

*Federalizing DRRM Governance in Nepal:  
Delineation of Roles, Responsibilities and  
Accountabilities*

Dinanath Bhandari

*Policy Dialogue on Multi-level DRRM Governance*

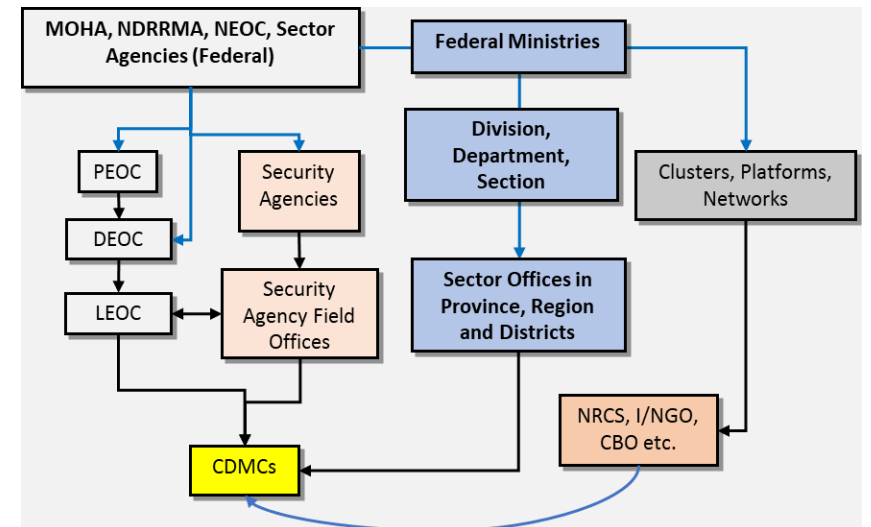
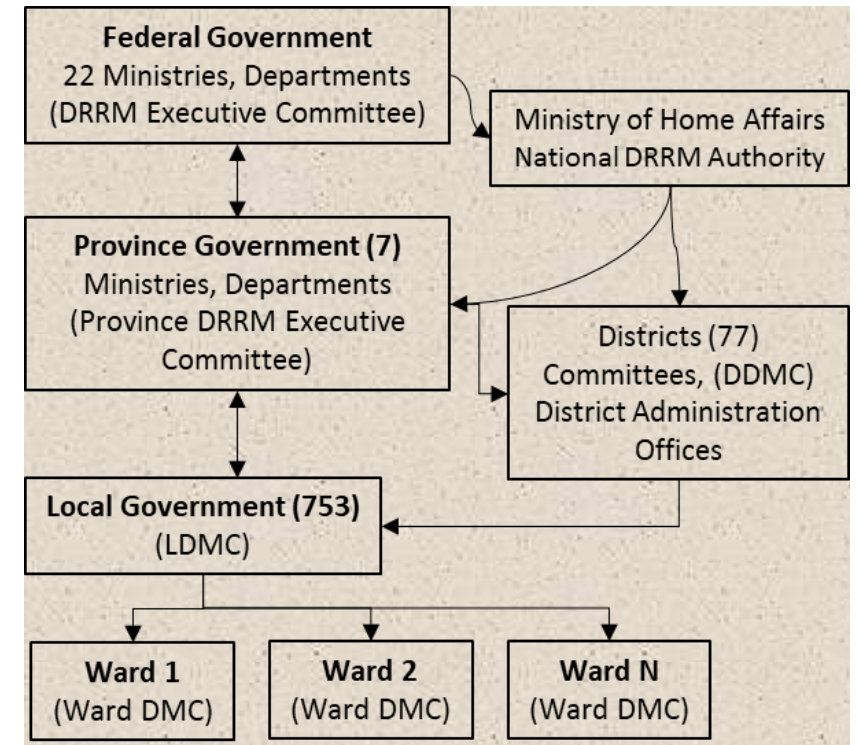
**Disaster Preparedness Network, Kathmandu**

# Institutional Landscape

1. **Existing Policy Landscape:** Constitution, DRRM Act, LGO Act, Policy, Regulations, Strategic Action Plan, DPRP Guidelines, NDRF, Relief Standards, Cabinet/council decision
2. **Institutional Structure:**
3. **Roles and Functions:**

## *Factors for play*

1. Constitutional Mandate Vs Power Vs Technical Capacity
2. Provisions of DRRM Act (2017), LGO Act (2017), Sectoral Acts and how we act in practice
3. Nature of hazards and impact of disasters



# International Concepts and Practices

1. Other country practices on role division - Bangladesh (not-federal), Philippines, Japan, India, Pakistan, ...
2. International concepts on locally led DRRM
  1. Five Components – **Governance**, Risk knowledge, Risk Assessment, Management and Reduction, Preparedness and Response
  2. Sendai Framework – National and Local interventions
  3. Other sectors of SDGs
3. Conceptual progress on DRRM
  1. Relief – Risk Reduction – Resilience
  2. Understanding about nature and impact of hazards
  3. Forecasting, mitigation, resistance and management technologies
  4. Single to multi-hazard, cross-border, regional cooperation

