

# New Dimension for CBDM Decentralised Disaster Management for South Asia

Madhavi Malalgoda Ariyabandu  
Duryog Nivaran  
South Asia Policy Dialogue  
New Delhi  
21-22 August 06

## **CBDM as concept and practice**

- The concept aims at including community perceptions, perspectives and experiences into counter disaster planning and management
- It is targeted at planners, managers, and practitioners entrusted with disaster management
- It claims to reverse the 'top-down' approach with 'bottom up' vision in disaster management

## A critique on CBDM

- CBDM current practice is community oriented, not community based
- It does not provide a community led mechanism to what it claims- 'bottom up'
- The levels of community consultation and participation can vary in a broad range
- DM Managers/planners to opt for CBDM is voluntary, not mandatory
- Scope can be limited to what is possible within the community level

## Contradictions

- CBDM conceptually explores natural hazards-disasters-community connections
- Most disasters are result of collateral damage of growth driven development
- Macro level disruptions in ecology, NRM cannot be adequately mitigated at micro, community level
- In larger development choices/decisions community has no role

## Cont...

- Disasters are issues of governance- primary responsibility lies with the governance institutions
- Communities are first respondent by default, whereas the responsibility of the governance structures is by design

### Way forward with CBDM Decentralisation and public action

- Decentralisation of power, authority and responsibility
- Response
- Planning
- Resource mobilisation
- Implementation
- Monitoring
- Replication

## Public Action

- Rights based approach to disaster management
- Community led public action for disaster management
- Participation
- Accessibility
- Accountability
- Equity
- Transparency
- Social auditing

## Decentralised Disaster Risk Management

- Forward step from CBDM concept and practice into rights based, community led disaster risk reduction – Decentralised Disaster Risk Management
- Mainstream DRM capitalising on the ongoing decentralisation drive in South Asia

## DDRM- a bottom up approach

- Recognize the importance of public action towards risk management/reduction by at-risk communities and community representatives
- Ensure responsiveness towards demands, needs and issues of disaster-prone communities
- Include participation of vulnerable communities in decision making related to development planning and resource allocation at the local level
- Facilitate accountability and performance-auditing of institutions and individuals dealing with disaster management and local development
- Ensure transparency in resource allocation, planning and implementation of counter-disaster endeavours undertaken by state and non-state actors

- Equity in provision and delivery of essential goods and services to disaster-prone communities
- Discharge legal responsibility for promoting local development, land use planning, development and enforcement of norms, incentives and controls for sectoral and territorial development projects
- Preventing future risks by factoring risk reduction into development interventions and through normative control

- Developing district disaster risk management policies
- Develop area-specific, community specific and hazard-specific disaster risk reduction plans
- Documentation, monitoring and scaling-up success stories related to disaster risk reduction
- Encourage and undertake annual performance audit of line departments in relation to disaster risk reduction

### Key Areas of Intervention for Decentralised Disaster Risk Management

- *Human Resource Development:* equipping
- *Institutional Development*
- *Legislative Development:*