Ensuring Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups during Public Health Emergencies including COVID-19 : *A country case presentation of Nepal*

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Presentation Outline

- **Overview**

- **Major strategies and efforts of Government of Nepal**

- **Challenges**

- **Possible Solution**

Overview

- **Public health emergency** is an extraordinary event of public health risk caused of Natural, biological, technological and societal hazards.
  - ✓ **Natural:** earthquake, landslide, tsunami, cyclones, flood or drought.
  - ✓ **Biological:** epidemic disease, infestations of pests.
  - ✓ **Technological:** chemical substance, radiological agents, transport crashes.
  - ✓ **Societal:** conflict, stampedes, acts of terrorism.

- These hazards put the health of vulnerable populations at risk and bear the potential to cause significant harm to public health. Emergencies, disasters and other crises may cause ill health directly or through the disruption of health systems, facilities and services. They also affect basic infrastructure such as water supplies and safe shelter, which are essential for health.

- Requires urgent intervention to prevent a worsening of the situation and for enhance their social and economic life through-
  - ✓ adequate and effective health care service delivery;
  - ✓ engagement of vulnerable groups in policy designing, implementation, monitoring and reviewing; and
  - ✓ coordinated public, private, and international communities response.

What makes some peoples especially vulnerable in emergencies ?

Who have to Target for inclusion ?
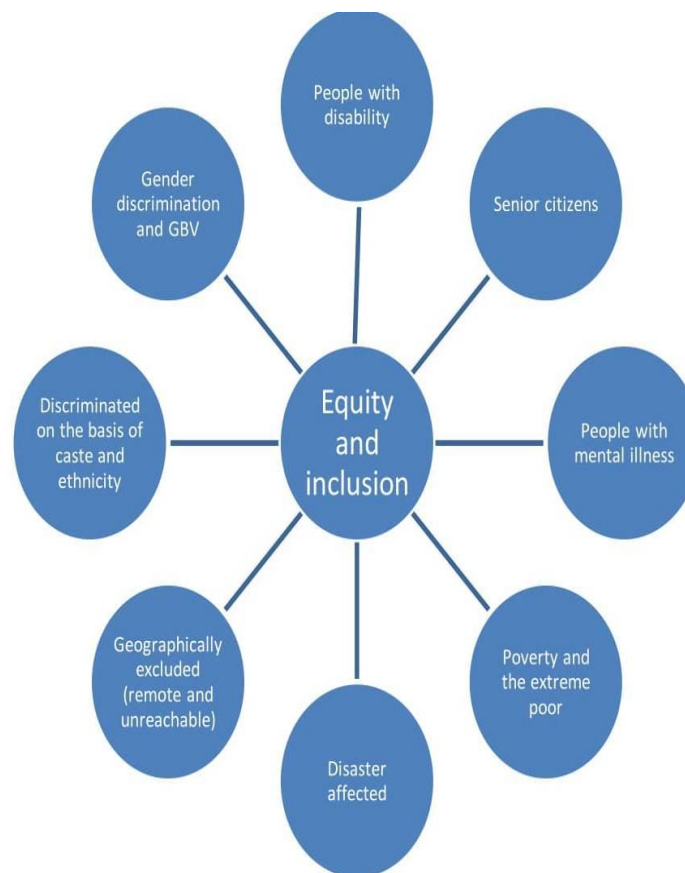
1. Being Dependent on Support Service:

