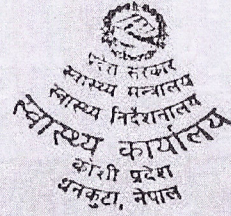
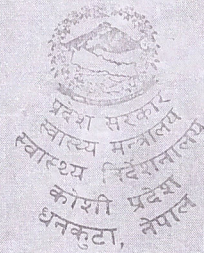


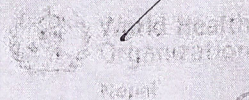
2024



RAPID RESPONSE COMMITTEE ADVOCACY WORKSHOP REPORT



Dhankuta District



निर्देशक

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FOREWORD

स्वास्थ्य निर्देशक
कोशी प्रदेश
धनकुटा, नेपाल



Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet
Director, Health Directorate Koshi
Province

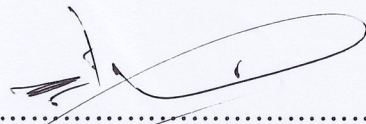
It gives me great pleasure to present this comprehensive report on Municipal Level Rapid Response Committee & Rapid Response Team Advocacy Workshop conducted in Dhankuta District, Koshi Province, in 2024. This workshop signifies an important step forward in strengthening our collective capacity to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to public health emergencies and disasters at the district level.

Dhankuta, being disaster disaster-prone district, has underscored the urgent need for preparedness, coordination, and rapid response to health emergencies. In line with the National Guidelines for Rapid Response Team, this workshop was designed to update the Municipal Level Rapid Response Committee/Team, clarify roles and responsibilities, and reinforce coordination mechanisms among local governments and health institutions.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Health, Koshi Province, WHO Nepal, USAID, Health Office Dhankuta, and municipalities of Dhankuta for their valuable contributions to the success of this workshop. Through active participation and dialogue, the workshop successfully established a shared understanding of emergency response structures, bottlenecks and promoted a culture of readiness at the district and local level through proactive strategies.

The discussions and presentations during the sessions provided valuable insights into strengthening health system resilience, improving intersectoral collaboration, and ensuring timely and coordinated responses to future health emergencies. The collective commitment and enthusiasm of all stakeholders demonstrated throughout the workshop are commendable and reflect our shared vision of safeguarding public health and community well-being. As we move forward, the lessons and recommendations outlined in this report will serve as a practical guide for enhancing preparedness and response systems across the Dhankuta district.

It is my firm belief that the continued implementation of the RRT and RRC frameworks, coupled with strong local ownership and multisectoral engagement, will significantly strengthen our capacity to respond timely and effectively to any public health emergency.

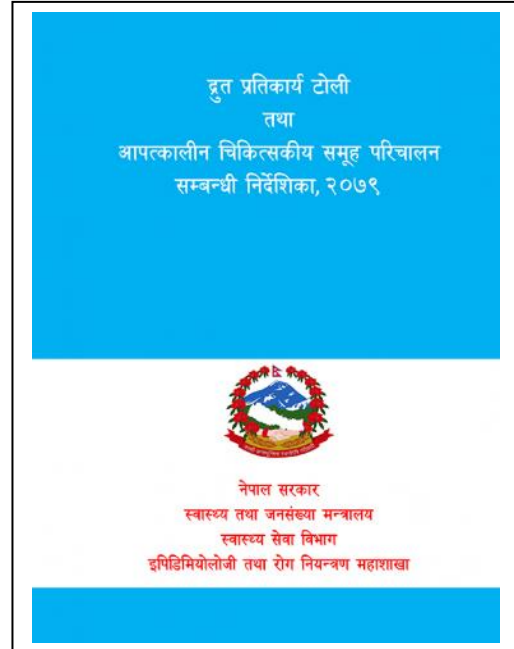

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Mr. Gyan Bahadur Basnet
Director निर्देशक
Health Directorate, Koshi Province

