



# APPROPRIATE INVESTMENT FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION; A Case from Mid-Western Nepal

## Overview

Adaptation to climate change has emerged as a challenge to achieving and sustaining the development outcomes as mitigation is not taking place as needed<sup>1</sup>. However, adaptation is becoming complicated in practice as climate change and its impacts are faster than the natural process can sustain and they are interlinked with and embedded into a range of social, economic and political processes<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, effectiveness of climate change projects is limited due to inadequate evidences and in-depth knowledge on the consequences of climate change. Indigenous knowledge and adaptive capacity needs to be explored and enhanced to address the adverse impacts of ever increasing climate induced disasters. Communities are able to withstand the stress to certain extent but the unexpected natural disasters resulting from

1 Eriksen, S. B. K. 2011. Sustainable Adaptation to Climate Change. *Climate and Development*, 3: 3-6

2 Ayers, J. 2011a. Resolving the Adaptation Paradox: Exploring the Potential for Deliberative Adaptation Policy-Making in Bangladesh. *Global Environmental Politics*, 11(1): 62-88

climate change impacts are difficult to predict and handle. Community needs to be prepared with adequate capacity and equipped with resources to adapt to the possible challenges. Institutions should be capacitated with technical and financial resources. Empowering local communities will certainly boost the adaptation capacity. For instance, according to the National Climate Change Survey 2016, more than fifty percent of household of Nepal are unaware about Climate Change. Similarly, based on the combined vulnerability index by National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), highest percentage of the households (57.96%) in highly vulnerable districts does not know about climate change. These results depict the low knowledge base and adaptive capacity of communities to deal with Climate Change Impacts. Though indigenous knowledge and skills are of great value in climate change adaptation, there are difficulties in identifying and utilizing those skills.

## Policy support towards climate change adaptation and capacity building

Nepal is ranked as one of the most climate vulnerable countries in the world and some serious efforts have been made to combat with climate change impacts in general and adaptation to climate change in particular which plays an important role in the country's development agenda. Nepal has set 2018-2030 period as the medium-term and up to 2050 as the long-term plan to identify and prioritize adaptation options and prepare a plan with implementation strategy, reporting, monitoring and review. By identifying the urgent and immediate actions to respond the impacts of Climate Change, National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) was prepared in 2010. In the same line, Nepal's Climate Change Policy (2011) sets out the goal to improve people's livelihoods through climate change impact mitigation and adaptation activities. Later in 2011, government introduced the National Framework on Local Adaptation Plan for Action (LAPA) to assist most vulnerable communities/people of Nepal to combat with climate change impacts. Therefore, NAPA is an entry point for adaptation action in Nepal and LAPA is a 'flagship initiative' of the Government of Nepal in localizing climate change adaptation actions. While government is implementing LAPA in 14 districts of Nepal, many Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are also implementing adaptation actions and are helping government to reach at grass root level to aware people and to enhance adaptive capacity.

Cancun Climate Change Conference, 2010 established a process to enable Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Parties to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), building upon their experience in

preparing and implementing NAPAs. It is a means for identifying medium and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. In support of Cancun decision, the Paris Agreement (PA) also calls for engaging in adaptation planning process by formulating and implementing NAPs. Since September 2015, government of Nepal is engaged in formulating the NAP. A good point is that government has formed/engaged multi-stakeholders and policy stakeholders such as parliamentary committees and constitutional bodies, service providers, enablers and advocates. It is the best time to translate national commitments to action and achieve the results.

Having in place good policies, plans and action plans could be one of the immediate responses to the climate change, but it cannot be implemented without broad consensus. Municipal leaders believe that inadequate knowledge, skills and institutional resources to deal with climate change impacts. It is obvious that effective engagement and capacity building are valuable but are insufficient in scale. This critical gap can be filled by building capacity of CSOs, government institutions and other concerned stakeholders, which further helps to foster the adaptation action.