2. Residing in High -Risk Area:

3. Limited Access:

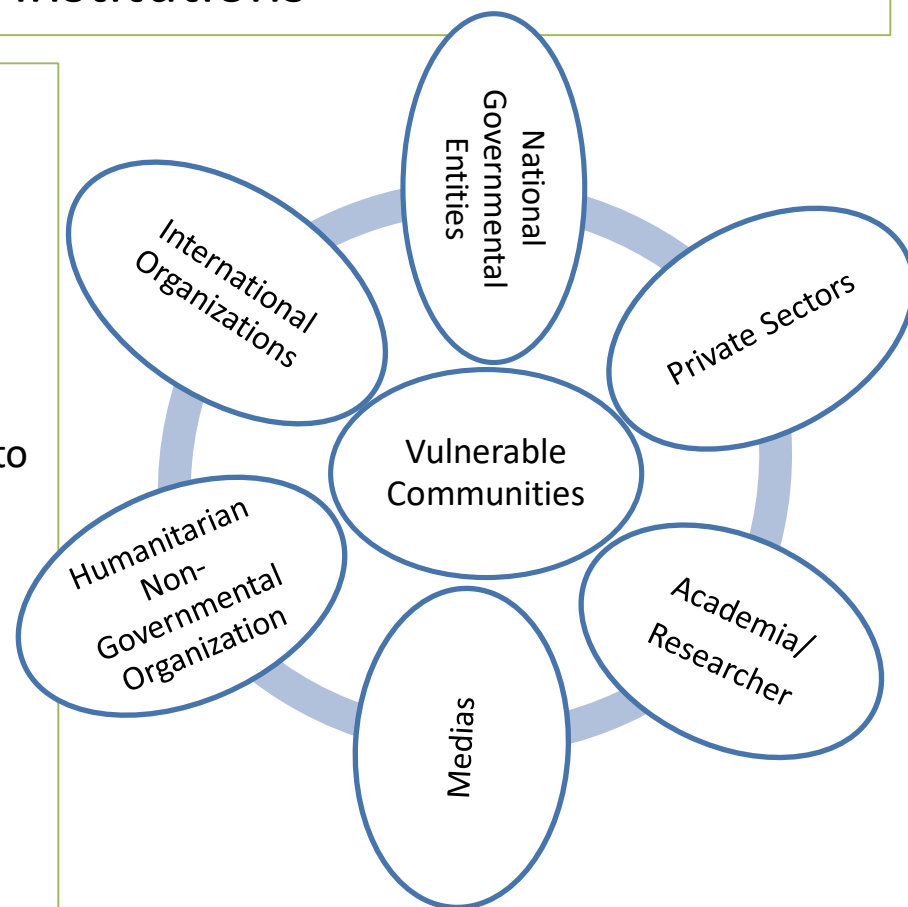4. Social Status:

5. No Support System:

Equity and inclusion
- People with disability
- Senior citizens
- People with mental illness
- Poverty and the extreme poor
- Disaster affected
- Geographically excluded (remote and unreachable)
- Discriminated on the basis of caste and ethnicity
- Gender discrimination and GBV

Overview

Influential actors and institutions

- **National governments:** healthcare system dev., emergency planning, response and research;

- **Intergovernmental organizations:** for support to national governments;

- **The humanitarian sector:** part in direct response to emergencies;

- **The military :** both in direct clinical care ,logistical and technical support;

- **Private sector actors**: role in funding through partnerships with inter-governmental agencies
- **Academia/Researcher:** for case research
- **Media:** for awareness, information sharing