Rapid Response Committee Advocacy workshop

Dhankuta District

Background: In Nepal, the Rapid Response Team (RRT) and the Rapid Response Committee (RRC) play crucial roles in managing and mitigating the impacts of emergencies and disasters. The RRT, composed of health workers and technical experts, provides immediate response and investigation during crises like natural disasters or public health emergencies, including medical aid, shelter, and food distribution. It operates at the central, provincial, district and local level, coordinating with various stakeholders and conducting rapid assessments. The RRC, a higher-level body, oversees strategic and operational aspects of emergency responses at the central, provincial or municipality level. It ensures coordination among response units, manages resources, and makes critical decisions to address the crisis effectively. Together, these entities enhance Nepal's capacity to respond

swiftly and effectively to emergencies. The guidelines for the Rapid Response Team (RRT) and Rapid Response Committee (RRC) in Nepal were endorsed in **2022 AD**. These guidelines were developed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency responses by providing a structured approach to managing and coordinating efforts during crises and disasters.



Context: Dhankuta District is in the eastern region of Nepal and is part of the Koshi Province. Historically, it was part of Limbuwan (Pallo Kirat) before being integrated into the Kingdom of Nepal during the country's unification. After 1816, it became one of Nepal's 10 original districts, known as Dhankuta-Chainpur, covering a vast area from the Dudhkosi River in the west to the Mechi River in the east.



The district is known for its hilly terrain, pleasant climate, and rich cultural heritage. Dhankuta has traditionally been an administrative and commercial hub in the eastern hills of Nepal. It is also home to diverse ethnic groups, including Limbu, Rai, Chhetri, Brahmin, and others, contributing to the area's cultural diversity.

In terms of geography, Dhankuta is characterized by its mountainous landscapes, lush forests, and terraced farmland. Agriculture, including tea, fruits, and vegetables, forms the backbone of the local economy. The district is also a gateway to eastern Nepal's hilly regions and is a vital link between the Terai plains and the mountainous areas.

Today, Dhankuta continues to play an important role in the economic and administrative affairs of eastern Nepal while retaining its historical significance and natural beauty. However, Dhankuta District is prone to disaster such as landslide, wildfire, animal attacks, dengue outbreaks etc.

Objective of the workshop:

- **To Form and or update the Municipal-Level Rapid Response Committee/Team:** If the committee/team has not been formed according to the guidelines, it should be reorganized.
- **To Discuss the Roles, Duties, and TOR:** Discuss the roles, duties, and powers of the municipal rapid response committee and team.
- **To encourage the Formation of a Health sector preparedness and response plan:** Motivate the municipality to develop an emergency action plan for the health sector.

The workshop was organized by Ministry of Health, Koshi province with financial support from USAID and technical support from WHO. WHO, Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) team (Field medical officer, Information Management Associate, Emergency surveillance Associate) stationed in Provincial Health Emergency Operation Center (PHEOC), Koshi Province communicated and coordinated with Ministry of Health Koshi Province, Health Office Dhankuta and Health Section chief of Municipalities of Dhankuta District to arrange and fix the workshop in the mentioned date. Similarly, the team facilitated to achieve all the objectives and to conduct the program successfully.

Provincial Presentation:

Mrs. Anupama Bhusal, Public Health Officer from Ministry of Health presented on the objective of the program. She presented and defined key terminologies essential for understanding disasters and disease outbreaks, including hazard, risk, disaster, emergency, capacity, mitigation, prevention, vulnerability, and preparedness. She shared definitions of "Disaster," "Epidemic/Outbreak," and "Emergency" as provided by the WHO and outlined the Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management Act 2074.



Glimpse of RRC Advocacy workshop conducted at Sangurigadhi Rural Municipality, Dhankuta

She reviewed the global, national, and provincial contexts of disasters and disease outbreaks, detailing the existing teams and committees at national, provincial, district, and local levels. She also discussed the history and key characteristics of Rapid Response Teams (RRT) in Nepal and presented a list of 52 communicable diseases published by the Government of Nepal (GoN). She also briefed on the PHEOC activities and role during disasters and health emergencies. She highlighted on the daily media monitoring news that was published by PHEOC Koshi and finding report shared with local, district and provincial stakeholders. She emphasized on the importance of RRT team formation and its role as per the National Guidelines of RRT, EMDT team at the local level.