## Need of Private Sector to Respond Climate Change

Mainstreaming and engaging private sector in any planning and development process is very crucial and highly regarded but it has been a real challenge due to lack of proper communication channel and effective coordination. Though the role of private sector has been well recognized, the representation of private sector is very less in Nepal<sup>3</sup>. Private sectors could strengthen communities to tackle climate change impacts, adaptation and disaster preparedness by engaging them from planning to practices, from indigenous knowledge sharing to technology transfer, from rescue to rehabilitation after climate induced disaster. Lack of comprehensive information and effective communication has hindered communities in disaster risk management. Private sector can help communities technically and financially to enhance capacity, investments on awareness programs, campaigns and empowering youths and school children, training on off-season farming, improved seeds distribution etc. Private sectors has been identified as potential service provider before the government reaches the victims after the disaster and can aid in proper distribution of natural resources, maintain transparency and accountability within and outside the organization to build on public trust. People are very positive in this aspect and it is essential to establish good relationship and coordination between private sectors and government organization for successfully withstanding the impacts of changing climate.

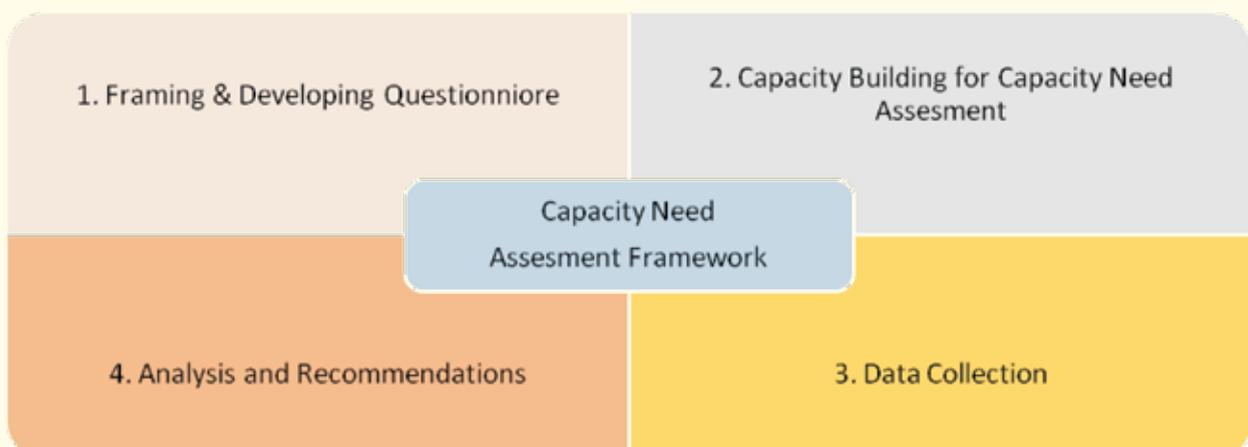
3 Capacity need assessment survey 2016, CEN

## Capacity Need Assessment: A Case Study of Nepalgunj Sub-metropolitan City, Banke and Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet

Clean Energy Nepal conducted capacity need assessment in Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City (NSMC) of Banke district and Birendranagar Municipality (BNM) of Surkhet district of mid-western region of Nepal in 2016/17. The results presented here is the outcome of Need Assessment Survey conducted among 395 identified stakeholders in NSMC and 201 stakeholders in BNM. The survey was conducted among senior level representatives (mostly head of organizations) from government organizations, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), youth clubs, schools and institutions, community forest user groups and semiformal networks who are working in the relevant fields.

### Methodology

The Capacity Need Assessment Framework was designed to cover four different aspects of the survey such as Framing and Developing Questionnaire, Capacity Building Need Assessment, Data Collection and Analysis and Recommendations. The approaches are described with this schematic diagram. The sampling method applied in this study is Judgment Sampling method and doesn't necessarily fit the normal Probabilistic Sampling method. The findings presented here are outcomes of analysis of the sampled data and available information collected from respondents and might not be a representative sample as it was selected based on judgments. The stakeholder organization and institutions were identified as active stakeholders in the municipalities/wards and are registered and recognized by the District Administration Offices and local partners in different sectors of environment, climate change, disasters etc.



## Climate Change Adaptation and Awareness

Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City seems very much willing and capable of conducting public awareness campaigns as 80.87% of the respondents reacted that their organization can aware public in adapting and mitigating climate change impacts. 12.75% of the respondents said that they can afford in engaging public in activities such as plantation and environmental conservation as a means of mitigation. There is an indication that the organization really lack capacities in conducting research based activities and initiating pilot projects. It was found that only 2.61% and 3.77% organizations in NSMC are capable of conducting research and initiate pilot projects respectively. Whereas in Birendranagar, 24.37% of organization has done nothing as yet regarding CCA and Mitigation whereas 75.63% of respondents reported they have practiced CCA and mitigation. The activities being done by those organizations include public awareness, awareness programs in schools and community, plantation and advocacy. While majority of the organizations in Nepalgunj and Birendranagar (74.81% and 75.88%) are unaware about the initiatives taken by government and private sectors in CCA, only 25.19% in Nepalgunj and 24.12% of the respondents in Birendranagar said to have some idea and information about the ongoing initiatives and projects.

