate policies under the Local Government Operation Act, 2017. Consequently, many have established cash assistance and anticipatory action policies, such as Dodhara Chandni Municipality has developed Forecast Based Preparedness and Early Action Procedures with predefined lead time. Some allow non-government entities to provide cash and vouchers, while others mandate contributions to the DRM Fund or support through one one-door system. This diversity in policy has led to inconsistent relief distribution, causing confusion among community beneficiaries. For instance, neighbors affected by the same flood might receive varying assistance due to the differing policies of their respective municipalities.

3.3.2 Government's role and confusion: The federal government policy neither explicitly permits nor prohibits distributing cash. Local Governments can distribute cash if they can manage possible conflict caused by such distribution. If such distribution creates unmanageable tension, Federal Governments should intervene in conflict from such distribution and can have the space to raise the question of Local Government's cash intervention. This situation is compounded by the fact that government-owned documents like the NDRRMA's Monsoon Preparedness and Response Plan, 2023 mention pre-disaster cash distribution in anticipation of early warning/weather forecasts. This plan only allows UN agencies to provide cash assistance based on forecasts. This raises questions about whether other organizations, including INGOs, are allowed to participate in such initiatives.

3.3.3 Government position so far: Due to the absence of guiding documents authorizing such actions, the MoHA has consistently discouraged cash distributions, especially pre-disaster distributions based on early warning forecasts. However, NDRRMA appears supportive of Anticipatory Action, having held two national dialogues on the matter and forming the Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) Task Group in 2020 to integrate Anticipatory action into the SRSP Guidelines, though there is no significant progress yet. While NDRRMA is keen on developing a policy on SRSP and anticipatory action, the DRRM Act 2017 states that the DRRM Executive Committee is responsible for approving related policies. Dozens of committee-approved policy decisions remain unimplemented due to a bureaucratic

"A genuine humanitarian response is rooted in community-driven efforts. We contend that the immediacy and tangible benefits brought by actively engaged volunteers can often surpass the impact of mere monetary relief in emergencies. By standing side by side with the affected communities, we foster greater social unity and deepen the essence of humanitarianism. Providing monetary assistance can be challenging; we might accidentally exclude some of the affected, while benefiting the unaffected. Such disparities can fuel conflicts, exacerbating an already tense situation. Hence, our priority should be to strengthen human resources and, if necessary, offer in-kind assistance, rather than distributing cash."

*Mr. Tulsi Prasad Dahal
Chief, Disaster Study Risk Reduction and
Recovery Section, MoHA*

cycle where Ministries seek Ministerial Cabinet approval, but the cabinet deflects responsibility back to the Executive Committee, causing policy initiatives to stall. MoHA believes that cash-based anticipatory action might disrupt societal cohesion. They argue that if relief is provided in anticipation of a disaster, and the disaster affects those without assistance while sparing those with assistance, it could spark conflict. Such disputes might escalate, potentially requiring federal intervention and force to maintain order.

These policy and legal gaps underscore the challenges and limitations in Nepal's disaster response and risk reduction efforts, hindering the execution of Anticipatory Action and the distribution of cash assistance by non-governmental agencies, both in the aftermath of disasters and in anticipation of them. Addressing these gaps is essential to enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities and improve disaster response mechanisms in Nepal.

3.4. Stakeholder Mapping on Anticipatory Action

While a specific policy on Anticipatory Action is absent, many stakeholders are either directly or indirectly related to Anticipatory Action.

3.4.1 Government Stakeholders Mapping

Stakeholders involved in AA or mechanisms related to AA in the Government of Nepal are at multiple levels, from federal to local agencies. At the federal level, prominent stakeholders include the MoHA and the NDRRMA. Both have prominent roles concerning disaster management, with MoHA being the national nodal ministry and NDRRMA leading federal to local efforts.

Their engagements range from policy formulation to funds mobilization and coordination with various other entities such as at the provincial and local levels, agencies such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law and DDMC play crucial roles. They are engaged in disaster management, risk mitigation, and coordination among various stakeholders. On an even more localized scale, Municipalities and LDMC have mandates ranging from the formulation and implementation of local disaster management policies to the operational support of social protection initiatives. Notably, several municipalities have already taken steps towards formulating anticipatory action procedures. All these entities are pivotal for successfully implementing and coordinating anticipatory action initiatives in Nepal.

3.4.1.1 Development Partners

In Nepal's evolving landscape of anticipatory action, multiple stakeholders actively contribute to proactive disaster preparedness and response. For instance, UNICEF emphasizes multi-hazard early warning systems such as a trigger system for river basins and a great focus on cash transfers, especially child grants. Similarly, the Start Fund Nepal partnership with Local NGOs to implement anticipatory action to strengthen their capacity, catalyzing rapid responses to emerging crises backed by FCDO.

The EU's ECHO division is amplifying its commitment to anticipatory action by reinforcing its partnerships with local agencies and cementing its role in disaster preparedness. Its strategic investments in landslide-affected zones and alignment with forecast-based actions underline its critical stake in Nepal's disaster mitigation efforts. In parallel, WFP operates under a strategic plan focused on food security and early warning, with significant steps in implementing anticipatory cash assistance and strengthening food security measures.

Furthermore, the INGO-Danish Church Aid (DCA) endeavors to counter food insecurity, piloting anticipatory humanitarian action and fostering climate-resilient communities through flood modeling and shock-responsive social protection, having presence among local governments and ministries. Save the Children leverages its Cold Wave Early Action Protocol to shield vulnerable communities as a part of anticipatory action. The Nepal Cash Coordination Group (CCG), birthed in response to the 2015 earthquake, propels Cash and Voucher Assistance interventions, underscoring collaboration and standardization in cash assistance.

Lastly, the NRCS embodies the essence of humanitarian service, leading efforts in community resilience, cash interventions, and forecast-based actions. Their association with the global Red Cross movement and an auxiliary relationship with the government highlights their pivotal role in Anticipatory Action. For a detailed breakdown of roles, mandates, and engagement areas of each stakeholder, please refer to the annex section of this study.

3.5 Anticipatory action related Programmes in Nepal

In recent years, the Government of Nepal, especially NDRRMA, has been implementing various initiatives on Anticipatory Action in Nepal. Some of the significant programs are as below:

3.5.1 National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action

The NDRRMA organized the National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action, on April 22-23, 2022, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The dialogue served as a platform for both government and non-government humanitarian and development agencies to come together to foster a common understanding of Anticipatory Action, exchange experiences and lessons drawn from concrete examples in Nepal and informing policy directions and practitioner approaches towards Anticipatory action in the country.

Notable points of agreement included the commitment of humanitarian agencies, donor, and development agencies to complement each other's efforts to strengthen Anticipatory Action in Nepal. Agencies were urged to support initiatives like the NDRRMA's Integrated Beneficiary Framework (IBF) or the World Bank's integrated social registry. Moreover, recognizing the importance of protection, gender, and inclusion, these aspects were designated as crucial components of Anticipatory Action efforts. The dialogue highlighted the importance of clear policies and guidelines related to Social Protection and DRRM approaches. This included clarity on how emergency cash assistance could be effectively delivered through leveraging social protection programs. Additionally, the proceedings stressed the significance of risk communication

in Anticipatory Action and advocated for more investment in early warning systems, messaging, and building trust among vulnerable communities.

Joint Secretary Mr. *Pradip Koirala* stressed the need for precise forecasting and an efficient Early Warning System. He emphasized integrating Anticipatory action with Disaster Management and proposed a 'basket fund' for streamlined relief distribution. Koirala highlighted the value of community-driven efforts over cash distribution, citing potential issues like social conflict, misuse of cash other than that of intended purpose. He called for comprehensive guidelines on cash in anticipation for coordinated interventions.

The dialogue recommended a way forward of forming partnerships with key government agencies involved in Anticipatory action, maintaining regular dialogue to foster knowledge exchange, integrating agency work on Anticipatory action into coordination portals, and prioritizing the leveraging of existing government funding. It also highlighted the need to develop triggers and actions for other frequently occurring disasters, promote coordination among different tiers of government and agencies, and emphasize the distinction between Preparedness and Anticipatory Action. The Chief Executive of the NDRRMA shared an action plan that encompassed stages of Anticipatory Action work. This plan included initial phases of preparatory work, such as risk assessment surveys and data collection. The formulation of the Social Protection guidelines for cash distribution was identified as a priority for the next phase of Anticipatory action. Continuous dialogues were recommended for knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and eventually phasing out Anticipatory Action by empowering people and utilizing collective experiences.

Partners, along with government agencies and wider humanitarian and development stakeholders, demonstrated a collaborative willingness to work in coordination to advance the Anticipatory Action agenda in Nepal. The first National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action was a pivotal event that brought together diverse stakeholders to discuss and enhance the understanding of this proactive approach to disaster management.

3.5.2 The second national anticipatory action dialogue:

Nepal held its 2nd National Dialogue on Anticipatory action from 21-23 of May 2023 to promote proactive disaster risk management.

Following the success of the 1st Dialogue in 2022, this shift from reactive to proactive measures marked a significant moment for the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR).

The Chief Executive of the NDRRMA outlined key dialogue themes: floods, landslides, heatwaves, cold waves, health hazards, financing Disaster Risk, and SRSP. This aimed to enhance Nepal's capacity for Anticipatory Action. NDRRMA integrated Anticipatory action into its monsoon preparedness and response plans. They also proposed an Anticipatory Action Clinic to promote collaboration across sectors.

The dialogue built on insights from the 2022 dialogue, emphasizing Nepal's multi-hazard risks and the need for agency coordination. Effective risk communication, data protection, and international funding were highlighted. Local municipalities, like Tikapur Municipality, are increasingly proactive in disaster management, emphasizing inclusivity.

"Dodhara Chandani municipality is at high risk of flooding due to the Mahakali River originating in Nepal and the Jogbuda River flowing from India. While both government and non-governmental organizations have been actively involved in flood disaster management in this region, there are situations where these efforts may prove insufficient. I recently had the opportunity to participate in the second national workshop on Anticipatory Action organized by NDRRMA. In response, our municipality has prepared and submitted the Disaster Preparedness and Advanced Response Procedure for 2080, based on forecasts, to the executive meeting for approval."

*Kishore Kumar Limbu
Mayor, Dodhara Chandni Municipality"*

Efforts focus on grassroots early warning systems and innovative approaches like Forecast-based action (FbA) for cash transfers. Community involvement and upgraded observational systems are crucial. Landslide monitoring and temperature extremes are priorities, with community engagement and agency collaboration key to success. Technology, like the Audio Emergency Notification System, plays a role in risk communication.

Lastly, Nepal aims to leverage social protection databases and simplify insurance processes for better risk transfer mechanisms. The 2nd National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action signifies Nepal's shift toward proactive disaster risk management, emphasizing collaboration and scientific approaches for resilience.