Sangurigadhi Rural Municipality

Venue: Sangurigadhi Rural Municipality, Dhankuta District

Date: 18 June 2024

Participants Chairperson, Planning Officer, PHO, Medical Officer, Ward chairpersons, Sr AHW, Sr ANM, IT officer, Lab personal, Health Assistant and FCHVs

District level Presentation

District health official, Vector Control Supervisor presented the Overview and status of disaster of the Dhankuta District. He presented the updated RRT team members with their contact details of seven local level units of Dhankuta District. Additionally, he presented on the information of Dengue cases update as per the geographical distribution, Gender wise case classification, place of residence of dengue cases distribution at Palika and ward level. He also presented on the center of diagnosis/treatment for dengue cases at different health facilities of Dhankuta District. emphasized the crucial roles and duties of Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in handling health emergencies, Dengue outbreak situation update reports were shared.



Opening remarks from Chairperson of Sangurigadhi Rural Municipality, Dhankuta

The Chairperson of Sangurigadhi Rural Municipality (RM) delivered an important briefing, emphasizing their previous experience with Covid-19 which has taught them a valuable lesson in managing this outbreak. We've successfully managed isolation centers and health facility-based quarantines to prevent further spread of the disease during Covid-19 pandemic. Sangurigadhi rural municipality has faced several landslides, leading to multiple road blockages, though thankfully, no significant harm to human health has been reported. There have also been a few fire incidents in some areas. It's crucial to enhance the capacity of our healthcare workers to effectively respond to public health emergencies. Many thanks to the WHO team and the Ministry of Health for organizing this advocacy meeting to sensitize our RRT team members.

He emphasized the critical role the health sector must play in these efforts, noting that it is at the forefront of managing disasters and disease outbreaks. It must be well-prepared, trained, and equipped to take swift action when necessary. The Chairperson also highlighted the importance of understanding the term "rapid" in relation to the Rapid Response Team (RRT) and Rapid Response Committee (RRC). He stressed that "rapid" signifies the urgency with which these teams must act during disasters or health emergencies. To achieve this, RRT members must be

easily accessible and always ready to respond immediately. He pointed out that quick mobilization is essential to reduce the impact of disasters and prevent disease spread, emphasizing the need for team members to be both physically accessible and mentally prepared to act without hesitation.

In conclusion, the Chairperson reaffirmed that strengthening preparedness and readiness is crucial for the municipality to effectively manage disasters or disease outbreaks. He called for continued efforts to ensure that the health sector and RRT members are fully equipped and capable of responding quickly and efficiently to protect the community during crises.

Main Bottlenecks

- Maintaining adequate backup supplies for logistics has always been a challenge.
- The data on Malaria, Dengue, Scrub Typhus, and COVID-19 over the past five years may show progress, but delays in reporting or system gaps could affect the ability to respond promptly during outbreaks.
- Geographical constraints pose difficulties during health emergencies.

Lessons Learnt

- The Chairperson's focus on preparedness and readiness underscores the need for proactive strategies. The municipality should regularly assess and enhance its disaster preparedness plans to better address unforeseen situations.
- The Chairperson's call for health workers to stay alert and actively participate in preparedness efforts emphasizes the need for a skilled and responsive workforce during emergencies. Ongoing readiness enhances the effectiveness of responses.
- Consistent collaboration with health organizations ensures the steady provision of resources, training, and information, ultimately strengthening the municipality's disaster management capabilities over time.

Recommendations

- Formation of committee and team as per guideline and activation of RRT team member.
- Capacity building and regular training of RRT members
- Strong coordination and communication channel to be established.

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairperson of Sangurigadhi Rural Municipality delivered a strong message emphasizing the importance of preparedness and swift team responses during crises. Successful disaster management and outbreak control rely on quick action, which is only possible if the health sector and RRT members are properly equipped, trained, and supported.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
14	12	26

Chaubise Rural Municipality

Venue: Chaubise Rural Municipality, Dhankuta District

Date: 19th June 2024

Participants: Chairperson, Vice chairperson, CAO, Account Officer, Medical Officer, Section Officer, Ward chairpersons, PHO, AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

Provincial /District Presentation

PHO, who emphasized the crucial roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in managing health emergencies effectively. She highlighted the importance of a well-coordinated response mechanism to ensure timely interventions, minimize health risks, and enhance overall preparedness for emergencies. She further elaborated on how the RRC plays a pivotal role in facilitating communication, mobilizing resources, and ensuring a swift and efficient response to various health crises.

