



# Achieving Meaningful Engagement of Vulnerable Communities in the Urban Context

**Mahendra Godar**

**Engineer**

**Pokhara sub-Metropolitan City**

**Basana Sapkota**

**Project Coordinator**

**Building Disaster Resilient Communities in  
Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City (BDRC) Project**

# Project in Brief

Project area: Pokhara Sub-metropolitan City and 7 VDCs

Objectives: To increase disaster resilience of poor and vulnerable people, especially women, to the impact of multiple hazards

5 outputs, aligned with NRRC flagships

Major Activities :

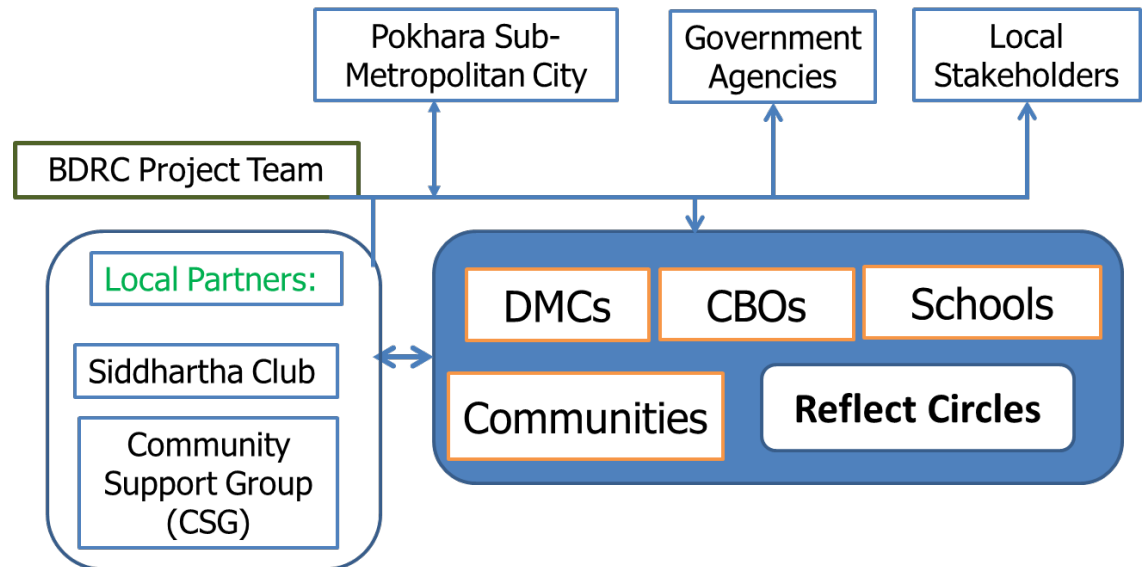
- NBC Implementation support
- Institutional Set up for DRR (DMCs and linkages);  
Mainstreaming DRR into planning process; Awareness and institutional capacity for disaster response
- Improving livelihoods of marginalised communities
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting and demonstration
- Small Scale mitigation works

# Where and with whom we work

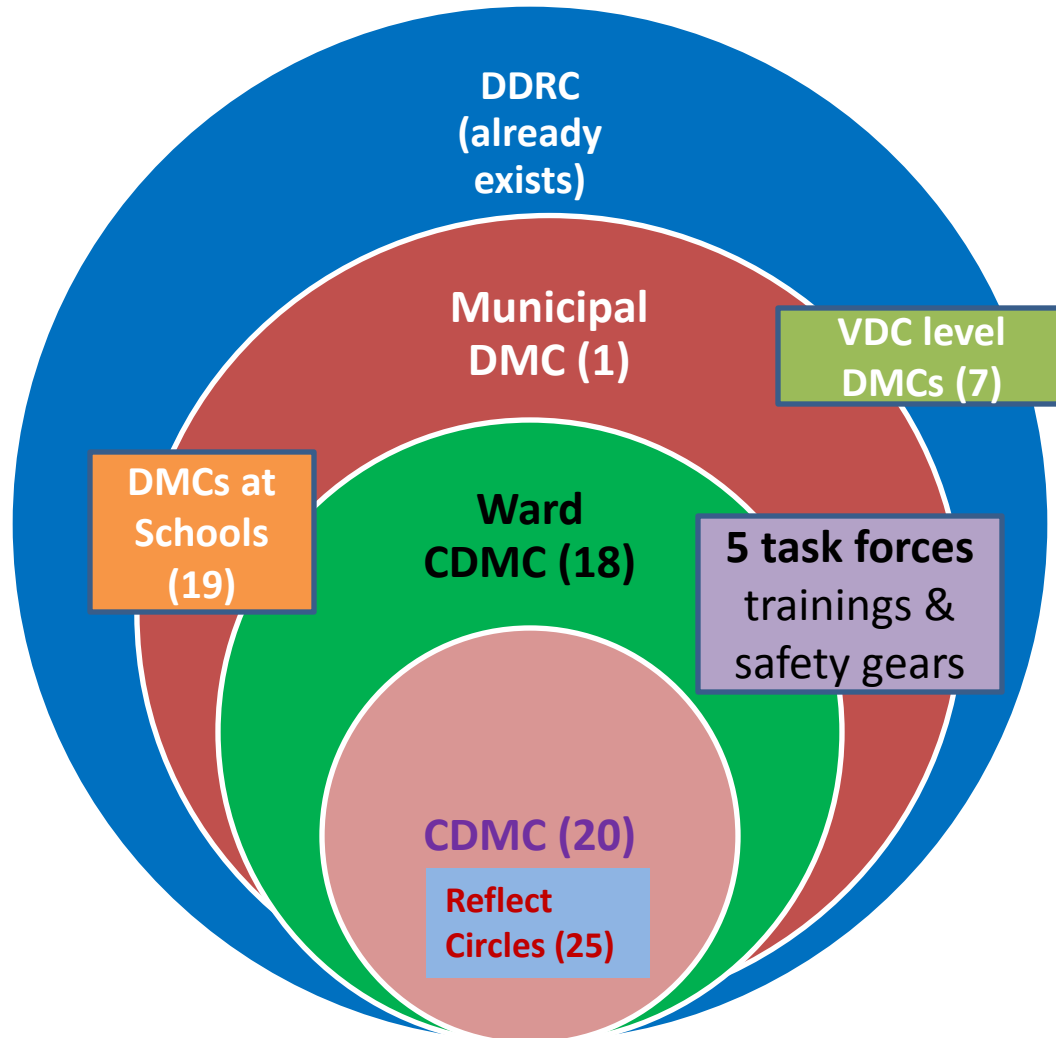
- Target community: 20 slum communities, TLOs, 18 wards, schools, CBOs, 7 upstream VDCs
- Target population: 17000 community population and 3200 school children directly and 200,000 populations indirectly