3.5.3 7th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action in Kathmandu

Another important development on Anticipatory Action in Nepal was the 7th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action hosted in Kathmandu in July 2023. The highlight of the event was the inauguration by Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, Mr. *Narayan Kaji Shrestha*. In his address, he emphasized the critical role of Anticipatory Action, which is centered on predicting potential crises and taking preventive measures to mitigate their impact. Mr. Shrestha spoke of Nepal's commitment to enhancing its disaster risk management capabilities, leveraging scientific risk assessments, and involving local communities in the dissemination of relevant information. Partnering with initiatives like the Red Cross movement, Nepal aims to ensure that essential relief materials are pre-positioned and community volunteers are trained for timely action. The theme for this year, *'Reaching new heights: exploring paths for the sustainable growth of Anticipatory Action,'* resonates with the need for innovative solutions and strategies in disaster management.

Organized with the collaboration of the NDRRMA and Anticipation Hub, along with humanitarian organizations, the dialogue saw the participation of over 200 delegates representing 25 countries. Attendees included government officials, researchers specializing in Anticipatory Action, and representatives from partner organizations. During the dialogue, there was a strong emphasis on

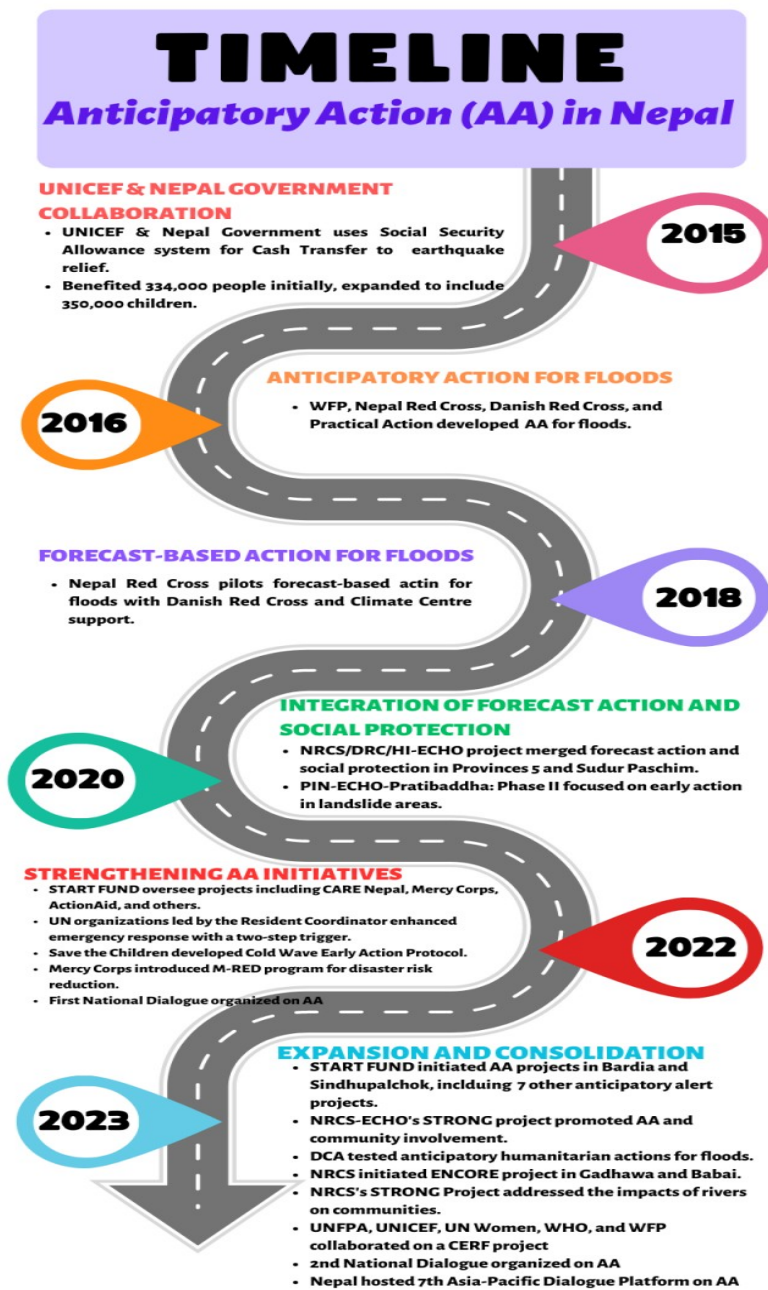
knowledge-sharing, with countries presenting case studies and examples of successful Anticipatory Actions.

3.5.4 Anticipatory Action Timeline

Regarding the timeline of anticipatory action in Nepal, in 2015, a significant step in anticipatory action was taken when UNICEF partnered with the Nepal Government to provide relief through the Social Security Allowance system after the earthquake. This resulted in cash transfers that helped around 334,000 people, with a subsequent initiative reaching an additional 350,000 children. A year later, in 2016, various organizations, including WFP, Nepal Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, and Practical Action, started developing AA specifically for floods.

By 2018, the NRCS started testing forecast-based actions for floods with the support of the Danish Red Cross and Climate Centre. Fast forward to 2020, a couple of significant projects were initiated. The NRCS collaborated with DRC and HI on an ECHO project that combined forecast actions and social protection. Around the same time, another project by PIN-ECHO-Pratibaddha entered its second phase, emphasizing early actions in regions prone to landslides. Notably, that year also witnessed the formation of the NDRRMA Task Group on SRSP, which incorporates anticipatory action initiatives.

In 2022, there was a surge in anticipatory action activities. Start Fund Network managed projects with several partners, including CARE Nepal, Mercy Corps, CRS, CORD Aid, ActionAid, etc. The UN, under the guidance of the Resident Coordinator, revamped their emergency response,



introducing a two-step trigger mechanism. Save the Children developed a Cold Wave Early Action Protocol, while Mercy Corps introduced the M-RED program geared towards disaster risk reduction. The year also marked the First National Dialogue on AA in Nepal.

Coming to 2023, momentum continued with Start Fund launching new projects in places like Bardia and Sindhupalchok, along with seven other anticipatory alert projects. The NRCS rolled out multiple projects, including the STRONG project, which emphasized community involvement and addressed the impacts of rivers on local communities. The UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, and WFP collaborated on a CERF project. The year was further highlighted by the hosting of the 2nd National Dialogue on anticipatory action and the prestigious 7th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on anticipatory action in Nepal.

3.5.5 Indigenous knowledge and practice on EWS

Across centuries, Indigenous communities have precisely harnessed the wisdom of their surroundings, interpreting nature's signals to forecast both potential dangers and good things coming. Rooted deeply in the distinctions of the land, sky, flora, and fauna, their EWS stand as a proof to humankind's symbiotic relationship with the environment, serving as invaluable shields against natural calamities.

Nepal, despite spanning only 147,516 square kilometers, is a melting pot of diversity. Featuring 126 distinct ethnic groups and approximately 123 languages spoken as mother tongues, it stands out as a testament to cultural richness. This multifaceted character is attributed to the country's geographical barriers, such as massive rivers with strong currents and vast mountains, which prevented extensive mingling between ethnic communities. However, it propelled these communities to deeply attune themselves to their unique environments, culminating in the development of indigenous strategies to foresee potential hazards. Consequently, a range of indigenous knowledge and practices flourishes in Nepal.

"In the community, especially among the older generations, there is discussion about traditional/indigenous methods of weather forecasting. However, these methods are rarely applied or used by the next generation. Instead, the younger generation tends to rely on scientific information dissemination systems. It appears that the traditional/indigenous methods have been overshadowed by the prevalence of scientific information."

FGD: Community members,
Kutiya Kawar, Dodhara Chandani



In the FGDs, community members shared with the study team on how they read nature's signs to predict the weather. One of the main clues comes from the sky itself. They have observed that the appearance and movement of clouds often hint at upcoming rain or storms. Additionally, when there's a circle around the moon at night, it's usually a sign that rain will soon fall. Some unique cloud

patterns in the evening could also suggest that a storm might be brewing. Birds also play a key role in these nature-based forecasts. The community members shared that when they hear many birds singing in harmony, rain is probably on its way. Another interesting observation is that if birds are spotted flying lower than usual, it might indicate an approaching storm. And sometimes, when certain birds migrate earlier than they typically do, it might signal a shift in the season or an unusual change in the weather. But it doesn't stop with the birds. The behavior of other animals can be equally revealing. For instance, if snakes are found moving to elevated places or ants are seen altering the design of their mounds, it could be their way of preparing for rain or possible flooding. Another sign is when frogs become notably vocal, which is often taken as a hint that rain is imminent. The Tharu community, in particular, has an additional method of prediction. They believe that when they spot certain insects suddenly becoming more prevalent, a weather change is just around the corner.

In the project area, these traditional systems of prediction and caution manifest in unique ways. The hilly terrains of the Dadeldhura district reverberate with the age-old practice of the *Katuwal* (*A messenger in hilly communities*) – which informs the community about impending disaster. This tradition, preserved for hundreds of years, is more than just an alert mechanism; it is a cultural legacy. However, with the widespread use of mobile phones, the *Katuwal* system is on the verge of becoming a relic of the past. So, development partners should work on preserving such century old tradition. Similarly, in the project area of Kanchanpur, the Tharu community's messenger, known as the *Chiraki*, holds pivotal importance. In times of looming threats, it is the *Chiraki* (*A messenger in Tharu communities*) who delivers cautionary messages throughout their community. Their role is not just about communication; it's a layer of trust and responsibility, and their words often stand between safety and calamity.

As Nepal struggles with environmental uncertainties exacerbated by climate change and other challenges, the ancient wisdom of indigenous EWS becomes increasingly touching. These aren't mere observational tactics; they're sophisticated systems interconnected deeply with nature. It's imperative that as we move forward, we recognize and respect these systems. Development partners should not only preserve these traditions but also seek ways to strengthen their efficacy. So, there is a need for a comprehensive study on the existing EWS in Nepal. By merging indigenous foresight with modern forecasting methodologies, we can forge a comprehensive strategy to preempt and mitigate potential threats, ensuring a safer coexistence with nature.

3.5.6 Science and Technology in EWS

The Government of Nepal has recognized the importance of integrating technological advancements into disaster management and has been significantly investing in the Department of Hydrogeology and Meteorology.

The study team analyzed the Bipad portal data, which tracks the progress Nepal has made in disaster management and highlights areas needing attention. Between 2015 to 2019, flood-related deaths averaged 71 annually. However, these numbers fell to an average of 41 from 2020 to 2022, marking a substantial

decline of 42%. This reduction can be attributed to effective EWS, coupled with community awareness programs and strategic infrastructural developments. In contrast, landslide-related deaths have seen an alarming increase. Annual average deaths rose from 111 (2015-2019) to 193 (2020-2022) - a 74% jump. This sharp surge underscores the lack of an adequate landslide EWS. This demonstrates that a robust EWS can drastically decrease fatalities and property damage.