# Delineation of DRRM: Nature and Impact of Disasters

## **Categorizing hazards and disasters to delineate role, responsibility and authority/accountability**

1. Origin: geological, hydrological, meteorological, biological, accidents
2. Hazards have different intensity and frequency: minor to mega earthquake, category of storms
3. Slow onset and rapid onset hazards: drought, flood, landslide, earthquake, lightening
4. Localized to extensive impact: lightening, landslide, flood, earthquake, disease outbreak
5. Categorizing disaster: different concepts and practices
  1. CRED indicators: Death (10), Affected (100), Country Decision (emergency, support call)
6. Disaster Categories: criteria and indicators
  1. Categories: L0, L1, L2 & L3; minor, major, severe, catastrophe
  2. Pre-designed criteria & indicators, judgmental, coping capacity based

# Federalizing Institutional Landscape: Major Issues

1. Jurisdiction is prime factor but there are power dynamics
2. Technical capacity looks a key issue in assuming [sole] authority
3. There are gaps, ambiguities and overlaps in legal provisions between federal, provincial and local level
4. There are gaps, overlaps and bureaucratic resistance between sector agencies
5. District Administration Office's (CDO's) role is shaping in but province role yet to become clear- institutional structures and service delivery points?
6. Difficult to assess local, province & federal capacity, but it is understandable. What is minimum required capacity is not clear.
7. Impact of international context, aid dependency

***Lack of common understanding about structure, function and scope of work on DRRM***

# Delineation of DRRM: LG Capacity is Key Factor

## 1. Categories of Local Governments

1. Metropolitan, Sub-metropolitan, Urban Municipality and Rural Municipality
2. Geographic Location: Himali District, Pahadi District, Inner Tarai, Tarai and Kathmandu Valley

## 2. Capacities vary with who they are, and where they are

## 3. Each LG has different capacity; effective implementation of LGO Act can solve many problems

## 4. Delineating Responsibility and Accountability without considering capacity is unjust

## 5. Existing capacity at local and provincial level is very low as compared to what it should be

- (१) कम्तीमा दुई लाख स्थायी बासिन्दा भएको,
- (२) पछिल्लो पाँच वर्षको वार्षिक औसत आन्तरिक आय कम्तीमा पच्चीस करोड रुपैयाँ भएको,
- (३) कम्तीमा एक सय शैयाको एक अस्पताल सहित कम्तीमा दुई सय शैयाको अस्पताल सुविधा भएको,
- (४) फोहरमैला प्रशोधन तथा व्यवस्थापन प्रणाली भएको,
- (५) सभाहल भएको,
- (६) राष्ट्रियस्तरको रङ्गशाला, व्यायामशाला तथा कभर्ड हल भएको,
- (७) विद्युत, खानेपानी र सञ्चार सेवाको उपलब्धता भएको,
- (८) नगरभिन्नका प्रमुख सडकहरू पक्की भएको,
- (९) उच्चस्तरीय शिक्षा तथा प्राविधिक शिक्षाको सुविधा भएको,

# Delineation of DRRM: Federal Mandate and Capacity

1. Federal Level has concurrent authority by constitution. And residual responsibilities
2. Most of the country capacity and power remains at federal level ('Centre') and is yet to trickle down
3. Institutional, technical capacity is low as compared to what is required; Federal Level needs to build their own capacity in many areas
4. There are structural and operational challenges to devolve capacity into Province and Local Level
5. Inter-ministerial collaboration is challenging within federal government
6. DRRM Act promotes committee approach, lacks strong institutional accountability

# Delineation of DRRM: Conclusion and way forward

1. Realization of delineation of Roles, Responsibility & Accountability between levels and agencies is growing
2. Disasters should be categorized based on nature of hazards and disaster impacts to divide roles, responsibilities and accountabilities between levels and sectors
3. A bottom up and collaborative approach is important (a must)
4. The issues needs to be addressed by Act, regulation, guidelines, plans and exercises (application of mandates and power)
5. In our study, we recommended flexible promotional approach to decentralization of DRRM functions





# Delineation of DRRM: way forward

- Indicator based category of disasters – e.g., normal, large, severe, catastrophic
- Priority to LGs to exercise authority and request required support
- Allocate minimum accountabilities to LGs and higher capacity role on province and residual responsibility and ultimate accountability to federal level/agencies
- Lead and support roles of governments while all have to be involved
- Lead and support roles of sector agencies base on the nature of hazard

## 6. Role of international players (aid, actors)

# Delineation of DRRM: way forward

- Common National Goal and objectives
- Integrating disaster risk reduction – resilience into development interventions
- Coordination and collaboration on disaster preparedness and response
- Data, database management
- Prime authority, responsibility of local government
- Accountability to associated risk (respective government accountable to the disaster risk of the project they build and operate)
- Residual accountability of Federal Government
- Technical, sectoral issues – weather monitoring and forecasting, earthquake monitoring, landslide monitoring and management....

***Room for further inputs***

***Thank you***