Additionally, Dr. Sagar Poudel from the World Health Organization (WHO) provided valuable insights into the role of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) in disaster preparedness and response. He discussed how the PHEOC serves as a central hub for coordinating emergency responses, gathering and analyzing health-related data, and ensuring that preparedness plans are effectively implemented to mitigate the impact of disasters. His presentation underscored the significance of proactive planning, inter-agency collaboration, and the integration of surveillance systems to enhance the overall efficiency of disaster response efforts. Both speakers emphasized the necessity of a well-structured and resilient health emergency response system to protect public health and ensure a rapid and effective response to emerging crises.

Main Bottlenecks

- Disaster management and public health response often struggle with limited budgets. It is important to allocate enough funds for emergency preparedness, healthcare facilities, and quick response systems. A major challenge is the lack of financial resources, which makes it difficult for local governments to improve infrastructure, healthcare services, and preparedness efforts. Successful disaster management and health response require teamwork from different groups, including government agencies, NGOs, community leaders, international organizations like WHO, and local businesses.

Lessons Learned

- Our experience with COVID-19 has given us important lessons, and we continue to prioritize public health. During the landslides in Dhankuta district, road blockages created major challenges. This situation provides us with a valuable chance to improve our plans and strategies for handling future disasters.

Recommendations

- Enhancing risk communication activities and providing regular training for Rapid Response Team (RRT) members are essential for strengthening disaster preparedness and response.

Overall comments and conclusion

The Chairman of Chaubise Rural Municipality acknowledged and appreciated the significant role played by WHO during the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed the need for direct collaboration between WHO and the local government. He also emphasized the importance of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) and Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) at the municipal level in effectively managing emergencies and ensuring a swift response during crises

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
24	14	38

Dhankuta Municipality

Venue: Dhankuta Municipality, Dhankuta District

Date: 19th June 2024

Participants: Chairperson, Vice chairperson, CAO, Medical Officer, Section Officer, Ward chairpersons, Nursing Incharge, AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

District Presentation

District health official, Vector Control Supervisor presented the Overview and status of disaster of the Dhankuta District. He presented the updated RRT team members with their contact details of seven local level units of Dhankuta District. Additionally, he presented on the information of Dengue cases update as per the geographical distribution, Gender wise case classification, place of residence of dengue cases distribution at Palika and ward level. He also presented on the center of diagnosis/treatment for dengue cases at different health facilities of Dhankuta District. emphasized the crucial roles and duties of Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in handling health emergencies, Dengue outbreak situation update reports were shared.



Figure 1 Welcome and Remarks from Health section chief of Dhankuta Municipality, Dhankuta District

The Deputy Mayor shared a thoughtful message, reflecting on the valuable lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic. She emphasized that, based on previous experiences, public health has always been a top priority for the municipality. The challenges faced during the pandemic have provided a strong foundation to tackle future emergencies more effectively.

In particular, she noted the significant road blockages caused by landslides in Dhankuta district, which have hindered access and posed major challenges during disaster situations. These incidents highlight the need for better planning and preparedness to ensure quicker and more efficient responses in the future.

The Deputy Mayor expressed her gratitude for this event, recognizing it as an important platform to develop strategic plans and policies to manage future disasters more effectively. She extended her appreciation to federal, provincial, and district stakeholders, WHO, and other supporting organizations for their commitment and efforts in organizing the event. She reaffirmed that with collaboration and continued support, the municipality can strengthen its capacity to respond to crises and safeguard the well-being of the community.