Despite the successes in flood mitigation, the current state of EWS in Nepal is yet to meet the demands of its diverse topographical challenges. While the government is making commendable strides in installing early warning systems along major rivers, gaps remain. Nepal's unique topographical challenges, such as Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), rock and snow avalanches, and landslide-induced blockages that create temporary ponds, pose significant threats. The sudden bursting of these temporary ponds can unleash torrents downstream, offering very little lead time for communities to respond. Given Nepal's mountainous terrain, such scenarios necessitate a sophisticated EWS that can rapidly and accurately predict threats, allowing for timely evacuation.

"We believe in modern Early Warning Systems (EWS) and acted accordingly based on the information disseminated by such technology. However, on numerous occasions, we have received messages indicating that the water level has crossed the danger threshold, causing people to initiate evacuations yet the community does not observe an actual flood. After experiencing this multiple times, there is hesitancy within the community to respond promptly upon receiving an alert. Instead, we often go to the river to check if the water level has risen as indicated in the alert message. These situations have left the community in a state of confusion, unsure whether to evacuate immediately or wait until we physically witness the rising water levels before delivering evacuation messages."

Community consultation,
Bhimdatta Municipality-12, Shree Narayan Tole,



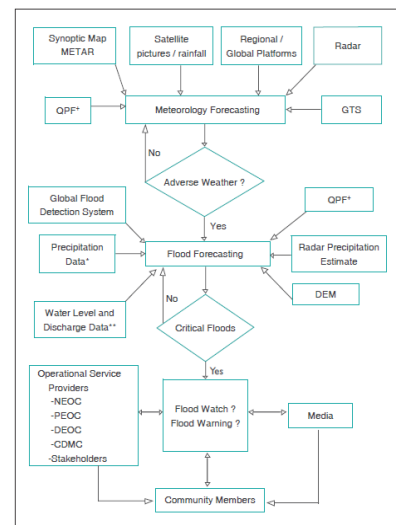
It is paramount for Nepal to prioritize the establishment of a comprehensive EWS that covers the broad spectrum of natural hazards the nation faces. By leveraging cutting-edge technology, such as satellite imagery, river modeling, ground sensors, and AI-based predictive modeling, Nepal can build systems that offer warning time to communities at risk. Moreover, disseminating these warnings effectively is equally crucial. Advanced telecommunication systems, mobile alerts, community radio broadcasts, and even automated loudspeaker announcements can ensure that warnings reach every individual, regardless of their location or accessibility. Furthermore, while importing technology offers quick solutions, it may not always be cost-effective or tailored to Nepal's specific needs. Developing home-grown EWS solutions by investing in research and development has greater promise in the long run.

The NDRRMA and the NRCS have worked together to set up the Siren System in places like Punarbas, Laljhadi, and Shuklaphanta in Kanchanpur. This system helps warn people about dangers like floods, fires, and animal terror. We have heard that these sirens can be heard up to 2 kilometres. We, the people of Dodhara Chandani, face similar problems. So, we really hope and ask that we also get these sirens in our area. This will help us stay safe by getting warnings in time.

FGD, Dodhara Chandani Municipality, Kutiya Kanwar

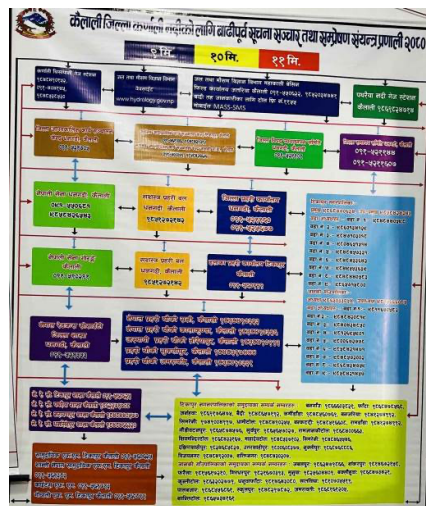
3.5.7 Review of Information Flow and Communication on EWS

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) in Nepal has established flood forecast and warning centers to monitor and provide timely alerts about potential flood events. When water levels exceed a predetermined threshold, warnings are disseminated via the Internet, display boards, and SMS texts. Furthermore, flash flood alerts are triggered when a three-hour precipitation surpasses a set threshold for specific stations or through advanced methods like the application programming interface (API) model. The flood information dissemination process is broadly categorized into three primary stages: flood watch, flood warning, and severe flood warning. The flood watch serves as an advisory, alerting the community to prepare for potential flooding. In contrast, the latter two stages emphasize immediate action in response to imminent flood events. Regarding the flood alert information flow process, NRCS has been working on maintaining basic standards at the local level in Nepal. When the water level crosses a set threshold, signifying a danger level, a series of alert messages are initiated. These messages originate from the gauge station, the DHM, and DHM field offices, all of which send their alerts to key entities, including the DEOC, LEOC, DDMC, and District Coordination Committee (DCC). The DCC promptly shares this critical information with the Municipal Chair, Deputy Chair, and Ward Chairs, facilitating Local



Government's awareness and preparedness. Simultaneously, DEOC, LEOC, DDMC, and DCC collaborate with the Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, District Police Office, and Area Police Office to ensure a swift and coordinated response.

Area Police Offices also extend this information to municipal and ward leaders. Moreover, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force, and District Police Office disseminate the alert to the NRCS. Both the local police offices and NRCS municipal chapters then relay this critical information to the CDMC focal persons within the local government.



To reach the local communities effectively, NRCS

“DHM uses various data sources and tools. These include Synoptic Maps, METAR, satellite imagery related to rainfall, regional and global platforms, radar data, water level and discharge data, and the Flood Forecasting Radar Precipitation Estimate. Once the potential for flooding is detected, the information flows through channels like Operational Service Providers such as NEOC, PEOC, LEOC, DEOC, CDMC, and other stakeholders. In scenarios where critical floods are anticipated or adverse weather is detected, the system leverages QPF+ Meteorology Forecasting, Precipitation Data, the Global Flood Detection System, and DEM. Finally, media and community members play a crucial role in spreading the flood warnings to ensure preparedness and timely action. Now a days, DHM has been making significant progress on EWS, specially in hydrometeorological domain.”
 Sanjaya Sah, Hydrometeorologist, DHM

municipal chapters employ local radio stations for message dissemination. The ongoing information-sharing among all entities involved creating a robust network to ensure that flood alerts are swiftly and comprehensively communicated, facilitating a well-coordinated response at the grassroots level, ultimately safeguarding the lives and property of the local population.

3.5.8 Use of Both Scientific and Indigenous Techniques to Disseminate Early Warning

Kanchanpur and Dadeldhura Districts stand out as examples of how traditional indigenous methods and modern technologies can harmoniously coexist to enhance community preparedness and response. Communities in Nepal have, for generations, leaned on the wisdom of their ancestors and the signals of nature to predict and prepare for potential hazards. One such community, the Tharu in Kanchanpur district – encompassing Dodhara Chandani, Beldandi, and Mahendranagar Municipalities – utilizes the services of the *Chiraki*. This messenger carries warnings derived from nature's signs to their people. In the more rugged terrains of Dadeldhura, a similar messenger of caution, known as the *Katuwal*, was influential in alerting communities about the looming threats. While this cultural practice has been an essential support to the communities for centuries, its use is in decline in Dadeldhura. As the challenges posed by environmental changes amplify, it becomes essential to not only preserve but also strengthen these traditional methods. Integrating them with

contemporary forecasting techniques can create an approach to safeguarding communities. With the surge of technology, modern EWS have emerged as game-changers. Recognizing the potential of these advancements, by fine-tuning the dissemination process – through mobile alerts, advanced telecommunication, and community-based indigenous and modern practice – the reach of these warnings can be maximized.

Oxfam has set up a forward-looking EWS in the region. Stationed at Parigaun village of Parshuram Municipality in Dadeldhura district, this system incorporates water gauge readers, which detect heightened rainfall and sound an alert for downstream regions, notably Dodhara Chandani and Bhimdatta. Following this alert LDMC, CDMC, *Badghar* (Tharu community head) spring into action. They relay this vital information to vulnerable communities either through mobile communication or by deploying the traditional Chiraki, ensuring that the warnings reach every corner. However, less lead time is the challenge for such a traditional way of warning dissemination.

3.5.9 Enhancing the Effectiveness of EWS in Mitigating Disaster and Climate Risks in Nepal

Creating a powerful EWS in Nepal requires a thoughtful blend of local, traditional knowledge and modern science. In various communities across Nepal, there's a wealth of indigenous practices focused on understanding nature's cues to predict possible dangers. This knowledge, which has often been passed down through generations, involves observing patterns in wildlife behavior, celestial changes, and more to foresee potential hazardous weather conditions. Embedding these traditional insights into contemporary EWS, which utilize technological tools like satellites and predictive modeling, could create a thorough strategy to lessen the impact of climate vulnerabilities. In evaluating the current EWS, it's crucial to identify both its strengths and limitations, particularly considering Nepal's diverse geographical challenges such as Glacial Lake Outburst Floods and landslides. Analyzing these systems allows us to find areas that need further attention and enhancement. A more sector-specific approach, which focuses on strategies tailor-made for regions with susceptibility to certain natural disasters, is also worth deep exploration.

Incorporating a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning aspect into EWS approaches ensures they are not only effective but continuously improved upon. This means constantly checking how the system is working, ensuring it is doing what it's supposed to, being accountable for the results, and learning from both successes and failures to make ongoing improvements. Moreover, building a strong communication network that quickly spreads EWS alerts through all layers of the community, from government agencies to community, is essential. Making sure the strategies to prepare and respond to these warnings reach everyone, no matter where they are or how accessible they are, ensures a unified, inclusive approach to reducing the impact of climate-related events. As per Government's bipad portal, in the last five years, the positive impact of advancements and investments in the Department of Hydrology Meteorology has been evident. The EWS related to hydro-meteorological events has become more accurate and efficient, which is seen in the significant drop in flood-related fatalities in recent years. This progress underscores

the potential and need for continual advancements in EWS to safeguard communities against the varied and often unpredictable threats posed by climate change.

3.6. Experience of development partners implementing Anticipatory Action

In Nepal, the absence of precise multi-hazard early warning systems, particularly in hydro-meteorological areas, makes it challenging to identify triggers and execute anticipatory action. Some development partners are, however, testing and piloting anticipatory initiatives in their zones. While many anticipatory actions in Nepal relate to floods, the precise forecasting of flood events typically comes from river gauging. Hydro-meteorological data can indicate potential flood zones but can't accurately specify which specific households will be affected. Thus, many partners distribute relief post-disaster, which, although labeled as anticipatory, often feels more like a response.