National Governmental Entities

International Organizations

Private Sectors

Vulnerable Communities

Humanitarian Non-Governmental Organization
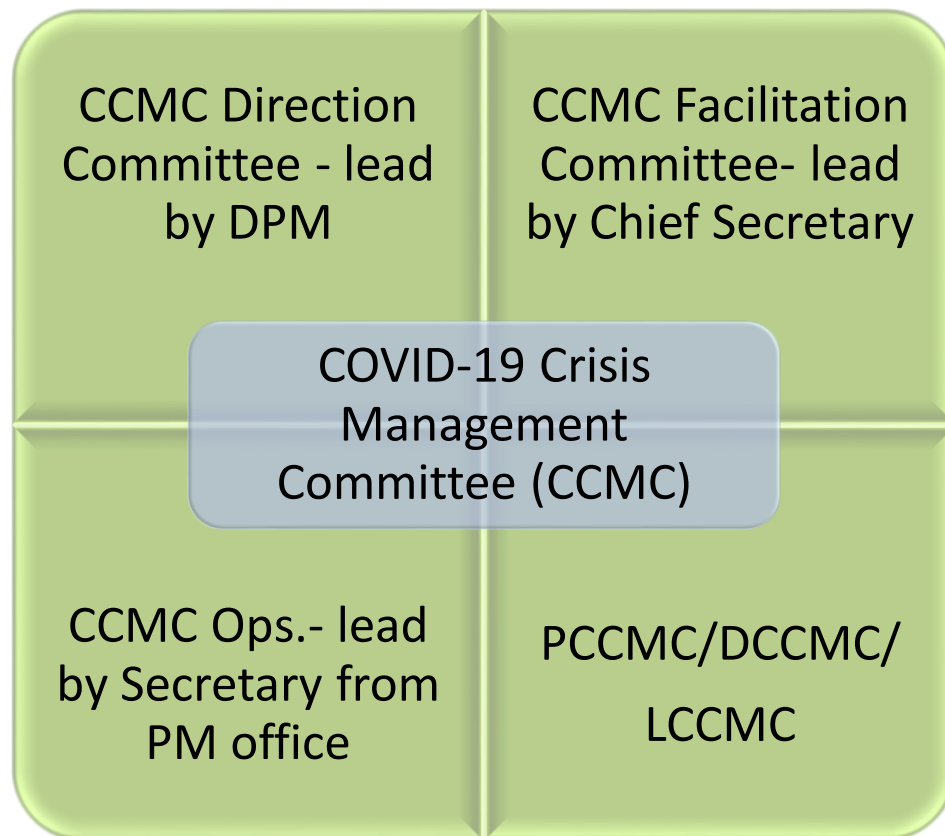
Academia/ Researcher

Medias

Overview

- **Preparedness:** activities that get a community ready before an emergency (including planning, training, and exercising)

- **Response:** actions that help protect lives and property during a disaster.

- **Recovery:** efforts are how we build back after a disaster.

- **Mitigation:** projects reduce future risks from hazards – these may be put in place before or after a disaster, but they are always intended to improve conditions before the next event.

BEFORE

Prevent future emergencies or minimize their effects
MITIGATE

Take actions ahead of time to be ready for an emergency
PREPARE

RECOVER
Rebuild from an emergency

RESPOND
Protect life and property in an emergency

AFTER

DURING

Major strategies and efforts of Government of Nepal

- **CCMC;** a unified and dedicated institution with senior level officials representation from concern authority including Nepal Army,

- **Network;** Provincial, District and Local Level

- **CCMC Ops.;** it have four Ops. i.e. Medical ops, Logistic ops, Security ops, and Media and IT ops.

- **Responsibilities;** major roles and duties on close coordination with concern Ministries and other federal units are;
  - ✓ Policy drafting, Planning & programming,
  - ✓ COVID testing, contact tracing
  - ✓ Quarantine and isolation arrangement
  - ✓ ICU & Ventilator bed mgmt.
  - ✓ Reviewing, monitoring and so on

One stop Service for fighting against COVID-19 Pandemic.

CCMC Direction Committee - lead by DPM	CCMC Facilitation Committee- lead by Chief Secretary
CCMC Ops.- lead by Secretary from PM office	PCCMC/DCCMC/ LCCMC

COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee (CCMC)

Major strategies and efforts of Government of Nepal

- **Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP),** the focal ministry for health services, has formed a separate Health Emergency Operation System **(HEOS).** HEOS have developed a smart health initiatives which includes
  - ✓ **registry Nepal** : user can see all health service availability.
  - ✓ **Results framework**: it identifies the indicators and tracks their progress real-time, available from routine health information systems or as data become available through surveys.
  - ✓ **Routine data quality assessment system**: it is used for improving the quality of data collection from health facility information systems.
  - ✓ **Monitoring of health indicators**: Health Dashboard can be primarily used for monitoring the progress of health indicators with the aid of graphical charts, maps and statistics.