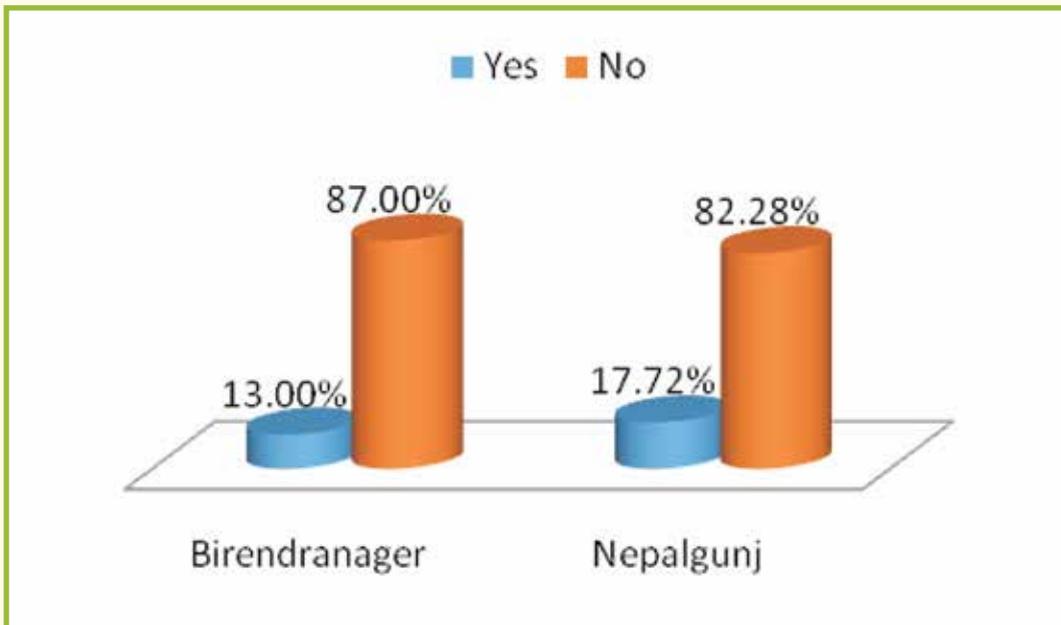


Figure: Community having Disaster Management Committee

The organizations also lack capacity in terms of mainstreaming projects on climate change adaptation. Majority of them are deprived and are unable to do so. It is an undeniable fact that 84.06% and 68.03% respectively in Nepalgunj and Birendranagar lacks adequate capacities in mainstreaming projects related to climate change.

## Disaster Preparedness

Communities are aware that preparedness is vital to limit the losses associated with climatic disasters but they lack real opportunities and exposure to participate in training and awareness campaigns. Private sector has a big role to play and is very crucial in minimizing the threats with improved coordination with the local government. Institutional capacity needs to step up and some organizations are equipped with relief materials and emergency evacuation appliances but they clearly don't have manpower with those expertise. Only about 23% in Nepalgunj and 16% in Birendranagar said that they have received training on disaster preparedness. This can be said as the skilled and trained manpower are very less in numbers.