Development partners also justify their post-disaster relief by saying that they work as a part of Anticipatory Action on community sensitization about early warnings, stockpiling relief supplies, and bolstering early warning systems. Nevertheless, these partners are continually adapting based on their experiences. WFP, for example, has faced criticism from the government and other stakeholders for its anticipatory strategies in some cases. In an instance observed in *Tikapur* Municipality, the Deputy Mayor, in KII shared that WFP provided financial support based on their beneficiary predictions, but some beneficiaries were unaffected by the disaster while others, not on WFP's list, were affected. The latter group expressed strong discontent, leading to community discord. In response, the municipality discouraged cash-based interventions, citing them as potentially divisive.

In contrast, Mercy Corps adopted a different Anticipatory action strategy. Instead of a blanket approach of cash distribution, they engaged in community consultations to identify the most vulnerable households. They categorized vulnerability based on various criteria such as households with malnourished children, pregnant women mothers, those with minimal landholdings, survivors of domestic violence, elderly living alone, orphans, disabled individuals, those with a history of being duped for overseas work, low-income families, and children who have discontinued education due to parental migration. In 2022 and 2023, following forecasts of reduced winter rainfall, Mercy Corps distributed financial support in anticipation of droughts and food shortages in Kalikot and Surkhet. The intent was for beneficiaries to invest in drought-resistant crops and support basic livelihoods. This proactive approach, rooted in community consultation, avoided conflicts, and emphasized the value of community-driven beneficiary identification for successful Anticipatory Action.

In 2021, Mercy Corps, in partnership with local implementing partner NRCS as part of the Managing Risks through Economic Development (M-RED) project, initiated a groundbreaking Anticipatory action pilot program. This pioneering initiative introduced forecast-based humanitarian support to communities that had been identified in advance while also harnessing the program's established expertise in Disaster Risk Reduction. The primary objective of this initiative

was to bridge the gap between immediate disaster risk preparedness, response, and long-term resilience building. The pilot program was executed in the Laljhadi Rural Municipality, situated along the Dodha river system within Nepal's Kanchanpur district, located in the Sudurpaschim Province. Remarkably, this program successfully responded to a flood event that occurred outside of the typical monsoon season. The achievement of this endeavor can be attributed to the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders. These included local governments, private technical service providers such as *Vox Crow* for IVR messaging, and *Prabhu Bank* for financing, as well as active involvement from community networks and local experts.

“The World Food Program is conducting Anticipatory Action, primarily concerning flood preparedness. In Nepal, predicting floods is crucial. However, unpredictable elements of periodic rivers, such as the sudden accumulation of debris, often present challenges. There are times when these debris result in temporary blockages, amassing significant water volumes. When these barriers give way, severe downstream floods ensue. This variability in flood patterns can alter the expected beneficiaries of our Anticipatory Action. In such instances, those we initially identified as beneficiaries might remain unaffected, while others, whom we didn't account for, bear the brunt of the floods. It poses a dilemma, as the funding is allocated for anticipatory measures, not post-event responses. Further complicating matters is the role of forests, ponds etc. situated after the rain gauge stations. These forests and ponds can induce localized heavy rainfalls. For example, a river gauge 20 KM away from a community may show minimal water level, but forest-triggered rains occurring just 10 KM from the same community can cause significant downstream floods. Such local precipitations, often undetected by water gauges, can catch communities off-guard. Hence, even when gauges indicate minimal water level, the risk of flooding remains for downstream communities. To navigate these complexities, it's imperative to incorporate advanced technologies that offer communities the timely warnings and resources needed for proactive measures.”
Nitesh Shrestha, Program Policy Officer, UN WFP

A total of 373 households across 14 communities benefited from Unconditional Cash Assistance distributed via ATM Cards. The selection of intervention areas and the identification of the most vulnerable households was based on a comprehensive approach. This involved analyzing historical flood data, utilizing flood hazard maps, conducting community-level participatory disaster risk assessments, and considering household vulnerability criteria. This process was led by local government officials in close consultation with relevant officials, community leaders, disaster management committees, stakeholders, and community members themselves.

The NRCS and People in Need (PIN) have recently worked in an Anticipatory Action or forecast-based financing approach, aligning their activities with SRSP. Start Fund has been working in anticipation alert since 2021 through implementing partners, but their project periods are of short duration. Though they work in Anticipatory action, they have not distributed cash to the beneficiaries other than Cash for Work. Currently, organizations like DCA or NRCS are executing their projects on anticipatory action that include river modelling, strengthening local EWS, capacity building on Anticipatory Action to local level officials, supporting in formulating Anticipatory Action protocol for making ground and haven't talked about cash.

3.7. Gender Analysis in Anticipatory Action

The gender analysis conducted for DRR/CC was held in the realization that climatic alterations and the aftermath of disasters vary significantly across gender lines. This analysis aimed to untie

the differential impacts these phenomena have on distinct genders, providing insights that can inform strategies tailored to address each gender's unique needs.

Diving into the specifics, the assessment was organized around seven core criteria: Role in Disaster Management, Access to EWS, Decision-making Power, Vulnerabilities, Capacities, Inclusive DRR/CC Policies provision, and Participation in DRR/CC Program.

These criteria were essential in delineating the roles, responsibilities, and experiences of men and women in the face of climatic changes and disaster scenarios. During the evaluation, FGD played a pivotal role. The methodology incorporated women's groups from two districts, employing a rating scale from 1 to 5. By fostering collective discussions, the scores for each topic emerged, painting a vivid picture of shared experiences and viewpoints.

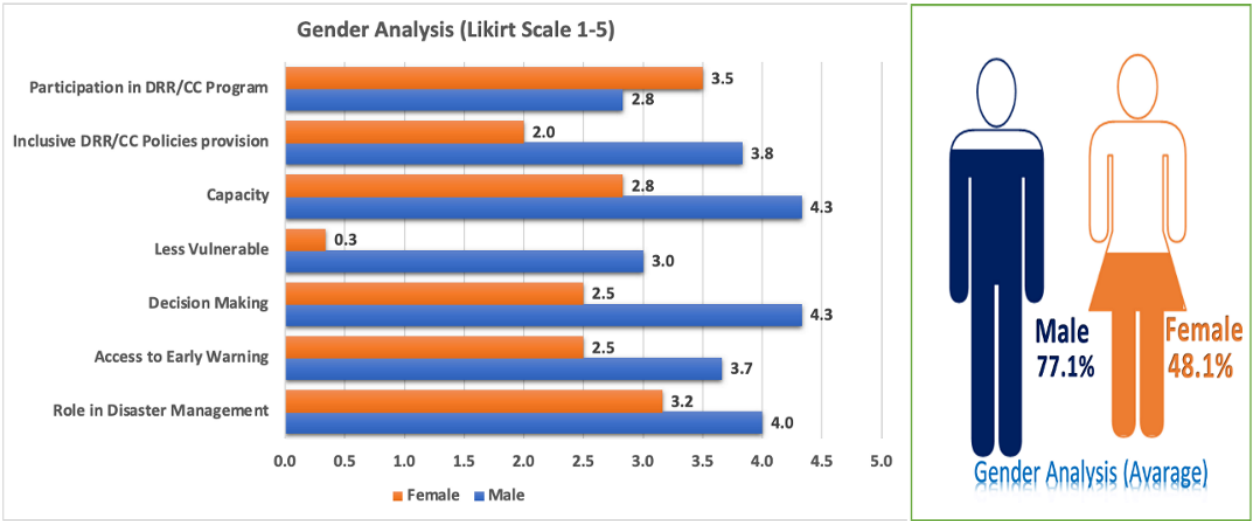


This methodology was consistently applied during community consultations, facilitating a holistic capture of collective opinions and experiences. Post the FGD and consultations, a tabulation of average scores for both genders was carried out, providing a comprehensive gender analysis score for each criterion. This composite approach underscored the diversity of opinions and experiences across genders within the two districts. To ensure the reliability and robustness of the findings, the data collated from the FGD was compared with other qualitative data sources, such as KII and additional FGD. This triangulation method not only amplified the validation process but also instilled a heightened sense of credibility to the gender analysis outcomes. The table provided further forms the insights garnered. For instance, when examining the role in disaster management, men, with a score of 4, displayed notable expertise, leadership, and experience. Their duties encompassed disseminating information, relieving vulnerable populations, and ensuring safe shelters. On the other hand, women, scoring 3.16, were predominantly involved in risk communication, overseeing food and shelter during crises, and managing household care.

Criteria	Male	Scale (1-5)	Female	Scale (1-5)
	(Description)		(Description)	
Role in DRRM	Adequate knowledge, leadership, and experience, Support to vulnerable people, Information dissemination, Manage Safe Shelter	4	Dissemination of information and risk communication, Oversee food and shelter in emergencies, Protection of wealth, children, elderly, Support in transferring goods and livestock, Household care	3.16
Access to EWS	Mobile access and education, Explorer and outgoing	3.66	Varies from uneducated to educated with mobile access, less tech-friendly and outgoing, Indigenous knowledge, can ride motorcycles and disseminate information fast	2.5

Criteria	Male	Scale (1-5)	Female	Scale (1-5)
	(Description)		(Description)	
Decision Making	Courageous and decisive, Educated with less household duties, Well-informed	4.33	More household responsibilities and often male-dominated, Limited communication access, Dependent due to pregnancy/lactation, Knowledgeable about community	2.5
Less Vulnerable	Energetic with easy clothing, Physically active with less duties	3	Vulnerabilities due to childcare, pregnancy, menstruation, Challenging clothing and chores, Physical structure can be a hindrance	0.34
Capacity	Physically fit with swimming skills	4.33	Often scared of water, Challenges due to clothing, Lack of swimming skills and information	2.83
Inclusive DRR/CC Policies provision	Male members often dominate, Tradition and prestige oriented	3.83	Women often discouraged from high positions, No mandatory female presence in top DRR roles	2
Participation in DRR/CC Program	Often absent due to work, prioritizes leisure	2.83	Preferred for developmental roles but limited freedom, Often occupied with household duties	3.5
Total average in %		77.10		48.08

For early warning systems, men, with their higher score of 3.66, tended to be more outgoing, utilizing mobile technologies, reflecting their advantage in information access. Women, with a score of 2.5, exhibited a spectrum of tech proficiency but held indigenous knowledge, which might prove valuable in certain scenarios. Decision-making dynamics revealed that men, scoring 4.33, were more decisive and less burdened by household responsibilities, positioning them favorably in decision-making roles. Conversely, women, scoring 2.5, faced constraints, often stemming from domestic duties, pregnancy, or a prevalent male-dominated narrative. The vulnerabilities criterion starkly highlighted the challenges women face. Men, with a score of 3, were viewed as less



vulnerable due to their physical activeness and ease of clothing. With a significantly low score of 0.34, women grappled with vulnerabilities arising from childcare responsibilities, physical constraints, and societal norms.