- Likewise, **MOHP** has been prepared a **Health Sector Emergency Response Plan** incorporating Public health and social measures, Hospital-based interventions, and Management and oversight measures. This plan intends to prepare and strengthen the health system response that is capable to minimize the adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

Major strategies and efforts of Government of Nepal

- **Ministry of Home Affair (MOHA)** has fully responsible for implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction **(DRR)** related plan and programs. According as set action plan, MOHA implement it through its 77 districts wings throughout the country.

- **MOHA** have been operating Nepal Disaster Risk Reduction Portal (DRR Portal), which is all in one information portal about Disaster Risk and Reduction strategies done by government. It has operating a National Emergency Operation Centre for emergency relief to needy peoples.

- **Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen (MOWCSC)** have been leading the Protection Cluster **(PC)** in Nepal and international agencies UNICEF and UNEFPA are in a co-lead role. PC is active, according as the National Disaster Response Framework **(NDRF)**, for Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence **(GBV)**, and a working group on Age and Disability. PC is the network of State and non- state organizations performing to disaster affected vulnerable group.

- **Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security (MOLESS)** is responsible for critical health emergency of migrants in abroad.

- Nepal have separate principle policy documents for combating with disaster like; Infectious Disease (control) Act, 1964 ; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2018 and its Regulation, 2019; and so on.

Major strategies and efforts of Government of Nepal

- **MOWCSC** is key principal agency, responsible for listening the voices of vulnerable groups – typically the women, children, senior citizen, migrants, persons with disabilities or other minorities and those groups of people who are excluded through several practices that discriminate people based on gender, race, or ethnicity as well.

- Government of Nepal including MOWCSC have been implementing several targeted programs to vulnerable groups in participative way with their involvement in decision-making, building local leadership, and in close collaboration among government, international communities, civil society organizations, and local communities.

- GON has initiated ICTs and digital government for engagement and social inclusion of vulnerable groups. In this regard, GON has focusing to build-up electronic data base and digital service delivery system in collaboration with private sector ICT businesses.

- GON has adopted the whole-of-society support model of partnership and financing. Although, it is not so easy to attract and promote the private sector contribution and funding and blended financing to overcome the financing gap.

- NHRC, NWC, and NIC are the constitutional bodies' for overview of government execution. Besides this, NCRC, NCJC, NDRMC ….are the autonomous agencies for implementation of government's plans and programs to vulnerable group.

Major Challenges faced in Emergency

- **Knowledge-base for emergency management**: how knowledge is acquired, valued, disseminated, adopted and retained.

- **Social and behavioral issues**: how individuals approach risk and behave in emergencies is required.

- **Organizational issues in emergencies**: flexible VS standardized procedures, top-down vs bottom-up engagement, generic VS specific planning, and reactive VS proactive approaches.

- **Emergency management system**: system configuration and operation, public engagement, and how emergency planning is assessed.

- Adequate funds flow, access to resources and know-how;

- Vulnerable groups Identification indicator and mechanism;

- Proper coordination mechanism among the authorities, private sectors and international communities as well;

Solutions

- IT based vulnerable group identification system;

- Social mobilization and promotion of collaboration and partnership:;

- Sufficient evidence base policies and action; effective implementation and coordination;

- Sufficient resource mobilization;

- Adequate health system infrastructure and logistics ; capacity development of health institutions for effective health service delivery;

- Utilization of ICTs and digital governance for service delivery, people awareness and information dissemination;

- Empowerment and capacity building of both health workforces and vulnerable.

I hope the Sharing of experience from Nepal will greatly enrich the discussion of the Session.
And, I wish this 2-days training workshop will be able to achieve its objectives.

Thank you very much!