Main Bottlenecks

- Effective disaster management and public health response often face significant budget and financial constraints. Ensuring that sufficient funds are allocated for emergency preparedness, healthcare infrastructure, and rapid response mechanisms is crucial.
- One of the key challenges in effective disaster management and public health response is the availability of adequate financial resources. Budget constraints often limit the ability of municipalities to invest in essential infrastructure, healthcare facilities, and preparedness activities.
- Effective disaster management and public health preparedness require the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders. This includes government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community leaders, international bodies like WHO, and local businesses.

Lessons Learned

- Based on our previous experiences with Covid-19, we have gained valuable insights, and public health has always been our top priority. During the landslides in Dhankuta district, we faced several road blockages. This event presents a great opportunity for us to develop plans and strategies for responding to future disasters.

Recommendations

- Building capacity and providing regular training for RRT members is essential to ensure their preparedness and effectiveness.
- Additionally, receiving logistical support from the provincial and central governments is crucial to maintaining an efficient response during emergencies.

Overall comments and conclusion

The Deputy Mayor of Dhankuta Municipality delivered a compelling message on the urgency of preparedness and rapid response during disasters and disease outbreaks. Her focus on swift action, strict adherence to guidelines, and the importance of seamless coordination between the RRC and RRT is crucial for effective disaster management. We are thankful to the federal, provincial, and district stakeholders, WHO, and other supporting organizations for organizing this event.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
17	10	27

Pakhribas Municipality

Venue: Pakhribas Municipality, Dhankuta District

Date: 20th June 2024

Participants: Chairperson, Vice chairperson, CAO, Medical Officer, Section Officer, Ward chairpersons, Nursing Incharge, AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

Municipality Presentation

Health section chief of the Pakhribas Municipality presented on the Overview and status of disaster of the Municipality. Map, geographical location, and information of Health facilities within the municipality was presented. Furthermore, District health official of Dhankuta District presented on the updated RRC and RRT members with their contact details. Additionally, He also presented on the data of Dengue, of last 5 years of the municipality.



VCS of DHO Dhankuta Presenting on the RRT/ RRC Guidelines with TOR

The Mayor of Pakhribas Municipality delivered a detailed briefing, highlighting the newly introduced topics on the RRT and RRC. This program has been highly effective in enhancing coordination among various stakeholders, and with the technical support from WHO, we can collaborate more efficiently to respond to disasters and outbreak-related events. Fire hazards and a few landslides have been reported in different areas of our municipality. This workshop provides an opportunity to strengthen the capacity-building efforts of our team members working together to address natural disasters. We are thankful to the federal, provincial, and district stakeholders, WHO, and other supporting organizations for organizing this event.

The mayor highlighted that disaster response goes beyond having a health section in place; it necessitates the creation of a well-prepared committee and team that can act swiftly based on the situation's needs and follow established guidelines. He emphasized that the team's readiness is essential to ensure that disaster responses are both effective and efficient.

Main Bottlenecks

- Logistical challenges, including the availability and distribution of RRT kits and other essential medical supplies, remain significant concerns.
- Need for effective stockpiling of emergency supplies is equally important to ensure preparedness and prompt response during unforeseen disasters and health emergencies.

Lessons Learned

- The Chairperson shared several important lessons learned from previous disasters. One key takeaway was the critical importance of preparedness and having well-defined, proactive response plans in place. In times of crisis, swift and coordinated action is essential, and having trained, ready teams can make a significant difference in minimizing the impact. The Chairperson also emphasized the need for strong collaboration among different stakeholders, including government agencies, health organizations, and local communities, to ensure a more effective and unified response.

Recommendations

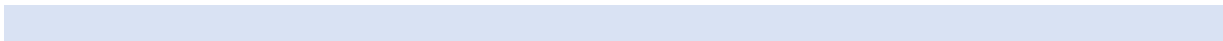
- Enhancing the capacity and providing ongoing training for RRT members is essential for effective disaster response.
- Receiving logistical support for necessary supplies from provincial and central governments is crucial for maintaining an efficient emergency response.