In terms of capacities, men, scoring 4.33, exhibited physical fitness and adeptness in skills like swimming. Women, with a score of 2.83, often faced hindrances, such as fear of water and certain societal constraints. The policies provision section drew attention to the entrenched gender norms. Men, scoring 3.83, often dominated decision-making due to long-standing traditions. Women, scoring as low as 2, found themselves sidelined from high-profile DRR roles, indicative of deeply rooted gender biases. Lastly, in terms of participation, men, with a score of 2.83, often were absent due to work commitments. Women, scoring higher at 3.5, were preferred for developmental roles but faced limitations due to household obligations. Cumulatively, the average scores (77.08 for men and 48.08 for women) spotlight a pronounced gender gap in the realms of CC and DRR policies, underscoring the need for gender-responsive strategies.

This gender analysis and accompanying table provide an invaluable roadmap, emphasizing the multifaceted roles, challenges, and experiences of men and women in the context of CC and DRR. By addressing these disparities, we can pave the way for a more equitable and resilient future.

3.8 Gender Protocol on Anticipatory Action

After the in-depth gender analysis in DRR and CC, it became evident that significant gender disparities existed within the study area. These findings, paired with community consultations, FGD, and KII, highlighted the need for a protocol addressing these disparities. In response, the study team drafted the Gender Inclusive Anticipatory Action Protocol. This will ensure gender inclusivity in the context of climate change and disaster response. It acknowledges the distinct challenges and capabilities inherent to different genders and stresses the importance of fairness, active engagement, and open communication. Within its framework, the protocol offers an array of strategies, spanning from careful gender-based vulnerability studies to communication plans fine-tuned for varied gender audiences. A special emphasis has been placed on fostering inclusive decision-making and ensuring resources are distributed in a gender-responsive manner. Draft protocol suggests a dynamic methodology that welcomes regular feedback, monitoring, and timely updates. All stakeholders are encouraged to prioritize its execution and to collaborate closely with gender-centric organizations, cultivating an ethos of perpetual growth and understanding. To explore the draft protocol, please see the annex section of this study.

CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATION

Given that MoHA considered a Nodal Ministry for disaster management and considering the clear commitment expressed by Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister during the 7th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory action, it's evident that the government values proactive approaches in DRR. Furthermore, NDRRMA, under MoHA's purview, already facilitating two national dialogues on anticipatory action. Taking into account these developments, along with the arguments delineated in the findings section, our study team offers the following recommendations to the concerned stakeholders:

Recommendations for the Federal Government:

1. The federal government should prioritize developing and formulating clear and comprehensive cash distribution guidelines. These guidelines should outline government and non-governmental agencies' procedures, roles, and responsibilities, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response during and after disasters.
2. The government should officially recognize the concept of anticipatory action in disaster management policies and documents. This recognition will facilitate the proactive use of early warning information for disaster preparedness and response.
3. Create formal mechanisms allowing non-governmental agencies to distribute cash assistance during disasters, especially when it is the most effective way to provide relief. This could involve revising existing laws or regulations to accommodate such actions.
4. Allocate resources to enhance the maturity and accuracy of Nepal's early warning systems. This includes improving forecasting technology, strengthening data collection and analysis, providing training to ensure effective early warning communication, and enhancing infrastructure in disaster-prone communities.
5. Collaborate with international organizations and donors to secure funding and technical support for disaster risk reduction initiatives, including anticipatory action. Engaging in partnerships can help bridge financial and knowledge gaps.
6. Given that the provincial government has a well-defined strategic plan for the early warning system until 2030, it should prioritize and channel its efforts to realize the objectives outlined in its EWS goals.

Recommendations for Local Governments:

1. Strengthen community-based early warning systems, focusing on risk knowledge, monitoring, and capacity building at the local level. Encourage the use of technology for efficient communication and response coordination.
2. Advocate for the recognition and adoption of anticipatory action. Local Governments can collaborate with national authorities to emphasize the importance of proactive disaster risk reduction.
3. Take the initiatives to develop a detailed Anticipatory action Guideline and incorporate its components into local disaster preparedness and response plans. This includes identifying trigger

points for cash assistance and establishing communication channels with non-governmental agencies for timely response.

4. Collaborate closely with non-governmental organizations operating within their jurisdictions. Local governments can benefit from the expertise and resources of NGOs in implementing anticipatory action and improving disaster response.
5. Establish clear mechanisms for cash distribution during disasters, including procedures, roles, and responsibilities. These mechanisms should be flexible enough to accommodate anticipatory action.
6. Partner with organizations like Oxfam and many others to leverage their expertise in anticipatory action and cash distribution.
7. Develop and implement anticipatory action plans at the local level, tailored to each community's specific risks and vulnerabilities. Ensure that these plans are integrated into broader disaster management strategies.

Recommendations for Oxfam:

1. In collaboration with its partner organization, Oxfam should engage in advocacy efforts to encourage the federal and provincial governments to revise or develop policies and regulations that restrict non-governmental agencies from distributing cash assistance. This advocacy can include research, public awareness campaigns, and dialogues with government authorities.
2. Collaborate closely with local governments to align cash distribution protocols and anticipatory action strategies. Oxfam can provide technical support and resources to help local governments enhance their disaster preparedness efforts.
3. Engage in early warning systems by contributing data, technology, or expertise to improve forecasting and response coordination. Collaborate with local and national authorities to strengthen these systems.
4. Oxfam should focus on crafting and implementing affordable, homegrown EWS solutions and actively promote such innovations and their entrepreneurial creators.
5. Conduct a research study on indigenous practice to forecast impending disaster and information dissemination.
6. Advocate for increased funding from donors and partners specifically earmarked for anticipatory action initiatives. Showcase the impact and effectiveness of anticipatory action in disaster risk reduction to secure financial support for these programs.
7. Conduct capacity-building programs for local government officials and non-governmental partners on cash distribution mechanisms, emphasizing the importance of early action and the potential impact of anticipatory action in disaster risk reduction.
8. Initiate pilot anticipatory action programs in collaboration with local governments in disaster-prone areas. These programs can demonstrate the effectiveness of anticipatory approaches and provide valuable data for future scaling and policy advocacy.
9. Empower local communities by enhancing their understanding of anticipatory action and involving them in decision-making. Develop community-led early warning systems, including indigenous practice.

10. Encourage and support research institutions to conduct studies on the impact and effectiveness of anticipatory action in Nepal. Share research findings and best practices with governments to inform policy and decision-making.
11. The gender analysis from this study indicates that women trail behind men by 29 percent. This highlights the necessity to incorporate gender considerations in all disaster management endeavors, including anticipatory actions.

Annexes

Annex 1 : List of policy and other documents reviewed.

1. ASEAN Secretariat. (2022). ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management. Jakarta.
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26. Uprety, M. (2018). *Moving Towards Forecast Based Flood Preparedness in Nepal: Linking Science of Predictions to Preparedness Actions [Piloting Forecast Based Financing (FbF) In Nepal]*. Practical Action Consulting, Kathmandu.
27. GoN. (2020). *National Adaptation Plan 2021-2050*. Kathmandu.
28. GoN. (2017). *National Disaster Response Framework*. Kathmandu.
29. Sudur Paschim Province Government. (2019). *Provincial Disaster Management Plan*. Dhangadhi.
30. Karnali Province Government. (2018). *Provincial Rescue and Relief Fund Mobilization Procedure 2018*. Birendranagar.
31. WFP. (2023). *Scaling up Anticipatory Actions for Food Security*. Rome.
32. ODI. (2019). *Scaling up Early Action*. London.
33. GoN. (2018). *Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) For Flood Early Warning System in Nepal*. Kathmandu.
34. WFP. (2020). *The Evidence Bases on Anticipatory Action*. Rome.

Annex 2: Gender Inclusive Anticipatory Action Protocol

The proposed Gender-Inclusive Anticipatory Action Protocol embodies a rigorous effort to integrate gender-responsive measures into DRR practices. Formulated through rigorous consultations with reviewing various literature, community members, and leading experts, the protocol recognizes the distinct impacts of climate change and disasters across gender boundaries, prompting a proactive, holistic approach. Emphasizing comprehensive vulnerability assessments, tailored communication, inclusive decision-making, and gender-focused resource allocation, the protocol serves as an encouragement for Anticipatory Action that is both informed and inclusive. By supporting continuous feedback and iterative reviews, it ensures adaptability to evolving contexts and needs.

Gender Inclusive Anticipatory Action Protocol

I. Preamble:

Understanding that the impacts of climate change and disasters vary across genders, this protocol is established to ensure that Anticipatory Actions are designed and implemented abiding inclusive DRR principle.

II. Purpose & Objectives:

- Recognize and address unique vulnerabilities faced by different genders.
- Strengthen gender inclusivity in all stages of Anticipatory Action.
- Ensure that both policies and field-level actions respect and understand these unique vulnerabilities.

III. Guiding Principles

- **Equity:** Ensuring fair treatment, access, opportunity, and advancement for all genders.
- **Participation:** Encouraging active and meaningful involvement of all gender groups in decision-making processes.
- **Transparency:** Clear communication of how and why decisions are made.
- **Accountability:** Holding parties responsible for their actions and ensuring follow-through on commitments.

IV. Key Components:

1. Gender-Based Vulnerability Assessment:

- Conduct primary research, capturing qualitative and quantitative data, to understand unique vulnerabilities.
- Use tools such as surveys, focus group discussions, and interviews to gather insights.
- Regularly update the assessment to capture evolving vulnerabilities.

2. Gender-Responsive Early Warning Systems (EWS):

- Ensure systems are accessible and comprehensible for all genders.
- Regularly test and refine EWS with community members to ensure they remain effective and inclusive.
- Create gender-focused awareness campaigns to enhance understanding and response.

3. Communication Strategy:

- Tailor communication strategies to cater to different gender needs, ensuring everyone receives and comprehends vital information.
- Promote gender inclusivity in all communication, from imagery to messaging.
- Engage local community champions from various gender groups to support in communication dissemination.

4. Inclusive Decision-making Processes:

- Ensure meaningful representation of all genders in decision-making forums and platforms.
- Foster environments where voices from all genders are heard, respected, and acted upon.
- Encourage the sharing of experiences and perspectives from various gender groups to inform decisions.

5. Gender-Responsive Resource Allocation:

- Allocate resources with a clear understanding of gender-specific requirements.
- Prioritize support for the most vulnerable, while ensuring fairness and inclusivity.
- Work with gender-focused organizations to identify and address resource gaps.

6. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement:

- Evaluate the activity to refine further plan.
- Collect feedback from all gender groups to refine and improve Anticipatory Actions.
- Regularly review and update the protocol, incorporating new learnings and feedback.

V. Implementation & Oversight:

- Designate a gender focal point or committee to oversee the protocol's implementation.
- Ensure regular training and capacity-building sessions for stakeholders on gender inclusivity in Anticipatory Actions.
- Develop partnerships with gender-focused organizations and entities to enhance implementation.