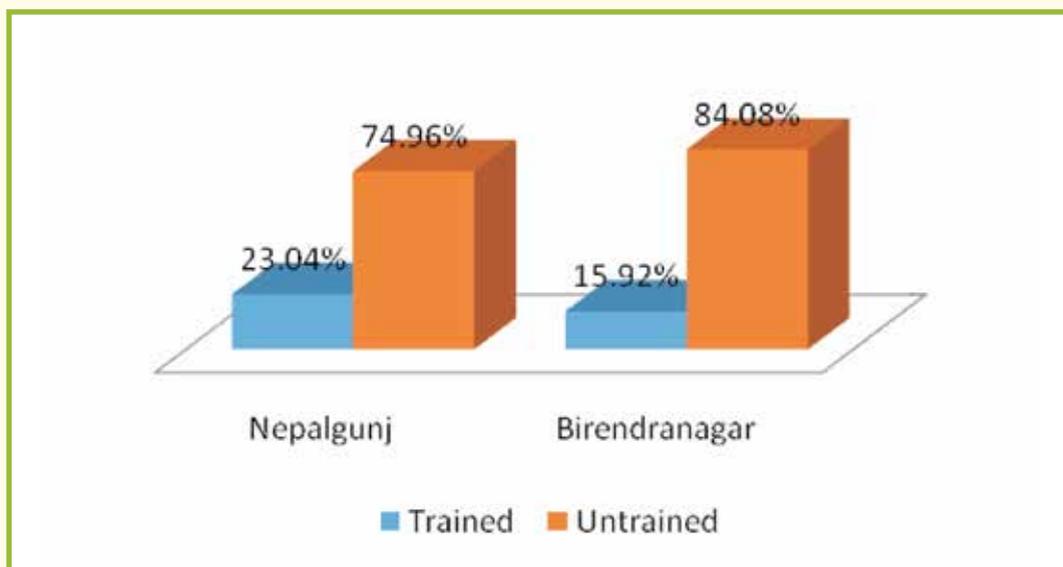


Figure: Training on Disaster Preparedness

## Challenges in Implementing and Monitoring Climate Change Projects

The communities face difficulties in implementing and monitoring projects related to climate change. More than half (54.18%) of the respondents in Nepalgunj agreed that they lack adequate resources in terms of technical, financial and knowledge in implementing and monitoring projects of Climate Change whereas in Birendranagar 56.99% faced the similar setback. Lack of adequate information has also been listed among the challenges. Beside this, 23.29% of respondents feel they lack financial resources in Nepalgunj while Birendranagar faces the challenge due to lack of knowledge and information which is reported to be 21%.



Figure: Difficulties in implementing Climate Change Projects

The project and the programs are accountable and transparent to some extent. Frequent public hearings and gatherings, sharing of the progress reports of the projects is being practiced in the communities. Senior citizens are actively participating in these forums these days. In Nepalgunj, only 14.21% are practicing transparency and accountability while 85.79% of the organizations were hesitant. Likewise in Birendranagar, 49.49% of the respondents are practicing transparency and accountability in their organization while 50.51% of the respondents said though necessary, they have not been practicing the system of transparency and accountability.

## Conclusion and recommendations

It is evident that climate change is demanding urgent response at the local level. Lack of clear approach on how the issues of climate change will be more efficiently and effectively under the new federal structure of Nepal has additional dilemma in the organizations. This study highlighted that though there are potentials at local level, the existing institutions needs to be reformed and well equipped to address the impacts of climate change. There is a need for a paradigm shift in the mind-set of the planners, policy makers and practitioners to incorporate multi-stakeholder efforts in practices. Our finding shows that there are limitations to local adaptation and institutional capacity to respond effectively. But this should not undermine the value of communities and the institutions. The national framework on LAPA is an attempt to recognize the role of local agencies in adaptation. Thus, appropriate investment is a prerequisite architecture for developing adaptive capacity and skills of the community. It also serves as an important mechanism for the effective implementation of national adaptation policies and plans.



Adaptation in practice needs learning from the experiences, existing knowledge, skills, and best practices from around the globe. For this reason, change in conventional mindset of development planning and delivery is important. As there is inadequate information on impacts and the issues, adaptation has to be built on the experiences to deal with climatic variability and extreme climatic events. The options and strategies may vary but each interest should be benefiting both; the environment and the livelihoods.

## Some key recommendations drawn from the assessment are as follows;

- Mandatory provision for Local Government to have disaster risk management division/climate induced disaster risk management division with adequate resources
- Capacitate communities to withstand climatic disasters
- Enhance the capacity and efficiency of the organization.
- Availability of information in easily understandable format
- Provision of Early Warning System (EWS) upon extreme climatic events for better preparedness

The data presented here were adopted from Survey under the project "Building Resilience and Climate Adaptive Planning in Urban Center of Nepal"



For further details  
**Clean Energy Nepal**  
Tachikhel, Lalitpur, Nepal  
G.P.O. Box 24581, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Phone: +977-1-015538660  
Email: [info@cen.org.np](mailto:info@cen.org.np)  
Website: [www.cen.org.np](http://www.cen.org.np)

Supported by:



Written by: Mr. Rajan Thapa and Mr. Damodar Dhital  
Reviewed by: Mr. Manjeet Dhakal