Overall comments and conclusion

The Mayor of Pakhribas Municipality delivered a compelling message on the urgency of preparedness and rapid response during disasters and disease outbreaks. His focus on swift action, strict adherence to guidelines, and the importance of seamless coordination between the RRC and RRT is crucial for effective disaster management.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
20	11	31



Mahalaxmi Municipality

Venue: Mahalaxmi Municipality, Dhankuta District

Date: 20th June 2024

Participants: Mayor, Deputy Mayor, CAO, Medical Officer, Public Health Inspector, Section Officer, Ward chairpersons, Nursing Incharge, AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, Disaster focal person, IT officials, and FCHVs

Province Presentation

The PHO, Surakshya Khatri stressed the vital roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in effectively handling health emergencies. She emphasized the need for a well-organized response system to enable timely actions, reduce health risks, and improve overall emergency preparedness. She further explained how the RRC plays a key role in communication, resource mobilization, and ensuring a quick and efficient response to various health crises.

Similarly, Dr. Sagar Poudel from the World Health Organization (WHO) shared important insights on the role of the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) in disaster preparedness and response. He highlighted how the PHEOC acts as a central unit for coordinating emergency actions, collecting and analyzing health data, and ensuring that preparedness strategies are effectively carried out to reduce disaster impacts. His presentation emphasized the importance of proactive planning, collaboration between different agencies, and the use of surveillance systems to improve disaster response. Both speakers highlighted the need for a strong and well-structured health emergency response system to safeguard public health and ensure quick and effective action during crises.

Main Bottlenecks

- Logistical challenges, such as the availability and distribution of RRT kits and other essential medical supplies, remain significant concerns, and effective stockpiling of emergency supplies is equally important to ensure preparedness and a prompt response during unforeseen disasters and health emergencies.

Lessons Learned

- Regular collaboration with health organizations helps provide a steady supply of resources, training, and information, and this strengthens the municipality's ability to manage disasters over time.
- The Chairperson emphasized the importance of being prepared and ready, and he highlighted the need for proactive strategies to deal with emergencies. The municipality

should frequently review and improve its disaster plans so that it can respond effectively to unexpected situations.

Recommendations

- Support for logistical items from the province and central government is important, and training and capacity building for RRT members should be conducted in the future to strengthen their skills. Additionally, budget allocation and advocacy meetings at the district and local levels are needed to ensure better disaster preparedness and response.

Overall comments and conclusion

- The Mayor of Mahalaxmi Municipality emphasized the critical need for preparedness and quick response during disasters and disease outbreaks. He highlighted the importance of taking prompt action, following guidelines closely, and ensuring smooth coordination between the RRC and RRT for successful disaster management.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
13	10	23

Chhathar Jorpati Rural Municipality

Venue: Chhathar Jorpati Rural Municipality 02, Dhankuta District

Date: 21st June 2024

Participants: Chairperson, Vice chairperson, AO, Section Officer, Ward chairpersons, AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, and FCHVs

District / Municipality Presentation

The program began with formal introductions and followed by a presentation on the details of team that are included in RRC and RRT with their roles and responsibilities. Resource person from MOH, Mrs. Anupama Bhusal presented the presentation which highlighted the importance of Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in managing health emergencies, detailing their critical roles and responsibilities. She also provided detailed presentation on the role of PHEOC during disaster preparedness and response. Similarly, the presentation, which was given by representative from DHO, Mr. Uday Shankhar Shah who emphasized the crucial roles and duties of Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) in handling health emergencies.



Participants at Chhathar Rural Municipality, Dhankuta

The Chairperson of Turmakhad Rural Municipality delivered a briefing where he acknowledged that while disaster management programs have been conducted in the past within the municipality, there has been a noticeable gap when it comes to addressing health-related aspects. We are delighted with this program, as it has provided us with valuable insights into health emergencies and highlighted the importance of the RRT team in responding to future emergencies. The Chairperson also shared their experiences in managing the dengue outbreak in various areas of Chhathar Jorpati Rural Municipality. Additionally, testing kits have been provided by the District Health Office Dhankuta for the diagnosis and screening of vector-borne diseases at the ward level.