VI. Review and Updates:

- Conduct an annual review of this protocol to assess its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments.
- Ensure community involvement in the review process to gather firsthand feedback and insights.

Annex 3 : KII & FGD CHECKLIST

A. Scoping and mapping of existing literature on national/provincial/local Anticipatory actions governance structure (on DRR and CC which includes plans and policies) along with key stakeholders.

1. What is the policy/regulation /and framework and plan related to Anticipatory action available? if yes what are they, no, what is the plan for developing the above in Nepal?
2. How does the Local Government currently utilize cash voucher assistance to support affected populations during disaster, and what are the main challenges.
3. In what ways can stakeholders collaborate with the Local Government to support in-kind assistance (for example food and non-food item support) effectively, ensuring that the distribution of essential goods and services reaches the most vulnerable and marginalized communities (for example providing more support to the vulnerable communities)?
4. Have you considered and incorporated gender related issues in your existing CC, DRR policies with regards to Anticipatory action? if, yes, how are you practicing or operationalizing those policies on the ground? Can you give some examples of field practice?
5. In the absence of above-mentioned policies, what is the plan to include the above?
6. To what extent you have been engaging/involving women in disaster preparedness and humanitarian responses program cycle?
7. How can we enhance or further strengthen the engagement/involvement of women in developing and implementing disaster preparedness and humanitarian programming effectively?

B. To investigate and capture knowledge and learn on the extent to which the Anticipatory actions as well early warning system approaches are playing an effective role in reducing climate vulnerability of their communities.

8. Have you heard about Anticipatory action? If yes, can you tell us something about it.
9. Have you heard about early warning system?
10. What are the existing EWS in the municipality/community? how is early warning information communicated to communities, particularly those in remote or vulnerable areas, to ensure timely and effective action?
11. How does the municipality leverage resource for effective early warning system and to design and implement Anticipatory actions for reducing climate vulnerability?
12. Have you heard about climate change and climate vulnerability?

13. Based on your understanding and experiences mentioned above, how Anticipatory action approaches based on EWS information are helping to reduce climate vulnerabilities in your community?
14. How effective was this approach? What is the learning you gained after executing Anticipatory action activities in your community?

C. Provide information and analysis around traditional and non-traditional (indigenous' and scientific) early warning information available to communities for making decision related to Anticipatory actions.

15. In your experience, what are some traditional/indigenous methods/knowledge/skills that the community trust to receive early warning information about potential disasters?
16. How effective have these traditional/indigenous methods/knowledge/skills been in alerting the community to potential risks and enabling timely decision-making for Anticipatory actions?
17. Are there any non-traditional (Scientific) sources of early warning information utilized by the community, such as scientific data, technological systems, or government-led initiatives? If yes, what are they?
18. How effective have these non-traditional(scientific) been in alerting the community to potential risks and enabling timely decision-making for Anticipatory actions?
19. How do community members perceive the credibility and reliability of non-traditional (scientific) and traditional/indigenous methods/knowledge/skills?

Annex 4: Stakeholder Mapping on AA

Government of Nepal on AA

1. Federal Level stakeholders

	Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)	National disaster risk reduction & management authority (NDRRMA)
Mandate	<p>National focal point of Disaster Management.</p> <p>Take initiation to address the issues of disasters and mitigate the adverse effect.</p> <p>Committed to develop appropriate policy related to the management of disasters.</p> <p>Mainstream DRRM and establish harmonized policies and institutional support systems.</p> <p>Responsible and accountable for Level-3 disasters and need to provide demand-driven support to the provinces and local governments.</p> <p>Overseeing and monitoring various aspects related to disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation within a country.</p>	<p>To lead, facilitate and support federal, provincial, and local governments on disaster risk reduction, response, and reconstruction.</p> <p>Disaster risk reduction and management.</p> <p>Mobilize and guide all the DRM stakeholders for Disaster related activities aligning the priority of the government.</p> <p>DRRM fund channelization</p>
Engagement	<p>National policy, law, implementation, and regulation on disaster management.</p> <p>Central Disaster Relief Fund management.</p> <p>Support to provincial disaster fund and coordination</p> <p>Oversight DM division, Disaster mitigation & recovery unit and NEOC</p> <p>Social Security Funds channeling and distribution through DONIDCR, NDRRMA and DONIDCR.</p>	<p>Simulation exercises Monsoon preparedness and response in different districts.</p> <p>Disaster Risk information - Maintaining <i>Bipad</i> information portal for real time disaster information across the local level.</p> <p>Interaction with provinces on different disaster related issues.</p>
Stake on the agenda	<p><i>Information systems</i></p> <p><i>Programs</i></p> <p>No clear role on Anticipatory Action.</p> <p>May be interested in formulating</p>	<p><i>Information systems</i></p> <p>Interested in maintaining information on disaster forecasts and hence forecast based financing?</p>

	Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA)	National disaster risk reduction & management authority (NDRRMA)
	<p>necessary policy for aligning DRM fund with AA.</p> <p>Financing Mobilization of national disaster relief fund and support in provincial disaster fund and coordination. Funds to be mobilized only for the purpose of disaster management and emergency relief. https://moha.gov.np/post/disaster-risk-reduction-and-management-regulation-2076</p> <p>Coordination Inter-ministerial coordination, closely work with NDRRMA, province (PDMC) & ministry and district DAO/DDMC and Local level (security)</p>	<p>Linking EWS based information for executing AA to distribute cash support prior to disaster?</p> <p>Programs Since some of the DRM funds are disbursed to local level through NDRRMA as well; and being a central resource agency for DRM, it can initiate the need of policy on AA. Initiated formulating SRSP guidelines with the technical assistance of WBG which basically talks about mobilizing funds during the disaster as AA. Carrying out impact-based financing initiatives with youth innovation lab.</p> <p>Coordination Close connections with MoHA, MoFAGA, and provincial and local level governments, Could support coordination with the above for the needed policy on AA. Could coordinate in finalizing the pending cash transfer guidelines for 2 years.</p>
Specific issues/questions	During times of disaster and as a part of AA, can certainly portion of the central disaster relief fund be disbursed through AA programs?	Can NDRRMA channelize DRRM funds via AA programs?

2. Province and Local level stakeholders (The information is generalized to all the seven provinces)

	Ministry of internal affairs and law	DDMC
Mandate	<p>Disaster management, risk mitigation and IT development, local administration operation, management, and coordination</p> <p>Develop, review, and assess effective disaster management practices.</p> <p>Help local government to prepare a local disaster management plan.</p>	<p>Manage, mobilize, and coordinate among the various stakeholders during the disaster and post disaster phase for initial response and post disaster recovery.</p> <p>Mobilization of district management fund during the disaster.</p> <p>Coordinate and bridging between NDRRMA, Provincial and local governments.</p>

	Ministry of internal affairs and law	DDMC
Engagement	<p>Disaster Risk Insurance provision</p> <p>Disaster risk and response, provincial disaster fund mobilization, Risk area mapping and resettlement.</p> <p>Livelihood development program for the vulnerable and deprived people in the province.</p> <p>Maintenance of provincial level pool of funds for post-disaster relief and recovery. Financial assistance from this pool extended immediately to the most disaster affected people and families.</p> <p>Province level disaster risk management plan formulation.</p> <p>Formulation of Provincial level strategic action plan on Multi-hazards Early Warning System</p>	<p>District disaster preparedness plan (DDPRP) Updating and development.</p> <p>Agency roster preparation,</p> <p>Simulation exercises and information sharing via DEOC to NEOC on daily basis.</p> <p>Immediate short term relief distribution for disaster affected communities.</p> <p>Ensure the distribution (at local levels and also by I/NGOs) is in accordance with the standards set by the GoN.</p> <p>Immediate temporary shelter provision</p> <p>Immediate provision of water, food, clothes, and medicines</p>
Stake on the agenda	<p>Can play vital role in formulating law for in line with AA.</p> <p>Can play crucial role in making the local government formulate policies aligning to AA and roll out at their level.</p> <p>Immediate and mid to long term assistance which fall under the broader category of disaster response but also incorporate approaches of AA within them.</p> <p>Being the member of DRM council and the chair of the executive committee, MoHA can play vital role in advocating to formulate policies aligning AA based upon the existing strategic action plan 2018-2030 and DRR policy 2018 of Nepal adding cash transfer into it. <i>National strategic action plan 2018-30 pg. number 37, National disaster policy 2018, page number 20 (7.42)</i></p> <p>Strategic action: <i>Develop and promote alternative and innovative financial instruments such as forecast based</i></p>	<p>Coordination</p> <p>Cluster coordination, law, and order during the disaster with DPO, Non-government agencies, donor agencies, Palika, private sectors for relief distribution.</p>

	Ministry of internal affairs and law	DDMC
	<i>financing for DRR. National strategic action plan 2018-30 pg. number 122</i>	
Specific issues/questions	What role can they play in implementing AA before the disaster and people estimated to be affected?	What kind of information database, programs and financing would be required to facilitate the transition from a blanket-coverage to a targeted AA before the disaster occurrence? Can they facilitate to include the AA approach while formulating DPRP?

	Municipality/LG	LDMC
Mandate	Contributing to social protection by ensuring designed activities are implemented at local levels. Formulate and implementation of local policy, law, standards related to DRM. Target group related Local plan execution, program and resource mobilization and management. Institutionalize disaster risk reduction in its day-to-day operations, including development planning, land use control and the provision of public facilities and services	Formulate and implement the programs and plans related to DRM. Manage, mobilize, and coordinate among the various stakeholders during the disaster and post disaster phase for initial response and post disaster recovery. Prepare and implement the method and process of insurance, social security, and disaster related risk transfer. Funds mobilization and operational support for social protection initiatives
Engagement	Chandani Dodhara Municipality has formulated an Anticipatory Action procedure which is yet to be endorsed. Chandani Dodhara, Beldandi RM, Bhimdatta Municipality of Kanchanpur, Parshuram Municipality of Dadeldhura or some municipalities from Kailali and other districts for instance, have formulated the cash relief distribution procedures. Bhimdatta Municipality has also formulated AA protocol.	Local disaster climate resilient plan (LDCRP) Updating and development. Simulation exercises and information sharing via <i>Bipad</i> Disaster Management Information system to NEOC on daily basis. Support in operationalizing LEOC. Resource and funds mobilization for facilitating rescue, relief, and recovery stages. Immediate short term relief distribution for disaster affected communities.
Stake on the agenda	Information: Disaster affected related local data and information management. (population likely to be affected of certain disaster if it occurs)	Programs Support in implementation of disaster related capacity building programs in the palika. Coordination with the development partners to support in various thematic areas of