## Stakeholders:

- NGOs, NRCS
- DEO
- DDC, DAO
- DUDBC
- Training institutes
- Media
- Security and response agencies



# Implementation institutional set up



# Vulnerability Context

- Rapidly growing unplanned settlement in the risk zones resulting to vulnerability
- Limited awareness and capacity on DRR in both community and local bodies
- Gaps in institutional set up, linkage and preparedness for disaster and response
- Exposure to multiple hazards
- Issues of enforcement of NBC and implementation of DRM policies



# Domains of change

- Addressing the root cause of vulnerabilities to build resilience
- Policy implementation and law enforcement (NBC, Building LDRMP, DMCC, DDRC, multi-stakeholder framework of action etc.)
- Capacity building (service providers, advocacy groups, urban and rural communities, local bodies)
- Establishing communication linkage between Upstream-downstream settlements and authorities
- Governance (capacity building of government and right holders, accountability, responsibility)
- Adaptive livelihood options for the vulnerable

# Theory of Change

Minimizing exposures, risks and reducing vulnerability through safety nets

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Maximizing improving livelihood options and alternative of the vulnerable (specifically the poor, marginalized and disadvantaged groups)

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Policy implementation and law enforcement

Enhanced Capacity and improved governance

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Resilient communities and well prepared responding agencies

# Rural Vs Urban context

- Community composition (homogeneity vs heterogeneity)
- Whole socio-cultural system is vulnerable , people from different origin with diff destination(in case of urban)
- Geographic and social boundary for scope of work for municipality – district/regional sense
- Role of ‘law enforcement’ and land use planning
- Access to services
- Livelihoods - NRM based vs skill based
- Stakeholders (number, interest, strength and priorities)
- Vulnerability Context – poverty dominant over other factors



# Challenges

- Ensure inclusive participation – too many actors and stakeholders
- Contextual application of LDRMP guidelines for DMC composition
- DM Fund at community level
- Livelihood/occupation choice
- High demand for development infrastructures
- Community accountability of ‘direct beneficiaries’

# Challenges to lessons

Challenges	Lessons learnt	Successes
Awareness raising and project participation	Use local media, school at centre and students as change agent	Mass awareness and support to project activity NBC implementation School retrofitting
Mainstreaming	Trust building with government agencies, ownership to local bodies and community	LDRMP, Ownership of local bodies and DM plan endorsement
Livelihoods options	Market driven skill transfer Promote social business	Socialisation of squatters, entrepreneurship development of poor and marginalised
Upstream-downstream linkage	Meso level planning, Sub-basin level actions Effective communication	EWS functional Theory and practice established
Sustainability of achievements and replicability	Local ownership Technology transfer Multistakeholder platform Mainstreaming	Mainstreaming at local planning Improved livelihoods of vulnerable poor Institutionalised DRR

# Outcomes

- Marginalized slum squatters are aware of their rights and able to claim their rights through organized effort
- Vulnerable people are able to conduct social business (semi-technical human resource for local market has been developed) - Employment opportunities for vulnerable to assist resilient livelihoods
- Mainstreaming marginalized community into local urban community
- Collective effort and cross-sectoral coordination
- Effective upstream-downstream linkage and communication

# Key Learning

- Livelihood enhancement activities are the key in resilience building
- Small scale mitigation activities contributes to addressing risk reduction measures at the community level. Enhanced state and non-state involvement in mitigation actions resulting to development effort
- Physical-structural and capacity development activities during project implementation need to be synchronized for increased public involvement and ownership towards the project initiatives
- Vulnerable is first (to act) and risk is first (to respond) for development planning





Art Drawn on Seti flood memorial Day