The Ward Chief expressed that the workshop provided him with crucial strategies for managing both disasters and disease outbreaks. He gained valuable insights into the operational procedures and protocols that must be followed during such events. He particularly appreciated the training on the roles of the RRC and RRT, which helped him understand how to coordinate and implement response efforts effectively. The Ward Chief encouraged all health workers to align their actions with the guidelines presented during the program, ensuring that they adhere to the established protocols for managing future disasters or outbreaks in the municipality. Both

the Chairperson and the Ward Chief emphasized that the success of managing disasters and disease outbreaks depends on the collective efforts of health workers, who must apply the knowledge and expertise gained from the training while following the shared guidelines and best practices.

Main Bottlenecks

- The shortage of qualified human resources remains a significant challenge, as there are not enough skilled personnel to effectively manage and respond to emergencies or health crises, which impedes the overall efficiency of disaster management efforts.
- Budget constraints continue to be a major issue, as limited financial resources hinder the ability to allocate sufficient funds for necessary equipment, training, and infrastructure, ultimately affecting the effectiveness and preparedness of disaster response initiatives.

Lessons Learned

- The Chairperson emphasized the critical importance of disaster preparedness and having a structured, well-coordinated response plan in place. It was acknowledged that without thorough planning and training, response efforts can become disorganized, resulting in delays and inefficiencies. The Chairperson also stressed that communication and coordination among all levels of government, health organizations, and local communities play a vital role in managing crises effectively.

Recommendations

- Provision of logistical support to rural municipalities
- Allocation of funds from the central government for addressing health emergencies

Overall comments and conclusion

- According to the message from the Chairperson, we are grateful for this program, which has offered valuable insights into health emergencies and highlighted the importance of the RRT team in responding to future crises. The Chairperson also shared their experiences in managing the dengue outbreak in different areas of Chhathar Jorpati Rural Municipality. Furthermore, the District Health Office Dhankuta has provided testing kits for diagnosing and screening vector-borne diseases at the ward level.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
9	11	20

Sahidbhumi Rural Municipality

Venue: Sahidbhumi Rural Municipality, Dhankuta District

Date: 21st June 2024

Participants: Chairperson, Vice chairperson, CAO, Engineer, PHO, Ward chairpersons, AHW, Sr ANM, Lab personal, and FCHVs

Province Presentation

The program began with introductions, helping participants get to know each other and create a collaborative atmosphere. Afterward, a detailed presentation was given about the composition of the Rapid Response Coordination (RRC) and Rapid Response Teams (RRT), explaining their roles and responsibilities. PHO Surakshya Khatri discussed the important role of the RRC in managing health emergencies, stressing the need for a well-organized response system to act quickly, reduce health risks, and improve preparedness. She also explained how the RRC is crucial in communication, resource mobilization, and ensuring a fast and efficient response to health crises.

Dr. Sagar Poudel from the WHO also shared valuable insights about the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC) and its role in disaster preparedness and response. He described how the PHEOC coordinates emergency actions, collects and analyzes health data, and ensures preparedness strategies are properly carried out to lessen disaster effects. He also stressed the importance of proactive planning, inter-agency collaboration, and using surveillance systems to improve disaster response. Both speakers emphasized the need for a well-organized health emergency response system to protect public health and ensure quick and effective action during crises.

Main Bottlenecks

- Challenges in disease prevention and control persist due to inadequate budgeting and a lack of effective coordination among different levels of government.

Lessons Learned

- The Chairperson highlighted the vital need for disaster preparedness and a well-organized, coordinated response plan. It was recognized that without proper planning and training, response efforts may become chaotic, leading to delays and inefficiencies. The Chairperson also emphasized the crucial role of communication and coordination

between all levels of government, health organizations, and local communities in managing crises successfully.

Recommendations

- Support for logistical items from the provincial and central governments, along with regular sensitization at the local level, is essential for effective preparedness and response to health-related events and outbreaks.

Overall comments and conclusion

- The Chairperson expressed gratitude for the program, which provided valuable insights into health emergencies and emphasized the crucial role of the RRT team in addressing future crises. They also shared their experiences in managing COVID-19 in Sahidbhumi Rural Municipality.

Participants Gender Analysis

Male	Female	Total
12	9	21