	Municipality/LG	LDMC
	<p>Poor HH identification, survey and information management and regulation.</p> <p>Programs</p> <p>Some of the municipalities are interested in applying AA along with cash distribution.</p> <p>Local level implementation of AA initiatives.</p> <p>Local level AA Protocol and management.</p> <p>Coordination:</p> <p>Coordination with federal, province and local agencies for the implementation of AA.</p>	<p>disaster management as well as food security.</p> <p>District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC) can forge collaboration between local governments and exchange support for disaster response including AA.</p> <p>Coordination</p> <p>Cluster coordination at palika level, DDMC, ward, Non-government agencies for relief distribution.</p> <p>The District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) has great potential to function as a coordinating and collaborating mechanism at local level to foster and initiate the AA approach .</p>

Development Partners Stakeholders' mapping on Anticipatory Action

UNICEF	
country strategy	UNICEF will co-lead four clusters (the WASH, nutrition, education, and child protection subclusters) and build on the innovative good practices on Anticipatory Action as well as communicating-with-affected communities.
Explanation	The country programme will support multi-hazard early warning systems. Emergency operations will be coordinated by the humanitarian country team under the National Disaster Response Framework of Nepal 2012 (First Amendment 2019) in coordination with NDRRMA, MOHA and other sectoral ministries.
Engagement	<p>Current (Originally planned for 2021 as Anticipatory Action pilot was not activated during the 2021 monsoon, and now taking it forward in their preparedness and response programming for 2022.)</p> <p>Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator and building on existing structures, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO and WFP collaborated with the government and local implementing partners to design a more timely, effective, efficient, and dignified response to the anticipated emergency.</p> <p>Using hydrological forecasts, a two-step trigger system was developed for two river basins in Nepal (the Karnali and Koshi basins), consisting of a readiness trigger and an action trigger. For this pilot, CERF set aside financing to be activated and distributed as automatically as possible once the defined trigger is reached.</p> <p>East:</p> <p>Sunsari- Barahchhetra, Bhokraha Narsingh, Harinagar, Koshi</p>

UNICEF	
	<p>Saptari-Chhinnmasta, Hanumannagar Kankalini, Kanchanrup, Saptakoshi and Tilathi Koiladi.</p> <p>West: Bardiya-Geruwa, Madhuwan, Rajapur and Thakur Baba. Kailali-Janaki and Tikapur</p> <p>\$3.78m in cash transfers to 154,000* people across the 2 regions with partnership with government, NGOs and NRCS.</p> <p>Planned They have developed a country program action plan for 2023-2027 to support 4 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Outcomes and out of which one of them is WASH, Disaster risk reduction and emergency response and Climate, energy an environment where they are planning to use Anticipatory Action.</p>
Stake/interest	<p>Using cash transfers, particularly the child grant, to respond to shocks. Interest in direct implementation at Local Level, e.g., in data collection Can influence the government on AA approach to be materialized as per their country strategy.</p>
Level of influence	<p>Has access to MoHA, MOF and NPC Engagement at the provincial level (P2 and P6)</p>

START Fund Nepal	
Global/country strategy	<p>Promoting localization in response and crisis anticipation from the very beginning with effective representation of Local and National NGOs (LNGOs) in decision-making roles and channels most of its funds to these organizations through INGOs. It is funded by the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)</p> <p>The Start Fund focuses on three types of humanitarian needs: Underfunded small to medium scale crises. Forecasts of impending crises Spikes in chronic humanitarian crises. Funding is disbursed within 72 hours after members raise a crisis alert. This makes the Start Fund one of the fastest humanitarian assistance financing mechanisms in the world.</p>
Explanation	<p>Following the success of 2021's Start Fund COVID-19 response in Nepal, Start Network members are piloting a country-based contingency fund to respond rapidly to, and in anticipation of, small to medium-scale crises in the country.</p>

START Fund Nepal	
Engagement	<p>Anticipating cold waves in Nepal: GBP 200,000 to act ahead of the forecasted cold wave.</p> <p>CARE Nepal supported through the provision of food (that communities obtained through a printed voucher) and non-food items including winterization kits, to 572 households in the districts of Banke, Siraha, and Saptari.</p> <p>Mercy Corps supported 650 households in Jumla, Kalikot, and Mugu districts with non-food items, winterization kits, and food through electronic voucher distributions.</p> <p>Action Aid utilized funding to distribute food and winterization kits as well (including tarpaulins, blankets, warm clothes, and other items) to 312 affected households. The winterization kits distributed were in-line with guidelines developed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and shelter clusters in Nepal.</p> <p>Cordaid and CRS conducted cold wave anticipation in Dadeldhura and Gorkha. Cordaid and CRS conducted Landslide anticipation in Dadeldhura and Gorkha in 2022.</p> <p>Current:</p> <p>N-15 Anticipation- Land slide in Sindhupalchowk N-17 Anticipation- flood in Bardiya (Plan International) N-18 Anticipation- Danguie in Sunsari including 7 more projects.</p> <p>Planned</p> <p>Phase II of the project started in April 2022 and will conclude in March 2024.</p>
Stake/interest	Forecast based warning, Anticipatory Action in anticipation, Alert. Networking
Level of influence	It is a network of most of the humanitarian agencies working in Nepal and most of them have access to the different line agencies in the government and can influential role in advocating about AA in Nepal.

EU/ECHO	
Global/country strategy	DG ECHO committed in the Commission’s <i>Communication on the EU’s humanitarian action: new challenges, same principles</i> ⁴ to scale up its approach to Anticipatory Action (AA).
Explanation	AA involves actions <i>that are implemented according to a pre-determined protocol, which describes the activities to be undertaken and pre-agreed triggers established on the basis of historical and current forecast analysis</i> ⁵ . AA can help improve the quality of humanitarian response and reduce the burden on humanitarian budgets, while also fostering community resilience and the involvement of local communities.
Engagement	Past:

EU/ECHO	
	<p>Project: Forecast-based Action and Shock Responsive Social Protection in Provinces 5 and Sudur Paschim (FbA-SRSP) by a consortium of NRCS, DRS and HI.</p> <p>Objective: Build a replicable mechanism for Anticipatory Action based on experiences and evidence collected and tested on the ground, to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Nepal and humanitarian stakeholders to implement Forecast-based Action and Shock Responsive Social Protection for Floods and Cold waves</p> <p>Location: 2 Provinces, 2 Districts, 5 Municipalities located in Babai River basin (3) and Karnal river basin (2)</p> <p>Duration: 2 years (2020-2022)</p>
	<p>Current</p> <p><i>Pratibaddha: Phase II:</i> Together for Disaster Preparedness and Early Action in landslide affected hilly regions of Nepal implemented by People in Need. The project focuses on localizing forecasting and developing early action protocols to strengthen the capacity of local government and at-risk communities for early action. The activities will facilitate knowledge exchange among experts and practitioners on landslide forecasting and early warning systems.</p> <p>Location: Bagmati Province [Rasuwa (Uttar Gaya Municipality, Naukund Rural Municipality), Sindhupalchowk (Bhotekoshi Rural Municipality and Barhabise Rural Municipality)] Since 2020 until 2024.</p> <p>Funding STRONG project being run by NRCS. The importance of Anticipatory Actions in enhancing the capacity of individuals, households, communities, and institutions for better preparedness and timely response to anticipated disasters as well as to increase the involvement of community participants to ensure the effective implementation of Early Actions at the local level.</p>
	<p>Planned:</p> <p>In 2023, the EU allocated €2 million to respond to natural hazards and strengthen disaster preparedness.</p>
Stake/interest	Better Disaster Preparedness, humanitarian assistance, Increasing engagement in forecast-based financing and Anticipatory Action more recently
Level of influence	Has access to MoHA, NPC and other government agencies. Can leverage budget support operations.
WFP	
Country strategy	Nepal's AA programme falls under Activity 7 of the WFP Nepal Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023), which aims to "Provide technical assistance to the Government to strengthen the food security monitoring, analysis and early-warning system and align it with the federal governance structure."

WFP	
	<p>In 2022, WFP reached 1.8 million people through its lifesaving and life-changing activities, while strengthening its partnership with the Government.</p> <p>WFP aspires to contribute towards social protection via. Saving lives and changing lives, delivering food assistance in emergencies, and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience.</p> <p>Delivering of cash and in-kind transfers, school-based programmes, insurance, and food assistance for assets as complementary efforts to the government initiatives, and</p> <p>Focusing on emergency assistance, relief and rehabilitation, development relief and special operations.</p>
Engagement	<p>WFP implemented Anticipatory Actions as the triggers were reached for Nepal's West Basin, more specifically for the Karnali Basin and the West Rapti Basin. The activation followed its two-stage trigger mechanism with the first readiness trigger being reached on 4 October and the second action trigger on 7 October. On 9 October, WFP Nepal transferred cash and dissemination early warning information to 86,670 people (17,630 households) with a total of US\$1.7 million.</p> <p>WFP provided technical assistance to the Government to improve food security monitoring and evidence-based decision making, through the implementation of early-warning systems and Anticipatory Actions for climate shocks. After meeting pre-defined flood forecast levels, WFP's anticipatory cash assistance, along with early warning communication, were activated.</p> <p>WFP provided support to local Governments in 22 municipalities by operationalizing innovative anticipatory approaches. As part of the broader AA approach, which contributed to building community resilience to minimize flood impact and augment household level resilience to withstand future shocks, cash assistance was provided to 100,231 people in the Banke, Bardiya, and Kailali Districts of western Nepal at risk of floods. (source: annual country report 2022).</p> <p>WFP implemented Forecast-based financing (FbF) activities in collaboration with governments (federal and municipal), the Nepal Red Cross Society, Tribhuvan University, and other stakeholders, including communities. (source: annual country report 2019, 2020)</p>
	<p>Planned</p> <p>In 2023, WFP Nepal will:</p> <p>Continue its efforts to institutionalize AA at all levels of government, with a specific focus on: (i) strengthening coordination structures among the different government institutions; (ii) developing and implementing AA SOPs, guidelines, and regulations for municipal, ward and community-level DRR structures; and (iii)</p>

WFP	
	<p>capacity building for DHM, Nepal National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDDRMA), MOHA and AA practitioners at national level. Improve the current forecasts and review the trigger system to enable more local and accurate forecasts – and potentially develop a multi-hazard (flooding and drought) multi-action framework – jointly with government and partners.</p> <p>Continue directly delivering Anticipatory Actions alongside the government and partners to scale it up based on generated evidence and mainstream it in a sustainable way through a system strengthening approach.</p> <p>WFP will continue to work with the national forecasting entities to customize and improve the accuracy of local forecasts, particularly during the monsoon season.</p>
Stake/interest	Using Cash-transfers for shock-response, Policy advocacy, Capacity building to national entities on AA.
Level of influence	<p>Has access to Local and relevant ministries and departments in provincial government.</p> <p>Has access to MoHA, NDRRMA, NPC and other relevant government agencies and can play crucial role in AA related policy formulation at all levels.</p>
INGO-Danish Church Aid	
Country strategy	The strategy has taken into consideration context-specific problems such as (i) low development outcomes of poor and marginalized communities, mainly; (ii) slow rate of improvement in food insecurity, and access to agriculture and market infrastructure; (iii) poor access of citizens to basic human rights; (iv) poor status of the nation in relation to climate vulnerability; (v) limited knowledge and preparedness on climate-induced as well as other forms of disasters
Engagement	<p>Current</p> <p>DCA has been piloting Anticipatory Humanitarian Actions approach for flood in collaboration with Bhimdatta municipality under the DANIDA funded Nexus project in Bhimdatta and Dodhara Chandani in Kanchanpur district and Parshuram Municipality in Dadeldhura. This project aims to integrate its interventions to build a climate-resilient community with enhanced livelihood options and forecast-based Anticipatory Actions.</p> <p>SoP for forecast based early action has been tabled by the legislative drafting committee to the executive committee for final endorsement.</p> <p>Start-up cash support was provided to 94 households belonging to selected farmers groups, CDMCs, Cooperatives, CBOs, and individual people to start new enterprises.</p> <p>Flood modeling, HH risk mapping, AA protocol development etc.</p> <p>Existing EWS strengthening, Payment system improvement at the partner level.</p> <p>Existing policy review</p>

INGO-Danish Church Aid	
	<p>Supporting local government and communities to prepare for effective response by imparting knowledge and awareness on climate change and DRRM; mapping high risk areas; piloting/scaling up forecast-based early actions; conducting simulation exercise; establishing funds for early actions; and providing technical assistance to develop/update cash and voucher assistance.</p> <p>Training on forecast based early action/anticipatory humanitarian actions for municipal authorities.</p>
	<p>Planned</p> <p>Considering the context and the next five-year strategy, DCA envisions that by 2026, the marginalized and vulnerable communities including youth and women are empowered, resilient and protected to access justice and enjoy public and private sector services, and environmental resources, where the duty bearers play an active role in creating a favorable environment focusing on the key areas mentioned above in the country strategy.</p>
Stake/interest	Flood modelling and Anticipatory Action, Cash transfers and shock responsive social protection, capacity building, and governance and food security.
Level of influence	<p>Has access to MoFAGA, MoHP, MoHA</p> <p>Has access to local governments and has policy level influence.</p> <p>Engagement in Provinces 2 of eastern region, 3 of mid region, 5, 6, and 7 in the western and Far Western Region of Nepal</p>

INGO-Save The Children	
Global/country strategy	Save the Children's humanitarian approach incorporates Anticipatory Action (AA) to provide critical support to at-risk communities before disasters or their full impacts occur. By utilizing forecasts and early warnings of imminent shocks or stress, Their aim is to reduce the impact of disasters and improve post-disaster responses.
Explanation	Save the Children provides support to ensure effective preparedness systems are in place, minimizing the negative effects of disasters on children and their families. They advocate to influence and support key humanitarian actors to prioritize children's well-being in emergencies. One of the key priorities is integrating and mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) interventions into regular development programs. They also coordinate with federal and provincial governments to synergize efforts and design an Early Action Protocol for a more effective disaster response.
Engagement	<p>Current</p> <p>The Cold Wave Early Action Protocol has been designed for the implementation of cold wave early actions based on the weather forecasts in Rapti Sonari and Narainapur Rural Municipalities, Nepal. It includes cold wave risk analysis, thresholds and triggers, a set of early actions, type of agreed beneficiaries,</p>

INGO-Save The Children	
	implementation processes, estimated costs, monitoring and evaluation, and key implementing agencies.
Stake/interest	Cash transfers, Anticipatory Action, Child grants, sock responsive social protection.
Level of influence	Has good relations with NPC, MoFAGA, MoHA (DONIDCR, NDRRMA, Disaster & Conflict management Division) Has access to local governments and has policy level influence

Cash Coordination Group/ CSO	
Global/country strategy	<p>The Nepal Cash Coordination Group (CCG) is a national chapter for Cash coordination and is a synonymized version of Cash Working Group. It was set up immediately after the Nepal earthquake in 2015 without any pre-existing coordination structure and mechanism with the aim to promote a coordinated and harmonized effort towards the implementation of CVA interventions.</p> <p>The CCG is actively attended by over 40 members including I/NGOs, Red Cross Movement, UN agencies, donors, private sector, and government agencies. The CCG is led by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) and co-led by annually rotating chairs.</p> <p>The main functions of CCG are.</p> <p>Work with relevant Government and Humanitarian/Development Stakeholders to institutionalize CCG and its work in Nepal.</p> <p>Provide specialized services to and build capacity of humanitarian actors.</p> <p>Support evidence-based knowledge management and shared learning on CVA.</p> <p>Build alliances and networks with regional and global Cash Working Groups.</p>
Engagement	<p>The development of Guideline and Standards on Cash Assistance is among a substantial output to facilitate effective cash assistance at the local level throughout the disaster management cycle by CCG. With change in the government structure from a centralized to a federal structure, municipalities are mandated to oversee DRR and the response within their jurisdiction, the current Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) has developed a ‘template guidelines’ for Local Government to implement CVA, however, the guideline has yet to be endorsed by the Ministry. The Guideline will be inclusive of all essential supporting documents such as Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for different cash modalities for cash transfers including.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Cash for work (ii) Multipurpose cash grants (iii) Minimum expenditure basket (iv) Sector specific agreed amount (v) Market assessment etc.

Cash Coordination Group/ CSO	
	<p>CCG is currently working on a strategy that envisages strengthening the role of CCG for effective CVA through improved preparedness.</p> <p>Mainstreaming cash as a priority humanitarian assistance tool within the humanitarian agencies</p> <p>Capacity building activities identified and conducted in 2018 and 2019 including.</p> <p>Close coordination of CCG Nepal with Asia Pacific Regional Cash Coordination Group in knowledge sharing</p> <p>Collaboration of private financial sectors by CCG into cash-based response planning with pilot programs for demonstration in response to 2018 floods.</p> <p>Planned:</p> <p>Coordinate with MoFAGA to roll out the guidelines and standard on CVA.</p> <p>Active involvement in cash programming.</p> <p>Explore available digital delivery mechanisms through the CCG members as well as through private sector engagement.</p> <p>Support in providing capacity building services to humanitarian actors on digitalization of their CVA program, such as assessing feasibility of digital asset transfer, recommending data collection tools, technology vendors, financial service providers, and other possible partners for the digital delivery of CVA.</p> <p>Support the CCG for evidence-based knowledge management and shared learning. This would be done by developing a conceptual framework for a web-based Knowledge Management Portal. (CCG meeting on CVA digitization)</p>
Stake/interest	<p>Promoting cash-based interventions in all stages of its humanitarian response.</p> <p>Ensure their own project beneficiaries receive disaster relief in their area of work</p>
Level of influence	<p>Good coordination and rapport with MoFAGA, MoHA, MoF as well as with other development and humanitarian actors.</p>

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)	
Global/country strategy	<p>NRCS has the primary objective of alleviating or reducing human suffering without discrimination on grounds of religion, race, sex, class, caste, tribe, nationality, or political belief having the function of.</p> <p>To arrange for emergency relief services for disaster victims utilizing the core theme of SRSP and forecast based early action.</p> <p>To perform other functions of community development and public welfare out of many other functions.</p> <p>Allocate budget from emergency response to manage risk reduction or resilience building interventions. Invest on core areas of NRCS capacity building with emphasis upon supply-chain management, <i>forecast-based financing, cash transfer mechanism</i>, climate change adaptation, early warning system, protecting livelihood assets, restoring family links (RFL), engaging in civil-military relations, information management</p>

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)	
	system and developing specialized tools and infrastructures for emergencies (NRCS Risk Reduction policy 2019)
Engagement	<p>One of the key actors (The chair of the group) for the development of Guideline and Standards on Cash Assistance is among a substantial output to facilitate effective cash assistance at the local level throughout the disaster management cycle which is still under consultation in MoFAGA and MoHA task groups.</p> <p>Enhanced Community Resilience (ENCORE) project in Gadhawa and Babai Rural Municipalities in Dang. Understanding of Anticipatory Action and enable them to formulate and implement Early Action plans at the district and municipal levels. Gadhawa and Babai Rural Municipalities developed their DRM plan, Monsoon preparedness and response plan, and flood contingency, embedding AA in their routine responsibility.</p> <p>STRONG Project: Activities of STRONG project should also focus on the local rivers and inundation as the community were not only affected by Babai and Karnali, but they were mostly affected by inundation and local rivers. ECHO-DP DRR</p> <p>ECHO-funded project “Forecast-based Action and Shock Responsive Social Protection (FbA-SRSP)” in Provinces 5 and Sudur Paschim from 2020-2022.</p> <p>Implemented cash preparedness initiatives by support of the IFRC and British Red Cross 2018-2019 following the RCM (Red Cross OR Reed crescent Movement) standardized model of building cash preparedness capacity along four tracks (enabling systems programme tools, resources and capacity and communication and coordination).</p> <p>Engaged in capacity building on cash transfer and cash transfer preparedness to the different stakeholders.</p> <p>Conducted forecast based financing feasibility study to piloting to combined social protection with forecast based early action for FbA-SRSP in 2019.</p> <p>The Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and the humanitarian Cash Working Group advocated for the use of multi-purpose cash grants based on a MEB calculation.</p> <p>Developed its first cash-focused Standard Operating Procedure in 2019 and tested it as part of a flood response in 2020.</p> <p>As lead agency in the Cash Coordination Group (CCG), NRCS developed a practical guidance and MEB (Minimum Expenditure Basket) document for humanitarian agencies implementing CVA during the COVID-19 crisis and early recovery.</p> <p>NRCS used multi-purpose cash assistance to support 2,000 households affected by flooding in September and October 2020, with Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) funds. In addition, with bilateral support from UNICEF, NRCS has been maintaining social registry of 45,000 households in 6 municipalities of 3 districts in province 2 of Nepal. The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of municipalities to identify the most flood risks settlements in each ward and register these households and link them with the cash delivery system so that the cash can be transferred or other supports in case of disaster.</p>

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS)	
	<p>Planned: Coordinate with MoFAGA to roll out the guidelines and standard on CVA as chair of CCG.</p>
Stake/interest	<p>Promoting cash-based interventions as a part of early action based on the forecast in all stages of its humanitarian response. Active involvement in cash programming especially FbA-SRSP.</p>
Level of influence	<p>Being played the auxiliary role to the government as the first responder to the needs of the affected households, it can influence the policymakers for formulating policy suitable for AA and SRSP both. Good coordination and rapport with MoFAGA, MoHA and other government agencies. Ground level presence, good rapport with the local governments and other agencies, can influence policy formulation on AA. Affiliation with the entire RC movement.</p>
